

Mackie MDR24/96 Hard Disc Recorder



Mackie Digital Systems (MDS) recently announced the latest product in their line of hard disk recorders. The MDR24/96 is a scaled down version of the popular HDR24/96. By removing the external user interface options, MDS was able to lower the price to an amazing \$3499 retail. The MDR24/96 is a 24-track hard disk recorder, which supports 44.1k and 48k sampling rates and 16 or 24 bit resolutions. Although the popular monitor, keyboard, and mouse connections are no longer present on the rear panel, a user can do cut/copy/paste editing and track slip from the front panel of the box. This makes the MDR24/96 a very viable solution for live recordings and as a 24-track add-on to existing systems. The MDR utilizes the same 20 gig Ultra DMA IDE hard drives that are available with the HDR24/96, and by using the removable Mackie Media drives from Mackie, a user can transfer EDL's back and forth between an HDR24/96 and MDR24/96 without having to do any conversions. The MDR24/96 has all of the sync options customers have become accustomed to with the HDR24/96. SMPTE, Word Clock, Video Sync, and Midi timecode are all standard features of the MDR24/96. An Ethernet port has also been included to allow transfers via FTP to another computer system. Unlike the HDR24/96, the MDR24/96 ships with 24 tracks of analog I/O, but does have the ability to add digital I/O if the user prefers.

The MDR24/96 is the perfect product for recording professionals and enthusiasts to replace their aging MDM's (DA88, and ADAT). The MDR24/96 provides a low-cost way to get into 24-track hard disk recording, or to add 24 tracks onto existing systems. By now having a family of hard disk recorders (with more on the way) Mackie Digital Systems is proving its desire to lead the market and its commitment to the future of products like the MDR24/96 and HDR24/96.

-written by Matt Thornton-

MPX 500 SOFTWARE UPDATE



MPX-500 V2 Upgrade

The Lexicon MPX-500 effects processor is already one of the best processors in it's price range, but with the Version 2 upgrade it's even better. The upgrade includes a dedicated compressor, with ratio's from 2:1 – 10:1, user controllable Threshold, Ratio, Attack and Release parameters, enhanced metering shows compressor gain reduction and 34 more user presets. .

-written by Tom Briggs-

LEXICON 960L 2.5 SOFTWARE



LEXICON ANNOUNCES VERSION 2.5 SOFTWARE UPGRADE FOR THE 960L

Lexicon reverbs have been used on more than 90% of the top 100 albums for the last 10 years. That alone is proof enough that Lexicon is "the" reverb of choice among the top producers. And with the V2.5 Upgrade introduced a few months ago, it got even better. New stereo 96kHz reverbs, multi-channel reverbs (for surround), new delay algorithms, multi-channel delays, 7 new banks of factory delay programs (including the 480L delays) and 4 new banks of factory multi-channel delay programs. This is a FREE upgrade for 960L registered users.

-written by Tom Briggs-

Mackie Introduces Two New Third Party Plug-Ins For The Digital 8 Bus Console

Mackie Introduces Two New Third Party Plug-Ins For The Digital 8 Bus Console

Mackie Designs announced the addition of two new third party plug-ins for the Digital 8 Bus console. Developed by Acuma Labs, the Canadian based software developer that was acquired by Mackie last year, these are the latest in an exciting new family of 24-bit plug-ins specifically designed for the recently released Mackie Real Time OS 3.0 and Mackie Universal Effects (UFX) card.

The New Mackie D8B Plug Ins Are: Saturated Fat'

As its' name implies, Saturated Fat is a mono plug-in that employs an exciting new proprietary technology to achieve warm, natural-sounding, tube (saturated) distortion and cabinet modeling. Choose from over 40 preset distortion types to create the "perfect sound" or select from the array

-Continued on page 2-

-Mackie Plug-Ins continued from page 1- of factory presets to find a setting that suits any style of music.

Combine the cabinet modeler, selecting from a list of small, medium, large, acoustic and bass amps, with the drive level and the on-board 7-Band EQ to build custom distortions that can be saved and recalled as a User Preset. No more lengthy or loud "live" amplifier setups to contend with, just plug any instrument into the D8B and start playing! Saturated Fats' distinctive distortion types and amplifier models provide killer sounds instantly.

The other new plug-in is RTA-31™ Real Time 31-Band EQ and Spectral Analysis MSRP \$199.00

The RTA-31 is both a Mono 31-Band Graphic EQ & a 1/3 octave Spectrum Analyzer that enables you to easily modify the frequency response of any given signal within the D8•B or from external live & studio acoustic environments. The amazing To EQ™ feature lets you immediately identify troublesome frequencies using the Frequency Analyzer while the 31-Band Graph automatically compensates for the highs and lows of your signal. Other features include a 1/3 Octave Spectrum Analyzer (20-20K) , To EQ (Automatically compensate for highs and lows in the spectrum that are read by the Analyzer), Morph Rate - Switch between Memory A/B using Morph sequence time, multiple factory presets, and selectable graph types. You can choose from bar, peak hold, point, peak difference, and peak bar for viewing preference. There is also a freeze mode to immediately freeze the analyzer screen to allow you to view detailed information.

Check out
the Quest
website to
confirm that
you have
the latest
pricing.

www.questmktg.com

Two New Mackie Active Loudspeakers



Another of Mackie's recent successes has been the superb SR1530, the three way active loudspeaker with a 15" LF driver and the innovative Optimized Wavefront, that blends the midrange cone and the compression driver. Now consider a similar system, with upgraded mid & high frequency RCF Precision drivers for higher output levels, and instead of a single 15, think dual high efficiency 12" RCF LF drivers (more cone area and output than an 18"), with well over twice the amplifier power. That would be a prodigious loudspeaker system, and it's exactly what Mackie previewed at the special presentation at Soundcheck's rehearsal studios. A little taller than the SR1530, its new sibling is the SA1232. Quite a few attendees made it over to Soundcheck, and the unanimous conclusion was that it represents a new level of performance from Mackie. Expected retail price is under \$2000.

But of course Mackie can't introduce just one new active speaker system. There's also the new SA1521, sort of an active S500, the two-way with a 15" LF. "Sort of" as it's difficult to compare any passive speaker to an active one. Active means proper equalization, time/phase compensation, dynamic control, and perfectly matched power amplifiers. So much more can be achieved with internal electronics than is possible with off-the-shelf

crossovers, limiters, and amplifiers, that comparisons are difficult. The SA1521 equally impressed listeners with tremendous output thanks to its internal power totaling 500 watts. Expected retail is \$1199.

All Mackie's speaker products were on display at Soundcheck, including the aforementioned S500. Rick Bos and Bill Crader of Mackie resorted to a little trickery for that demo. How about powering – not like the usual NAMM presentations you see from the other guys, with stacks of amps delivering kilowatts to each speaker – but with a single 808S Powered Mixer to a pair of S500s? That's right, a PPM mixer illustrating its exceptional quality of power, and the clean loud output of the S500. Talk about a real-world demo!

Mackie continues to change what people expect of loudspeaker systems. Their approach – focusing on active technology, has made the previous leaders in speaker manufacturing scramble to catch up. Now they can scramble some more.

Last, but not least, was another breathtaking demonstration of the power of Fussion. If you aren't aware of Fussion ... just call us. Words don't really describe what this system is capable of.

-written by John Saviano-

4 NEW PRESONUS PRODUCTS

Continuing the pursuit of innovation is the:



DigiTube Mic Pre Amp/EQ with 24-bit digital output

In the wake of the amazing success of the Blue Tube, Presonus proudly introduces the DigiTube. In a nutshell:

- Single channel tube pre-amp featuring a dual servo mic/inst/line input with up to 70db of gain and 22dB of headroom!
- 24 bit digital output (44.1kHz or 48kHz sample rates)
- XLR and TRS inputs and outputs
- TRS insert point
- 3 band sweepable EQ with overlapping bands plus EQ bypass
- Can be racked via Presonus' BMRA rack adapter which can accommodate another 1/2U device
- unbeatable sound at this price-point
- targeted retail price of: \$299.95



PreSonus Acousti-Q Acoustic Instrument pre-amp

Yes, you know them well...they make the best pre's in their price range. So...why not an Acoustic Instrument Pre-Amp/EQ/Blender...

Destined to be THE definitive acoustic instrument front-end, the Acousti-Q, features TWO tube pre-amps (one for your pick-up and one for your internal condenser mic). Further, there is a 'blend' control to 'mix' the two inputs*.

At this point an acoustically optimized EQ section with a sweepable notch filter, Brilliance and Bass controls as well as a very musical and sweepable mid-range control come into play. That alone would place this acoustic guitar preamp miles above the flock but this pre includes one more feature that will achieve "can't live without it" status very quickly. They have included a foot switchable dual-volume output control that lets the player switch their output level at the touch of their foot. Now acoustic guitar players will be able to be heard during their solos and immediately regain their previous 'rhythm section' level. It's always been available on electric guitar amps. Acoustic players can now achieve the same level of control.

- Targeted retail price of: \$299.95

*Ice not included, please blend responsibly- always designate a driver when blending preamps



PreSonus CL44

This four-channel compressor/limiter combines PreSonus' acclaimed analog compressor technology with the latest in DSP sidechain technology, producing a truly innovative dynamics processor. By using DSP in the sidechain, all bandpass related

dynamic functions can be manipulated to an unprecedented degree. Features include:

- separate brickwall limiting using Presonus' multi-stage, dual threshold detector
- Shared threshold pot allows the compressor and compander to work in tandem to achieve 'true compression' (louder passages are made softer AND softer passages are made louder)
- H/P filter in the digital domain from 20hz to 20khz enables excellent control of sibilance AND additionally allows the elimination of pumping caused by low frequency information
- 'Optical mode' simulates the dynamic characteristics of optical compressors such as the classic 1176 and LA-2A.
- +4 or -10 switch, sidechain insert, balanced XLR and unbalanced TRS I/O's (no Y cable required for consoles with shared ground inserts PLUS a "Flip" button to accommodate those 'strange foreign inserts'.



- best of all, a targeted retail price of: \$599.95

PreSonus GTX44 quad gate.

Quad gates are neither new nor innovative, until now. The GTX44 is a frequency dependent gate/expander that uses unique digital sidechain processing to enable "zero-crossing" envelope control, effectively eliminating the clicks and artifacts that have plagued the users of analog gate/expanders for generations. This is a truly 'glitchless' gate where demanding envelope control problems are made easy and intuitive. Other features include

- Downward expansion is accomplished with the use of a variable ratio control.
- Available parameters also include variable attack, release, hold time and range.
- Ducking is accomplished by the duck control on each channel. Adjacent channels are linkable so they can duck together.
- Engaging the side chain monitor button allows the operator to monitor the filters. This simplifies the process by which instruments are isolated and thus, false triggers are reduced.
- Just like its sister, the CL-44, the GTX44 has the single TRS jack with flip switch, as well as a +4/-10 switch.
- Targeted retail price of \$599.95

GREAT NEWS FROM PRESONUS!!!

Long awaited, the DEQ 624 is now shipping!

This analog look and feel EQ is actually a 24-bit DSP. So, along with a familiar tactile work surface, Presonus allows you to now manipulate your EQ in ways that just aren't possible in the analog domain. Plus, no need to plug in a computer! On the front panel are:

- Two 31 band EQ's, each with variable high and low pass filters,
- A seamless downward expander,
- Brick wall limiter featuring Presonus' multi-stage detection limiting
- AHC—adaptive hum cancellation which "knows the difference" between audio and 60 cycle hum (and its harmonics up to the 24th order)

Any one band can become "hi-Q" changing that fader from 1/3 octave to 1/8th octave.

- Operating ranges are +/-6dB, +/-12dB, and +12/-24dB.
- Front panel lockout option. Simply save a curve to one of the four presets, press the lock code and the front panel becomes inactive!

-written by Jim Greene & Mark Nichols-

NEW LEXICON PROCESSOR



LEXICON LAUNCHES THE POWERFUL NEW MPX 200 DUAL-CHANNEL PROCESSOR

Lexicon has released the MPX-200, which fits between the MPX 100 and MPX 500 in both performance and price. It has all the sound quality if the MPX 100 with some added features, such as the ability to do compression, more user controllable parameters, balanced I/O, built in power supply, digital input, simultaneous stereo effects, 24-bit internal processing and conversion, for a retail price of \$100 more.

NEW JOEMEEK MQ1



The MicroMeek recording solution: A professional recording channel that actually fits inside your music computer, adding to your sound card a professional musical interface. The MicroMeek uses JOEMEEK's unique CurrentSense pre amplifier technology, vintage optical compression and discrete MeQ, exactly as in the bigger JOEMEEK channels, to give you a PC recording enhancement second to none.

The MicroMeek adds functionality to your recording system; enabling you to directly connect a quality condenser microphone to a rear mounted XLR connector and instrument source (through front instrument input) to your PC with professional frequency response and noise performance. Phantom power is supplied from the computer's internal power. An additional stereo line source such as an external mixer is easily connected to the auxiliary inputs, and switched in from the front of the drive bay unit.

With the MQ1 and a quality sound card, you can capture professional sounds directly into your music computer... big sounds with little effort. Installation is simple too - No drivers or mess. You only need one free drive bay, and one free expansion slot for the connection board, and that's it!

Inputs and outputs are kept neatly away on the MicroMeek's rear mounting connection board, while controls for input gain, compression and EQ are conveniently placed on the drive bay's front. There is an additional instrument input on the drive bay to allow those spontaneous instrument tracks in front of your computer.

With the MQ1, your recording computer becomes a professional musical system, capable of low noise, high quality and PHAT sounds.



* NEW AURALEX GRAMMA

GRAMMA- Gig & Recording Amplifier & Monitor Modulation Attenuator

Auralex Acoustics is proud to announce GRAMMA™ (\$59.95 MSRP). This breakthrough patent pending product isolates speaker cabinets from the floor- reducing sound transmission while increasing tonal definition and clarity. Though deceptively simple in appearance, GRAMMA has been receiving rave reviews from top guitarists, bassist, and engineers. GRAMMA is an offshoot of PLATFOAM™- Auralex's high-density foam that is used to create "floated" drum risers.

GRAMMA consists of two (2" x 4" x 23") PLATFOAM isolating feet, affixed to a 15" x 23" ozite-covered piece of "MDF. There is a convenient carrying handle and the underside is lined with Auralex purple Studiofoam to absorb potential cavity resonances. The low 3" profile and discrete gray color ensures that GRAMMA will blend into most any stage or studio application. One GRAMMA will support common guitar amps, stage monitors, and small bass rigs. Two GRAMMAS may be combined to isolate large bass rigs and subwoofers. One GRAMMA will isolate speaker cabinets weighing up to 350 pounds (evenly distributed)!

For 20 years Auralex Acoustics has provided technical support for the most complete line of absorbers, bass traps, diffusers, and construction products in the industry (www.auralex.com).

For more information on any of these fine products discussed in the newsletter, please Email us directly or print and check the appropriate box and send to Quest :

Tel: (305) 993-1213
SE Toll-Free: (800) 624-7650
Fax: (305) 993-1217
www.questmktg.com
info@questmktg.com

- Auralex
- Lexicon
- Joe Meek (PMI)
- Mackie
- PreSonus