

Mid-Market Digital Consoles

By Bill Evans

Mid-line live production digital audio consoles. Remember just a few years ago when such a thing just didn't exist? You either had \$100K+ to spend or you could get toy from an MI mfg and pretend. (Hey, I actually did GIGS with one of those. OK I did ONE gig. One.)

As prices fell and consoles got smaller and more powerful, about a year ago we did one of our Buyers Guides and put in a price limit of, I think, \$60K and set off a firestorm of protest from the folks who didn't make anything for less than \$60K. So this time around we have raised the limit a bit to be a bit more inclusive.

Besides, the median price was going down until a few *really* pricey

desks hit the market and drove that midpoint up. No doubt you can get digital console that will do everything but the dishes for a lot less than 80 large, but if you want to play with the big boys and have something that makes it onto touring riders you are probably looking at that \$60-\$80K range.

So consider this a compromise. If you have FU money you can get the \$300K unit that is lusted after by many. If you are a smaller fish, you can likely get everything you really need in the \$30K range. If you want to meet those riders? Check out the choices below. **FoH**



Yamaha M7CL on monitor duty

Company	Model	MSRP	Size	Weight	Mic Inputs	Output Mixes	
Allen & Heath www.ilive-digital.com	iLive-144S/6432	\$56,727	47.5" x 13.9" x 27.7"	106 lbs	64	32 independent: analog line outputs = 8x per module. Digital outputs = 8x channel 4x stereo pairs	
Allen & Heath www.ilive-digital.com	iLive-T80/32	\$16,998	30.2" x 11" x 25"	64lbs	32 mic inputs each with dedicated fader and full DSP processor	32 with large stage rack, idr-32 system includes 16 output mixes	
	iLive-T112/48	\$21,999	42.6" x 11" x 25"	TBA			
DiGiCo www.digico.org	SD8	\$49,995	53"W x 32"D 9.91"H	158 lb	Up to 112 Mic inputs with virtual fader, 60 Mono or Stereo channels, 36 100mm touch faders	24 stereo buses + 2 solo bus + stereo master bus + 12x12 matrix = 66 bus outputs	
Digidesign www.digidesign.com	D-Show System	\$74,995	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 and Sidecar 194 lbs, FOH Rack 74 lbs, Stage Rack 86 lbs	Up to 96 mic pres on stage, 30 additional inputs on local rack at mix position, patchable to 128 processing channels, with up to 56 physical input faders on the surface	27 buses plus 8 mono and 8 stereo matrices, routable to 96 physical outputs on stage; additional 28 outputs on local rack at mix position	
	D-Show Profile System	\$59,985	Profile 7.3" x 45.3" x 31.1"; FOH Rack 17.5" x 17" x 15.1" (10U), Stage Rack 17.5" x 17" x 12.2" (10U)	Profile 90 lbs, FOH Rack 74 lbs, Stage Rack 86 lbs	Up to 96 mic pres on stage, 30 additional inputs on local rack at mix position, patchable to 128 processing channels, with 24 physical input faders on the surface		
	D-Show Profile Mix Rack System	\$39,995	Profile 7.3" x 45.3" x 31.1"; Mix Rack 19.25" x 19" x 18" (11U)	Profile 90 lbs, Mix Rack 116 lbs	48 mic pres plus 14 additional inputs all at local mixing position, patchable to 48 input processing channels and 16 stereo FX returns, controlled by 24 physical input faders on the surface.	27 buses plus 8 mono and 8 stereo matrices, routable to 32 physical XLR outputs or 8 TRS line level outputs.	
InnovSON www.innovason.com	Eclipse	\$75k	46"x30"x9"	99lb	48 Faders + 12x4 Encoders	48 Mix buses	
Mackie www.mackie.com	TT System 32	\$12,999.99	47" L x 31" W x 16" H	75 lbs.	24 (32 Mic inputs total)	31 (3 Main Outputs (L/R and C/Mono), 8 Groups, 8 Matrix, 12 Aux)	
Midas www.midasconsoles.com	Pro 6	\$99,500	Control Centre - 53.7" x 36.4"	Weight - 95Kg / 209.4lbs	56	32	
PreSonus www.presonus.com	StudioLive 16.4.2	\$1,999	22.35" (L) x 17.2" (W) x 6.9" (H)	23 lbs	16	11 (stereo main, 4 sub, 6 aux)	
Roland Systems Group www.rssamerica.com	M-400	\$8,995	29-1/2"Wx24-11/16"Dx9-1/16"H	43 lbs 11 oz	48	31	
Soundcraft www.soundcraft.com	Soundcraft Si3	\$39,950	66" wide, 32" deep	170lbs	32	35	
	Soundcraft Vi4	\$69,950	57" wide x 28" deep	118lbs	24 (72 inputs)	35	
Soundcraft www.soundcraftdigital.com	Soundcraft Vi6	\$79,950	69" wide x 28" deep	140lbs	32 (96 inputs total)	35	
Yamaha Commercial Audio Systems, Inc. www.yamahaca.com	"PM5D, PM5D-RH: 56 inputs, DSP5D	PM5D: \$49,800, PM5D-RH \$67,000; DSP5D \$27,000	61.1" x 37.4" x 11.1"	PM5D: 216 lbs. PM5D-RH 214 lbs.	56 and 56 additional remote or with DSP5D expander	24 Mix, 8 Matrix, Stereo A, Stereo B Outputs	
	M7CL-48, M7CL-32	\$19K and \$24,999 respectively	M7CL-32: 41.7" x 27.6" x 11.3"; M7CL-48: 50.2" x 27.6" x 11.3"	93 and 110 lbs. respectively	32, 48	16 mix buses, LCR bus, 8 matrix channels, and 8 DCAs assignable to 16 omni outputs	
	LS9-16: up to 32 inputs, LS9-32: up to 64 inputs	\$5,999, \$10,999 respectively	LS9-16: 18.9" x 19.7" x 8.7"; LS9-32: 34.8" x 19.7" x 8.7	26.5 and 43 lbs. respectively	LS9-16: "16 onboard, 16 optionally remote; LS9-32: 32 onboard and 32 optionally remote	16 Mix, 8 Matrix, Stereo + Mono Outputs	



Soundcraft Vi6



John Cooper mixes the Boss on a VENUE D-SHOW



Allan & Heath iLive 1445

	EQ	Dynamics	Effects	Digital Control	Special
	Input channel parametric eq. output channel parametric EQ and 1/3 octave graphic EQ	Input channel gate, compressor, limiter side chain, output compressor, limiter	8 simultaneous effects onboard, reverb, delay, chorus, flange and modulation effects	Midi control, PL remote integration for personal monitor mixing, 8 assignable soft keys, 8 mix modes	Ethersound Equipped, full digital snake with remote stage box, 64x32 system, digital split capable
	Input channels 4 band parametric EQ Output channels 4 band parametric and 1/3 octave graphic	Input channels Gate, Compressor and Limiter/De-Esser. Output channels Compressor/Limiter/De-Esser	8 simultaneous effects onboard	Midi control, PL remote integration for personal monitor mixing, 8 assignable soft keys, 8 mix modes	All audio ACE buss CAT5, full digital snake w/ remote stage box, 64x32 system, digital split capable
	4 band parametric plus low and high pass available on all channels	Compressor and Gate on every channel	: 6 Stereo FX processors+ 12 31 Band insertable graphic equalizers. Matrix, group, aux and master bus have the same processing as the channel	The user can define their I/O requirement with Mic/Line, Line output, AES I/O, Ether Sound, Aviom and MADI all catered for.. Digital snake supplied as standard	Copy to MADI function allowing instant record and playback of pre amp level of up to 56 tracks. Overview VGA output showing all I/O levels. All channels and busses can be mono or stereo.
	4 band fully parametric EQ with digital or analog emulation modes plus separate HPF for every input channel. In addition a huge range of EQ plug-ins are available for use in up to 4 inserts on every channel.	Compressor / limiter and expander / gate, plus a range of dynamics plug-ins are available for use in up to 4 inserts per channel.	All effects types, hundreds of plug-ins are available designed by industry leaders. Rack slots provided for the use of up to 100 plug-ins simultaneously.	Digital I/O is configurable with up to 96 AES / ADAT inputs and outputs on stage, plus 10 local AES I/O at the FOH Rack. Fully digital system. All I/O is local. AD/DA conversion takes place at the Mix Rack. Digital I/O is configurable with up to 18 AES outputs.	Integrated TDM plug-in architecture. Direct connection to industry standard Pro Tools HD or LE for Virtual Soundcheck and archiving.
	All mic/line inputs include 4b P/EQ and all line outputs included 8b P/EQ as well as 31b G/EQ (all adjustable on faders)	All inputs and outputs include Comp/Gate/Limiter	11 onboard VB-Audio effects on each 8in x 8out / insert module. Up to 4 effects per I/O or insert for 32 engines.	Remote stage rack interface via the original MUXI pair digital snake and/or Ethersound. 3rd party compatibility through MADI and Ethersound	64Trk on board recorder. 96 fader/encoder controls are function, qty and location assignable as I/P AUX, MATRIX, GRP, VCA, etc according to needs.
	4-Band EQ on input channels. 6-Band and 31-Band Graphic EQ on output channels.	Compressor and gate on input channels. Compressor/limiter on output channels.	4 Mackie Effects Processors with switchable algorithms and tap tempo.	3 ADAT I/O, Word Clock I/O, and MIDI I/O	Mackie's TT24, 32x32 DS3232 digital snake with remote mic pres, CAT-5 cable and U100 Network Card.
	Treble EQ, 4 types.	4 compression styles available.	KT DN780	12 AES50 ports. 528 possible connections, which are configured as 264 inputs and 264 outputs	Using VCA assignment recall and POP groups "brings the mix to the engineer"
	4-band semiparametric EQ per ch & bus; hi/lo Q on mids; shelf/bandpass on hi and lo. HP filter.	Full-featured compressor, limiter, & gate on each ch and bus (including effects).	2 stereo FX processors on dedicated buses, variety of reverbs and delays.	S/PDIF stereo output.	ASIO FireWire interface (pre/post EQ & dynamics). Capture audio softwr. Cascade 2+ mixers. Scenes.
	4-band parametric. Lo-Mid & Hi-Mid Q. Selectable, adjustable Filter and large preset library.	Up to 24 Compressors and Gates. Fully adjustable with large preset library.	4 stereo FX ports, up to 12 GEQ, 8 Ext FX buses, 48 effects + 6 insert FX in library.	REAC control of RSS Stage Units, up to 90 inputs total. 0.1dB Gain + 48V + Pad.	100% digital system: Stage units, REAC snake, digital mixing. 40ch REAC SONAR recording.
	4 band parametric with sweepable high pass and low pass filters	Gate and Compressor on every channel	4 Lexicon effects engines, assignable, with dedicated returns	Rotary encode and OLED screen at every channel, with Soundcraft FaderGlow	All connections and PSU in chassis for drop-in replacement of analogue desk
	4 band parametric with sweepable high and low pass filters	Compressor and Gate on every channel	8 stereo Lexicon Effects engines, assignable. 30 band graphic EQ on every output	Vistonic II user interface with touch-screen and rotary controls embedded in TFT surface	Soundcraft FaderGlow, sophisticated snapshot filtering
	4 band parametric EQ with sweepable high and low pass filters	Gate and Compressor on every channel	8 assignable stereo Lexicon effects with 30 band Graphic EQ on every output	Vistonic II user interface with touch screen and rotary controls embedded in TFT screens	Soundcraft FaderGlow, sophisticated snapshot filters and cue lists
	4-band EQ, stereo and mix outs have 8-band EQ, matrix outs have 4-band EQ, 20 31-band GEQs	PM5D: +10 to -62dB PM5D-RH: +10 to -62dB	REV-X reverb, Compressor276, Compressor260 and EQ601, SPX2000	48 channel inputs, four stereo inputs, five 2 TR IN's plus four Mini-YGDAI slots	4 slots on PM5D and 2 on DSP5D digital networking via CobraNet and EtherSound.
	Virtual effects, EQ rack: 4 effects and 4 graphic, up to 8 simultaneous 31-band graph.	+10 to -62dB	GEQ, Graph. effects, REV X, 8 signal proc., ambience, echo, modulation and distortion.	Centralogic: touch-panel display, with Yamaha Ch. SEL, no layers, one-function physical controls	Built in power supply, and optional external PW800W power supply
	4-band ea. ch., 31-graph.	+10 to -62dB	SPX range, ambience, echo, modulation, distortion	Channel on/off, independent LEDs, Ch. Select interface	Features built-in USB Memory Recorder/Player that works with USB memory sticks plugged into USB port