
Subject: Laptop Recording Question

Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 05 Aug 2007 21:58:16 GMT

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I might have the opportunity to do a series of live recordings here coming up the near future, and if I do end up doing these, I would want to do them in CubaseSX for ease of importation to the "home base" for mixdown. They'll all be multitracked to the best of my ability to mic them (or to take direct outs or submixes off the board, if possible... I'm guessing "not possible" for the most part) in the live environment, so I'm trying to figure out the following, and any input would be appreciated. These questions are laptop/notebook-specific, as I really don't want to get into ripping out my main DAW PC & porting it around for these ventures, and while - like most of you, I suspect - I've rigged-up several purpose-built towers, I know virtually nothing about laptop hardware... so:

#1.) I have two Nuendo/RME Multifaces - these are the only interfaces I'm aware of that have a PCMCIA card available - which would make things simple - just buy a cardbus card & Bada-Bing!, I'm tracking with one of my Multifascias to a laptop. Point then becomes, Can I go in at 88.2k & get a decent # of channels? One Multiface will give me 8 analog ins, and 4 lightpipe ins at that frequency - might be bare minimum for live rock, but 44.1k would give me 4 addtl. lightpipes (I have no preamps with SPDIF out, so that's irrelevant in this case) for a total of 16 - a little better... BUT.... is there any off-the-shelf laptop that has 2 cardbus slots available, so that I could use both of my Multifaces? There's question #1.

#2.) Would it make more sense to get a slightly used laptop with XP already loaded, or get a new one with more CPU power & RAM, but that I'd have to backload with WinXP, rather than the Vista that it would come with? Again, I'm not looking at 30-or-40-something tracks on these live recordings, it'd be in the 20's, at most, so a used one might be OK, even at 88.2k, and it would NOT be used for mixdown - that would be done on the "home base" DAW. Thoughts?

#3) Would it be easier to go Firewire with something like the RME Fireface series? Then I'd have to buy a new convertor box, but if it would make life easier, it might be worth it.

#4) Any other thoughts would be appreciated.

#5.) And, no Chris Ludwig, I can't afford any of your \$3,000 laptops! LOL! :)

Thx upfront.

Neil
