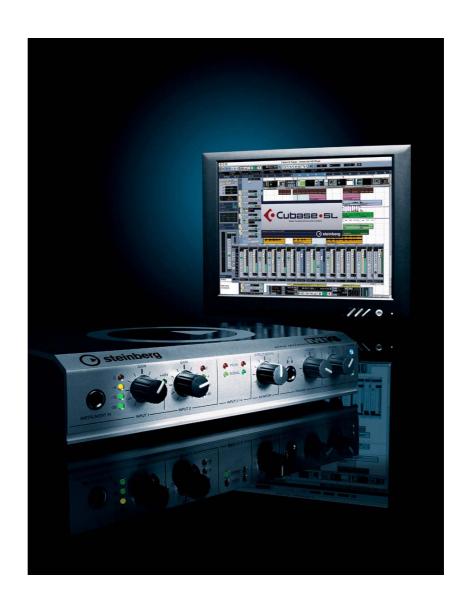# Cubase System|4

New Product Guide
December 2003

Introduction

With the launch of Cubase System|4, Steinberg enters a new era with the introduction of its first line of integrated hardware and software solutions. For the first time, Steinberg offers its successful software systems with all-new and exclusive hardware audio/midi interfaces.

This new product line will be known as:

steinberg media solutions

Over the years, there's always been a demand for Steinberg branded interface hardware. At the same time, dealers and distributors have successfully offered bundles of Steinberg software with 3rd party interface hardware. Although the audio interface market is crowded with products, most of these are either hardware-only or bundled with function-limited OEM software packages.

The concept of Steinberg Media Solutions is to offer complete systems of uncompromised high-quality hardware combined with full-functioned software. No limitations. No compromises: Systems, which a customer can really use - straight out of the box.

The initial lineup will consist of three products:

Cubase System|4: integrating a 4-channel USB audio / MIDI interface with Cubase SL. (€ 456.00, shipping February 2004)

Cubase System|2: combining a 2-channel USB audio / MIDI interface with Cubase SE and a set of special edition VSIs. (€ 344.00 tbc., shipping in March 2004)

Cubase System|10: featuring a 10-channel Firewire audio interface with MIDI and Cubase SL. (€ 603.00 tbc., shipping in Q2/2004)

More products in this line are planned.

Steinberg Media Solutions offer many advantages:

- Perfectly matched components with plug-and-play functionality – right out of the box. Hassle-free installation. Seamless integration.
- Convenient upgrade path (Cubase SE > Cubase SL > Cubase SX)
- One-step support: no more trouble with multiple service centers (software, hardware).
- Pro Quality: Steinberg hardware offers the same professional level of quality known from Steinberg software. Decades of experience in music technology went into the design of these powerful systems.

- **Made by Steinberg**: the leading provider of music software!

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New Product Guide

Cubase System|4

Tagline	*"Integrated Software & Hardware Music System"*
Positioning Statement	*"Cubase System|4 is the all-in-one system solution for professional quality music production and audio editing."*

Product Summary

Cubase System|4 is Steinberg's first integrated music production system, featuring MI4, a powerful and versatile 4 I/O USB Audio and 16-channel MIDI interface, and Steinberg's world-class sequencer Cubase SL. Designed as a cross platform music production and audio editing solution, it's one of the most feature-rich systems of its kind, setting a new standard for USB audio hardware and software integration.

MI4 feature highlights include (main bullets only):

- 4 audio I/O high-quality 24-bit/96 kHz USB Interface
- 2 professional quality microphone preamps
- 16 channel MIDI I/O
- S/PDIF stereo I/O

Cubase SL feature highlights include (main bullets only):

- Unlimited number of MIDI and Audio Tracks
- New VST 2.3 audio engine with pristine 32-bit floating point audio
- Up to 16 virtual instrument slots (VSTi's)
- Includes complete Set of VST Audio and MIDI plug-ins

Key Features MI4 Media Interface

- 4 audio I/O design, USB 1.1 (USB 2.0 compatible)

- 2 professional quality microphone preamps with balanced XLR inputs and switchable phantom power per channel

- 2 additional balanced line inputs with 70dB gain for instruments or other line-level sources

- Hi-Z instrument front input for guitar/bass/etc.

- 2 inserts for outboard effects processing prior to A/D conversion (like Compressor/Limiters)

- High-quality 24-bit/96 kHz A/D and D/A converters

- Direct signal mix control for zero latency monitoring

- Headphone output with level control

- 2 analog main/monitor outputs with level control

- S/PDIF 2-channel I/O digital interface

- 16 channel MIDI I/O

- Solid brushed aluminum case, compact 9.5", 1U design

- 100% USB bus-powered (no additional power supply needed)

- 2 channel mode allows high-end 24-bit 96 kHz operation

- ASIO2, WDM and CoreAudio drivers included (Windows/MacOSX)

Key Features Cubase SL

- True native system – no additional DSP hardware required

- Unlimited number of MIDI and Audio Tracks (number of audio tracks depends on host performance)

- New VST 2.3 audio engine with pristine 32-bit floating point audio resolution and sampling rates up to 96kHz

- Flexible VST mixer with FX Return channels and powerful track automation

- Up to 16 virtual instrument slots (VSTi's) with Freeze function for each instrument (dramatically improves CPU performance)

- Powerful recording and editing features, including new stacked record mode for better handling of multiple takes within single tracks

- Simultaneous editing of multiple audio or MIDI parts

- Includes complete Set of VST Audio and MIDI plug-ins, compatible with hundreds of commercial, shareware or free VST plug-ins.

- Includes free Waldorf A1 virtual analog synthesizer

- Cross-platform compatible: supports Windows and Mac OSX

- Time-stretching, pitch-shifting and hitpoint detection for audio files

- Powerful Time Warp Tool for complex tempo track editing directly from within arrange or editor windows

- User-configurable tool bar and track controls

- Audio/Tempo analysis and audio/groove analysis

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Competitive Comparison

Feature	Cubase System|4	Tascam US-122	Digidesign M-Box	M-Audio Quattro USB
Number of Inputs	4	2	4	4
Number of Outputs	4	2	2	4
Mic Preamps	2	2	2	0
Balanced Line Inputs	2	2	2	4
Balanced Line Outputs	2	2	2	4
Audio Resolution	24-bit/96 kHz	24-bit/48 kHz	24-bit/48 kHz	24-bit/96 kHz
Digital I/O	S/PDIF in/out	S/PDIF in/out	S/PDIF in/out	no
MIDI I/O	MIDI in/out	MIDI in/out	no	yes
Phantom Power	yes	yes	yes	no
Hi-Z Guitar Input	yes	yes	yes	no
Direct Monitoring	yes	yes	yes	yes
Phones	1	1	1	no
Control/Main Volume	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bus-bowered	yes	yes	yes	no
Inserts	2	2	2	no
Drivers included				
Software included	Cubase SL 2.0	Cubasis VST4 OEM, Gigastudio 24	ProTools LE 6.1	Software Bundle incl. Live Delta, Sampletank LE, Arkaos VJ VMP, RT Player Express
Extras				2 add. Mic-Preamps with Omni I/O ($ 299.95)
Price (US retail)	$ 529.00	$ 299.00	$ 499.00	$ 299.00

Feature	Lexicon Omega	Mackie Spike	Logic Production Kit
Number of Inputs	4 (8)	2	6
Number of Outputs	2	2	2
Mic Preamps	2	2	0
Balanced Line Inputs	4	2	0
Balanced Line Outputs	2	2	0
Audio Resolution	24-bit/48 kHz	24-bit/96 kHz	24-bit/96 kHz
Digital I/O	S/PDIF in/out	no	S/PDIF*
MIDI I/O	MIDI in/out	MIDI in/out	MIDI in/out*
Phantom Power	yes	yes	no
Hi-Z Guitar Input	yes	yes	no
Direct Monitoring	yes	yes	yes
Phones	1	1	yes
Control/Main Volume	yes	yes	no
Bus-bowered	no	?	yes
Inserts	2	?	no
Drivers included	?	ASIO, WDM, CoreAudio	EASI, ASIO, CoreAudio
Software included	ProTracks Plus Sequencer, Lexicon Pantheon Reverb Plugin	Tracktion Sequencer, Nomad Factory Plugin	Logic Gold 6, EXSP24, EVP88, EVB3
Extras	features native Lexicon reverb plugin	features Sharc DSP for 2 channels of EQ and dynamics	* no simultaneous SPDIF and MIDI
Price (retail)	$529.00	$ 419.00	$ 699.00

Applications

>> Desktop Music Production

With its combination of fully-featured USB Audio/MIDI interface and music production software, Cubase System|4 is the perfect core system for desktop music production. It includes everything necessary to turn a PC or Mac into a professional music recording studio. Add a MIDI keyboard and a microphone, a pair of headphones or studio monitors, and you're ready to record, edit, mix and master music at professional 24-bit / 96 kHz audio resolution.

Cubase System|4 was designed with professional demands in mind. It features two high quality microphone preamps with switchable phantom power per input. With direct monitoring, individual volume controls for headphone and studio monitors, as well as inserts to connect analog compressor/limiters prior to A/D conversion, it eliminates the need for a dedicated mixing console. Instead, the integrated VST mixer of Cubase SL outperforms most of its hardware counterparts.

>> Mobile Recording

Many audio professionals have been waiting for an integrated mobile recording solution, which offers the power and flexibility of a fully integrated desktop recording system running on a laptop or notebook computer.

Enter Cubase System|4: The MI4 hardware is 100% USB-powered and delivers 48V phantom power – even on notebook computers. With direct monitoring and adjustable headphone and control room volume, Cubase System|4 is a completely integrated solution that doesn't require an additional hardware mixer or headphone preamp.

>> Audio Editing

Cubase System|4 is a fantastic solution for any small editing suite / workstation. The MI4 audio interface offers all necessary monitoring functions and can even serve as a recording interface for professional-quality dialog / voiceover recording. The combination with Cubase SL offers powerful editing and processing features, pro-quality plugins and full mixing automation capabilities.

In larger professional recording and production facilities, Cubase System|4 can serve as the integrated solution for client systems in larger computer networks.
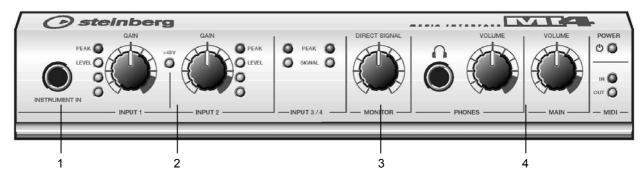
>> Audio for Video / Multimedia

Many ambitious hobbyists or semi-pro users are looking for a quality audio system that overcomes the limitation of standard computer soundcards. Cubase System|4 includes latest generation USB Audio (ASIO) drivers providing low latency and direct monitoring for trouble-free recording and editing audio for video.

Cubase SL offers video support with a scalable video window and thumbnail track. In addition, the Mac version offers full-screen video output via FireWire.
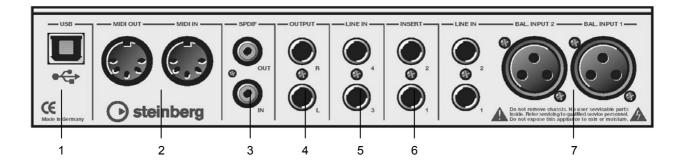
Product Facts – MI4 Media Interface

>> Front Panel View

1. Hi-Z instrument input for guitar, bass, etc.

2. Gain Controls and 4-stage Level Meters for input 1 and 2

3. Direct Signal knob controls direct input + playback signal mix

4. Independent headphone and main volume controls for convenient control room and record monitoring
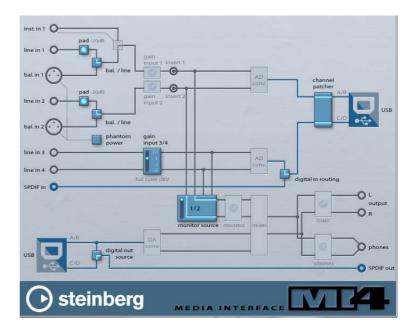

>> Rear Panel View

1. USB bus-powered (no extra power supply necessary)

2. Independent MIDI Interface for connecting MIDI keyboards or remote controllers

3. SPDIF Digital I/O with up to 24-bit/96 kHz

4. Main Outputs – also control room outputs in a desktop recording studio

5. Line Inputs 3+4 (with 4-stage level control via control panel software)

6. Insert jacks for separate analog processing of input 1 + 2 (e.g. compressor/limiters prior to A/D conversion)

7. High-quality balanced Neutrik XLR inputs for any type of microphone (dynamic, condenser, tube); incl. 48V phantom power

Control Panel

The setup control panel offers access to additional MI4 specific setup parameters and signal routing functions. Instead of an abstract alphanumeric parameter box, the MI4 comes with a comprehensive setup window with graphical user interface. Connections and dependencies are instantly visible and recognizable.

All MI4 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:

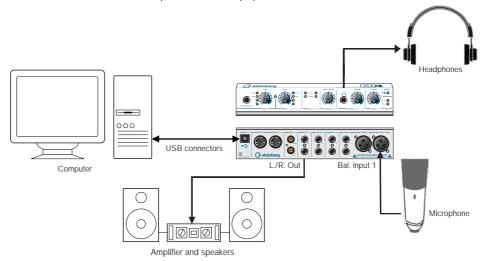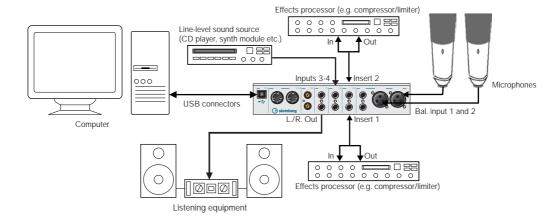|	
Input 1+2 source select	Toggles between XLR and line inputs
Input 1+2 pad	Sets a -20 dB pad for inputs 1+2
Input 1+2 phantom power	Activates 48V phantom power for the XLR inputs
Input 3+4 gain	Sets the input gain for inputs 3+4 in four stages
Channel 3+4 source	Switches between analog (3+4) and digital (SPDIF) input signals
Monitor source	Selects the input source for direct monitoring
Digital Out source	Switches the SPDIF output between 1+2 and 3+4
Wordclock Source (not in picture)	Switches wordclock between internal and external

Setup Examples

Desktop Homerecording Studio

The desktop homerecording studio is where Cubase System|4 really shines. 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.

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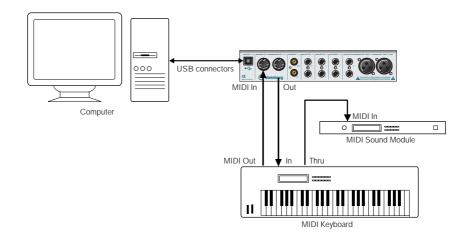

A more advanced system can include analog signal processors (like a compressor/limiter) connected to the insert jacks for channel 1+2. An extra sound source (synth modules, CD player, etc.) can be added to inputs 3+4.
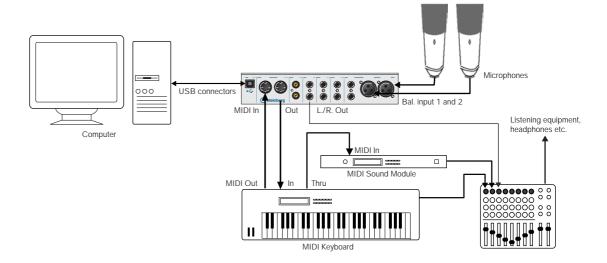
Basic MIDI Setup

For a basic MIDI Setup, the MIDI I/O connects a keyboard or hardware remote controller with the computer. Additional hardware MIDI modules should be connected to the MIDI keyboard's MIDI Thru jack.

Using external mixers

Although Cubase SL provides a powerful VST mixer, in some cases an external hardware mixer might be required in order to connect additional hardware sources. In that case, the audio output of the MI4 is connected to the inputs of the mixer, either analog or digital using the SPDIF port. The MI4 provides microphone preamps and optional phantom power, so a simple line level mixer would be sufficient in this setup.

Key Features & Benefits

Feature	What it does	Benefit
Four audio channels simultaneously	Gives you the ability to record and monitor up to four input signals simultaneously.	Record acoustic instruments in stereo, while monitoring a second stereo source (like a keyboard mixer). Record four line level sources at once.
Two studio-quality mic preamps	Allows you to use any microphone: dynamic, condenser, tube, with or without 48V phantom power.	No need for additional mic preamps, regardless of what type of microphone is to be used.
Inserts for Channels 1+2	Support for analog processing prior to A/D conversion	Effects like compressor/limiter can be used while recording - before A/D conversion. Critical for professional mic recording.
S/PDIF Interface	Two additional digital inputs and outputs.	a) Connect a CD Player, MD, DAT Recorder digitally for lossless 1:1 transfers. b) Insert an external effects processor digitally. c) Connect a channel strip with A/D digitally. d) Send output signal to a digital mixer. e) daisy-chain systems via VST System Link
MIDI Interface	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.
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.
Auto-mono switching	When only one input is used, this signal is placed in the center of the monitor bus	When recording – for example – a guitar or a monophonic microphone signal, this signal will appear in the center of your headphone monitor mix, instead of just one side.
Hi-Z instrument input	Additional front panel line-level input	Allows you conveniently to connect a guitar, bass or any other instrument.
Separate headphones and main volume controls	Individually controls for headphone volume and main output/monitor volume.	Separate controls for headphones and studio monitors
Intelligent clocking system	Add an external digital I/O device while still running the system on internal wordclock.	Insert an external effects processor digitally while still using the analog inputs and outputs for recording and monitoring.
100% bus-powered	No additional power supply required	Makes the system independent from additional external power. Great for mobile recording.
Integrated System	Comes with Cubase SL	This is a perfectly matched software/hardware solution - not a 3rd party OEM bundle with stripped down demo software. From now on, the name "Steinberg" stands for "Media Solutions", offering both software and hardware designed in-house.
Software locked to hardware	No fiddly dongle required	Steinberg's new audio interface also serves for copy protection. It protects a customer's investment and helps to prevent software piracy.

Marketing Support

- Cubase System|4 setup guide

- FAQ

- single-page 4c ad

- 2-page 4c Spec Sheet (for display stand)

- large 4c poster

- PowerPoint Sales Guide

- Director in-store presentation

- This product guide

Pricing/Dates

Cubase System|4
Suggested Retail Price: **€ 456.00 (**excl. VAT)

Updates / Upgrades:
Regular SL > SX upgrade paths will be made available.

Distributors should contact their respective Steinberg Regional Sales Manager for details regarding pricing structure and margins.

First Customer Shipments: Mid of February, 2004.

NO INFORMATION TO DEALERS/PRESS BEFORE:
JANUARY 15th, 2004. (Winter NAMM 2004)

System Requirements

Macintosh	Windows
Required:	**Required:**
Power Mac G4 867 MHz	Pentium / Athlon 800 MHz
384 MB RAM	384 MB RAM
OS X Version 10.2.5 or higher	Windows 2000, Windows XP Home and XP Professional
CoreAudio compatible audio hardware	Windows MME compatible audio hardware
USB component connector required	ASIO compatible sound card recommended
Display Resolution 1024 x 768 pixels	USB component connector required
The Cubase SL version included in Cubase System|4 requires the MI4 audio interface to be attached to the computer	Display Resolution 1024 x 768 pixels
	The Cubase SL version included in Cubase System|4 requires the MI4 audio interface to be attached to the computer
Recommended:	**Recommended:**
Power Mac G4 Dual 1.25 GHz or faster	Pentium / Athlon 1.4 GHz or faster
512 MB RAM	512 MB RAM
Display Resolution 1152 x 864 pixels, dual monitor setup	Display Resolution 1152 x 864 pixels, dual monitor setup