
Macbook!!

Posted by dirge - 2006/05/20 08:13

so for a uni graduation gift, i got a black macbook (!). i just got it about an hour ago, so i haven't even had a chance to open it yet.

problem is, i've never used a mac before and have no software other than office and whatever comes built-in (dual boot will make it a convenient transition though). what audio software should i check out? extra points for freeware and mac-capable softsynths.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by actuel - 2006/05/20 10:05

congrats! i just picked mine up last night too.

so here's a brief list of recent Intel Mac apps that come to mind:

- Automat - freeware synth
- Renoise - tracker application
- Live - ...obviously
- iDrum - reason like Redrum
- Expert Sleepers - various looping, sample oriented plugs. some are free and some haven't been ported yet
- Audio Damage - plug-ins. these are great...not free but really worth the little bit of money they cost
- Crystal - freeware synth
- Reason - just announced yesterday
- StylusRMX - fancy drum/loop plugin
- Arturia Prophet V - plug
- Wave Editor / Sample Manager - Excellet Audio editor and sample managing apps...expensive but really nice.

others have been announced and more on the way everyday. i'm sure i missed quite a few here. i was just looking yesterday at the same thing. i think with Live + Automat + Crystal + few plugs one would have a simple but really powerful rig.

i kinda like the limited palette that exist for early adopters right now. it will help keep me focused on just a few...which was a direction i've been heading into for a while anyway.

Live + Automat :)

good luck and enjoy!!!

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by actuel - 2006/05/20 10:06

you may also want to check over at: www.macmusic.org & www.bigbluelounge.com ...releases, updates, mac community, etc

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by dirge - 2006/05/20 10:12

sweet! thanks! looks like i'll still be able to use live (my main audio prog i used on xp). i may keep that in dual boot though, as i have a bunch of freeware pc-only vsts.

btw- seeing the monome in your avatar makes me think i should ebay my old dell (pile o dung) laptop and pick up a monome to go with the mac.... :)

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by actuel - 2006/05/20 10:28

man let me just say, MONOME 40h!!! i've never been so ecstatic over a purchase ever. i've been interested the Monome (the_box) for over a year when i heard about Daedelus and Tehn using them. when they made them and said \$500, i was like ouch! but i had been saving some money for something (wasn't sure what) and decided to say fck it.

so, so glad i did. the potential, amount of immediacy, quickness, organic, and most importantly FUN i've had the last 4 days is worth the price alone. though i had an idea it was cool, playing with it and the great free apps really makes you be like "everyone should have one these".

i've had a lot of nice gear and hold warm thoughts on many of those pieces but i can't ever recall having this feeling with any instrument, let alone a little box with green buttons. who knew thats all it took ;-)

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by dirge - 2006/05/20 10:45

what are you using the monome with?

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by actuel - 2006/05/20 10:53

dirge wrote:

what are you using the monome with?

Right now i'm mainly using MLR. which is a freely distributed app made for the Monome. I've used 'Step' which is also made for the Monome. Mapd should drop at any minute. Then i will probably use MLR + Live.

There's enough free apps right now and the list is already growing that i'm really quite busy. The Max/MSP Runtime (application that enables apps and Pluggos to run without buying a license) isn't Universal Binary (intel mac) yet but runs flawlessly anyways.

Mapd which is said to be released any moment should open the flood gates to Monome shaking hands with mostly any app.

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by actuel - 2006/05/20 10:59

here's a prototype Monome 100h (16x16) from about a year ago from one of th creators of the Monome. This is MLR he's using here. It makes more sense once your using MLR but this is shows off the effortless fun/experimenting.

http://146.186.186.101/~bcrabtree/tehn_mlr.mov

^when i first saw that video i thought, "how confusing...how do you know where...what etc". then once i played with the 40h + MLR i got it in like 2 minutes.

loads of fun...

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrockit - 2006/05/21 17:33

Yep...my two latest purchases... a macbook (white) and the 40h. Should be fun. I think the black would have been better if the outside was glossy.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by Wavecircle - 2006/05/22 22:39

what is this monome? I keep hearing about it. is it just a bunch of switches or something a bit more special. Being into max msp, im really interested in all things like this and wacom tablets and lemur etc...

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrockit - 2006/05/22 23:31

Wavecircle wrote:

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it is pretty special IMHO... check out this video and watch the whole thing...since there are multiple apps shown.

<http://146.186.186.101/~bcrabtree/monome40h.mov>

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by dirge - 2006/05/23 11:02

well, much to my dismay, the mouse button was defective and i had to take the thing back and i'll be ordering a replacment (probably white- the black captured finger oil far too easily).

be careful with your ram when buying from an apple store location. they said they installed 1gb ram, but it was actually 768. they would not refund the ram upgrade, but instead gave me back the 512 MB chip... very not happy so far. apple will not ship any laptop with a single 512 mb chip installed either (they were quite indignant on the phone when i asked about this). so i'm stuck with the one 512 mb, for which the purchaser of my gift paid \$100 (the actual cost of the 1gb upgrade- what they thought they were buying)...

apple is not getting off to a good start with me.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrockit - 2006/05/23 15:27

dirge wrote:

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apple is not getting off to a good start with me.

That sucks... Rev A apple machines sometimes have problems... that's a fact. The ram thing...apple is always cheap about ram. I always order the least amount possible from them...then upgrade myself. I think I'm gonna just go for 2gb right off the bat. Apple is saying thatr you should put the same amount of ram in each of the Macbook's slots... so that is weird that they screwed you like that. I would call the apple and complain to a manager about that store.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by udenjoe - 2006/05/23 16:51

I would email Steve Jobs about this.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by actuel - 2006/05/23 17:26

dirge, sorry to hear about that...that blows! i wondered about those black MB's being oil prone. though its never ideal i'm also not real surprised something was wrong with it being rev A and well, a computer.

that memory thing is a jacked situation though. just go to dealram.com and by another 512gb stick or whatever you need and put it in the new one. i would still complain to the Apple Store or where ever you bought it from.

good luck...damn computers

:-D

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by udenjoe - 2006/05/23 18:47

I'm telling you go overhead. You get better results going straight to a CEO or whatever position Jobs has. We are doing it with our powerbook becuase the logic board is having a rare problem with the hard drive.

Going this way also helps with other products and services. Basically if you go to the apple store or customer service number you'll run into inconsistant buerocratic problems.

My mother recently had great success going to the CEO of Sprint about them double billing her. She got her money back no problems.

I also suggest getting apple care. We've pretty much replaced our powerbook, but the apple care ran out now. So, we go to Jobs.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by dirge - 2006/05/23 20:17

yeah- i thought i should go to the manager or something- but it was the manager who told me this... i just realized today that they kept that reciept, so now i have no proof that it was even purchased there.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrocket - 2006/05/23 21:32

dirge wrote:

yeah- i thought i should go to the manager or something- but it was the manager who told me this... i just realized today that they kept that receipt, so now i have no proof that it was even purchased there.

You can ask them for a copy of your receipt... they should have it in their system...

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by dirge - 2006/05/23 22:59

ok... crisis averted. the manager had an unexpected change of heart and is refunding the RAM- i'll jsut be ordering it online now.

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrocket - 2006/05/24 03:24

Yeah, because he knew he was screwed if you called Apple and spoke to a big shot.

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by tobitobsen - 2006/08/25 12:30

Hello elektron-ics!

At the moment I'm using an IBM/Lenovo ThinkpadR52, for my computer-stuff. Build Quality but the fan of the unit is really annoying me(airplane), while making music on it especially in the night(narrow-minded neighbours).

So now, that almost all the software that I use is also available as universal-binary, I'm thinking of buying a macbook soon, ain't so expensive like the MBPro.

Now to my question to those of you, already having a macbook (JS?, saw it on ya Studiopics):

How loud are the macbooks? I know, they're louder than the MBP, but silent enough to make music on it for example in the night(Thinkpad=fan being louder than the music coming out the monitors)?

Thanx for ya replies! :-)

Peasn,

toxictobi

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by - 2006/08/25 12:53

dude...I wouldnt get a macbook if you paid me, the best bang-for-your-buck is easily an iMac, and they're pretty portable these days. Any gig I've ever had (djing at friends parties - not really a gig as such but anyways) I've had to lug other stuff around anyways, so the extra size of the iMac is irrelevant to most people - in my opinion. Its a bit of a electronic-music myth that you should get a laptop, again - just one of my theories.

I see so many people with laptops, paying through the nose for its portability and not really using the type of portability it excels at. Still using it like a desktop at home, and still carrying loads of other things to gigs with them like mixers & amps etc etc..... so they pay more, for a lesser spec'd machine, cos thats what musicians are supposed to do - get a laptop.

you could get a super pimped out iMac instead. massive screen, wireless keyboard & mouse...no horse-shit problems that seem to plague laptops, REV A mac laptops especially (or should I say notebooks cos apparently there not designed to be put on your lap any more - too hot)

and one of these for when you're gigging or going to someones house to jam

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrockit - 2006/08/25 17:30

b0unce wrote:

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and one of these for when you're gigging or going to someones house to jam

www.ilugger.com

Yeah, try using your iMac on a plane, car, train, bus, etc. Many pros use a laptop so they can make music while travelling...not just at a gig. I have had a few Rev A macs...and despite a little heat...which other laptops outside of apple laptops suffer from as well...they have worked perfect. Not to mention despite waiting for a Rev B or C...you still have heat...laptops are just hot these days. The macbook is also cheaper than an iMac. don't get me wrong...the imac is a great deal...but who the hell wants to set up a computer when you can just open a laptop and go? If all of us were so thrifty...we'd all buy the cheapest car that got the best gas mileage, buy the house that is just big enough for our needs, buy all of our clothes second hand, and eat only the cheapest of foods...but we do not. We buy things that we like and that provide conveniences and happiness....even if they cost a little more.

tobitobsen, the iBook has a fan you can hear as well...especially when you push it. I don't think you can avoid it these days. Most laptops are pretty loud once the fan comes on. however, never loud enough that you can't hear your monitors on a quiet night of music making.

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by divi - 2006/08/25 19:46

i have never ever heard a fan noise out of my powerbook G4...

a macbook will work fine for audio apps, but off course it depends on your needs. eg.: they only come with 5400rpm harddrives which might be a problem with massive multitrack recording or sample streaming.

i m getting a macbook pro when they will be upgraded with the new 'core 2 duo' cpu's. mb pro instead of mb because of the screen size and i need the extra connections and expansion slots to hook up all my contollers (usb), audio interface (fw400) and external HD (fw800).

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by synthy - 2006/08/25 21:30

It makes sense if you are only moving it around occasionally, but the iMac and other standard-issue PCs are designed to sit in one place and not move around. You challenge that equation and introduce new variables when you move them around. Rack mounts (i.e. server cases) are a bit of a different entity, but not entirely.

When there are events where people are drunk and all over the place... you come to appreciate the value of a rugged setup. I have a sturdy utility case for my laptop specifically for those occasions, and it has saved me a few times.

I'm not sure I want to think about what it would take to protect a full Mac/PC in the same manner.

Re: Macbook!!

Posted by jsrocket - 2006/08/26 03:03

divi wrote:

i have never ever heard a fan noise out of my powerbook G4...

Which one do you have? I have a old 1.33Ghz 15" pBook and the fan comes on when I am using alot of tracks in Logic.
No big deal though.

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Re: Macbook!!

Posted by divi - 2006/08/27 22:06

jsrocket wrote:

divi wrote:

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No big deal though.

1,5GHz 15", bought september 2004

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