9/10 review of Twisted City from Keyboard magazine (USA).

"Twisted City is a disc that succeeds because of its "forest effect." No single section is a 10-star knockout, but there's a load of decent and diverse material to sift through -- and all for under $100"

"With a name like Twisted City, this CD must be on the bizarre side of the sampleware spectrum, right? Yes and no. Some of the loops and riffs are sliced, diced, and processed to the max, but others are pure white bread. Whichever way you choose to categorize this disc, one thing is clear: This is an eclectic collection, covering not just drum loops, but keyboard, guitar, bass, percussion, and effects territories as well. The distributors trumpet the fact that Twisted City is the "only Bristol Sound CD available, but with a wide enough variety of sound sources to make it viable for other styles." Viable for other styles, indeed ... from industrial and funk to pop and trip-hop. (For a refresher course on the Bristol Sound, see page 38 of our Oct. '98 issue.)

The drum loops on Twisted City are mainly in the funk vein, with a few hyper-speed jungly patterns sprinkled in. Almost all sound as though they were played by living, breathing humans - no robot beats, in other words. The "Twisted Beats" and "Dual Processed Beats" are anything but raw, however. The effects applied to these loops range from extreme filtering to reverse reverb. But not all the drums on Twisted City are dunked. Check out the pure "Sweet Ludwig" and "Tight Gretsch" acoustic grooves. Nice. My favorite loops on this disc are the weirder ones, like the heavily filtered "Sink or Swim" and the ten super-squashed beats on track 9. Love those "Filter Rolls" too. (Unfortunately the tempos of the rolls aren't listed in the liner notes.)

"I like the organization of the processed drum sounds," adds associate editor Ernie Rideout. "It's easy to find beats that are similar enough to hang together in a track, but that have distinct enough processing to really change your sound." That said, there are a few things on Twisted City that raised my eyebrows, like the embarrassingly out of sync "Fat Stammer" and "Shuffler" beats, and the occasionally ill-timed synths. But...
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I particularly like the soulful Rhodes riffs, and the "Effects," "Pads," and "Ambiences" sections - packed with expressive (and sometimes obnoxious) synth sweeps and processed soundscapes. The string chords and progressions are a mixed bag. Many are wobbly and out of tune, on purpose I hope. I could hear them fitting into a horror soundtrack, but not too many traditional tunes. There's a wide enough variety, though, to suit many situations. Twisted City is a disc that succeeds because of its "forest effect." No single section is a 10-star knockout, but there's a load of decent and diverse material to sift through -- and all for under $100.

If you're looking for a single disc that could be used to supply almost every element of a track, then put Twisted City on your list. You won't find vocals, but the drums, percussion, bass, guitars, keys, and effects are covered." Ratings: DRUM LOOPS: 7 MELODIC RIFFS/FX: 7 VARIETY: 9 BANG FOR THE BUCK: 8