RECORDERS 2013

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4MinX: Mixer/Recorder Designed For The Most Demanding

With its scalable and up-gradable design, its flexible monitoring and routing capabilities, 4MinX is suitable for almost any situations from TV/film location sound recording to music recording. With six hours' operation from its on-board battery, 4MinX is remarkably lightweight and features high-end pre-amplifiers, as always, from AETA Audio Systems.

Born out of the desire to meet new workflows for engineers, this compact and light mixer-recorder benefits from 20 years of expertise from AETA Audio Systems in high quality analogue and digital audio design.

4MinX brings new solutions, power, and flexibility without compromising on the essential needs of field recording, autonomy, audio quality, and user-friendliness.

Whether broadcast or media industry (documentary, film, music), 4MinX opens new possibilities for production in different specialties. Combining the features of a multi-track recorder (two to eight tracks) and portable digital mixer, 4MinX is ideal for stereo as well as multi-channel production.

Audio

Through its audio performance, 4MinX is ideal for the most demanding sound recordist to showcase their work.

It combines 10 inputs (four Mic/Line, two lines, four digital channels AES42) and 12 outputs (six analogue channels and six digital channels AES3).

Digital inputs support AES42 for digital microphones (10 V phantom power) without degradation. Gain/Trim/Filter controls are available on each channel in both analogue and digital modes.

AETA AUDIO is renowned for producing high quality mic pre-amplifiers. 4MinX remains true to this reputation, and even offers the user an improved mic pre-amp audio specification:

- Maximum overall gain: 92dB – useful for dynamic and ribbon microphones

- Four Mic/Line transformers less inputs – very low noise (-128dBu) but with great flexibility of trim and excellent headroom (input headroom: 40dB, independent of input stage gain).

It is suitable for all types of sound production, from standard mono through stereo (X/Y or fully–featured M/S), to surround (A or B formats from our SoundField partnership, or Double M/S).

Designed To Be Robust, Easy To Use, And Open For Future Features

The construction uses a stainless steel chassis and carbon fibre loaded plastic casing, to give both lightness and durability. The result is surprisingly lightweight, only 2.1 kg including an on-board battery!

The design allows the unit to be used safely in extreme conditions (heat, cold, high humidity, shocks). 4MinX is fully shielded against radio interference, and the casing has better resistance to denting and damage than heavier conventional metal structures.

Navigation of the menus is by a rotary encoder (thumbwheel) on a superb three-inch TFT transflective display, and offers a simple, fast, and readable user interface. Multiple buttons allow direct access to assignable functions.

The hardware already includes interfaces (USB, Ethernet) to implement future features: MIDI device, transfer audio… Since software can be altered and rewritten, 4MinX is future-proof.

Power Management

The new lightweight 4MinX allows you to work on location for more than six hours with its rechargeable standard DV Li-Ion battery (NP-F). This type is commonly used with Sony cameras.

The DC input allows you to power from an external battery (NP1 or alternatives): it is also possible to recharge the 4MinX NP-F battery at the same time. 4MinX can switch automatically between power sources without interrupting work.

A robust and optimised power supply has been designed for the 4MinX, to provide up to 15 Watts for your peripherals.

A Neutrik MiniCON 12-pin connector (located on the left side) offers two additional line outputs for wireless TX to camera, to the presenter's earpiece, etc. Receivers and transmitters can be powered from the 4MinX through this connector; up to 6 Watts consumption.

Recording

4MinX uses an Ambient Recording Time Code module – highly regarded within the industry and used in ARRI cameras – to provide high-accuracy Lockit TC. The time code module can be used as a TC generator (all video formats supported) or as a receiver to synchronise 4MinX to any TC source.

Sophisticated project management makes it simple to handle multiple recordings. The multi-track recorder on the SD/SDHC card can extend to eight tracks, with background backup on external USB disk. More than 15 hours of eight-track/96 kHz/24-bit recording can be held on a 128GB SDHC card.

When you record with 4MinX, you don't record directly to tracks but create self-contained files that hold one, two, or more tracks depending on the selected configuration. With 4MinX it is possible to record simultaneously two stereo microphones on two different stereo files, for example.

All recordings are created in BWF (Broadcast Wave File) format. BWF metadata in iXML format can be managed directly on the 4MinX, and is compatible with most post-production software. The availability of an optional USB keyboard simplifies metadata management.

A complete project management system satisfies the needs of the most demanding users and generates sound report files automatically.

Flexible and Powerful

To design 4MinX, we were not afraid to re-write the rule book in order to offer you more power and flexibility.

The routing capability for each input and each output gives the user a completely free hand. A 4MinX user can set a specific interface and adapt it to their own preferences regarding inputs and outputs. Apart from the record sources that you include in each file, 4MinX offers additional powerful and detailed routing, enabling the user to define what is sent to mix busses, and to analogue and digital outputs.

There is no need to go back into the menus – personal configuration snapshots allow complete flexibility of settings, and are simple to use. They give total freedom, and users can save up to eight snapshots.

With an optional 10-pin HI-ROSE socket, it is possible to handle camera return and dedicated communication circuits.

Pricing

The 4MinX price is very competitive.

With 4MinX you pay only for what you need, and what your budget can afford. 4MinX is an "evolutive product", allowing you to upgrade at any time after purchase. You can upgrade your 4MinX from two to eight tracks recording with just a software upgrade, thus avoiding any return to the factory.

AETA's 4MinX was given an award for technological innovation by SATIS Trophies 2011 in France for its compactness and future-proof technology.