
Subject: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to competewith pricing against PCs

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 19:03:50 GMT

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Nothing more PC like than trying to cut corners on you product than using cheaper components. Are Apple going the way of DELL? Let hope not.

<http://www.rme-audio.de/forum/viewtopic.php?id=1475>

<http://discussions.apple.com/search.jsps?objID=c1&search=Go&q=Agere>

Chris

--

Chris Ludwig

ADK Pro Audio
(859) 635-5762
www.adkproaudio.com
chrisl@adkproaudio.com

Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [rick](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 20:09:38 GMT

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the chip apple puts on the mobo won't allow it. i think that's the x-86 app was for to get around the chip thing.

On 10 Nov 2007 06:45:24 +1000, "LaMont" <jjdpro@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>Chris, I was just going to post this for you..
>
>My company is buying me a new Dell Laptop XPS Core2 Duo-2.2, 4gigs Ram..yada
>200 gig sata(7200 rm) 128 Nvideo..\$2900.00
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>The Same spec Mac Book Pro just a little over 3k..But, the Mac has a better
>Video graphic adaptor.
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>The Mac, to me is a better buy...Being that I can run OSX and Win XP/Vista..

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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 20:45:24 GMT
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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [excelav](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 20:56:14 GMT

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This kills me. Some of you guys for years have insisted that Apple stuff is no better than cheap PC MOBOs. That they use cheap inferior stuff. Some of you guys have complained about Apple costing more. Some of you guys have said that you want cheaper Apple products. Now Apple is starting to use cheaper components which will mean lower prices in the future. This is what you guys wanted, cheaper, remember? You can't have it both ways, there is a reality to this.

I'm sure RME will get drivers to work with the new chip, it's just a matter of time.

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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 21:21:35 GMT
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Hi James,

James McCloskey wrote:

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> you guys wanted, cheaper, remember? You can't have it both ways, there is
> a reality to this.

I'm not one of "you guys". I have used Macs and PCs for years. Have built and/or repaired PCs and Apple machines for years.

They do not need to use "cheaper" parts to make the prices cheaper. If Apple is going to cut corners like this then their hardware should be no more than a Dell or E-machine. The fact that they used a un tested but cheaper chip instead of the proven to be compatible firewire chip set is very lame. Apple have consistently used good quality components over the years the same way some a high-end custom PC maker or a DIY person that wanted to good quality and reliable machine would do. Any of these users main concerns are reliability and compatibility.

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Why should RME, MOTU, Presonus, TC, Focusrite, various hard drive makers, etc have to fix it? You would think the company that sells the broken product would fix it? Maybe they can fix it with an OS or

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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 22:51:29 GMT
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"LaMont" <jjdpro@gmail.com> wrote in message news:4734d759\$1@linux...
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- > computer maker/vendor make use an item knowing that it would present
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Because audio users aren't anywhere close to being part of the "masses" these companies make a living from.

I'm sure the chipset works with a reasonable range of general firewire devices (drives, consumer camcorders, etc), but imho, firewire isn't a guaranteed reliable solution for audio if tolerances are sloppy in chipsets, etc, and that has been the case for a while now (with TI being about the only one of any significant reliability, though I've had a VIA work fairly well).

The only thing different between the MacBook Pros and a PC laptop is that you have several PC laptop manufacturers and models to choose from and find the ones with TI chipsets rather than something else. MacBooks are a single model line. Users are stuck with the apparently inferior chipset until the next line, and only a hope that Apple will somehow pay attention to the audio community when make the next chipset decision. If general consumer firewire devices work fine, there is no reference point to convince them it was a bad decision. Streaming 16 channels of 96k audio at 1.5ms latency just isn't on the radar for computer companies (only daw builders hold that standard for us).

Hey James - regarding the cost of parts issue, it's never been about getting cheaper parts (for me at least) - it's about getting quality parts for the same price as inferior parts, or at least getting quality components without paying an extra premium. However, as you've noted before accurately, there is a difference between buying parts from Newegg at what amounts to a passed on bulk price and building your own, vs. buying from Apple, Dell, HP or a daw builder.

We're paying labor in prebuilt systems, though companies like Dell and Apple get even better deals on parts than we do from Newegg, so there is a balance in there. Of course the manufacturers have to make up labor costs in parts savings in order to keep costs from killing too much profit, or pushing prices beyond what the market will bear. Apple's decision to go with that chipset probably had more to do with price, power rating with their board, and availability for large quantities, than whether it worked with firewire audio interfaces.

The point is I personally don't like the idea of paying more to get less quality, but that is the case with many off the shelf computers, sometimes they are Dells, sometimes Apples, etc - no one is immune. It's hit or miss when someone else chooses the parts for you and you only have

one option, though, and that's where it really starts to hurt consumers (esp. audio people like us that don't amount to a blip on the radar for large companies).

This pretty much kills any consideration for replacing my Vista laptop with a MacBook, unfortunately. It would have been too expensive to justify at least for the time being (too many other things to put money into than a laptop), but it has been a backup plan to get more use out of the laptop than Vista or Linux would afford (e.g. as a slave comp for VSTi's, etc, not just an email checker :-).

Regards,
Dedric

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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Fri, 09 Nov 2007 22:55:37 GMT
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Ok, I'm confused. Why would Apple, Dell, Sony, Toshiba or any of the Personal computer maker/vendor make use an item knowing that it would present problems to the masses??

That does not make sense to me. But, a handful of Pro Audio manufacturers gear have problems? Maybe the Pro Audio vendors needs to have a bigger voice in the design process in order to assure a smooth transition..

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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sat, 10 Nov 2007 05:13:30 GMT
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Hi James - I wasn't writing off every model - just the current line, on the assumption that Apple doesn't change motherboards mid stream once a line is released (that might change in future revs of the same line of course, and with a new line - which is probably due around Jan/Feb?).

Audio hardware developers may be able to adapt to support the chip, but the problem with protocols like this is that when tolerances are outside of what a device needs to function effectively (i.e. to advertised specs), the only way to adapt is to lower the performance of the device (which of course won't float with users). How many RME, MOTU, TC, Presonus, etc users would settle for 8 channels of audio at 48k instead of 16 at 96k, or 12ms latency instead of 3? Just an example - I don't know if it equates to such numbers, if adapting is even an option. Synchronization for streaming audio may be a complete loss with some chipsets, where data transfers for drives might be fine. In my experience, it's a matter of whether the device can even be seen by the system - audio devices are much more demanding on the 1394 protocol than hard drives, unless you are streaming full res video (e.g. prosumer/professional cameras dumping HD/HDV might have problems as well).

That's a big problem. Doesn't matter whether it's an Apple, Dell, Sony, HP or Acer computer - incompatible or underperforming hardware is a problem. That's why every laptop I've bought I had to research the firewire chipset. Same goes for building a PC - firewire needs to have a known working chipset, or you are adding a firewire card to replace it and eating up valuable PCI/PCIe slots.

For consumers, issues like this go largely unnoticed, and that's the audience computer manufacturers are catering to, so the chipset probably falls within Apple's specs for firewire performance.

This isn't a unique slight of Apple - it's an issue with all manufacturers, but there aren't as many options with Apple. So, it's just that this something to watch out for if planning to buy one of the models with manufacturing dates listed in the link.

Regards,
Dedric

On 11/9/07 10:44 PM, in article 47353748\$1@linux, "James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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> There are many assumptions going on here. Less expensive means junk, not
> necessarily. Just because it does not work at the moment doesn't mean it

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Posted by [excelav](#) on Sat, 10 Nov 2007 05:44:56 GMT
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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [Kim W](#) on Sat, 10 Nov 2007 14:30:09 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hang on... Didn't Apple buy Logic Audio in an effort to capitalize on the
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Phieww!!!
I'm happy with the dual core Gigabyte AM2 mobo I bought for my
next DAW (with 4 pci slots AND a TI chip), for \$110 AUSTRALIAN!
(They're probably about \$70 in the US). Cheap? yes. Nasty No!

"Dedric Terry" <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:
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>"LaMont" <jjdpro@gmail.com> wrote in message news:4734d759\$1@linux...
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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Sat, 10 Nov 2007 14:39:19 GMT

Hi Rick and Lamont,

Yes they use a custom hardware firmware on the MAC hardware. The only way to install is to Hack it.

Chris

rick wrote:

> the chip apple puts on the mobo won't allow it. i think that's the

> x-86 app was for to get around the chip thing.

>

>

>

> On 10 Nov 2007 06:45:24 +1000, "LaMont" <jjdpro@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>> Chris, I was just going to post this for you..

>>

>> My company is buying me a new Dell Laptop XPS Core2 Duo-2.2, 4gigs Ram..yada

>> 200 gig sata(7200 rm) 128 Nvideo..\$2900.00

>>

>> The Same spec Mac Book Pro just a little over 3k..But, the Mac has a better

>> Video graphic adaptor.

>>

>> The Mac, to me is a better buy...Being that I can run OSX and Win XP/Vista..

>>

>> Question: Seeing that the Dell is essentially a mac clone (Core2 dual CPU(s)..Intel

>> Mobo..Nvidia Video... Why can't I (on a fresh drive) load OSX on the Dell

>> ?

>>

>>

>> Chris Ludwig <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote:

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(859) 635-5762

Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Sat, 10 Nov 2007 19:59:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

That's my point as about Apple. Apple has always had the reputaion of playing nice nice with the Pro Audio market or have lead the way of trends. SCSI, Firewire..to name a few.

I have two firewire audio devices (M-audio 410 & ProFire Bridge). Both work flawlessly on any computer I use. However, I prefer using PCI audio cards for max thru-put.

"Kim W." <no@way.com> wrote:

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>Hang on... Didn't Apple buy Logic Audio in an effort to capitalize on the
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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Tue, 13 Nov 2007 04:15:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Dedic,
Don't worry. Apple will just quietly replace these models with bad firewire chip sets with new models within the year with no mention of the issues like many other PC makers do. And none of their new customer base will ever ask any questions.

Chris

Dedic Terry wrote:

> Hi James - I wasn't writing off every model - just the current line, on the
> assumption that Apple doesn't change motherboards mid stream once a line is
> released (that might change in future revs of the same line of course, and
> with a new line - which is probably due around Jan/Feb?).
>
> Audio hardware developers may be able to adapt to support the chip, but the
> problem with protocols like this is that when tolerances are outside of what
> a device needs to function effectively (i.e. to advertised specs), the only
> way to adapt is to lower the performance of the device (which of course
> won't float with users). How many RME, MOTU, TC, Presonus, etc users would
> settle for 8 channels of audio at 48k instead of 16 at 96k, or 12ms latency
> instead of 3? Just an example - I don't know if it equates to such numbers,
> if adapting is even an option. Synchronization for streaming audio may be a
> complete loss with some chipsets, where data transfers for drives might be
> fine. In my experience, it's a matter of whether the device can even be
> seen by the system - audio devices are much more demanding on the 1394
> protocol than hard drives, unless you are streaming full res video (e.g.
> prosumer/professional cameras dumping HD/HDV might have problems as well).
>

> That's a big problem. Doesn't matter whether it's an Apple, Dell, Sony, HP
> or Acer computer - incompatible or underperforming hardware is a problem.
> That's why every laptop I've bought I had to research the firewire chipset.
> Same goes for building a PC - firewire needs to have a known working
> chipset, or you are adding a firewire card to replace it and eating up
> valuable PCI/PCIe slots.
>
> For consumers, issues like this go largely unnoticed, and that's the
> audience computer manufacturers are catering to, so the chipset probably
> falls within Apple's specs for firewire performance.
>
> This isn't a unique slight of Apple - it's an issue with all manufacturers,
> but there aren't as many options with Apple. So, it's just that this
> something to watch out for if planning to buy one of the models with
> manufacturing dates listed in the link.
>
> Regards,
> Detric
>
> On 11/9/07 10:44 PM, in article 47353748\$1@linux, "James McCloskey"
> <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:
>
>
>> I wouldn't write every Apple model off just yet. More research is needed.
>> There are many assumptions going on here. Less expensive means junk, not
>> necessarily. Just because it does not work at the moment doesn't mean it
>> will never work. Boxing and burying all Apple products because RME stuff
>> doesn't work with the latest iMac models is a little too much. If this new
>> chip becomes the new standard with manufactures the third party companies
>> will adapt. Give it time.
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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [excelav](#) on Tue, 13 Nov 2007 17:33:39 GMT
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>>>> "LaMont" <jjdpro@gmail.com> wrote in message news:4734d759\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: FYI for all Apple users;Welcome to the world of trying to compete
Posted by [rick](#) on Wed, 14 Nov 2007 10:01:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

they did it with the fw800 a few years back.

On 14 Nov 2007 03:33:39 +1000, "James McCloskey"
<excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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