
Subject: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 18:54:31 GMT

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Well, I figured that since this doesn't need constant maintenance/calibration and it doesn't draw 10 amps, it wouldn't really show me much but I have made a very interesting discovery.

I have a 38 track mix going here. It's the Russ Long produced song that comes of his instructional DVD called Marianna. I figured I'd use this since it's fairly large track count and has a lot of everything as far as instrumentation goes (acoustic guitar, electric 12 string, electric 6 string, piano, B-3, Mellotron lots o harmony vocals, etc.

Anyway, I'm streaming this from Cubase SX into Paris and summing there. I've got Mytek A/D and D/A converters here so I'm routing the Neve tape gadget through those and strapping it across the mix bus.

Well I enable external insert across the global bus and start playback....sounds soft and thick but a bit veilled so I tweak it a bit and it clears up so I disable the global insert and Paris just jumps out of the speakers. It's about 4dB hotter than the Neve box on insert so I boost the line amp on the Neve and ya know, when I flip them back and forth, the Paris mix bus is sounding uncannily like the Neve tape emulator. I'm not kiddin around here. There is a little bit of difference in the dimensionality and sound, but, so far, they can be made to sound almost exactly alike and in a dense mix like this it's pretty obvious that there is some similar kind of mojo happening with both Paris and the Neve...which means that I've now otten myself into a situation where I'm going to have to test this mix using Paris only, Paris with the Neve box, Cubase ITB and cubase with the Neve box.

Now the "real" question is, will this Neve tape emulator make the Cubase mix bus sound like the Paris mix bus if the Cubase mix is properly gainstaged? I don't even want to do the stem gainstaging, just a good ol' ITB mix with track levels and panning done in SX and then strap this 5042 across the main mix. The guy who owns this Neve box is the guy who I've been helping with the studio install this week. He's coming over this afternoon. He may need this back for a session over the weekend and I know he wants to compare this to what he's getting by tracking to tape on his Otari deck, but next week he's leaving town for two weeks and I'm pretty sure I can get him to let me test drive this box for a while while he's gone.

I'm really shocked at how similar the Paris mix buss sounds to what omes out the backside of this box when it is serially inserted.

;o)
