

Test: TASCAM Studio Bridge

The TASCAM Studio Bridge will appeal to all those who have had enough of the sensory overload of modern DAWs and long for uncomplicated hardware for recording. The 24-track recorder records to SD cards and can be used as a USB audio interface to seamlessly integrate analog mixing consoles into digital setups. **by Laura Emiliano**

Features

- 24-track audio recorder with punch-in/out
- 24/24 USB audio interface
- DAW control via HUI/MCU
- USB-MIDI interface
- Recordings on SD cards
- 10-track punch recording
- Headphone output
- 19-inch rack mountable

Facts

Manufacturer: TASCAM
Web: tascam.eu
Distribution: TEAC Europe
Price: 999 Euro

- ▲ Easy installation
- ▲ Easy operation
- ▲ Live recording
- ▲ DAW control
- ▼ Yamaha-incompatible

Scope: ██████████
Workmanship: ██████████
Price/Perf: ██████████
Rating: ██████████

Alternatives



The Studio Bridge multitrack recorder serves, in the truest sense of the word, as a bridge between analog mixing and digital recording.

The Studio Bridge is designed as a desktop recorder for analog setups but can also act as a studio bridge between sequencers and mixers. SDXC cards up to 512 GB serve as storage media, allowing some sessions to be recorded. The device is, therefore, a sort of 24-track sound card and DAW controller in one.

The Studio Bridge is particularly interesting for multitrack recording of live mixers, especially for digital consoles without their own USB recording function.

DB-25 Connection for Breakout Cables

This compact device with wood side panels has a charming 1980s look. Optional rack ears are available for installation. The analog connection is made by way of three DB-25 connectors (but beware: in TASCAM format!) for eight inputs and outputs each. Beware because there also exists an incompatible Yamaha format. DB-25 was chosen due to space re-

quirements; alternatively, 24 XLR or jack sockets would have been too large. The inputs and outputs operate at line level.

For connection with PC/Mac, there are also USB, a MIDI In/Out, as well as a Metronome output and a Footswitch connection.

Clear operation

Operation is intuitive thanks to 24 channel fields, each with three switches and an LED. You can choose between analog/USB input, enable monitoring, and activate recording. The level LED indicates Green (OK) or Red (overload). Transport functions are controlled using buttons and a jog/shuttle wheel. An LCD display shows Levels, Tempo, and Recording Duration. There is a Headphone Output and a Metronome with tap function. The knobs and switches have a pleasant feel. Navigation is easy after a short familiarization period. A Shift Button provides access to additional functions such as the Headphone Mix. Deep editing functions are missing - it's all about pure recording.

Seamless Integration

In the test with Steinberg Nuendo, the Studio Bridge worked flawlessly with an ASIO and WDM driver. The TASCAM software displays the levels of the 24 channels. The

converters deliver a linear sound. Compared to Mytek 8x192 converters, the depth gradation is slightly less, but the Price/Performance Ratio of the TASCAM is top-notch. The only downside: Only 44.1 and 48 kHz sampling rates are supported. Input and output, as well as DAW control via MCU protocol work without problems.

Direct Recording

Operation is reminiscent of the good old days of multitrack cassette recorders (TASCAM was a pioneer here with the PortaStudio 144). Working with the display is more technical than with analog devices, but still quickly learnable. In the practical test, we used it to set the song, resolution (such as 44.1 kHz/24 bit), and Tempo. The input signal is monitored using the Monitor function. The input level is controlled at the Preamp, the Studio Bridge itself has no analog input amplifiers. Start recording, play in take, record overdubs - the minimalist working method promotes creativity and clean performance. Undo, Auto Punch-In/Out are also possible. Audio editing is limited to Normalization, Cut/Trim functions are, unfortunately, missing. In the end, a stereo mixdown can be exported.

Verdict

The Studio Bridge is ideal for anyone looking for an intuitive stand-alone recorder or a compact setup for recording 24 tracks of an analog mixer. The Price/Performance Ratio is excellent, the converters deliver very good audio quality.

Real alternatives are hard to find and comparable solutions would surely be more expensive. 📊

