



DAWs feel some RADAR love

RADAR digital audio recorder will run Pro Tools, Nuendo and more

For more than 20 years, the RADAR recording system has held its own against the radical advances in DAW software and computer-based recording. RADAR has evolved too, of course, but its core strengths — simplicity, solidity and great sound — have remained the same. Rock-solid performance, great-sounding A-D converters and the ‘just hit record’ simplicity of tape mean that RADAR still has plenty of advocates. Now parent company iZ Technology have announced that the latest incarnation of their self-contained recording system, RADAR Studio, will be

able to run DAW software natively.

The new system ships with Harrison Mixbus and Pro Tools HD 11 already installed — you’ll need your own license key to activate the latter — and users can install their own DAW of choice on RADAR’s operating system, a heavily customised version of Windows. Third-party plug-ins and plug-in processing cards are also supported. The familiar RADAR recording system is still there and runs off a separate solid-state drive, meaning that users can boot up in either DAW mode or RADAR mode. A common

archive directory means that audio files can be easily accessed by both.

It’s exciting news, for Pro Tools users in particular, as RADAR’s Session Controller hardware will control the software directly. What you get, in effect, is a self-contained recording system with RADAR’s simplicity and stability, but all the bells and whistles of a full DAW. RADAR Studio is available now in a wide range of configuration options, with a special introductory price of \$4,995.

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JD in red

Roland cross over with new analogue/digital hybrid synths

Roland have announced the new and compact JD-Xi — an analogue/digital crossover synth with 37 mini keys. The JD-Xi features an analogue synth engine along with a wide selection of Roland’s acclaimed SuperNatural digital sounds, as well as a built-in drum-kit section, featuring all the Roland kits you’d expect, plus a four-track TR-style pattern sequencer. The synth also comes with a sturdy gooseneck mic for using with the synth’s vocoder and AutoPitch functions, which are especially useful for robotic vocal effects.

The JD-Xi offers musicians the best of both analogue and digital worlds. On the analogue side of things, there’s a monophonic synth built in, with triangle, saw and square waveforms plus an independent sub oscillator for low-end

power. Also present are pulse-width modulation and an analogue filter. This synth is complemented by two digital synth sections offering 128 voices of polyphony and a wide range of SuperNatural-based PCM sounds, including pads, strings, electric pianos and sound effects. Sounds can be enhanced with the JD-Xi’s effects section, which includes delay, reverb, bit crusher, ring mod and more. Roland’s synth makes it easy to perform T-Pain-style robotic vocal runs with the synth’s AutoPitch function, while the Auto Note feature lets you ‘sing’ synth sounds without touching the keys.

In addition to the JD-Xi (\$499), Roland have also previewed their new flagship crossover synth, the JD-XA. It won’t be officially announced until the Musikmesse show in April, but it will feature four independent analogue voices and four digital synth sections, doubling the number of digital voices found on the JD-Xi. The JD-XA also strips out functions such as the drum section, but adds a lot more, including an arpeggiator, full-size keys and an additional analogue high-pass filter.

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