



# B-SOCIAL

USER MANUAL





# B-SOCIAL

## THANK YOU

Thank you for purchasing your Ashdown Engineering Amplifier and welcome to the family! We really think you've made the right choice and know that this amplifier will give you years of great tone and service. It is a machine though and needs to be looked after, please read through this user manual which will help you get the most out of your new Amp and keep it running as long as some of our happiest and very famous customers.

## REGISTER ONLINE

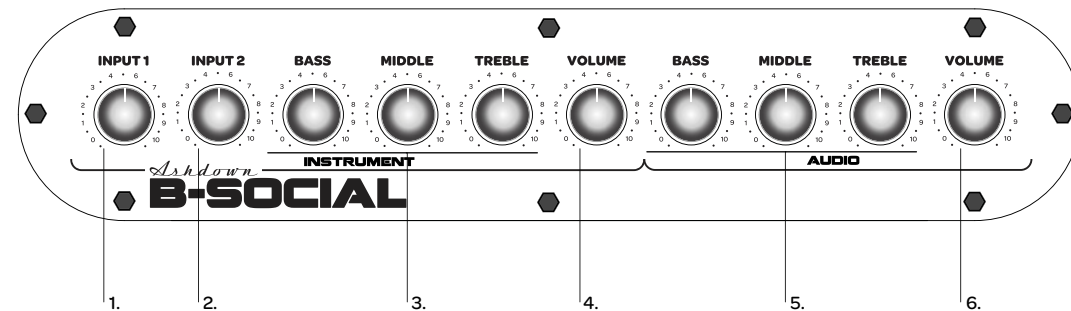
Please register this product online so we can make sure we give you years of customer support through our friendly in-house service centre.

Here is where you need to visit to register your product:  
<http://www.ashdownmusic.com/register>

## B-SOCIAL - INTRO

Straight out of the box the B-Social delivers quality Ashdown tone via a powerful 75W stereo amplifier and two custom dual concentric 5" drivers, specifically designed to deliver punchy low-end in the most compact enclosure. Unlocking further tonal possibilities, the App-Tek socket allows players to access the ever-growing range of amp sim and effects apps available on Smartphones and devices, including Ashdown's very own ABM Pre App on AmpKit by Agile partners.

FRONT PANEL:



## FRONT PANEL FEATURES:

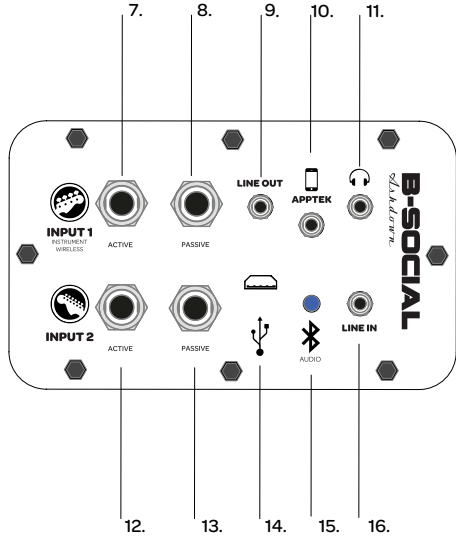
1. Input 1 - Input level rotary control
2. Input 2 - Input level rotary control
3. Instrument EQ - 3-Band EQ - Bass, Middle, Treble
4. Volume - Output level for instrument channel
5. Audio EQ - 3-Band EQ - Bass, Middle, Treble
6. Volume - Output level for stereo audio





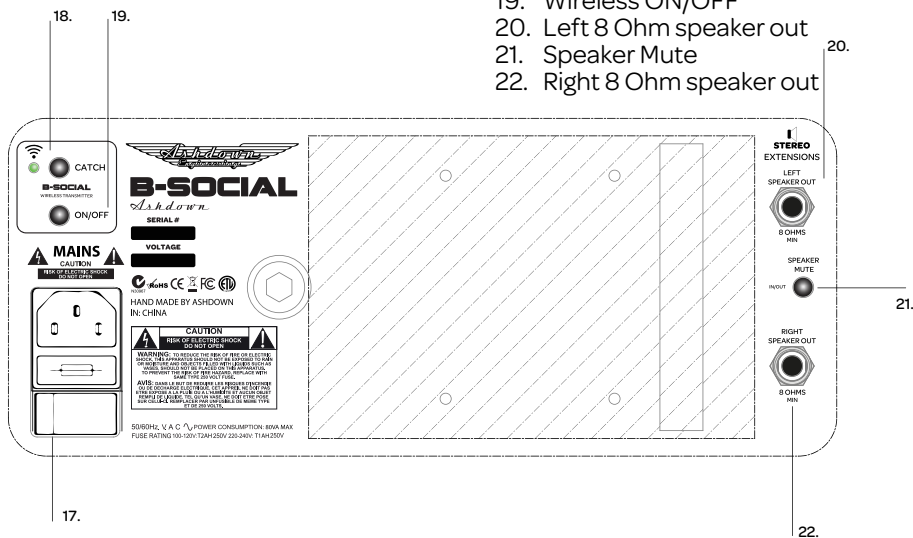
## SIDE & REAR PANEL FEATURES:

SIDE PANEL:



7. Input 1 - Passive Jack instrument input.
8. Input 1 - Active Jack instrument input.
9. Line Output - Mini jack stereo line output
10. AppTek input - 4-pole mini jack socket.
11. Headphone output - Mini jack socket.
12. Input 2 - Passive Jack instrument input.
13. Input 2- Active Jack instrument input.
14. MICRO USB - Audio interface connection USB 2.0.
15. Bluetooth Audio LED indicator.
16. Line Input - Mini jack socket.
17. Mains - On/Off
18. Wireless Catch
19. Wireless ON/OFF
20. Left 8 Ohm speaker out
21. Speaker Mute
22. Right 8 Ohm speaker out

REAR PANEL:



## B-SOCIAL - USER GUIDE

The Ashdown B social has been designed as a high quality Studio/ Home amplification system with exceptional definition and clarity, this will enable you to make quality recordings at home as well as in a professional studio. It will accept inputs from Bass Guitars, Acoustic Guitars, electric Violins, Pianos, Keyboards and Microphones etc. It also features a quality music player system with cabinet compensation and adjustable tone controls to enable a balanced sound to be obtained across a variety of sources.

At this point it will be worth understanding the various signal flows through the amplifier and what has been done to each in terms of compensation etc.

Starting with the instrument inputs, Channel 1 flows through from either the input jack sockets or from the built in wireless receiver. In both cases the raw signal from the instrument is passed directly to the Left channel of the stereo codec and therefore into the computer attached to the B Social unless you are using the Apptek in which case the effected signal will be used. Similarly Channel 2 jack input is passed directly to the Right channel of the codec, once again the signal is in the raw state.

It therefore follows that any controls on the B Social such as Gain and the EQ will not affect the recorded sound, All level settings etc. will be performed by the software you are using independent of the B Social.

Any sound you have recorded or are monitoring can be accessed independently via the return from the codec. In this case the L and R outputs are internally summed and passed through the Audio channel, the input gains on the instrument channels should be set to Zero to do this.

The more processing reduces the quality of any Audio signal carried out on it; it is recommended that the highest quality recording will therefore be obtained with a WIRED connection in preference to the Radio system. When using the B social as an instrument amplifier you can use either instrument channel or both simultaneously, the mix is obtained by juggling the Input controls, at the same time it is possible to Jam along with tracks sourced either from your computer connected via the USB or via another device connected by the LINE input or by Bluetooth. Using the appropriate leads a CD player may also be connected via the LINE in.

As before Direct WIRED connections will give the best results with a progressive loss in quality when using Bluetooth and Downloaded Audio.





## B-SOCIAL - USER GUIDE

### The Audio channel

The Audio channel deals with signals from the Codec Return i.e. sound sent from the computer, Audio from the LINE in and Bluetooth inputs. All these sources are internally mixed at a fixed ratio and there exists a preference order within the mixer. Signals can be used from the Codec at the same time as signals from the LINE in OR Bluetooth: note that the LINE takes preference over the Bluetooth in the same way as the Wired input to Channel 1 takes preference over the Wireless system.

The mix of these signals can be optimised by controlling the Output levels on the Source devices. A comprehensive 3 band EQ follows next and finally the Volume control for the Audio section. During its passage through this EQ the Audio is compensated for cabinet response to give a balanced sound with the EQ set Central, neither boost or cut and with any loudness and bass compensations turned OFF on any connected devices. Once again the best results will be obtained with any equalisers in these devices set to FLAT. At lower listening volumes or to compensate for room acoustics the Tone controls can be adjusted to either Boost or Cut the sound according to taste.

At this point the signal from the instruments is split into two for the left and right channels and mixed with the signal from the Audio section, the mix of these two components is controlled by the Master for the Instruments and the Volume for the Audio. Note that at his point only the Audio has cabinet compensation applied. The sound then passes through a sub sonic filter to remove all unwanted low frequency noise and protect the speakers from over excursion.

### The Power amplifier

The power amplifier is a conventional LINEAR amplifier with a wide frequency response capable of providing up to 30 watts Continuous Average Power per channel into an 8-Ohm speaker. The unit also features extension speaker outputs that may be connected to a pair of 8 Ohm speakers capable of handling 30 watts or greater When using these outputs the internal speakers will be in-operative .. Remember that any Audio signal will already have the cabinet compensation applied so if for instance pair of reference monitors are connected the tone will have to be adjusted to remove some of the compensation. You may also connect to Bass or PA cabinets as long as they are 8 Ohms. There is no cabinet compensation applied to the instrument inputs so playing these through the extension cabinets would be as though a normal instrument amplifier was being used albeit with higher quality.

## B-SOCIAL - USER GUIDE

### MUTE Functions

The Bluetooth device remains active at all times but has a Mute facility that will activate after a minute or two if it remains in an UNPAIRED condition. The Mute will automatically release if a suitable device is subsequently connected.

The Instrument wireless has a Mute switch and a Catch switch. In normal operation if the wireless is not being used it should be switched OFF on the back panel to avoid the notification click as the Receiver hunts for the Transmitter. (The Receiver will fail to find the transmitter if the transmitter is not in use at the time). To use the Wireless system it must first be switched on and paired with its Transmitter using the catch buttons on the rear panel of the B Social and the Transmitter itself.

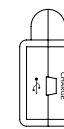
The transmitter comes supplied with a USB charger and lead. NOTE the charger must not be plugged into the USB on the B Social; neither will the Transmitter charge from the B Social.

### Headphones

The B Social also has an internal headphone amplifier that will power most aftermarket headphones with a 3 (Three) Pole 3.5mm standard Jack plug. Muting the internal speakers is accomplished by the switch on the rear panel.

Note that headphones intended for use with mobile phones and music players with a control button that have a 4 pole jack socket should not be used under ANY circumstances and may cause irreversible damage to the B-Social.

### WIRELESS TRANSMITTER:



Allowing the musician to roam at home, B-Social features wireless audio connectivity and a transmitter that lets the instrument connect wirelessly to the amp for cable free jamming.

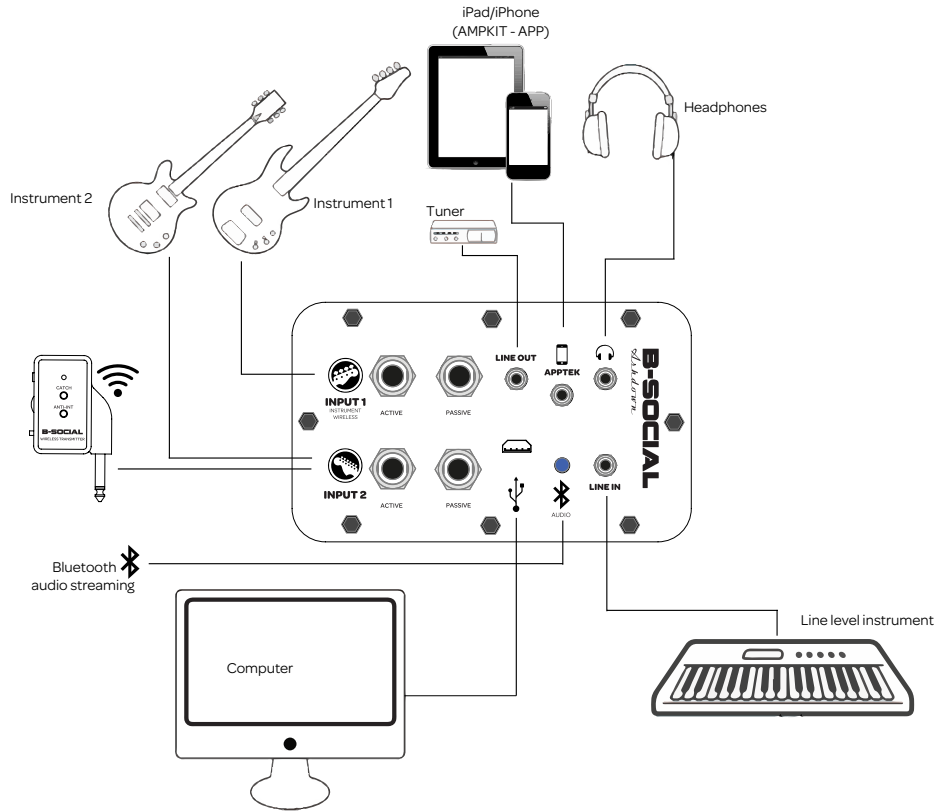
The Transmitter is a simple plug and play dongle that links your B-Social to your instrument for wireless jamming. The transmitter includes a mic in mini jack socket with a volume control. On/Off switch for silent plugging and unplugging. Catch & Anti-Int buttons. Micro USB charging socket (cable & wall plug included) for keeping your transmitter powered.

2.4Ghz Wireless Transmitter, Durable & rechargeable lithium battery, Transmission distance: 20-30 meters (indoors), 70-80 meters (outdoors). Signal to Noise and distortion > 87dB.





### CONNECTING YOUR DEVICES:



### B-SOCIAL - USER GUIDE

#### Connecting your devices

There are a huge amount of options when plugging in your B-Social. It is effectively an audio interface with built in speakers, you can connect two instruments at the same time and record the two instrument inputs simultaneously.

Input 1 is able to utilize the AppTek socket for use with iPad or iPhone devices (with the supplied 4 pole mini jack cable) in conjunction with AmpKit from Agile partners, an amp and FX simulation app to expand on the available tones through you B-Social and also recording.

Connect your device via the provided USB 2.0 cable to your computer and activate the 'USB CODEC' as your sound card in your operating system, no drivers or external software is required.

A headphone out is provided for monitoring, with a speaker mute switch located on the rear of the amp for silent monitoring. There is a line input provided for line level instruments a mono line out is also available for slaving to a tuner or other devices.

The wireless transmitter utilizes Input 1 when engaged, the transmitter will latch to your B-Social when turned on, there is a 'CATCH' button located on the rear of the product if you are having difficulty pairing your transmitter, simply click 'CATCH' on the back and the transmitter will pair with your B-Social.

Bluetooth audio streaming is also available and able to pair with any Bluetooth device for playing your music wirelessly around your home, you will hear the on tone this means the B-Social is ready to pair with your device, simply go to the Bluetooth settings on your device and select the Ashdown Bluetooth module, The LED on the side panel will light blue to indicate that it is paired with your device.

Please enjoy the B-Social around the house and remember to let your other half listen to their music once and a while if only to ensure a happy living environment.





## B-Social Audio Interface-Features

- High-resolution 48kHz converters for high-end audio quality
- Works with your PC or Mac–no setup or drivers required.
- Stereo headphone output

Its inputs and outputs give you total connecting flexibility to mixers, loudspeakers or headphones. The illuminated Ashdown VU meter gives you an indication that the unit is powered and also enables you to set the level of your instrument.

- Instrument input 1
- Passive and Active
- Instrument input 2
- Passive and Active
- The AppTek socket is a 3 band (4 pole) 3.5mm input jack allows you connect with iPod®/iPhone®/iPad®

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## System Requirements/Specifications

The B-Social is PC and Mac-compatible. Therefore, no installation procedure or drivers are required for the correct functioning of the B-Social. To work with the B-Social, your computer must fulfill the following minimum requirements:

- PC Intel® or AMD® CPU, 400MHz or higher Minimum 128MB RAM USB 1.1 interface Windows® 2000, XP.
- MAC® G3, 300MHz or higher Minimum 128MB RAM USB 1.1 interface MAC OS® 9.0.4 or higher, 10.X or higher.

### Input 1 IN

Connectors Standard 1/4" jack  
Input impedance approx. 470 kΩ  
input level 150mV /300mV(Active)

### Input 2 IN

Connectors Standard 1/4" jack  
Input impedance approx. 470 kΩ  
input level 150mV /300mV(Active)

### AppTek

4 poles 3.5mm headphones jack  
Input impedance approx. 10 kΩ  
input level 120mV  
output impedance approx. 4.7 kΩ  
output level 10mV

### LINE OUT

Output impedance approx. 680 Ω  
output level 25mV

### PHONES OUT

3 poles 3.5mm headphones jack  
Output impedance approx. 5 Ω  
output level 600mV

### DIGITAL PROCESSING

Converter 16-bit converter  
Sampling rate 32kHz, 44.1kHz, 48kHz

### SYSTEM DATA

Frequency response  
10 Hz to 20 kHz, ± 1 dB @ 44.1 kHz sample rate  
10 Hz to 22 kHz, ± 1 dB @ 48.0 kHz sample rate  
THD 0.1% typ. @ -10 dBu, 1kHz  
Crosstalk -65 dB @ 0 dBu, 1 kHz

### USB 2.0

Connectors type MICRO (Cable included)

Technical specifications and appearance subject to change without notice. The information contained herein is correct at the time of printing.





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