

Although already more than 10 years on the market, and thus well beyond its electronic teens, the KS-synthesizer family is still good for a lot of surprises. Novation KS4, KS5, KRack and the little K-Station are high-class sound- and performance-tools. Released in 2003, they were ment to be a good alternative to the Clavia NordLead and Access Virus. But in fact the concepts of these instruments are quite different. To be specific, the Novation KS-synthesizer is a comprehensive *performance* tool, containing a 4-part synth engine, an arpeggiator and drum sounds! The character of the synth sounds is typical for the late 90s and early years of the new millenium: Techno!



That certainly is not negative. Nice pads, pulsing arpeggios, useful drum-sounds, strong lead-sounds, etc. – everything at your fingertips! The keyboard's panel is well layed out, although there are a few (tiny little) quirks ... for instance the envelope compartment, which is a little bizarre, as one envelope has knobs and the other faders ... quite unusual! Still, all in all, using the KS-synthesizers is a joy.

Taking the risk of being redundand, we'd like to describe working on the KS-synthesizers as FUN! The instruments are easy to use, yield quick and dependable results and some very good music besides. Definitely a tip for insiders!



3 oscillators, tons of waveforms, multi-mode filter, many sync possibilities, 16-voice polyphony, 4-part multi mode, internal effects, arpeggiator ... there are lots of creative possibilities there.

Aside from high quality factory presets and a myriad of musical features, the KS-family is especially recommendable as well-crafted instruments. Even the fact that the casing is silver has its advantages: often KS-synthesizers look smart, neat and clean even today.



On the market, KS-synthesizers are priced as follows:

- Novation KS4: approx. 250 – 350 Euros
- Novation KS5: approx. 300 – 400 Euros
- Novation KRack: approx. 400 Euros



Links / further KS-info:

- Vintage Synths:
www.vintagesynth.com/novation/ks45r.php
- SoundOnSound:
www.soundonsound.com

We have also attached 20 minutes of audio material, all created with the KS4. Enjoy!

2. [Novation-KS4-Mix1](#)
3. [Novation-KS4-Mix2](#)
4. [Long Pad](#)
5. [Stupid Techno](#)
6. [Xylo Dance](#)
7. [Arabic Tune](#)
8. [Chiva Diva](#)
9. [GRP-R24-Novation-KS5-01](#)
10. [GRP-R24-Novation-KS5-02](#)