

Multidyne Big News at Fox

USER REPORT

by **Chris Pontius**
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MIAMI

The VPDA-2 video amplifier from Multidyne has helped us solve an engineering hitch for a live studio camera. The launch last October of Fox News meant the creation of several regional news bureaus, including several from scratch.

In Miami, we started installing engineering equipment in September 1996 that included an editing/feed station and a

"hot" for use in studio or feed intake remotes in New York. We needed a variable-output amplifier between the camera and the Vyx input to control the outgoing signal.

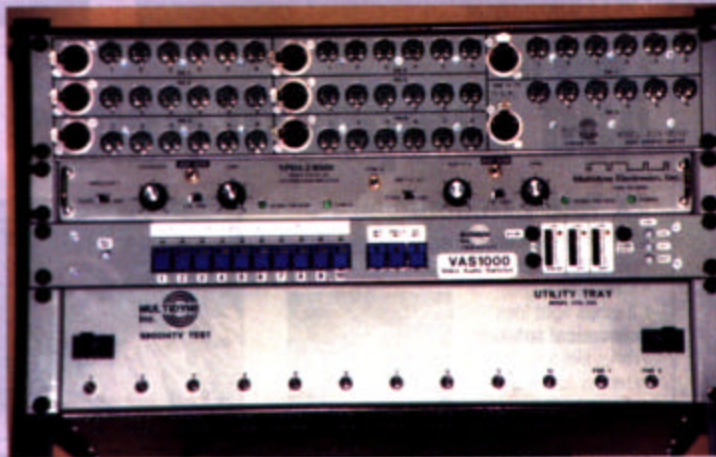
The Multidyne VPDA-2 was simple to install into the line's video-in, video-out. The unit has six outputs, which we find helpful. Before, we were using BNC adapters to split the camera output to other monitors, resulting in some signal degradation.

Rotary knobs allow adjustment of both gain (from nearly 0 dB to 12 dB) and chroma to correct levels. However, there are no built-in readings on the unit, so unless the signal is routed through a measuring device, the level can be somewhat of a guessing game. The remote coordinators in New York guide us through the levels they want. We have the VPDA-2 mounted directly beside the camera, within arm's reach of the operator, so that last-minute adjustments can be made before going to air.

The VPDA-2 is small (9 x 7 x 2 1/2 inches) and can be mounted easily on top of other units. This is crucial for us because we often have a lone operator controlling both the camera and the outgoing audio/video levels.

A selectable ground switch on the unit allows us either to ground to our own earth system or to use the unit's chassis, which eradicates hum and eliminates the need for a humbucker unit. Although we use the unit primarily in the studio, it is portable and will run off 110/220 or battery power from two BP-90-type batteries.

The VPDA-2 is a simple unit, but one we have found necessary to improve the quality of the outgoing camera picture, and to handle last-minute demands from the other end of the line! ■



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live camera position. Both of these are run straight through a Vyx phone system to the main control rooms in New York.

A problem arose with the live camera feed. Unlike the Beta feed decks that have their own variable video and chroma outputs, the camera (Sony BVW series) has no direct external controllable outputs. Interestingly enough, the Vyx line actually overcompensates normal preset levels and renders them too

Editor's note: Chris Pontius is a staff photographer with Fox Network's Miami office. Previously he was a photographer with the Fox affiliate, WSVN, in Miami. He has a bachelor's degree in communications from Millersville University in Pennsylvania.

The opinions expressed above are the author's alone. For further information, contact Jim Jachetta at Multidyne (Phone: 800-488-8378; FAX: 516-671-3362; jim@multidyne.com) or circle Reader Service 351.