

SPECS

System Requirements

UAD-2 Card

PC: Microsoft Windows XP (Home, Professional, or x64 Edition), or Windows, Vista (x86 or x64)

Mac: OS X 10.4.x or 10.5.x

All Platforms: Available PCIe x1/x4/x8/x16 slot for UAD-2 card, 256MB RAM (512MB recommended), 200MB hard drive space, 1024 x 768 or higher resolution monitor. Compatible VST, RTAS, or Audio Units plug-in host application software



UAD-2 Manley Massive Passive Stereo EQ | \$299

UAD model another classic. *Jono Buchanan* finds out if they've met their match in the Massive Passive



WHAT IS IT?

A software version of the Manley Massive Passive EQ bringing a legendary and complex EQ to the UAD-2 platform

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Phenomenal modelling and sound
- 2 Flexible and sophisticated operation mode
- 3 Suitable as an insert or buss EQ

There's little doubt that UAD's move to version two of its hardware has unlocked some serious processing power –

you only have to look at the accuracy and quality of the company's most recent additions to know that their recreations of classic hardware are only improving.

That said, when it comes to modelling, there's hardware and then there's hardware. The legendary Manley Massive Passive EQ is the latest classic UAD has 'replicated' and it's reportedly proved their greatest challenge yet. Due to the problems posed by the internal architecture of the hardware Massive Passive, which gets its name from its unique use of only resistors, inductors and capacitors to shape sound, the question is: can UAD do it again?

Passive aggressive

The Massive Passive EQ functions unlike most other EQs in several ways. Firstly, whereas most tend to offer boost or cut by either turning to the right of centre for gain increase, or to the left for

decrease, Massive Passive is different. It offers 0-20dB of cut or boost via the same dial, with a boost (green) or cut (red) button above selecting whether you're enhancing or reducing volume of a chosen frequency.

What's also unique about this EQ is that the four frequency bands overlap, so while the second band covers 82Hz to 3.9kHz, the third operates between 220Hz and 10kHz, for example. This might initially seem baffling but actually it's incredibly flexible, as below the gain boost/reduce dials, you'll find both bandwidth and frequency dials to focus the range of any given frequency band and hone in on specific ones respectively. At the very top, you can select shelf or bell shapes for each individual band, so it's pretty clear this is an EQ with flexibility at its core.

Introducing the bands

The overlapping bands mean that you can use Massive Passive for some radical tone shaping, by dropping the volume of a specific offending frequency in the middle of a larger

group of others being boosted, without the usual 'holes' more regular EQs tend to create in these circumstances. It's also a sumptuous EQ to use on sounds that need less radical treatments – with its clarity and air on vocal parts and the warmth of the modelled tube distortion particularly noteworthy.

The UAD Massive Passive actually bundles as two plug-ins – one intended for insert treatments and the other as a mastering tool. The latter offers optimised settings specifically for mastering, with more appropriate gain and bandwidth capabilities and honed options for the centrally-placed low and high-pass filter controls.

Summing up

The UAD platform goes from strength to strength, evidenced not only by the exceptional sonics of this plug-in but by Manley's own endorsement of it. It's a winning formula – by recreating the performance and sound of classic gear of this type, UAD introduce a new range of users to Manley and strengthen their own reputation in the process.

None of this will matter to you – but the sound of the plug-in will. And to put it bluntly, if you don't love it, you need your ears tested. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT

STABILITY



VALUE



EASE OF USE



VERSATILITY



RESULTS



A unique sounding EQ with power and versatility at its faithfully modelled heart.