Tablet Controlled Rack-Mount Digital Mixers

By GeorgePetersen

Digital mixing systems just seem to get more flexible, more powerful and more affordable. And the notion of a rack-mount unit that's remotely controlled via Wi-Fi (iOS and/or Android) makes a lot of sense in many applications, ranging from portable P.A. to church installations, live theater, corporate/industrial presentations — anywhere where a low-profile "invisible" console is just the ticket. Other advantages include eliminating the need for a house snake, with the mixer located near the stage and the FOH position being anywhere within Wi-Fi range. We checked out a number of current models and found a variety of products to meet anyone's needs and budget.

Allen & Heath Qu Pac

Input Channels: 16 (expandable with stagebox)
Local Preamps: 16
Remote I/O: Any dSNAKE stagebox
Max Sampling Rate: 48 kHz
Main Outs: 12 XLR outs
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: No
EQ, Type: PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs

Onboard Effects: Effects from iLive FX Library
Network Interfacing: dSNAKE
Notes: Local touch screen control; 18-channel recording to USB; monitor mixing via iPhone or ME hardware mixers
Price: $1,699/street

allen-heath.com

Crest Audio Tactus

Input Channels: 64
Local Preamps: 8
Remote I/O: Tactus Stage 32x16
Max Sampling Rate: 96 kHz
Main Outs: 4 XLR
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: Yes
EQ, Type: PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs

Onboard Effects: Wave SoundGrid
Network Interfacing: Gigabit Ethernet to Waves SoundGrid/LV1 protocol
Notes: Optional Tactus Control hardware controller
Price: Varies by configuration

peaveycommercialaudio.com

Mackie DL32S

Input Channels: 32
Local Preamps: 32
Remote I/O: None offered
Max Sampling Rate: 48 kHz
Main Outs: 10 assignable XLR
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: Yes
EQ, Type: PEQ's on channels; PEQ's & GEQ's

on outs
Onboard Effects: 4 stereo effects engines
Network Interfacing: 32x32 USB interface
Notes: Direct recording to Mac/PC
Price: $1,399/street

mackie.com

Peavey Unity DR16

Input Channels: 16
Local Preamps: 8
Remote I/O: Two can combine for 28 total inputs.
Max Sampling Rate: 48k Hz
Main Outs: 4 aux plus stereo XLR pair
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: Yes

EQ, Type: Sweepable inputs; parametrics and graphics on outputs
Network Interfacing: S/PDIF or Dante
Notes: Priority ducking and assignable Feedback Eliminators
Price: $499

peavey.com

PreSonus StudioLive 32R

Input Channels: 34
Local Preamps: 32
Remote I/O: Yes, via AVB
Max Sampling Rate: 48 kHz
Main Outs: 6, plus 16 assignable FlexMix outs
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: No
EQ, Type: PEQ's on all inputs/outputs; (8)

GEQ's
Onboard Effects: Reverb, delay plus Fat Channel on all inputs
Network Interfacing: Ethernet, AVB
Notes: Built-in 40x40 USB 2.0 interface for recording
Price: $1,799/street

presonus.com

RCF M18

Input Channels: 18
Local Preamps: 8
Remote I/O: None
Max Sampling Rate: 48 kHz
Main Outs: 6 aux out; stereo XLR mains
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: Yes
EQ, Type: PEQs and shelving on inputs; PEQs on outs
Onboard Effects: Studio effects plus guitar amp modeling
Network Interfacing: LAN port for external Wi-Fi
Notes: 2-track USB record/play; optional rack mount kit
Price: $699/street

rcf.it

Soundcraft Ui24R

Input Channels: 24
Local Preamps: 20
Remote I/O: None
Max Sampling Rate: 48 kHz
Main Outs: 8 aux; two mains
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: Yes
EQ, Type: PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs
Onboard Effects: Lexicon, dbx and DigiTech effects
Network Interfacing: Ethernet for external Wi-Fi
Notes: Studer-designed preamps; 24-channel USB recording
Price: $1,099/street

soundcraft.com

Waves eMotion LV-1

Input Channels: 16/32/64
Local Preamps: Any SoundGrid-compatible I/O
Remote I/O: Waves DigiGrid
Max Sampling Rate: 96 kHz
Main Outs: Variable
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: No
EQ, Type: Waves eMo dynamics/EQ/filter on all inputs
Onboard Effects: Up to eight Waves or 3rd-party plug-ins
Network Interfacing: SoundGrid
Notes: Requires Mac or Windows PC
Price: Available as software-only, or $5,499 (total live turnkey system)

waves.com

Yamaha TF-Rack

Input Channels: 16
Local Preamps: 16
Remote I/O: Connect multiple 16-in/8-out Tio1608-D's via optional Dante card
Max Sampling Rate: 48kHz
Main Outs: 16 assignable Omni outs
Onboard Wi-Fi Router: No
EQ, Type: 4-band PEQ; 31-band graphic
Onboard Effects: Eight effects engines
Network Interfacing: Ethernet plus optional Dante
Notes: Touch screen for local control
Price: $ 1,799/street

yamahaproaudio.com

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