

Supporting Cinelab with R&S®CLIPSTER mastering system



Scene from the film *The White Crow*, the story of Rudolf Nureyev's defection to the West (left) and director Ralph Fiennes on set with Oleg Ivenko shooting *The White Crow* (right). *The White Crow* was post produced by Cinelab London.

At a glance

R&S®CLIPSTER is robust, well engineered, always reliable and meets the most demanding performance expectations. As a product line for post production, R&S®CLIPSTER has stood the test of time and has always generated a positive return on investment.

Adrian Bull, now CEO at Cinelab London, was UK's first customer to acquire R&S®CLIPSTER, and it has been a core product in his post production arsenal ever since.

Executive summary

- **Customer:** Cinelab London Ltd.
- **Task:** Support Cinelab London's team of film specialists, who are known for excellent service and quality of work, committed to producing best quality images
- **Solution/product:** R&S®CLIPSTER mastering system
- **Key benefits:**
 - Fast and reliable IMF and DCP mastering
 - 4K uncompressed playback up to 120 fps
 - HDR color-image processing pipeline
 - Input of any file type and video signal
 - Mixing and matching of codecs along with uncompressed frame sequences

About Cinelab London

Founded in 2013, Cinelab London is the film laboratory that offers Europe's broadest spectrum of services, with an unrivaled range of telecine, scanning and sound facilities. Cinelab London's film specialists are known for excellent service and quality of work, committed to producing the best quality images possible.

Cinelab London's clients work across the creative industries: feature film, long form, television, advertising and music. Cinelab London's restoration team works with libraries, museums, heritage collections and other content owners who wish to restore and access their media archives. Cinelab London's recent film work includes the feature films *The White Crow* and *The Souvenir*, commercials for Adidas, Nike and Burberry, and television hit series *Succession* for HBO.

Cinelab London's customers include Framestore, MPC, The Mill, The Farm Group, Deluxe, Technicolor, Molinare, MPS, Cinelab London, Goldcrest, Pinewood Studios, Lipsync, Splice TV, Visual Data, The Ark, TK1, BBC, ITV, Viacom, Sky, Turner, NBC, TV3, MSV, Arsenal FC, Dolby, Saatchi, Eikon, BT, and various universities such as Salford and Westminster.

First experience

Adrian Bull, CEO at Cinelab, was UK's first customer to purchase R&S®CLIPSTER in Soho in 2005 while at Ascent: "We used it to play back DPX in real time in order to reversion feature films. R&S®CLIPSTER gave us a really efficient workflow.

"Warner Bros. was a big client of ours, and we were reversioning their films for international theatrical release. R&S®CLIPSTER completely revolutionized the workflow

and enabled us to create simple template workflows for much faster delivery. It paid for itself multiple times over within the first year of deployment.

"We were doing over half a million pounds of reversioning work for Warner Bros. We were working from one room and one edit suite. We only had one or at most two dedicated operators. It was a very successful model with happy customers and a positive return on investment.

"The R&S®CLIPSTER workflow at Ascent in London proved so popular that, when our US colleagues saw what we were doing, they followed suit. Within a year, Ascent had deployed these devices in the USA, buying half a dozen across the group. The R&S®CLIPSTER devices were an immediate problem solver, and so we extended their use to cover further applications in feature film, drama and other high-end television applications.

"The R&S®CLIPSTER devices really came into their own from about 2010 and became the de facto gold standard for DCP mastering. They were and remain by far the most efficient encoding and mastering tools available on the market.

"By this time, Ascent was part of Deluxe. We had upwards of a dozen R&S®CLIPSTER devices across the group, including the Digital Cinema divisions.

"When we established Cinelab in 2013, R&S®CLIPSTER was one of the essential items on my must-have list. We acquired two R&S®CLIPSTER devices to deal with real-time capture, playback and reversioning of file-based content. We mainly use our R&S®CLIPSTER devices for feature film work."



R&S®CLIPSTER is the gold standard for mastering and distributing feature films and episodic TV. It is a powerful tool for editing any type of media, with any resolution, and creating high-quality professional deliverables that meet stringent, professional delivery specifications.



Hard deadlines

Adrian Bull continues: “From the very first iteration, the R&S®CLIPSTER devices have always been incredibly reliable. Their performance has been consistent, and when you’re dealing with longform projects, reliability is perhaps the most important aspect of any technology you deploy. Downtime costs you money and possibly even your customer.

“This is an industry that marches to the drum of hard deadlines. You miss the delivery and it could cost your studio customer millions of dollars. And these days we’re contractually bound to deliver or we face severe penalties. There is no margin for error.”

R&S®CLIPSTER – innovative and reliable

Rohde&Schwarz is constantly improving R&S®CLIPSTER, adding regular feature and performance enhancements to ensure it remains best in class.

Adrian Bull explains: “There’s a continuity with the Rohde&Schwarz core personnel, and this is reflected by timely updates and their consistent understanding of developments within the broader vendor and IT community. Rohde&Schwarz is always on it and often ahead of it. The R&S®CLIPSTER performance has never been an issue.

“Oliver Gappa’s passion for the industry is palpable – from understanding the customer’s requirements and pushing forward development to meet the ever-evolving demands of the community. He’s incredibly well connected and respected in the UK.

Intuitive

Getting started with R&S®CLIPSTER is really simple. It’s just plug and play. It takes no time to install, and the system works right off.

Adrian Bull adds: “If you’ve ever worked with an R&S®CLIPSTER device, you can jump straight back on it. It’s operationally intuitive to work on at a basic level and has deeper advanced settings you can easily handle. The continued GUI familiarity means that operators can come back to it after years and still know where everything is.”

Long-term investment

“R&S®CLIPSTER is robust, well engineered, always reliable and meets the most demanding performance expectations. As a product line for post production, R&S®CLIPSTER has stood the test of time, and in my experience has always generated a positive return on investment

“It’s difficult to think of any disk recorder that has held its place in the market over such a long period. And certainly not one that has continued to evolve and grow in sales. It’s earned its reputation as the industry standard and I can’t see that changing for many years to come.”

“Performance has never been an issue.”

Adrian Bull, CEO at Cinelab London

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