

# APOGEE MINI-ME

**IN EVALUATING** dozens of products every year, I sometimes find it hard to get jazzed up about a new piece of gear. The new 2-channel **Mini-Me** A/D converter/preamp with USB from **Apogee** is one big, pleasant exception!

The Mini-Me manages to pack a powerhouse of useful features into a half-rackspace chassis (hence its name). It easily handles a wide range of mic, line and instrument input signals, and includes optional phantom power for condenser mics. It features AES/EBU and S/PDIF coaxial outputs, and USB I/O with easy-to-use monitor blending for computer-based DAW setups. It outputs every standard bit depth and sample rate from 16/44.1 to

## A/D CONVERTER & PREAMP SPOTLIGHT

BY FETT

24/96, and intelligently applies UV22HR dithering as needed. The unit also can serve as a rock-solid digital master clock.

All of these features are great, but what really blows me away with the Mini-Me is its sonic clarity and absolutely fantastic-sounding onboard limiting and compression. The unit features Apogee's straightforward "Soft Limit" process that effectively eliminates digital overs, plus a terrific "Push-IT" compressor/limiter that allows everything from smooth and subtle to downright raunchy, all at the flick of a couple of switches. In our tests, the Mini-Me sounded killer on everything from vocals to acoustic guitars to bass.

**IN A NUTSHELL:** Don't let the Mini-Me's price tag scare you; it's worth every penny. If you're looking for a top-of-the-line, professional-quality front end for your recording setup, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better alternative.

**STREET PRICE:** about \$1,345 (\$1,165 without USB).

