

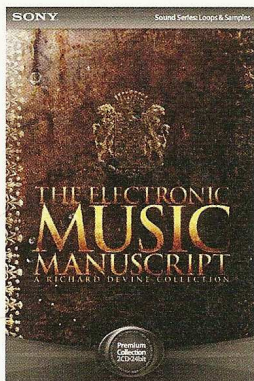
SONAR 7 POWER! TUTORIAL GUIDE

Cakewalk's Sonar has grown from a straightforward editor into a complex megasuite of composing, recording, and mixing tools, rocking everything from primitive drum loops up to full-fledged surround-sound mixes in v.7. The included manual will get you started, but this massive suite begs an exhaustive, reference-shelf-quality tome, and Course Technology's **Sonar 7 Power!** delivers the goods on every nook and cranny of every menu in the program. Scott Garrigus' clearly written tutorials lean on easy-to-follow bullet-point charts and copious screencaps, building a logical progression that will bring you from n00b to mixmaster with ease. Sure, there are online tutorials available, but how else can you learn how to rock the subtleties of the V-Vocal voice processor from the comfort of the couch? *Rob Geary*
MSRP: \$39.99; courseptr.com



BLUE SNOWFLAKE USB MICROPHONE

When we record last-minute voice-overs for *XLR8R TV*, we're usually left plugging a lapel mic into a video camera or some other similarly complex process involving too many cords and wireless devices. Not any more. When we first checked out the Snowflake at NAMM this January, we were immediately smitten with its compact form and ease of use. It folds away into a tiny little unit, and expands (into its own enclosed micstand) in less than a second for super-easy plug-and-play action. Sure it's no \$1000 Shure mic, but for simple .wav recording or podcasting, it more than does the trick. **And at \$60, it's the kind of thing we can't justify not having around the office.** *Ken Taylor*
MSRP: \$59; bluemic.com



RICHARD DEVINE: THE ELECTRONIC MANUSCRIPT SAMPLE COLLECTION

Richard Devine is everywhere these days—doing sound design for mega-hit videogames, producing brain-assaulting records, and, most recently, getting busy on this rather pretentiously titled sample collection. It's a two-CD, 24-bit royalty-free package, and **full of all the sorts of glitchy insanity you'd expect.** There's plenty here to work with, including (mostly non-) drum loops, lush synth sounds, atmospheric noises, and single hits—and the quality is superb. It's not all hard on the ears; some of the samples are actually quite melodic, and a pretty versatile fit in terms of musical styles. Like the other titles in Sony's Premium Collection, the set is also extremely well produced—the packaging and liner notes are all top-notch, and include videos of the elaborate recording process. *Evan Shamoan*
MSRP: \$99; sonycreativesoftware.com



HELIO MYSTO MULTIMEDIA DEVICE

Helio's new Mysto device is a slightly slimmer, lighter version of their past slider handsets. Its smooth sliding mechanism and screen design are pretty flashy, but I immediately discovered its almost out-of-control sensitivity when it came to the control surface. No sooner had I started up the camera function and the unit was clicking away (simply because I was trying to get a better grip on the phone itself). Trying to exit the function seemed impossibly unintuitive, and I practically had to power the phone down before I could get it back to call mode. Once there, calls were simple to dial (and sounded clear enough), but with no easy way to hang up (the screen went black and there's no obvious "end call" button), I was left holding the phone—literally. And I won't even get started on the "GPS" function. **Thumbs up on the design, but thumbs down on this user interface.** *Derek Grey*
MSRP: \$99 (with Sprint plan); helio.com