

AKG C2000B

The C2000B is AKG's latest condenser microphone. It's built with a cardioid polar response, and combines elements of the C4000B and the C3000B in order to keep tooling costs low and pass on savings to the buyer.

AKG has applied for a patent for the new manufacturing process that produced the mic's small diaphragm transducer capsule, which was designed to facilitate high sensitivity, low self-noise, and improved bass response. Other design features include a transformer-free output stage for enhanced low-end definition. RRP: \$579.

AWA: (02) 9669 3477



Mackie 1642

The 1642-VLZ PRO Compact Mixer is the first, completely new, high-end professional compact mixer offered by Mackie in over four years. The key feature here is its XDR (Extended Dynamic Range) mic preamps, which offer 60dB gain range with low noise

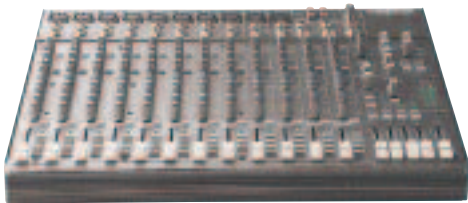
and extra headroom. RRP \$2595.

Mackie has added over 30 new features in their D8B v3.0 software. The new operating system software features third party plug-in support. Each Mackie UFX card is

capable of running up to four independent software plug-ins at once, the D8B's four processing slots allow up to 16 third party plug-in effects to be utilised simultaneously. Plug-ins from leading

effects companies include: TC Electronic, Massenburg Design Works, Drawmer, Acuma Labs, and Antares. By the look the other new features, this certainly looks like a significant update.

Australian Audio Supplies: (02) 4388 4666



Hop on the EzyBus

Event's new EzyBus combines a computer audio recording interface, a software control surface, and a stand-alone digital mixer. The aim here is to be able to plug in an affordable full-blown 24-bit audio recorder/processor/controller/mixer into your computer's (or laptop's) external port without any fuss. You'll get 24/96 mic/instrument/line inputs; 'comprehensive' digital mixing with 'sophisticated' EQ; a compressor/gate/expander on every channel; flexible signal routing; fully configurable hardware control of your audio software; and total parameter recall.

Music Link: (03) 9765 6530

Pocket Rocket

Digigram's VX Pocket family of PC cards are proving popular, being a genuine and professional way to perform sound recording, editing, production and audio analysis on a laptop computer. The latest crop is the VXpocket 440 and VXpocket v2. The cards offer different combinations of analogue and digital I/O and recording options. If you're serious about using your laptop for any serious audio application then, have a look.

Major Music: (02) 9545 3540

Winning is Everything

We've got a few happy people to tell you about who have won some of the great gear that we love to give away.

Fiete Geier of Ainslie in the ACT added a Rode Classic II mic to his 'Pete & Fiete Studios' inventory.

Thanks for the photo chaps, I just hope your recording is better than your photography! Thanks also to Rode for the microphone.



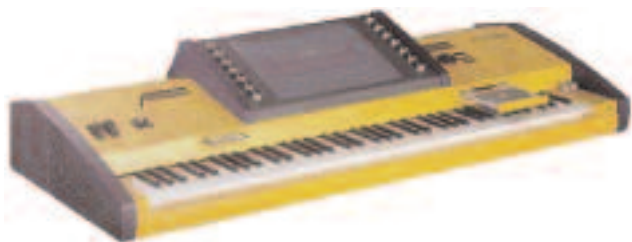
Matt Farthing of Rochedale South in Queensland has been finding many a use for his Digitech S200 multieffects unit. Thanks to CMI for that prize.

The lesson here is obvious: subscribe if you haven't already, and enter the competitions we run – somebody's got to win, and the odds are better than the lottery.

Pure Genius

The Genius Data Filer is the new addition to the Voice Systems line for playing and managing songs in Midi File format. The Genius reads format 0 and 1 .mid files, is equipped with a 'direct-to-disk' technology reading system and comes complete with a high quality GM sound generator and editing facilities.

The Midi People: (02) 9542 4105



Think Outside the Frame

It's good to see that the gee-whiz 'concept synth' hasn't completely disappeared. Creamware's Stage Frame One (slated for release next year) is essentially a PC computer packed into a keyboard chassis. A 14-inch touch-screen LCD allows for easy control over the preloaded software synths, samplers, etc. In addition, 14 rotary encoders down the sides of the screen further enhance user control over software parameters. The Stage Frame One would encompass synthesis, sampling, digital mixing, and hard disk recording.

Major Music: (02) 9545 3540

Virus Indigo

The Virus Indigo will no doubt set a few retro hearts a flutter. It might look cute but under the bonnet is a Virus KB 4.0 engine – Access are calling it the virtual analogue 'roadster', if you don't mind. Here's a few of its features: ultra fast envelopes (from 0 to 144dB in just under 21 microseconds); four oscs per voice, two independent resonant filters per voice; 24 voices/16-way multi mode; 512 sounds; multiple independent saturation/distortion/lo-fi effects per voice; three LFOs, two ADSTR envelopes; surround sound capabilities; 16 independent arpeggiators (with various preset patterns); 82 simultaneous DSP effects... etc.

Music Technology: (02) 9369 4990



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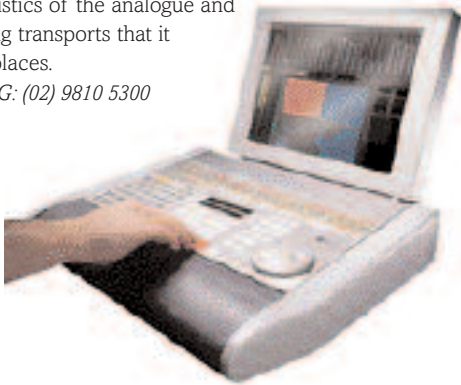
HAVING problems getting a KILLER drum sound?



Euphonix R1

The Euphonix R1 digital multitrack has hit our shores. Optioned for 12 to 48 tracks the system comprises a free-standing wheeled remote, rack-mounted converters, CPU and hard drives. Fully flexible and upgradable, the R-1 features 40-bit internal floating point processors and supports all standard formats up to 24-bit/96k including DVD-Audio. The R1 maintains the same familiar characteristics of the analogue and mag transports that it replaces.

TAG: (02) 9810 5300



DI-Port

The Mindprint DI-Port aims to improve your two-track recordings by bypassing inferior converters on most DAT machines and soundcards. The DI-Port features 24-bit/44.1 or 48k A/D and D/A converters and quotes a 106dB signal to noise ratio. Combined with a simple digital soundcard with only digital I/O, a computer and software, project studios have a cost effective way of improving their recording quality. RRP: \$695.

Sound & Music Promotions: (03) 9569 3834

Novation on the Rack



Novation has launched the Supernova II and Nova II, and more recently the Supernova II Rack. The Rack has all the new features of the Supernova II keyboard, except obviously the keyboard and master controller functions. It features inputs on the front panel and the optional 12 and 24-voice polyphony expander cards plus the ADAT/SPDIF card for the Supernova II Keyboard can be fitted to the Supernova II Rack.

Innovative Music: (03) 9540 0658

Control Freak

Following on from the popular PC88, the PC2 features 'outstanding sound and impressive master controller' capabilities. A new Easy Split & Layer feature makes it fast and easy to create quick layers and splits. The PC2 series comes in both the PC2 (76-note) and PC2X (88-note) keyboards. RRP: \$4,995, PC2; \$5,495, PC2X.

Music Technology: (02) 9369 4990

Pardon me MAM



MAM are a German company producing cost-effective studio kit like: synths, headphone amps, filter banks, a resonator, a Midi arpeggiator, among other useful knick knacks. The VF11 vocoder looks interesting: an 11-band analogue device with combined filterbank functions. At \$899, worth thinking about if you can't find an ancient Korg VC-10 or the like.

Innovative Music: (03) 9540 0658

JMC's New Campus

JMC Academy has recently opened a campus in Melbourne. JMC has been operational in Sydney since 1982, offering a broad syllabus of industry-respected and university accredited audio and visual courses. The Melbourne campus will initially be offering a Bachelor of Engineering Technology (audio engineering) and an Advanced Diploma in Music Business Management.

JMC Academy: (03) 9696 4117

Steinberg Midex 8

The Midex 8 is an eight in/out USB Midi Interface with LTB (Linear Time Base) technology for timing accuracy with precision as low as 300 microseconds – for accurate and steady Midi timing for Mac and PC systems running Cubase VST 5. RRP \$999.

Music Link: (03) 9765 6530

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Digital Reality Check



Worried you're not getting full 24-bit performance from your soundcard? Well, for about twice the price you probably paid for your hard disk recording system you can reliably find out – with the Prism DSA-1 Digital Audio Interface Analyser. They probably should rename it the Prism Reality Check.

Control Devices: (02) 9356 1943

SPL Area 5.1

The Area 5.1 is a new miking and mixing system for surround recordings. It includes five mic preamps, which can be coupled with a motorised control. Each preamp delivers up to 70dB of preamplification gain. Other functions include padding, phase reversal, and phantom power, as well as a stereo downmix section that allows users to record both 5.1 and stereo at the same time.

Control Devices: (02) 9356 1943



Rover Unleashed

OzSonic, an Australian Company, has developed a powerful remote control device for use with PC-based music recording software. Rover consists of software and a keypad and operates with all major software systems. The Rover keypad has 20 programmable keys and, for the first time, gives musicians, especially solo musicians, the versatility of a highly programmable interface that controls audio software from anywhere in their studio. Sounds useful. RRP: \$299.

Moore Music (03) 9419 0344

Hire the Studio FX 'Studio Drum Kit Mic Pack', with all stands & cables, including:

Drum kit, scatter cushions, (and drummer) not included.

- Kick – Shure Beta 52 or Beyer M88 or AKG D112
- Snare – Shure SM57 (top and bottom)
- Hi-hats – AKG CK1/451 with -10dB pad
- Toms – 4 x Sennheiser MD421 or 4 x Shure SM57
- Overheads – 2 x AKG C414 or 2 x Neumann U87
- Ambience – 2 x Neumann M149 valve mics (optional)

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Pearl Drum Kit supplied by Billy Hayes Drumcraft (thanks Glen)

We've got some more news on **Steinberg's** Reason package. Reason, comes from the Swedish eggheads, Propellorheads, and is a combination of an analogue synth, a sampler, a drum machine, mixer, effects, pattern sequencer, ReCycle!-based loop player, and more. In addition, Reason is an infinitely expandable Midi studio, complete with its own real-time sequencer. Reason features total recall – the entire studio setup is stored along with the music. Each unit in Reason's virtual rack is edited from its own on-screen front panel. When another piece of gear is needed, the user can simply choose it from the Create menu, and it will appear in the rack, logically patched into the signal chain. Pressing the Tab key turns the rack over, revealing inputs, outputs, CV and Gate connections. On-screen patch cords can be used to set up complex routings and cross-device modulation patches. RRP\$799. Ring for a free audio demo CD. *Music Link: (03) 97656565*



The **Arturia Storm** is a synthesiser and effects platform for Windows, and offers a library of sound modules and effects. With Storm you can build a virtual, sequence-based home studio that includes drum machines, synthesisers, samplers, and even turntables. Recently, two drum machines, a low pass filter, a ring modulator have been added, as well as a new stripped-down sampler and a

'robotizer' effect. Once you buy Storm you can grab new modules free off their website.

Innovative Music: (03) 9540 0658

Steinberg's Cubase VST 5.0 for windows isn't far off. Here's a few of the new features you're likely to see. New arrange tool handling: tools can work directly on the track list to change all parts on a track. The arrange tool box has been extended with new tools like direct velocity and transpose controls, a time-stretch pencil and groove tools and logical preset tool. The line tool can now be used on notes to trim groups of note start or end times. There's fully proportional groove intensity and live audition of groove parameters. There's also real-time non-destructive play parameters to randomise length, position, velocity, pitch, or Midi dynamics.

MusicLink: (03) 9765 6530

Creamware's Elektra is a modular synthesis DSP system for PC and Mac. You buy it as a pack with the software and DSP hardware, using a similar architecture as the popular Pulsar card. SPL's Transient Designer has been transformed into a digital Pulsar plug-in. Have a read of our review of the hardware unit later in this issue, and may want to check out this plug-in further.

Also: A new version of software for CreamWare's Pulsar DSP system is now available. Version 2.01 includes Mac support for the STS-3000 and STS-4000 sampler plug-ins. Pulsar 2.01 also includes a series of new Modular2 synthesiser patches. The latency of the GigaSampler driver has been reduced to the bare minimum.

Major Music (02) 9545 3540

MOTU introduce their vintage-style Multimode Filter which offers features like LFO tempo sync and Midi control of cut-off frequency to their Digital Performer package. The Multimode Filter also includes a sidechain input for triggered filtering. Also new to Digital Performer is a ring modulator, and a sophisticated stereo delay.

Moore Music (03) 9419 0344

The **Native Instruments** B4 plug-in emulates the classic sound of the Hammond B-3 organ, down to 91 tone wheels with nine drawbars per manual, scanner vibrato/chorus, percussion on any harmonic, adjustable key click, tube distortion, and rotary speaker effects. The user interface offers two views: the organ top and rear panel view, which houses the distortion/overdrive generator and other sound parameters.

Music Link: (03) 9765 6530

TC's Spark Modular is a series of plug-ins for TC Works' Spark 1.5 mastering and editing environment. Its design emulates the basic components of a classic 'analogue-like' synthesiser (oscillator, filter plus envelope, amplifier plus envelope), which may be chained within the program's Master View window. In addition, the program allows users to add any other VST plug-in to the patch.

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988

Digidesign's ProTools 5.0.1 brings Windows 98 support to the Digi 001 and Digi Toolbox XP recording/editing/mixing systems. It also adds Windows 98 support for the SampleCell II Plus PCI sampling card, a low-latency monitoring feature for Digi 001 systems, and an MP3 export option for Windows ProTools systems.

Datasonics' VS Pro software is undergoing a version 5.0 update. New features include: audio tracks through the sound card, new notation features (which will make note insertion and editing easier and quicker), effects automation, show/hide tracks in the Mixdown Editor, support for the Roland VSR880, VS890 and VS1880 workstations, and fast download of phrase blocks.

Datasonics: (02) 4758 7755



Martin Blackline

Martin Audio introduce seven new speaker cabinets in a major new product range targeted at the portable and installation markets.

Called Blackline, the range draws much of its design from Martin's concert Wavefront



Series but is positioned at an affordable level for band PAs, club installations, DJs etc.

The seven cabinets use non-scratch black finished plywood enclosures and kick-proof perforated steel grilles and rear castors on the larger cabinets. The designs range from 18-inch subs to full range multi-angle FOH/floor monitor cabinets etc, as well as a Blackline M3 system controller. Prices for the speakers start from around \$2100 and go up to \$5,995 for the 2 x 18-inch sub.

TAG: (02) 9810 5300

Recent Heritage

Following on from the success of the XL series of consoles Midas have released their new Heritage range.

The Heritage 3000 large format console is designed as a dual function Front of House or Monitor console. It features the same preamp and EQ that has become a standard in the flagship XL4 console; 24 auxiliaries set up in pairs, allowing for stereo or mono sends to be generated; and Spatial Image System that allows for images to be positioned within a Left/Centre/Right image field.

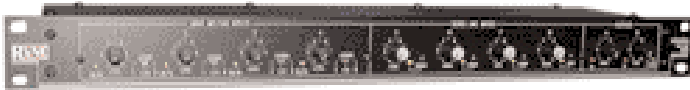
Common to all Heritage consoles is a new automation system that allows for virtual VCA automation as well as programmed control over mutes and assigns.

The Heritage 3000 shares the same frame and layout as the Heritage 2000, which is a specific FOH console featuring 12 auxiliaries and 12 sub groups, as well as a new power supply that includes voltage readout.

EVI Audio: (02) 9648 3455

More Rane Gear

Rane has re-released its popular MS1 mic preamp with improved RF rejection and signal-to-noise ratio. The new model, the MS1a incorporates an ultra low noise amp design featuring a true differential input with high common mode rejection.



Rane has also upgraded its popular MLM82 mic/line mixer with a new design and feature set requested by dealers and customers. Each of the MLM82a's four mic/line inputs are now assignable to the first, second or both outputs, a new independent mono switch has been added for each stereo line input, while stereo line gain range has been increased to +12dB.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

Shure Transmission

With over 100 easily selectable frequencies, Shure's new UP4 portable UHF wireless receiver aims to ensure trouble-free operation in a sturdy package designed for on-road use.

Users can dial away from any interference for solid audio performance. An on-board microprocessor anticipates dropouts before they occur and switches antennae automatically to sustain consistent reception.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

DYM View

Electro-Voice's N/DYM Series UHF wireless mic system offers the sort of frequency agility features found on more expensive systems, through its ClearScan technology – automatically finding the clearest of 10 user-defined operating channels. There's a bunch of transmitter and receiver options. Handheld systems start at around \$1200.

There's a new line of N/DYM mics as well. The popular series has been redesigned to offer greater live sound performance. EV's Vocal Optimised Bass technology is used to reduce distortion in the low-end.

EV's X-Array speakers have enjoyed high profile success in the touring sector, and now they're fully addressing the install market with the Xi-Series. The speakers' features include:

Ring-Mode Decoupling, uniform dynamic response and vocal clarity, rotatable coaxial horns for added flexibility, a DH6 large-format HF driver, and very high power handling.

EVI Audio: (02) 9648 3455

