

New Pipe Module for a New Combination Organ



MPOS have designed, built and installed bespoke combination organs in venues worldwide, including the Beijing Central Music Conservatory and St Andrew's Cathedral in Singapore. Most recently, within the UK, we have installed organs at St Luke's in Sevenoaks and St John the Baptist in Frenchay. Large installations of this kind aren't suitable for all situations, so using our experience, we have developed a new combination organ to make the musical benefits of speaking pipes accessible to more people.

For people considering an organ for a small church, or their home, then a pipe-only organ providing the life and presence of wind blown pipes might be the ideal. However this may be impractical due to space constraints or the costs involved, or both. As an alternative many consider digitally sampled organs with the range and versatility to perform a wide repertoire of music. Combination organs bridge the gap between these two options, bringing together that life and versatility.

Pipe Module Specification

Combining a compact MPOS pipe module with a custom voiced Roland C330 or C380 console produces an instrument with many of the advantages of our fully bespoke installations, but at a reduced size and investment.

The MPOS module consists of 147 pipes split across 3 carefully scaled and voiced ranks, providing the following pipe stops:

Open Diapason 8' (pipes from Tenor C) Principal 4' Twelfth 2 2/3' Fifteenth 2' Mixture III

For our module we have developed an improved extension system that avoids many of the inherent shortcomings of previous extension organs. Current small extension organs typically derive all stops containing mutations (e.g. Mixtures and Twelfths) from a single unison rank. In a pipe-only instrument then these mutation pipes would be independently scaled, voiced and tuned, and would be very different from the unison pipes. Therefore in a standard extension organ it is impossible to balance or tune these stops correctly, leading to an overly dominant, harsh, mutation tone. We have added a dedicated mutation rank that can be treated in the same way as on a pipe-only instrument, removing this problem entirely.

A second problem with current extension organs is that the unison pipes are borrowed across multiple ranks, causing a loss of impact when additional stops are turned on. Our addition of a second small unison rank greatly reduces this effect.

Our compact module has a striking pipe display without unnecessary casework and can be placed on a shelf or cabinet. It is entirely self-contained, including a blower box that keeps it whisper quiet (measured as <30dB@4m). The standard module dimensions are 1m wide by 0.6m deep and it has an overall height of 1.6m, with an option for a floor-standing version with an overall height of 2m. With fewer moving parts than a typical pipe-only instrument then ongoing maintenance costs are reduced, just requiring occasional tunings. A temperature based automatic tuner ensures that the electronic parts of the instrument follow the pitch of the pipes as the environment changes.



External Audio Packages

For a combination organ to be successful then the pipes and speakers need to speak from the same place. Knowing this, our pipe module design includes space for positioning speakers and amplifiers with the pipes. This allows us to provide various audio packages to produce the final instrument.

The standard audio of the Roland C330 and C380 consoles includes two satellite speakers that help to spread the sound away from the built in knee speakers. We can place these satellite speakers on a purpose designed ledge behind the pipes, helping to integrate the sound of the whole instrument.

However, the satellite speakers still rely on the built in speakers to cover the full range of organ tone. In order to improve the overall sound of the combination organ then we have selected a high quality external **Small Audio** package, consisting of a pair of speakers placed behind the pipes, and a stereo amplifier and powered sub-woofer positioned beside the blower, keeping the whole unit entirely self-contained. This will enable the whole organ to speak from the same place, fully integrating the pipe and speaker tone.

For the best result, there is our **Full Audio** package. We can customise the C330 and C380 with separate outputs for the Swell stops and the Great and Pedal stops. Using this ability, we have selected different speakers with different tones for the different departments, producing the sense of separation between the departments found in good pipe organs. Similarly to the small audio package, a multi-channel amplifier and sub-woofer are fitted within the base of the module, and then 2 pairs of speakers fitted either behind or to the side of the module. We believe this package provides the best musical result and makes the most of the capabilities of the Roland console.

Pricing

	With Pipe Module	Plus Small Audio	Plus Full Audio
Roland C330	£19,999	£22,499	£24,699
Roland C380 (ex. VAT)*	£21,399 £17,832.50	£23,899 £19,915.83	£25,999 £21,665.83

MPOS can supply the various instrument options pre-voiced (both electronic and pipes), installed and tuned for the following prices (inc. VAT, subject to alteration):

*Churches with listed buildings may be able to claim back VAT through the Listed Places of Worship scheme: http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/

We would also recommend a bespoke on-site installation for an additional £1,500 where every stop, pipe and sampled pipes, will be specifically voiced in situ to suit the particular acoustic in which it is being installed.

We would also be happy to discuss any customisations, including altered pipe specification or case alterations such as fretwork side panels in place of the standard cloth screens.



For more information please contact sales@mpos-organs.com or leave a message on our website at www.mpos-organs.com