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Subject: A Decent Front End Mixer or?

Posted by [Ed](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 18:39:15 GMT

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Hey everyone... Happy New Year 2008!!!

I need some help, advice or maybe even some constructive criticism. Perhaps some of you may recall I had a post a few months ago about the Behringer SL mixer... I wasn't getting very good levels out of the 4 channel groups no matter what I tried. I have been messing with it and another Behringer 16 channel mixer with direct outs. I am so fed-up and frustrated and I am not sure what else to do.

First, I use to do all my recordings directly into my Paris 8-ins from the preamps, GNX for electric, Keyboards directly too. I never had a issue getting good levels.

I am trying to setup my studio to where I can play and record through a mixer or something...

Can some of you recommend a good way to get better levels through my Behringer SL mixer or maybe recommend some good front-end that won't bust the bank.

Is there even such a thing out there? Maybe it is because the Behringer suks, I don't know and haven't tried anything else. When I purchased the mixer, I read decent reviews. I read alot of bad things about the Mackie and Yamaha that are 24 channel or more. I certainly couldn't afford a Neve board or something that expensive. But is there something out there that is a few hundred and works good for a front end? Everything I am seeing in the music stores (online) are typical mixer... I prefer direct outs if possible... since I record all instruments (not at the same time)

Any help, suggestions or advice? Thanks and Happy New Year!

~ Ed

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?

Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 00:19:55 GMT

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On 2/1/08 5:39 AM, in article 477a7ac3\$1@linux, "Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote:

>

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> some of you may recall I had a post a few months ago about the Behringer

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Happy New Year to you too.

The behringer should work...I've got one that I use occasionally when clients want me to record to a couple of cameras and do a PA mix at the same time..(XENYX 1222FX).

Very quiet and enough level to go to cameras at -20 dbfs.

Failing that..look on the web for an Alesis Studio 32... 16 direct outs and heaps of routing options.

I have one, although I'm now using my M-Audio Mix Control, but it was floorless whist I was using it, (over 5 years).

Martin

---

Subject: Re: A Decent Ftont End Mixer or?

Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 01:32:50 GMT

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hi ed. I don't recall your previous post so forgive me if im redundant.you should be getting at least -10 dbu from the mixer direct outs .did you match that level to the input level of your recorder?if the recorder is set at +4

dbu input level your not going to get enough level. are your source levels hot enough and are the faders set to zero?  
either your not feeding the mixer a high enough level or there is something wrong with mixer.

"Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote in message news:477a7ac3\$1@linux...

>

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Subject: Re: A Decent Ftont End Mixer or?

Posted by Erling on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 13:11:16 GMT

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Hey Ed and Happy New Year to you too!

Sorry to hear about your level problems with the SL mixer.

In the first Paris years I used an Alesis Studio 32 with 16 direct outs, as Martin talked about. Used it for some years but it began to be more and more faulty on some of the channels. So I went the Behringer wagon and get an MX3224X and an UB2442FX-Pro. Have used them for years now with my two Paris systems without problems. One of the systems are mobile and is using the UB mixer to feed 8 direct outs to a Paris 8-ins card. For me, the headroom is good enough for most of my recordings when travelling with it. But the MX3224X is one of the best, if not the best in it's class. The extra big external power (150 watts/ 7kg) supply is built for extreme uses and have headroom enough to most jobs. 16 direct outs, inserts on each channel, 4 groups outs, in line system etc.

<http://www.behringer.com/MX3224X/index.cfm?lang=eng>

After looking at the specifications on the different Behringer mixers, I see that max input level is the same on these kind of mixers. Max output are from +22dBu to +28dBu, where Xenyx, MX and SL have +28, so maybe your problem isn't the mixer at all but the Paris 8-ins card? Are you sure it's calibrated correct to work optimal? On the back of it, you can calibrate it with a little shrewdriver. I know there have been written here about how to do this correct but I can't find the papers here. Maybe some other have them yet, so you can try it out.

Erling

On 2 Jan 2008 04:39:15 +1000, "Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: A Decent Ffont End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Ed](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 15:27:39 GMT  
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Hi Martin and thanks for your response... That Alesis Studio 32 Mixer sounds like what I am looking for. Guess they don't make them anymore and will have to seek a used one... The price tag of that M-Audio Mix Control is a bit above what I want to spend.

I honestly tried everything possible to get good levels through my Behringer mixers... and I can't. I end having to pull up the .paf in CoolEdit and increase it by 3 to 6 dbs on any track recording. In the monitor of the mixer, the instrument or vox is clear, clean and loud, but when it get to Paris, it is too low. If I decrease the monitor of Paris, then dubbing is impossible cause I can't hear nothing but the current take. If you know what I mean. Again, thanks for your advice....

~ Ed

Martin Harrington <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote:  
>On 2/1/08 5:39 AM, in article 477a7ac3\$1@linux, "Ed" <askme@email.com>  
>wrote:  
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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Ed](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 15:59:34 GMT  
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Hi Erling,

Interesting you mentioned about the calibration. I will have to look into that... and perhaps that is where my problem lies. As I stated, when I go directly into the 8-ins from the preamp or DI or whatever, I have no problems getting levels. But when I feed through the Behringer mixers, the wet channels are not hot enough, although in the monitor of the mixer, it is over powering. I know that I may not be explaining it very well... but that is what seems to be happening. I have switched the 8-in cards to Pro, instead of Semi-Pro. That helped a little, but not enough.

Another way to think of this is... Say my vox is on mixer channel 1 (to be recorded) and is fed thru the Direct Out to Channel 1 on the 8-in. And say channels 5 thru 16 have guitars, drums, keyboards and backup/harmony vox. And this is a rock song, so it isn't soft. I have the Paris main/monitor outs fed to the mixer channel 25 and 26 for playback/monitor... If I turn up my vox to slightly over power the monitor (and is almost max w/o distortion), it is ok in the mix, but not in the recorded levels. So remember, what is going out the Direct Out is controlled on mixer channel 1. This has been my dilemma for months...

erlilo <erling.lovik@lyse.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: A Decent Ftont End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Erling](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 17:13:04 GMT  
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By the way, I've found the manuals for the Paris 8in/outs cards. If you need them I'll send them to you.

Good luck

Erling

On 3 Jan 2008 01:59:34 +1000, "Ed" <[askme@email.com](mailto:askme@email.com)> wrote:

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 22:25:07 GMT  
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On 3/1/08 2:27 AM, in article 477b9f5b\$1@linux, "Ed" <askme@email.com>

wrote:

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>> Martin  
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I know this a basic (obvious), question, but do you have the Paris inputs  
set to -10 ?  
Had to ask...  
And.... Are you putting enough level into each of the Behringer inputs?

Martin

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Ed](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 01:32:47 GMT  
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Hi Erlilo,

Thanks so much for your help. I acquired the 8-in manual from the parisfaqs.com website. I knew about the adjustment screw but I never messed with them.

I suppose I will have to look at these adjustments and try that. What worries me is that I have absolutely great levels when I send preamps or what-not directly into the 8-in card. I don't understand why I am losing so much beef going through the mixer... and the levels sound very hot in the mixer, but if I trigger a channel to record, it barely moves. If adjusting the screws gets me going with the mixer, then I'll be happy.. ummm. for now... .lol Thanks again... ~ Ed

erlilo <erling.lovik@lyse.net> wrote:

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>>>Erling

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Subject: Re: A Decent Ftont End Mixer or?

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 05:52:19 GMT

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Ed, have you tried adjusting the input trims to match better the signal hitting the A to D's in Paris?

AA

"Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote in message news:477b9f5b\$1@linux...

>

> Hi Martin and thanks for your response... That Alesis Studio 32 Mixer

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Erling](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 10:46:08 GMT  
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Ed,

Remember the meters on the Behringers are showing peak signals and is not working like "old" VUmeters, that's showing the average.

Be sure to have the start of the sliders up to 0 on Subgroups that is feeding Paris.

Be sure to set the trim control for each inchannel so high that the clip led on the channels are peaking, then set the trim control a little bit back so you get max signal before peaking.

Have PFL listening on when soloing a channel to control how high the Power Led is showing on the channel. Only the left signal will show up in the Power Led when PFL. Be sure it's lighting nearly all the way up before peaking.

If the Peak is coming on, back of a little bit on the trim control for that inchannel and you're ready to record.

Be sure to look at the Paris 8in card, to see how the red peaklight are reacting.

After recording, control how high the peak on the recorded Parischannel have been to see how it's reacting.

If the recordings yet is low, see if you have set the Paris 8in cards to -10dB.

Since your subgroup outs are unbalanced, -10dB are often the most correct to use. Test a ready to record signal in headphones when flipping between -10 and +4 on that Parischannel and you can hear at once which have the highest signal.

Professional balanced outs shall for the most have a +4dB signal.

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If you have a tone generator, you can test a -10 or 0 dB signal sent from Behringer to be recorded in Paris, to find out how things are reacting.

Hope there's something here to use for you.

Erling

On 3 Jan 2008 11:32:47 +1000, "Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Ed](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 13:06:22 GMT  
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---

Hi Aaron,

Yes, I am gonna look into that. What worries me (as I posted earlier) is that I am getting hot/decent signals coming from my components (preamps, guitars, keyboards, etc.) and I couldn't ask for better levels... BUT! when I go through the Behringer mixers (either a SL or the MX) I lose levels big time! Although in the mix of the mixer, it is hot or loud. Now you wouldn't think of this as a serious issue except when you get a few loud tracks on playback. I can adjust the level of the playback tracks, but the recording channel/track is up as high as it can go without distorting and in Paris, it is pathetic. The SL has the 4 groups and the MX has direct outs. My main point is that I am losing levels going through the mixer. So I don't think the main issue is the Paris cards... I know not everyone is familiar with the Behringer SL and MX mixers... but I thought maybe it is the mixer and I was looking for something more of a front-end. A few suggested the Alesis Studio 32. After researching that item, I am reluctant to mess with it. Not only is it discontinued, I read tons of reviews/feedbacks from folks that have serious issues with this product. Mainly the channels going out. Oh well, I'll keep playing with it... I am not pressed for time, but sure am losing alot of sleep over this... tossing and turning, thinking what else can I try to get this right. lol.

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not\_here.dude> wrote:

>Ed, have you tried adjusting the input trims to match better the signal

>hitting the A to D's in Paris?

>

>AA

>

>"Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote in message news:477b9f5b\$1@linux...

>>

>> Hi Martin and thanks for your response... That Alesis Studio 32 Mixer

>> sounds

>> like what I am looking for. Guess they don't make them anymore and will

>> have to seek a used one... The price tag of that M-Audio Mix Control is

>> a bit above what I want to spend.

>>

>> I honestly tried everything possible to get good levels through my

>> Behringer

>> mixers... and I can't. I end having to pull up the .paf in CoolEdit and

>> increase it by 3 to 6 dbs on any track recording. In the monitor of the

>> mixer, the instrument or vox is clear, clean and loud, but when it get to

>> Paris, it is too low. If I decrease the monitor of Paris, then dubbing is

>> impossible cause I can't hear nothing but the current take. If you know

>> what I mean. Again, thanks for your advice....

>>  
>> ~ Ed  
>>  
>>  
>> Martin Harrington <lendan@bigpond.net.au> wrote:  
>>>On 2/1/08 5:39 AM, in article 477a7ac3\$1@linux, "Ed" <askme@email.com>  
>>>wrote:  
>>>  
>>>>  
>>>Happy New Year to you too.  
>>>The behringer should work...I've got one that I use occasionally when  
>>>clients want me to record to a couple of cameras and do a PA mix at the  
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>>>Very quiet and enough level to go to cameras at -20 dbfs.  
>>>Failing that..look on the web for an Alesis Studio 32... 16 direct outs  
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>>>I have one, although I'm now using my M-Audio Mix Control, but it was  
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>  
>

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [Ed](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 14:21:21 GMT  
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Hi Erlilo,

Thanks alot for the tips. I am not a Pro with mixers and front-end like this... perhaps this will get me started in the right direction. The Behringer manuals are terrible for real life recording applications. I can see that someone really tries hard to make their manuals easy, but if you don't know some of their lingo... you get lost in the steps or sequences. I am gonna setup the SL mixer and try again...

I was working on some older recordings and although I can easily change the 8-in from semi-pro to pro, it doesn't always take effect unless I start a new project and pull those .paf files into the new one. Not sure if this is a known bug or what. I just can't wait for Paris 4.0 release.... ;)

~ Ed

erlilo <erling.lovik@lyse.net> wrote:

>Ed,

>

>Remember the meters on the Behringers are showing peak signals and is

>not working like "old" VUmeters, that's showing the average.

>Be sure to have the start of the sliders up to 0 on Subgroups that is

>feeding Paris.

>Be sure to set the trim control for each inchannel so high that the

>clip led on the channels are peaking, then set the trim control a

>little bit back so you get max signal before peaking.

>Have PFL listening on when soloing a channel to control how high the

>Power Led is showing on the channel. Only the left signal will show up

>in the Power Led when PFL. Be sure it's lighting nearly all the way up

>before peaking.

>If the Peak is coming on, back of a little bit on the trim control for

>that inchannel and you're ready to record.

>Be sure to look at the Paris 8in card, to see how the red peaklight

>are reacting.

>After recording, control how high the peak on the recorded

>Parischannel have been to see how it's reacting.

>If the recordings yet is low, see if you have set the Paris 8in cards

>to -10dB.

>Since your subgroup outs are unbalanced, -10dB are often the most

>correct to use. Test a ready to record signal in headphones when

>flipping between -10 and +4 on that Parischannel and you can hear at

>once wich have the highest signal.

>Professional balanced outs shall for the most have a +4dB signal.

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Subject: Re: A Decent Front End Mixer or?  
Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 15:46:00 GMT  
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Ed I think you should just get rid of the mixer all together. from what your describing the output stage of the channels are shot at the direct out tap. why do you even need a mixer? do you need that many mic pres simultaneously? sounds like your going to have to limit it to 2 tracks at a time from the main outs.  
the Paris mixer is a hell of a lot better any way.  
I just scrapped my mixer when I went midi. a control surface is all I need. I cant afford a neve console either.  
again, unless you need that many inputs at once I think you will sleep better without the mixer in the chain.

"Ed" <askme@email.com> wrote in message news:477ccfbe\$1@linux...  
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