CI2
ADVANCED INTEGRATION USB STUDIO

Quick Start Guide

Start Making Music with CI2

Getting started with CI2 ———————— P5 - P22

Specification & Related Products ———————— P23 - P26

steinberg

CI2

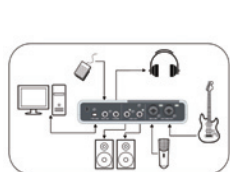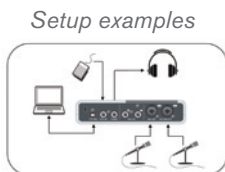CUBASE AI5 · AI · PC · Mac · Universal · ASIO · WDM · Core Audio
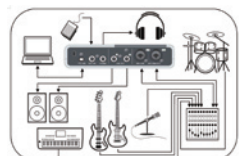
ADVANCED INTEGRATION USB STUDIO

An USB-powered audio interface and intuitive controller in a smart-sized package. Together with Cubase AI 5, this is an amazing mobile solution for recording and creating music.

Setup examples

Desktop home recording   Mobile stereo live recording   Mobile band live recording

Flexible stereo input

The CI2 has two XLR combo inputs equipped with two sophisticated microphone preamps and phantom power. This +48 V phantom power provides the capability to connect any condenser microphone, in addition to dynamic mics, of course, for recording vocals or instruments. Input 1 also features a switch that allows for direct guitar input and the optional Yamaha BMS-10A mic stand adapter lets you attach the CI2 to a microphone stand and adjust the CI2 to the position that suits you best.

![CUBASE AI 5]

Cubase AI 5 bundled

Cubase AI 5 is a special, compact version of Steinberg's famed music production software. Based on the same audio engine and technology as Cubase 5, Cubase AI 5 offers powerful yet easy-to-use tools for audio recording, editing, MIDI sequencing and mixing — exclusive to customers of selected Steinberg and Yamaha hardware.


Easy setup and "AI Ready" LED

CI2 features plug-and-play support. Once the software is installed and the hardware connected, Cubase (series ver. 5.1 required) detects and automatically embeds the CI2 into the Cubase production environment. Visual feedback is provided through the "AI Ready" LED. When it lights up, CI2 is ready to assume control.

One of the most innovative features of CI2 is the AI Knob, a "point and control" precision controller. When you move the mouse over the parameter, it is then automatically placed under full control by the AI Knob. The parameter can be locked to the AI Knob to retain control when the mouse is moved elsewhere onscreen. The AI Knob of the CI2 controls all Cubase mixing parameters plus VST3 and VST2 plug-ins. CI2's AI Knob has push function for an even wider range of control – preset selection and browsing in the blink of an eye.

Cubase AI 5's New VST3 effect plug-in "AmpSimulator"

AI Knob
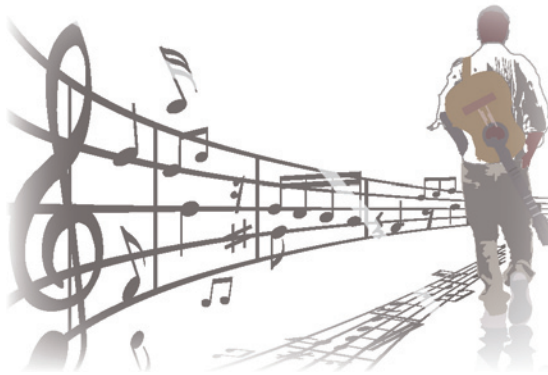
USB-powered

CI2 is fully powered by your computer's USB port. Simply connect CI2 to an USB port (preferably on the computer itself and not a peripheral like an USB keyboard) and there's sufficient power to connect two professional +48 V condenser microphones.

Project Assistant

The Project Assistant provides a wealth of ready-made templates for different styles and scopes like recording, mixing and mastering. The templates contain the number of tracks, instrumentation, and channel inserts — tailored to your particular needs. Start up Cubase AI 5, hit the AI Knob and scroll the list of provided templates. Pressing the AI Knob again creates the new project and sets everything up for you automatically.

Browse

CI2 is integrated with the Browse function of Cubase and helps you in many ways through the entire project. With the AI Knob and the Action Pad of the CI2, you are able to preview and select various presets for tracks, instruments and effects without touching your mouse.
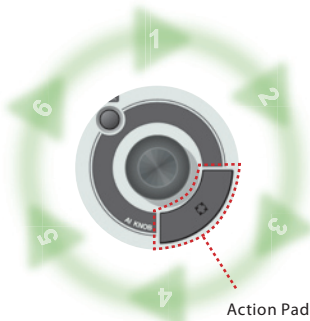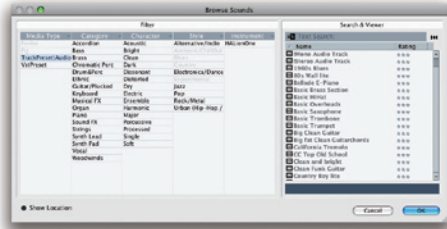
Action Pad

Interactive Recording

Up to six transport sequences, such as Start, Record, Stop, Return to Start Position etc., can be triggered with the Action Pad on the CI2 console or via a connected Yamaha FC5 footswitch (not included with CI2). This lets you control Cubase AI 5 with one finger, or hands free with the optional FC5, while playing an instrument. The transport sequences can be chosen from a list of templates or freely customized. This Interactive Recording functionality provides freedom of movement and doesn't get in the way of your creative flow.

There are many devices that claim: *"Easily record your guitar using your computer!"* and *"Make your own CD with your PC!"* and though it's true that music production on the computer has finally come of age, often the learning curve is very high and the tools are not well integrated. Here you'll find step-by-step instructions for you to start recording awesome guitar tracks, that will not only make your songs sound great, but hopefully will inspire you to create more music!

🔴 Things you should know first...

Shocking fact: personal computers are not really designed to make music! Primarily designed for business use, many boast 'multimedia' features although they deliver poor quality.
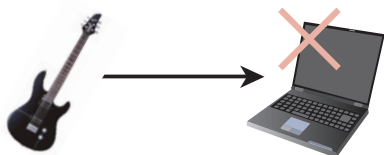
A PC does not have a guitar input and audio performance is poor if you connect a guitar directly.

🔴 Two required items to turn your computer into a recording studio

▪ **Audio interface**
▪ **DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) software**

🔴 What is an "audio interface"?

The notion of adding specialized software to a computer is likely familiar to many, but what exactly is an Audio Interface and why is it needed? Well, just like using a scanner to capture images and get them into your computer as data, audio information captured by microphones and from instruments must also be transformed to digital information by specific hardware. This hardware is known as an Audio Interface.
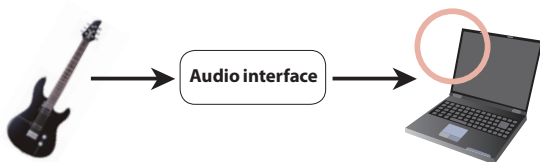
Audio interface

🔴 CI2: Guitar player-friendly audio interface

There is a bewildering array of audio interfaces available today. However, if you play guitar, you likely don't want to radically change how you interact with your gear. This narrows down your choices in recording equipment dramatically! We're guessing that you'd like to:

- **Use your gear in a familiar way (guitar amp, effect pedals etc)**
- **Keep your hands free for controlling the transport functions (without having to use a mouse or a PC keyboard)**

The CI2 would definitely be the best choice given the criteria above, and as an audio interface, it is capable of familiar direct guitar connection (like an amp). Besides, as an intelligent controller, it offers superior DAW control.

Here are some examples:

- Boosting bass EQ
  Open the EQ window on Cubase, point the mouse to the low-frequency range and the AI Knob on the CI2 to the right.

**Turn the knob to adjust the tone.**

- Recording
  Simply press the Action Pad button on the CI2.

Press the button to transport.

You no longer have to chain yourself to decidedly unmusical PC operations such as clicking, dragging and typing on your computer's keyboard. CI2 allows you to keep musical spontaneity in your workflow!

Where do I record in the computer?

Thanks to the bundled Cubase AI 5 DAW software, start recording, mixing and arranging your music with CI2 right away! Cubase AI 5 is the youngest of the acclaimed Cubase 5 family - the favorite DAW of countless professionals around the world.
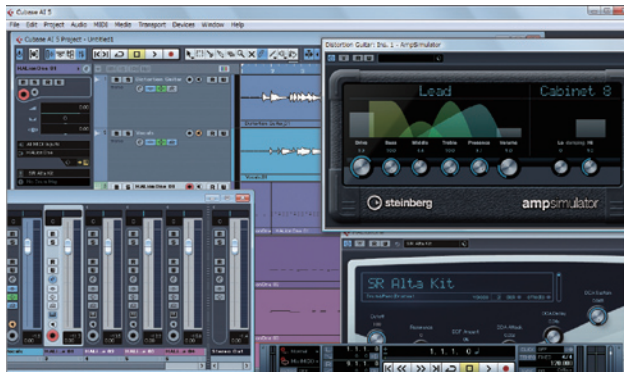

Although it is a bundled version, Cubase AI 5 is by no means a lightweight. It is equipped with lots of professional features for musicians:

AmpSimulator adds real guitar amp tone to a directly connected guitar. Included effects such as "Compressor", "EQ", "Delay" and "Reverb" are indispensible sound making and mixing tools. Also GM (General MIDI) compatible sample playback module HALion ONE can produce backing tracks such as bass, drums and keyboards with ease. Cubase AI 5 assists your music production every step of the way!


TIPS!   **Where will the recorded sound be stored?**

The sound of the guitar you play enters the computer through CI2, is processed by Cubase and stored on your computer's hard drive.

Cubase AI 5 (sound making)

Data is stored on your computer's hard drive

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3 | How do I hook them up?
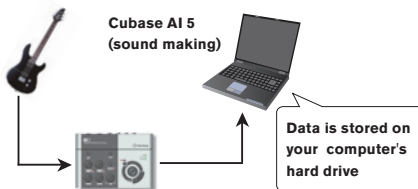
Connect CI2 with your computer using USB cable included.

- ▪ CI2 has two input jacks. To connect a guitar, plug in the guitar cable to 1/L (MIC/LINE/HI-Z) jack.

USB cable   **Guitar cable (phone)**
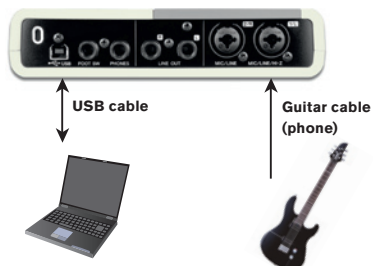
- ▪ You can connect an XLR microphone cable to both input jacks (1/L and 2/R).

Microphone cable (XLR)

TIPS! **What is HI-Z?**

HI-Z stands for High Impedance, which is the output impedance of most of electric guitars and basses. So for guitar recording, be sure to connect to the 1/L input and press the HI-Z button.

connection

Installation and setting up your computer for CI2
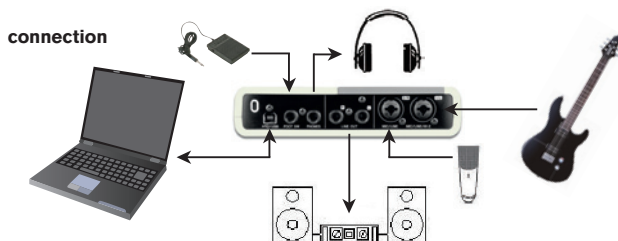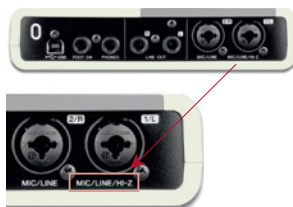
The combination of CI2 and Cubase AI 5 makes recoding guitar so easy.

- **Install the software**
  CI2 includes one "Cubase AI 5" DVD-ROM and one "TOOLS for CI2" CD-ROM . Ensure
  that you install both by following the onscreen instructions. Note that the CI2's USB LED
  will not light up on connection as long as the TOOLS for CI2 are not installed!

- **Launch Cubase AI 5**
  Double-click on the Cubase AI 5 icon found on your desktop
  or in your application folder.

* The first time you launch Cubase AI 5, a registration alert window will pop up. You can register online
free of charge at MySteinberg <www.steinberg.net/mysteinberg> and receive an activation code. If you
choose not to do this, you will be limited to 30 days or 300 launches (whichever comes first). It is highly
advisable that you register and permanently activate your copy of Cubase AI 5 to avoid interruption after
the 30 day/300 launch timeframe!
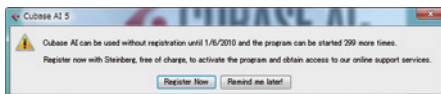
The Project Assistant Cubase AI 5

Once Cubase AI 5 has started up, press the AI Knob and the Project Assistant window will pop up. The
Project Assistant offers useful, real-world recording templates organized by use type.

The upper part of the window now shows general use type presets such as "Recent", "Recording", "Scoring" etc. To record your guitar, turn the AI Knob to navigate to "Recording" and select it by pressing the AI Knob. To choose a template of this "Recording" section, choose one from list below: "Acoustic Guitar + Vocal", "Clean E-Guitar + Vocal"…etc. For now, select "Distortion Guitar + Vocal" to try out the sound of Cubase AI 5's AmpSimulator. To select this template, turn the AI Knob until it is highlighted and then press the AI Knob to confirm.

Now a Project window named "Cubase AI 5 project - untitled 1" will appear with "Distortion Guitar" and "Vocal" tracks automatically created for you and will be assigned to the appropriate CI2 inputs. The AmpSimulator effect plug-in will be shown as well for easy editing.

TIPS! "Project" and "Track"

Cubase refers to each song file as "Project". "Track" is the place each individual part is recorded/ aligned. Your guitar play is recorded onto the track you select, and stored as an audio data file. Together with any other recorded tracks of audio or MIDI data, your guitar part will be stored in the overall project.

Connect your guitar and play

Let's connect your guitar and check out the sounds of Cubase AI 5's AmpSimulator!

🔴 Connection and level adjustment

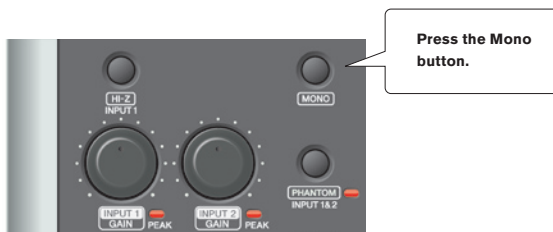- Turn the Gain knob of INPUT 1 counterclockwise,
  and connect the guitar to the 1/L input.

Turn the Gain knob counterclockwise.

- Press the HI-Z button.

Press the HI-Z button.

- Press the Mono button.

Press the Mono button.

! When you connect stereo instruments (keyboards etc.) or audio equipment (CD/MP3 players etc.), remember to release the Mono button to monitor in stereo.

- In Cubase AI 5, click the "Monitor" button on "Distortion Guitar" track.

- Turn the Mix knob clockwise to the "DAW" position.

Turn the Mix knob clockwise.

- Play the guitar, and turn the Gain knob gradually to the right, until the Peak LED lights up, when you play hard.

Turn the Gain knob right.

Adjust to make Peak LED light up when playing hard.

Now you can hear the guitar tone, driven by the AmpSimulator to sound just like an overdriven guitar amp. Use the Master knob for your connected monitor speakers or the Phones knob for your connected headphones.

Adjust the monitor speaker level.

Adjust the headphone level.

🔴 Tone making with AmpSimulator and the AI Knob

The AmpSimulator will be set to the "Lead" preset when you load in the "Distortion Guitar + Vocal" project template. Now let's choose another tone and adjust the editable parameters to taste. You can use the AI Knob to do this editing – just like on a real amp.

- Press the AI Knob.
  Preset Browser shows up.

Press the AI Knob.

- Turn the AI Knob to browse the presets.
  Play the guitar and find your favorite tone from presets. Let's choose "Vintage Rock" and press the AI Knob.

Turn the AI Knob, choose the preset and press.

- As Cubase loads the "Vintage Rock" preset, the type of the amp head changes to "Bass Woman".
  The cabinet type (speaker of the amp) is also changed .

- Locate the mouse pointer to the parameter of the amp you want to adjust, then turn the AI Knob.
  The parameter knob turns as well. Set up the parameters Drive, Bass, Middle, and Treble according to your individual taste.

Turn the AI Knob.

Now you are ready to record using the „Vintage Rock" preset.

Enable the metronome as your rhythm guide

If you play guitar freely without any rhythmic structure, it will be a lot of extra work later to adjust the track to match a drum part that you could create using Cubase's included HALion ONE sample player. Use the metronome click as a tempo guide!

- ▪ Activate "CLICK" on the transport panel.

- ▪ Set the Tempo.
  The number below "TEMPO" is the tempo of the project. Now it is set to "120". Double-click the field to enter a value. For example, type "100" and press the Enter key.

- ▪ Click and turn on the "Precount". Default is set to 2 bars before start recording.

- ▪ Make sure the "Record Enable" button for "Distortion Guitar" track is turned on.
  If the button is deactivated, click it to turn it on. Now it's ready to record.

🔴 Interactive Recording with the Action Pad

You can record, stop or play using your computer keyboard and your mouse to control Cubase AI 5's transport panel. However, with the CI2's Action Pad you're able to control the transport without touching the computer.

- Press the Action Pad
  The Interactive Recording window will pop up and you'll see a triangle indicating that "Record" is selected. Pressing the Action Pad rotates the sequence clockwise and in this case, "Record" then "Stop" then "Return to Zero".
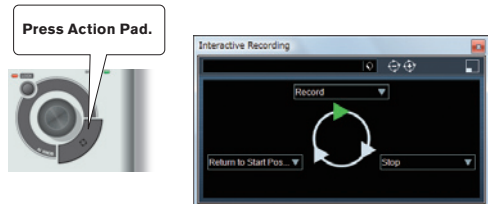
Press Action Pad.

- Start recording
  Press the Action Pad, listen to the 2 measure count off then play your guitar – 4 measures will do for this example.

- Stop Recording
  Once you've finished playing, press the Action Pad again to stop recording. Pressing it once more will rewind the song to the top.

TIPS!

With the optional Yamaha FC5 footswitch attached to the CI2, you can operate this Interactive Recording feature with the tap of your foot – allowing you to play the guitar with both hands!

🔴 Playback and adjustment

Let's play back the track you have just recorded.

- Click and disable "Monitor" and "Record Enable" on Distortion Guitar track.

- Click "Play" on transport panel to play.

While playing back your track, you can change your recorded guitar tone by adjusting the parameters of the AmpSimulator. Point to the desired parameter with your mouse and turn the AI Knob.

CI2 makes it so easy for you to create sounds, record them and play them back!

Recording your vocals is just as easy. Simply connect a microphone to the 2/R input of the CI2 and repeat the guitar setup, using vocal-oriented presets this time.

TIPS!

Record with outboard effect pedals

Instead of using the AmpSimulator plug-in, you can use your favorite effect pedals for recording. Here's an example of the signal path.

Cubase AI 5

Your effect pedals
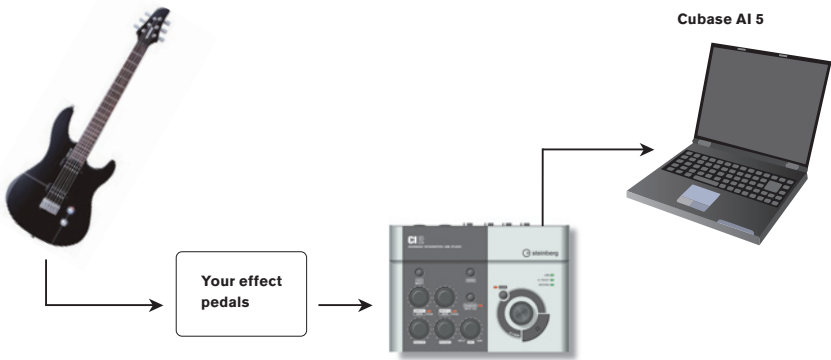
Note that once recorded in this way, you cannot change the effect parameters as you would when using virtual effects like AmpSimulator!

Adding accompaniment

Cubase AI 5 has various features to put accompaniment to your guitar or vocal tracks. Let's see what you can do.

⬤ Make use of the drum loops

You can easily make drum tracks with drum pattern audio files called "loops". Various styles of loops are available on Cubase AI 5's installation DVD.

Locate the folder:
Cubase AI 5 for Mac OS X (or Windows) >Additional Content>Yamaha Content>Loops

Just drag and drop a loop into the Project window to create a drum track. Repeat and edit the loop to complete the drum part.

TIPS!

Copying Loop files into your hard drive first helps Cubase AI 5 to read them faster.

⬤ Using the virtual instrument player HALion ONE for a bass track

Cubase AI 5 has a flexible playback sampler called HALion ONE that offers numerous sounds such as bass, piano, strings, brass, drums and others.

Create an Instrument track featuring HALion ONE by choosing, say, a bass sound in the Browse Sounds area, and dragging it to an empty track in Cubase AI 5. You'll need to enter MIDI data to "play" these virtual instruments by using a connected MIDI keyboard, the virtual keyboard in Cubase AI 5 or via step sequencing.
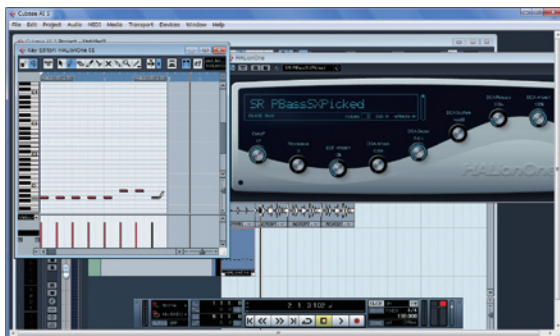
TIPS!

You can use the AI Knob for faster browsing of the sound presets.

Mixdown and exporting your song for sharing with others

You should now have guitar, vocal, drum and bass tracks and it's easy to adjust or mix the tracks in Cubase AI 5 to complete the song project. However, you will need to change the file format so that everyone can listen to your song. This chapter explains how to complete the song and export it to a Wave file (.wav). From there you can use applications such as iTunes to either burn your song to a CD or convert it to mp3 format to share.

Adjusting the volume

To set the proper balance between tracks, use the Mixer in Cubase AI 5.

- Choose "Mixer" from the "Devices" menu.
  Mixer window is displayed.

- While playing back your song, point the mouse cursor to the fader you'd like to control and turn the AI Knob to adjust the volume of that track.
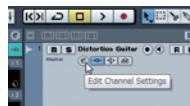

TIPS!

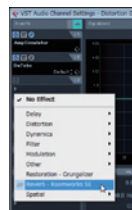You can automate the fader movement along with the song.

Applying effects to "sweeten" your mix

Before exporting your song as a Wave file, complete your mix with insert effects. Let's add some reverb to the guitar track.

- Click the "e" button in the track "Distortion Guitar".

- Click the Insert inspector and select "Reverb" > "Roomworks SE".

- Press the AI Knob and the preset browser opens. Turn the AI Knob to select the preset you'd like to try. Let's choose "Bright Plate Reverb". Press the AI Knob again to confirm.

- Point the parameters and turn the AI Knob to adjust the reverb.

Let's apply some more effects to the other tracks in the same way.

TIPS! **Change the sequence of Action Pad**

As a default the Action Pad is set to trigger "Record" - "Stop" - "Return to Start Position" sequence. But once you've finished recording, you might as well replace "Start (Play)" with "Record" action for the next workflow. Click the triangle next to "Record" and select "Start" from the pull down menu.

🔴 Export to a Wave format file (.wav)

Now that you've mixed your song, let's export it to Wave format.

- • Set the locater
  This song is 4 bars long, but to keep the natural decay of
  the reverb, it's good to add another 1 or 2 bars.
  On the Transport panel, set the left locator to bar "1.1.1.0",
  and the right locater to "6.1.1.0".

- • Select File > Export > Audio Mixdown…
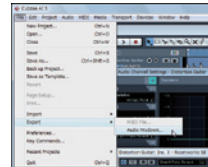
- • The "Export Audio Mixdown" dialog opens.
  Now choose the settings appropriate for CD burning.
  For example: File Name: CI2 Session, Path: Desktop, File Format: Wave File
  Sample Rate: 44.100 kHz, Bit Depth: 16 Bit
  If you select the "Close dialog after export" option, the "Export Audio Mixdown"
  window will close after export, so you will know it's complete.

- • When you are done, click the "Export"
  button.

- • You will see an icon like this on the desktop.

Once you have mixed your project down to a Wave format file, you will be able to make a CD using some kind of audio CD burning application (like Apple's iTunes). With a player type of application such as Windows Media Player or Apple's QuickTime, you're able to play the file and possibly convert it to MP3.

A high-quality MP3 encoder component that "plugs-in" to Cubase AI 5 is available from Steinberg's online shop as an optional purchase.

Altogether, CI2 and Cubase AI 5 make your music production both intuitive and fun, from guitar tracking to mixing in both the physical and virtual worlds!

And more...

🔴 Utilize CI2 for mobile recording and desktop production

CI2 as a mobile audio interface

Due to its compact size and the fact that it's USB-powered, the CI2 is ready to record just about anywhere. It can handle many types of microphones (mono or stereo, condenser or dynamic) and audio quality is the best in its class – whether you're recording nature sounds outdoors or your band on stage!

CI2 as a controller

If you already use another audio interface with Cubase, adding CI2 as a controller greatly expands flexibility. Using CI2's AI Knob and Action Pad for adjusting parameters on the fly and controlling the transport makes your workflow even faster!

▶ Audio interface section

Hi-Z switch for recording electric and bass guitars on input 1

Mono button for switching input 1 and 2 to mono on the Phones and Master

Individual Gain knobs and Peak LEDs for input 1 and 2

Phantom power button for input 1 and 2

Master volume knob for output L/R

Mix knob for adjusting the ratio between DAW playback and input signal

Phones volume knob for Phones Out level

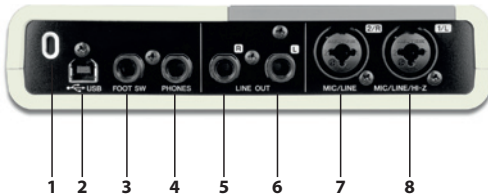## ▶ Controller section

Lock Button

AI Knob controls all Cubase parameters with mouse over; push functionality for browsing through the project

Action Pad

▶ Rear panel

1. Kensington Lock
2. USB port
3. Footswitch connector
4. Phones output
5. Line output R (TRS/TS supported)
6. Line output L (TRS/TS supported)
7. Mic/Line input 2/R XLR combo jack
8. Mic/Line input 1/L XLR combo jack with HI-Z

General Specifications

Input Jack	MIC/LINE/HI-Z/L x1	Combo jack (XLR, 1/4" TS or 1/4" TRS)
	MIC/LINE/R x1	Combo jack (XLR, 1/4" TS or 1/4" TRS)
Output Jack	LINE OUT x2 (L/R)	Phone jacks (1/4" TS or 1/4" TRS)
	PHONES x1	Phone jack
Other Jacks	FOOT SW x1	Phone jack
	USB x1	USB1.1, 44.1/48kHz, 16/24bit
Controls	HI-Z INPUT 1 Button	On: for guitars or basses, etc Off: for microphone or synthesizers, etc
	MONO Button	On: Input 1, 2 signals function as independent mono channels. Off: Input 1, 2 signals function as a stereo pair.
	INPUT 1/2 GAIN Controls	Gain for input 1/2
		Turn on/off the phantom power for INPUT 1&2. (+48V, XLR-type only).
	MASTER Control	Adjusts the signal level sent to the LINE OUT jacks.
	PHONES Control	Adjusts the signal level sent to the PHONES jack.
	MIX Control (INPUT-DAW)	Adjusts the signal level between INPUT and DAW.
	LOCK Button	Locks the parameter to be edited via the AI KNOB.
	AI KNOB	Turning: Controls the parameter on Cubase. Pressing: Opens certain windows in Cubase.
	ACTION PAD Button	Uses the Interactive Recording function, TAB
Power Supply	USB bus-powered	
Dimensions	190 (W) x 45.4 (H) x 134.5 (D) mm	
Net Weight	720 g	
Included Accessories	Cubase AI 5 DVD-ROM	
	TOOLS for CI2 CD-ROM	
	USB Cable	
	Operation Manual	

System Requirements

	Macintosh	**Windows**
OS	OS X 10.5.5 (Leopard), 10.6 (Snow Leopard)*	Windows XP Professional / Home Edition , Windows Vista, Windows 7*
CPU	PowerPC G5 (Intel Core Duo recommended)	Pentium/Athlon 2GHz and above (Dual Core CPU recommended)
RAM	1024MB	
HDD	1GB of free space	
Display	1280 x 800 resolution - full color	
	DVD-ROM drive	
	USB port for CI2 connection	
	Internet access for license activation (Cubase AI 5), product registration	

* Snow Leopard and Windows 7 compatible update available at Steinberg website.

▶ Optional accessories for CI2

Yamaha FC5 footswitch

Yamaha BMS-10A mic stand adapter

Cubase 5 Series feature comparison

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5	Cubase AI 5
● Operation system				
Compatible OS	Windows Vista, Windows XP and Mac OS X 10.5.5 (Hybrid)			
Windows Vista 64-bit	yes	yes	no	no
● MIDI functions				
Maximum MIDI tracks	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	64
Score notation	yes (advanced scoring)	yes (advanced scoring)	yes	yes
Beat Designer	yes	yes	yes	no
VST Expression	yes	yes	no	no
● Audio functions				
Number of audio tracks	unlimited	unlimited	64	48
VariAudio	yes	yes	no	no
Channel Batch Export	yes	yes	no	no
Freeze for VSTi & audio	yes	yes	yes	no
● VST effect plug-ins				
Number of audio plug-ins	56	38	33	31
REVerence (convolution reverb)	yes	no	no	no
Maximizer	yes	yes	no	no
Pitch Correct (vocal pitch correction)	yes	yes	yes	no
● VST instruments (software synthesizers)				
Number of instrument tracks	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	16
Number of VST instruments	8	3	2	1
VSTi slots	64	32	16	2
HALion ONE contents	over 700	over 400	over 300	over 135
LoopMash (beat creation tool)	yes	no	no	no
Groove Agent ONE (drum playback sampler)	yes	yes	no	no
Prologue (analogue modeling synthesizer)	yes	yes	yes	no

* New feature of Cubase 5 series as of November 2009

Cubase AI 5: the DAW with CI2

Cubase AI 5 is a lean Cubase version tailored to users looking to record their music without additional bells and whistles. Based on the same core technologies as the Steinberg Cubase 5 advanced music production system, the Cubase AI 5 offers great tools for composition, recording, editing and mixing. Put it together with a piece of Steinberg hardware and Cubase AI 5 provides a full system solution for recording music in studio quality.

▶ Features

- Built on Steinberg VST3 Audio Engine
- 48 audio tracks and up to 64 MIDI tracks
- HALion ONE software sample player with selected Yamaha MOTIF sounds
- Plug'n'play VST/MIDI setup with Yamaha products such as MOTIF XS Music Production Synthesizer, n-series Digital Mixing Studio
- Complete integration of Steinberg hardware products
- 31 VST effects, including 22 VST3 plug-ins
- MIDI controllers and automation consolidation
- Cross platform: Windows & Mac OS X (Universal binary)