

PC

What is it? A physically modelled electric piano

PRICE: £149

CONTACT: SCV London, 020 8418 1470 WWW.applied-acoustics.com INFO: \$49 to upgrade from all previous versions

# APPLIED ACOUSTICS SYSTEMS Lounge Lizard 3



Has this electric piano emulation had its day, or does it deserve to be welcomed back?

On the DVD

**AUDIO DEMOS**  
Listen to what Lounge Lizard 3 can do in the Audio Demos folder

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

**Mac:** G4 733MHz, 256MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.2 or later, QuickTime 4.0 or later  
**PC:** PIII 800MHz, 128MB RAM, Windows 98SE/Me/2000/XP, DirectX- or ASIO-supported audio card

## TEST SYSTEM

**PC:** Carillon AC-1 2.4GHz, 1GB RAM, Windows XP SP2

## ALTERNATIVELY

### NI Elektrik Piano

**cm75 >> 8/10 >> £150**  
This sample-based collection features Rhodes, Wurlitzer and Clavinets sounds

### Scarbee Keyboard Gold Bundle

**cm88 >> 8/10 >> £323**  
More sample-based Rhodes and Wurler sounds, plus an effects plug-in

Applied Acoustic Systems have carved a successful niche for themselves in the specialist field of physically modelled virtual instruments. All the company's products sound great, though we found Ultra Analog to be a bit resource-heavy and String Studio wasn't quite as exciting as we'd hoped.

Lounge Lizard, on the other hand, has always been a firm favourite of ours. Unlike some instruments, electric pianos lend themselves perfectly to AAS's physical modelling technology, and they've refined this further for v3.

Those expecting a ton of new features will be disappointed. However, this is a blessing in a way, as part of the appeal of Lounge Lizard is its simplicity. The new preset library remains small but perfectly adequate, and offers plenty of scope for experimentation. In fact, the 'experimental' section of the library demonstrates that Lounge Lizard is capable of going far beyond traditional electric piano emulations.

## Effective improvements

The range of effects in Lounge Lizard has been extended to include wah, chorus, phaser, delay, reverb and EQ. While it's true that such effects can be added in your sequencer as plug-ins (and it's often resource-efficient to do this), it's worth bearing in mind that these additions do help improve the functionality of Lounge Lizard 3 as a standalone instrument.

The other advantage of using the effects that are built into Lounge Lizard rather than relying on the

ones in your host sequencer is that they're instantly recalled along with the preset. This has enabled AAS to include a Classic Tracks section in the preset library.

As is now the case on other AAS standalone instruments, the topology of the effects units can be chosen from three configurations. There are two serial modes (with units A and B reversed on one), and a parallel mode whereby the output of units A and B is fed simultaneously into the reverb.



▲ Lounge Lizard 3 has a 3-stage effects chain

There's now a simple built-in audio recorder, which isn't a major feature, but it will be appreciated by those who find that the moment of inspiration has passed by the time they've set up their sequencing software. It's worth noting that Lounge Lizard is best played using a weighted keyboard, since synth-like keyboards can sometimes have too-lively velocity response.

Lounge Lizard's Fork module now has additional upper harmonic content and interacts closely with the improved Damper module to create spookily lifelike sounds. There are also two different types of pickup module: electromagnetic (Rhodes-style) and electrostatic (Wurlitzer-style).

## Forking out

So, is it worth the upgrade? Well, if you purchased Lounge Lizard after September 1 2005 then you qualify for a free upgrade anyway. Even if you bought the software before this date, the upgrade price of \$49 is pretty small. You can also buy Lounge Lizard in a package with Tassman 4, Ultra Analog and String Studio for just £379, which is excellent value for money.

In much the same way that B4 II is the ultimate tonewheel organ emulation, Lounge Lizard 3 is the

electric piano of choice. And should its presets be lacking in any respect, even the most inexperienced user can guess which dial to tweak in order to add that final touch of magic.

If you're a lover of electric piano sounds, Lounge Lizard remains a must-have. In fact, we reckon it's still one of the finest VST's you can buy. **cm**

## VERDICT

### FOR

- + Sounds better than ever
- + Completely convincing
- + Dynamic and responsive
- + Improved effects
- + Good prices for upgrade and Modelling Bundle

### AGAINST

- The standalone price has gone up again

Nice one, AAS! For classic electric piano sounds, Lounge Lizard 3 is our software of choice

### RATING

