

BRAVEN 405 Speaker

Price **£69.99**
Contact **Braven**
www.braven.com



We love a good Bluetooth speaker. Obviously, they're not the best for critical listening – their inherent size is the issue – but on the whole, they do tend to sound a lot better than you would initially give them credit for. The Braven 405 is the latest in the company's Active Series and notable for being waterproof (a clue is probably in the word 'Active') – so obviously, this would make a great choice for that yacht-rock opus you've been working on.

Sound-wise, the Braven 405 is about middling in this category of speaker; again, it's better than you may think, but not quite up there with offerings we've tested from Creative and IK Multimedia.

The 405 is pleasingly sturdy, too, so can be thrown into your holiday suitcase without fear of damage, and you can use it for listening pretty much anywhere, so it'll do for on-the-move mixing and playback and is a cheap choice for that – but you don't need us to tell you to finish your mix on decent monitors. **MT**

Key features

- **Bluetooth speaker**
- **Can be used as speakerphone and charger**
- **Line in**
- **12-hour battery**
- **Dimensions (mm): 150x91x30**

MT VERDICT 7/10

A cheap way to play music on the move and work on ideas in hotel rooms. Compact and sturdy, but others have a better sound.

HAL LEONARD Scoring The Screen The Secret Language Of Film Music

Price **£34.99**
Contact **Hal Leonard**
www.halleonard.com



With more and more music producers looking to film, TV and video games as vehicles to score for, the life of a media composer is becoming more competitive by the day. You'll need an inside track to keep the edge, then, and they don't come much better than this.

It's written by Andy Hill, who has been a screen-music supervisor and producer – as well as a trainer of film composers – so what he doesn't know about mood, picture and drama and how it can be heightened or altered with sound isn't worth knowing.

There is exhaustive (and quite exhausting, we have to say) detail here and you will need to be a notesmith to get the best from it, but there truly is much here to learn about the craft if you give this book the time it deserves. **MT**

Key features

- **Contains score reductions that link to real-life scenes**
- **400 pages**
- **Chapters on specific films including *Vertigo* and *The Matrix***

MT VERDICT 9/10

With some great breakdowns of specific parts of scores for famous films, there's a lot of detail and knowledge here that will be invaluable if you know your scoring.

UVI BeatHawk 2 **£9.99 (PLUS INT-APP PURCHASES)**

Contact Developer **UVI** | www.uvi.net and iTunes

Key features

- **16-track sequencer, up to 16 patterns per part**
- **Pad, keyboard and pattern performance modes**
- **Edit sounds with effects and ADSR envelopes**
- **Ableton Link, Inter-App Audio, Audio Unit v3 plug-in, Audiobus and AudioCopy support**
- **Piano Roll Editor mode with Note and CC**

BeatHawk is UVI's attempt at a do-it-all iOS music maker. The latest version includes Ableton Link compatibility, which certainly expands the usability of the app, but this is our first look, so here's a complete overview.

At its heart, BeatHawk has an MPC-style set of 16 pads to cover your 16 sequencer tracks

and produce up to 16 patterns to make a song.

You get two sound banks in the 1GB download which cover EDM and urban with sounds broken down into Drum Element, Drum Loop and Instrument folders. Another 30-odd folders will appear when you are connected to the internet but these are all optional in-app purchases – anything from a couple of quid up to £7, but usually four or five pounds. These are varied and include a whole range of World collections and intriguing-looking Trip Hop and Electro Pop offerings. They're laid out in a very tempting way, so be careful, as you could easily ramp up your costs here.

Producing music couldn't be simpler: set the app cycling around a couple of bars, hit record and then play your pads. Handily, hitting the Pitch

tab opens up a couple of octaves of keyboards so you can quickly get melodic ideas down – indeed, this really is one of the quickest ways for when inspiration strikes when you are on the move. There are also handy Gain, Pan, Pitch and Effect options on the right to adjust each pad/sound.

Loading in different sounds on each pad is also dead easy; a browser brings up all of those collections and you simply choose by folder and then audition. Another great feature of the app is that you can easily import your own samples via the likes of iCloud, Google Drive and Dropbox.

BeatHawk really does get very close to a desktop experience which is in some ways its undoing as you then expect more in the way of proper editing or drag-and-drop-style Korg Gadget



features. You do get some Piano Roll editing, but desktop DAW users will want more, as BeatHawk does what it does so well, it raises your expectations somewhat.

We'd guess, though, that this will be the focus for version 3 and the real strength of BeatHawk is just how easily it makes ideas a reality. And for the price, it's a steal. **MT**

MT VERDICT 8/10

BeatHawk 2.0 is a great way to get your mobile ideas down – and more links to the outside world mean they can be easily transferred to your desktop studio, too.