

# Élan

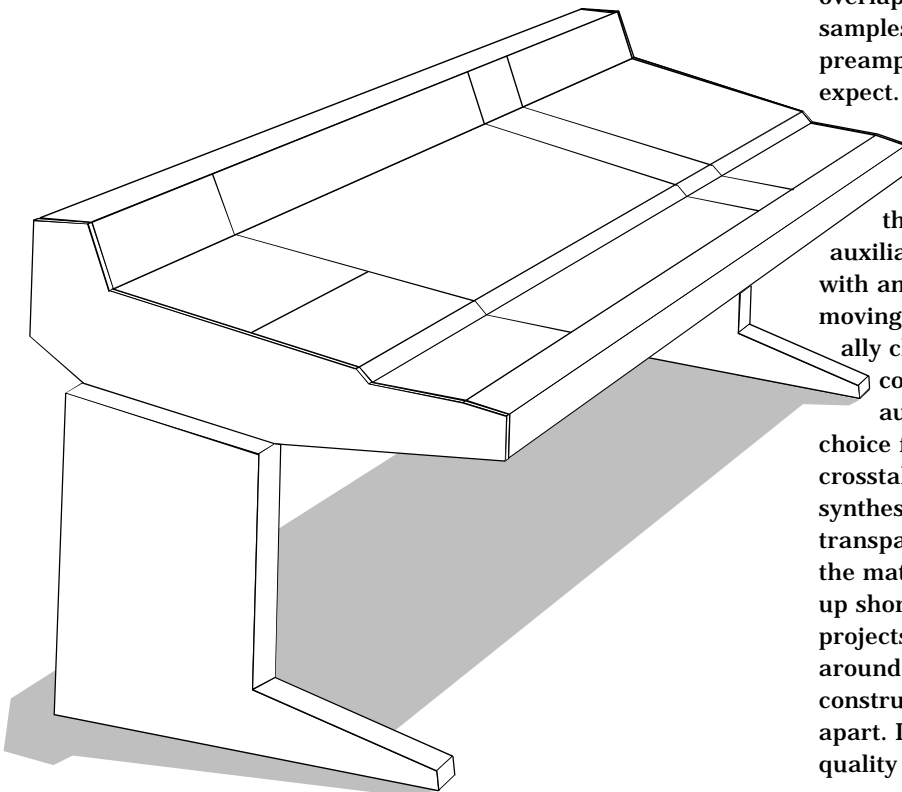
---

**Neotek's Élan console series brings exceptional power and productivity to artist-oriented and project studios. The Élan combines outstanding sonic performance, high technical standards, and solid construction quality with a full complement of professional features.**

---

## Overview

The Élan console series brings professional power and performance to artist-oriented project studios, whether you are tracking, mixing, sampling, or editing. Its design is focused on features that offer engineers real benefits. You'll find in-place solo and three overlapping mute groups. Your mics or samples start in Neotek's best discrete mic preamp, not the one-chip solution you might expect. The Élan's remarkably musical equalizer offers four bands with sweep frequencies. And the Élan monitor control doubles the size of the console or creates a total of thirty auxiliary sends. You can order your Élan with any popular automation system: VCA, moving fader, or MIDI. The Élan is exceptionally clean and quiet, but it alone among its competition produces the kind of solid audio performance that makes it the choice for back-to-analog purists. Its crosstalk performance can handle the hottest synthesizer tracks. Its bandwidth and transparency give you complete confidence in the material you send out. You won't come up short of features when you tackle complex projects, and you won't waste time working around console compromises. The heft and construction quality of the Élan also set it apart. It has the advanced designs and top quality components that maintain performance over the extra years of service expected of consoles today. Your Élan studio will produce work with the quality and impact expected of the most expensively equipped facilities.



# Élan

## Consoles for multitrack recording and mixing in modern, multipurpose studios.

---

### **Introduction: why we did it.**

The Élan was designed specifically to bring classic professional performance to contemporary multipurpose studios. To fit a budget it might be necessary to forego some of the complexity of our more expensive consoles, but to our designers it seemed unwise, in fact unnecessary, to sacrifice audio quality for price. While a little more of your time and attention can make up for the absence of seldom-used functions, nothing can make up for poor sound, noise and crosstalk, or build quality that isn't there from the start.

### **How we did it.**

To bring the benefits of Neotek performance to modest budgets, we began with our Élite. We pared down the architecture just a bit. We simplified the equalizer and meters. And we reduced the order options and frame sizes. We've never found an acceptable alternative to our microphone preamp, so the Élan enjoys our very best. You won't find a 1-chip cop out where it matters most.

### **We built it right so it serves you longer.**

We made no compromises in component and construction quality. Then you compare an Élan to other consoles near its price range, the difference is immediately obvious. Where other consoles have a sheet metal feel and reveal components selected for price, the Élan feels substantial and fully professional. It has the same all-alloy frame as the Élite and the same interconnect system. The same high quality components are used throughout. Most importantly, when we designed the Élan we made sure there were no compromises in the high standard of technical and sonic performance for which Neotek consoles are known.

### **A system architecture for modern music.**

The Élan architecture is a modern evolution of the American style in-line monitoring console. Monitoring mix controls are included on Input/Output modules to achieve a compact and efficient layout. We have designed refinements that allow the channel fader and monitor to be used interchangeably, providing simultaneous access to the stereo bus and doubling the number of console mixing inputs. That's important for studios with lots of MIDI virtual tracks. The monitor can also follow the fader as its signal source, making it an effects send master and providing a total of thirty effects sends or grouping buses when you are mixing. We worked very hard to make the Élan efficient and friendly

**Work on your music,  
play on your console.**

to use. There are no frustrating quirks or crosstalk paths that must be worked around when artist engineers would rather concentrate on their music. Isolation between fader and monitor functions, between microphone and tape inputs, and between multitrack buses are comparable to digital standards and often 20dB or more ahead of higher priced consoles that tout their audio performance and balanced buses. You are free to exploit the full creative power of the console in complex patches, tricky effects mixes, and subgrouping. And your samples are super clean.

**Superior sound  
depends on superior  
circuits.**

The circuits of the Élan were designed from inception to gracefully accommodate the extreme in-band and out-of-band signals encountered in modern digital studios. It is not by accident that the slew rate and power bandwidth of all Neotek designs are about twice as high as other consoles. Our mic preamp has exceptionally low noise—typically within 1/4 dB of the theoretical minimum. It is the same circuit as used in all Neotek consoles, because we know that only the best is adequate for high quality vocals and quiet, accurate sampling. The critical stereo combining amps are discrete hybrids to keep noise and distortion at a minimum. Neotek's Common Sense bus system is a much more sophisticated approach to big console design than balanced buses, and the Élan's outputs are balanced—the hard way, with cross-coupled .1% resistors. In direct comparisons of sonic performance between manufacturers, Neotek consoles have consistently proven superior. Élan circuit designs support your own efforts to maintain audio quality leadership.

All these efforts and attention to details have not gone unnoticed. The clean, solid sound of the Élan has made it the secret weapon of a new generation of engineers. Whether it's grunge or classical, Neotek consoles are chosen because they offer performance that's simply unavailable elsewhere.

**High quality  
components.**

The components used in an Élan are instrument quality and the controls and critical devices are all custom made. You won't find unpolarized electrolytic capacitors in the audio, unbypassed power on ICs, or other common manufacturing economies that degrade signal quality. The mic preamp uses a precision DC servo circuit to eliminate the big electrolytic cap that muddies up the sound of every other design. And a look inside the frame will show that all audio voltages run in shielded cables instead of the ribbon cable used in competitive designs. This is just one way we prevent the sonic dirt that arises from crosstalk and radio signal pollution

**The finest equalizer  
in its class.**

Today's recording techniques demand powerful equalizers. The Élan features a highly musical four band, sweep frequency design. The shelving high and low bands use sophisticated state variable circuitry to maintain their musical performance at extreme settings. The mid bands employ separate stages to avoid interaction and sonic smear. The controls are easy to operate and easy to reset.

**Professional features:  
mute groups and  
in-place solo.**

The Élan's logic functions include three overlapping mute groups with master controls. The mute circuit itself is a highly refined ramped discrete FET design that is far less sonically obtrusive than relays or CMOS chips. The fader module provides in-place solo on designated mute groups—a feature you won't find on the competition.

**Fader options and  
automation.**

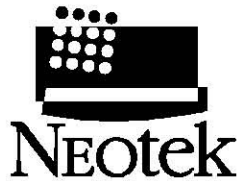
We don't lock you in to our choice of automation. The Élan fader is on a separate panel for easily fitting or retrofitting any popular VCA or moving fader automation system, but you still keep our silent electronic mute. We offer VCA faders of enhanced performance, or moving fader automation that exploits the full capability of both automation and console. Neotek offers MIDI Direct mute automation as a powerful but inexpensive alternative.

**Comprehensive  
master section with  
multichannel  
monitoring.**

The Élan's monitor master provides an intelligent combination of features and convenience. In addition, Neotek's new MultiFormat Monitor module option adds a full set of features for monitoring in a multichannel environment—both LCRS and 5.1 channels. Not only film soundtracks, but even music albums are being produced in LCRS formats, while 5.1 has been adopted as the standard for HDVT and the advanced layers of MPEG. Soon, even jingle studios will need to monitor in surround sound. The Neotek MultiFormat Monitor module, based on our successful film consoles, provides a complete multichannel monitoring system that includes insertion of an encode-decode processor like a DS4; volume, mute, and dim for three speakers systems with up to six loudspeakers; and reference monitoring of encoded and mono-encoded signals—all at low cost.

**The Élan is affordable.**

Cost is always a consideration. The Élan is a complete and integrated audio system, with legs, meters, patchbay, and a solid signal path. When you compare the cost of assembling a lesser console, adding outboard mic preamps, a few good equalizers, and a professional patchbay, you end up near the price of an Élan. But you don't end up with a professional console that can attract quality clients.



Neotek is your design and manufacturing partner. Our professional audio products are designed and manufactured in the United States and sold and serviced around the world by a network of skilled representatives. We are a team of designers, technicians, salespeople, and managers committed to excellence in everything we do. Call us and find out how easy it is to put all of our resources to work for you.