

Turtle Beach Catalina sound card review

★★★★★ **bang > buck**, November 18, 2005

By [Nathaniel Calkins](#) (Portland, OR USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME™

My old sound card bit the dust and I found myself scrambling for a replacement. After trying different low-to-medium-priced options, and finding none of them suitable for my needs, I did some reading and bought this card.

The main purpose of my sound card is for the archiving of analog material to digital format. For this, I needed a card that would record my source with clarity, leaving as little artifacting as possible, and without hogging system resources. I will say that this card performs this task BEAUTIFULLY: the detailing of the music I record is accurate and deep, the noise floor is virtually imperceptible to the ear, and after giving it a series of 20-80 minute archiving chores to perform, not once did it cause any anomalies (stutters, skips, clicks, etc.) associated by bogged-down system resources.

In short, this card outperforms any other card (that I've tried at least) of equal or lesser price by such a wide margin that it's hard to believe. Not only that, but you'd have to spend twice as much-- or more-- to find a card as good as this one, and probably three or four times as much before finding one that performs better. And, honestly, if your archiving needs are such that you'd need better performance than this card can provide, let's face it: you're looking at the \$250+ cards, and not reading this review anyway!

Otherwise, buy and enjoy!

(As for the software bundled with the card: I haven't given any of it a very thorough test. It looks like good stuff at first glance, though, and even if it isn't, you've already gotten more than your money for the card itself.)

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