

Log #3 - Summing Mixer

In this log I will explore the AMS Neve 8816¹ 16 channel summing mixer. I will look at setting up the Summing Mixer ins Studio 1 and how easy it is to get a mix². For all of these tests, I will be using the stems for 'Alive' recorded in Year 2 running from Pro Tools.

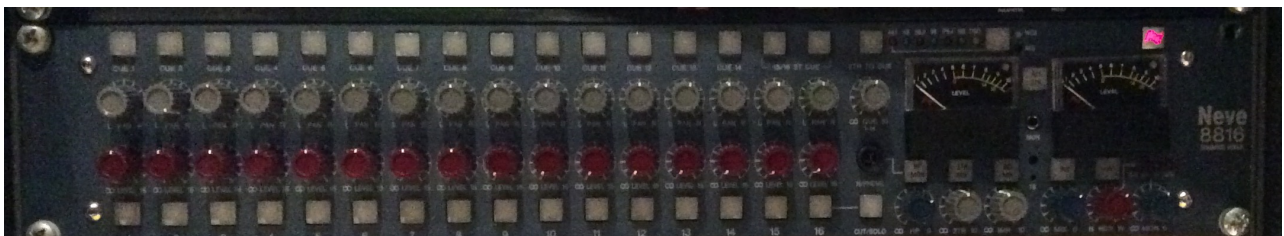
THE SUMMING MIXER

The first thing I did was fire up Pro Tools, import the session and recalibrate the settings to work in Studio 1. All the clips were working fine as they were when we recorded. Then I used Pre-fade channel sends to send the following channels to the following Lynx Aurora outputs:

1. Drum Bus (Stereo) - Outputs 1 & 2
2. Guitar DI - Output 3
3. Guitar Mic - Output 4
4. Keys (Stereo) - Outputs 5 & 6
5. Vox - Output 7
6. Vox.Harmony - Output 8



Once I had the outputs set all at the same level, I could see the output LED's on the Lynx Aurora flashing, indicating that I had signal. I then took the first eight outputs from the Lynx Aurora and fed them into the first eight inputs of the NEVE 8816 summing mixer. I then took the 8816's L&R outputs into the Toft's Line In inputs, 23 & 24 respectively. By turning up the monitor inputs on the desk, I could hear the signal coming through. Alternatively, I could also feed back into the Lynx Aurora and into Pro Tools to record the mix.



¹ 8816 summing mixer (no date) Available at: <http://www.ams-neve.com/products/outboard/8816-summing-mixer> (Accessed: 12 February 2016).

² dmiadmin (2015) Summing/mixing. Available at: <http://dangerousmusic.com/2015/09/11/summingmixing/> (Accessed: 27 April 2016).

As always, to have blank canvas to start from, I first flattened all the dials. I then panned the Drums and Keys; Ch 1 & 5 Left and Ch 2 & 6 right. Then I began to mix the same way I would usually, just using the dials rather than faders. It was strange to get used to at first and the dials seem very sensitive compared to a large logarithmic fader. I ran through the song several times; the sound overall was very nice and I managed to get a mix that I was reasonably happy with.

Physically, I found mixing using the dials quite uncomfortable. Both having to bend down to operate the dials and the small size of the dials paired to make it an awkward experience. The ability to make more significant changes to initially set the mix was much easier due to the large changes the dials effect. Making small tweaks was more difficult however and I found myself either over-adjusting or leaving it to avoid that problem. I enjoyed using the summing mixer, however I would not use it to replace a mixer or Pro Tools; I will discuss this in another log.