

gear reviews

BY KENT MORRIS



he media team is tasked with everything from online streaming of the church services to lighting the stage in synch with the downbeat of the opening song to keeping mics from falling over. Here are a few quality products for you to take a closer look at.

ROLAND VR-5

People love a package deal, whether it is a Full Meal Deal at Dairy Queen or a Preferred Convenience Group on a new Buick Regal. For churches with a need to stream and the desire for a one-box solution, Roland offers the VR-5 AV mixer and recorder. By combining dual touch screens with a simple audio interface and control section tied to a powerful video switcher and effects processor, the VR-5 makes going from the camera to the Internet a painless procedure. Chroma and Luma keying for text and imagery overlay are one knob events while the use of readily available SD memory cards makes recording a snap. Everything from Skype calls to iChat, Ustream to Stickman is a cable away, so foreign missionary call-ins and streaming of the morning service are no longer technical nightmares, but just another plug and play device like an iPad. With a scaledup HDMI output and USB streaming, the VR-5 is as adept as it is adaptable.

\$4,995 ROLANDSYSTEMSGROUP.NET

AMERICAN DJ VIZI WASH LED 108

Mini mover luminaires are becoming popular in churches because they are quiet, easy to program and inexpensive; much like a good worship tech. The Vizi Wash LED 108 uses the common yoke mount for quick X-Y movement while harnessing the power of 36 three-watt LEDs to cast the image far beyond the range of typical one-watt models. With a dozen DMX addressable channels, this unit can perform complex synchronized moves, detailed color changes and a reasonable facsimile of a solid 250 watt moving head, but at a fraction of the price and with no lamps to burn out. From youth rooms to vertical trusses on side-wings, the Vizi is built to perform.

S1,299 Americandj.com

ULTIMATE SUPPORT PRO-T-T

Mic stands are the Rodney Dangerfields of the stage: they get no respect. But a drooping boom arm or a broken tripod leg can wreak havoc on a service of worship, so spend money on a good mic stand. Ultimate's Pro T-T is built to handle the rigors of touring so it will manage the onslaught of your kids' choir. The rubber caps stay in place, the powder-coated finish will not rust and the mic adapter threads will work in Poland as well as in Peoria thanks to a clever dual (3/8" and 5/8") design. If the youth band does succeed in tearing off a part, Ultimate has everything you need to make it whole again with just an email.

S119 Ultimatesupportsystems.com

