

# New CASIOs At AMAC

Over the years, Casio keyboards and digital pianos have brought fun and music into homes around the world. This year at the Australian Music Association Convention (AMAC), Casio displayed a new range of instruments that promises to inspire beginners and advanced players alike!

AMAC was held at the Melbourne Convention Centre and it was my first AMAC appearance. I was truly amazed by the array of musical instruments and accessories shown by many different music distributors.

Casio had a funky-looking display on the top floor of the three exhibition levels. The colour red was their theme and it was an impressive display!

It was good to see Casio had not discontinued some of the older keyboard models. While updating to new technologies, they had still kept some of the models we love, such as the WK-3800 workstation. It's a brilliant keyboard to play and is popular for home or church groups.

So, what's new from Casio? The new Casio keyboards feature an improved sound quality; their AHL (Acoustic & Highly-compressed Large-waveform) sound source. They have changed the design of the keyboard to Piano Shape Keys that are filled-in underneath. A revamped lesson system enhances the experience of learning by listening and playing. The most impressive feature I found was that you can now plug your iPod or MP3 player into your keyboard, so you can play along to your favourite songs! That's cool!

For me, the keyboards that caught my attention in this new range were;

**The Casio CTK-4000 (RR \$329)**, an excellent new keyboard for beginners. It is simple to use but still has enough features to keep you busy. The sound quality is nice, especially important when you're a beginner. I think this keyboard will be really popular, as it's a good combination of decent sound quality, fantastic features and it is great value for money! Features of the CTK-4000 include:

- 61 touch-sensitive keys.
- Improved sound quality.
- Fun features to enjoy; 500+ Tones, 150+ Rhythms, and more
- USB and iPod compatible; get into the technology and play along!
- Improved lesson system to play along with in-built songs.

Another model to keep an eye out for is the **Casio WK-200 (RR \$459)**. This has more keys and more power than the CTK-4000 but with identical features. It is still lightweight and portable, so you can store it in a cupboard or carry it around with you. You'll enjoy not running out of keys and this keyboard is wonderful value.

Features include:

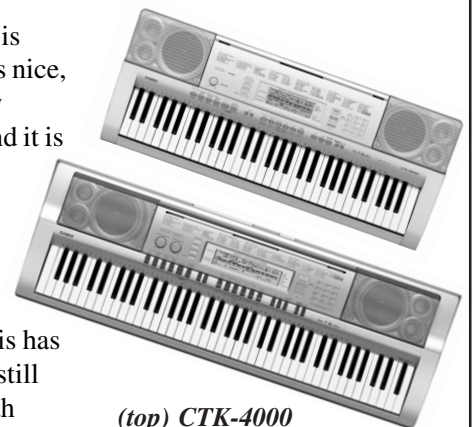
- 76 touch-sensitive keys, plus all the features of the above model.
- Recording capability, so you can listen back to your playing.
- Microphone plug-in so you can sing along!

If you prefer an instrument with a weighted feel, then you should check out the new **Casio Celviano AP-200**. Simple and easy to operate, all you have to do is enjoy the playing experience. This model offers 88 fully-weighted keys with three pedals (damper, soft, sostenuto) and a good range of sounds. The timber cabinet adds appeal and a good speaker system ensures you a pleasant piano playing experience. Extra features include:

- 11 different instrument tones to play.
- Sliding top lid to keep dust out.
- In-built metronome to keep you in time as you practice.
- Selections of effects, like 'orchestra' so you feel like you're not playing at home!

I was very pleased to attend AMAC this year. Casio's new range of keyboards had certainly impressed me. I look forward to showing all our MusiClub readers these terrific musical instruments.

Lester C.



(top) CTK-4000  
(below) WK-200



AP-200  
In-store Now!