

104VJ-SCAN

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INFORMATION

SPECS

» Dual screen, three-channel mixing » Plays video, Flash, stills and live camera feeds » LAN video connectivity » FFT audio synchronisation » FreeFrame effects
 » Minimum requirements: Dual monitor enabled video card, 1024 x 768 screen resolution, 1 Ghz processor, 256 Mb RAM

PROS

» Can import lots of plug-in effects and media types » Versatile and easy to use

CONS

» Frame rate will slow down if too many effects are applied » Some features only present with certain hardware configurations

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY

★★★★★

FEATURES

★★★★

EASE OF USE

★★★★★

STABILITY

★★★★

VISUAL QUALITY

★★★★

OVERALL

★★★★★

RESOLUIME 2.0

VJ MIXING SOFTWARE

VERSION 2.0 OF VJ SOFTWARE RESOLUIME IS OUT NOW, WITH SPANKING NEW FUNCTIONS THAT CLAIM TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVE VIDEO PERFORMANCE TO NEW HEIGHTS.

PRICE: £100 INFORMATION: WWW.RESOLUIME.COM CONTACT: +31 (0)70 322 5798

AN easy to understand three-channel vision mixer interface, Resolume 2.0 in essence controls and monitors video and live effects from a central mosaic backdrop. Made up of 20 thumbnails, the mosaic may contain varied types of media, from digital movies (avi, mov, qt, mpg, mpeg), Flash animations (swf), stills (bmp, psd, gif, jpg, jpeg, wmf), to live cameras feeds. The 20-thumbnail grid and its content is finely tunable for accurate playback speed, scratching, layering and effect triggering. Most features are assignable to MIDI note or volumes to generate personalized and expressive video performances. These can then be output onto external monitors or projectors. The thumbnail configurations are saved as 'Decks' to retrieve later for quick performance set-ups.

THE LOW DOWN

The newly designed interface adapts to standard 1024 x 768 screens, but takes its optimal shape once scaled up to 1280 x 1024 resolutions. This added space permits better organization and layout of each new and improved feature.

Firstly, tabs have been added at the bottom of the screen to access as many as eight decks simultaneously, meaning up to 160 media files are ready to load and trigger in a channel without interrupting the output. More effect capabilities have also been implemented. Three general output effects can be activated at once on top of individual channel effects (as seen in the last version) for a maximum of six effects running together. In addition, channels can now shift up or down in the layer stack order with a simple button click, resulting in a wider choice of transparency and effect variations.

As before, Resolume incorporates hundreds of effects to choose from. These include FreeFrames, a third party effect plug-ins available from Resolume's website. Now version 2.0 allows much more control of the effect parameters. These can be altered from keyboard inputs, mouse click and position, MIDI signals, fixed incremental values as well as ambient audio levels. In fact, the new audio analysis engine in Resolume (called FFT) is very

responsive and versatile. Effects parameter values, the playback head position of individual clips and other such variables, can be made to follow very specific frequencies or the full 18-band range of the FFT sampler, making VJ mixes move to the beat.

PREPARE TO FLASH

Resolume 2.0 brings the art of dynamic flash animation to its utmost usability. Dovetailing more than 20 variables into Flash animations (dynamic text display, effect parameters and FFT sound level values) enables Resolume to interact with Flash Actionscripts (its native scripting code) and to create complex sound reactive animations. The dynamic text input options are particularly well thought out: as the interface reads and displays each line of typed text separately, so too can these lines be shown to various settings, like frames of a video clip (controlling the speed, play direction, loop, scratch, etc).

With Resolume 2.0, the means to acquire and deliver media files have swelled. Any functioning

capture device available in a computer can be used as input source, be it webcam or DV camera connected via Firewire, USB or analogue input.

Any of these are treated in the same manner as other media files, for example layered together or combined with FreeFrame effects. In fact, LAN (Local Area Network) connections also work; another computer can be used as input feed for Resolume, potentially making the use of hardware vision mixers irrelevant. In addition, depending on the computer video card configuration, Resolume can output to multiple displays and show different content on different screens - up to three different outputs to three different projections.

CONCLUSION

More than the quantity of effects it can manage at the same time, Resolume 2.0's beauty lies in the variety, subtlety and precise nature in which it can deliver a performance. For this reason, it could well be one of the most desirable pieces of VJ software on the market to date.