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AUDIO EASE ALTIVERB PLUG-IN FOR MAS USES POWER MACINTOSH VELOCITY ENGINE

MOTU DEBUTS AUDIO EASE ALTIVERB SAMPLED REVERB PLUG-IN FOR MAS

NAMM, ANAHEIM, CA - January 18, 2001. MOTU, Inc. (www.motu.com) unveiled Altiverb™, a reverb plug-in for Digital Performer and MAS developed by Audio Ease BV (www.audioease.com), the Netherlands-based audio software developer. Altiverb is a sampled acoustics processor that offers realistic one-, two- and four-channel sampled acoustics of real halls, churches, forests, bathrooms — and virtually any acoustic environment. Altiverb is the first native reverb plug-in to take full advantage of Altivec™, the ‘Velocity Engine’ co-processor that brings super-computer performance to Apple Power Macintosh G4 computers. The result is a native reverb plug-in for Digital Performer that exceeds the performance of recently introduced outboard sampled acoustics processors that cost as much as $10,000.

“Until the 21st Century, reverb units could only crudely approximate the amazingly complicated nature of real-life acoustics. What stereo did to mono, Altiverb’s sampled acoustics will do to synthetic reverbs,” said Arjen van der Schoot, co-founder of Audio Ease.

“Altiverb is a truly astonishing breakthrough in high-quality reverb technology,” said Jim Cooper, MOTU Marketing Director. “Sampled acoustics processing takes an enormous amount of DSP bandwidth, and there are only a few pieces of outboard gear currently on the market that can do it. If you look inside them, you’ll see dozens of DSP chips inside, hence their astronomical price tag. The engineers at Audio Ease ingeniously employed the G4 Altivec processor, which is a solitary monster DSP processor sitting inside every G4 Power Mac. In fact, it’s so powerful, the Altiverb plug-in can produce up to 40 seconds of real-time reverb decay, while the outboard ’verbs are doing about 6-10 seconds. And our careful analysis shows that the quality is the same. Altiverb
brings sampled acoustics reverb to any Digital Performer user’s desktop at fraction of the cost of these expensive units.”

Altiverb provides mono-to-mono, mono-to-stereo, stereo-to-stereo, mono-to-quad, and stereo-to-quad effects, making it ideal for surround reverb and ambience applications. All processing is done in real time, and two modes are offered: zero-latency mode (with shorter decay times) and long decay mode.

An Altiverb preset is called an 'impulse response', which is created by firing a starter pistol or by playing a sine wave sweep from a speaker in an auditorium, church, or other acoustic space. The resulting reverberation decay is recorded as a digital audio file. Using a process called deconvolution, the dry source signal is then extracted from the audio file, leaving behind the exact acoustic fingerprint of the space. The impulse response file is then placed in a folder, where it appears as a preset inside the Altiverb plug-in, where it can then be applied to any audio signal as real-time reverb. The result is a true reproduction of the sound of the acoustic space. Unlike reverb's of the past, which attempt to synthesize decay characteristics, Altiverb captures the actual acoustics of a particular environment.

Altiverb includes the Impulse Response Pre-Processor software, which allows users to sample any acoustic space, hardware reverb, or other source to create their own Altiverb presets. In addition, users can take photographs of the place they are acoustically sampling, and place JPG images in the same folder. Altiverb then displays the JPGs as a slideshow when the preset is chosen in the plug-in. In addition, these pictures can show mic positions and other details of the sampled space.

Altiverb is expected to ship Q2 of 2001. Price is yet to be announced.

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Audio Ease is a leading developer of audio software, including the award-winning BarbaBatch™ audio batch processing application.

MOTU is a leading developer of computer based music and audio recording software and hardware peripherals.

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