



MyMix Personal Monitor Mixer
Simple, Powerful and Smart
(and one of the least expensive on the market!)
Product Demonstration - January 29th 2013

Technology resources for your shows & events.

Resource Stage News is a service publication of Horizon Solutions. This newsletter exists to assist schools, churches, theatres and amateur technicians learn and remain connected to industry leading technologies and techniques.

An extension of our Resource Stage seminars, this newsletter aims to keep you informed of new trends, pricing, specials and the latest industry news.

Have an idea for our newsletter? Contact us at 519-453-3368 or info@resourcestage.ca. We would love to hear your feedback!

Horizon Solutions is a member of



Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology

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Remember when audio, video and lighting were simpler?

It's true, when you consider how simple audio systems used to be; Microphone, cable (analog of course), mixer (again - analog), more cable, amplifier, more cable and speaker. That's pretty simple.

Today we have much more to think about; digital snakes, in-ear monitors, wireless microphones, personal monitor mixers, digital consoles, networking, wireless tablet interfaces, power conditioning, compressors, digital programmable equalizers, processors, effects units and more. That's obviously not all the new audio system devices in the last number of years, but when you consider that we haven't installed a system in almost 15 years that does not have at least one of the above innovations, that's pretty amazing.

Video and lighting industries have their own set of new tech. The world of professional audio, video and lighting is moving very quickly these days.

Horizon Solutions continues to look for ways to use new technology to its fullest.

In 2012, we were the first in Canada to implement not one but two, QSC Q-SYS Core 250 Digital Signal Processors. The Q-SYS is currently considered to be the most powerful digital signal processor in the world.

We also had the opportunity to expand our work in architectural lighting and outdoor audio applications as we completed multiple projects utilizing these types of equipment and technologies.

We are very proud of the projects we have worked on and the completed solutions we provide our clients.

As we look into 2013, we can see more of these projects coming as well as new opportunities to support and train our clients through new initiatives with Resource Stage seminars. We're looking forward to working with you this year!

Personal Monitor Mixing:

myMix

myMix began as a system designed for musicians to play, collaborate and record their work together.

The package was simple, smart and flexible. So flexible that when the market ask engineers to expand the system, they were able to take what seemed like a simple system and they were able to turn it into one of the most powerful personal monitor mixing systems in the market.

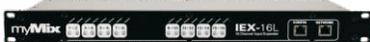
myMix Personal Monitor Mixer



Colour backlit display, intuitive controls and a simple menu structure make the myMix mixer an easy tool for musicians and vocalists to use. It allows them to do what they are there to do; not fool around with controls!



Connectivity with the myMix is extremely simple but not so much that it's not useful. You get what you need and not much more.



myMix is worth the sticker price and then some. If you'd like to see it in action and determine if it may be a system worth fitting into your budget, come check out our product demo 7:00 pm - Jan 29th, 2013 @ Horizon.

VIDEO: DIGITAL VS ANALOG

part 2 - WHAT'S WRONG WITH ANALOG?

continued from RSN Nov 2012

So the question becomes... "Why should a new video system be designed around digital video transport instead of analog?" This is a good question. Analog is cheaper than digital. Analog is somewhat backwards compatible and analog signals are relatively easy to split, manipulate and use.

Analog Signals Degrade

Although an analog system based around VGA or Component video signal transport is cheaper, that's really where the long term advantages end. Analog signals are, in fact, analog electrical signals. From the moment that the signal leaves the source device the signal is already degrading. That means that if you need to send the signal over a long distance you need to amplify it. In order to split the signal you need to amplify it and each time you do this any degradation from the original signal is amplified and passed on. That's the first issue.

Analog Is Disappearing

The second issue is that analog technology is starting to be taken away from us. For various reasons computer and electronics manufacturers are not going to continue to develop new equipment to support analog video moving forward. It is a fact that Intel and AMD will discontinue producing the VGA chipsets for computers by the end of 2015. (That may seem like a long time away but most of our clientele would like their systems to operate for longer than 2 or 3 years.) It is also a fact that many devices (DVD, BluRay Players and others) are now limiting the resolution output on the component video outputs (which should be capable of sending 720p). This means that even though it is technically possible to send good quality images over analog cables with analog outputs, those technologies are being taken away from us.

HDCP Copyright Protection

The third issue is a question of copyright protection. Over 10 years ago Intel developed a copyright protection system designed to thwart illegal copying of digital media. First utilized on DVD players, this protection has become the standard for many digital signals. HDCP (High-Bandwidth Digital

Content Protection) is now found to be implemented on the digital outputs of DVD Players, BluRay Players, computers and handheld devices. The protection system is quite complex however in its simplest form it's based on a handshake between a source device and the display device at the other end of the signal path. In the case of a BluRay Player connected to your television in your home theatre, a signal is sent from the player to your home theatre receiver, the receiver sends back a signal which is something along the line of "hi... yes I will conform with all HDCP rules" and then the BluRay player replies with an "All good" and the video signal is passed along to the receiver. The receiver also passes a signal (to the television) asking the same question looking for same reply. If the television does not reply correctly then the entire system shuts down video output.

So, how does this affect you if you're using an analog system? Couldn't you send a signal from the HDMI on your computer or BluRay player and convert it with a scaler or switcher scaler to an analog signal and output that to the projector and everything will work? Yes and no. Yes it will work IF the source (BluRay or Computer) is not sending HDCP compliance requests to the switcher scaler/computer. If it does have HDCP, and the signal has been converted to analog, then there will be no reply from the device. No reply will always result in no video output.

Unfortunately, this only gets worse. Because HDCP has become a standard on digital video signal transport (both HDMI and DVI as well as Thunderbolt and DisplayPort) there are many devices which come standard with the HDCP protection with all video content. That is to say that with some source electronics (including the Sony PS3, the MAC MINI and others) the digital signal outputs will shut down if they are not connected with a digital signal conduit from the source to the display device. We have had clients connect MAC computers into switcher scalars using the HDMI output and the signal shuts down. The signal will not allow itself to be converted to an analog signal no matter what. Even though that content is created by the user and not a Hollywood studio, the technology is not allowing the conversion.

continued next issue

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Technology Tips... Did you know?

Taming the acoustic nightmare New Paintable Panels allow for more customization.

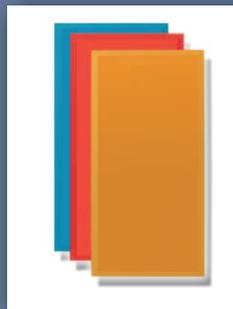
The acoustics of a classroom, gymnasium or auditorium have the largest impact on how well people can hear, focus on and understand what is being taught.

Canadian based Primeacoustic is a leader in quality performance, cost effective acoustic treatment and panels. Backed by published lab test results and supported by satisfied customers around the world Primeacoustic is one of the treatment solutions Horizon Solutions recommends to our clients.

Horizon Solutions provides acoustic analysis and treatment implementation. Primeacoustic's paintable panels open up a wide variety of options for our clients looking for a treatment option that fits the style of their space. Contact us for more information.

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GEAR THAT'S GOT OUR ATTENTION

ENTTEC DMX USB ProMK2 USB / DMX Device (and MIDI too)



The ENTTEC USB Pro has become the industry standard as a versatile USB to DMX device.

At the 2012 LDI Show in Orlando ENTTEC was presented with the award for Best Debuting Product in the Widget Category for the DMX USB Pro Mk2. This new device offers two universes of DMX output, one universe input and bidirectional MIDI control. A great solution for customers looking to use their computer as a lighting control device.

ENTTEC USB Pro MK2
\$190.00

Roland M200i Compact Digital Audio Mixer



So you're looking for a new mixer. You don't have the budget or room for something like an A&H GLD or the Roland M480. You need much of the features and power but not all of it.

You'd like to have recallable presets, motorized faders, effects and a digital snake. On top of that you need more than 24 channels. Having wireless control from an iPad would be icing on the cake. So what's the answer? Can you fit it into your budget?

The M200i is just what you need.

\$3,495.00 without digital snake

\$4,995.00 with 16x8 digital snake

contact us for more info

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2012/13 Seminars
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Jan 29th - MYMIX DEMO NIGHT

Feb 12th - Live Audio Mixing 101

Feb 26th - Allen & Heath GLD DEMO NIGHT

Mar 19th - Large Image Projection

JUN 22 - RESOURCE STAGE - THE CONFERENCE

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emails about the next Resource Stage Seminar
\$5 @ the door - no registration required



Get connected to industry leading
technology and techniques.

Audio, Lighting & Video
Seminars for Amateur
Technicians

Resource Stage seminars are an
opportunity for the part time technician,
teacher or theatre enthusiast who wants
to learn more about the technical
aspects of shows and events.

We encourage all participants to come
with their questions and real life
experiences to add to the discussion
forum.

Each month we discuss and explore the
latest technology and techniques as
presented by industry professionals.

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** Horizon Solutions recommends 120V bulbs for improved longevity - 115V bulbs are available upon request **