

iKlip Xpand Stand

Manufacturer **IK Multimedia**

Price **€54.99/£39**

Contact **+44 (0)1223 234414**

Web **www.ikmultimedia.com**



Key Features

- Two way iPad stand
- Locks to desk or standalone
- Expandable to allow iPad case
- Construct in < 5 mins

IK Multimedia has released several iPad and iPhone stands for musicians. The desktop muso now gets this which can be a standalone iPad stand or clip to the side of your desk. Construction is easy – you'll need a firm hand to lock the base to the main support – and half way through you'll need to choose which stand type. But the result is sturdy, especially when locked to the side of your desk (although the grip gap could be wider for 'thicker' desks). The standalone version might fall forward but only if knocked from behind, but both variations allow easy movement of the iPad from horizontal to vertical without the need to remove it from the stand. Solid and does the job well. **MT**

MT Verdict

If your iPad is crammed full of music apps but always seems to get lost within your studio gear, then this is what you need to keep it in a prominent position.

8/10

Music Marketing for the DIY Musician

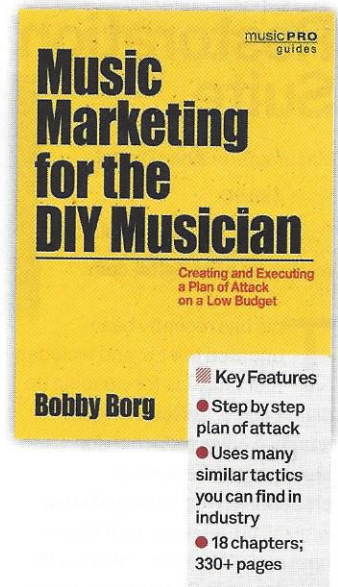
Manufacturer **Hal Leonard**

Price **\$29.99**

Contact **via website**

Web **www.halleonardbooks.com**

What to do next with your music is the Holy Grail of success. Gone are the days – if ever they existed – of sending a demo out and becoming famous. This takes a very 'pro' marketing angle, treating your music like a brand, a commodity worth selling. And if you treat your music that way, you can certainly do a very pro job yourself, but it does serve as a warning to those who might think this next step can be fun. Such an approach can be quite soul-destroying, especially when applied to something as personal as your own music. **MT**



Key Features

- Step by step plan of attack
- Uses many similar tactics you can find in industry
- 18 chapters; 330+ pages

MT Verdict

We agree with the methods but more artistic musicians might balk. You'd have to separate yourself completely from your music to market it in many of the ways suggested which is certainly something not all of us could do.

7/10

Autotheory

Manufacturer **Mozaic Beats.**

Price **\$59.99**

Contact **via website**

Web **www.autotheorybymozaic.com**

Originally developed as a Rack Extension for Reason, Autotheory has made the jump to standalone app for Mac and PC. A MIDI generator that responds to your input, it's designed to help you create chords and melodies more complex than you may be able to play naturally, and to suggest new melodies based on your chord selections.

The iLok authorization is a little heavy handed but setup is straightforward enough and you can configure MIDI channels and use computer keys for MIDI input. With minimal setup it fired MIDI through to Logic more or less automatically.

To the left is the Chord Generator section and this can be set to play multiple types of chords based on one-finger input using the root note and



Key Features

- Eight virtual MIDI outputs
- Chord and melody generators
- Extensive chord type and customisation options
- Generate musical parts

chord type controls at the top. The Chord Editor can be used to perform further tweaks like adding or removing notes from the generated chord and adding accidentals and octave notes. It can send up to eight virtual channels into your DAW from a single MIDI input so it can be connected to multiple instruments at once.

To the right is the Melody section where notes are assigned based on your chosen chord, and you aren't

'allowed' to play a wrong-sounding note. So it's great for novice players, though you have to wrap your head around the fact that the note you press might not sound the note you thought it would. Nonetheless it should still fit with the scale and chord you have selected.

All of this can be recorded into a MIDI track in your DAW of course and the whole thing acts like a more advanced version of the MIDI generator plug-ins you get with some DAWs. It's probably best suited to the less confident keyboard player as it will indeed help you play complex chords and generate melodies with fairly minimal musical knowledge.

The results tend towards the hip hop or dance side of things and for skilled players it's more a more intriguing than vital tool, but Autotheory can certainly help you generate new musical ideas. **MT**

MT Verdict

A useful tool for the less experienced keyboard player and interesting for those looking to generate new ideas.

7/10