

KEYS TO CREATIVITY

With superior sounds, special functions, and connectivity, the **Casio CTK-2400** has plenty to offer musicians of all skill levels. The CTK-2400 provides 400 quality tones, 150 rhythms and 110 play-along songs, as well as a built-in mic and Sound EFX sampler. Aspiring keyboardists will enjoy the Step-Up Lesson System to hone their chops. More experienced players will appreciate that, with built-in MIDI via USB, the CTK-2400 is one of the most affordable hardware sound modules on the market.



HIP TO BE SQUARE

Roland's new reinvented Blues Cube guitar amplifiers represent a major improvement on the original design first introduced in the '90s. The 80-watt **Blues Cube Artist** and the 60-watt **Blues Cube Stage** deliver spot-on tube preamp warmth and dynamically responsive power amp sag that seem to defy the limits of solid-state technology. Both offer clean and crunch channels plus a custom 12" speaker, and the Artist adds a vintage tremolo effect, an effects loop, and presence control to the mix.



GEAR UP

Kick off the cool season with the

FOR FALL

hottest new gear and instruments

By Phil Selman

YOUR 'FACE TO THE iWORLD

PreSonus' new AudioBox i Series takes its popular USB audio interfaces into the realm of iOS recording. Both the one-input iOne and the two-input iTwo feature Class A microphone preamp technology and 24-bit/96 kHz recording quality. But key to these interfaces is how they interact with the Capture Duo recording app for iPad. Designed to seamlessly work with the included Studio One Artist software, the intuitive recording app makes it a snap to record on the go and then transfer to a desktop DAW.



BIG BOTTOM BLISS

PRS has released two affordable bass guitars that have players reconsidering their brand loyalties. The ash-bodied **SE Kingfisher** bass offers the fat and chest-pounding bottom end that jazz and R&B players dig. The alder-bodied **SE Kestrel** bass comes loaded with single-coil pickups and offers a bit more definition in the upper mids. Both feature extremely stable five-ply maple and walnut necks, and a two-way bridge allows for strings to be mounted to the bridge or through the body for added sustain.

CRYSTAL CLEAR COMEBACK

Rock out like it's 1973 with a set of **Pearl Crystal Beat** drums. When first introduced by Pearl, these acrylic kits helped define an era of drum technology—and now upgraded and fortified, the clear shells and massive sound are back. Combined with Pearl's Opti-Mount suspension system and 1.6 mm triple-flanged hoops, these seamless molded acrylic shells dish out killer attack with plenty of body. Crystal Beat drums are available in a wide range of configurations and three striking color options.

TAKE CONTROL

Novation continues to provide Ableton Live users with ideal hands-on tools by introducing the **Launch Control XL**. This streamlined control surface provides direct access to the core functions of eight channels at once, allowing artists to tweak levels, sends, panning and other parameters without reaching for the mouse. In addition to a set of function-specific controls, there are also 16 multicolor buttons onboard for mute, solo, record arm, and clip-launching functions. Combine with a Novation Launchpad for a complete Ableton Live control system.



OLD-SCHOOL, NEW RULES

It's rare to find gear that appeals to old-school synth fans and modern electronic music gurus, but the **Dave Smith Instruments Pro 2** packs digital power and analog mojo into a compelling monosynth. On the digital side, the Pro 2 serves up complex oscillators, killer effects and complex routing. Filtering, LFOs and envelopes are left entirely in the analog domain. But the crowning glory of the Pro 2 is its powerful 32-step/16-track step sequencer, providing seemingly endless creative flexibility.



SUPER SONICS

Fishman has redesigned its Platinum series with **Platinum Pro EQ** and the **Platinum Stage** acoustic instrument preamplifiers with the aim of delivering pristine fidelity and player-centric features. Both models offer Class A analog amplification circuitry, which lends a healthy boost to even the weakest onboard electronics, and piezo pickups. A parametric three-band EQ that can be reconfigured for lower-register instruments offers tone-shaping power, and the Platinum Pro EQ also includes a low-cut filter and brilliance control for added contouring.



PROTECT AND SERVE

SKB's Mixer Safe road cases have safeguarded midsize touring mixers for years—and now the company has launched a new version that promises superior protection to today's popular mixing boards. The **1SKB-3823 Mixer Safe** sports a vacuum-molded polyethylene shell that shrugs off bumps, along with a series of bumpers that minimizes inside jostling. The interior is shaped to accommodate such mixers as the Behringer X32 and similarly sized 32-channel models. A set of substantial butterfly latches and spring-loaded handles completes the package.



FEEL THE FREEDOM

Audio-Technica's System 10 digital wireless lineup has been garnering considerable attention for its impressive fidelity, reliability and ease of use. Now the **System 10 Stompbox** wireless guitar set is catching fire among serious live guitarists. That's because this system takes the normally cumbersome task of integrating wireless connectivity into a standard guitar rig and puts the receiver right on the pedalboard. It can even run on standard 9-volt pedal power. Dual outputs and footswitch control also allow guitarists to set up multiple effects chains, tune silently, or simply mute their guitars.



CRANKS TO 11

Loaded with as much as 7,500 watts of Class D technology, **Peavey's IPR2 DSP** power amps provide epic output without the backbreaking weight of a traditional PA. But it's the onboard digital signal processing that has sonic experts talking. In addition to Peavey's exclusive DDT speaker-protection system, the IPR2 DSP features user-programmable signal processing, including EQ, delay, crossover management and Waves Maxx Bass for punchy low-frequency enhancement—all of which can be stored in multiple settings slots for instant recall.

MIX MASTERS

Yamaha unleashed a revitalized line of 10 new **MG Series** mixers, ranging from six to 20 inputs. On the basic end, there's the MG06, which sports a pair of preamps and two stereo channels. The fully loaded MG20XU comes with 16 mic pres, three-band parametric EQs, four aux buses, and Yamaha's acclaimed SPX digital multieffect processor. Regardless of the channel count or the feature set, all these mixers deliver serious bang for the buck, including low-noise operation and rock-solid construction.



GUITAR TO REMEMBER

Celebrating 40 years and the completion of their 20,000th acoustic guitar, **Collings** proudly released their **Special Edition Dreadnought #20,000** model. This guitar is everything an acoustic player could ask for, underscoring founder **Bill Collings'** drive to create the highest-quality guitars possible. The dreadnought body is made from certified pre-convention old-growth Brazilian rosewood and topped with Adirondack spruce, delivering a universally coveted sound. Topped with breathtaking abalone and shell inlays, the guitar also features a custom case hand-built by Bill Collings himself.



KING OF THE CLONES

When **EarthQuaker Devices** created their **Palisades** overdrive pedal, they did something they swore they'd never do: create a legendary Ibanez TS808 clone. But demand was high, so they answered the call by upping the ante. Starting with the best 808 circuitry, they added all the bells and whistles a gigging guitarist could ask for. A total of six different clipping voices, five bandwidth settings, and two gain channels—and much more versatility—will satisfy even the most jaded tone-tweaker.

