

American Idol Uses Personal Mixers to Create Communications Network



A-16II Personal Mixers Labeled for American Idol

APPLICATION

Communications Network

MARKET SEGMENTS

Sound Companies
Broadcast

LOCATION

Hollywood, CA

PRODUCT LINES

Pro16®

PRODUCTS

- 1 A-16R Personal Mixer
- 2 A-16II Personal Mixers
- 1 AN-16/i Input Module

TESTIMONIAL

“This system had long worked for us for events such as the Grammys and the Oscars. Using control boxes and headsets, it creates a perfect communication network for large orchestras as well as for a band such as the one on *American Idol*. We knew we had to make it work, and the Aviom mixers made it possible. It also has the added benefit of allowing the musicians to have increased control over their own audio monitor levels, including the verbal cues.”

Andres Arango, Staff Engineer at ATK Audiotek

INSTALLATION DETAILS

Using Aviom’s A-16R and A-16II Personal Mixers, California’s ATK Audiotek created a communications system for the most-watched television show in the US, FOX-TV’s *American Idol*. The show features live performers competing to be voted America’s next popular music star. Filmed in Hollywood’s Kodak Theatre, *American Idol* posed a unique challenge for engineers because they were dealing with amateur performers and a professional band on a multi-level set with conductor and bass player Rickey Minor separated from the other musicians in a second-story balcony across from the band.

The communications network that ATK Audiotek created is arranged into two zones—the band zone with an A-16R controlled by the monitor engineer and the drum zone with a standalone A-16II, which the drummer can control. Minor

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Increased monitor control in a live TV environment
- Simple setup and installation
- Multiple zones simplify content delivery to the performers

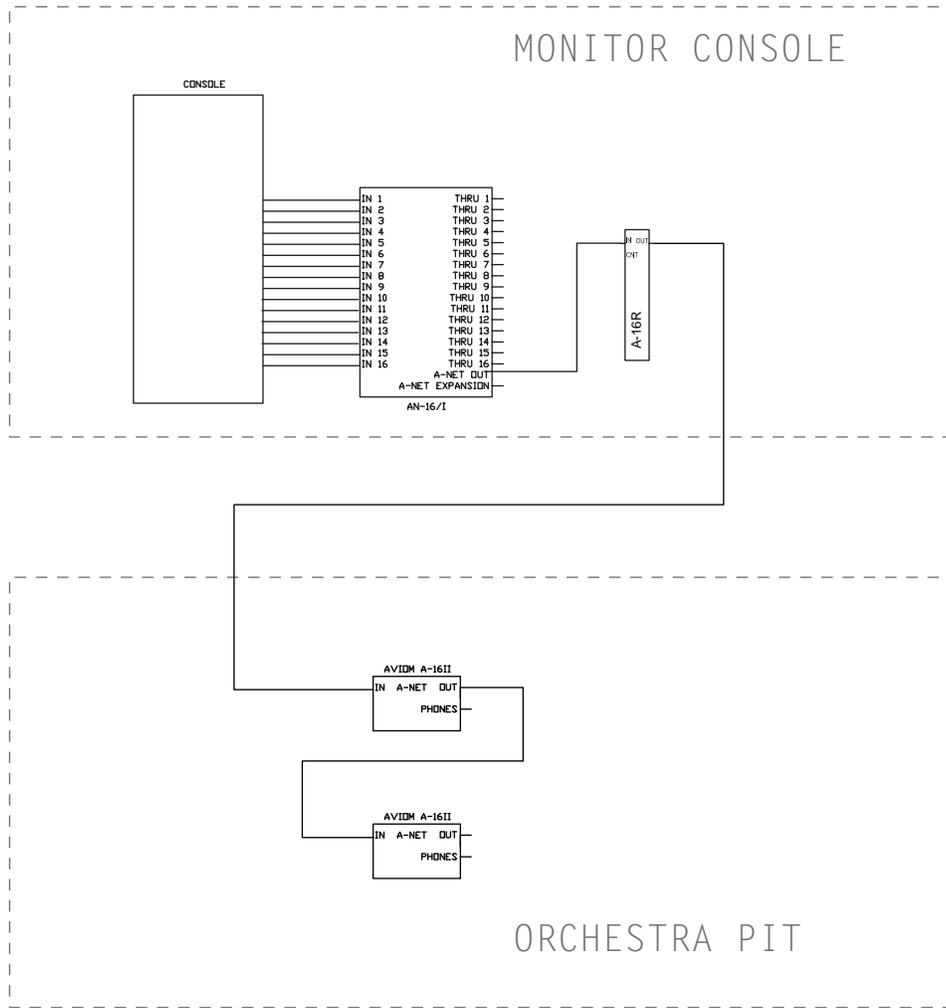
and the director can speak to band members using Clear-Com Party-line AB-100 and Studio Technologies 233 announcer consoles as the main interfaces. According to ATK’s Andres Arango, “the Aviom mixers made it possible.”

Arango also noted the “added benefit of allowing the musicians to have increased control over their own audio monitor levels, including the verbal cues.” In addition, the simple setup and flexibility of the Aviom system allow engineers to adjust to the changing needs of the *Idol* set.

In fact, the Aviom system is so flexible and reliable that ATK Audiotek used a similar setup for this year’s Academy Awards show, which is also broadcast live from Hollywood’s Kodak Theater.

System diagram on reverse

Case Study



The monitoring and communication system consists of one A-16R and two A-16II Personal Mixers.