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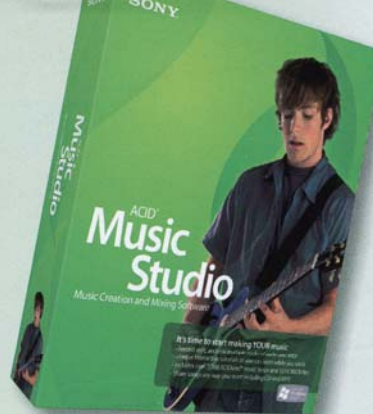


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acid music studio 7



Although Acid and the concept of generating music from loops has been around for many years (I recall using in the mid 1980s on my Amiga), this latest version of Acid adds some features that makes music creation considerably more flexible. **Dave Neiger** reports.

Music, especially background music for films, is often repetitive which means that rather than having to record the entire track you can generate a track by stringing beats, riffs, chords and other music components together.

Using Acid you would pick a beat from any of the supplied drum loops or if what is included does not take your fancy, purchase additional loop libraries or download loops from the web.

If that isn't enough, you can also create loops from CDs or record your own using a MIDI keyboard and interface. *(You may need to check with the lawyers before using copyrighted music from a CD. Better still, just don't do it - Ed)*

Once the rhythm track is laid down you can then add a bass line (again using the supplied bass loops or generating your own),

backing tracks and the melody line. This is really like constructing music with Lego, simply stack the blocks (the loops) together to create your music score.

The supplied and purchased loops contain information about tempo and pitch which allow Acid to properly manage the loops to ensure that your score sounds reasonable and remains in time. If you want to add your own loops, the included Beatmapper

other Sony audio software such as Sound Forge, you may be able to fumble around but if not, print the documents and save your sanity.

Tip: You can send many PDF files to a local printer (such as Snap Print) via email and they can print and bind for minimal cost.

New in this version of Acid Music Studio are more than 3,000 loops and 1,000 MIDI files, support for Vista (although the software runs fine under XP too) and multicore

processors (which you will need to render complicated multi tracks with effects).

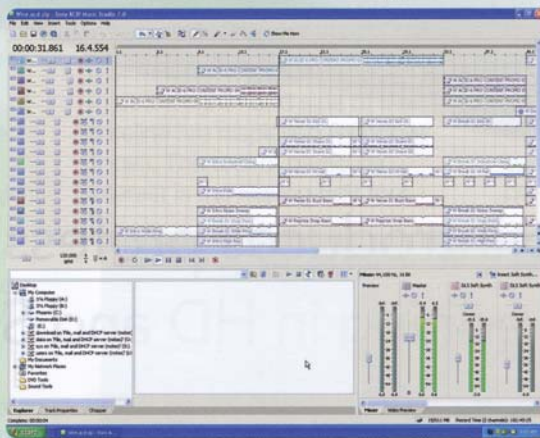
MIDI is also supported, to some extent via MIDI inputs and the DLS soft synthesiser. We found that Acid Music Studio would happily accept MIDI input from our Korg synthesiser but was unable to output patch information to select instruments or control the synthesiser fully.

Unfortunately, the online help and documentation were nigh on useless in this regard so it would be a matter of trial or error or upgrading to Acid Pro if you need to get MIDI working effortlessly.

For a simple way of generating royalty free music for films, Acid has several advantages over purchasing music (and fitting the vision into the sound track) or generating music using an automated score package.

It is easy enough for anyone to use although some music training would be an advantage.

However, if you are serious about music creation or intend to use Acid with MIDI synthesizers or other devices you will need Acid Pro as you will find Acid Music Studio too limiting. ::



wizard will analyse the timing but is unable to determine the pitch so you will need to play around until everything sounds in tune.

Once completed, the score can be rendered out to CD audio, MP3 or other compressed format to use as you like. Music Studio is limited to DV Audio quality (16 bit/48kHz) so if you want 5.1 surround or 192/24 you will need Acid Pro.

Installation was extremely easy, although you do need to register Acid Music Studio (online or via telephone) in order to unlock it from the 30 day trial mode. The lack of printed documentation is painful as it isn't possible to learn the product from the Show Me tutorials alone. If you're already familiar with earlier versions of Acid or

auscam rating

- performance 9/10
- documentation 5/10
- features 7/10
- installation..... 9/10
- value..... 8/10
- help 6/10
- price \$169

we liked: ease of use; support for MIDI, unlimited loop tracks

disliked: lack of printed documentation

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