

Cubase System|2

New Product Guide
May 2004



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Tagline

“Integrated Software/Hardware Music System”

Positioning Statement

“Based on the excellent success of the Steinberg Studio Case, Cubase System|2 is Steinberg’s complete software and hardware solution for anyone looking for a complete music production system that works right out of the box without additional hardware. The combination of Cubase SE sequencing software, a complete Virtual Instrument Collection and the easy-to-use MI2 USB Audio/MIDI interface offers perfect integration at an exceptionally low price.”

Product Summary

Cubase System|2 combines Cubase SE, a powerful music software workstation with five great-sounding virtual instruments and an easy-to-use USB Audio/MIDI interface. ^[25]

Cubase System|2 combines a powerful music software workstation (Cubase SE) with five virtual instruments (The Grand SE, D’Cota SE, Virtual Guitarist EE SE, Groove Agent SE, HALion SE) and an easy-to-use USB Audio/MIDI interface. It’s the perfect integrated solution for anyone interested in making music with a computer. ^[50]

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Top Selling Points

- Includes all software and hardware necessary to turn a PC or Mac into a powerful music studio
- Included MI2 USB Audio/MIDI interface offers independent monitor and headphone volume controls and latency-free hardware direct monitoring
- MI2 interfaces with a multitude of sources, such as guitars, basses, dynamic or self-powered microphones, electronic keyboards and synthesizers, mixers and preamps
- Up to 24-bit/96 kHz professional audio quality
- Cubase SE offers the same advanced user interface and functionality as Cubase SL/SX and is fully upwards compatible
- Includes full set of audio and midi effects plugins

- Virtual Instrument Collection covers all aspects of music production
- Contains over 700MB of sounds
- All VST Instruments are custom designed and fully compatible with any VSTi host application
- All software components are fully upgradeable
- Just like all Steinberg music workstation and VST products, Cubase System|2 is a Macintosh and PC cross-platform product

Key Features: Cubase SE

- Up to 48 audio tracks and unlimited MIDI tracks
- Supports up to 8 simultaneous audio inputs and outputs
- Audio recording with professional 24-bit and 96 kHz resolution
- Fully compatible with any VST instrument or effects plug-in
- Powerful key editor
- Audio editor with hit-point detection
- VST SystemLink and ReWire compatible
- Supports up to 16 simultaneous virtual instruments
- 5 inserts and 8 send effects per channel
- Cubase SE offers the same advanced user interface and functionality as Cubase SL/SX and is fully upwards compatible

Key Features: MI2 Media Interface

- 2 channel audio I/O and 16 channel MIDI I/O
- self-powered USB 1.1 interface (USB 2.0 compatible)
- balanced stereo audio inputs and outputs (on TRS ¼" jacks)
- compatible with dynamic and self-powered condenser or tube microphones
- additional Hi-Z instrument front-panel input for guitar, bass etc.
- over 60dB adjustable gain with -20 dB pad
- hardware direct monitoring with direct signal mix control
- separate controls for headphone and main volume
- up to 24-bit and 96 kHz operation¹
- solid heavy duty metal case

¹ High sample-rate modes are not fully supported by every host or OS platform

Cubase Versions Comparison

Feature	Cubase SE	Cubase SL	Cubase SX
Native audio - no additional DSP hardware required	x	x	x
Simultaneous playback of hundreds of audio tracks	48	x	x
Unlimited number of MIDI tracks	x	x	x
Physical Inputs/Outputs	8	128	256
Inserts	5	5	8
Group channels	8	128	256
FX channels	8	8	64
VST Instrument Slots	16	16	64
MIDI insert plugins	2	4	4
Rewire 2 support	x	x	x
Adaptive and configurable track mixer	o	o	x
Number of mixer views	1	2	3
Extended Mixer view	o	o	x
Automation modes	touch fader	touch fader	touch fader, x-over, autlatch, trim, overwrite
New VST 2.3 audio engine	o	x	x
Surround: True multichannel audio path	o	o	x
24-bit/96 kHz audio resolution	x	x	x
32-bit floating point audio resolution	o	x	x
Unlimited Undo and Redo functions	1	x	x
Offline Process History	single undo	for built-in audio processes	for built-in audioprocesses and all plug-ins
VST System Link	x	x	x
New Look & Feel	o	x	x
Configurable Toolbar & Track Controls	o	x	x
VST Connections Window	o	x	x
User-Definable window layouts	o	x	x
Project Browser	o	x	x
FX Return Channels	o	x	x
Video Thumbnail track and preview	x	x	x
Recording Modes: Mix, Overwrite, Normal, Merge, Stacked	excl. stacked	x	x
Editors: Key, Drum, List, SysEx, Score	x	x	x
Logical Editor	o	x	x
Audio/Tempo analysis and Audio/Groove analysis	x	x	x
Slice & Stretch for audio loops, automatic tempo matching	x	x	x
Professional Score layout and printing functions	o	o	x
Improved handling of multiple parts (audio and MIDI)	o	x	x
Musical Timebase	x	x	x
Linear Timebase	o	x	x
Soft Quantize	x	x	x
Time Warp Tool	o	x	x
Spectral Analysis	o	o	x
Statistics functions	o	o	x
Pitch Shifting/Time Stretching algorithm	3 modes	3 modes	3 modes plus MPEX
Dithering	Apogee UV22	Apogee UV22	Apogee UV22/UV22HR
User-definable macros	o	x	x
Pool import/export	o	x	x
Cubase VST 5.x song import	x	x	x
Freeze for VST Instruments	o	x	x
Hardware Controller Support	Houston, Generic + Tascam US-428/224 only	x	x
Supports LTB for high-precision MIDI Timing (w/ Midex 8)	x	x	x
MTC/MMC support	send MIDI clock only	x	x
CD audio grabbing	x	x	x
Full MP3 Fraunhofer Encoding	available as update	available as update	x
Windows Media WMA Pro surround encoding	o	o	x
A1, LM7, VB1 VST instruments included	x (no A1)	x	x
Monologue, Embracer and Tonic plug-ins included	o	o	x

Target Customers

>> Music Beginner

Anyone interested in making music will find a perfect place to start in Cubase System|2. This package is easy to install and doesn't require any additional investments other than the computer itself, which in many cases is already available. Steinberg is the only software/hardware company able to provide such integrated solutions in this price range. Instead of combining products which may not been tested or approved for compatibility, Cubase System|2 works right out of the box, which is a must for every first-time buyer.

>> Home Recording Musician

Many home-recording musicians using hardware equipment like PortaStudios or VS-880s are looking for ways to include a computer into their system and ultimately replace some of the hardware with software. Cubase System|2 is a one-step solution offering software alternatives to many or most existing hardware components, thus making this step an easy transition. Plus: outboard gear like mixers or microphones and instruments can still be used.

>> Guitar/Bass Player, Singer, Drummer

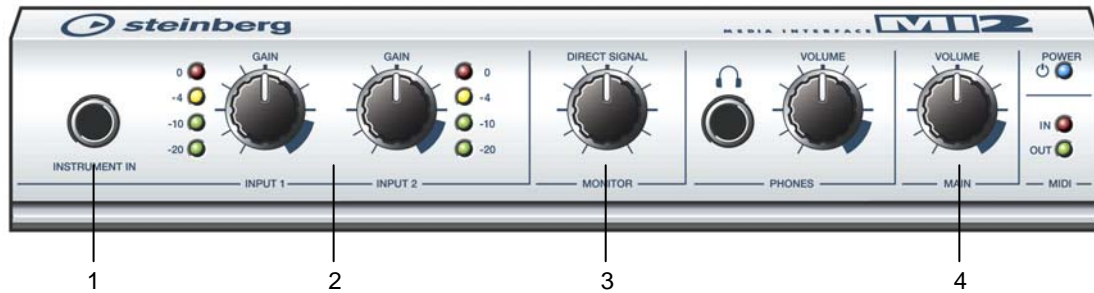
Cubase System|2 is made with all musicians in mind. A lot of non-keyboard players would like to expand their creative horizons. Any instrument player or singer can now add computer-based audio and midi recording to their arsenal for writing, arranging and producing tracks which can later be imported into Cubase SX or SL systems. Just plug a guitar or bass into the MI2 instrument input and record directly into Cubase SE. It can't get any easier.

>> Student/Teacher

Cubase System|2 is perfectly suited for educational use. Instead of buying individual products at a much higher price, this all-in-one package includes everything needed for music lessons. The featured VST-Instruments cover a wide range of musical styles. Cubase SE offers all basic recording, editing and mixing tools found in Cubase SX/SL, and the MI2 is a perfect high-quality and easy-to-use interface for both audio and MIDI.

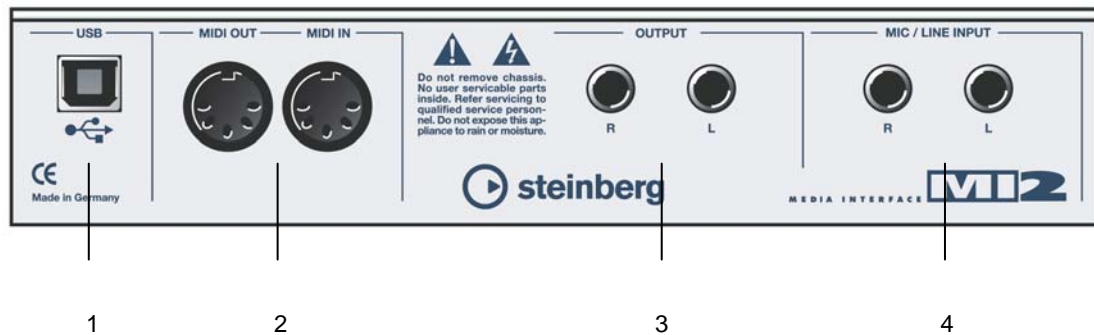
Special educational pricing is available for software upgrades from Cubase System|2 to Cubase SL or Cubase SX.

Product Facts – MI2 Media Interface



>> Front Panel View

1. Hi-Z instrument input for guitar, bass, etc.
2. Gain Controls and 4-stage Level Meters for left and right inputs
3. Direct Signal knob controls direct input + playback signal mix
4. Independent headphone and main volume controls for convenient control room and record monitoring



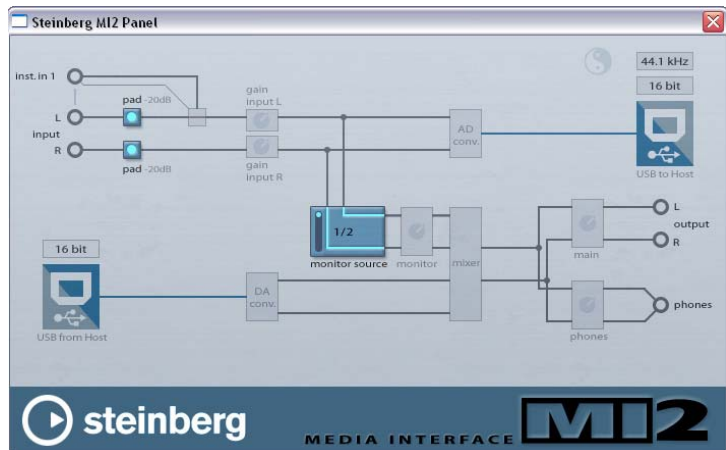
>> Rear Panel View

1. USB bus-powered (no extra power supply necessary)
2. Independent MIDI Interface for connecting MIDI keyboards or remote controllers
3. Main Outputs – also control room outputs in a desktop recording studio
4. Stereo (or dual-mono) inputs for a multitude of compatible sources (instruments, dynamic or self-powered condenser and tube microphones, mixers, etc.)

Control Panel

The setup control panel offers access to additional MI2 specific setup parameters and signal routing functions. Instead of an abstract alphanumeric parameter box, the MI2 comes with a comprehensive setup window with graphical user interface. When a source is plugged into the front panel instrument input, it becomes automatically selected.

All MI2 settings are saved within the unit and can be instantly recalled and edited, even when switching computers, for instance between a desktop and a mobile system.



Setup Panel Parameters:

Input 1+2 pad	Sets a -20 dB pad for inputs 1+2
Monitor source	Selects the input source for direct monitoring (1/2, 1/1, or OFF)

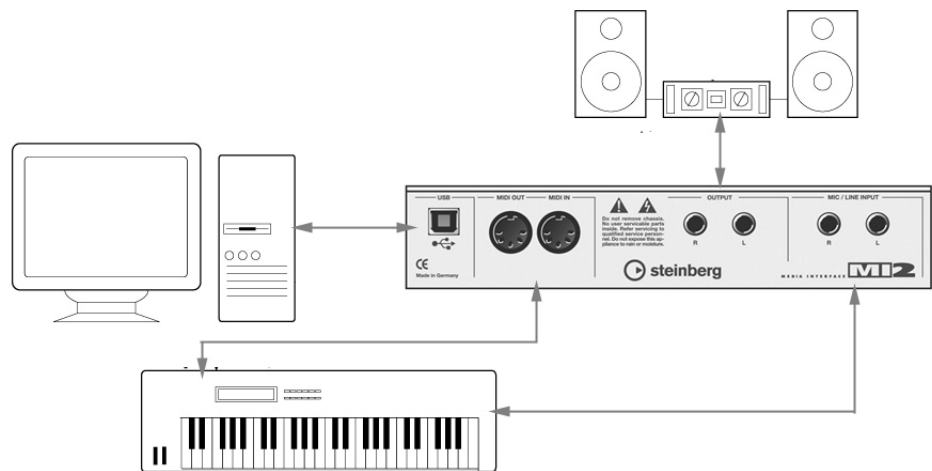
Setup Examples

Home-Recording Studio (no mixer)

Cubase System|2 works perfectly as an all-in-one home-recording studio solution. It offers everything needed in a small studio – without compromising sound quality or system performance. Combined with a suitable host computer (PC or Mac), it's the heart of a modern music creation and production system.

With the MI2's comprehensive control room monitoring section (individual headphone and main volume controls, as well as integrated direct monitoring mixer), there is no need for an external mixer, if mainly virtual instruments are being used and mixing is done entirely with the VST mixer of Cubase SE.

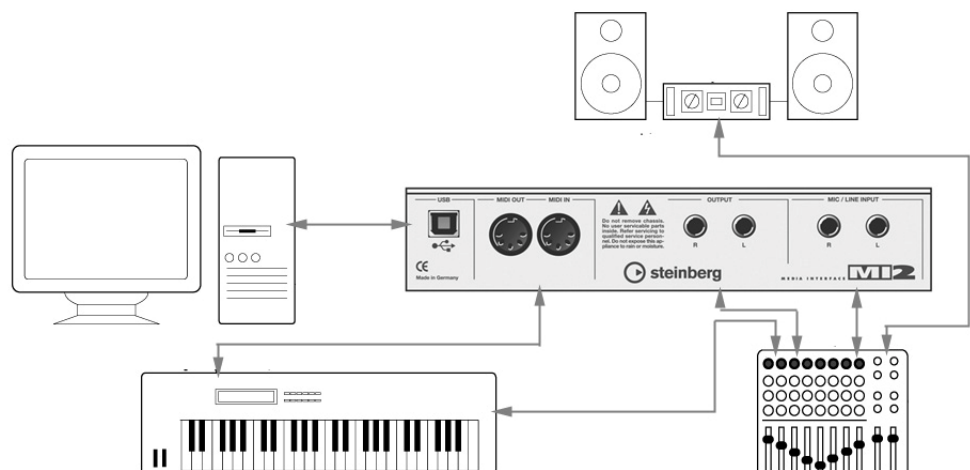
A basic setup looks like this (additionally, a guitar or bass can be hooked up via the front-panel instrument input):



Home-Recording Studio (with mixer)

When more than one external instrument or more than two microphones are used, an external analog mixer is recommended. In this setup, the MI2 inputs are fed with an auxiliary send signal coming from the mixer and the MI2 outputs are connected to separate input channels.

In this setup control room monitors and headphones should be connected to the mixer.



Virtual Instrument Collection: Facts/Comparison

(Numbers in brackets indicate specification of full version product)



Virtual Guitarist EE SE / Virtual Guitarist Electric Edition

- 6 players (29)
- 4 parts per player (8)
- 5 chords per set (15)
- no half/double time
- no fx board



Groove Agent SE / Groove Agent

- 11 styles w/ 13 complexity levels (54/25)
- 53 sound groups (156)
- stereo out (4 x 2)
- no MIDI part export
- no snapshot memory



The Grand SE / The Grand

- 90MB piano sample, single layer w/ four presets
- RAM-based sample-playback, no streaming
- 16-note polyphony (64)



D'cota SE / D'cota

- analog modelling synthesis only w/ 13 waveforms (64)
- FM synthesis, ring modulation
- stereo outputs (4 x 2)
- not multitimbral (8 parts)
- limited effects
- 16-voice polyphony (128)
- three filter types (8)



HALion SE / HALion 2.0

- 4 MIDI channels (16)
- 32 programs in RAM (128)
- hard disk streaming support, Waldorf filters
- supports WAV, AIF, SF2, REX, LM4, LM4MkII formats
- Stereo output only (4 x 2, 4 x 1, and 5.1)

Key Features & Benefits

Feature	What it does	Benefit
Complete Turnkey System for entry level customers	Includes Audio/MIDI sequencing software, virtual instruments, effects and USB Audio/MIDI interface	Instead of purchasing individual components, Cubase System 2 includes everything needed to turn a computer into a powerful music production system. Software and hardware are working seamlessly and reliably together.
Five full-featured VSTi's included	Cubase System 2 includes a full set of five VST Instruments covering a wide range of sounds and musical styles.	It offers more variety of sounds and styles. With Groove Agent SE and Virtual Guitarist Electric Edition SE it is particularly simple to create stunning arrangements. HALion SE comes with a complete Producer's Library of high-quality sampled sounds.
All components fully upgradeable	The SE instruments are special versions of some of the most successful VST instruments available today.	When upgrading to any or all of the standard-version instruments, the user can continue to use the SE versions of the instruments on any VST host application.
MI2 Audio/MIDI Interface included	Provides a high quality interface solution with low latency ASIO/CoreAudio driver support and 24-bit/96kHz converters	Many entry-level customers try to run their music software with consumer quality soundcards. Limitations are the limited fidelity and high latency (audio input/output delay). The MI2 provides a solid and reliable solution without the above problems.
Cross-platform and in-line compatibility	Cubase System 2 runs on both PCs and Macs – just like any other Steinberg VST Instrument or music workstation.	First-time buyers, especially music beginners will likely start on the PC but might later want to upgrade to a Mac. Cubase System 2 is an open solution. The customer can freely decide which platform he wants to use now or in the future.
Cubase SE: Same user interface as Cubase SX/SL	All products share the same intuitive user interface.	Cubase is the world's leading music workstation software. Anyone who learns Cubase through Cubase System 2 will be able to work on any other version of Cubase.
MI2: integrated MIDI Interface	The MI2 offers 16 channels of MIDI In and Out	Connect a MIDI keyboard to play/record VST instruments, or connect a hardware remote controller. Send MIDI to external hardware instruments.
MI2: Direct Monitoring Mix Control	MIX knob adjusts balance between direct and computer playback signals for zero latency monitoring	Monitor input sources directly and latency-free without going through the computer. Perfect for timing-critical applications when even the slightest delay compromises the performance.
MI2: Hi-Z instrument input	Additional front panel line-level input	Allows you conveniently to connect a guitar, bass or any other instrument.
MI2: Separate headphones and main volume controls	Individually controls for headphone volume and main output/monitor volume.	Separate controls for headphones and studio monitors. This way, convenient monitoring is possible even without a mixer being present.
MI2: 100% bus-powered	No additional power supply required to run the MI2 interface	Makes the system independent from additional external power. Great for mobile recording.
Attractive low price	Cubase System 2 sells for only €399,00	Cubase System 2 offers a value for money that is hard to beat. It costs less than many sequencers which don't come with matching hardware I/O and lack this variety of sound generators and effects.