**Aux sends**

The auxiliary send allows the signal to be split and sent independently to some other location such as a signal processor (reverb, delay, compression) or even to another channel of the mixer. An output from the mixer which is used to send (route) the signal to additional external processing or special monitoring. Individual input strips on the mixer will have several auxiliary send channels, each of which usually goes to a master auxiliary send fader before being sent out of the console. The signal to an auxiliary send may be prefader, that is, independent of the input fader on the mixer or postfader, i.e. dependent on the level set by the input fader. After processing the signal it is usually sent back to the mixer output section via the auxiliary returns.

In effect this creates a separate mix from the main output of the desk. For example, a musician may need a particular balance in their headphones to help them record a part. Or for live use, you might want to create a monitor mix for the musicians on stage.

In either case, the balance of instruments probably won't be the same as the main mix. So you need to make another one, known as an auxiliary or aux mix. That's what aux send knobs are for. You can use them to tap off a bit of sound from any or all of the channels on the desk at any level you like without messing up the main mix.

Post Fader... With a postfader aux send, the signal is sent to the aux send master in proportion to the level of the input fader. This is the most common way to send a signal to an external processor such as a reverb. As the signal is sent to the master output, it also appears in the reverb field. As the signal fades, it will also fade in the reverb. Although not as flexible as prefader sends, postfader sends allow the user to maintain a consistent relationship between dry (original) and wet (processed) signals and it is ideal for mixing: no aux send knobs to fade up and down as well.

You can also use auxes to add effects. For example, if you have 8 mics on the various bits of a drum kit you can send a dab of each drum to a reverb unit.

Simple desks may have only one or two aux sends while more advanced ones may have 8 or more. If you don't plan to work with lots of live musicians and will be using your computer to add all your effects, then you won't need many. If you are into live bands then you'll probably need at least 4.

Pre Fader... Signal is sent via prefader aux send fader to aux send master independently of level of input fader. (Hence the term "prefader") Useful when the aux send and master output need to be completely independent. Some possible applications include sending the prefader aux send to on stage monitors or to headphones in the studio or to a process where the wet (processed) and dry (original) signal need not be related. Older mixers and broadcast mixers may call aux sends "foldback" or monitor sends (usually meaning pre-fader) and echo send.

Additional reading:

http://music.concordia.ca/Programs/Electroacoustics/mixer/Aux_Send.html