

# THAT'S COOL

## THE LATEST GIZMOS AND GADGETS

### Allegro Piano Wizard

I tested the Wizard at the Consumer Electronics Show, where it caught the eye of passers-by with its “wow” graphics — and the fact you could be playing a concerto in about a minute, albeit slowly (even I, who wanted nothing to do with piano lessons as a kid, could do it — and it was fun).

The concept is simple. It's like learning to play piano while you think you're playing a video game. It's intuitive — the game shows when to hit the right note at the right time and as skill level increases, so does the level of the “game.”

It's a different way to learn musical notation, certainly with less stress, and it's designed to be enjoyable no matter what level you're playing (beginner, intermediate, transition or advanced).

You will need a Windows-based PC (suggested system requirements: Windows 98SE/ME/2000/XP; Windows Media Center is not supported). Make sure you have at least a 733+ MHz processor, 32 MB video card and 200 MB free hard drive space. And, of course, you need Internet access to update the game and download MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) songs.

If you already own a PC-compatible musical keyboard, you can buy the the Premier software and USB Midi Combo for \$139.95. The keyboard is available with the Premier Keystation 49e Package for \$199.95.

The Wizard is made by Miami-based Allegro Multimedia Inc. (also known as Allegro Rainbow), a provider of “nonviolent music gaming software and musical educational tools.”

■ [www.pianowizard.com](http://www.pianowizard.com), \$139.95 or \$199.95



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