

PSP InfiniStrip

No stretching with this rack, **ALAN BRANCH** lays it out



After many years in development PSP, one of the most revered analogue-sounding plug-in providers has released the InfiniStrip! Spotted by our eagle-eyed editor Nigel Jopson at the January 2020 NAMM show, it's a modular channel-strip plug-in, including a wealth of zero-latency processing modules, providing a full processing workflow from recording to mixing.

InfiniStrip features 22 processors, split across eight defined category slots, Preamps, Filters, Compressors, Equalisers, Limiters, one slot to incorporate Gate/Expander/Ducker, the main output slot Control incorporating a fader, width balance and metering, a slot called Special includes a De-esser and De-Hummer module and two insert slots that can be used for any module. The 9-slot rack uses a drag and drop process for custom configuration, in three alternative view modes, Full size, Resizable or Mini view, a compact two-slot rack showing all modules in one slot, that when selected updates a single full module slot alongside it. Each module has a preset menu, Mute, Solo, and I/O LED's, mute is more of a bypass, dimming the module so it's clear to see it's not in use. An additional scExt control (Side Chain) input is included on most of the dynamic modules, these take a signal from the DAW side-chain input or if no input is set from the S.C. filter.



Workflow on the strip

InfiniStrip default view loads a pre-amp, filter, compressor and EQ modules, much like a regular vertical mixing desk channel but with the signal flowing from left to right. Starting with a pre-amp might not be the norm for many in a DAW but having the option to set the gain structure manually or via the Automated Gain Adjustment (AGA) can save a lot of time and importantly ensures the right amount of signal gain is being fed into the following modules. There are 5 pre-amps — one is clean whilst the others add a form of colouration — Pre '60s, Pre '70s, Pre '80s and ADC '90s

— the latter having an Akai feel with an interesting 12-bit nonlinear ADC. Three filter modules, Basic Filters consist of a simple HPF and LPF; Pro Filters has an additional MID with filter shapes and Q control; useful for the odd notch filter, and Filters dedicated for the side-chain source.

After a Pre-amp and a Filter module, I might slot in a Gate, Ducker or Expander to clean up the signal further, then an EQ or a compressor, depending on if you're a pre or post-style mixer. There are three Compressor modules, Opto, FET or VCA, the FET being a redesign of the existing PSP FETPressor plug-in. There are three EQ modules, one new and two old favourites from PSP, ChannelQ, a redesigned

PreQursor and a redesigned and upgraded RetroQ, all with post-EQ analogue saturation. The aforementioned special slots can be added for de-essing or filtering some 50hz mains hum, this includes a handy odd and even harmonics balance for fine-tuning the hum reduction. The Limiter slot includes the PSP TwinL in rack form, with a VCA and Opto limiter, both include a soft knee limiting switch and in true PSP style have an instant analogue sound to them.

PSP Audiware is a company known as one of the greats since the introduction of its beloved PSP Vintage Warmer plug-in. InfiniStrip builds on this reputation helping to develop a personal audio rack workflow. Each slot in InfiniStrip feels compact but not squeezed into the 500 rack style, the process of adding or moving modules, either to fix or enhance the signal becomes second nature.

Zero latency

The variety of included modules are enough to cope with more or less any audio thrown at it, with the bonus of zero latency includes some nice colouration options when tracking. After a week of mixing on various projects using InfiniStrip, I noticed a few stand out things; I found CPU usage low even on my ageing Mac Pro, and I liked the unusual 12 bit ADC Drive control in the ADC '90s pre-amp. This low bit-depth nonlinear emulation reminded me of the bite you got from the sound when sampling on an old MPC, the perfect amount of crunch for some electronic drums.

The filters were noticeable smooth to adjust, whilst the EQ and compressors were as I expected, varied in style and full of character and rich saturation. A powerful feature of InfiniStrip is the ability to switch modules whilst the settings remain the same, so it's easy to A-B compare the difference between the FET and Opto compressor or the RetroQ and PreQursor EQ, excellent for experimentation and a huge help in finding the sound your after.

The Master Control strip is well thought out, a 4-meter LED bar display for peak and RMS, a fader for overall level control, and a width knob that sounds nice. InfiniStrip for the money (\$199) is a crazy value, with 22 great-sounding modules, the range of processing and the workflow is excellent, it works well in a DAW and with development continuing and surely more modules to come, this could be the rack you've been waiting for. **f**

resolution/VERDICT

PROS A high-quality collection of processing in an easy to use rack strip, well designed, fast workflow, drag & drop routing, huge value for money.

CONS Preset list was a bit slow but was fixed in a new beta as we went to press.

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