Powerful monitoring & alignment controls for the machine room

Control Your World

RecordistMAX is the elegant, off-the-shelf alternative to a costly in-house machine room monitoring controller. RecordistMAX is a versatile multi-input monitor matrix that provides programmable headphone, loudspeaker and VU meter monitoring of recorder inputs, sync outputs and repro outputs of multiple 8-channel audio sources. Controls up to 16 machines or 128 tracks..

RecordistMAX

Monitor and align multiple audio sources

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Powerful monitoring and alignment controls for the machine room

A Unique Off-the-Shelf Solution

Designed as an off-the-shelf solution for motion picture and video post production studios, the RecordistMAX recordist monitor system is a modular rack-mounting, multi-input monitor and switching matrix that provides machine room technicians with programmable alignment, VU metering, headphone and loudspeaker monitoring, and track-combining facilities.

The versatility of the monitoring and metering paths permit a broad range of applications, including recordist's monitor panels, track combining for copies and transfers, change-over switching, and QC monitoring of master and distribution prints in multiple audio formats such as DTS, Dolby Digital, SR∗D, and SDDS.

It's not surprising that facilities like Warner Brothers, Universal Studios, Todd-AO, Disney, and 4MC (Four Media Corporation) have installed RecordistMAX in their machine rooms to help with confidence monitoring, transfers, and quality control. With the recording machines being used on dub stages changing from one project to the next, and with the wide variety of hard disk, tape, and film recorders permanently installed at many facilities, RecordistMAX offers an elegant, comprehensive solution to meet the monitoring needs of machine room technicians.

Handle up to 128 Tracks

The RecordistMAX base unit consists of a 2U primary control panel accommodating four 8-track recorders. Up to three additional 2U expander panels may be added, each panel handling up to four 8-track recorders. RecordistMAX systems may be configured for a maximum of 16 machines, or 128 tracks in total.

Master and slave panels communicate via serial lines, permitting distributed placement and allowing multiple master panels for control from the studio, machine room, and projection booth. The serial control protocol also permits the use of a roving control panel in the machine room so that the technician can have the controls at his fingertips while he is tweaking recorder adjustments.

Master mode functions control monitoring and metering of all recorder inputs, sync outputs, and repro outputs. The system also incorporates tone injection facilities for easy-to-use alignment of the connected recorders.

Monitor on Speakers or Headphones

Monitoring functions provide LCR placement of each track, separate volume, mute and dim controls for headphone and speaker; and solo. Software allows the switching of three exclusive banks (Direct, Sync, and Play, or recorder inputs, sync outputs, and repro outputs) of the eight inputs from each recorder. Selecting both left and right provides a phantom center feed. The stereo monitor bus can be driven by any combination of the 96 inputs feeding each panel, and in turn feeds three stereo outputs:
- Speaker output with level control, mute, and dim, driven by a line driver.
- Headphone output with level control, mute, and dim, driven by a headphone amplifier.
- Test instrument port (pre-level controls) for external test instruments.

Speaker and headphone outputs use precise rotary pulse generators and MDAC volume controls. Mute and dim controls are provided for the speaker and headphone outputs. The Dim level can be preset over a range of -20 dB to +24 dB. The unit's alphanumeric display indicates the relative gain, or selected dim level, of the speaker and headphone monitoring channels.

Set, Store, and Recall Routing Assignments

A 32-button matrix assigns the monitoring and metering routing for each of the four 8-track sources. Each button has two LEDs indicating the LCR placement of each track, while an additional column of four mode buttons - Store, Recall, Place, and Solo - enables additional functions using the 32-button array:
- The Store button is used to save up to 32 snapshots of Source, Meter, Speaker (including LCR placement), and Rev Mute (enabling muting during rollback) settings on the master and additional expander panels. The Store function will also store oscillator frequencies and levels. The Recall button restores the desired snapshot. Snapshots are retained even if power to the system is lost.
- The Place function facilitates changes to the LCR routing, with LED indication of the selected placement.
- In Solo mode the 32-button matrix allows the momentary selection of tracks, in any combination, permitting rapid scanning of the matrix. Alternatively, the matrix may be selected to a latching solo mode, facilitating extended troubleshooting of any combination of tracks.

Recorder Alignment Made Easy

RecordistMAX streamlines the recorder alignment process with a built-in programmable digital sinewave oscillator and pink noise generator. Tone injection is a snap, with one-button assignment to each 8-track machine's recorder inputs, using relay contacts to disconnect the record buses and inject the test signals. In addition to the internal test signals there is provision for introducing an external balanced oscillator.

The programmable sinewave oscillator has digitally controlled frequencies and levels with front panel alphanumeric display. The sinewave frequencies include the ISO preferred frequencies from 20 Hz to 20 kHz. The oscillator level is adjustable in 1dB steps, with 0.2 dB high resolution steps in the +2 dBu to +6 dBu range. An oscillator buffer option provides a balanced oscillator output even when tones are not being fed to the recorders. The pink noise function utilizes a digitally generated white noise source and an analog pinking filter.

Three oscillator preset buttons store and recall operator-selectable frequencies and levels. These three plus the external oscillator and pink noise levels are all retained while switching between them, facilitating setting tone at +4 and pink noise at -10 dBu.

Add Metering with VuMAX

The 32 LEDs will display the meter matrix, allowing assignments to be examined without changing the current operating mode. Each of RecordistMAX's eight meter outputs receives a summed signal from any combination of the like-numbered inputs from the recorders, i.e. meter #1 can be fed by any combination of track #1 outputs from the connected recorders. The meter buses can be used to feed VuMAX, Martinsound's optional package of eight precision VU meters.

VuMAX adds precision VU metering to RecordistMAX

Add Track Combining and Transfer Functions

The meter buses may alternatively be used to drive optional auxiliary balanced line outputs, allowing track combining for copies and transfers or eight monitor channels for projector changeover switching.