



Blue|328

Digital Audio Mixer

NLE Application Note

Blue|328 is ideal for many different applications by providing a clean, digital signal path to allow your audio to retain the highest quality possible.

In a non-linear editing (NLE) environment, Blue|328 offers NLE editors input, output, and monitoring flexibility, a small footprint and actual faders. Various input and output options allow you to keep cables connected to Blue|328, the NLE and a VTR eliminating the need to plug and unplug cables.

Additionally, the quick snapshot store and recall feature allows you to completely change the mixing setup for the three main stages of a non-linear workflow:

- 1** Digitization
- 2** Monitoring while Editing
- 3** Output

This document will outline these basic stages of NLE workflow and illustrate how the Blue|328 digital audio mixer will enhance each of these scenarios.

1 Digitization

The NLE process requires that various elements from all kinds of possible sources be digitized to the NLE. The Blue|328 mixer excels in providing an easy way to connect many different analog, digital, and SD/HD SDI audio input sources including: VTRs, microphones, router feeds, CDs, DATs and others. All of these sources can be connected directly to Blue|328 eliminating plugging and unplugging cables from the back of the NLE every time you need to change the input source. Blue|328 also offers you superior analog-to-digital conversion through an optional analog input module.

Once footage is digitized, NLE systems make it difficult and time consuming to make some simple audio adjustments. For example, on some systems just adding EQ can require rendering. This can be a lengthy process, depending on the duration of the clip.

The Blue|328 mixer offers the ability to make adjustments to the source material while digitizing with built-in, real-time functionality such as:

- Track swapping of any input to any output,
- EQ adjustments via three-band parametric EQ on all faders,
- Dynamics processing with Compressor, Limiter, and Expander,
- Audio Delay,
- Pan adjustment,
- Input gain adjustment,
- Phase reversal,
- and more.

Blue|328 also offers a Clean Feed Mode which allows you to pass the source footage unprocessed right into the NLE. In this mode, fader levels are set and locked at unity and features such as panning, phase reversal, EQ and dynamics are turned off for the fader(s) of your choice.

These simple, yet critical adjustments available on the Blue|328 make the editing process much more efficient.



2 Monitoring while Editing

After the footage has been digitized, monitoring the editing timeline is much more flexible with Blue|328. Simply connect the output of the NLE to the Blue|328 inputs. Blue|328's eight monitor buses offer you complete flexibility in output routing, allowing you to route any of the NLE's program outputs to any of the eight monitor (speaker) outputs. We even have a monitor sub-mixer with factory presets for Mono, 2-, 4-, and 8-Channel Modes as well as three Surround Sound settings. If that isn't enough, you also can save your own User Monitor setup.

While some NLE applications offer some of these same features, using Blue|328 can be quicker than using a mouse and clicking on a multitude of audio tracks or digging through menus. You can quickly make adjustment to the monitors when using the Blue|328.

For example, let's say you would like to preserve individual tracks for the music, voiceover and sound effects, but listen to a rough mix while editing. Without changing the NLE's audio tracks, you can simply place the music tracks on a stereo fader and the voiceover and sound effects on other faders panned to the center. Voila! You have a rough mix allowing you to easily adjust the faders whenever you want to simulate just how the final mix might sound.

3 Output

Blue|328 can also help with the output of the NLE timeline. Some facilities take the NLE audio and add finishing touches in a ProTools environment, often in another edit suite. In this case, a dub for the client might require a rough stereo mix so they can get a feel for what the final spot or program will sound like.

Blue|328 allows complete flexibility in assigning any of the NLE's output channels (up to eight) to any of the eight program bus outputs. This allows you to keep the original multi-channel mix while still providing the client with a stereo mix to review, just as in the Digitization example above.

If multiple dubs are required at the same time, the Blue|328 mixer offers an optional second set of eight program outputs to use to feed two devices at the same time.

For more information on this or other applications of the Blue|328 mixer, please contact us:

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