REDNET®
Marshall Studio

Focusrite RedNet at the heart of Marshall Studio

Taking a tour around Marshall's state-of-the-art Studio

Words: Diana Smethurst
Images: Alex Wood

Marshall Amplification is synonymous with guitar amplifiers since 1962, and its offerings are still as relevant today as they were back then – and just as popular. When it comes to audio it's fair to say that Marshall knows a thing or two and Marshall's state-of-the-art recording and mixing studio is a testament to their expertise. However, creating the perfect studio wasn't straightforward, even for experts like Marshall.

"I don't think anyone at Marshall, including myself, had any idea of... just how much is involved in building a world-class recording studio", said Adam Beer, Studio Manager at Marshall. What complicated the build over and above the normal difficulties was the installation of a vintage Neve 8048 console. Marshall's Neve is a classic 70's desk that provides warmth, clarity, and that sought-after Neve sound. It was originally in the Pathé Marconi Studio D in Paris.

Adam Beer — Studio Manager

Neve 8048 Console feat. RedNet AM2

Easy equipment connection with RedNet

"[When we got the Neve] we split the console in two, the patch bay at the end became the centre. This enables you to have Pro Tools, your mouse and your keyboard looking straight at the console", Adam continues.

"[Arranging it like this] meant we were able to then add that ginormous patch bay next to our lovely RedNet system on the side. It's two consoles that mix together, which means that it sounds like nothing you've heard before. Drums and guitars absolutely sing through it. It's a real marvel. And the fact that it's been completely rebuilt by an expert means that every single part of it works."

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Adam Beer
Studio Manager at Marshall

The Live Room at Marshall Studio

The Neve console is the centrepiece of the studio, but that's not all the vintage equipment that Marshall use.

"Not only have we got the usual things: LA2As, 1176s, but we've got some really special BBC Neve compressors with passive 320 millisecond delays in them. We use them all the time and it makes everything sound massive. We've got a couple of PYE compressors that Blake made himself from broadcast PYEs, which are really amazing. We've got all this wonderful gear, but we use it with the RedNet into Pro Tools Ultimate, and that really gives us the flexibility to use the vintage gear in a really tasteful way."
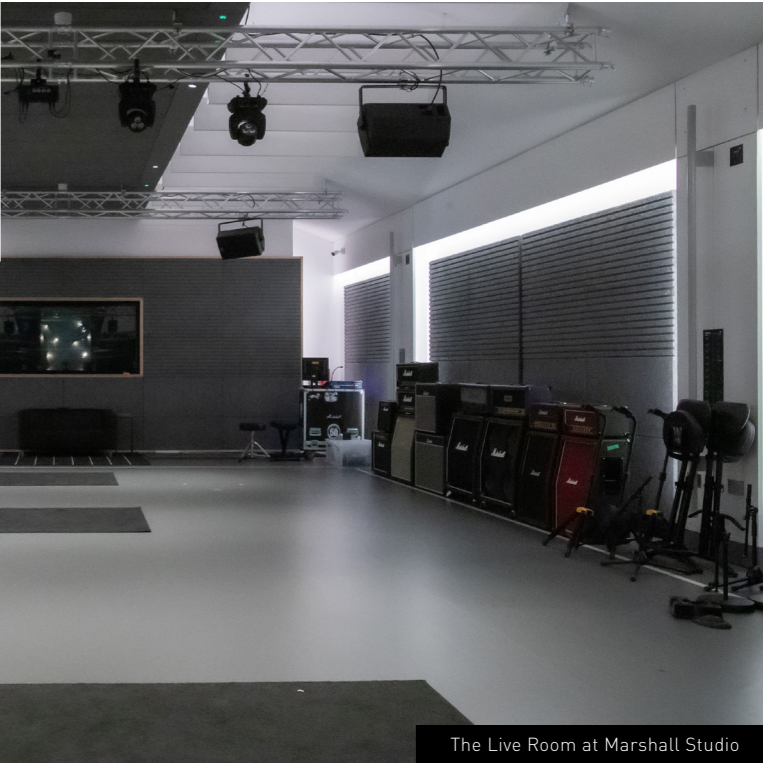
Making it all work

As well as an impressive list of equipment, Marshall Studio offers a fantastic range of facilities. "The building itself is not just your usual recording studio. It's got a huge live room, a huge live space for 250 people" says Adam. "There's a fully licensed bar and a wonderful new room upstairs, which is used as an artists' development space and a mix room."

The Live Room at Marshall Studio

Making everything work flawlessly over such a comprehensive studio layout is key to the success of the Marshall Studio. Four Focusrite RedNet A16R, six Focusrite RedNet AM2 and two Focusrite RedNet HD32Rs are used to power the system.

"I had no prior experience of RedNet before I started here, and it is definitely a story of conversion. I thought, 'Well, I'll give it a go, I mean, I've heard good things about this RedNet system,' and honestly, I've been blown away" says Adam.

"For us, the most important thing is the conversion. The greatest compliment I can give to the Focusrite conversion is, I don't ever worry about it or notice it. Everything we do here has the lovely, warm Neve punch. The microphones, everything sounds great, because the conversion is great. It's really been instrumental in us maintaining the wonderful Neve sound that we want to have here, and the added bonus of course, is the Dante. Having the Dante capability has meant that we are able to have some Martin Audio speakers in the roof of the live room for playback."

Marshall uses Martin Audio Blackline X10s and a Martin Audio iKON iK81 for the live room, primarily because a Martin Audio Dante amplifier could be used for playback.

Adam continues "It's been the perfect solution for us. We've got ceiling speakers out in the foyer by the bar area that are Dante enabled, it means we can share what we're doing in the control room with people that perhaps are outside of the control room having a drink, members of the band. Once we discovered the options it [Dante] gave us, it's been a fantastic piece of technology that's really helped us make this place as multifunctional as it is."

Martin Audio iKON iK81 Dante®-enabled Amplifier

Martin Audio Blackline X10s

Where next?

"The future of the studio really is just to continue making great records in the studio, not just for ourselves, but for other companies and other producers" comments Steve Tannett, Musical Director of Marshall Amplification.

"We built it to be exactly what it is, a world-class recording studio. If an artist or a producer wants to use the studio, it's as simple as just calling us and saying, "Are you available on such and such a date?"

"Our expansion is really just to continue churning out amazing quality music from this recording studio. As long as everyone who comes into Marshall to record leaves with the sense that they've had the best possible time, with the best possible people, and get the best possible result — that's our mission."

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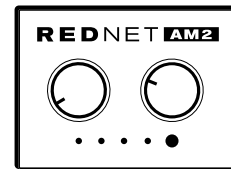
Adam Beer — Studio Manager at Marshall
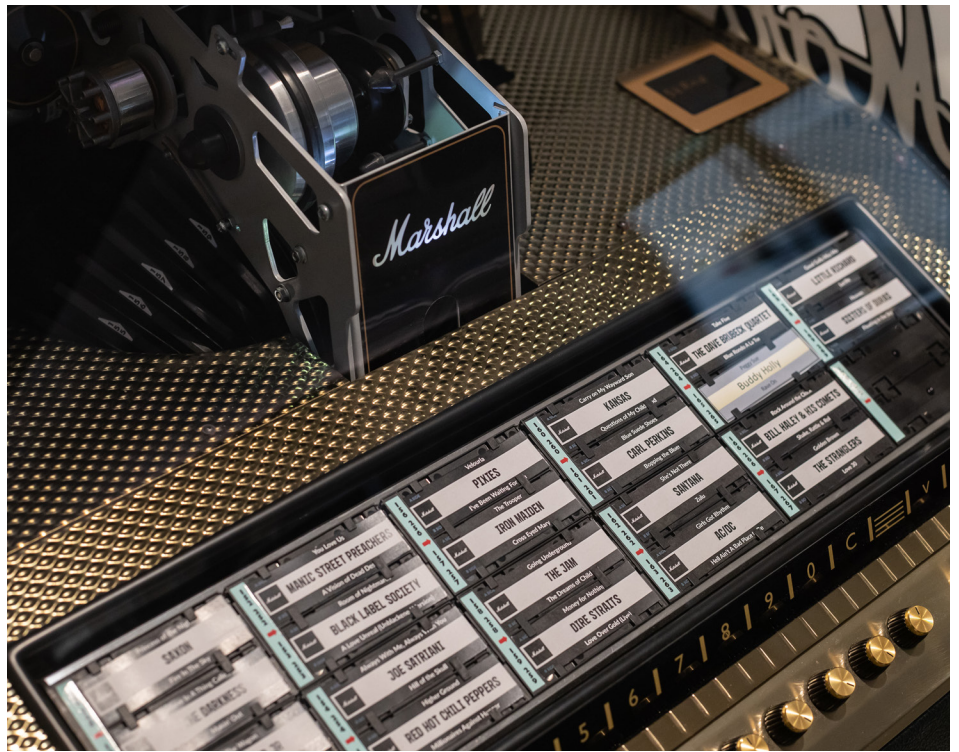
Marshall Studio use:

4 x RedNet A16R

16x16 Analogue I/O

With independent level control

2 x RedNet HD32R

32x32 Pro Tools | HD I/O

With dual PSUs

6 x RedNet AM2

Stereo headphone and
line output PoE supplied

About Focusrite Pro

Focusrite Audio Engineering has pioneered professional audio recording technology spanning almost three decades. Focusrite Pro, the company's professional and commercial division, meets the demands of recording, post-production, live sound and broadcast professionals. It consists of RedNet, a fully modular audio-over-IP solution, and the Red range, Focusrite's flagship multi-format interfaces, along with the heritage ISA range of microphone preamplifiers and analogue signal processors. The solutions have been developed to meet the needs of the most demanding applications through a relentless focus on ease of use, quality and reliability. Focusrite is based in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, with offices in Los Angeles and Hong Kong.

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