

Ed Sheeran Takes DiGiCo's New Quantum112 Flypack Mixer on its Maiden Flight

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Posted on October 15, 2025



Ed Sheeran's FOH engineer, Simon Kemp, breaks out the brand new DiGiCo Quantum112 for its first official deployment at NPR Music's office in Washington, DC

DiGiCo's tiny desk mixed its first official performance at NPR Music's Tiny Desk, followed by an exclusive TikTok LIVE event held at Brooklyn's Domino Park

WASHINGTON, DC - October 2025 - Although DiGiCo has only just revealed the true identity and specifications of its Quantum1¹² - previously codenamed "Pufferfish" - the new ultra-compact

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flypack mixer is already being put through its paces by Ed Sheeran's FOH engineer, Simon Kemp, and production manager, Chris Marsh. Appropriately, the tiny desk had its first official deployment on National Public Radio's *Tiny Desk Concerts* video series, recorded live on Friday, September 12 at NPR Music's office in Washington, DC. The very next day, the still-secret digital mixer was whisked off in its Peli case to Williamsburg's Domino Park in Brooklyn, New York for an exclusive TikTok LIVE performance promoting Sheeran's eighth and latest album, *Play*.



DiGiCo's tiny desk in position for Ed Sheeran's Tiny Desk performance

DiGiCo has enjoyed a long history with Sheeran, tracing back to 2011, when Chris Marsh began mixing the artist's early solo tours on a compact SD11. In 2017, to accommodate an ever-increasing need for more busses, Marsh stepped up to an SD7 and subsequent Quantum7, which he toured with until passing the FOH mix baton on to Simon Kemp in 2023.

"I enjoyed six years on the SD11, going from pubs and clubs to stadiums - we even did Wembley and Croke Park with it in 2015," Marsh recalls. "But it was finally time to say goodbye to the convenience of the small console and increase my front-of-house footprint to match Ed's ambitions for shows moving forward. This was a big change as I could no longer walk in with a

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mixer under my arm, it cost more on freighting, and it was a logistical consideration at festivals and venues alike. I chose the SD7 and Q7 for many reasons, but mainly that it gave me an almost unlimited opportunity to expand and handle the demands of the artist. It was the right move at the time.”



A view from “behind the curtain” at NPR Music’s Tiny Desk Concerts set

“When we launched the *Mathematics* tour in 2022, I attempted to return to the SD11 for our launch shows in pubs and small venues but simply could not make it work. The console would not stretch to our requirements. I truly wish that I had a Quantum1¹² at that time, but I am so pleased that we have this option now. As production manager, it is a game-changer for being able to make Ed’s show translate into smaller venues, offering quicker turnarounds and cost-effective freight movements. It almost makes me want to be back at the faders again!”

Those FOH duties, of course, are now in the very capable hands of Simon Kemp, who has mixed Sheeran for the past two years, after working with everyone from Mariah Carey, Usher, and Lionel Richie to Robbie Williams and Passenger.

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The new DiGiCo Quantum112 was also used for Ed Sheeran's exclusive TikTok LIVE performance at Williamsburg's Domino Park

"The exciting thing about Ed's show is that we do it all - from tiny popups to stadiums and everything in between," Kemp describes. "He creates loops via his guitar and vocal mic, which feed into Ableton and come to me via MADI as individual loop inputs. Years ago, the routing was likely fairly simple, but that has evolved into a much bigger setup. Today, we have the availability to have 16 channels of looper inputs, and the source can be his guitar or his looper vocal mic. We also now have a keyboard where he can loop samples, and for the bigger shows, there are three main vocal mics, three loop vocal mics, and five separate guitar inputs. It all adds up."

DiGiCo's smallest and newest addition to the Quantum Range - the Quantum1¹² - is a single-screen, 12-fader desk that is the company's first true flypack mixer. Designed to fit within a rugged and robust Pelican™ Air 1637 case, the ultra-compact console, when packed, weighs only 23 kilograms - a perfect 50 pounds - qualifying it as a standard checked bag option on most flights.

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Simon Kemp manning the Quantum112 for the private Brooklyn show

When Kemp was first briefed on the top-secret Pufferfish, two thoughts immediately came to his mind: "My first reaction was: *I love the idea of getting this show back onto a small console that I can check at the airport and do a gig anywhere in the world.* That thought was quickly followed by: *how in the world am I supposed to fit this show onto 12 faders?!*" he laughs. "But as it turns out, it's been great, and the desk is so easy to get around, which is essential seeing that monitors for the looper setup are also run from FOH. I'm not sure how DiGiCo fit so much into such a small footprint, but it really covers everything I need, and with the help of macros and a huge touchscreen, I can be anywhere almost as quickly as if I had 36 faders."

Aside from applauding the Quantum1¹²'s compact size and remarkably light weight, Kemp already has a list of other features and functions that he particularly appreciates. "I'm really impressed with the big screen and its brightness in the daytime," he says. "In terms of mixing, the Mustard Source Expander has been great. Spice Rack has also been *a must* for us, and we use it for both

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Ed's vocal and guitar. It's a really powerful setup, and quite a robust little console in general. We've given it a good test throughout our US promo shows and it seems very hardy; the faders are great as well."

A proper tour in support of *Play* is set to kick off closer to the end of the year, dramatically scaling up the production requirements, but the mix will steadfastly remain on DiGiCo's Quantum platform. "We'll be carrying a much-larger Quantum8⁵² for that, but seeing that they're both Quantum surfaces, transitioning the show between the two extremes in surface size is surprisingly painless. Even in the early stages of the Quantum1¹², before its file converter function existed, it didn't take me long to shrink the show onto the little flypack mixer."



Load in and out is a snap with the Quantum112 and its handy Peli case

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"To my knowledge, I don't think there's any other console out there that can do what the Quantum1¹² does," he sums. "It has all the I/O that I need as standard on the back - and still has space for two DMI cards! Honestly, I can't see any other mixer even getting close to its versatility. We've really been impressed with it."

For details on Ed Sheeran's upcoming tour dates, visit www.edsheeran.com. More information on DiGiCo's Quantum1¹² can be found online at www.digico.biz.