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Subject: Close, but no cigar.

Posted by [Neil](#) on Thu, 02 Nov 2006 03:10:15 GMT

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Been researching this one a bit...

<http://www.tcelectronic.com/Default.asp?Id=7618>

Seems pretty good, has onboard DSP, taking a load off your CPU... has a nice monitoring interface - simpler than TotalMix, coupla mic inputs & DI's, as well, BUT... only has 4 balanced analog i/o's... so you gotta buy 4 of 'em to do 16 channels pure. ALSO... no BNC/world clock... WTF? Trying to get proprietary on us with a unit like THIS!!!??? We have to ONLY use these together with each other? Can't sync anything-digital-else???

Handy, nice for "semiprosumer" applications, but another opportunity to really go after the pro market wasted, IMO - they have the technology, they have the tinker toy set, they just didn't "go pro" with it... Paris didn't either at the time, and neither did Emu with their 1812/1212, etc - although the onboard DSP & good convertors plus a few other features coulda got them there. Is everyone afraid of alsihad? Is that it? Is that why all things like this come out as small-time entrants targeted at price points in the home recording level only?

As the subject line says: Close, but no cigar.

Here's the thing... Yeah there are other options like MAD1 units that can get you 1,569,878,760,000 channels of i/o, but who needs that much, and then you also need a half dozen lightpipe interfaces, and stringing all that shit together & making it hum is mickey-mouse, too, IMO.

Someone needs to develop the following:

\*\*\*A superb convertor box with 16 channels in & out, throw in a couple of d.i./mic pres & lightpipe/SPDIF ports if you want, but really what the world needs is more single-box 16 channel interfaces.. with 16 channels of pure analog i/o. Don't be afraid of going a full rack space long & 2 rack spaces deep, fer pete's sakes! Not everything has to be a single-space and/or a half-racker!

\*\*\* It should have on-board DSP effects - like the TC unit or the new/soon to be discontinued EMU stuff, for example. Make 'em good ones please - you can do good ones for the same

price as sucky ones - yes, you can.

\*\*\* It should have an ASIO driver that can allow for up to 16 channels/submixes of passive analog summing (or if not that, at least DSP summing through something other than the PC's CPU) your box & return to 2 new channels in the DAW app - if you can do onboard DSP EFX, you can do onboard summing, too, yes sir you KNOW you can!

\*\*\*Throw in a copy of CubaseLE if you wanna... no need for a complete/full-out app like SX or Nuendo - people can indeed buy that separately if they want.

\*\*\* MIDI i/o... duh.

\*\*\*Absolutely make it expandable to be able to easily link 2 or more if someone needs more than 16 analog i/o's at once. Encourages people to buy another if they ever want to go that route anyway.

\*\*\*It should be PCI-based, not Firewire or USB. One card. Expansion units can be Firewired together via ports on the units themselves, and routed through the same card. Maybe allow for a max of 2 units per card to keep costs down... anyone needing more than 32 analog i/o's at once will no doubt be in a situation where they can go with PCI expansion chassis anyway.

Price point should be ~\$1,200 to \$1,500, street.

Can you imagine how many of these they could - and more importantly WOULD - sell?

I think it can be done for that price point - I mean look at various units like the EMu 1812, the TC unit I just linked to above, and the RME Multiface... all those units have various & sundry of the features I mentioned for around HALF that price (Multiface has 8 analog i/o's, plus other digital options, & word clock, but no onboard DSP... Emu & TC units have half-ass versions of less i/o's and one has no word clock, but both DO have DSP EFX) how hard would it be to incorporate all of these features I mentioned for twice to slightly more than twice the price?

I think the 16-minimum channels of straight-up analog i/o is the biggest feature set that's missing from a lot of the half-rack half-asses out there... you can do a full rock/pop/country band with 16 in's - not a big huge major-label-type session with top & bottom snare mics; front, back & outfront kick mics, plus ambient room mics & a PZM taped to the wall or the drummer's T-Shirt, plus five channels of bass & 19 channels of guitar amp mics, but then the people who are doing those are MOSTLY (not all, but) MOSTLY on PT systems anyway, or if something like what I'm discussing were available, they could

just buy TWO of these units. My point is, if something like this were available, with ONE unit, and no fucking around trying to lightpipe & wordclock all kinds of digicrap together, you could do basic tracks that looked like:

- 1.) Kick
- 2.) Snare Top
- 3.) Snare Bottom
- 4.) HiHat
- 5.) OH-Right
- 6.) OH-Left
- 7.) Drum Room/Ambient Right
- 8.) Drum Room/Ambient Left
- 9.) Bass D.I.
- 10.) Bass mic'ed
- 11.) Guitar 1a
- 12.) Guitar 1b
- 13.) Guitar 2a (or Piano Lo/Keys Right)
- 14.) Guitar 2b (or Piano Hi/Keys Left)
- 15.) Scratch Vox
- 16.) Cowbell

Want to spot-mic your toms, too? OK, maybe only use 1 guitar for the basic trax & drop the cowbell if you need to & you can't stereo submix your toms into to two channels, but you get the idea, right? With 16 pure analog i/o you don't have to lightpipe or SPDIF anything in, you can use all your "BOOTEK" mic pres like your Massenbergs & your Chandlers & your Great Rivers, etc - none of which come with digital i/o's - and still have a GREAT setup for a full-on basic tracking session!

Then after you track all your basics, you've got your DSP-no-latency 'verb for the vocalist to hear as he's doing his real takes, and DSP summing for mixdown time, just like Gay Pree without the fucking mimes & the cats & the 17-day wait to reauthorize like the poor couple of sonsobitches who we've seen posting the last few days; and just like PTHD, but without being trapped into the endless cycle of "spend more than I muthafuckin' have, spend more than I muthafucking have again two years later"...

.... so why hasn't somebody done this? THIS is the market we're all in, right? Those features at that price point? Wouldn't we all pay it? Tomorrow, first thing in the morning? Wouldn't about at least a quarter million other people that we don't even know about do the same? And it can be done (obviously, look at the half-assed feature sets at half the price that if combined, could add up to this type of unit at that price

point!).

So why? WHY hasn't anyone done this?

<Rant off>

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