

# Mid-Sized Digital Consoles

By George Petersen

Bring on the revolution! Ideal for install or portable applications, here's a snapshot look at some digital consoles capable of 24 or more channels, while having a fairly compact footprint and — at under 60 pounds each — could be moved by an average person. In terms of size, portability is an obvious asset; however in theater and small club applications, where seating real estate is at a premium, the console's physical size becomes a major consideration.

Meanwhile, the feature set of the typical mid-sized console has expanded exponentially over the years. When you add in integrated digital recording capability — typically with support of virtual sound checking — along with other perks, such as expandable DSP/effects, Wi-Fi tablet-based remote control, digital snaking options, touch screen control, moving faders, onboard automation and session recall, these powerhouses offer a cost-to-features ratio that would have been unimaginable (or certainly unattainable) just a decade ago.

With major leaps in channel counts, onboard DSP, sonic performance, vastly improved preamps, increased flexibility/versatility — and affordable pricing, so other than size and weight, there's nothing “small” about any of the consoles profiled here. Sometimes, technology can be a wonderful thing.

Allen & Heath Avantis



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 64/12  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 96 kHz  
**Faders:** 24  
**Onboard I/O:** 12 XLR in/12 XLR out; AES  
**Remote I/O:** GX4816, DT168/DX168, DX32, DXO12  
**Other Frame Sizes:** None  
**Network Interfacing:** Optional MADI, Dante, SoundGrid, gigaACE, AES/EBU  
**Footprint/Weight:** 36 x 25"; 57 pounds  
**Notes:** Dual 15" touch screens; automatic mic mixing; optional ME Personal Mixing

allen-heath.com

Ashly digiMIX24



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 24/16  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** 1, assignable  
**Onboard I/O:** 24 analog; 2 USB  
**Remote I/O:** Dante option  
**Other Frame Sizes:** digiMIX18  
**Network Interfacing:** Dante option  
**Footprint/Weight:** 20 x 24"; 18 pounds  
**Notes:** 7" touch screen; USB multi-track record/play option

ashly.com

CADAC CDC four:m



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 56/16  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 96 kHz  
**Faders:** 17 faders  
**Onboard I/O:** 16 XLR in; 3 XLR out  
**Remote I/O:** CDC I/O 3216  
**Other Frame Sizes:** CDC-six, CDC eight-16, CDC eight-32  
**Network Interfacing:** MADI, Dante optional  
**Footprint/Weight:** 19 x 22.5"; 33 pounds  
**Notes:** TabMix app for iPad control

cadac-sound.com

DiGiCo S31



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 40/24  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 96 kHz  
**Faders:** 21 faders  
**Onboard I/O:** 24 XLR in; 12 XLR out  
**Remote I/O:** SD-Mini Rack; SD-Nano Rack  
**Other Frame Sizes:** S21  
**Network Interfacing:** MADI, Dante, Optocore, SoundGrid, Hydra  
**Footprint/Weight:** 30 x 23"; 42 pounds  
**Notes:** DiGiCo Multichannel Interface (DMI) expansion options

digico.biz

Mackie Axis



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 32  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** 17  
**Onboard I/O:** 32 line/mic  
**Remote I/O:** No stageboxes offered  
**Digital Connectivity:** AES, Dante  
**Footprint/Weight:** Main DL32R unit: 3U, 18 lbs.; 37" x 17.6" DC16 Control Surface, 38 lbs  
**Notes:** Multi-iPad control/monitor system auto-integrates display capabilities for user needs

mackie.com

Peavey Aureus 28



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 28/16  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** 9 faders  
**Onboard I/O:** 22 in/14 out  
**Remote I/O:** No stageboxes offered  
**Other Frame Sizes:** None  
**Network Interfacing:** Ethernet remote, onboard Wi-Fi  
**Footprint/Weight:** 15x19.5"; 16 lbs.  
**Notes:** 10" multi-touch screen

peavey.com

PreSonus StudioLive 64S



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 76/32  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** 33 faders  
**Onboard I/O:** 32 XLR in/19 XLR out + AES  
**Remote I/O:** NSB 16.8; NSB 8.8  
**Other Frame Sizes:** StudioLive 32S  
**Network Interfacing:** AVB, Dante optional  
**Footprint/Weight:** 32.4 x 23"; 37.2 pounds  
**Notes:** Active Integration with other PreSonus products

presonus.com

QSC TouchMix-30 PRO



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 32/24  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** Virtual on touch screen  
**Onboard I/O:** 24 XLR ins, 6 TRS ins; 18 TRS bus outs  
**Remote I/O:** No stageboxes offered  
**Other Frame Sizes:** TouchMix-16 PRO  
**Network Interfacing:** USB, Ethernet routing to TouchMix Control App  
**Footprint/Weight:** 18 x 17"; 17.5 pounds  
**Notes:** Direct multi-track capture/playback; optional tablet stand

qsc.com

Soundcraft Si Impact 40



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 40/32  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** 26 faders  
**Onboard I/O:** 32 XLR in/16 XLR out  
**Remote I/O:** Mini Stagebox 32i/16i  
**Other Frame Sizes:** No  
**Network Interfacing:** Dante, Aviom, BLU Link optional  
**Footprint/Weight:** 29.5 x 20"; 44 pounds  
**Notes:** FaderGlow for ease of navigation

soundcraft.com

Yamaha TF5



**Input Channels/Local Pre's:** 48/32  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Faders:** 33 faders  
**Onboard I/O:** 32 XLR in/16 XLR out  
**Remote I/O:** Rio3224-D, Rio1608-D  
**Other Frame Sizes:** TF3; TF1  
**Network Interfacing:** Dante, USB  
**Footprint/Weight:** 34 x 23.6"; 44 pounds  
**Notes:** TouchFlow operation; Dan Dugan Speech processing

yamahaca.com