



Steal This Sound

Robert Palmer's

"ADDICTED TO LOVE"

Who could forget the suit-and-tie clad Robert Palmer surrounded by a "band" of five vapid models obviously only pretending to play? Considering the small fortunes spent on videos then, "Addicted to Love" was cheap, simple, and used the oldest trick in the book: hot girls in slinky dresses. It didn't hurt that "Addicted" was a seriously catchy

tune featuring big 'n' brassy synth stabs. This month we'll create our own beefy analog stabs on hardware and software synths: the Alesis Ion and Native Instruments' Massive. You can make this patch on just about any analog or virtual analog synth that has two (or better, three) oscillators. Follow the steps and you too will be "Addicted to Love." Mitchell Sigman

Step 1. Set all available oscillators to pulse waves.

Step 2. Set the oscillators an octave apart; if you have three oscs, put two at the same pitch and the third an octave up. Detune all oscillators enough to hear some chorusing, but not enough to sound audibly out of tune.

Step 3. For tonal motion, route an envelope generator (usually the one that controls the filter) to control the pulse width of the oscillator waves. Set attack around 100ms, decay at 300ms, sustain to medium, and release off. These don't need to be exact, so don't worry if your synth doesn't show times.

Step 4. Using a lowpass filter, set the cutoff frequency relatively low, then turn up the envelope amount knob so that the envelope you set in Step 3 controls the cutoff. You may need to experiment, but we want it to sound like a brass section.

Step 5. Set the volume envelope similar to the filter: attack around 100ms, decay at 300ms, sustain full up, and release off. Make sure the attack isn't too fast, as it takes time to blow air through a real horn.

Step 6. Add a thick, juicy chorus effect either from the synth itself, or as an insert effect in your DAW's channel strip.

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Have NI Massive? Download the author's "Addicted" patch!