

THE QUADRAPHONIC SOUND OF PINK FLOYD: A BRIEF HISTORY

1: 1967 – The Azimuth Coordinator. A quad panning device that featured two panning joysticks in a large metal box, it was built in 1967 by Abbey Road sound engineer Bernard Speight and used for the Floyd's *Games For May* show at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. It was stolen after the show.

1969 – Its replacement, a second Azimuth Coordinator, was first used at a Royal Festival Hall concert in 1969. It was also used by record producer Alan Parsons during the recording of *Dark Side of the Moon* (an album which was issued in both stereo and quadrasonic versions). This device is now on display in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

2. 1972 – British pro audio manufacturer Allen & Heath is commissioned to build the Mod1. This quad console was built for Pink Floyd's live use around 1972 and can be seen in their film *Live in Pompeii*. This was subsequently sold and is thought to have ended up in a lock-up garage in North London.

3. 1973 – Allen & Heath built a second quad board in 1973. This was used for the 1974 Winter Tour. Its whereabouts are unknown.

4. 1977 – Another British pro audio manufacturer, Midas, builds a pair of 'mirror' PF1 consoles (so called because they exactly mirror each other's facilities). These were based on the Midas Pro4 console design. They had input and output sections and could be used as stand-alone consoles. They fed signals into a central, specially designed quad routing box, and were used on the 1977 *In The Flesh* (*Animals*) tour.

In 1982 a fire at Alexandra Palace in London, where Britannia Row had set up sound systems for the Capital Radio Jazz Festival, destroyed one of the Midas Mirror consoles.

5. 1982 – In response, Midas quickly built a one-off replacement to feed a quad panner built by Britannia Row electronics engineer Les Matthews for *The Wall* tour. This was built by and supplied to Pink Floyd by BRP. BRP is the sound company originally formed and owned by Pink Floyd, but has been independent for the past 26 years.

The original surviving Mirror board, the replacement for the destroyed board and the matching quad router are now on display in a Parisian Museum.

6. 1987 – The Les Mathews quad panning device went on to be used for the *Momentary Lapse of Reason* tour. (The tour was originally planned to last just 11 weeks, but ended up playing to 5.5m people during 1987-89.) The device is one of the items to be auctioned at Bonhams on 15 December.

7. 1994 – Midas XL3 quad console. This was commissioned by BRP for the *Division Bell* tour in 1994. This is the second console to be auctioned at Bonhams on 15 December.

Both of the latter two units have been meticulously maintained in full working condition and the desk that was built for Division Bell has seen occasional use since Pink Floyd's last live touring show on 29 October 1994, at Earls Court in London.