

# Products of Interest

## B2X Ambisonic Surround Sound Plug-ins

B2X is a collection of VST and Audio Units plug-ins for processing Ambisonic surround sound. Among the first-order B-format plug-ins in the set are encoders for one- and two-channel, stereo, quadraphonic, and 5.1 streams. The plug-ins can be controlled from the external user interface using MIDI. The quadraphonic and 5.1 encoders are suitable for use with quadraphonic and five-channel microphones. A further plug-in converts the four-channel stream from a tetrahedral microphone array to first-order B-format. Although the plug-in does not include any high-frequency equalization and phase-shifting needed to compensate for non-coincident capsules, the developers suggest that it may be useful for testing such microphone arrays. A B-format processor in the set allows the user to manipulate the rotation, elevation, tilt, and axis flip of a first-order B-format stream. Four first-order decoders are included to decode to eight speakers, to 5.1 surround sound, to stereo, and to Stereo Ambisonic UHJ.

Five second-order B-format plug-ins are also included in this collection. These include encoders for one- and two-channel, quadraphonic, and 5.1-surround streams and a second-order to surround decoder.

The B2X plug-in collection was created using SonicBirth, a programming environment for creating Audio Unit and VST plug-ins for Mac OS X (see *CMJ* 31:4). It is available as a free download.

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