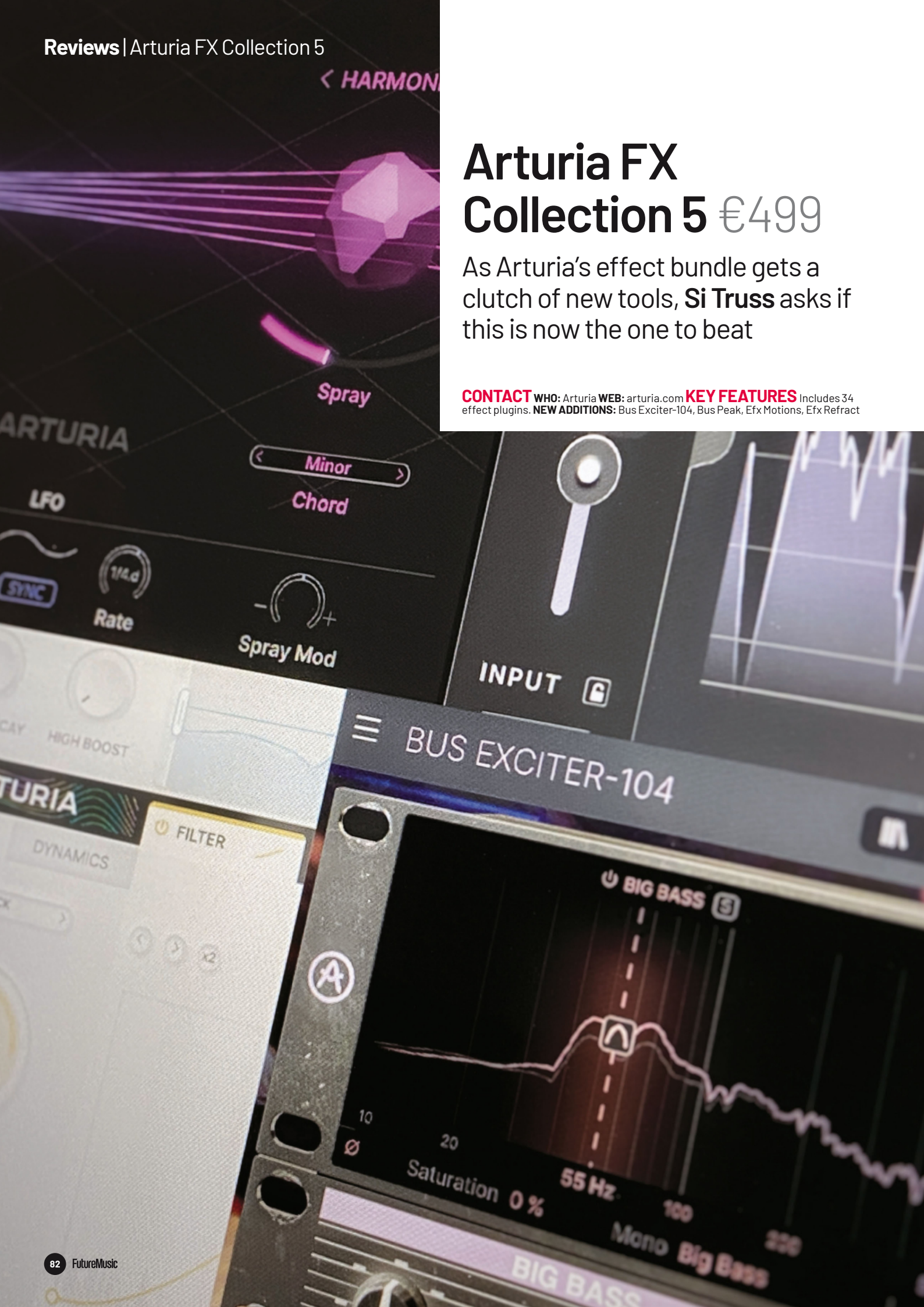
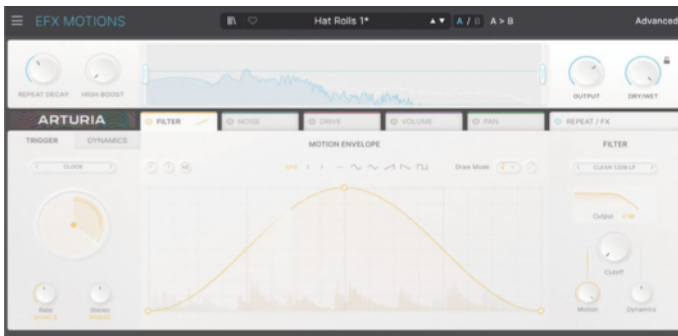


# Arturia FX Collection 5 €499

As Arturia's effect bundle gets a clutch of new tools, **Si Truss** asks if this is now the one to beat

**CONTACT** WHO: Arturia **WEB:** [arturia.com](http://arturia.com) **KEY FEATURES** Includes 34 effect plugins. **NEW ADDITIONS:** Bus Exciter-104, Bus Peak, Efx Motions, Efx Refract





FutureMusic

Platinum  
Award


Arturia has long been known – in software terms – for its synth emulations, and its V Collection is still essentially the jewel in the company's crown. For my money though, at this fifth iteration, Arturia's effects range now represents the best of the company's software output.

What started a few years ago as a handful of emulated effects has now grown into an incredibly well-rounded package, covering compressors, filters, EQs, reverbs, delays, modulation effects and more. The bulk of the collection is made up of emulations of vintage outboard, but of the four new additions for version 5, only one is based on real-world hardware.

That emulated effect is the Bus Exciter-104, a software version of the Aphex Audio Exciter Type C. These much-mythologised units were used to add hi-fi sheen to dull sound using harmonic distortion. Exciters typically work on high frequency sounds but, like the '90s model it's based on, the 104 also features a 'big bass' module for low end enhancement. It's a nice addition to the overall collection, capable of adding life to in-the-box sounds and dull loops or samples.

For all that Arturia's hardware emulations impress, the FX Collection often shines brightest when it breaks away from hardware influence, so it's welcome that the remaining three additions here are all original plugins.

The first is Bus Peak, a peak limiter and clipper that combines a very approachable workflow with a clear and responsive UI. As mastering and bus tools go, there's nothing revolutionary here. There are separate Clipper and Limiter modules, high and low shelving EQs on the input and a variety of monitoring and metering tools. It's exceptionally easy to use though, and capable of both transparent volume boosts with transient control and rich, pumping distortion.

The other two additions for v5 – both of which were previously available standalone – are Efx Motions and Efx Refract. These join the line of modern and creative tools originated by the granular Efx Fragments, and cover similarly creative territory. Motions is a multiband, modulation-driven multi-effect. It bears more than a little resemblance to Cableguys ShaperBox, albeit not quite reaching the creative heights of that tool. Still, it's a very solid source of movement, width and ready-to-go transitions, and is useful to reach for

when you hit a creative dead end and fancy experimenting.

Refract, meanwhile, is a unison effect that creates stacked layers of any incoming audio and processes the results using a range of effects, from distortion and filtering to chord-based resonators. It's a lot of fun to use and is great for adding weight to cheap hardware synths.

Throughout the collection, Arturia's interface design remains a high point. Interactive tutorials guide users through each effect, well-designed presets make finding treatments easy, and 'advanced' views let you dig deeper. There are other quality effects bundles out there, but for an all-round, capable bundle that avoids the dreaded subscription model, I think the FX Collection is now unbeatable. **FM**

## FM VERDICT

# 9.5

More excellent additions make Arturia's effect bundle an unmissable and great value package

## THE PROS AND CONS

+

Bus Peak is brilliantly easy to use and sounds great

Clear and well-designed interfaces make all effects a joy to use

Three out of four additions are original effects

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Efx Motions is a little like a lesser version of Cableguys ShaperBox