

FW-1082

MULTIFACETED FIREWIRE AUDIO/MIDI INTERFACE

Tascam's FW-1082 is a FireWire audio/MIDI interface and control surface that gives you access to many audio controls at once—mixer faders, transport controls, pan pots, and so on. It works well if you use it straight out of the box with its bundled Cubase LE software; if you try to use a different digital audio workstation (DAW) app, however, you're going to need some help.

The FW-1082 supports standard sample rates from 44.1KHz to 96KHz, and it comes with four microphone inputs with phantom power, four line inputs, and stereo digital input and output via S/PDIF or RCA connectors. Transport controls, 60mm touch-sensitive faders, the

ever-fun jog/shuttle wheel, and a good assortment of control buttons and lights ride on its sleek chassis.

Software control. Tascam's FW-1082 Manager utility lets you set parameters for MIDI and Core Audio and choose the control-surface protocol you want to use. Configuring the FW-1082 with Cubase LE was a snap; getting the FW-1082 to work with Apple's Logic was trickier. When we tried using the FW-1082 with Logic and the industry-standard Mackie Control protocol, Logic consistently crashed. We did, however, successfully use the Human User Interface protocol.

The included Soft LCD app shows selected track-name and parameter



**Be the master
of your audio domain.**

values onscreen—very helpful. The FW-1082's hardware controls work well and its audio quality is good enough for a studio. The FW-1082 touts compatibility with Digidesign's Pro Tools, but this applies only to Digidesign's high-end Pro Tools TDM systems, not the more wallet-friendly Pro Tools LE systems.

The bottom line. For under a grand, the FW-1082 has a ton of features and good software. It's a compelling all-in-one desktop-recording package.

—Kerry Rose



COMPANY: Tascam
CONTACT: 323-726-0303,
www.tascam.com
PRICE: \$999

REQUIREMENTS: FireWire
400-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.8
or later

GOOD NEWS: Lot of features for a fair price. Looks cool.
Sounds good.

BAD NEWS: Needs more info about compatible Digital Audio
Workstation apps.

MacAddict RATED
●●●●●
GREAT