



The Technics hi-fi gear is in a rack built by a mate at a company Steve used to work for ("Thanks Vin" – Steve)

the HHB BurnIT, which I'm well happy with. Also, over the years, I've built up a Technics stack, the amp of which is connected to my JBLs and I use that for my music. And I've got loads of sample CDs."

So how does Steve feel about his current set-up? "All I've been using really is the PC on its own with Making Waves and plug-ins," says Steve. "And I've recently replaced the Roclab with a brand new Soundcraft Spirit M8 mixing desk... what a joy, so many channels! I've also upgraded my PC to 20Gb and am thinking of upgrading the processor. I've still got the two Amigas and wonder whether to wire these up via MIDI to the mixing desk to increase the number of tracks and start some video work again."

As Steve mentions opposite, his favourite bit of kit is the new Spirit mixer, but what gets used the most in the set-up? "The PC is used most of the time for sequencing, programming, editing and layering the main body of my tracks," states Steve, "as well as mastering tracks and effecting samples. The PC is used especially for programming beats and basslines and also melodies."

Somewhat ironically, Steve's most used bit of kit is also the thing he dis-



Steve in his compact but bijou studio

likes the most. "Only because of the typical PC problems," he explains, "the occasional crash, the screen freezing and all that. At least my Amiga never really crashed on me!"

So how does Steve feel about our experts weeding out his system and getting rid of stuff? "Maybe the Korg M1 would go to buy a newer synth, but it can be used to pad out the gaps in so many ways," says Steve. "Of course I would rather not have tons and tons of equipment but I can understand why people collect loads. They love it and why should they sell their stuff?"

And how about any upgrades? "I could replace the Korg with something like the Virus," Steve admits. "My brother knocked a speaker on to it, and a couple of buttons and a key were damaged. It still works but it would cost a bit to get repaired, so I'd rather pay for something new than fork out

away, but what would you do with it if you took it, I wonder?"

Steve's already mentioned the Access Virus and DJX 2, but there are a couple of new things he's also had his eye on. "I've seen this Alienware PC," he admits, "it's very fast, very powerful but very expensive. And I'm always looking at new keyboard synths... they just get better. And loads of rack stuff too, that's maybe the next thing on my list."

Finally, we round off with our favourite *Changing studios* questions: what three things would Steve buy for his dream set-up if he won the Lottery this weekend? "Firstly a bigger house that's got an extra room ideal for a new studio set-up," Steve laughs. "The most powerful music PC on the market. And a soundproof room for vocalists and live instruments. I have a talented

◀ "I realise it's not easy to get into the industry but I've got to keep sending in tracks until they stand out from all the others" ▶

for repairs. I could upgrade the DJX to the DJX 2 or have both. And maybe I could change my soundcard too, although the SoundBlaster has been OK with me, no problems, but I'm sure there's better out there."

Is there anything sacred in the set-up that we can't touch? "My PC," laughs Steve. "That's my babe and she's full of wonderful things like new tracks, private web addresses and my personal documents! You can't take anything

young lady who comes here to sing, but I don't really want to ask her to put a towel or duvet over her head!"

The music

We managed to squeeze one of Steve's tracks on to the CD, but we ask him to describe his music. "I do a lot of different styles: trance, house, garage, d n b, slow/chilled-out tracks, industrial... and I'm getting into R&B and hip hop. Sometimes I find it hard to describe the