

# Icon Platform M+

£265

DAW controllers no longer need to be large cumbersome affairs. **Jon Musgrave** hooks up Icon's latest compact unit

**CONTACT WHO:** Synthax **TEL:** 01727 821 870 **WEB:** [www.synthax.co.uk](http://www.synthax.co.uk) **KEY FEATURES** Jog shuttle wheel, illuminated buttons for channel functions and transport controls, iMap mapping software for assignment customisation, USB 2.0 connectivity, 4 proprietary expansion ports, 1 proprietary LCD screen port, Windows and Mac OS class compliant **DIMENSIONS:** 400 x 200 x 45mm **WEIGHT:** 1.53kg







## THE PROS & CONS



Compact, slick and robust design

Standardised core feature applicable to many DAWs

Integrated mapping presets for many DAWs

Jog wheel-based transport and zoom

Sensible price



Feature set quite limited

The Platform M+ is an updated version of Icon's universal DAW controller, and offers a simpler and more affordable controller solution than their flagship QCon Pro X. At 20cm from front to back and just 4.5cm high, the M+ is pretty slimline, which is good news as you can add up to three further 8-fader extenders (Platform X+) and LCD displays (Platform D) to a 32 channel plus 1 master fader rig.

The build quality is excellent and, although small, it is pretty weighty. Interfacing with your computer is via USB 2.0, with further proprietary connectors on the back for the Platform X+ and D expansions. Power is via an external PSU. Platform M+ supports Mackie Control and Mackie HUI protocols for use with a range of DAWs. It also incorporates presets for specific DAWs, which you select at power up, and there's one user-definable preset. The manual includes instructions for the required DAW side settings, and I found set-up with the DAWs I tried (Logic X and Studio One) very straightforward.

The M+'s feature set is pretty simple and functionality is universal across DAWs. Each of the eight channels includes a touch-sensitive 100mm motorised fader for channel level, a push button rotary encoder for panning, and four backlit push

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buttons. The buttons are for channel select, mute, solo and record enable, and are coloured red, blue, green and red. There's also a touch-sensitive 100mm master fader, although this has no further associated buttons. Channels can be selected using the channel select button or will pick up automatically from the fader, and for the latter there's a red activation LED next to the channel number.

On the right-hand side there are a number of backlit buttons handling bank and channel navigation, mixer window selection, DAW transport and automation modes. At the bottom there's a push button jog wheel that also combines with the dedicated horizontal and vertical zoom selectors for wheel-based zooming. Finally a lock button stores the fader position.

Platform M+ focuses on key universal functions, so there's no attempt to tackle more complex tasks such as plugin editing. I did find some differences between DAWs though, and one good example is the mixer button. This normally opens the

DAW mixer, but in some cases it takes on a different function.

Finally, Icon produce a support app called iMap, currently available for Windows, with an OS X version to follow. This assists with firmware updates and controller assignments for the user-definable preset.

Overall the Platform M+ performed very well and, although the feature set is pretty simple, you have to factor in the reasonable price. **FM**

## FM VERDICT

# 8.8

A compact and robust DAW controller that works on its own or alongside further Platform fader expanders. Basic but reliable