



# myMix

Evaluating a personal monitoring system.

by Danny Rosenbalm & Preston Gray

»»» The myMix personal monitoring mixer can be used stand-alone or connected to an Ethernet switch as a system with up to 250 devices. Users can select from all available (24-bit, 48 kHz) audio channels in the network and create individual stereo mixes using up to 16 channels for headphones, in-ear monitors and (powered) loudspeakers.

After recently evaluating a myMix system at our Nashville shop over the course of several weeks, the term flexibility foremost comes to mind. The system provides musicians a range of options for performances, rehearsals, and individual practice time, while also meeting our goal to alleviate the tech team's workload while making the musicians feel comfortable in both rehearsals and performances.

If musicians feel more comfortable, they can spend time focusing on their performance. Further, in the case of a band or church with limited tech support, the engineer/technician can spend less time on stage and more time making sure the performance translates well to the audience.

Let's start with the musicians. A myMix mixer – the heart of the system – allows them to dial in 16 channels, controlling volume, pan, effect level, and tone of each channel. The mixer will mix 16 channels simultaneously, and each musician can choose from up to 500 possible channels (250 pairs) from anywhere on the network (either local inputs on the back of each mixer or the IEX-16L input box). Seven integrated stereo effects are also available for creating more of a “3D” sound image, and the



Front and rear panel view of a myMix mixer.



intuitive user interface offers the ability to assign meaningful channel names.

It's very common for a drummer to have a metronome or run a click track from a laptop next to the kit and adjust the level of the click in his headphones, but if he just turns the level on the computer up or down, then he'll affect the whole band's level as well. But with a myMix mixer, the drummer can plug click into one of the two local inputs on the back of the unit. The click is now available for every other mixer on stage without having to route back to a central input box, allowing everyone to have their own control.

myMix also offers tons of flexibility for musicians with its decentralized routing capabilities. The local inputs could be utilized during band rehearsal to quickly let any musician play a demo track from their personal station, allowing other band

members to dial up that song in their own headphones, or perhaps they could be used as talkback mics between band members.

The system also allows each musician the ability to record 16 tracks plus the stereo headphone mix straight to an SD card as .WAV files, which they're then able to play back, with

the ability to mix them at any point. Musicians can quickly and easily record rehearsals, and take home recordings of the exact arrangement and key to practice with during the week.

This is also useful when a band member is late to rehearsal. The system gives the flexibility to play back that musician's tracks from the previous week for the rest of the band to play along. This not only makes it easier to rehearse before a service or performance, but also helps musicians make adjustments to their mix on the fly quickly and easily.

Stages are often dark, and musicians may only have a free hand to adjust the mix between songs when the lights are out. This makes it hard to read channel labels on other systems. The fully backlit color screen has all of the channel labels and controls easily visible, even on the darkest stages. The one knob interface makes it easy to navigate without fumbling for the right button or accidentally muting the click track.

## HELPING THE TECH SIDE

While the musicians will feel the need to be comfortable on stage, the engineer that utilizes myMix will be able to spend more time focusing on his mix rather

than tech'ing monitors for rehearsal. Without the system, the scenario of a drummer bringing in a click track for a song could take 15 minutes or longer to set up with a traditional personal mixing system or monitor console. This wastes time for both bands and technicians.

With the system in place, however, the drummer just plugs into the back of his station and anyone who wants to listing to click can grab it from the network. It also takes a lot of the engineer's time to burn eight copies of the 2-track recording of band rehearsals each week for the musicians to take home to practice with. myMix makes this process simple and fast, giving the recording control to the musicians.

What about musicians who need assistance with personal mixers, and would rather have someone else build a mix for them? The engineer then has two options: either broadcast the headphone mix from one of the other mixers onstage and dial



myMix system input expansion options include Focusrite RedNet with Dante.

that in, or by using the myMix Control, adjust the mix from a web browser on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

The myMix Control also allows the technician to quickly label channels and access any mixer's settings remotely. This can be paired with the new rack-mountable RX-2 for controlling wireless IEM systems, with the transmitters located in a rack-off stage.

There are also a wide range of options available, such as IEX-16L 16-channel input expanders for line level signals (also offered in an ADAT version), an install version in a surface mount housing, MADI interfaces of various channel

counts, and IEX16L-A/Focusrite Red-net3 combos that allows getting 16 or 32 audio channels from a Dante network and feeding them to a myMix system.

In our final analysis, the myMix system packs a ton of useful features into a small mixer with superb sound quality giving more control to the musicians while helping the engineer have more time to focus on mixing. The decentralized input system allows flexible solutions to common scenarios, and a well-designed unit coupled with an easy solution to remotely control mixers allows for easy navigation for the most technically challenged musicians. myMix is a versatile approach that gives control of monitoring to the musicians.

U.S. MSRP: myMix mixer – \$679 ■

Both DANNY ROSENBALM, *CTS-D*, and PRESTON GRAY work with *Morris Light & Sound*, a leading touring company based in Nashville.

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