

cm/recommends

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



Steinberg PC MAC HALion 4 £295

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm168**
Contact info@steinberg.de
Web www.steinberg.net

What is it? A huge overhaul of Steinberg's sampler, HALion 4 reasserts its relevance with new, well, everything. The interface is much smarter, both in looks and operation, with a customisable layout. Sonically, you get full-on virtual synthesis as well as sampling. Elsewhere, you've got VST3.5 support (including VST Expression 2, for polyphonic modulation), FlexPhraser arpeggiation and lots more.

Verdict "HALion 4 proves to be well worth the wait, though only time will tell if it can regain its status as a first-tier sampler."



Cakewalk PC Z3TA+ 2 £69

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm169**
Contact support@cakewalk.com
Web www.cakewalk.com

What is it? A synth that's been around for nearly a decade finally reaches version 2. Existing features like waveshaping oscillators and powerful modulation are present and correct. New for the update are a brand new interface, adaptive pitchbend, an X/Y pad, a new distortion mode, new filter types, and more. Perhaps the most powerful feature, though, is that all waveshaping sliders are now modulatable, which vastly widens the synth's sonic potential.

Verdict "A solid update sees this seasoned synth back in action. A welcome return!"



Vengeance-Sound PC MAC Stereo Bundle £102

Rating 10/10
Reviewed **cm170**
Contact info@vengeance-sound.com
Web www.vengeance-sound.com

What is it? A powerful stereo manipulation tool combining two types of mono-to-stereo processing, stereo enhancement, compression, separate EQ for mono, stereo and mono-to-stereo elements, and multiple metering types. For creative uses, there's an envelope feature for making the stereo image leap out rhythmically, or in response to MIDI. You also get four individual plug-ins, for when you only need some features of the main Stereo Bundle effect.

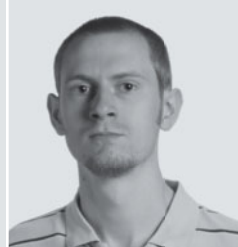
Verdict "Another Vengeance hit, this is one of the best stereo tools that money can buy."

What we've been using this month



Ronan Macdonald
Editor

Native Instruments Complete 8 is almost too many awesome plug-ins to handle, but the integration of all those disparate presets into Maschine brings the whole thing together beautifully.



Lee du-Caine
Deputy Editor

There are many EQs in my life, but I can always find the time to explore the curves of one more. Of late, PSP's NobleQ has caught my attention with its smooth tone and elegant simplicity.



Tim Cant
Multimedia Editor

For the second month running, I've had my hands full with a big-knobbed offering, this time SoniVox's Wobble, from which I've coaxed all manner of climactic, shuddering pulsations.



Caitly Foster
Production Editor

The world is full of percussive sounds if you listen carefully. I've been capturing these nifty noises and turning them into bangin' rhythms with simple iOS sampler and sequencer app, RealBeat. cm