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Visit the digital edition of this issue at bpmmagazine.net to view video on DaScratch.

Stanton DaScratch

Multi-Deck, USB Touch-Sensitive Controller with a "Magnetic" Personality

ONCE IN AWHILE YOU GET THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE looking at a product that will inspire DJs, VJs, artists and producers to interact with their software from a fresh perspective. DaScratch from Stanton is definitely giving off that type of vibe. With a footprint the size of a paperback book, DaScratch is a new touch-sensitive DJ controller that interfaces with your choice of DAW, VJ or DJ software such as Ableton Live, Serato and Traktor in multiple, customizable, creative and interesting ways.

Six main control modes are defined by buttons placed top and center that change the way the main circular and linear touch-sensitive pad responds to your fingers. By selecting FX mode, the pad turns into three virtual, and glowing, LED sliders that can be used to control anything from FX sends to assignable controls mapped within your software. You can touch points on a slider to jump values and simulate FX on/off or gradually drag your finger up and down to increase send volumes. You can also draw a curve by sliding your finger across all three slider zones. The EQ mode also enables the same trio of LED-defined sliders but reflects a "zero" position in the center of the sliders, visually mimicking traditional EQ controls for bass, mids and his.

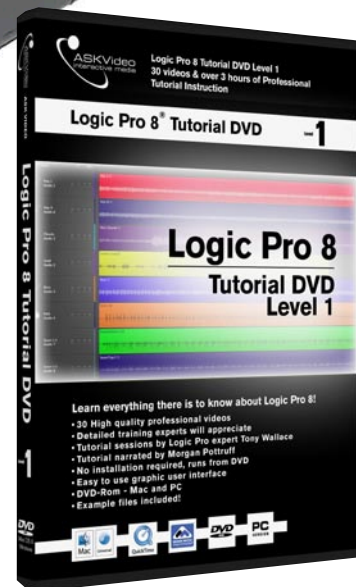
Loop mode and Trig (Trigger) mode changes the circular pad into 11 assignable zones that can be used to trigger loops, samples and other sound sources. You could also assign each zone to a MIDI note and use the triggers to play a virtual instrument. Stanton provides templates for your favorite software although sliders, EQ faders and zones are customizable through DaRouter MIDI mapping

software. Functionality is truly left up to the user.

Vinyl mode enables the circular pad to function as a virtual turntable. By running your finger along the rim of the pad, the outer LEDs track your movement, providing visual feedback, enabling features such as scrubbing, jog, scroll and cue location. The inner section of the circular pad becomes active by moving your finger up and down the center and has a finer resolution ideal for scratching, complete with LED feedback.

The vertical pads, located top-left and top-right, are used for volume and pitch control. They remain engaged to their perspective task regardless of the selected mode and feature fine resolution over long moves to enable accurate pitch control. Transport controls at the bottom also remain engaged regardless of mode and the unit adds four additional buttons/triggers around the circular pad for your choice of assignment.

By toggling the Deck mode you can actually control two separate virtual decks and all settings for sliders, EQs and faders are instantly recalled and graphically displayed by the LEDs. My favorite feature is the magnetic sides of the unit that allows two or more units to be magnetically joined together, making a larger control surface. Four units linked together give you control over eight virtual decks, or you can completely customize the units and their modes/surfaces for your needs. Whut Whut?! DaScratch is \$299 and kicks ass. Raise it over your head, touch it, and show people how it's done! stantondj.com



▲ ASKVIDEO - LOGIC PRO 8 BEGINNERS VIDEO

What's that button for?

Curious about Apple's Logic Pro 8 but don't know where to start? Check out this new beginner's video from Tony Wallace that includes everything from basic setup to editing and looping regions. Logic Pro 8 Level 1 contains over three-and-a-half hours of high quality video, divided into 30 chapters in an easy-to-follow user interface.

Beginning chapters provide a tour through the program's layout. The middle chapters focus on recording MIDI and audio before moving on to editing, looping, and arranging in the later chapters. Upon completion of the Level 1 DVD, users can continue on to intermediate concepts with Level 2 DVD videos.

The videos cost about 50 bucks and will play on your Mac DVD drive. Cough up the cash or start reading the 500-page Logic manual...your choice, supastar. askvideo.com