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VIDEO CAPTURE CARD

AJA Video Kona 3 Version 2 Capture Card

by Michael Hanish

Quite possibly the Porsche of Macintosh video capture cards, AJA's new Kona 3 Version 2 promises and delivers a level of quality, flexibility, connectivity, and features to satisfy even the most rigorous broadcast and digital cinema applications at an accessible price. The Kona 3 is at the top of a line of superb video I/O cards from AJA Video for both Windows and Macintosh, one of which will undoubtedly meet the needs of any situation and any I/O configuration.

FEATURES

The Kona 3 is a PCI-E card, designed for the Mac G5 and Mac Pro towers. In terms of input and output, it features SD and HD SDI, and dual link HD SDI digital video and eight channels of 96 KHz 24-bit AES and 16-channel embedded digital audio, RS-422 machine control and analog component video output for monitoring purposes. I/O is handled by an attached snake, or through an optional breakout box, which adds analog line level audio output for monitoring. HD component and SD component/composite analog outputs are 12-bit for extremely high quality conversion.

The most significant features of the Kona 3 Version 2 don't have to do with I/O. The board is a hardware-based processing powerhouse, taking care of up/down/cross format conversion and scaling (real-time and hardware based), live HD/SD keying, and hardware acceleration for DVCProHD, HDV and Final Cut Pro's Dynamic RT (real time) Extreme effects. In addition, this newest



AJA's new Kona 3 Version 2 capture card

revision of the Kona 3 adds support for 2K digital cinema resolution files. While only a small percentage of users may need to take advantage of this feature set, its inclusion opens the way for much more affordable digital intermediate and digital cinema play-out.

Basically, this feature set allows 2K telecine files to be played out of the Kona at 2K resolution, with full control over output gamma and even the ability to define and choose a custom look-up table; furthermore, on ingest, 2K DPX and 2K QuickTime reference files are generated, facilitating both an easy interface with other 2K products as well as a simple DI pipeline and easy playout of multi-format edited material. The latest version of the software, Version 3.1, is a Universal Binary (requiring QuickTime 7.1, OS X 10.4, and Final Cut Pro 5.1) and adds a limiter functionality to

FAST FACTS

Application

Video capture for Macintosh computers

Key Features

Up/down/cross conversion, scaling

Price

\$2,990

Contact

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the setup control panel, limiting video levels to broadcast-legal chrominance and luminance values.

While the Kona's main attractions are hardware, it takes solid control software to make the board such a supremely functional

