
Sound Card Help!!

Posted by - 2005/07/24 11:11

Ok, i need to buy a new sound card cause all i have right now is a cheap generic 30 dollar piece of crap in my pc. The only input on the card is the "Mic In", the "Line In" (never used it before until a few days ago) on the card is Fubared. I need to find a card that is meant to be used for recording music and very good at it but also works well with everyday pc use. I don't know where to start looking, i need suggestions. What would be the best purchase? Which card would you recommend?

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by - 2005/07/24 14:43

m-audio delta 44 is under \$150 - no digital i/o bells & whistles, decent converters, break-out box. i use it & it sounds great.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by mos6581 - 2005/07/24 16:26

I never liked the idea of having a sound card in the noisy environment of a computer. So, if you have a fat wallet I'd recommend the MOTU 828 mkII firewire sound card. I bought one used for about \$800 after I read some about it here on the forum and on the www.motu.com site.

<http://www.motu.com/products/motuaudio/828/body.html/en>

The only thing on the downside is that the knobs are placed a bit too tight, but since you can control it from the computer I can live with that.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by chiasticon - 2005/07/24 18:34

I'd second the Motu 828 MkII recommendation. I have one and love it. but the price should be somewhere around \$750 new nowadays. but since that's QUITE a leap from a \$30 sound card, you might want to go somewhere in between. I agree that having a card outside your computer is a good idea; especially if you get a laptop later on and want to use the same card between the two. Firewire is better than USB as well. so some things you might want to check out are the Presonus Firebox, the M-Audio Firewire Audiophile and the Terratec Phase X24. All of these are \$400 or less. The Presonus/Terratec cards are proly better than the Audiophile if you're using Elektron gear, simply because the Audiophile doesn't accept the +4dB level that the MD/MnM output at; so you'd have to use a mixer to attenuate the signal before it reaches the card if you went with the Audiophile.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by udenjoe - 2005/07/24 19:47

There are alot of choices out there. The Presonus stuff seems to be a good buy. I'm considering them as well. The Motu stuff is great too but out of my price range, and have connections/features I won't use. I am also waiting for the Alesis Firewire mixers. The Makies cost way too much nice as they are.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by Wisefire - 2005/07/24 22:34

check this site out.. tells you what there is..

http://www.dolphinmusic.co.uk/?page=shop/soundcard_selector&advanced=1

helps you choose..

and as the motu 828 mk2 setup.. got it myself and very happy about it.. got mine for about 560 euros, but it was secondhand..

m-audio is a nice choice as well, worked in some project with their gear.. never any problems..

if you want to spend big, try RMEs audio interfaces they are the bomb.. but very expensive..

presonus looks nice but dont know about their quality ad/da s

if i had to choose between m-audio or presonus i'd choose m-audio. their gear is rock solid, for their pricerange..

terratec, nice cards for the beginners.. i would classify it as hi end consumer instead of professional gear..

good luck.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by - 2005/07/25 00:59

here's another vote for the m-audio delta44. IMO it has the best performance to price ratio. You can get more channels and better converters, but this one should do you for a small-to-medium sized home studio. I've had mine for about 3 years and it's served me very well.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by mahoney - 2005/07/25 01:02

udenjoe wrote:

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Anyone saw Euro dealers who carry the Alesis Firewire mixers and the Motu racks? I narrowed down my choices to those two. Need I rethink? :-?

edit: I mean competitively prided.

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Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/07/27 05:49

I have had fantastic results with three motu products over the past few years. I had the 2408 and PCI 324 card - then I got the original 828 - then I got the original 896 which I still use and friggin love. Motu rocks - they have a great reputation, and a track record that inspires trust.

However, I am not sure about the new alesis firewire mixers. They are a new product from a former innovator in the field that has since been bankrupt and bailed out by Numark, a DJ company. Motu has been in the ADA game for a long time - and so has alesis, but for some reason, I would personally choose motu over alesis solely based on resale value. The motu stuff sells for higher - whereas alesis just does not. I think this is a general trend that is most likely quality based.

That said, if you have been getting by with like a soundblaster card for this long, perhaps the motu system is more than you need. Some of the nicer interfaces have less inputs, and will cost a lot less money. I know that lexicon released one - there is the new mackie product line - the (gasp) Mbox - Tascam makes decent convertors, although to me they sound

flat and the drivers can be flaky - Maudio is solid, and I think you can use their boxes with digidesign (gasp again) software now. There are a lot of options to consider.

Lastly - I think presonus makes awesome products. Serious quality - and they still put in mil spec power supplies because the designer of the gear used to make test equipment for the military. I have a motu-presonus combo in my studio now and its been rock solid. Never a crash - never a clock error - and the convertors sound fantastic all the way round.

Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by divi - 2005/07/27 13:38

i absolutely recommend the motu 828mk2. i like to record a lot of stuff at once and need to record my band with it. it's up to you to judge if you need that amount of inputs and features.

oh and by the way, it works stand-alone (without computer attached). that is very important for me 'cause i can use it as a basic mixer without having to turn on my computer.

Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by mahoney - 2005/07/27 15:46

Thanks for more quality answers.

I am aiming for the Motu 828MKII right now. It vends for ?755 at thomann.de, or ?759 bundled with a Griffin PowerMate USB-Controller. Shipping is a flat ?15. Tried to scoop up a used one but none around and I also love my stuff new in box (a bad case of consumism).

edit: Approx. ?598 from Dr Audio, California.

Right now I am trying to figure out reasons to spend ?939 on the Motu Traveler (192KHz, but fewer inputs?).

Another problem is that I have a Tascam 388 sitting in a basement at work. It's dead mint with only one previous owner but I haven't powered it up for over two years of owning it. Family life on 60 sqm or less won't leave room for that pretty as hell Tascam backbreaker. The reality of my studio space needs to fit into a 150 cm wide x 50 cm deep corner.

The Tascam 388 is by many considered the apex in Tascam's portastudio production. It has a built in 8-2 mixer, dbx1, a full EQ, a backlit meter bridge and, housed in the same unit, a 1/4" tape to record all eight tracks! it was targetted at the professional B-studio market.

I just have a hard time parting with it everytime I delve into its specs and interesting but vague history. Last night I was up all night searching the web, trying to rent some separate studio place... :roll:

Re: Sound Card Help!!

Posted by mrono - 2005/07/27 15:51

This is rapidly becoming a "me too" thread, but I also recommend the 828mkII. My favorite feature is the ability to virtually patch different devices together. I have all of my equipment hooked up to the 828mkII (ins and outs) so that I can push a couple of buttons on my computer (or twist a couple of knobs on the front panel) and send one box's outputs to another's inputs for processing. Good stuff when you have a SidStation and Nord Modular in the mix.

I use the onboard mix bus far more often than I actually record from the 828mkII. Sure, I could have just bought a hardware mixer for that, but then I wouldn't also be able to record on a whim. Or have all of these saved profiles for the different types of routing arrangements that I like.

FWIW, this is the same reason I love the MOTU midi express XT; virtual routing makes my life so much easier. I don't have to mess with recabling everything just because I want to try out a new filter setup or MIDI controller arrangement.

And, if you run out of inputs on the 828mkII, you can always get a Behringer ADA8000, hook it up to the 828mkII's ADAT ports and have an additional 8ins and 8outs.

In a nutshell, MOTU makes great stuff.

Hope that helps!

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