

Outside the Box

While not necessarily compatible with 500 Series products, modular systems are available from other manufacturers. SSL offers its Mynx system, which houses the company's X-Rack modules.

Tonelux offers an array of modules for its 16-slot VRACK and full-on console systems. Tube-Tech just announced a new two-slot housing to complement its RM-8 8-slot rack and tube-based mic pre/EQ/compressor modules. And at AES, SPL

debuted its RackPack 500, a rack housing for four 500 Series modules *and* four of its proprietary modules—mic pre's, Transient Designer, equalizers, TwinTube saturator and compressor.

—Continued on page 28

PREAMPLIFIER MODULES

COMPANY; WEBSITE	MODEL	CHANNELS	DIRECT INPUT?	WIDTH	LIST PRICE	NOTES
A-Designs; www.adesignsaudio.com	P-1	1	yes	1	\$895	Based on A-Designs' Pacifica preamp
A-Designs	EM-Silver	1	yes	1	\$895	Custom-steel output transformer to complement ribbon mics
A-Designs	EM-Blue	1	yes	1	\$895	Custom-nickel output transformer for extended HF
A-Designs	EM-Red	1	yes	1	\$895	Custom input transformer and 50/50 output transformer for upfront mids
A-Designs	EM-Gold	1	yes	1	\$895	Custom input transformer and steel output trans complements LF sources
Al.So Audio; www.alternatesoundings.fr	MD12	2	yes	1	\$555	Dual hi-Z instrument to line-level preamp (no mic inputs)
Al.So Audio	MP1	1	no	1	\$555	Single-channel mic preamp
Al.So Audio	MP2	2	yes	1	\$1,195	Mic/line preamp with Sowter transformers
AnaMod; www.realios.com	Realios 9031	1	yes	1	\$899	Class-A discrete design based on Dick Swettenham/Helios preamp
API Audio; www.apiaudio.com	512c	1	yes	1	\$760	Low-noise (-129 EIN) all-discrete design based on 1967 model 512
Atlas Pro Audio; www.atlasproaudio.com	Juggernaut 500	1	yes	1	\$1,095	Has interchangeable input transformers and variable impedance loading
Audio Maintenance; www.audiomaintenance.com	5003D	1	no	1	\$650	Has Carnhill I/O transformers, switchable input impedance
Avedis Audio; www.avedisaudio.com	MA5	1	no	1	\$395	Carnhill input transformer; Jensen output transformer
Bizzar Audio; www.bizzaraudio.com	Mint Julep	1	no	1	\$400	Transformerless design with NE5532 op amps
Bozo Electronics; www.bozoel.com	MPA3	1	no	1	\$520	Has stepped gain switching, onboard highpass filter
Brent Averill; www.brentaverill.com	312A	1	yes	1	\$760	Jensen I/O transformers, Avedis 1122 op amps
Burl Audio; www.burlaudio.com	B1D	1	yes	1	\$899	Transformer input with steel output trans, lo-Z switch for ribbon mics
Burl Audio	B1	1	yes	1	\$899	Transformer input with nickel output trans, lo-Z switch for ribbon mics
Buzz Audio; buzzaudio.com	Elixir	1	yes	1	\$870	Transformer input, Lundahl LL1517 trans output, lo-Z switch for ribbon mics
Chameleon Labs; www.chameleonlabs.com	Model 7681	1	yes	1	\$399	Designed to provide classic 1081 preamp sound
Chandler; www.chandlerlimited.com	Germanium 500	1	yes	1	\$1,045	Identical circuitry to Chandler's rackmount Germanium preamp/DI
Classic Audio Products; www.classicapi.com	VP26	1	no	1	\$590	Sold without discrete op amp; use your own or buy new for \$60 to \$65
Daking Audio; www.daking.com	MicPre 500	1	yes	1	TBA	Modular version of Daking Mic Pre IV
DAV Electronics; www.davelectronics.com	Broadhurst Gardens 501	1	yes	1	\$360	10 to 150k Hz bandwidth
Eisen Audio; www.eisenaudio.com	EAC312V	1	yes	1	\$525	Huge range of custom 500 Series preamps and D.I.Y. kits also offered
Electrodyne; www.petesplaceaudio.com	501	1	yes	1	\$895	Discrete transistor circuit based on 1969 Electrodyne design
FiveFish Studios; www.fivefishstudios.com	X-12mk500	1	no	1	\$395	Also available in \$375 unassembled kit version
FiveFish Studios	X-72mk500	1	no	1	\$490	Has Carnhill output transformer
FiveFish Studios	SC-1mk500	1	no	1	\$325	Input transformer optional; also available in \$299 unassembled kit
Forsell Technologies; www.forselltech.com	SMP500	1	no	1	\$795	Class-A J-FET front end
Grace Design; www.gracedesign.com	m501	1	yes	1	\$625	Transformerless design, impedance switch for ribbon mics
Great River; www.greatriverelectronics.com	MPS00NV	1	yes	2	\$795	Designed to emulate 1073 sound, has Sowter transformer
Helios; www.helios-electronics.com	Type 69-500	1	no	1	\$1,375	Based on Dick Swettenham design with 3-band EQ and HP filter
Inward Connections; www.vintageking.com	MPD 500	1	yes	1	\$1,050	All-discrete design using SPA-690 op amp and transformer I/O
JLM Audio; www.jlmaudio.com	Dual 99v500	1	yes	1	\$829	Two-stage gain path (99V discrete op amps) with variable impedance control
JLM Audio	NV500	1	yes	1	\$829	Based on Neve 1073/1290 with variable impedance control
JLM Audio	TC500	1	yes	1	\$829	Class-A FET design based on early Neve/EMI/BBC gear
JMK Audio; www.jmkaudio.com	JM-120	1	yes	1	\$325	Instrument-only preamp with inputs tailored for guitar and bass
John Hardy Company; www.johnhardyco.com	Twin Servo 500	1	no	1	TBA	Input impedance switch, Jensen I/O transformers
Lachapell Audio; www.lachapellaudio.com	583e	1	yes	2	\$2,025	Same as 583s, but has 3-band sweep EQ, usable with pre or separately
Lachapell Audio	583s	1	yes	2	\$1,349	Tube/transformer-based input stage, transformerless output
LAZ Electronics; www.lazpro.com	MPA	1	yes	1	\$811	Discrete dual-stage design with transformer I/O
Lipinski Sound; www.lipinkisound.com	L-609	1	yes	1	\$995	Discrete design based on Lipinski Square, custom input transformer
Old School Audio; www.oldschoolaudio.com	MPI-C	1	yes	1	\$499	Custom Crimson Audio input transformer
Old School Audio	MPI-L	1	yes	1	\$543	Has Lundahl 1538XL input transformer
Old School Audio	MPI-L3	1	yes	1	\$599	Has Lundahl LL7903 input transformer
Old School Audio	MPI-A	1	yes	1	\$499	Transformer input and output
Purple Audio; www.purpleaudio.com	Pants	1	yes	1	\$725	Differential circuit, xformer I/O, mic/line input switch, 100k/1M-ohm DI switch
Purple Audio	Biz Mk	1	yes	1	\$725	Xformer I/O, mic/line input switch, 33k/100k-ohm DI switch
Radial Engineering; www.radialeng.com	JDV-LB	1	yes	1	\$400	Class-A instrument-only preamp/DI, Drag Control load correction, tuner out*
Radial Engineering	PowerPre	1	yes*	1	\$500	Discrete design, xformer out, three switchable preamp voices
Roll Music; www.rollmusic.com	Tubule RM55A7	1	no	1	\$1,000	ECC832 tube, transformer-coupled preamp
Safe Sound Audio; www.safesoundaudio.co.uk	P0501	1	yes	1	\$999	Has PeakRide compressor and limiter, 60kHz preamp bandwidth
Shadow Hills; www.shadowhillsindustries.com	Mono GAMA	1	yes	1	\$980	GAMA (Golden Age Mic Amp) has three selectable output transformers
Shiny Box; www.shinybox.com	Si	1	no	1	\$500	Transformerless design, selectable impedance loading
True Systems; www.true-systems.com	PT2-500	1	yes	1	\$799	Wide 1.5 to 600k Hz bandwidth, DI section also has ¼-inch thru output
Vintage Design; www.vintagedesign.se	M582 mk2	1	yes	1	\$795	Input transformer, switchable 300/1,200-ohm input impedance
VSI Audio; www.vsiaudio.com	L-21	1	yes	1	\$725	Nickel-steel transformer out, also offered as L-22 (\$725) with steel transformer

*DI Out and Tuner Out only available when used in Radial Workhorse enclosure

EQUALIZER MODULES

COMPANY; WEBSITE	MODEL	CHANNELS	BANDS	TYPE	WIDTH	LIST PRICE	NOTES
A-Designs Audio; www.adesignsaudio.com	EM-PEQ	2	2	peak/shelving	1	\$1,450	Erickson-Montessi version of Pultec EQP-1A
Alta Moda; www.altamodaaudio.com	AM-20	1	1	peak/shelving	1	\$599	Fully parametric midrange bands
API Audio; www.apiaudio.com	550A	1	3	peak/shelving	1	\$1,195	Discrete design, "Proportional Q" narrows Q at extreme settings
API Audio	550B	1	4	peak/shelving	1	\$1,195	Discrete design, Proportional Q, based on original 1967 550 with extra band
API Audio	560	1	10	graphic	1	\$895	All-discrete 10-band graphic, Proportional Q
API Audio	550A Saul Walker Ed.	1	3	peak/shelving	1	\$2,195	Special-edition reissue of original API 550A
Avedis Audio; www.avedisaudio.com	E27	1	3	sweep/shelving	1	\$1,100	Push-button shelving option for LF/HF bands
Buzz Audio; www.buzzaudio.com	Tonic	1	3	sweep/shelving	1	\$1,060	Inductor-based EQ, selectable LP/HP filters, Lundahl output transformer
Chandler Limited; www.chandlerlimited.com	Little Devil EQ	1	4	sweep/shelving	1	\$1,375	Switchable Q on mids, shelf LF/HF filters
Electrodyne; www.petesplaceaudio.com	511	1	2	peak/shelving	1	\$1,050	Discrete design based on 1969 Electrodyne circuit
Great River; www.greatriverelectronics.com	Harrison 32EQ	1	4	peak/shelving	1	\$1,010	Based on Harrison 32 Series, jumper selects feedback or non-feedback design
JDK Audio (formerly Arsenal Audio); www.jdkaudio.com	V14	1	4	peak/shelving	1	\$695	Based on classic API model 562
JLM Audio; www.jlmaudio.com	PEQ500	1	2	peak/shelving	1	\$912	Based on Pultec EQP-1A/EQP-1R, but with added frequencies
Laz Electronics; www.lazpro.com	EQA	1	3	peak/shelving	1	\$976	Sweepable shelf LF and HF, semi-parametric mid band with Q switch
Purple Audio; www.purpleaudio.com	TAV	1	10	graphic	1	\$725	All-discrete, inductor-based graphic EQ
Purple Audio	ODD	1	4	peak/shelving	1	\$725	Inductor-based EQ, switchable frequencies, HP/LP filters
Purple Audio	LIPEQR	1	2	shelving	1	\$625	Program EQ with switchable LF/HF frequencies
S&M Pro Audio; www.sandmproaudio.com	EQSM1	1	4	peak/shelving	1	\$575	Sweepable mid bands, shelf LF/HF, 50Hz highpass filter
Speck Electronics; www.speck.com	ASC-V	1	4	peak/shelving	1	\$869	Parametric with LF/HF shelf switch, xformer and non-xformer outputs

DYNAMIC MODULES

COMPANY; WEBSITE	MODEL	CHANNELS	WIDTH	LIST PRICE	NOTES
Alta Moda Audio; www.altamodaaudio.com	AM-10	1	1	\$699	FET compressor with soft-knee feedback topology
AnaMod; www.anamodaudio.com	AM660	1	1	\$1,295	Modeled on Fairchild 660 variable-mu compressor
API Audio; www.apiaudio.com	527	1	1	\$995	Based on API 225L discrete compressor, switchable "thrust" circuit
API Audio	525	1	1	\$1,195	Discrete design, peak-detecting "feedback" compressor
Buzz Audio; www.buzzaudio.com	Potion	1	2	\$1,260	FET compressor with transformer I/Os
Buzz Audio	Essence	1	2	\$1,260	Optical compressor, Lundahl I/O trans., differential drive sidechain control
Chandler Limited; www.chandlerlimited.com	Little Devil	1	1	\$1,155	FET compressor based on Germanium and 2264 compressors
Dramastic Audio; www.dramasticaudio.com	Obsidian 500	2	2	\$2,495	Stereo bus compressor, xformer I/Os, optional dual-mono expander/sidechain/de-esser cards
Foote Control Systems; www.mercenary.com/fcs-p3500.html	P-3500	1	1	\$750	Compressor with feed-forward/feedback switch
Foote Control Systems	P-3500S	1	2	\$350	Expander module works with P-3500 for stereo operation
Inward Connections; www.vintageking.com	VC-500	1	1	\$1,095	All-discrete VCA compressor with SPA 690 op amp and transformer output
Inward Connections	OPT-1A	1	1	\$1,095	All-discrete opto limiter with transformer I/O
JMK Audio; www.jmkaudio.com	JM-115C	1	1	\$545	One-knob, VCA-based compressor
Laz Electronic; www.lazpro.com	FSC	1	1	\$238	D.I.Y. compressor kit based on Fred Forsell opto design
Lipinski Sound; www.lipinskisound.com	L-629	1	1	\$1,195	Modeled on Fairchild 660, all-discrete audio path
Old School Audio; www.oldschoolaudio.com	OSA Compressor	1	1	\$899	VCA-based compressor, discrete transformer output stage
Pendulum Audio; www.pendulumaudio.com	OCL-500	1	1	\$1,295	Opto compressor, transformerless Class-A makeup stage
Pete's Place Audio; www.petesplaceaudio.com	BAC 500	1	1	\$995	Brad Avenson FET design with discrete op amps and custom trans
Purple Audio; www.purpleaudio.com	Action	1	1	\$725	FET compressor, transformer I/O
Radial Engineering; www.radialeng.com	Komit	1	1	\$500	Auto-tracking feed-forward design, has key input
Shadow Hills; www.shadowhillsindustries.com	Dual Vandergraph	2	2	\$2,250	All-discrete stereo compressor
Shadow Hills	Mono Optograph	1	2	\$1,675	All-discrete mono optical compressor
Standard Audio; www.standard-audio.com	Level-Or	1	1	\$485	JFET limiter/distortion processor based on Shure Level-Loc
VSI Audio; www.vsiaudio.com	L-23	1	1	\$1,500	Tube mic/line preamp-opto compressor, requires external PS or use with VSI PSU-T300 housing

OTHER MODULES

COMPANY; WEBSITE	MODEL	WIDTH	LIST PRICE	NOTES
Al.So; www.alternatesoundings.fr	M'B	1	\$941	Modular master bus with 8 channels of summing
Empirical Labs; www.empiricalcabs.com	Derr-Esser	1	\$500	Combo de-esser/HF limiter/highpass filter/lowpass filter
JCF Audio; www.jcfaudio.com	Levr	1	\$850	2-channel active summing module, optional Cinemag output transformer
Little Labs; www.littlelabs.com	VOG	1	\$420	Analog bass resonance tool, sweepable to emphasize selected LF tones
Mooktronics; www.conwayrecording.com/mooktronics	PDI 500	1	\$235	Passive DI box with Cinemag transformer, Jensen transformer optional
Purple Audio; www.purpleaudio.com	Moyn	1	\$725	8x2 mixer/summing amp (turns Purple Sweet 10 rack into 8x2 mixer)
Purple Audio	Cans	1	\$500	Headphone amp/control room preamp w/swap, L/R mute and mono switches
Radial Engineering; www.radialeng.com	PHZ-LB	1	\$350	Phase adjustment processor aligns any two input sources (mic and direct, etc.) in time
Radial Engineering	X-AMP-LB	1	\$300	Line-level-to-guitar-level reamping device with two transformer outputs
Radial Engineering	EXTC	1	\$300	Line-level-to-guitar-level loop for using EFX pedals with pro gear
Radial Engineering	JDX-LB	1	\$300	Guitar amp-to-speaker direct box/preamp/amp cabinet emulator
XQP; www.xqp.com	531	1	\$449	Optical de-esser based on Dane model 31

COMPANY; WEBSITE	MODEL	CAPACITY	TYPE	LIST PRICE	NOTES
A-Designs; www.adesignsaudio.com	500HR	2	horizontal	\$335	Single rackspace chassis, internal power supply
API Audio; www.apiaudio.com	500-6B Lunchbox	6	vertical	\$499	Desktop format with carry handle
API Audio	500VPR	10	vertical	\$949	Rackmount version, internal power supply
Atlas Pro Audio; www.atlasproaudio.com	Revolver	2	vertical	\$499	Desktop style, optional rack kits can combine 1 to 3 Revolvers
Avedis Audio; www.avedisaudio.com	R52	2	horizontal	\$450	Single-rackspace unit with LEDs for phantom-power on/off
Big Rack Audio; www.bigrackaudio.com	Model 501	11	vertical	\$449	Also avail. in \$399 kit form, no power supply (requires API L200PS)
Brent Averill; www.brentaverill.com	6-Module	6	vertical	\$550	Available in rack or desktop style with handle, Jensen transformer option
Brent Averill	11-Module Rack	11	vertical	\$950	Rackmount, Jensen transformer option
Daking Audio; www.daking.com	500 Grand	6	vertical	\$550	Desktop version for six modules
Daking Audio	500 Grand Rack	6	vertical	\$550	Rackmount version for six modules
Daking Audio	500 Grand Rack	11	vertical	\$950	Rackmount version for 11 modules
Empirical Labs; www.empiricalaudio.com	EL500	2	horizontal	\$500	Single-rackspace with XLR I/O and front panel hi-Z ¼-inch input
Old School Audio; www.oldschoolaudio.com	Track Pack	8	vertical	\$599	Desktop version with handle, has vented passive cooling
Old School Audio	Power Rack	11	vertical	\$699	Rackmount style with vented passive cooling
Pete's Place; www.petesplaceaudio.com	Mk VIII	16	vertical	\$9,000	Console-style with fader/pan/mutes and empty module slots
Purple Audio; www.purpleaudio.com	Sweet 10 Rack	10	vertical	\$800	Two XLR outs for each module, optional 8&2 mixer/summing module
Radial Engineering; www.radialeng.com	Workhorse 5000	8	vertical	\$1,299	Direct and summing outs, onboard 8&2 mixer, monitoring section
SPL; www.spl-usa.com	RackPack 500	8*	vertical	\$1,200	*Rack holds 4 500 Series modules and 4 SPL-format modules
VSI Audio; www.vsiaudio.com	PSU-T300	6	vertical	\$900	Has stereo-link switches, channel inserts and 300V supply for LSI's L-23 tube comp

—Continued from page 26

More Options

Another option not mentioned so far is the D.I.Y. approach, and a number of manufacturers offer their gear in kit form, including Laz Electronic (compressors), Five Fish Stu-

dios (preamps) and Big Rack Audio (housings). And if you have an empty slot or two, several companies sell blank filler panels, although Big Rack Audio also offers panels custom-engraved with your studio logo. The charts that begin on page 26 survey the cur-

rent state of the 500 Series world. The offerings are varied and plentiful, so you should have no problem configuring the ideal system for your productions. ■

George Petersen is Mix's executive editor.

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