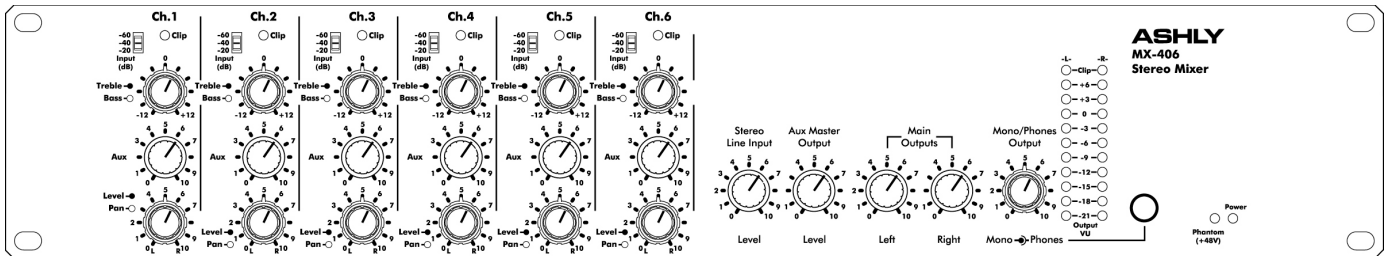


ASHLY

MX-406

Stereo Microphone/Line Mixer

Operating Manual



Ashly Audio Inc.

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www.ashly.com

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Important Safety Instructions

Consignes de sécurité à lire attentivement



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons. The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions in the literature accompanying the device.

Le symbole de la foudre dans un triangle équilatéral symbolisant la foudre est prévu pour sensibiliser l'utilisateur à la présence de tension de voltage non isolée à l'intérieur de l'appareil. Elle pourrait constituer un danger de risque de décharge électrique pour les utilisateurs. Le point d'exclamation dans le triangle équilatérale alerte l'utilisateur de la présence de consignes qu'il doit d'abord consulter avant d'utiliser l'appareil.

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.
6. Do not use this apparatus near water.
7. Clean only with dry cloth.
8. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
9. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
10. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
11. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
12. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
13. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
14. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
15. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

1. Lisez ces instructions.
2. Conservez ces instructions.
3. Observez les avertissements.
4. Suivez ces instructions.
5. Pour réduire le risque de feu ou la décharge électrique, ne pas exposer cet appareil pour pleuvoir ou l'humidité.
6. Ne pas utiliser l'appareil près de l'eau.
7. Le nettoyer à l'aide d'un tissu sec.
8. Ne pas bloquer les ouvertures de ventilation, installer selon les consignes du fabricant.
9. Eloigner des sources de chaleur tel: radiateurs, fourneaux ou autres appareils qui produisent de la chaleur.
10. Ne pas modifier ou amputer le système de la mise à terre. Une prise avec mise à terre comprend deux lames dont une plus large ainsi qu'une mise à terre: ne pas la couper ou la modifier. Si la prise murale n'accepte pas la fiche, consulter un électricien pour qu'il remplace la prise désuète.
11. Protéger le cordon de secteur contre tous bris ou pincement qui pourraient l'endommager, soit à la fiche murale ou à l'appareil.
12. N'employer que les accessoires recommandés par le fabricant.
13. N'utiliser qu'avec les systèmes de fixation, chariots, trépied ou autres, approuvés par le fabricant ou vendus avec l'appareil.
14. Débrancher l'appareil lors des orages électriques ou si inutilisé pendant une longue période de temps.
15. Un entretien effectué par un centre de service accrédité est exigé si l'appareil a été endommagé de quelque façon: si il a été exposé à la pluie, l'humidité ou s'il ne fonctionne pas normalement ou qu'il a été échappé.

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This manual uses a *Perpetual Table Of Contents*. Each page has a copy of the manual's contents in a gray box just like this one. The section you are in will always be bold with the other sections "grayed out." The feature allows you to jump directly to another section without having to return to a Table Of Contents page.

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Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of an Ashly MX-406 stereo mic/line mixer, a professional, studio quality solution to everyday mixing needs. MX-406 features include:

- 6 channels of mic or line inputs
- mic input pad
- TRS insert points
- +48V phantom power
- On each channel:
 - Up to 60dB input gain
 - Separate treble and bass controls
 - Aux send control
 - Level, and a stereo pan control.
 - An aux input for a stereo program source such as tape or CD.
- Outputs include:
 - Aux master
 - Stereo line out (pre-master)
 - Stereo left and right
 - Transformer balanced mono out
 - Stereo headphones
- A full 11 segment LED array indicates stereo output level.

NOTE: The power switch does NOT isolate the appliance from mains. Make sure the mains power socket or an alternative disconnect device is near by and easily accessible. When the product is connected to mains, the line-filter and the input of the fuse are energized.

About Ashly

Ashly Audio was founded in 1974 by a group of recording engineers, sound professionals, and electronics designers. The first products were custom consoles for friends and associates, but business quickly grew. The philosophy established from the very beginning holds true today: to offer only the highest quality audio tools at an affordable cost to the professional user – ensuring reliability and long life. More than thirty years later, Ashly remains committed to these principles.

MX-406 Mixer

The MX-406 is a versatile rack-mountable mixer capable of supporting the following applications:

- Small Sound Reinforcement
- Meeting/Board Room or Church
- Location Recording or Broadcast Mixing
- Sub-mixing in a larger system

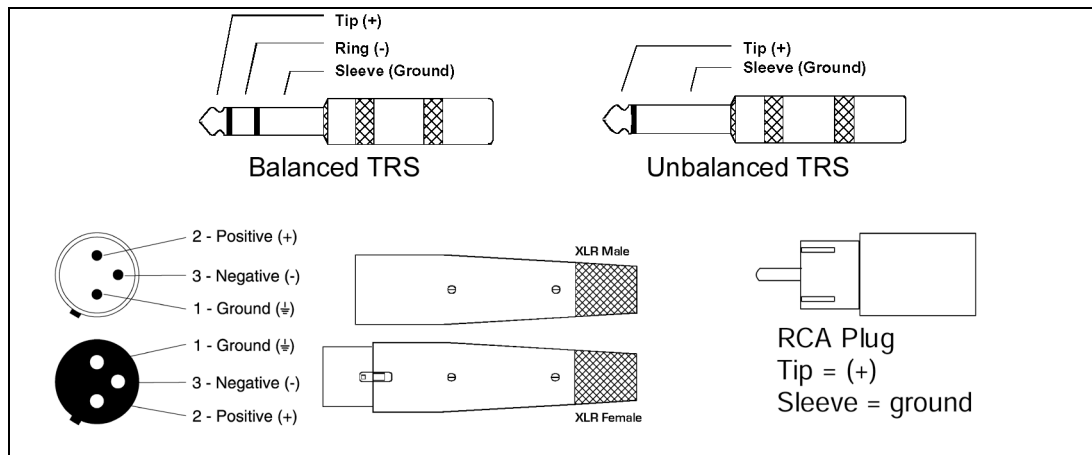
These applications are discussed in detail on Page 8.

Connectors & Cables

Your MX-406 is provided with three different connector types:

1. 1/4 inch stereo phone jacks (TRS)
2. Three pin XLR type connectors
3. RCA Connectors

When possible, balanced connections are recommended between all components in your system, as this eliminates ground-loop induced hum and noise.



MX-406 Connector Polarities

Unbalanced Connections and Grounding

If you must use unbalanced connectors, the negative lead of the connector should be tied to the ground lead. Using unbalanced connections could result in chassis ground-loop noise. Altering the signal/chassis ground relationship in equipment connected to your unit may eliminate the noise.

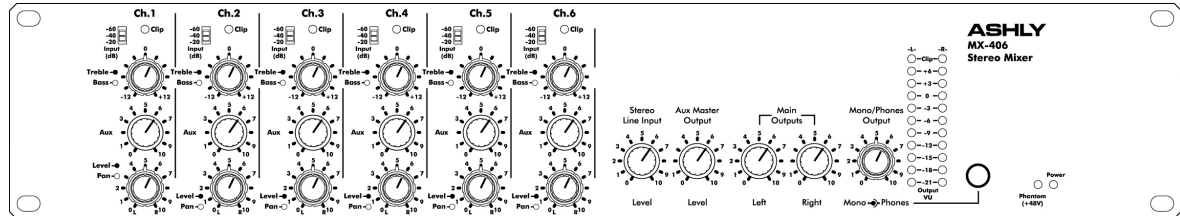
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Physical Description

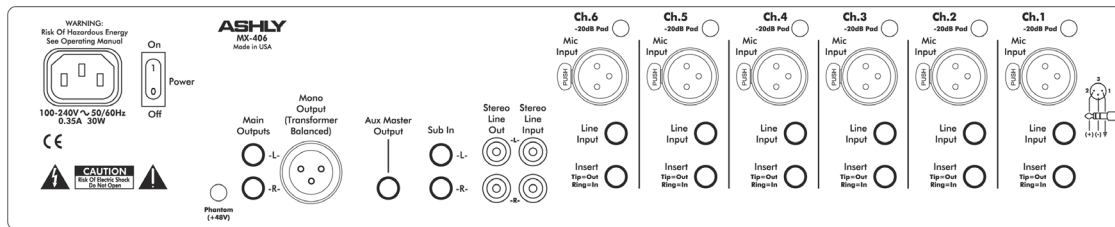
The MX-406 is 2RU, and weighs 13 pounds.

MX-406 Front Panel



- 1. Input Gain** - This three position switch sets the operating level of the microphone and line input preamp. The corresponding switch values -20db, -40db, and -60db refer not to the actual gain, but rather to the expected nominal input signal strength. Line level inputs (1/4" jack) will likely use a setting of -20dB, while mic inputs generally require a setting of -40dB for close mic applications, and -60dB for quieter signals. If a channel's clip LED is blinking, first turn down that channel's level control. If the clip LED is still flashing, turn down the input gain.
- 2. Clip** - Input Clip LEDs monitor critical points within the input channel. The clip LED turns on whenever any portion of the audio path reaches dB below actual clipping.
- 3. Treble/Bass** - This concentric knob is used for broad EQ changes to each input channel. Channel EQ consists of a high shelf control (treble) at 4KHz, and a 250Hz low shelf control (bass). EQ boost or cut is ± 12 dB.
- 4. Aux** - The aux send is an additional level control used to send signal from each input channel to monitors or an effect unit. The aux master output combines all channel aux level signals. The aux control is factory set to pre-fader, pre-EQ, but can be internally switched to post-fader, post EQ. To make this change, refer to the procedure on page 8.
- 5. Level and Pan** - This concentric knob adjusts the level and stereo position of each channel. If a channel's level control is always turned up to 9 or more, try increasing the gain first. Conversely, if the level control is consistently turned down to 1 or less, decrease the gain setting first.
- 6. Stereo Line Input** - This control adjusts the level of the RCA jack stereo line input. It can be used for tape, CD, or DVD audio inputs, and can also be used for a stereo effect return. The stereo line input can be used as stacking inputs for supplementing the MX-406 with another mixer.
- 7. Aux Master Output** - This control adjust the level of the aux master 1/4" jack output, which gets its signal from the six aux level controls on the input channels. It is used for an effects unit send, or can drive a power amplifier for monitors or an extra loudspeaker zone.
- 8. Stereo Output Level** - These two controls determine the signal level to the 1/4" jack left and right outputs. They are used to drive power amplifiers for the main loudspeakers, or to connect to a stereo recording device.
- 9. Mono Output Level** - This control adjusts the level of the summed mono output. It is completely independent of the main left and right master controls. In other words, changes to either left or right output level will not affect the mono output level.
- 10. Headphones Level** - This control adjusts the level of the stereo signal to the headphone jack. Headphones should have an impedance of 600 ohms or greater.
- 11. Output Meters** - A pair of peak reading 10 segment LED meters are used to indicate stereo output level in VU. 0 VU is equivalent to +4 dBu (1.228Vrms). Green LED's are used below 0 VU, yellow above 0 VU and two red LED's indicate clipping. The clip LED's turn on 3dB below actual clipping, detecting excessive signal level on any critical audio path within the master section. If all outputs are turned down and there is still clipping, then one or more inputs must be turned down.
- 12. Phantom Power LED** - The phantom power switch is on the back panel. When the switch is pressed in, the LED is lit and +48VDC is applied to all six mic inputs for use with condenser microphones. If there is a mix of both condenser and dynamic microphones, the phantom power will not affect the operation of most dynamic mics.

MX-406 Rear Panel



- 1. Microphone Input** - The MX-406 microphone input is an active balanced type with a nominal impedance of 1200 ohms. Performance is best with a 200 ohm microphone.
- 2. Input Pad** - The input pad is a 20dB attenuation switch on the rear panel for use with the XLR microphone inputs. It should normally be left in the "out" position for best signal to noise ratio and should only be used when the input is being overdriven with the gain control at its minimum setting.
- 3. Line Input** - The line input is a standard 1/4" TRS active balanced type. The line input balanced impedance is 20Ω. It will accommodate a wide range of input levels.
- 4. Channel TRS Insert** - A channel TRS insert patch point allows a device such as a remote level controller, graphic equalizer, noise gate, compressor/limiter, or direct out recording device to be used with one or more input channels. The MX-406 TRS insert jacks use the tip for output and ring for the returning input. These signals are unbalanced. To use the TRS insert as a Direct Line Output (pre EQ) for recording, you must make a special cable with tip and ring connected at the MX-406 end and a tip-sleeve mono plug at the other end. Connecting tip and ring at the mixer insert jack is necessary for uninterrupted signal within the mixer when using direct line outputs.
- 5. Stereo Line Input** - The stereo line RCA inputs have a nominal operating level of -10dBu to match most consumer audio sources. This signal is controlled by the Stereo Line Input dial on the front panel. This input is also used as a stereo effects return, or as a stacking input for adding additional mixers.
- 6. Stereo Line Out** - The stereo line outputs are nominal -10dBu "premaster", and are not affected by the main Left/Right output controls. These outputs would be used for making a pre-output fader recording off of the stereo mix, or for stacking the MX-406 with another mixer.
- 7. Aux Master Output** - The 1/4" jack aux master output is used to drive a monitor or zone amplifier, effects processor or recording device. It is pseudo-balanced, which means that while it is a single ended signal, it has balanced impedance for low noise.
- 8. Mono Output** - The XLR mono output combines the left and right stereo signals (pre output fader), and uses an isolation transformer capable of driving 600 ohm lines. This signal is determined by the mono output level control, with a nominal operating level of +4dBu. *Note: The transformer-balanced outputs are designed to drive up to +24dBu into 600 Ω loads. With output transformers, the level increases as the impedance of the terminating load exceeds 600 Ω. Unlike a direct-coupled output, transformers are affected by termination impedance. Expect a slight increase in output level when driving high impedance inputs with these outputs. The output meters will remain accurately calibrated to the levels present on the transformerless outputs, regardless of the load on the transformer outputs*
- 9. Stereo Outputs** - The 1/4" jack stereo right and left outputs are controlled by the left and right master. They are balanced TRS jacks with a nominal operating level of +4dBu into any load, and are capable of driving long lines.
- 10. +48V Phantom Power Switch** - This switch applies +48VDC to all six XLR mic inputs to power condenser microphones.

Installation

Always switch the unit off before making substantial changes to the settings or connectors. Use four screws and washers when rack mounting. This unit has specific electrical and signal requirements, please take special care to double check all connections and settings and refer to the specifications section of this manual. The unit should be connected to a standard 3-wire grounded electrical outlet supplying 100-240 Volts, 50-60 Hz. To reduce the risk of ground loop hum, connect all audio equipment to the same electrical power source. Removal of the ground pin is both unlawful and dangerous, as a potential shock hazard could result. Overall power consumption is less than 30 watts.

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Typical Applications

The following information will help you make the most of your new mixer:

Small Sound Reinforcement System

The MX-406 can be used to mix typical sound sources that might be found in a church, small club, school theater or similar environment. Four of the input channels are used for vocal microphones, while the remaining two channels are used for stereo accompaniment tracks. The stereo line input is used for additional pre-recorded music such as that of a movie soundtrack or CD player. Stereo line output RCA jacks are used to record the event to a cassette, video camera, or even a PC with recording capabilities. Stage monitors are fed using the aux mix to the master aux output, and left and right outputs drive the main speakers. The mono output can drive a 70 Volt distributed sound system amplifier.

Meeting Room or Church Using Remote Control

The MX-406 can be interfaced with an Ashly VCM-88C eight channel remote level controller, allowing a full-featured mixer to be operated from a distance by a non-technical person. Once initially set up, the RD-8C desktop remote controller can be located far away from the main audio equipment rack using a single balanced XLR cable, allowing for simplified sound system operation using a limited number of knobs, lights, and buttons.

Location Recording or Broadcast Mixing

The MX-406 can be used to mix sources typically found in location recording or broadcast situations (mostly microphones). The Insert jacks can feed a portable tape recorder, and the recorder's line output is brought back to the Tape/CD Input connectors for monitoring. For live remote broadcast applications the Mono Out connector can feed a suitable TELCO or Internet interface.

Submixer In Larger Sound System:

The MX-406 can be used to provide a drum mix to the main mixer without tying channels on the main console. Up to six mics can be "pre-mixed" in stereo, with all drum-specific gating, compression, and effects controlled directly by the drummer. The Main or Aux output connectors can be used to feed the mixed drum signal to the main mixer. If there is significant distance between the MX-406 and the master mixer, use the transformer-balanced Main outputs for long cable runs.

Changing Factory Configurations

The MX-406 has a single user-configurable option:

Changing the Aux Pre/Post Assignment

The MX-406 is shipped from the factory with Aux 1 assigned Pre-Fader/EQ, and Aux 2 Post-Fader/EQ. Each channel's Aux Send can be independently configured for either pre or post fader/EQ operation. To make this change: Unplug the unit's AC power cord from the outlet. Remove the bottom cover. Locate the 3 pin header labeled AUX at the middle of the back edge of the front portion of the channel circuit board. Remove the shunt bar from the "Pre" position indicated on the circuit board legend and place the shunt on the "Post" position.

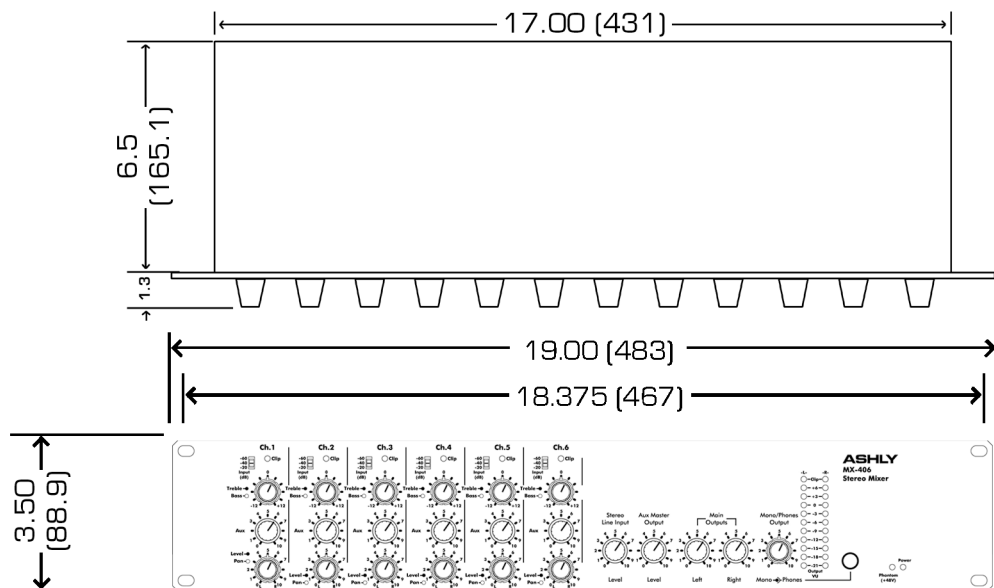
Troubleshooting

Situation	Action
No Sound	Check the AC power. Is the power switch on and illuminated? Check the level meters. If they are operating, either the problem is between the mixer and the later components in the system. If there is no meter activity, check to see you really have an input signal and that it is on the desired channel. Check that you have the master gain controls at the desired operating level.
Distorted Sound	Something is being overdriven in the signal path. If the clip indicators are active, reduce the channel gain controls and/or press in the pad switch on the rear panel. If the level meters are constantly in the red, reduce the Master gain and increase the gain of components following the mixer. There are many gain adjustments in the mixer itself and probably several others in other system components which makes it possible to overdrive an input section and then incorrectly try to reduce the gain of the output section. The best way to approach setting gains is to establish the operating level of input stages first by setting their gain as high as possible but leaving about 20dB of headroom for loud peaks, then move on to set the master gain to produce a good meter reading. Proceed to set the gain of equalizers, limiters, crossovers, and amplifiers following the mixer in the same manner, always working toward the later stages of the system.
Excessive Noise	If the noise is in the form of hiss, the problem is usually due to an input stage set up for low gain and then compensating by increasing the master gain. Check that the Pad switch is not enabled unnecessarily. Turn up the channel gain controls and reduce the master gain.
Excessive Hum or Noise	This is usually caused by "ground loops" in the system wiring. A complex sound system with many sources separated by significant distance and using several power outlets has many opportunities for this problem to occur. If possible, feed everything in the system from one power source with a common ground. Use balanced input and output connections between widely separated components.

Note: Unshielded cables, improperly wired connections, and cable with broken strands are the most common problems. Make sure you use good quality cable with connectors soldered firmly on the correct pin. When in doubt, get in touch with your Ashly dealer.

Dimensions

Inches (Millimeters)



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Specifications

SPECIFICATION	MX-406
DISTORTION	
THD at +4 dBu, 20Hz-20KHz	<0.05%
THD at +12dBu, 30Hz-10KHz	<0.05%
IMD (SMPTE) at +12dBu	<0.05%
HUM & NOISE (20Hz-20KHz at max preamp gain)	
Equivalent input hum and noise	<-127dBu
Residual output noise, TRS outputs, all levels at minimum	<-100dBu
Aux Out, Aux Master and all Ch. Aux at nom.	<-80dBu
MAXIMUM VOLTAGE GAIN (±2dB)	
MASTER	
Mic/Line Input to Master Output	+84dB
Mic/Line Input to Mono Output, 600 ohm load	+84dB
AUX SENDS	
Mic Input to Aux Master Output, pre ch. level	84dB
Mic Input to Aux Master Output, post ch. level	99dB
Stereo Line in to Aux Master Output	32dB
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	
20Hz-20KHz	+0.5/-1.0dB
EQUALIZATION	
Bass	±12dB at 70Hz, shelving
Treble	±12dB at 8KHz, shelving
CROSSTALK	
Adjacent inputs, 20Hz-20KHz	<-65dB
VU METERS (Stereo Outputs) 0VU = +4dBu	-21 to +6 VU
PEAK INDICATORS	Peak Clip indicator on each input channel and left and right outputs, illuminates 3dB below clipping
PHANTOM POWER	+48 VDC applied to all Mic Inputs, switchable on front panel. Maximum total current draw = 80mA. Maximum single channel current draw = 14mA. Gradual power-up and down to eliminate "pops".
SHIPPING WEIGHT	15 lbs.
POWER REQUIREMENTS	100-240 Volts, 50-60 Hz – 30 watts

Unless otherwise stated, specification conditions are: 150Ω source, Input Level set at "-40", all other controls set at nominal.

Input Specifications							
Input	Balanced/ Unbalanced	Input Level & Pad	Load Impedance	For use w/ Nominal	Sensitivity	Max Input before Clip	Connector
Mic 1-6	Balanced	Input level @ -60 (pad out) Input level @ -20 (pad out) Input level @ -20 (pad in)	≥ 1K Ω	50Ω to 600Ω mics	-80 dBu -40 dBu -20 dBu	-29 dBu +10 dBu +29 dBu	Female XLR 1/4" TRS Combo Jack
Line 1-6	Balanced	Input level @ -60 (pad out) Input level @ -20 (pad in)	≥ 10K Ω	600Ω lines	-52 dBu +8 dBu	-2 dBu +30 dBu	Female XLR 1/4" TRS Combo Jack
Sub Inputs	Unbalanced	NA	≥ 10K Ω	600Ω lines	-12 dBu	+23 dBu	1/4" TRS
Stereo Line In	Unbalanced	NA	≥ 10K Ω	600Ω lines	-24 dBu	+23 dBu	RCA

Output Specifications						
Output	Balanced/ Unbalanced	Source Impedance	For use w/ Nominal	Output Level Nominal	Output Level Max before Clip	Connector
Master Out (L, R)	Servo Balanced	≥ 200 Ω	≥ 600 Ω lines	+4 dBu	+23 dBu	1/4" TRS
Mono Out	Transformer Balanced	≥ 600 Ω	≥ 600 Ω lines	+4 dBu	+23 dBu	Female XLR
Aux Out	Servo Balanced	≥ 200 Ω	≥ 600 Ω lines	+4 dBu	+23 dBu	1/4" TRS
Stereo Line Out (L, R)	Unbalanced	≥ 680 Ω	≥ 10 KΩ lines	-6 dBu	+12 dBu	RCA

Notes: 1. 0 dBu = 0.775 Vrms 2. Sensitivity is input signal level which will produce +4 dBu out with all levels maximum

Limited Warranty

Warranty service for this unit will be provided by ASHLY AUDIO INC. in accordance with the following warrant statement.

ASHLY AUDIO INC. warrants to the owner of this product that this product and the components thereof, will be free from defects in workmanship and materials for a period of FIVE years from the date of purchase. ASHLY AUDIO INC. (ASHLY AUDIO) will, without charge, repair or replace, at its option, defective product or component parts upon prepaid delivery to the factory service department or authorized service center, accompanied by proof of purchase date in the form of a valid sales receipt. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

EXCLUSIONS: This warranty does not apply in the event of misuse, neglect or as a result of unauthorized alterations or repairs. This warranty is void if the serial number is altered, defaced, or removed. ASHLY AUDIO reserves the right to make changes in design or make additions to or improvements upon this product without any obligation to install the same on products previously manufactured.

Any implied warranties which may arise under the operation of State law shall be effective only for FIVE years from the date of purchase of the product. Ashly Audio shall be liable only to correct defects in the product itself, and not for any damage or injury which may result from or be incidental to or a consequence of such defect. Some states do not allow either limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

Obtaining Warranty Service in the United States

For warranty service in the United States, please follow this procedure:

Return the product to Ashly, freight prepaid, with a written statement describing the defect and application the product is used in. Ashly Audio will examine the product and perform any necessary service, including replacement of defective parts, at no further cost to you.

Ship your product to:

Ashly Audio Inc.
Attn: Service Department
847 Holt Road
Webster, NY 14580-9103

For units purchased outside The United States of America, service will be provided by an authorized distributor of ASHLY AUDIO INC.

Obtaining Warranty Service Outside the United States For units purchased outside The United States of America, service will be provided by an authorized distributor of ASHLY AUDIO INC.

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