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## 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

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [DJ](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 01:31:26 GMT  
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Neil,

I've got an RME cardbus here I'll loan you. I don't have the cable though. I'm not using it at the moment so if you want it, just let me know. Thad recently posted about a cheapo ACER laptop that worked nicely with (I think) the RME cardbus and LIVE once the OS was gutted and a minimal reinstall was done to lose all the proprietary crap.

Deej

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:46b647f8\$1@linux...

>  
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> 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  
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> Thx upfront.  
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> Neil

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 02:43:36 GMT  
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Hi Neil,

No current or future laptops will have card bus. Any companies that still sell them are selling EOL hardware. The ACER model is the only I know of recently that had a reliable card bus controller. RME will have the express card for the Multiface/Digiface in the fall. There are no dual express slots on a laptop. just a single. Most people are using the express to add a 2 port SATA II controller. So you can add 2 500 gig 70meg/sec drives to your laptop and record at high sample rates all you want.

Fire fire is still the best solution for the laptop at this point.

A Fireface 800 combined with a Presonus Digimax FS will give you 16 channels of 88.2k At 44.1/48k you can have an additional Digimax FS for 24 channels.

Oh and the laptop we most commonly do for this is costs \$1700.00 and is based on the current Intel chipset with a Core2 Duo T7300 CPU, 2 gigs DDR667 ram, 100 7200 sata OS drive, 8xDVDRW, 15" 1280x800 LCD, Nvidia 8400 256 meg video, TI fire wire chipset, XP Pro, 3 year warranty, life time tech support.

LOL

Chris

Neil wrote:

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--

Chris Ludwig  
ADK  
chrisl@adkproaudio.com <mailto:chrisl@adkproaudio.com>  
www.adkproaudio.com <http://www.adkproaudio.com/>  
(859) 635-5762

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 03:10:17 GMT  
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Any laptop that can handle 20 plus tracks at high sample rates will be an expensive setup. I know because I have one.

I would look for a used Alesis HD24XR. Should be around \$1600 used. The HD24XR can dependably handle 24 tracks at 96 and has good sounding converters. Sell it when you are done for what you paid for it.

If you move down to 24/44.1 your inexpensive laptop idea will probably work.

Gene

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

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>Neil

---

Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 04:47:14 GMT  
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Gene

Graham Duncan <graham@grahamduncan.com> wrote:

>HD24XRs can be purchased new for around \$1600 at a few dealers. They  
>only do 12 channels at 96k, though...

>

>Graham

>

>Gene Lennon wrote:

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Sell

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>>

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>> Gene

---

Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question

Posted by [Graham Duncan](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 05:06:57 GMT

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> Gene

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 05:22:54 GMT  
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The other issue is I think Neil wants to stick to 88.2 sampling rate.  
Didn't Emu have a 1616 with the Digidesign convertors in it that were  
supposed to sound pretty good? AH, yes... here it is:

<http://www.zzounds.com/item--EMU1616M>

AA

"Gene Lennon" <[glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com](mailto:glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com)> wrote in message  
news:46b6a7d2\$1@linux...

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> "They only do 12 channels at 96k, though..."  
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> Right - My bad.  
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> XR new for 1600? Around 1900 is the best I've seen.

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> Gene

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 07:47:33 GMT  
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While I would LIKE to stick with 88.2k (you know me by now, it's a resolution thang), I don't necessarily have to for this series of recordings.. like i said, it's live, it's going to be in a place that really probably sucks bigtime acoustically, as it was originally designed to be a warehouse, not a soundstage or even a club - i think the long side is going to be well over 200 feet, from what I gather (I might get to go see & hear the place with a band practicing in it tomorrow - will know more then, if that occurs... at least i'll get an idea of the sound of the place, minus the crowd), so it's going to be a challenge no matter what, but I would like to give myself every advantage. If the advantage comes down to 88.2k with as many tracks as I need, then that would be great - if the advantage comes down to the economics of 44.1k with as many tracks as I can muster that will still give me good separation & isolation, then that might just be the way to go, too. Ya know?

Either way, I don't think that 1616 would cut it... not enough inputs, irrespective of the samplerate.

Neil

>Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not\_here.dude> wrote:  
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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 07:55:24 GMT

Chris Ludwig <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote:

>  
>HI Neil,  
>  
>No current or future laptops will have card bus. Any companies  
>that still sell them are selling EOL hardware.

So you're saying if I want to buy an RME PCMCIA cardbus interface, I'd have to pair that with an older laptop, regardless???

If that's the case, then Firewire seems to be the no-brainer solution here with regard to laptop multitracking, yes?

And BTW, I would love to be able to patronize you for one of your (not \$3,000, but \$1,700) laptops, but you know that's still a little steep for a soundgathering-only solution, right? I mean if I were looking for a robust purpose-built laptop that would enable me to do mixing & everything on there, that'd be a different story, knowwhatahmean?

Neil

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 13:59:15 GMT  
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Hi Neil,

Neil wrote:

> Chris Ludwig <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote:  
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Yes I know but figured I mention a machine that can do allot more than just record some tracks. Heck when not using for live you could always use it for VSTi or effect processing and such.:)

If all you plan on doing with forever is record some shows then you would be looking at \$1300 - \$1500 range for a machine that can be upgraded later. You will need to be careful with some of the ultra cheap laptops. They tend to be like the ultra cheap desktops in that they will have a limited upgrade path and tend use very low quality components. If all you ever want to do is record some gigs then the Alesis HD recorder is a good option but size wise isn't much different than using a Mid-Tower desktop.

> Neil  
>  
Chris

--

Chris Ludwig  
ADK  
chrisl@adkproaudio.com <mailto:chrisl@adkproaudio.com>  
www.adkproaudio.com <http://www.adkproaudio.com/>  
(859) 635-5762

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 14:29:59 GMT  
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Neil, fwiw, I recently got an HP Pavilion 6426us laptop - core 2 duo with 120G drive and 1G ram for \$799 and it runs great. I haven't multitracked a gig, but have run full res DV video and audio for a corporate conference to large screen projectors (desktop clone via a media presentation app) and it performed flawlessly for two days straight - all off of the system drive no less (and a cheap USB audio interface too running audio playback as I

couldn't tear my Fireface out of my studio due to other project deadlines)... and on Win Vista. Once the MidiOverLan guys get the Vista installer fixed I'm planning to run sync'd video off of it via Chaingang in the studio.

Cubase 4 actually runs fine on Vista, though I haven't tested it. I can't attest to using it for your intended purpose, or doing multitrack 88.2k, but fwiw...

All that to say, you really don't have to go uber-DAW with the laptop to get solid performance, even if it doesn't hurt to do so. The HPs do have a TI chipset for firewire, which was a requirement for me. Firewire would be your best bet for 88.2k rather than trying to get a PCMCIA laptop.

Dedric

On 8/6/07 1:55 AM, in article 46b6d3ec\$1@linux, "Neil" <IOIUOIU@OI.com> wrote:

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> Chris Ludwig <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote:  
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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question/Macintosh Pro  
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 18:21:10 GMT  
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Anybody sprung the \$3,100 for the MacBook Pro? (YIKES) It seems good, but then you have to buy software, and some sort of interface. Anybody got the \$600 Apogee card for laptop? Also, anybody have success running Windows, as an app, on a Mac?

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:46b647f8\$1@linux...

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> Thx upfront.  
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> Neil

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 19:36:12 GMT  
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Hey Neil,

I have a complete piece of crap ACER that has cardbus for my RME interface. I don't do high track counts but it works great with a vanilla XP install. One thing to be careful about--I have had some pretty serious problems shoe-horning XP on laptops that come with Vista. It's always been possible, but usually fairly unpleasant.

Another option to consider would be one of these.

[http://www.dell.com/content/products/productdetails.aspx?pedge\\_860?c=us&cs=04&l=en&s=bsd](http://www.dell.com/content/products/productdetails.aspx?pedge_860?c=us&cs=04&l=en&s=bsd)

Not terribly expensive and reasonably portable.

TCB

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

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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  
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>Neil

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question/Macintosh Pro  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2007 21:08:33 GMT  
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For audio work you should be fine with a Macbook for under \$1500. If you want the MacBook Pro, you could get the least expensive one for about \$2K.

Despite that, I'm still thinking about the top end 17" model due to the optional HiDef display - mine would be a video editing and graphics/animation machine as well as an audio box. But I'm waiting for LED backlighting (the 17" HiDef model is the only Macbook Pro that doesn't have LED backlighting yet).

For running MSWindows as a virtual machine under MacOSX you have several choices: Parallels and VMWare are commercial options, and VirtualBox is an open source option. Or you can use Apple's Boot Camp to reboot into



another OS if you don't need it to run at the same time. (I haven't used any of them - I'm running software natively under OSX.)

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

tonehouse wrote:

> Anybody sprung the \$3,100 for the MacBook Pro? (YIKES) It seems good, but  
> then you have to buy software, and some sort of interface. Anybody got the  
> \$600 Apogee card for laptop? Also, anybody have success running Windows, as an  
> app, on a Mac?

> "Neil" <[OIUOIU@OIU.com](mailto:OIUOIU@OIU.com)> wrote in message news:46b647f8\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question/Macintosh Pro  
Posted by [Steve Helm](#) on Tue, 07 Aug 2007 20:11:11 GMT  
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I'm using Logic Pro on a MBP 2.33Ghz 17" with 3GB RAM, 100GB SATA internal (OS/apps) and external firewire (audio). DVI out to a 21" for dual display. Blue tooth mouse. Firewire to Metric Halo 2882+DSP MIO, Mackie Control, XT, and C4. It is great to have P&G flying faders and work nearly free of keyboard and mouse.

Everything is solid, no lockups, great plugins, and instruments. And I love the built-in convolution reverb Space Designer.

I'm sure one could run a comparable setup but with a Macbook instead of the Pro. Slower CPU and less RAM limits how many simultaneous hungry plugs one runs.

So for a modest mix an Intel MB would do fine. Also Logic can freeze tracks if one runs out of CPU. Metric Halo MIO is quite mobile and works great for live gigs etc.

Highly recommended.

Jamie K <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

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>Cheers,

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---

Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question/Macintosh Pro  
Posted by [Steve Helm](#) on Tue, 07 Aug 2007 20:28:32 GMT  
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---

And the new Mac mini and iMac pricing announced today offers even cheaper options than the Mac laptops.

<http://store.apple.com/>

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2007 12:33:51 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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I put together a rig for live recording of Chick Corea. We used a new Mac laptop (2005) and RME boxes on PCMCIA (don't recall the model) out via ADAT to AD16X plus a MOTU 8 in box for the less important stuff. Firewire was not possible. I kind of think 24 tracks of 88.2 won't fly either, but if you cut the number of tracks, it might. We had Dave Weckl's kit to handle so we needed max inputs.

We thought about bringing pres but for ease of shipping and simplicity we took it off the board inserts by plugging in part way. I made the whole rig: rack, cables and all, fit in a hard Samsonite, if I do say so myself. Worked like a dream.

Neil wrote:

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 14 Aug 2007 23:02:17 GMT  
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Bill, do you know if Weckl is still using the yamaha digital (01r last I'd heard) mixer to submix his kit on his solo gigs?

AA

"Bill L" <[bill@billlorentzen.com](mailto:bill@billlorentzen.com)> wrote in message [news:46c1a339@linux...](mailto:news:46c1a339@linux...)  
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---

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording Question  
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Wed, 15 Aug 2007 02:11:18 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I would assume so. He uses it with Chick. If I recall it's an 01V96 now.

Aaron Allen wrote:

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>>> 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 Multifaces 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  
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>

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