



# Volunteer-Friendly Consoles

By Bill Evans

Okay, this is called opening a can o' squiggly worms. The Buyers' Guide is on "volunteer friendly" (as in House of Worship volunteers) consoles. As a designation like that is highly subjective, we asked console makers to give us specs on consoles they think fit the bill and then to make the case for volunteer friendliness. So some of what follows may sound like marketing-speak, and you will find consoles of both analog and digital flavors at price points of a couple grand up to enough to buy a house in some parts of the country. It is up to you to separate the wheat from the chaff, as it were. And on that HOW-flavored note... **F** **U** **H**



Peavey Sanctuary



Mackie 1604



RSS M300 P1 A



RSS M-400 V-Mixer



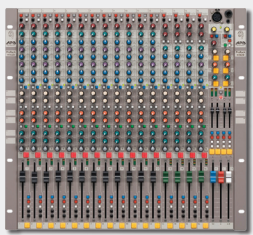
Mackie 3204



Carvin C3248



APB-Dynasonics ProDesk-4



APB-Dynasonics ProRack

## Allen & Heath iLive-T112 and iDR48

\$21,999

FRAME SIZE: 64 inputs

PRE-FADE AUXES: up to 32

POST FADE AUXES: up to 32

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4 band parametric, plus gate-comp-limiter-de esser per channel

SOLO AND MUTE? Yes all channels

VCAs/DCAs? 16 DCAs

SUBGROUPS? Up to 16 stereo or 32 mono

SIZE: 42.6" x 11" x 25"

WEIGHT: 50 lbs.

DETAILS: Console can recall all functions from previous settings IE Sunday service, Choir rehearsal, youth ministry etc, Soft keys can be assigned to recall scenes. Designed to be very user friendly while still maintaining all the functionality one would expect from a modern professional digital console.

## APB-DynaSonics ProDesk-4

(Also available as ProDesk-8)

ProDesk-416 = \$6,340 ProDesk-424 = \$7,630

ProDesk-432 = \$9,000 ProDesk-440 = \$10,460

ProDesk-448 = \$11,900

FRAME SIZE: 16, 24, 32, 40, and 48 Mono inputs PLUS all models have 4 additional Stereo Line Input Channels

PRE-FADER AUXES: Up to 6 (6 Total switchable in pairs) (8+1 total on ProDesk-8)

POST-FADER AUXES: Up to 6 (6 Total switchable in pairs) (8+1 total on ProDesk-8)

EQ: Variable High Pass Filter: Fixed HF/LF plus 2 Variable Mid Freq sweep EQ with 1 Oct Bandwidth

SOLO AND MUTE? Yes - All internally illuminated Switches

MASTER SECTION: Left-Right, Center, and Mono Master Faders - 4 Group Masters, 4 channel Matrix System, 4 Channel Mute Group system, Master Aux level controls with Illuminated AFL switches, 1/4" & 1/8" Headphone connectors with master headphone level control, 4 Pin XLR Littlite connectors with Dimmer system, Program Inputs with front and rear panel analog inputs and rear panel USA digital input, Fader reverse function with auxes all have status indicators.

VCAs/DCAs? No

SUBGROUPS: 4 (8 on ProDesk-8)

SIZE: Depth 23.5" x Height = 8.9" x Width ProDesk 416 = 30.8" ProDesk-424 = 38.8" ProDesk-432 = 46.9" ProDesk-440 = 55" ProDesk-448 = 63.1"

WEIGHT: ProDesk 416 = 63 lbs. ProDesk-424 = 77 lbs. ProDesk-432 = 90 lbs. ProDesk-440 = 100 lbs. ProDesk-448 = 118 lbs.

DETAILS: Desktop mixers with all necessary basic features needed by the volunteer operator and available in both 4 and 8 subgroup versions. Extensive signal monitoring and simple control operation enhances the mixing experience while maximizing the sonic performance of any service, performance or presentation it is part of.

## APB-DynaSonics ProRack

\$3,150

FRAME SIZE: 10U 19" Rack Mount

PRE-FADER AUXES: Up to 6 (switchable in pairs)

POST-FADER AUXES: Up to 6 (switchable in pairs)

EQ: Variable High Pass Filter - Fixed HF/LF plus 2 Variable Mid Freq sweep EQ with 1 Oct Bandwidth

SOLO/MUTE? Yes - All internally illuminated switches

MASTER SECTION: Left-Right, Center, and Mono Master Faders - 4 Group Faders, Master Aux level controls with Illuminated AFL switches, 1/4" & 1/8" Headphone connectors with master headphone level control, 4 Pin XLR Littlite connector with Dimmer system, Alternate output with L-R, C, and M available, Monitor selection of L-R, C, M, Aux 5-6, and external input. Peak and signal present signal monitoring of ALL summing amplifiers.

VCAs/DCAs: No

SUBGROUPS: 4

SIZE: W19" x H15.5" x D 4.8" Rack mount - 9.94" Desktop

WEIGHT: 35 lbs.

DETAILS: This U.S. manufactured product is easy to use with input, output and summing amplifier signal monitoring set up in a way to help both the novice and experienced engineer maintain best signal levels through-mixer and maintain best sounding operation. Very responsive EQ and very forgiving front end simplifies operation for the volunteer operator.

## AVID VENUE SC48

\$28,555

FRAME SIZE: (Mic/Line/Stereo): 48 analog mic/line XLR Inputs, Analog and Digital 2-Track Inputs, 18 FireWire Channels to/from Pro Tools

PRE-FADE AUXES: Up to 16 Total Auxes

POST FADE AUXES: Up to 16 Total Auxes

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4 Band Fully Parametric, Digital or Analog Emulation Modes, Separate HPF, Plus Plug-ins

SOLO AND MUTE: Yes, Per Channel

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: Full Channel Strip Control, Plug-in Control, Monitoring and User-defined Functions

VCAs/DCAs: 8

SUBGROUPS: 8 Mono or 8 Stereo

SIZE: Height: (front) 3.9 inches (rear) 7.3 inches; Width: 38.95 inches with end caps; Depth: 28.15 inches

WEIGHT: 125 lbs.

## AVID VENUE Profile System

\$62,985

FRAME SIZE: ( Mic/Line/Stereo): Up to 96 Analog Mic/line XLR inputs, 16 Line Inputs, Analog and Digital 2-Track Inputs, Up to 128 Channels to/from Pro Tools

PRE-FADE AUXES: Up to 24 Total Auxes

POST FADE AUXES: Up to 24 Total Auxes

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4 Band Fully Parametric, Digital or Analog Emulation Modes, Separate HPF, Plus Plug-ins

SOLO AND MUTE: Yes, Per Channel

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: Full Channel Strip Control, Plug-in Control, Monitoring and User-defined Functions

VCAs/DCAs: 8

SUBGROUPS: 8 Mono or 8 Stereo

SIZE: D-Show Main & Sidecar (194 lbs.); Width: 78.3 inches, Depth: 35.5 inches, Height: 13.7 inches

FOH Rack (74 lbs.) Width: 17 inches; Depth: 15.1 inches; Height: 17.5 inches (10U)

Stage Rack (86 lbs.) Width: 17 inches; Depth: 12.2 inches; Height: 17.5 inches (10U)

DETAILS: Staff training time is greatly reduced by using Pro Tools to perform Virtual Soundchecks, and the common VENUE software allows for 100% knowledge transfer between systems. Flexible filing and snapshot automation systems allow all console settings to be recalled exactly, ensuring consistent results from service to service. VENUE also puts the most important elements of the mix immediately at hand - personal monitoring systems from Avid and Aviom give musicians maximum control of their onstage mix without disrupting the console operator.

## Carvin C3248

\$1,299

FRAME SIZE: 32 ch XLR Mic Preamps and Line In

PRE-FADE AUXES: 6 Mon sends

POST FADE AUXES: 2 Effects sends

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4-bands, Hi & Low plus 2 mid sweeps Lo Mid & Hi Mid,

SOLO AND MUTE: Pre Fader Listen (solo), and Mute on each channel

Master section features: Two 5V USB power ports, two 24-Bit effect processors, Return effects to monitor controls, 6 Aux (monitor) master controls, USB stereo in/out, Mono (subwoofer) output, 4 bus compressors with link switches, dual 9-band graphic EQ,

VCAs/DCAs? No

SUBGROUPS? Yes 4 subgroups plus L/R

SIZE: 38.1" wide x 16.3" deep x 3.75" high

WEIGHT: 29.5 lbs.

DETAILS: Carvin's Concert Series consoles offer big board features like 4 band EQ and 8 sends (6 monitors and 2 effects) per channel giving the most performance in a small format. The built-in effects processors, compressors and wireless receivers eliminate cabling and outboard gear making the console easy to use.

## DiGiCo SD8

\$42,500 (SD8-24)/\$51,500 (SD8-36)

INPUT CHANNELS: 60 Flexi Channels (60 Mono with an Alternate Input or any channel can be made Stereo (120 XLRs), 16 or 24 banks of 12 faders that can be custom assigned to have Input, Aux, Group, Matrix Outputs custom laid out the way you would like. 240 Inputs x 240 Outputs capacity

PRE-FADER AUXES: 24 Mono or Stereo (48 XLRs)

POST-FADER AUXES: 24 Mono or Stereo (48 XLRs)

EQ PER CHANNEL: All Inputs & Output busses include Delay up to 1.3 seconds, 4 Band Fully Parametric EQ, Hi Band & Lo Band can be used as a Bell or Shelf. Dynamic EQ on all 4 Bands available on up to 8 Inputs or Outputs. Variable Hi-Pass & Lo-Pass Filter, 24 32-Band Insertable

Graphic EQs, Compressor/Limiter & Gate Multi-Band Compressor available on up to any 8 Inputs or Outputs.

SOLO AND MUTE: Every Input & Output has Mute & Solo. 18 Macros & 12 Control Groups/DCA can be used for Mute Groups. Two Mono or Stereo Solo Busses with Insert and delay to time align your headphones & Near Fill monitors

MASTER SECTION: Left & Right Master Group Buss, LCR, 16 x 12 Matrix, 24 Mono or Stereo Aux Send or Group Sends. Direct Outputs on every Input. Matrix Inputs sourced from Graphic EQ, Effects, Input ch. Groups, Aux sends or other Matrix Outputs.

VCAs/DCAs: 12 CG Control Groups. VCA Style, Mute Style or Moving Fader Style & Auto Mute that will mute any assigned input when it leaves a CG from a scene

SUBGROUPS: 24 + Master Left & Right

SIZE: 36.5" (53" SD8-36) x 31.9" x 9.9"

WEIGHT: 116 lbs. (SD8-24) 157 lbs. (SD8-36)

DETAILS: The SD8 was designed with ease of use as the number one design criteria, but at the same time is loaded with features that the most advance engineers dream of. The Live security feature allows you to lockdown any feature or controls down to a specific knob.

## DiGiCo SD9

\$26,999

INPUT CHANNELS: 40 Flexi Channels (40 Mono with an Alternate Input or any channel can be made Stereo (80 XLRs), 8 banks of 12 faders that can be custom assigned to have Input, Aux, Group, Matrix Outputs custom laid out the way you would like. 132 Inputs x 132 Outputs capacity

PRE-FADER AUXES: 16 Mono or Stereo (32 XLRs)

POST-FADER AUXES: 16 Mono or Stereo (32 XLRs)

EQ PER CHANNEL: All Inputs & Output busses include Delay up to 1.3 seconds, 4 Band Fully Parametric EQ, Hi Band & Lo Band can be used as a Bell or Shelf. Dynamic EQ on all 4 Bands available on up to 4 Inputs or Outputs. Variable Hi-Pass & Lo-Pass Filter, 16 32-Band Insertable

Graphic EQs, Compressor/Limiter & Gate Multi-Band Compressor available on up to any 4 Inputs or Outputs.

SOLO AND MUTE: Every Input & Output has Mute & Solo. 18 Macros & 8 Control Groups/DCA can be used for Mute Groups. Two Mono or Stereo Solo Busses with Insert and delay to time align your headphones and near field monitors

MASTER SECTION: Left & Right Master Group Buss, LCR, 8 x 8 Matrix, 16 Mono or Stereo Aux Send or Group Sends. Direct Outputs on every Input. Matrix Inputs sourced from Graphic EQ,

Effects, Input ch. Groups, Aux sends or other Matrix Outputs.

VCA/DCA: 8 CG Control Groups. VCA Style, Mute Style or Moving Fader Style & Auto Mute that will mute any assigned input when it leaves a CG from a scene

SUBGROUPS: 16 + Master Left & Right

SIZE: 34.6" x 30.9" x 10.3"

WEIGHT: 79 lbs.

DETAILS: The SD9 was designed with ease of use as the number one design criteria, loaded with features in a smaller compact version of the SD7 & SD8. The Live security feature allows you to lockdown any feature or controls down to a specific knob. On-line Editor gives remote access to others.

## Mackie 1604-VLZ3

\$1,149.99

FRAME SIZE: 16 channels, each w/XDR2 premium mic pre, line inputs and inserts

PRE-FADE AUXES: 4 Aux stereo sends/returns

POST-FADE AUXES: 4 Aux stereo send/returns

EQ PER CHANNEL: 3-band Active EQ with sweepable midrange

SOLO AND MUTE: 20dB/Solo and Overload/Mute; LEDs on each channel

MASTER SECTION: Control Room/Phones source matrix, Master Aux section with EFX to Monitor, tape outputs, high-volume headphone amplifier, channels 1-8 direct outs, and balanced XLR and balanced/unbalanced TRS outputs

SUBGROUPS: 4-bus

SIZE: 22" L x 21" W x 8" H

WEIGHT: 14 lbs.

DETAILS: For versatility, ease of use and high-quality sound, few mixers can claim the legacy of the Mackie 1604-VLZ3 mixer. It offers 16 premium XDR2 mic pre, genuine 4-bus architecture and awesome EQ capabilities in a traditional analog configuration. This means no menus, no learning curve, no hidden features... it's all right at your fingertips. Plug in your vocal mics, keys, guitars and even mic up an entire drum set. Premium-quality sound made easy, for anyone with an entry-level understanding of sound reinforcement.

## Mackie 2404-VLZ3, 3204-VLZ3

\$1429.99, \$1699.99

FRAME SIZE: 20 or 28 mic/line + 2 stereo line + 2 stereo returns

PRE-FADE AUXES: 2 + 2 pre/post

POST FADE AUXES: 2 + 2 pre/post

EQ PER CHANNEL: 3 band w/ swept mid

SOLO AND MUTE? Yes, both

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: 4-busses w/ compressors, 6 aux sends, dual stereo FX, 4x2 USB i/o, talkback

SUBGROUPS? 4, each w/ compressor

SIZE: 35 L x 25 W x 11 H and 44 H x 25 W x 11 H

WEIGHT: 37 lbs. and 44 lbs.

DETAILS: The VLZ3 4-bus Series eliminate the need for a bunch of complicated outboard gear, giving you: 8 built-in compressors, which have a single knob operation; Dual FX Processors, each with 24 "Gig-Ready" effects that are simple to use and routable to mains or monitors for ultimate ease-of-use and flexibility; 4-Track Recording via USB - just plug in a laptop and easily record services for archiving or web posting.

## Midas Pro 3 Digital System

MSRP \$63,999

FRAME SIZE: ( Mic/Line/Stereo) 48 inputs + 8 aux returns

PRE-FADE AUXES: 16 (pre or post switchable)

POST FADE AUXES: 16 (pre or post switchable)

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4 band parametric with Midas shelving options

SOLO AND MUTE? Yes and yes

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: 8 buss matrix, dual listening mode

VCAs/DCAs? 10 VCAs

SUBGROUPS? All aux's (16) can be groups

SIZE: Width 1365mm x Depth 924mm (53.7" x

36.4")

WEIGHT: 97Kg (213.4 lbs.)

DETAILS: With the Midas POPulation groups, the Pro 3 can be setup by instrument allowing the user to get to channels quickly and easily. The area B section will allow for important channels to remain on the surface at all times (i.e. the pastor's microphone).

## Midas Legend 3000

\$41,000 to \$57,000 (frame size specific)

FRAME SIZE: 24+4 up to 48+4 (frame size specific)

PRE-FADE AUXES: 12 pre or post

POST FADE AUXES: 12 pre or post

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4 band parametric

SOLO AND MUTE? Yes and yes

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: Snapshot automation for recall

VCAs/DCAs? 10 VCAs

SUBGROUPS? 8

Legend 3000 24 channel: 24 mono / 4 stereo;

Width: 1342mm x Depth 920.02mm (52.83" x 36.22"); Weight: 71kg (156.6 lbs.)

Legend 3000 32 channel: 32 mono / 4 stereo;

Width: 1623mm x Depth 920.02mm (63.90" x 36.22");

Weight: 85kg (187.4 lbs.)

Legend 3000 40 channel: 40 mono / 4 stereo;

Width: 1904mm x Depth 920.02mm (74.96" x 36.22");

Weight: 100kg (220.5 lbs.)

Legend 3000 48 channel: 48 mono / 4 stereo

Width: 2185mm x Depth 920.02mm (86.02" x 36.22"); Weight: 114kg (251.3 lbs.)

DETAILS: The Legend 3000 is an ideal choice when a dedicated monitor mix is needed without the room or resources for a monitor desk and/or engineer. Dual faders / dual EQ modes allow for a single operator to mix both FOH and MONs from a single location.

## Peavey Sanctuary S32

\$3,700

FRAME SIZE: (Mic/Line/Stereo): 28/28/4

PRE-FADE AUXES: 4

POST FADE AUXES: 2

EQ PER CHANNEL: four band

SOLO AND MUTE? yes and yes

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: multiple processed outputs, full DSP

VCAs/DCAs? Yes

SUBGROUPS? Yes, 4

SIZE: 43" wide x 23.5" deep x 9.25 high

(109.2 cm x 59.7 cm x 23.5 cm)

DETAILS: The S32 is the only four-buss board designed specifically for the worship environment with eight-channels of priority-based full gain-sharing Automix to make speech mixing a simple set-and-forget event. Music mixing is made volunteer-friendly with Mid-Morph EQ and purpose-built sub-groups with unique always-correct slide-switch assignment.

## Presonus StudioLive 24.4.2

\$3,999.95

FRAME SIZE: 24 ch (each w/mic and line inputs and inserts)

PRE-FADE AUXES: 10 (switchable pre-post fade)

POST FADE AUXES: 10 (switchable pre-post fade)

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4-band fully parametric (on each channel, aux, subgroup)

SOLO AND MUTE? Yes, on every channel and bus

MASTER SECTION FEATURES: 4 dual-mono graphic EQs (assignable),

SUBGROUPS? 4

SIZE: 22.35" (L) x 25.5" (W) x 6.9" (D)

WEIGHT: 51.1 lbs.

DETAILS: Volunteers quickly learn to operate StudioLive digital mixers because most controls are under your fingers, as with analog—not buried in menus. Saving and copying settings is simple, and Virtual StudioLive control software makes managing settings a snap. Recording's a no brainer with the integrated FireWire inter-

face and Capture software.

## RSS M-400

\$9,795

FRAME SIZE: 48-channel

PRE-FADE AUXES: 16 w/4-band EQ, Limiter

POST-FADE AUXES: 16 w/4-band EQ, Limiter

EQ PER CHANNEL: 4-band EQ per channel

SOLO & MUTE: Yes all 48-channels

MASTER SECTION FEATURES