

Console Cosmetics

The subject of console cosmetics is one that should not be overlooked. At MCI, great care is taken to make sure every piece of MCI equipment is not only well engineered, but aesthetically appealing as well. Because of MCI's involvement with the outward appearance of their equipment, a clean, good looking design has become an unmistakable trademark.

A good example is the JH-500 console. It is not over run with logos, but you can't mistake ours for another manufacturer's because of the famous sugar maple color scheme.

What is ultimately important about the appearance of our equipment is how well it will look out of the shop and into an environment. The recording studio is the best example of how important appearance really is. Recently, many MCI employees had an opportunity to view a console out of the shop. Criteria Studios in Miami opened a fourth facility and the occasion allowed them to see just how vital it is that a console be attractive and adaptable to a studio's color scheme.

Marquee Studios of England recently ordered a custom JH-536 console. They wanted the

console to blend in with their elaborate decor. MCI took it to task and produced the desired console in a Van Dyke Brown. All silk screening had to be changed to increase legibility and the finished console justified the extra care that had gone into making it. Electronically, the console was the same as any other JH-536, yet cosmetically it is one of a kind.

This kind of special attention isn't reserved for only custom machines. On any console, preparations are taken to make the finished product a handsome piece of electronics. Rich solid Oak ends are fitted to either side of the mixing desk and the light meter housings have oak trim across the top. Each JH-500 console also has an Oak writing surface covered with glass. MCI has its own wood working shop and a lot of time is taken to cut and finish each piece of wood. Every JH-500 console also is fitted with a padded leather arm rest and the JH-400 consoles use high grade vinyl. The combination of Oak and leather make the 500 console one of the most appealing mixers on the market.

When a machine is complete and ready to ship, it is given a

thorough final examination and checkout. Any chips and scratches are touched up using a 6 to 1 mixture of color and catalyst. All buttons and knobs are checked, and pieces that do not meet our requirements are replaced. Then the knobs are aligned to correctly indicate the settings on the console. Finally, all the trim post and sends are turned down and the EQ is set to flat.

MCI also has its own engraving department. As buttons and knobs are pushed and turned by an engineer, the hot stamping or silk screening can slowly wear away, and soon no numbers or words remain.

To solve this problem, MCI's engraving department cuts the appropriate words and indications deep into the buttons. The grooves are then filled with a white or black acrylic paste. MCI now produces all of its own engraved buttons. This approach is visually more pleasing as well as being utilitarian.

All in all, we feel the MCI console is the best dressed mixer on the market. A little time and care is always taken to insure that each piece of equipment is not only mechanically perfect, but cosmetically appealing as well.