

USB & FireWire Mixers

By Bill Evans

OK, you're not going to do a Madonna show with one of these. In fact, you will be hard pressed—given the channel count on most of them—to do anything bigger than a five piece. But that is not the point. The point is that these small boards allow you to easily mix the show and record it without any extra gear. Some of them actually will work well in a small studio, which means you can

use it to record during the week and pack it up on the weekend for gigs—and record the gigs with just the console and a laptop.

Note the big exception in terms of price and channel count is the ever-more-popular Digidesign Venue system, which offers a path to Pro Tools via FireWire. We think we will be seeing more of this very soon... **F•H**

Yamaha IM8-40



Crest Audio CV-20



Company	Model	Price/Frame (Channel) Sizes	VCA Channels	Subgroup Channels	EQ Description
Allen & Heath www.allen-heath.com/ zed	ZED-420	\$1,499.99/16 channels; \$1,699.99/24 channels; \$1,999.99/32 channels. All frames also include dual stereo inputs.	0	4 subgroups plus L, R and main outputs	4-band EQ with 2 swept mids featuring MusiQ optimized Q slope and high pass filter.
	ZED-R16	\$2,999.99/16 channels	0	0	Two fully parametric mids with frequency and Q control, plus high and low shelving EQ and HPF.
Crest Audio www.crestaudio.com	CV-20	32, 40, 48, 56, 64 mono + 8 stereo frames; 32-\$17,195; 40-\$19,450; 48-\$21,450; 56-\$24,195; 64-\$28,450	128 VCA assignment scenes	8	4-band sweepable EQ with Q control on the mids and a variable high pass filter.
Digidesign www.digidesign.com	VENUE Profile Mix Rack System	\$39,995.00	8	8 (mono or stereo)	4-band fully variable PEQ with digital and analog emulation modes, plus separate HPF.
Mackie www.mackie.com	Onyx 1220	\$689.00/12 channels	0	0	Perkins EQ circuitry, "neo-classic" design based on circuitry from the '60s and '70s.
	Onyx 1640	\$1,799.00/16 channels	0	4	
Peavey www.peavey.com	16FX	\$1,049.99/24 channels	0	4	3-band EQ with sweepable mid-frequency and fixed low cut filters per ch; 27-band GEQ, 5-band PEQ.
	24FX	\$1,399.99/24 channels	0	4	
	32FX	\$1,599.99/32 channels	0	4	
PreSonus www.presonus.com	StudioLive 16.4.2	\$1,999.00	16	4	4-band semi parametric.
Yamaha Commercial Audio Systems, Inc. www.yamahaca.com	MG206c-USB	\$799.00/20 channels	0	4 groups	Mono channels feature 3-band EQ with low, mid and high controls.
	Yamaha IM8	IM8-24: \$4,799; -32: \$5,799; -40: \$6,499	0	8 group busses	4-band EQ on both stereo and mono channels featuring high, hi-mid, lo-mid and low controls.

Allen & Heath ZED-420



Mackie Onyx 1640

USB or Firewire Output	Number of Aux Send Channels and Pre/Post Groupings
USB	Console has 6 aux sends, 1 and 2 are pre-fade for foldback monitoring, 3 and 4 are switched pre or post-fade for effects sends, and 5 and 6 are post-fade. Auxes 1 and 2 can be sent to the USB bus for recording pre-fade signals independently to the main mix. Auxes 5 and 6 can also be sent to the USB bus for use as effects sends.
FireWire	Two pre and two post aux buses can be used as feeds for headphone amplifiers in the studio, FX sends anywhere or wedge foldback live. The talkback function is either routed to the aux or studio outputs.
USB	12 auxes with flexible configurations (1-4 mono, 5-10 switchable between mono and stereo, 11 & 12 stereo with pre and post switching in the same configuration.)
FireWire	Up to 24 aux sends plus direct out per channel, selectable pre/post per send, per channel.
FireWire option card	2 auxes, individually pre/post switcable.
16 x 2 FireWire option card	6 auxes w/ individual pre/post switching.
USB	6 (4 pre, 2 post)
USB	
USB	
FireWire input/output	6
USB, model includes Cubase AI4	4, 1 pre, 1 post, 2 individually switchable pre/post.
USB	8 aux sends, aux 1 is pre/post, then switchable in pairs.

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