Post Pros: The Evolution Will Be Televised

BY STEVE HARVEY

NEW YORK, NY—Ask several broadcast-related music production and audio post companies where the work is coming from these days and you’re likely to get a different answer from each one. But if there is a theme, it is one of evolution and diversification as opportunities present themselves, even if that leads away from the core of the business model.

Howard Bowler, president and founder of Hobo Audio in Manhattan, suggests that there are certain universal things that any business owner needs to get right first. To paraphrase Apple’s Tim Cook, he says, “You have to get the staff right first; that’s the most important thing. You have to get the right strategy together. Then you have to get the execution in place. If you get

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DAW Migration: Pros Consider PT Alternatives

BY STROTHE BULLINS

Especially amongst professional power users, Pro Tools (PT) is the market-leading digital audio workstation (DAW) without a doubt. However, in recent years, a number of factors have prompted some stalwart PT-based pros to reconsider their unofficial alliances with the Avid (formerly Digidesign) recording suite. Here, we share insight from a cross-section of established professionals in the midst of a DAW migration, considering DAWs from pro audio firms including Apple, Cakewalk, Harrison, MOTU, PreSonus and Steinberg.

“I go way back with Digidesign,” clarifies Nashville-based recording engineer Christopher Rowe, “all the way back to the Sound Tools days. And I have historically been a dogged defender of the Pro Tools DSP-based platform. I suppose the first time I started to question the wisdom of my dedication was when I received files from Jack Antonoff (Beachers, Fun.) of a song he’d written with Taylor Swift for me to mix. Jack had put the song together on a Pro Tools Native rig and his laptop. My four-card TDM rig came nowhere near being able to play the session back.

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International Image

Sound Image in the US and SSE Audio Group in the UK have joined forces for a new venture—United Audio Companies—which will allow each company to provide mirrored, seamless international support; Larry Italia takes charge of the Sound Image Integration Division.

Deep And Wide Inside

Yamaha’s TF Series of small footprint, touch-enabled digital consoles are reviewed along with many more products in this month’s PAR in PSN pages.

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757-591-9371  WWW.APPLIEDNN.COM
Nady U-1100 and U-2100 100-Channel UHF Wireless Systems

Nady Systems' new U-1100 and U-2100 100-channel select UHF wireless systems offer stream-lined setup and operation features with either automatic AutoScan or manual open-frequency selection, plus ASC infrared synchronization of a selected channel between transmitter and receiver. The systems are available with a choice of the U-1100 receiver for use with a single transmitter or the U-2100 for use with two transmitters simultaneously. Transmitter options include the U-1100HT handheld mic; U-1100LT backpack, lavaliere or Headmic; or U1100GT instrument pack. Other features include a 120 dB dynamic range, operation up to 500 feet (line-of-sight), DigiTRU Diversity for maximum range and dropout protection; IF filtering, front panel-touch control buttons, dual rear-panel removable swivel BNC antennas, full front panel LCD display, balanced XLR fixed mic level and adjustable unbalanced quarter-inch jack audio Line Level Sum outputs, and more.

SoundTube SB335 3-Channel Mini Amplifier

SoundTube's Class D SB335 is from the company's Small Amp series and is intended for a variety of installation applications. Providing three channels at 35 W or two channels at 50 W in a compact package (8 x 4 x 1.25 inches), the SB335 includes both optical and analog inputs, accepts Bluetooth signal input, and is controllable via RS232 with IR learning capabilities. Line level subwoofer output and Dolby Digital decoding are also included.

Midas Pro1, Pro2 Digital Console: New Features

Version G3.2.1 firmware has been released for Midas Pro1 and Pro2 digital consoles, replacing G2.5.3; new features include: within VCA/POP group user mode, users can now reorder channels within a group, and there is now a Spectrum Analyzer and Loudspeaker Processor built-in. The DL231 MIDI ports are now active and a new effects automation 'safe button' is in place (in GUT). Users can now connect second ports to DL151/DL153 devices, and turn off bulkhead fans with auto on for temperature-sensitive diagnostic purposes.

Cymatic Audio uRemote App for Android OS

Cymatic Audio's Android OS uRemote app for the uTrack 24 multitrack recorder/player is now available; iOS, Mac OS and Windows are also supported. This app allows all control aspects of the uTrack 24 to be utilized via a tablet, laptop or desktop computer within range of any standard network Wi-Fi signal.

Key features of uRemote software include full remote control and viewing of most common uTrack 24 operations; playback bar for instant navigation to any time or marker; one-touch markers list; one-button loop control; playlist home screen; analog-style mixer screens dedicated full-screen metering page for all 24 input/output levels; multiple uRemote control of a single uTrack 24, allowing different simultaneously screens; and more. Meanwhile, uRemote for iOS has been updated to version 1.1.

Stay tuned for our full review of the Cymatic Audio uTrack 24 multitrack recorder.

Community R Series: Gains EASE Focus 2 GLL Data Files

Community has added its R SERIES to a growing library of manufacturer-authorized EASE Focus 2 GLL data files, allowing system designers to create 3D models of complex R SERIES arrays using the EASE Focus 2 software application from AFMG.

EASE Focus 2 is a free application available directly from AFMG. Manufacturer-authorized EASE and EASE Focus 2 GLL files for Community loudspeakers may be downloaded from Community's website.

MXL DRUM PA-5K Mic Kit, MM-131 Mic Mate Mobile

MXL Microphones' new three-piece DRUM PA-5K drum mic kit (pictured, at $199) includes two of the company's new A-5i Tom Microphones and the MXL A-55 Kickr bass drum mic.

The A-5i is a high-SPL cardioid dynamic mic featuring an all-metal body and an adjustable, pivoting rim mount. The A-55 Kickr, according to MXL, is intended for bass cabinets, cymbals and "all other low-frequency instruments," too. The A-55 Kickr has a clean pickup for fast attacks. It includes a built-in mic clip. All mics in the DRUM PA-5K are made of metal to withstand touring and demanding use.

Yamaha DXS18 Subwoofer

Yamaha's DXS18 builds on the design ethic of its predecessors, the DXS12 and DXS15, by offering improved cabinet construction, DSP processing, protection functions and crossover control. The new model adds features and higher power output suitable for larger or more professional applications.

Powered by a 1020 W Class-D amplifier, the DXS18 houses an 18-inch woofer with a 4-inch voice coil in a bandpass type plywood enclosure, which is said to provide 136 dB maximum SPL (and an extended LF response down to 32 Hz). The DXS18 features Yamaha DSP technology with original D-XSUB processing for additional control of the low frequency range via Boost and Xtended LF modes, and a selectable crossover with three different options (80/100/120 Hz). The DXS18 also features a Cardioid Mode setting for sound systems with two or more DXS18 speakers.

Roland M-5000C Live Console

The M-5000C is the latest D.H.R.C.A. based console from Roland, a line Roland describes as providing "powerful features at an affordable price point." Measuring under 30 inches wide and weighing 70 pounds, the compact M-5000C retains the core signal path and many other features of the flagship M-5000 for small footprint applications.

The 56 kHz M-5000 has a 72-bit summing bus, analog circuitry and redundant power supplies. With 15 inputs and 8 outputs on the console, the M-5000C offers two expansion interface slots that can accommodate Roland's own REAC, Dante, MIDI, Waves SoundGrid and other NI Series expansion cards. The M-5000C's user-configurable workflow includes a 12-inch color touchscreen; 20 channel faders in three groups; anchor points; DCA spills; multifunction knobs and buttons; and a user-assignable section. Remote control software (Mac/Windows) that extends the user interface beyond the built-in GUI will be available soon.

There's more information on all the products featured at prosoundnetwork.com/sept2015.