

Old, New, Borrowed, Blue

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New York, NY (July 22, 2010)—A new Rupert Neve Designs 5088 console at Blue Man Group's studio also houses classic Neve modules and a DK-Technologies MSD600M++ audio meter.

Faced with a potentially time-consuming and costly refurbishment of a vintage Neve desk at the Blue Man Group studios in Manhattan, creative development music director Todd Perlmutter instead purchased a new 32-channel Rupert Neve Designs 5088 discrete analog mixing console. In collaboration with technical service and wiring company dB Sound Design and studio furniture specialists Sterling Modular, Perlmutter has converted the 5088 into a one-of-a-kind console incorporating 16 1064 and 16 original 1081 mic preamp/EQ modules in a custom penthouse section.



Initially planning to rack-mount the modules from a Neve 8048 for use with the new console, Perlmutter and Jeff DelBello, of New Jersey-based dB Sound Design, discovered that the modules were almost exactly the same width as a 5088 channel. Sterling Modular in Boyertown, PA assembled a penthouse frame that kept the modules centered over the 5088 input channels, and supplied a matching 19-inch-wide patchbay and custom mahogany side trims.

When Perlmutter first brought a tape session into the console, he reports, "The first thing I noticed was that I could throw the faders up and hear everything right away; I didn't even have to spend time getting the mix together. The amount of murk that disappeared with the 5088 was remarkable. Everybody noticed it immediately."

Perlmutter, who has already performed a number of surround mixes on the 5088, including a piece for Panasonic 3D TVs, comments, "In order to deal with all the different formats coming and going through the studio, I wanted a highly accurate audio meter and chose the DK-Technologies MSD600M++ because it also offered a very clear display for surround sound. It has turned out to be a great idea. We don't do surround mixes daily, but we tackle enough of them that having a surround meter is very helpful, especially since we are using a console made to monitor stereo."

Rupert Neve Designs
www.rupertneve.com

Sterling Modular Systems
www.sterlingmodular.com

DK-Technologies
www.dk-technologies.com