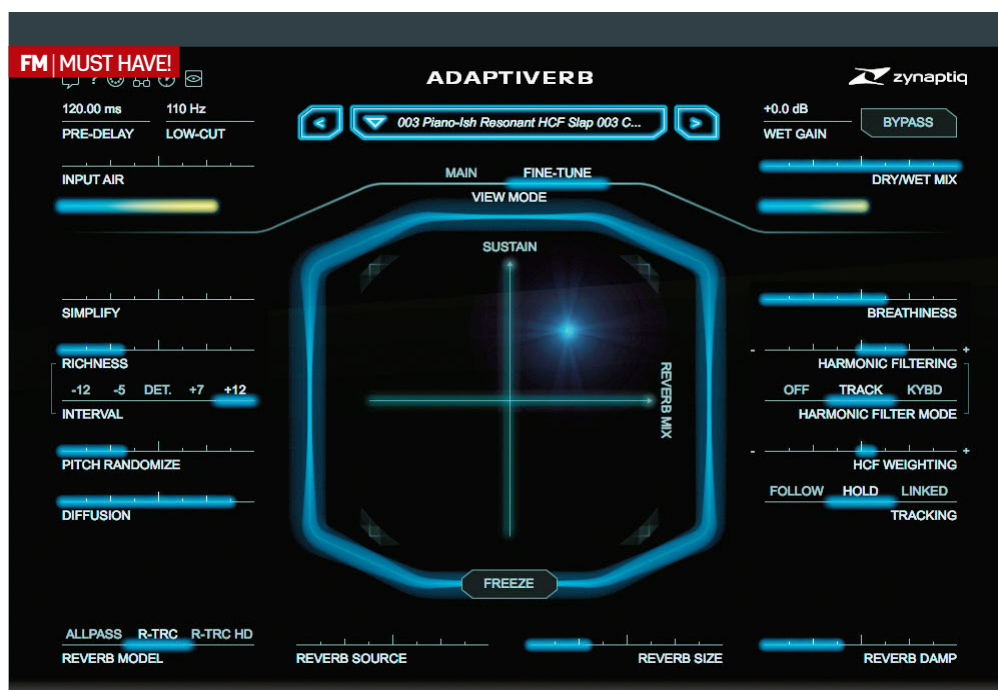


Creative Reverb Effects

These six spatialisers all offer something a little different to the normal combo of basic controls



zynaptiq Adaptiverb £199

Adaptiverb goes above and beyond reverb to radically transform any track into a new sound – from a tonal wash to a droning soundscape. The onboard starting points include Orchestral and Piano ‘Coloured’ tones, speech manglers, drones and heavily-produced reverb sounds. Adaptiverb’s MO is less as a reverb for spatialising and more as a reverb for totally transforming the input sound. Indeed, plenty of the patches don’t need any input sound whatsoever to instantly conjure up a blaring synthscape, but of course, Adaptiverb’s Dry/Wet mix is very useful to rein in anything that’s too wild for you.

Seemingly, there’s not much that Adaptiverb isn’t capable of. This is an ‘out-there’ processor by its very nature – and a hugely impressive sonic result at that.

www.timespace.com

VERDICT 9.4



2C Audio B2 \$249

B2 is an incredibly capable little machine, although you might not know how you came up with some of your patches. At the more traditional end, B2 conjures grand and lifelike spaces, and would be one of the best processors in a review of buttoned-down ‘verbs... but this isn’t that! B2 goes even further in its abilities to use reverb as ‘special effect’, giving out everything from off-putting echoes to sci-fi uber-disturbances, and doing it with a depth of sound that impresses. B2 inspires experimentation, but the interface design makes that a bit harder, with more vital controls not prioritised as they should be. That said, features like A/B patch setup, an Attitude control with more than 30 algorithms, and onboard dynamics more than make up for that.

www.2caudio.com

VERDICT 9.1



Eventide MangledVerb \$99

Stemming from an algorithm on Eventide’s Eclipse Effects unit, MangledVerb now makes its home in plugin format, offering ‘the usual’ reverb parameters, plus Wobble and distortion (softclipping in the lower regions turns to overdrive, and the knob labelling changes with it). The results range anywhere from a warm and nicely analogue tone to downright haunting harshness. Elsewhere, the ‘morph ribbon’ allows you to gradually switch between one setup and another by defining minimum and maximum points on each knob.

MangledVerb can feel like a bit of a one-trick pony at times. But then, that trick is a brilliant one, just as you’d expect from Eventide.

www.eventideaudio.com

VERDICT 8.6



Exponential Audio R4 €289

This character reverb follows in the footsteps of Exponential Audio's R2, but beefs up the capabilities considerably. As well as the usual reverb fare, there's loads of customisation of the reverb's Attack and Tail characteristics. Notably, R4 also gives you a Gate to produce dynamic effects, and the Warp section offers compression, bit reduction, overdrive and transient shaping, allowing for real customisation of the signal. There's plenty of room to push things further, and doing so with an already brilliant-sounding reverb is a joy.

R4's Freeze function is excellent. Not only can you 'grab' a portion of the reverb tail audio as it plays, you can also pipe the main signal's early reflections back into the output, keeping some semblance of sense in the track you're processing.

www.exponentiaudio.com

VERDICT 9.1

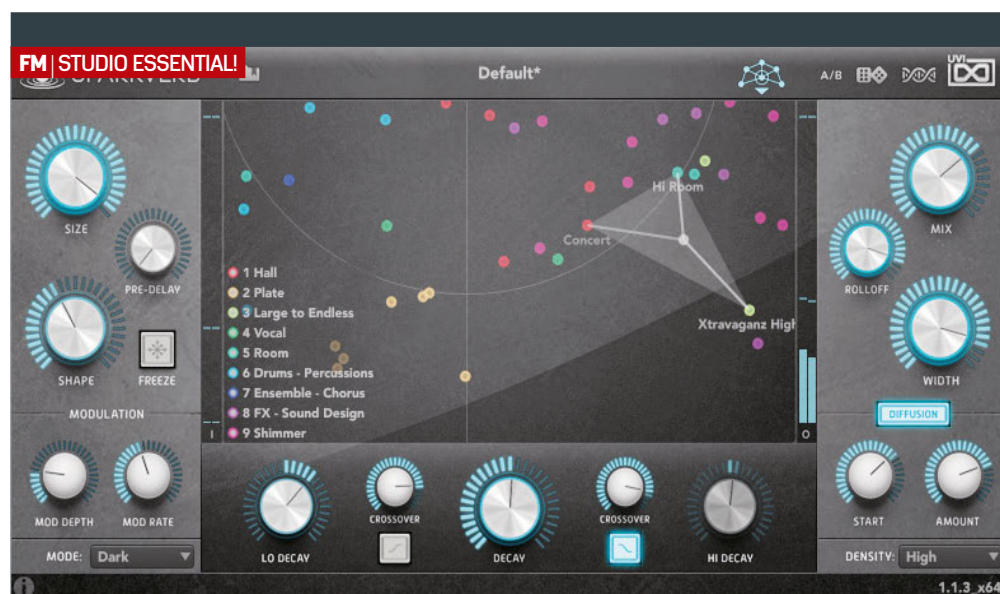


Valhalla DSP Valhalla Shimmer \$50

Valhalla DSP's Room and VintageVerb plugins may be legends, but Valhalla Shimmer is not to be missed either. At its simplest, the idea is to output a suspended or 'frozen' reverb signal. To do so, it uses a far larger 'room size' amount by default than most reverbs have at their maximum extent. Low Mix values are necessary if you're planning to use Valhalla Shimmer as a traditional reverb treatment in a track, then. The sound is expansive, almost infinite, and yet somehow crisp and unobtrusive at the same time. With modulation controls onboard, you can get heavy handed with the signal but still retain an environmental sound that's coherent with the input signal. Wonderful stuff.

valhallaadsp.com

VERDICT 9.4



UVI Sparkverb €149

Under the hood, Sparkverb is a bog-standard algorithmic reverb plugin with the usual Size, Mix, Width and Modulation controls, and an EQ network to sculpt it all. But in this instance, it's what's on the outside that counts, as Sparkverb's excellent preset-browsing system takes centre stage. Presets are displayed as 'co-ordinates' in a two-dimensional field of view, colour-coded as per their type (Plates are yellow, Vocal 'verbs are green, FX are purple), and you can select either one preset or interpolate settings between the closest three. Zooming in, out of and around Sparkverb's reverb constellations certainly offers more fun than most plugins, and it's a great way to easily pick a starting point for your reverb, then tweak as you see fit. The reverb algorithms themselves might be bread-and-butter, but Sparkverb still inspires creativity, and can bring a much-needed levity to a long studio session or plugin review assignment.

www.uvi.net

VERDICT 8.8