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AN INTERTEC PUBLICATION

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Special Supplement: Electronic Musical Instruments in the Studio

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 ■ MIX NOISE 32 INPUT ROUTED BETTER THAN - 82dB



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Brave New World

In just a few years, electronic musical instruments have become an essential part of most recording facilities.

Synthesizers and Samplers

The most common electronic music components have as many approaches as there are players.

Electronic Drums and Triggering Devices

Why should keyboardists have all the fun? With the right equipment, MIDI's possibilities are open to almost everyone.

New Applications

Electronic instruments have expanded beyond their original applications.

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On the Cover Studio Malibu, Malibu, CA. Photo by Johann Wolff, courtesy of Studio Malibu.



Volume 20, No. 6

RECORDING ENGINEER/PRODUCER (ISSN 0034-1673) is published monthly for \$26 to qualified readers, \$30 to nonqualified readers per year by Intertee Publishing Corporation, 9221 Quivira Road, Overland Park, KS 66215. Second-class postage paid at Shawnee Mission, KS and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Recording Engineer/Producer. PO. Box 12960, Overland Park, KS 66212.

In an age of disk and digital, why buy analog?

• We know there are some applications where our 32-channel digital machine, the DTR-900, is the only answer. But if your business is such that you can do anything you want to do in the analog domain, and at the same time do less damage to your budget, then our brand new analog 24-channel MTR-100A may be the perfect machine for you. When you consider that the MTR-100 will literally *change*

- foreven the work and in come inter
- forever the way engineers inter-
- face with audio machines, and

The MTR-100's auto-alignment saves you hours

of time by eliminating constant tweaking and

that this new way will save you

time, the analog choice begins to

make even more sense. You see.

the MTR-100 features full Auto-

Alignment that allows total re-

calibration of the record and reproduce electronics. This means you can compensate for different tapes in a *fraction* of the time that it previously took, and your studio is not bogged down with constant

tweaking and re-tweaking be-

chines have a corner on high performance transports, think again! The MTR-100's new transport incorporates reel motors that approach one horsepower—you'll get fast wind speeds of up to 474

And if you think digital ma-

tween sessions.

hours spent in non-productive

re-tweaking between sessions.

transport is pinchrollerless to

- give you the legendary tape han-
- dling ballistics of our
- MTR-90.

What's more, with
its optional EC-103 chase
sychronizer, the MTR-100
maintains frame-lock in
forward and reverse from
0.2X to 2.5X play speed,
and will typically park
with zero frame error.

Then, there's the amplifiers to take speeds up to 474 ips. sound. New cylindricalcontour heads built by Otari especially for the MTR-100 result in remarkably low crosstalk and outstanding low-frequency performance. Pre-amps are located directly beneath the heads to further improve frequency response, and HX-Pro* is built-in for enhanced high frequency headroom. (An optional internal noise reduction package houses Dolby* SR/A.) Add all these features to gapless, seamless. punch-in, punch-out, which is also built-in, and your

- MTR-100's sonic performance will
- rival, or beat any digital machine



So there you have it. With these powerful benefits available in analog, does it make sense to go digital? Sure, for some applications. But analyze your needs carefully before you buy. For many applications, a hot analog tape machine like the

MTR-100 is the right choice. And because we can see both sides of the question, put us to work. We have information that can help you make the right decision. Call Otari at (415) 341-5900 for the *"Technology You Can Trust"*.

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EDITORIAL

Here Comes the Judge

As is often said, timing is everything. In this case, I'd like to have been wrong. In the January "Editorial" I wrote, "One solution, which no one wants to think about, is government intervention." Dateline Washington, Feb. 27. The Supreme Court hears the case of Ward vs. Rock Against Racism. The City of New York wants to require, through a city regulation, that all musical performers at Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park use a city-supplied sound system and sound technician.

Rock Against Racism, which sponsors an annual concert at the bandshell, says the regulations are unconstitutional because they are too broad and infringe upon First Amendment guarantees. The city says the regulations are part of its right to regulate noise in the urban environment.

While the city has the right to limit the sound level of concerts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit said the Constitution permits only the "leastrestrictive means available." The appeals court went on to rule that city control of the "mix" of sounds that make up the artistic presentation is too intrusive and the regulation violated the performers' right of free expression.

The Supreme Court accepted the City of New York's appeal last October and is expected to decide the case by early summer.

I first learned of this court battle in March. My first thought (after recovering from the shock) was: What can we as an industry do to help present an accurate voice of knowledge and experience to those who, admittedly, are unfamiliar with live sound practices? The answer I got was, "It's too late to do anything, the hearings are over, the matter is in deliberation." By now I was having to recover from shock Number 2. "You mean to tell me that the pro audio community was completely absent from the prejudgment process?" The answer was yes!

So here we are. We should have seen this coming. My comments in January were not at all prophetic. Rather, they were one more appeal to the sensibilities of system designers and operators.

One of the key issues in this case revolves around the question of whether the house mix engineer is an integral part of the creative process or merely a technician. To put it another way, does the engineer serve a function similar to the conductor of a symphony orchestra? While there are similarities, there are significant differences. The primary difference is that the conductor does not have a master volume control that enables him to turn the level of the orchestra up beyond the level-generating capabilities of the acoustic instruments on stage. Another significant difference is that the orchestra is under the complete dynamic and artistic control of the conductor: the same cannot be said of the house mixer for any touring act.

While I don't like the idea of government intervention, I do feel that the concert sound system operators have a responsibility for their actions when controlling very high-powered reinforcement systems.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this recent news is the pro audio community's total absence of representation in a case of such obvious importance. To my knowledge, we were not consulted as expert witnesses, nor did we have a representative voice organizing a unified position. In fact, I talked to several key people, and nobody even knew about these proceedings until well after anything could be done.

Is it that our channels of information and communication are so bad? Or that no one felt this issue was important enough for a response? I doubt the former; word travels fast on these streets. If nonchalance is the excuse, then our tiny, fragile industry deserves whatever consequences are forthcoming.

Where were the trade organizations such as the AES and SPARS?

Not long after hearing the news, I called Bruce Merley, president of SPARS, to see what he knew of the situation. He, too, was unaware of the story. At about this point I asked him if there was any reason why SPARS couldn't take a more active role—the role that a trade organization should take in representing an industry. He agreed that SPARS could, and probably should, be one of the more active organizations. Of course, the AES should also participate actively in matters such as this, but it seems uninterested in taking a leadership position on any non-technical issue. Right now we are an industry without representation, leadership or direction. There is some progress on the hardwarestandards level, but there is little or no representation when it comes to politically relevant topics such as this one, CBS's proposed Copycode legislation, or the recently settled (out of court) case involving an engineer's liability in a sampling/ copyright infringement suit.

And there is more to come—you can be sure. In a case in Nevada, CBS Records and Judas Priest are being sued by the parents of two teenagers who committed suicide after allegedly listening to the band's "Stained Glass" album. There have been other suits of this kind, but what makes this case notable is that CBS was ordered to turn over the 24-track masters to be examined for subliminal messages.

While the defendants in such cases have First Amendment protections—and the judge in the Nevada case has said the case will not go to trial unless subliminal messages are found—it seems only a matter of time before engineers and/or producers are named in such suits. The fact that CBS was forced to turn over the 24-track master should be taken as an ominous sign. Does the pro audio community have a representative voice in these proceedings? I doubt it.

Still not convinced that we are (or are about to be) facing significant regulatory intervention? Consider this. In Europe, a regulatory commission (much like OSHA) is currently setting occupational safety standards for noise levels in the workplace. I'm told that these regulations will be enforced in recording studios as well as airports and shipyards. Consider the implications.

As an industry, we must address these issues before the political burdens outweigh the business, technological and economic burdens we already carry. RE/P is ready, willing and able to disseminate information and support the policies and decisions of intelligent leadership.

Are these events acceptable to you as a professional? They're not acceptable to me. And they won't be unless I get a say in their eventual outcome. Without representation and leadership, we are all going to be shut out of the policy-making processes that affect our careers.

Michael Fay Editor

If Michelangelo had a QUADRAVERB, he might have mixed music instead of paint.

It's true. Music and painting are very similar. A stroke of red a touch of chorus. A splash of blue, a wash of reverb. Either way, it's art. And every artform has its masterpieces. And its tools.

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LETTERS

Not a dumping ground

From: John M. Woram, Rockville Centre, NY.

I sympathize with Kenneth Glaza losing out on a job opportunity because of the over-qualified syndrome [Letters, February]. That's a tough break, and I wish him luck in finding a more receptive employer soon. However, I don't think his problems can be attributed to William Moylan's excellent overview of the industry ["Employment Trends," December 1988], or to the dumping grounds at the University of Miami.

I had the pleasure of being affiliated with the U of M's music engineering program for a few years, and as far as I know, the school continues to unload about 15 to 20 graduates on the industry every semester, which is a bit short of Mr. Glaza's estimate of "hundreds of 'qualified people' per year." As for how many Dr. Moylan foists on the public, my best guess is "not enough."

Any beginner with the financial and intellectual stamina to survive a four-year college program or a *reputable* trade school program should be encouraged to do so. But anyone who goes to school should not think of it as an employment agency. A school is for getting an education. With luck, it will lead to a job (sweeping floors, if you're really lucky), but that's a fringe benefit.

Mr. Glaza's observations notwithstanding, most successful graduates of good programs spend at least a little time during their senior year trying to decide which job offer to accept. I don't suppose that's welcome news to someone who doesn't enjoy the same pleasant dilemma, but it does suggest there's always room for one more qualified person out there.

Since Mr. Glaza hopes to return to school for his own degree, I'll part with a little free advice: If the program has an elective called Positive Thinking 101, go for it.

WD-40 on LPs

From: Doug Pomeroy, Pomeroy Audio, Brooklyn, NY.

Your September issue carried a Studio Update/Talkback item regarding the use of WD-40 to aid in the removal of glue from adhesive stickers that were sometimes applied to the surface of LP records by radio stations. It was also noted that WD-40 has a restorative effect, reducing surface noise.

Having experimented with this, I would make the following observation: WD-40, like other surface lubricants, can slightly reduce the surface noise of badly worn records. (The WD-40 Company does not make any claims for its product in this regard.)

If WD-40 is to be used to "restore" the surface, the LP should be carefully washed with warm soapy water and rinsed (ideally with distilled water) *before* application, so that surface dirt is not sealed under the WD-40 spray. (My experience is that noise is reduced more by the washing than by anything applied thereafter.)

A final word of caution: WD-40 remains oily where it is applied and should be washed off after use, or else it will spread to album sleeves, fingers, etc.

Teaching sound reinforcement

Editor's note: David Scheirman, RE/P's live sound consulting editor, recently received a letter from Jennifer Miles. Her letter stated that after managing a heavy metal band, she wanted to get into sound engineering, and asked if David could recommend a school or schools for her consideration. His reply is printed below.

When the issue of recording schools is brought up, it usually concerns the teaching of studio recording and not sound reinforcement. We invite any readers who are involved in live sound educational programs, or those who have recently attended such courses, to write us about your experiences.

Dear Jennifer,

Many young persons are interested in the field of live sound as a career. While there are hundreds of schools, both public and private, that offer instruction in recording techniques, few of them approach the subject of live sound.

My best suggestion to you is that you get in touch with professional concert sound companies in your own geographical area. Ask them if they ever take student interns on a work-study program from schools, and, if so, what schools they are relying on for help. This will give you a clear indication that an educational program does exist in your area that can actually help to place you in your career field of interest. You may need to travel to another state.

There are a few excellent programs in this country, and more are starting to appear. Unfortunately, there are also some "schools" that claim to offer professional instruction in "sound engineering," but they are basically just capital redistribution firms. You give them you money. Period. Before you enroll in any school, check it out thoroughly.

Not to spec

From: Lachlan Westfall, president, International MIDI Association; secretary, MIDI Manufacturers Association.

In reading the article by Peter Jostins in the February issue ["MIDI and the Mixing Console"], I came across the statement, "As I have explained, the main problem with MIDI is that it is not capable of transmitting massive amounts of data. However, the current MIDI spec allows for a baud rate of 61.5K (instead of 31.25K), which doubles the amount of data that can be transmitted..."

This is completely untrue. Nowhere in the MIDI 1.0 detailed specification does it mention a higher baud rate.

January critique

From: Tom Young, head engineer, Audio Technologies Inc., Watertown, CT.

I was very impressed with the clarity of J. Russell Lemon's letter on phase shift and its audibility ["Letters," January]. Many articles have been written on the subject, and they are often difficult to comprehend well, partly due to the complexity of this phenomenon.

Your article on "Coping with Wireless Systems" was also about the best and easy to understand that I've read. Hats off to Bill Mayhew.

I read your magazine every month and hope you keep up with the coverage of live sound, as well as recording, acoustics, etc.



Send letters to RE/P, 8330 Allison Ave., Suite C,La Mesa, CA 92041. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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NEWS

Companies offer free tape for SPARS membership

As an incentive to join the Society of Professional Audio Recording Services during its 10th anniversary year, Agfa, Ampex and 3M are each donating a 10-inch reel of ¹/4-inch tape to new members of the organization. All three companies are advisory members of SPARS and encourage membership in the organization, a network of audio recording professionals, personal-use studio owners and manufacturers.

SPARS has created a new associate membership category for those in allied audio recording services and personal-use studios. Yearly dues are \$250. For more information, contact SPARS at 4300 10th Ave. N., Suite 2, Lake Worth, FL 33461; 407-641-6648.

MCA opens NoNOISE facility

After six months of Beta site testing, MCA has opened its new production studios in Los Angeles, which includes four suites for analog/digital transfer and 2-track editing, two CD mastering rooms with Sonic Solutions workstations and NoNOISE software, two cassette-mastering rooms, off-line video editing and duplication, vaults and a full technical shop. The facility is the company's distribution headquarters.

The initial R&D program involved MCA,

EDITORIAL

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R.J. Hancock, President Chuck Rash, Corporate Circulation Director Sandra Stewart, Circulation Director Doug Wilding, Circulation Manager Barbara Clare, Reader Correspondent Kevin Callahan, Creative Director Sonic Solutions and Audio Intervisual Design, the West Coast representative. The system permits all of the editing, EQ and master preparation to be done in the digital domain on the hard disk.

UCLA creates electronic music program

The UCLA extension department of the arts has inaugurated a certificate program in electronic music, featuring courses in electronic music and synthesis, MIDI, personal computer hardware and software, film scoring, sound recording for film and video, and film and video post-production.

The program coordinator is Jeff Rona. president of the MIDI Manufacturers Association and a synthesist, composer and writer.

For more information, contact UCLA Extension at Box 24901, Los Angeles, CA 90024; 213-825-9064.

Info, photos sought for audio book

Author David Miles Huber is searching for historical information and photos for a coffee-table book, "The History of Recorded Sound." The book will highlight the progression of recording from Edison to the digital era and will be written for the audio/video professional.

CONSULTING EDITORS

Jeff Burger, Computers Paul D. Lehrman, Electronic Music John Monforte, Technical Consultant David Scheirman, Live Performance

RECORDING ENGINEER/PRODUCER is edited to relate recording science to recording art to recording equipment, as these subjects, and their relationship to one another, may be of value and interest to those working in the field of commercially marketable recordings and live audio presentation. The editorial content includes: descriptions of sound recording techniques, uses of sound recording equipment, audio environment design, audio equipment maintenance, new products.

CORRESPONDENCE

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Editorial: Suite C 8330 Allison Ave. La Mesa, CA 92041 619-464-5577 Fax: 619-464-2643 Huber is seeking black-and-white and color photos, and articles that describe a favorite event, piece of equipment, person or era. Contributions will be returned on request, and acknowledgments and photo courtesies will be given.

For more information, contact Huber at Playback Communications, Box 1100, La Conner, WA 98257; 206-328-4835.

Obituary: Milton T. Putnam

Milton T. "Bill" Putnam, the founder of UREI Electronics and several recording studios, died April 13. He was 69.

Putnam's career in the audio industry can be traced to the 1940s, when he first published articles in *High Fidelity*. He developed many of UREI's best known products, including the 800 Series monitors, the 1176 limiter and the first lownoise tub mic pre-amplifier. Putnam pioneered half-speed mastering and engineered many Top 10 releases in the 1940s-60s.

Putnam founded Universal Recording, Chicago, United and Western Recording, Hollywood, and Coast Recorders in San Francisco.

In 1983, the Audio Engineering Society honored him for "Lifelong Contribution to Studio Design and to the Design of Audio Instruments and Equipment."

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Member, Business Publications Audit of Circulation Sustaining member of Acoustical Society of America Member, International Communications Industries Association

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Did you know Abbey Road Studios uses AGFA



Abbey Road Studios-the name evokes a time, an era-the Beatles.

Ken Townsend, Abbey Road general manager, has heard it all-from the record that put the street on the map to Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon".

Today, in a very modern state-of-theart facility, Ken hears it on AGFA PEM 469. It's bias compatible and ... "It simply sounds better," he says.

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NEWS

News Notes

DigiTech won Most Innovative Product of the Year for Rack-Mounted Effects award during the third annual Music and Sound Awards at Winter NAMM for its DSP 128 digital multi-effects signal processor.

Gary Davis & Associates has relocated to 3237 Donald Douglas Loop S., Santa Monica, CA 90405; 213-397-6625; fax 213-390-9917.

UREI Electronics has moved its entire operation to the Harman Business Campus in Northridge, CA. The relocation increases the company's manufacturing, warehousing and shipping capacities, and provides expanded new product development capabilities. The company's new address is 8400 Balboa Blvd., Northridge, CA 91329; 818-895-8734.

The band Metallica, currently one of the biggest grossing acts in America, is touring with a **TAC** SR9000 as front-of-house console and a TAC Scorpion foldback console. The SR9000 is controlling 110,000W of the act's speaker system.

TGI, the holding company of **Tannoy**, has acquired Audix, a manufacturer of public address systems and broadcast equipment. Upon completion of the acquisition, a new company, Tannoy-Audix Ltd., will be formed, consisting of Tannoy's systems division and Audix.

Samson Technologies, the U.S. Sound-tracs distributor, has signed Everything Audio, Burbank, as its area dealer.

Bag End has moved to Box 488, Barrington, IL 60010; 312-382-4550.

Bruel & Kjaer has returned to a national direct sales network for its the Series 4000 microphones. The mics will now be offered through the company's 55 field application engineers, augmented by three regional representatives: Lee Furr for the West (800-444-4BNK), Tom Lanik for the East (800-336-4656), and Lew Frisch for the Southeast (404-636-2601).

Anita Baker's vocals on "Giving You the Best That I Got" were recorded directly into an **NED** Direct-to-Disk system. According to the company, it marks the first time that the vocals of a Top 10 single were recorded straight from a microphone into a computer hard disk. Bruce Nazarian of Gnome Recording, New York, engineered the sessions.

Trident Audio USA has added two dealers to its national distribution network: Harris Audio, Miami and Atlanta, and Audio Images Corporation, San Francisco.

Renkus-Heinz conducted its second sound system design seminar in Irvine, CA, following Winter NAMM. More than 100 people attended the 2-day event, which covered HF drivers, mids, horns, woofers, complete speaker systems and the company's processor-controlled sound systems.

DOD Electronics has named Crescendo and Associates, Miramar, FL, as its sales representative of the year. Also, the company has presented Gold Club Awards to five rep firms for outstanding performance. The firms are Harrison/New West, R.J. Marketing, Hanoud and Associates, Elliot Goldman and Gene Griffith Sales.

As it celebrated its 25th anniversary in April, **Otari Electric Co.** changed its official name to Otari Inc., reflecting the company's expanding business activities. The Tokyo headquarters has also moved into a new facility at 4-33-3 Kokuryo-cho, Chofu-shi, Tokyo 182 Japan; (0424) 81-8626; fax (0424) 81-8633.

New England Digital's initial production run of the Synclavier 9600 has sold out, according to the company. George Michael and Gloria Estefan are among those who have purchased a system.

Paul Farrah Sound has changed its name to **Farrahs**, in response to many of its clients using the shortened name.

Neumann, the German microphone manufacturer, is celebrating its 60th year in business.

Full Sail Center for the Recording Arts has introduced an intermediate course on the New England Digital Synclavier. The course is designed for professional Synclavier and Direct-to-Disk operators to polish their personal skills. In the year since Full Sail became the official NED training center, 316 students have been graduated.

Aries America has relocated to 22122 S. Vermont Ave., Unit E, Torrance, CA 90502; 213-533-5112; fax 213-533-6883.

Neve has moved its Western regional sales and support office to 6353 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 402, Hollywood, CA 90028; 213-461-6383.

AudioLine recently opened a branch office in Kansas City, MO. The office will offer professional audio equipment from more than 120 manufacturers and comprehensive demonstration facilities. James "Ham" Strawn has been named sales manager; the new address is 4049 Pennsylvania, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64111; 816-931-9166.

Al Jarreau has signed an agreement with **Audix** to endorse its microphones. Presently on tour in Europe and in the United States, Jarreau is using an OM-2 dynamic mic. Audix is now manufacturing the OM-1 and OM-2 mics in its California facility.

Sam Ash Professional, a new division of Sam Ash Music Corp., opened its New York office in February. The office is located at 723 Seventh Ave., Third Floor, New York, NY 10019; 212-719-2640; fax 212-302-4289.

Aesthetic Engineering, a new music software company formed by composer and software author Laurie Spiegel, is now shipping Music Mouse software, formerly published by Opcode Systems. The software package is available directly from Aesthetic Engineering for Atari, Amiga and Macintosh computers. The company's address is 2022 Taraval St., Suite 5408, San Francisco, CA 94116; 415-589-2191; fax 415-588-2851.

Klark-Teknik has signed a strategic alliance agreement with Milab to undertake international marketing for the company's microphones. Sales and service for Milab products is now shared between Klark-Teknik in England for specified markets in Europe and overseas; Klark-Teknik U.S. for the United States; and Milab for the rest of the world.

Americ Disc North America has opened a sales office in New York to provide optical disc replication services to U.S. customers. Lisa Schraml will head the office as director of marketing and sales.

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NEWS

The office is located at 122 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10168; 212-984-0720.

Crest Audio has entered an agreement with Jim Gamble & Associates to manufacture, market and distribute Gamble products worldwide. Gamble will continue to design and consult for Crest from his Tahoe City, CA, facility. The first products available will be the Series EX house and monitor consoles.

Renkus-Heinz recently celebrated the end of its 10th year in business.

Hydra Tech is a new company specializing in tour and studio support, including designing and building MIDI systems, modifications, programming and applications. Principals are Mitch Marcoulier, Ran Ballard and Tim Myer, all of whom worked on Michael Jackson's "Bad" tour. For more information, contact Myer at 213-396-6867.

Proshow USA, an A/V sales, rental and

installation company, has purchased Vista Sound, a sound reinforcement company based in the Northwest.

Gulton Industries, the **Electro-Voice** pro audio division in Canada, has changed its name to Mark IV Audio Canada.

Ariel has moved to 433 River Road, Highland Park, NJ 09804; 201-249-2900; fax 201-249-2123.

Sidereal Akustic Audio Systems has moved to 9974 Scripps Ranch Blvd., *120, San Diego, CA 92131; 619-578-4226; fax 619-578-4059.

People

Robert Gross has been appointed director of management information systems for Digital Audio Disc.

Lindsay Allen has been promoted to manager of professional audio tape products at Ampex's Magnetic Tape Division. Jim Edwards has been named assistant sales manager for the Western region for Atlas/Soundolier.

David Roudebush has been named marketing and sales manager for Orban's professional products line.

Mike Cooper has joined the staff of CORE Systems.

JBL Professional has named **Neil Conley** sales manager for JBL and UREI products. **Bill Schuermann** has been named regional manager for the South Central U.S. territories and Mexico.

Warren Simmons of Ampex's magnetic tape division has retired after 20 years at the company.

Patricia Daniels has been named sales administrator at QSC Audio Products.

Marianne Smith has been named controller at API Audio Products. RE/P



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MANAGING MIDI

By Paul D. Lehrman

A Stitch in Time

And now, a MIDI success story.

One of the problems long associated with MIDI sequencers is the difficulty in getting them to work with pre-recorded tape tracks. Recording a "live" track along with an existing MIDI sequence is fairly easy—just make sure there's sync tone of one type or another on one track of the tape. But doing it the other way around, where human beings determine the tempos (which change from moment to moment) and the sequencer has to follow along, is very difficult.

To an extent, a few hardware designers have come up with ways to overcome this problem. Their devices construct "tempo maps" from the recorded music by having you press a "tap" button in time with the music as it plays, or by detecting audio pulses from a kick drum or other consistent rhythm track. The timing of these taps is recorded in the device's internal memory, referenced to SMPTE time code coming in from a track on the tape. The timings are stored as a "tempo map."

The next time the tape is played back, the tempo map is used to calculate the correct beat number and tempo from the tape's position, and that information is sent on to the sequencer in the form of Song Position Pointers and Clocks.

The problem with tempo maps in hardware is that they are generally not easy to edit, and often they can't be downloaded from the hardware device to some form of external storage. This means that every time you want to work on a tune, you have to reconstruct its tempo map. Some devices let you download their tempo maps as System-Exclusive dumps, but for studios lacking software that can handle that kind of data, this is not a good solution.

Perhaps most importantly, keeping a tempo map in hardware means that you

Paul D. Lehrman is RE/P's electronic music consulting editor and is a Boston-based producer, electronic musician and free-lance writer. are always dependent on that hardware, and your sequencer must always be slaved to it. Thus, you can't even use your sequencer's own controls when editing, and if you have hardware that lacks its own "transport" controls, you actually have to roll the tape just to move around the sequence!

Now that MIDI Time Code allows SMPTE-to-MIDI conversion to take place at the software level—we don't need anything to generate clocks and pointers anymore—there should be a way to get these tempo maps into the sequencers themselves, so that sequences can be edited freely, without depending on the hardware all the time.

Like most brilliant ideas, ReClock is absurdly simple.

M IDI Files should provide a way of doing this: A MIDI File can consist solely of tempo information, and so it should be easy to get a tempo map from one device to another in that form. Unfortunately, although you can put a MIDI File on a floppy disk and send it to someone else through the mail, there is no agreement among the MIDI powers-that-be on how to transfer a MIDI File *over MIDI*. So until that agreement comes, there is simply no way for a hardware tempo-map device to get its information into a sequencer.

I've had a lot of clients bemoan this fact of MIDI life, so I think about it a lot. One day recently, a solution dawned on me. What if you were able to record a live "tap" track into a *sequencer* rather than a hardware device, and somehow convert that track into a tempo map? The sequencer could consider each tap as occurring on an even beat, and the differences in timing from one tap to the next would be converted into tempo changes.

The resulting track, consisting of nothing but tempo changes, could be saved as a MIDI File, and you could then construct the rest of the sequence on top of it. You could use your sequencer to lay the rest of the tracks and edit them, never going back to tape until you actually needed to hear what was on it. The tap could be derived from your hitting a key or drumpad in time to the music, or from an audio-to-MIDI converter hooked up to a rhythm track. To ensure synchronization integrity while you are recording the tap track, the sequencer would have to be locked to the tape using MIDI Time Code, and running at a constant tempo—say 60bpm—so there would be a common timebase for the tape and the sequence.

I took this idea, posted it on a few musicnetwork bulletin boards and challenged someone to come up with a way of implementing this. Sure enough, two days later I got a message on PAN from Doug Wyatt, a programmer for Opcode Systems, saying that he had written just such a program for the Macintosh and would be happy to post it as shareware. He called it "ReClock," and, like most brilliant ideas, it is absurdly simple.

ReClock takes a Type 1 (multitrack) MIDI File and asks you which track you would like to consider as the "metronome." The program then assumes that every note on the metronome track is a quarter note, and calculates the tempo changes between those notes necessary to make them all fall on even beats.

It then rewrites the MIDI File with all of these tempo changes. The *absolute* times of all the notes in the file stay the same, but the *musical* times—what beat and fraction the notes fall on—change.

This program very nicely solves the problem of deriving a sequencer tempo map from a live track. Tap along with the tape while the sequencer (running at a constant tempo) is locked to the tape and run the resulting sequence through ReClock. You'll end up with a blank sequence with all the right tempo changes. You'll have to figure out the correct SMPTE start point for the sequence, but that's pretty trivial, and you only have to do it once.

But ReClock has ramifications beyond this. You can also use it to re-time sequences that have nothing to do with tape. For example, you can play a florid improvisation into your sequencer, completely disregarding the metronome, and then overdub a second track, playing single

When there is no compromise there is no choice.



















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MANAGING MIDI

notes where you want the beats to occur. Run the result through ReClock, and you'll end up with the same improvisation, only now it has a metric structure. You can quantize chords to bring them into line, add quick step-time flourishes, and cut and paste phrases at the measure or beat level—without destroying the rhythmic integrity of the original. You can even quantize all of the notes as a way of preparing the file before you send it to a notation program.

(Speaking of notation, it's only fair to point out that Finale, the musictranscription mega-program from Coda Music Software, has a similar function built into it. The program can also import and export MIDI Files, so theoretically it could be used for re-timing recorded sequences. But the function—called "time tagging" is fairly clumsy to use, and the MIDI File implementation is very poor. ReClock is a much simpler and more elegant—not to mention cheaper—solution.)

ReClock is a perfect example of how useful ideas can spread through the MIDI community and find support. Now that MIDI Files are an established standard, we

ReClock is a perfect example of how useful ideas can spread through the MIDI community and find support.

can hope to see dozens of similar programs appear, which will meet all sorts of creative demands and will be modified and perfected as they travel around the industry.

ReClock is in the database section of Opcode's Special Interest Group on PAN, and possibly on other networks by now, as well. Get it, try it out and pay for it—it could be 15 of the best dollars you'll ever spend.

Re/P

16 Recording Engineer/Producer June 1989

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SPARS ON-LINE

By Bill Porter

Home Studio Competition: If You Can't Beat 'Em, Join 'Em

There has been a lot of talk lately about "personal use" studios creating stiff competition for the professional recording community. I know many studio owners who, fearing for their sizeable investments, are trying desperately to increase bookings—some with only limited success.

As a former studio supervisor, manager and owner, I fully understand the need to meet the bottom line. But, in fact, there have been many positive changes in the recording arena. And, with an open mind and positive attitude toward the new realities, you can turn the tables of business.

Since the technological explosion of electronic music instruments and lessexpensive recording equipment, our industry hasn't been the same. The price of these new tools continues to fall, while the quality continues to get better and better. Today's recording industry has many people using this new technology to create their own composing/recording workshops. My position is: *If you can't beat 'em*, *join 'em*.

I'm sure that many studio owners have rooms that are lying dormant. It might be a second studio, lounge, disk-cutting area or storage space. What I propose may shock a few people, but it's based on my experience with the "do-it-yourself" craze.

The fact is, it takes considerable time and investment before the budding musician accumulates all the gear needed for a fully operational, personal-use studio. Also, many of the newcomers don't fully understand the equipment and techniques of quality recording. And there are still others who are quality-conscious but lack the training or the resources to make fully professional recordings. All in all, the scenario provides an excellent business opportunity for the professional recording

Bill Porter is an assistant professor at the College of Music, University of Colorado at Denver.

studio willing to accommodate this growing market.

I suggest you start by setting up three studios, each one equipped for a different kind of budget. If you visit your local music store that specializes in electronic musical instruments, you'll find that it is selling equipment at three general levels of sophistication and price.

To begin with, there's a basic keyboard with some limited features and a 4- to 8-track cassette or reel-to-reel tape recorder, probably with noise reduction. The next level includes such things as MIDI interface, synchronization, a sequencer, an 8- to 16-track recorder and some outboard processors. On an even higher level are keyboard "updates" with on-board sequencers, MIDI voice libraries, drum machines (many levels and prices), drum clocks, computers and SMPTE time code.

Your new studios can be equipped with the basics. Additional equipment requests can be rented on a piece-by-piece basis. This is an attractive arrangement for the client who can't afford to buy everything, but who wants specific gear for specific sessions. You might also allow clients to bring their own equipment for interface with your new studios. This will involve your studio engineering staff and should be billed accordingly.

To deal with the varying degrees of clientele experience, I suggest a simple questionnaire to determine their working knowledge and to prevent improper use of the equipment. When using outside equipment, be especially cautious of the input/output connections. The bulk of your maintenance problems will be in this area. The connectors are not designed for heavy use and can cause problems. Make sure they are easily accessible, and secure cables to avoid undue stress.

Your tape machines will probably require the most maintenance, so plan accordingly. After reasonable use and amortization, re-equip and update your studios. It's important to stay current. Also, your new clientele will make a good market for used equipment. You might even consider rent-to-own options.

If you don't consider yourself or your staff knowledgeable in this field of production/recording, visit the local high schools and colleges. You'll find a whole new breed of electronic music teachers who can be of great help. You might even hire some students to assist you in your new electronic music studios. These young musicians can help you determine which gear is currently in demand. This parttime staff can also be valuable in attracting the business you are looking for.

As your clientele grows in knowledge and technique, they will become aware of equipment limitations. Your staff should be available to assist in their more-complex productions. Your clients may even want to step up to professional equipment, which, again, would involve your studio's professional staff.

Another area to be explored is the video market. Inexpensive video equipment has increased in quality and flexibility, making budget productions a reality. Your clients could produce their own music videos.

Dealing with non-professionals will require sound accounting procedures. This may seem obvious, but never forget that collecting revenues = making money = staying in business. Carefully research a financial plan before launching your new business.

I first encountered this kind of business practice years ago, as a teenager interested in photography. With very limited resources, I found that I could rent photo equipment and darkrooms for the developing and printing. It allowed me to expand my work greatly.

If you have doubts about the viability of the concept for the recording industry, take into consideration the success of the many studios that have implemented such ventures on a professional level. A wide range of MIDI studios now rent to musicians/producers and production companies as "electronic music workshops." Their success rests on the ready market of musicians who cannot afford the equipment investment for a complete electronic music studio.

A studio can accommodate these new kinds of clients at many levels to fit with the changing profile of the recording industry. SPARS has a catalog of useful literature and can offer valuable assistance. Carefully research your market, make a sound financial plan and test your ideas. You are only limited by your imagination and your instinct for survival.

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UNDERSTANDING COMPUTERS

By Jeff Burger

On-line Database Services, Part 2

Jeff Burger is *RE/P's* computer consulting editor and is president of Creative Technologies in Los Angeles.

Last month, we took you on-line with one of several subscription database services—IMC's Esi Street. We saw ways of navigating around the system while looking at basic services, such as electronic mail and bulletin boards. These areas are common to most such services.

This month we'll complete our tour by exploring the value-added services—areas

of special interest that carry a surcharge. For those just joining us, the system prompts typically are terminated with a colon. At those points, you type a response to navigate through the system. We've printed our commentary in *italics* and have taken a few editorial liberties for purposes of condensation.

OK, we're on-line again.



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UNDERSTANDING COMPUTERS

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	Obviously there are many other areas that we haven't been able to explore due to space. We hope these past two columns have provided some insight into the benefits of going on-line with your com- puter. For more information contact IMC or one of the other subscription services such as The Source, CompuServe or PAN. RE/P

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As computers creep into more and more studio applications, such as synchronization, sequencing, sound library management, sound design, automated sound effects and business management, an increasing number of communications pro-

Jeff Burger is RE/P's computer consulting editor and is president of Creative Technologies in Los Angeles. tocols have come into play. MIDI, RS-422, SCSI and SMPTE are a few of the more prevalent examples.

Recently, RE/P visited Studio Malibu in Malibu, CA. Co-owned by John Bezjian and Dennis Anderson, the facility specializes in computer-controlled production. The studio has been used for film scores, industrial video soundtracks, commercials and TV soundtracks. For example, composer/producer Jeanette Acosta uses the studio to create all of the music for the ABC-TV series "Murphy's Law," almost entirely from virtual tracks. We talked with Bezjian about computer applications in the studio.

Computer life

"The Macintosh II is the focal point of our studio," Bezjian says. "I'd worked with

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Photo 1. MIDI, SCSI, SMPTE and RS-422 rear panel ports for the Macintosh II, Optical Media International's Universal CD player and the Opcode Studio Plus Two interface.



Photo 2. Two racks of outboard equipment, including rack-mount sound sources and various signal processors.

dedicated music computers, like the Fairlight and Synclavier, but the Mac was my first all-around personal computer. What's amazing to me is the variety of software packages available for both music production and business." (See "Software Survey" on page 46.)

Apple's MultiFinder operating environ-

ment allows many applications to be resident in memory at one time. While they can't be run simultaneously, switching from one program to the next is as quick as clicking the mouse.

"Before MultiFinder, if I was running the sequencer and wanted to load a disk of sounds into the Roland D-50, I'd have to stop what I was doing, quit the sequencer, load the Opcode librarian, find the patch, send it to the instrument, quit the librarian, open the sequencer and load the song again. With MultiFinder and the multilibrarian, sounds for the D-50, Matrix 12, Yamaha DX series and other synthesizers are all available on one screen. A click on the MultiFinder icon and I'm back into the Performer sequencing package. I no longer have to break the creative process."

An additional application that runs under MultiFinder is a HyperCard stack that Bezjian designed to help clients operate the studio when he isn't available. (HyperCard is Apple's software environment that allows users to write their own interactive applications with a minimum of programming.) "My HyperCard stack is a sort of MIDI help file," he says. "If you're trying to figure out how to assign a MIDI channel on the Jupiter 6, you click on that stack and it tells you the proper sequence of buttons to press."

MIDI

At Studio Malibu, sequencing is typically handled with Mark of the Unicorn's Performer software, creating virtual trackschasing picture via SMPTE. An Opcode Studio Plus II is employed as a MIDI interface for the Mac II. "Knowing how many times things get recorded and rerecorded," Bezjian says, "the 'Murphy's Law' composition/production team felt they'd have greater flexibility and better sound quality by eliminating the 24-track. We've literally done every track for a network TV show with the Macintosh playing a room full of gear—mixing right to the 4-track master that goes to the dubbing stage."

The studio's main work area consists of the Mac II flanked by various MIDI keyboards. While these instruments—an E-Mu Emulator III (E-III) and vintage Yamaha DX-1 and Prophet T-8—all double as MIDI controllers and sound sources, the room is filled with a multitude of additional MIDI sound sources, including:

• E-Mu—E-IIIr, Emax SE sampling keyboard, Emax rack, Emulator II (E-II), an SP-1200

- Roland-Jupiter-6, MKS-20, D-550
- 360 Systems—MidiBass
- Oberheim-Matrix 12
- Fairlight—CMI

Additional MIDI black boxes provide channel filtering for a Memorymoog Plus and MIDI-to-CV conversion for such analog collector's items as a Minimoog, Moog Source and a Polyfusion modular synthesizer. All this adds up to a total of 173 MIDI voices.

While Bezijan tends to treat the E-III/Mac II/CD/hard-drive combination as a single device for non-musical sound effects, he doesn't subscribe to the "everything-in-one-box" school of music. "I've done projects with only the Fairlight or Synclavier or E-III," he says. "But for musical sound sources, my older instruments are as valid as a sampler/harddisk system. I prefer to have a MIDled Minimoog sitting there rather than have a Minimoog sample taking up valuable disk memory. There's also the investment aspect. People have a lot of money tied up in vintage equipment, and just because it's vintage doesn't mean it's obsolete."

To simplify the MIDI routing process, a Sycologic M-16 MIDI Matrix with expander provides cross-patching for up to 16 sources and 32 destinations at once. "The patch options are programmable and can all be called up with the touch of a button. The Sycologic even lets us name the patches intuitively," says Bezjian.

In a setup of this size, it's also possible to exceed the 16-channel limit inherent to the MIDI spec. The Opcode Studio Plus II is actually two MIDI interfaces, one for the modem port and one for the printer port, which can be thought of as independent MIDI buses. "Because Performer allows tracks to be assigned to 16 channels



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Photo 3. Back panel of the Emulator III showing SCSI, RS-422, MIDI and SMPTE interfaces.



Photo 4. Some of the vintage synths at Studio Malibu. In the foreground is a Polyfusion modular synthesizer.

through either of the ports, the only problem is isolating certain instruments to one port. Bezjian solves this problem by having both ports output to the Sycologic switcher.

Studio Malibu employs two such switchboxes that determine source/destination routing of digital sample data. An A/B input box selects between the Optical Media International (OMI) CDS3 (RS-422 interface) CD player and the Mac II as the source. (The Opcode Studio Plus II provides the switchable option of MIDI or RS-422 on the modem port.) An A/B/C/D output box selects among the E-II, Emax and Emax rack as the destination.

SCSI In addition to MIDI and RS-422 (see sidebar, "Communication Protocols") for certain applications, Studio Malibu relies on a second communications protocol. SCSI. SCSI enables instruments to access mass storage devices with blinding speed. A SCSI chain unites in one network a 5Mbyte Mac II and its internal 40Mbyte hard drive, an 8Mbyte E-III, an E-IIIr, an external 300Mbyte E-Mu hard drive and an OMI Pro CDP Universal (SCSI and audio interfaces) CD player. As Bezjian puts it, "The Universal CD player has a multifaceted personality. The drive is intelligent enough to know that when you insert an E-III CD, its directory shows up on the E-III's display. When you insert a universal Macintosh format disk, it shows up on the Mac's desktop display as another installed disk drive. It could be the Encyclopaedia Britannica on CD-ROM, but for our purposes, it's OMI's Universal Sound disk with sample files for a variety of samplers—in Sound Designer Version 1 format.

"SCSI has definitely given a completely new perspective to the Mac's capability as a sound design tool," he says. "Prior to the Mac II, SCSI and programs like Alchemy, you had to spend megabucks on a system that would allow the manipulation of sound files in real time—while looking at waveforms on the screen. Now with SCSI and related tools, I can take a sound and display it instantly on the Mac screen.

"When I highlight a certain portion of the waveform, make an edit and tell the Mac to play that section, the E-III plays it in real time. If I change a preset on the E-III, the change shows up on the screen as if it were a completely integrated system built by one manufacturer."

Each SCSI device has its own ID number so that any of the devices can address any other discretely. For example, at Studio Malibu, the Mac II is ID No. 7; the Mac's internal 40Mbyte drive is ID No. 0; the main E-III is ID No. 6; and its internal drive is ID No. 1.

Blank Software's Alchemy plays an important role in sound design and sample transfer at the studio. The program is aptly named for not only its visual editing capabilities, but its ability to transform samples created for one sampler into usable files for others. "If we run out of voices on the E-III, we can create a facsimile on another instrument. The OMI Universal CD-ROM drive, operating over SCSI, allows us to quickly pull things into Alchemy on the Mac, send it via RS-422 to a compatible sampler or via MIDI to other devices that only accept MIDI Sample Dumps," says Bezjian.

SMPTE

Other applications necessitate a fourth protocol. SMPTE comes up in the patchbay along with all the audio. "There are times when the 34-inch VCR has to be the master and other times when the master has to be the TASCAM ATR-80. Time code can be patched to feed the synchronizer or the computer. We use an Opcode Timecode Machine to convert SMPTE to either MIDI TC or Direct Time Lock, which goes into the Opcode MIDI interface for the Mac," says Bezjian. (As their preferred form of synchronization, Direct Time Lock is a proprietary MIDI permutation developed for Mark of the Unicorn's Performer software.)

Studio Malibu's synchronizer is a TASCAM ES-50/51, used as the transport control regardless of whether the 24-track or ³/₄-inch VCR is the master. "The ES-50/51 allows us to control up to three

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Communication Protocols

MIDI

Probably the most common application of non-dedicated computers in today's studios is MIDI sequencing. Sequencing software essentially records information, from a device such as a MIDI keyboard, in a multitrack environment that allows for editing, manipulation and storage of the data. Tracks are then orchestrated, using various sound-generating devices, by assigning the sound sources to receive on any of the 16 MIDI channels corresponding to the transmit channel assignments.

Today, most synthesizers can load and save programs via MIDI System Exclusive messages to computer software packages that act as editors and librarians. Comparable software exists for most digital samplers, allowing them to load and save their sounds as MIDI Sample Dump Standard files. (See "Software Survey" on page x.)

MIDI cables terminate in 5-pin DIN plugs and carry data in only one direction. Generally, cables should be kept as short as possible and never longer than 50 feet (as per the MIDI spec). There is a danger of MIDI data becoming distorted after two or three devices in a MIDI Thru chain, requiring dedicated MIDI Thru boxes to split the signals for multiple devices or chains. Using a computer for sequencing or sound manipulation entails adding a MIDI interface to the computer (with the exception of the Atari ST and the Yamaha C1, which have built-in MIDI ports).

RS-422

For years, the computer industry has been using a bus protocol called RS-422 for communication between computers and peripherals. Although MIDI's 31.25Kbaud rate is acceptable for performance data in the virtual track environment, it is too slow to handle the large amounts of data required for transmission of digital samples from one device to another. RS-422 is approximately 17 times faster than MIDI, largely because it is a parallel protocol (compared to MIDI's serial format). Several devices—such as the E-II, Emax and Optical Media's CD-ROM player—come with RS-422 buses to facilitate faster sample transfers.

RS-422 cables generally employ D-sub connectors on both ends. A single cable carries information in both directions. Also simplifying matters is the fact that RS-422 is generally used for communication between devices when no chaining is required. However, switchboxes that allow a computer to access more than one printer, or a single printer to be shared by multiple computers, are commonly available.

SCSI

A more recent communications protocol for computers and peripherals is SCSI (pronounced Scuzzy), an acronym for Small Computer Systems Interface. It's most commonly used to connect multiple devices, such as hard disks and CD-ROM drives, to computers. Because SCSI is hundreds of times faster than MIDI or RS-422, the latest wave of digital samplers such as the E-III, Roland S-550 and Akai S-1000—incorporate SCSI buses, as well.

The SCSI specs allow for up to eight devices in a chain, with a *total* cable length not to exceed 25 feet. Each device has a default ID number that, in most cases, can be changed with either software or hardware switches. In this way, any SCSI device can address any other SCSI device discretely.

While the connectors are always D-sub, be aware that they are implemented in 25-pin or 50-pin versions, depending on the manufacturer, so proper cabling is important. Also, though SCSI is a 2-way protocol, make sure that any intermediate devices in the SCSI chain have two connectors to facilitate passing the signal on. The devices on either end of a SCSI chain should use terminator connectors (either an internal or external adapter that fits between a SCSI device and a SCSI cable-a line filter adapter), while intermediate devices should not.

SMPTE

Ironically, SMPTE was originally used to synchronize tape machines, but facilities often use it to sync sequenced virtual tracks to a VCR. Many converters are available to transform SMPTE TC into MIDI Clocks and Song Pointers, to drive a sequencer. Once the user enters a SMPTE sequence location and the desired tempo—or even a tempo/meter map for complex passages—the sequencer can chaselock to tape at any point in the composition.

Another increasingly common function of SMPTE-to-MIDI converters is conversion to MIDI Time Code (MTC), which is very useful for event-oriented sequencing. With conventional, music-oriented sequencers, triggering a car-by sample with frame accuracy can be tedious at best. Packages such as Digidesign's Q-Sheet A/V and Opcode's Cue provide event-oriented sequencing for compiling hit lists that can fire samplers at SMPTE reference points.

tape machines at once. We've had 24 tracks of audio, virtual instruments played live via MIDI and a voice-over on the 2-track machine—all synchronized to the main time code on the ³/₄-inch video—mixed to 4-track through the TASCAM M-600 console," says Bezjian.

More to come

Studio Malibu is beginning to use MIDI-controlled effects devices for both

program changes and effects design. Bezjian is also looking into MIDI-based VCA packages for semi-automated mixing and the next wave of sample-editing software that features time-compression algorithms to stretch or squeeze voice-overs without changing pitch. Also, the studio's office Mac Plus will soon be connected by a local area network (LAN) to the studio's Mac II so that the two machines can access each other's files. Bezjian and Anderson are obviously using synths, samplers and computers in a professional manner, yet it is interesting to note that there are so many communication protocols needed to accomplish their production goals. With this in mind, they are keeping a close watch on the development of a new communications protocol called MediaLink, which endeavors to incorporate the best of all the others, via fiber optics. **RE/P**

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A special editorial section

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Brave New World

In just a few years, electronic musical instruments have become an essential part of most recording facilities.

It wasn't long ago that a synthesizer or electronic keyboard was only seen in a recording studio when a musician brought one in or when it was rented-in at the request of a producer. Today, synthesizers, samplers, computers and all of the peripheral items that go along with them are every bit as essential to the traditional recording studio environment as the console and tape machine. It is a rare studio that doesn't employ MIDI in some fashion.

When MIDI first arrived on the scene in 1983, it was initially looked upon as a way for keyboard players to layer several synths together to fatten their sounds or to create new timbres quickly and easily. This method proved to be a boon to producers, as well as keyboardists, because the many tracks that previously had to be recorded to create this same MIDI texture could now be saved as a result of this "MIDI sandwich." As sequencers became more sophisticated and user-friendly, the musician's ultimate dream of being able to construct and play an entire song by himself suddenly came within reach. With the introduction of samplers and sample players (such as drum machines), the musician could now not only construct the entire song by himself but, with a bit of newfound programming technique, could make the song (or the new term, "sequence") sound like an entire band or orchestra.

Perhaps the most significant product of the lower- to mid-priced synth/sampling technology has been the drum machine. From merely a dream less than 10 years ago, the drum machine is one of the first products a musician and studio now buys. As real 16-bit samples have supplanted the analog oscillator voices, and programming and user interface have reached new levels of sophistication, the drum machine has transcended all expectations in terms of potential realism. And much to the surprise of music purists, the drum machine has made a new generation of musicians much better players. Now, nearly every musician has the benefit of a steady timekeeper to play with in a realistic setting, without the dreary drone of yesterday's metronome or the wandering meter of novice colleagues.

But MIDI giveth, and MIDI taketh away. The public soon complained about the "sameness" of music made by the MIDI musician. Everything seemed too accurate, too perfect, due to all the sequenced parts being quantized. Something in the rhythmic movement seemed lacking because of the one or two robot-like drum machine patterns within the song. Dynamics were missing because the velocities of the synths were a bit too even. The same tonal colors began showing up on record after record, because the "hit sounds" were only all too easy to copy; just buy the same synth and dial up the patch! This caused a new level of technique and technology to develop, both in the hardware and software, and in the programming.

Technology has come quite far in recent years. Thanks to Large Scale and Very Large Scale Integrated chips (LSI and VLSI), it is now possible to pack a tremendously powerful synthesizer into a relatively small package. This newly developed density and the availability of custom-designed chips have greatly decreased the cost of the average synthesizer, while the power has increased similarly. For this reason, not only has the synth/sampler/computer come down to a price within reach of the serious user, but it has now become a necessary tool for the audio professional, regardless of the area of specialization. As a result, midpriced synthesizers and samplers can now be found in production studios specializing in records, advertising, radio, television and film scoring.

To counter the proliferation of home and personal-use studios, most commercial recording facilities began to add synthesizers and samplers as permanent fixtures to the studio, and they have moved from their former station in the recording area to a full-fledged position in the control room. This move has proved to be not only an attractive amenity for the client, but also a major selling point for the studio.

Today, many studios even have an inhouse MIDI setup in the form of a separate MIDI programming room. The programming room has become both a boon and a necessity. This is because of client demand to have the appropriate gear available at all times for last-minute fixes, to select sounds before laying sequenced tracks, to curtail the need for the musician to bring his entire MIDI rig in order to lay tracks, and to keep the client from going to another studio that already has the available MIDI facilities. The programming room is a boon because a dedicated MIDI room really doesn't cost much, relative to what a new control room would cost. The return on investment can be fairly quick (providing that only mid- and low-cost synth/samplers are used); the room doesn't require much space and is an additional source of cash flow for the studio.

At last, it was possible for a studio of any size to turn out a product that previously could only be captured in a major facility. This was partly due to the development of digital samplers, which now puts many

Bob Owsinski is a Los Angeles-based musician/producer/engineer and freelance writer.
well-recorded, high-quality digital samples of acoustic instruments and sound effects at everyone's disposal.

Samplers have also created new, exciting options for the engineer/producer/musician/programmer that were not available in the early days of synthesis. Now, the player has the ability to create new sounds that don't occur in nature, or to use natural sounds for things in ways that Mother Nature never dreamed of.

Samplers, in particular, are fast becoming one of the most-used devices in the modern studio. Since a sampler is, in reality, a digital recorder with a finite recording time, samplers are now being used to replace the analog tape recorder for such things as fly-ins and voice-overs. Plus, the latest batch of samplers allows many production tricks that either are not possible or normally are too time consuming on an analog recorder. These include replacement of sounds via a triggered sample (as in the case of replacing a kick drum with a better-sounding sample), editing, looping and crossfading the samples.

Digital sample recorders have found a home on the stage, as well as in the studio. Besides the samples that a keyboard player may use in a live situation to reproduce the "studio tracks," an increasing number of drummers now use their live drum kit to trigger sets of samples. And why not? The advantages are many. First, the sound is consistent from gig to gig, auditorium to auditorium. Why mess with success when the sounds from the record can be reproduced exactly? Second, setup time is cut down tremendously. Since the sound is the same every night, the sound man knows what to expect and can make short work of the sound check (of which the drums are usually the longest part).

Although trigger pads for totally electronic drums were quite the rage for a few years, most drummers now choose to trigger their electronics via a pickup attached to their drums. This gives the added advantage of mixing both acoustic and electronic drums together as needed. A few pads are used to trigger samples other than drum sounds, such as sound effects and, occasionally, cymbals.

Synthesizers and samplers are no longer the private domain of keyboard players and percussionists. Recent advancements in digital control have now allowed both wind players and guitar players to become part of the technological crowd. Guitar and wind controllers are no longer the novelty items that they once were, but are fully functioning instruments that are being used on an equal basis as their acoustic counterparts.

And, finally, the new technology of sampling has found its way into production environments that its designers may never have envisioned. Broadcast applications replacing cart machines and industrial applications, such as sampling heartbeats, are becoming more and more commonplace as the technology becomes cheaper and, consequently, falls into more hands. And it is inevitable that we look forward to even better and less-expensive devices tomorrow. Who knows what new uses are to come?

This supplement covers MIDI-based systems and their applications in the professional audio environment. The concentration is on mid-priced (\$1,000 to \$5,000) synthesizers, samplers, drums and other triggering devices, digital wind controllers and guitar controllers. These units are now common to most recording facilities, and nearly all audio professionals come in contact with them frequently. In short, these MIDI-based devices are now an integral part of the audio professional's life.

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Synthesizers and Samplers

The most common electronic music components have as many approaches as there are players.

In doing this survey, it quickly became apparent that there were several approaches commonly taken when using synthesizers and samplers in the studio. Many users are purists, preferring their MIDI sound sources simply to emulate the normal acoustic sounds of a band or orchestra, while a whole other segment uses the same devices in an ongoing search for new, artificial timbres. Many of the users principally employ their digital and/or analog synthesizers to achieve this end; for many, the friendly sampler was the device of choice. Although most engineers/producers/musicians/programmers seem to have no conscious choice in how they go about creating the sounds that they hear in their heads, their methodology primarily leans either toward synthesizers or samplers.

Synthesizers

Sir Gant, co-producer, arranger and keyboardist on Madonna's first album, Anita Baker's last two LPs and the latest by Peabo Bryson, has in his keyboard arsenal a Roland D-550 and a Super Jupiter, an Akai S900, an Oberheim Matrix 12, a Yamaha TX816 and a DX-7, two MiniMoogs, an old Arp 2600 and a Macintosh SE with 2Mbytes of RAM and a 40Mbyte hard disk for his program libraries.

Gant finds that layering analog with digital synths helps him to achieve the best tonal colors. "I will frequently take an attack of an FM synth like a DX-7 and the sustain portion of a different sound from the Matrix 12," he says. "This gives me the best of both worlds with the warmth of the analog sound from the Matrix and the brightness from the DX. Combinations with the D-550 and DX or TX also work well together."

Although the owner of a Synclavier, Gant finds that he uses it mostly for sequencing. "I've had it happen a lot of times where people will say that the Synclav sounds great when it isn't even playing anything. The sounds are actually coming



The S1000 MIDI stereo digital sampler from Akai.

from the other synths."

Despite the assortment of high-tech devices by which he's frequently surrounded, Gant takes care not to forget his acoustic roots. "I like combining the technology of today's electronic instruments with yesterday's acoustic instruments," he says. "That way, I get the best of both worlds."

At somewhat the other end of the spectrum is Steve Lindsy, who maintains a studio at the Village Recorder in West Los Angeles and who counts Luther Vandross, Joni Mitchell, Elton John, Michael McDonald, Manhattan Transfer, the Pointer Sisters, Randy Travis and Marvin Hamlish among his clients.

"It's kind of a MIDI and anti-MIDI setup that I have here," states Lindsy. "I almost always go for the old synthesizers first because they sound thicker to me. I record mostly live onto tape with no sequencing for most stuff."

Lindsy's array of MIDI gear includes an Akai MPC60 sequencer/drum machine and an S1000 sampler; a Korg EX8000 and an M1; three Roland D550s, a D110, a P330, a TR808, a Jupiter 8, a MKS20 and a Super Jupiter; an Oberheim DPX1 sample player and Expander, an OB8 and an old 4 voice; a Yamaha TX816; a PPG Wave; a Prophet 5; an Arp Quadra; a Mini Moog; two Mellotrons; three Kurzweil model 1000 string expanders, two model 1000 guitar expanders, one model 1000 horn expander, and one model 1000 piano expander; and a Forat F16. A Mesa Boogie and vintage Fender and Magnatone guitar amps are frequently used to process the many synths and samplers, as are Groove Tube and ADA pre-amps.

It can be said that Lindsy takes a tradi-

tional approach when making records. "I'm definitely into the older style of recording. I go more for the feeling than perfection. Contrary to the trends, I cut with a live drummer most of the time. On the occasions when I do happen to use a drum machine, I really want it to sound like a machine, so I purposely don't try to program it like a drummer."

"I like to create combination patches that feature some voices from later hightech gear, and from some 'vintage' gear," Lindsy says. "One of my favorites is to sandwich all three Kurzweil string expanders together, using one for violins, another for violas, and still another for cellos, with a bit of D50 Arco strings added in. I'll sometimes add a bit of Mellotron to thicken it up a bit."

Mike Lang usually doesn't have the luxury of experimenting with new sounds. As a busy session keyboard player in Los Angeles, with recent credits on "Knots Landing," "Dallas," "A Fine Romance," "Jake and the Fat Man" and "McGvver," he almost always has to get the right sound on-line as quickly as possible.

Lang uses an Elka MK88 master controller with a Roland D-50, a Jupiter 8, a MKS50, a Super Jupiter, an MKS 80, and an MKS 20 digital piano; two Yamaha DX-7s, a TX81Z and a DX-7FD; a Korg M1; an Oberheim Matrix 12; an E-mu Emulator II; and a Prophet VS.

"I've tried to choose instruments that have a unique character, almost like assembling an orchestra with different instrumentation. I try to find instruments that have as many different characteristics as possible, so that I can get sounds that all come from different points of view."

Although he has a Macintosh with Performer, Vision, Passport Mastertracks Pro and Dr. T's sequencing software, Lang frequently resorts to the dedicated Roland MSO 700 for stressful situations. "In most situations where there are other musicians involved in the session, the MSO 700 is the fastest for step recording-and speed is everything sometimes."

Wendy Carlos is certainly no stranger to the world of synthesis. Having taken music synthesis from the laboratory to the commercial masses with "Switched On Bach" in the 1960s, she has been not only a pioneer but a leader in the use of synthesizer technology.

An avid supporter of traditional synthesis over sampling to create new tim-

bres, Carlos feels that "synthesis, done properly, has none of the objections that samplers have, with seams between the notes where the timbres don't match, or having a limitation on what happens dynamically between the softest and the loudest notes. With synthesis, you can have a continuum of variability both in the dynamic dimension up and down and in the pitch domain. Those two dimensions are far more successfully handled with real synthesizers than they will ever be by samplers, except in the case of a huge overkill in memory and money.'

Carlos currently has numerous pieces of synthesizer gear in her studio, ranging from some of the latest in technology to some of the oldest. Of particular interest are the main sound sources that Carlos relies on, which are two Synergys and three GDS Slave 32s, both of which are no longer made. These are augmented by two Kurzweil 150s, a 1000PX, a 1000SX and a MidiBoard: a Yamaha TX802 and an RX-5; a Synton Vocorder; and an old. modular Moog 904, which recently saw service on the "Peter and the Wolf" soundtrack that Carlos recorded for CBS. It was used to simulate the cat meow and duck quack sounds. An Aphex Aural Exciter is



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used to enhance the high frequencies of some of the units that have a frequency response only to 10kHz or 12kHz, and Phase Linear Auto Correlators are used to alleviate some of the digital noise from the digital synths.

For sequencing, Carlos uses a Macintosh with a Prodigy Prime modification and Mark of the Unicorn Performer software. A Mac 2X is used for music engraving with Finale software, the program of choice. Although she uses an extremely powerful sequencing program like Performer, Carlos says that she uses no quantizing. "I go into the note list and edit if I find that I played something a little late. I'd rather capture a performance and touch up any little kluges that might happen than play a phrase to death in hopes of getting a perfect take and lose the soul for the sake of the accuracy."

While back in the primal days of synthesis, an entire project was done with a single device containing a minimal number of oscillators, Carlos now says that "having to get the resources for a full orchestra requires at least 40 timbres on-line at all times." She has not, however, become a slave to technology.

"I think that it's a combination of taste and the background of the people who are using the gear that drives the type of results that you get," she says. "My background is traditional orchestration and instrumentation, which stimulates my appetite for making interesting ways of combining instruments and timbres together."

About to begin recording on a project marking the anniversary of "Switched on Bach," Carlos will be using the authentic tunings that Bach originally used, which were not of equal temperament. "The difference with my perspective is that I want passionately to get out of the clichés that define most of the music being made by these devices (current synthesizers and samplers), which is rhythmically simple, melodically diatonic, and harmonically nothing but triads or fusion, like flatted ninths or sevenths," she says. "There are so many wonderful opportunities available with many of the new synthesizers, such as developing any alternative tunings that we might want."

"It's time to let go of the limitations within ourselves as musicians and realize that there is no need to *follow* any tradition, except that you really have to *respect* all tradition. The laws of acoustics, physics, musical balance and attention span never go away."

Samplers

With a different approach to obtaining a similar end product, David Orin uses the synthesizers and samplers in his studio to re-create traditional orchestral sounds when making tapes for planetariums. "Planetariums don't really have big budgets, so they can't afford to pay the fees for large orchestras. I supply them with simulations and sound effects. Planetariums need themes, so I provide them with a space shuttle, moonwalk or space probe theme; whatever they require," he says.

Reproducing Mozart's last six symphonies, Orin plays some of the parts into the sequencer directly without quantizing, while some of the music is stepentered directly from the score. Special sound effects are also supplied, which are sampled from a Sound Sensations tape library or created with the Matrix 1000, which Orin says is "fabulous for designing analog weirdness, sound effects and strange space pads."

Orin's studio "orchestra" consists of a Kurzweil MidiBoard, acting as the main controller, a Kurzweil 1000PX; an Ensoniq EPS with expanded memory; a Roland S-550 and a D-50; an Oberheim Matrix 1000; and a trusty old MiniMoog. He uses a Mac Plus with Mastertracks Pro software for sequencing.

Also attempting to replicate a full orchestra via the use of multisamples is Paul



Derek Mason of Sync Tank Productions, who recently completed the music for 20 episodes of "Shining Time Station" (a children's show starring ex-Beatle Ringo Starr) on PBS.

"On a tight budget, I needed a way to get as full an orchestration as possible using acoustic-sounding samples," says Mason. "Even though it's a children's show, it's not like 'Mister Rogers Neighborhood,' where you're listening to just an electric piano and train noises. I've used everything from timpani to full brass to strings with full woodwind sections. I use this gear more as a composer in search of an orchestra. I can't afford to hire the London Symphony Orchestra, but I can score it and have it played that way with my setup. I'm not looking to do anything esoteric, since it's well beyond the scope of the show."

Scoring a weekly show means that a lot of work must occur in a relatively short time. Says Mason, "It's evolved from 30 seconds of music per show to upward of 10 minutes per show. I'm scoring to picture on the fly so that I have a chance to play back the different sounds and orchestrate with frame accuracy. This enables me to meet my deadlines and get a show out in three or four days and save a lot of time later when they lay it back to picture."

Mason uses a Mac Plus with Performer software for sequencing, and two Casio FZ-1s with expanded memory and an Oberheim OB-8 as sound sources. He uses both Soundwaves and Casio libraries as sample sources.

Also under the gun of the weekly TVseries deadline is composer Tim Truman, who has taken over the music chores for this season's "Miami Vice" and must create 44 minutes of music in three days—every week.

Truman relies on an Akai MPC60 sequencer/drum machine, two S900s and two S1000s; a Prophet VS; a Yamaha DX-7; and a Roland Super Jupiter and a D-50 for the rock 'n' roll textures that have come to be the trademark of the show. In most cases, Truman will sequence approximately 10 tracks and free-play three tracks to improve the feel of the music. A live guitar player is later overdubbed for additional enhancement.

Because his is one of the few shows broadcast in stereo, Truman makes use of many techniques more commonly found in record production than in television. "For mono samples," Truman says, "we'll print it twice and delay one side, or detune one side. We also use a lot of creative panning, either manually or auto. Many times we'll pan the sample to the left but make the effect just as loud on the right." Stereo

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samples, such as those from the S1000s, may be treated the same as a mono sample.

"In my opinion, most things are not really stereo anyway," says Truman. "But the strings samples from the Musicsoft library are exquisite and quite the exception."

Despite the short time frame required to put the "Miami Vice" score together, Truman has no qualms about altering any of his samples to achieve a particular sound or effect. Reversing samples or modifying attacks are some of the frequently used techniques to make the generic samples different. "I'll either play some samples backward, then combine it with a different sample," he says. "Or sometimes I'll use it just as an attack to another sound. I'll try anything to make it sound better."

A different approach to combining samples is taken by former Moody Blues keyboardist Mike Pinder, who prefers to combine samples from different machines to obtain the desired results. Says Pinder, "I switched from using a lot of FM-type synths to sampling. I found I enjoyed it more because it was such a logical extension of the Mellotron, which is the original analog sampler. I haven't had time to make up my own samples, except for combining various ones as needed. I use the Casio FZ10Ms as a left and right for stereo samples, and cross-echoing for some of the things that we did on the old Moody Blues records. I also like combining the warm, organic sound of the Prophet 3000 with the crystalline, clear sound of the Casio. They complement each other nicely."

Pinder does all of the Atari Computer commercials, as well as his many other production projects, from his private studio equipped with an Atari 1040 with a 60Mbyte hard disk and 4Mbytes of RAM; C-Labs Notator software; a Casio FZ1 as a master controller, two FZ10Ms, and a VZ10M; a Prophet 3000; a Yamaha DX-7; and a Roland S-330.

Neil Jason, of JSM Studios in New York,

is not only an advocate of combining samples to create a new timbre, but also of trying radically altered samples in place of some common sounds. "None of my hihats or snare drums are ever really hi-hats or snare drums," says Jason. "I screw around unmercifully with drum sounds. At times I have tuned up horn hits four octaves too high, then used that for a hi-hat. I once took wind chimes, cut the decay, and pitched it up real high to use it as a hat.

"I frequently will combine four or five different sounds to get one dynamite snare drum sound. I'll take the sound of breaking glass, a super-high-tuned rim-shot snare, a gated snare drum tuned down half an octave, and a gunshot. I'll put them together in one sample and then use that as the snare drum. I've used the slam of a car door in place of a bass drum. All of these altered sounds are mysteriously close to the real thing; they just have this other-worldly attitude when you hear them."

Jason has done sessions for Cyndi Lauper and Paul McCartney, and commercials for Goodyear. Certs and Club Med. He has a variety of sound sources at his disposal. In his studio, which is one of three located at the facility, he has two Korg M1s; two Yamaha DX-7s and a TX802; two Akai S900s; a Casio FZ10M; a Roland D-550; two Alesis HR-16 drum machines; and an Oberheim Matrix 1000. Sequencing is handled by a Mac 2X with a variety of software, an Alesis MT-8 or a Roland MC500. "I actually use the MT-8 more than anything because it programs like a drum machine, and it's the fastest sequencer that I have," he says. "I'm not crazy about computer-based programs that give me too many options. I like every piece of equipment to be dedicated, if possible."

Jay Rose owned and operated an advertising studio for 12 years in Boston, winning several Clios and Emmys along the way. When he finally sold the studio in a real estate deal, he decided to set up a small studio in the attic of his home, keeping some of the clients from the days of his larger commercial facility.

One of his clients is hamburger giant McDonalds. He does all of its national TV spots and recently required a most unusual, but effective, use for a sampler. As Rose tells it: "About a year ago, a certain well-known actress narrated a spot for McDonalds, and they didn't like the way she said 'Happy Meal' (putting the emphasis on *Meal* instead of *Happy*). They asked her to fly back to Boston to dub in 'Happy Meal.' She was not very happy about having to do that, so it showed in her read. She did exactly what they asked her to do, but it was terrible. So I took the original read, loaded it into the FZ, took it apart syllable by syllable (putting each syllable on a separate key), and played it back in the intonation that they wanted. I gave them my Casio version as an alternative read, and that ended up being the one that they ran with."

Another spot that Rose created was a piece for a science museum that featured samples of Eskimo chants processed to sound like rock-and-roll. "I built all of the harmonies up on a \$300 lbanez pitch shifter. That spot got me a first-place Clio," he says.

Rose uses a Casio FZ-1 with 30 seconds of memory, a CZ101; a Roland MKS-80; a Kurzweil K1000; and a Mac SE with Midi-Paint software for sequencing.



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Electronic Drums and Triggering Devices

Why should keyboardists have all the fun? With the right equipment, MIDI's possibilities are open to almost everyone.

Synthesizers and samplers are no longer the domain of the keyboardist, as controllers and triggering devices become more reliable and drummers, guitarists and wind players become more at ease with the technology. Drummers have been especially quick to embrace electronics as a way to supplement their existing acoustic kits. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of John "JR" Robinson, studio drummer on Michael Jackson's "Bad" and "Thriller" albums.

Robinson is a Los Angeles-based studio drummer whose credits include Jackson, Lionel Richie, Kenny Rogers, John Fogarty, Kenny Loggins and the Pointer Sisters. Besides bringing his acoustic set to a session, Robinson also sports a formidable array of electronics.

According to Doug Getschal, who designed and built the system, each drum contains a Barcus Berry pickup that has its output split four ways. A snake containing all trigger and drum pad cables is then connected to a rack containing a Simmons SD5, Simmons SD9 and a MIDI Expert trigger-to-MIDI converter. A second rack containing a Yamaha PMC drum brain turns the trigger signal into MIDI on Channels A and B. Channel A then feeds a Yamaha TX816 rack containing factory and custom drum sounds. Channel B feeds an E-mu SP12 drum machine. Each rack contains multipin connectors for minimal



Tom Scott (left) with a Yamaha WX-11 on the "Pat Sajak Show."

setup time. All MIDI Ins and Outs, as well as audio ins and outs, are broken out to the rear panel of each rack for easy access. The trigger snake can be plugged into either of the two racks, if necessary.

During a studio session, all outputs are connected to the console, and the acoustic kit is miked as well, giving up to five sound sources per drum. The engineer and/or producer then has the option to decide which sounds to use, since all of the electronic drum sounds are now at their disposal. Most sessions usually end up with at least some live kick, snare, hihat and cymbals, while toms are triggered from the pads. The actual sound of the stick hitting a pad is picked up by the open mics, which, surprisingly enough, sometimes helps the overall sound by adding some acoustic attack to the processed sound,

Having a sequencing drum machine available can make the session go a bit easier if only a repetitive pattern is required. Sometimes after a tune is layed down with a drum pattern first, Robinson goes back and recuts the song live, triggering whatever sound is needed. Sometimes only tom fills with live cymbals are required after the initial pattern is recorded.

Digital wind controllers

Fairly new to the electronic scene are wind instrument players, who only recently have been able to perform via a digital controller/synthesizer. Applying the many nuances previously available only on their acoustic instruments, Tom Scott, Ernie Watts and Steve Tavaglione all are avid users who have made this new technology part of their everyday studio and concert experiences. Tom Scott, session sax player and recording artist, has found a place for the Yamaha Electronic Wind Instruments in his daily musical chores while composing in his home studio and while playing live as the band leader of "The Pat Sajak Show."

Scott's MIDI studio consists of a Yamaha KX76, a TX802 and a TX81Z; a Roland MKS-20 and a D-550; an Akai S900; a 360 Systems MidiBass; and a Yamaha MJC8 MIDI Switcher. His sequencer is a Mac SE with Mark of the Unicorn Performer and Composer, Opcode Sequencer 2.5 and Cue, and Graphic Notes Music Publisher software. Although he uses the KX76 keyboard controller to input most music into the Mac, Scott frequently uses the Yamaha WX7 for horn parts that require feeling. "I use it primarily as a solo instrument, or sometimes for doubling parts," he says. He recently completed the score for the remake of Disney's "Absent-Minded Professor," on which he used the WX7 extensively for flugal horn and trumpet sounds.

On "The Pat Sajak Show," Scott uses a Yamaha WX11, which he employs at least once a night because of the good sax and french horn sounds he gets.

Sax player Ernie Watts also finds that he uses his Yamaha electric wind instrument on a daily basis. "When I get a call for a session, it's becoming quite common for them to say 'Bring your saxophone and your wind thing,' because they don't know what to call it," Watts says. He uses a Yamaha WX7 connected to a rack that contains a Yamaha TX81Z, a TX802, a SPX90 and an MFC2 when touring large venues, but finds carrying a Yamaha WX11 and a WT11 tone generator is sufficient for most other touring situations—because they're small enough to carry on a commercial airplane as hand baggage. "The WX11 is perfect for practice in a hotel since, internally, it contains the equivalent of a TX81Z and an SPX90, and the playing technique is very indigenous to the sax," Watts says.

Instead of trying to simulate an existing acoustic instrument, Watts instead chooses to take the electronic wind driver to its limits. "I'm looking for a creative sound on it so that people recognize me the same way they do on the saxophone," he says. "When I do a session, I work mainly as a solo or featured artist, so we experiment quite a bit with other synths, looking for a sound. There's always a certain amount of experimentation required anyway, because certain sounds are more conducive to the tracking of the wind driver."

On the question of triggering samples, Watts has strong views. "I have friends who have copies of oboe, bassoon, harmonica or english horn sounds that they use on sessions. I have an ethics problem with that. It bothers me to use an electronic instrument to substitute for an acoustic sound, so I have not become involved in that. When I use the electronic instrument, it's to create electronic sounds





that could not possibly be created by acoustic instruments. Eventually, I'd like to do a record that features the WX, to establish that sound as a solo voice," he says.

The electronic wind driver has opened up new options for Watts that were not formerly possible from a purely acoustic instrument.

"Besides being a solo voice, it has so many other possibilities," he says. "When I'm touring, during the time that I'm not playing the saxophone when I used to be playing hand percussion, I'm now doubling up bass lines, adding strings lines or helping out the keyboard player.

"And there are other possibilities, as well. I have some programs called 'Performances' where I can hold a chord and play a solo voice over it. This opens up the possibility of an unaccompanied, orchestrated performance, which was something that was previously impossible with just a saxophone."

Although Scott and Watts use their electronic wind drivers primarily for solo applications, Steve Tavaglione takes a much different approach, simulating not only a full horn section, but duplicating many keyboard functions as well. Currently preparing for the Diana Ross world tour, Tavaglione will be replacing five horn players with samples from an Akai 950. For the tour (which will be entirely MIDI for the keyboards, drums and percussion), Tavaglione will use two Akai S950 samplers; a Korg M1R; an Oberheim Matrix 6; a Roland D50; and a Yamaha TX81Z—all of which will be controlled from an Akai EWV 2000 electronic wind instrument.

Besides using the EWV2000 live, Tavaglione finds numerous opportunities to use it for sessions. "I use it every day, at least equally as much as the acoustic and sometimes more."

Because samplers don't respond to breath control or aftertouch amplitude information-parameters so important for a wind player-Tavaglione resorts to several tricks to augment the realism. "I like to run strings, horns and reed sounds through the external input of the EWV2000. I use a submixer to group all of my synth sounds other than the EWV2000, and connect the output of the submixer into the external input of the EWV2000. I then take the output of the EWV2000 and connect that to a regular mixer. This greatly increases not only the realism, but the control of the sounds, as well," he says.

Guitar controllers

Ever since synthesizers first came on the market, it's been the dream of guitarists to be able to control keyboards from their



Akai Professional's MPC60 MIDI production center.



instruments. Although guitar synthesizers and controllers have been around for some 15 years, only recently have they become reliable enough to be used consistently. Guitarist Lee Ritenour has been there from the beginning.

"I've used every guitar synth, or at least tried them, since they first came out in 1976. So I've been through the lot of them and they've really been horrible until the last couple of years. The Yamaha G10 is the current state-of-the-art digital controller, and it's the easiest one to play. I find that with guitar synths, each manufacturer's synths work best with their own controllers in terms of tracking, sustain and bends. The guitar synth is not as generic as a keyboard because of the nuances of the player. Sometimes there's a double attack problem with the left hand hitting the fretboard and the right hand picking the strings. Yamaha is aware of this and has cleaned it up better than most.

"Synthesizers were not designed to be controlled by a guitar, because guitar players have so many different kinds of techniques," Ritenour says. "It's so much more than a note-on, note-off kind of situation with a guitar player than for a keyboard player. So many guitar players play with slurs, hammers, bends, slides, muting with the right hand, combination of the pick and the fingers, or sometimes just finger-picking. Some players pick real hard; some players pick real light. All these things are a factor in trying to make a guitar synthesizer play properly."

Despite these admittedly tough observations, Ritenour is still an enthusiastic user. "I use it all the time in my studio for composing by feeding it into an Atari computer with Hybrid Arts sequencing. In January, when I was writing for my new record, I used it every day. I would trigger the drums from the G10, all of the chordal parts and the synth bass. Sometimes I would quantize stuff. Sometimes I wouldn't. But I was creating my whole rhythm section with the G10."

"I do all the demos for my albums on the synthesizers," Ritenour says. "Everything is written out from the demos, and then I'll bring live players in to actually do the record. On the new record, I plan on using the G10 quite a bit as a solo instrument."

Ritenour, who connects his G10 to two Yamaha TX802 sound modules, also points out, "Most players will have not only a digital controller (which doesn't make any guitar sounds itself and is not a pitchto-voltage converter), but also some kind of pitch-to-voltage converter. I've found that I've needed both."

New Applications

Electronic instruments have expanded beyond their original applications.

Synthesizers and samplers are now not only an integral part of the studio and concert stage; they have found new homes in broadcasting and the performing arts, as well. The following are examples of unique, exciting uses for samplers in those realms.

John Debela, of radio station WMMR-FM in Philadelphia, uses an Ensoniq EPS sampler both for production and as a replacement for a traditional cart machine.

"We use the gear in two different applications. One is obvious—in production. We create a lot of our own music, and we do a lot of live radio using the EPS extensively in the traditional manner of generating music," he says.

"We also use the EPS in place of a cart machine for sound effects to accent the show. There's a way to section off the keys so that a different sound will play on each section. This means that there are now up to eight cart machines that I don't need."

John Greenland, a former Ensoniq sound designer who was responsible for the ESQ-1 and ESQ-80 libraries, has found an extremely unique and unlikely use for a pair of Ensoniq EPS samplers—as sound sources for a "MIDI Sculpture."

"I'm working with a sculptor, Charles Emland, who makes pneumatic, mechanical sculptures, one of which is a 12-cylinder air dog," Greenland says. "The EPS is used to provide the music for the sculpture. The sculptures are choreographed from the sculptor's computer, an IBM clone, which also orchestrates the music. The EPS is controlled by the movements of the sculptures via the computer, which is linked to a Mac Plus using Performer software.

"I have sampled the sound that the sculptures actually make. We spent a lot of time banging on them with a lot of different materials. Because the sculptures are substantial bronze, iron and steel structures, they make beautiful noises when they are struck. I've turned these sounds into playable instruments and blended them with other sounds so that the sculptures themselves are actually going to be making the music."

When the sculptures' choreography is complete, they will be videotaped, with Greenland's two EPSs supplying the score. "Our ultimate aim is a grant," Greenland states. "We're not after anything other than notoriety. We'd like to get some really good sculptures out, together with some really good music."

It's evident that keyboards, samplers and a growing number of other devices have become an integral part of the normal (and the not-so-normal) production environment. Where at one time it was unique to find these units as a permanent part of an audio facility, they are now often an expected element of a studio's audio arsenal.

And what of the future for the genre? In the coming years, we can expect the lines between audio products and musical instruments to become increasingly blurred as more power, features and sophistication are incorporated into these types of products. Operators will also evolve as the technology spawns a whole new generation of musicians who must be capable as programmers and engineers, and engineers who must be capable as musicians and programmers.

The future is, in many ways, actually here today, with products like the Synclavier and AudioFrame providing many of the traditional mixing, storage and signal-processing capabilities normally found in the average recording studio.

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Computer Software for the Audio Industry

By Lynn Hedegard

A report on the audio-related software available for the Amiga, Atari, IBM/compatibles and Macintosh computers.

As the progress of technology marches forward, the presence of computers in the audio industry is ever-increasing. It has reached the point that a computer is no longer a luxury in the recording studio; it is now often a necessity.

The software available for the audio industry is plentiful. More than 70 vendors supply software applications, and some of them provide a large selection of products.

Human interface

Today's computers provide for various ways of data entry, including a mouse, typewriter keyboard, synth keyboard, analog sensing devices (for sensing the position of slide pots) and even voice recognition.

Clearly, one of the features that should be considered before purchasing software is the command interface. For the audio industry, the most popular interface probably is the mouse. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. Beyond the interface are a number of operational features that make one software package more suitable to your tasks than another. Find out how many menus must be pulled down before

Lynn Hedegard is president of HED Productions in Encinitas, CA, and a free-lance producer, computer programmer and writer. you can accomplish the task at hand. How easy is moving from one section of the software to another, and how long does it take to complete the transition? Can commands that destroy data be undone? Does the program provide an expert interface to eliminate annoying "Are you sure?" messages? Can you construct "command macros" or customize the interface to your taste? Eventually, you will either love or hate the interface to your software, so evaluate it carefully before you buy.

The survey

This survey is intended to present the reader with a listing of current audiorelated software and provide general application information. The software has not been reviewed. The various types of software have been categorized as follows:

- 1. Voice editor/librarians.
- 2. Sample editor/librarians.
- 3. DSP editor/librarians.
- 4. EDL/machine control.
- 5. Music library/EFX database.
- 6. Film-composing tools.
- 7. Mixing automation.
- 8. Sequencers.
- 9. Scoring/notation.
- 10. Composing tools.
- 11. Hard disk systems.
- 12. Miscellaneous.



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Symbols used to denote hardware in tables:

AL = Alpha Micro

- AM = Amiga
- AT = Atari
- I = IBM/compatible
- M = Macintosh

"--" Indicates information was incomplete or not available at the time of publication.

NOTES:

A. Many of the products listed have applications in categories other than the one in which they are listed.

B. In many cases, only the most recent product name and/or version is listed.

C. Version numbers are omitted for reasons of sanity. Check with the company of interest regarding which program is most suited to your applications.

TABLE 1 Sample Editor/Librarians

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Blank Software	Alchemy	м		(200)
Digidesign	Turbosynth	M/AT	_	(201)
Digidesign	Sound Designer	M	1	(202)
Dr. T's	(various)	AT/I/AM	1	(203)
Drumware Inc	Genwave	AT		(204)
Hybrid Arts	Oasis	AT	_	(205)
Music Services Software	Music Service	AT	_	(206)
Steinberg	Soundworks	AT	—	(207)
Turtle Beach Softworks	Sample Vision	1		(208)

1. Supports many samplers.

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Altech Systems	_	_	—	(209)
Bacchus	Voice Man	l l	1	(210)
C&M Research Group	GEN ESQ	I	2	(211)
Digidesign	SoftSynth	м	—	(212)
Digital Music Services	DX7, TX802, FB01 Pro	м	3	(213)
Dr. T's	(various)	M/I/AT/AM	4	(214)
Hybrid Arts	GenEdit	AT	4	(215)
Imagine Music	Master Series	l I	4	(216)
Magnetic Music	Pyramid DX/TX	I	5	(217)
Musicode	Voice Devel Sys	AT	6	(218)
Opcode	(various)	М	4	(219)
Playroom Software	МVР ́	I	4	(220)
Prelude	MIDIEdit	I	4	(221)
Sonus	(various)	M/I/AT	4	(222)
Sound Quest	Sound Quest	AM/I	4	(223)
Steinberg	Synthworks	AT	4	(224)
Valhala	(various)	М	4	(225)
Voyetra	(various)	I.	4	(226)

TABLE 2 Voice Editor/Librarians

1. TX81Z, TX802, DX/TX.

2. Ensonic ESQ.

3. DX-7, TX802, FB01.

5.	DX/TX	
~	TV047	DV44

6. TX81Z, DX11

TABLE 3 DSP Editor/Librarians					
Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #	
Digidesign	FX Designer	м	1	(227)	
Dr. T's		AT	1	(228)	
Marshall Electronic	XLC	M	2	(229)	
Opcode	(various)	M	3	(230)	
Snap Software	MEP4 Companion	1	4	(231)	
Snap Software	PCM70 Companion	i i	1	(232)	
Voyetra		i	5	(233)	
1. PCM 70		4. MEP4			
2. Quantec XL 3. PCM 70, REV-5, SPX 90		5. AK6 ADR 68K	(

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The most common type of software is the *voice editor/librarian*. This software typically groups sets of voices into banks that can be downloaded to a synth via a MIDI interface. Many of the librarians also provide the ability to edit the voice.

Voice editor/librarians have existed for many years and have evolved into rather elaborate pieces of software. Of course, you should expect to see graphic representations of parameters such as envelope, keyboard scaling and modulation. More advanced editors allow modification of these parameters with a mouse by pointing at the portion of the graph to be modified and "dragging" it to a new position. Copying similar substructures of one voice to a new voice is handy and saves time when trying to create new, similar voices. If it is a concern, determine if the parameter modifications are immediately sent to the synth or if the new patch must be transmitted manually. Some editors provide a facility to randomize the voice parameters for those times when "programmer's block" hits. (See Table 1.)

Sample editor/librarians are similar in nature to the voice editors, except they operate on sampled sounds. Creating a good sample is not a trivial task. One of the most important factors is the means by which the sample is looped. Look for software that provides assistance in determining the loop points and will perform "smoothing" functions at the loop points to make the sample seamless. Other features to consider: Are there any DSP functions that can be applied to the sample? Can two or more samples be combined to form a new sample? How many samplers are supported, and can future samplers be integrated?

Some software also provide for sample playback through custom hardware that is connected to the computer. Check to see if the sample editors support SCSI and RS-232/422 interfaces, which are not totally standardized, but are much faster than MIDI. Finally, support of the MIDI Dump Standard is desired. This allows you to give a colleague your latest sample without worrying about software compatibility. (See Table 2.)

Digital signal processing editor/ librarians are similar to the voice editors—look for the same features in this type of software, including graphic representation of parameters, parameter modification by dragging the graph to a new location with a mouse, and immediate transmission of the modified parameters to the DSP, which saves time when auditioning sound effects. (See Table 3.)

Edit decision list and machine control software is most often used in audio post-



Photo 1. The TX802 Graphic Editing System from Bäcchus.



Photo 2. Leonardo Software's Professional Librarian Version 3.0 cataloging program.

TABLE 4 Edit Decision Lists/Machine Control

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
AMTEL Systems	TRANSform LM	ł		(234)
BCD Associates	Video Base	F		(235)
Cipher Digital	SOFTOUCH-PC	i i	_	(236)
Digidesign	Q-Sheet A/V	М		(237)
Fostex	FAME	м	1	(238)
Julian Systems	Worx	м		(239)
Microillusions	Photon Video	AM	1	(240)
Microillusions	EDL Processor	AM	—	(241)

1. Transport controller.

TABLE 5 Music Library/EFX Database

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Gefen Systems	M&E Organizer	I		(242)
Leonardo	Professional Librarian	1	-	(243)
Rubber Dubbers	Compufix CD System		→	(244)
3AM Software	3AM Librarian	AL		(245)

TABLE 6 Film-Composing Tools

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Auricle Control Systems	Auricle III	l	-	(246)
Opcode	Cue	M		(247)
Passport	Clicktracks	M		(248)

TABLE 7 Mixing Automation

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Digital Music Services	DMP7 PRO	м		(249)
Opcode	Akai MPX820 editor	М		(250)
Sellmark	Cuedos/DMP7	AT	1	(251)
Soundcraft	Twister	AT		(252)
Steinberg	Desktop Mixing DMP-7	M/AT	-	(253)

1. Requires additional hardware.

TABLE 8 Sequencers

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
C-Lab	Creator	AT		(254)
Dr. T's	KCS	M/AM/AT		(255)
Dynaware	Ballade	1		(256)
GFmusic	GF Music	1		(257)
Hybrid Arts	SMPTE Track	AT		(258)
Intelligent Music	RealTime	AT		(259)
Jim Miller	Personal Composer	1		(260)
Keller Designs	64 Track PC	1	—	(261)
Magnetic Music	Texture	1		(262)
Mark of the Unicorn	Performer	м	—	(263)
Microillusions	Music-X	AM		(264)
Mid West MIDI				
Consultants	Win Song	1		(265)
MIDISOFT	MIDISOFT	1		(266)
Opcode	Vision	М		(267)
Passport	Master Tracks Pro	M/I/AT/AM		(268)
Resonate	Portrait	М		(269)
Roland	Ease Sequencer	1	—	(270)
Sonus	Masterpiece	AT		(271)
Sonus	Cake Walk	I		(272)
Steinberg ·	PRO-24 III	AT		(273)
Voyetra	Sequencer Plus III	1	—	(274)

production work. Some of the software use the standard CMX format EDLs, and some use their own internal format. Combining MIDI TC with the EDL's allows precision effects generation from samplers. Look for software that maps a symbolic name with a sound effect. It is easier to think in terms of "gunshot" or "door slam" than middle C on sampler Number 2. Some of the software can randomize events such as "street noise." Determine if the EDL can be transported from the host computer to other computers (for example, via RS-232, floppy disk or other communication protocol). and, if so, how it is done. (See Table 4.)

The music library/EFX database group of software is a rather specialized group. This software indexes your collection of sound effects and library music. Many of these software packages can control the Sony CD jukebox. (See Table 5.)

Film-composing tools are used to assist film-music composers. They are also used during Foley and special effects recording. The software generally falls into two categories: those to which machine synchronization is very important and those that do not necessarily have to sync to machines in real time, but can be used offline to generate hit lists, which are then sent into sequencers as MIDI Files. All SMPTE formats and MIDI TC should be supported. The software should then calculate and map out hit marks in the musical score. Determine if the software can handle meter and tempo changes as well as variable accelerandos and retards. Look for software that performs tempo searches that determine a "best fit" tempo for your set of hits. (See Table 6.)

Mixing automation software is also dependent on sync. Even if video is not a factor, the console must be synced to the audio tape. It's important to determine what type of sync you want to use and then ensure that the software you choose can handle the format. Some additional points to consider are: Can you set the rate at which the faders change? Can you copy settings, such as EQ, from one channel to another? Can "snapshots" of mix settings be saved and retrieved from disk? Can the software tell you the difference between two different snapshots? Can user-selected groups of parameters be moved in unison? (See Table 7.)

Another common type of software is the *sequencing* package. This software allows the user to enter notes and MIDI events via the computer or a master controller (synth keyboard). Once the MIDI data is entered into the computer, it can be modified and saved. When comparing sequencing software, several questions must be asked. Does it sync to MIDI TC, or MIDI Clocks and Pointers, which are the dif-



Photo 3. Ballade sequencing software from Dynaware.



Photo 4. Music X sequencing software from Microillusions.

ferent protocols that the software addresses—or not at all? In slave mode, can the sequencer start anywhere in a song? Can the software display time code directly on the screen? What is the capacity of the sequencer in notes, tracks, measures and time code? Can the sequencer auto-correct to a predefined level of "swing?" Again, the interface can be very important. Do you think of music purely in terms of standard music notation or do you want to get down to the MIDI Clock level, with the music displayed in tabular form? Do you want to work with "patterns" and "loops" or do you think of music purely in a "sequential" fashion? How easy is it to cut and paste pieces of the song? Does the software provide any form of artificial intelligence so you can specify a set of production rules that the software will use to generate original music? (See Table 8.)

TABLE 9 Scoring/Notation

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
C-Lab	Notator	AT		(275)
Coda Music	Finale	M	_	(276)
Dr. T's	The Copyest	AT/1	_	(277)
Dynaware	DynaDuet	1		(278)
Hybrid Arts	EZ-Score	AT	-	(279)
Jim Miller	Personal Composer	1	_	(280)
Opcode	Sonata Font	м		(281)
Optronics Technology	Song Wright IV	I	_	(282)
Passport	Notewriter/Encore	м	_	(283)
Repertoire	Music Publisher	M		(284)
Resonate	Deluxe Music			
	Construction Set	м	—	(285)
Sonus	Super Score	I/AT	_	(286)
Steinberg	MasterScore	AT	_	(287)
Temporal Acuity Products	Music Printer Plus	1	_	(288)

TABLE 10 Composition Tools

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Aesthetic Engineering	Music Mouse	M/AT/AM	_	(289)
Dr. T's	Fingers	AT	_	(290)
Hybrid Arts	Ludwia	AT	1	(291)
Intelligent Music	Jam Factory/"M"	M/AT/AM	2	(292)
Intelligent Music	Up Beat/RealTime	M/AT	3	(293)
Mark of the Unicorn	Composer	M	<u> </u>	(294)
Primera	Different Drummer	M	4	(295)
Vovetra	M/PC	Ĩ	1	(296)

1. Algorithmic composer. 2. Interactive composing/performing.

3. Rhythmic design. 4. Rhythm programmer.

	TABL	E 11	
Hard	Disk	Systems	

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Blank Software	Alchemy	м	1	(297)
Digidesign	Sound Designer II	м	1	(298)
Hybrid Arts	ADAP II	AT	1	(299)
IMS	Dyaxis	М	1	(300)

1. Digital recording/editing; requires additional hardware.

TABLE 12 Miscellaneous

Company Name	Product Name	Computer	Comments	Rapid Facts #
Altech Systems	MIDIBasic	м	1	(301)
Altech Systems	MIDIPascal	1	1	(302)
Dr. T's	MIDI Recording Studio	AT	_	(303)
HED Productions	MIDI Utility Package	1	2	(304)
Hybrid Arts	MIDIPlexor	AT	_	(305)
Intelligent Music	OvalTune	M	3	(306)
Resonate	MIDI Pack	M	2	(307)
Roland	Desktop Music Studio			(308)
Savant Audio	Tweak It!	ĀT	4	(309)
Sonus	MIDI Tech	M/I/AT	2	(310)
Studio Master	Studio Master Plus	M	5	(311)
CNS Electronics	LEAP	I	6	(312)
1. Development tool.		4. Desktop acc	essory.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2. SysEx edit/librarian		5. Console log	and reset.	
3. Audio/visual.		6. Loudspeaker	enclosure analysis program.	



Photo 5. Auricle Control Systems' Auricle III film-composing software.

Some sequencer packages can also translate internal MIDI data into traditional music notation. But, although sequencing and scoring/notation software may seem similar, some of the notation software provide minimal sequencing capabilities.

The complexity (and cost) of scoring/notation software ranges from simple piano scores to elaborate notation with full orchestral scores, custom symbols, complex meters and laser-printed output. When shopping for this type of software, you should determine how data is input. Will it read standard MIDI Files? Is there support for custom input devices such as music notation keypads? A very important feature in this type of software is WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get). Does the software display the notation in scroll mode, page-layout mode or both? Can you zoom in and zoom out to inspect special symbols? Some of the notation software provide for a "linking" of separate but identical sections, such that editing one section affects the other.

The more-elegant software allows you to define custom values for such things as beam angle and width and rhythm spacing to name a few. Some software also provide special text control that links syllables with notes as the page is reformatted for use with vocal arrangements. Consider the means of output: Some of the common formats include Pure PostScript, QuickDraw, Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) and bitmap formats. (See Table 9.)

Composition tools are a category that

includes algorithmic composition programs, which provide melodic, harmonic and rhythmic variations on musical input. Also included in this category are rhythmcomposing tools and interactive-improvisation tools. Rhythm composers aid drummachine programming. Interactiveimprovisation software uses "rules" and artificial intelligence to create original music. (See Table 10.)

Hard disk systems. These are special types of sample-editing systems. In most cases, they incorporate custom hardware for A/D and D/A conversion and can process many minutes of 2-channel digital audio. Once audio has been recorded into the system, it is manipulated entirely in the digital domain. Options to look for include precise cut and paste edit features, time compression and various DSP functions. (See Table 11.)

The remaining software under the *miscellaneous* heading includes MIDI System Exclusive editors (SysEx), development tools, a console-logging and reset program, and a loudspeaker modeling program.

SysEx editors allow you to get at the low-level MIDI data. Development tools provide a set of language-specific subroutines, which form building blocks that can be used to develop custom MIDI applications. The console-logging and reset program is used to reset a particular mix, using the console's audio inputs and outputs. LEAP provides speaker enclosure and/or array modeling. (See Table 12.)

to complie the information
contained in this survey, RE/P drew
on a variety of resources. In many
cases, a letter requesting product
information (including a publication
deadline) was sent. The companies
listed below either did not respond
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applicable to this survey. For more
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Key Clique
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Matao
MIDI Mouse Music(163)
Music Solutions
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360 Systems
Triton
Tulor Dusinger Suctome (175)

compile the information

To

Conclusion

Tyler Business Systems (175)

Yamaha

The current trend is toward standardization of data file formats such as the MIDI File and MIDI Sample Dump specifications, as well as open-system architecture. The ability to synchronize the activities of a multitude of dissimilar machines has also become important. Good software allows the user to process all of these facets for audio/video production. The best software processes all of these facets and makes the computer/human interface as transparent as possible.

This survey lists software that runs on the following hardware: Amiga, Atari, IBM/compatible, Macintosh and Alpha Micro.

RE/P

(176)

George Michael on Tour

By David Scheirman

Sound system design from Showco features the Prism system.

In 1988, singer George Michael, formerly a member of the English pop group Wham!, staged a world tour that featured the Prism sound system by Showco of Dallas.

Beginning in early 1988, a complex new stage set was designed for the upcoming tour. Production rehearsals were held, and crew selections made. Dates in Australia, Hawaii and Europe preceded the tour's mid-summer arrival in the continental United States, where all sound system pro-

Devid Scheirman Is RE/P's live sound consulting editor and president of Concert Sound Consultants, Julian, CA.



duction arrangements were handled from Showco's office.

The schedule covered a broad range of international and U.S. venues, including such indoor facilities as the Spectrum in Philadelphia, Madison Square Garden in New York and the Forum in Los Angeles. Outdoor venues included such sites as Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta, Texas Stadium in Dallas, the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL, and the Irvine Meadows and Shoreline amphitheaters in California.

Benji Lefevre was the house soundmixer for the tour. Lefevre has been working with rock-and-roll bands since 1968.



Figure 1. The front-of-house mixing position included a Harrison HM-5 and an SM-5 used as a submixer.

("That was in the pubs, mind you.") He first encountered Showco sound systems in the early 1970s.

"It was on a Led Zeppelin tour in the United States," he recalls. "Rusty Brutsche came out and provided us with a pretty good rig for the time. Since then, I've used every major company's gear somewhere along the line and let me tell you, there can be a big difference between P.A. systems. But Showco and I have an exceptionally good relationship. Since I'm an independent, I can take their gear and do with it what I want, which can be important when I work with a really critical per-



Figure 2. Digital musical equipment from Synclavier was used to re-create particular rhythmic sequences and sounds from the artist's recordings.



Figure 4. The top of each Prism enclosure has a rigid wooden form, allowing the boxes to be stacked and locked into place.

former. The success of a whole show can depend on whether the soundmixer can use a system in a way that is right for that particular show."

Mixing the show

Lefevre has refined his mixing skills over the years by working with many of rock's classic male voices. "In the past, I've worked with singers such as Robert Plant, James Taylor, Peter Gabriel, Lou Graham and Paul Rodgers," he says. "George Michael has a very fine voice. Of course, all of the singers that I've worked with have had very fine voices, just ask them," he jokes. "Seriously, it's been quite a thrill

Figure 3. Showco technician Chris Iacoune (right) was responsible for the sound system and assisted Benji Lefevre.

and a challenge to work with George, because he has a young, powerful voice and he is aware of what he wants, and he's very demanding about getting the right sound."

The mixing gear included a 48-input Harrison HM-5 with a 32-input SM-5 as an extender. The pair of consoles, with associated signal-processing racks, carved out a large portion of real estate at the house mixing position. (See Figure 1.)

The HM-5 was produced several years ago by Harrison systems exclusively for Showco and features input group muting and VCA grouping capabilities. The SM-5, developed in conjunction with another major concert sound company, was first fielded in 1983. It features 32 outputs (including re-assign buses), along with muting and VCA grouping. The SM-5 is normally used as a stage monitor console because of its extensive output capabilities. Both consoles share similar input modules.

The SM-5 is used primarily to receive inputs from a Synclavier digital music system located off stage, near the monitor mixing position. The Synclavier enables sequenced musical passages to be mixed into the sound of the live show. In this way, songs can be made more recognizable to the audience. (See Figure 2.)

"I have 24 inputs available for the Synclavier," explains Lefevre. "Sampled and sequenced material is used on perhaps 60% of the tunes in the show to help duplicate the rhythm tracks and special effects of the more popular album cuts. The technology is here-this is the way that hit records are being made. Concert artists will be bringing high-quality sequencer systems on the road more and more in the future."

Despite having access to this studioquality technology as he builds a live mix, Lefevre finds live P.A. mixing is more challenging. "I'm fortunate to have had a live-sound background first and then to have gotten involved in studio recording," he says. "It's given me a good overall perspective. In a live situation, you can accomplish things, achieve really impressive effects that can't be done in the studio.

When mixing live, you have an idea of what you need the show to sound like. You could say that it's in your 'mind's ear,' so to speak. This knowledge or vision is present before you even turn on the sound system for the day. After that, you have only a few hours to bring that vision into reality and before you know it, the crowd is walking in, ready to sit down and listen to what you've created."

A Yamaha DMP-7 was used as a postmixer for the sequenced kick and snare drum sounds. With the DMP-7, EQ and level changes could be preset, and then called up as needed for each song. "The sound of the kick and snare drum varies a lot from song to song on George Michael's records," explains Showco system technician Chris lacoune, the person responsible for setting up the sound system and assisting Lefevre at the house mix position. "Using the DMP-7 makes the changes quick, easy and consistent. It prevents a lot of fader-jockeying between songs on the main consoles during the show." (See Figure 3.)

Signal processing

At the house position, the signal processing equipment included Universal Audio 1176LN limiting amplifiers for the kick drum and the bass guitar, and dbx 160 compressor/limiters for all vocal microphone channels. dbx 900 series noise gates and compressor/limiters were also available for channel-insertion on drums, guitar and keyboard inputs.

Special effects devices from AMS included a pair of rmx16 digital reverbs and a dmx15-80S stereo digital delay. A pair of Yamaha SPX90s and a Yamaha REV-5 digital reverb were also available. "Some people call them toys," Lefevre says. "To me they are tools. The trick is to learn how each device works and what you can do with them on a repetitive basis to build



facility's scaffolding system on each side of the stage. an exciting and accurate show mix. I call

that a challenge. I work a lot with George to get an effect just right. The most important thing to me is to be consistent."

Prism loudspeaker system

Designed by Clay Powers and Jim Brawley, this loudspeaker package was introduced on a Genesis tour approximately two years ago. It has seen subsequent use on tours by such artists and groups as Eric Clapton, Peter Gabriel, Little Feat and Aerosmith, and has been featured at several special events. Showco has been secretive about the system and the design ideas behind it.

'You have to realize that it cost more than \$1 million to develop the Prism system," says M.L. Procise, senior sound department director for the company. "That was money that a concert sound company couldn't afford to spend, but we

Figure 6. The Prism system is shown here stacked indoors, using the hanging form to align the array.

did it anyway. There were countless hours of research and development, of component examination, testing and prototype construction before there was a working system to show for our efforts. But we made a firm commitment to advance the state of the art in concert sound. We knew it would be expensive, but that it would be well worth the effort, if successful."

In attempting to penetrate the veil of secrecy that has surrounded the Prism system, different people have come up with widely varying, and sometimes amusing, descriptions regarding the use of unusual components and their arrange-



Figure 7. A bottom view of the aluminum hanging frame and Prism enclosures.



Figure 8. Prism hanging grid alignment. Typically each array is suspended from a pair of hanging points, with a third point used for cable pickup. This overhead view of the aluminum hanging form and the down-stage right corner of an arena performing area shows that the rigging points are not in alignment with the stage.



Figure 9. The Prism arrays shown in an arena setting. Note that the array appears vertical when viewed from nearly any angle.

ment within the cabinets. However, for sound reinforcement use, cone loudspeakers, horns and compression drivers are still the accepted way to convert electrical energy into acoustical energy. It usually takes 18-inch speaker cones to get powerful bass, and highperformance tweeters to get the highs.

Basically, the Prism system comprises multiples of a modular cabinet. Each cabinet is 60"x24"x22.5", with an enclosed volume of 22 cubic feet and an *average* weight of 208 pounds.

The enclosures are specified as having an average weight because they are not all the same. In fact, there are several different types of modular enclosures. Some are typical arena system setups, while others are long-throw-type enclosures constructed for use in large outdoor situations. Yet, all of the different trapezoidal enclosures are designed to stack together and form a single, cohesive array. The top of each Prism enclosure has a rigid wooden form, allowing the boxes to be stacked and locked into place. (See Figure 4.)

Additionally, a rectangular subwoofer enclosure is a companion piece to the various Prism enclosures. Each subwoofer enclosure measures 44"x56"x23" (including wheels) and weighs 250 pounds. The wheels are attached to a removable, protective cover plate. This is done to eliminate audible hardware rattles.

"Perhaps the single most important thing to understand about the Prism system is that we designed the array first, then broke it down into modular boxes," says Procise. "This represents a significant change in the way concert systems are designed. Traditionally, the 'ideal' boxes would first be designed, *then* put together into a big array."

Regardless of internal componentry, each enclosure uses a single heavy-duty multipin connector for large-gauge speaker wiring. The connectors are recessed behind a protective metal back-plate. The



Figure 11. The Prism system drive configuration.

fronts of the enclosures are covered with a layer of acoustically transparent foam and shielded with metal grillwork.

The different boxes are color-coded (orange, yellow, blue and so on) on their back plates, so that attaching cable harnesses becomes a simple task. What might be a confusing jumble of identical boxes thus becomes an coherent system for stage hands to work with. Each color designates a different internal component arrangement, and depending on the needs of a particular venue, arrays vary in the number and placement of each type of enclosure.

On the road, technicians can test each section of each cabinet in an array. Using a "Prism checker" (speaker-line breakout assembly and ohmmeter), one person can test the resistance of every loudspeaker driver in a cabinet quickly and easily.

"We're into calibration," lacoune says. "We like to make sure that every single part of the system is working up to spec, so that when we look at the system as a whole, we know what we are dealing with. We calibrate each amplifier input channel, distribute our loads in a balanced manner and generally treat the system like a highperformance technical assembly."

Irvine Meadows

For the concert that was observed at Irvine Meadows Amphitheater, extra steel girders were added to the top of the amphitheater's regular scaffolding to accommodate the high vertical arrays. "We made it by an inch, after putting in an additional 8 feet of steel," says Thomas McClain, the



Figure 10. The system drive components include Showco crossovers. Compressor modules (dbx 903s) are used for each bandpass.

person in charge of the union stage crew's sound department at Irvine Meadows. "We've had the system in here on several occasions, but this show was probably the best-sounding I've heard using that system."

Lefevre explains one of his tricks for getting great sound: "If my employer has to spend an extra couple of grand for labor, or scaffolding, or whatever, I push them



Figure 12. Crown PSA-2 and Micro tech 1200 power amplifiers are used to drive the system. Note custom power distribution panel in background.

to do so. I want to do the best job I possibly can. And besides, it's good fun to ram a great idea down the pipeline, from the production manager to the artist to the promoter, and to have them see it my way. That's why they hire me: to be concerned about the sound of their show."

lacoune and the Showco crew used motor-driven chain hoists to stack the Prism enclosures in vertically oriented arrays on either side of the stage. Arrays of 24 enclosures (six boxes wide, four boxes high) were built on the upper level of the scaffolding. (See Figure 5.) An additional four enclosures per side were placed in a tight group one level below and stacked on top of the eight subwoofers that were used for each side. In all, the 15,000-seat facility was presented with a 56-box system augmented by 16 subwoofer boxes.

"We needed to get the P.A. as high as possible at Irvine," Iacoune says. "The seating area has a steep vertical rise, so most of the people are actually looking down on the stage. We had to get some gear up there on their level."

In an arena situation, the system is typically flown leaving 26 to 30 feet between the bottom of the array and the floor. But the system is versatile and can be configured for use in just about any type of stacked, flown, or combination situation. (See Figure 6.)

One key to the system's ability to get



smooth, consistent coverage of audience space rests with the array geometry. The placement of the different-colored cabinets and the resultant coverage characteristics represent, possibly, the first uses of this array geometry for a touring sound system.

To execute the array design daily, a large, custom-fabricated frame made from aluminum pipe is provided for suspending the enclosures in vertical columns. These are level-adjustable so that each array can be tailored to the acoustical space it is intended to cover. Looking something like a large ear when viewed from below, the frame correctly positions the array and keeps it rigidly in position. (See Figure 7.)

With a full complement of 32 boxes (eight columns of four boxes each), the array weighs approximately 8,000 pounds, including frame and cables. This array is typically set up with 2-point suspension. A third hanging point is used to spot a cable pickup motor.

The placement of the aluminum frame is crucial to the proper coverage of an audience area. Typically, the two primary points are located 6 feet from each other and the aluminum frame is skewed at an angle from the stage line. The rows of cabinets are then hung from the frame, in increments appropriate to the particular setup. (See Figure 8.)

When the full system is assembled in an arena hanging format, the visual "footprint" of the arrays is relatively small. Because of the trapezoidal shape of the individual cabinets, a large array can be assembled offering direct, on-axis sound to nearly every part of the audience area. In fact, when viewed from the front, an array appears to be only 11 feet wide. For this reason, the system is reportedly quite popular with set and lighting designers, who never seem to get as excited about looking at loudspeaker arrays as sound system technicians do. (See Figure 9.)

Prism system drive configuration

Set up with a 4-way frequency dividing network and an additional low-pass filter for subwoofers, the system relies on a custom-tailored line-driving unit for operation. Showco's standard model 1015 4-way crossover panel is employed for metering and bandpass mute functions; the new 1041 line-driver and signal processing unit is specifically tailored for use with the Prism system. (See Figure 10.)

Currently, the signal path for the L/R main system feeds includes an Industrial Research DG4023 graphic equalizer (a 29-band unit with transversal filters) and dbx 903 compressor/limiter modules for each crossover bandpass. Using a Klark-Teknik DN716 digital delay unit, a slight amount of delay is employed on the lowmid and high-frequency bands. (See Figure 11.)

Showco relies on power amplifiers from Crown to make the system sit up and "bark like a big dog," according to engineer Clay Powers. "We've been using Crown amplifiers for more than 10 years. There are a lot of amps out there, so you have to take your time and look into what they really do, compared to what the advertising says. We look at the basic construction of the chassis, the design philosophy and how that design has been executed, including choice of parts, grounding protection and the rest. Then we take it into the real world of rock-androll and see how well the ideas can meet that test."

Packaged in compact, rugged electronics racks for touring use, the amplifiers are typically formatted with three PSA-2s and a pair of Macrotech 1200s. A portable 400A power distribution system is used to get 3-phase electricity out to each rack; heavy-duty, front-mounted, standardized connectors link the racks to the power source lines. (See Figure 12.)

Total system power ratings can often be misleading. The 50kW or 100kW figures claimed for large arena systems are often nothing more than a tallying up of the perchannel best-case ratings from an amplifier company's sales literature. It is safe to say, however, that the typical Prism system is one of the most powerful integrated systems available for touring use. An arena-sized system has a total electrical output capability greater than 150kVA (kilovolt-amperes).

Iacoune checks the entire system daily. "I start with pink noise from the console," he says. "First I'll make sure that we have the speaker system set up correctly and all checked out at the stage end. Then I'll align the crossover sections by evening things out and getting the gain structures together. I'll have another person help me check out the different parts of the speaker arrays—somebody in front of the stacks with a walkie-talkie. Then we're ready to listen to some music."

At this point, Lefevre generally takes over and adjusts the system to suit his taste for the particular venue. And that job doesn't end with the house system. "The house and monitor systems have to work together, not fight each other. It has to be a complementary effort. If you don't get the stage sound right, you don't have a chance out front. I want to put musicians in an environment where they feel that the back line (band gear), the monitors and the main P.A. all work together."

Stage monitors

For the U.S. tour, Lefevre worked closely with stage monitor mixer Vish Wadi. (See Figure 13.) Wadi takes a total of 63



Figure 13. Benji Lefevre (left) and Vish Wadi compare great concert sound to a fine gourmet meal. "It's all in the seasoning."



Figure 14. Showco's BFM-100 floor monitors were used for most on-stage mixes. Shown here, the saxophonist position.

inputs into the monitor mixing system, combined from stage lines and the Synclavier system. He uses a 32-input Harrison SM-5 with a 16-channel extender and a pair of Yamaha DMP-7s for quick-change level and EQ settings between songs. "This SM-5 is modified so that I have eight VCA groups linked to the VCA master," Wadi says. "The DMP-7s handle all of the electronic percussion inputs from the Synclavier."

Klark-Teknik DN360 ¹/₃-octave graphic equalizers are used for each mix output, with 20 separate channels available. Drawmer DS201 dual noise gates are used for kick and snare drums and dbx 160s are inserted on each vocal microphone channel. A dbx 900 rack with noise gates and compressor/limiters is available for other inputs. Special effects devices used in the stage monitor system include five Yamaha SPX-90s, a Yamaha REV-7, and a pair of Roland SDE3000 digital delays.

"I'm actually using 17 mixes for this show," explains Wadi. "I have six downstage mixes for George because he moves around a lot. In addition, there are eight for the band, stereo sidefills, and an additional subwoofer send for the drummer's monitor position. We place an enclosure directly behind his seat, built into the riser."

Showco floor slants, the BFM-100housing a 15-inch speaker, a horn with acoustic lens, and a compression tweeter—are used for most applications around the stage. (See Figure 14.) For the Michael shows, these floor slants were placed below metal grillwork panels built into the stage. The down-stage area had a very clean look, but the singer could still find coverage "hot spots" wherever he went.

As the singer moves around, Wadi does not change much at the monitor board. "It's mixed from the center out, you could say," he explains. "It is hottest there, and tapers out to the sides in terms of level. You don't hear as much of the house sound in the middle. If George wants to check up on what Lefevre is up to, he just moves out to the side a bit and he can hear more of the house mix."

Wadi's cue-monitor level is set at the same relative level as the house system; as the house sound changes with crowd noise variations, he can compensate on monitor levels for the featured artist and hear an accurate representation of what Michael hears on stage, from his monitor position.

Assisting Wadi in his monitor system setup is Leon Hopkins. "Since this tour has a relatively large stage area and the coverage requirements for the sidefills are extensive, we use certain types of Prism

"The house and monitor systems have to work together, not fight each other."

enclosures as hanging sidefills," Hopkins says.

Summary and subjective comments

It was interesting to see and hear the Prism system on tour with George Michael. While I have heard it in different situations with other groups, this show in particular stood out as very goodsounding. Was it the new system, the engineer or the Synclavier and the all-star cast of musicians? Most likely, it was a combination of them all. The obviously high production expenditures seemed to be justified, for the audience enjoyed the show. A large mechanized cage-like stage set, moving lights, lasers, fog machines, video screens and all the rest do not come cheaply. Seeing this production spend the extra dollars for an advanced sound system, as well, was an indication that somebody was concerned with the sound quality as much as with the bottom line—and that was refreshing.

From an electro-acoustic perspective, it was a finely tuned, no-compromise touring system, set up and cared for by technicians who really seemed pleased with both its packaging and its performance.





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A

Conley Abrams (E): 13939 Oxnard, #4, Van Nuys, CA 91401; 818-782-4898. Credits: MCA Records/Funkadelic (MP-AT), Jugular (Sound Image); Warner Bros./Michael Cooper (MP-S), The Best (MJJ/Ameraycan); Warner Bros./Michael Cooper (E-S), The Wild Side (Ameraycan); CBS/Tyren Perry (MP-S), What's Up? (Ameraycan); CBS/Tyren Perry (MP-S), I'm Sure It's Love (Ameraycan).

William R. Aldrich (E/P): 4288 Veterans Drive, Holt, MI 48842; 517-694-7161. Credits: The Turn (MP-A), Maranatha (Windows Dream Productions); MRA (MP-A), Intercessor II (Windows Dream Productions); Venus Starr (MP-A), Aristocrats Smile (Windows Dream Productions); WRA Video (CP-TV), Intercessor (Continental Cablevision); Venus Starr (CP-TV), Dancing Around/Oh Louisa (Continental Cablevision).

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Bruce Barrett (E/P): 1945 McDonald, Missoula, MT 59801; 406-542-2563. **Credits:** Billings Metropolitan Transit Authority (CP), Ride the Met (Recording Center); Spectrum (PP-MV), Spectrum Music Video (Barrett A/V Studios); Ariel (MP-S), Dayglo Red (Recording Center).

Carlton Batts (E): 1697 Broadway, New York, NY 10019; 212-582-5473. Credits: Loose Ends (MP-S), Life (Frankford/Wayne): Al B. Sure! (MP-S), Killing Me Softiy (Frankford/Wayne); Marley Marl (MP-S), Symphony (Frankford/Wayne); M.C. Trump (MP-S), I Want KRS-One (The Bat Cave).

Key

Name (Title Code): Address; Phone Number. Credits: Client/Artist (Credit Code-Subcode), Project Title (Facility Used).

Title Codes:

E (Engineer); P (Producer); E/P (Engineer/Producer).

Credit Codes:

CP (Commercial/Advertising Production). Subcodes: R (Radio); TV (Television).

MP (Music Production). Subcodes: S (Single); A (Album); AT (Album Track); AR (Album Remix); SR (Single Remix).

PP (Post-Production). Subcodes: F (Film); MV (Music Video); CI (Corporate/Industrial). Ron Burton (E): 6329 Sussex, Portage, MI 49002; 616-323-9380. Credits: Chapel Hill Methodist Church Choir (MP-A), Praise tape (Christian Life Center Studio).

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Craig Bevan (E/P): 135 Montgomery St., 18-H, Jersey City, NJ 07302; 201-435-1651. Credits: Electra Records/Yazz (MP-AT), Wanted (Livingston, London); Select Records/Crush Nation (MP-S), It's Ail About Money (Bassment Studios); Bassment Records/Joey Kid (MP-S), Broken Promises (Bassment Studios).

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Paul Butterfield (P): 762 Baffle Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789-3377; 407-647-1177; 407-645-1111. **Credits:** Tucker Wayne/Luckie/Southern Bell (CP-TV/R), The Advertisers of the Real Yellow Pages (Rice Productions).



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Robert Cap (E/P): 500 N. Sixth Ave., Virginia, MN 55792; 218-749-4056. Credits: Pepsi Cola (CP-R), Pepsi Challenge Cross-Country Race; Subaru (CP-R), Subaru Classic Cross-Country Race; FLS Sweedent (CP-R), FLS Races: Tuffy's Dog Food (CP-R). Dog Sled Races.

Stephen Carter (E/P): 3389 C Berchworth, Columbus, OH 43232; 614-837-8539. Credits: Little Rock (MP-A), Once in a Blue Moon (Thornapple Sound); John Doe & the Unknowns (MP-A), John Doe & the Unknowns (Thornapple Sound); Bros. Grimm (MP-S) (Thornapple Sound); Radio Snakes (MP-AT) (Thornapple Sound); B-4 Productions (PP-F), Road Meat (Thornapple Sound).



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F

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G

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H

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K

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M

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John Mahoney (E/P): Atlantic Studios, Synclavier Suite, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023; 212-484-6093. Credits: Ezo (MP), II (Atlantic Synclavier Suite); Hemdale Films (F), A Boy's Life (Atlantic Synclavier Suite); Stanley Jordan (MP-A), Flying Home (Atlantic Synclavier Suite); DDB Needham Worldwide (CP-TV), Michelob Dry (Atlantic Synclavier Suite); Mick Jones (MP-A), Law (Atlantic Synclavier Suite).

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ta, GA 30337; 404-991-2855. Credits: Coast-to-Coast Top Twenty (CP-R) (American Media Studios); McMix Productions (MP-A), Mike Ewbanks (McMix, ACMA); Atlantic Records (MP-AT), Anne G, On a Mission (2560 Studios).

Edward R. Minnich (E/P): 127 Huron St., Elyria, OH 44035: 216-322-3984. Credits: JEM Productions (CP-R), The Newest in Town (Track 1 Recording Studio); Neon Lytes (MP-S), Dazzler/Forced Love (Magic Moonlight Recording Studio); Baby Doll Band (PP-MV), Transatlantic Set Airliner (On Trak Productions/Magic Moonlight Recording Studio).



Richard J. Nagle (E/P): 3532 Washington Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46205; 317-926-2025. Credits: A&S (CP-TV/R), One Day Sale :30 (Kamen Audio Productions); Maison Blanche (CP-TV/R), Nick of Time :30 (Kamen Audio Productions); Burdines (CP-TV/R), TGIF :30 (Kamen Audio Productions); Scali McCabe Sloves (CP-R), Life's Luxuries :60 Volvo (Kamen Audio Productions); British West Indies Air (CP-R), BWIA International :60 (Kamen Audio Productions).

James Roger Nelson (E/P): 2155 Bennett Creek Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; 503-942-5877. Credits: Jimmy Blue & DATA (PP-F), Welcome to the Future (Data Studios, Desitrek Recording); Jimmy Blue & DATA (PP-F), Calling Rock 'n' Roll (Data Studios, Gung Ho Recording).



Ross Pallone (E): 1762 Bates Court, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362; 805-496-0147. Credits: James Newton Howard (PP-F), Tap (Circle Seven); Olivia Newton-John (MP-SR/AR/AT), The Rumor (Hollywood Sound, Circle Seven, Sunset Sound); John Tesh (MP-AT/AR/SR), Tour de France (Tesh Studio); David Paich (PP-CI), Nissan World's Fair (The Manor); Patti Austin (MP-AR), The Real Me (Pack's Place).

Tom Phillips (E/P): Box 138, Westborough, MA 01581; 508-366-9585. Credits: Nova/WGBH (PP-F), The Light Stuff; WGBH (PP-F), Long Ago and Far Away theme; Aydelott Associates (CP-TV), NRA :60 spots; Adventure/PBS (PP-F), Into the Great Solitude; WBZ (CP-TV), Time to Care :30 spots.

R

Craig Raguse (E/P) and **JoAnn Raguse** (P): Box 470507, Tulsa, OK 74147; 918-250-9749. **Credits:** Tall Tales (MP-A), Your Analysis (Evolution); Picture This (MP-A), Demo (Evolution); Square Force (MP-A), Untitled (Evolution); Dresden Bombers (MP-AT), Bomb US Back Into the Stone Age (Evolution); Tall Tales (MP-A), Tall Tales (Evolution).

Rick Reineke (E): 26 Hillside Ave., Suffern, NY 10901; 914-357-4176. Credits: Quatta Battou (MP-A), The Argument; War Zone (MP-A), War Zone I: Creative Connections (PP-CI), United Christian Ministries; Media Arts (PP-CI), Reed-Lain; Lynn Skinner (MP-A), Profile.

Al Reiners (E): 1431 NW 71st Ave., Plantation, FL

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ENGINEER/PRODUCER INDEX

33313; 305-587-8258. **Credits:** IATSE Local 545, Miami (CP-CI) Caribiner Inc. Industrial Shows (Audio Facilities Inc., location).

Steven Remote (E/P): Box 6750, Fresh Meadow, NY 11365; 718-886-6500. Credits: WPIX-TV/Automat (TV), WPIX 40th Anniversary Special (ALS Mobile Audio/Video); Holographic Film/Public Enemy (MP-MV), Live from Nassau Coliseum (ACL Mobile Audio); Holographic Film/Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince (MP-MV), Live from Nassau Coliseum (ASL Mobile Audio); WMJY-FM/Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes (MP-R), New Year's Eve Show (ASL Mobile Audio); HASC/various artists (MP-AT), A Time for Music-Live.

Rich Renik Jr. (E/P): 8446 S. Kenneth, Chicago, IL 60652; 312-598-9200. Credits: Bittersweet (MP-A) (Bayou Recording Studios); Cyndi (MP-AT), Freddy the Fickle Pickle (Bayou Recording Studios); Marjibo (MP-S), Oogie Boogie (Bayou Recording Studios); Scott Mantia (MP-S), Look at My -76 (Bayou Recording Studios).

Steven L. Rich (E): 226 Mohawk Drive, River Edge, NJ 07661; 201-342-5672. Credits: Laventhal & Horwath (PP/CI), The Hotel of the Future (R.J. Martin); Panasonic (PP-CI), Cellular Phone Instructional Video (R.J. Martin); Grand Union (CP-TV), commercial spots (R.J. Martin).

S

Hal Sacks (E/P): 16000 Septo St., Sepulveda, CA 91343; 818-894-5988. Credits: Word/A&M Records/Daniel Winans (MP-AT), Brotherly Love (Oceanway, Peace in the Valley); MCA/Larry Carlton (MP-AT/AR), On Solid Ground (Room 335/Monday to Sunday Recording/O'Henry's); Tappan Zee/CBS Records/Kirk Whalum (MP-AT/AR), The Promise (Oceanway/Peace in the Valley); Narada/MCA/ Richard Souther (MP-A), Crosscurrents (Peace in the Valley/Royal Recorders); Carson Productions/NBC (PP-TV), Amen Show music cues (Oceanway/Sunset Sound).

Sooch San Souci (E/P): 146 Avenue Emile Zola, Paris, France 75015; 45-75-47-99. Credits: Hoche Films, CNAV Paris (CP-R/TV), French Social Security International; SYGNUM Communications (CP-TV). Institut National Polytechnique; Jacques Bogart (Perfume) Paris (CP-TV), Furyo; SON Productions (MP-S), various artists; FIEURY Communication (CP-R), various radio spots.

Vince Sanchez (E/P): Box 1634, Aptos. CA 95003; 408-373-3545. Credits: Scientific Cowboy (MP-S), Scientific Cowboy (Red Barn/VSO/Studiomasters); Jim Lee (MP-AR), Jimmy Joe Lee (Mars); Leon Patillo (MP-A), Brand New (LP/Conway/Encore/EMI/ Sidney); Bo Capebianco (MP-A), Runaway (Fig Tree/LP).

Mark Seagraves (E/P): 623 W. Guadalupe Road, "137, Mesa, AZ 85210; 602-892-1024. Credits: GTE Communications Group (PP-Cl), 2001 Imagine; Semper Rock Productions (MP-A), Jenifer Westmoreland project; Carmichael Productions (MP-A), A), J. Michael Chandler; Chris Spheeris (MP-A), Chris Spheeris; New West Productions (PP-F), Highway Man series.

John Seetoo (P): 853 Broadway, Suite 610, New York,

NY 10003; 212-219-3792. **Credits:** John Seetoo/Face of Another (MP-A), Face of Another (MMP Studios); Terry Watada (MP-A), The Art of Protest (MMP Studios); See-God Productions (PP-F), The Source of Power (Active Studios); Laser (MP-A); Bienvenue (Cereus Recording).

Dave Sell (E/P): 2175 Michael, Warren, MI 48091; 313-754-8200. Credits: Code Blue (MP-A), Code Blue (Hatchery Studios); Sony Corp. of America (PP-CI) 1989 New Product Layout (Hatchery Studios); Patten Advertising (CP-R), Chevy Dealer Ads (Hatchery Studios); W.B. Doner & Co. (CP-R), Shasta Softdrinks (Hatchery Studios).

Dan Shattuck (E/P): 145 W. Ave. Palizada, San Clemente, CA 92672; 714-361-1296. **Credits**: Scott Weimer Productions (PP-F), Tainted Love (Harrison Winter Studios); Harrison Winter (MP-A), Runnin' With the Wind (Harrison Winter Studios).

Gordon Shryock (E/P): 1007 E. 37th Place, Tulsa, OK 74105; 918-742-1302, 918-631-2577. Credits: Flying Fish Records/Larry Long (MP/A), Tribute to Oklahoma and Woody Guthrie (Remote unit, KWGS, Tulsa); Self Explosive Records/Steve Pryor & the Mighty Kingsnakes (MP-A), Steve Pryor & the Mighty Kingsnakes (Eiffel Tower, Tulsa); RCA/Vince Gill (MP-A/S), Victim of Life's Circumstance (United-Western, Hollywood); Light Records/Andrae Crouch (MP-A), I'll Be Thinking of You (United-Western/Sound Labs/Paramount); ACE Records/Ronnie Barron (MP-A), Bon Ton Roulette (United-Western).

Maurice Smeets (E/P): 1108 Elizabeth. West Chicago, IL 60185; 312-231-5018. Credits: Plank Road Folk Music Society (MP), Down the Old Plank Road (Studio A Recording); Last Band on Earth (MP), I'm Coming Home (Studio A Recording).

William S. Taylor (E/P): 110 Bedford St., Lexington, MA 02173; 617-861-1688. Credits: Bruce Hornsby & the Range (MP-S), Red Plains (Live Version) (Westwood One Mobile); Tank I Flip (MP-A), Lay Down (Inner City Sound/Normandy Sound); Sonny Thompson (MP-A), Inner City Sound/Normandy Sound); Airporte (MP-A), On the Edge (Blue Jay Recording); Steven Paul Perry (MP-A), (Normandy Sound).

Gene Tognacci (P): 12507 Nova Drive, Houston, TX 77077; 713-496-2358. Credits: Budweiser Battle of Bands/various (CP-R), Battle of Bands (Starstream Communications); FNN Business Radio (CP-R), Sounders/Audio Staging Red (Starstream Communication); Starstream Communications (CP-R), various sales demos; Budweiser/MAC Band (CP-R), Showdown.

Greg Trampe (E/P): 2322 Marconi, St. Louis, MO 63110; 314-773-1480. Credits: Monty Dale Luke (MP-S), Takin My Heart (Music Masters); Acousticity (MP-A), 11:59 (Music Masters); Linoi (MP-S), Cry in the Night (Music Masters).



Daniel Vaganek (E/P): 74 West St., Colonia, NJ 07067; 201-381-1861. Credits: 86 (MP-A), Provocation

(Axis Sound Studios); Guadalcanal Diary (MP-A), 2x4 (Axis Sound Studios); Arms Akimbo (MP-A), This is not the Late Show (Axis Sound Studios); Dash Rip Rock (MP-A), Mud (Musiplex); 86 (MP-A); Live Finale (Soundscape Studios).

John Vanore (P): 708 Ashland Ave., Eddystone, PA 19013; 215-328-9450. Credits: David Kuhn (MP-A), Fatherlike Sons (Alliance Records); One Alternative (MP-A), Take Note (Widener University).



Cal Walker (E/P): 1301 Briar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28205; 204-376-2949. **Credits** (all radio syndication): As It Was (2/Bop A/V); Sunday Night Jazz (2/Bop A/V).

Trent Walker (E/P): 167 S. Third East, Rexburg, ID 83440; 208-356-8705. Credits: Taryn Ivie (MP-A), Autumn (RHP Recording Studio); Lyle Bowen (MP-A), It Was for Me (RHP Recording Studio); Innovative Design (MP-A), 24-Hour Weight Loss (RHP Recording Studio); Carco Products (PP-CI), Introduction to Carco (RHP Recording Studio); Justin Tyme (MP-A). Open the Door (RHP Recording Studio).

Sam Wheelock (P): Box 88212. Dunwoody, GA 30338; 404-565-6695. Credits: Atlanta Journal & Constitution (PP-CI), Shades of Atlanta Journal & Good News (New Age Sight & Sound); Mesa Tribune (PP-CI), East Valley Access (Atlanta Journal & Constitution); Georgia Department of Education (PP-CI), Home & School (Sam Wheelock Productions); Waco Tribune-Herald (CP-R), Everyday (New Age Sight & Sound).

Craig C. White (E/P): 1901 Crested Butte, Edmond, OK 73034; 405-282-2729. Credits: Legacy (MP-AT), In My Tears (White Rose Studio); Woody Lingle (CP-R), Celco Safety Lights (White Rose Studio).

Sheniquia Whittle (P): 59 Old Mamaroneck Road, Box A, White Plains, NY 10601; 914-761-5718. Credits: Antiqua Records/Dennis (MP-A), Just Dennis (Antiqua Sound); Antiqua Productions/Timmy Hunter (MP-A), Slammin' (Antiqua Sound); D'Groove (MP-S), Feelin' D'Groove (Suite 28, Antiqua Sound); Calm Lab Music/Dynasty (CP-S), The Big Time (Calm Lab Music Studios); Antiqua Productions/Xzavier (CP-A), X Marks the Groove (Antiqua Sound).

Zack Zaccaria (E/P): 16246 S.E. Salmon, Portland, OR 97233; 503-255-7122. Credits: Wayne Jackson (MP-AT) (Spectrum); Dan Reed Network (PP-MV), Ritual (Live at Starry Nite); various artists (MP-A) (Ace Tunnel Sound).

Greg Zaremba (E): 639 Main St., Metuchen, NJ 08840; 201-548-5316. Credits: Tico Torres/Uncle Funk & the Allstars (PP-MV), Uncle Funk & the Allstars (BMZ Mobile Recording).

Re/p

The Engineer/Producer index is a monthly department. To be listed, fill out the reply card located in the back of this issue. Please note that the index is for individual engineers and producers; facilities should fill out the Tracks reply card.

TRACKS

A

American Media Services: 995 McMillan St., Atlanta, GA 30318; 404-873-3100; Kermitt Bowen, manager. Credits: American Media (CP-R), Coast-to-Coast Top Twenty (RE/ME: Donald McKinzie; AE: Andy Williams/Charles Primerano); American Media (CP-R), Martin Luther King Scrapbook (RE/ME: Don McKinzie); American Media (CP-R), Jukebox Top 40 (RE/ME: Don McKinzie).

Appletree Productions: 248 S. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83709; 208-322-6155; Danny Jensen, vice president marketing. Credits: J.R. Simplot Co. (PP-Cl), Skincredibles (RE: David Priest; AE: Gary Pickens); Hewlett-Packard (PP-Cl), Formatter Development (RE: David Priest; AE: Gary Pickens); Whiteman Manufacturing (PP-Cl), Power Trowel (RE: David Priest; ME: Dany Jensen; AE: Gary Pickens); Hewlett-Packard (PP-Cl), Laserjet IID (RE: Eric Malone; ME: David Priest; AE: Gary Pickens); Onati Restaurant (CP-TV). 30-second commercials (RE: Danny Jensen; ME: David Priest).

Key

Facility Name: Address; phone; contact name/title. Credits: Client (Credit Code-Subcode), Project Title (Recording Engineers; Mixdown Engineers; Assistant Engineers).

Codes

CP (Commercial/Advertising Production). Subcodes: R (Radio) TV (Television).

PP (Post-Production). Subcodes: F (Film) MV (Music Video) CI (Corporate/Industrial).

B

Barrett A/V Studios: 1945 McDonald, Missoula, MT 59801; 406-542-2563; Bruce Barrett, owner/producer. Credits: Spectrum (PP-MV), Spectrum Music Video (RE: Ron Meisner; ME: Bruce Barrett); Montana Fiddlers' Competition (PP-MV), Centennial Fiddlers' Video (RE/ME: Bruce Barrett).

Bayou Recording Studios: 6328 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, IL 60453; 312-598-9200; Rich Renik, Credits: Cyndi (CP-R), Freddy the Fickle Pickle (RE/ME/AE: Rich Renik); Siliker Labs (PP-CI), Sanitization Process (RE/ME/AE: Rick Renik).

C^-

Carriage House Studios: 119 W. Hill Road, Stamford, CT 06902; 203-358-0065; Johnny Montagnese, manager. Credits: Turner Network (PP-F), Jacques Cousteau, The Bering Sea (RE/ME: Phil Magnotti; AE: Johnny Montagnese/Matt Lane); Arts & Entertainment (CP-TV), Network Logo (RE: Johnny Montagnese/Phil Magnotti; ME: Phil Magnotti; AE: Matt Lane); Chuck Norris Films (PP-F), Missing in Action, Invasion USA (RE: Alec Head/Phil Magnotti; ME: Alec Head; AE: Johnny Montagnese/Matt Lane); New World Films (PP-F), Tiger Warsaw (RE/ME: Phil Magnotti; AE: Johnny Montagnese/Matt Lane); New World Films (PP-F), Munchies (RE: Phil Magnotti; ME: Phil Magnotti; AE: Johnny Montagnese/Matt Lane); New

Creative Media: 11105 Knott Ave., Cypress, CA 90630; 714-892-9469; Tim Keenan, operations director. **Credits:** NBC Technical Training/NBC Television (PP-CI), NBC Halon Training (RE/ME: Tim Keenan; AE: Ed Berger; Stuart Anderson's Restaurants/The Hoppa Group (PP-CI), Stuart Anderson's 1988 in Review (RE/ME: Tim Keenan); Orange County Register (CP-R), Spring Daily Campaign (CP-R), RE: Ed Berger; AE: Dan Gardy (Delta Airlines (CP-TV), Disneyland/Delta California Fun Co-op (RE.'ME: Tim

Keenan; AE: Dan Pavelin); Merrill-Lynch Realtors/Abracadabra Slide Prod. (RE/ME: Tim Keenan; AE: Ed Berger).



Data Studios: 2155 Bennett Creek Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; 503-942-5877; James Roger Nelson. Credits: Jimmy Blue & DATA (PP-F), Welcome to the Future (RE: Valerie E.C./James Roger Nelson; ME: James Roger Nelson/Jimmy Blue; AE: Bobby Weaver); Jimmy Blue & DATA (PP-F), Calling Rock 'n' Roll (RE: Bobby Weaver/Valerie E.C.; ME: James Roger Nelson/Jimmy Blue; AE: Mark Holliday).



Fox Farm Recording: 1431 Saundersville Ferry Road, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122; 615-754-2444; Kent Fox, owner. Credits: NSA (CP), Drip, Drip, Drip (RE/ME: Kent Fox).

Freedom Sound & Light: 1520 Ninth Ave. N.E., Owatonna, MN 55060; 507-451-1503; Ron Freiheit, owner. Credits: Owatonna Tool Co. (CP-Cl), New OTC Splitting Compression Tools (RE/ME: Ron Freiheit, Doug Smorek).



Giant Sound Recording: 1776 Broadway, New York, NY 10019; 212-247-1160; Douglas Pell, director. Credits: East/West Music (CP-TV), Buick (RE/ME: John Wolfson; AE: Mark Miller); Score Productions (PP-F). Dr. Seuss (RE/ME: Cynthia Danials; AE: Chris Hook/Eric Stollberger); East/West Music (CP-TV), Champion Spark Plugs (RE/ME: Keith Walsh; AE: Mark Miller); Vilinsky & Snyder (CP-TV), Elizabeth Arden (RE/ME: Doug Epstein; AE: Chris Hook); Jeff



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Hest Productions (PP-Cl), Kawasaki One-Man Jam (RE/ME: John Wolfson; AE: Mark Miller/Chris Hook).

H

Hatchery Studios: 2175 Michael, Warren, MI 48091; 313-754-8200; Dave Sell, owner. Credits: Sony Corporation of America (PP-Cl), 1989 New Product Demo (RE/ME: Dave Sell/Kevin Allen); Reebok International (CP-R/TV), Reebok Spot (RE/ME: Dave Sell/Kevin Allen).

Heymac Productions: Box 6048, Federal Way, WA 98023; 206-838-1815; A.R. McPhail, owner. Credits: Vidicard Co. (PP-MV), Video Postcard (RE/ME: A.R. McPhail); Mike Lee (CP-R), The Air Bearing (RE/ME: A.R. McPhail; AE: Mike Lee); MacAd (CP-R), Azteca Demo (RE/ME: A.R. McPhail); RAFT Inc. (PP-F), Ride the Wild River (RE/ME: A.R. McPhail).

Informedia: Box 13287, Austin, TX 78711; 512-327-3227; Michael Sidoric, owner. Credits: Gambrinus Importing Co. (CP-CI), Corona: Quest for the Crown (RE: Brett Bunner; ME: Michael Sidoric); Southwestern Bell (CP-CI), When Disaster Strikes (ME: Michael Sidoric; ME: Brett Bunner; AE: Joe Riordan); Institute of Texan Cultures (CP-CI), The Texas Experience (RE: Brett Bunner; ME: Michael Sidoric).

L

Little Wing Recording: 154 Mallorca Way, #3, San Francisco, CA 94123; 415-563-8406; James R. Einolf, owner. Credits: GW Associates (PP-F), Glass Dreams (RE: James R. Einolf; ME: James R. Einof/Brad Tompkins; AE: Phil Short); SG Productions (PP-F), Southern Gentlemen (RE: Alan Keeber; ME: Brad Tompkins/Phil Short); Mix Master (PP-MV), Lock and Key (RE: Alan Keeber; ME: James R. Einolf/Brad Tompkins; AE: Phil Short).



David Mark Audio: 3781 Silsby Road, Cleveland, OH 44118; 216-932-FUNN; David Mark, owner. Credits: Wizards' Conclave Come-in Music (PP-CI), Conclave Come-ins (RE/ME: David Mark; AE: Adam Goldenberg); Gold Mountain Shows (PP-CI), music for live shows (RE/ME: David Mark; AE: Adam Goldenberg/Mike Roberts); WERE Radio (CP-R), Whiz Quiz (RE: Jim Mehrling/Ted Kowalski; ME: Jay Burger; AE: David Mark); WEWS TV (CP-RV), Sports Scoreboard Music (RE: John Hansen; ME: David Mark).

National Video Center/Recording Studios: 460 W.

42nd St., New York, NY 10036; 212-279-2000; Caroline Luber, public relations director. **Credits:** McCann-Erickson/East/West Music (CP-R/TV), The Great American Road Belongs to Buick (RE/ME: Gary Chester); Phoenix Communications (PP-TV), This Week in Baseball (RE/ME: Bill lvie); Phoenix Communications (PP-TV), ESPN Baseball Magazine (RE/ME: Bill lvie); VH-1 (PP-TV), Watch Bobby Rivers (RE/ME: Mike Ruschak); Chiat/Day (CP-TV), The Drexel Difference (RE/ME: Bill lvie).

New York Audio Productions: 140 W. 22nd St., New York, NY 10011; 212-243-6826; Marianne Goldberg, manager. Credits: Random House Audio Books (CP), "Journey" by James Michener (RE/ME: Robert Kessler); Intercept Group (CP), Hudson River (RE/ME: John Fiscela); D.C. Heath & Co. (PP-CI), Hola, Amigos! (RE/ME: Paul M. Barboza); Signs & Cities (CP), Pensacola (RE: Paul M. Barboza).

R

RAP Recording Studio: 167 S. Third E., Rexburg, ID 83440; 208-356-8705; Trent Walker, owner. Credits: Intermountain Film (CP-F), Boy Scouts of America Encampment' 88 (RE/ME: Trent Walker); Carco Products (CP-CI), Introduction to Carco (RE/ME: Trent Walker); International Dance Festival (PP-F), Idaho International Dance Festival (RE/ME: Trent Walker).

Reel Harmony: 3511 SW 35th St., Hollywood, FL 33024; 305-966-3277; Jules Lynn, president. Credits: Biotics Research (CP-R), Mineral Nutrition (RE/ME: Jules Lynn; AE: Ed Mashal); Consolidated Adv. & Mktg. Inc. (CP-R), Gerovitol-H3 (RE: Jules Lynn/Ed Mashali; ME: Jules Lynn); WLRN/Rock 'n' Roll Revisited (CP-R), Oldie Man (RE/ME: Jules Lynn).

Reel Hits: 15 Bridge Road, Weston, CT 06883; 203-226-4200; Dean Elliott, president. Credits: Brian & Shelly Morgan/MCA (PP-MV), Gimme Your Love (RE//ME: Dean Elliott; AE: Wayne Shulmister); Tuff Luck (PP-MV), Park Side Madness (RE: Dean Elliott; ME: Bill Finnerty/Dean Elliott; AE: Dodie Perez); Wee Men (PP-MV) (RE: Dean Elliott/Timmy Brannigan; ME: Dean Elliott; AE: Terry Brannigan/Wayne Shulmister); Cheap Jack's (CP-R), Get It at Jack's (RE: Bill Finnerty; ME: Doriane Elliott/Bill Finnerty); Park Place/Grey Ad., Park Place Rap (RE: Dean Elliott/David Hart; ME: Dean Elliott/Doriane Elliott; AE: Doug McKean).

Silver Linings: 25 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02146; 617-262-9289; Arklay King, president. Credits: National Geographic Society (PP-CI), NGS Centennial Gala (RE: Arklay King/John Kusiak); Arts & Entertainment Cable (CP-TV), Chronicle TV Show (RE: Arklay King/John Jusiak/Mark Humphrey); Lotus Development Corp. (PP-MV), Magellan Video (RE: John Kusiak); National Park Service (PP-CI), Lowell Mill Girls (RE: Arklay King); Massachusetts Lottery Commission (CP-TV), Aces High Jingle (RE: John Kusiak).

Sound Images: 602 Main St., Cincinnati, OH 45202; 513-241-7475; Jack Streitmarter, president. Credits:

ImageMatrix/Kentucky Fried Chicken (PP-CI), Capture the Dream (RE/ME: Ric Probst; AE: John Murray); Fotino-Moriaty/WestMarc Cable (CP-R/TV), Cable TV Brings the World Home (RE/ME: Ric Probst); Procter & Gamble (CP-TV), New Zest Gel (Spanish Version) (RE/ME: Ric Probst); MultiMedia/Disney Films (PP-F), Good Old Boy (RE/ME: Jay Petach); Saatchi, Saatchi, DFS/Toyota (CP-TV), Truck Bashing (RE/ME: Ric Probst).

Studio 44: 4413 W. Reno, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; 918-250-2508. Credits: Dave Embry (PP-F), Gray Ghosts (RE/ME: Jack Brady).



Thornapple Sound: 3221 Thornapple, Columbus, OH 43231; 614-476-0233; Stephen J. Carter/Bryan Douple, owners. Credits: B-4 Productions (PP-F), Road Meat (RE/ME: Stephen Carter; ME: Bill Bragg); Little Rock (CP), Once in a Blue Moon (RE/ME: Stephen Carter); Midway Records (CP-MV), Saturdae (RE/ME: Stephen Carter; AE: Chris Dawkins); Bros. Grimm (CP) (RE/ME: Stephen Carter); John Doe & the Unknowns (CP) (RE/ME: Stephen Carter).



VSO Recording: 600 E. Franklin, Monterey, CA 93940; 408-373-3545; Vince Sanchez, owner. Credits: Monterey Life Magazine (CP-R), Life on Monterey Bay (RE: Vince Sanchez/Richard Bryant; ME: Vince Sanchez); Scientfic Cowboy (PP-MV), Scientific Cowboy (RE/ME: Vince Sanchez).



White Crow Audio: 19 Marble Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; 802-658-6475; Douglas Jaffe, studio manager. Credits: Tri-Star Pictures (PP-F), Sweethearts Dance (RE/ME: Todd Lockwood); Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream (CP-R), Two Real Guys (RE/ME: Todd Lockwood); Skis Dynastar Inc. (CP-R), National Radio Campaign (RE/ME: Todd Lockwood); Citizens for Responsible Growth (PP-MV), Back to the Pyramids (RE/ME: Todd Lockwood).



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STUDIO UPDATE

Northeast

New York Audio Productions (New York) has purchased an Otari MTR-12 recorder and Neumann TLM 170 microphones. *140 W. 22nd St., New York, NY 10011; 213-243-6826.*

Blank Productions (Stamford, CT) has purchased three Panasonic SV3500 DAT machines, modified to record at 44.1kHz; a Yamaha FC format converter, TX802 synth module, SPX90II effects module and a GC2020 compressor; a Korg M1R rack module; and a Brainstorm Electronics remote infrared talkback system. 1597 Hope St., Stamford, CT 06907; 203-968-2420; fax 203-329-7193.

Sound Logic Studios (Silver Spring, MD) has appointed Mark Greenhouse as studio manager. Todd Morse has also joined the staff as an engineer. New equipment includes a Nakamichi real-time cassette duplication system, three Lexicon PCM 70s, a Hammond B-3 organ with Leslie cabinet, Sound Ideas series 2000 digital effects library and a variety of microphones. The facility has also opened a MIDI studio, featuring equipment from Apple, Yamaha, Oberheim and Emulator. 3209 Birchtree Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906; 301-871-0200.

Braidwood Studios (Metuchen, NJ) has named Sam Mack as chief engineer. New equipment includes a Commodore Amiga computer with Dr. T software and a J.L. Cooper PPS-1 tape sync controller, and a Toshiba DX 900 digital 2-track. *Box 4621, Metuchen, NJ 08840; 201-548-8542.*

Soundwave (Washington, DC) has purchased a New England Digital Direct-to-Disk recording system. 2000 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202-861-0560.

Southeast

Patrick Creative Group (Nashville) received a 1989 Diamond Addy Award for musical concepts/advertising jingles for more than 30 seconds. The jingle for the *Arizona Republic/Phoenix Gazette* was engineered by Kent Madison and mixed by Todd Carpenter. 1719 West End Ave., Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203; 615-329-4146.

Digital ADR (Orlando, FL) has completed a major upgrade to its main film post-

production and screening room. A Neotek Elite 358 console with 58 mic and line inputs has been installed, as has a New England Digital 9600 with 48Mbytes of RAM and a 16-track Direct-to-Disk system.

Flood Zone Studios (Richmond, VA) has completed the construction of a new facility. The new room, totaling 1,900 square feet, features an 18' x20' control room, Studer tape machines and a Soundcraft console. *Box 7105, Richmond, VA 23221;* 804-644-0935.

Studio Center Corporation (Norfolk, VA) has opened a new facility, Audio Studio C. The studio contains a Soundcraft 600B console, a Tascam MS-16 recorder, Otari 2-tracks, Crown power amps, and JBL and Auratone speakers. Room construction was by SCC personnel. Chuck Smith Audio, Windsor, VA, handled the audio and monitoring. 200 W. 22nd St., Norfolk, VA 23517.

Midwest

Brookwood Studio (Ann Arbor, MI) has added an IMS Dyaxis digital audio workstation, said to be the first such system in Michigan. *1155 Rosewood, Ann Arbor, MI; 313-994-4992.*

Hatchery Studios (Warren, MI) has added Kevin Allen to the staff as second engineer. New equipment for the MIDI room includes a Yamaha SPX90, E-mu Emax, Akai S900, Apple Macintosh with Performer software, Valley Gatex and Dynamite, Sony PCM 501ES digital mastering system, Roland M240 24-channel mixer, Roland A880 MIDI patcher/mixer and a Syncologic percussion signal processor. 2175 Michael, Warren, MI 48091; 313-754-1646.

Tapemasters (Indianapolis) has named Randy Sipe as director of marketing and Grant Kattmann as engineer/producer. 3532 Washington Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46205; 317-926-2025.

Southern California

Sonic Images (Anaheim) has opened up a 3,400-square-foot complex featuring a New England Digital Direct-to-Disk PostPro system. The studio is designed with three primary work areas, for prelay audio, production and post-production audio sweetening. Additional equipment

includes a Tascam MS16 with dbx, a Tascam M600 console. a JVC 850 VCR and a JVC VP-101 PCM digital audio processor. *3164 E. La Palma, Suite B, Anaheim, CA 92806; 714-630-2494.*

Red Zone Studios (Burbank) has acquired new outboard gear for Studios A and B, including six Class A discrete Neve 1073 modules, four API 512 pre-amp/EQs, an Eventide H3000 Super Harmonizer and a Teletronics LA2A. New mics include a Neumann M-49 and an AKG C-24. 623 S. Glenwood Place, Burbank, CA 91506; 818-955-8030.

The Post Group (Los Angeles) has named Rich Thorne as chief operating officer. 6335 Homewood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90028; 213-462-2300.

Tim Jordan Rentals (Los Angeles) has purchased a Sony PCM-3348 48-track digital recorder. 400 S. Citrus Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036; 213-937-7354.

Manufacturer and dealer announcements

Digital Audio Research has sold an 8-channel SoundStation II system to Gary Hedden Ltd., Nashville.

Soundmaster has installed Integrated Editing Systems at Films of Bristol, London; L.A. Studios, Hollywood; London by Night Productions, New York; CBC Television Studio 7 and Advanced Teleproduction Facility, Toronto; and Sonolab, Montreal.

Emmylou Harris and Paul Kennerley have taken delivery of a **TAC** Matchless console for their recording studio in Nashville. The console was supplied by Studio Supply.

Studer has sold a D820X DASH mastering recorder to Mix-o-lydian Studios in Boonton, NJ. Two A820-24 multitracks have been delivered to ABCTV, New York. Arlyn Studios, Austin, TX, has purchased an A820-24.

George Massenburg Labs has installed automation systems at the following facilities: The Burbank Studios, Lorimar Films, Lions Gate Films, Lucasfilm, Electric Lady Studios, Manta Sound, Power Plant and Masterock.


THE CUTTING EDGE

The Road to CD Refs

Optical Media TOPiX workstation

Optical Media has just announced its TOPiX CD-R Audio Workstation. When utilizing this workstation, the company says you are provided with all the CD recorder control, PO editing and generator functions required to record blank compact discs, using the TOPiX hardware/software package and the Yamaha Programmable Disc System.

This means there is now a system available for making on-off test or reference CDs from a properly formatted ¾-inch Umatic cassette-in real-time. In addition to being able to produce a compact disc, the system will also output to 1610/1630. SDIF-2 or DAT AES/EBU as long as they have a word-sync input. TOPiX is also capable of recording the table of contents (TOC) information in the lead-in area at the beginning of the CD.

The above configuration assumes that the user already has a Sony PCM-1610/ 1630 and either a DMR-4000 Digital Master Recorder or a 34-inch videocassette recorder. Also required is an external SMPTE time code generator/reader. Optical Media does offer the above equipment as an option.

The basic system includes a TOPiX PC/AT CPU with at least 512K of RAM, a monochrome monitor, keyboard, internal hard disk of 20Mbytes or more, 360Kbyte and 1.2Mbyte floppy disk drives, PQ subcode processor PC board, connection cables and system software, and Yamaha PDS Encoder and PDS Recorder units. Suggested retail price is \$49,900.

Of the available options, probably the hottest is the ability to use the TOPiX professional DAT recorder/player with SMPTE time code capability, built-in Sony SDIF-2 output and a built-in Yamaha PDS control port. This enables you to do complete CD-Audio disc recording (while using a SMPTE TC reader/generator) directly from a properly prepared DAT CD master without having to use a PCM-1610/1630 or DMR-4000.

Laurel Cash is RE/P's executive consultant and a free-lance writer based in Los Angeles.

Other kinds of professional DAT recorders could be used as the source. However, for it to work, correct TOPiX/ Yamaha PDS control and SMPTE TC synchronization must be achieved.

Circle (181) on Rapid Facts Card



Another Road to CD Refs

Just a note that Meridian Data of Capitola. CA, is introducing a similar product to be delivered in June or July. Preliminary information was not available at press time. Circle (182) on Rapid Facts Card

DCS announces A/D converter

Digital Conversion Systems, a Britishbased company making its entry into the professional audio industry, has announced its first product, the model 900 A/D converter.

An interesting claim of the product is its 128 times oversampling, which is said to give excellent distortion-free performance, particularly at low levels (typically 0.0003% @ 108dB below full scale), and a signal-to-noise ratio of greater than 105dB.

Two on-board crystal oscillators provide both 44.1kHz and 48kHz sampling rates, and the unit can be synchronized to an external AES/EBU clock or SDIF-2 word clock. The DCS 900 also has a conventional transformerless balanced input, and two serial outputs in both AES/EBU and SDIF-2 digital formats.

The 128 oversampling circuit uses no sample-and-hold techniques. It includes a linear phase digital filter and a gentle analog anti-aliasing filter, so it requires no external filtering. Upon overloading, the converter simply clips and sets off an LED on the front panel. The company also says that any aliased artifacts within the audio band are at least 110dB down.

Circle (183) on Rapid Facts Card

Ariel DSP card for IBM PCs

Ariel has announced its new 2-channel DSP card for the IBM PC and compatibles, with complete dual-channel analog and digital I/Os. The company says this is the first product to be designed around the new Motorola DSP56ADC16 (first demonstrated and shown to developers at the last AES convention).

The DSP-56 is said to be the first and only DSP development system to include an integral SCSI port. Plus, the DSP-56 is supported by BUG-56, the symbolic debugger for Motorola's DSP56001.

As it now stands, the DSP-56 provides two 16-bit input channels, allowing simultaneous sampling of full bandwidth audio with software-selectable sample rates up to 100kHz per channel. Crystal generated rates of 32kHz, 44.1kHz and 50kHz are also provided. The system can also be configured to accommodate a single channel at up to 400kHz, while still maintaining 12-bit precision.

Standard features include 16Kbytes of 24-bit, zero-wait-state RAM; DSPnet (multiprocessing system for linking several DSP-56s together); and SCSI interfaces. Memory is expandable to fill the entire memory space of the Motorola DSP56001, totalling 576Kbytes (128K data and 64K program RAM).

Ariel also plans to offer a series of signal processing libraries for the DSP-56, including FFTs, digital filters and correlation/convolution programs.

Shipping of the first of these units was slated to begin in June.

Circle (184) on Rapid Facts Card

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Introducing Version 3.0 Software of the M&E Organizer and the M&E Library.

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- Search by Word,Synonym or Catalog #. The program displays the sound description, CD track #, index location and library source.

FEATURES

- Window environment
- * New Editor to add, delete and modify records
- Print your own catalog by category or by catalog #.
- Search constraints to search for "single" library, "except" words, "not less than" or "not more than" and media type.
- Set colors (IBM version)

CD CONTROL (CDK-006 & PX-240)

- Play, Pause, Cue, Loop, Autoplay
- External timecode trigger
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LIBRARIES and CATALOGING

- Catalog listings from every production music and sound effect library is available and is included.
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- New online Editor to catalog your own libraries, tape, Dat, sampler and CDs.
- Call us for a **free demo disc** or for more information.



Circle (37) on Rapid Facts Card

NEW PRODUCTS

Audio-Technica AT853PM mic

The AT853PM is a miniature cardioid condenser mic designed to be suspended over choral and orchestral stages that demand unobtrusive appearances. Using low-mass fixed-charge technology allows the mic to have an ultra-thin, gold-vaporized diaphragm, which enhances frequency and transient response while reducing distortion. Other features include a 25-foot permanently attached miniature cable and a 3-position switch that allows flat frequency response or LF rolloff.

Circle (110) on Rapid Facts Card

Studer Revox A827

The 24-track analog recorder features an internal SMPTE time code synchronizer and parallel and serial RS-232/-422 control ports. The recorder also offers 14-inch reel capacity; three tape speeds with an integrated varispeed controller; and phase-compensated, MDAC-controlled amplifiers with switchable Dolby HX Pro. Priced less than the A820-24, the A827 is designed to be a reliable, cost-effective machine.

Circle (132) on Rapid Facts Card



Hybrid Arts ADAP II

The ADAP II direct-to-hard disk digital audio recorder and editor, available in four models (77, 154, 380 and 760), features a SMPTE cue list and triggering functions for post-production and video sweetening, variable record and playback rates, and an ultra-fast operating system. Future software updates and hardware options include an AES/EBU interface, implementation of a flexible MIDI performer software page, time compression, pitch change, real-time digital EQ, crossfades, triggered looping, scrubbing, CMX and VITC support. Retail prices range from \$9,250 to \$14,595.

Circle (112) on Rapid Facts Card

Librarian software from Music Service Software

S700/X-7000 Librarian is for use with the Akai X-7000 and S700 samplers and Atari ST computers. It allows users to store samples on hard disk or on 3.5-inch floppies. Features include the capability to store multisamples, accept samples from other 12-bit Sample Dump Standard samplers and perform elementary Visual Editing System capabilities. List price is \$79.95; the program is not copy-protected.

Circle (113) on Rapid Facts Card

Midia MIDIBoost

Distributed by IMC, MIDIboost increases the power of MIDI signals and makes them immune to electrical noise so that they can be transmitted up to 4,000 feet on standard audio cables with XLR connectors. MIDI Ins and Outs are connected at each of the lines to one MIDIBoost; standard low-impedance cables are strung between a second box. Using MIDIboost can allow users to wire entire installations with standard audio lines, to communicate with MIDI gear through the patchbay and to control onstage MIDI equipment at the house mix position. Suggested retail price is \$199.95.

Circle (114) on Rapid Facts Card

Turbosound TMW-20, TSE-112 monitors

The TMW-20 floor monitor is the latest addition to the TMW Series and consists of two 10-inch loudspeakers and an HF driver. The unit's smaller size allows it to be used in TV and film studios or in any situation where the preservation of sightlines is important. The TSE-112 is comprised of one 10-inch TurboMid device and a V-2 HF device, and is designed for installations that require a greater proportion of HF power with respect to the mid-band.

Circle (115) on Rapid Facts Card

Audio Logic X223 crossover

The X223 is a programmable, microprocessor-controlled crossover with three configurations: stereo 3-way, stereo 2-way with subwoofer and stereo 2-way. The crossover design uses 24dB-per-octave Linkwitz-Riley state variable filters with the crossover points switched by the microprocessor. The unit provides exact distribution of audio to separate power amplifiers for the most efficient use of power and also protects drivers and transducers from damaging frequency transients.

Circle (111) on Rapid Facts Card

Soundtracs SPA console

The SPA sound reinforcement console is available in 32- or 48-channel configurations. The input channels feature a 4-band equalizer with fully parametric mid and frequency-sweepable high and low bands, switchable between bell and shelving response. Eight auxiliary sends, all switchable pre/post fader, and selectable pre/post equalizer are fitted. Although designed as a front-of-house desk, the SPA can be reconfigured to double as a monitor desk.

Circle (116) on Rapid Facts Card

Assistance pop filter

The Studio Pop Filter contains a one-piece plastic rim and run-resistant fabric that the



Carbon fiber for light weight and structural strength. Extends and extends and extends. Available in a variety of lengths. And a shock mount and windscreen for all seasons.



A subsidiary of LTM France Other offices in London, Paris, Nice, Cologne and Toronto

company says effectively controls consonant bursts without coloring the sound. It is available with a one-year warranty and retails for \$22.

Circle (117) on Rapid Facts Card

E-V FS-212 floor monitor

Electro-Voice's FS-212 is a 2-way, biamped concert floor monitor containing two DL12X woofers and one DH1A 2-inch compression driver mounted on an HP64 constant-directivity horn. The unit is capable of producing SPLs in excess of 130dB with full power input. ITT-Cannon EP-4-14 connectors are used for the power input; EP-4-13s are used for the loopthrough connection.

Circle (120) on Rapid Facts Card

Ultimate Support studio organizer

Ultimate's HS26BP Studio Organizer was designed to be used in workstation applications where space is at a premium. The tabletop can be adjusted from 27 inches to 32 inches, and all tiers and surfaces are tilt-adjustable for individual needs. Custom additions include mic boom adapters, rails for rack-mount equipment, keyboard extensions and adapters for monitor speakers. Suggested retail is \$199.99.

Circle (121) on Rapid Facts Card

Nightingale music notation software

Nightingale, a professional music notation software program created by Don Byrd of Advanced Music Notation Systems, is designed for Apple Macintosh computers and is available from Opcode Systems. The program features full musical page layout capabilities, from piano to full orchestra; a transcription link to Opcode's Vision sequencer; use of the Adobe Systems Sonata postscript font; and the ability to record a live MIDI performance and immediately transcribe and display it in notation.

Circle (122) on Rapid Facts Card

Production Intercom LS-3 station

The LS-3 Loudspeaking Station is for 2-way communications. It automatically adjusts to one of three modes: press-totalk, full duplex or as a headset handset station. Front panel controls may be overridden from anywhere in the system using the OG903 Override Generator. The



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Circle (39) on Rapid Facts Card

LS-2 can be mounted in a 6-gang electrical rough-in box and is compatible with other 3-wire systems.

Circle (123) on Rapid Facts Card

Roland CD-5

The CD-5 storage unit is designed for use with the S-550 sampler module and W-30 workstation, and can be used for data storage or as a CD player. The unit, which incorporates the latest in CD-ROM storage technology, will hold as much data as 500 3.5-inch floppy disks, and can load an entire disk of data in 15 seconds. The CD-5 includes a factory disc containing the Roland Sound Bank Library (L-CDI). Other support discs, available from Roland, are optional.

Circle (124) on Rapid Facts Card

Carvin AudioCAD speaker software

AudioCAD is a loudspeaker design program for the Macintosh that calculates and displays the frequency response of any loudspeaker driver/box combination that is specified. A large library of drivers is included and can be expanded. The software uses the mathematical models of Thiele and Small for both vented and closed box loudspeaker systems. System requirements are a Macintosh with at least

NEW PRODUCTS

512K of memory and one 800K disk drive. The software and accompanying manual sell for \$95.

Circle (125) on Rapid Facts Card

Jensen Twin Servo 990 mic pre-amp

A new version of the Twin Servo 990 mic pre-amplifier has been designed with Jensen's 990C discrete op-amp technology. The model features improved dc servofeedback circuitry, including dc offset nulling; input-bias injection with thermal tracking; and multi-LED metering. The 990 is packaged in a 1.75"×19" rackmount chassis, which can be ordered with two or four channels. Suggested retail price is \$2,390 for the 2-channel model, \$4,240 for the 4-channel.

Circle (126) on Rapid Facts Card

ERA HFX processor

Available from RHODESystems, model HFX is designed to be used in situations where the use of a conventional noise gate is limited. Instead of turning on and off,

the unit subtracts noise and unwanted signals away from a signal, which produces a smooth transition. It is designed to be used with signals with an unpredictable nature, such as the human voice, stringed and acoustic instruments, and recordings made in locations that have acoustical problems. The unit uses Class A circuitry and discrete components to ensure audio quality.

Circle (127) on Rapid Facts Card

Peavey APB 32 audio patchbay

The ¼-inch rack-mounted patchbay, available from Peavey's Audio Media Research division, provides 16 patch channels with ¼-inch connectors, 1¾-inch rack-mount space-saving convenience, special screening for easy patch labeling and a deep patchbay chassis for unrestricted access to the rear jacks. The front panel jacks are normalled for direct feed-through when not patched. Suggested retail price is \$149.99.

Renkus-Heinz stage monitor

This series of small, powerful stage monitors features a 12-inch woofer and a 2-inch throat HF driver, which provides less distortion at maximum output levels. As part of the Smart Systems product line, the monitors are used with Smart Processors. Two models are available. The W-121D was designed for clean mixing at high sound pressure levels. The W-121HD is configured with the horn above the woofer and is designed for small stages and as a high-level vocal monitor. Suggested retail price for both models is \$1,820.

Circle (129) on Rapid Facts Card

Studer Revox high-speed A807

The ¼-inch 4-track recorder is the latest addition to the A807 line and is available in a 30ips version with overbridge metering. The model features MDAC-controlled audio electronics, Dolby HX Pro recording process, servo-controlled dc capstan

Circle (128) on Rapid Facts Card



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CONNECTORS •

• JACKS

ADAPTERS Circle (40) on Rapid Facts Card

PLUGS

and spooling motors, a tape shuttle controller, and RS-232 and other control ports. The A807 is designed for quick response under synchronizer control.

Circle (130) on Rapid Facts Card

ASC production sound catalog

ASC has issued a catalog dedicated to production sound recording equipment and accessories. The 115-page catalog contains 500 original photographs, commentary, articles and other information. According to the company, the catalog is the industry's first that is devoted to production sound recording. The catalog is free.

Circle (131) on Rapid Facts Card

Offbeat Systems Streamline software

The Streamline System, which enables composers to create and edit click tracks. streamers, cues and timing notes while synchronized directly to picture via SMPTE code, has several updates. PAL compatibility is fully supported. Titling, print text, message and cue titles can now be located over source video.

Circle (186) on Rapid Facts Card

Korg M-1R rack module

The M-1R is a 2U rack-mount version of the M-1 music workstation and contains all the standard M-1 features. Additional features include MIDI Overflow, which allows users to combine M-1s and M-1Rs into 32-voice configurations. The front panel includes two card slots, which can accommodate both PCM ROM cards and ROM/RAM program/combination/sequence cards.

Circle (192) on Rapid Facts Card

Brainstorm Electronics TBS-4 talkback switch

The "remotable" talkback switch is designed for Trident consoles, series 65 through 80, and replaces the existing talkback switch. It allows a remote switch to activate the console's talkback. The switch can also be used with the Communicator, the company's infrared remote control. List price is \$98, or \$80 if purchased with the Communicator.

Circle (118) on Rapid Facts Card

Yamaha RX8 rhythm programmer

Designed for live or studio use, the RX8 has a sample library of 43 sounds, including five bass drums, eight toms and

five cymbals. The unit also contains Latin percussion, marimba, orchestra and two electric bass samples, allowing it to provide a bass/keyboard track to accompany the drum program. In addition to left and right outputs, two extra assignable outputs are included, allowing an individual instrument to be assigned for individual signal processing. Suggested retail price is \$495.

Circle (147) on Rapid Facts Card

QSC MX 700 amp

The MX 700 is the latest edition to the company's MX line of power amps. The 2U amp features a back panel that includes electronically balanced ¼-inch ring/tip/sleeve and barrier strip input connectors, and 5-way binding post speaker connectors. Power output is 150W into 8Ω , 225W into 4Ω and 350W into 2Ω . A 3-year parts and labor warranty is included; list price is \$598.

Circle (187) on Rapid Facts Card



Atlas/Soundolier MAC-1

The MAC-1 adapter is designed for close proximity in multiple-micing applications. It will accept all 5/k-inch 27-threaded microphone holders and standard adapters, including flexible goosenecks, twinmount, extension tubes, snap-on/lock-on. shockmount and boom-arm extensions. The model is finished in non-reflecting ebony epoxy and is made of high-strength, extruded aluminum.

Circle (133) on Rapid Facts Card

AMS/Calrec

M/S microphone

Developed from AMS/Calrec SoundField technology, the M/S microphone and stereo control unit have been designed for use in broadcast and recording applications. It can be used upright, inverted or end fire on a boom, and features coincident signals up to 10kHz, output signals L/R or M/S, and variable angle control from 0° to 180°. A stereo control unit is included, which can be powered from 100/240V mains, internal C cells or phantom powered, via two output connectors. Circle (119) on Rapid Facts Card



NEW PRODUCTS

Software and hardware updates

Upgraded Clarity XLV software

The XLV effects interface has been upgraded to enable full automation of Lexicon 224XL, Lexicon 480L and AMS RMX-16 digital delay and reverbs. The software provides full MIDI control of performance parameters and features eight control-voltage ports for automating CVequipped digital delays, VCAs and analog synthesizers. The software automates all page and machine changes available in the LARC controller used with the 224XL and 480L, in addition to the existing automation of fader moves.

Circle (136) on Rapid Facts Card

Studer A820-24 enhancements

Switchable Dolby SR and Dolby A noisereduction systems on a single plug-in card are now available for the Studer A820-24 multichannel recorder. The model can accommodate all currently used noisereduction systems, including the Dolby systems and Telcom C4, C4 DM and C4 E. Also, Studer has introduced a new software release for enhanced operation of the A820-24 in the TV/video post environment.

Circle (138) on Rapid Facts Card

Log detector circuit for Aphex 612

Aphex Systems now installs a new log detector circuit in its model 612 expander/gate units. The circuit provides more consistent decays over a wider dynamic range and a predictable "hold" resetting, especially with pulse-like waveforms. The update has been incorporated into all units with serial numbers beginning with #5371. For earlier Model 612s, Aphex is offering two circuit replacement options: a retrofit kit, \$25, or inhouse replacement, \$50.

Circle (139) on Rapid Facts Card

Adams-Smith Zeta-Three update

Several features have been added to the audio-video-MIDI synchronizer. Tempo maps can up uploaded and downloaded in the standard MIDI File 1.00 format through the MIDI port. Multiple tempo maps can be stored in additional memory, and the unit can learn tempos from analog signals such as click-tracks.

Circle (180) on Rapid Facts Card

Soundtracs update for FMX consoles

Soundtracs has introduced an audiofollows-video controller for the FMX console, enabling up to eight channels of audio to be interfaced with video editors with BVE or GPI outputs. Internal selection on each of the audio channel VCAs may be either BVE, GPI or both simultaneously. The option is available factory-fitted or as a retrofit to existing consoles.

Circle (187) on Rapid Facts Card $\mathbb{R}E/P$

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Not if you have the new ADx-02 Timecode Analyzer. This is a sophisticated test instrument, as well as a fully functional reader-generator with video Key and L.E.D. displays. It can save you time and money. Finding timecode errors on tape before an edit is attempted, or matching color frames and ScH phase, or tracking on a Betacam is easy. For the engineer, it can be the quickest way to set tape speed, realign video play-back heads or check an audio synchronizer for *wow*. Each timecode bit is displayed graphically.

The ADx-02 is being used around the world in a variety of environments and applications. But the diagnostics function is not the end of the story, the ADx-02 is a very versatile timecode reader-generator-inserter, with multiple screen displays, selectable fonts, three jam-sync modes, stable code generation, full speed range read and much more. So why buy just a timecode reader-generator?

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Circle (42) on Rapid Facts Card 76 Recording Engineer/Producer June 1989



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