










Cubase Feature Comparison

 Full feature

 Limited feature

	Basics		
	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Number of audio tracks	(virtually) unlimited	(virtually) unlimited	64
Number of MIDI tracks	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Number for instrument tracks	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Physical inputs and outputs	256	128	32
Group channels	256	256	256
FX send channels	8	8	8
FX return channels	64	64	8
VST audio effect insert slots	8	8	8
MIDI effect insert slots	4	4	4
VST instrument slots	64	32	16
Number of mixer views	3	2	1
Number of included MIDI effect plug-ins	18	18	17
Number of included audio effect plug-ins	58	39	33
Number of included VST instruments	8	3	2
Number of included instrument sounds	1.623	749	706
User manual	hard copy	PDF	PDF

Formats/support

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
OMF import/export			
Sequel Project import			
Native Cubase 64-bit version for Windows Vista/Windows 7			
Studio Connections	 (Recall & Audio)	 (Recall)	 (Recall)

Formats/support

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Full Fraunhofer MP3 encoding		(Update)	(Update)
Windows Media WMA Pro encoding			
Multi-processing support			
Mac OS X Universal Binary			
VST3 plug-in support			
VST2.4 plug-in support			
ReWire support			

Workflow

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
External instruments			
External effects			
MIDI devices (device maps and editors)			
Track archives			
Project Logical Editor			
Batch export			
Workspaces (virtual desktops)			
Project Browser			
Pool import and export			
Track Quick Controls			
Inplace Editor (MIDI editing in Project window)			
Logical Editor			
Offline process history	(for built-in audio & plug-ins)	(for built-in audio)	(single undo)
MediaBay and VST Sound support		(*)	(*)

	Workflow		
	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Unlimited undo and redo	✓	✓	✓
Track-presets	✓	✓	✓
Key command macros	✓	✓	✓
Extended Track Inspector (display VSTi channels for MIDI tracks)	✓	✓	✓
Extended Freeze for VST instruments and audio tracks	✓	✓	✓

* No detail search, no separate tag editor, no user tags

	Recording & Mixing		
	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Control Room	✓		
Extended channel EQ (VST3 Studio EQ)	✓		
5.1 surround and true multichannel audio path	✓		
Recording from buses	✓	✓	
Extended Mixer view	✓	✓	
Sidechain inputs	✓	✓	
Volume envelopes	✓	✓	
Automation panel	✓	✓	
Recording modes: Mix, Overwrite, Normal, Merge, Stacked	✓	✓	✓ (excl. Stacked)
Automation modes: Touch, Crossover, Auto-Latch, Trim	✓	✓	✓ (Touch only)
Hardware controller support	✓	✓	✓ (*)
Award-winning 32-bit floating-point audio-engine	✓	✓	✓
Dithering Apogee UV22HR	✓	✓	✓

* Only Houston, generic+Tascam US-428/224, Mackie Universal, HUI and CC121

Composing and sequencing

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Extended options in Tempo Editor	✓		
Professional score layout and printing	✓	✓	
Global transpose track	✓	✓	
Signature and tempo tracks in Project window	✓	✓	
VST Expression support	✓	✓	
Arranger track (pattern-based arranging)	✓	✓	✓
Key Editor	✓	✓	✓
Drum Editor	✓	✓	✓
List Editor	✓	✓	✓
Basic Score Editor	✓	✓	✓

Audio Editing

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
VariAudio	✓		
Time Warp tool	✓	✓	
AudioWarp (real-time time stretching and pitch shifting)	✓	✓	✓ (playback only)
Pitch shifting and time stretching algorithm	✓ (real-time & MPEX)	✓ (real-time & MPEX)	✓ (real-time)

Audio Plug-ins

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5	VST
AmpSimulator	✓	✓	✓	3.0
AutoPan	✓	✓	✓	3.0

Audio Plug-ins

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5	VST
Bitcrusher	✓	✓	✓	2.4
Chopper	✓	✓	✓	2.4
Chorus	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Cloner	✓			3.0
Compressor	✓	✓		3.0
DaTube	✓	✓	✓	2.4
DeEsser (SPL)	✓			2.4
Distortion	✓	✓	✓	3.0
DualFilter	✓	✓	✓	3.0
EnvelopeShaper	✓			3.0
Expander	✓			3.0
Flanger	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Gate	✓	✓	✓	3.0
GEQ-10	✓			3.0
GEQ-30	✓			3.0
Grungelizer	✓	✓		2.4
Limiter	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Maximizer	✓	✓		3.0
Metalizer	✓	✓	✓	2.4
MIDI Gate	✓	✓	✓	2.4
Mix6to2	✓			2.4
MixConvert	✓			3.0
ModMachine	✓			3.0
MonoDelay	✓	✓	✓	3.0

Audio Plug-ins

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5	VST
MonoToStereo	✓	✓	✓	3.0
MultibandCompressor	✓			3.0
MultiScope	✓			2.4
Octaver	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Phaser	✓	✓	✓	3.0
PingPongDelay	✓	✓	✓	3.0
PitchCorrect	✓	✓	✓	3.0
REVerence	✓			3.0
RingModulator	✓	✓	✓	2.4
Roomworks	✓	✓		3.0
Roomworks SE	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Rotary	✓	✓	✓	3.0
SMPTE Generator	✓			2.4
SoftClipper	✓			3.0
Standard Channel EQ	✓	✓	✓	3.0
StepFilter	✓	✓	✓	2.4
StereoDelay	✓	✓		3.0
StereoEnhancer	✓	✓	✓	3.0
StudioChorus	✓	✓		3.0
StudioEQ	✓			3.0
Surround Panner	✓			3.0
Test Generator	✓			2.4
Tonic	✓			2.4
Tranceformer	✓	✓	✓	2.4

Audio Plug-ins

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5	VST
Tremolo	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Tuner	✓	✓	✓	3.0
UV22HR	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Vibrato	✓	✓	✓	3.0
VintageCompressor	✓			3.0
VSTDynamics	✓	✓	✓	3.0
WahWah	✓	✓	✓	3.0

Virtual Instruments

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5	VST
Embracer	✓			2.4
Groove Agent ONE	✓	✓		3.0
LoopMash	✓			3.0
Monologue	✓			2.4
Prologue	✓	✓	✓	3.0
Spector	✓			3.0
Mystic	✓			3.0
HALion ONE	✓	✓	✓	2.4

MIDI Plug-ins

	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Arpache 5	✓	✓	✓
Arpache SX	✓	✓	
Auto LFO	✓	✓	✓
Beat Designer	✓	✓	✓
Chorder	✓	✓	✓
Compressor	✓	✓	✓

MIDI Plug-ins

Cubase 5 Cubase Studio 5 Cubase Essential 5

Context Gate	✓	✓	✓
Density	✓	✓	✓
Micro Tuner	✓	✓	✓
MIDI Control	✓	✓	✓
MIDI Echo	✓	✓	✓
MIDI Modifiers	✓	✓	✓
MIDI Monitor	✓	✓	✓
Note 2 CC	✓	✓	✓
Quantizer	✓	✓	✓
StepDesigner	✓	✓	✓
Track Control	✓	✓	✓
Transformer	✓	✓	✓

Advanced Integration Features

Feature	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
Automatic integration through IEEE1394 (MR816 X, MR816 CSX, CC121, MOTIF XS)	✓	✓	✓
True Integrated Monitoring – 1:1 mixer mapping (MR816 X, MR816 CSX)	✓	✓	
True Integrated Monitoring – multiple studio mixes (MR816 X, MR816 CSX)	✓		
Quick Connect (MR816 X, MR816 CSX)	✓	✓	✓
Monitor mixer integration (MR816 X, MR816 CSX)	✓	✓	✓
HW setup integration (MR816 X, MR816 CSX)	✓	✓	✓
Plug-in integration of DSP effects (MR816 X (REV-X only), MR816 CSX)	✓	✓	✓
VST connection presets (MR816 X, MR816 CSX)	✓	✓	✓
Plug-in integration of MOTIF XS series voice editor (MOTIF XS)	✓	✓	✓
Control Room control (CC121)	✓		

Advanced Integration Features

Feature	Cubase 5	Cubase Studio 5	Cubase Essential 5
AI Knob control (CC121)	✓	✓	✓
External VST3 support – MIDI+audio (MOTIF XS)	✓	✓	✓
VST instrument preset browser access (KX)	✓	✓	✓
Track Quick Controls support (KX)	✓	✓	