

## PMI AUDIO GROUP IS NOW SHIPPING TOFT AUDIO ATB CONSOLES

# THE NEW TOFT AUDIO ATB-SERIES CONSOLES

Toft Audio Designs recreates the magic of the Trident Series 80 consoles.

The ATB Series is the creation of legendary console designer Malcolm Toft. He began his career as an audio engineer, working for Trident Studios from the day it opened in 1968 through to 1971 when he founded Trident Audio Developments.

In 1971 he became studio manager and was given the task of finding a replacement console that would provide recording facilities for the newly emerging 24 track format. It soon became apparent to him that no current manufacturer could provide the type of facilities they re-

quired. These included full 24 track monitoring and routing, 4 band equalization, monitor equalization and 10 auxiliary sends. Malcolm therefore proposed to the studio owners (Barry and Norman Sheffield) that they could design their own console to fit their demanding requirements.

In 1972 Malcolm founded Trident Audio Developments, beginning a legacy that would help shape the sound of modern recording. The new designs quickly gained prominence in a rapidly expanding recording market. Trident Audio Developments produced a number of acclaimed models, including: The A and B Ranges, Series 80, TSM, Trimix, Series 65, Series 75 etc.

Artists who have recorded hits on Trident consoles include: Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Rod Stewart,



Queen, and David Bowie; recently, Dire Straits, Coldplay, Radiohead, and Oasis have added their names to the roster. In fact, Radiohead have used an MTA Console (also designed by Malcolm Toft) in the recording of every album from (and including) O.K. Computer.

### PMI AUDIO GROUP www.pmiaudio.com

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#### The Console

The ATB Series continues to build on the Toft legacy, incorporating a great deal of the original circuitry utilized in popular Trident/MTA models; however, it is designed with today's DAW user in mind.

Available in 16, 24, and 32 channel configurations, the ATB features in-line monitoring and direct outputs on each input channel, thus facilitating both tracking and remixing with consummate ease. Inline monitoring, additional master section inputs, and dedicated stereo effects return allow up to 88 channels of input when mixing (ATB32).

#### Input Section

Each input features a high quality Burr Brown mic/line preamplifier and will accept signals from low impedance balanced microphones, high or low level balanced/unbalanced line levels, or even the output from a musical instrument. Signal present (-20dB) and peak (+10dB) LED's provide visual references of input level. A high quality 100mm throw fader provides precise level control.

The signal can be shaped via

## **Input Panel**



the extremely musical four-band equalizer, the design of which draws heavily from the original Trident Series 80. Boost and cut of 15dB is provided by centre detent controls and the two sweep frequency ranges overlap for increased flexibility. Direct outputs are supplied for

recording to DAWs or multi-track tape recorders. Each input channel also has its own send/return should the engineer wish to use external EQ's or dynamics processors.

6 Auxiliary Sends allow the interface of external effects processors and supply a method for setting up cues. Aux 1 is set up pre-fade, and Auxes 2-6 can be independently switched to pre or post fader positions in the signal path.

Input modules also incorporate a monitor section, useful for listening to takes during the tracking procedure. Auxes 5 and 6 and the channel equalizer can be assigned to the monitor section, making it possible for the engineer to have a monitor mix complete with EQ and effects available while recording. During mixdown, the monitor inputs can function as additional line inputs, as they feed the Left/Right outputs simultaneously with the channel input. This effectively doubles the number or inputs on the console.

A stereo after fade listen button allows channels to be monitored independently without interrupting the recording process. This maintains a true stereo perspective while doing so. A push button located on each module printed circuit board makes it possible to make each channel solo mono, pre-fade. A particularly useful function if the console is used as a P.A. mixer

#### Submaster Section

Each Submaster channel provides a method of adjusting the output level of each of the 8 sub-group outputs via its own fader. Using the comprehensive subgroup monitoring facilities it is possible to build up a monitor mix of the recorded tracks and any that are about to be recorded. Aux sends 5 and 6 are available to provide access to reverbs or other effects. This allows complete stereo cues with effects to be sent to performers. High quality 12 segment LED bar graph meters provide instant notification of sub-group levels.

The 8 Monitor Returns in the Submaster section also function as additional inputs and these returns are also connected to line inputs 1-8. It is therefore extremely easy to mix anything that has been recorded via the 8 subgroups using the main channel inputs.

8 stereo Effects Returns are located in the upper Submaster section, so that no regular inputs need be used as effects returns. There is also a master level control for each of the 6 balanced Auxiliary Sends for adjusting overall level to an effects processor or headphone amplifier when using them as cue mixes.

#### Master Section

The ATB Master Section provides all of the controls needed to affect overall functionality of the console. A 100mm fader allows accurate setting of Left/Right output levels, and a visual representation of level is available via both 12 position bar graph and VU meters. A comprehensive talkback system with built-in microphone allows the engineer to communicate with performers. Two sets of Monitor Outputs are supplied, along with a Headphone Output and level control. Two line level 2 Track Returns are provided for monitoring CD players or other stereo devices.

The ATB Series' modular design allows for easy servicing should the need arise. It is constructed from individual circuit boards mounted at right angles to the front panels and removable in banks of 8. All active components, (IC's, etc.) are socketed making removal simple. Passive components use traditional through-hole technology, also simplifying the servicing process.

#### **ATB Key Features**

- Available in 16, 24 & 32 channel configurations
- 8 Mix Busses with outputs
- Direct Outs on every channel
- Inline Monitoring for every input channel
- Additional 8 Monitor Returns in Group Section
- Vintage Series 80 EQ for every input channel
- 6 Aux Sends (Aux 1 pre fader, Aux 2-6 - selectable pre or post fader)
- 8 dedicated stereo Aux Returns
- Super Accurate 12-Stage LED Meter
- Optional Meter Bridge
- Optional 24/192k Firewire Bridge

#### **Technical Specifications:**

#### **Input Impedance**

Microphone Impedance:

• >1.2K ohm balanced

Line Impedance:

• >15K ohm electronically balanced

#### **Output Impedance**

Line Impedance:

• <100 ohms balanced/unbalanced

#### Gain

Microphone Gain:

• 70dB

Line Gain:

• -16 to +30dB

#### **Noise Levels**

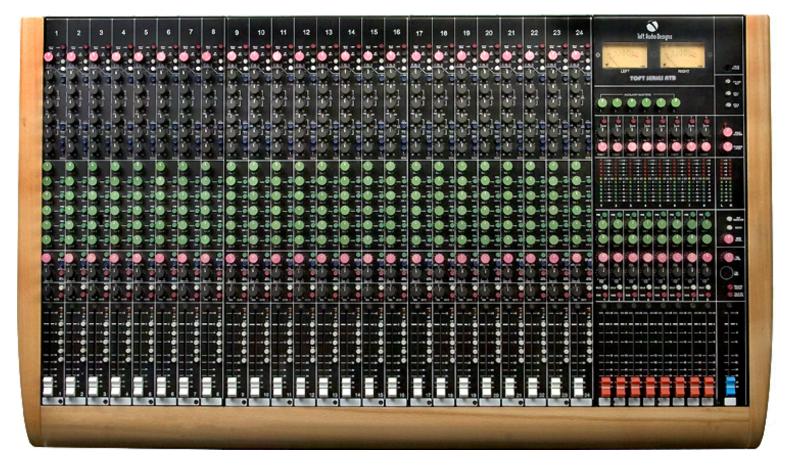
Microphone Input Noise:

- <-128dBu ref 150 ohm (20Hz-20kHz) Line Input Noise:
- <-75dBu (Eq. In, 20Hz-20kHz)

#### **Maximum Mic Levels:**

Mic Input:

- <+24dBu at all frequencies Line Input:
- <+24dBu at all frequencies



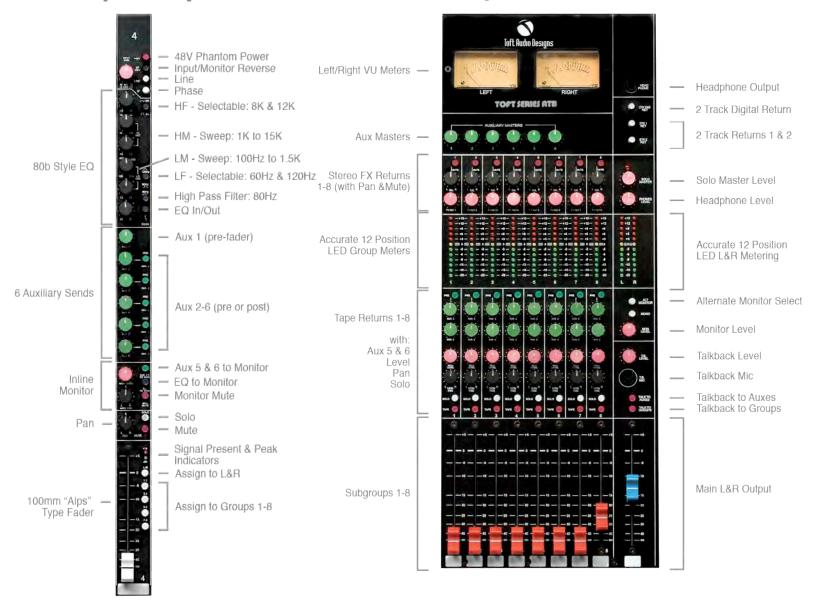
**Toft Audio Designs ATB24** 

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## **Input Strip**

## **Group/Master Section**



## **Group/Master Panel**



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