

#### WHAT IS IT?

An analogue mixer with a USB connection for allowing you to easily record to your computer

#### CONTACT

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 A good-sounding, unfussy mixer
- 2 Onboard USB for simple connection to computer
- 3 Easy as pie (not Pi, which is more complex...)



Compact, straightforward, clean, affordable...

# Yamaha MW12 | £250

Want an analogue mixer as a front-end to computer recording? Yamaha might have just the thing, as **Jono Buchanan** is set to discover...

**M**ixing desks: useful for propping doors open, filling useful space, heating rooms and other important things, right? When the DAW revolution began and people started realising they could do their recording, synthesis, sampling and effects processing directly in their computers, big clumsy desks were among the first items to be packaged up and either sold or dumped in the nearest storage container. And yet an appetite for hardware desks understandably persists.

There are still phenomenal synths out there that don't exist in software form. And what if you want to submix four instruments at once and your channel strip, lovely though it may be, only has one mic pre? Welcome to the MW12, as straightforward an analogue mixer as you're ever likely to use. Twelve

channels of input, EQ, the lot. And the twist? A sneaky USB port round the back, pre-loaded onboard drivers and a bundled copy of Cubase LE for PC and Mac, all of which means you can be using this desk to directly feed audio into your computer within ten minutes of it being unpacked.

#### Channel strip

The MW12's channel strip is straightforward and familiar. At the top,

you'll find a Gain control with peak light. Also at this stage, an 80Hz high-pass filter option allows you to lose any inherent noise from, for example, mic proximity or electrical interference. Under this, a 3-band EQ is provided, with fixed base frequencies for these at 10kHz, 2.5kHz and 100Hz and up to +/-15dB of cut/boost available.

Two auxiliaries also grace each channel, as does a channel On button, a PFL solo switch, a Routing button to allow signals to reach groups 1-2, plus pan and level controls.

The fader is a 70mm affair with a smooth action, which is by no means a given for a console of this size and price. Well done Yamaha.

The EQ too, is useful. I suppose the only real concession to price is that the mid-range isn't sweepable. Financially, this does make sense, but I still get a little nervous without that control. It's a long way from 100Hz to 10kHz.

Still, the EQ does sound very clean, and as most people will be using this desk primarily as a means to get sound into their computer, I wouldn't have thought that radical EQ work would be called for too often.



