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Subject: Daw comparison test?

Posted by [Edna Sloan](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 02:19:07 GMT

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Seems I remember a while back someone in the group mentioning a DAW shootout done some time ago with folks (BT?) picking their favorites in a blind listening test. Were the results ever published? I'm curious as to how PARIS came out, as well as a few others.

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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?

Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 03:02:40 GMT

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Lynn Fuston did one - check his site for DAWSUM sampler:

[http://www.3daudioinc.com/catalog/product\\_info.php/products\\_id/32?osCsid=1e13b5b3af925bec1cc1a24c10e6bae8](http://www.3daudioinc.com/catalog/product_info.php/products_id/32?osCsid=1e13b5b3af925bec1cc1a24c10e6bae8)

One test is at unity gain, the other with matched fader levels. There is a thread on Lynn's forum about it.

Regards,  
Dedric

On 5/18/06 8:19 PM, in article 446d2a24@linux, "Edna"  
<edna@texomaonline.com> wrote:

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>  
>

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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?

Posted by [cujo](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 03:56:51 GMT

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yip, moving the faders really does chnge the sound! in any way, it makes it louder or softer I suppose, I do thing Paris has a blanket over it though, I am feeling that hardawre processors help. The plate is MUDDDY.

Dedric Terry <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:

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> [http://www.3daudioinc.com/catalog/product\\_info.php/products\\_id/32?osCsid=1e1](http://www.3daudioinc.com/catalog/product_info.php/products_id/32?osCsid=1e1)

>3b5b3af925bec1cc1a24c10e6bae8

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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?

Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 15:51:06 GMT

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I'm doing a project starting in Nuendo( R & B, Neo-Soul) with heavey MPC drums and all i cn say is that Neundo does not seem to handle agressive Hip Hop to well..

When I port the wav files into PT, better results. The when i import those same files into Paris..Boom.. !! Nice tranients, full spectrum, big bodied AKA Phatt smooth sound..

While I love tracking & Editing in Nuendo, it's handleing of R&B Hip hop music leaves a lot to be desired..

Paris is still a gem of a Mixer/Recorder.

LaMont

LaMont

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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?

Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 20:27:31 GMT

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You'll love this one Lamont:

I'm mixing an R&B/Gospel project in Nuendo (and partially in Sequoia). I tried Sequoia on a few tunes, even one I started in Nuendo and moved to Sequoia for the same reason you stated (just couldn't get the sound I was going for - Destiny's Child, etc). Seq has some great tools for fat and punchy, but the delay in playback for caching audio, and delay every time I move a fader (on heavier loaded projects) is too much to bear. Lack of dual core support is holding this app back - great editing, etc, and it handles 3x the orchestral library as Nuendo, but not when it comes to mixing.

I went back to Nuendo - it takes a different approach, but it's sounding great (I'll master in Sequoia to get the levels the clients are looking for). At first I thought it was just that Sequoia really did sound better on some things and it does handle the main buss differently, but then went back and compared mixes - now I'm thinking it really had more to do with the Eqs, comps, etc I was using within Sequoia - nothing comparable in Nuendo.

IMHO, Nuendo doesn't have the headroom for low end (e.g. a limiting algorithm in some form in the audio engine) - it just clips everything over 0dBFS - Paris and Samp/Seq "soft clip" - so you have to compress it and get it EQ'd right before hitting the master in Nuendo, and that can be tricky. It's much easier to let soft clipping handle it since most limiters also compress the lows and mids with an imbalance of attack/release. Soft clipping doesn't affect the attack/release at all, so the low end stays punchy. It does distort, but can be either unnoticeable, or even pleasing in some cases.

Samplitude has a similar soft clipping approach to Paris', but it still takes some care to make good use of it. I love a lot about Sequoia, but the caching has to go (similar to Cool Edit Pro/Audition's approach). I can't deal with faders that freeze the screen momentarily everytime I tweak it by 0.1dB.

Can we make a request to someone for a "best of" DAW?

Regards,  
Dedric

On 5/19/06 9:51 AM, in article 446de96a\$1@linux, "LaMont"  
<jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

>  
> I'm doing a project starting in Nuendo( R & B, Neo-Soul) with heavy MPC drums  
> and all i cn say is that Neundo does not seem to handle aggressive Hip Hop

> to well..  
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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?  
Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 20:46:58 GMT  
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Dedric Terry <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:

>Can we make a request to someone for a "best of" DAW?

yeah, but he is no longer with us...

---

Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?  
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 22:47:46 GMT  
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Hey Dedric,  
So, you're mixing R&B in Nuendo..Whew!! What a task..

You are right, you have to find that oh-so sweet spot in Nuendo for low end tracks. I have to admit, Pro-Tools (7) does a much better job at this. But, Paris just mops the floor in mixing Hip-Hop, R & B music..

Also, I have yet to mix a multi track project in samplitude. I will, i promise..

Take care..LaMont

P.S.. Maybe some DAW manufacturer is in the process of combining "The Best Features from All the Great DAWS Past & Present" :)

Dedric Terry <dterry@keyofd.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 19 May 2006 23:30:06 GMT  
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It mops the floor with whatever gets near it in aggressive pop too, man.  
I've still yet to hear anything DAW keep up against Paris with aggressive  
pushed / phat mixing techniques.  
AA

"LaMont" <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote in message news:446e4b12\$1@linux...

>

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

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Subject: Re: Daw comparison test?  
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Tue, 23 May 2006 06:21:18 GMT  
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Hey Lamont,

I realized my post probably may not have made sense at the start - I was referring to how it is interesting that we've come to the same result with completely different perspectives and experiences, and therein perhaps lies the answer to why DAWs seem different.

When it all comes down, every app or mixing medium requires a slightly different approach, but more often that is about workflow - not summing or other dsp anomalies (which is one thing developers of digital audio try to avoid). As engineers and producers we all look at problems and solutions differently (which is what makes this a fun and creative business), but with digital audio, the results can easily be the same when those differences are fully understood. That sometimes requires throwing out tradition or learned approach and figuring out what actually makes up the result we are trying to achieve. That isn't always as elusive as it once seemed.

To finally summarize a bit of my conclusion on our running conversation on this, I've been comparing DAWs to find the differences for quite a few years now. The key isn't trying to push any digital DAW, but finding the tools that equate to what needs to be achieved. I can create the same result in Sequoia and Nuendo. Only workflow changes.

As we all know, once you find a way to create a sound, it is no longer a mystery relegated to a particular piece of gear. Regardless of what platform a mix is done in, it ends up on CD with the same bit depth, sample rate, stereo field, etc. The human techniques of mixing are really what it make the most difference. Certainly different tools (Eqs, comps, limiters,

pres, mics, consoles, etc) all sound different, and will be better choices for different styles or different needs. But, there isn't a "magic bullet" - just understanding.

Regards,  
Dedric

On 5/19/06 4:47 PM, in article 446e4b12\$1 @linux, "LaMont"  
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