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Subject: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 05:25:10 GMT

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I'm playing a show at Red Rocks Amphitheater this weekend on keys and violin. For the first time ever I'm performing keyboard parts using a keyboard controller and soft synths on my MacBook Pro. The MacBook is working great for this.

I've set up multiple soft synths, some from Logic, some from Native Instruments and a few others, switching between them by walking down the tracks in Logic.

So far so good at rehearsals. It's cool to have such a choice of great soft synths and samplers to best set up any type of sound, and still have very portable keyboard rig.

B4 just ROCKS to have live, as does Logic's modeler-based clav.

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

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [kerryg](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 05:46:06 GMT

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Nice, Jamie. Have you tried out MainStage yet as a virtual instrument host?

- K

On 8/6/08 10:25 PM, in article 489a8908\$1@linux, "Jamie K"  
<[JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com](mailto:JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com)> wrote:

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> Cheers,  
> -Jamie  
> www.JamieKruz.com

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 06:03:42 GMT  
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---

2 words my friend. Battery. Backup.  
Hiccups suck live, and dirty power almost always has a home on a stage. Get  
a good one, no square wave output \$50 deals... those'll bite ya too :)

AA

"Kerry Galloway" <[kg@kerrygalloway.com](mailto:kg@kerrygalloway.com)> wrote in message  
news:C4BFDA2E.B53F%kg@kerrygalloway.com...

> Nice, Jamie. Have you tried out MainStage yet as a virtual instrument  
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>> -Jamie

>> www.JamieKrutz.com

>

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 06:17:01 GMT

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Kerry Galloway wrote:

> Nice, Jamie. Have you tried out MainStage yet as a virtual instrument host?

I've experimented with MainStage a bit. It's even more flexible as a soft synth host than Logic.

But I know Logic like the back of my hand and I had a couple of problems with MainStage - which could have been user error but I don't have time to troubleshoot right now so I'm going with what I know. I'll certainly give MainStage another shot in the future.

There is one big advantage to using Logic for this, I can easily record and save any musical ideas I get while I'm practicing.

Cheers,

-Jamie

www.JamieKrutz.com

> - K

>

>

> On 8/6/08 10:25 PM, in article 489a8908\$1@linux, "Jamie K"

> <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKrutzN0-SPAM.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [erlilo](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 06:55:13 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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I came to think on Derek when seeing this. He wrote here plenty of years ago, that his keyboardsetup on the road in Germany, was computer and softsynths/samplers. I believe he was very satisfied with it.

Erling

"Jamie K" <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com> skrev i en meddelelse  
news:489a8908\$1@linux...

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---

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 06:57:54 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Aaron Allen wrote:

> 2 words my friend. Battery. Backup.  
> Hiccups suck live, and dirty power almost always has a home on a stage. Get

> a good one, no square wave output \$50 deals... those'll bite ya too :)

Good advice, Aaron. I do have one I could bring, kinda heavy though.

But since the laptop has its own battery backup, maybe all I need is a surge protector. It's grid power at Red Rocks.

I'll probably throw the UPS in the car just in case...

Cheers,

-Jamie

[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

> AA

>

> "Kerry Galloway" <[kg@kerrygalloway.com](mailto:kg@kerrygalloway.com)> wrote in message

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>

Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 07:37:26 GMT

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That's cool, Derek is a pioneer! :^)

I've been running softsynths (for recording but not live performance) since I got my dual G4 PowerMac, now long gone. And on my last laptop, a G4 PowerBook.

The softsynths work especially well with the crunching power of my current dual G5, and now on this MacBook Pro, which is in that league but much more portable. In the meantime, all the software is a couple revs more advanced, so it's all come together nicely.

Every dedicated keyboard I've had, synth, sampler or rompler, has had compromises in architecture with resulting programming limitations. But with the laptop setup, if one softsynth is too limited for a particular sound, I can just run a different one. It's very freeing from a sound design perspective.

OTOH, now I have to manage how the controller keyboard interacts with all these softsynths (mine has lots of controls available). It's yet another level of programming. With flexibility and power comes a bit of work. :^)

Cheers,

-Jamie

[www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

erlilo wrote:

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> ago, that his keyboardsetup on the road in Germany, was computer and  
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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 08:23:57 GMT  
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Jamie-

congratulations on the gig. Sounds like fun!

This is remotely related -- I'm playing a wedding Friday out in a field -- no power at all -- and both my friend the singer/guitarist and I will be using our battery packs and inverters. Maybe one of those might be handy for just such a situation.

We've gone for three hours straight before without any problems. We're each running only 60 watts or so.

-steve

Jamie K <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com> wrote:

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>Aaron Allen wrote:  
>> 2 words my friend. Battery. Backup.  
>> Hiccups suck live, and dirty power almost always has a home on a stage.  
Get  
>> a good one, no square wave output \$50 deals... those'll bite ya too :)  
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>Good advice, Aaron. I do have one I could bring, kinda heavy though.  
>  
>But since the laptop has its own battery backup, maybe all I need is a  
>surge protector. It's grid power at Red Rocks.  
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>I'll probably throw the UPS in the car just in case...

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 13:16:09 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---



I was under the same thinking until I took the most abuse off a Dell laptop in a live situation, and it was all over power. If I only knew then what I know now.....

Take the UPS :)

AA

"Jamie K" <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com> wrote in message news:489a9ec6@linux...

>

> Aaron Allen wrote:

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 14:44:52 GMT  
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Aaron Allen wrote:

> I was under the same thinking until I took the most abuse off a Dell laptop  
> in a live situation, and it was all over power. If I only knew then what I  
> know now.....  
> Take the UPS :)

Thanks for the heads up, bro! It's too big a gig to risk it, I'll take  
the UPS.

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
www.JamieKruz.com

> AA  
>  
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> "Jamie K" <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com> wrote in message  
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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 14:59:06 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

steve the artguy wrote:

> Jamie-

>

> congratulations on the gig. Sounds like fun!

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> no power at all -- and both my friend the singer/guitarist and I will be

> using our battery packs and inverters. Maybe one of those might be handy

> for just such a situation.

>

> We've gone for three hours straight before without any problems. We're each

> running only 60 watts or so.

Very cool!

I've never done a gig just using batteries but I've done them off of generators and HAVE had problems with that. For example, I lost all the patches in a keyboard to a power surge at one gig. Which actually felt lucky because at first I thought the keyboard was fried completely.

This gig will use regular grid power. It's a large band complete with horn section and there will be a huge sound system, flown line arrays, to fill Red Rocks Amphitheater.

Cheers,

-Jamie Krutz

[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

> -steve

>

>

> Jamie K <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKrutzN0-SPAM.com> wrote:

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---

Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 20:18:31 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Break a leg, Jamie. I've been using a laptop live for a few years now and can't believe I was so uptight about it. The only problems I've run into are some grounding noise issues, but that's not rocket science to fix.

I use a carp Acer \$500 dual core laptop with a clan version of XP on it and Live as the host.

Hope it's a great show,

TCB

Jamie K <JamieN0-SPAM@JamieKruzN0-SPAM.com> wrote:

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> www.JamieKruz.com

---

---

Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 07 Aug 2008 21:55:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Thanks Thad!

It's encouraging to hear going live with a laptop has been working well for you.

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
www.JamieKruz.com

TCB wrote:

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---

Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Wed, 13 Aug 2008 23:36:12 GMT

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When I was running keyboards for Chick Corea a couple years ago we used a couple Mac laptops running Logic and synths in addition to the midied Rhodes, Motif, and some other rack synths and of course the midied Yamaha grand. I had a project for each song and I would switch from one Mac to the other between songs so I never had to worry about loading time. I did not use battery backup and never had a glitch, but these were all large clubs or small to medium concert venues with perfectly good power available.

Jamie K wrote:

>  
> Thanks Thad!  
>

> It's encouraging to hear going live with a laptop has been working well  
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>>> Cheers,  
>>> -Jamie  
>>> www.JamieKruz.com  
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---

Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 14 Aug 2008 01:55:20 GMT  
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I did end up taking a UPS to the Red Rocks show. There was a



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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Thu, 14 Aug 2008 04:56:59 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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AA

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news:48a3924e@linux...

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Subject: Re: Live keyboards via laptop - MacBook report  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Thu, 14 Aug 2008 07:51:54 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Aaron Allen wrote:  
> schweet man.. didja record anything you can share????

Not sure, I don't know yet what got recorded. It was really fun, what a magical place to play!

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