

Audient iD22 Audio Interface | £430

The iD22 promises world-class preamps and pristine converters. **MoVolans** puts it through its paces to see if it delivers...

WHAT IS IT?

A USB audio interface and monitoring system

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** Two Class A mic preamps and one discrete JFET instrument input
- 2** High current headphone amplifier with independent DAC
- 3** Fully balanced inserts for integrating outboard gear

SPECS

10-in, 14-out desktop interface
2-in, 6-out high performance 24-bit/96kHz AD/DA converters
2 superb class-A mic preamplifiers & 1 discrete JFET instrument input
Fully balanced insert points for integrating outboard gear
High current headphone amplifier fed by an independent DAC
Main and alternative stereo outputs
User defined monitoring functionality with hardware control

Audient's ID22 is a 10-in, 14-out desktop interface with AD/DA converters that supply two mic preamps and six analogue outputs. One of the microphone preamps also doubles up as a DI instrument input, perfect for recording guitar or bass. A nice touch here is that there are also four insert points which allow you to integrate hardware processors. Two mono or a single stereo device can be hooked up, giving you a good degree of flexibility.

The considerable spread of inputs and outputs doesn't stop there either; four analogue outputs, ADAT in and out and a dedicated headphone output tie things up nicely. The ability to run two sets of monitors from the outputs makes this a monitor controller as well as a fully-featured recording interface. Add to this the fact that the ADAT ports can be used to expand the iD22's connectivity and its small form factor suddenly seems pretty deceiving.

Control of all these outputs is split between the front panel and the supplied software. The layout of the

controls on the whole is very well thought out; everything is where you would expect it to be and easily located. There is plenty of space between controls and the milled aluminium knobs feel extremely sturdy.

Although the switches feel solid, they are very short and fiddly to operate. This may prove frustrating in a busy recording session. Another very minor build gripe is that the metal top panel has been quite roughly cut and feels a little sharp around its outer edges. These could have been chamfered for a more forgiving finish, however otherwise the build quality is excellent.

All this aside, the most important aspect of an audio interface has to be how it sounds. Thankfully, the ID22 performs flawlessly in this department. Audient's vast experience clearly pays off here. The combination of great sounding mic preamps and crystal clear converters delivers not only a superb monitoring experience but also a pristine front-end for recording. The ID22 really is right up there with the best interfaces for fidelity.

When it comes to recording and routing sounds within your DAW, the software control panel does an excellent job. Both on Mac and PC installation is painless and the software runs smoothly with no perceivable effect on CPU overhead. Amongst other things it allows you to set up two different cue mixes, switch the flavour of digital input and even edit the function of three built-in soft buttons on the hardware. There are also nice touches like an editable 'scribble strip' which can display the names of your channels.

All in all, this is a great package that produced pristine recordings in tests and presented every mix in stunning detail. It's not the cheapest interface on the market but, considering all the metal work and the impressive feature set, its price is more or less justifiable. If you are looking for a transparent interface with great build quality and expandable connectivity then you should certainly check out the ID22. **FM**

FutureMusic **VERDICT**

BUILD

**VALUE**

EASE OF USE



VERSATILITY



RESULTS



A solid interface with top-notch sound quality. Bar some very minor reservations, highly recommended.

