

# Audio Mixers & Software Buyer's Guide

Audio Mixers Manufacturers	Desktop	Portable (EFP)	Rackmount	On-air	Automixers	USB/FireWire Out
AEQ www.aeqbroadcast.com	•			•		
AKG www.akgusa.com			•		•	
Alesis www.alesis.com	•		•			•
Allen & Heath www.allen-heath.com	•		•			
Alto www.altoproaudio.com	•					
Applied Research & Technology www.artproaudio.com		•				
Ashly www.ashly.com			•			
Audio Developments Ltd. www.independentaudio.com		•				
Audio Technologies, Inc. www.atiaudio.com		•				
Audio-Technica www.audio-technica.com	•				•	
Australian Monitor Audio www.australianmonitor.com			•			
Avlex www.avlex.com	•					
Azden www.azdencorp.com		•				
BeachTek www.beachtek.com		•				
Behringer www.behringer.com	•	•	•			•
Biamp www.biamp.com			•		•	
Bogen Communications www.bogen.com	•		•			
Broadcast Tools www.broadcasttools.com	•					
Carvin www.carvin.com	•					
Cooper Sound Systems www.coopersound.com	•	•				
Crane Song www.cranesong.com			•			
Crate Pro Audio www.crateproaudio.com	•					
Crest Audio www.crestaudio.com	•					
Crown www.crownaudio.com	•					
Daking www.daking.com	•					

Audio Mixers Manufacturers	Desktop	Portable (EFP)	Rackmount	On-air	Automixers	USB/FireWire Out
Dangerous Music www.dangerousmusic.com			•			
Digidesign www.digidesign.com	•					
Dixon www.dixonsystems.com	•		•	•		
Dynacord www.dynacord.com	•					
Edirol www.rolandus.com	•	•				•
FBT www.fbt.it	•					
Fostex www.fostex.com	•					
Grass Valley www.thomsongrassvalley.com	•					
Harrison www.harrisonconsoles.com	•					
Hosa www.hosatech.com	•					
Intelix www.intelix.com			•		•	
Inter-M Americas www.inter-m.net	•		•			
Kamesan www.kamesan.info		•				
Korg www.korg.com	•					
LPB (Fidelipac) www.lpbinc.com	•			•		
M-Audio www.m-audio.com	•					•
Mackie www.mackie.com	•					•
Manley Labs www.manleylabs.com			•			
Marenius www.marenius.se		•				
Midas www.midasconsoles.com	•					
Nady www.nady.com	•	•				
Otari www.otari.com	•			•		
Peavey www.peavey.com	•					
Phonic www.phonic.com	•		•			•
Protech www.protechaudio.com			•		•	

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PSC www.professionalsound.com	•	•				
Radio Design Labs www.rdlnet.com	•					
Radio Systems www.radiosystems.com	•			•		
Rane www.rane.com			•			
Renegade Labs www.renegadelabs.com	•					
Rolls www.rolls.com		•	•			
Samson/Zoom www.samsontech.com	•	•				
Shure www.shure.com		•	•		•	
SM Pro Audio www.smproaudio.com	•		•			
Sonosax www.sonosax.com	•	•				
Sony http://bssc.sel.sony.com	•	•	•			
Sound Devices www.sounddevices.com		•				
Sound Performance Lab www.spl-usa.com			•			
Soundcraft/Spirit www.soundcraft.com	•			•		
Soundtracs/DiGiCo www.digiconsoles.com	•					
Speck Electronics www.spekelectronics.com			•			
SQN Electronics Ltd. www.sqn.co.uk		•				
Studiomaster www.studiomaster.com			•			
Studio Technologies www.studio-tech.com			•			
Tapco www.tapcoworld.com	•					
Tascam www.tascam.com	•					•
TL Audio www.tludio.co.uk	•					
TOA Electronics www.toaelectronics.com	•		•		•	
Toft www.toftaudiodesigns.com	•					
Trident www.oram.co.uk	•					

Audio Mixers Manufacturers	Desktop	Portable (EFP)	Rackmount	On-air	Automixers	USB/FireWire Out
True Systems www.true-systems.com			•			
US Audio/Whirlwind www.whirlwindusa.com			•		•	
Wendt Inc. www.wendtinc.net		•				
Wharfedale Pro www.wharfedalepro.com	•					
Wheatstone www.wheatstone.com	•			•		
Yamaha www.yamaha.com	•					

## Audio Editing Software Manufacturer Listing

Compiled by Charles Fulton

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Adobe</b><br><b>Audition, Soundtrack</b><br>www.adobe.com          | <b>Goldwave</b><br>www.goldwave.com   |
| <b>Apple</b><br><b>Soundtrack Pro</b><br>www.apple.com                | <b>Magix</b><br><b>Samplitude</b><br>www.magix.com                            |
| <b>Audacity Project</b><br>http://audacity.sourceforge.net            | <b>Mark of the Unicorn</b><br><b>Digital Performer</b><br>www.motu.com        |
| <b>Bias</b><br><b>Peak</b><br>www.bias-inc.com                        | <b>PG Music</b><br><b>PowerTracks Pro Audio</b><br>www.pgmusic.com            |
| <b>Cakewalk</b><br><b>Music Creator, SONAR</b><br>www.cakewalk.com    | <b>Sony Media Software</b><br><b>Sound Forge</b><br>www.sonymediasoftware.com |
| <b>Digidesign</b><br><b>Pro Tools</b><br>www.digidesign.com           | <b>Voyetra</b><br><b>AudioSurgeon</b><br>www.voyetra.com                      |
| <b>Freeverse Software</b><br><b>Sound Studio</b><br>www.freeverse.com |   |

This manufacturer listing includes software capable of editing .wav and/or .aiff files. This is not a comprehensive list.

# Audio Mixers

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tone control that eliminates the lowest of frequencies – perfect for minimizing wind or mechanical noises.

The final output of your mixer could be as simple as a mono or stereo output with a volume control. You may also find routing buttons that allow you to send various signals to alternate output jacks. This makes it easy to send one or more inputs to a secondary mix for a house sound system, audio-only recorder or headphone cue feed. Although not mandatory, it's nice to have level meters on your mixer. This lets you check incoming and outgoing signals for optimum volume. Even a simple 5-segment LED meter is better than nothing, though as you grow into the world of audio, you'll be wanting more.

As you know, the world is converting to digital, and the audio mixer segment is no exception. Many manufacturers offer digital mixers, although most models will severely tax your budget. There are exceptions, though, and digital mixers tend to offer a lot of bells and whistles. Don't forget, you already have a simple digital mixer inside your computer. In a pinch, it's easy to blend a microphone, CD audio and a media player with no external hardware. It's also very easy to route the resulting mix to your digital audio software for further processing.

### It's All Up to You

The choice of an audio mixer is a subjective decision. A mixer that's perfect for me may not suit your needs at all. Each manufacturer has a unique approach to mixer design, which results in a wide variety of mixer sounds and feels. The American mixers are different from the Japanese versions, while the European offerings differ from their Chinese cousins. Your job is to research your specific needs and compare them to the features and prices on the market. Whenever possible, get your

hands on the potential candidates and test them with a microphone or other sound source. Plug in some headphones and check the tone controls, sliders and other controls. Look for sturdy construction, responsive adjustments, ease of use and flex-

ibility. Should you find everything in a package that fits your

budget, grab it and run. You've just made a significant investment in the quality of your productions.

### Software Mixers

With all this talk of hardware mixers, it's easy to forget that some of the coolest mixers in the world are virtual. Some level of software mixing is included with all multitrack recording packages. It may be as simple as a volume and pan control or more elaborate than any hardware mixer you can imagine.

Most often used in post produc-

tion, software mixing offers you several advantages. First, all your mix moves and channel settings are saved with the project. Everything comes back up exactly as you left it – whether it was yesterday or a month ago. In addition, most software mixing allows you to use plug-ins – little bits of code that emulate real devices like EQ, compressors, reverbs and even guitar amplifiers. Using plug-ins gives you a virtual rack of audio equipment that would cost thousands in the real world. Finally, once the signal is in your computer, all the processing takes place in the digital domain, giving you clean mixes and the ultimate in control.

☰ THE CHOICE OF AN AUDIO MIXER IS A SUBJECTIVE DECISION. ☰

Contributing Editor Hal Robertson's first audio mixer was an ancient Shure M67. He's upgraded a couple of times since then.