

The Inside Track - ICON of NZ Post Production

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By Stephen Bruel

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The Inside Track is the first facility in New Zealand to purchase and install a Digidesign ICON. Formed in 1992 by Chris Burt and his partner Pam Shearer, this Auckland facility shares a rich history with Digidesign in pioneering digital audio solutions.

"Upgrading to ICON was a natural progression for The Inside Track. Since buying Sound Tools, I have owned and upgraded every version of Protools." Chris says.

Chris began his career in sound engineering amongst the technological change from two track capable flat bed editing machines to multi track tape recorders. While Chris enjoyed the flexibility of multi tracking, he also remembers the problems associated with timecode chasing across a variety of reel to reel machines

"Thankfully in 1993 a device called Sound Tools came along, accompanied by two bits of software called Edit and Deck. At last we were able to capture sounds and edit them even more accurately than on 35mm tape" Chris remembers.

"I immediately bought a sound tools card for my SE 30 Mac and together with my sampler which I drove with a great program called Q Sheet, I was at last starting to have some real fun with sound"

The Inside Track consists of four suites. **Edit Suite One** features a Protools Mix 6.4 system, Apple G4, C Audio amplification, Tannoy monitors and a Soundcraft spirit desk. **Edit Suite Two/ADR** consists of a Protools Mix 6.4 system, Control 24 desk, Apple G4, Rane amplification, Tannoy monitors and Dolby SEU4 + SDU4 surround. **Edit Suite Three/Foley** features a Protools HD 1 rig, ProControl and O2R desks, Apple G4, Haffler amplification and Tannoy monitors.

The large **Mix Four Suite** houses the new 16 fader ICON running a Protools HD3 on an Apple G5 dual processing computer.

"I had been mixing on ProControl for several years and as protocols expanded as a mixing environment, the need to access more and more controllers increased." says Chris regarding his ICON purchase.

It also features a Protools HD2 system, a ProControl desk, second Apple G5 computer, Dolby DS4 encode and CP65 decode, Tascam DA98 mastering, Sony SP Beta (Pal + NTSC), O2R desk, Rane amplification and Tannoy monitors

"My favourite features of the ICON are the dedicated EQ section, the Home button, the focus fader, and the ability to access more than one function at a time allowing greater creativity and feel when mixing." Chris states.

The Inside Track has completed hundreds of both large and small projects over the years including feature films In My Father's Den, Rain, Savage Honeymoon and was ADR supervisor on Whale Rider. Full post and mix for the TV series Cleopatra 2525 was also an Inside Track production. Currently the facility is working on the popular Power Rangers TV series.

As a Studio owner, Supervising sound editor and re recording mixer, Chris is primarily concerned with providing a high quality sound track on time and efficiently enough to be profitable. To achieve this he needs powerful and reliable tools, a creative and dedicated staff and efficient administration.

"Clients now have no doubt that the studio's capabilities are of the highest standard when they see the ICON" says Chris.

