TC Electronics BMC-2 | £260

TC Electronics bring us a big-dialled monitor controller with built-in digital-to-analogue conversion. *Dan 'JD73' Goldman* takes control

TC Electronics have been hard at work again, this time making us a monitor controller with S/PDIF, ADAT and TOSLINK connectivity for those that don't have a mixing desk but that want to interface all their digital gear and speakers in one easy to use package.

The BMC-2 is a seemingly well-built, wedge shaped piece of kit with hard grey plastic ends and a nice brushed aluminium front panel. Everything is clearly labelled, though perhaps it would have been nice to colour the monitoring section differently to avoid any confusion between the input and monitor areas. Minor cosmetic gripes aside, it feels solid and has a small footprint, which is handy for setups that are short on space.

Jitter free

Primarily the BMC-2 is a glorified volume control but it's a very decent one at that. While obviously all the inputs are digital, and there's no chance of plugging in analogue gear (as with the Mackie Big Knob/PreSonus Central Station) this means that there is no real loss of quality when interfacing other digital gear, which is very welcome.

However this obviously limits the BMC-2 to owners of digital gear only but on the upside, TC make much of the fact in the manual that jitter is completely eliminated when using the BMC-2 which of course makes for super tight and clean digital audio and I'm happy to report the sound quality is absolutely top notch. What goes in comes out as it should!

Input-wise there is a selector button for choosing the S/PDIF, ADAT or TOSLINK inputs. The unit also features status LEDs, the first of which shows whether connection is established with the connected device while the second shows that signal is present or not. In ADAT mode there is also a button to select form two different pairs of ADAT channels (Outputs 1-2 and 3-4 only as 5-6 and 7-8 aren't available unfortunately). Small limitations aside, everything works well and it's easy to use and get up and running quickly.

Under control

The main volume control (there's an independent headphone control too) is very accurate and smooth (the manual gives very precise details of how it's calibrated in decibels) and you can precisely set up and store your monitoring levels. This is great for comparing tracks and mixes in your own studio and in other studios too. There's also a dim button that cuts the level of your monitors to a user set specified level, a cut button for cutting signal completely and an alt button that can switch to an alternate set of digital monitor speakers too.

For checking mixes translate on all systems, there's a handy mono/stereo button and you can also check the mid/side components of your mixes too. You'll also be glad to know that the BMC-2 can interface to a Mac's optical connections but it's not computer dependent-this is a truly portable, standalone monitor controller.

All in all this is a great little box that is a godsend for those with digital only studios and whom are in need of high quality and easily calibrated monitoring facilities at an affordable price. **FM**