

TV TECHNOLOGY

THE DIGITAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

Serving the Broadcast, Cable, Production, Postproduction, Business and New Media Markets

REPRINTED FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2008

WWW.TVTECHNOLOGY.COM

AUDIO PATCHING

AudioLot Mixbay 192-Point Patchbay

by Stephen Murphy

Consider the patchbay. At the base level, its purpose is to consolidate access to myriad equipment inputs and outputs throughout an installation. A well-deployed patchbay adds to the flexibility and functionality of both the connected equipment and, by extension, overall operations. This can be further enhanced by taking advantage of the various patchbay normalization configurations to streamline routine operations and reduce unnecessary patching.

Depending on an installation's signal-flow plan, patchbay type and condition, and—perhaps most significantly—the number of people who have taken a proprietary interest in the wiring scheme over the years, the patchbay can also become a source of confusion, frustration, technical limitation and even catastrophic failure.

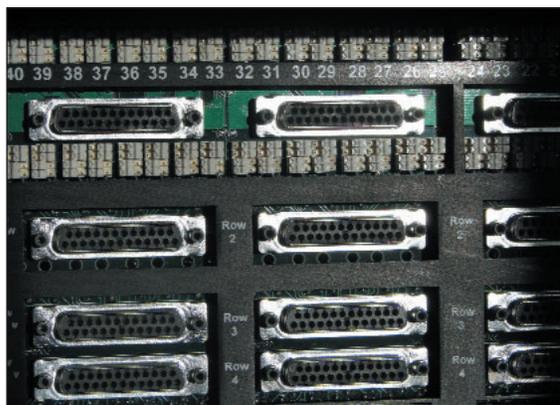
Seeking to enhance the positives and reduce the negatives associated with patchbay use is the Mixbay—an internally-wired, Quick-Switch-enabled patchbay system designed and marketed by Cleveland-based AudioLot Records.

FEATURES

The AudioLot Mixbay is a fully-enclosed rackmount-standard 192-point TT/bantam-to-DB25 patching system. The Mixbay's four rows of 48 jacks are evenly spaced over a 3 RU front panel, leaving

plenty of room for its four extra-large, slide-in/out plastic-protected labeling strips.

The salient feature of the AudioLot Mixbay is the use of mini slide switches that allow for quick configuration (or reconfiguration) of normalization and



The AudioLot Patchbay system's backplane. Configuration switches are visible above the DB-25 I/O connections.

grounding options on a per-jack pair basis. The trademarked Quick-Switch configuration scheme was first employed in the 96-point "Mini Shorti" patchbay manufactured by Audio Accessories, a company that co-developed and manufactures the Mixbay to AudioLot design specifications.

In addition to the two rows of Quick-Switches (covered in detail below), the rear of the Mixbay sports four rows of female D-sub connectors—six per row—that correspond to the four front panel jack fields. In a departure from typical patchbays, rows one and three and rows two and four are the normaling pairs.

FAST FACTS

Application

Analog or digital audio signal patching

Key Features

Industry-standard Tascam wiring spec, nine normaling/grounding configurations per jack pair, simple configuration, cable support tray, lifetime warranty.

Price

\$1,695

Contact

Contact: AudioLot Records
440-442-6244
www.audiolot.com

For external connection, the Mixbay uses the industry-standard Tascam DB-25 balanced analog wiring specification, in which eight inputs or outputs (or custom-terminated combination) are supported per D-Sub connector.

Speaking of support, the lower panel of the Mixbay extends four inches beyond the back of the 3-inch deep chassis to form a sturdy cable support tray; multiple perforations in the tray allow for a range of cable tie-down options.

IN USE

As someone who has—from school-age electronic projects through current-era facility installations—inhaled a disturbing amount of rosin-core solder fumes, it was admittedly difficult for me to suppress the DIY gene and get fully excited about evaluating the preconfigured AudioLot Mixbay

