Personal Monitor Mixers

By GeorgePetersen

Over the past couple years, there has been an explosion of tablet / smartphone-based systems where musicians can control their own monitor mixes via Wi-Fi. But dedicated personal mix hardware systems are a better choice in many instances, especially in cases such as multi-act shows, festivals, houses of worship and other events where you don't want to rely on every performer remembering to bring a compatible device that's fully charged and with the correct app installed. The systems listed can feed wedges, headphones or in-ear systems. All are modular and expandable to create various sized arrays, so prices are not included here, and URLs are provided for more info.

Allen & Heath ME System

Based around the ME-1 personal mixers, the ME system is powered and connected via Cat-5 and is capable of managing up to 40 sources. The two-rackspace ME-U hub enables star connection of multiple ME-1 mixers and interfacing with Allen & Heath GLD, Qu and iLive consoles or other pro digital mixers via Aviom A-Net, MADI, Dante, Waves SG or EtherSound protocols. The mix interface has 16 recallable mix presets and a simple "more me" control.

allen-heath.com

Aviom A320 Personal Mixer

The A320 includes many of the larger A360 mixer functions, with a 32-channel mix engine handling up to 16 mono or stereo sources. The A320 has per-channel volume, mute and solo, three-band master EQ and a single-knob Stereo Placement control that combines the pan and spread of stereo signals. Each A320 can store up to eight mix snapshots — saved in the first eight channel button locations — plus its current mix. Part of the Aviom family, the A320 is compatible with all existing Pro16 Series devices and monitor systems.

aviom.com

Behringer PowerPlay P16-M System

A single-rackspace P16-I input module connects to any console and feeds up to six P16-M 16-channel personal mixers with power and signals over Cat-5 cabling. A P16-D Digital Ultranet Distributor can daisy chain the system for up to 48 personal mixers — each with 16 preset recall. The system features "panic button" muting, onboard limiting and real-time remote control via MIDI.

behringer.com

dbx PMC Personal Monitor Controller

PMC offers 16 channels of audio with EQ, pan, Stereo Width control and effects, including Lexicon reverbs and dbx PeakStopPlus limiting. Performers can mix in real-time and save 16 user-preset mixes. PMC uses a BLU link audio bus from a dbx TR1616 or any BSS London system, supporting up to 60 PMC16 mixers on a single BLU Link Ring at up to 96 kHz. USB, DSC and Ethernet ports allow future updates.

dbxpro.com

Digital Audio Labs Livemix

A Livemix system is based on a MX-16 or MX-32 central mixer/distributor (with analog or Dante inputs) and any number of CS-DUO personal mixers, each one of which offers two separate mixes, so eight performers, only requires four CS-DUO units. Features include up to 24 channels with button, knob and touchscreen control; EQ, HPF and dynamics on every channel; and a dedicated "me" knob.

digitalaudio.com

Elite Core Audio PM-16

Up to 16 analog channels enter a PM-16 input module, which outputs Cat-5 to a DM-8 distribution module that sends power and signals to up to eight PM-16 personal mixers, each with ambient mic, 16 gain and pan pots, graphic EQ and compressor. More DM-8's can cascade for adding more PM-16's to form larger systems.

elitecoreaudio.com

Hear Technologies Hear Back PRO

The new Hear Back PRO platform for individualized monitor mixes uses a rackmount audio I/O hub and up to 32 mixers, each with local mic and intercom input as well as 16 rotary controls for channel volume and pan and headphone/stereo line outs to drive your phones, wedges or wired/wireless IEM's. Standard Cat-5e cabling carries all audio signals and powering over Ethernet to drive each mixer with low latency and support of sampling rates up to 192 kHz.

heartechnologies.com

Klang Technologies Klang:fabrik

The KLANG:fabrik monitor mixing engine imparts impart 3-dimensional sound processing to IEM feeds. Up to eight musicians receive individual 3-D mixes with one KLANG:fabrik (additional units can daisy-chain for more feeds). Inputs are analog XLR or ADAT and Dante (MADI optional). Individual mixes route to radio transmitters or headphone amps via XLR outs, with remote control via iOS, Android, Windows Phone, PC and Mac — or the front-panel touch display.

klang.com

Movek myMix

This decentralized, network-based audio mixing system supports up to 500 audio channels can create up to eight independent stereo mixes with 16 or 32 audio inputs from a live console via analog, ADAT, Dante or MADI sources. Each myMix station connects using Cat-5 and has an onboard SD card recorder to capture WAV files of 16 tracks plus the stereo monitor mix. The myMix Control software adds central Mac, PC or iOS control/management over all mixers in the system.

mymixaudio.com

Pivitec e32 Personal Mixer

Taking a different direction, the e32 Personal Mixer is a 32-channel Ethernet AVB endpoint (powered via an external supply or PoE) that builds a stereo mix from up to 32 channels of networked audio sources. Each hardware mixer has onboard mix DSP with 3-band EQ and output limiting, but no physical controls, simply with headphone and I/O ports, requiring a V2 Mix iOS app that puts wireless mix control into the user's iPhone/iPad. Multiple e16i 16-channel input modules can be combined to create larger systems.

pivitec.com

Roland M-48 Personal Mixer

The M-48 connects via REAC (Roland Ethernet Audio Communication) protocol to a Roland digital console or S-4000S/S1608 digital snake system or any MADI-equipped digital mixer (using the S-MADI REAC-MADI Bridge). The system adds remote individual monitor control of up to 40 audio channels via 16 stereo groups, with volume, pan, 3-band EQ and built-in reverb per group and an output (ear protection) limiter is standard. All M-48 mixers link to the system using Cat-5 cabling.

rolandsystemsgroup.com