ALLEN&HEATH



ZED 14

ZED 18

ZED 24

USER GUIDE

Publication AP6822

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Important Mains plug wiring instructions

The console is supplied with a moulded mains plug fitted to the AC mains power lead. Follow the instructions below if the mains plug has to be replaced. The wires in the mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:



TERMINAL		WIRE COLOUR	
		European	USA/Canada
L	LIVE	BROWN	BLACK
N	NEUTRAL	BLUE	WHITE
E	EARTH GND	GREEN & YELLOW	GREEN

The wire which is coloured Green and Yellow must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter E or with the Earth symbol. This appliance must be earthed.
The wire which is coloured Blue must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter N.
The wire which is coloured Brown must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter L.
Ensure that these colour codes are followed carefully in the event of the plug being changed.

General Precautions:

Damage : To prevent damage to the controls and cosmetics avoid placing heavy objects on the control surface, scratching the surface with sharp objects, or rough handling and vibration.

Environment : Protect from excessive dirt, dust, heat and vibration when operating and storing. Avoid tobacco ash, smoke, drinks spillage, and exposure to rain and moisture. If the console becomes wet, switch off and remove mains power immediately. Allow to dry out thoroughly before using again.

Cleaning : Avoid the use of chemicals, abrasives or solvents. The control panel is best cleaned with a soft brush and dry lint-free cloth. The faders, switches and potentiometers are lubricated for life. The use of electrical lubricants on these parts is not recommended. The fader and potentiometer knobs may be removed for cleaning with a warm soapy solution. Rinse and allow to dry fully before refitting them.

Transporting : The console may be transported as a free-standing unit or mounted in a rack or flightcase. Protect the controls from damage during transit. Use adequate packing if you need to ship the unit.

Hearing : To avoid damage to your hearing do not operate any sound system at excessively high volume. This applies particularly to close-to-ear monitoring such as headphones and in-ear systems. Continued exposure to high volume sound can cause frequency selective or wide range hearing loss.



CONTENTS

Thank you for purchasing your Allen & Heath ZED mixer. To ensure that you get the maximum benefit from the unit please spare a few minutes familiarizing yourself with the controls and setup procedures outlined in this user guide. For further information please refer to the additional information available on our web site, or contact our technical support team.

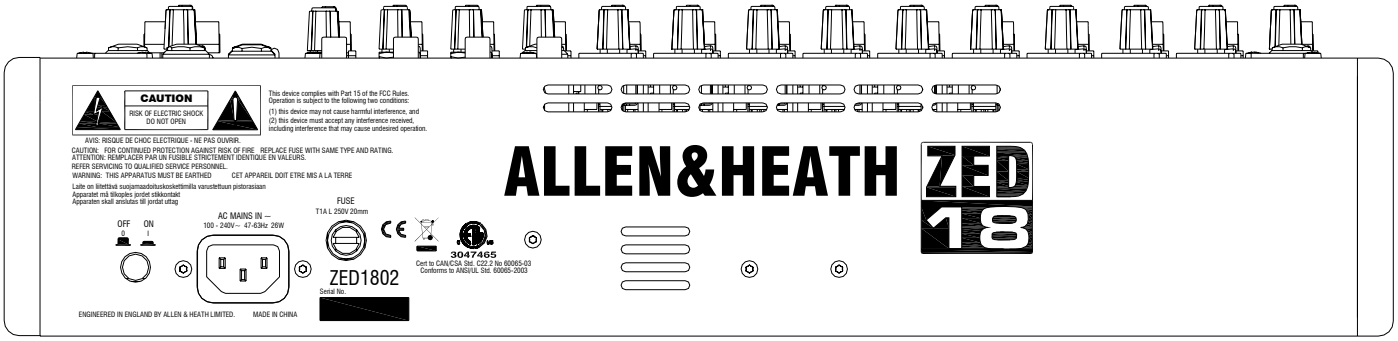
http://www.allen-heath.com

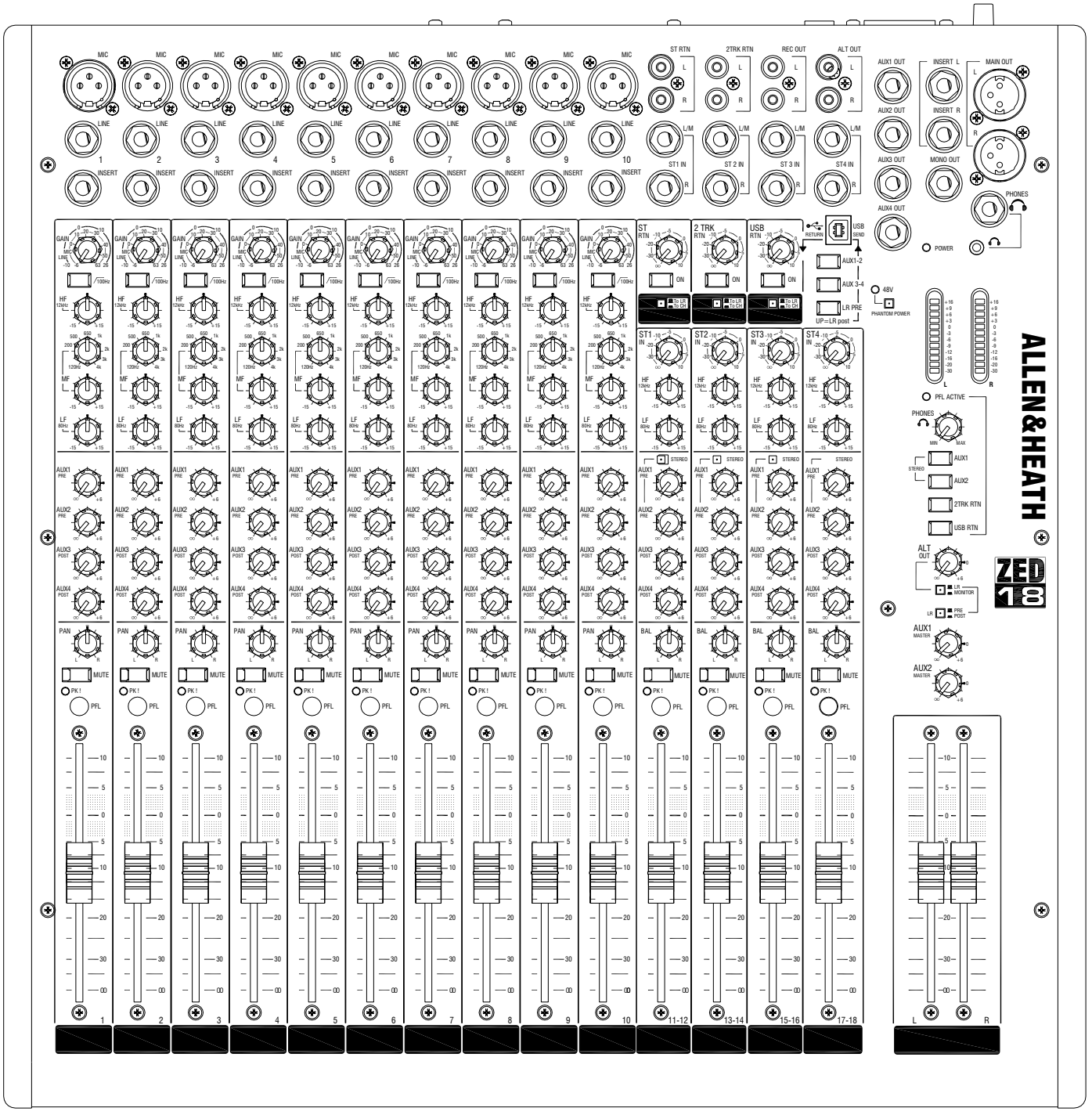
http://www.allen-heath.com/zed

http://www.myspace.com/thezedspace

Warranty 2
Packed Items 3
Safety Instructions 4
Contents 6
Panel Drawings 7
Introduction to ZED-14, 18 & 24 ... 10
Specifications 11
Dimensions 12
Block Diagram 13
Mono Input Channel 14
Stereo Input Channel ST1 17
Stereo Input Channel ST2, 3 & 4 19
Master Section 20
USB Connection 22
SONAR LE software introduction . 23
Configuring SONAR LE with ZED. 24
Configuration with PT9 on a Mac .. 25
Application Information—Live 26
Application Information—Studio ... 27
Using USB for effects 28
Wiring Notes 29
Product Support 30

PANEL DRAWINGS





INTRODUCTION TO THE ZED-14 & 24

The following is a technical overview of ZED, if you want to, please skip to the next section.

The Allen & Heath ZED series mixers have been carefully and lovingly designed in the beautiful county of Cornwall in the UK and is manufactured alongside a wide range of professional audio mixing consoles. Many of the components used in ZED are exactly the same as in the larger Allen & Heath products and the construction methods are also very similar — utilising individual vertically mounted channel circuit boards with each rotary control fixed with a metal nut to the front panel. This provides a very robust product that will resist damage and give years of reliable use. It also makes servicing much easier should it be required, with the ability to remove one particular channel from the mixer at a time, or easily change a fader.

The audio circuitry is based on years of continual development and refinement , the performance of all the elements within the mixer scrutinised and perfected to ensure the very best sound quality possible.

Multi-application:

ZED's are great for live mixing! Their layout makes them very easy to use and the 100mm faders give much better control of the mix compared to most products at a similar price.
They are also great for recording, either a live show or an audio project at home can be built up track by track and studio monitor speakers can be fed from the Alt Outputs.
ZED mixers are also ideal for teaching establishments, houses of worship, hotels and conference centres where their ease of use and robust qualities make them a top choice.

Mic/Line Pre-amps:

Based on the pre-amps from the PA series, the ZED-14, 18 & 24 pre-amps use a two stage design, with carefully controlled amounts of gain in each stage. When amplifying the signal from the XLR input, the gain range is huge — 69dB of range to be exact — and is very evenly distributed around the gain control, meaning better control of signal level. Most of the gain comes from the first stage, so unwanted noise is kept to a minimum. There is no "pad" switch, or pad circuit — line level signals are simply plugged into the second stage of the pre-amp by using the line input jack socket. This has the great advantage of lower noise when using the line input. (It is common to attenuate line level signals, the amplify them back up again which can give more noise or hiss).

EQ:

The ZED series mixers are equipped with a 3-band equaliser circuit on each mono input and a 2-band EQ on the stereo channels. The frequency and response of each has been carefully chosen to give the maximum performance when using the EQ on a variety of sources.

AUX system:

Four auxiliary buses are provided, two pre-fade and two post fader. Auxes 1 & 2 have master level controls. The auxes can be sent to the USB output for either recording or effects purposes and Auxes 1 & 2 can be configured as a stereo pair, with sends on the stereo channels switched either mono or stereo.

Mono and Stereo Channels:

One of the great things about the ZED series is the number and variety of things you can plug in. In addition to the mono channels there are four stereo channels, each with a main stereo input on jack sockets, three of them have the ability to take additional stereo inputs from phono sockets or from the USB audio input, flexibility gives you control.

USB:

Getting audio to and from a computer easily is now a common requirement for live sound and music production. The way we have implemented this on ZED is super-flexible and super-easy! No longer do you need to fiddle around the back of your computer to get to the soundcard inputs, only to find that the levels are all wrong and noisy. Just plug in a USB lead to your ZED, select the USB routing on the mixer and the device on your computer and that's it! Quality audio to and from your PC or MAC.

As you can tell, we're very proud of this product we hope you like it too.

SPECIFICATIONS

Operating Levels	
Input	
Mono channel (XLR) Input	+6 to –63dBu for nominal (+17dBu in max)
Mono channel Line Input (Jack socket)	+10 to –26dBu (+30dBu maximum)
Insert point (TRS Jack socket)	0dBu nominal +21dBu maximum
Stereo Input (Jack sockets)	0dBu nominal (control = Off to +10dB)
Stereo input (phono sockets)	0dBu nominal (control = Off to +10dB)
Output	
L, R & Mono Outputs (L&R XLR, Mono Jack)	0dBu nominal. +21dBu maximum.
Aux Outputs (Jack sockets)	0dBu nominal. +21dBu maximum.
Alt Outputs (phono sockets)	0dBu nominal. +21dBu maximum.
Rec Outputs (phono sockets)	0dBu nominal. +21dBu maximum.

Frequency Response	
Mic in to Mix L/R Out, 30dB gain	+0.5/-1dB 20Hz to 20kHz.
Line in to Mix L/R out 0dB gain	+0.5/-1dB 10Hz to 30kHz
Stereo in to Mix L/R out	+0.5/-1dB 10Hz to 30kHz

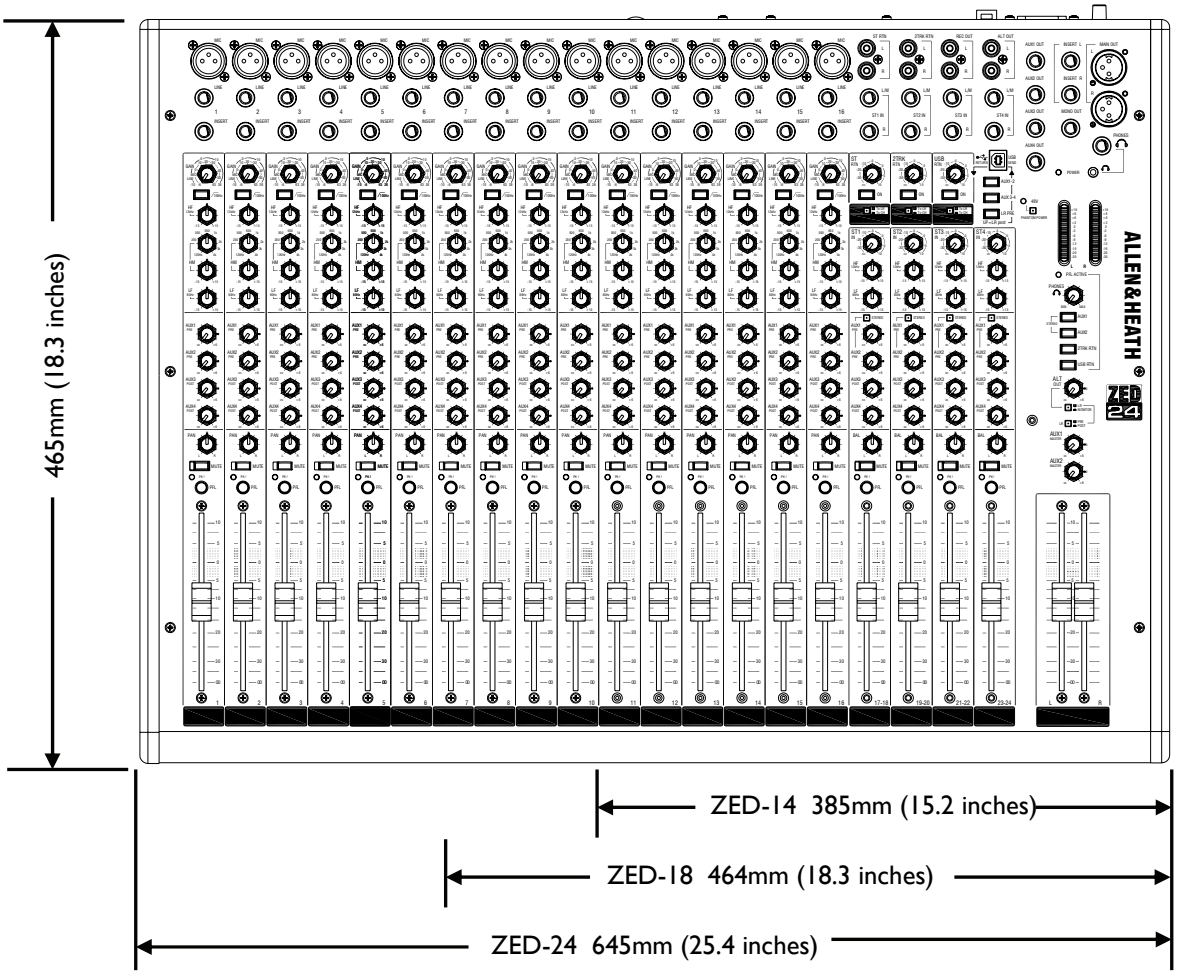
THD+n	
Mic in to Mix L/R Out, 0dB gain 1kHz +10dBu out	0.004%
Mic in to Mix L/R Out, 30dB gain 1kHz	0.014%
Line in to Mix L/R out 0dB gain 0dBu 1kHz	0.005%
Stereo in to Mix L/R out 0dB gain +10dBu 1kHz	0.003%

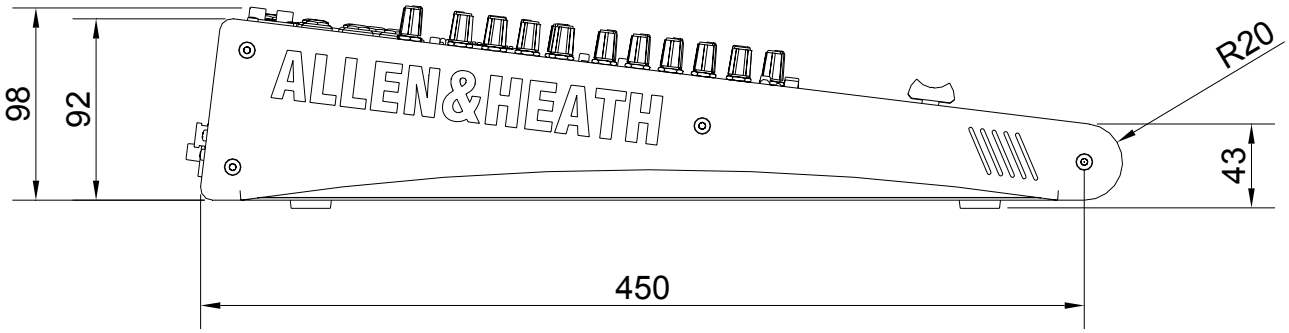
Headroom	
Analogue Headroom from nominal (0Vu)	21dB
USB in & out headroom from nominal (0Vu)	14dB

USB Audio CODEC (Coder/Decoder)	
USB Audio In/Out	USB 1.1 compliant 16bit.
Sample Rate	32, 44.1, or 48kHz

Noise	
Mic Pre EIN @ max gain 150R input Z 22-22kHz	-127dBu
Mix L/R out, L/R faders = 0, 22-22kHz ZED-14	-88dBu
Mix L/R out, L/R faders = 0, 22-22kHz ZED-18	-86dBu
Mix L/R out, L/R faders = 0, 22-22kHz ZED-24	-84dBu

Dimensions

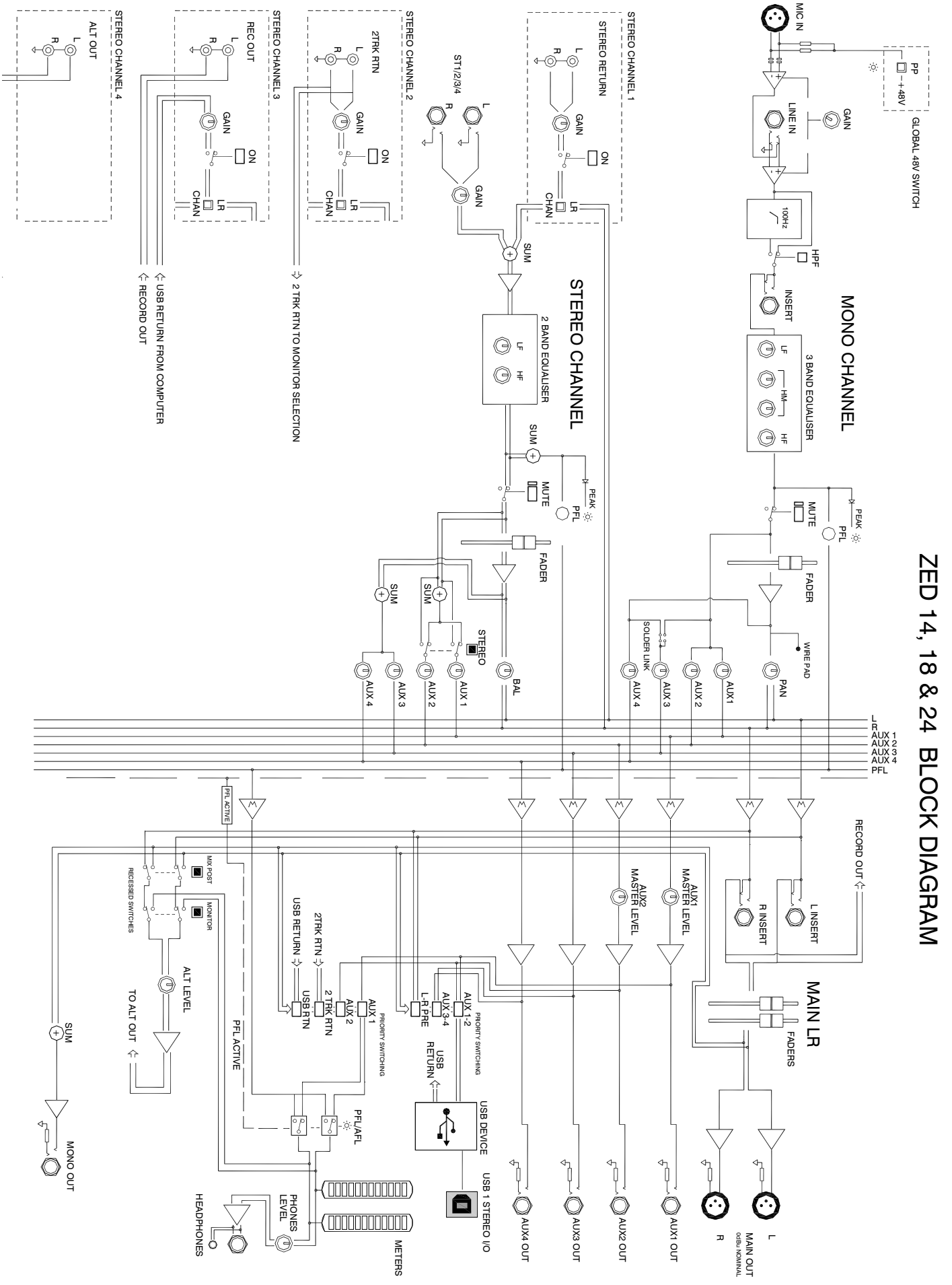




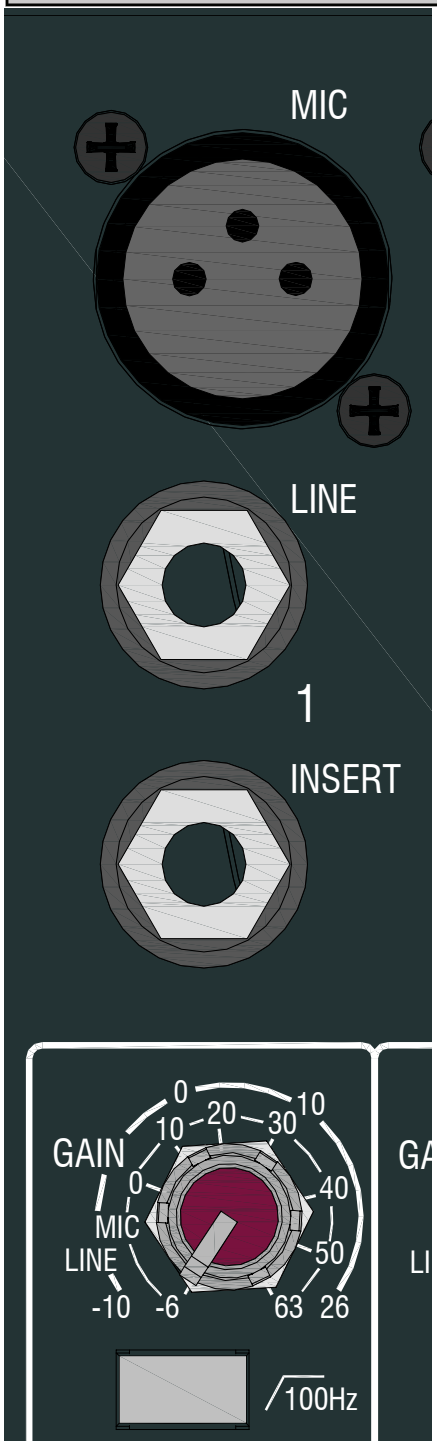
Weight		
	Unpacked	Packed
ZED-14	6.5kg (14.3 lb)	10.5kg (23.1 lb)
ZED-18	8.5kg (18.7 lb)	13kg (28.6 lb)
ZED-24	10.5kg (23.1 lb)	15kg (33 lb)

19" Rack kit for the ZED-14 - Order part number: ZED1402-RK19
19" Rack kit for the ZED-18 - Order part number: ZED1802-RK19

BLOCK DIAGRAM



MONO INPUT CHANNEL



Mic Input Socket

Standard 3-Pin XLR socket wired as Pin 1=Chassis, Pin 2=hot (+), Pin 3=Cold (-).

Line Input Jack Socket

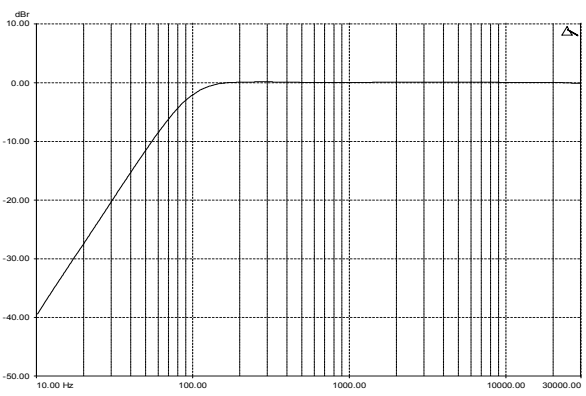
Standard 1/4" (6.25mm) Jack socket for balanced or unbalanced line level signals. Wired Tip=Hot(+), Ring=cold (-), Sleeve=Chassis.
The Line input overrides the Mic input, so if you want to hear something plugged in to the xlr socket, make sure nothing is plugged into the Line input.

Insert Jack Socket

Standard 1/4" (6.25mm) Jack socket for unbalanced insert send and return signals. Wired Tip=send, Ring=return, Sleeve=Chassis. Nominal level is 0dBu. The insert point is after the 100Hz filter and before the EQ.

Gain Control

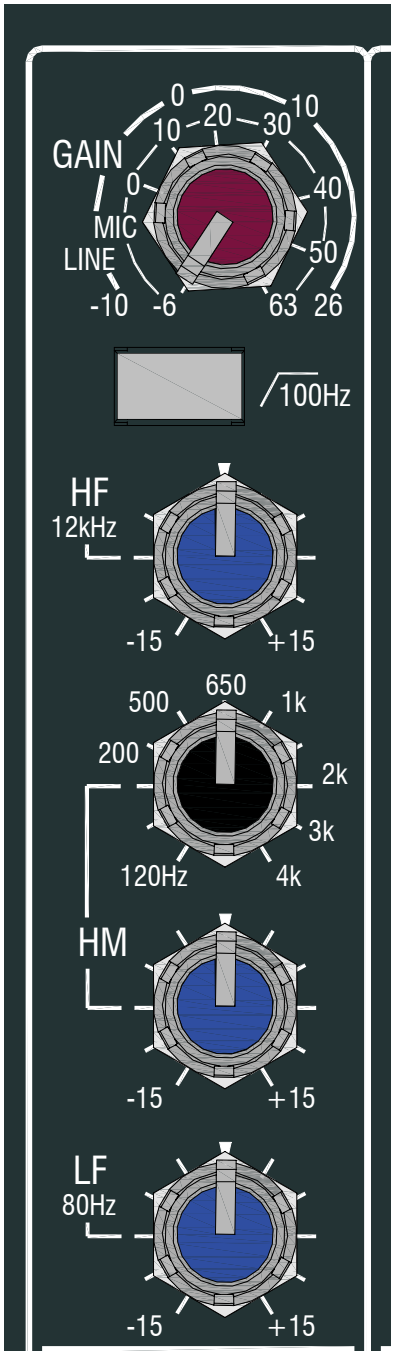
This adjusts the gain of the input amplifier to match the signal level of the input. The gain is varied from –6dB (attenuation) to +63dB for signals plugged in to the xlr socket (Mic Input) and –10dB to +26dB for signals plugged into the Line input jack.



100Hz Hi-pass Filter

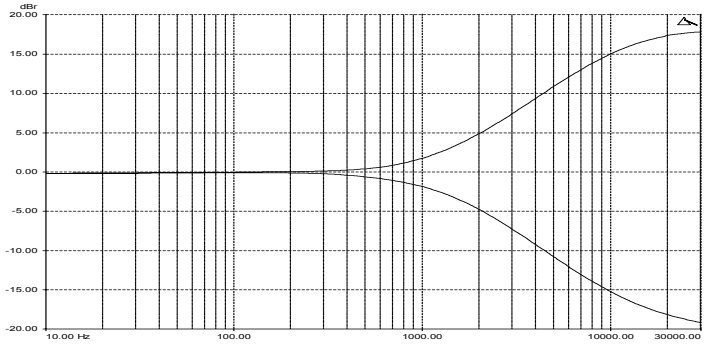
The Hi-pass filter is used for reducing pop noise and rumble from microphone signals. It is a 2-pole (12dB per octave) filter with a corner frequency set at 100Hz.
The filter affects signals from both Mic XLR and Line jack socket.

MONO INPUT CHANNEL



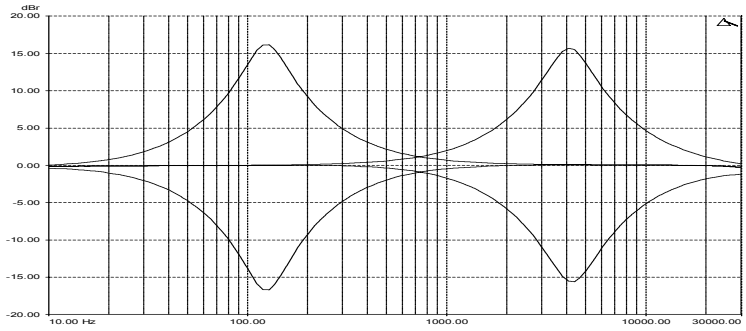
HF EQ

The HF (High Frequency) equaliser affects the frequency response of the higher audible frequencies. The corner frequency of 12kHz is around 3dB from the maximum cut or boost of the circuit. It has plenty of gain and actually gives slightly more that the +/-15dB legend suggests.



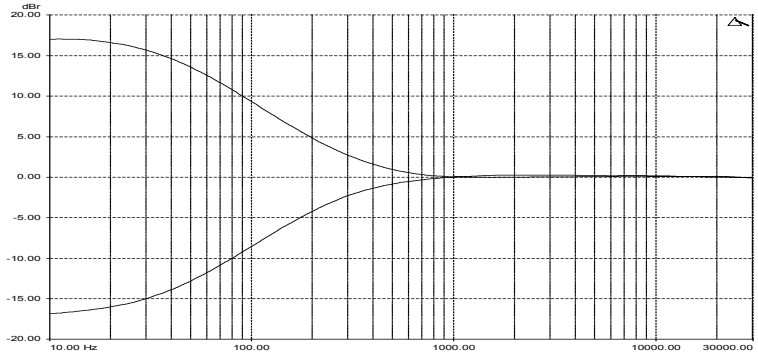
MF EQ

The MF (Mid Frequency) equaliser affects the middle of the audible frequency range. The frequency graduations on the sweep control are the centre frequencies of the EQ. The range has been carefully chosen to cover "boomy" frequencies around 120Hz to 250Hz which may need cutting back, or a lift at 2 to 3kHz may be required for microphone intelligibility.

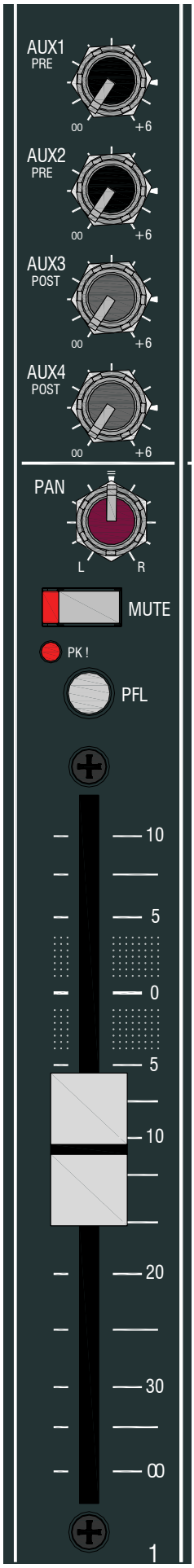


LF EQ

The LF (Low Frequency) equaliser affects the response at the low end of the audio range. The graph shows the response of the LF EQ at maximum cut and boost. The corner frequency is 80Hz.



MONO INPUT CHANNEL



Auxes 1 & 2

Each of these controls sends a signal to an auxiliary bus. The signal is sourced pre-fade which means that the level is independent of, and unaffected by the fader. Auxes 1 & 2 are primarily used for foldback monitoring purposes, as the fader does not affect the level. They can also be used as feeds for recording and are available sources to the USB interface for this purpose.

These sends are affected by the Mute switch, so muting the channel will also mute the Aux sends.

The control varies the signal level to the bus from off (fully attenuated) to +6dB, with unity gain at the arrow.

There are master level controls for the Aux 1 & 2 outputs situated in the master section of the mixer.

Auxes 3 & 4

These are post-fade sends, which means that the signals are affected by the channel fader. Primarily used for effects sends, the aux signal will reduce if the fader is pulled down so keeping the correct proportion of the effect.

Muting the channel will also mute the Aux sends, and the send controls have 6dB gain fully clockwise.

There are no master level controls for Aux 3 & 4 outputs.

PAN

The pan control adjusts how the signal from the mono input channel is shared between the left and right buses and subsequently the main stereo outputs. Set to the mid position, equal amounts of signal are fed to left and right, with pan set to L, none is sent to the Right bus.

Mute Switch

This mutes or cuts the signal to the left & right buses and the Aux buses. A rectangular LED illuminates to show the Mute switch is pressed.

PFL Switch & PK! LED

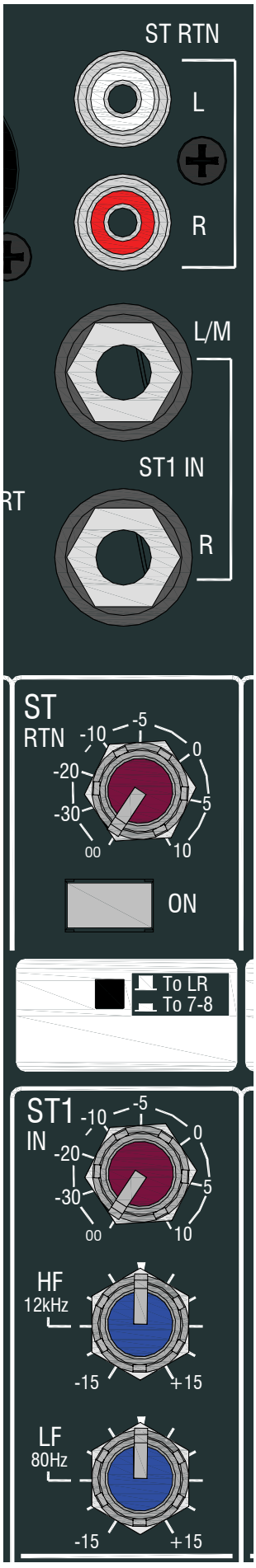
The PFL (Pre-Fade Listen) switch sends the channel signal to the PFL bus and subsequently to the headphones and the main L R meters. Used for checking the audio signal before raising the fader or un-muting the channel.

The PK! LED illuminates dimly to indicate the PFL switch is pressed, and brightly to indicate the channel signal is within 5dB of clipping.

Fader

The 100mm fader affects the level of the channel signal to the left & right buses and Auxes 3 & 4. There is 10dB of gain at the top and the unity gain position is marked by "0".

STEREO INPUT CHANNEL ST1



Stereo Return Phono sockets

This is an additional stereo input to the main stereo channel input (below). The gain is varied by the ST RTN control and this input can be sent to either the stereo channel or straight to the L R main bus, depending on the setting of the under-panel switch. These inputs are unbalanced.

Stereo 1 input jack sockets

Standard 1/4" jack sockets for line level stereo signals. Can be used with a mono input where the L/M input will also connect to the R input if nothing is plugged in to R.
The Stereo 1 inputs accept unbalanced or balanced signals.

Stereo Return Level control

Adjusts the level of the stereo return input from off (fully attenuated) to maximum where it has 10dB of gain.

Stereo Return ON switch

This switches the signal on when pressed in. Leaving the switch in the up position is recommended when the stereo return input is not in use to minimise unwanted noise being passed through.

Stereo Routing selector switch

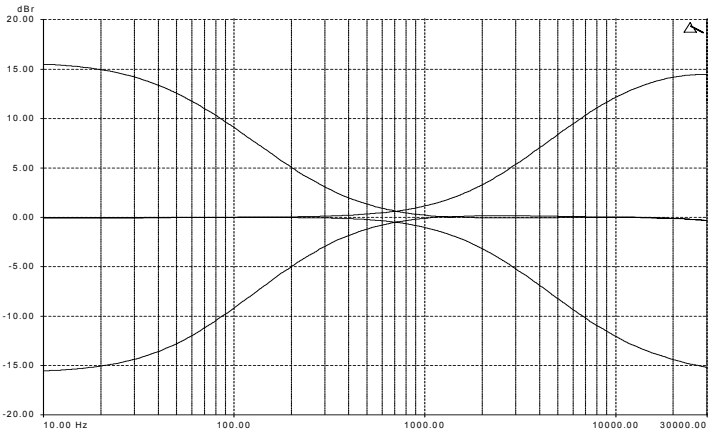
This switch selects whether the Stereo Return signal is sent to the L R bus directly, or the stereo channel 1. When it is pressed in, the Stereo Return signal sums together with the main stereo input.

Stereo 1 Level control

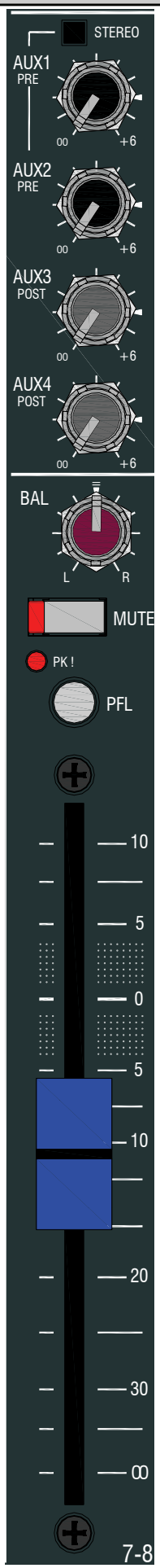
Adjusts the level of the ST1 input. The range is from off to +10dB.

Stereo Channel EQ

The Stereo Channel EQ is 2 band with corner frequencies of 12kHz for the HF and 80Hz for the LF.



STEREO INPUT CHANNEL ST1



STEREO Aux 1 & 2 switch

This is an under-panel selector switch that configures Auxes 1 & 2 to be either mono sends or a stereo send pair.
UP: A mono sum of the left & right stereo channel signal is sent to Aux buses 1 & 2 by the control knobs.
DOWN: The left stereo channel signal is sent to Aux 1 and the right is sent to Aux 2 by the control knobs.

Note: This can be useful when setting up a seperate stereo output from the main L R output using Auxes 1 & 2, possibly for recording. This can be selected to feed the USB output to create an independent stereo feed for recording using a computer.

Aux 1 & 2 sends

These control the level of the signals sent to the Aux 1 & 2 buses. The Aux 1 & 2 send controls are configured either as two mono sends or as a stereo pair depending on the position of the STEREO switch (please see above).
Auxes 1 & 2 are pre-fade, but muted when the Mute switch is pressed. There is 6dB of gain at the fully clockwise position.

Aux 3 & 4 sends

These controls take a mono sum of the left & right stereo channel signals from after the fader and send them to the Aux 3 and Aux 4 buses respectively. They are muted when the Mute switch is pressed and have 6dB of gain at maximum.

Balance control

The Balance control varies the relative levels between the left and right channels.

Mute Switch

Mutes the signals to the main L R and the Aux buses.

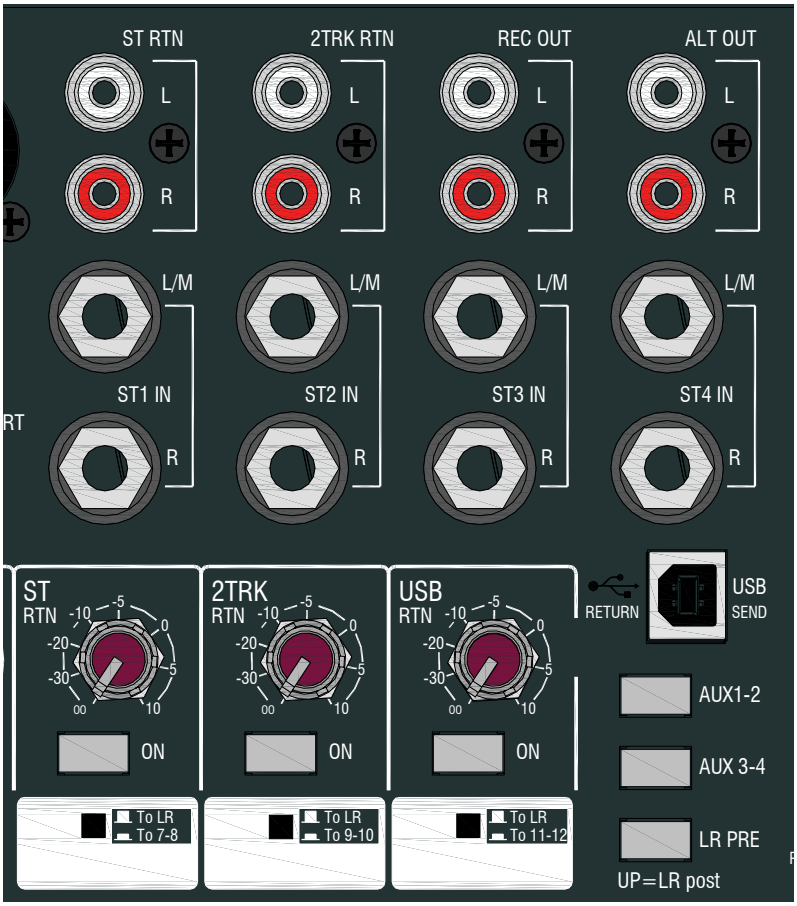
PFL Switch & PK! LED

The Pre-Fade Listen switch takes a mono sum of the stereo channel signals from before the fader and mute switch. When pressed the signal will appear on the L R meters and be fed to the headphones circuit for monitoring.
The PK! LED illuminates dimly to indicate the PFL switch is pressed, and brightly to indicate the channel signal is within 5dB of clipping.

Fader

The 100mm fader affects the level of the channel signal to the left & right buses and Auxes 3 & 4. There is 10dB of gain at the top and the unity gain position is marked by "0".

STEREO INPUT CHANNELS ST2, 3 & 4 & USB



Stereo Input Channel ST1

This is stereo input channel ST1 as described on previous pages.

Stereo Input Channel ST2

The only difference from stereo input channel ST1 is the labelling of the additional stereo input on phono connectors, labelled as 2 Track Return. This is to indicate that a 2 track (stereo) input can be inserted here for playback of a stereo recording or incidental music.

Stereo Input Channel ST3

Stereo input channel ST3 also has an additional stereo input, but instead of being on phono connectors, it comes from the USB audio input. The level control, ON switch and routing switch are the same as for stereo input channel ST1. It is best to leave the ON switch in its UP position when the USB input is not in use. The phono sockets carry the analogue record output signals that are sourced from the main L R outputs. They are pre-fade, post L R insert.

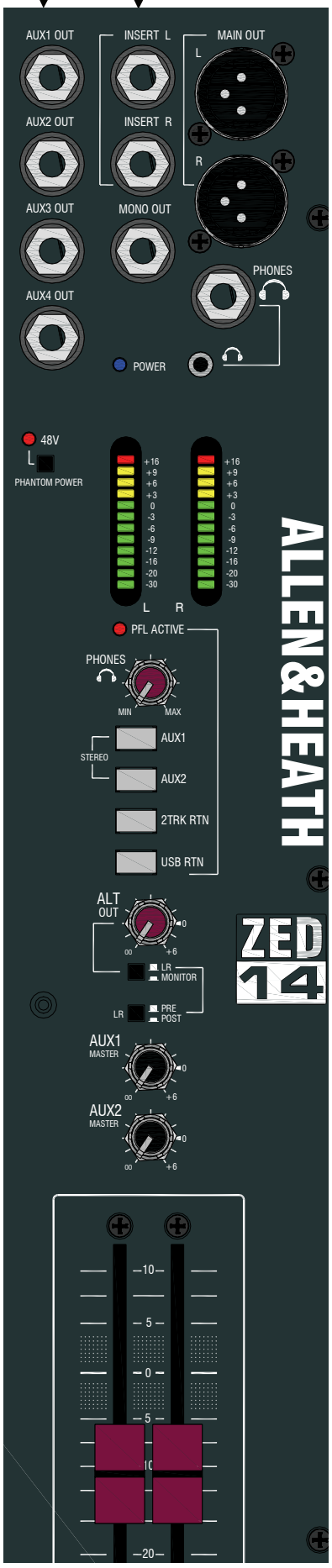
Stereo Input Channel ST4

Stereo input channel ST4 has one stereo input (ST4) on jack sockets. The phono sockets carry the Alternate stereo output which comes from the selector switches and level control in the master section.

USB connector & output selection.

A standard USB type B connector plugs in here (cable supplied). The three selector switches determine what is sent on the USB output. They work on a priority system, so that if more than one is pressed the one nearest the top takes precedence. So if all 3 are pressed, then the Aux 1 & 2 signals would be sent by the USB device. Please refer to the section describing using the USB audio port for more details.

MASTER SECTION



Aux output jack sockets

Standard 1/4" jack sockets for Aux 1 to 4 outputs. Impedance balanced, nominal level = 0dBu.

Mix L R Insert jack sockets

Standard 1/4" (6.25mm) Jack sockets for unbalanced insert send and return signals. Wired Tip = send, Ring = return, Sleeve = Chassis. Nominal level is 0dBu.

Main L R output xlr sockets

Main left & right outputs. Impedance balanced signals, pin1 = chassis, pin2 = hot (+), pin3 = cold (-). Nominal level = 0dBu.

Mono output jack socket

A mono sum of the main left & right post-fade signals.

Headphones jack sockets

One 1/4" and one 3.5mm jack socket for stereo headphones. Wired Tip = left, Ring = right, Sleeve = Chassis.
It is recommended that headphones with an impedance higher than 30ohms are used.

48v Phantom Power switch

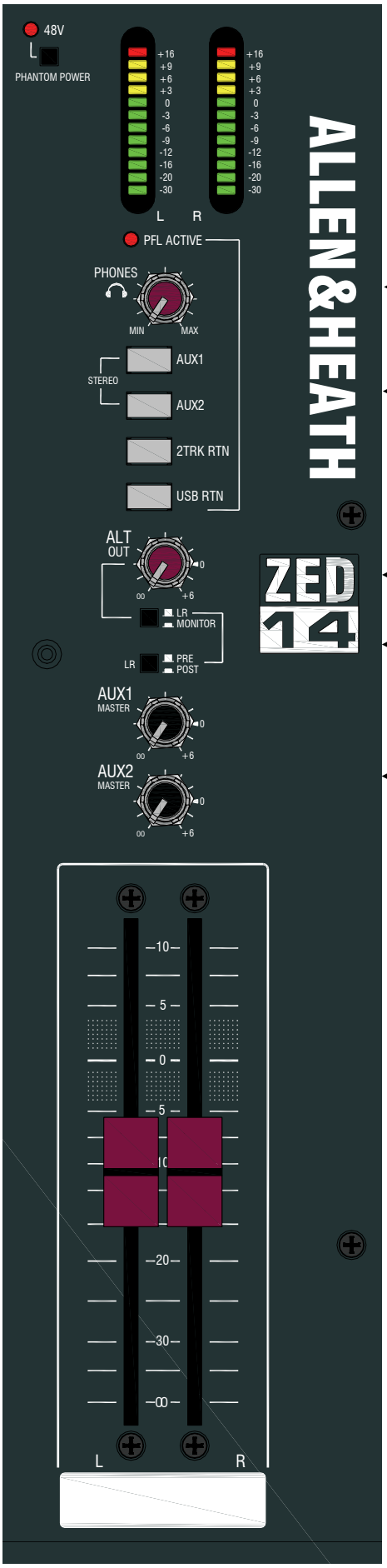
Press this in to switch 48v Phantom Power to all the Mic input xlr connectors, if any of the microphones attached require power. Dynamic microphones won't mind being connected to a phantom powered input, but care is needed to ensure that 48v is not switched on if an xlr is used to input a signal from an electronic circuit (ie. Another mixer or keyboard).

When switching 48v on or off, or plugging in connectors to channels with 48v present, it is important (and normal practise) to mute the channels. This will avoid loud clicks and bangs potentially getting through to the amps & speakers with the possible effect of damaging the speakers, or your audience's hearing!

Left Right meters

12 segment LED meters, peak type response, the "0" position reflects 0dBu at the outputs. These display the signals from the monitor selector switches below, or the PFL (pre-fade listen) signals from any selected channels, which overrides.

USB & MASTER SECTION



Headphone level control

Adjusts the level of the headphone signal.

Warning ! To avoid damage to your hearing do not operate the headphones or sound system at excessively high volume. Continued exposure to high volume sound can cause frequency selective or wide range hearing loss.

Monitor selector switches

These 4 switches select the signal source for the headphones monitor and the meters. They work on a priority basis. If they are all up then the post-fade main L R signals will feed the monitor circuit, if USB and 2 TRK are pressed, then only the 2 TRK signals will feed the monitor circuit. The stereo option of pressing both AUX 1 and AUX 2 together allows Aux 1 to feed the left and Aux 2 to feed the right monitor circuit. This is useful if a stereo mix is set up using Auxes 1 & 2.

Alternate output level control

The Alt (Alternate) Output is useful for connecting a pair of monitor speakers separate to the main outputs. The level control adjusts the volume of the output from off to +6dB.

Alternate output selector switches

These under-panel switches select the signal source for the Alt output. They select between the L R pre-fade, L R post-fade or the monitor L R signals.

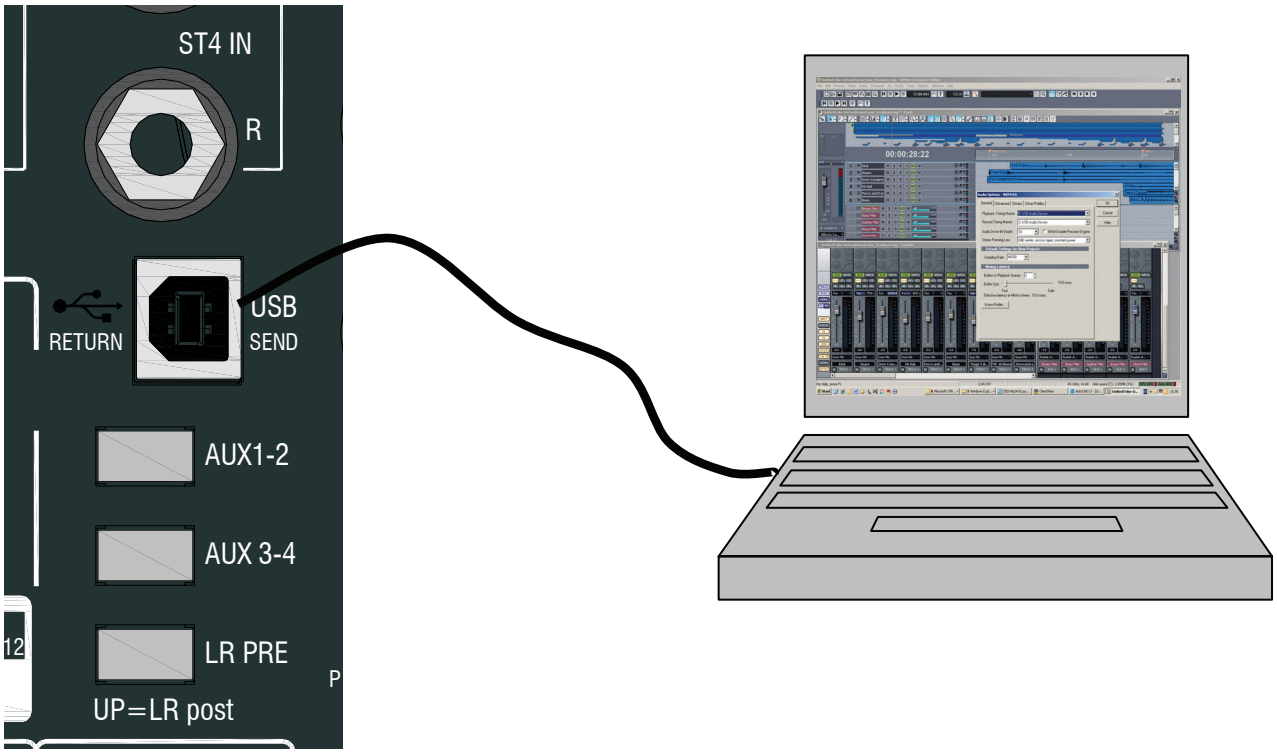
Aux 1 & 2 master level controls

For adjusting the level of the Aux 1 and 2 outputs. The range of level control is from off to +6dB.

Master L R faders

High quality 100mm faders for the main L R outputs. 10dB gain at the top, unity gain marked at "0".

USB CONNECTION



USB Audio Interface

The ZED is equipped with a stereo bi-directional USB 1.1 compliant audio CODEC. It is fully compliant with USB 2 ports and uses standard Windows and MAC Core Audio Drivers. In other words, plug it in and your computer will find it and be able to transfer audio to and from the ZED USB device.
You will need some form of audio software running on your computer to be able to record and play back what you record, but on a basic level, you can use your computers media player to play straight to the ZED device.
Just a couple of points to look out for:

Windows XP/Vista: When you plug in your ZED USB interface to your computer, if the volume level is low or inaudible, check the device volume in control panel/Sounds and Audio Devices/Volume. Set the volume to High.

Windows 7: At present, Windows 7 treats the USB audio device as a microphone source instead if a line input, so set the device volume level much lower, we found setting to 3 is ideal.

If you want to reduce latency (delay) there are some different drivers available for your operating system. Please check the Allen & Heath website www.allen-heath.com for details and links to third party companies able to supply appropriate drivers for your operating system.



cakewalk **SONAR X1 LE**

DIGITAL AUDIO WORKSTATION

SONAR X1 LE Overview.

SONAR X1 LE is a software application from Cakewalk and is included free of charge with your new ZED mixing console.

SONAR X1 LE is a powerful first step into the world of sequencing and hard disk recording on the Windows platform. You'll be able to record from your ZED mixer, create tracks and arrange songs, then play back to your ZED mixer via the USB port. You can decide whether the SONAR family of products is right for you. If you choose to upgrade your copy of SONAR X1 LE to a more full-featured version, like SONAR X1 Producer, you'll now be able to do so at significant savings.

We will describe the basic steps of installing the software and getting started here, for more comprehensive help or technical support please use the Help files in SONAR X1 LE or visit the SONAR LE website:

www.cakewalk.com/Products/SONARLE/

The website will have details on registering your product and upgrading it should you wish. There are also tutorials to get you started.

SONAR X1 LE Key Features.

- Powered by SONAR X1
- 32 audio tracks
- 64 MIDI tracks
- 8 simultaneous inputs and outputs
- 24-bit/96 kHz audio quality
- 24 simultaneous effects
- 8 simultaneous virtual instruments
- Integrated VST/VSTi support
- Support for ACID™-format loops
- Support for ReWire clients such as Live or Reason
- Active Controller Technology™ automatically maps MIDI keyboards and control surfaces to the parameters you need most on effects, instruments, volume, pan, and other mix elements
- Edit MIDI directly from the Track View with the Inline Piano Roll View.
- Support for 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows 7, Windows Vista, and Windows XP operating systems

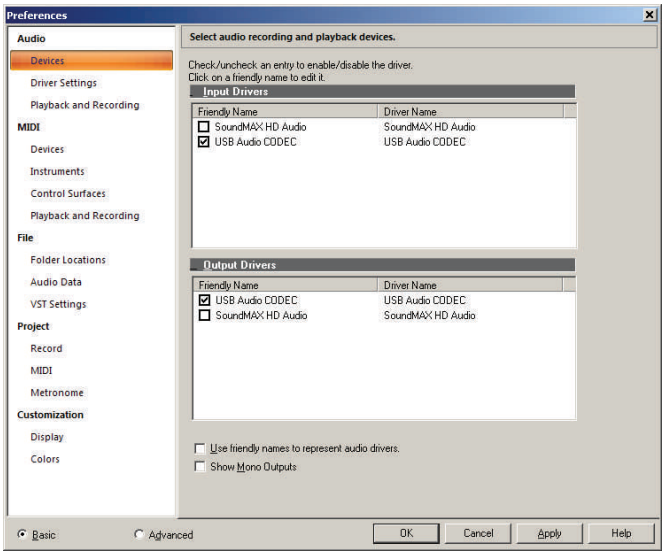
SONAR LE Installation.

Put disk into CD or DVD ROM drive and follow instructions on screen.
Register your copy of SONAR LE by accessing the Cakewalk website. Your SONAR LE software will display its unique serial number. If the installing computer has access to the internet just click "Register", if not, use a different computer to access cakewalk.com and register by typing in the serial number.

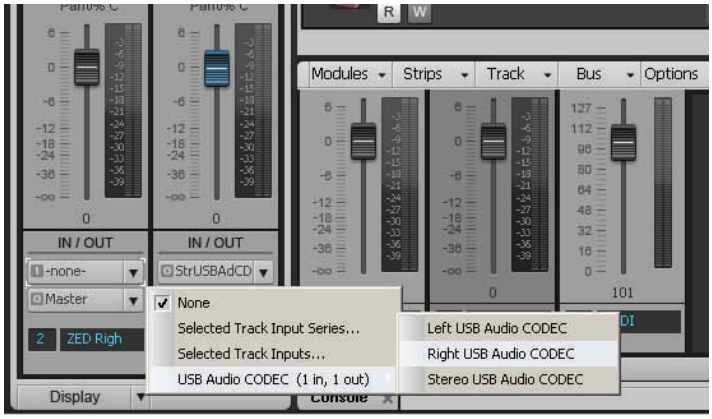
SONAR LE will run automatically after installation, or else click the icon created on the desktop.

To initially configure SONAR X1 LE with ZED:

Create a normal Cakewalk project (an option offered when starting SONAR).
In Edit/Preferences configure the I/O—enable the USB Audio CODEC under Devices. This is the ZED interface. For now, disable any other devices listed, for example the computer's internal soundcard listed here.



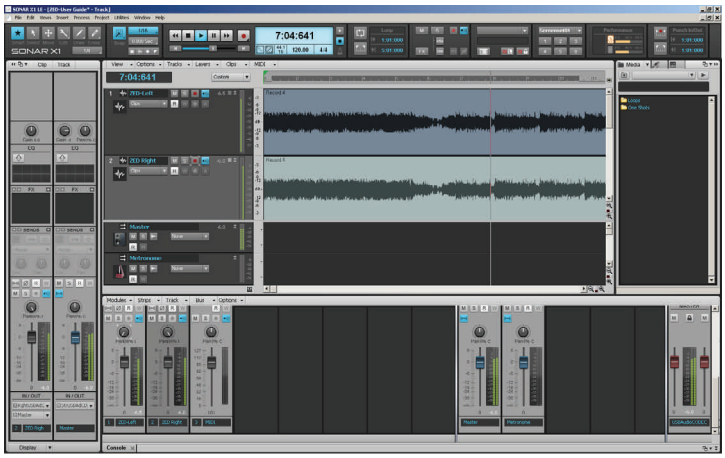
In SONAR X1 LE different views are available. The Track view shows audio and MIDI tracks in a timeline aspect and the Console view shows a mixer style layout. Different views can be displayed by the "dock" tabs at the bottom of the screen. On the left is the Track Inspector.
Add an audio track or two clicking Insert/Audio Track. Tracks can be named by clicking the name box, here we have named tracks 1&2 ZED-Left and ZED Right.
Configure the inputs for the tracks using the IN/OUT routing drop-down menu in the Track Inspector. Here we select LEFT USB Audio to track 1 and RIGHT USB Audio to track 2. The track outputs are routed to the Master bus in SONAR.
Select the output for the Master bus in SONAR by clicking the drop-down arrow in the Inspector and selecting STEREO USB Audio CODEC which is the ZED USB return.



In order to check the configuration, enable Input Echo On (the top right button in the track view header). Play some audio through your ZED mixer and select the USB send buttons to the audio signal (for example the L-R mix).
N.B. Do not route the USB return to the L-R mix in your ZED mixer at this stage—a feedback loop could occur.
You should see the signal on the metering in SONAR LE.
To try a recording, enable the Record buttons on the tracks and click the main Record button on the transport toolbar. Recorded audio signal should be displayed in red.
Click stop, or hit the space bar on your keyboard to stop the recording.



Once you have recorded audio in your SONAR project you can play it back to the ZED mixer.
De-select the record arm buttons and Input Echo on the tracks (or you could get both the recorded track signal AND the live input signal playing, and possibly a feedback loop).
Press play or hit the spacebar on the keyboard. You should see the audio being played and levels on the meters in SONAR.
On your ZED mixer, Press USB Rtn ON and turn the level up to the desired point. Audio should be playing from the tracks in SONAR to the L-R bus in your ZED.



CONNECTING A ZED TO PRO TOOLS 9 ON A MAC

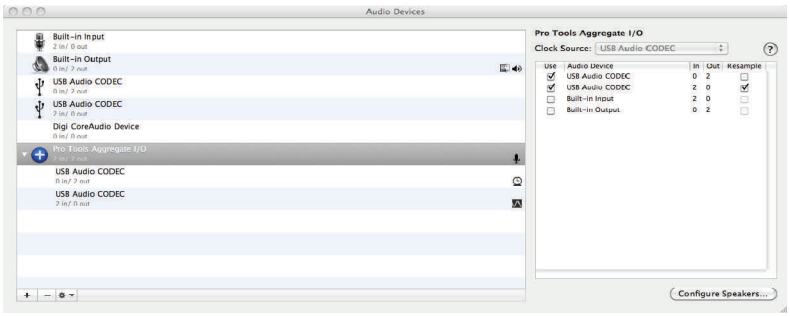
If you use Pro Tools 9 and want to connect to your ZED console using a Mac computer, here are some notes:

1. Connect your ZED mixer to your Mac via USB and power on the mixer.

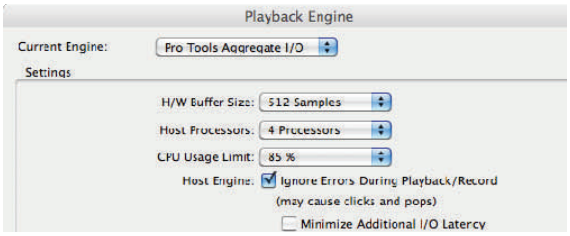
2. With Pro Tools 9 installed, open Audio MIDI Setup on your Mac. PT9 should have created a Pro Tools Aggregate I/O folder in the Audio Devices list. The ZED interface should appear as USB Audio CODEC in the list along with other audio devices in your system. Tick Use to enable the device in PT9. You may need to also tick Resample in order for the audio data settings to be compatible with your PT9 session.



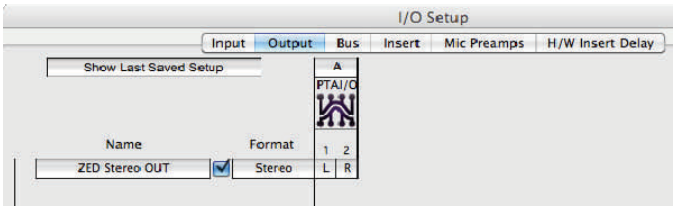
Audio MIDI Setup...



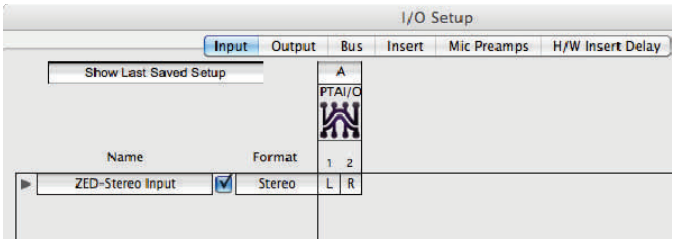
3. Run Pro Tools 9 and create a new session with at least two audio tracks. Open the SETUP/ Playback Engine window and select Pro Tools Aggregate I/O as the Current Engine. Click OK.



4. In PT9 click SETUP and then I/O. Select Output from the menu and the devices available should appear in a box labelled PTAI/O (Pro Tools Aggregate I/O). Here you can create a new output path if one doesn't exist, name it (here it's called ZED Stereo OUT) and tick it to enable. The output path can be set as stereo or mono channels as is required.



5. Still in I/O Setup, click the Input tab. Again the input sources should appear for enabled devices in Pro Tools Aggregate I/O. Create a new path for the inputs and name as you prefer. Here we have a stereo input named ZED-Stereo Input. Note that mono channels can use one channel of a stereo input path. Make sure the path is ticked and click OK.

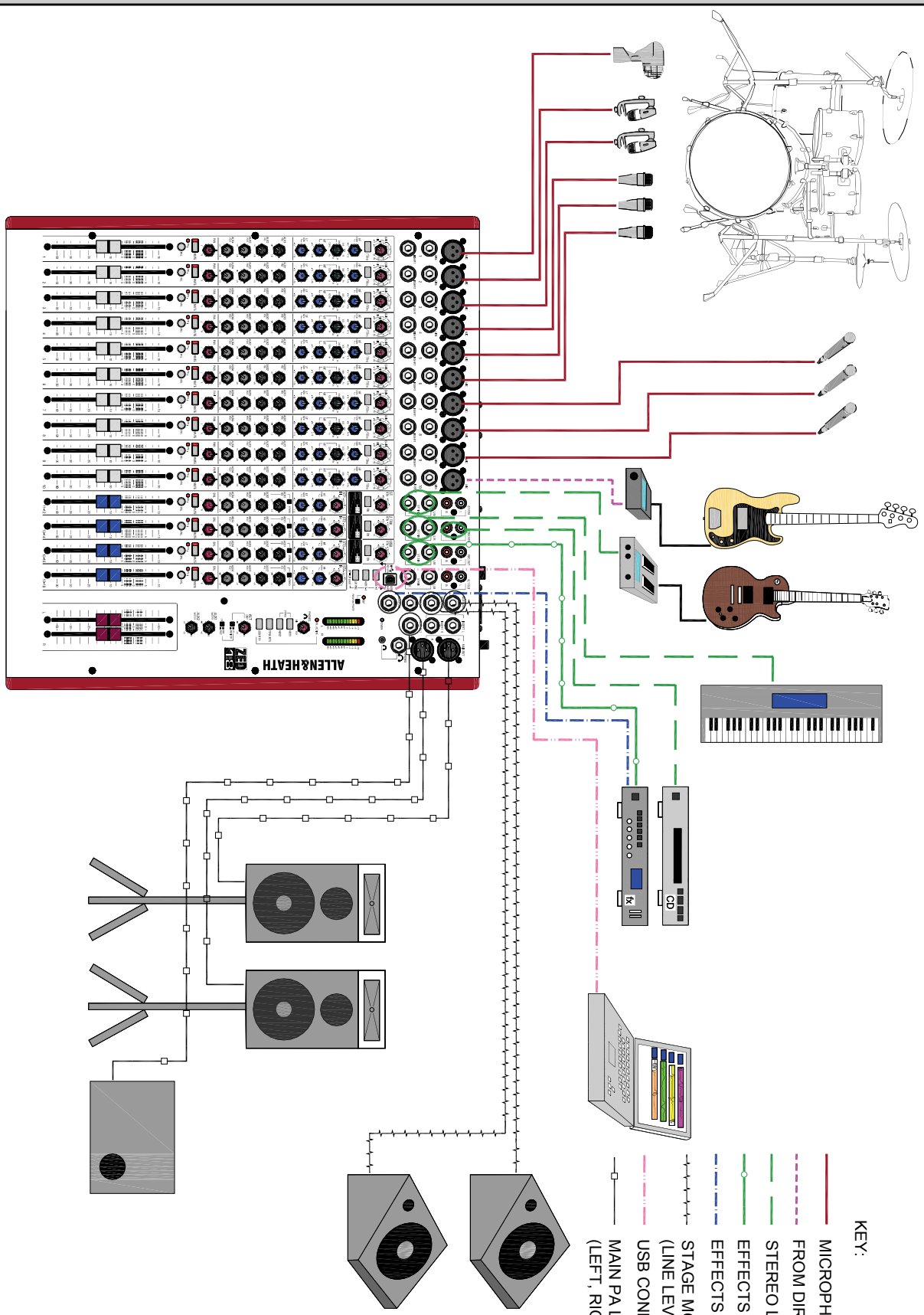


6. Select the inputs and outputs for your tracks in your session. Here the input for mono Track 1 is selected as the Left channel from the ZED USB interface. The track outputs can either be routed to the ZED directly or to a master bus in Pro Tools and then to the ZED.

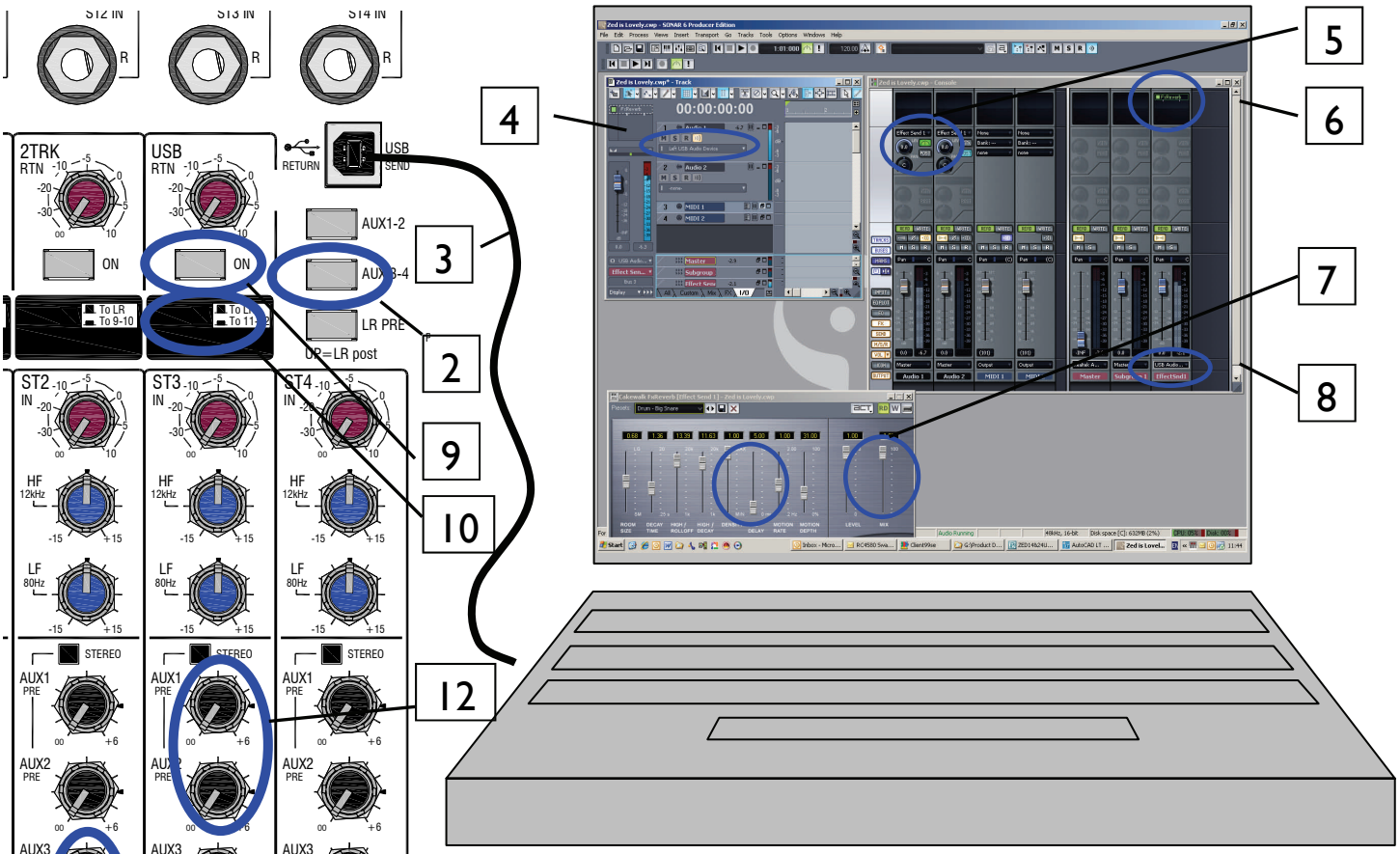


7. Finally check the interface and settings are working by recording some audio from the ZED mixer to PT9 and then play the audio back to the ZED afterwards. Always be wary of audio feedback loops with bi-directional interface connections which can cause high level audio feedback if signals are routed back to themselves either in the mixer or in the software system.

L


ALLEN&HEATH
ZED
FX
CD
KEY:
MICROPHONE SIGNAL
FROM DIRECT BOX
STEREO LINE LEVEL SIGNAL
EFFECTS RETURN (STEREO)
EFFECTS SEND
STAGE MONITOR SIGNALS
(LINE LEVEL)
USB CONNECTION
MAIN PA LINE LEVEL OUT
(LEFT, RIGHT & SUB)

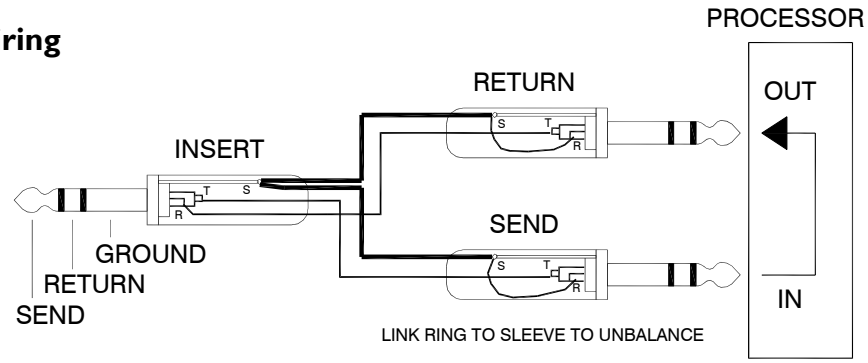
USING USB FOR EFFECTS

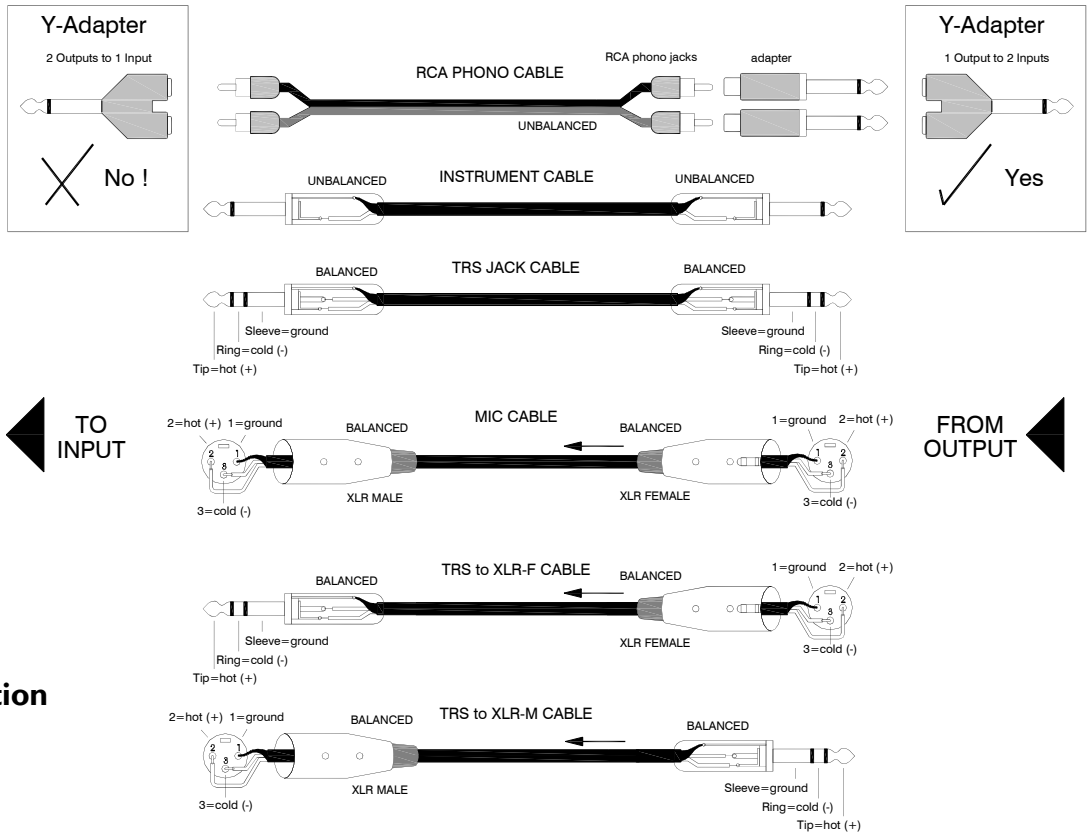


1. Use post fade Aux 3 & 4 as the sends from ZED so when you move the channel fader the effects level stays in proportion.
2. Select Aux 3-4 on the USB output selector switches.
3. USB lead carries the digital signals to & from the computer.
4. Select USB Device Left for Aux 3 or Right for Aux 4 as the input for the track in the software package.
5. You can use a send bus in software as you would a hardware mixer.
6. Assign an effect from your software plug in list.
7. If using reverb, it's a good idea to have 100% wet mix level and reduce the pre-delay in order to compensate for any latency in USB.
8. Send the output of the software group or bus to USB Device. In this case, and probably with most reverbs, it will be stereo so it will go to left & right.
9. Set the return level and select USB ON. You can monitor the level quickly by selecting USB RTN on the headphone monitor selection.
10. You can select the USB return to use the stereo channel ST3. Or, if using the stereo channel for another input route the USB return direct to L-R by leaving this switch un-pressed.
11. If you are using the stereo channel ST3 for the USB return signal, then this will be your effects return (Wet mix) fader for the effects to L-R.
12. You can then add some reverb for example, to your foldback (artists') monitors.

WIRING NOTES

Insert cable wiring





General Wiring Information