

cm/recommends

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



FXpansion Geist £189 PC MAC

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm161**
Contact via website
Web www.fxpansion.com

What is it? It's been a long time coming, but here we have the spiritual successor to FXpansion's popular sample-based drum machine, Guru. Geist sports a fresh interface and totally rewritten code, with new features such as direct sampling, retrospective recording, a song mode, new effects, a brilliant 2GB sound library, and tons more.

Verdict "Geist is one of the best virtual drum machines around and will more than satisfy those who've been waiting patiently for a Guru sequel"



Vengeance-Sound Philta XL £40 PC MAC

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm162**
Contact info@vengeance-sound.de
Web www.vengeance-sound.com

What is it? A dual filter plug-in designed with the dance musician in mind, Vengeance-Sound have thought of pretty much everything here. Features include low- and high-pass filters that work in a band-pass or notch arrangement; slopes adjustable up to 96dB/oct; syncable LFOs and envelopes; distortion, bitcrushing and ring modulation; and plenty more. It's more than the sum of its parts and it sounds bloody great, too.

Verdict "Philta XL lends further credibility to Vengeance-Sound's status as lords of the dance scene. It's a certified banger!"



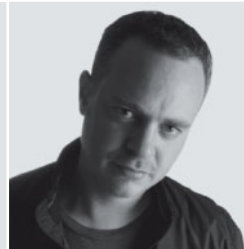
Steinberg Cubase 6 £508 PC MAC

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm163**
Contact info@steinberg.de
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What is it? A DAW that's been with us in one form or another since the end of the 80s, this version brings us guitar amp simulation, élastique timestretching, tempo detection, a new comping system, multitrack drum quantisation, simple drum replacement, and more. Oh, and there's the superb Note Expression MIDI editing system, enabling you to edit parameter curves on a per-note basis.

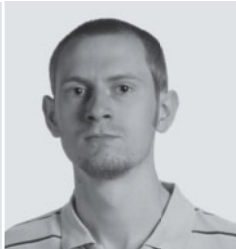
Verdict "An all-round update for an all-round great DAW, combining sensible additions and tweaks with splashes of real innovation"

What we've been using this month



Ronan Macdonald
Editor

GarageBand for iPad certainly isn't going to have NanoStudio or BeatMaker 2 running scared, but as an example of focused, fun, engaging app design, it sets a new standard.



Lee du-Caine
Deputy Editor

Beneath the organic facade you see to the left lies a ruthless android aiming to ultimately erase all trace of humanity. Sonic Charge's Bitspeak is therefore a plug-in of which I heartily approve.



Tim Cant
Multimedia Editor

I've spent all of my recent spare time testing Alchemy Player CM's mettle, but I don't blame it for being so addictive. As they say, don't hate the Player - hate the game.



Caitly Foster
Production Editor

I've been messing about with Liine's new Ableton Live controller app, Kapture Pad. What craziness happens if I trace a cake outline on the X/Y morph pad? We're about to find out... **cm**