
Subject: Creamware first impressions

Posted by [TCB](#) on Sat, 23 Dec 2006 22:01:07 GMT

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Hey all,

This should be taken with some grains of salt, which if you remember are quite a bit larger than the ticks on a 100 mm fader using a 14 bit MIDI stream, but so far I'm really knocked out by the Creamware card. Keep in mind that it's been shown here that I'm deaf, not a 'pro,' and can't hear the difference between different brands of USB flash drives. I use a PNY when some people claim the SanDisks are punchier. The big problem I had with the CW gear before was stability, and it's only been a day but so far absolutely rock solid. 'Cause I'm deaf I only use 44.1 so I don't have clocking issues.

I remembered the synths as being spectacular and they are much better than I remember. Frankly I don't think I've heard digital synthesis done better, with the possible exception of the OASYS PCI card, but I think I'd still give the CW gear the edge. Keep in mind I've owned a fair amount of Waldorf, Access, Nord, and Clavia gear over the years. There's no reason why it should sound better than native, DSP code is DSP code, and I wonder if maybe it's precisely because the gear is a little old that it sounds so good. Expectations were a little lower back then. In any case, they clearly went for sonic quality over polyphony with the synths. The Prophet is absolutely killer, the wavetable synths spit out psycho bells that are to die for, the minimoog is ripping. The B3 is very nice as well, and it can do thin and cheesey as well as it does big and crushing which I like because I tend to use organ sounds as minor decoration.

The software has also gotten easier to use. I'd say it would make it a lot easier if someone had a bit of experience with modular synths, but I managed to get everything running and making noises without reading the manual. I'll have to get to that soon. I think it will be a minor hassle to get used to running the Scope environment while using Live/SX and I'm not sure how I'm going to bounce tracks to audio when I start hitting the wall on the DSP on the Scope board. Probably just run one of the ADAT outputs to one of the ADAT inputs. Having the big display and being able to use keyboard shortcuts to switch virtual desktops will help a good bit.

Which also brings up the one complaint I have about the CW card, the DSPs do get chewed up pretty quickly and they don't seem too smart. That is, if I open up a Prophet the DSP load goes up even when it's not doing anything. Most native plugs these days only take resources when they have something to do. I'm quite sure I could use two 14 DSP cards without trying too hard. Again, it will just involve a little time learning to manage the workflow and I'm willing to do that for synths and f/x this good.

Paired up with a UAD card it's a damned impressive system. I might spring

for another one of each, using the UAD for vintage type f/x and the CW for mixing and synths. I gotta say, it's a pretty enjoyable, creative combination.

Now that I like it, we'll see CW out of business soon.

TCB

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [DJ](#) on Sat, 23 Dec 2006 22:41:11 GMT
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Glad you are liking it Thad. After all my cheerleading and then Neil's experience, I've sorta been dreading what would happen next and I've been having dreams of my lurching through cobblestoned streets in a Carpathian mountain village muttering guturally while being pursued by an enraged mob of Parisites dressed as impoverished Bavarian elves, waving torches and brandishing axes and pitchforks.

;o)

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:458d9913\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions

well, thanks ;o).....but as is always the case with just about anything, there was an ancient predecessor.....in this case, our Greek compadre, Dimitrios. He's been using this system for years and had it not been for him, neither one of us might be grinnin' right now. I've got a free IRQ and I'm seriously considering getting a 4th card m'self. If I do, it's likely to be a "pro" version. The more DSP, the better, especially with this platform. I'm not a synth guy, but these synths are nice. I like the aggressive character that seems present in every one I have tried so far. It's like no matter how much you scoop your velocity curve, it still seems to want to knock down a wall.

Cheers,

Deej

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:458dbe99\$1@linux...

>

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> past few hours again and it's a devilishly enjoyable system. This is all
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Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 00:41:13 GMT
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Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 02:44:08 GMT
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"DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:

>Glad you are liking it Thad. After all my cheerleading and
>then Neil's experience, I've sorta been dreading what would
>happen next

Well, my experience has now changed... I finished the install of the Pulsar card into the same PC as is running my Paris rig WinME machine, and it gave me some shit at first (driver loaded fine, but the install files didn't want to run.... kinda like that guy over on the Pulsar forum), anyway, finally got it to install, and once it did it went smoothly from there.

This thing is running fine AND.... (wait for it) CLOCKING PERFECTLY AT 88.2K!!! Yes, sir, I can get it to clock via both S/Mux (lightpipe) OR Word Clock, and no it doesn't register 88.2k on the readout, it says "96k", but I get not one but TWO little red lock lights (one for each lightpipe input perhaps?).

Now, considering it's working now, perhaps my problems with this card on the other machine had more to do with two ASIO drivers being present... it seems weird that even with one of them disabled (the RME's) this card would act up, but perhaps there was some kind of conflict nonetheless - I dunno. Or maybe it just likes WinME better than XP.

In any event, yep, I can back Deej & Thad up on the stability - at least on this current setup I've got... I've been trying various plugins & whatnot & overloading the DSP's (not purposely, just from dicking around & trying different plugs at once), and it gives me caution messages, but hasn't crashed once. As for the sound? Too early to tell if it's going to improve my situation in the limited capacity I'm able to use it for what I'm trying to accomplish, but do far I can tell you that the sound certainly sucketh not.

Yea, verily.

I'll tell you this much, though... if you're looking to do some serious plug-in insertion counts on this stuff, then don't dick around, get the Pro Card... YMMV, but that's my advice.

Neil

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 03:56:54 GMT
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

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charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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Any suggestions DeeJ, Neil or Thad?
Tom

Where's Dimitrios when you need him?!!!

I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?
<http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>
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<A=20
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..html </DIV></BODY ></HTML>

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Yeah, you have to enable them manually - sucks, huh? First of
all, make sure XTC mode is enabled in Pulsar...

"Set"/"Settings"/"Global" submenu drop-down), then go into your
Plugin Information window in SX & manually click on all the
brown highlighted Pulsar plugins (or just the ones you want to
try out for now), then close that window & they'll all of a
sudden appear & be available for insertion under the XTC plugin
folder. Unless DeeJ knows a quicker way, this is how you gotta
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Are you selecting the Scope ASIO driver as the master driver in
Cubase (Device Setup/VST Audiobay/then select the Scope driver
as the master off to the upper right of that window - DeeJ had
to help me with this the first time... I was stumped on this
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Then make sure you refresh your connections under VST Inputs &
VST Outputs before you close that out... they all SHOULD show up
in your connection options at that time.

Neil

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 05:16:27 GMT
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-----=_NextPart_000_0013_01C726F0.C0C4D4C0
Content-Type: text/plain;
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Hey Neil,
I finally got ADATs, XTC and MIDI functioning (no crashes)
with Scope not even running. That's step one for my implementation
of the hardware. Once all was set the XTC seemed to work like regular
VSTi plugins. It has become RME plus. Once I get this into the
control room I'll listen to the audio and really put it through some =
paces.

I am getting closer and closer. Thanks for the help!

Tom

"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:458dfa7a\$1@linux...

"Tom Bruhl" <arpeggio@comcast.net> wrote:

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</HEAD>
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Hey Neil,

I finally got ADATs, XTC and MIDI = functioning (no=20 crashes)

with Scope not even running. = That's step one=20 for my implementation

of the hardware. Once all was set = the XTC=20 seemed to work like regular

VSTi plugins. It has become RME = plus. =20 Once I get this into the

control room I'll listen to the audio = and really=20 put it through some paces.

I am getting closer and closer. =

Thanks for the help!

Tom

"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote=20 in message <A=20 = [news:458dfa7a\\$1@linux](news:458dfa7a$1@linux)>...</DIV>
"Tom= Bruhl"=20 <arpeggio@comcast.net> & = wrote:
>
>
>I'm glad every one is getting = somewhere. =20 I'm a little stumped at this =3D
>moment.
>
>I have = most of my=20 plugs authorized manually now. I have been
>reading the = manual and=20 futzing around but can't seem to get the
>ADAT routing or XTC = working=20 with SX2 on the same comp. Cubase
has the list of plugs from = Scope=20 but they won't start up.

Yeah, you have to enable them manually = =20 sucks, huh? First of
all, make sure XTC mode is enabled in=20 Pulsar...
"Set"/"Settings"/"Global" submenu drop-down), then go = into=20 your
Plugin Information window in SX & manually click on all=20

the brown highlighted Pulsar plugins (or just the ones you want =
to try=20
out for now), then close that window & they'll all of a sudden =
appear=20
& be available for insertion under the XTC plugin folder. =
Unless DeeJ=20
knows a quicker way, this is how you gotta do it. =
 =20
They do in Scope though. The =3D>ADAT>modules (2) =
don't show=20
up in VST Connections in Cubase nor does the =3D>SPDIF.=20
=3D>Creamware MIDI and analog does though. I dragged =
the ADAT=20
modules onto=3D>the=3D>Routing Window along with =
the MIDI=20
modules in Scope. I even connected =3D>the =
ADAT=3D>wires to=20
the STM 1632 in and out just to see. I've booted Scope first=20
=3D>but no change=3D>in Cubase. It isn't seeing =
the=20
hardware.

Are you selecting the Scope ASIO driver as the master =
driver=20
in
Cubase (Device Setup/VST Audiobay/then select the Scope =
driver
as the=20
master off to the upper right of that window - DeeJ had
to help me =
with=20
this the first time... I was stumped on this
one, too.)

Then =
make=20
sure you refresh your connections under VST Inputs &
VST =
Outputs before=20
you close that out... they all SHOULD show up
in your connection =
options at=20
that time.

Neil</BLOCKQUOTE>
<DIV>

I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, =
and=20
you?
<A=20
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-----=_NextPart_000_0013_01C726F0.C0C4D4C0--

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 09:49:30 GMT
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_0037_01C72716.E6077280
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Merry Christmas to all !!!

I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?
<http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>

-----=_NextPart_000_0037_01C72716.E6077280
Content-Type: text/html;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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charset=3Diso-8859-1">
<META content=3D"MSHTML 6.00.2800.1400" name=3DGENERATOR>
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</HEAD>
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<DIV><FONT size=3D2><BR><BR>I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, =
and=20
you?<BR><A=20
href=3D"http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html">http://www.polesoft.com/refer=
..html</A>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;</FONT></DIV></BODY ></HTML>
```

-----=_NextPart_000_0037_01C72716.E6077280--

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [DJ](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 15:28:55 GMT
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>Too early to tell if it's going to
improve my situation in the limited capacity I'm able to use
it for what I'm trying to accomplish, but do far I can tell you
that the sound certainly sucketh not.<

Muhahaha!!!1.....this means that a "Pro" card with an ADAT interface
(12 stereo stems @ 88.1!!!!) is just around the corner, right Neil?

:oD

"Neil" <IUOI@OIU.com> wrote in message news:458ddb68\$1@linux...

>

> "DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:

>

>>Glad you are liking it Thad. After all my cheerleading and
>>then Neil's experience, I've sorta been dreading what would
>>happen next

>

> Well, my experience has now changed... I finished the install
> of the Pulsar card into the same PC as is running my Paris rig
> WinME machine, and it gave me some shit at first (driver loaded
> fine, but the install files didn't want to run.... kinda like
> that guy over on the Pulsar forum), anyway, finally got it to
> install, and once it did it went smoothly from there.

>

> This thing is running fine AND.... (wait for it) CLOCKING
> PERFECTLY AT 88.2K!!! Yes, sir, I can get it to clock via both
> S/Mux (lightpipe) OR Word Clock, and no it doesn't register
> 88.2k on the readout, it says "96k", but I get not one but TWO
> little red lock lights (one for each lightpipe input perhaps?).

>

> Now, considering it's working now, perhaps my problems with
> this card on the other machine had more to do with two ASIO
> drivers being present... it seems weird that even with one of
> them disabled (the RME's) this card would act up, but perhaps
> there was some kind of conflict nonetheless - I dunno. Or maybe
> it just likes WinME better than XP.

>

> In any event, yep, I can back DeeJ & Thad up on the stability
> - at least on this current setup I've got... I've been trying
> various plugins & whatnot & overloading the DSP's (not
> purposely, just from dicking around & trying different plugs at
> once), and it gives me caution messages, but hasn't crashed
> once. As for the sound? Too early to tell if it's going to
> improve my situation in the limited capacity I'm able to use
> it for what I'm trying to accomplish, but do far I can tell you
> that the sound certainly sucketh not.
>
> Yea, verily.
>
> I'll tell you this much, though... if you're looking to do some
> serious plug-in insertion counts on this stuff, then don't dick
> around, get the Pro Card... YMMV, but that's my advice.
>
> Neil

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 16:56:18 GMT
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"DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:

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>improve my situation in the limited capacity I'm able to use
>it for what I'm trying to accomplish, but do far I can tell you
>that the sound certainly sucketh not.<
>
>Muhahaha!!!1.....this means that a "Pro" card with an ADAT interface

>(12 stereo stems @ 88.1!!!!) is just around the corner, right Neil?

Actually, I'd be better off just getting one of their ADAT
chainer card thingies for more lightpipe inputs, but no -
although I'd like to get more inputs, I still wouldn't be able
to get more OUTputs unless I added another Multiface or some
other kind of interface onto the Cubase PC (remember, at 88.2k,
I can get a max of four channels of lightpipe out of each of my
two Multifaces... errr.... Multifascia?)

HOWEVER..... having said all that, I actually think I might
be getting what I needed out of this setup - I hate to say it &
jinx it, but check this out:

<http://www.saqqararecords.com/MiscAudio/DracoClip-ITBvsStemm edIntoPulsar.mp3>

This clip contains two versions of the same section of the same

song... the first version that goes up to about :50 seconds into the file is the best ITB mix I can get on this song. The second cut, that goes from about :50 on, is the same mix, stemmed out of Cubase via lightpipe into four separate submixes & summed in Pulsar.

Here's what I'm hearing on these two cuts... now, if you're listening on PC speakers you may not hear what I'm talking about here, but remember I said that I was like 98%-99% there, and I was looking for that 1 or two percent difference - I think this might be it...

Anyway, comparing the first cut to the second cut, what I hear about the 2nd cut that I like better is that it has a little more "substance" in the lows/low mids now, and the high's, while still quite present, are perhaps a little bit smoother than those on the first clip. Vox seem a bit smoother, too; or maybe just sit a little better in the mix. IME, the second clip has a little more impact, and there's also something about it that just "feels better" to listen to.

To me this is similar on the lower end to what I was getting when I tried summing through Paris, but it also doesn't lose the top-end clarity - I presume partly due to the fact that I'm able to keep everything in the digital domain via lightpipe, rather than having to go out into Analog to sum in Paris via the 8-in Module.

What do you think?

Neil

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [TCB](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 21:53:33 GMT
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Good point, I owe Dimitrios a shout out as well. So, big up Dimitrios, I really appreciate it.

The audiophile world is, for me, ninety nine percent nonsense, but one of the few things they have come up with in that other one percent is describing gear as 'fast.' And it actually makes sense and stands up under scrutiny. The slightly more technical term with amps is 'slew rate' which is how quickly an op amp can change its output. Some amps are 'faster' than others, and some speakers, notably planar speakers, are also 'fast.' The CW synths are fast as a Shelby Cobra. Fast fast fast. Of course the envelopes can be modified to change how the synth works but that is true of any synth, slow is easy fast is tough. Slowing them down is easy, but the CW synths have that feel

that the best hardware does, which is that the thing is just waiting for you to press the key so it can open the gate and scream.

In case you haven't noticed I really like the CW card ;-)

Thanks again,

TCB

"DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:

>well, thanks ;o).....but as is always the case with just about
>anything, there was an ancient predecessor.....in this case, our Greek

>compadre, Dimitrios. He's been using this system for years and had it not

>been for him, neither one of us might be grinnin' right now. I've got a
free

>IRQ and I'm seriously considering getting a 4th card m'self. If I do, it's

>likely to be a "pro" version. The more DSP, the better, especially with
this

>platform. I'm not a synth guy, but these synths are nice. I like the

>aggressive character that seems present in every one I have tried so far.

>It's like no matter how much you scoop your velocity curve, it still seems

>to want to knock down a wall.

>

>Cheers,

>

>Deej

>

>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:458dbe99\$1@linux...

>>

>> I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop. I've been working on songs for
the

>> past few hours again and it's a devilishly enjoyable system. This is all

>> on my own electronic stuff. The CW gear might fade into the background
a

>> bit if I start mixing Mold Monkeys tunes, but then again it might not.

I

>> can see the delays and reverbs on the CW card being useful in that

>> context.

>>

>>

>> Thanks for doing the ranger work on this one. I was talking once to a
Yale

>> computer person about a very young free software project I was using in

>> production.
>> He said an early adopter was a person who crossed the bridge first, but

>> that
>> I was ploughing straight through the river in a shitty old jeep. I took

>> that
>> as a compliment though I don't think it was intended as one. You did the
>> jeep work on this one and I appreciate it.
>>
>> TCB
>>
>> "DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:
>>>Glad you are liking it Thad. After all my cheerleading and then Neil's
>>>experience, I've sorta been dreading what would happen next and I've been
>>
>>>having dreams of my lurching through cobblestoned streets in a Carpathian
>>
>>>mountain village muttering guturally while being pursued by an enraged
mob
>>
>>>of Parisites dressed as impoverished Bavarian elves, waving torches and
>>
>>>brandishing axes and pitchforks.
>>>
>>>;o)
>>>
>>>
>>>"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:458d9913\$1@linux...
>>>>
>>>> Hey all,
>>>>
>>>> This should be taken with some grains of salt, which if you remember
are
>>>> quite a bit larger than the ticks on a 100 mm fader using a 14 bit MIDI
>>
>>>> stream,
>>>> but so far I'm really knocked out by the Creamware card. Keep in mind
>> that
>>>> it's been shown here that I'm deaf, not a 'pro,' and can't hear the
>>>> difference
>>>> between different brands of USB flash drives. I use a PNY when some

>>>> people
>>>> claim the SanDisks are punchier. The big problem I had with the CW gear
>>
>>>> before

>>>> was stability, and it's only been a day but so far absolutely rock
>>>> solid.
>>>> 'Cause I'm deaf I only use 44.1 so I don't have clocking issues.
>>>>
>>>> I remembered the synths as being spectacular and they are much better
>> than
>>>> I remember. Frankly I don't think I've heard digital synthesis done
>>>> better,
>>>> with the possible exception of the OASYS PCI card, but I think I'd still
>>>> give the CW gear the edge. Keep in mind I've owned a fair amount of
>>>> Waldorf,
>>>> Access, Nord, and Clavia gear over the years. There's no reason why
it
>>
>>>> should
>>>> sound better than native, DSP code is DSP code, and I wonder if maybe
>> it's
>>>> precisely because the gear is a little old that it sounds so good.
>>>> Expectations
>>>> were a little lower back then. In any case, they clearly went for sonic
>>
>>>> quality
>>>> over polyphony with the synths. The Prophet is absolutely killer, the
>>
>>>> wavetable
>>>> synths spit out psycho bells that are to die for, the minimoog is
>>>> ripping.
>>>> The B3 is very nice as well, and it can do thin and cheesey as well
as
>> it
>>>> does big and crushing which I like because I tend to use organ sounds
>> as
>>>> minor decoration.
>>>>
>>>> The software has also gotten easier to use. I'd say it would make it
a
>> lot
>>>> easier if someone had a bit of experience with modular synths, but I
>>>> managed
>>>> to get everything running and making noises without reading the manual.
>>
>>>> I'll
>>>> have to get to that soon. I think it will be a minor hassle to get used
>> to
>>>> running the Scope environment while using Live/SX and I'm not sure how
>> I'm
>>>> going to bounce tracks to audio when I start hitting the wall on the
DSP

>>>> on the Scope board. Probably just run one of the ADAT outputs to one of
>>
>>>> the
>>>> ADAT inputs. Having the big display and being able to use keyboard
>>>> shortcuts
>>>> to switch virtual desktops will help a good bit.
>>>>
>>>> Which also brings up the one complaint I have about the CW card, the

>>>> DSPs
>>>> do get chewed up pretty quickly and they don't seem too smart. That
is,
>> if
>>>> I open up a Prophet the DSP load goes up even when it's not doing
>>>> anything.
>>>> Most native plugs these days only take resources when they have
>>>> something
>>>> to do. I'm quite sure I could use two 14 DSP cards without trying too
>>
>>>> hard.
>>>> Again, it will just involve a little time learning to manage the
>>>> workflow
>>>> and I'm willing to do that for synths and f/x this good.
>>>>
>>>> Paired up with a UAD card it's a damned impressive system. I might
>>>> spring
>>>> for another one of each, using the UAD for vintage type f/x and the
CW
>> for
>>>> mixing and synths. I gotta say, it's a pretty enjoyable, creative
>>>> combination.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Now that I like it, we'll see CW out of business soon.
>>>>
>>>> TCB
>>>
>>>
>>
>
>

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Sun, 24 Dec 2006 22:46:24 GMT
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"Neil" <OUOIU@OIU.com> wrote:

>Anyway, comparing the first cut to the second cut, what I hear
>about the 2nd cut that I like better is that it has a little
>more "substance" in the lows/low mids now, and the high's, while
>still quite present, are perhaps a little bit smoother than
>those on the first clip. Vox seem a bit smoother, too;
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>clip has a little more impact, and there's also something about
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>

>To me this is similar on the lower end to what I was getting
>when I tried summing through Paris, but it also doesn't lose
>the top-end clarity - I presume partly due to the fact that I'm
>able to keep everything in the digital domain via lightpipe,
>rather than having to go out into Analog to sum in Paris via the
>8-in Module.

>

>What do you think?

>

>Neil

Well-

Impressive- lots of energy. Great example of this type of music.
I hear most everything as more defined in the second mix.
The bass/kick are punchier, and I agree that the uppers are quite
present. Vocals seem to me to have moved forward...

Thanks again for sharing generously.

Ted

Subject: Re: Creamware first impressions
Posted by [Bill Lorentzen](#) on Tue, 26 Dec 2006 01:27:31 GMT
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The second bit is much more defined. Is it not louder too or does it just
seem louder? If that's the Pulsar vs Cubase summing, then it's waaaaay the
heck better. Is that what you bought it for?

Bill L

"Neil" <OUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:458ea322\$1@linux...

>

> "DJ" <nowayjose@dude.net> wrote:

>>>Too early to tell if it's going to
>>improve my situation in the limited capacity I'm able to use
>>it for what I'm trying to accomplish, but do far I can tell you
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> HOWEVER..... having said all that, I actually think I might
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>
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>
> This clip contains two versions of the same section of the same
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> able to keep everything in the digital domain via lightpipe,

> rather than having to go out into Analog to sum in Paris via the
> 8-in Module.
>
> What do you think?
>
> Neil
