

PRODUCT TESTS

Movek myMix Personal Mixing & Multi-Track Recording System

By Michael Saracino

As a recording engineer, producer, live audio engineer, and an active musician, I'm afforded a unique perspective; I get a well-rounded understanding of each position's needs regardless of which role I'm filling. In the case of monitor/headphone mixing, I'm a firm believer that it's better for everyone involved when each artist has discrete control over his or her own mix.

I've worked in many settings with varying capabilities and it's notably smoother when the artist is given control over what they hear. Being able to have multiple discrete cue mixes being controlled by the engineer and sent to the musicians is adequate yet time consuming, but having the artists control their own mix with a personal monitor mixer beside them onstage is a godsend. There are a select number of solutions for this type of scenario including entries from Aviom, Furman, Hear Technologies and, more recently, Movek, with the arrival of the myMix networked personal mixer.

The myMix personal monitor mixing system developed by Movek is an excellent solution for all monitor/headphone mixing scenarios. It's a 24-bit/48 kHz multi-track mixer that also doubles as an SD-based recording device with two XLR/line combo inputs and stereo outputs. At its simplest, one of these mixers can be used as a 2-channel recording device and/or as a 2-channel headphone/monitor mixer.

The mixer itself is packed with useful features including onboard EQ and reverb control. It works quite well as a personal recorder or a 2-channel monitor mixer and the sound quality is superb. I also found track naming, channel selection, and most aspects of accessing and controlling the features very intuitive and could navigate fluently before even opening the manual.

The real advantage of this mixer comes into play when it becomes part of a network in conjunction with the available 16 Channel Input Expander (IEX-16L). This is a simple unit with two 8-channel DB-25 analog inputs and an Ethernet network output. It expands the inputs on the myMix from two channels to 16. The myMix then shows its true potential, giving

each artist on the network full control over up to 16 discrete channels of audio and takes the responsibility off of the engineer.

For my testing, I used the myMix at Winding Path Media, my commercial recording facility running a Pro Tools HD Accel System. I used a TRS to DB25 snake to link the outputs of a 96 I/O to the first eight channels of the IEX-16L. I then disabled the onboard inputs and I instantly had discrete control over eight analog outputs from my HD system being sent to a myMix personal mixer over a simple Ethernet cable. I then helmed some vocal sessions, giving the singer full use of the unit. I created some linked stereo stems (percussion, guitars, orchestral arrangement) as well as a mono vocal send and gave the vocalist control over her mix.

She was quite pleased with this in-depth control, as I'd previously been sending only a vocal send and a stereo music send on one of our headphone mixers. There was some minor fan noise from the unit; however, it wasn't audible on the vocal track – even when soloed, which is a testament to how subtle this noise is considering I was using an extremely sensitive combination of a Neumann TLM 603 and a UA-Solo 610 preamp.

I would love to eventually put in a network of myMix personal mixers in our studio as they would certainly increase productivity and, more importantly, customer satisfaction, which is crucial. I wanted to test the system personally as well, so I did some overdub sessions of my own on a record I am producing for a singer/songwriter and I was most impressed by the actual sound quality. Combined with my Sennheiser HD280 Pro headphones, everything was pristine, which is inspiring in any session.

The myMix system is a professional solution and as such comes with a profes-



sional price tag (around \$650 US street price per mixer) but the benefits are substantial, as with most solid investments. I truly enjoyed the unit's functionality and will keep it as a thought on the list of future purchases at Winding Path Media.

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Manufacturer's Comment

Multiple IEX-16L units, plus local myMix inputs, can be combined on a myMix system allowing each user to choose the 16 channels they want to mix from a virtually unlimited number of channels on the network. This capability, along with others that Michael mentions in the review, makes myMix great for studio work in addition to live performances in clubs, theatre productions, and especially the house of worship market.

Josh Bartunek
myMix