

cm/recommends

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



Rob Papen PC MAC
Punch £125

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm**167
Contact Time+Space, 01837 55200
Web www.robpapen.com

What is it? A forward-thinking virtual drum machine combining synthesis, sampling and innovative sequencing. As you'd expect from Rob Papen, the preset sounds are top-drawer, with some equally high-flying effects to back them up. The sequencer packs a similar, er, punch, with a crafty scheme whereby each pattern is made up of four drum tracks, with eight patterns stackable at once.

Verdict "Another winner from the Papen stable, Punch sounds awesome and is fair bursting with powerful features."



Steinberg PC MAC
HALion 4 £295

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm**168
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 **cm**169
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.

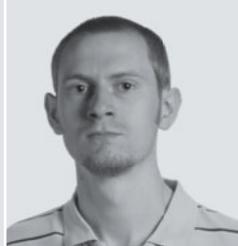
Verdict "A solid update sees this seasoned synth back in action. A welcome return!"

What we've been using this month



Ronan Macdonald
Editor

The complete assimilation of Record and that superb trio of all-new devices make Reason 6 a must-have upgrade and by far the best version of Propellerhead's DAW yet.



Lee du-Caine
Deputy Editor

I love mixing in the box, but for years I sobbed myself to sleep wishing I had an SSL mixing desk. Since Slate Digital's Virtual Console Collection arrived, though, I'm inconsolable no more!



Tim Cant
Multimedia Editor

I'm a sucker for an over-sized knob, so I'd been gagging to try Sugar-Bytes' Turnado, which has eight of 'em for me to sink my teeth into. It's certainly filled a hole or two in my plug-in repository!



Caitly Foster
Production Editor

What could be more adorable than a gadget that makes my iPhone look like it's asking for a hug? The Fostex AR-4i has got its cute factor spot-on, and it records high-def audio, too! **cm**