



Hands-on High Performance

Cakewalk, Intel, and Windows* 8 bring the best of desktop and mobile computing to musicians

Bringing a complex studio recording to life onstage can be a challenging experience. After all, not everyone can afford to bring an orchestra on the road or hire more players to replicate all of the parts that they overdubbed in a studio setting. Musicians sometimes take laptops—and even desktop computers—onstage to play back sequences or studio recordings of backing tracks. Such solutions, however, have drawbacks. For example, desktop PCs aren't built for the rigors of the road, and laptops aren't always up to the challenge.

With 3rd generation Intel® Core™ processors powering Intel-inspired Ultrabook™ devices, musicians have access to exciting new mobile music workflows. "The Ultrabook offers total mobility, letting you take your music on the road," said Andrew Rossa, director of sales and marketing for Cakewalk, a leader in digital audio workstation (DAW) software. "In the past, it was difficult for a laptop to replicate the performance of a desktop PC, and you'd run into limitations quickly. Today, Ultrabook devices can run large, multi-track files flawlessly—plus it's super lightweight and easy to carry around. It's like having a pro studio in your gig bag."

Cakewalk's top-of-the-line DAW, SONAR® X2, supports Microsoft Windows® 8 and touch, and includes the critically-acclaimed Skylight User Interface, a new reverb and guitar amp simulator from Overloud®; Roland's breakthrough R-MIX technology for visual-based mixing; and the innovative ProChannel, which is now modular and features Console Emulation for epic, pro-studio sound. The powerhouse DAW provides the highest performance possible thanks to the 3rd gen Intel Core processor.

Cakewalk engineers optimized SONAR X2's audio and MIDI engines to take advantage of the Intel® Advanced Vector Extensions instruction set, delivering significant performance improvements. They also tapped into the power of Intel® HD Graphics embedded in 3rd gen Intel Core processors, offloading graphics operations to the GPU and freeing CPU bandwidth to facilitate lower latency throughput.

"The combination of Intel® technology and SONAR's audio engine allow for more audio and MIDI tracks, real-time audio effects, soft synths, flawless audio playback,

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and faster-than-real-time rendering," Rossa said. "When run on Windows 8, SONAR allows users to seamlessly move across desktop and mobile computing roles. They can start a project file on their desktop, transfer it to an Ultrabook, and continue working with it on the road or even onstage."

Multi-touch support also gives users hands-on control of the music creation environment, letting them adjust volume faders, zoom and resize windows, and trigger cells in the Matrix View (a module that facilitates live performance, especially with pre-recorded instrumental or vocal loops). "Ultrabook devices combine the best of the desktop and mobile computing experiences—they are powerful enough to run demanding applications and have a form factor and touch features that allow for easy use in mobile environments where space is a premium," Rossa concluded. "We see the potential for musicians to use these devices in live applications, for mixing, or even onstage as virtual instruments or as effects processors. And thanks to Intel technologies such as Intel® Wireless Display, which allows for wireless transmission of audio and video, SONAR on an Ultrabook device may even replace dedicated desktop-based DAW solutions."