

# cm/recommends

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



DMGAudio PC MAC  
**Compassion** £150

Rating 10/10  
Reviewed **cm**166  
Contact via website  
Web [www.dmgaudio.com](http://www.dmgaudio.com)

**What is it?** The most flexible dynamics processor we've ever encountered, this awesome plug-in is capable of compression, expansion, transient shaping, clipping/limiting, and more. The easy mode presents just the basic dynamics parameters, but activate the advanced mode and you can radically reshape Compassion's dynamic response with over 80 parameters. Oh yeah, and it sounds incredible!  
**Verdict** "An outstanding musical dynamics tool that's a jack of all trades - and a master of most."



Rob Papan PC MAC  
**Punch** £125

Rating 9/10  
Reviewed **cm**167  
Contact Time+Space, 01837 55200  
Web [www.robpapan.com](http://www.robpapan.com)

**What is it?** A forward-thinking virtual drum machine combining synthesis, sampling and innovative sequencing. As you'd expect from Rob Papan, 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 Papan stable, Punch sounds awesome and is fair bursting with powerful features."

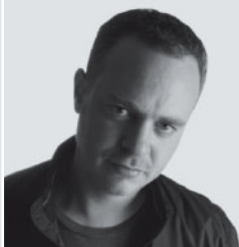


Steinberg PC MAC  
**HALion 4** £295

Rating 9/10  
Reviewed **cm**168  
Contact [info@steinberg.de](mailto:info@steinberg.de)  
Web [www.steinberg.net](http://www.steinberg.net)

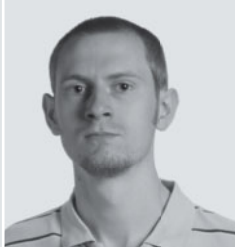
**What is it?** A huge overhaul of Steinberg's sampler, HALion 4 reasserts its relevance with new, well, everything. The interface is much smarter, both in looks and operation, with a customisable design. Sonically, you get full-on virtual synthesis as well as sampling. Elsewhere, you've got VST3.5 support (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."

## What we've been using this month



Ronan Macdonald  
Editor

After 429 years in development, the sequel to one of my favourite soft synths is finally here - impOScar 2 is simply stunning. I don't think I'll be holding my breath for v3, though...



Lee du-Caine  
Deputy Editor

Is it 'zeeter' or 'zayter'? Or even 'zee-three-tee-ay'? Whatever, while Z3TA+ 2's wacky name positions it right at the end of my DAW's plug-in list, it's still my first choice this month.



Tim Cant  
Multimedia Editor

Everyone loves mini-things, and the petite Zebralette has kept me busy with its amazing spectral powers. It may only have a single oscillator, but it's definitely no one-trick pony!



Caity Foster  
Production Editor

I've been making myself giggle with wicked iOS app SampleWiz this month. It's easy as pie to use, so I've been having fun sampling my housemates' voices, and making them sound like girls. **cm**