

Competitive comparison chart

Feature	Cubase Essential 5	Sonar Home Studio 7	Logic Express 8	ProTools M-Powered 8
Supported platforms	Windows XP, Vista (32-Bit), OS X (Universal)	Windows XP, Vista (32 / 64-bit)	OS X (Universal)	Windows XP, Vista (32-bit), OS X (Universal)
Audio tracks	64	64	255	48
MIDI tracks	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	256
Virtual instruments	Unlimited	Unlimited	255	n/a
Plug-in formats	VST2, VST3	VST2, DirectX	AU only	RTAS only
Real-time audio plug-ins	33	11	73	39
Real-time MIDI plug-ins	18	8	0	0
Virtual instruments	2	5	36	8
Media file database management system	Powerful media file management system known as MediaBay (central place for browsing, searching, managing and categorizing any types of media file)	Loop browser only	Small loop browser (AppleLoops) and small file explorer	Optional DigiBase
Sound management	New instrument tracks, track templates and VST3 categorization functions	Track templates	Channel presets without attributes and search only	Basic
Real-time time-stretching and pitch-shifting	Yes, extended AudioWarp (real-time transpose with formant preservation)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Global transpose track	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Real-time pitch correction	Yes, with PitchCorrect plug-in	No	No	No
Score Editor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MusicXML	Yes	No	No	No
Arranger Track for pattern style arranging	Yes, including new live performance options	No	No	No
Beat Designer (specialized realtimed drum step sequencer)	Yes	No	No	No
Freeze function for CPU saving	Yes, extended Freeze function for CPU preservation (VSTi and audio channels) and instrument freeze with or without effects	Yes, Freeze function for tracks, FXs and synths	For tracks only	No
Full latency compensation, including external instruments and effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Extensive time code and sync features	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
User-configurable toolbar, Track Inspector, track controls & transport bar	Yes	Yes	Basic functions only	Basic functions only
Supported audio hardware	Windows DirectMusic, WDM, ASIO, or OS X CoreAudio	Windows ASIO / WDM	OS X CoreAudio	PC / OS X M-Audio hardware only
Free MP3 encoder	Available as upgrade	Available as upgrade	No	No
Price (US retail excl. tax)	\$ 149.00	\$ 139.00	\$ 199.00	\$ 299.00