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WHAT IS IT?

Emulations of classic spring reverb, Bass amplifier and EQ plug-ins for the UAD platform

CONTACT

Who: UAD
Tel: 020 8962 5080 (Source Distribution)
Web: www.uaudio.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 The BX20 has a sound like no other modelled spring reverb
- 2 The Tube-Tech EQs complete the 'channel strip' set
- 3 Ampeg SVT bass amp great for shaping bass tones of all types

PRICING

AKG BX20: **\$199**
Ampeg SVT Bass Amplifier Bundle: **£179**
Tube-Tech EQ Plug-in Collection: **£239**



Dark and rich

The control set for UAD's BX20 is fairly straightforward. It can be used in mono or stereo configurations, with the option to link its two channels in the lower section. There are independent controls for Bass and Treble, with a low cut filter completing the tone-shaping tools. Elsewhere, the upper section contains a pre-delay control offering times from 0mS to 250mS, while there's a dry/wet dial to control reverb levels and an additional Wet Solo option for auxiliary buss purposes. Most importantly, however, you can choose between two 'tanks', which reflect the spring containers of the original hardware. Each of these features its own discrete sound, so you have the option to choose one (a) or the other (b), or to combine their sounds via the a/b setting.

UAD's clone features a clever approach to emulating the BX20 sound, using impulse responses sampled from the original hardware which are then further shaped using synthesis. The result is extraordinary, with a rich tone which manages to create reverb tails which melt beautifully into a mix, even with long reverb times (of up to 4.5 seconds). It's billed as an 'Indie' reverb and, of course, it sounds wonderful on guitars, which manage to find a place of their own whenever the BX20 is enabled. However, it's equally capable when fed a variety of other sound sources, adding a pleasingly dusty quality to drums (either over a whole buss or on individual kit pieces) and synths too. Alternatively, if you're drawn to soulful, aching vocals such as those of Amy Winehouse or Beth Gibbons, this could well go on to become a go-to reverb choice. Don't be fooled by its seemingly small feature set; this is a hugely configurable reverb with a wide range of musical applications.

Bass in the place

The Ampeg SVT Bass Amplifier bundle provides two discrete plug-ins: the SVT-VR and the SVT-3 Pro. These aim to capture the tone and power of the hardware they replicate and they offer a configurable feature-set which will be familiar to anyone who has used Brainworx's other amplifier models for the UAD platform.

The amp section of the SVT-VR provides emulation of the hardware's 300-watt tube design alongside its 8x10 cabinet to produce huge, powering sounds. The amplifier provides two channels, with each featuring its own Normal or Bright

UAD Version 8.3 Plug-Ins from \$199

UAD Version 8.3 offers a clone of the coveted AKG BX20 Reverb among other goodies. *Jono Buchanan* springs into action...

AKG's BX20 spring reverb was a zenith for the company in the late '60s. Employing a mechanical and electronic design, it became famous for darker ambient and spatial treatments which have proved popular with producers looking to bring dense

sonics to their productions. Indeed, those selected to discuss UAD's latest clone give you some idea as to where this reverb will have entered your musical consciousness. Adrian Uoley (Portishead), Joel Hamilton (Pretty Lights) and Peter Katis (The National) all boldly endorse it on UAD's website.

option, so you can configure independent treatments before comparing and selecting the one of your choice. The first channel features three-band EQ, with an ultra-high switch varying the amount of treble output. Equally, the mid-range band can be selected at three alternative frequency settings, with bass roll-off also user-configurable. By contrast, the second channel offers a two-band EQ.

As is becoming traditional with Brainworx software, the amp is enhanced by an FX section, which can be toggled on/off via the FX Rack button in the plug-in's control section. This provides a Noise Gate and Filter in its bottom left-hand corner, both of which are effective for reducing amp noise if things get out of hand. Meanwhile, the bottom right-hand corner lets you choose from a variety of cabinet settings and recording chains, which pair cabs to modelled microphone recording channels. There's also a Power Soak option to attenuate cranked treatments



There's masses of bass-focused sound-shaping possibility on offer in both Ampeg emulations

to socially acceptable levels, dramatically increasing the amount of rasp you can usefully work with.

Similar recording chain solutions are offered for the SVT3-Pro, which is

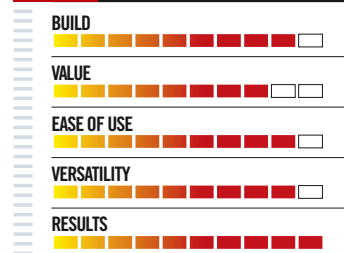
slimmer in appearance but equally capable of sonic hugeness. The amp here provides EQ dials at the Bass, Midrange and Treble stages, with a five-way selectable frequency dial for the Mid band.

There's also a nine-band graphic EQ available here for further sonic shaping.

All three new additions to the UAD product line

are welcome. This is perhaps most true for the AKG BX20 clone which upholds and enhances UAD's reputation as a world-leader in bringing the sound of vintage and rare hardware into the 21st century. The Ampeg emulations offer a wonderful sound too and further strengthen the partner relationship between Brainworx and UAD. The Tube-Tech EQs have been available natively for some time but for those not yet in possession, having these run from UAD hardware makes sense. Without question, all have a lot to offer your mixes. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



Something for everyone in UAD's new set of emulations – the BX20 clone in particular is stunning.

It's billed as an 'Indie' reverb but the BX20 can bring soul and character to any number of musical genres

TubeTech EQs

Based on two popular Pultec EQs, the PE1C and ME1B plug-ins come as a bundle in UAD V8.3. Alongside the CL1B compressor, these EQs complete a 'Tube-Tech channel strip'. The ME1B provides low frequency control with a stepped frequency selector at 200Hz, 300Hz, 700Hz

and 1kHz, offering a 0-10 gain boost at your chosen frequency. The Mid frequency offers dip, with settings from 200Hz to 7kHz, allowing for the overlapping cut/boost between these bands for which Pultec designs are so renowned. The High frequency provides boost from 1.5kHz to 5kHz.

The PE1C design provides both Boost and Attenuation dials for its Low and High frequency bands, with a separate Bandwidth control allowing you to slide between Sharp and Broad settings. Similarly, a global Attenuation amount lets you customise your desired amount of cut.



SPECS

UAD 8.3 includes: AKG BX 20 Spring Reverb, Ampeg SVT-VR Bass Amplifier by Brainworx, Ampeg SVT-3 PRO Bass Amplifier by Brainworx, Tube-Tech EQ Collection by Softube, Artist presets for Precision Mix Rack Collection, Improved firmware for Apollo 16 mkII

Thunderbolt Systems
Apple Mac computer with available Thunderbolt or Thunderbolt 2 port, OS X 10.8.5 Mountain Lion or later, 4GB HDD

FireWire Systems
PC: Windows 7 64-bit Edition w/SP1
Mac: OS X 10.8.5 Mountain Lion or later, 4GB HDD

UAD-2 PCIe Cards
PC: Windows 7 64-bit Edition w/SP1
Mac: OS X 10.8.5 Mountain Lion or later, 4GB HDD

All: Compatible VST, Audio Units, RTAS, or AAX 64 plug-in host DAW software

ALTERNATIVES



Audio Ease Altiverb 7

From 499 euros

Altiverb has reached version 7 with a host of IRs including those of the AKG BX spring reverbs. Of course, these algorithms are sampled rather than cloned but there's a lot more here on top.

www.audioease.com



IK Multimedia Ampeg SVX

99.99 euros

IK Multimedia's Ampeg SVX plug-in provides the guts of this classic bass amplifier, with a custom-ready feature set.

www.ikmultimedia.com



Tube-Tech Classic Channel

\$489

The Tube-Tech Classic channel provides native versions of the PE1C, the ME1B and the CL1B compressor for \$489 for the ultimate Tube-Tech combo.

www.softube.com