Signex
PRO AUDIO PRODUCTS

MIDI PANEL

Features

☐ 1 row of 22 MIDI sockets

☐ All components mounted on single PCB

☐ Can be used for MIDI In, Thru or Out

☐ DIN or solder rear connections

☐ Standard 1U, 19" rack-mount panel

☐ Slide-in ident card system

☐ High quality construction

MIDI - The music language of the future

MIDI is the acronym for musical instrument digital interface and has established itself as an incredibly powerful, real-time interface between musical instruments, processors and recording equipment. Unfortunately, the increasing number of tasks expected of MIDI has led to some complex interconnection requirements. The market place offers a plethora of 'little black boxes' performing a wide range of functions to help overcome the difficulties associated with the increasingly complex routing of MIDI signals. Splitters, mergers, switched matrix boxes and programmable patchbays abound, all with their own advantages and limitations. While each individual MIDI system has a unique set of requirements which will increase in complexity as the system develops, there is no off-the-shelf solution which will satisfy all criteria. A system may start with a splitter box or two and rapidly develop into a convoluted rats nest of cables and little boxes strung between (and across) keyboards and outboard equipment. Programmable MIDI patchbays are probably the most powerful of MIDI signal routing tools as they can be programmed to change entire patches and manage

system-exclusive data instantaneously under real-time MIDI control. But even these systems have their limitations. The number of inputs and outputs is often restricted due to the cost of the switching elements used in interconnection matrix. As a result, the cost of providing real-time management of MIDI routing can only be justified for connections which actually require real-time control. this number is usually fairly small during any particular session and a relatively small programmable matrix will normally be sufficient to cope with most situations, provided that the user can change the connections to the inputs and outputs easily. To route MIDI connections which do not need real-time control with a MIDI patchbay is simply unnecessary and not cost effective.

The Signex MIDI panel

Signex has introduced the MIDI panel to provide a convenient method of localising MIDI interconnections and is a complement, rather than an alternative, to existing methods of MIDI signal routing, The Signex MIDI panel is simply a connector panel: it has no active circuitry and therefore requires no power supply. All sockets are uncommitted and connected only to their respective rear terminations. Any socket can therefore be used for MIDI In, Thru or Out connections. In its most basic role, the Signex MIDI panel provides probably the simplest form of expandable MIDI patching system available, giving clear access to any relevant interconnections within a localised panel area. It can also be used for multiple MIDI connections between individual instruments and expander/processor racks. The Signex MIDI panel is particularly effective when used to organise and tidy-up the connections from a system employing splitter and mergeboxes, eliminating the usual chaotic tangle of cables and the resulting confusion and frustration. The Signex MIDI panel can even transform the usefulness of a MIDI patchbay, by

providing convenient front panel access to valuable inputs and outputs, Ultimately, the most effective MIDI patching system will probably consist of several separate elements and the Signex MIDI panel is the ideal foundation for a complete, expandable MIDI patching centre which allows you to spend more of your time using your equipment creatively and less time wrestling with cables.

Construction

The Signex MIDI panel is a 1U, 19" rack-mount unit fitted with a single row of 22, 5 pin DIN sockets. Although the 5 pin DIN connector has been adopted as the universal standard for all MIDI connections, only pins 2, 4 and 5 are used for MIDI. The Signex MIDI panel has been designed for use specifically with MIDI signals and therefore pins 1 and 3 are left unconnected. Rear termination is via 5 pin DIN sockets or direct solder connections. The front panel is fabricated entirely from mild steel with the PCB/connector retaining bracket spot welded to the rear. All components are mounted on a single epoxy-glass printed circuit board (PCB) which also provides easy termination and secure cable anchorage for rear solder connections using the cable ties provided. The PCB eliminates all front to back wiring and when fixed to the front panel, provides exceptional lateral rigidity, preventing the panel from flexing when in use. Also, connectors are recessed behind the front panel producing a neat, uncluttered appearance with no fixings visible from the front. The front panel is finished in a satin black polyester powder coat which is both attractive and extremely durable. Panel livery is screen printed in white epoxy ink and complements the other connector panels in the Signex range, Front panel designations are achieved using the white ident cards supplied, using pen or dry-transfer lettering. The card is retained by a transparent polyester sleeve bonded to the front panel which protects the markings on the card and allows easy removal when changes are required. Temporary markings can even be made directly on to the surface of the ident sleeve using a Chinagraph pencil.
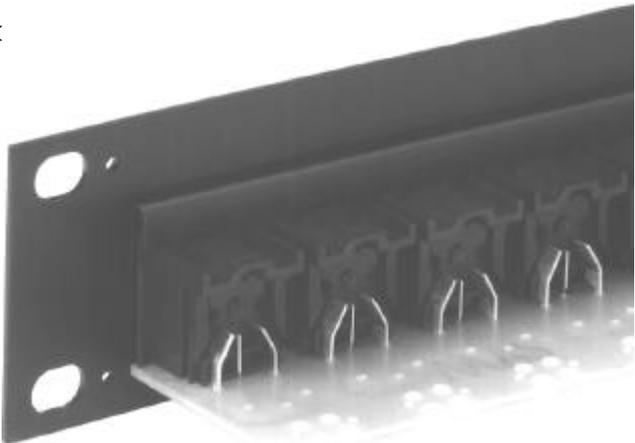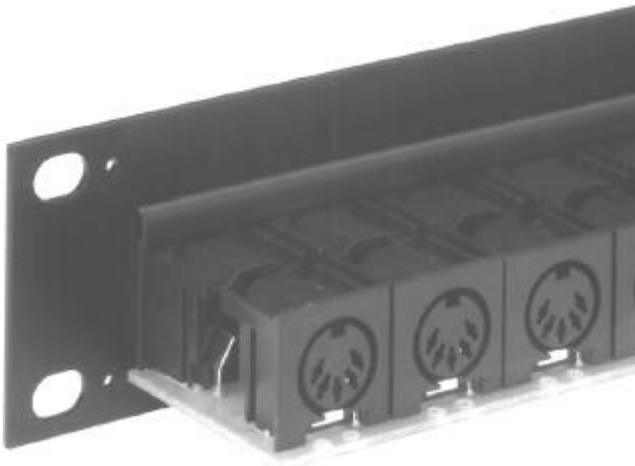
CPM22T - Rear solder

Specification

Description	MIDI connector panel, 22 way
Configuration	1row of 22 sockets
Front panel	Standard 19" rack-mount panel, 1U (1.75") high
Front connectors	DIN, 5 pin, 180° (pins 1 and 3 unconnected)
Rear termination	CPM22M: DIN sockets, 5 pin, 180° CPM22T: Direct solder connections
Panel designation	Plain white slide-in ident card
Dimensions (mm)	483 (W) x 43 (D) x 44 (H) Min. rack aperture - 445

Accessories

A range of accessories and sundry items for use with all Signex connector panels is constantly under review. The range includes a lacing bar kit to provide anchorage and support for the rear connection loom and a rear panel kit giving the option to wire all rear connections to a multiway connector for easy removal of the panel assembly. Please check our current Price List for the complete range of accessories.

Supplied by: