

Marina Theatre – Sound Mixing Console replacement report

November 2019

Current Audio Mixing Console:

YAMAHA 01v96

Year Purchased: 2008

Manufactured from: 2003 - 2011

- 16+1 Fader
- 12 XLR Inputs
- 2 Stereo Jack inputs
- 8 additional XLR inputs via MLA8 expansion card
- 8 Axillary Sends (4x Omni-Outs, 4x Effects returns)
- 4 1/4 inch Jack Omni-Outputs
- 8 Audio Buses
- 4 FX Processors

In June 2016 John Young compiled an independent audit of the Technical resources at the Marina Theatre. This report was passed onto members of Lowestoft Town Council and members of Waveney District Council before them.

In his report John Young noted that the following about the venue Sound Mixing Console:

Item Inspected condition	Compliance / Operational Issues Identified	JY Comments	Recommended Upgrades and/or Equipment Replacements	Age (Est.)	Rem. Life (Est)	Replacement Cost (estimate)
Moderate	24 Input Channels is not enough for the latest clients, amateur companies, or Panto.	Upgrade/part exchange to 32 channel digital desk – bearing in mind available footprint in control room.	Digico S21 touch screen	8	2	£10,000

3.5 years on from John Young's report, the mixing console is now almost 12 years old, unsupported by the manufacture, lacking in the common requirements of today's productions and, therefore, in need of replacement.

Yamaha, the console manufactures, have ceased to support this particular model of the console. A new upgraded version (01v96i) was released in 2015 with an entirely new Chipset, Processing and recoded software. The new components and software are not compatible with the old versions of the 01v96. Official replacement parts for the original 01v96 are now very hard to source.

Yamaha have also ceased releasing software and firmware updates for the original 01v96. The last software and firmware update for the original 01v96 (released in October 2014) is not compatible with Windows 10 or IOS 13 or higher, meaning that we are now unable to connect the console to a laptop or computer. This has resulted in us losing the ability to remote access and control the desk which is a massive step backwards. It also means that we are unable to make vital backups of the desk setting. If the console was to fail we now have no way of reinstating the settings without manually reprogramming everything. This process could take days.

Even though the desk has been regularly cleaned, serviced and well maintained throughout its life, Electronic components will eventually fail. In an entertainment venue such as ours, if the Audio system or lighting system were to stop working we would end up having to cancel shows, upset patrons and promoters, denting our reputation and ultimately losing revenue.

Also noted in the report was that the current console did not offer enough inputs, outputs or connectivity to satisfy current production requirements. High input, output and routing counts combine with remote surface controlled monitoring means that we are currently unable to fulfil the audio requirements of most of today's touring productions. It is a limiting factor for the type and quality of productions we can bring to the people of Lowestoft.

John Young's assessment back in 2016 was that a budget of around £10,000 would be needed. He put forth the suggestion of a Digico S21 console. Having researched the current Pro-Audio market and spoken with many touring audio professionals, I have come to the conclusion that a console of the pedigree of the Digico S21 may not be best suited to our needs 3.5 years on.

Digital Audio Technology has been constantly evolving and the last few years has seen the introduction of a mid-level mixing consoles and almost entry level price points.

I have earmarked the Allen and Health SQ-6 and a possible replacement console. It has the features and connectivity to satisfy the needs of today's productions along with the expandability to handle even the most demanding scenarios in the future.

ALLEN & HEALTH SQ-6

Manufactured from: 2018+

24+1	Faders.
24	local XLR Inputs.
2	local Stereo Jack inputs.
32	additional XLR inputs via 2xDX168 expansion card.
12	Axillary Sends.
14	local XLR Outputs.
16	additional XLR Outputs via 2xDX168 expansion cards.
36	Audio Buses.
8	FX Processors.
8	dedicated FX sends and returns.
300	Snapshot Scene Storage.

USB 2 Desk Backup

IPad remote surface monitor control

Ew100 integration

32 Channel USB audio Steaming to DAW

Current best Prices: (some price quotations still outstanding)

Console & Peripherals:	£4435.00 + VAT
IPad & Router:	£347.00+VAT
Outboard:	£2351.70 + VAT
TOTAL:	
NET:	£7133.70 + VAT
GROSS:	£8560.44 inc VAT