

cm/recommends

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



Vengeance-Sound
Philta XL £40 PC MAC

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm162**
Contact info@vengeance-sound.de
Web www.vengeance-sound.com

What is it? A dual filter plug-in designed with the dance musician in mind, Vengeance-Sound have thought of pretty much everything here. Features include low- and high-pass filters that work in a band-pass or notch arrangement; slopes adjustable up to 96dB/oct; syncable LFOs and envelopes; distortion, bitcrushing and ring modulation; and plenty more. It's more than the sum of its parts and it sounds bloody great, too.

Verdict "Philta XL lends further credibility to Vengeance-Sound's status as lords of the dance scene. It's a certified banger!"



Steinberg
Cubase 6 £508 PC MAC

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm163**
Contact info@steinberg.de
Web www.steinberg.net

What is it? A DAW that's been with us in one form or another since the end of the 80s, this version brings us guitar amp simulation, élastique timestretching, tempo detection, a new comping system, multitrack drum quantisation, simple drum replacement, and more. Oh, and there's the superb Note Expression MIDI editing system, enabling you to edit parameter curves on a per-note basis.

Verdict "An all-round update for an all-round great DAW, combining sensible additions and tweaks with splashes of real innovation"



Native Instruments
Traktor Kontrol S4 £749 PC MAC

Rating 9/10
Reviewed **cm164**
Contact via website
Web www.native-instruments.com

What is it? A complete digital DJing solution, Kontrol S4 comprises a hardware controller/interface and Traktor software. Hardware highlights include a layout that maps directly to software functions, great-feeling jog wheels and all the connectivity needed for gigs. The software, meanwhile, is the most advanced on the market.

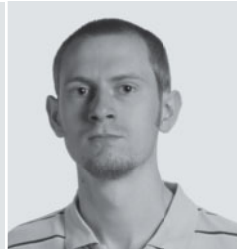
Verdict "Traktor Kontrol S4 is the first truly satisfying DJ controller system we've encountered. Bravo, Native Instruments!"

What we've been using this month



Ronan Macdonald
Editor

I've been both on the cutting edge and lost in the glorious past of computer music with Maschine 1.6 and the Fairlight Pro iOS app. I'll simply never get tired of that barking dog.



Lee du-Caine
Deputy Editor

Tired of endless 'weirdy beardy' jibes, I conceded that it was time I got a razor... NI's Razor synth, that is! Like myself, it's a handsome, hirsute wonder that oozes clean-cut tones and hairy bass noises.



Tim Cant
Multimedia Editor

With the heat rising, I've been drawn to the delicious Spicy Guitar, which has allowed me to get my flamenco on without all that exhausting plucking - I get tired just thinking about it!



Caity Foster
Production Editor

Usually my hunger for virtual effects requires that I try out as many plug-ins as possible before settling on one, but this month, I was easily satisfied by OneKnob - good work, Waves! cm