

Introducing the Global South Drum Machine & Sampler

RELEASE

3 JUNE 2026

SONIC LIBERATION
DEVICES
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ALBANY, NY 12207
UNITED STATES

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LIBERATION DEVICES

The Global South Drum Machine & Sampler is the first production instrument from Sonic Liberation Devices — a drum machine and sampler built around regionally sourced sounds and non-traditional tuning systems from across the Global South, developed in direct collaboration with musicians, organizers, and ethnomusicologists.

Sonic Liberation Devices began in 2024 as a graduate thesis at NYU, grounded in a belief that music technology can serve community rather than extraction. Its first instrument, the Palestine Drum Liberator, was a battery-powered drum machine built in solidarity with Palestine: braille-labeled keys, open-source code, archival documentation, and regionally sourced sounds, finished in the colors of the Pan-African and Congolese flags. Its politics are reflected in its design.

Through NEW INC's incubator program, SLD grew from a solo research project into a collective of five and spent the past year expanding that framework into a durable production instrument. Where the first device was a prototype, the Global South Drum Machine & Sampler is built to last — made to be held, played, shared, and rebuilt by the people who use it.

The instruments are one part of a larger project: a worker-owned cooperative where artists collectively own resources and shape the futures they build. The website is live now, and each pre-order helps fund that cooperative and the work ahead.

The Global South Drum Machine & Sampler is a limited first run of 250 instruments, available now for pre-order at \$1,600.

WEBSITE

sonicliberationdevices.com

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ABOUT SONIC LIBERATION DEVICES

Sonic Liberation Devices builds instruments that listen — to people, to land, to history — rather than extract from them. Founded in 2024 as an NYU graduate thesis and now a NEW INC-incubated collective, SLD makes music technology in service of community and care, working toward a worker-owned cooperative grounded in transparency, collaboration, shared knowledge, and fair compensation.

Highlights

- regionally sourced sounds and non-traditional tuning systems from across the Global South
- eight-voice kits and a hands-on step sequencer — 8 to 64 steps, chained into songs
- World Globe of regional tunings, with Chromatic and custom Tuning on tap
- braille-labeled keys and a tactile, road-ready build
- open-source ethos — schematics, code, and research shared openly
- built in solidarity, with its politics reflected in the design

Specifications

DIMENSIONS

Approx. 415 × 230 × 35 mm — 16.3 × 9.1 × 1.4 in

WEIGHT

Approx. 1.5 lb — 0.68 kg

CONNECTIVITY

MIDI in/out · headphone / line out

POWER

Rechargeable battery + power adapter

DISPLAY

High-resolution display

Fast facts

COMPANY	Sonic Liberation Devices (SLD)
PRODUCT	Global South Drum Machine & Sampler
PRICE	\$1,600
RUN	250 units (first edition)
LAUNCH	3 June 2026, 6:00 PM EDT
LINEAGE	Palestine Drum Liberator (2024)
PRE-ORDER	sonicliberationdevices.com
SOCIAL	@sonicliberationdevices
PRESS	team@sonicliberationdevices.com

Coverage

The Cut — Tech Without Bros: A growing cohort of queers and femmes are building tech on their own terms

May 2026

Dazed MENA — LITA: Building the Future of Liberatory Sound

December 2025