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RADIAL ENGINEERING WORKHORSE

Radial Engineering's update of the 500-series Rack concept.

500 Series Rack

The Workhorse from Radial Engineering is housed in a 3RU 19-inch steel enclosure, and has eight slots to accommodate 500-series modules. The Workhorse's eight card slots come with easy glide trays to make fitting modules straightforward. The trays can be removed to fit non-standard and double-width modules, and each 500-series module can draw as much current as it needs from an overall pool of 1200mA. This power is produced by a high-current external switching power supply. Radial has dispensed with any form of power switch so when the unit is plugged into the mains, it's on.

There is a basic, high-quality eight-channel mixer and summing bus. A simple master section offers separate pots for master and monitor output as well as level control for a pair of front mounted high output headphone jacks. The main outputs utilise isolated Jensen transformers. Small LEDs show the status of the $\pm 16V$ power rails and phantom power, and there's a mono switch for quickly checking stereo phase issues.

Round the back, all the module I/Os are duplicated on XLRs, TRS jacks, and balanced 25-pin D-sub. TRS inserts are provided on the main outputs and an extra D-sub handles direct ins from a DAW or other recorder so users can bypass the module section altogether and use the Workhorse as a stand-alone eight-channel summing mixer. A pair of 1/4-inch jacks allows the user to expand the mixer to a 16x2 format by connecting a second Workhorse. Radial has also added some extra functionality to each

module's housing, starting with a stereo link switch that allows for the electronic linking of two mono units. The 'Feed' function automatically patches one module to its direct neighbour without the need for external cables.

The 'Omniport' is an additional TRS jack that's routed to edge pins seven and nine on each module card, and this can be used to enhance the functionality of suitably provisioned modules.



Ⓜ GB£1,499.00 (exc. VAT)

Ⓜ www.radialeng.com / www.shuredistribution.co.uk

CONCLUSION

It's hard to imagine squeezing any more functionality into a 3U device like this, and Radial is to be congratulated for putting plenty of thought and design smarts into such a compact and attractive package. The Workhorse doesn't cost an arm and a hindquarter more than the other full-width 19-inch 500-series rack options out there, yet this extra functionality will be invaluable in areas as diverse as live recording, or anywhere that requires zero-latency monitoring, headphone mixes, mix processing and, of course, analogue summing.

Greg Walker

SOURCE

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