# Digital Consoles Over $75K

### By Bill**Evans**

If it's not one thing… When it came time for the annual digital console buyers' guide we figured that there were now so many systems out there under the $50K mark that we could never fit them into print. So we opted to go with the big boys. Except that we did not factor in the increasing complexity of these systems and how hard that is to express in chart format.

"Putting together a product comparison of various digital mixing consoles and trying to keep it smaller than a paperback book is always challenging for a magazine publisher as the digital mixing consoles grow in their feature sets and complexity. This format is best used as a road map to know that there are consoles that you should put on your "research in greater detail" list," said Matt Larson, national sales manager for DiGiCo in the U.S.

We better start planning for next year right about now. F◉H


Yamaha PM5D-EX


Stagetec Aurus


Innovason Eclipse


DiGiCo SD7


Soundcraft Vi4


Digidesign Venue D-Show System


Cadac S-Digital


Midas XL8

| Company | Model | MSRP | Dimensions | Weight | Mic Inputs | Output Mixes | EQ | Dynamic Processing | Dynamics EQ | FX Types | Recording Interface | Signal Transport | IO Type | Laptop Controllable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avid/ Digidesign | VENUE D-Show System | $74,995 - $99,995 | D-Show Main & Sidecar: 13.7" x 78.3" x 35.5", FOH Rack: 17.5" x 17" x 15.1" (10U); Stage Rack: 17.5" x 17" x 12.2" (10U) | D-Show Main & Sidecar: 194 lbs., FOH Rack: 74 lbs., Stage Rack: 86 lbs. | Up to 96 mic pres on stage, 24 faders in base configuration expandable up to 56. | 27 busses plus 8 mono and 8 stereo matrixes. | 4-band fully parametric EQ with digital or analog emulation modes, plus separate HPF and up to 4 plug-ins per channel. | Compressor/limiter and expander/gate, plus up to 4 plug-ins per channel. | 24 Graphic EQs, plus up to 4 plug-ins per output channel. | Reverbs, delays, EQs, dynamics and vintage gear emulations by Digidesign, Drawmer, Eventide, Focusrite, Massenburg, McDSP, Serato, Sonnox, TC Electronic, URS and Waves. Up to 100 simultaneous effects. | Direct recording, playback and Virtual Soundcheck of 128 tracks with industry standard Pro Tools HD, or 18 tracks with Pro Tools LE. | VENUE Digital Snake over copper coaxial cable.. | Stage I/O: Any configuration of analog/digital (AES/ADAT) I/O up to 96 inputs and 96 outputs on stage. Up to 96 outputs are also available on stage over the AVIOM ANet networking protocol. Local I/O: Up to 10 AES inputs and outputs, 18 analog TRS line level inputs and outputs, talkback input and coms are available at the mix position. | Yes |
| Cadac | S-Digital | From $100,000 | 78.7" x 35.4" x 11.8" | 551 lbs. | Up to 144 | 72 | 4 band parametric | Gate, Compressor, Limiter, Delay | Compressor, Limiter, Delay, 6 band parametric | None | MADI | Cadac protocol high speed digital comms, coax pair | Analog, AES, MADI, Cobranet, Ethersound, Aviom, Dante | Yes |
| DiGiCo | SD7-EXM Surface with Redundant Engine Digi Rack w/ 150M Optics Snake | $215,812 | 59.89" x 37.75" x 19.8" | 310 lbs. | 253 Live Inputs / 696 Patched Inputs. 52 Live Faders (expandable to 100 Live Faders with two EX-007) | 128 (122 Mono/Stereo Aux or Group, LR, LCR, 32 x 32 Matrix, 32 Control Groups-VCA, two Stereo Solo Busses) | Variable Hi-Pass & Lo-Pass, 4 Band Fully Parametric EQ , each band selectable Type 1 or Type 2 EQ and Dynamic EQ. All availble on every Input. | Dynamics - Full Range Dynamic Compressor/Limiter or 3 Band Muli-Band Compressor/Limiter, Gate with variable Hi-Pass & Lo-Pass Filter and Side Chain . All availble on every Input. | 8 Band EQ - (4 Band Fully Parametric EQ Pre Insert Send, each band selectable Type 1 or Type 2 EQ and Dynamic EQ & 4 Band Fully Parametric EQ Post Insert each band selectable Type 1 or Type 2 EQ. Dynamics - Full Range Dynamic Compressor/Limiter or 3 Band Muli-Band Compressor/Limiter, Gate with variable Hi-Pass & Lo-Pass Filter and Side Chain . All availble on every Output Buss. | 48 Stereo 40-Bit Floating Point Effects. (16 Stereo Super FPGA Reverbs and 32 Stereo Tigar Shark Effects) Simple Delay, Studio Delay, Audio Enhancer, Guitar Chorus, Piano Chorus, Percussion Chorus, Wide String Chorus, Vocal Thicken, Vocal Unison, Piano Thicken, Woodwind Thicken, Octave Down, Large Hall, Warm Hall, Stage Hall, Ambient Hall, Catheral, Wood Room, Clear Room, Percussion Room, Practice Room, Live Room, Short Plate, Medium Plate, Drum Plate, Percussion Plate, Vocal Plate, Non-Linear, Non-Linear Thick, Non-Linear Ambience, Reverse Ambience, Kick Ambience. | MADI via SSL MADI to HD or RME MADI-Face ($1,900 Retail) to be able to record to Mac or PC with Reaper, Logic, Nuendo or Cubase with "Listen to Copy" function on the cosole for instant playback of recorded tracks. | 12 Racks of 56 In x 56 Output connectivity. (4 MADI connections - 56 Ch. Input and Output Coaxal BNC with 4 AUX MADI redundant connections, Two Optocore Fiber Optics Loops connections each can have 3 DiGiCo consoles and 4 stage racks per Optical Loop. Includes DiGiCo's Digital Gain Tracking) | Local connections on console - 12 Analog Inputs & Outputs, 12 AES/EBU AES3 Digital Inputs & Outputs, MIDI, 32 GPIO   RACKS - DiGi Rack 7 Input cards 56 Ch. Inputs, 7 Output Cards 56 Ch. Outputs, MADI & AUX MADI for Digital Splitter (100 Meters), HMA or ST Optocore Optics (500 Meters or more if required). MiNi Rack (4 Cards Input or Output) 32 Inputs/32 Outputs, MADI & AUX MADI for Digital Splitter (100 Meters), HMA or ST Optocore Optics (500 Meters or more if required). MADI Rack 48 Ch. Inputs, 3 Output Cards 24 Ch. Outputs, MADI & AUX MADI for Digital Splitter (100 Meters). Cards Availble - Analog Input, AES/EBU Input, D Tube, Analog Output, AES/EBU Output, AES/EBU Input & Output, EtherSound, Aviom. | Web site downloadable (No Charge) On-Line/ Off-Line RCE Remote Control Editor. Controls all features on console. |
| Innovason | Eclipse with DioCore Remote Rack | Mid 80's | 46" x 30" x 9" | 99 lbs. | 104 | 48 | 4 band parametric + high pass | Compressor, limiter, gate, delay | Each physical output has full outboard signal processing of 31 band graphic EQ, 8 band parametric EQ, compressor, limiter, gate, delay and output gain all selectable as AES or analog | 32 Engines. Includes algorithms developed by VB-Audio: Just-Verb2, MultiTap Delay, GEQ-31, Modulated delay and phasing, DeEsser / Ducker, C-Limiter, EQ-Pro-G8 (8b P/EQ), Stereo Phase EQ, Compressor and Expander | Onboard integrated 64 Track recorder with removable SATA hard drive includes a virtual sound check and missing musician features. Other external recording devices may be connected via onboard Ethersound interface. | Ethersound and/or the original Innovason MUXIPAIR transmission system | Eight input cards (64 mic pres), three output cards (24 fully signal processed outputs), one effects processing card and 16x16 line i/o of external inserts or discreet send / receives. More I/O cards may be added. | No |
| Midas Consoles North America | Pro 6 | $99,500 | 53.7" x 36.4" | 209 lbs. | 64 | 32 busses + LCR | 4 parametric + adjustable high and low pass filters + insertable Klark Teknik 31 band Graphic EQ | 4 Comp styles + Gate + Delay | 5 Comp styles + 6 fully parametric + 31 band Klark Teknik graphic EQ | 8 Fully assignable stereo FX engines | AES50 or AES EBU | Fiber or Cat5e | 264 x 264 network level with a wide range of I/O options | No |
| Midas Consoles North America | XL8 | $286,135 | 73.82" x 16.57" x 41.51" | 350 lbs. | 112 | 48 +LCR | 4 fully parametric + insertable 31 band Klark Teknik Graphic EQ + adjutable high and low pass | 4 Comp styles + gate + delay | 5 Comp styles + 6 fully parametric EQ + 31 band Klark Teknik Graphic EQ | 16 stereo FX engines | AES50 / AESEBU | Fiber | 400+ with Various I/O options including Midas Digital/Analog splitter systems | No |
| Soundcraft | Vi6 | $84K | 12.8" x 68.6" x 28.5" | 306 lbs. | N/R | 35 | 4 band fully parametric | Gate/limiter/compression | Compressor, Limiter, Delay (0-1sec); 4-band fully parametric EQ | 8 stereo Lexicon | N/R | 16 analog line local rack inputs, 3 analog mic/line inputs, 1 Talkback Mic input. 16 AES/EBU inputs. 64ch optical MADI In; 16 analog line local rack outputs, 16 AES/EBU outputs. 3 Local monitor A analog line outputs 2 Local Monitor B analog line outputs TB line output 64ch optical MADI Out 64 analog mic/line stagebox inputs. 32 analog line stagebox outputs. | 16 analog line local rack inputs, 3 analog mic/line inputs, 1 Talkback Mic input; 16 of AES/EBU inputs; 64ch optical MADI In    16 analog line local rack outputs 16 AES/EBU outputs (= 16 channels) 3 Local monitor A analog line outputs 2 Local Monitor B analog line outputs TB line output 64ch optical MADI Out  64 analog mic/line stagebox inputs; 32 analog line stagebox outputs. | Yes |
| Soundcraft | Vi4 | $75K | 12.8" x 57.0" x 28.5" | 117 lbs. | N/R | 35 | 4 band fully parametric | SCore Processing | Delay, Compressor, Limiter plus Gate or De-Esser, Insert point for external processing | 8 stereo Lexicon | MADI | Connection from local rack to stagebox: Standard fit: Cat5 or Cat7 cable, with Amphenol RJF connectors. Optional: Fibre Optical interface card (additional cost). | 16 analog line inputs 3 analog mic/line inputs 1 Talkback Mic input (mounted on control surface) 8 pairs of AES/EBU inputs (=16 channels) 64ch optical MADI In; 2 LR Local Monitor B analog line outputs; 64 analog mic/line inputs;  32 analog line stagebox outputs. | Yes |
| Stagetec | AURUS | $300k+ | 53.15" x 41.61" | N/R | Up to 96 faders + center section | 128 busses | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/R | MADI | Fiber | Configurable | Yes |
| Stagetec | Crescendo | $150k+ | 42" x 21" | From 80 lbs. | Up to 48 faders/ 300 Channels | 128 busses | Yes | Yes | Yes | N/R | MADI | Fiber | Nexus | No |
| Yamaha Commercial Audio Systems, Inc. | Yamaha PM5D-EX | $99,500 (PM5D-RH, DSP5D Expander) | 61.1" x 37.4" x 11.1" | PM5D-RH: 214 lbs. DSP5D: 80 lbs. | 56 onboard at 96kHz; 56 additional remote or local with DSP5D | 24 Mix, 8 Matrix, Stereo A, Stereo B Outputs; 48 mono + 4 stereo, 24 mix + 8 matrix, 24 Omni outs, 8 stereo effects when using DSP5D Expander | 4-band fully Paramentric EQ (Type I & II) plus dedicated HPF; 12 graphic EQs on DSP5D | Two independent Dynamics processors: Compressor, Gate, Expander, Ducking and Compander | Yes | 8 SPX Effect Processors + 12 31-band Graphic EQs + Input/Output Channel Delay | ADK LYVE Tracker also 3 AES-3 In/Out Optional MY-Card Interfaces: AES-3, CobraNet, Ethersound, ADAT, TDIF, MADI, A-Net 16, Optocore | CAT5 Ethernet cable | 24 input + 4 stereo + 8 DCA + 2 master; DSP5D 48 mono and 4 stereo | Yes |