



M3

Portable Audio Mixer

PSC M3 MIXER FEATURE COMPARISON

AS OF AUGUST 2003



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The **PSC M3 Mixer** offers the greatest, most flexible feature set in the 3-channel ENG mixer market today. The chart below will allow you to compare the most important features of the top selling 3-channel ENG mixers on the market. Items shown in bold offer a feature advantage over competing mixers. All specifications derived from product literature, company websites, etc at time of comparison.

	FP33	302	M3
INPUT SECTION:			
# OF INPUTS	3 XLR	3 XLR	3 XLR
MIC POWER	12T/48PH/12PH(*13)	12T/48PH/12PH(*13)	12T/48PH
INPUT CIRCUIT TOPOLOGY (*1)	TRANSFORMER	TRANSFORMER HIGH QUALITY	TRANSFORMER HIGH QUALITY
LINE/MIC SWITCH	YES	YES	YES
CHANNEL LINK	YES	YES	YES
LOW CUTS (*2)	1 POSITION	2 POSITION	2 POSITION
PRE FADE LISTEN (*3)	NO	YES	YES
	FP33	302	M3
GENERAL:			
MIX BUSS	YES	YES	YES
TONE OSC	YES	YES	YES
SLATE MIC	YES	YES	YES
TAPE MONITOR (*4)	YES, 1 CAMERA	YES, 1 CAMERA	YES, 2 CAMERAS
HP SELECTIONS	YES	YES	YES
METERS (*5)	ANALOG V.U.	LED	LCD
LIMITERS (*6)	OFF/LINK	OFF/LINK/SEP	OFF/LINK/SEP
HEADPHONE (*7)	3.5mm, 1/4"	3.5mm	1/4"

	FP33	302	M3
OUTPUTS:			
MULTI-PIN (*8)	NO	NO	2 X HIROSE 10 PIN
TRANSFORMERS (*9)	YES,	NO	YES, DUAL ISOLATED SECONDARIES. THE LARGEST, HIGHEST QUALITY IN THE INDUSTRY!
MAIN OUTPUTS (*10)	XLR'S L, R	XLR'S L, R	XLR'S L, R, 2 X 10 PINS
AUX OUTPUTS (*11)	ONE, MIC/LINE	ONE, LINE	TWO, MIC/LINE

	FP33	302	M3
OTHER FEATURES:			
BOOM REMOTE (*12)	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	INCLUDED
NP-1 BATTERY (*13)	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	OPTIONAL
POWER DISTRIBUTION			

(*)NOTES:

1. Your preamplifiers are only as good as the transformers you use! The M3 and 302 use high quality input transformers. The M3's transformers are equipped with very heavy Mu Metal shields. This better protects the M3's input transformers from unwanted EMI and RF interference.
2. Multiple low cut positions offer greater flexibility in the field. The M3 mixer offers two low-cut settings for better control of un-wanted low frequencies such as wind noise.
3. Pre-fade listens are useful in finding bad wireless and determining levels. The M3 and 302 mixers offer pre-fade listen capabilities on all three inputs.
4. Today's field production often involves two cameras, requiring two-camera support and tape monitoring. The M3 Mixer is the only three-channel mixer to offer this important feature. In addition, it offers two-camera support via two industry standard 10-pin connections leaving the standard XLR's free for other uses. Sound Devices offers one 10-pin connector on their flagship 442 mixer, but have none on the their 302 mixer. PSC offers two 10-pin connectors on both our M3 and AlphaMix mixers!
5. Analog V.U.'s are nearly useless for digital recording. They react too slowly and do not properly indicate peaks. Peak reading LED or LCD's are a better choice for digital recording. LED and LCD's each offer their own benefits. It's mainly a user preference. The M3 Mixer is equipped with LCD meters that were designed to emulate the meters found on today's cameras. If you are recording to the camera, why not emulate what the camera's meters are showing and what the camera is recording?

6. Limiters need to be operated separately for split track recording and ganged for normal stereo recording. The M3 mixer is are equipped with limiters that can be operated both linked (ganged) and separate. In addition, the M3 limiters have been designed to have a pleasant sound quality, yet provide effective limiting in the field without requiring user adjustment in the field.
7. Having both a 3.5mm and 1/4" headphone jack is best. If you can have only one, then 1/4" is better as it offers 4 to 5 times the reliability of a 3.5mm jack in the field. The M3 Mixer is equipped with a heavy duty 1/4" headphone jack. The 302 is only equipped with a 3.5mm jack.
8. Multi-pins offer quick, easy, one connection camera support. They are more reliable than using three separate connectors and there is no need to worry about a non-locking 3.5mm tape connector coming unplugged. Today's ENG market demands two-camera support. Adding a second 10 pin connector, the associated line/ mic switching, larger dual isolated output transformers and taking up all the room in the mixer is both expensive and labor intensive. At PSC we feel this feature is worth it and our customers agree!
9. Output transformers help eliminate ground loops, Electromagnetic Interference, Radio Frequency Interference and other problems. This is especially true when used in the field under unknown and varying circumstances including long cable runs, various ground references, etc. Your signal is only as good as the quality of your output transformers. The M3 Mixer is the only 3-channel mixer to offer dual isolated secondaries and our transformers are the biggest and the best quality in the industry, bar none! You can't break the laws of physics! Dual outputs require twice the transformer size. Remember, when it considering transformers, size does matter.
10. Multiple outputs add flexibility for the operator in the field. Today's sound mixers care more about flexibility than anything else. Having multiple outputs and their inherent flexibility is what the M3 mixer is all about. It's also about being able to tell a producer "YES" rather than "NO" when asked to provide some special audio feed or second camera support.
11. Auxiliary outputs on ENG mixers have typically been limited to a single output and at a fixed level. This is not very flexible or user friendly in the field! The M3 Mixer comes equipped with two auxiliary outputs and they are both independently line or mic level switchable. No other 3-channel mixer offers this feature.
12. Have you ever tried to hold a boom pole with one hand and mix with the other? Try it and you will see why we included a boom pole mounted remote control with the M3 Mixer. Our customers love it and constantly comment to us as to why no other manufacturer has offered this feature. Maybe its because we listen to our customer's suggestions.
13. Most ENG sound mixers use wireless nearly every day. Having your whole bag powered from one NP-1 rechargeable battery is both convenient and provides cost savings over the long run. Using the Optional NP-1 battery pack/power distribution box provides power to three wireless units from one convenient source. And unlike other third party NP-1 battery caps and adapters, our NP-1 pack surrounds the whole battery so it will not easily come off during a shoot. In addition, the main power switch on the M3 mixer controls the power outputs of the NP-1 pack thus allowing you to turn off one switch and shut down the power to your entire bag. It's a simple and convenient solution!
14. While the FP33 and 302 mixers offer 12PH mic power, it must be selected globally. I.E. you cannot use one 12ph mic and one 48PH mic at the same time.

We reserve the right to make changes to features and specifications
without notice to enable future product improvements.

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