

cm/recommends

The best new gear from the last three issues



Nektar £400 PC MAC Panorama P4

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm**182
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What is it? A keyboard controller designed to tie in tightly with Reason, aiming to be the ultimate physical companion to Propellerhead's DAW. Beyond the 49 keys, nine sliders, motorised fader, backlit pitch/mod wheels, plethora of knobs and 12 drum pads, it's all about the central TFT display. This allows the direct control of core Reason functionality such as the transport, mixer, instruments and effects. There are a few quirks (and the 12 pads aren't quite enough for Reason's Kong), but the super-slick integration makes for a hugely satisfying control experience.

Verdict "A genuinely amazing Reason controller and a good (but expensive) general-purpose MIDI keyboard"



IK Multimedia £236 PC MAC ARC System 2

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm**183
Contact [Via website](http://www.ikmultimedia.com)
Web www.ikmultimedia.com

What is it? IK's second-gen Advanced Room Correction System comprises a calibrated microphone and a measurement application for capturing an acoustic profile of your studio space, and a plugin to insert on your DAW's master bus that corrects anomalies in your monitoring path based on said profile. New in v2 are custom profiles (in case you find a totally flat sound uncomfortable on the ears), Virtual Monitoring Profiles (emulating a range of speaker models) and Combined L/R Correction (for tightening up the centre of the stereo image).

Verdict "For anyone who's serious about getting the best sound from their setup, we strongly recommend ARC System 2"



FXpansion £69 PC MAC DCAM Dynamics

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm**184
Contact [Via website](http://www.fxansion.com)
Web www.fxansion.com

What is it? It turns out that FXpansion are every bit as good at effects as they are instruments. After the success of their stunning Etch filter, the acclaimed UK developers turn their hands to dynamics processing with this bundle of four analogue-modelled plugins. Comprising a convincing SSL emulation (BusComp), a warm 1176-style limiting amplifier (ChanComp), a superb transient shaper (EnvShaper) and a uniquely flexible dual-band compressor that makes short work of a wide range of corrective tasks, DCAM Dynamics is an absolute bargain.

Verdict "Dynamics processing of this quality at this price doesn't come along every day - most impressive!"

What we've been using this month



Lee du-Caine
Editor

Could Cakewalk's slick Sonar X2 be the DAW to break my years-long Cubase addiction? Only time will tell, but so far I'm absolutely loving its integrated console emulation and über-slick Smart Tool.



Tim Cant
Features Editor

As a connoisseur of substantial bottom end, I'm always trying to get the biggest, roundest sounds possible. Toqu Audio Line TAL-U-NO-LX has sated my desire for chunkiness this issue with its fat filters and big-boned chorus effects.



Ben Rogerson
MusicRadar

When I heard that I was being sent the iRig Keys, I thought that I was being given access to some kind of Apple-inspired flatbed truck. It turns out that it's actually a very useful little iOS, PC and Mac controller keyboard.