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Subject: After 9 years, it's time for part 2

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Sat, 13 Jan 2007 18:57:30 GMT

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I'm in the process of building another DAW for some beta testing purposes but now that I've finally achieved what I feel is something that can do 99% of what I want in just about \*any\* possible recording situation (thank you Creamware), I've got a hankering to get back into composing/songwriting and I need a laptop.

I primarily compose on guitar and I used to use a midi based proggie called Jammer for rough compositions. and I have figured out a way to use this with the sound engine of NI Bandstand using Midiox. Christmas before last I bought myself one of those cool little Fretlight strat lookin things meaning to start getting my chops up to speed and getting out of a few ruts I've been floundering around in for years.

I have an RME Multiface sitting here that I could interface with a laptop via PCMCIA. I would like to have a media centric" laptop with a goodly amount of horsepower/RAM/fast HD, that will work well with an RME PCMCIA card for the Multiface This will need to be a windows machine since my apps don't play with Macs..and of course, I want a good deal, whatever that is). I have a Dell Latitude docking station here with an 18g SCSI cheetah that works well with an older Latitude machine (a P2-400mHZ laptop). I'm wondering if another Latitude might be the ticket. Not imperative.....but any experience with these would be of particular interest.

Thanks,

Deej

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Subject: Re: After 9 years, it's time for part 2

Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Sun, 14 Jan 2007 00:42:50 GMT

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Not trying to rain on your next gear hunt, but...

here is what I use when writing:

[http://www.olympusamerica.com/cpg\\_section/product.asp?product=1153](http://www.olympusamerica.com/cpg_section/product.asp?product=1153)

My old model was 40 bucks at Costco. When I have a song idea, I play the part into the little recorder, then put the guitar down and pull out paper or Word on the comp and work on lyrics and melodies.

Hell, I can't engineer and write songs. I can't even play guitar and write songs. Writing compelling melodies and lyrics takes being in a quiet creative space with nothing else to think about, and letting the box play the parts.

When the tune is done, or mostly done, then I go to the DAW and start developing it.

You may be different, but being good at recording is a totally different act than being good at songwriting and one will crowd out the other.

You don't need a computer to write songs. IMHO

best

DC

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com)> wrote:

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Subject: Re: After 9 years, it's time for part 2  
Posted by [Nil](#) on Sun, 14 Jan 2007 01:03:11 GMT  
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For me the best solution is still a synth with a sequencer.

Write while you play, record it at the same time, no engineering involved (I agree w/you there, Don), leave that for later when you import the MIDI file to a computer & start the real tracking.

How about that, Deej? A MIDI guitar hooked up to a synth workstation? Too simple for ya? lol

Neil

"DC" <dc@spammersinhell.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: After 9 years, it's time for part 2  
Posted by [Jeff Hoover](#) on Sun, 14 Jan 2007 03:47:08 GMT  
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DJ,

I have a laptop using and RME multiface for composition stuff. Setup Acid for loops running through Rewire into Cubase. Been really stable so far.

As far as brands of laptops go my experience is with the Dells and toshibas. Placed over 100 Dell laptops (mostly latitudes) and they have been EXTREMELY reliable. I've personally had three toshibas in a row and have been pleasantly surprised with their reliability/ performance.

Macs are noe an option because you would have the best of both worlds.

With the Dells, I can only remember maybe 2 or 3 service calls. One of my customers is still using a Pentium 133 Latitude! If you go consumer channel (HP Compaq Toshiba) I would definitely get a three year onsite warranty. If something goes wrong, you won't find the parts at the corner "geeks are us".

If you want more info on recommendations PM me and I'll you know what I know.

Hoov

DJ wrote:

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> but now that I've finally achieved what I feel is something that can do 99%  
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> Thanks,

>

> Deej

>

>

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Subject: Re: After 9 years, it's time for part 2

Posted by [emarenot](#) on Sun, 14 Jan 2007 18:16:32 GMT

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Hey DJ,

I don't have any thoughts on the laptop, but I wanted to send a shout out as you get back to playing. I've been writing right along -but mostly electronic stuff. After talking about getting back into the singer-songwriter gig for quite awhile, I finally did. I've got lots of ideas on a dictaphone tape recorder thingy and a couple of tunes that made it to the recording stage --so far. Getting back into writing lyrics has been a challenge, but its bee a real fun trip to date. Great good luck as you move forward, or re-forward. :-)

Cheers,

MR

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com> wrote in message news:45a9287e@linux...  
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> Thanks,  
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Subject: Re: After 9 years, it's time for part 2  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 14 Jan 2007 20:16:39 GMT  
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The Dells are always pretty good on the bang for the buck front. I'm thinking

of retiring my two year old 630m into being a DJ only machine and getting a Core Duo model. One big problem now with RME gear. Pretty much all (if not all, I don't have time to look at the whole Dell site) use ExpressCard slots now, They're the update on Card Bus and, as the website explaining the tech says,

5. Are PC Cards and ExpressCard modules compatible?

The two technologies are not compatible. The decision was made to take advantages of advances in technology to simplify the design. The speed and size of the new ExpressCard design outweighed the backward compatibility issues.

So your SOL on pretty much all non-USB and non-Firewire I/O options. I wouldn't sweat it, a pretty cheap Presonus Firewier box will get you 6 in 10 out and MIDI to the laptop until RME comes out with an ExpressCard option.

TCB

"DJ" <[www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com](http://www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com)> wrote:

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Subject: Re: After 9 years, it's time for part 2  
Posted by [Dave Geoghegan](#) on Wed, 17 Jan 2007 01:21:45 GMT  
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Hi,

Had great luck with Alienware , running 4 of them now.

Dave

Jeff hoover <jkhoover@excite-DOT-com> wrote:

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