

cm/recommends

The best new gear from the last three issues...



Native Instruments PC MAC Maschine €599

Rating **9/10**
Reviewed **cm138**
Contact [Via website](#)
Web www.native-instruments.com

What is it? A groovebox akin to Akai's ever-popular MPC range, but with all the benefits that only a computer-based system can bring. Maschine features over 5GB of sampled content and 21 wicked NI effects, but, most crucially, it's easy to get "lost in the flow" of the hardware-operated sequencing and create entire tracks without even looking at your computer screen.

Verdict "The perfect combination of software and controller for groove production and performance. Maschine is just awesome"



Camel Audio PC MAC Alchemy £179

Rating **9/10**
Reviewed **cm137**
Contact support@camelaudio.com
Web www.camelaudio.com

What is it? "The ultimate sample manipulation synthesiser", according to Camel Audio's blurb - a lofty claim, but one that's not too far off the mark, we reckon. Highlights include the superb modulation system; additive, spectral and granular synthesis alongside good-old subtractive; a sensible interface design; and, as our review puts it, "practically unrivalled sample control".

Verdict "Alchemy is an astonishing instrument that will delight hardcore synth and sampler lovers no end"



Digidesign PC MAC Pro Tools 8 £156

Rating **10/10**
Reviewed **cm136**
Contact [Digidesign, 01753 655 999](tel:01753655999)
Web www.digidesign.com

What is it? The greatest update yet to Digi's standard-setting DAW, version 8 finally sees Pro Tools' MIDI editing come up to scratch. There are also great new systems for compiling tracks and working with automation lanes, plus tons of swish new RTAS instruments and effects. Note that the price given above is the upgrade fee from Pro Tools 7 and is for the HD edition.

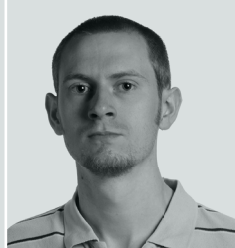
Verdict "It could be time to go Pro thanks to this highly impressive update, which finally sees Digidesign shake off their DAW's 'audio good, MIDI bad' reputation"

What we've been using this month



Ronan Macdonald
Editor

My recent sessions have been dominated by Ableton Live 8 and Audio Damage BigSeq 2. Put these two together and you have the ultimate loop-enhancing/destroying machine!



Lee du-Caine
Deputy Editor

Yahoo for u-he! The contents of Urs Heckmann's wonderful Uhbik pack have become uhbikitous in my productions. Heck, man, what are you waiting for? Go and try it yourself!



Tim Cant
Multimedia Editor

I've been filling gaps in my schedule by fiddling with audiorealism's technoBox for iPhone. My fingers are aching from working this neat little 'Box, but it's all worth it just to hear it scream!



Craig Hitchings
Production Assistant

Audio Damage Rough Rider Pro has been phattening my rhythms into monstrous beasts - I have to remind myself not to ride roughshod over everything else, though!