



Stagebox FAQs

February 11th, 2013

- **Can I connect two stageboxes together, i.e. Daisy Chain?**

No. Our current protocol for connecting stageboxes is via MADI. MADI is an AES standard that allows a maximum of 64 channels in each direction and is a point to point protocol. This means that a MADI HD Link Card in the stagebox has to connect to a supporting MADI card in the console's expansion slot or in the Vi4/Vi6 local rack.

- **Can I connect two stageboxes to an Si Expression or Si Compact?**

No. Due to what was mentioned in the question above— each stagebox requires a supporting MADI card to be installed at the console. Since Expression and Compact only have 1 Expansion slot thus only 1 stagebox can be connected.

- **Can I have a blu-link card and a Stagebox connected to an Expression or Compact?**

Again the answer is no due to there only being one expansion slot. One work around to this would be to use a Compact Stagebox and place the Blu-link card in the stagebox's expansion slot.

- **If sharing the stagebox with another Soundcraft digital console I can use the DOGS system to keep gain the same?**

No. The DOGS system only works when patching the direct output of one console and having it feed another device such as a console, personal monitoring system, or recorder. The direct output is trimmed inversely to the mic gain.. i.e you turn the mic preamp up 3 db the direct output goes down 3db.

To use DOGs for a console split. All Mic inputs would be patched into one console and its direct outputs would then feed the 2nd consoles inputs typically using MADI. This is illustrated in the Si Option Card Example Applications as example 1A



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- **What about Dante? Wouldn't we be able to daisy chain stageboxes if we used Dante?**

Dante as you may or may not know is a networked audio protocol and could be loosely viewed as a modern take on Cobranet. Networked Audio inherently has more set up and IT like issues but has the benefit of being more flexible in terms of stringing addressable i/o boxes at different locations and would allow daisy chaining of compatible i/o (stageboxes)

The first Dante card from Soundcraft/Studer will only be for the console expansion slot and is very roughly estimated to be 6 months from today. The Stagebox Dante cards are further away and would even more roughly be estimated to be 12 to 18 months away from today. Take these estimates with a grain of salt as they could easily move forward or backwards

- **Can I use a dBX TR1616 stagebox with a Soundcraft Digital Console with Blu-Link card installed.**

Yes. BUT due to Blu-Link not having control protocol in it you cannot remotely control the preamps on the stagebox. These would have to be manually set.. Also not sure if this particular product has an recallable preamp regardless of Blu Link protocol issues..

- **Does the Expansion Card for the Console come with the Mini Stagebox**

Yes, the MADI card for the console comes packaged in the Mini Stagebox Box and is included in the price of the stagebox.

- **Are there dual MADI ports on the Mini Stagebox HD link card?**

These are standard on the 32 x 16 MSB. The 16 x 8 will come as standard with a single port. We are awaiting confirmation on whether a dual port card will be available as an additional cost upgrade for the 16 x8.



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- **When will Mini Stagebox be available and when can I order?**

Current estimate is early May though we are awaiting an update from the factory on this. The part number is currently not established so it can not yet be ordered. A notification will be sent out when the part number is set up and the US RSO can enter orders in SAP.

- **Are there any sonic differences between fiber and CAT5 for MADI. Any reason to use one over another?.**

No there is no audio performance advantage between using one over another. The real reason to use fiber is distance. CAT5 assuming high quality cable and termination allows 300 feet distance between console and stagebox. Fiber will get you around 1.5 km (4900 feet).

The downside to fiber is the cost of tactile (armored) fiber cable and the connectors/breakout panels.. For fixed installations the orange networking type fiber with SC connectors is cost effective but is relatively fragile and the connector is not rated for large number of insertions.

Another plus on fiber is that there is a greater range of ancillary devices that use fiber for connection. These include conversion boxes/splitters from a German company called RME or recording devices such as the JoeCo Blackbox

- **When sharing a stagebox between two consoles what should I be aware of?**

The main thing to be aware of is that the mic preamp gain will be shared between the two consoles with only the primary console having mic preamp gain. The second console will receive a 1 to 1 MADI split and will have digital trim.

The primary console will also be the only one that has access to the outputs at the stagebox. The secondary console will only have access to its local (back panel) outputs.

In a perfect world there should also be BNC wordclock cable connecting both consoles.. Generally there is no issue if the cable is not there but there is a dropout every x number of samples .This dropout is usually not audible. See Example 2 of the Si Option Card Example Document for more info.