

Interview: Bobby Weir & Don Was on The Wolf Bros. *Live in Colorado*

# RECORDING

The magazine for the recording musician®

## THE SINGER SONGWRITER

- Andrew Bolooki on Vocal Production
- Your DAW and Songwriting
- Tracking Duets with Marc Urselli



# 12 New Reviews

Antelope Audio • Apogee • Ashun Sound Machines  
**Focusrite** • Heritage Audio • LEWITT • NUGEN Audio  
 PreSonus • **Royer Labs** • Spitfire Audio



VOL. THIRTY-FIVE  
 NUMBER SEVEN  
 APRIL 2022

USA \$5.99  
 CANADA \$5.99

\$5.99US \$5.99CAN 04>

0 09281 03050 8



# REVIEW

## PreSonus: Revelator USB mic

*A go-anywhere multi-pattern USB mic and software bundle*

### REVIEW BY BILL STUNT

PreSonus has an enviable track record of developing affordable, high-quality audio hardware and software. Its Revelator 'studio in a mic' package shows this off by bundling an attractively priced multi-pattern, DSP-enhanced USB mic with a deep suite of audio software and utilities, illustrating once again the PreSonus way of adding useful extras to every product it offers.

### R2Dtude

Revelator displays all the PreSonus hallmarks. It's solidly built, attractive, and smart. Mounted on its cleverly designed desk stand, the mic has a cool droid-like look. The stand seats the mic high enough to afford easy access to the USB-C and 1/8" headphone connections. There is a channel cutout at the rear of the stand's horseshoe-shaped base for routing cables. Revelator is bus-powered, so its design and absence of a power cable make for a tidy workspace. If you prefer or need to use a floor or boom stand, Revelator comes with an adapter that screws into the bottom of the mic.

### On the face of it

The front of the Revelator is adorned with a pair of buttons and a volume knob, each with multiple functions. By default, the knob controls the output

level of your headphones. Pressing the Monitor button turns the knob blue. In this mode, the knob is used for adjusting the balance between your computer audio and the mic. Turning to the left increases the input level relative to playback and the inverse to the right. Pressing and holding the Monitor button turns the knob green, controlling microphone preamp gain. The knob will flash red if the level is too hot. Finally, pressing the knob mutes the mic.

The Preset button cycles you through onboard DSP EQ, compression and FX presets. Pressing and holding the Preset button bypasses processing. Four presets are available directly from the mic at any given time. You can choose from the supplied list or create your own and load them into onboard user slots. How you do that gets us to one of the coolest parts of this bundle, the Universal Control application.

### Set the controls for the heart of the mic

The Universal Control app is where you set typical interface settings like bit rate, sample depth and buffer size. It is also the GUI for the mic's DSP functions. Here you can select the mic's polarity and make frequency, dynamics, and FX adjustments to the input signal. The onboard 'Fat Channel' EQs, compressors, gate, and limiter are the same 'State Space' modeled processors that PreSonus supplies with its mixers in the StudioLive range, such as the 32S console that's at the heart of my studio!

Onboard effects include reverb, delay, and various filters. The mic input channel has a dedicated reverb send with a return fader in the UC mixer. There are controls to tweak the type, size, and pre-delay of the reverb, as well as insert and set a high pass filter. You can save any changes you make as presets for future use.

The UC app has mixer controls for routing and blending loopback audio from Skype, Zoom, or system audio sources. This makes it easy to set up livestream performances (with or without backing tracks), interviews, podcasting, and for narrating gameplay, instructional, or review videos. While the mix is controlled in the app, the actual mixer lives onboard the mic. This hardware

implementation means you get two stereo streams for loopback audio, in addition to the mic stream—a nice touch, considering that most loopback-equipped USB mics typically offer only one mono or stereo stream. There are Windows, Mac, iOS, and Android versions of Universal Control.

The Revelator package also includes Studio One Artist, the middle child in the Studio One DAW family. PreSonus also throws in its Studio Magic bundle, a collection of tutorials, sound libraries, virtual instruments, and plugins, all with a retail value of over \$1000.

### Revelator revelations

The Revelator is a solid performer. The specs show a frequency response of 20 Hz to 20 kHz, a sensitivity of 1 mV/Pa, and a max SPL of 110dB <3% THD. With all processing bypassed, it delivers a neutral sound with no significant boosts or dips. The cardioid pattern is relatively tight with a good degree of attenuation at 90%. Overall, it compares favorably with other mics in its price class. It distinguishes itself by providing multiple pattern options: Cardioid, Omnidirectional and Figure-8. When you consider the target

market for Revelator, these patterns add considerable value—you can effectively conduct multiple-person interviews / performances with just this one mic.

### Software revelations

The bundled software is both solid and deep. I've reviewed Studio One many times over the years, consistently giving it high marks. The Studio Magic package is off the hook in terms of goodies and value. There are sound sample packs from Christopher Ghosthack and Soundsnap, virtual instruments from industry heavyweights such as Arturia, Cherry Audio, and UJAM, and a host of really great plugins from the likes of Mäag, SPL, Brainworx, and Lexicon, just to name a few. It's a very complete package that touches on just about every aspect of modern music, broadcast, streaming and sound design production.

### Zooming in

Like everyone else, I'm spending lots of time on video conference calls these days. I, and some of my colleagues have noted a step up in audio quality from my end since I've been using Revelator. I've also found it effective for simple one-mic voice

and acoustic guitar performances. There's enough gain in the headphone output to monitor properly while physically moving the mic or performer to balance the sound. The included EQ and dynamics processing effectively adds intelligibility and consistency. There's plenty of processing variety as well. The Fat Channel provides Opto and FET-type compressors and passive and vintage-type EQ options.

### Zoning out (of the studio)

As great as it is for streaming and podcast production, I see it having a ton of potential as an on-the-go music production companion. I do a lot of travel and often work on productions and write while on the road. I'm taken by the idea of having a studio in a mic tucked into my luggage alongside my laptop, mini keyboard and travel guitar. I could even use the Omni mic pattern to capture some evocative local ambience! I'm thinking the sound of waves lapping on a warm beach would be a nice touch on this tune that I'm all of a sudden thinking about writing... ➡

**Price:** \$179

**More from:** [presonus.com](https://www.presonus.com)