

# EXPEDITION



EX10 • EX20 • EX30  
OWNERS MANUAL

**SAMSON®**

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Welcome to Samson Expedition—the portable audio system for the new millenium! This exceptionally versatile system offers the perfect solution wherever you need portable, high-quality audio: as a main PA system or as onstage monitors in clubs and performance halls; in houses of worship; as a sound system for business presentations, mobile DJs at parties, or aerobics instruction; and for use in outdoor environments such as parks, beaches and flea markets. What's more, every Expedition system comes with a built-in telescoping handle and locking wheels, making it easy to take professional audio with you wherever you go!

There are three different Samson Expedition systems detailed in this manual. All utilize the same lightweight yet rugged two-way speaker enclosure that pairs a custom designed 12" woofer with a matched 1" compression driver. The Expedition EX10 is a passive 8-ohm enclosure that can be used with any external power amplifier rated at up to 250 watts. The Expedition EX20 is a powered version that includes a bi-amped power cell along with an active crossover, speaker protection circuitry and built-in limiting. And the Expedition EX30 is designed as a total all-in-one portable PA system, adding a four-channel stereo mixer—complete with digital effects—to the equation. In addition, a number of expansion options are available, including a 500-watt active subwoofer (our EX500); a rechargeable Lead-Acid GelCel battery pack; and a rear-panel mountable cassette recorder with pitch control. There's even a prewired custom compartment that accommodates any of three different Samson wireless receivers!

In this manual, you'll find a more detailed description of the features of all three Expedition systems, as well as a guided tour through all components, step-by-step instructions for setting up your system and full specifications. If your Expedition was purchased in the United States, you'll also find a warranty card enclosed—don't forget to fill it out and mail it! This will enable you to receive online technical support and will allow us to send you updated information about this and other Samson products in the future. If your Expedition system was purchased outside of the U. S., contact your local distributor for warranty details. Also, be sure to check out our website (<http://www.samsontech.com>) for complete information about our full product line.

**SPECIAL NOTE for U.S. purchasers:** Should your Expedition system ever require servicing, a *Return Authorization* number (RA) is necessary. Without this number, the unit will not be accepted. If your Expedition system was purchased in the United States, please call Samson at 1-800-372-6766 for a Return Authorization number prior to shipping your system. If possible, return the unit in its original carton and packing materials. If your Expedition system was purchased outside of the U. S., contact your local distributor for information.

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# System Features



The Samson Expedition system uses state-of-the-art technology to bring a revolutionary new degree of flexibility and portability to professional audio. Its main features include:

- A built-in telescoping handle and locking wheels that make it easier than ever before to transport your audio system.
  - All Expedition enclosures are lightweight and compact yet exceptionally durable and roadworthy. Injection-molded with Polypropylene, they feature substantial internal bracing to support a nearly 1/2" thick side wall construction, making them strong and rigid enough to allow maximum energy to be delivered to the sound output. In addition, a steel grill and scuff-resistant textured finish makes for a rugged speaker enclosure that will deliver dependable performance in even the most demanding environments.
  - The low frequency section includes a custom designed Kevlar-impregnated 12" low frequency driver with a 2.5" Kapton Former voice coil and 50 ounce barium ferrite magnet for accurate and super-tight bass response.
  - A high frequency section that delivers clear, sweet top end thanks to its 1" compression driver with a specially designed phenolic diaphragm, along with a phasing plug for linear response and an elliptical wave guide horn design that reduces nearly all sonic diffraction.
  - A tilt position that allows the Expedition to be used as an onstage wedge monitor.
- Integral 1 3/8" pole-mount receptacle and convenient fly points allow the Expedition to be pole-mounted or "flown" using standard PA hardware.
  - The EX10 is a passive cabinet that can be used with any power amplifier rated at up to 250 watts into 8 ohms. It requires no power and provides dual Speakon™ and 1/4" connectors that allow multiple EX10s to be daisy-chained where extended coverage is required.
  - The EX20 contains dual power amplifiers and an active crossover. Operating in a biamped configuration, one power amp drives the low frequency section with 150 watts of power and the other drives the high frequency section with 50 watts of power. The active crossover uses an advanced Linkwitz-Riley constant phase filter that provides a steep rolloff of 24 dB per octave to reduce sonic distortion at the crossover frequencies. Dual balanced XLR connectors allow daisy-chaining of multiple Expedition enclosures, and a switchable limiter circuit assures a clean output even when you're pushing the EX20 to maximum levels. In addition, there are three stages of speaker protection, including relay switching for power on and off.

- The EX30 includes all the features of the EX20, and adds a flexible four-channel stereo mixer that provides two monophonic and one stereo mic/line channels with dual XLR and 1/4" connectors. In addition, separate dual phono connectors allow you to hook up an external cassette or CD player. Each mixer channel includes two-band equalization and independent volume control, and there's even built-in digital effects for the addition of six different reverb presets. Balanced left and right XLR outputs allow daisy-chaining of multiple Expedition speakers (with a mono/stereo switch that allows operation in either mode), and a VU meter enables you to continuously monitor output levels. The EX20 and EX30 also include a meter that shows battery level when used with the optional RB 2030 rechargeable battery cartridge (see below).
- The top panel of both the EX20 and EX30 provides a prewired compartment that accommodates a variety of Samson wireless systems that offer superior RF and audio performance already proven on stages around the world. Receivers supported include the UM1 or M32 UHF models or the VM1 VHF model.
- A wide range of optional accessories, including: the MP 1030 mounting bracket, which allows any Expedition enclosure to be "flown" from the ceiling; the RB 2030 rechargeable battery cartridge, which provides up to two hours of power to either the EX20 or EX30 from its dual Lead-Acid GelCel batteries; and the TD30 cassette recorder, which fits neatly into a special compartment above the EX30's mixer to provide background music and/or to record meetings or performances. The TD30 even includes a pitch control so you can alter the tempo of the music for applications like aerobic instruction.
- The EX500 is an active subwoofer that pairs a massive 500-watt amplifier with a heavy-duty 15" low frequency driver. It is an ideal complement to any Expedition enclosure or any loudspeaker system, when the application requires deep, powerful low end response. Its built-in stereo electronic crossover allows the EX500 to operate either in mono or as a common subwoofer in a stereo system. It features an all-steel grill and rigid corners, as well as an integral pole mount.



# Expedition EX10

## Guided Tour



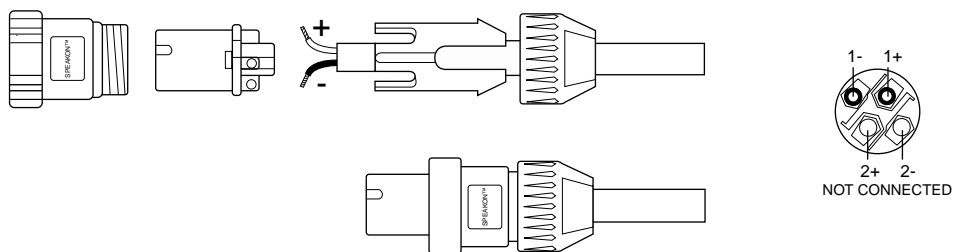
**1: 1/4" input** - Use this standard 1/4" connector to connect signal from a power amplifier (rated at up to 250 watts into 8 ohms) to the EX10.

**2: Speakon™ input** - Alternatively, you can use this Speakon™ connector to connect signal from a power amplifier (rated at up to 250 watts into 8 ohms) to the EX10.

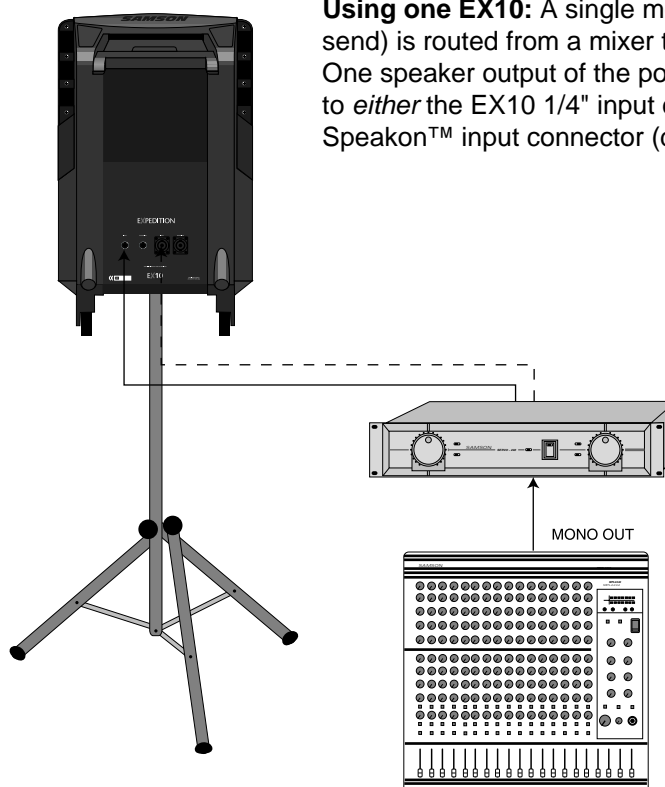
**3: 1/4" extension** - Use this standard 1/4" connector to daisy-chain one EX10 to another. See below for interconnection diagrams.

**4: Speakon™ extension** - Alternatively, you can use this Speakon™ connector to daisy-chain one EX10 to another. See below for interconnection diagrams.

## Speakon™ Wiring



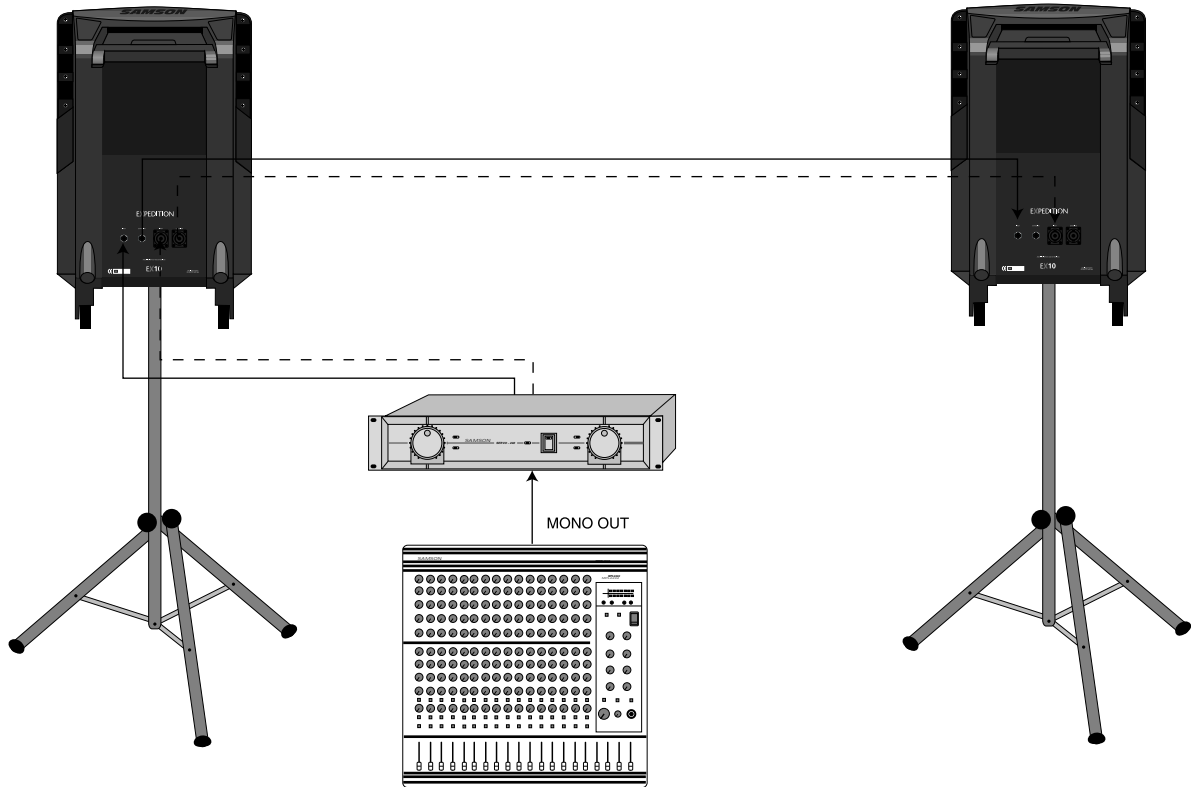
## Interconnecting the EX10



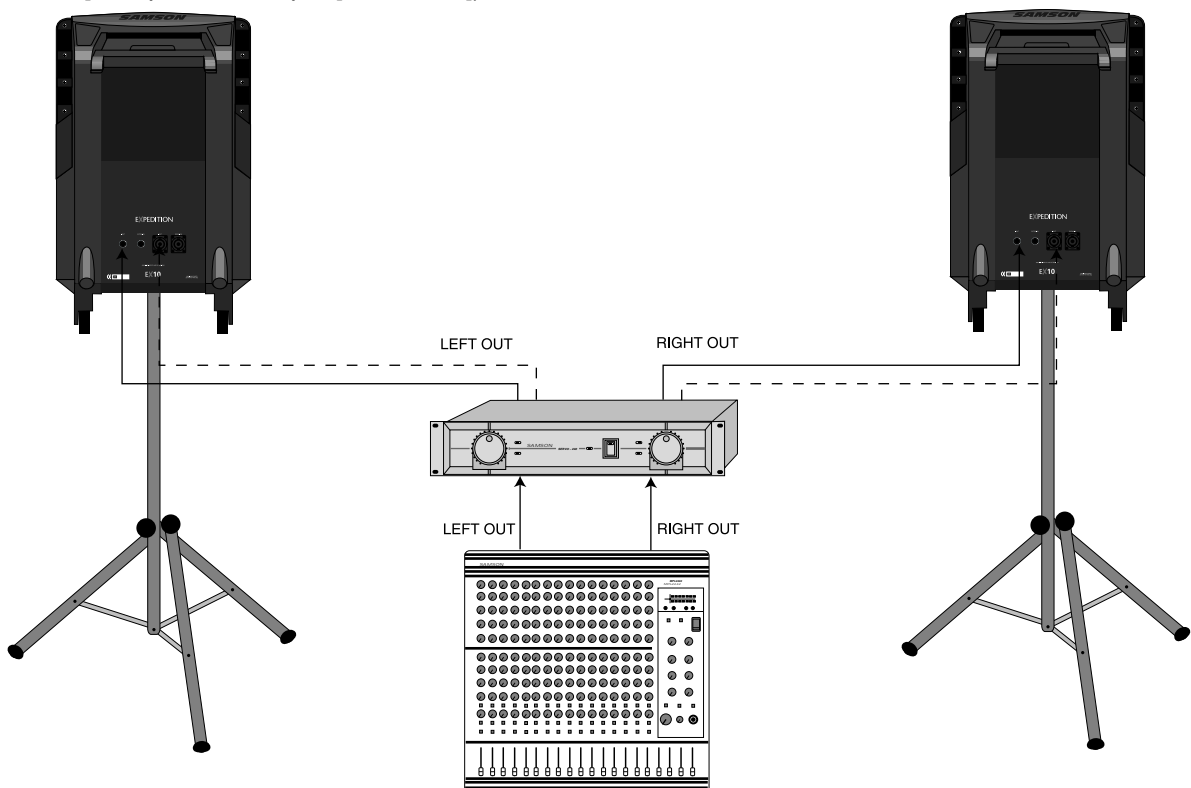
**Using one EX10:** A single mono signal (bus or aux send) is routed from a mixer to a power amplifier. One speaker output of the power amplifier is connected to *either* the EX10 1/4" input connector (solid line) or Speakon™ input connector (dotted line).

# Expedition EX10

**Using two EX10s in mono:** A single mono signal (bus or aux send) is routed from a mixer to a power amplifier. One speaker output of the power amplifier is connected to *either* the EX10 1/4" input (solid line) or Speakon™ input (dotted line), and a connection is made between *either* the 1/4" extension to a second EX10's input (solid line) or between the Speakon™ extension to a second EX10's Speakon™ input (dotted line).

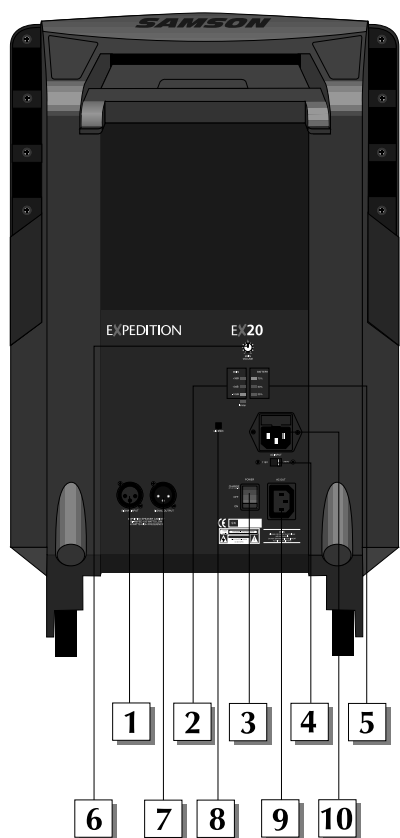


**Using two EX10s in stereo:** A stereo signal (bus or aux send) is routed from a mixer to a power amplifier. The left speaker output of the power amplifier is connected to one EX10 (using *either* the 1/4" input [solid line] or Speakon™ input [dotted line]), and the right speaker output of the power amplifier is connected to the other EX10 (again using *either* the 1/4" input [solid line] or Speakon™ input [dotted line]).



# Expedition EX20

## Guided Tour



**1: Input connector** - Use this balanced female XLR connector to route line-level signal into the EX20.

**2: Output VU meter** - This three-segment bar meter shows the EX20 output level. For optimum signal-to-noise ratio, set the Volume control (see #6 below) so that program material is usually at or around 0 VU, with occasional but not steady excursions to the red “+3 dB” segment.

**3: Power switch** - Use this to turn power to the EX20 on or off.

**4: Voltage selector** - Make sure this is set correctly for the country you are in before turning on the power to the EX20.

**5: Battery VU meter** - If an optional RB 2030 rechargeable battery pack is installed, this meter shows how much battery power remains as it is being charged (Power switch off) or depleted (Power switch on).

**6: Volume control** - This knob sets the level of the EX20's built-in power amplifiers.

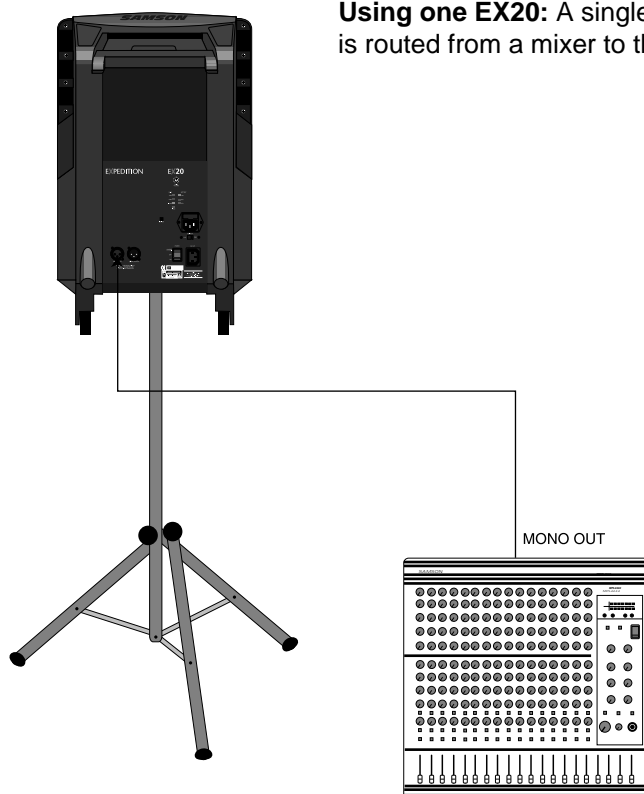
**7: Output connector** - This balanced male XLR connector carries line-level output signal from the EX20. It is used to send signal to a second EX20 being daisy-chained (see interconnection diagram on the following page) or to an optional EX500 subwoofer.

**8: Limiter switch** - Use this switch to turn the built-in limiter circuitry on or off. In order to maximize speaker protection, we recommend that this switch be left in the “on” position during normal operation.

**9: AC output** - A standard AC power outlet.

**10: AC input** - Connect the supplied heavy-gauge 3-pin “IEC” power cable here.

## Interconnecting the EX20

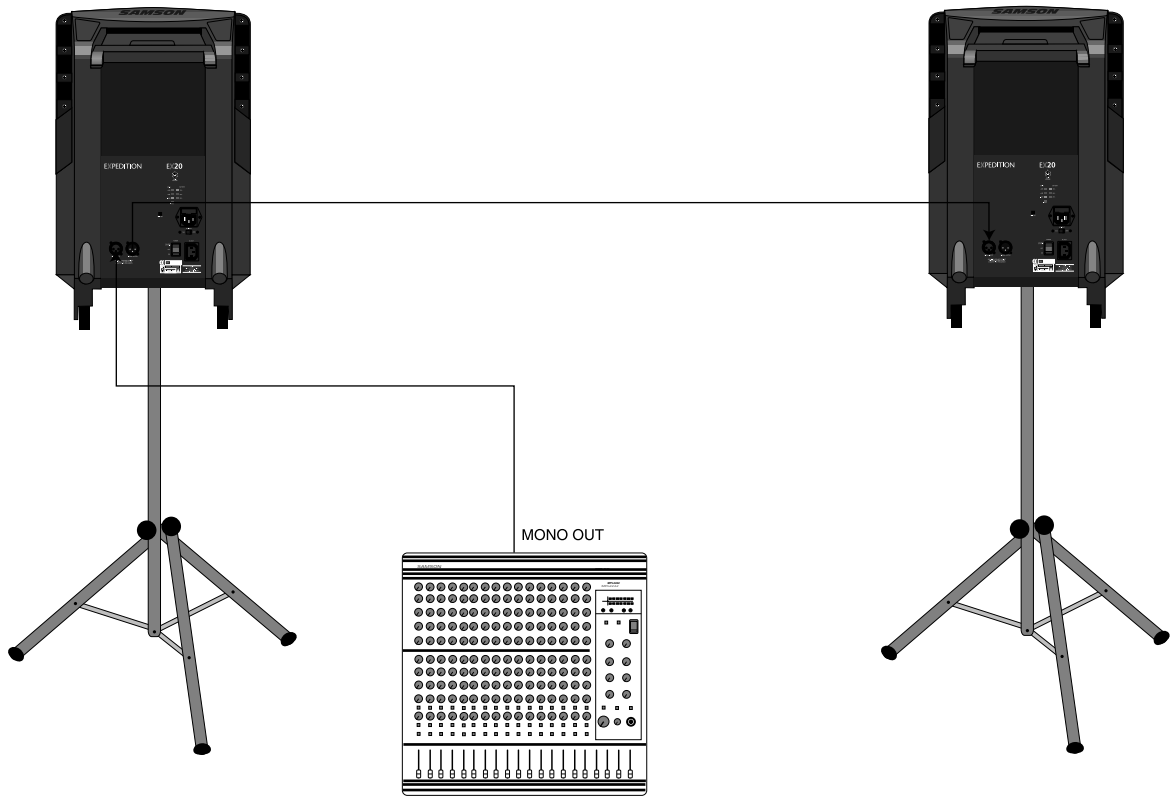


**Using one EX20:** A single mono signal (bus or aux send) is routed from a mixer to the EX20 XLR input.

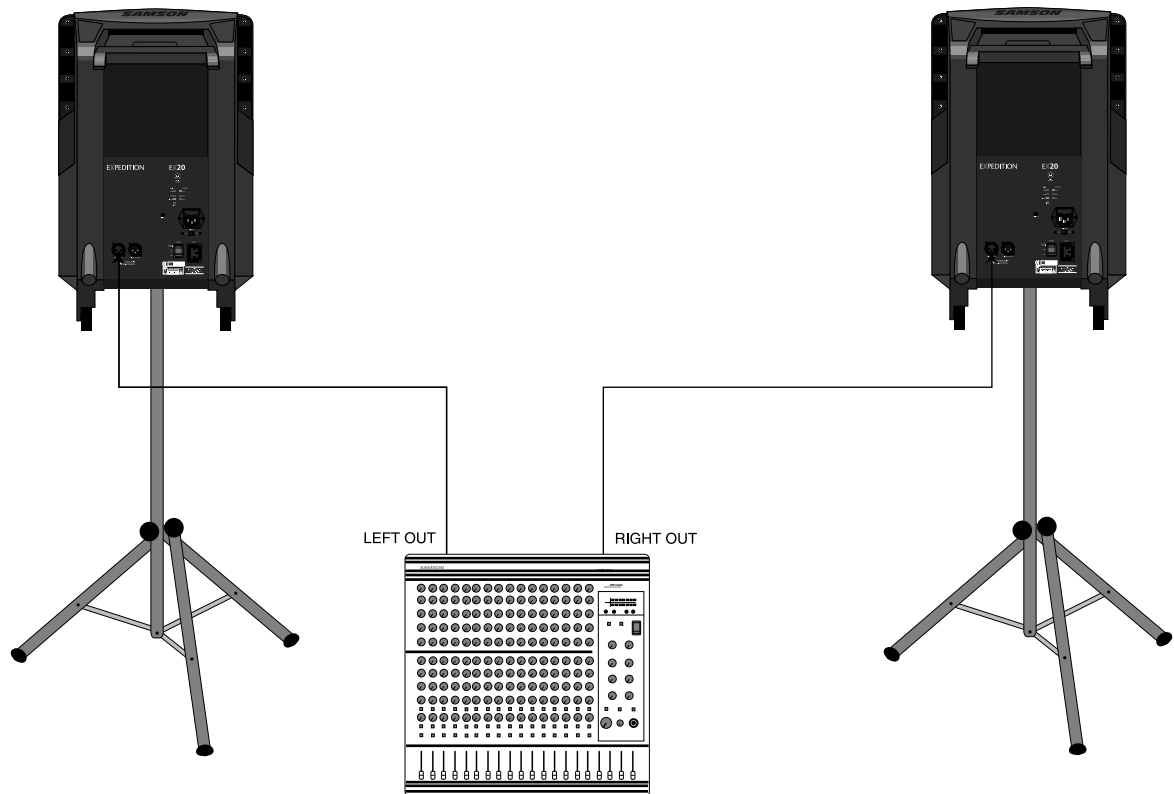


# Expedition EX20

**Using two EX20s in mono:** A single mono signal (bus or aux send) is routed from a mixer to one EX20's XLR input, and a connection is made between that EX20's XLR output to a second EX20's XLR input.



**Using two EX20s in stereo:** A stereo signal (bus or aux send) is routed from a mixer, with the left side connected to one EX20's XLR input, and the right side connected to the other EX20's XLR input.



# Expedition EX30

## Guided Tour



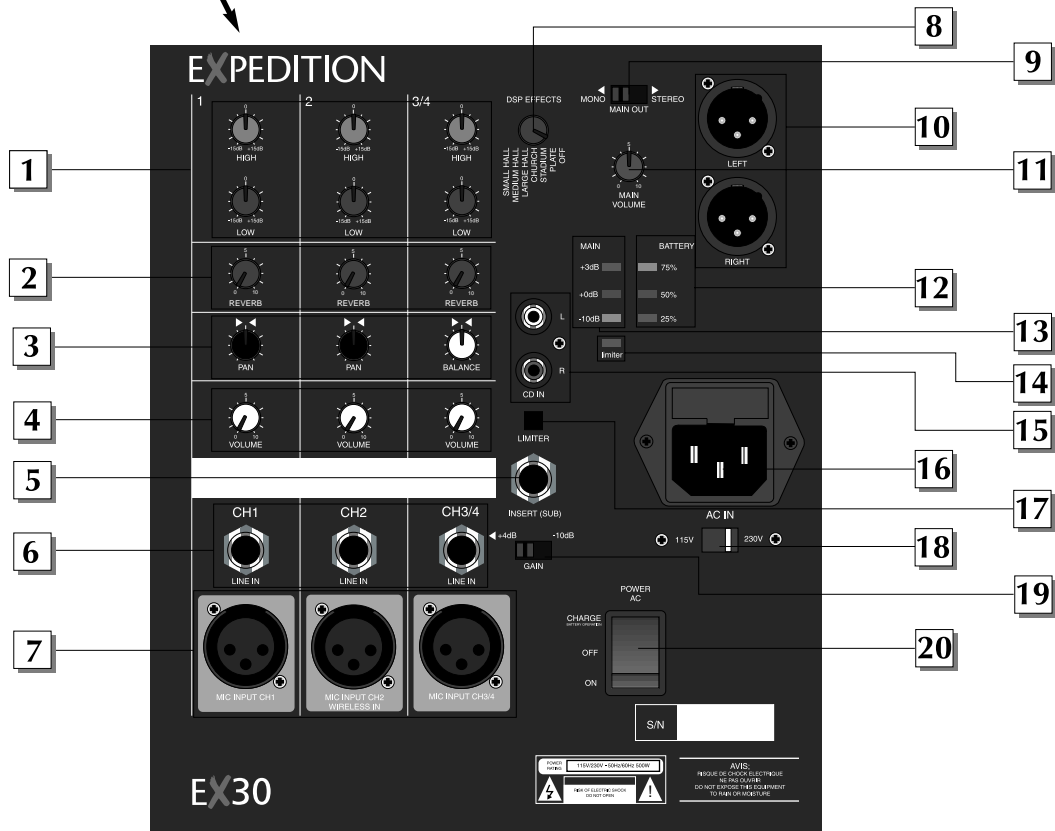
**1: Equalizer** - These controls allow you to shape your sound by boosting or cutting the amount of bass (at 100 Hz) or treble (at 10 kHz) by up to 15 dB. A center detent in each knob indicates no boost or cut (that is, flat response). As each knob is turned clockwise from the 12 o'clock position, the bass or treble is boosted; as it is turned counterclockwise from the 12 o'clock position, the bass or treble is reduced.

**2: Reverb send** - These knobs determine how much signal is being sent from the channel to the onboard DSP effects processor. As you move the knob clockwise from 0 to 10, more signal is sent. To hear the effect, one of the six presets must be selected using the DSP Effects control (see #10 on the next page). Be careful not to send too much signal to the DSP, or a distorted sound will result.

**3: Pan/Balance control** - In channels 1 and 2, this knob acts as a Pan control, allowing you to place the signal anywhere in the left-right stereo spectrum, while keeping the overall signal level constant. When the knob is placed at its center (detented) position, the signal is sent equally to both the left and right outputs. To route a signal hard left or right, place the pan knob either fully counterclockwise or fully clockwise.

In channel 3/4 (the stereo channel), this knob acts as a Balance control, allowing you to alter the relative levels of the two input signals. When the knob is placed at its center detented position, both signals are at equal strength. When moved left of center, you'll hear more of the left input signal; when moved right of center, you'll hear more right input signal.

**4: Channel volume control** - This knob determines the level of the channel. In stereo channel 3/4, this knob simultaneously controls the level of both inputs (the *relative* levels of the two can be adjusted with the Balance knob, as described in #3 above). In practice, you'll use the channel volume controls to continuously adjust the levels of the various signals being blended together by the EX30 mixer.



**5: Insert (sub) connector** - This 1/4" connector brings line-level signal in directly before the EX30 power amplifiers. It is normally used to return signal from an optional EX500 subwoofer.

**6: Line inputs** - Use these 1/4" jacks to connect line-level sources to the EX30. Channels 1 and 2 are mono 1/4" connectors; channel 3/4 uses a stereo (TRS) 1/4" connector, with tip carrying left signal and ring carrying right signal. Stereo devices should always be connected to the stereo channel (channels 3/4). If a wireless receiver is connected to the EX30 via its internal connectors (see page 14 in this manual), its output arrives at channel 2, which can also carry another line-level source connected to its line input, as well as signal from a microphone connected to its mic input. If an optional TD30 cassette player is installed, its output arrives at channels 3/4, which can also carry another two line-level sources (one connected to its line input and a second connected to the CD inputs [see #15 on the following page]), as well as signal from a microphone connected to its mic input.

**7: Mic inputs** - Use these XLR jacks to connect microphones to the EX30's built-in mic preamps. Each channel can carry both one or more line level sources (see #6 above) as well as a mic source.

**8: DSP Effects control** - Use this to select one of six reverb presets (Small Hall, Medium Hall, Large Hall, Church, Stadium, or Plate). If you don't want to hear any reverb, set this switch to the "Off" position.

**9: Mono/Stereo switch** - When using one EX30, set this switch to "Mono" so that the EX30 power amp receives signal from both the left and right output sections. When using multiple Expedition speaker enclosures, set this switch to "Stereo"; the EX30 will then reproduce only signal from the left output section only (that is, signals panned left at the mixer); the Right output can then be used to send signal from the right output section (that is, signal panned right at the mixer) to a second enclosure. See the interconnection diagrams on pages 10 - 11 for more information.

**10: Outputs** - The dual XLR connectors carry line-level output signal from the EX30. They are used to send signal to a second EX30 (or EX20) being daisy-chained (see the interconnection diagram on the following page) or to an optional EX500 subwoofer. Note that the signal being output from these connectors is dependent upon the setting of the Mono/Stereo switch (see #9 above). When set to "Stereo," the Left XLR connector carries left signal only and the Right XLR connector carries right signal only; when set to "Mono," both the Left and Right connectors carry the same monophonic signal, summed from both the left and right output sections. See the interconnection diagrams on pages 10 - 11 for more information.

**11: Main Volume control** - This knob determines the final output signal level—you can think of this as being the "master fader." Signals from all four channels are routed here just before being routed to the EX30's built-in power amplifiers and Left and Right output jacks (see #10 above).

**12: Battery VU meter** - If an optional RB 2030 rechargeable battery pack is installed, this meter shows how much battery power remains as it is being charged (Power switch off) or depleted (Power switch on). See #20 on the following page.

**13: Output VU meter** - This three-segment bar meter shows the continuous output level of the EX30. For optimum signal-to-noise ratio, try to adjust all channel and main Volume controls so that program material is usually at or around 0 VU, with occasional but not steady excursions to the red "+3 dB" segment.

**14: Limiter LED** - Lights whenever the built-in limiter is active. If you see this lighting frequently, it means you're overloading the EX30, so turn down one or more of the Channel volume controls (see #4 on the preceding page) or the main Volume control (see #11 above).

# Expedition EX30

**15: CD inputs** - Connect the outputs of a CD or tape player to this set of dual phono jacks. Signal arriving here returns to stereo channel 3/4. If an optional TD30 cassette player is installed, note that its output also arrives at channels 3/4, in addition to line-level signal arriving at its 1/4" TRS line input (see #6 on the preceding page) and signal from a microphone connected to its mic input (see #7 on the preceding page).

**16: AC input** - Connect the supplied heavy-gauge 3-pin "IEC" power cable here.

**17: Limiter switch** - Use this switch to turn the built-in limiter circuitry on or off. In order to maximize speaker protection, we recommend that this switch be left in the "on" position during normal operation.

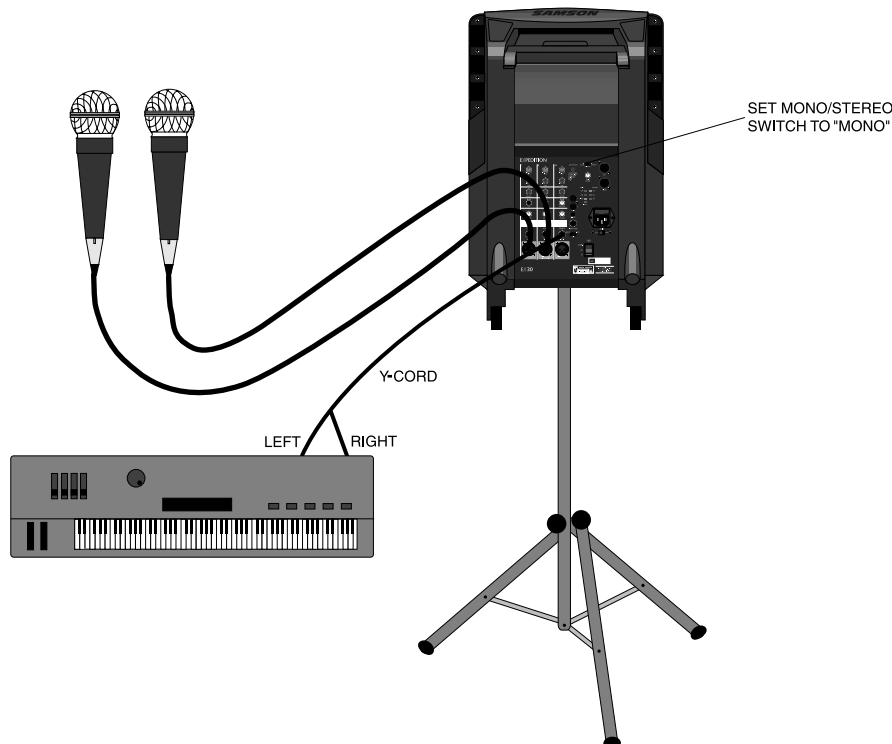
**18: Voltage selector** - Make sure this is set correctly for the country you are in before turning on the power to the EX30.

**19: Gain switch** - Sets the line-level TRS input of channel 3/4 (see #6 on the preceding page) to either +4 (professional) or -10 (consumer) level.

**20: Power switch** - Use this to turn power to the EX30 on or off. If an optional RB 2030 rechargeable battery pack is installed, it will charge when this switch is in the "Off" position.

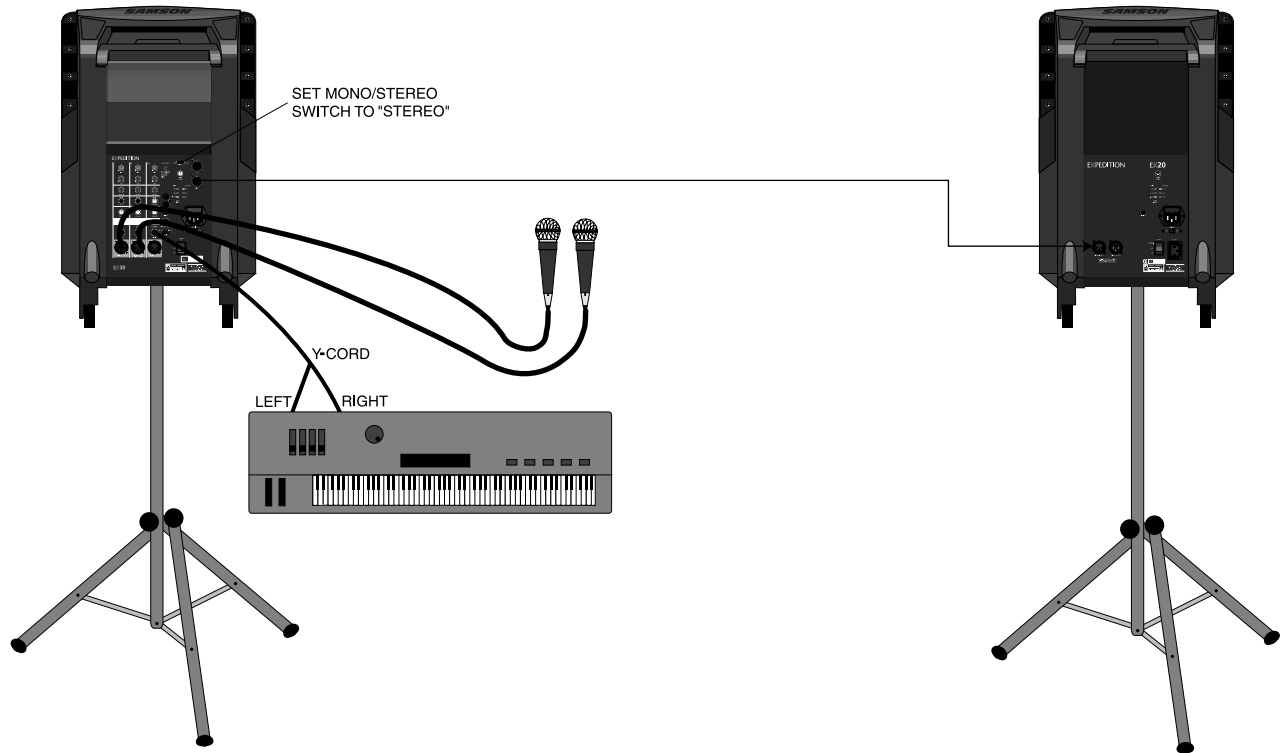
## Interconnecting the EX30

**Using one EX30:** In this example, microphones are connected to the XLR mic inputs of channels 1 and 2, and a stereo keyboard is connected to the stereo 1/4" TRS connector of channel 3/4 (using a Y-cord, with the tip carrying the left signal and the ring carrying the right signal). **IMPORTANT NOTE: When using just one EX30, always be sure to set its Mono/Stereo switch to "Mono."**

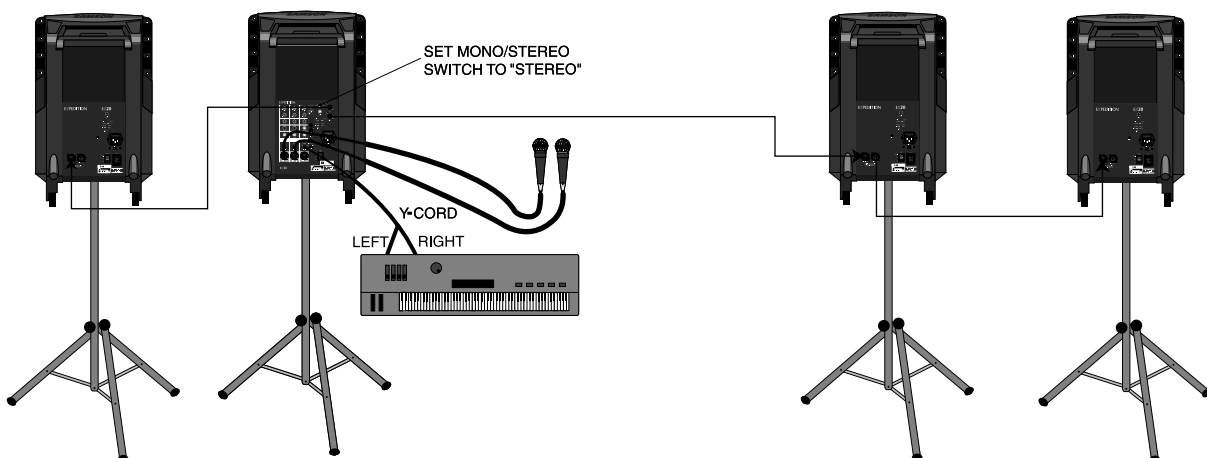


# Expedition EX30

**Using one EX30 and an EX20 (stereo operation):** In this example, microphones are connected to the XLR mic inputs of channels 1 and 2 of an EX30, and a stereo keyboard is connected to the stereo 1/4" TRS connector of channel 3/4 of the EX30 (using a Y-cord, with the tip carrying the left signal and the ring carrying the right signal). A connection is then made between the Right output of the EX30 to the XLR input of an EX20. **IMPORTANT NOTE: When using the EX30 with additional Expedition enclosures, always be sure to set the EX30 Mono/Stereo switch to "Stereo."**



**Using one EX30 and three EX20s (extended range stereo operation):** In this example, microphones are connected to the XLR mic inputs of channels 1 and 2 of an EX30, and a stereo keyboard is connected to the stereo 1/4" TRS connector of channel 3/4 of the EX30 (using a Y-cord, with the tip carrying the left signal and the ring carrying the right signal). A connection is then made between the Left output of the EX30 to the XLR input of an EX20 (both will then carry the same left channel signal). Finally, a connection is made between the Right output of the EX30 and an EX20, and between that EX20's XLR output and the XLR input of a third EX20 (both will then carry the same right channel signal). **IMPORTANT NOTE: When using the EX30 with additional Expedition enclosures, always be sure to set the EX30 Mono/Stereo switch to "Stereo."**



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# Positioning and Mounting Instructions

## General Positioning Tips

- Operating a microphone or turntable in front of a speaker is a sure formula for feedback and/or rumble problems, so always place the Expedition in front of any mics or turntables that are being used.
- Use the Expedition upright for all “front-of-house” PA applications; use it in its tilt-back position only for onstage monitoring.
- Always raise the speakers as high above the audience as is practicable for maximum coverage.
- Use sufficient enclosures for the space you’re in. The larger the space, the more speakers will be required.

## Pole-Mounting

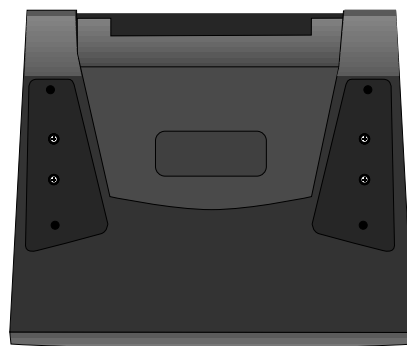
The underside of the Expedition contains a 1-3/8" stand mount socket that allows it to be raised up on any standard speaker pole mounting (such as the Ultimate Support Systems TS-30 or TS-33 speaker stands). Pole-mounting is generally advisable when you want to maximize the distance that the Expedition covers (sometimes called speaker “throw”).

If you are using an EX500 subwoofer, you can use its integral pole mount to place an EX10, EX20 or EX30 immediately above it, creating a complete column of sound.



## Fly Mounting, Wall Mounting, and Ceiling Mounting

As shown in the illustration below, the top panel of the Expedition contains a number of fly points, located in compartments to the left and right of the wireless receiver compartment. The covers placed over these compartments are simply attached with double-sided sticky tape, so just pull up to remove.



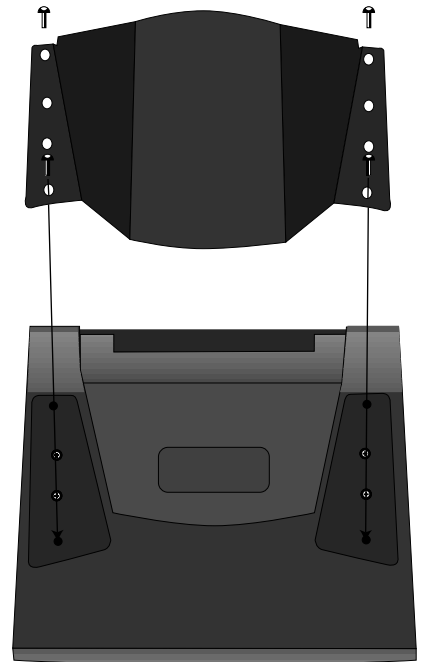
*Expedition fly-mount points*

# Positioning and Mounting Instructions

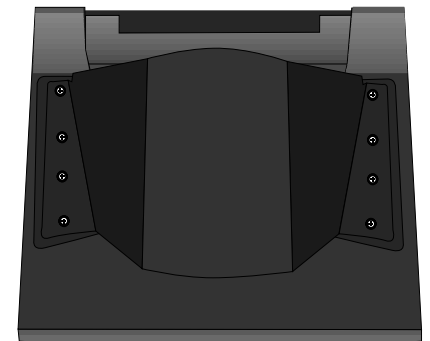
Before fly-mounting, wall-mounting or ceiling-mounting the Expedition, you must first install a Samson MP 1030 mounting bracket to the fly points, as shown in the illustrations on the right

Standard cabling and hardware can then be attached to the MP 1030 mounting bracket in environments where the Expedition needs to be “flown.”

In fixed installations where you wish to mount the Expedition to a ceiling, use the OmniMount model 100-STMP mount, as shown in the illustration below:

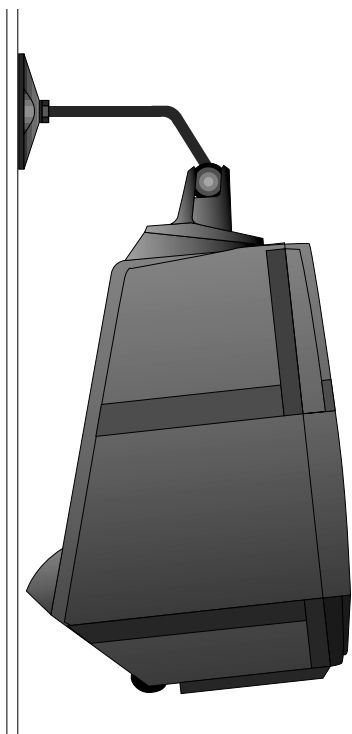


*Installing the MP 1030 mounting bracket (top view)*

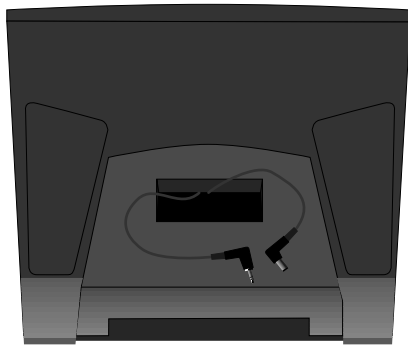


*Top of Expedition with MP 1030 mounting bracket installed.*

In fixed installations where you wish to mount the Expedition from a wall, use the OmniMount model 100-WB mount, as shown in the illustration below:



# Expedition Accessories



EX20/EX30 wireless compartment (top view)

As shown in the illustration on the left, the top panel of the Expedition EX20 and EX30 provides a prewired compartment that accommodates any of three different Samson wireless receivers: the UM1 or M32 UHF models or the VM1 VHF model. Output signal from a wireless receiver mounted in an EX30 arrives at channel 2 of the onboard mixer.

In addition, a number of accessories are available from your local Samson dealer that allow you to expand the capabilities of your Expedition system. These include:

- The EX500 active subwoofer—the ideal complement to any Expedition enclosure (or to any loudspeaker system, for that matter)—pairs a powerful 500-watt amplifier with a heavy-duty 15" low frequency driver in order to provide deep low end response. A built-in stereo electronic crossover allows the EX500 to operate either in mono or as a common subwoofer in a stereo system. It features an all-steel grill and rigid corners, as well as an integral 1 3/8" pole-mount receptacle
- The RB 2030 rechargeable battery cartridge, which provides up to two hours of power to either the EX20 or EX30 from its dual Lead-Acid GelCel batteries.
- The MP 1030 mounting bracket, which allows any Expedition enclosure to be “flown” or mounted on the wall or ceiling using standard OmniMount hardware. For more information, see the “Positioning and Mounting the Expedition” section on page 12.
- The TD30 cassette recorder, which fits directly above the EX30’s mixer to provide background music and/or to record meetings or performances.



## Guided Tour: TD30

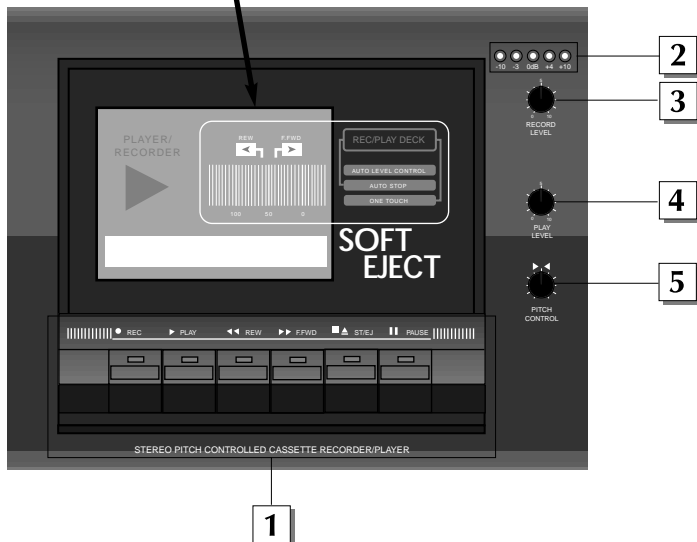
**1: Transport controls** - A set of standard transport controls, from left to right: Record, Play, Rewind, Fast Forward, Stop/Eject, Pause. Both the Record and Play buttons must be pressed in simultaneously to record signal.

**2: Level meter** - This five-segment bar meter shows the TD30 input level. Excursions into the red “+10 dB” segment may indicate tape overloading and distortion.

**3: Record level control** - Active only when recording. For optimum signal-to-noise ratio, set this control so that program material is usually at or around 0 VU on the Level meter (see #2 above), with occasional but not steady excursions to the red “+4 dB” segment.

**4: Play level control** - Sets the playback level. When installed in an EX30, the TD30 output signal arrives at mixer channels 3/4. See #6 on page 9 in this manual for more information.

**5: Pitch control** - In normal operation, leave this at the 12 o'clock position. When at the 12 o'clock position, the tape is played back at standard speed and pitch. When moved clockwise from the 12 o'clock position, the tape is played back at a faster speed (and higher pitch); when moved counter-clockwise from the 12 o'clock position, the tape is played back at a slower speed (and lower pitch).





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# Specifications

<b>Power Rating:</b> (@ 8Ω):	
EX10	250 Watts Program; 400 Watts Max. Peak
EX20, EX30	160 Watts LF; 40 Watts HF
<b>Frequency Response:</b> (all models)	60 Hz – 15 kHz ± 3 dB
<b>Sensitivity:</b>	
EX10	97 dB SPL @ 1W/1m
<b>Crossover Frequency:</b>	
EX10	2.3 kHz (12 dB Per Octave)
EX20, EX30	2.3 kHz (24 dB Per Octave Linkwitz-Riley Constant Phase)
<b>LF Driver:</b> (all models)	12" heavy-duty driver , 2.5" voice coil (Kapton Former), 50 oz. barium ferrite magnet
<b>HF Driver:</b> (all models)	1" compression driver
<b>Stereo Mixer Section:</b> (EX30 only)	
Inputs	2 Mic/Line XLR/TRS, 1 Stereo Line w/Mic TRS/RCA/XLR
Outputs	+4 Balanced XLR
Frequency Response	10 Hz - 50 kHz
Crosstalk	70 dB @ 1 kHz
Equalization Frequencies	100 Hz (Low), 10 kHz (High)
Effects	DSP Reverb with 6 Presets
<b>Mounting:</b> (all models)	Integral 1 3/8" Pole Mount Receptacle, Fly Points
<b>Dimensions:</b> (all models)	14 5/8 in. (w) x 17 3/8 (d) x 21 1/4 (h) 371 mm (w) x 441 (d) x 539 (h)
<b>Weight:</b>	
EX10	28.5 lbs • 12.9 kg
EX20	42.0 lbs • 19.0 kg
EX30	45.0 lbs • 20.4 kg