

Yamaha AW2816

Yamaha know they're onto a winning formula with the AW4416 audio workstation, and releasing a slightly 'slim-line' version of that product was always going to be a popular move.

The AW2816 records up to 16 tracks of true 24-bit digital audio and includes motorised faders, DSP features, automation/snapshot capability and Midi remote – making it worthy addition to a home studio or as a front end to a computer-based recording system.

Anyone who's every used a Yamaha digital mixing product will be able to tell what's on the menu by taking a look at the product pic. The usual impressive complement of dynamics, EQ, motorised faders, digital and analogue I/O, effects, expandability and automation is all present and correct.

An inclusive 16-track recording system, records directly to the internal 20GB IDE hard drive; while an integrated CD-RW drive, which enables mastering as well as loading and/or backing up data, is installed in a front-mounted port for easy accessibility. Price: \$4495.

Yamaha Australia: 1800 805413



Mackie MDR24/96

Mackie have cut the price of 24-track hard disk recording with their new MDR24/96. What you get, effectively, is an HDR24/96 without the graphical editing capabilities.

The new MDR24/96 includes an internal 20GB Ultra-DMA hard disk that delivers over 100 minutes of 24-track recording at 48k and a built-in drive bay for Mackie Media M-90 recording drives and Mackie Media Project backup drives.

The MDR24/96 ships with three, 24-bit/48k analogue I/O cards as standard. Optional digital I/O cards are available. Sync and clock capabilities include Midi MMC and MTC, SMPTE, video blackburst and word clock. A standard 100BaseT Ethernet port for connection to PCs and networks is also included.

The MDR24/96 is also compatible with Mackie's new Remote 48 Pro remote control. With the Remote 48 Pro, users can operate two hard disk recorders from a single control surface.

I understand that the Australian list price will be \$7,995, but the MDR24/96 will be launched at a 'special price' of \$6,495.

Australian Audio Supplies: (02) 4388 4666



Line 6 40 years of Stompboxes

Line 6 has announced a new line of Studio Modeller Rack Processors. There's currently three in the range: the Echo Pro, Mod Pro, and Filter Pro, and the object is to take the best of the last 40 years of stompbox and effects design and put it into a 1U rack.

All of the units feature full Midi control, tap tempo, lots of preset memory, and XLR/jack I/O – oh, and the PSU is internal. Hurrah!

Music Link: (03) 9765 6565



Echo LapTop solution

Echo has rather cleverly introduced a laptop interface for their Layla and Mona audio interfaces. Just plug the adapter's card into the PCMCIA slot of your laptop and you're away. Layla LapTop and Mona LapTop provide the same recording quality found on Layla24 and Mona and if you own a laptop and already have a Layla24 or Mona for your desktop computer, the Echo LapTop Adapter is available separately to allow sharing your recording system between computers.

Music Link: (03) 9765 6565



Eventide in 1RU

Eventide has crammed 'up to five time' the processing power of the legendary H3000 into a one rack unit chassis. The Eclipse uses a dual-engine architecture, (configurable in series, parallel, stereo or dual mono) and features the full complement of Eventide's signature pitch change, reverb, and special effects program



presets. The user interface looks to be well thought out, and there's a full range of digital and analogue I/O.

Syntec International: (02) 9417 4700

Aardvark's low ASIO latency

Aardvark has introduced a new driver version 5.14 for their Direct Pro Series line of computer audio interfaces. This new driver has 'exceptional low-latency performance' with any ASIO application.

Driver version 5.14 is based on a new, 'super-efficient' ASIO architecture and offers features that provide low latency performance with any ASIO application. This new driver is available for free download at: www.aardvark-pro.com/downloads.

Innovative Music Australia: (03) 9540 0658

or info@innovativemusic.com.au

Quantum II

Dbx has given its Quantum mastering device some new features – enough to warrant a 'II' anyway. The Quantum feature list already includes: 24-bit/96k A/D D/A, digital I/O on AES/EBU or S/PDIF, 48-bit internal signal path, dbx's Type IV A/D conversion system with TSE, four-band stereo compressor/gate/limiter, five-band EQ (high and low shelves, three-band fully parametric and MS EQ) and dither outputs to 16, 20, or 24 bits. So what's new? Well, the Quantum II now employs the new Crystal 8420 Digital Audio Transceiver chip. This new chip allows the processor to use the digital clocks from any source: internal, AES/EBU, S/PDIF or

word clock on BNC. It also allows sample rate conversion to and from 44.1k, 48k, 88.2k, 96k sample rates. The Quantum II also offers an RS-232 connection on the rear panel that, along with the included software control program, allows computer control of parameters. This GUI makes it easy to adjust and view parameters simultaneously.

Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909/info@jands.com.au

Manley's Grand SLAM!

Apparently SLAM! stands for 'Stereo Limiter And Mic-pre' and it also poetically describes what this unit will do to most VU meters. With SLAM!, Manley aimed to take the sound of the best classic compressors and



combine those into a stereo tube unit.

So you'll find Manley's electro-optical circuit in there along with a FET-based brick-wall limiter which is 'reminiscent of some cool classics'. A sidechain filter has been added that can remove low frequencies. The FET-based limiter has 'different desirable characteristics' that both optimise the signal for digital recording (due to the brick-wall capability), and let you dial in how clean or crunchy, or punchy, and, of course, how loud you want it.

Syntec International: (02) 9417 4700



ADK Mics

ADK are an emerging audio brand, that, guess what, make cost effective studio mics. Suspend your disbelief for a while as these mics really look rather good.

The A-51 is cardioid built to have a wide frequency response, smooth response curve, large dynamic range, and low distortion. It uses a one-inch diaphragm and discrete Class A FET electronics featuring a trans-

former coupled balanced output. The variant A-51s includes a bass roll-off switch and a -10 dB pad. A-51 comes in under \$600.

The A-51TC is the tube version, and is a multi-pattern design that can be switched between nine different patterns. A dedicated AC power supply comes with the package. The A-51TC is priced at \$1,999.

Music Link: (03) 9765 6565



ETEK – All The Range

ETEK are an Italian company that have a 10 year track record, but only now have made an entrance into the Australian market, with a wide range of live and studio processing units, including Sovtek tube-based processors, digital mixers, analogue mixers and DI units. All the equipment looks to be well constructed and given the equipment's attractive pricing will be another viable alternative to the thrifty-minded home studio owner/engineer.

CMI: (03) 9315 2244

Zoom production station

Zoom are now in the hard disk recorder game, with a 10-track device called the MRS1044. There's a built-in 15GB hard drive, effects, built-in drum sounds, bass sounds, and velocity sensitive rhythm trigger pads.

The mixer section features two-band EQ, there's a good complement of I/O, while SCSI and USB ports can be added as optional extras. The 1044 is \$1,795.

Dynamic Music: (02) 9939 1299

Microphone Data Book

Research are renowned for their microphone windshields and suspensions and enjoy a great relationship with all the major mic manufacturers. So, they're in the perfect position to pull off this exceptionally ambitious book project.

The Microphone Data book is a weighty tome. There's over a 1,000 pages full of every microphone currently in use within the entertainment industries.

Each microphone is given a page of details that outline its characteristics, specs, price range etc. I wouldn't say the Microphone Data book is a coffee table book for the lovers of microphone esoterica. No, but it's an unparalleled resource for any professional that needs an easy reference of basically every mic currently in production.

My hat goes off to Hugh Robjohns and his team in putting this book together, it must have been an incredible undertaking, but it fulfils its purpose admirably – it's very easy to peruse, all the relevant information is there at a glance, and the book is generally easy on the eye.

However, it's not cheap. Initial indications suggest it'll be around the \$250 mark in Australia, but for the 'most comprehensive publication about microphones ever produced' I suppose you do expect to 'dip' a little deeper.

*Syntec International: (02) 9417 4700
or www.microphone-data.com*



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Yorkville Nearfields

Yorkville have over 30 years experience of building speaker cabs but they're mostly known for their live gear. The YSM Series is actually aimed at the small

studio/control room market but can also double-up as a fixed installation speaker. Yorkville studio monitors are said to deliver 'tight, punchy bass with superior clarity and imaging'. (Next issue when we review these guys, we'll find out.) The passive YSM1s are \$795 a pair.

*Dynamic Music:
(02) 9939 1299*



System 5 Optimised for Film Mixing

The new Euphonix System 5F (Film) is a derivative of the 24-bit/96k digital console and looks to optimise the System 5's configuration and ergonomics for film and post production applications.

With its extensive surround and automation capabilities, multi-format input channels with pre-mix fold outs, multi-format outputs, full processing on every channel and custom size control surfaces, the System's 5's architecture and assignability lends itself to film dubbing and multiple operator mixing in an 'intuitive user-friendly package'.

With 'F' versions already installed at Skywalker (2), Todd AO (Liberty & Lantana 3), Deluxe Toronto (3) and Studio Labomatic Paris plus, nearer at hand, The New Zealand Film Unit, the System 5F has already gained considerable acceptance in premier film and post facilities worldwide.

Technical Audio Group: (02) 9810 5300/info@tag.au.com

It's A-Station

Innovation breaks into the entry-level synth market with the new A-Station polyphonic synthesiser. This new Synth has evolved from their Bass Station, bringing in the very latest Novation technology. With up to eight-voice polyphony, the A-Station is the ideal machine for the first home set-up or for experienced professionals looking to add an extra dimension of controllable sound power.

*Innovative Music: Ph (03) 95400 658
or info@innovativemusic.com.au*



Creamware manipulate

Creamware's STS-5000 'Realtime Audio Transforming DSP Sampler' is now available on the Pulsar/XTC platform. It's a 'sampler', but the emphasis is on real-time manipulations of sound. Some of the highlights include real-time time-stretching and pitch-shifting, formant shifting and 'robot mode'. Price: \$899.

Major Music Wholesale: (02) 9545 3540

A&H ML3000

Allen & Heath's ML3000 is a 15-bus live sound VCA console designed to make high quality VCA automation affordable for mid-range PA/AV rental and installation work. Like its bigger siblings (ML4000 and ML5000) the ML3000 is equipped with the LC-Plus system, which uses blend and pan controls on the inputs and groups to allow signal positioning anywhere across the centre and L/R buses. The console is also well suited to church systems, where until now the need for sophisticated grouping has often exceeded the budget available.

Technical Audio Group: (02) 9810 5300/info@tag.au.com

Turbosound Flashlight Mk2

Turbosound's Flashlight system, a concert touring mainstay of the 1990s, has undergone a significant upgrade to the high and mid-high frequencies.

Turbosound set up a focus group of leading international sound engineers and audio production companies, who quickly identified the need for a new HF driver and a new top plate and recone for the 6.5-inch high/mid driver, to create a significant gain in SPL while simultaneously reducing distortion.

Turbosound's director of engineering, Philippe Robineau: "Although the bass end was essentially fine, we knew we could improve the system, as other parts of the frequency range could be strengthened". And so, for the HF unit, they beefed up the magnet assembly of the HF unit and redesigned the driver, resulting in an output gain increase of 6dB. Then for the high/mid driver Turbo focussed on "more output" and a "better blend with the one-inch compression driver".

Flashlight Mk2 has since debuted with success. Looks to be plenty more legs in the ol' girl yet.

Audio Telex: (02) 9647 1411



Klotz Multicore Systems

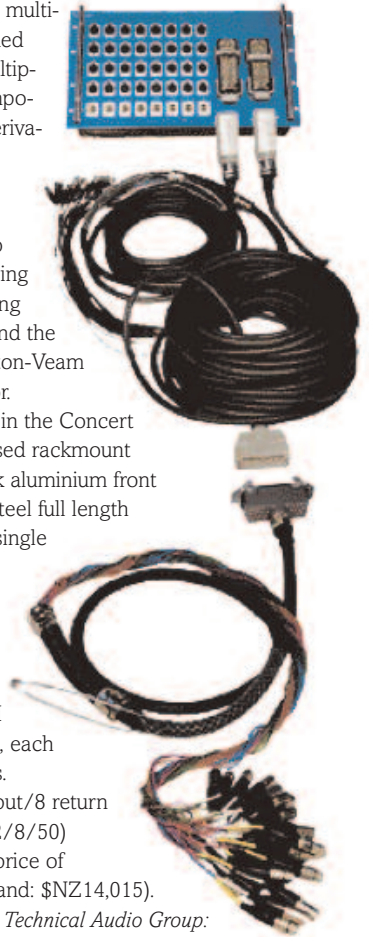
German cable manufacturer Klotz has revised their multicore products with a new range of standard one-piece hard-wired stagebox/cable/XLR multicores plus an expanded Concert range of multipinned, individual components with various derivatives and customised solutions.

The new Concert range consists of two basic formats; one using the rectangular Harting multipin connector and the other the circular Litton-Veam 'Tour-Lock' connector.

All the stageboxes in the Concert range are blue anodised rackmount types with 4mm thick aluminium front plates and stainless steel full length handles. Although a single multipin stagebox is available, the standard configuration employs two parallel multipin sockets, one for FOH and one for monitors, each with locking retainers.

The Harting 32 input/8 return 50m system (KMH32/8/50) pictured has a retail price of \$A10,780 (New Zealand: \$NZ14,015).

*Technical Audio Group:
(02) 9810 5300 or info@tag.au.com*



ARX SPL28

The ARX range of SPL Powered Integrated Loudspeakers has been further expanded with the release of the new SPL28 compact powered sub. It features two new eight-inch LF drivers in a dual-vented enclosure with integral steel grilles and recessed handles. The amp offers ARX's proprietary ISC system protection, ensuring 'maximised high power output while retaining low distortion and providing sonic accuracy'.

ARX: (03) 9555 7859 or info@arx.com.au

JBL Control 29AV

JBL has filled what they see as a market need for a full range speaker, which is larger than other JBL Control Contractor speakers, yet more compact than the JBL Marquis Series speakers. The two-way Control 29AV speaker has an eight-inch

woofer with Kevlar cone for weather resistance and a one-inch exit compression driver mounted onto a rotatable HF horn, which allows use of the speaker in either vertical or horizontal orientation.



Jands Electronics: (02) 9582 0909

Any Mic's a Wireless

Sennheiser brings wireless functionality to any conventionally wired microphone with the SKP 30 miniature plug-on transmitter. Simply plug the little transmitter into the XLR socket of your mic (passive or phantom powered), have an appropriate receiver ready and you've just turned your favourite mic into a wireless. The SKP 30's is sturdily built, promises robust transmission characteristics and 16 pre-programmed, PLL-controlled frequencies. Potentially a very useful device.



Syntec International: (02) 9417 4700



DAS Compact 1 AMS Neve 88R at 301

The Compact 1 incorporates a 1000w class D switching amplifier, delivering 500w to the low frequency transducer (4Ω) and 300w to the mid/high section (8Ω). Both channels are protected against undervoltage, and provide soft clipping, soft start up and mute/un-mute functions. The low frequency section utilises a high efficiency 15-inch low frequency speaker with four-inch voice coil. The mid range frequencies are reproduced by a six-inch horn-loaded cone loudspeaker, developing high sensitivity and consistent pattern control. The high frequency section makes use of a one-inch exit compression driver with two-inch titanium diaphragm, coupled to a constant

directivity horn.

The Compact 1 system is intended for use in sound reinforcement applications where midrange presence and pattern control are desired.

Magna Systems: (02) 9417 1111



Studios 301, Sydney, will be one of the first music studios in the world to install the new AMS-Neve 88R multi format mixing console. The 88R has been widely acclaimed as the 'ultimate analogue desk'. The 88R combines comprehensive bussing and monitoring facilities for all film, DVD and other developing audio formats utilising AMS Neve's Encore automation system. 301 has also acquired a Studer D827 recorder, bumping up its complement to two 48-track DASH format recorders available (along with its Sony 3348HR), providing clients with up to 96 tracks of tape-based digital recording, together with the capability to make 48-track copies.

Studios 301: (02) 9698 5888