
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)

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

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 19:36:45 GMT

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This Neve thing can really do some nice stuff. I'm starting to get worried.

;o)

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message news:45afc2bc\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 20:21:24 GMT
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Deej and all,

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Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 20:27:46 GMT
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"Tony Benson" <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote in message news:45afd762@linux...

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [TCB](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 21:38:01 GMT

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Sounds interesting Deej. I'm still clinging to the idea that once it's digital it should stay digital until it hits the converters on the playback device, but that's probably old fashioned at this point.

That said, if you have time I wonder if you could get a combo of a true brick stop limiter (SFP has one) after a UAD Fairchild or LA-2A or other cushy sounding compressor to sound as good? The Neve doesn't seem to have a lot of metering, but I bet if you use it you'll get a good idea what it's doing just listening to it. Interesting though experiment even if you can't get the sonics to work perfectly.

I've been mixing a rock'n'roll song using the SX/SFP combo and like it a lot. I'm doing 'stems' but only because I'm grouping tracks and f/x on the way to the Scope mixer. I'll post results soon.

TCB

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghh!!!.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 21:57:28 GMT
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Well, with adding 6db of gain, I guess what I'm doing would be considered
French kissing with a hand heading toward second base then. ;>)

Tony

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote in message [news:45afd898\\$1@linux...](mailto:news:45afd898$1@linux...)
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Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 21:57:40 GMT

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>Neve box as well, and though they are different animals functionally,
>NoLimit does add some of the same sonic goo that you can get with the 5042

>when pushing the saturation level.

I've messed around with NoLimit a bit since I started playing with Paris again... it's definitely very cool; I wish Chuck could port that plugin to VST - I'd like to see how it sounded straight across the SX 2-bus.

Neil

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

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Thu, 18 Jan 2007 22:39:00 GMT

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ROTFL!!!!

;oD

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news:45afede5\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 2007 02:17:04 GMT

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Funny, I can get the Paris Sound By inserting the Waves SSL Buss Comp, I get that sound..

"DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 2007 02:43:14 GMT
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Man, I'll one up you. I get that paris sound, by using paris :-)

Hehe

Chuck

"LaMont " <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

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

Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 2007 03:26:08 GMT

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Lol..Funny!!

"chuck duffy" <c@c.com> wrote:

>

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>

>Hehe

>

>Chuck

>"LaMont " <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [gene lennon](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 2007 04:06:27 GMT
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"LaMont " <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

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I wish that was true for me. I like the SSL Buss Comp, but even though I

other analog compressors sound far better than the SSL Buss C.
I am diggin the Nebula 2 Free compressor patches right now, but still not
as much as good hardware.

Gene

Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [LaMont](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 2007 04:50:48 GMT
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I don;t know Gene. You really have to:

- Turn on the analog button
- Slam the (you know what) gain, ratio :2:1..Thickens things up into the Paris(ish) sound. If that's the sound you're going after.

Sometimes, depending on the song,I want a more open sound, ala Pro Tools..

"Gene Lennon" <glennon@NOSPmyrealbox.com> wrote:

>

>"LaMont " <jjdpro@ameritech.net> wrote:

>>

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

Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Fri, 19 Jan 2007 16:05:26 GMT

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thad,

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:45afdaa9\$1@linux...

>

> Sounds interesting Deej. I'm still clinging to the idea that once it's

> digital

> it should stay digital until it hits the converters on the playback

> device,

> but that's probably old fashioned at this point.

>

> That said, if you have time I wonder if you could get a combo of a true

> brick

> stop limiter (SFP has one) after a UAD Fairchild or LA-2A or other cushy

> sounding compressor to sound as good? The Neve doesn't seem to have a lot

> of metering, but I bet if you use it you'll get a good idea what it's

> doing

> just listening to it. Interesting though experiment even if you can't get

> the sonics to work perfectly.

I'm going to give this a try over the weekend. My wife likes the sound of the Paris bus more than she likes the Neve when it's driven *beyond* the sound of the Paris bus and she's my bellweather. It is possible to set the Neve up to where it basically emulates the sound I hear when I bypass it on the Paris mix bus so I'm going to dial in the Neve saturation levels to the point that when I bypass it, I hear no difference between the Neve on the

global insert and "not" on the insert, then see if I can get this happening on a Cubase ITB mix. The cool thing about the Neve is that it's got extremely nice line amps for boosting the signal and theoretically, if I've tracked at 24 bit and I am processing at 32 bit float, I shouldn't have any noticeable loss of fidelity if I keep the overall mix level at around -10dBfs and then strap the 5042 across the mix bus insert and crank the Neve line amps to make up the gain by around 8dB (I wish this thing had an option for incremental 1dB stepped gain on both the level and saturation functions) and follow it with a the UAD-1 limiter as a peakstop. The whole point of this is to see if I can get what I'm looking for sonically by using Cubase. I've got v4 on the way and if the control room function gives me the flexibility I need and my new Gigabyte mobo/4800 CPU gives me the horsepower, I'm going to make a pretty serious effort to start tracking with the CW cards on a native platform and see if I can live with it. The CW drivers function very well at 3ms latency and the new mobo has a Silicon Image SATA controller which should give me good read/write results from HD's during heavier track count projects. Otherwise, I'll just keep tracking to Paris. No problems there. I just want to simplify (gawd, I can't believe I used the "s" word)

I do have a feeling though that if this works, and me not being a synth guy and all, if I decide to go with a 100% native platform, it will be with one of the new RME PCIe cards.

;o)

>

> I've been mixing a rock'n'roll song using the SX/SFP combo and like it a lot. I'm doing 'stems' but only because I'm grouping tracks and f/x on the way to the Scope mixer. I'll post results soon.

>

> TCB

>

> "DJ" <www.aarrrrggghhh!!!.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [Dimitrios](#) on Sun, 21 Jan 2007 18:16:44 GMT
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Regarding Nolimit.

Whatb preset are you using ??

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I prefer the stereo compressor for the whole mix where I can raise the volume
by its output quite enough !!

Regards,
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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [Deej \[4\]](#) on Mon, 22 Jan 2007 01:02:38 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Dimitrios,

There aren't any presets.....are there? I've never seen any. I just play with it until I like what I hear.

;o)

"Dimitrios" <musurgio@otenet.gr> wrote in message news:45b39ffc\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Neve 5042 tape deck emulator-read this or you will die
Posted by [Dimitrios](#) on Mon, 22 Jan 2007 09:22:20 GMT
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Hi DJ,
Yes there are a couple from the bulk preset file I somehow found for all
eds plugins...
I will test it again ,maybe have not given enough tweak...
Regards,
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>>>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 comes
>> out
>>>the backside of this box when it is serially inserted.
>>>
>>>;0)
>>>
>>>
>>
>
>
