
Subject: OT: Cubase 4 first impressions

Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Wed, 04 Oct 2006 06:01:45 GMT

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Thought some of you that use Cubase or Nuendo with Paris or on its' own might be interested in this if you haven't upgraded yet, etc. I took the Nuendo users' offer to get it for \$199 (separate license/dongle) to run on a VST System link slave PC, though I'm enjoying the new features enough it has superceded Nuendo 3.2 temporarily on my main system.

C4 adds drag and drop inserts (to and from any channel, or the library). Very handy, and a much needed addition. There is an extensive library/preset capability to C4 to greatly speed up saving and loading presets for plugins, channels, VSTi's, mixers, etc.

One of the biggest new and unsung features is the Media Bay (and Sound Frame, and Loop browser) which accesses all media on your system, catalogs it by type and allows you to search, filter, drag and drop relevant files into your project - there is of course a preview for audio files, in addition to the ability to preview in context (e.g. project plays back, audio file plays in time, time stretched to match the project tempo - cool for loops that are cut to measure boundaries, not as useful for free form vocal tracks, etc). Sound Frame and the Loop browser are just versions of Media Bay with filters for audio and loops enabled, respectively. Not overly different, but perhaps saves a step over turning on filters in Media Bay.

The sequencer engine has been rewritten from what I understand. C4 feels more tightly integrated than Nuendo 3.2. It runs really well (not without some bugs still, of course).

C4 adds VST3.0 support, and new built in VST3 plugins. The new plugins with are actually very good - new EQs, compressors, expander, gate, chorus, delays, etc. They will operate in mono, stereo or multichannel depending on the channel format they are inserted on (the delays and chorus are not multichannel unfortunately). Btw, a 5.1 instance of the multiband comp eats up a lot of cpu power. The new VSTi's are also very good - Halion One is a rompler based on the Motif to some degree - no editing, but has quite a few useful presets. The other VSTi's are quite nice and creative and stand up well along side the Raptures and Absynths of the soft synth world (albeit not as versatile as either of these).

C4 adds the Control Room that is already in Nuendo 3.2 - a great feature for mixerless setups, esp. with key commands for switching between speaker configs (multichannel, stereo, mono, etc), 4 different monitor outputs, dim, talkback, monitor source selects, studio configs for headphone mixes, etc.

Instrument tracks are a quick way to add a VSTi with a track directly in the

project window (doesn't use the VSTi rack). The only downside is only a single stereo out is used. The VSTi rack still supports full multi-output VSTi's, but adds a dropdown list on a button next to each insert to select which outputs are enabled - easing the clutter of VSTi outputs in the mixer.

That's enough for now. fwiw...

Dedric
