DaDplus

fairlight ™
DIGITAL AUDIO SOLUTIONS

DaD^{plus} — The Universal Playback Solution

DaD^{plus} is Fairlight's 24 track, 24-bit digital audio dubbing and playback solution, providing from 4 to 576 tracks of superlative quality playback in an extremely compact, robust and cost-effective package. Accessible from network connected control consoles, configurations ranging from a single 4-track system to multiple compact racks of 24-track dubbers may be operated from two locations simultaneously.

DaD^{plus} plays projects created on Fairlight MFX3^{plus} and FAME2 workstations seamlessly and now, under Fairlight's Direct File Exchange initiative, will directly replay Digidesign™ Pro Tools™ and Akai™ DD Series projects, together with Avid™ AudioVision™, Film Composer™ and Media Composer™ projects when saved in the Pro Tools format. Sophisticated timecode synchronization, simultaneous 24, 20 and 16-bit playback, unique multi-project loading capabilities and full support for direct file exchange now, and in the future, ensures the Fairlight DaD^{plus} will remain the world's only universal playback solution.

Applications

DaD^{plus} is the ideal solution for any application that requires exceptionally high quality multitrack digital playback in a compact, reliable and cost-effective format. Given it's small size and high track density, DaD^{plus} excels in efficient use of rack space and recording media. Equally important, DaD^{plus} is the perfect solution when portability is a requirement.

DaD^{plus} is ideal for applications including:

• Post-production mixing for motion picture and television sound production.

• Music production and mixing where slaved reel-to-reel multitrack tape recorders or expensive digital audio workstations would otherwise be used.

• Theme park and AV installations requiring robust and trouble-free continuous playback, particularly where low track cost is important.

• Portable AV presentations, sales and training demonstrations and trade shows.

• Cost-effective track expansion for MFX3^{plus} and any other compatible digital audio workstation.

• Any situation where the format of the source material is not known in advance. Ideal for rental companies and outsourcing facilities.

Connectivity

DaD^{plus} is designed for compatibility with industry leading digital audio recorders, editors and workstations. Direct playback of many of the most commonly used file formats ensures DaD^{plus} is the premier choice when it comes to universal playback. Simply plug it in, connect your drives and start working.

DaD^{plus} is compatible with:

• Fairlight MFX3^{plus} and FAME2, being capable of playing project files in every detail to the same high standards of quality, performance and flexibility.

• Digidesign™ Pro Tools™ III and Pro Tools|24™ 16-bit and 24-bit systems.

• Avid™ AudioVision™, Media Composer™ and Film Composer™ via OMF export and OMF Tool import to Pro Tools.

• Akai™ DD Series™ dubbers.

As other manufacturers join Fairlight's Direct File Exchange initiative, compatibility with their products will be added to DaD^{plus}.

Components

The DaD^{plus} system comprises a 3U rack populated with up to 6 digital audio channel cards (4 channels per card), one processor card, a dedicated timecode processor and a control panel.

DaD^{plus} 24-Bit Digital Audio Channel Card

The DaD^{plus} Digital Audio Channel Card is capable of replaying four tracks simultaneously with up to four bands of real-time equalization applied to each track. Crossfades between successive clips on each track are performed real-time. Two surface-mount CS4329 24-bit D/A convertors are used and provide extremely low noise and wide dynamic range. Together with a symmetric analog circuit layout, isolated analog power supply, a split ground plane and minimal digital/analog circuit crossover, the new card maximizes the benefits afforded by the move to 24-bit audio.
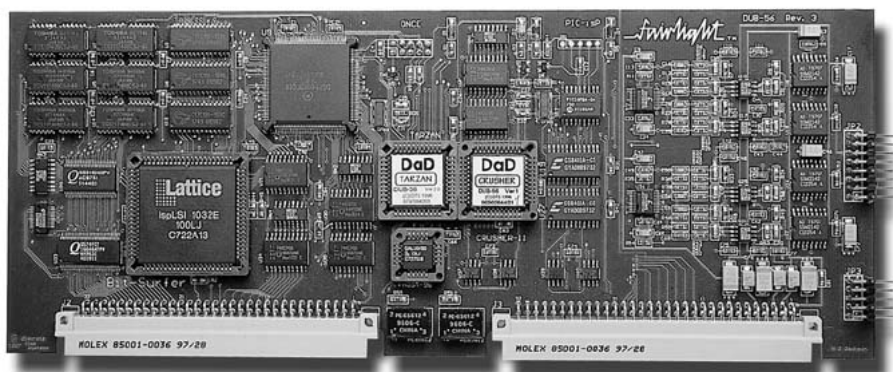
DaD^{plus} Processor Card

The processor card performs all functions required by the system as a whole. This includes file handling, disk access, user interface, synchronization to timecode, video and word clock references and system diagnostics.

A key component of the processor card is the timecode IC which is responsible for DaD^{plus} jam-sync, reverse play-loc and varispeed.
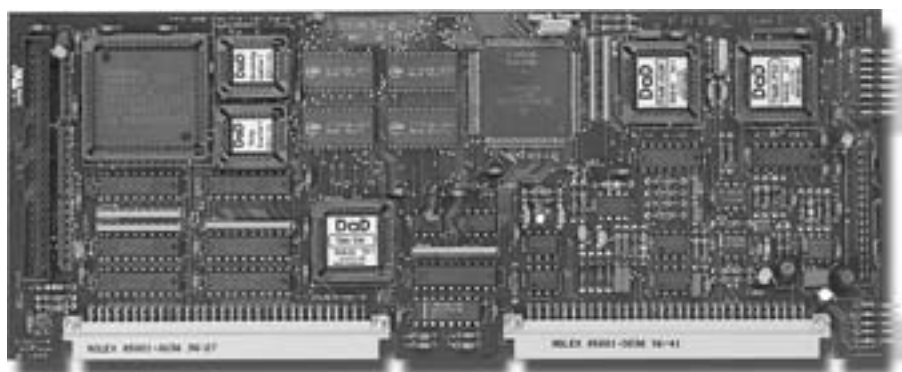
Connections

All connections to and from the system are made via the back panel.

RS-232 SERIAL PORT

Provides connection to external computers for software downloads, machine control diagnostics, and more.
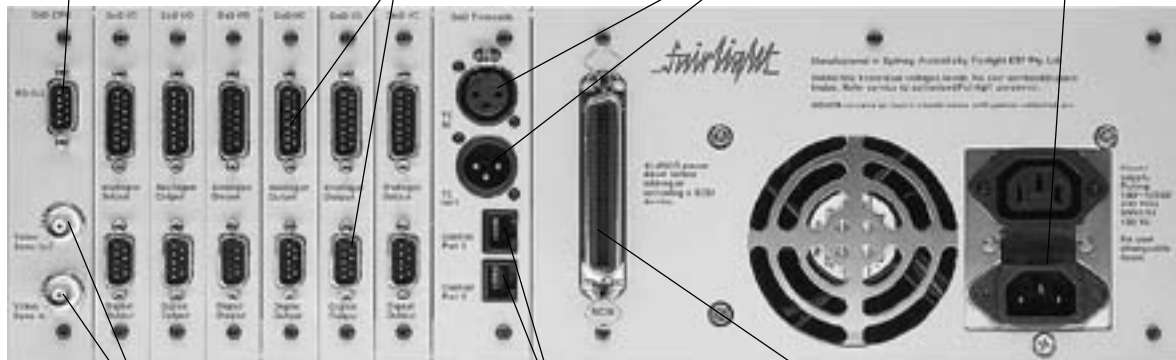
AUDIO OUTPUTS

Each Channel Card is equipped with a DB15 connector providing 4 balanced analog outputs, and a DB9 connector providing 2 AES/EBU digital stereo output pairs.

TIMECODE INPUT/OUTPUT

3-pin XLR-type connectors for longitudinal timecode.

POWER INPUT

Fused multi voltage power connector.

SYNC CONNECTORS

Dual BNC-type connectors provide pass-through connection for video or word clock syncronization.

CONTROL NETWORK PORTS

Dual ports are used for network connection of additional DaD^plus dubbers and control consoles.

SCSI

Standard 50-pin SCSI connector for all additional external storage media

Console

The console provides the means by which one or more DaD^plus systems connected in a network may be controlled.

24 TRACK KEYS

Used to select tracks. If the Machine Key has just been pressed, these keys select Audio Dubbers. The LEDs in these keys show track status i.e. active, selected, slipped.

ALL KEY

Selects all tracks. If the Machine Key has just been pressed, selects all Audio Dubbers.

MACHINE KEY

Press this key and then a track key to select an Audio Dubber.

DUBBER STATUS INDICATORS

Displays the status of each Dubber in the network.

JOGGER WHEEL

Provides audio scrubbing, slipping of tracks and altering parameter values of selected Dubber.

RUB KEY

Pressing this key and a Track Key produces test audio output from selected track.

CHASE

Enables timecode chase for the selected Dubber.

NUMERIC KEYPAD

Used to enter timecode and numerical values and parameter changes.

INCREMENT/DECREMENT

Used to advance and retard tracks, also to change parameters in some of the menus.

SOFT KEYS

Select the specific functions displayed on the LCD screen.

TRANSPORT KEYS

Provide transport Play, Reverse Play, FF, REW & Stop functions.

MENU KEYS

Select menus on the LCD Screen.
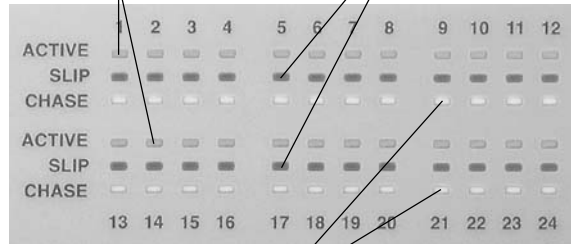
The Dubber Status Indicators

The DaD^{plus} Status Indicators display the status of all Dubbers connected to the network.

GREEN

Active when steady, indicates that the Dubber is active i.e. it has a playable audio project loaded. When flashing, indicates that the Dubber is currently selected.

RED

Slip when steady, indicates that one or more tracks on the Dubber are slipped away from normal sync.


YELLOW

Chase when steady, indicates that the Dubber is locked to timecode. When flashing, indicates that the Dubber is waiting for timecode.

The Track Button Status Indicators

The Track Button LEDs indicate the status of each track on the currently selected Dubber.

GREEN

Track/Load when steady, indicates the track is loaded. When flashing, indicates the track is being loaded or preloaded for playback. When off, indicates the Track is muted (or not used in the currently loaded project).
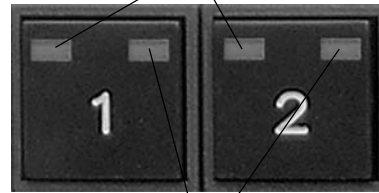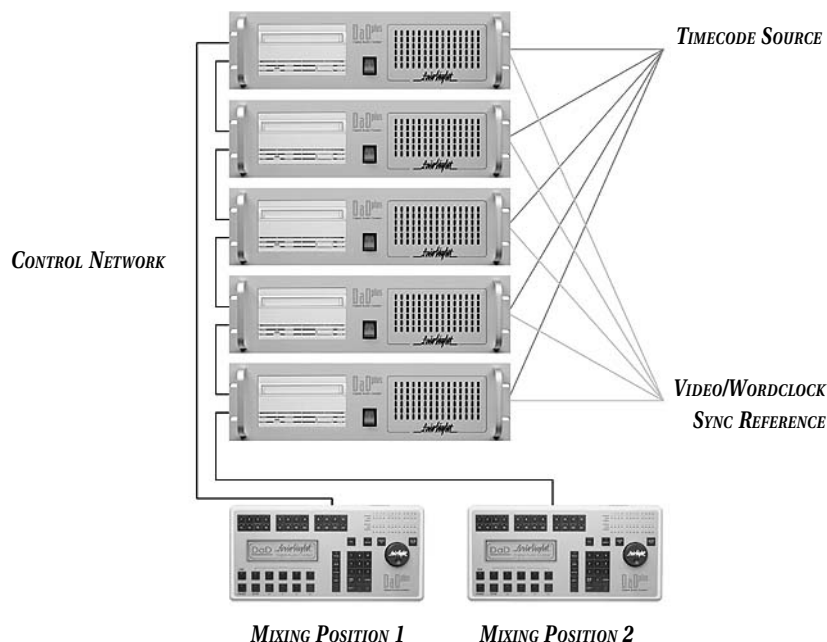

RED

Mute/Slip when steady, indicates that the track is muted or slipped away from normal sync. When flashing, indicates the track is available for slip operations.

DaD^{plus} Network

Up to 24 DaD^{plus} dubbers can be connected in a single DaD Control Network for a maximum of 576 playback tracks. The entire network of connected dubbers can be controlled by one or two control consoles simultaneously, useful in post-production mixing for motion pictures, for example, employing one console on the mixing stage, a second in the machine room. Alternatively, two operators may share control of multiple dubbers or even different tracks of a single dubber. The DaD Control Network also provides power to the DaD^{plus} Control Consoles and, being based on RS422 serial protocol, permits long cable runs – ideal where the dubber racks may be located some distance from the operators.


TIMECODE SOURCE

CONTROL NETWORK

VIDEO/WORDCLOCK SYNC REFERENCE

MIXING POSITION 1   *MIXING POSITION 2*

DaDLink™ Networking

The DaDLink networking system allows drives connected to the DaD^plus dubbers to appear on Fairlight's MediaLink fast audio networking system. Files are simply copied from either the main MediaLink RAID system or the editorial workstations directly to the required DaD^plus dubber and you're ready to mix. Editing during the mix can now be done with a professional editing platform such as the MFX3^plus without the need to stop the mix or remove a disk. Simply navigate the MFX3^plus project page to the DaD^plus where the change is needed, open the project and make the change.

Dubbing project files can now be managed efficiently from a central Windows NT™ based server, or from a networked Windows based client. All archival and file management can also be done easily and efficiently with off-the-shelf Windows NT applications and peripherals. Preparations for a dubbing session would involve simply restoring an archived project from RAID, Exabyte, DLT or robotic tape system to the original dubber storage devices and you're ready to go.

Control the entire dubbing project of up to 24 DaD^plus devices from the DaDView dub session administration and visual monitoring system. Save all configuration and project assignment settings as a single DaDView project file for instant recall in the future. DaDView will automatically open the required projects on the DaD^plus units, reinstate track and whole DaD^plus unit offsets and channel mutes and configure DaDView tracker windows with one single command.
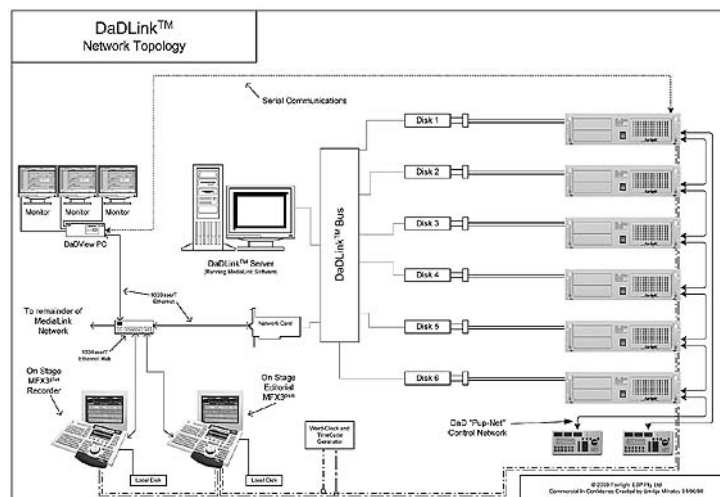

DaDView Visual Interface

DaDView is an optional Windows™ software package that provides a visual interface for DaD^plus. Operating on a low cost Pentium-based personal computer connected to the DaD Control Network, DaDView provides a dynamic graphical display of audio projects loaded on DaD dubbers, in any supported format including MFX, Akai and Digidesign Pro Tools, together with important machine status information. DaDView can collect project data from up to 24 connected dubbers and display that data in a number of intuitive and flexible formats.

DaDView emulates Fairlight's MFX3^plus graphical interface by displaying individual scrolling tracks. Each track displays the clips it contains, and each clip can display a variety of user-selectable information including the clip name, head and tail timecode position, duration, fades, equalization, level and the track name. If used in conjunction with AD-Dub, character names and text can be also displayed for dubbed (ADR) clips.

DaDView can provide printout of hard copy cue sheets (dubbing charts) as well as detailed information for each connected dubber on the network, including all storage devices, projects, tracks and clips.
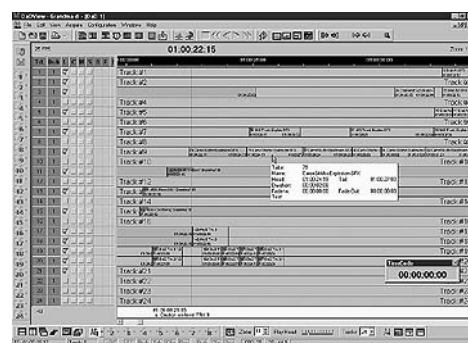
*DaDView's scrolling clip display provides a
real-time dubbing chart!*

DaD plus

K E Y   F E A T U R E S

- Full 24-bit signal path, digital & analog

- 24-bit AES/EBU digital outputs

- Ultra-quiet 24-bit D/A converters

- Plays any combination of 16, 20 and 24-bit material with seamless crossfades

- Up to 576 simultaneous channels — 24 DaD^{plus}, 24 channels per DaD^{plus}

- 24 playback tracks — one hard drive

- Fully supports Fairlight MFX3^{plus} and FAME2 projects

- Plays Digidesign™ Pro Tools™ and Akai™ DD Series™ projects without conversion; Plays Avid™ AudioVision™, Film Composer™ and Media Composer™ projects when saved in the Pro Tools format

- Multi Project Load — plays multiple projects in any combination of supported formats, on up to 6 drives simultaneously

- DaDLink Network -— DaD^{plus} disks are shared on the MediaLink network system

- Reverse Play-Loc

- SmartLock 'prediction' chase lock mode

- Full 'Slip and Slide' — DaD^{plus}-to-DaDplus, Track-to-Track

- Optional DaDView Visual Interface with Scrolling Tracks

- Compact, fully self-contained

- No head wear, no tape breaks

- Software upgrades downloadable on site via RS232 serial port

- Internal diagnostics and SCSI bus analyzer

- Supports 24, 25, 29DF, 29, 30DF, and 30 fps timecode standards

- Dataton TRAX ready