SOUND ON SOUND





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eader

hen MIDI sequencers first showed up on the market, not only were they were very different to the sophisticated packages we have today, they were also very different from each other. Some almost demanded you write music in machine code, some attempted to create a loose tape-track analogy, while others tried to forge a new and better way of their own. No two offered the same features, and the number of computers supported was bewildering. Whether you had a Commodore 64, a BBC Micro or a Sinclair Spectrum, the chances were you could find a MIDI sequencer of some kind to run on it.

When the Atari 1040ST showed up, its built-in MIDI port and generous memory capacity (for the day) made it an obvious choice for serious sequencing, so support for the other platforms dwindled, but it wasn't until Steinberg's *Pro24* was superseded by *Cubase* that we got our first glimpse of what was to become the model for the standard sequencer interface. These days most sequencing is done using Macs and PCs, but virtually every serious sequencer has an Arrange page that looks similar to that first *Cubase* model, complete with scissor and glue tools for editing. Look a little closer and you're also likely to find a score edit page, a piano-roll grid editor and an editable MIDI events list, not to mention a

GM mixer. What's more, with every revision, the interfaces of all these different programs seem to become more similar. When C-Lab's *Creator* evolved into Emagic's *Logic*, a number of features were heavily influenced by *Cubase* — but in the latest *Cubase* revision to version 4, a number of *Logic*-style features have been added. You only have to look at the reviews of *Logic Platinum*, *Cubase* v4 and Opcode's *Studio Vision Pro* in this issue to see how similar these programs have become (see pages 92, 96 and 104 respectively). In fact the only thing that hasn't converged (yet) is the layout of the menus, and this is probably the main obstacle to people

changing platforms. User-definable key commands are now fairly commonplace, so it should also be possible to allow users to configure menus to their own liking.

Of course, one of the most significant things to happen to sequencers in recent years is that they now have the means to manipulate digital audio, and with faster computers came the ability to handle mixing and generate effects within the computer. The pilos and cons of this way of working have been covered at length in this magazine, but suffice it to say that 'native' processing power can provide the user with a powerful and compact recording system at a relatively low cost. At the beginning of this year, Emagic and Steinberg announced that they would cooperate by sharing Steinberg's VST



plug-in architecture so that the same plug-in software can be used by both Steinberg and Emagic users. Recently, Opcode announced that it too had reached an agreement enabling it to support VST plug-ins, which at the very least means plug-in designers now only need to write one piece of software where previously they had to come up with three different products.

It also allows users to move between sequencer platforms without abandoning whatever investment has been made in software plug-ins

This degree of co-operation is clearly a good thing, but what should be the next development? More processing power means we can run more plug-ins, but that's really just scaling up what we already have rather than coming up with something new I don't pretend to know all the answers, but I do have a few suggestions. We have audio processing plug-ins, so why not a MiDI processing plug-in architecture that will allow third party companies to write 'arrangement aid' plugins? For example, as a guitar player with little knowledge of orchestral arranging, I'd like something that could rearrange block chords as proper string parts in a choice of styles. A routine for creating MIDI harmonies could also be useful, and I'd love to have Steinberg's scalequantise function available from within Logic. In fact, how about an intelligent plug-in specifically designed to compensate for the vagaries of the MIDI guitar — that would make a few friends in the SOS camp! So far, only MOTU's Freestyle has dared to break away from the tyranny of the quantise click — what further improvements can be made in that direction? Sequencers could also be expanded to include sample playback — we have the computing power and cheap RAM to do it - and while we're at it, the sequencer should be able to load commercial sample CD-ROMs via the computer's CD-ROM drive. What do you think — what should the sequencer be when it grows up?

Paul White Editor

SOUND ON SOUND

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Live Bedroom Show

I enjoyed Paul White's series on practical studio soundproofing and am currently busily fixing my house. I wonder if he might be able to help. I live in a three-bedroom end-of-terrace house and I am adapting the smallest room (1.8m x 3m) into a control room. For soundproofing, I'm fixing secondary double-glazing with curtains over and am carpeting with thick-hair underfelt. I may also rehang a solid-timber door with a three-quarter-inch plywood layer. What should I do about the ceiling?

My second bedroom (2.8m x 3.1m) is the guest room but is also doubling as the live acoustic room. It has a wooden floor, and at the moment sounds like a tin alley, with a horrible metallic reverb. Obviously I could soundproof this

room too, but I'm wondering if I need to, as there won't be as much sustained noise coming from this room. What I'd like to know is are there any simpler steps I could take to improve the quality of the live sound, or do I need to soundproof first anyway? Could I hang curtains over the walls to absorb some of the sound, and should I use acoustic tiles?

Duncan Alldridge London

Editor Paul White replies:

Soundproofing terraced houses can be very difficult, but as long as you aren't planning to take drums in there, you should be able to get acceptable results. The hairfelt underlay is a good move, and it may be advantageous to put your speaker stands on small paving slabs resting on the carpet rather than using spikes that go through to the wood. Adding mass and thickness to the door is also a good idea, as is double-glazing, but you need to ensure that the door fits properly and that seals are used to prevent air leaks.

Ceilings can be a problem, especially if you share loft space with next door, but adding a thick layer of rockwool betwen the joists will help (you should have this anyway for thermal insulation), as will boarding over the joists inside the loft. One effective treatment is to put a layer of dry sand over the boarding in the loft, but you have to be very careful not to put more weight up there than the joists can support. A hundred kilos or so should be no problem, but don't put

any more up there without consulting a builder.

For the live acoustic room, a few thick drapes should help tame the worst of the ringing. Try just covering patches of the walls, leaving at least 50 percent bare and reflective; if you can arrange the drapes on rails, you'll be able to modify the acoustics as needed. A rug covering part of the floor may also help - you can take this up when you want a live sound for recording acoustic guitar. Acoustic tiles may also be used, but you can't move these around so easily. Don't worry about the soundproofing unless you have problems, but remember not to tap your feet as you play, as this can cause more of a nuisance than the music itself!

DATascene conversion

So I've got my ADAT, I've got my Power Mac, I've got Cubase Score VST, I've got my Korg 12/12 card, I'm all linked up and everything is working well but have I really got to tell my wife that I need to spend even more money? The ADAT (original type version 4.03) is set as the clock source and is therefore running at 48kHz, and so when I've mixed and 'fiddled' in Cubase I have a 48kHz stereo file. Now comes the problem...

My CD duplication plant wants the DAT at 44 1kHz, but my DAT only accepts digital input at 44 1kHz or analogue input at 48kHz, so I need to convert my files from 48kHz to 44 1kHz in order that I can transfer them to DAT digitally. I've conducted a search on the Internet and looked at news groups and discovered shareware programs for PCs that would seem to do the job, but there doesn't seem to be one for



The now-discontinued Alesis Al-1 provides high-quality conversion between different sample rates.

the Mac — so can you or anyone else help me with my dilemma or do I really have to buy an external converter? I haven't got a bottomless wallet — then there's my wife, who keeps reminding me that I've said countless times that I won't need to buy anything else... Roy Griffiths via email

Editor Paul White replies: Buy your wife something nice, then see if you can pick up a second-hand Alesis Al-1 box — though to be honest, it may be cheaper to buy a new DAT machine that can record analogue 44.1kHz, such as the Tascam DA20

Mk II. The AI-1 can convert 48kHz to 44. IkHz and vice versa, as well as allowing track pairs to be copied between an ADAT and a regular DAT machine. Alternatively, (and providing you have lots of free hard drive space) you could use a program such as Sound Designer II to convert the sample rate of your file within the computer. If anyone out there knows of any shareware or freeware that will do the job, please let us know.

Assistant Editor Sam Inglis adds: I'm told that the freeware Mac program SoundApp PPC, which you can download from www-csstudents.stanford.edu/~franke/Sou ndApp/, will allow you to resample 48kHz files at 44.1kHz. There are several other Mac-related web sites offering similar shareware or freeware programs — take a look at www.partnersinrhyme.com/Mac/MacSoundUtilities.html and wwwhost.ots.utexas.edu;8080/mac/pub-mac-sound.html.

Alternatively, if you do decide to buy a hardware sample-rate converter, check out Dave Shapton's review of the Sony MDS JDE520 on page 52. For around £200 you not only get the sample-rate converter, but also a 20-bit analogue-to-digital converter and a high-spec Minidise recorder.

Perfect Synchronization.



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The Unitor8 is an 8 input 8 output cross platform MIDI interface synchronizer and stand alone 32 patch MIDI patch bay. The Unitor8 offers incredibly fast lock times, the ability to stack up to eight units for up to 1024 MIDI channels, read and generation of SMPTE for LTC or VITC, time-code video burn-in and more. Shipping with comprehensive control software, the Unitor8 is a must for audio/video production work and the perfect addition to any project or professional studio.

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You're too kind...

First of all, I would like to start with the usual: you have a great magazine, and that's the truth. I've tried several others, but I found yours the best. However, I find that almost all of your reviews are very favourable. I don't know what the reason is. Maybe the stuff you choose to review is the best there is, or maybe all high-end music production stuff is good these days! But I find that hard to believe. I think that you must do more comparisons. I, like most people, often find myself facing a problem like 'what microphone to buy?' or 'what synth do I need?' and so I would very much like a side-to-side comparison.

But now to my real question: my main synth at the moment is a Roland SCC1b, which is a computer soundcard. My problem is that it is very noisy, whereas in comparison, my Event Gina is dead quiet. How can I try to minimise the noise? I've tried putting the Roland in different slots and changing the video adaptor slots, but nothing helped. The problem seems worse when the computer gets hot (in the winter, the sound was less noticeable!). I also tried changing the cables that connect the SCC to my mixer, but that didn't work. My computer setup consists of said SCC1b and

Gina soundcards, a modem, a video card (ATI), and two hard disks (one 1.7 and one 4.3Gb).

Of course, I guess the best thing would be simply to buy a separate module for the sounds. I would like to buy something that resembles the Roland, to maintain the sounds I used in my MIDI compositions. Which, if any, of the Sound Canvases would you recommend? Ron Mertens

via email

Editor Paul White replies: Firstly on the subject of 'favourable' reviews: while I admit that there is very little gear around these days that can be written off as actually bad, our reviews are designed to show the strengths and weaknesses of each piece of gear we test, and if we feel the price is too high, we say so. The problem with doing comparative reviews on things like synths and mics is that different people expect different things from them. For example, you could take two mics with the same price and technical specification yet find that one works best with vocalist A while the second works best with vocalist B. The same is true of processors such as compressors, equalisers and multi-effects, and similar problems arise when you try to compare

> synths: some people want a perfect emulation of real life, while others want abstract sounds, and

> > I'll het no two

neonle agree on what consitutes the definitive string sound. Technical imperfections such as noise are a different matter, and

would be pointed out as a flaw. On a purely logistical front, doing side-by-side

reviews would mean waiting until several products of roughly the same type were available, whereas at SOS we like to keep our reviews as up to date as possible. The only practical way to present several products at once is in a round-up, usually several months after the products were first reviewed.

Moving on to your noisy soundcard, it sounds as though you've tried all the obvious things like moving to a different slot and keeping bunches of cables away from the card. The inside of a computer is a very noisy environment and it takes a good designer to optimise both the soundcard circuitry and earthing arrangements in order to minimise noise pickup. Unfortunately, a great many budget audio products do not follow best practice when it comes to circuit board layout, especially grounding, but unless you have the expertise to track down the problem yourself and modify the circuit board, I'm afraid you're stuck with it. Perhaps more users should make it known to synth and soundcard manufacturers that they are unhappy about buying products unless they're supplied with a proper technical spec that includes their noise performance. While most cards now come with some form of basic spec, the majority of stand-alone synths tell you nothing.

If you want the definite Sound Canvas, the new SC880 is supremely impressive (see review last month), though sadly not cheap. Even the more modest SC external modules are surprisingly good, though, and a second-hand SC88 would be a good investment. You might also consider a Yamaha MU10 GM/XG module, as these are being sold off very cheaply at the moment, and they sound lively and clean as well as being a little more upfront in character than the Roland. You should be able to get an 'end of line' unit for around £120 or less. Harking back to my first point, I can't tell you whether the Roland or the Yamaha GM sounds are better (I use both) - they're just different, and each faction has its champions and detractors.



module is a good second-hand buy.

Neat(o) solution

In his review of the Neato Label system (August '98 issue), Paul White found the system worked well but he had problems with curling labels. Neato's web site offers the solution for this: having unpicked a tiny bit of the edge of the label, put the label face down on a flat surface and peel the backing off the label rather than the label off the backing. No, I didn't believe it either, but it works a treat and gives nice flat peeled labels which never bubble. Roger Derry via email

Dicing with DAT

In response to Rob Kirkwood's letter about DAT (Crosstalk August '98): there is a production quality difference in audio DAT and data DAT, although it is slight. It is highly likely that one can use audio DATs in data DAT backup machines with very little noticeable problem. However, it should be pointed out that data DAT machines 'play' at a totally different speed and use a totally different encoding technique to audio DATs, so it would be very difficult to store audio information using a data DAT machine. A sample rate drop would be the only solution, unless some kind of ultra-compact compression is developed. Also, data DATs are pulled around far more ferociously in a data DAT backup machine than their audio equivalent, meaning that data DATs are made stronger than audio DATs (or at least they are supposed to be!). The heads on data DAT machines are also different to the heads on audio DAT machines. Using data DATs in an audio machine will cause excessive wear on the heads of the audio machine as the construction of the tape, and the way in which magnetic particles are attached to the surface, are subtly different. It is akin to using normal VHS tapes in an ADAT — it will work, but it'll end in tears! Richard Aitken via email

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shape of things to come



New BOSS Drum

here's a new drum machine on the way from Boss. The DR202
Dr Groove features 256 drum, percussion and bass sounds, developed, say Boss, "for groove music production from hip-hop to jungle, drum&bass, house, latin and more".

Facilities include:

- 24-voice polyphony.
- 128 preset kits (sourced from 207 drum and 49 bass samples).
- Over 400 preset patterns in various 'groove' styles.
- Real-time and step-time pattern programming.
- Quantisation, including groove quantise.
- Real-time control knobs for on-the-fly sound tweaking.
- Rhythm mute function for dropping out individual instruments and creating breaks.
- Tap Tempo control tap along to the beat of a record or live music and have the DR202 match the tapped tempo.
- Low boost/cut control.

The new drum machine will also transmit MIDI controllers and can be

battery powered. It's set to retail for just £299 and should be available sometime in October.

Roland have also announced that they've licensed their Sound Canvas sound set and the GS extended General MIDI format to Apple Computer, for use in QuickTime 3.0 (see this month's Apple Notes on page 244), and to Microsoft, for use in their Direct Music API. The latter provides PC users who have only standard soundcards with access to a soft synth using the same technology as Roland's VSC88 virtual Sound Canvas. Composers for CD-ROMs or web sites will be able to write with a Roland Sound Canvas knowing that anyone with the soft synth installed will hear the music faithfully replayed. Versions of Windows 98 equipped with the GS soft synth are due any time now, and existing users will be able to upgrade.

- A Roland UK Ltd, Atlantic Close, Swansea Enterprise Park, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA7 9FJ, UK.
- T Brochure line +44 (0)1792 515020.
- F +44 (0)1792 799644. W www.roland.co.uk

Emagic's Soft Circuit

K Emagic distributors Sound Technology are taking the *Logic* range on tour.

There'll be plenty of opportunities for you to check out the facilities of the new *Silver*, *Gold* and *Platinum* versions of *Logic Audio*, Emagic's MIDI + audio sequencer, on the following dates:

- September 17: TSC Brentford (0181 400 9400).
- September 21: Music Connections, Leeds (01943 850533).
- September 22: Music Connections, Birmingham (0121 212 4777).
- September 23: Music Connections, Herts (01462 743300).
- September 24: Music Connections, Chelmsford (01245 354777).
- September 25: Music Connections, Chelsea (0171 731 5993).
- September 28: Music Connections, Southampton (01703 233444).
- September 29: Music Connections, Bristol (0117 946 7700).
- October 3/4: Hemel Hempstead Home Keyboard Show (0181 441 1050).
- October 10: Sound Control, Bristol (0117 934 9955).
- October 18/19: Ashford Home Keyboard Show (01304 375028).
- October 24: Sound Control, Bristol (0117 934 9955).
- October 31/November 1: Mad About Guitars Show, Birmingham (01353 665577).
- November 14/15: Stevenage Home Keyboard Show (01920 460646).
- November 21 & December 12: Turnkey, London (0171 379 5148).
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Tubular Sells!

udio Technica's AT4060 tube mic has been designed with input from many professional recording engineers. The result combines modern design with vintage valve technology to produce a pro studio mic with low self-noise, high SPL handling,

and applications in all situations, from guitar cabs to pianissimo strings.
Each hand-selected valve is aged and individually tested, and dual gold-vaporised large diaphragm elements help to provide extended frequency response. Expect a review in SOS soon.

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Yamaha Hot News

OS brings you exclusive advance news of the forthcoming MU128 compact desktop General MIDI/XG synth. Featuring a whopping 128 notes of polyphony, 64-part multitimbrality and compatibility with up to three PLG-series SW1000XG daughterboards, the new module has a paper spec unlike any other synth. Polyphony and multitimbrality are exceptional for a synth in this market, but it may be the expandability that'll make many musicians look twice: the daughterboards include the PLG100VL virtual acoustic modelling card, the PLG100DX DX7 FM card, and the PLG100VH vocal harmoniser card. The

basic machine also offers thousands of XG-compatible patches, a massive 24Mb of waveform ROM with hundreds of new orchestral voices, and seven (yes, you read it right, seven) internal effects processors. Of course, there's a computer serial connector at the rear, and the module is bundled with a CD-ROM full of software: XGworks Lite v2.0 for PC (plus a plug-in bundle), CBX serial driver, XG Editor for Mac, and a collection of demo MIDI files.

If you're already a Yamaha XG user, there's still a little time left for you to enter XG SoundWorld 98, an international competition with 200,000 yen in cash plus a 300,000-yen voucher for Yamaha musical instruments as a



grand prize — that's a total value of about £3500. The competition is also open to HTML programmers, since the prize is for an XG composition that shows off your XG programming skills in any format. So if your home page uses MidPlug (Yamaha's internet browser MIDI plug-in), you've created something with with SoundVQ (Yamaha's on-line audio system), or you've composed something really interesting with a QY700, for example,

you can enter. But move quickly: the closing date is October 31.

- A Yamaha-Kemble Music, Sherbourne Drive, Tilbrook, Milton Keynes MK7 8BL, UK.
- Product Info Line +44 (0)1908 369269.
- F +44 (0)1908 368872.
- W www.yamaha.co.uk
- W XG SoundWorld 98
- www.yamaha-xg.com/english/ xg/sw/index.html

Get your hands on **HU!!**

t's been a long time coming, but Mackie's HUI (Human User Interface) hardware control surface for Digidesign Pro Tools systems has arrived. The first units have been installed and are already in use in Pro Tools facilities around the country. HUI offers full compatibility with Pro Tools 4.1 systems, taking the mixing process off the screen and onto an ergonomically designed and familiar work surface. Features include eight 100mm touch-sensitive motorised faders and eight virtual pots, which are assignable in banks to different Pro Tools tracks, plus electronic scribble strips on every channel to show track allocation. A dedicated effects panel is provided for hands-on control of plug-in parameters, and the package is rounded off by a built-in meterbridge, complete analogue monitoring facilities (with talkback) and surround sound capability.

- A Key Audio Systems 1td, Unit D, 37 Robjohns Road Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3AG, UK.
- +44 (0)1245 344 001.
- f +44 (0)1245 344 002. E info@keyaudio.co.uk

Senders Victorious

of two of our previous competitions. It's been a long wait but a rewarding one for Adrian Hall of London, who wins a Sony TCD D8 portable DAT recorder which would have cost him over £600 in the shops. This was the prize in our July '97

competition, thanks to the generosity of FX Rentals (+44 (0)181 746 2121).

Also on to a winner is
Stephen McGoran of Sutton
in Surrey, whose entry in our
November 1997 competition
was plucked from the
postbag by our distinguished
panel of judges (it says
here — Ed). Stephen walks



Adrian Hall.

away with a Yamaha CS1x synth, a VL70m physical modelling synth module and a BC3 breath controller, which, as you can see from his photo, have settled very nicely into his home studio! These superb prizes were kindly donated by Yamaha-Kemble Music (+44 (0)1908 366700). Keep those competition entries coming in, and your gear list could soon be growing too...



shape of things to come

webcorner



oland UK have completed a radical Roverhaul of their web site, which now takes the form of an animated "music village". As your mouse pointer passes over the graphics of club, school, homes, studio, radio station and church, the village comes to life, complete with music. Clicking on a musical instrument opens a

link to an online catalogue of 350+ **Roland and Boss** products, some with audio demos, and brochures and free demonstration CDs can also be ordered on-line **FAOs (Frequently Asked** Questions) about Roland equipment can be accessed, and direct email contact with Roland's Product Support team is offered. A Download area hosts new software versions which can be downloaded free of

charge, and there are

news pages and details

of Roland roadshows and demonstrations. Finally, there's a dedicated education page which will be supported by a panel of experts answering questions regarding the use of music technology in education.

A Roland UK Ltd, Atlantic Close, Swansea Enterprise Park, Swansea,

+44 (0)1792 799644. www.roland.co.uk

West Glamorgan SA7 9FJ, UK.

Brochure line +44 (0)1792 515020.

current products, images, technical data sheets and listings of distributors and users.

A Soundcraft Electronics Ltd, Cranborne House, Cranborne Industrial Estate, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 3JN, UK.

+44 (0)1707 665000.

F +44 (0)1707 660482.

W www.soundcraft.com

ooks like autumn is web site overhaul time: Soundcraft have been at it too, extensively remodelling www.soundcraft.com, with high-quality images and data files for all Soundcraft audio consoles. Soundcraft have also produced an Interactive Catalogue on CD-ROM, which features



Soundcraft's web site.

detailed information on all their

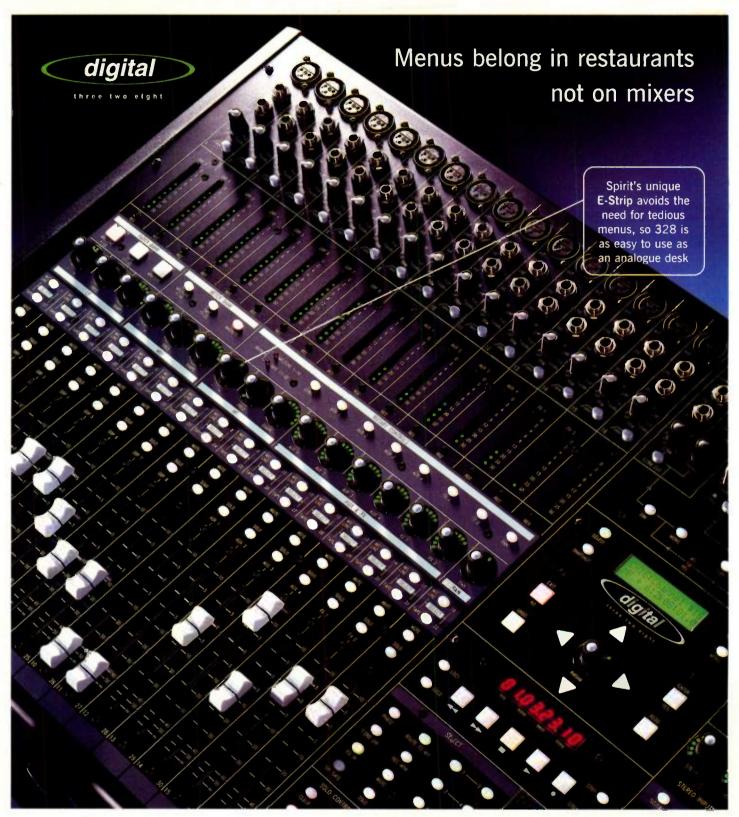
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| Chack out the | Cairie Wahaita. |

shape of things to come

Cakewalk pick a



akewalk's latest piece of software is claimed to be the first package aimed specifically at guitarists: *Guitar Studio*, for PCs running Windows 95 or NT 4.0, offers MIDI sequencing and eight tracks of digital audio recording with an interface aimed at guitarists. Cakewalk claim "seamless" integration with Roland's GR30

MIDI guitar synth (or Fender's Roland-Ready Strat — a Stratocaster with a Roland divided MIDI pickup built in), and the screen features guitar-like elements. You can even compose and arrange MIDI tracks using a virtual guitar fretboard. On the audio front, real-time effects include chorus, reverb and delay, and a built-in tuner, which lets you tune your instrument with on-screen help.

Guitar Studio also lets you print your work out, complete with guitar chord grids and lyrics. For moments when inspiration is lacking, the software can create new backing tracks automatically, using the Song Wizard: preview and select from a full library of drum loops, grooves and bass lines, in both MIDI and audio formats. and pick and choose until you like what you hear, then just choose

the desired number of bars and set the tempo. You need — besides your guitar — a 120 MHz Pentium PC or better, 12Mb RAM (32Mb for NT4.0 systems), a Windows-compatible soundcard and a MIDI interface.

- A Et Cetera Distribution, Valley House, 2 Bradwood Court, St Crispin Way, Haslingdon, Lancashire BB4 4PW, UK.
- +44 (0)1706 228039.
- +44 (0)1706 222989.
- www.etcetera.co.uk

An incorrect price was given to SOS staff during the preparation of the Alesis M20 review in last month's Sound On Sound, and the wrong price was published. The M20 actually retails for £5873.83 including VAT, not £7044.13 as stated. Apologies to Alesis and their UK distributor Sound Technology.

Following Paul White's comments about the lack of metering on the FwS ColOSCII ring modulator (see review in last month's SOS), Dr Douglas Doherty of DACS, the manufacturing company, has written to let us know that he has revised the design of the FwS series in the light of Paul's concerns. All units In on the Modulator and Music Inputs to the processor (after the equaliser controls on the latter input). The Modulator input meter on the ColOSCII and the forthcoming FREQues EQ will show either the external input or the internal oscillator, whichever is selected. The metering will consist of two LEDs: the lower in each pair will be green, illuminating initially around -40dB and reaching maximum brightness at +2dB, while the upper one will be amber and will illuminate at around +2dB, indicating optimum signal input.

DACS +44 (0)191 438 5585.

Italian software house FASoft have released a DirectX-compatible plug-in parametric EQ for PC users. Dubbed 4-Band ParEQ, the software offers real-time EQ for mono and stereo flies, with support for both 16- and 24-bit audio. Compatible applications include FASoft's own n-Track Studio, Sonic Foundry's Sound Forge, Steinberg's Wave Lab and many more. The cost of 4-Band ParEQ is just US\$15.

- A Flavio Antonioli, via Focilide 44,
- 00125 Rome, Italy. +39 (0)6 5235 4431.
- Flavia. Antoniali@flashnet. It

w n-frack.simplenet.com

Coda Music Technology and Et Cetera

Coda Music Technology and Et Cetera are offering owners of Passport's Rhapsody and Encore PC scoring software a chance to crossgrade to Coda's Finale 98 for £98. That's a saving of over £350. And to make sure users of the Passport software can port their old notation files to the new software, a £5 file converter utility will be available. These special offers will end soon, so move fast.

+44 (0)1706 228039.

he successor to Ensoniq's ASRX sampling.
sequencing drum machine/synth (reviewed in SOS September 1997) is called... the ASRX Pro.
The new-look instrument sports a funky new red colour scheme, and offers a number of improvements over the original. Firstly, its sample RAM is expandable to 66Mb, which yields 12 minutes of mono or six minutes of stereo 44.1khz sampling. Operating system upgrades are now easier, since the OS is stored in Flash RAM. A SCSI socket was optional on the original machine: it's standard issue on the Pro. Use it to hook up a removable drive, such as an Iomega Jaz or Zip, or connect a CD-ROM drive to take advantage of the Pro's compatibility with Akai. Roland, and Ensonio's own EPS and ASR10 sample libraries. The ASRX

Ensoniq's Red Alert

Another totally new feature is Stomper, a built-in software synthesis program that "makes faithful reproductions of classic electronic drum machines — and

Pro can also read AIFF and WAV-format samples.

even phatter sounds." The new machine is still compatible with original option wave and audio output expansion boards.

- Road, Iver, Bucks SLO ONH, UK.
- T +44 (0)1753 630808.
- F +44 (0)1753 652040.
- W www.emsoniq.com

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shape of things to come

Canterbury College is providing a variety of eight-week courses covering basic MIDI sequencing and Digital Audio, as well as their two-year full-time BTEC National Diploma in Music Technology. In addition, a one-year BTEC first diploma is planned for the forthcoming year (subject to approval). Due to the success of the courses, the current facilities are being expanded and updated to include two large teaching rooms with individual workstations, and a purpose-built live recording studio. For more information, contact admissions at the address below

A Canterbury College,
New Dover Road,
Conterbury, Kent CT1 3AJ, UK.
1 +44 (0)1227 811188.

Distribution for KRK monitors has been taken over by recording media specialists ProTape, which means that the UK contact details on the end of last month's KRK V8 review are already out of date! Contact ProTape for details of the full range, including the V8 and spares.

ProTape +44 (0)171 323 0277.

505's July '98 review of the Doepfer A100 modular synth stated that the A100 modules could be bought in kit form. This was intended to convey that the modules could be bought individually and customised systems put together, but it gave the impression that modules themselves could be bought in kit form and the components assembled by users. UK distributors EMIS have asked us to clarify the situation. Apologies for any inconvenience.

+44 (0)117 956 1855.

One of the few shortcomings of Emu's Audity 2000 synth module (reviewed in SOS August 1998) was its 32-voice polyphony — this just didn't seem enough for a late '90s instrument with 16 arpeggiators and a sophisticated synth engine. This has now been rectified with the synth's v2.0 software upgrade. Patches using 6-pole filters will play with 64-voice polyphony; use 12-pole filters and the total is 32 voices again, but new technology lets the Audity dynamically switch between 6 and 12-pole filters based on voice count. The new operating system also allows new software to be piped into the synth via MIDI. Until the end of October, the v2.0 upgrade is available free to all Audity 2000 owners; after that, It'll cost £157.

+44 (0)1753 630808.

www.emu.com



Digitech in Full Effect

igitech's new Quad 4 multi-effects processor offers the equivalent of four separate processors, and its four sets of in and outs mean that up to four signals can be processed at the same time. The processor boasts 20-bit A-D and D-A converters and flexible effects configurations with a choice of multiple in/out routings. Any effect can appear at any point in the effects chain, and the choice of effects includes compressor, rotary speaker, spring reverb, up to 5.5 seconds of delay, reverse delay, vocoder, stereo or mono sampler, envelope filter, and more. True stereo operation is possible, and there are 100 memories for user patches; 100 presets are also provided.

The Vocalist range of harmony processors has also been expanded by Digitech: the new Vocalist Access is a 1U rackmounting device specifically designed for keyboard players. It's claimed to be simple to use, yet offers four "natural-sounding" harmony parts, plus a four-voice detuning mode to provide vocal thickening or doubling. The Access also features several built-in reverbs.

Lastly, Digitech have launched their first ever dedicated bass guitar processor, the BP8. Alongside its collection of studio-quality effects such as reverb, pitch-shift, chorus, delay, flange, and so on, the BP8 features a fully programmable analogue compressor, with a choice of 12AX7 valve or solid-state preamps, 4-band EQ, and adjustable notch filter. An onboard continuous controller pedal can be used to modify parameters in real time, and the BP also features a built-in tuner.

- Arbiter Music Technology, Wilberforce Road, Landon, NW9 6AX, UK.
- +44 (0)181 202 1199.
- +44 (0)181 202 7076.
- arbiter@cix.compulink.co.uk
- www.arbitergroup.com
- W www.digitech.com

Euphonix 'R' Go!

ou probably know the name of Euphonix from their high-quality professional mixing consoles, but the company are now moving into digital recording with the announcement of the R1 24-bit digital multitrack system. The aim for the company was to provide a user-friendly transition from analogue or digital tape to hard disk, maintaining a familiar user interface while providing improved "sound quality, reliability and operational efficiency". Euphonix's acquisition of digital recording specialists Spectral Inc. in 1996, helped to supply "much of the key technology" Euphonix needed to complete the recording aspects of the system, but the company have also used their experience in mixing and digital control in the development of the R1.

Base systems (from around £15,000) offer 24 tracks and include a full-featured remote control and MADI (Multi-channel Audio Digital Interface). High-speed Firewire interfaces are provided on each R1 system component, and the system is optimised for use with 9Gb Wide SCSI drives, which provide about the same recording time as two standard reels of 24-track tape. Analogue Devices SHARC DSP chips provide 40-bit floating point audio processing.

The R1 is described as modular and scalable, so systems can be expanded or reconfigured, and it will offer all the benefits you'd expect from a hard disk system — random access, instant locating and looping, cut-and-paste editing, and non-destructive recording. Expect it to be available from early 1999.

Going back to Euphonix's core mixer business for a moment, we've just heard that their *Mixview* software, for the CS series of mixers, has been upgraded to v3.2. Enhancements include better 5.1 surround sound handling, and a comprehensive automation-editing suite of tools specifically designed for the Euphonix Hyper-Surround panning system. You can now be trained on a Euphonix console — a 48-input CS3000, to be precise — at audio engineering college Alchemea. The digitally controlled analogue desk has just been installed in Alchemea's Control Room One.

- Euphonix UK Ltd, 6 Bergham Mews, Blythe Road, London W14 OHN, UK.
- +44 (0)171 602 4575.
- F +44 (0)171 603 6775.
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www.steinberg.net

shape of things to come

The **Synth's** in the Post...

he recent CeBIT Home 98 show in Hannover was the venue for the launch of Edirol Europe. Edirol is run by Roland as a mail-order operation specialising in the Sound Canvas family of products and computer music peripherals, and has been established in North America for some time. The company is now

making moves into desktop digital video, with the Video Canvas line, and details of their full range can be found in the Edirol European Buyer's Guide. Just write, call or email for your free copy — contact details below.

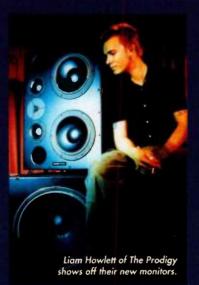
- A Edirol (Europe) Ltd, 500 Chiswick High Road, London W4 SRG, UK.
- +44 (0)181 956 2224.
- +44 (0)181 956 2225.
- I info@edirol.co.uk
- W www.edirol.com

Dynaudio goes down well with Prodigy

ynaudio Acoustics have released a new sub-woofer specifically targeted at the burgeoning 5.1/multi-channel surround sound market. The BX30, as it is called, is a development of the popular ABES sub-woofer unit, launched four years ago, which is now in widespread use in many recording and audio post-production facilities. The new BX30 is also equally at home as a sub-bass unit in smaller project studios where the nearfield monitoring needs an extension to its frequency response and power handling. Crossover electronics are incorporated into the design, along with a 140W power amp, and the unit can handle frequencies down to 22Hz. The UK list price for the BX30 is £1510 including VAT.

Techno funsters The Prodigy have installed a Dynaudio M3A monitor system, complete with two custom-built sub-bass units, in their new private songwriting studio in Essex. The Prodigy are currently using the studio to prepare tracks for their next album — a follow-up to last year's million-selling The Fat Of The Land. The Dynaudio monitor system incorporates the new XTA 226





digital 2-input, 6-output crossover, Chord 1424 and 612 mono block amps and the new DCA 1250 amp. The installation was carried out by Nik Clarke, head of technical sales support at studio design consultancy Munro Associates, with Kevin Walker and Iain Beckham of Unity Audio.

The Prodigy's Liam Howlett, who is responsible for the band's songwriting, chose Dynaudio Acoustics M3A monitors because he wanted loudness, true clarity and a fantastic bass response: "I was totally blown away by the sound quality of the M3A monitors. I was really impressed by their depth and clarity, particularly at the bottom end, and I wanted a system with enough power to provide a club vibe, but accurate for mixing."

- A Unity Audio, Elms Barn, Baythorne End, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4AB, UK.
- T +44 (0)1440 785843.
- F +44 (0)1440 785845.

We were sad to learn that pro audio retailer Axis Audio of Stockport ceased trading earlier this year. However, Axis' remaining stock has been acquired from the receivers by Boomerang Sounds. Most of the 200 items are brand new, and some "heavily discounted" prices are in effect. Contact Boomerang if you'd like a list.

1 +44 (0)161 873 7770. E boomerang@compuserve.com

Paul Tattersall of Studiohire has formed LED, the London Equipment Database. If you're selling — or looking for — any live or studio gear (mixers, samplers, synths, effects and so on), LED could be the service for you. If you're selling, your gear is added to the database free of charge, but LED will charge a 10 percent commission when a sale is made.

+44 (0)171 435 3491. F +44 (0)171 431 1134.

Deltron Components' new SwiftPatch 48-hole patchbay system offers modular design and user customisability. Sealed jack modules — available in packs of six — offer four 3-pole jack sockets each for stereo, balanced or unbalanced operation. The modules can be used in normalled or half-normalled mode, with the choice being made by removing and rotating the module. No unscrewing is necessary — squeezing the release clips does the job. Colour coding, visible through the front panel, tells you instantly which state a module is in.

Rexburgh Electronics +44 (0)1724 281770.

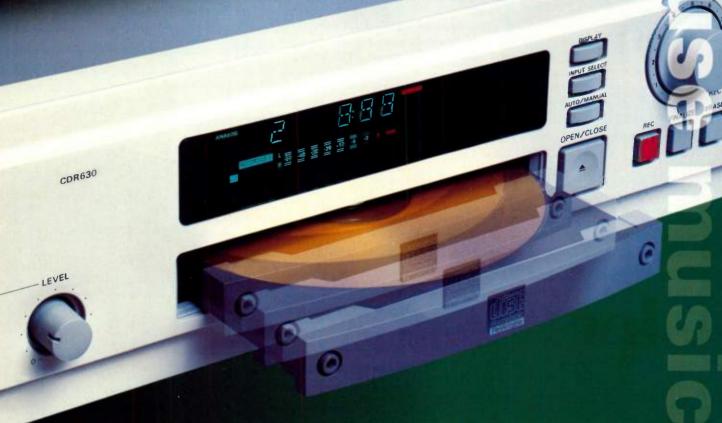
Software developer David Zicarelli, of cuit interactive composition software M fame, has revived his famous program. Available now for Macintosh only, v2.5 offers improved stability, OMS and QuickTime compatibility, plus all the recording, editing, interaction and randomisation functions that have made the software so popular. A trial version of M is downloadable from the Cycling '74 web site, and registration is US\$74 (that's about £46).

www.cycling74.com/products /m.html

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shape of things to come



ine 6's POD is guaranteed to stand out in any studio, with its unusual shape and ability to "deliver a wide range of legendary amp tones". This direct recording guitar preamp/processor features 16 TubeTone amp models and 16 high-quality digital effects setups, arranged on separate knobs. Line 6's patented digital modelling technology, as used in their AX2 212 and Flextone series digital guitar amp systems, and in the Amp Farm plug-in for Pro Tools TDM systems promises a "deep, inspirational sonic palette." POD also offers MIDI-adjustable parameters and comes complete with a CD-ROM containing PC and Mac editing

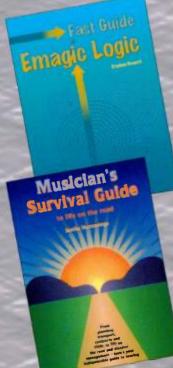
software. It should be on the loose during October

TubeTone modelling also makes an appearance in the new Flextone HD amp head, a 150W stereo/300W mono amp. It provides four inputs, Line 6's amp models, effects, built-in speaker emulation, and stereo XLR outputs, and costs £899 including VAT.

- A Sound Technology, Letchworth Point, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 1ND UK
- +44 (0)1462 480000.
- F +44 (0)1462 480800.
- info@soundtech.co.uk
- W www.soundtech.co.uk

bookcorner

f you're a user of Emagic's Logic family of sequencing software and a gigging musician, there's a potential double strain on your book-buying budget this month.



PC Publishing have added two new titles: Fast Guide to Emagic Logic by occasional SOS contributor Stephen Bennett, and Stella Hemmings' Musician's Survival Guide to Life on the Road.

The Logic book covers the MIDI

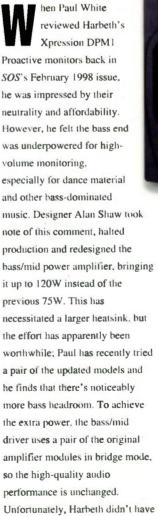
side of the software on Mac, PC and Atari. Logic is a powerful program that has a reputation for being difficult to set up - this book aims to get past that reputation. There are plenty of tips about setting up the program and achieving more musical results, using the Environment and screensets, along with a reference for the most frequently used functions. The book describes Logic setups that will be useful to a typical user, while introducing some of Logic's more esoteric capabilities and offering tips and tricks to help you with your music making. The book costs £14.95 (postage extra), and is available from the SOS Bookshop (contact details below)

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the first batch, so the rear panel still reads 'Twin 75 Watts', but the alternative would have been another production delay. Future batches will be correctly labelled. Harbeth would like to make it clear that none of the lower-powered models went on sale, so you don't have to worry about whether the DPM1 Proactives in your local store are up to spec — all models on sale are to the new uprated standard.

- A Harbeth Acoustics, Unit 1 Bridge Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1UA, UK.
- +44 (0)444 440955.
- F +44 (0)444 440688.
- W www.harbeth.com



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Digidesign's **Pet Project**

f you'd

like to have the advantages of Digidesign's audio hardware but can't stretch to a full-blown Pro Tools 24 system. you'll almost certainly be interested in the company's new Project II. This stand-alone, 24-bit PCI card is designed for use with popular Mac and PC MIDI + Audio sequencing software — compatibility with Mark of the Unicorn, Opcode and Steinberg products has already been announced. However, you'll need a Digidesign-compatible external audio interface in order to use it: these include the company's 882/20 I/O, 888/24 I/O, and ADAT Bridge. Special bundles, consisting of a Project II and interface, will be made available. Two interfaces can be connected to Project Studio, for

up to 16 channels of audio I/O. And if you like what you're hearing, or your studio gets an injection of cash, Project II can be upgraded to Pro Tools 24 at a later date. We don't have more detailed spec on the Project II at the moment, but watch this space for more info and a review

- A Digidesign UK, Avid Technology Ltd, Westside Complex, Pinewood Studios, Iver Heath, Pinewood, Bucks SLO ONH. UK.
- +44 (0)1753 653322.
- +44 (0)1753 654999.
- www.digidesign.com

VST makes friends

......

teinberg's Cubase VST v4 has been out for a couple of months now (and is reviewed starting on page 96 of this issue). But until now, one significant new VST feature was not compatible with anything. VST had been waiting for Rebirth v2.0, which is now out: using Steinberg's new Rewire technology, any or all of the individual voices in Rebirth (up to 18) can now be patched through VST mixer inputs, for full EQ, plug-in and mixing capability. And that includes all individual drum sounds. The Rewire technology also improves synchronisation between the two programs, on both Mac and PC platforms.

Not content with emulating the classic TR808 drum box, Steinberg (and Rebirth developers Propellerheads) have now included a virtual TR909 drum machine. Rebirth itself also benefits from a

with *Rebirth*

new effect: the Compressor can work in mono or stereo, and is available for all four instruments both TB303s, the TR808 and the TR909. And for those of you into hacking, the customisability offered by earlier versions of Rebirth has been retained --- and made even easier - with several example alternative Rebirths included on the v2.0 CD-ROM (and Propellerheads' web site). Note that the Rewire technology is only available with VST v4.0 on the Mac and v3.60 on Windows-equipped PCs --- so upgrade now if you want to take advantage of the new features.

- Arbiter Music Technology, Wilberforce Road, London NW9 6AX, UK.
- +44 (0)181 202 1199.
- +44 (0)181 202 7076.
- arbiter@cix.compulink.co.uk
- www.arbitergroup.com

If you want to look at equipment we'll send you some brochures...



If you'd prefer to listen and evaluate a wide range of products by strict A/B comparison there is currently only one option.

Turnkey's revamped and enlarged demo facilities feature what we believe to be the world's largest digital comparator systems for pro audio" and the only one of its type in the U.K.

Over 70 effects processors are available for instantaneous A/B via relay switching, eliminating the repatching time which makes good comparisons so difficult. 16 pairs of studio monitors, 10 power amps, 16 mixing consoles and around 30 sources and recorders from DATs, CDs, HDRs and Multitracks are on the same matrix so you can instantly configure complete systems.

Take 8 bus consoles - hundreds are bought each year on recommendation. Bearing in mind the sums involved it's hard to believe that the opportunity to properly compare the various brands for EQ and noise has not previously been offered.

We've taken the same innovative approach to demonstrating all our products from CD Rom samples to analog synthesisers.

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*The leading manufacturer of this equipment tells us that the Turnkey systems are the largest ever supplied worldwide

A COMPLETE STUDIO IN YOUR PC!





The EMU Audio Production Studio is a PCI based audio system that gives you up to 64 voices of sampling, multitrack hard disk recording and professional real time DSP FX

along with all the software that you'll need to get professional results right out of

The Audio Production Studio comes complete with the E-Drive, an audio I/O module that mounts in an empty drive bay on the front of your PC (no more fishing round the back for that lost cable!).

> This together with the E-Card gives you an amazing 4 analog inputs (switchable line/ mic with phantom power!), 2 analog outputs, 4 channels of digital output and a separate headphone output!



- 64 Voice, 32 Part Multi-Timbral Fully Featured 16 Bit Sampler Using the Ever Popular SoundFont Sample Format
- Full Duplex Hard Disk Recording, with up to 64 Tracks
- Emu E-Drive Audio I/O Module, Multiple Inputs and Outputs
- Fully Programmable Dedicated FX DSP
- On Board Digital Mixing, Multiple Inserts and Aux Sends

System Requirements: Windows '95/98 PC, 133Mhz (200 recommended) with least 24MB of RAM and 804x600 256 calour mo







AMIII & G3 Pack

- G3/266 64/4009CD & Apple D
- Formec 17" 200 Colour Disast

ProTools III & G3 Pack

ProTogis III Returbished Core System

G3/286 32/4000CD, Zlp & Apple Keyboard

Dolby Surround Tools

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£879

Antares Auto-Tune

£579.



Ask anyone in the know in the audio industry about who are the foremost acoustic designers in the business, and the chances are that the name of Roger Quested will be top of the list. He has built an unrivaled reputation for himself in a notoriously difficult process which is half science, half art.

Whilst his Initial designs were all large bespoke projects for his studio installations, the last few years have seen the emergence of a very carefully thought out, high quality range of monitor speakers, to cater for the demands of the modern speaker market, from the innovative new FII, to the incredible HQ410.

The Quested range is probably the most comprehensive available, covering active, passive and self powered designs, as well as amplifiers and active crossovers, from subwoofers through nearfields to custom built soffit mounting units

Call Turnkey Professional to arrange a demonstration, a free trial In your own studio, or to enquire about our generous part exchange facilities.



F11 SELF POWERED MONITOR

The FIT's cabinet design is another Quested first, being made from a new mineral loaded material which offers excellent acoustic properties using a considerably smaller box than would be possible using conventional materials. using conventional materials. The design is a self powered two way bi-amplified one, with 165mm bass driver, and 28mm soft dome HF unit Months of fine tuning have resulted in a speaker which



VS2205 SELF POWERED MONITOR



One of the most popular models in the Quested range of the most popular models in the Quested range,
\$2205 is designed as a highly accurate reference
tor, and its low profile and shielding made it ideal for
evariety of uses. The built in amplifiers separately
two 130mm bass units and a 28mm iterrofluid
damped soft dome tweeter.
\$200.99 Switches are provided for input
sensitivity and HF and LF
equalisation, to compensate for the VS2205 is de

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YAMAHA

PROMIX 01 V Digital Mixer

Yamaha's fabulous new 01V replaces the ground breaking ProMix 01, and is basically a slightly cut down 03D, for a lot less money!

As well as a striking new silver paint job, the OIV also features 16 analogue inputs plus 8 digital ins and outs via optional cards in either ADAT, TDIF or AES/EBU format. There is 4 band fully parametric EQ for all the main inputs, 2 stereo multi effects processors,

RRP £1399

- Up to 24 Inputs in Total
- Moving Fader Automation
- 4 Band Fully Parametric EQ
- 2 Built in Effects Processors

moving faders, dynamic MIDI automation, and of course, exemplary sound quality.

Call now for a

Initial stocks are very limited - get your order in now!

Turnkey brochure and a free trial!

03D Digital Console

Like the 02R, the 03D is a fully-automated digital mixing console set to have a large impact on the mixing market. With 26-

inputs & 18-outputs the console features fast 32-bit internal digital audio processing, versatile analog and digital I/O configuration, new 32-bit onboard multi-effects processors with freeze (sampling) and guitar amp simulation effects, motorised faders, fader and mute grouping, surround sound mixing, onboard automation, MIDI remote capabilities and much more.



- Ultra Compact Format
- Moving Fader Automation
- Surround Sound Capabilities
- Takes ADAT, TDIF or AESEBU Digital Board





02R Digital Console

The fully digital 40 input 8 bus console with total automation and moving faders. 4 band parametric EQ and dynamics for

every input and 2 comprehensive on-board fx processors with a range of reverbs, delays and other standard fx. Optional interface cards allow full digital connection of ADAT, T-DIF and AES/EBU formats for integration of MTR and hard disk systems.

RRP £6999

- Up to 40 Inputs in Total Moving Fader Automation
- Dynamics Processors on Every Channel
- Takes 4x ADAT, TDIF or AESEBU Digital Boards





THE UK 4 TRACK CENTRE

TASCAM PORTA 02

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D8 DIGITAL WORKSTATION



MT8X MKII MULTI-TRACKER



YAMAHA

MD8 DIGITAL WORKSTATION ויוויבונו

424 MKII SCAM MULTITRACK RECORDER

A brand new version of the best selling 424 from Tascarr entors of th portastudio Features include 3 portastudio. Features include 3 band EQ with a mid sweep, records to all 4 tracks at once, 2 independent auxiliary sends (1 switchable pre/post fade). Logic controlled 2 speet transport with built-in memory location points, DBX reduction, initial supplies limited.

MINIDISC PORTASTUDIO / EDITOR

Tascam are the inventors of the Portastudio, and were also the first on the market with a MiniDisc based four tracker. The result, the 564 1111111 is triumph of engineering and heavily feature packed with it: up to 12 inputs at mixdown built in MIDI Clock and Time Code synchronisation, 3 band mid sweep EQ, 2 individually adressable aux sends, full LED metering, jog / shuttle wheel, 4 XLR mic inputs with insert points, individual track outputs, SPDIF digital I/o, 37 mins record time per disc, whilst the unique bounce forward facility allowing retention of

the original parts even after digitally bouncing tracks. Far too many specs to list here - a studio in a box! This is without doubt, the ultimate Portastudio. Excellent value for money at the original price, but Turnkey's exclusive offer makes this superb machine the recording bar

- order now while stocks last!

the year

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DA20mkii DAT MACHINE

ble SCMS

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£499

BBP C694

DTC-ZE700



DAT RECORDER

VIRTUAL

VIRTUAL

STUDIOS?

TASCAM DA38

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UAV



VS-840 DIGITAL WORKSTATION

Want the advantages of a hard disk based recorder, but without the price tag? Roland's new VS840 should fit the bill, recording 8 tracks (up to 64 virtual tracks) onto its built in Zip drive, you still benefit from a fully digital mixer, and a built in FX

- Optional SCSI Port • Full Editing Facilities
- Built in Effects Processor
- Records to Low Cost Zip Carts

processor, with 26 different algorithms and guitar level input. An all in one no-nonsense product with a nononsense price

> Initial stocks will be very limited - get your order in early

INCLUDES 10 FREE ZIP CARTS!

GIVEAWAYS!

/S-880P digital workstation

INC FREE AKG C1000 MIC & STAND! Roland's VS880 has become the de-facto standard for compact digital eight track recording. track has 8 virtual tracks allowing you to record multiple takes, and then compare them, even if you've already recorded on the other 7 tracks. The built in digital mixer handles up to 14 channels has 2 band parametric EQ, I external and 2 internal aux sends to the supplied FX board, and is fully MIDI controllable. The SCSI port allows connection of external SCSI devices for recording or backup, which can also be made to DAT or CDR via the digi i/o. MTC is



- Built in Effects 64 Virtual Tracks
- Built in MIDI Sync
- Digital Mixer with Automation

standard to sync up your sequencer. New V2 software allows automation data to be recorded to the hard drive, and

also gives numerous new effects algorithms, including mic emulation! 2 gig HD & FX board now standard!

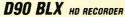
VS-1680 DIGITAL WORKSTATION

INC FREE AT4033 MIC & SHOCKMOUNT The VS-1680 from Roland takes integrated digital recording to new heights, featuring up to 16 tracks of 24 b MT Pro recording, each track having 16 virtual tracks for multiple takes. A 2 gig drive is built in for up to 37 hours recording time, as well as one of the new VS8-F2 boards giving four simultaneous FX (a 2nd board can be fitted if required). There are 10 audio inputs including 2 balanced XLRs and 12 ouputs, a SCSI port is standard and CD writing software is built in. 3 band parametric EQ is easily edited via the huge LCD display. In stock now at Turnkey!



- 24 Bit MT Pro Recording
- 16 Tracks with 16 Virtual Tracks
- Huge LCD Display for Easy Editing
- Up to Eight Independent FX Proces









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DAP1 PORTABLE DAT

DPS12 DIGITAL MULTITRACKER



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MAGNETIC MEDIA

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AKAI DR16

ALESIS ADAT XT20

MARANTZ CDR

PANASONIC SV3800



SONY PCMR500

FOSTEX X55

RRP £374

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OWES



LEXICON PRICE CRASH!

exicon break the price barrier with their all new budget machine, the MPX100. Previous cut price

Lexicon units have had to cut corners on bandwidth and

true stereo processing etc, but the MPX100 uses the state of the art Lexichip 3 in conjunction with 20 bit AID and DIA convertors to bring you world class processing at an unbelievable price!

There are a carefully selected range of 240 presets, giving you all that's best in reverbs, (5 1/2 second) delays and ambience, as well as more unusual effects like tremolo, rotary, pitch shift and detune. The parameter adjust knob controls not just one, but a selection of usefully chosen parameters for each preset editing a breeze, and their are 16 user registers

The MPX 100 also features a full MIDI specification with In Out and Thru, and even the ability to sync delay times to an incoming MIDI clock signal. The SPDIF output assures compatibility in an increasingly digital age, unique for a processor at this price point, and there's even a footswitch bypass facility for discerning guitarists and other live performers. Upgrade to Lexicon quality today!

MPX100



- Top Quality Lexichip 3 Reverb & FX
- Adjust Multiple Parameters Simultaneously
- Sync Delays to Incoming MIDI Clock
- Up to 5 1/2 second Delay Time with Reverb

NEW PRODUCT

THC-00

Freeform Analog Technologies FreeBass has become one of the most successful sound modules ever, and now the range expands further with the THC-00 Resinator and PCP330 Procoder.



resonance! Feed any mono signal into this unit and get out some of the most wacky and groovy sounds you've ever heard in glorious auto panning stereo. Each of the filters has it's own cutoff point which is modulated in a selection of ways, by a combination of the built in LFO, the polarity reversable envelope follow an external control voltage. Ideal for processing loops, vocals

or indeed any another signal, for results ranging from the sublime to the extreme!

Must be heard! More fresh thinking from F.A.T.

PCP330 VOCODER



One of the most asked questions in the industry must be "Why doesn't anyone a vocoder anymore?" - well here it is, with a fantastic feature list, great sound quality and a down to earth price. The carrier can be either an internal VCO or external line input, whilst both line and mic inputs are given for the modulator signal. Eleven filter bands each have their own level knob on the front panel giving true hands on control of your sound, and the sibilance (unvoiced) control also has an external input if required. The final output can contain any mix of modulator, carrier, vocoded signal and a special filtered version of the signal. Remember, this doesn't only create robot voices, there are thousands of creative. uses, and it's also ideal for processing drum loops.

Order now and own an instant classic!

DIGITAL

PROBLEM

FRIEND-CHIP

MPX1



STUDIO QUAD 4

4 CHANNEL STUDIO FX

For those of us who need top quality reverb & multi FX but cannot stretch to the expense of the PCM80, Lexicon have released the MPX-1. Featuring the famous 'Lex' chip for reverb and separate DSP processor for multi FX, the MPX-1 brings you all that is good in signal processing for an incredibly low price. Up to 5 simultaneous effects are available including pristine quality stereo pitch shifting, and effects can be "morphed" from one algorithm to another, as pioneered in the Vortex. Megadeal only at Turnkey!

RRP £1199



III Digilech

BRP 5795













equipment's analogue ins and outs, because of the difficulty of interconnection and synchronisation. Friend Chip's new sensibly priced digital patchbays and 'black box' problem solvers end the misery and make the digital studio a reality! The DigiMax digital patchbay (£299.99) has 8 inputs and outputs (2 each on optical), can accept both AES/EBU and SPDIF signals, and is MIDI controllable. An XLR version (£499.99) is also available for greater AES/EBU reliability. The Audio Time Base (£499.99) is a lu 19" rack which acts as a master clock source for your studio, outputting word clock, Digidesign Super Clock and SPDIF. The master clock can be internally generated, or a reference taken from mains, SPDIF word clock, Super Clock, video or LTC (SMPTE). Lockup from timecode is in around I second







Two channels of classic dbx compression with new Auto-Dynamic To Attack and Release controls, program-adaptive expander gates, balanced inputs, precision LED metering and sidechain insert. From panel selection of stereo or dual mono operation, all in a standard IU rack design and at an unbelievable price. Now with BBP C244 new auto setup mode!

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DRAWMER MX30

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FOCUSRITE PLATINUM **VOICEMASTER**

Mic, line, 48V, phase

ratio settings 3 band EQ with notch Opto de-esser

DUAL MIC PRE

FOCUSRITE PLATINUM

TONE FACTORY

NEW PRODUCT

500000 100000

The RP583 Studio Tube has become an Compressor / Limiter

channels (stereo

buy, with a smooth and natural compression characteristic. Ratio is continuously variable from 2:1 to Infinity, and there are separate controls for attack, release, threshold and make-up gain. Dual VU metering is

provided, as well as jack and balanced XLR ins and outs, and sidechain access is fully catered for Ideal for a variety of instruments, vocals and complete



00 . O O

RP533 Studio Tube Multi-Processor NEW PRODUCT

Whilst mixers these days are of a better quality than they used to be, to get the best possible signal to tape or disk, you can't beat a dedicated unit - and for value for money, you can't beat the Bellari RP533 Studio Tube Multi-Processor. The all tube 2u box, features a

premium quality transformer balanced mic pre amp with switchable 30dB pad, phase reverse and true 48V phantom power. The compressor has all the features of the RP583, and the exciter section adds a wonderful sheen to virtually any sound, as well as beefing up the bottom end. Each stage has it's DIRECT bypass switch, sidechain access is provided, and the large VU meter can monitor input, output, or gain reduction. No serious recordist should be RP520 Studio Mic Pre Amp

£499

NEW PRODUCT

£499.8

A true dual tube mic pre amp at a bargain price, with tubes used at all the crucial gain stages, not just strapped across the outputs. Features include phase reverse, input and output pads, separate gain and output

RP562 Stereo Exciter Traditional exciters usually do a good job of brightening up the extrem too end, but can often leave you with a rather harsh signal lower do The incredible warmth of the Bellari Sonic Exciter ends all that,

providing a sparkling top end with no harshness, and a huge bottom end to boot. The stereo unit has both lack and XLR connectors, dual VIJ meters, and ofer output with it's own cutoff and level controls. Superb sound quality at a fraction of the price of similar devices.

level controls, true 48v phantom power, jack and XLR ouputs and o

VU meters. Bypass you desk's mic amps and feel the quality!

MP110 Direct Drive Mic Pre Amp

ADB3 Stereo Direct Box

00500



PARAMETRIC EQUALISER

FOCUS EQ

VC4 ENHANCER

4 POLE

The 4 Pcle is the legendary Microwave / Wave 24 dB lowpass filter. You are free to apply this fifter to any audio signal that you patch into the Fifter. So if your favourite sampler or rample player locks that special quality, you can give it a sonic boost via the 4 Pcle Sitins.

X POLE FILTER

...00

channel tube

NEW PRODUCT £129

BBP (939

£399°

JOEMEER

£159

FACTORY DIRECT

E269

waldorf

NANOVERB

£169

£145

ALESIS

£99

MICROVERB IV FX PROCESSOR

MIDIVERB IV FX PROCESSOR

£195

WEDGE MASTER REVERB



The Wedge Desktop Master Reverb from Alesis

unlike any other in that it's designed to be used right in the sweet spot, not in your rack. The Wedge's reverb algorithms represent the

finest creation's of Alesis' experienced DSP design team, and parameters like Early Reflection shape and stereo depth allow ultra detailed space emulation.

DRAWMER MX50

RRP £289

£269

DIGITECH VOCALIST **ACCESS** PERFORMER

BBP

DIGITECH VOCALIST

Adds 4 extra

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Value output stage & retro
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sweep HPF Notes gate, subtle vecal distortion FX NEW PRODUCT

DIGITECH STUDIO 100

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Ringing round for the cheapest Pentium II? We sell audio equipment - not office software and games! The computer is the heart of any studio setup, and a Turnkey Pro Tech audio-ready PC, built with carefully selected components, means a quality solution at an affordable price. We deliver a tested, working, integrated system - if you have a problem, just call us!

A modern Pentium II can be used for a myriad of tasks ranging from desktop publishing, multimedia, games, and office work. However, few applications are as demanding as digital audio recording. Criteria which are irrelevant to most PC shoppers (such as the level of radio frequency interference within the casing), become very important, and sound cards which are otherwise considered "best buy" in the press often lack the essential "full duplex" ability which permits monitoring of audio during recording.

By supplying a pre-installed computer which we build from carefully selected components and run through 16 separate tests, we ensure that you get up and running immediately, you won't need to delve into DMA channels and P'n'P BIOS conflicts, and you won't get any nasty surprises like "insufficient system resources" warnings, when you try to run you software. Call us to discuss your requirements - satisfaction guaran







emagic



Brand new monster software analogue synthesiser for PowerMac from top programming team Bitheadz. Up to 32 simultaneous voices, 3 oscillators per voice, 7 filter types, 2 parallel and 2 serial effects processors and much much more FACTORY D FACTORY DIRECT

set of presets covering a huge range - not a one sound to free demo disc available!

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Native Instruments Generator is a realtime soft synthesiser and much more - it's a sampler, a step-sequencer, multi-effects processor and an audio track processor. Use a massive library of modules to create your own sound designs. Up to 16 instruments per ensemble with up to 64 voices per instrument. Create classic analogue sounds, organs, FM, additive, trigger

samples, design effects processors like compressors, vocoders, FACTORY DIRECT chorus, delay, all on your PC

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Steinberg

LOGIC PLATINUM - Up to 96 audit tracks, real-time DSP effects, support mutate high-end hardware RRP £549 LOGIC GOLD - Up to 48 audio not some DSP effects, supp and Korg 1212 RRP 4399

MICRO LOGIC AV

LOGIC SEQUENCER RANGE

CUBASE VST



CUBASE VST V3.5



RECYCLE

REBIRTH RB-338 SOFTWARE SYNTHESISER

PRODUCER PACK TO Cubase VST is great



AUDIOWERK 8











MU10

MODULE OUT OF THIS WORLD MEGADEALS

YAMAHA

Turnkey's incredible buying team have done it again! Yamaha's MU10 was already great value for money, but this exclusive offer makes it unbeatable! The "XG" range of products (including the famous DB50XG) has long been highly regarded for its 676 excellent sounds, 3 built in effects processors and superb integration with computers.

with computers.

The MUIO comes in a handy moddle format which means there's no need to open up your computer, no IRQ conflicts or DMA problems, you just connect it to the serial port of your Mac or PC (cable included). What's more its MIDI in and out ports means it also acts as a MIDI interface, and it can be used as a stand alone module without a computer? module without a computer! The 34 built-in effects can be used not only

with the built in

sounds, but also with any external signal (eg your voice, guitar etc) via the stered audio input. The MUIO comes with the CD-ROM version of Steinberg's fan Cubasis MIO sequencing software, and this incredible offer includes a shareversion of Yamaha's XgEdit editor free for detailed editing of the onboard sour A complete starter kit for anyone looking to get into This exclusive offer is only available whilst stocks last -

PRICES GUARAN

A DIGITAL HURRICANE IN YOUR PC?

99% of available sound cards use the oldfashioned "DMA" system of recording audio in order to be compatible with Soundblaster games.

With the Pinnacle and Fiji, Turtle Beach abandoned this system in favour of their proprietory Hurricane architecture. Basically, it gives you more tracks than DMA on the same PC hardware, and leads to less driver conflicts.

> The Turtle Beach Multisound series has long been considered the "Rolls Royce" of sound cards, from the very first Multisound in 1993, through to the highly respected Tahiti card, and now - the Multisound Pinnacle.

The audio quality of the Pinnacle is beyond reproach, based around a Motorola DSP, with 20bit convertors on both record and playback, 64x oversampling, and

Delta/Sigma convertors. An on-board Kurzweil chip provides a top-quality set of synth sounds, which can be augmented with your own samples which can be mapped to a MIDI keyboard via the SampleStore™ control panel. (Up to 48 Meg of samples can be loaded, depending on the size of SIMMs fitted). Create your own drum-kits, mix in break-beats sampled from CD etc... etc...

CUBASE VST 2549 99

20 BIT DAC / ADC

Enhanced or Std Duplex

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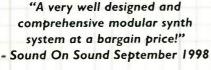
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Hooter Sound B1

Mic Amp/Compressor/Limiter/Gate

PAUL WHITE encounters a budget recording preamp with a colourful pedigree.

ooter Sound is a new company set up by audio designer Ted Fletcher (the man behind the successful Joemeek range of processors) with the aim of manufacturing good quality budget audio products specifically for musicians working with computers. The majority of budget soundcards have acceptable line-level input stages in terms of noise and distortion but their mic inputs, if they exist at all, tend to be pretty perfunctory, and of course they don't have regular 48 volt phantom power. The Hooter Sound B1 is a desktop mic/line preamp with onboard compression, limiting, gating and phantom power that can be used via the line input of a typical soundcard to give considerably improved performance, especially when working with microphones.

Joemeek's bright green livery brought that product line immediate recognition, so clearly Ted has followed the same philosophy with the canary yellow Hooters.

Housed in a simple but tough steel case, the B1 is powered from an included AC mains adaptor and fitted with rubber feet for desktop use. Other than the PSU connector, the rear panel provides a balanced XLR mic input, a phantom power switch and a $470 k\Omega$ impedance unbalanced line/instrument input jack. There are two identical unbalanced

outputs, again on jacks, the idea being that one can be used to feed the soundcard and the other to feed a monitor system if necessary. Of course you don't have to use the B1 with a soundcard — it is also well suited to use with other recording formats.

The mic amp is based around the SSM 2017 dedicated microphone preamplifier chip. This device is often found in good quality mid-price mixers and stand-alone mic preamps, and certainly performs better than the mic amps found in most project studio consoles. A rotary gain control provides up to 60dB of mic gain (the same as most mixers) and a red LED shows when the phantom power is active. The line input impedance of $470k\Omega$ is a good compromise given that both instrument (including guitar and bass) and line signals must be accommodated.

Next comes a (very) soft-knee compressor, which has been deliberately simplified to make it intuitive to use for those with less recording experience. It also has its own Bypass button with green status LED. There are only two controls, Ratio (1:1 up to 8:1) and Release: there's no threshold control or make-up gain. The Ratio control is linked to the compressor gain in such as way that as the ratio increases, the impression of loudness also increases. The compressor threshold is preset, though adjustments can be made using the preamp gain control as this changes the input signal level in relation to the fixed threshold. Unlike the Joemeek compressors that use an optical gain control element, the Hooter's compressor is based on a new Analogue Devices chip. which incorporates a VCA. One casualty



of cost saving, however, is that there's no visual indication of how much compression is taking place, so all setting up must be done by ear, ideally using the gate to mop up noise during pauses.

The limiter is an integral part of the compressor circuit and has no user-accessible controls. When the signal approaches a preset limit threshold of around +10dB, the compression ratio automatically rises to around 14:1. According to the manual, the circuit has been designed to effect a smooth transition between compression and limiting. As the B1 is primarily designed to be used with soundcards, the limit function is a valuable asset in helping to avoid overloading the card's analogue-to-digital converters. A large Peak LED in the middle of the front panel shows when limiting is taking place. A Mute button directly after the compressor can be used to mute the signal when changing microphones and this has a flashing red status LED.

Immediately following the compressor is a gate built around 'soft' switching circuitry and, once again, the controls are very simple. Other than the gate's Bypass button, there's only a red On LED and a Threshold control. The gate operates via the same VCA as the compressor, making it useful for cleaning up noise during pauses where heavy compression is being used.

Finally comes an output level control and LED level meter comprising two green LEDs. a yellow LED, an orange LED and a red Max LED. Compression occurs up to the level

