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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Jeff H](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 18:13:21 GMT

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Doing a little with and RME Multiface (Nuendo brand) into Cubase SX. Eight analog and ten digital I/O (with ADAT and Sp/Dif). Haven't used the digital side but the analog works great. I'm looking to get an eight analog to adat converter box so I can pull 16 direct off a board for live recording. Laptop is Dell Latitude 630 with a 7200 RPM drive (going down to internal drive).

JEff

tonehouse wrote:

> Is anyone doing recording on a laptop?( with happy results) What  
> model/manufacture do you use? What interface do you like? What software?  
> Thanks for any input..

>

>

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Subject: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 18:56:39 GMT

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Jeff H](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 20:30:08 GMT

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The latitude line from Dell can be purchased with either Vista or XP installed and either reinstallation cd (not all options available on the web site though). These units are only available under the business sections of the web site. Here's a link to the config page for the 630

<http://configure.us.dell.com/dellstore/config.aspx?c=us&cs=04&kc=NBC2&l=en&oc=bldwjsd&s=bsd>

If you scroll down the page a little, you can see the hard drive choices.

This isn't an office depot \$499 special, but I've put a quite a few of these and its previous generations in the field with only one quick dying battery being an issue in the bunch. Appears the built in

firewire is an O2Micro chipset. Chris L. might be able to shed light on the usability of it for a firewire interface, but this is not an issue for me as mine is pc card.

Hope this helps,

Jeff

tonehouse wrote:

> Thanks for the info Jeff, That sounds like a very good system. On your Dell  
> are you running Vista?? It's really difficult to find any 7200 rpm drives  
> in a laptop..It's basically difficult to configure any PC laptop, to be  
> better than a MacBook Pro, for less than \$2000, especially if you want to get  
> an XP box....

> "Jeff H" <jkhoover@nospam+excite.com> wrote in message  
> news:481221eb@linux...

>

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 21:05:16 GMT

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Thanks for the info Jeff, That sounds like a very good system. On your Dell

are you running Vista?? It's really difficult to find any 7200 rpm drives in a laptop..It's basically difficult to configure any PC laptop,to be better than a MacBook Pro,for less than \$2000,especially if you want to get an XP box....

"Jeff H" <jkhoover@nospam+excite.com> wrote in message news:481221eb@linux...

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---

Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 22:22:05 GMT

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Hi,

I've done this system a bunch of times for people doing live recording.

[http://www.adkproaudio.com/systems/saved\\_system.cfm?systemid=97&saved\\_id=14182](http://www.adkproaudio.com/systems/saved_system.cfm?systemid=97&saved_id=14182)

We have done systems with RME Multiface/Digiface express card setups, fireface 400/800, Motu firewire units, Yamaha N12, mackie Onyx so far.

The internal drive can easily record 26 tracks or 24bit 44.1/48k. Haven't tried to record more so far just because of the I/O limit on the devices.

With the benchmarks the drive get you should be able to do 64 tracks @ 24bit 44.1/48. Can't wait to try RME's new MADiface with it. :)

You should only really need to use and external drive if you are doing very long recording i.e., over 1 hour or using it for backing up the sessions.

I would avoid wireless when possible with the audio setups. They do tend to interfere with audio devices.

Chris

tonehouse wrote:

> Thanks for the info Jeff, That sounds like a very good system. On your Dell  
> are you running Vista?? It's really difficult to find any 7200 rpm drives  
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>

--

Chris Ludwig

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

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Jeff H](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 22:52:48 GMT

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I'd look seriously at one of these for my next purchase...the proven track record on audio would be worth it...it seems these days though neither time nor money grows on trees, money is easier to find.

Jeff

tonehouse wrote:

> I have never heard of ADK...way cool ..thanks Chris  
> "Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote in message  
> news:48125bd5@linux...  
>  
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simultaneously doing live sound + recording - 16 mic pres, FW interface, 2 global DSPs, every channel has its own/dynamics/gate/4 band EQ/HPF, six auxes... I'm interested to see how much it costs. He's currently using one of the Phonic Helix boards for that, but this looks like a step up.

- Kerry

On 4/25/08 3:22 PM, in article 48125bd5@linux, "Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote:

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> I've done this system a bunch of times for people doing live recording.  
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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?  
Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 23:40:34 GMT  
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Hi Kerry,

Haven't touched one yet. Don't think is shipping retail yet.

If it is based on the same Dice2 chip they use on the Fire studio then I have my doubts as to how reliable it may be driver wise.

Also not being able to deal with 96k at this point in time seems odd.

I think as long as the driver is reliable it would be great for live recording.

As a straight live mixer it looks pretty sweet.

Not having any Digital I/O and better sample rate support to me is pretty limiting in a studio setup. If the street price point is good then it could be a big winner. The Yamaha N12 is the closest thing to it.

On paper the Presonus blows it away. The Yamaha has solid drivers, tight integration with Cubase/Nuendo and sounds great.

Chris

Kerry Galloway wrote:

> Hey Chris - what do you think of the Presonus StudioLive 16.4.2?

>

> <http://www.presonus.com/products/Detail.aspx?ProductId=52>

>

> My friend's salivating over it already as one-stop-shopping for

> simultaneously doing live sound + recording - 16 mic pres, FW interface, 2

> global DSPs, every channel has its own/dynamics/gate/4 band EQ/HPF, six

> auxes... I'm interested to see how much it costs. He's currently using one

> of the Phonic Helix boards for that, but this looks like a step up.

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> - Kerry



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Chris Ludwig

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chrisl@adkproaudio.com

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?  
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Fri, 25 Apr 2008 23:42:54 GMT  
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> Chris Ludwig  
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> ADK Pro Audio  
> (859) 635-5762  
> www.adkproaudio.com  
> chrisl@adkproaudio.com

---

Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Wayne](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 23:27:08 GMT

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Hey "T",

I use a Dell Inspiron 6000. I won't recommend it because when the pwr supply is plug'd in I hear noise from poor grounding. I think it's a Dell problem. The only way to get rid of the noise is to unplug the pwr cord and run on batteries or, I've got a 2' wire with alligator clips on both sides and I manually ground the laptop to my mackie board or pwr amp or any bare

steel.

2. Even though I only use the laptop to create and edit midi sequences (to later dump into Paris), I do still record rough audio (vox and acoustic gtr) to it via M-audio MobilePre USB 2.0 so that it's easier for me to build the midi sequences. The mobile pre is 2 in and 2 out with headphone. In other words, I find a simple midi drum loop, loop it for 4 minutes, play the acoustic and sing and then I begin building the sequences.

I tried the mobile pre by itself but I didn't like the direct monitor function. This would have been ideal, (the mobilepre fit in the laptop case) but as you will see, I now have to haul around a mini mixer also.

I just use Sonar Cakewalk Home Studio and the efx's only work on playback so while singing a rough take onto or into a midi sequence project, I have no reverb. Blah! So, what I have done for my portable rig is run the mic and acoustic into my CFX12 mackie with built in digital efx. I route channel 5 (vox) out of aux 1 and channel 6 (acoustic) out aux 2 to the mobile pre and via USB into the laptop Cakewalk project. I mute these two tracks in the project while recording. The aux sends are dry signals for recording.

While I'm recording, the project is playing back the drum loops or bass lines or whatever keyboard parts are on the sequence. The mobilepre grabs the laptop audio via the USB and sends it to my mackie channel 1 and 2 (L/R). So I listen to L/R playback and I let the acoustic and vox signal continue down thru the mackie channels and into the mains. The mains now contain the project L/R playback and my vocal and acoustic signals with the efx's placed on the mains so I have some or a lot of reverb as I'm tracking. I listen via headphone output which is the mains signal out with efx's.

Hope this helps.

Wayne

---

Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 23:51:04 GMT

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I've had the same problems with my Inspiron 8000/8100 stuff in the past. Changing power supplies made zero difference. However, lifting the power adapter ground pin got about 75% of it. Safe? Not really, but it makes it almost managable. A Ebtech Hum Eliminator oughta catch the rest but I've long since moved on so I never tried it. YMMV, FYI.

AA

"Wayne Carson" <waynecarson@cox.net> wrote in message news:48165ff8@linux...

> Hey "T",

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>

> Wayne

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?

Posted by [Chris Ludwig](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 15:06:35 GMT

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Hi Aaron,

Grounding issues on laptops have unfortunately always been and probably always will be a problem.

It happens to the cheapest to the most expensive laptops.

The power supply and power block on laptops are the first place manufacturers will cut corner to make the laptop cheaper.

If some one doesn't have a grounding problem on a laptop then it is more to do with luck.

Your method of dealing with is the correct one.

Chris

Aaron Allen wrote:

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>> Wayne

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Chris Ludwig

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www.adkproaudio.com  
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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 18:05:49 GMT  
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As expected, but sure is nice to be validated. My Toshiba Tablet R-15 is DEAD silent no matter what I plug into it. I paid something like \$3500 for the Dell something like 6 or 7 years ago, and the tablet sold for \$2000, but I caught it on a close out at \$1000. I frankly prefer the Toshiba line IME/YMMV over the Dell offerings for music production, but you have to clean the Toshiba crapware off, as with any other vendors machines.

AA

"Chris Ludwig" <chrisl@adkproaudio.com> wrote in message  
news:48173bb9\$1@linux...

> Hi Aaron,  
> Grounding issues on laptops have unfortunately always been and probably  
> always will be a problem.  
> It happens to the cheapest to the most expensive laptops.  
> The power supply and power block on laptops are the first place  
> manufacturers will cut corner to make the laptop cheaper.  
> If some one doesn't have a grounding problem on a laptop then it is more  
> to do with luck.

>  
> Your method of dealing with is the correct one.

>  
> Chris

>  
>  
> Aaron Allen wrote:

>> I've had the same problems with my Inspiron 8000/8100 stuff in the past.  
>> Changing power supplies made zero difference. However, lifting the power  
>> adapter ground pin got about 75% of it. Safe? Not really, but it makes it  
>> almost managable. A Ebtech Hum Eliminator oughta catch the rest but I've  
>> long since moved on so I never tried it. YMMV, FYI.

>>  
>> AA

>>  
>>  
>> "Wayne Carson" <waynecarson@cox.net> wrote in message  
>> news:48165ff8@linux...

>>> Hey "T",  
>>>

>>> I use a Dell Inspiron 6000. I won't recommend it because when the pwr  
>>> supply is plug'd in I hear noise from poor grounding. I think it's a  
>>> Dell problem. The only way to get rid of the noise is to unplug the pwr  
>>> cord and run on batteries or, I've got a 2' wire with alligator clips  
>>> on both sides and I manually ground the laptop to my mackie board or pwr  
>>> amp or any bare steel.

>>>  
>>> 2. Even though I only use the laptop to create and edit midi sequences  
>>> (to later dump into Paris), I do still record rough audio (vox and  
>>> acoustic gtr) to it via M-audio MobilePre USB 2.0 so that it's easier  
>>> for me to build the midi sequences. The mobile pre is 2 in and 2 out  
>>> with headphone. In other words, I find a simple midi drum loop, loop it  
>>> for 4 minutes, play the acoustic and sing and then I begin building the  
>>> sequences.

>>>  
>>> I tried the mobile pre by itself but I didn't like the direct monitor  
>>> function. This would have been ideal, (the mobilepre fit in the laptop



>>> case) but as you will see, I now have to haul around a mini mixer also.  
>>>  
>>> I just use Sonar Cakewalk Home Studio and the efx's only work on  
>>> playback so while singing a rough take onto or into a midi sequence  
>>> project, I have no reverb. Blah! So, what I have done for my portable  
>>> rig is run the mic and acoustic into my CFX12 mackie with built in  
>>> digital efx. I route channel 5 (vox) out of aux 1 and channel 6  
>>> (acoustic) out aux 2 to the mobile pre and via USB into the laptop  
>>> Cakewalk project. I mute these two tracks in the project while  
>>> recording. The aux sends are dry signals for recording.  
>>>  
>>> While I'm recording, the project is playing back the drum loops or bass  
>>> lines or whatever keyboard parts are on the sequence. The mobilepre  
>>> grabs the laptop audio via the USB and sends it to my mackie channel 1  
>>> and 2 (L/R). So I listen to L/R playback and I let the acoustic and vox  
>>> signal continue down thru the mackie channels and into the mains. The  
>>> mains now contain the project L/R playback and my vocal and acoustic  
>>> signals with the efx's placed on the mains so I have some or a lot of  
>>> reverb as I'm tracking. I listen via headphone output which is the mains  
>>> signal out with efx's.  
>>>  
>>> Hope this helps.  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Wayne  
>>>  
>>  
>>  
>  
> --  
> Chris Ludwig  
>  
> ADK Pro Audio  
> (859) 635-5762  
> www.adkproaudio.com  
> chrisl@adkproaudio.com

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Subject: Re: Laptop Recording ?  
Posted by [Ed](#) on Thu, 01 May 2008 17:34:34 GMT  
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That's strange Aaron. I found a bargain on ebay for a Dell Inspiron 8200 and got it. I paid something like \$130 for it. So I upgraded the harddrive to a 7200rpm, bought new RAM and max'd it out to 2GB and got a PCMCIA firewire/usb card. I use it mainly for mobile and acoustic recording in Sonar 7. I have issues with Sonar, but my recordings are clean. I've only recorded a few tracks since I got this all going, but it was recording clean. I was in-fear

that I was going to have noise problems (since I read the horror stories)...  
but many folks claim to stop and disable the onboard firewire and usb completely  
and go with a PCMCIA Texas Instruments type.

Anyway, I got side-tracked on other things and haven't fully tested everything.  
But just mic'in an acoustic with an older Rode NT and using an Alesis io14  
firewire... clean and sonic! I am having big time learning curve with the  
Sonar 7. I am rather disappointed with it... and I am always happy a bug  
to fire up my Paris on my desktop....

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not\_here.dude> wrote:

>I've had the same problems with my Inspiron 8000/8100 stuff in the past.

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>adapter ground pin got about 75% of it. Safe? Not really, but it makes it

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>> Hope this helps.  
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>>

>> Wayne

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