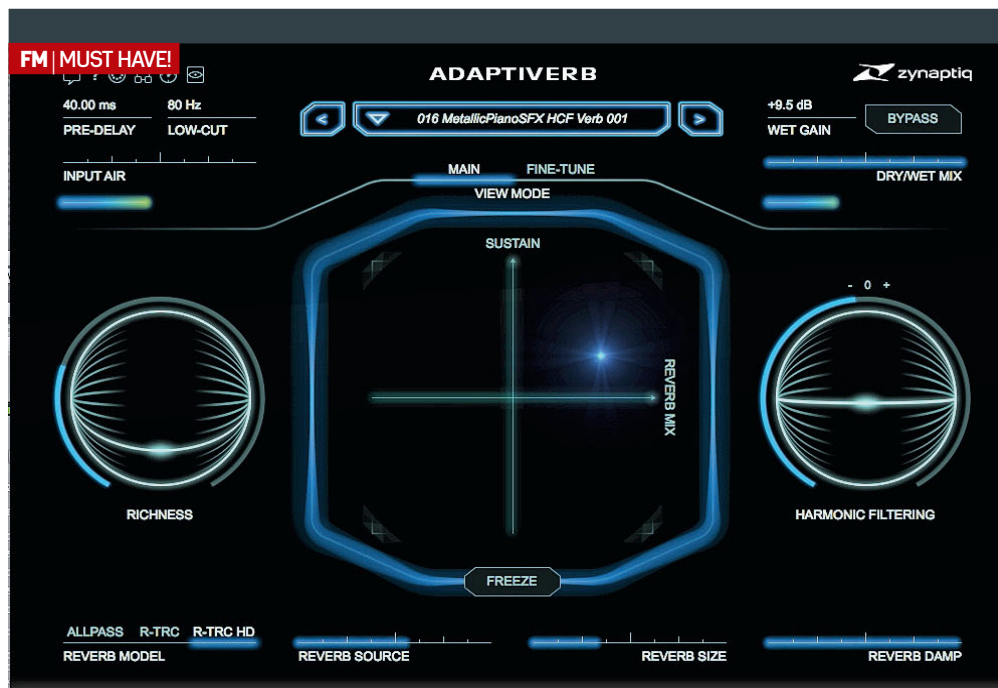


Reverb Plugins

Spatial processors are essential parts of any production, and it's always wise to have several to hand. Here are six plugins sure to broaden your reverberant palette



Zynaptiq Adaptiverb €279

Zynaptiq can rightly claim that Adaptiverb is a one-off. Using their own 'Bionic Sustain Resynthesizer', it creates incredibly smooth resonance-free reverb as it synthesises the reverb tail using hundreds of intelligent oscillators that learn the pitched parts of the incoming signal. The reverb can then be further tailored by varying how many oscillators are used, adding intervals or detune and then randomising them to add a rich harmonic character that still sounds very open and natural. There are two distinct reverb types, the more standard Allpass, and the far-out Ray Tracing. The latter creates beautiful reflection-less reverb tails with a very linear response giving smooth unmuddied tails no matter what the decay length. Finally, there's the Harmonic Contour Filter, which primarily removes any harmonic content from the reverb that might clash with the current input, removing any chance of a muddy, overly dense reverb cluttering the sound, while still retaining a wonderful harmonic richness. There's also a Keyboard option on the filter, in which you fix the notes you want to hear in the reverb in up to five snapshots that you can then automate. In fact, many of the parameters take automation incredibly well, so the soundscaping possibilities of Adaptiverb are enormous. Think constantly evolving harmonically sensitive pitched reverb that can be as smooth and as clear as you like and yet rich with relevant harmonic content. If you try it you will want it...

www.zynaptiq.com

VERDICT 9.2



Softube TSAR-1 Reverb \$269

Many reverbs are now modelled versions of Hardware, but the TSAR-1 is a true algorithmic device. What you get is a very straightforward user interface with plenty of possible tonal variations. The simple Early Reflection section is an effective spatialiser when used on its own, and when balanced into the reverb gives great depth of field and a natural up-front element to even the longest reverb settings. The combination of Diffusion and Density settings allows quickly gets you from thick, energetic-sounding rooms and halls to some lovely delicate and airy-sounding plate-like tones. The Tone and High Cut sliders add just the right amount of EQ options to fit the reverb into the colour of the rest of the mix, and overall it's really simple to find the size and flavour of reverb you are looking for.

www.softube.com

VERDICT 8.6



Eventide Tverb \$249

Based on a technique Tony Visconti developed for recording Bowie's vocals on the *Heroes* album, Tverb may sound like a one trick pony, but it's anything but. You get three mics, the back two of which can be moved around the room. These two also have gating options available, while the other has a compressor to dial in. Along with the EQ section, there's Diffusion and Decay controls, which add an enormous amount of flexibility and take things beyond the basic sound of the room. Tverb will liven up anything recorded in a dead space and can get four dry instruments to sound like they're in the same room. It sounds great and is remarkably flexible.

www.eventideaudio.com

VERDICT 8.4



FabFilter Pro-R £149

Pro-R is based on a series of room models which you move seamlessly between using the Space knob. You'll also find controls for Brightness, Character and Distance, and to the left Decay Rate, Stereo Width and Mix. While this may seem simplistic in comparison to other reverbs, the amount of control the setup gives is excellent, and its very simplicity makes it very quick to use. The reverb is capable of some incredible spatial variations, especially when you bring Distance and Width into play and can go from convincing rooms and halls to some amazing long imaginary spaces. With just those parameters, it would be a great-sounding device, but it's the two EQs that really take it up another notch. The Decay Rate EQ gives you an incredible range of control over the shape of the reverberation, and the Post EQ gives you very fine control of the finished effect. Clever stuff.

www.fabfilter.com

VERDICT 8.7



brainworx bx_rooMS \$199

This mid/side reverb is built around an algorithmic engine with lots of additional processing. You set the basic type and size of reverb you require and then go to the reverb section to adjust room size and shape, reverb time and high and low damping to get the basic depth and shape you want. The pre-delay and Source Distance parameters let you really play with the depth of field, while the FX section has modulation and bit depth controls. To top it off, there are comprehensive M/S controls including width and EQ. It's a strong, characterful reverb with excellent spatialising capabilities, and it sounds wonderful.

www.plugin-alliance.com

VERDICT 8.4



Slate Digital Verbsuite Classics £199 (full bundle)

Designed in conjunction with LiquidSonics, and using their Fusion IR technology, Verbsuite Classics offers eight legendary digital reverbs (plus the Lexicon 224 and 224 XL if you buy the expansion pack.) The plugin itself is elegantly laid out with a simple but highly effective set of controls. To the left the EQ section is a simple fixed three-band giving plenty of tonal variety. Centrally, you find controls for Decay, Pre Delay, Width, Chorus and Attack, and while these all do exactly what you'd expect, it's the last two that command special attention. Thanks to that Fusion IR system, the modulation characteristics of these hardware units have also been modelled, and with some, like the FG-480, that essential character it gives sounds like the original hardware unit is here in all its glory. The attack control adds an extra dimension to all the reverbs, allowing you to just take the explosive edge off the most transient of sources through to some wild backwards-ish effects. Compared to the original ten units, this plug sounds so damn close that it really is an essential buy.

slatedigital.com

VERDICT 8.8