

## Solid State Logic

### Studio legends SSL craft their first Live console

**W**hen the SOS team went to the Frankfurt Musikmesse trade show in April, there were a few booths that you just couldn't get near. One of these belonged to Solid State Logic, and the swarms of people were crowding to look at their new Live mixing console.

The Live has been developed in secret for close to three years and is SSL's first live sound product. The Oxford-based company have brought their 35 years of experience in music, broadcast and post-production studio consoles to their live sound mixer, and they promise to equal the audio performance of their studio products. To that end, the Live L500 features 16 SuperAnalogue mic preamps (expandable to 32) and 96KHz, 24-bit D-A conversion to provide a frequency response that is flat within 0.05dB between 20Hz and 20kHz. Sixty-four-bit processing is used internally to power 30 new audio effects and analysis tools, among which are a four-band parametric EQ, high- and low-pass filters with selectable slopes, an all-pass filter for fixing problematic phase relationships, several dynamics tools, and SSL classics such as the Stereo Bus Compressor and Listen Mic Compressor. Also included is a system called Dialogue Automix, taken from SSL's broadcast consoles, which makes fast, transparent and automatic crossfades between up to 12 microphones in a scenario such as an awards ceremony or dramatic production.

The new console has a 19-inch, tablet-like, multi-touch display, a smaller touchscreen display, and an optional separate system monitor display, and comes in 24-fader and 36-fader configurations. The system is fully scalable and can accept up to 976 physical inputs, into 192 paths, 144 of which allow full processing. In terms of I/O, in addition to the mic preamps, there are also four AES ins and outs and eight MADI ports (expandable to 12), allowing routing to, and remote control over, a new range of SSL stage boxes. Larger systems can also make use of SSL's own Blacklight II technology that carries up to 256 channels of bi-directional audio, at 96kHz, over a single fibre connection.

The SSL Live console is due to ship in September and is suitable for a wide range of applications, including touring, installation, FOH, monitors, arenas, houses of worship and concert halls.

Depending on configuration, it will be available for between \$84,000 and \$130,000.

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## Small but Mighty

### Mighty G DI-box plugs straight into your axe

**S**age Electronics are a Canadian company who have been handcrafting preamps, microphones and DI boxes since 2002. Their latest product is the Mighty G, a diminutive, phantom-powered DI box that plugs directly into your instrument. The internal workings of the DI are decidedly old-school, favouring germanium transistors over integrated circuits, and the box's designer, Quentin Meek, claims it adds warmth to bass and sparkle to electric guitars. At 299 Canadian Dollars — approximately \$297 — it isn't cheap, but if it lives up to the claims it could be very interesting, also offering a way of eliminating unbalanced cables that can be susceptible to hum.

[www.sageelectronics.com](http://www.sageelectronics.com)



## Join the Qu

### A&H's Qu16 mixer doubles as USB interface and control surface

**T**he Qu16 is the latest mixer from British live sound experts Allen & Heath. It's a 19-inch rackmountable digital mixer that brings together technology from their GLD and iLive product lines. The Qu16 offers 16 digitally controlled microphone preamps, three stereo inputs, 16 buses and full recall on 17 motorised faders. There is also the option to connect GLD-series stageboxes via Allen & Heath's dSnake protocol over a Cat 5 cable.

Channel-strip settings are addressed via a panel of knobs at the top of the mixer, and an 800x480 pixel touchscreen. Much like the other recent desks from Allen & Heath, the Qu16 also has an accompanying iPad app for wireless remote control.

The Qu16 pulls together many of the features of other Allen & Heath products, including the ability to record multitrack audio to a USB hard drive without the need for a computer. If that's not enough, when you get the mixer home it also doubles as a 22-in, 22-out USB audio interface (currently only compatible with Mac computers) featuring assignable DAW MIDI controls, turning the mixer into a control surface. The Qu16 is available now for £1699 in the UK, but US pricing was unconfirmed at the time of writing and we will bring you a review very soon.

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