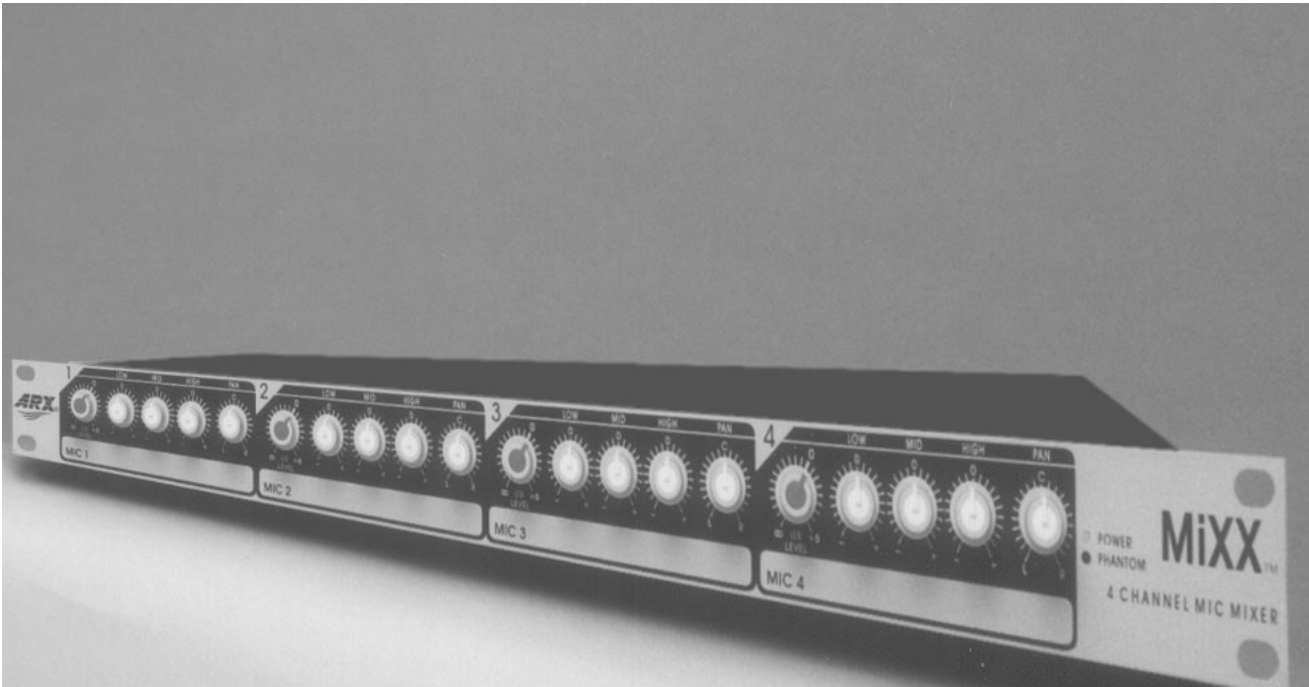


Hands On...

The ARX MIXX

reviewed  
by Trevor Cronin

# MIXX it up



**R**ecently I was asked to do a live-to-DAT recording of a 60 piece Brass Ensemble Concert Band. Definitely not your normal mixing gig, and I intended using not your normal setup.

Both the band and myself wanted to keep the recording as natural as possible, so I planned on leaving my Midas at home and running the microphones straight into the DAT.

However, I needed a

Phantom power supply to run the condenser microphones, and a chance reading of New Products listings in a Pro audio magazine led me to discover a great new product from local manufacturer ARX Systems - The MIXX four channel microphone mixer.

I already had a couple of ARX products, an Afterburner compressor/limiter and a Six-gate, which I bought while I was working in the UK (Imagine my surprise when I found

out they were made in Australia!). I had found both of these products to be indispensable in day to day mixing, and so I rang ARX, had a look at the MIXX, and ended up buying it!

## Layout

The rear of the unit features a switchable Mic/Line electronically balanced XLR input, Direct Line jack output (great for connection to a DAT!), Gain trimpot (adjusted with a small screwdriver) on each of the four channels.

There's also a Phantom power switch, 2 Electronically balanced XLR

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***“What I really liked about the MIXX was that everything worked as I expected it to”***

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outputs, 2 x 5 pin DIN sockets for linking multiple units together, and a removable IEC power

er input switchable between 240V and 110V. The last point alone makes it a valuable asset for international touring.

The front of the unit features a row of 5 rotary pots on each of the four channels.

These are, in order, Fader level, Low EQ (100Hz shelving,  $\pm 12$ dB), Mid EQ (800Hz Bell, wide Q,  $\pm 12$ dB), High EQ (10 KHz shelving,  $\pm 12$ dB), and Pan control.

Underneath these

et and clean enough for DAT use.

I know that people rave about the Mackie input stage, but this was every bit as good and the unit is even more compact. So, on the recording day I decided to make the most of its four inputs and added 2 additional mics covering the percussion section at the rear of the stage. This worked very well.

What I really liked about the MIXX was that everything worked

any reason to doubt it.

Even though I didn't need to, I liked having the flexibility to easily link up another couple of MIXX's using a MIXX-Master (another unit with only two Mic inputs but extra auxiliaries and master controls).

As the band warmed up I did a quick balance adjustment, using a little of the Low EQ to reduce the rumble being produced from a reflection off the rear wall.

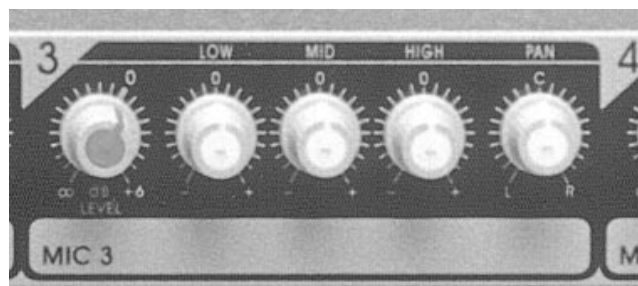
Having 4 mics resulted in a smooth even coverage, and the end result was a great sounding budget recording, and 60 happy clients!

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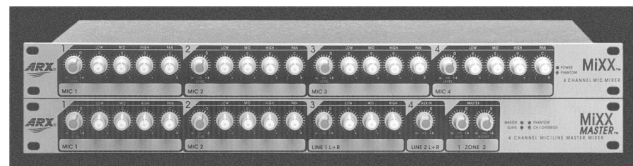
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there's the regular ARX feature of a numbered panel with sufficient space to mark each channel with a China-graph pencil (Good Idea!). On the right hand side there's a green LED for Power On, and a Red LED for Phantom Power.

I originally intended to record the band with just an X/Y pair of AKG 451 microphones positioned high above the conductor's head, but I changed my mind once I got the MIXX. I was very impressed with the quality of sound from the pre amps. Truly quiet

as I expected it to. This unit should rapidly become the minimalist recording engineer's mixer of choice. The controls were smooth, the EQ was warm and clean, the Phantom power worked flawlessly all day, and the unit was absolutely silent. ARX quote better than -90dB (unweighted) signal-to-noise, and massive headroom, and I can't see



*Separated at birth - The ARX MIXX and MIXXMaster*

## STOP PRESS

Late breaking news Dept.

If Trevor had really only wanted a Phantom Power Supply for his recording, he could have checked out the new ARX Phantom Plus, four channels of rock solid 48volt Phantom Power according to ARX.

Of course, then they wouldn't have been able to squeeze as much money out of him!

The ARX Phantom Plus; details from the usual suspects.