

# M-AUDIO PROSESSIONS PREMIUM INSTRUMENTS



We recently enjoyed trying out three of M-Audio's ProSessions Premium Instruments multi-sampled instrument libraries, created in conjunction with Sonic Implants and Sonic Reality. All titles come in EXS24, HALion, Reason NN-XT, MachFive and Kontakt formats. We tested ours under Steinberg's HALion Player 3.1.

Premium Grand Piano is built on a sampled Yamaha C7, one of the most popular acoustic pianos of all time. This was my favorite of the three titles we tried in terms of both sonic realism and "playability." Premium Grand Piano has a pleasingly bright sound that's well suited for many of today's musical styles.

Premium Studio Drums is a convincing set of samples from a well-tuned set of Yamaha Custom Drums, a mainstay of rock music for several decades. A full kit, as well as sticks and rods, are represented. The kit's realism is enhanced by up to six velocity layers of various drums and cymbals.

Premium Acoustic Guitar offers carefully recorded samples of a Larrivée steel-string. I'm admittedly not a sampled guitar fan and found that of the three, this instrument required the most tweaking to sound convincing. However, what it may lack in realistic string attack when driven from a keyboard, for example, it makes up for in instrument-specific playability options. By adding its fretboard slides, string squeaks, body taps and harmonics, you can get pretty close to the real thing. —Fett

**IN A NUTSHELL:** If you're looking for a set of affordable, single-instrument titles to start or augment your virtual instrument collection, M-Audio's ProSessions Premium Instruments are worthy of consideration.

**STREET PRICE:** about \$80 per title.

A S E E N I N :

## Performing Songwriter



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—Performing Songwriter

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Be Heard.