

V Expressions Ltd



surReal Expansion Pack

a sound enhancing expansion pack for the Pearl Mimic Pro Drum Module

Revelation 21:23

Updated 07.16.20

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing V Expressions LTD's **surReal** for the Pearl Mimic Pro!

An animal of a completely new design, **surReal** brings you **50+ brand new highly realistic kits, with detailed environmental ambiance, for practice, professional gigging, & turn-key recording.**

We continually listen and improve our development process to bring our customers the kits, sounds and quality they demand. **surReal** is meeting these requests with **natural, light, and medium mixed and processed kits** - with **slightly drier, more realistic environmental ambiance**, and **ready-made options for everything from woodshed practice to live performance**, and **high-quality home recording**. The kits are plug n' play ready for any other these situations!

Not only does **surReal** bring you the new incredible features above, it provides you **over 75 modeled & ready-to-paste instruments!** **With new Mimic copy features**, you can clone any kit with the overall production sound you desire, and then copy in any of our default instruments, to **create amazing new customized kits in just minutes!**

Instruments within kits have already been **customized with unique tuning**, as well as **mic, reverb, ASR, and other adjustments to achieve a unique environment and sound.** **Any favorites you find here can be saved and copied into any other kit!** The possibilities are truly endless!

The following "default" instruments have been modeled to provide quick n' easy loading into any new cloned custom kit.

(11) Bass Drums: Smooth, Tight Smooth, Vintage, Bubinga, Cannon, Gavin, GenPower, PowerFull, Old School, Roomy, & Raw

(18) Snares: Hollow, Piccolo, Jr High, Splat, 1980, Airy, Maple, Old School, Vintage, Funky, Sloppy, Smooth, GrebPop, Jazzy, Muffle, Popcorn, XStick Hi, XStick Lw

(8) Tom Sets: Maple, Bebop, Calfskin, Classic, Old School, Mahogany, Studio, Vintage

(9) Cymbals: Z Brights (CR1/2), B Darks L&R(CR1/2), Z Splashes (aux1/2), K Dark RR (aux4), Z China Hi (aux3), Z Trash 12" (aux3)

(5) Rides: K Dry, Sweet, K Constantinople, Earth, Jazz

(3) Hats: (1) Clean, (1) Dark, (1) NuBeat

Ultimately, **surReal** kits are **inspired by our customer's desire for more realistic acoustics**, with **varied processing levels, to fit with endless music options.** Nearly every music style is easily represented. Kits are developed in a manner to **fit with today's high-quality sound in recording and gigging**, and will **blend with live bands and instruments fluidly.** As this expansion is more realistic in nature, further light volume mixing to match your needs should be expected at the instrument level.

Cymbal modeling on this expansion has been designed to reflect **brighter commonly used Paiste/Zildjian** and **darker Byzance** cymbals in the music industry. Tunings vary across kits to achieve the kit's overall intended voice, and can be easily re-tuned or replaced with a copy as desired.

V Expressions Ltd kits can be edited any way you desire. **You retain total control of all modeling, mixing and production!**

Note: We highly suggest cloning kits before beginning to edit a kit to avoid the need to restore kits from the USB stick.

surReal Kit Listing

Kit	Name	Description
1	[U] VXR Americana	Natural room & clean environment, punchy BD, detailed open SN, full body TMs & CYMs
2	[U] VXR Booth Punch	Tight & dry booth environment, higher pitched TMs and comped SN
3	[U] VXR Booth Soft	Soft compression overall, warm XStick, soft warm high pitch SN, punchy TMs
4	[U] VXR Booth Warm	As above, with warmer CYMs and more natural detail and toms
5	[U] VXR Calfskin Jazz	Natural room & clean environment, detailed open SN, calfskin natural toms
6	[U] VXR Calfskin R&B	As above, warmer HH & CYMs, lower pitch & lightly muffled toms
7	[U] VXR Classic Bright	Compressed & lively studio room with clean detailed CYMs
8	[U] VXR Classic Comp	Features a classic Peart SN sound, with classic TMs and standard Zildjians
9	[U] VXR Classic Rocker	Fuller bodied classic rock kit sound with comped projecting CYMs
10	[U] VXR Closet LoFi	Very tight dry booth, highly compressed, natural CYMs for cutting through
11	[U] VXR Closet Tight	As above, with slightly larger booth sound and clarity Paiste CYMs
12	[U] VXR Country Comp	Stand country kit below with slightly heavier comp
13	[U] VXR Country Kit	Clean, medium to large room environment, with detailed CYMs and standard maple TMs
14	[U] VXR Fiber Kit	Natural booth sound with standard SN, boomy BD, and Fiber TMs
15	[U] VXR Fidelity Prog	Heavy compressed, super low BD, Piccolo SN, and detailed CYMs
16	[U] VXR Fidelity Rock	Heavy compressed, very full body mid-tones, super comped TMs & SN
17	[U] VXR Fidelity Tight	Heavy compressed, tight mid-tone BD, Chad Smith 5" SN
18	[U] VXR Funk Smooth	Smooth funk kit with a bright presence
19	[U] VXR Funk Tight	Natural booth tight booth funk kit – can easily double for reggae kit
20	[U] VXR Funk Warm	Warm, yet detailed kit with classic R&B era TMs
21	[U] VXR Gavin-Like	Classic Gavin Harrison raw kit sound (not for matching PT recordings)
22	[U] VXR Grebby Jazz	Inspired and modeled on Benny Grebb's jazz setup with the Buddy Rich Band
23	[U] VXR Grebby-Like	Inspired and modeled on Benny Grebb's clinic/solo setup (super comped floors)
24	[U] VXR Groove High	Smooth and warm groove kit with detailed and open room SN
25	[U] VXR Groove Low	As above, with lower pitched toms
26	[U] VXR Groove Vintage	As above, with vintage TMs
27	[U] VXR Jazz Modern	Open room environment with modern natural jazz kit modeling (new age modern vintage)
28	[U] VXR Jazz Vintage	Open room environment with antique natural jazz kit modeling (ringy vintage)
29	[U] VXR Live Heavy	Live and boomy classic giggin' kit for rock of all ages
30	[U] VXR Natural Room	Very basic natural room, muffled high-pitched piccolo SN, standard detailed studio TMS & CYMs
31	[U] VXR Natural Smooth	As above, with deeper/looser BD & HH, and deeper TMs
32	[U] VXR Natural Warm	As above, with warmer & lower SN, HH, RD
33	[U] VXR Old School	Very raw large room sound with older, larger sized TMs and fuller body SN
34	[U] VXR Power Acoustic	Default standard acoustic kit
35	[U] VXR Presence	Similar to above, with more clarity in most instruments
36	[U] VXR Smooth Groove	Modern groove kit with more clarity for today's music
37	[U] VXR Smooth Raw	Bright raw acoustic kit with vintage TMs and more clarity overall
38	[U] VXR Smooth Room	As above, with medium compressed TMs for a modern feel
39	[U] VXR Smooth Soul	Taste of old school slight mono-sound dry soul/R&B, with modern presence of fidelity
40	[U] VXR Smooth Wet	Very raw large booth smooth kit for many classic soul/funk type mix
41	[U] VXR Sonic Kit	Tight "smiley face" EQ'd studio kit with super heavy compression
42	[U] VXR Soulful R&B	Modern mix of old school soul era sound
43	[U] VXR Splat Round	Similar to a classic studio sound, with a livelier & boomy TM set
44	[U] VXR Splat Wet	As above, with slightly more compression and presence
45	[U] VXR Studio Classic	Classic tight higher/fuller pitched CYMs, classic comped SN, smooth & punchy BD
46	[U] VXR Studio Kit	As above with higher pitched SN & CYMs
47	[U] VXR Studio Open	More raw and open large booth kit
48	[U] VXR Studio Room	Similar to above with warmer/fuller CYMs & very nice room SN
49	[U] VXR Studio Thick	Standard workhorse studio kit with a very full body and thick SN
50	[U] VXR Studio Tight	As above, with modern and very tight overall feel for many types of music
51	[U] VXR Tight Rocker	Variation of our Classic Rocker, with a much tighter feel
52	[U] VXR Too Tight	Ridiculously tight and compressed mess. Almost got cut, you may love it.
53	[U] VXR Unplug Heavy	Cross of Old School meets a thunderous unplugged environment
54	[U] VXR Unplugged	Natural raw acoustic for a multitude of folk to light rock use
55	[U] VXR Very Raw DW	Inspired by and modeled after a DW Collectors Kit
56	[U] VXR Workshop	Similar to Americana and Unplugged, this kit can fit a wide range of lighter needs
57	[U] VXR Z Brush Kit	About as far as the Mimic can go with brushes just yet. ;)

Getting Started

Thank you for considering and or purchasing a **V Expressions Ltd** expansion pack for your Pearl Mimic Pro drum module!

To increase customer understanding and awareness, we offer this step-by-step instruction manual to ensure quick and smooth implementation with our expansions.

Comprised of both Pearl's and our very own streamlined step-by-step instructions, this helpful document should answer all your questions and get you on your way to playing your new kits.

IMPORTANT - READ BEFORE CONTINUING!!

Accidents can always happen!

We highly recommend backing up your current module's configuration, pad settings, user kits, and user instruments to save personal modifications before loading any expansion from V Expressions Ltd. It is important you follow our steps in this guide to achieve the best results during the processes of module back-up, file preparation, and loading of your new V Expressions Ltd expansion.

Our instructions will result in fully backing up all your data, updating firmware, and loading your expansion kits.

Your module's factory reset data is never touched by V Expressions Ltd, and this original factory state of your module can always be reset at any time. Any custom edited kits you have created will be retained upon loading of our expansion kit(s) when following our instructions.

Please take a moment to read all procedures below before attempting them. If you have questions before attempting any of the procedures below, please refer to your Pearl Mimic Pro owner's manual, or feel free to email **V Expressions Ltd** from the appropriate link on our website at www.vexpressionsltd.com

When you are ready to begin, start with Section I below.

Section I: Backing Up Mimic Data

New in Mimic Version 1.1.0 Update!

Mimic version 1.1.0 now saves all important settings within a single backup. This backup folder will contain all the following:

- Module Settings
- User Kits
- Pad Presets
- Instrument Presets
- Velocity Presets
- Imported Wavs

Backing Up the Mimic

Step 1: Insert your USB stick into the Mimic.

Step 2: From the Home Screen, press the "Settings" button.

Step 3: In the "Backup" tab, press "Export Mimic Backup to USB Stick".

Step 4: Give your backup folder a custom name. (*e.g. yourname_backup_date*)

Step 5: Press Enter.

Step 6: After the Export Completed screen appears, press OK.

Backing Up Everything to your PC/Mac

Step 1: Open your USB stick on your PC/Mac.

Step 2: Create a new folder on your desktop named "My Mimic Backup".

Step 3: Open this custom folder you just created.

Step 4: Copy & Paste or Drag the contents of your USB Stick to this new folder.

Step 5: Verify the contents have copied to the new folder on your computer.

Step 6: Close both folders/views, and continue to Section III, or eject and or remove the USB Stick from the computer.

Section II: Apply Latest Updates

FOR YOUR INSTALLATION AND EXPANSION TO WORK PROPERLY, YOUR MIMIC MUST HAVE THE LATEST FIRMWARE AND INSTRUMENT LIBRARY UPDATES INSTALLED BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

Verifying & Updating Firmware and Instruments

Step 1: Find your current Mimic Pro firmware version. (*Settings > System*)

Step 2: Ensure you have the latest firmware and library version available:

(latest library includes needed instruments & requires a 32gb USB2 memory stick)

Main: <https://pearldrums.com/products/kits/electronics/mimic-pro-module/>

Support: <https://pearl-electronics-support.com/pearl-modules/mimic-pro/>

Step 3: The above must be confirmed and or updated, or you may be missing instruments in your kits.

Step 4: Once verified and or updated, please continue to Section III.

Section III: Preparing Your Expansion

Remember! Make a backup of your download for safe keeping...

Step 1: Following download, create a new folder on your desktop named "VEX_yourexpansion".

Step 2: Double-click your downloaded zip on PC or Mac to open it.

Step 3: Drag the contents inside your downloaded zip to your new folder "VEX_yourexpansion".

Step 4: Close and copy your downloaded zip file to your "VEX_yourexpansion" folder.

Step 5: Make a backup of your "VEX_yourexpansion" folder. (*copy to HDD, CD, USB, etc.*)

Step 6: Continue with Section IV.

Section IV: Copying Your Expansion to the USB Stick

How and where to put your V Expression Ltd expansion files for loading...

Step 1: Open the expansion folder you created in section III.

Step 2: Insert your USB Stick into your computer's reader.

Step 3: Open the USB Stick in a second folder/view.

Step 4: Copy & Paste or Drag the "VEX_yourexpansion.mdp" and "VEX_yourinstruments.mip" (*if applicable*) folders into the root directory of the USB Stick. (*the first folder shown when you open your USB stick*)

Step 5: Verify the expansion folder contents have copied to the USB Stick.

Step 6: Close both folders/views.

Step 7: Eject and or remove the USB Stick from the computer.

Step 8: Continue with Section V.

Section V: Loading Your Expansion Kits

Loading your expansion kits to the Mimic Pro...

Step 1: Insert your USB stick into the Mimic.

Step 2: From the Home Screen, press the "Settings" button.

Step 3: In the Backup tab, press the "Manage User Presets" button.

Step 4: In the next window, press the "Import Archive" button.

Step 5: Select the "VEX_yourexpansion.mdp" folder.

Step 6: Press the "Import" button.

Step 7: After the Import Completed screen appears, press OK.

Step 8: Return to the Home Screen.

Step 9: Remove the USB Stick as desired.

Step 10: Continue with Section VI.

Note: Your expansion kits will begin with "VX_". (underscore represents a letter identifying the expansion)

Section VI: Loading Your Expansion Instruments

Loading your expansion instruments to the Mimic Pro... (if applicable, and only as desired)

- Step 1:** Insert your USB stick into the Mimic.
- Step 2:** From the Home Screen, press the “Settings” button.
- Step 3:** In the Backup tab, press the “Manage User Presets” button.
- Step 4:** In the next window, press the “Instrument Preset” tab.
- Step 5:** Select the “VEX_yourinstruments.mip” folder and import as desired.
- Step 6:** Press the “Import” button.
- Step 7:** After the Import Completed screen appears, press OK.
- Step 8:** Return to the Home Screen.
- Step 9:** Remove the USB Stick as desired.
- Step 10:** Continue with Section VII.

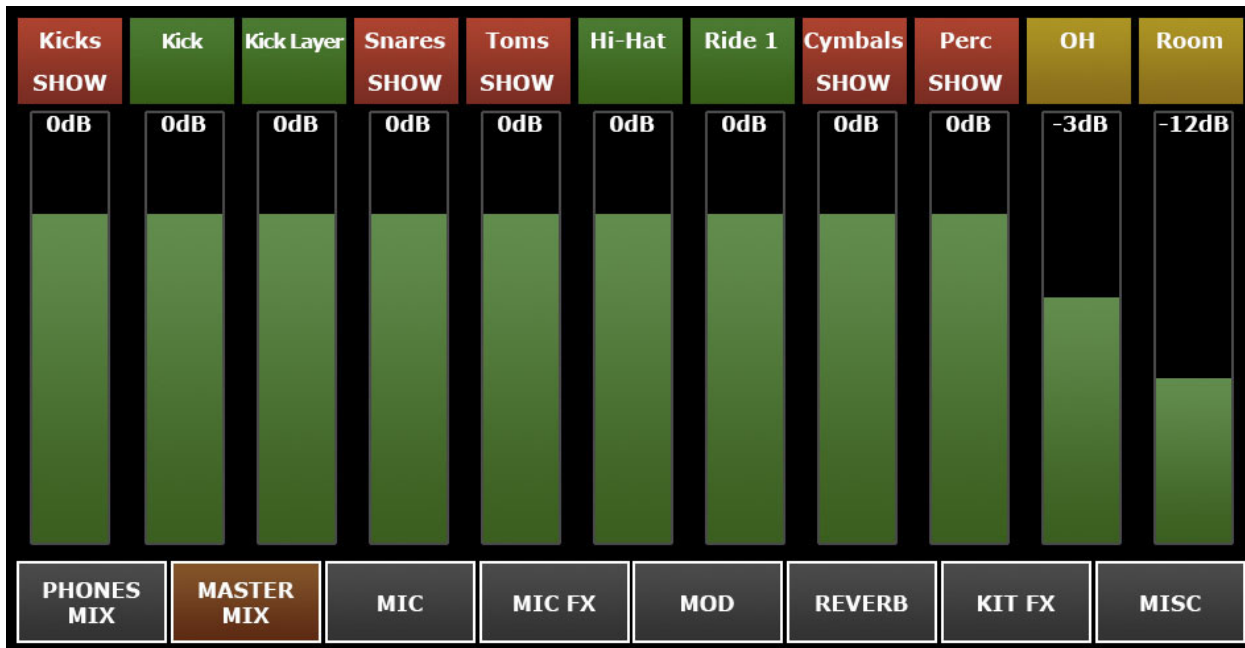
Section VII: Module Mixer/Level Preparation

Important! Turn all headphones, speakers, and external inputs completely down/off before beginning! Settings suggested below will ensure consistent internal & external mixes. Apply personal adjustments, headphone power, and external gear as desired.

Mixer Configuration: (levels are designed to work with original default Mimic levels... these initial levels are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!)

- Step 1:** Press the Mixer Tab.
- Step 2:** Press “Monitor & Settings”.
- Step 3:** Press “Mixer Settings”.
- Step 4:** Press “Reset HP/Master Mixers to Default”.

Example of default mixer(s) reset with Kicks channel expanded:



Headphone Power:

If you require more power for weaker headphones, we *highly suggest* using the “Headphones Volume Boost” setting for an added 6dB of volume - *instead of increasing mixer levels*.

- Step 1:** Press the Mixer Tab.
- Step 2:** Press “Monitor & Settings”.
- Step 3:** Press “Mixer Settings”.
- Step 4:** Press “Headphones Volume Boost”.

Section VIII: Enjoy!

Your new kits and module are now configured for the best possible results!

Minor adjustments to volumes, reverb, etc. should be expected for personal tastes.

We HIGHLY RECOMMEND cloning kits to edit, to ensure retaining the original kit for reference and backup. By using cloned kits for editing, you will avoid the hassle of restoring individual kits from your USB stick. It will save you time!

Auxiliary 5 is modeled on many kits (*not all*) as cross-sticks or cowbells. They were programmed originally for a Roland BT-1, but will work with any trigger attached. The module should retain your trigger type, but you may see a need for trigger setting tweaks. (*volume, as with any pad*)

Tips & Tricks

Loading: Remember, from the Home Screen, to quickly load a kit, simply double-tap the bar where the kit name resides, or simply press the data wheel.

Cloning: When desiring to edit one of your VEX kits, always remember to use the “New Kit > Clone” feature in the Library page.

Effects: Some kits are modeled slightly on the “wet” side. We find that it is easier for our customers to “dial-down” effects; rather than try to find “what’s missing”. If you feel something is a bit boomy, don’t worry; we designed it that way! Simply “dial-down” the **individual instrument’s** volume, OH/RM/RV mic level, overall kit reverb, or adjust EQ for your personal desired level. *(do not use main mixers for this task, as it affects other instruments)*

Routing: While our site demos are recorded internally for the best representation (*phones + aux-in*), your Mimic offers exceptional routing options. Main out is identical to headphones. *(w/o aux-in)* Recording main out to a DAW is identical to your headphone drum mix. *(excluding mixer differences you make)*

There are many options for routing your Mimic for home/studio recording and or live application. Below is our recommended routing for the best simultaneous options. This table demonstrates typical home studio routing with the limitation of the Mimic’s 14 simultaneous outputs. *(plus midi)* When recording multi-track, you lose KIT FX. Think of your KIT FX as a Master FX channel. You would need to replicate these effects on your Master channel.

Midi I/O can be added below to capture midi performance as well. By capturing midi performance, you may make multiple midi passes with your DAW to optionally capture individual layers and toms. *(unless you do not wish to capture Room/Reverb effects)*

Note: This routing example would require 6 individual 1/4” cables (1-6) or a cable snake such as the Hosa CSS-804 (8 1/4” TRS to same), and a DB25 cable, such as the Hosa DTP-804. (DB25 to 8 1/4” TRS)

<u>Mimic Pro</u>		<u>Internal I/O</u>		<u>External I/O</u>
Mains	→	1/2	→	External ins
BD & Layer	→	3	→	External in
SN & Layer	→	4	→	External in
HH	→	5	→	External in
RD	→	6	→	External in
TM L/R	→	7/8	→	External ins
OH L/R	→	9/10	→	External ins
RM L/R	→	11/12	→	External ins
RV L/R	→	13/14	→	External ins

Contact & Support

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