

109th AES Convention News

RECORDING

Z Technology, have souped up their RADAR system. RADAR 24 incorporates a 24-bit/192k engine, integrated 100-BaseT ethernet networking, GUI and waveform display, two DVD-RAM backup drives and more.

Amber Technology: (02) 9975 1211

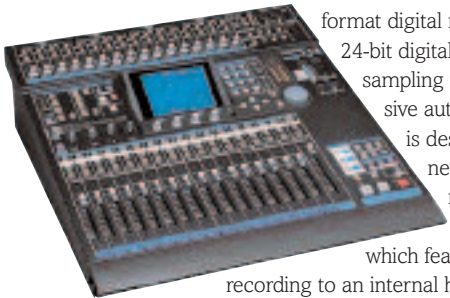


HBB introduced the CDR830 BurnIT, a new low-cost professional audio CD recorder. The BurnIT uses 24-bit converters, is solidly engineered and records on pro-type CD-R and CD-RW – not the more expensive consumer discs – and is entirely SCMS free.

AWA: (02) 9669 3477

Sony and **Philips** are moving SACD into multichannel with a new wave of professional tools and consumer hardware. Sony announced it'll be shipping its new eight-channel DSD editing workstation in coming months, and has announced an alliance with Tascam in the form of a DSD recording option on Tascam's DA-98HR recorder. A multichannel SACD demo room was set up to demonstrate the difference between stereo and multichannel audio – Herbie Hancock leant an ear.

Sony: (02) 9878 9717



Tascam showed its new DM-24 small format digital recording console, featuring 24-bit digital converters and up to 96k sampling rates. There's a comprehensive automation spec, and the DM-24 is designed to dovetail with their new MX-2424 24-bit HD recorder. Also from Tascam was the 788 Portastudio, which features 24-bit uncompressed

recording to an internal hard drive. There's EQ, internal effects and processing, and an easy user interface. Tascam are offering an optional CDR-788 to allow for CD recording via the 788's SCSI bus.

Tascam: (03) 9682 5886

Junger Audio's digital dynamics processor Model d02 is a high quality device (compressor, limiter, expander) for adjusting the dynamic range of digital as well as analogue audio signals in studio applications. The unit has a digital AES/EBU interface and high resolution 24-bit A/D converters which allow dynamic range processing in the digital and analogue domains. The increase in program density and loudness level are 'entirely free' of colouration,

pumping, breathing, distortion or modulation effects.

Control Devices: (02) 9356 1943

E-mu has worked on the PARIS DSP-based DAW and came up with PARIS Pro. The new Pro system is even more expandable, and includes features like OMF file import/export, integrated Midi, and dedicated waveform editor. TDIF and AES/EBU modules will be available soon for the MEC which, along with the C16, are now blue in colour(!).

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988

AMS Neve is launching the 88R, the company's first all-new Neve analogue console in almost 20 years. The new board combines original Neve designs with the latest components and techniques. The 88R is designed for 5.1 as well as stereo, and will include the comprehensive Encore automation system.

Syncrotech Systems: (02) 9879 0800

Prism Sound demonstrated the dScope Series III, a high performance test system for both digital and analogue audio equipment. Compact and 'affordably' priced, dScope III performs two-channel testing with independent signal generation and analysis for each channel at sampling rates of up to 192kHz.

Control Devices: (02) 9356 1943

Event's EZbus will act as a computer audio recording interface, a software control surface, and as a stand-alone digital mixer. Its most obvious application lies with all those recording to their Midi+Audio software. Via USB, EZbus will provide hardware control of the software functions, allow you to record straight to disk, bypassing the need for a separate sound card, and do a lot more besides.



Music Link: (03) 9765 6530

Metric Halo, makers of Spectrafoo for Mac, were showing their new 'Mobile I/O'. It's a portable, high quality, modular Firewire-based multi-format audio I/O for professional and multimedia applications. It supports all of the standard professional and multimedia sound driver APIs for both MAC and Windows, including ASIO, Sound Manager, and Wave drivers. It also supports simultaneous input and output of all the major audio standards, including analogue balanced and unbalanced (mic, line & Instrument), S/PDIF, AES, and IEEE 1394. Analogue I/O are 24-bit/96k compatible.

Sound Devices: (02) 9283 2077

Apogee Electronics' Trak2 is a two-channel A/D converter with a built-in mic preamp. Apogee are so proud of the preamp design they're marketing the Trak2 as a 'mic pre with a converter' rather than the other way around. There's a bunch of analogue and digital I/O on board, while the 24-bit converter operates at 44.1k to 96k



with a dynamic range in excess of 117dB. Apogee Electronics was also showing a new multi-channel D/A converter for the first time, which features a novel double-reclocking system for 'intelligent' jitter removal. The IntelDAC 9616 is a 16-channel 24-bit D/A converter system capable of operating at sample rates of up to 96k.

Sound Devices: (02) 9283 2077

Yamaha has joined forces with **Otari** to popularise Yamaha's mLAN digital network interface technology for use in high-end audio components, digital recorders and digital mixers. The two companies will jointly develop an mLAN specification chip capable of handling greater volumes of audio data.

Yamaha: 1800 805413

Noren Technologies was showing 'NoiseLock'. NoiseLock is an isolation box (without external fans) for PCs and it also provides cooling, using the Noren Heat-

Pipe technology. It features a cable hole in the rear of the unit for cable routing, a digital temperature meter with alarm, windowed front door, and casters for easy portability. Cool and Silent.



Just when you think you've seen everything, along comes something like the airFX from **Alesis**. The airFX processes incoming audio or generates sound effects in reaction to movement. Alesis' new Axyz technology uses an infrared beam that can be manipulated in three dimensions (along the X, Y and Z axis). Using triangulation, up to five different parameters can be controlled in each preset program.

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988

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HAVING problems getting a KILLER drum sound?



LIVE SOUND

Following on from the launch of the ML5000, **Allen & Heath** have introduced the ML4000. It's a VCA-equipped, 12 aux, eight audio group mixer with eight mute groups four-way matrix and enhanced LCR and IEM facilities.

TAG: (02) 9810 5300

QSC were demonstrating their new two-channel DSP-3 digital signal process. The DSP-3 slots in the back of the likes of their PowerLight 2 Series amps and provides two channels of independent DSP – including crossover filters, shelf filters, signal delay, compression, peak limiting or parametric filters.



TAG: (02) 9810 5300

The new **Crown CE4000** is the highest powered CE Series amp to date. It's cost effective and ideal for installs, gigging bands, A/V rental houses etc.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

Inter-M showed their new range of compact, and affordable installation series of amps. The M500/700/1000 amps are all 2U, have a bunch of thermal protection features and look ideal for theme bar, pub, and club installation applications.

Magna Systems: (02) 9417 1111

Sony introduced the latest additions to its wireless mic family. The newly developed WRT-847B UHF synthesised transmitter unit, its interchangeable mic heads and the WRR-862B UHF synthesised dual diversity tuner. Also new is the WRT-808A UHF synthesised transmitter which easily plugs on to convert a microphone to a wireless microphone.

Sony: (02) 9878 9717



JBL's new VerTec Series Model VT4889 is a three-way line array system. The boast is a 'significantly better output power to size/weight ratio' than similar systems. JBL look to have done their homework and there's

quite a bit of fresh innovation in the VerTec.

JBL also introduced the EVO 'intelligent sound reinforcement system'. EVO is a complete ready-to-use sound system with automatic digital control over room EQ, feedback suppression, delay settings and amp dynamics.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

EAW introduced the SM84, a new extremely high output stage monitor. The SM84 has four heavy duty eight-inch drivers for the LF section and a quarter-inch (three-inch diaphragm) HF compression driver.

Production Audio Services: (03) 9415 1585

AKG have built on the success of their Emotion Series mics with Emotion II. There's four new mics: the D440, D550, D660, and D770. The range spans a variety of polar patterns and on-stage application.

AWA: (02) 9669 3477



Sony released the SRP-F300 dual input digital audio processor. It provides audio processing and loudspeaker management functions. Programmed via a PC, up to 99 units can be operated from a single PC COM port making the SRP-F300 well suited for use at large venues requiring complex control.

Sony: (02) 9878 9717

EV unveiled its X-Line series line array system. It's a three-way system incorporating EV's HF wavefront alignment device, which provides planar and time-coherent signal addition.

EVI Audio: (02) 9648 3455



Peavey Architectural Acoustics (the team behind the Media-Matrix) have released a new slimline 1U mixer, designed for high quality installations. On board the SMR821 you'll find: six balanced mic/line inputs, two stereo inputs, three assignable bus outputs, selectable phantom power, 20dB pad on all mic inputs, four-band EQ and adjustable ducking. Other interesting features include facilities for remote volume control and source selection as well as a linking function for room combining or simply when more inputs are needed.

Audio Telex: (02) 9647 1411

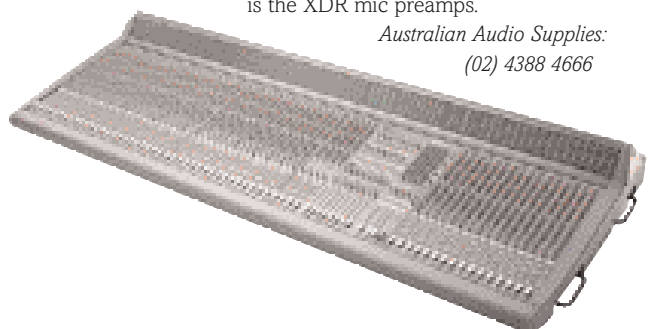
dB Technologies' Opera is a new range of active loudspeakers. The latest entrant, the Opera 415, combines 'advanced electronics' and acoustic engineering, dB has a well matched loudspeaker system that delivers considerable power into a compact and stylish unit.

CMI: (03) 9315 2244

Mackie's SR1530 is a three-way, tri-amplified, horn loaded, active system designed for high definition and extreme output levels. RCF components of the SR1530 include a 15-inch woofer with inside/outside high temperature coil technology, a high-output, horn loaded six-inch midrange speaker, and a one-inch exit compression driver mounted on a wide dispersion, high/mid horn design. The SR1530 is powered by an integrated three-channel amplifier module that generates 500 watts of total power.

Mackie's SR24.4 and SR32.4 sound reinforcement consoles have been upgraded to VLZ PRO Series status. The main drawback here is the XDR mic preamps.

*Australian Audio Supplies:
(02) 4388 4666*



MONITORING

Dynaudio has launched the BM5.1A surround mixing system, which consists of five matched dual 100W amplified BM6A nearfield monitors and one active BX30 bass extension system.

Amber Technology: (02) 9975 1211

KRK added to its V-Series and S-Series monitor lines with the V4 mini monitor and the S8 mini subwoofer.

Syncrotech Systems: (02) 9879 0800

ATC introduced the T16 two-way active monitor and P4 monoblock amp. The T16 is a 250W bi-amped 6.5-inch bass/mid plus one-inch tweeter unit.

TAG: (02) 9810 5300

The **AKG** Hearo 888 Titan and Hearo 999 Audiosphere surround headphones are the 'first wireless headphone that provide surround sound with the dynamic range of today's theatres'. The Hearo 888 Titan converts the analogue input signal to digital and all signal processing and transmission to the headphones take place in the digital domain. The Hearo 999, however, provides input for digital signals from, say, a DVD player or digital TV. All audio signal processing is performed in the digital domain at 24-bit resolution.

AWA: (02) 9669 3477

Alesis has upgraded their Monitor One nearfields. Quite a bit has been tweaked for the Mk2, including

redesigned drivers for improved response and magnetic shielding has been added. Alesis has also extended its RA series of power amps. The rack-mountable RA150/300/500 are priced well, run cool, offer protection features, and look ready to be used on the Stealth Bomber's cockpit stereo.

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988

Tannoy is addressing the extended frequency response of SACD with their SuperTweeter. It's designed to complement Tannoy's lines of dual concentric loudspeakers.

Syntec International: (02) 9417 4700

Vergence demonstrated their range of high quality, affordable monitoring systems. The first thing you notice about Vergence monitors is their eccentric dimensions, but the lack of parallel surfaces should offer considerable sonic advantages. The A-10 and A-20 are two-way designs with an external amplifier and crossovers integral to the performance of the systems.

Tascam: (03) 9682 0411



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SOFTWARE & HARDWARE



Digidesign introduced ProTools software version 5.1. The version update number is fitting because it includes all-new surround mixing, editing and processing capabilities on ProTools24 MIX/MIXplus systems. Version 5.1 also features stereo and multichannel disk tracks simplifying management of multichannel audio data. Tracks now support multiple output assignments for simultaneous creation of multi-format mixes as well as independent multichannel panning. For precision control when automating surround pan moves, a large graphical XY Panner display is provided. Get a free demo download of 5.1 on 'digidesign.com'.

Digidesign also introduced its Reverb One TDM plug-in. Reverb One aims to be the first reverb plug-in to match the sonic qualities of 'today's most expensive hardware units'.

Digidesign and **Line 6** released Echo Farm, the new vintage echo effects processing plug-in for Pro Tools | 24 MIX and MIXplus systems. The modeling technology used for

Line 6's Amp Farm is once again used to capture the sound of vintage hardware.

Digidesign announced the release of version 2.3 of MasterList CD. MasterList CD version 2.3 implements 12x write speed with the Plextor PlexWriter, allowing a full 650MB CD-ROM to be written in just over six minutes. The 74-minute record limit has now been removed and support for popular 80-minute media has been added.

Digidesign: (03) 5428 7780

TC Works' Mercury-1 is a virtual VST analogue software synth. It's a monophonic synth with four engines, each of which has a dual oscillator and an additional sub oscillator that are totally integrated in the Mac or PC-base VST-compatible audio recording environment. Also new is a surround reverb for Steinberg's Nuendo system.

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988

There's two new DSP systems from **Creamware**. The Elektra is a complete virtual modular synthesiser system, based on a combination of software and DSP

hardware. Meanwhile, the Luna 2496 DSP has been custom-tailored for recording situations. The audio I/O interface features 12 24-bit/96k inputs and outputs in its basic configuration. The Luna software package includes DSP-based applications for mixing, surround sound (via a 5.1 surround mixer) and free signal routing.

Major Music: (02) 9545 3540

Emagic has added Internet connectivity to their Logic Audio Platinum 4.6 update. In co-operation with Rocket Network, Emagic has introduced the Pro Studio Center, an on-line virtual studio complex designed for pro residents and clients. The new Center offers music and audio pros the opportunity to lease their own private studios, with scalable bandwidth and storage options. The Center currently has over two terabytes of archiving capacity.

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988

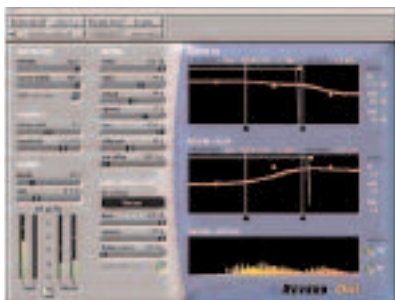
Waves announced a v3.0 revision to its processors. You'll now find the new Renaissance Collection, (with the Renaissance EQ, Renaissance Compressor and the new Renaissance Reverb), has more processors in every bundle, 48-bit processing (exclusive to TDM users), and graphic enhancements.

Music Technology: (02) 6571 1898

Steinberg demonstrated the new Version 1.5 of the Nuendo Media Production System. Aimed at the audio for film, video and interactive media markets, Nuendo is a cross platform modular system which includes several hardware accessories. Nuendo features up to 200 tracks of 24-bit/96k digital audio, advanced-featured surround mixing, a Video-Track, and Midi-Tracks, along with the most comprehensive functions for digital audio available.

Nuendo 1.5 includes full VST 2.0 support offering access to a variety of Virtual Studio Instruments such as Steinberg's Pro-52 and PPG 2.V virtual synthesisers. An option for Sony 9-pin Translators for control of appropriate devices is available. Steinberg Spectral Design will offer Dolby Digital 5.1 encoding in the near future with the package. A Sony 9-pin translator for control of appropriate devices is included.

Music Link: (03) 9765 6530



EFFECTS & PROCESSING

TC Electronic introduced the SP-1 surround panner joystick for their System 6000, a new



external hardware multichannel control device for the popular surround and multi-engine signal processing mainframe. (Apparently Stevie Wonder was checking out the S6000 system in TC's demo room.) TC also unveiled the Triple-C multiband envelope and full-band compressor – a dedicated three-band insert compressor targeted towards project studio owners and live sound applications.

Amber Technology: (02) 9975 1211

Sony has made their flagship DRE-S777 sampling reverb even more attractive by adding a bunch of optional software. The DASK-S704 sampling software allows users to sample their own spaces and store them on Memory Stick media. There's also two new CD-ROM reverb packages, including the American Acoustic Spaces, which features the Grand Canyon among more conventional acoustic spaces.

Sony: (02) 9878 9717



Electrix introduced the Repeater, which features Midi sequencer-style control over audio loops by offering independent, real-time manipulation over tempo, key and track offset.

Major Music: (02) 9545 3540

Newly formed TC-Helicon Vocal Technologies unveiled the first

product in its line of voice processing tools – the TC-Helicon VoicePrism Voice Formant and Pitch Processor. Via the 48V mic preamp you can access any of the onboard processes including – compression, gating, dual fully parametric EQ, four-voice harmony (with individually adjustable gender controls and humanising parameters), fifth lead-doubling voice for automatic double-tracking, two separate post-effects blocks, effects and harmony libraries, and even audition sampled human voices for preset previewing.

Amber Technology: (02) 9975 1211

Yamaha had a new sampling reverb of their own to demonstrate. It's a high-end, multichannel, digital sampling effects system which incorporates the SREV 24-bit mainframe plus full-function remote.

Yamaha: 1800 805413

The new **dbx 376** is a tube preamp channel strip with digital outputs. The 1U chassis features a vacuum tube preamp section, three-band parametric EQ, compressor, built-in de-essing, and AES/EBU and S/PDIF digital outputs.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

Crystal released the CS43122 D/A, also known as 'Super DAC' and it claims 122dB dynamic range and 0.0007% THD+N. It supports sampling rates up to 192kHz. Reports suggest it sounded very good indeed.

GT Electronics introduced the Vipre mic preamp, an all-tube unit that combines switch-selectable impedance, rise-time and gain control features. You won't find a single transistor, IC or electrolyte cap in the Vipre. You will find 1dB gain steps, and complete audio metering facilities.

Electric Factory: (03) 9480 5988



MICROPHONES

Following on from the success of the KSM32, **Shure** released its flagship KMS44. The large dual diaphragm mic features an externally biased side address condenser and three polar patterns.

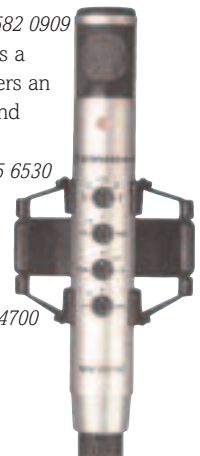
Behringer demonstrated their new B-2 multipurpose mic. The condenser mic features a large, one-inch dual-diaphragm capsule with gold-sputtered membranes which delivers an 'flat frequency response' from 20Hz to 20kHz. There's a switchable high pass filter and -10dB pad.

Sennheiser has redesigned its MKH80 and christened it the MKH800. The new mic boasts a frequency response extending up to 50kHz and a dynamic range of 126dB at a self-noise of only 10dB(A). The extended frequency response is Sennheiser's answer to the needs of new storage mediums such as SACD and DVD-A.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

Music Link: (03) 9765 6530

Syntec International: (02) 9417 4700



VELVET'S NO.1

Late last year Universal Music Canada's top signing 'soulDecision' cruised Downunder for a couple months of album tracking with international producers Charles Fisher (Savage Garden, Ace of Bass, Invertigo) and Femi Jiya (Stevie Wonder, Prince, Ben Harper). The entire album was recorded in Sydney's Velvet Sound, and mixed in L.A. at Pacifique Studios by Chris Lord Alge, Tim Palmer and Femi Jiya. The album is now going great guns in Canada and The States.

Velvet Sound: (02) 9283 5968

DEX UPGRADE

Dex Mastering has undergone significant upgrading in recent times. To add to their reputable custom gear Dex has now installed a SADiE 24.96 system for Room 2 and an Echo Layla system in the revamped editing/dubbing suite (Room 3). This means all systems go, as the need for high-end mastering experience and flexibility increases. Also new at Dex: the retro-look valve DIs and valve mic/line preamps available for hire. (+30dB in/out, 140dB dynamic range and four valves per channel in the signal path).

Dex Mastering: (03) 9372 2266



NEW MANAGER AT 301

Studios 301 in Sydney has seen Steve Defina move into the Studio Manager position. Most of us know Steve one way or another, either in his previous roles as Australia's SAE general manager, live and studio engineering work with Tommy Emmanuel, Angry Anderson, Darryl Braithwaite, Nathan Cavaleri and others, or

more recently as Sales Manager for Syncrotech spruiking KRK and Beyerdynamic. Steve looks ideally suited to continue the momentum of 301's relocation and redevelopment last year.

Studios 301: (02) 9698 5888

TIGER'S CS3000

Tiger Recording Studios, has been doing swift business since they installed a new Euphonix CS3000 console in their main control room. Tiger has always been strong in the TV advertising industry and the 72-fader digitally controlled console has been ideal.

"We initially made the decision to upgrade Studio A from an analogue to a digitally controlled console," Tiger Recording owner, Greg Devine explains, "in order to speed up the session turn around, and eliminate the 'dead time' that is created while preserving a mix prior to final ad agency approval. If we could reliably store and then recall a mix, we could move on to other projects while the approval process commenced."



Tiger Recording Studios: (02) 9922 4700

AW4416 and the full range of Yamaha Digital Products are available at these Premium Yamaha Dealers

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Better Music 02 6282 3199

NSW

Sound on Stage 02 9281 0077

Sound Devices 02 9283 2077

Turramurra 02 9449 8487

Hutchings 02 9387 5011

VIC

Soundcorp 03 9488 1555

Warehouse Sound 03 9417 4866

Manny's Fitzroy 03 9416 1564

Manny's Prahran 03 9529 7241

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