

Competitive Comparison

Feature	Cubase Essential 4	Sonar Home Studio 6 XL	Ableton Live 6 LE	FL Studio Producer Edition	ProTools LE / M-Powered 7.4
Supported Platforms	Win (32 + 64-bit native) OSX (Universal)	Win (32 + native 64-bit)	Win (32-bit) OSX (Universal)	Win (32-bit)	Win (32-bit) OSX (Universal)
Audio Tracks	64	64	64	99	32
MIDI Tracks	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited, pattern- style only	256
Virtual Instruments	Unlimited (via VSTi Rack and Instrument Tracks)	Unlimited (via Synth Rack)	8 Ableton Instruments / 2 VST/AU Instruments	Unlimited (via Channel Window)	RTAS only, via Instruments Tracks
Simultaneous Rec/Play Channels	32	n.a.	2	64	Unlimited (depends on CPU and HW)
Supported Plug In Formats	VST 2 and 3	VST 2 and DX	VST 2 and AU	VST 2 and DX	RTAS
Included Plug-ins:					
Realtime Audio Plug-ins	31	15	23	42	30
Offline Audio Plug-ins	13	4	-	6	
Realtime Midi Plug-ins	13	7	7	2	0
Virtual Instruments	1	6	2	> 10	1
TOTAL	58	32	32	> 60	31
Media file database management system	Powerful media file management system known as MediaBay. The central place for browsing, searching, managing and categorizing any type of media files.	Small Loop Browser only	File System Browser only	File System Browser only	Optional DigiBase required (\$ 1.295 for DV Toolkit 2)
Sound Management	New Instrument Tracks, Track Templates, and VST3 categorization functions	Yes with a Track Preset System	Yes, but only Plug-in Presets (Instrument and FX)	Yes	No
Realtime time stretching and pitch shifting with formant correction	Yes, extended AudioWarp	Realtime time stretching but without formant correction	Yes	No	Yes, new "Elastic Time"
Score Editor	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Arranger Track for pattern style arranging	Yes, including new live performance options	No	An own pattern mode	An own pattern ability	No
Freeze function	yes, extended Freeze function for CPU preservation (VSTi and audio channels) and Instrument freeze with or without effects	Yes	No	No	No
Full latency compensation, including external instruments and effects	Yes	No	No	Yes, but manual	No
Extensive Timecode and Sync features	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
User-Configurable Toolbar, Track Inspector, Track Controls & Transport bar	Multiple new possibilities for the user to customize the client, like the fully customizable Track Inspector and Channel Strip window.	Yes	Yes	No	No
Supported Hardware	Any Windows DirectMusic, ASIO or OSX CoreAudio hardware	Windows ASIO/WDM only	Any Windows DirectMusic, ASIO or OSX CoreAudio hardware	Windows ASIO/WDM only	M-Audio/Digidesign hardware only! Windows ASIO or OSX CoreAudio
Comments	Vista64 compatible 32-bit application, compatible with OSX 10.5 "Leopard"	Special prices on Sonar Home Studio (standard)			Vista supported; no OSX 10.5 "Leopard" support. Special prices on M-Audio HW bundles