

# Tablet-Controlled Rack-Mount Digital Mixers

By George Petersen

A couple years ago, this category didn't exist at all. However, the notion of a rack-mount unit that's remotely controlled via Wi-Fi (iOS and/or Android) makes a lot of sense in many applications, ranging from portable P.A. to church installations, live theater, corporate/industrial presentations — anywhere where a low-profile “invisible” console is just the ticket. Other advantages include eliminating the need for a house snake, with the mixer located near the stage and the FOH position being anywhere within Wi-Fi range. I spoke to one church sound tech who said the freedom of wireless mixing allowed him to sit with his family in the church — for the first time in years. We checked out a number of current models and found a variety of products to meet anyone's needs and budget.

## Allen & Heath Qu Pac



- Input Channels:** 38 (32 mono, 3 stereo)
- Local Preamps:** 16
- Remote I/O:** Any dSNAKE stagebox
- Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz
- Main Outs:** 12 XLR outs
- Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No
- EQ Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs
- Onboard Effects:** Effects from iLive FX Library
- Network Interfacing:** dSNAKE
- Notes:** Local touch screen control; 18-channel recording to USB; monitor mixing via iPhone or ME hardware mixers
- Price:** \$1,499/street

allen-heath.com

## Behringer X32 Rack



- Input Channels:** 40
- Local Preamps:** 16
- Remote I/O:** S16 option
- Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz
- Main Outs:** 8 XLR
- Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No
- EQ Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs
- Onboard Effects:** Virtual FX rack
- Network Interfacing:** Ethernet
- Notes:** Connectivity to P16 Personal Monitoring
- Price:** \$999/street

behringer.com

## Crest Audio Tactus FOH



- Input Channels:** 64
- Local Preamps:** 8
- Remote I/O:** Tactus Stage 32x16
- Max Sampling Rate:** 96 kHz
- Main Outs:** 4 XLR
- Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** Yes
- EQ Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs
- Onboard Effects:** Wave SoundGrid
- Network Interfacing:** Gigabit Ethernet to Waves SoundGrid/LV1 protocol
- Notes:** Optional Tactus Control hardware controller
- Price:** TBA

peaveycommercialaudio.com

## Mackie DL32R



- Input Channels:** 36
- Local Preamps:** 32
- Remote I/O:** None offered
- Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz
- Main Outs:** 14 XLR plus AES
- Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No
- EQ Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs
- Onboard Effects:** 3 stereo effects engines
- Network Interfacing:** Ethernet port; Dante optional
- Notes:** Direct recording to USB hard drive or Mac/PC
- Price:** \$1,799/street

mackie.com

## Midas M32C



- Input Channels:** 40
- Local Preamps:** None
- Remote I/O:** DL16 or DL32
- Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz
- Main Outs:** AES50
- Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No
- EQ Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs
- Onboard Effects:** 8 effects engines
- Network Interfacing:** Midas Supermac; MADI/Dante options
- Notes:** 32-channel record/play to Mac/PC
- Price:** \$999/street

midasconsoles.com

Peavey Unity DR16



**Input Channels:** 16  
**Local Pre's:** 8  
**Remote I/O:** Two can combine for 28 total inputs.  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48k Hz  
**Main Outs:** 4 aux plus stereo XLR pair  
**Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** Yes

**EQ, Type:** Sweepable inputs; parametrics and graphics on outputs  
**Network Interfacing:** S/PDIF or Dante  
**Notes:** Priority ducking and assignable Feedback Eliminators  
**Price:** TBA

peavey.com

PreSonus StudioLive RM32AI



**Input Channels:** 32  
**Local Preamps:** 32  
**Remote I/O:** Yes, via optional Dante or AVB  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 96 kHz  
**Main Outs:** 3, plus 16 assignable outs  
**Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No

**EQ, Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs  
**Onboard Effects:** Reverb, delay plus Fat Channel on all inputs  
**Network Interfacing:** Ethernet; Dante and AVB optional  
**Notes:** FireWire 800 interface for recording.  
**Price:** \$1,799/street

presonus.com

RCF M18



**Input Channels:** 18  
**Local Pre's:** 8  
**Remote I/O:** None  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Main Outs:** 6 aux out; stereo XLR mains  
**Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** Yes  
**EQ, Type:** PEQs and shelving on inputs;

PEQs on outs  
**Onboard Effects:** Studio effects plus guitar amp modeling  
**Network Interfacing:** LAN port for external Wi-Fi  
**Notes:** 2-track USB record/play; optional rack mount kit  
**Price:** \$699/street

rcf.it

Soundcraft Ui24R



**Input Channels:** 24  
**Local Preamps:** 20  
**Remote I/O:** None  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48 kHz  
**Main Outs:** 8 aux; two mains  
**Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** Yes  
**EQ, Type:** PEQ's on channels; GEQ's on outs

**Onboard Effects:** Lexicon, dbx and Digi-Tech effects  
**Network Interfacing:** Ethernet for external Wi-Fi  
**Notes:** Studer-designed preamps; 24-channel USB recording  
**Price:** \$995/street

soundcraft.com

Waves eMotion LV-1



**Input Channels:** 16/32/64  
**Local Pre's:** Any SoundGrid-compatible I/O  
**Remote I/O:** Waves DigiGrid  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 96 kHz  
**Main Outs:** Variable  
**Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No

**EQ, Type:** Waves eMo dynamics/EQ/filter on all inputs.  
**Onboard Effects:** Up to eight Waves or 3rd-party plug-ins  
**Network Interfacing:** SoundGrid  
**Notes:** Requires Mac or Windows PC  
**Price:** \$1,299-\$1,699/street (software only)

waves.com

Yamaha TF-Rack



**Input Channels:** 16  
**Local Preamps:** 16  
**Remote I/O:** Connect multiple 16-in/8-out Tio1608-D's via optional Dante card  
**Max Sampling Rate:** 48kHz  
**Main Outs:** 16 assignable Omni outs  
**Onboard Wi-Fi Router:** No

**EQ, Type:** 4-band PEQ; 31-band graphic  
**Onboard Effects:** Eight effects engines  
**Network Interfacing:** Ethernet plus optional Dante  
**Notes:** Touch screen for local control  
**Price:** \$ 1,799/street

yamahaproaudio.com