The Lemur mutates!
Multi-touch control system now on iOS

Back in 2007, we reviewed a revolutionary touchscreen MIDI controller from Jazzmutant, called the Lemur (www.soundonsound.com/sos/mar07/articles/lemur.htm). At the time, it was a highly intriguing concept that was quite different from anything that had come before it. One of its big selling points was that it could sense multiple gestures, allowing the user to control several parameters simultaneously. It was also an early adopter of the then-new OSC (Open Sound Control) protocol, a computer language intended to perform similar functions to MIDI, but with much greater resolution and higher data-transfer rates.

When we first looked at it, the Lemur was undoubtedly a premium piece of studio gear, with an asking price of over €2000, and while Jazzmutant later released a slightly less expensive version of the Lemur, called the Dexter, that was hardly an impulse purchase either.

Fast-forward a few years, however, and multi-touch tablet devices are virtually ubiquitous, in the form of consumer gadgets such as Apple's iPhone and iPad. Although Jazzmutant were arguably ahead of their time, it seemed unlikely that they could survive in a world where similar devices could be bought for a fraction of the cost, despite the many unique abilities of the Lemur software. Towards the end of 2010, they announced that they were discontinuing the Lemur and Dexter, and eventually they ended the company's activities altogether.

We've just had a press release from software developers Liine, however, who tell us that they've revived the Lemur, in app format. The Lemur app is compatible with iPhones, iPods and iPads, and promises exactly the same functionality as the original! Specifically, it lets you create your own custom control surface, comprising a wealth of different 'objects'. These include

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virtual buttons, pads, knobs, faders and sliders, as well as some less conventional controller types, like bouncing balls and virtual 'plucked' strings. The behaviour of each of these objects can also be fine-tuned, with parameters like friction, 'string' tension, knob behaviour and spring loading (as you'd find on a traditional pitch-bend wheel, for example). Furthermore, these parameters can themselves be modulated — so you could, for example, adjust the 'bounciness' of a bouncing ball using a fader, while the position of the bouncing ball modulates a filter's cutoff frequency and resonance... And so on!

Control environments (called Projects) are created using the supplied Lemur Editor software, which runs on both PCs and

New heights for Olympus
LS recorder range gets new flagship model

Known for their cameras, Olympus have branched out into audio territory over the last few years, with their LS series of portable recorders earning a strong reputation among musicians. That range has just gained a new flagship model, called the LS100. It's the largest LS recorder to date, partly because it includes two mic preamps (with phantom power), in addition to the built-in stereo pair of mics. The latter are arranged as an X-Y array, and can apparently cope with SPLs up to 140dB.

The LS100 offers eight tracks of recording, along with rudimentary mixing abilities — level and pan adjustments can be made to recorded tracks, and they can even be bounced to a single stereo track. No mention is made of how many channels can be recorded simultaneously, but

we're hoping it's possible to record independently the signals from the two built-in mics and the mic preamps.

Other features include a two-second pre-record buffer; a Voice Sync mode, which automatically stops and starts recording when sound goes above or below a user-defined threshold; index marking; and various looping modes. It also has a built-in tuner and metronome.

Recordings made on the LS100 are stored either on its 4GB internal memory, or to an SD, SDHC or SDXC card — the last of which can have a capacity of up to 64GB. Recording file formats range from MP3 up to 24-bit/96kHz WAV.

The Olympus LS100 should be available by the time you read this, and will carry an RRP of £449.
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www.olympus.co.uk

Macs. This also lets you save and load Projects, and if you find the thought of creating your own Project from scratch a little daunting, there are numerous Projects available to download from the Liine web site. You can even load up Projects that were made on the original hardware.

The Lemur app requires that your iPad or iPhone be connected to your computer via either Wi-Fi, or USB MIDI (Liine recommend iConnectivity's iConnect MIDI interface for the latter). It can work either as a standard MIDI controller or, when connected via Wi-Fi, it can transmit and respond to OSC messages, should your software permit it.

The extent to which Lemur can be customised makes it suitable for a wide range of music control and performance applications (it can even be used to generate futuristic audio-synchronised visualisations!). To get an idea of what it's capable of, check out the videos on the Liine web site. The app can be bought from Apple's App Store, for only £34.99.
www.liine.net

To sum up...
Mixer and stereo compressor from DAV

DAV Electronics have released two new rackmount studio boxes: the Summing Mixer and the BG4 MkII compressor. The 1U Summing Mixer is a passive device, employing a network of resistors to combine 32 channels (16 stereo pairs) into one stereo channel. All connections are made on the back of the unit, with the mono inputs present on four DB25 connectors, and the stereo output exiting via two XLR sockets. There's little else to say about the DAV Summing Mixer: it's passive, so doesn't require power, and there are no level-changing or panning facilities, so it doesn't even have any controls! Its price tag is,

accordingly, modest, at just £360 including VAT.

The BG4 MkII, meanwhile, is a revision of the BG4: a two-channel compressor based on a Decca Studios design from 1977. The MkII revision is essentially a cut-down version of the BG4, in that it's a fixed stereo device (so no dual-mono operation), and it doesn't have the original's side-chain filter (which, apparently, few people ever used anyway). Happily, it's half the price of the BG4 MkI, at just £780.
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