

ALLEN & HEATH

SQ+ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does SQ Plus replace the current SQ range?

No, the current SQ range will still be produced and available for as long as it continues to sell. The original SQ is being offered at a slightly lower price point than previously, and the SQ+ is slightly higher, giving a wider range of options and price points to the customer.

Why did you make an SQ+?

We wanted to bring the latest software developments to the SQ space, including RackUltra FX and the most recent DEEP processing Add-ons. This required updates to hardware.

What's the difference compared with the original SQ?

The main visible differences are the updated styling and larger touchscreen with rebuilt 'dark' GUI. Inside, the latest convertors are being used for local I/O and the faders have been upgraded. Most excitingly, we've added more processing power to support the latest DEEP Add-ons as well as 4 instances of RackUltra FX.

Are existing SQ Show/Scene/Library files compatible with SQ+?

Yes, in the same way as with new feature firmware on our consoles, you can recall existing SQ Shows, Scenes or Libraries on the new SQ+ models. You cannot, however, recall SQ+ data on the original SQ models (i.e. data is not backwards compatible).

Are there more channels?

Like the original SQ, SQ+ is a 48 input processing channel mixer with LR + 12 Stereo mixes and 6 mono (or 3 stereo) Matrices. Alongside the 4 original FX sends and 8 dedicated stereo returns, there are now an extra 4 RackUltra FX sends and 4 dedicated stereo returns.

Have you introduced any of the Assistant features from CQ and Qu?

The SQ and SQ+ series do not include the Gain Assistant, Feedback Assistant or FX Assist at the moment. However, the updated hardware in SQ+ could now support Gain Assistant and Feedback Assistant, so we will monitor demand for these.

Can the RackUltra FX engines run standard FX?

Yes! If no RackUltra FX Add-ons have been installed, users can still make use of the 4 extra FX engines by loading standard FX into them.

Note that it's *not* possible to run RackUltra FX on the standard FX engines though.

Are you building an SQRack+?

Not at this time, though we will monitor demand following the launch of the surface models.

Do you have to purchase RackUltra FX?

Yes, RackUltra FX will be available as Add-ons for the SQ+ from <http://shop.allen-heath.com>, individually and in bundles.

Does SQ+ have Dyn8?

No. Dyn8 requires the Dyn engine, which is only found in the larger Avantis and dLive XCVI cores.

Is there any difference in the I/O compared to the original models?

Yes and no – the SQ+ features the latest AD and DA conversion, for improved audio performance when using local I/O, but the number of local inputs and outputs for each size remain exactly the same. For example, both SQ-7 and SQ7+ have 32+1 XLR inputs and 16 XLR outputs.

All SQ and SQ+ models also feature the same digital I/O capabilities, with stereo AES output, built-in SLink port, I/O port for option cards (Dante/Waves/MADI/SLink), and a 32x32 Audio/MIDI USB interface.

Can existing option cards be used with the new SQ+ models?

Yes, SQ+ supports all SQ/AHM option cards. Currently these include SLink, Dante, Waves and MADI.

Does SQ+ use the same apps as SQ?

No – there will be new updated apps for a few reasons, including continuing support for the existing SQ (which runs different firmware), matching styling and the extra features found in SQ+.

The new SQ+MixPad app will also support OTA firmware updating, as found already in CQ and Qu-5/6/7.

Is the new GUI just a 'dark mode' version of the original?

The screen navigation of SQ+ is identical to the original SQ, so if you know SQ, you already know SQ+.

Every single screen has been revisited and rebuilt however, with some only getting styling changes and other being completely reimaged.

Where's the GEQ Fader Flip key gone?!

The only physical control we had to remove to fit the larger screen... the dedicated physical Fader Flip key has been removed, but you can still assign this function to a SoftKey.

Why does SQ+ firmware start at version 2.0?

The ability to use data from an original SQ on SQ+ required a higher (than V1.6) firmware version. As with dLive V2.0 and Avantis V2.0, SQ+ now supports RackUltra FX. We also wanted to signify the 'version 2' hardware update and allow some space for original SQ updates if needed.

Will there still be software updates for the original SQ?

While we have allowed room in the version numbering to update the original SQ, we do not have any firmware releases planned at this time.

Have you replaced some of the standard FX engines with RackUltra FX engines?

No. The 4 RackUltra FX engines are in addition to the 8 standard FX engines, meaning SQ+ has 12 FX engines in total, with 8 dedicated FX sends and 12 dedicated stereo FX returns.

Are the RackUltra FX in SQ+ exactly the same as those in dLive and Avantis?

The SQ+ RackUltra FX sends and returns do not include the extra EQ and dynamics processing found on Avantis and dLive RackUltra FX sends and returns. But yes, the algorithms themselves are exactly the same.