





### WHAT IS IT?

Lexicon's own software reverb bundle for Mac and PC adding seven classic Lexicon reverb algorithms to your DAW

### CONTACT

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Classic Lexicon sound 2 Tailor the exact reverb
- 3 Great, intuitive GUI design



# **Lexicon Native Reverb Bundle** £1,174

Think of reverb and you think of Lexicon. Now the hardware reverb behemoths have finally gone soft, as **Jono Buchanan** discovers...

exicon is a name to rank with the very highest in our industry, with the sound of Lexicon reverb central to

studio mixes for over 30 years. From single-rack classics such as the PCM80 and 90 to the white remote control unit of the 480L, which we've all seen perched atop SSL and Neve desks from the world's most influential recording studios. Lexicon remains a gold standard. While more recent Lexicon developments such as the PCM96 allowed software editing, until now it's always been necessary to accommodate their reverbs via hardware. So, it's with considerable excitement that the software-only Native Reverb Bundle now arrives. complete with seven Lexicon

algorithms, ready to slot directly into your own computer-based productions. Does the quality here match the hype and, more pertinently, the price?

### Magnificent seven

The plug-ins can be downloaded directly from the net or purchased in box form but either way, installation is painless. Copy protection is ensured via iLok and once you're registered, you're away. Rather than bundling all seven algorithms into a single GUI, Lexicon has actually built independently selectable skins, so you'll see each one listed separately in your plug-in folder.

These all look broadly alike, with the upper half dominated by input/ output meters, a switchable pane for visual feedback (of which more in a moment) and an EQ section in the top-right-hand corner.

The bottom half features nine sliders which correspond to the 'most pertinent' parameters for sound-shaping, though these can be modified by clicking the 'edit' button. Doing this brings up other parameters which can be 'promoted' to replace one of the existing sliders, if you'd rather access these instead. See the *Reverb Editing* box for details.

Once you've selected one of the reverbs, you're quickly up and running. The 'Category' and 'Preset' tabs provide you with a huge array of starting points, with the former designed to fine-tune the algorithm you've picked into Small, Medium and Large variations, for example, before the Preset drop-down provides specific starting points, often with EQ options such as 'dark' or 'bright'.

Visual feedback is offered in three different ways. Frequency analysis tools break the reverb response down to show you exactly which areas are 'busiest', post-reverb, so repeatedly clicking the dedicated window at the top of the GUI cycles between a multi-band analysis tool, a more conventional graphical-style EQ and a waveform display to confirm everything is as it should be. This is beautifully designed and extremely helpful.

100 FutureMusic

## Lexicon Native Reverb Bundle | Reviews

### **Algorithmic logistics**

So, what of the all-important sound? Starting with the Halls, there are three options available: Hall, Concert Hall and Random Hall. The Hall sound is big and lush – everything you'd expect a Lexicon Hall to be – with a seamlessly clean release tail, even at super-long values. The Concert Hall is a touch more discrete, with a more naturally warm character which is

capacity to instantly roll off bass or treble, or target a 'problem' frequency – a real asset in the design of any treatment. At the other end of the 'length' spectrum, the Room algorithm is dedicated to specific contained spaces, with the Pattern Category able to select from Small, Medium, Large, Exterior, Artificial and the weird and wonderful 'Odd Spaces' options.

available as presets. Larger than the Rooms, the Chambers can add bite, substance and a fullness to any sound without quite taking over the mix – a useful 'clouding' effect for sounds which suit such a treatment. Plates appear in two forms too – Plate and Vintage Plate, which are perhaps as 'characteristically Lexicon' as any of the offerings here. From small and dark to long and airy, these sound

particularly great on vocals of all types, whether you want a touch of colour on an otherwise dry part, or if you're going for full-on ballads.

### SPECS

Mac: Power PC G5 1.8GHz or any Intel, 1GB RAM, 500MB of available disk space, OS X version 10.4.10 or later, any platform supporting Audio Units

PC: 1.6 GHz Intel or AMD processor, 1GB RAM, 100MB of available disk space, Windows XP, Vista and 7

Both: Any platform supporting VST 2.4 or later, Any ProTools version from 7.3 or later, Screen resolution of 1280x800 or greater, CD or DVD drive system requirements

## The Hall sound is lush – everything you'd expect a Lexicon Hall to be – with a seamlessly clean tail

perfect if you want a more 'integrated' sound for vocals, pianos, strings and more orchestral performances. The Random Hall is more atmospheric, offering a bolder, less predictable acoustic shape and space, which is wonderful on similar musical elements but which also complements sound designed and atmospheric sounds beautifully and will be the place where special effects designers will turn first.

Again, the EQ stage plays an important role in any preset, with the

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slider then selects a particular space (including a Plastic Box!), before the other sliders let you design that space accordingly. This is the reverb for drum ambiences, for instance, but also a great way to enhance spoken word recordings, which will appeal to anyone working on dialogue manipulation for film, TV and radio.

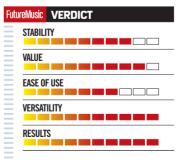
The Chamber algorithm will sound familiar to anyone who's worked with Lexicon's hardware, with Small, Medium and Large variations all

### Lexiconclusion

There's no getting away from it, the Lexicon Reverb bundle is several times the price of its competitors. The PCM80 and PCM90, which contained these seven algorithms, are no longer on the market, but still fetch hefty sums second-hand.

The current line of Lexicon hardware reverbs such as the PCM92 and 96 also add delays and modulation effects that makes them compete more with Eventide's product line. The cost of those Lexicon boxes is over £1,800, so in that context, these plug-ins are reasonably priced, though they do lack some of those algorithms.

That said, quality at this level doesn't come cheap and without wishing to dip into hyperbole, this could be the only reverb you'll ever need – it's that good. Regardless of the audio application for which you need it, there's something here for you. In terms of designing a specific reverb for your needs, this is as good as it gets. Cheaper options are available but they don't sound like this, so it's over to you, the noisy devil on your shoulder and your credit card. FM



Not particularly cheap but worth every penny. Sumptuous reverb to the power of seven.

### **ALTERNATIVES**



## Sony Oxford Reverb

Here's another extremely high-quality reverb with plenty of sound-shaping parameters and on-board EQ — all at a quarter of the price!

### sonnox.co



### Audio Ease Altiverb 6

### £449

If it's convolution reverb you favour, this is worth more than a moment of your time. Myriad impulse responses, great results.

### audioease.com



### Waves IR1 Native

### £458

Another convolution reverb with quality and flexibility at its core.

waves.com





Tailoring each of Lexicon's

reverb GUIs to provide you with control over the parameters you want is easy. Clicking the Edit button in the bottom-left-hand corner brings up four tabs, labelled 'Soft Row', 'Input & Mix', 'Reverb' and 'Reflections'. The Soft Row tab is where slider assignments can be

made. By clicking this, under the current assignments, you can click the 'gold' name under each parameter and replace it for another. Alternatively, if you want to tweak a parameter which doesn't appear in the slider row, you'll find it in one of the other tabs, which snap to provide

'temporary' sliders as long as you're in Edit mode. It's possible to edit the EQ section with a twin-stage effect possible by selecting different curves for early and late reflections. Six options are available with 1- and 2-pole options for lowand high-pass filters, bandpass and Notch.



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