

Model 220

Announcer's Console

User Guide

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This User Guide is applicable for serial numbers:

M220-00151 and later

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Introduction

What This User Guide Covers

This User Guide is designed to assist you when installing, configuring, and using the Model 220 Announcer's Console. Additional background technical information is also provided. A product block diagram is included at the end of this guide.

System Overview

The Model 220 Announcer's Console is designed to serve as the audio control "hub" for announcers, commentators, and production talent. The tabletop unit is suited for numerous applications including on-air sports broadcasting. The Model 220 is compatible with essentially all broadcast and audio system environments. Standard connectors are used to interface microphone, headphone, on-air, talkback, and IFB signals.

Whether it's microphone switching, talk-back outputs, or headphone cue feed, superior audio quality is maintained throughout. A microprocessor provides the Model 220's logic power, allowing exacting control of the unit's operation. With extensive flexibility built in, creating the desired operating configuration is a simple matter. While the operating features of the unit can be extensively configured, the user is presented with an easy-to-use set of controls and indicators. Power on the inside, simplicity during use—that's the hallmark of the Model 220.

A truly next-generation product, extensive research into the needs and desires of field production personnel was integral to the Model 220's creation. While primarily targeted for on-air television applications, specialized features are included to allow the Model 220 to be used in a variety of other audio applications. These include on-air radio broadcasting, stadium announcement, and voice-over/narration booths.



Figure 1. Model 220 front panel



Figure 2. Model 220 back panel

System Features

Microphone Input

A high-performance microphone preamplifier circuit provides low-noise/low-distortion amplification over a 20 to 60 dB gain range. The gain is adjustable in 10 dB steps. The input is compatible with balanced dynamic and condenser microphones. The microphone power source is 48 volts nominal and meets the worldwide P48 phantom standard. An LED indicator serves as an aid for optimizing the setting of the preamplifier's gain. The output of the microphone preamplifier is used by the main output as well as being routed to the compressor circuit that supports the talkback functions.

Main Output

The Model 220 provides a main output that is designed to serve as the on-air, stadium announcement, or other primary audio feed. Nominally –2 dBu, it is designed as a fully professional interface with high output capability, low distortion, and low noise. It features a high-quality transformer expressly designed for driving long broadcast cable runs.

For specialized applications an optional direct microphone output card is available. This allows an external microphone pre-amplifier to be used. Of course this output also provides "click-free" microphone on/off ("muting") control.

Talkback Outputs

The two talkback outputs are intended to provide production trucks, control rooms, or support personnel with talent-originated cue signals. These outputs are transformer-coupled with +4 dBu nominal signal levels. They contain resistors in series with their output connector, allowing the talkback outputs from multiple units to be directly "summed."

For non-on-air applications, a special Model 220 feature can be enabled, placing the unit in a "production" mode. This allows the main output to be used as a third talkback output. In this configuration the unit can be even more powerful when used in corporate or theatrical events, for example serving as a master console for a production director.

Dynamic Range Control

A studio-quality compressor circuit is provided to control the dynamic range

of the signal coming from the microphone preamplifier. Far from a simple “clipper,” the circuit utilizes a sophisticated laser-trimmed voltage-controlled-amplifier (VCA) integrated circuit for quiet, low-distortion level control. The signal from the compressor is always used by the talkback outputs. In addition, the audio source for the main output can be selected to be either the output of the microphone preamplifier or the output of the compressor. While possibly not appropriate for major on-air situations, having dynamic range control of the main output can offer increased performance for many applications. These could include stadium announcement positions, sports events using nonprofessional on-air talent, and situations where cable crosstalk is of concern.

User Controls and Status Indicators

Three pushbutton switches, four LED indicators, and two rotary controls provide the user with a clear, easy-to-use interface. One pushbutton switch controls the status of the main output. This is the audio output intended for on-air, announcement, or other primary uses. Two LEDs display the on/off status of the main output. Two additional pushbutton switches control the status of the two talkback outputs. These are the audio outputs used to communicate with producers, directors, “spotters,” or other behind-the-scenes production personnel. A status LED is associated with each talkback button. Two rotary controls allow the user to adjust the level of the headphone output.

Flexibility

A large part of the Model 220’s unique power is the ability to configure the operation of the main output and

talkback functions. To meet the needs of the many specific broadcast and production applications, a variety of button operating modes is available. The main output button can be selected to operate from among four modes. In the “push-to-mute” mode the button performs a momentary mute of the main output. In this way a “cough” button function is created, something typically required for television sports broadcasting. In the “push-to-talk” mode the button provides a momentary active function for the main output. This mode would be appropriate for applications such as stadium announcement. An alternate action “latching” configuration allows the button to enable or disable the main output as desired. This is useful in radio broadcasting, announce-booth, or voice-over applications. The fourth mode provides a hybrid function, supporting both push-to-talk and tap-to-enable/tap-to-disable operation. This operation is similar to that found in many broadcast intercom system user stations.

The two buttons associated with the talkback functions can be configured to operate from either of two modes. One of the modes supports a “push-to-talk” function. This is typically used for on-air broadcast applications. The other mode provides a hybrid function, the operation of which is discussed in the previous paragraph. The hybrid mode is especially useful when the Model 220 is used in a production-support application.

In addition to the two modes provided for talkback 1, the button associated with talkback 2 supports three additional operating modes. One mode allows talkback 2 to be disabled. This is useful when only talkback 1 is to be utilized. The other two modes provide special momentary and

hybrid functions. With these modes the operation of the main and talkback outputs are not impacted. This allows the talkback 2 button to control the state of the Model 220's auxiliary relay, making specialized implementations possible.

IFB Input

A broadcast-standard "wet" (DC with audio) IFB circuit can be directly connected to the Model 220's IFB input. Originated by sources such as the RTS™ 4000-series IFB system or IFB interface devices from Studio Technologies, the connected IFB circuit can provide DC power to operate the Model 220 as well as two channels of cue audio.

Cue Sources

The Model 220 allows up to four audio sources to be selected for routing to the headphone output. The sources are IFB channel 1, IFB channel 2, line input 1, and line input 2. Each source can be individually assigned to the left channel, right channel, or both left and right. This allows a wide variety of stereo and mono headphone mixes to be created.

The two audio signals associated with the IFB input can be assigned to the headphone output. Originating in production trailers, control rooms, or remote locations, these unbalanced sources normally provide DC power and program-with-interrupt audio on one channel and program-only audio on the other.

For application flexibility, two line-level audio sources can also be connected to the Model 220. Possible signal sources include off-air receivers, wireless IFB systems, and audio consoles. The connected signals can be from two independent sources, or could be a stereo audio

feed such as would be associated with a broadcast music event. Two trim potentiometers, located on the bottom of the unit, allow signals with wide nominal audio levels to be cleanly interfaced.

Headphone Output

Two rotary controls are provided for user adjustment of the headphone output levels. For application flexibility, the actual function of the two "pots" is configurable. For traditional on-air sports applications they can be selected to the dual level control mode, which provides independent control of the left and right channel volume. For use with stereo cue signals, or to support user preference, the level/balance mode can be selected. In this mode one control adjusts the overall level of both the left and right channels, while the other allows adjustment of the left/right level balance. To help minimize the chance of broadcast cues being missed, both level control modes can be configured so that a minimum headphone output level is maintained. Alternately, the headphone output can be set to fully mute when the controls are at their minimum position.

The headphone output was designed to meet the needs of contemporary headphones and headsets. Specifically, the output circuits act as voltage, rather than power, drivers. In this configuration they can provide high output levels with very low distortion and noise, along with minimal current consumption. The output circuits are configured to safely drive stereo or mono loads. This ensures that all types of headphones, headsets, and earpieces can be directly connected.

Audio Quality and Protection

The Model 220's circuitry is carefully tailored to provide excellent audio performance. Professional-quality components are featured throughout. For reliability all audio routing is performed using solid-state devices. In all critical audio paths, "clickless" electronic switches provide noise-free control. All audio inputs and outputs make extensive use of protection components. This limits the chance of damage from ESD and other undesirable, yet real-world, hazards.

Power Sources

The Model 220 can derive its operating power from either the IFB input or an external nominal 24 volt DC source. For redundancy, both power sources can be connected simultaneously. An internal switch-mode power supply ensures that all Model 220 features, including phantom power, are available when the unit is powered by either source.

The Model 220 is compatible with IFB circuits provided by most standard broadcast systems. However, maximum performance can often be obtained by using the IFB interface devices available from Studio Technologies. Single-channel and four-channel units are available, each providing high-quality audio along with an excellent source of DC power. They're directly compatible with most matrix intercom systems, as well as standard line-level audio signals. Refer to the Studio Technologies website for details.

Auxiliary Relay

The Model 220's circuitry includes a general-purpose relay, allowing specialized configurations to be created. Under software control, the relay can

be configured to follow the state of the mic, talkback 1, or talkback 2 buttons. Taking advantage of the locations provided for additional XLR-type connectors, a technician may easily implement a variety of functions such as mic active indication, audio muting during talkback, or audio insertion control. Several modes were specifically included to allow direct control of the relay using the talkback 2 button, without impacting any of the audio signals. The auxiliary relay is also used by the optional direct microphone output card.

Configuration

Model 220 configurations are made using a number of DIP-type switches and two trim potentiometers. One 8-position switch array is used to set the gain of the microphone preamplifier and the on/off status of phantom power. Another 8-position switch array configures which of the cue audio sources are routed to the headphone output. Two additional 8-position switch arrays communicate the desired operating modes to the microprocessor. Two rotary trim pots are used to adjust the input sensitivity of the line inputs. All switches and trim pots are accessible via the bottom of the Model 220's enclosure; the unit does not have to be disassembled. Changes made to any of the configuration parameters become active immediately. To prevent access to the configuration controls a security panel, included with each unit, is attached to the bottom of the enclosure.

Connectors

The Model 220 uses standard connectors throughout. The microphone, IFB, and line inputs use 3-pin female XLR-type connectors. The main and talkback outputs use 3-pin male XLRs. The headphone output

utilizes a 1/4-inch 3-conductor jack. The external source of 24 volt DC power is connected by way of a 2.1 x 5.0 mm "locking" coaxial power jack.

In the world of broadcast and production audio it's fair to say that applications vary widely. To this end, up to three additional XLR-type connectors can be easily mounted into the Model 220's back panel. Multiple 3-position "headers" located on the Model 220's circuit board provide technician-access to literally every input and output connection. Using a factory-available interface cable kit, these allow a Model 220 to be optimized to meet the exact needs of specific applications. For example, some applications may prefer to use a multi-pin XLR-type connector to interface with a headset. This could be easily accomplished by adding the appropriate 5-, 6-, or 7-pin XLR-type connector and making a few simple connections. Other applications may benefit from having "mult" or "loop-through" connections, something easily incorporated into a Model 220.

Optional Direct Mic Output

In most cases the Model 220's standard resources are more than sufficient to support the desired application. But special needs always seem to arise. To that end, several optional cards are available. Each card contains an integral 3-pin XLR-type connector, allowing simple installation into a spare connector position on the Model 220's back panel. The direct microphone output card provides access to the dynamic or condenser microphone that is connected to the Model 220. Passive components, along with the auxiliary relay contact, create a "click-free" audio signal.

200-Series Announcer Console Products

The Model 220 is just one in a series of announcer console products available from Studio Technologies. For applications that require an alternate set of features the other products in the 200-series should be reviewed. Complete information is available on the Studio Technologies website.

Installation and Setup

In this section interconnections will be made using the input and output connectors located on the Model 220's back panel. Microphone input, IFB input, line input, main output, and talkback output signals are interfaced by way of 3-pin XLR-type connectors. A 1/4-inch 3-conductor phone jack is provided for the headphone output. A 2.1 x 5.0 mm coaxial jack allows connection of an external 24 volt DC power source.

System Components

Included in the shipping carton are the following: Model 220 Announcer's Console, user guide, button label sheet, and 24 volt DC power supply. For units shipped to destinations in Japan and North America the power supply will have a nominal AC mains input of 120 volts. For all other destinations a power supply compatible with 220/240 volt AC mains will be included.

Microphone Input

The Model 220 is compatible with balanced dynamic and condenser microphones. Depending on the application, the microphone may be part of a headset,

or be an independent handheld or stand-mounted model. The Model 220's 48 volt nominal power source will support essentially all phantom-powered microphones. The quality of the Model 220's microphone preamplifier and associated circuitry is such that special applications may benefit from using "high-end" microphones. If selected appropriately, models from manufacturers such as AKG, Beyer, Neumann, Sennheiser, and Shure will perform very well in Model 220 applications.

Microphone interconnection is made by way of a 3-pin female XLR-type connector which is located on the Model 220's back panel. The mating connector (male) should be wired so that pin 2 is signal high (+ or hot), pin 3 is signal low (- or cold), and pin 1 is shield. It's possible that an unbalanced microphone will also work correctly. In this case, the mating connector (male) should be wired so that pin 2 is signal high (+ or hot), and signal common/shield is connected to both pins 1 and 3.

The Model 220 is not compatible with unbalanced "electret"-type microphones that require a source of low-voltage DC for operation. These microphones, sometimes found in low-cost headsets, are not generally suitable for on-air or other demanding applications.

As of the writing date of this user guide, the Sennheiser HMD25 headset is very popular for on-air sports broadcasting use. A fine product, it works very well with the Model 220. Note that adding the suffix "-XQ" to the headset's part number (HMD25-XQ) specifies a 3-pin male XLR-type connector for the dynamic microphone and a 1/4-inch 3-conductor plug for the stereo headphones. This configuration is very useful, allowing the headset

to work directly "out of the box" with the Model 220.

If the writer may digress for a moment to recount a story... an audio dealer once shared a secret with me concerning headsets. He loved selling the "lower-end" (less expensive) models of name-brand headsets, which he did by the veritable "boatload." Why? Because these usually broke soon after going into service! He knew that on a regular basis he'd receive orders for more of them. Had these users, from the beginning, purchased only premium-quality headsets, their total cost of ownership would have been much less. Enough said...

Headphone Output

The Model 220's headphone output is compatible with stereo or mono headphones, headsets, or earpieces. Connecting devices with a nominal impedance of 100 ohms or greater is preferred. This shouldn't prove to be an issue as essentially all contemporary devices already meet this condition.

Devices are connected to the headphone output by way of a 1/4-inch 3-conductor phone jack located on the Model 220's back panel. As is standard for stereo headphones, the left channel is connected to the "tip" lead of the 1/4-inch headphone jack. The right channel is connected to the "ring" lead of the jack. Common for both channels is connected to the "sleeve" lead.

Devices with 1/4-inch 2-conductor "mono" plugs can also be used with the Model 220's headphone output. In this arrangement only the tip lead (left channel) will be active. The 2-conductor plug will physically connect ("short") the ring lead (right channel) to the sleeve lead (common).

Technically this won't damage the circuitry associated with the right-channel headphone output. (51 ohm protection resistors are electrically in series with the headphone output circuits.) However energy will be wasted if an audio signal coming out of the right channel goes into a "dead" short. There is a simple solution to this issue. No audio source should be assigned to the right-channel headphone output. Refer to the Configuration section of this user guide for details.

Main Output

The main output is intended to be the "on-air" signal that connects to the input of an audio console. The output is transformer balanced with a nominal signal level of -2 dBu. The actual level will depend on the gain setting of the microphone pre-amplifier, sensitivity of the microphone, and how loudly the talent speaks into the microphone. The transformer used in the main output is intended for professional broadcast applications. It has a low source impedance and can drive lengthy cable runs with no difficulty. It is capable of driving 600 ohm loads but performs best with loads of 2 k ohms or greater. (This should not prove to be an issue as virtually all contemporary audio equipment has a relatively high input impedance.) As the secondary winding of the output transformer connects directly to the main output connector, care should be taken so that DC voltage is never present on the interconnecting cable.

The main output is interfaced by means of a 3-pin male XLR-type connector located on the Model 220's back panel. The interconnecting cable's mating connector (female) should be wired so that signal high (+ or hot) is on pin 2 and signal low

(- or cold) is on pin 3. The cable's shield can be connected to pin 1, but it will have no function. To limit the chance of grounding interaction between the Model 220 and connected equipment, pin 1 on the main output's connector is isolated from any point in the Model 220. The fact that pin 1 "floats" will minimize the chance of hums, noises, or buzzes being present on the equipment connected to the main output.

Talkback Outputs

The talkback outputs are intended for connection to control rooms, production trailers, or other locations where talent-originated voice cues are required. The talkback out-puts are transformer balanced with a nominal level of +4 dBu. To enhance talkback audio quality, the compressor circuit controls the dynamic range of the signal coming from the microphone preamplifier.

For protection against accidental connection to cables that have DC power present, the talkback outputs are capacitor coupled. In series with the talkback output leads are 300 ohm resistors, making the effective output impedance approximately 600 ohms. These resistors create a passive summing network, allowing talkback outputs on multiple Model 220 units to be connected together.

The talkback outputs are connected by way of 3-pin male XLR-type connectors which are located on the Model 220's back panel. Mating connectors (female) should be prepared so that signal high (+ or hot) is expected on pin 2. Signal low (- or cold) should be expected on pin 3. The cables' shields can be connected to pin 1. But, like the main output, in order to minimize the chance that ground-interaction problems will arise, pin 1 on each

talkback output connector is isolated from the Model 220's chassis and circuitry.

By making pin 1 "float," an often-feared "ground loop" problem shouldn't arise.

The talkback outputs are intended to drive lengthy cable runs that are frequently part of a remote broadcast application. While the output circuitry is not intended to be "on-air" quality, overall audio performance should be very good. Devices connected to the talkback outputs can range from amplified loudspeakers to analog inputs on intercom systems, and input channels associated with audio consoles. Connecting the talkback outputs to devices that allow easy control of the signal level can be helpful. For example, connecting to a spare input module on an audio console provides the flexibility to add gain or attenuate as required. Then a talkback-associated output connection on the audio console can connect to the final destination(s).

As previously mentioned, the talkback outputs on multiple Model 220 units can be directly connected together. Using a simple "Y" or "W" cable, this passive summing (adding together) of talkback signals allows one audio cable to serve as a master talkback path. One side effect from using this passive summing technique is that signal attenuation will occur. The audio quality won't suffer, but an audio "pad" is created. If two talkback outputs are connected together, a signal attenuation of 6 dB can be expected. Connecting three talkback outputs together will result in 9.5 dB of attenuation. And four talkback outputs "multiplied" together will lead to 12 dB of attenuation. In most cases this attenuation won't pose a problem. Typically a device that receives the talkback signal, such as an amplified

loudspeaker, will have an adjustable input sensitivity.

IFB Input

The Model 220's IFB input is designed to directly connect with "wet" (DC-biased) IFB circuits. These circuits provide DC power and one or two channels of audio over a standard 3-conductor microphone-style cable. Typically, the IFB circuit's interface connector is a 3-pin male XLR-type wired so that common is on pin 1, DC with channel 1 audio is on pin 2, and channel 2 audio is on pin 3. Some IFB circuits may only have one audio channel. In this case, audio will generally be on pin 3 with pin 2 providing only DC power.

The power supplied by an IFB circuit, normally in the range of 28 to 32 volts DC, is usually sufficient to operate the Model 220's circuitry. The acceptable input range is 24 to 32 volts, with a required current of 125 milliamperes. Note that the specified input voltage is given when measured directly at the Model 220's IFB input connector, not at the source of the IFB circuit. The one or two audio signals provided by the IFB circuit can serve as the audio sources for the headphone outputs.

In North American field and in-studio broadcast applications it is common to find RTS 4000-series IFB equipment being used to provide the IFB circuits. The Model 220 can be directly connected to, and function correctly with, one of these circuits. For reliable operation, especially when using lengthy cable runs, it's strongly recommended that no other device be connected to a 4000-series IFB circuit that is specified for connection to a Model 220. This requirement is due to the current-limited DC source that is supplied by the 4010 IFB Controller.

With 4000-series IFB circuits channel 1 (XLR pin 2) provides program audio that is “interrupted” with cue signals. This channel is sometimes referred to as “program-with-interrupt.” It’s important to note that the program audio source fully mutes whenever directors or producers are communicating with on-air talent. Channel 2 (XLR pin 3) of the IFB circuit provides a “program-only” audio feed. It is never interrupted with cue signals.

While the Model 220’s IFB input was designed for connection to a “wet” IFB circuit, it’s also possible to connect line-level audio sources. Please refer to the Technical Notes section of this user guide for details.

Line Inputs

The Model 220 allows two line-level audio sources to be connected. These sources can be individually routed to the left-channel, right-channel, or both the left- and right-channel headphone outputs. The inputs are balanced, transformer-coupled with a nominal impedance of 10 k ohms. Capacitors, in series with the transformer’s input leads, prevent DC voltage that’s present on a connected source from impacting performance. The line inputs are compatible with signals that have a nominal level of –12 dBV to +6 dBu. Two trim potentiometers, located on the bottom of the Model 220’s enclosure, allow signals over this wide nominal level range to be effectively utilized. Audio sources are connected to the line inputs by way of 3-pin female XLR-type connectors which are located on the unit’s back panel.

Prepare the mating connectors (males) so that pin 2 is signal high (+ or hot), pin 3 is low (– or cold), and pin 1 is shield. If connecting a source in this manner

results in hum or noise, it’s possible that removing the shield connection from pin 1 can eliminate the issue. With an unbalanced source connect pin 2 to signal high (+ or hot) and both pins 1 and 3 to shield. If connecting an unbalanced source in this manner results in hum or noise, connect pin 2 to high (+ or hot) and pin 3 to shield; leave pin 1 unterminated.

External Power Input

An external source of 24 volt DC power can be connected to the Model 220 by way of a 2.1 x 5.0 mm coaxial power jack which is located on the back panel of the unit. The center pin of the jack is the positive (+) connection. While the requirement for the external source is nominally 24 volts, correct operation will take place over a 20 to 30 volt range. The Model 220 requires 80 milliamperes at 24 volts DC for correct operation. Included with each Model 220 is a 24 volt DC external power supply. The power supply’s DC output cable has been terminated with a Switchcraft® S760K coaxial power plug. This “locking” type of plug correctly mates with the Model 220’s 24 Vdc input jack. The locking feature is important, allowing the external power source to be securely attached to the Model 220.

As previously discussed in this user guide, an IFB circuit connected to the IFB input can serve as the Model 220’s power source. Alternately, an external 24 volt DC source can be connected. For redundancy, both the IFB circuit and the external source can be connected at the same time. If one or the other becomes inoperative, the remaining source will provide all Model 220 power.

Note that if both an IFB circuit and an external 24 volt DC source are connected,

power will be drawn only from the external source. This minimizes the chance that lengthy cable runs or other IFB circuit issues will impact Model 220 operation. Whichever device is providing power, audio signals from the IFB circuit can still serve as the audio sources for the headphone output.

Pushbutton Labeling

The three pushbutton switches used in the Model 220 were selected for several reasons. Foremost was the fact that they are highly reliable, using gold-plated contacts for long life in less-than-ideal environments. A second reason was that applying customized labels to the button caps would be very simple. The labels, text printed on clear material, are placed under the clear caps on the top of the buttons.

From the factory the left button is labeled COUGH, the center button is labeled TALKBACK 1, and the right button is labeled TALKBACK 2. This was selected to be appropriate for many on-air applications in English-speaking locations. But it's expected that these may need to be changed to meet the needs of specific applications.

As a "head start" for some applications, a clear sheet with a number of commonly used button designations printed on it is included in the shipping carton. These were created at the factory using a standard personal computer graphics program and laser printed onto 3M CG3300 transparency film. The desired button labels can be cut out with a pair of scissors, following the printed guide lines that indicate the required size.

The clear lens on top of each button cap can be removed with a fingernail or small screwdriver. Be certain not to scratch the

button if a screwdriver or other small tool is used. The clear label can be removed and replaced. The button cap is then snapped back into the top of the button housing using finger-pressure only. No tool is required to replace the button cap.

If you need to make your own labels the process is quite simple. Use a personal computer to create the desired text. The finished label size should be 0.625-inches (15.8 mm) square. The completed artwork can then be printed on transparency film sheets using a laser or inkjet printer. These sheets are readily available from most office supply stores. A pair of scissors or an X-ACTO® knife will complete the task.

Configuration

For the Model 220 to support the needs of specific applications a number of operating parameters must be configured. These include microphone preamplifier gain, phantom power on/off, headphone source selection, and operating modes. Four 8-position DIP-type switch assemblies are used to establish the desired configuration. These switch assemblies are referred to as SW1 through SW4, with individual switches designated as SW1-1, SW1-2, etc. The switch assemblies are accessed through openings in the bottom of the Model 220's enclosure. The enclosure does not have to be disassembled to gain access to the switches.

To prevent unauthorized personnel from changing the configuration settings, a security plate is attached to the bottom of the Model 220's enclosure. For convenience, attached to the security plate is a configuration settings label. It provides a summary of the configurable parameters

and related information. Refer to Appendix A for a representative view of the label. The security plate is held in place by means of four rubber bumpers ("feet") that have built-in screws. Using your fingers, remove the four bumpers so that the plate can be removed. Refer to Figure 3 for a detailed view of the configuration switch assemblies.

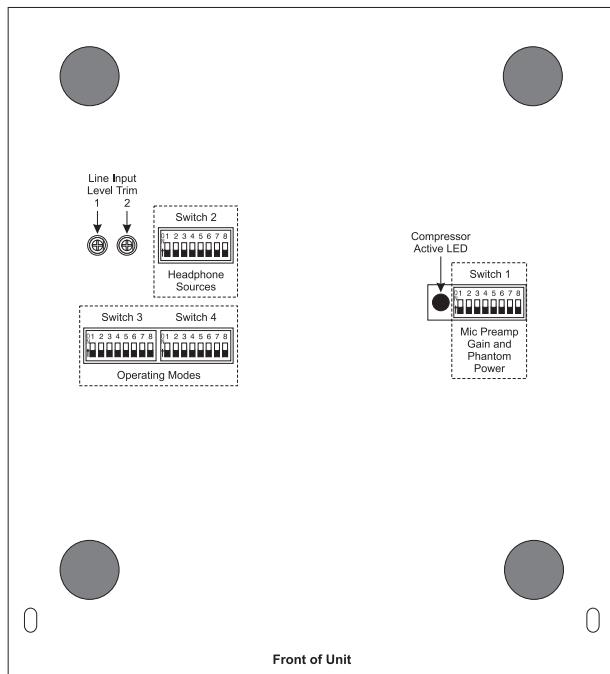


Figure 3. Bottom view of Model 220 showing configuration switches, trim pots, and compressor active LED

Microphone Preamplifier Gain and Phantom Power

Five switches are used to set the gain of the microphone preamplifier. One switch is used to select the on/off status of the phantom power supply.

Microphone Preamplifier Gain

Switches SW1-1 through SW1-5 are used to select the gain of the microphone preamplifier. The choices are 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 dB. Only one switch should be enabled at a time. There's no problem

changing the gain setting while the unit is operating. Audio clicks or pops might occur during gain transitions, but this shouldn't be a major issue as long as associated monitor loudspeakers are temporarily attenuated or muted.

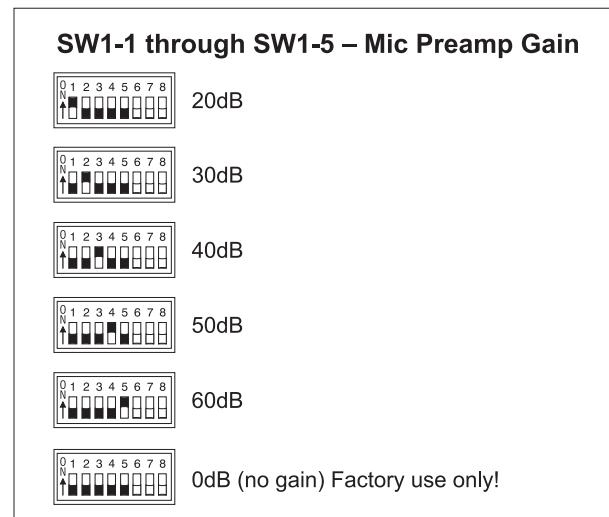


Figure 4. Microphone preamplifier gain switch settings

Selecting the correct amount of gain for an application might take a little experimentation. The goal is to bring the mic's signal up to line level, nominally -2 dBu for the Model 220's main output. Operating at this signal level will help to ensure the delivery of "clean" audio to the connected device. The output of the Model 220's microphone preamplifier is used by the main output and, by way of the compressor circuit, the talkback outputs. So creating a nice "hot" signal will help maintain audio quality, specifically the signal-to-noise ratio, when driving the often-lengthy cable runs.

Unfortunately, there's no "perfect" gain setting that this guide can recommend. The two issues that impact the setting are output sensitivity of the connected microphone and the acoustical output

level of the microphone's user. With some headset microphones, such as the Sennheiser HMD25, selecting an initial setting of 40 dB is appropriate. Users who speak loudly might need to have the gain reduced to 30 dB. Quiet users might need 50 dB of gain.

An LED indicator is provided as an aid in correctly setting the gain of the microphone preamplifier. Red in color, this LED is located adjacent to switch assembly 1. It is visible by observing the bottom of the Model 220's enclosure when the security plate has been removed. Technically, this red LED lights whenever the compressor circuitry is controlling the dynamic range of the signal coming from the microphone preamplifier. The threshold is set to be 2 dB above the Model 220's nominal internal operating level. So a good "rule of thumb" is to adjust the gain of the microphone preamplifier so that the compressor active LED lights ("flashes") when the connected microphone is sending signal peaks. During normal operation the LED should not remain fully lit when audio is present on the mic input.

It's important to remember that the compressor active LED is used to assist in setting the gain to the optimal value. It doesn't necessarily indicate that the main output's signal is being compressed. Unless specifically configured to do otherwise, the output of the compressor is only used for the talkback outputs.

It's expected that the 20 and 60 dB gain settings will not often be used. But there are always exceptions and that's why they were included. It's possible that with a very "hot" microphone, such as a phantom-powered condenser-type, 20 dB of gain could be correct. It's also possible

that a microphone with a very low-level output, such as a ribbon-type, would need 60 dB of gain. But in general, the 30, 40, and 50 dB gain settings will serve most applications.

Note that if no gain switch is set to its active (on) position the preamplifier will operate at unity (0 dB) gain. In this mode the preamplifier remains stable, but is intended for use only during factory testing. A valid exception would be where a line-level signal is connected to the microphone input. This could occur with a special Model 220 application. But with a microphone connected as the input source, one should never use the 0 dB setting. The issue is that with no gain added to the microphone input signal, the relative noise floor on the main and talkback outputs will be much too high. These outputs are designed for handling line-level signals, expecting to receive the output of the mic preamplifier. In conclusion, the 0 dB gain setting doesn't highlight a problem, but simply reflects the unit's gain structure.

Phantom Power On/Off

The Model 220 can provide 48 volt phantom power to the microphone input. Switch SW1-8 controls whether or not phantom power is active. By phantom power's very nature it could be left applied to the microphone input at all times. But generally people prefer to turn it off unless required for a specific microphone.

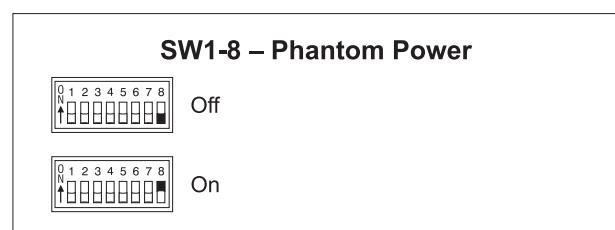
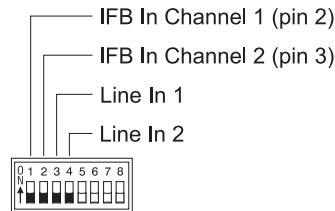


Figure 5. Phantom power switch settings

Headphone Source Selection

Switch assembly SW2 is used to configure the source or sources that are routed to the stereo headphone output. The headphone sources are IFB channel 1, IFB channel 2, line input 1, and line input 2. The IFB channels are provided by way of the IFB input connector located on the Model 220's back panel. The line inputs are connected by way of two connectors also located on the back panel. Associated with line inputs 1 and 2 are level trim potentiometers. They are provided so that audio sources with a wide range of nominal levels can be effectively used as cue sources. Please refer to the Advanced Operation section of this user guide for details on using the trim pots.

SW2-1 through SW2-4 – Left Channel Headphone Source Selection



SW2-5 through SW2-8 – Right Channel Headphone Source Selection



Figure 6. Left and right channel headphone source selection settings

Each of the available input sources can be assigned to the headphone output's left channel, right channel, or both the left and right channels. The Model 220's circuitry allows any combination of input assignments to be made. For example, consider the situation where a single-channel IFB system, with both program and interrupt audio on pin 3, is connected to the Model 220. In this case it may be desirable to assign this IFB signal to both the left and right channels. This would entail setting switches SW2-2 and SW2-6 to their on positions. All other switches would remain in their off positions.

A more complex application might have a 2-channel IFB circuit connected to the Model 220. In addition, a line-level audio signal from a golf event "spotter" is connected to line input 1. In a case such as this, it would be typical for IFB channel 1 to be assigned to the headphone's left channel, IFB channel 2 assigned to the right channel, and line input 1 also assigned to the right channel. This would allow both IFB channel 2 and "spotter" audio to be heard in the headphone's right-channel output. To achieve this would require that switches SW2-1, SW2-6, and SW2-7 be placed in their on positions. Note that using another announcer console unit from Studio Technologies at the "spotter" location could also prove effective. It would provide all the necessary microphone preamplifier, talkback routing, and headphone monitoring resources.

Note that in some cases a user may wish to wear a headset or a pair of headphones in a left/right orientation opposite of what's usual. In this situation the transducer designated for the left ear would actually supply audio to the user's right ear, and vice versa. A specific application where

this occurs is where on-air talent needs to have a headset's boom microphone come across the right side of their face, rather than the more-typical left side. In this case it's important to select the left- and right-channel headphone source assignment accordingly. With the Model 220's flexible source selection there's no reason why users, such as on-air talent, shouldn't have their cue sources assigned correctly.

There may be cases where a monaural "single-muff" headset or headphone will be connected to the Model 220's headphone output. In this case the desired source(s) should be routed only to the left channel. No sources should be assigned to the right channel. This will eliminate the short-circuit current that could occur when a 2-conductor (monaural) plug is mated with the Model 220's 3-conductor (stereo) headphone output jack.

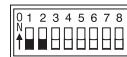
Operating Modes

The sixteen switches associated with switch assemblies SW3 and SW4 are used to configure the Model 220's operating modes. Technically, these switches "talk" to the microcontroller integrated circuit and associated software that give the Model 220 its "smarts." The software has been carefully designed to provide a number of different ways in which the unit can function. It's critical to carefully review the available options and choose the ones that best meet the needs of a specific application. Note that switches can be changed even while the Model 220 is powered up and operating. The unit's operating characteristics will change in "real-time" in response to configuration changes.

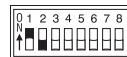
Main Output Button Mode

Switches SW3-1 and SW3-2 configure how the main output button functions.

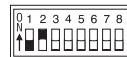
SW3-1 and SW3-2 – Main Button Mode



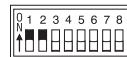
Push to mute ("cough")



Push to talk



Alternate action ("latching")



Hybrid (press and hold to enable, tap to latch)

Figure 7. Main output button mode settings

There are four available modes:

- Push to mute: In this mode the main output is normally active. The main output will mute whenever the button is pressed and held. This is the "cough" mode typically used for on-air sports broadcasting applications.
- Push to talk: In this mode the main output is normally muted. The main output will become active whenever the button is pressed and held.
- Alternate action: In this mode the main output will change between its active and muted state whenever the button is pressed. Upon power up the main output will be in its muted state.
- Hybrid: This mode is a combination of push to talk and alternate action. It's similar to the way talk buttons function on user stations associated with broadcast and production intercom systems. If the button is pressed and held, the main output will become active until the button is released. If the button is momentarily "tapped" the main output will change state. Upon power up the main output will be in its muted state.

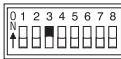
Talkback Output 1 Button Mode

Switch SW3-3 configures how the talkback output 1 button functions.

SW3-3 – Talkback 1 Button Mode



Push to talk



Hybrid (press and hold to enable, tap to latch)

Figure 8. Talkback output 1 button mode settings

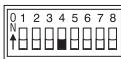
Two modes are available:

- Push to talk: In this mode talkback output 1 is normally muted. The output will become active whenever the button is pressed and held.
- Hybrid: This mode is a combination of push to talk and alternate action. If the button is pressed and held, talkback output 1 will become active until the button is released. If the button is momentarily “tapped” the output will change state. Upon power up talkback output 1 will be in its muted state.

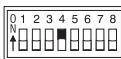
Talkback Output 2 Button Mode

Switch SW3-4 configures the way the talkback output 2 button functions.

SW3-4 – Talkback 2 Button Mode



Push to talk



Hybrid (press and hold to enable, tap to latch)

Figure 9. Talkback output 2 button mode settings

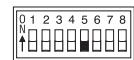
Two modes are available:

- Push to talk: In this mode talkback output 2 is normally muted. The output will become active whenever the button is pressed and held.
- Hybrid: This mode is a combination of push to talk and alternate action. If the button is pressed and held, talkback output 2 will become active until the button is released. If the button is momentarily “tapped” the output will change state. Upon power up talkback output 2 will be in its muted state.

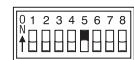
Talkback Output 2 Function Mode

Switch SW3-5 configures the overall operation of talkback output 2.

SW3-5 – Talkback 2 Function Mode



Enabled



Disabled (unless assigned to relay)

Figure 10. Talkback output 2 function mode settings

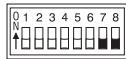
Two modes are available:

- Enabled: In this mode the talkback output 2 button and the line-level audio output associated with talkback output 2 operates normally. Whenever the button is active the audio output is also active.
- Disabled: In this mode the talkback output 2 button and associated audio output are disabled. The exception is if the auxiliary relay is configured to follow the status of the talkback output 2 button. In this case the button will be active to control the relay; the audio output will remain disabled.

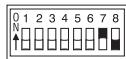
Auxiliary Relay Control Mode

Switch SW3-7 and SW3-8 configure the operating mode of the auxiliary relay.

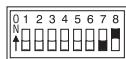
SW3-7 and SW3-8 – Relay Control Mode



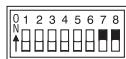
Relay disabled



Follows main output status



Follows talkback 1 button status



Follows talkback 2 button status

Figure 11. Auxiliary relay control mode settings

Four modes are available:

- Relay disabled: In this mode the relay is disabled and will never change state.
- Follows main output status: In this mode the relay will follow the status of the main output. Specifically, the relay will change state (energize) whenever the main output is active.
- Follows talkback output 1 button status: In this mode the relay will follow the status of the button associated with talkback output 1. Specifically, the relay will change state (energize) whenever the button is active.
- Follows talkback output 2 button status: In this mode the relay will follow the status of the button associated with talkback output 2. Specifically, the relay will change (energize) state whenever the button is active.

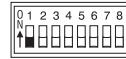
Headphone Output Operating Modes

The user is provided with two rotary level controls ("pots") that are associated with the headphone output. Switches SW4-1, SW4-2, and SW4-3 are used to configure the way the controls function. With just these three switches a wide range of operating modes can be configured. Carefully reviewing the capabilities of the available functions may prove worthwhile.

Dual-Channel or Stereo Mode

Switch SW4-1 is used to select whether the controls provide a dual-channel ("level/level") or stereo ("level/balance") mode of operation. In the level/level mode the two controls operate independently, each controlling the level of one of the headphone output channels. This mode is generally used for on-air broadcast applications where independent cue signals are provided to the left- and right-headphone channels. In the level/balance mode the left rotary control sets the overall output level for both headphone channels. The right rotary control is used to adjust the balance (the relative levels) of the left and right channels. This mode is generally best suited for applications where a stereo cue source is being provided.

SW4-1 – Headphone Control Mode



Dual channel ("level/level")



Stereo ("level/balance")

Figure 12. Headphone control mode settings

Reverse Left/Right Mode

Switch SW4-2 is used to select whether the rotary controls are in the normal or reverse left/right mode of operation. When selected to the normal mode, and level/level mode is also selected, the left control adjusts the level of headphone output's left channel. (This is the signal that appears on the tip lead of the 1/4-inch 3-conductor jack.) The right control adjusts the level of the right channel. When selected to the normal mode, and the level/balance mode is also selected, turning the balance control in the counterclockwise direction increases the perceived level of the left channel, and vice versa.

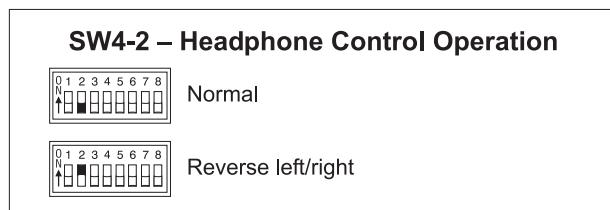


Figure 13. Headphone control operation settings

As you may have already guessed, when selecting the reverse left/right mode of operation everything is reversed! To be more specific, when selected for reverse mode, and the level/level mode is also selected, the left control adjusts the headphone output's right channel (output jack's ring lead) while the right control adjusts the left channel. When selected to the reverse mode, and the level/balance is also selected, turning the balance control in the counterclockwise direction increases the perceived level of the right channel, and vice versa.

The reverse mode is provided specifically for cases where a headset's left and right ear pieces are placed on a user's head in a reverse orientation. This ensures that

the user is provided with a consistent and easy-to-use set of headphone level controls.

Minimum Level Mode

Switch SW4-3 is used to configure the headphone output's minimum level. In the -40 dB mode the minimum headphone output level is 40 dB below maximum. The headphone output channels will never fully mute. This ensures that any audio signal present on the selected Model 220 inputs will always be present on the headphone output. In most on-air broadcast applications this is the appropriate setting.

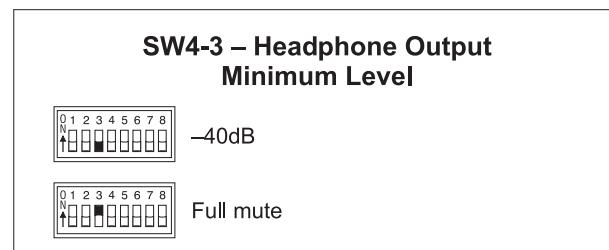


Figure 14. Headphone output minimum level settings

When the full mute mode is selected and the level/level mode is also selected, moving either control to its fully counterclockwise position will cause its associated channel to fully mute.

When the full mute mode is selected and the level/balance mode is also selected, turning the level control to its fully counterclockwise position will cause both headphone channels to mute. Turning the balance control to either its fully clockwise or fully counterclockwise position will cause the appropriate channel to mute.

Selecting the full mute mode may be appropriate for applications where minimizing the chance of audio "leakage"

is important. This could occur when the connected headset or headphones are at times placed on a desk or tabletop.

Main Output Source

Switch SW4-4 is used to select which audio source is routed to the main output. The choices are the output of the microphone preamplifier or the output of the compressor circuit. For most on-air applications the output of the microphone preamplifier is the desired source. This will provide the most natural audio quality with the potential for a large amount of dynamic range.

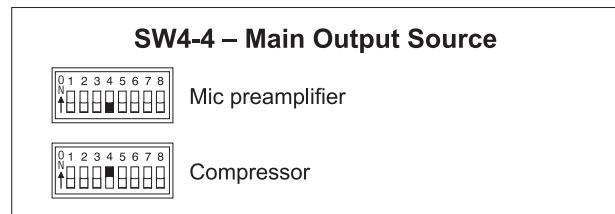


Figure 15. Main output source settings

In some applications it may be desirable for the output of the compressor circuit to be routed to the main output. Appropriate applications could include on-air broadcast situations where nonprofessional talent is present. Controlling the dynamic range of the audio signals on the main output can limit the chance of cable cross-talk and equipment overload. Another typical application where using the output of the compressor would be when the Model 220's system mode is selected for production. In this case the main output would be used as an additional talkback output and dynamic range control could be beneficial.

System Mode

Switch SW4-8 is used to configure the overall operating mode of the Model 220. Specifically, it determines how the main

output operates vis-à-vis the talkback outputs. Understanding how the two modes impact overall system operation will ensure that correct operation and maximum usability will occur. When selected to the on-air mode, the main output will mute whenever either talkback output is active. The LED indicators associated with the main output will light accordingly. The on-air mode should be selected for all on-air broadcast applications. It's imperative that the main output be muted whenever on-air talent uses one or both of the talkback outputs to communicate with production personnel.

When the system mode is set for production, the main output is never muted in response to a talkback output being active. This mode allows the main output

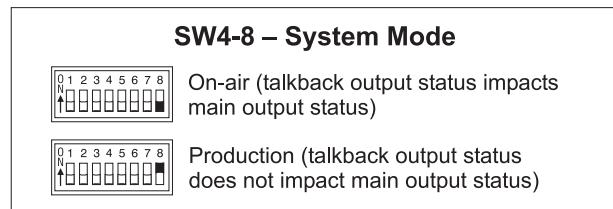


Figure 16. System mode settings

to be used, for example, as an additional talkback output. In this way the main and talkback outputs can be used independently, with neither impacting the other. This also allows all three buttons to be used simultaneously. When selected for the correct application, the production mode can prove to be very useful. But it's not appropriate for on-air use!

Conclusion

Once the switches have been set to the desired configuration, it may be time to reattach the security plate. The exception is if the trim pots associated with the line inputs are going to be adjusted. Details

are provided later in this user guide. The plate attaches using the four rubber bumpers. They should be hand-tightened only; no tools are to be used.

Operation

At this point the desired input, output, and power connections should have been made. The button labels may have been revised. Finally, the configuration switches should have been set. Normal operation of the Model 220 can now begin. The unit will begin functioning as soon as a power source is connected. As previously discussed, the power source can be provided by an IFB circuit, an external 24 volt DC power source, or both. It's important to highlight the fact that the Model 220 is an active device. Audio signals will not be present on the outputs if correct power has not been supplied. Specifically, the microphone does not passively "cut through" to the main output connector!

Upon Model 220 power up, the four status LEDs will light in succession as a firmware "boot up" indication. The unit will then begin normal operation. Depending on the selected configuration, one LED associated with the status of the main output may be lit. The user is now presented with three buttons, four LEDs, and two rotary controls. These are simple to operate and understand, as will be described in the following paragraphs.

Pushbutton Switches and Status LEDs

Three pushbutton switches are used to control the main and talkback outputs. The way each operates depends on the selected configuration. Four LED indicators are located adjacent to the buttons.

They reflect the status of the main and talkback output functions.

Main Output Button and LED Indicators

The button on the left, factory labeled as COUGH, functions according to the selected configuration. Two LED indicators, located directly above the button, are associated with the status of the main output. The green LED, located on the right, is lit whenever the main output is active. This could be considered as an "on-air" or mic active indicator. At the least it should serve as a "careful what you say" warning! If the Model 220's system mode is configured to on-air, the red LED, located on the left, will be lit when the main output is muted. This indicates that it's safe to speak as one sees fit.

If the Model 220's system mode is configured to production, the red LED will never light. This is to reflect the fact that the main output button has now taken on a function similar to that of one of the talkback output buttons. To clarify, when the Model 220 is set to the production mode, the red LED will never light; the green LED will light whenever the main output is active.

Main Output Button Modes

- Push to mute: If this mode is selected the main output is normally active. The main output will mute whenever the button is pressed and held.
- Push to talk: If this mode is selected the main output is normally muted. The main output will become active whenever the button is pressed and held.
- Alternate action: If this mode is selected the main output will alternate between its active and muted states whenever the button is pressed. Upon power up the main output will be in its muted state.

- Hybrid: This mode is a combination of push to talk and alternate action. It's similar to the way talk buttons function on user stations associated with broadcast or production intercom systems. If the button is pressed and held, the main output will become active until the button is released. If the button is momentarily "tapped" the main output will change state. Upon Model 220 power up the main output will be in its muted state.

Main Output vis-à-vis Talkback Activity

This short section applies only in the case where the Model 220's system mode is configured for on-air and the main output button mode is set to alternate action or hybrid.

Talkback activity will always cause the main output to be placed in its off state. If the main output was in the "latched" on state when talkback began, once talkback activity ends that state will resume; the main output will again be in its on ("latched") state.

Talkback Output 1 Button and LED Indicator

The button in the center, factory labeled TALKBACK 1, controls talkback output 1. The manner in which the button functions depends on the way it was configured. An LED indicator, green in color, is located directly above the button. It lights whenever the talkback output 1 is active. If the Model 220 is selected to the on-air mode, whenever the talkback output 1 function is active the main output will be placed in the muted state. If the Model 220 is selected to the production mode, the status of talkback output 1 will not impact the main output.

Talkback Output 1 Button Modes

- Push to talk: If this mode is selected talkback output 1 is normally muted. The output will become active whenever the button is pressed and held.
- Hybrid: This mode is a combination of push to talk and alternate action. If the button is pressed and held, talkback output 1 will become active until the button is released. If the button is momentarily "tapped" the output will change state. Upon Model 220 power up talkback output 1 will be in its muted state.

Talkback Output 2 Button and LED Indicator

The button on the right, factory labeled TALKBACK 2, controls talkback output 2. The manner in which the button functions depends on how it was configured. An LED indicator, green in color, is located directly above the button. If the talkback output 2 function mode has been configured for enabled, it lights whenever the talkback output 2 is active. If the talkback output 2 function mode has been configured for disabled, it will light only if the auxiliary relay has been assigned to follow talkback output 2. If the Model 220 is selected to the on-air mode, whenever the talkback output 2 function is active the main output will be placed in the muted state. If the Model 220 is selected to the production mode, the status of talkback output 2 will not impact the main output.

Talkback Output 2 Button Modes

- Push to talk: If this mode is selected talkback output 2 is normally muted. If the function is selected to be enabled, the output will become active whenever the button is pressed and held.

- Hybrid: This mode is a combination of push to talk and alternate action. If the function is selected to be enabled, whenever the button is pressed and held talkback output 2 will become active until the button is released. If the button is momentarily “tapped” the output will change state. Upon Model 220 power up talkback output 2 will be in its muted state.

Headphone Output Level Controls

Two rotary controls (“pots”) are located on the Model 220’s front panel and are associated with the headphone output. The way the controls function depends on the selected configuration. One configuration parameter sets the controls to operate in a level/level or a level/balance mode. Another parameter allows the left/right assignment of the controls to be reversed. A third parameter selects whether the headphone output channels will maintain a minimum output level or can be fully muted.

Level/Level Mode

When set to the level/level mode, the two controls operate independently. Each control sets the output level of one channel of the stereo headphone output. If configured to the normal mode, the control on the left side is used to adjust the level of the headphone output’s left channel. The control on the right is used to adjust the level of the right channel. If configured to the reverse left/right mode, the control on the left side adjusts the headphone output’s right channel. The control on the right adjusts the left channel.

When in the level/level mode, and the minimum output level is set for –40 dB, turning each control to its fully counter-clockwise position will place its respective output level 40 dB below its maximum.

This setting ensures that talent will never be fully “isolated” from potentially important cue signals. If present on one of the Model 220’s inputs and assigned to the headphone channels, some audio signal will always be present on the headphone output. If set to the full mute mode, turning each control to its fully counterclockwise position will cause its respective output to fully mute.

Each level control has a mechanical step (detent) that is located at the halfway (50%) position of its rotation range. This is intended to serve as an aid to Model 220 users. In an ideal installation, setting the controls to their detent position will result in a comfortable headphone output level. The user, in response to a changing operating environment, can then move the level controls to get more or less level as desired. The detent position will always remain as a useful reference point. To achieve this condition the audio level on the connected IFB circuit, or line inputs, will have to be calibrated as required. This is somewhat counter to the usual mentality of just providing the user with whatever level comes up by default. Spending a few extra minutes “trimming” the audio levels can result in much happier, and more productive, talent. As previously mentioned, a level trim potentiometer is associated with each line input. If the line inputs are utilized as cue sources, adjusting the trim pots may be helpful in achieving the desired adjustment range of the level controls. Refer to the Technical Notes section of this user guide for details.

Level/Balance Mode

When set to the level/balance mode, the two controls operate together to adjust the desired headphone output level. The control on the left adjusts the overall level

of both the left and right channels. The balance control, located on the right, adjusts the relative left/right level balance. In this mode the controls operate in a manner reminiscent of a consumer audio amplifier or receiver. If set to the normal mode, rotating the balance control in the counterclockwise direction reduces the level of the right channel providing the user with more perceived level in the left channel. If set to the reverse mode, rotating the balance control in the counterclockwise direction reduces the level of the left channel providing the user with more perceived level in the right channel.

When in the level/balance mode and the minimum output level is set to -40 dB, turning the level control to its fully counterclockwise position will place both headphone output channels to 40 dB below maximum. This ensures that talent will never be fully "isolated" from potentially important cue signals. In addition, rotating the balance control to either its fully clockwise or fully counterclockwise position will cause the applicable channel to be 40 dB below its maximum. If set to the full mute mode, turning the level control to its fully counterclockwise position will cause both the left and right channels to fully mute. In addition, rotating the balance control to either its fully clockwise or fully counterclockwise position will cause the applicable channel to fully mute.

Each control has a mechanical step (detent) that is located at the halfway (50%) position of its rotation range. The balance control will typically be set to its center, detent position, making the level of the left and right channels equal. In an ideal installation, the level control can also be set to its detent position and provide a comfortable headphone output level. This

will allow the user, in response to their preference or a changing environment, to adjust the level and balance controls as desired. The detent positions will always remain as a useful reference point. To achieve this condition the audio level on the connected IFB circuit, or line inputs, must be adjusted as required. Spending a few extra minutes "trimming" the connected audio levels, rather than just providing whatever happens to come up, should prove worthwhile. The result will be talent that is more relaxed, and an overall production that works more smoothly. As previously mentioned, a level trim potentiometer is associated with each line input. If the line inputs are utilized as cue sources, adjusting the trim pots may be helpful in achieving the desired adjustment range of the level controls. Refer to the Technical Notes section of this user guide for details.

Advanced Operation

Adjusting the Line Input Trim Pots

As has been previously mentioned, associated with the line inputs are trim pots that allow the input levels to be adjusted. The two trim pots are accessible by way of round openings in the bottom of the Model 220's enclosure. By adjusting these trim pots, signals with a nominal signal level of -12 dBV to $+6$ dBu can be effectively used as cue sources. Unfortunately, there are no definitive rules regarding how best to adjust the trim pots, but some suggestions may prove to be valuable. Depending on how the line inputs are

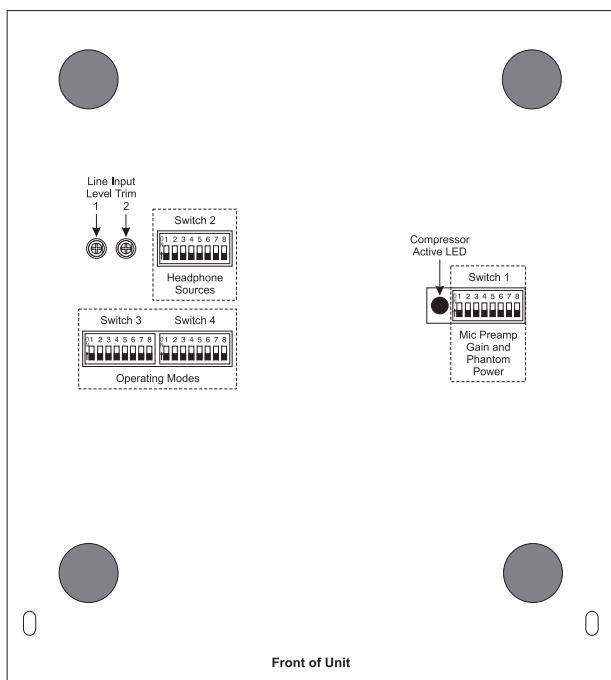


Figure 17. Bottom view showing line input trim pots

utilized, the trim pots can be used to either adjust the absolute level each line input signal, or to adjust the relative level of the signals when compared to other sources. The following examples may provide some clarification.

Let's begin with an application that has a stereo cue source connected to the line inputs. The source selection DIP-type switches are configured to create a stereo headphone output with line input 1 assigned to the left channel and line input 2 assigned to the right channel. Begin the trim pot adjustment process by moving the user level controls (located on the front panel) to their detent (50% of rotation) positions. Then, with the stereo cue source providing signal at its normal level, adjust the trim pots to provide a comfortable level to the connected headphones. The user can now, in response to changing conditions, adjust the front-panel level

controls as desired. Returning the controls to their detent positions will always provide the "reference" level to the headphone output.

A second example has the IFB input and line input 1 both providing cue sources. Channel 1 of the IFB circuit supplies program-with-interrupt audio that is routed to the headphone output's left channel. Channel 2 of the IFB circuit supplies program-only audio that is routed to the right channel. Line input 1 is connected to an audio source associated with a sports-event "spotter" position. This source is routed to the headphone output's right channel. The input trim pot associated with line input 1 can now serve a critical role—adjusting the relative level of the "spotter" audio as compared to the level of IFB channel 2. The trim pot allows the desired "mix" to be created, providing the user with an effective cue signal.

Technical Notes

Grounding and Shielding

As previously discussed in this user guide, the pin 1 connections on the main and talkback outputs' 3-pin male XLR-type connectors are "floating," i.e., not connected to anything within the Model 220's enclosure. Some audio experts might take offense to this, grousing that this should have been left to the user or installer to be connected or disconnect as desired. However repeated field testing found that floating pin 1 on the outputs was the key to maintaining quiet audio. From Fenway Park, to the Orange Bowl, and then northwest to Husker Stadium, lifting pin 1 did the trick.

A simple solution is available if an application does require that a ground be available on the main and talkback outputs' interconnecting cables. All Model 220 XLR-type connectors have a ground connection that is made to the interfacing connector's metal "shell." And most XLR-type connectors have a pin or connection point available to access its metal shell. By connecting the cable shield to the mating connector's shell terminal, the common connection typically found on audio interconnections is created.

IFB Channel Crosstalk

By the very nature of its design, a standard "wet" IFB circuit is prone to exhibit cross-talk between its two audio channels. This occurs because the audio paths are unbalanced ("single-ended") and typically transported on a single shielded twisted-pair audio cable. The primary cause of the crosstalk is the capacitance between the wires in the cable pair. The greater the capacitance, due to cable type and length, the more crosstalk there will be. It's not surprising to find in sports broadcasting venues that audio from one channel in an IFB circuit can be heard "bleeding" into the other channel. Does this generally create a problem? No, as each channel in an IFB circuit generally carries related audio content. For example, on-air talent hearing in their left ear a small amount of program audio from channel 2 while an interrupt from channel 1 is active, typically wouldn't perceive this as an issue.

There are several ways of reducing IFB channel crosstalk. Probably the easiest way is to use cable pairs that are not twisted. Twisted pairs are great for differential (balanced) signals, but not so great for unbalanced transmission. This

is generally because the more twists in a pair the greater the effective cable capacitance. In a stadium or arena setting, choosing standard "telco" pairs may actually work better than "high-performance" audio or data cable!

Another option is to use two cable pairs for each IFB circuit. If the pairs are not shielded the wiring is simple. Common would be connected to one side of each pair, and then signal from each channel would connect to the other side of the pairs. If the pairs also contain shields the wiring could be done somewhat differently. One option is to connect common to both cable shields, IFB channel 1 (DC with audio) to one full pair, and IFB channel 2 to the second full pair. A better option might be to have common connect to both shields and one side of the pair that serves IFB channel 2.

Other options are available if an application demands low crosstalk. If resources in the broadcast or production facility allow one method would be to run the IFB circuits "dry" (no DC) and differential (balanced). This would gain the benefits of differential transmission, including minimizing the crosstalk. The balanced line-level signals can be directly connected to the Model 220's line inputs. However, if it's desired to connect cue sources to the Model 220 using an IFB-type circuit, the line-level audio signals will need to be "wetted up" into standard IFB circuits. This is easily accomplished using one of several high-performance IFB interface units from Studio Technologies. For further information please refer to the Studio Technologies website.

IFB Audio Levels

The Model 220 is designed to operate best with IFB audio levels that are nominally –10 dBu. This is the nominal level of most IFB systems, such as the RTS 4000-series. But actually having the correct level present on an IFB circuit is often a “hit-or-miss” proposition. During field testing of prototype announcer’s consoles, Studio Technologies’ personnel found that a wide range of nominal audio levels were present on “real-world” IFB circuits. Many were fine, being reasonably close to the desired –10 dBu. But some were much too low, while others were much too “hot.” We observed one unfortunate baseball “color” commentator being sent interrupt audio signals so “hot” relative to program audio as to almost make his ears bleed! This situation should not have been allowed to happen.

In defense of field technical personnel, measuring the audio level of an IFB circuit hasn’t traditionally been an easy proposition. But that situation has now changed. After experiencing this condition in the “field,” Studio Technologies’ engineers were motivated to design the Model 72 Level Meter/Interface. This compact device plugs directly into IFB and intercom circuits and provides two useful functions: level meters and “dry” audio outputs. Two 5-segment LED meters allow direct observation of the audio signal levels present on IFB or intercom circuits. The display range is optimized for the signal levels found on these circuits, rather than traditional “VU” scaling.

The Model 72 also provides two transformer-coupled “dry” audio outputs, one for each IFB or intercom channel. These outputs are useful for a variety of production and testing applications. For example,

the outputs can serve as the interface between a traditional “wet” IFB system and a wireless in-ear monitor system. The outputs can also be connected to a monitor panel, allowing visual and aural monitoring of the IFB audio signals.

In conclusion, we’re sorry for this shameless promotion of the Model 72 Level Meter/Interface! But necessity was definitely the “mother” when it came to the unit’s invention. Working “in the field” without such a device, we felt “blind” when connecting to IFB circuits. That no longer has to be the case and we think that you’ll find owning one a very worthwhile investment. For further information please refer to the Studio Technologies website.

Phantom Power

The Model 220 provides a 48 volt nominal source of “phantom power” to support condenser-type microphones. It’s designed to meet the P48 requirements as specified in the IEC 61938 standard. The circuitry is very simple: two 6.81 k ohm resistors provide a path from a 48 volt source to pins 2 and 3 of the microphone input connector. The resistors and the power source work together to provide 48 ± 4 volts, up to a maximum current of 10 milliamperes.

External Power Sources

As has been previously discussed, an external source of 24 volt DC can be used to power the Model 220. While developing the 200-series of announcer console products, an interesting phenomenon was discovered regarding acceptable sources. To meet worldwide requirements, using a compact switch-mode “universal input” power supply seemed to be an excellent solution. Supplying one of these with each Model 220 would have allowed operation

anywhere in the world. Whether connecting to 100 volts, 60 Hz in Japan or 240 volts, 50 Hz in Australia all would be well. Unfortunately, things did not work out as planned! It turned out that all of the compact switch-mode power supplies that were tested induced a great deal of noise into their DC output. This noise, especially noticeable in the negative lead of their DC output, fed right into the common lead of the IFB circuit. From what could be determined, noise current would travel from the power supply, through IFB input pin 1, and on to the IFB circuit source's ground connection. Making the problem more insidious was the fact that only when the IFB circuit's interconnecting cable was sufficiently long did the problem become noticeable. In the "lab" where 10-foot long test cables were used, the audio from the IFB circuit was extremely quiet. But testing with 500 or 1000 feet of interconnecting cable resulted in an annoying "buzz" on the IFB audio channels.

Many hours were spent trying to eliminate this problem. But, unfortunately, no solution was found. It was a humbling experience that only a few visits to the local tavern made us feel better about.

The solution turned out to be very simple, but not without other ramifications. By changing to a low-cost transformer-based ("linear") 24 volt DC power supply the problem disappeared. With no high-frequency switching noise to get into the IFB circuit, everything worked well. But a new problem arose when it came to finding an external linear power supply for Model 220 users worldwide. For locations that are served by 100 or 120 volts, 60 Hz a 24 volt DC linear "wall-wart" power supply was readily available. This is the power supply that is provided with Model 220

units shipped to North America or Japan. But as of this writing, no "perfect" 24 volt DC linear power source has been located that would serve 220/240 volts, 50 Hz applications. So a compromise had to be made. For these applications a universal input switch-mode power supply is included with each Model 220. It's far from an ideal solution, leading to noise on the IFB audio channels when long cable runs are present. But at least users will have an "emergency" power source if nothing else is available.

In conclusion, users where the AC mains source is 220/240 volts should consider locating an alternate 24 volt DC power source. Several options are available that could make the task simple. It's expected that a more sophisticated "medical-grade" switch-mode power supply will have much better control of induced noise. It's highly likely that using one of these supplies will provide good results. As the Model 220's current requirement is 80 milliamperes, a typical medical-grade power supply should be able to power multiple units. Another solution would be to obtain two of the more commonly available 12 volt DC linear power supplies, connecting their outputs in "series" to create a 24 volt DC source. While not a glamorous solution, it is technically correct and should prove cost effective. If this arrangement is implemented remember that the center pin of the 2.1 x 5.0 mm coaxial jack is used for the positive (+) connection.

Symptoms of Insufficient Power

A core part of the Model 220's internal circuitry is a switch-mode power supply that produces +48 volts, +12 volts, +5 volts, and -12 volts. This power supply

circuit works very well as long as it is “fed” with sufficient input voltage and current. “Sufficient” is defined as a minimum of 24 volts on the IFB input and 20 volts on the external 24 volt DC input. The necessary current, 125 milliamperes for the IFB input and 80 milliamperes for the external input, must be supplied over their respective voltage ranges.

It's worth discussing what will happen if either power source falls below its specified minimum. Typically, if the Model 220 is being powered by an external 24 volt nominal power source, normal operation will continue until the input falls to the 18-20 volt range. As the input voltage drops below this range the Model 220's internal power supply will have reduced stability, operating in this manner until its low-voltage shutdown circuit halts operation. Note that as the input voltage moves down from 24 volts the input current will rise proportionately to make up for the loss of power.

If an IFB circuit is powering the Model 220, maintaining the required voltage and current is more critical. Should the voltage or current fall below the specified minimum, the Model 220's power supply circuit will again become unstable. This will become an issue as noise will be induced into the IFB circuit's audio signals. The reason is simple: an IFB circuit “multiplexes” 3-conductors so that they carry both power and audio signals. If sufficient amounts of voltage and current are supplied to the Model 220's IFB input, the Model 220's power supply will draw a steady amount of energy. This will not disturb the analog signals on pin 1 (common for DC and audio) and pin 2 (DC and channel 1 audio). But if the Model 220's power supply is not supplied with sufficient energy (volts

x amps) it will try to draw what it needs from the IFB circuit, becoming unstable in the process. The IFB circuit's audio signals will be corrupted by the power supply's attempt to draw enough power. Instead of nice clean audio there will be squeaks, squeals, and some awfully funky noises added. Again, in a low-voltage or low-current situation, no damage will be done to the Model 220's circuitry but correct operation will not be possible.

In most cases maintaining the IFB circuit's required voltage and current shouldn't be a problem. But issues may arise due to malfunctioning IFB circuit sources or poor interconnect cabling. Typically, excessive cable length won't be the cause of a problem. Generally, problems will be caused by broken or damaged connector pins, dirty patch points, or damaged (partially open) cable conductors. Measuring the IFB circuit's voltage and current draw directly at the Model 220's IFB input connector will quickly identify if there's a power issue.

And now for another shameless “plug” for other Studio Technologies products: Frankly, most devices that supply IFB circuits for broadcast applications use outdated technology that provides mediocre performance. That's why Studio Technologies' developed high-performance IFB interface units. These products do an excellent job of providing power and audio to connected devices such as the Model 220. However, unlike other products, the power supplied by these units' IFB circuits maintain their output voltage all the way to their full rated current. The result is being able to power more devices over longer cable runs. In addition, the audio quality of these units is superior. For further information please refer to the Studio Technologies website.

LED Colors

As previously described, two LED indicators are associated with the main output and are located directly above the main output pushbutton switch. The red LED, located on the left, is lit whenever the main output is muted. The green LED, located on the right, is lit whenever the main output is active. The thought process behind the color choices was that red would relate to the main output being muted ("stop") while green would relate to the main output being active ("go"). It's possible that these color choices may not meet the needs of all users and applications. For example, it's reported that one European broadcaster typically uses these two colors in the opposite fashion. Their choice is to have the red LED lit whenever the main output is active, warning the talent that they are "on-air." The green LED is lit whenever the main output is muted, indicating to the talent that it's "safe" to say whatever they wish, about whomever they wish to say it about!

For consistency, the LED associated with each talkback button was selected to be green. They light whenever their associated talkback output is active. It's possible that some applications may benefit from revising these LED colors too. While red is certainly one possible choice, other colors are also a possibility including amber, orange, or blue—these days there are lots of choices available. The only limitation is the amount of current available to light each LED. Using series resistors of no less than 560 ohms will ensure correct Model 220 operation.

A qualified technician can easily revise the LED colors to meet an application's exact needs. The process would begin by disassembling the Model 220's enclosure and

detaching the pushbutton/LED printed circuit board assembly. The LEDs would then be unsoldered, removed, and reinstalled (or replaced) in the desired locations. To control the LED current and set the brightness, a resistor is electrically in series with each LED. An 820 ohm, 1/4-watt resistor is associated with the red LED while a 560 ohm, 1/4-watt resistor is associated with each green LED. These resistors would also have to be unsoldered, removed, and reinstalled. Then the unit would be reassembled and tested to confirm that the changes function as desired.

For additional information about changing the LED colors, please contact Studio Technologies technical support.

Travel Case

For portable applications it may be desirable to store and transport each Model 220 in a protective case. After much travel with prototype announcer console units, Studio Technologies' personnel learned to appreciate the Pelican Model 1450 case. Purchased with the foam interior option, it does an excellent job of holding one Model 220, its associated 24 volt DC power supply, and documentation. Some applications may benefit from selecting a larger case that would also hold a related headset, cables, etc. A larger case could also be selected that would hold multiple Model 220 units. Pelican sells their products through a dealer network, many of which can be located via a web search.

Connecting Line-Level Audio to the IFB Input

In "emergency" situations it's possible to connect line-level audio signals directly to the Model 220's IFB input connector. This can be successfully done as long as

several limitations are taken into account. The first limitation is that the 10 k ohm input circuit presents an unbalanced load to the source. In most cases this shouldn't pose a problem. If a balanced interconnection scheme must be maintained an in-line isolation transformer can be used. A second limitation is that the audio level presented must not exceed 0 dBu or signal "clipping" may occur. Prepare a 3-pin male XLR-type connector so that the line-level audio source designated as IFB channel 1 is connected with signal high on pin 2 and low/shield on pin 1. The audio source designated as IFB channel 2 should be connected with signal high on pin 3 and low/shield on pin 1. With this connection scheme the nominal input level is -10 dBu, the same as with an IFB circuit. This may require that an external attenuator ("pad") be used to reduce the level of the connected signal. As expected, powering the Model 220 in this scenario will require an external source of 24 volt DC to be connected.

Additional Connectors

Three spare connector locations are provided on the Model 220's back panel. From the factory they contain blank plates that can be readily removed and replaced with a variety of XLR-type connectors. These spare connector locations are specifically included so that a Model 220 can be customized to meet the many specific needs that arise in broadcast and related audio applications. Expected uses for these locations include adding a 5-, 6-, or 7-pin XLR-type connector to allow direct connection of a broadcast headset. Other uses include creating "loop through" or "mult" functions for the talkback outputs or IFB input connections.

The spare connector locations are compatible with the Neutrik DL-series of connectors. For flexibility, versions are available that provide from three to seven contacts. For example, a compatible 3-pin female connector would be Neutrik part number NC3FD-L-1. To support headsets the NC6FDS-L-1 is often used. This is a 6-pin female connector with the unique Switch-craft 6-pin arrangement. The hardware that secures the blank plates to the Model 220's back panel is also intended to secure the replacement connectors.

If connectors are added to the Model 220's spare connector locations adding labels to those connectors can be helpful. For a great look it is recommended that Brother® P-Touch 1/4-inch (6 mm) labels be created. Tape material that prints white text on a black background works out well for the Model 220. The Brother label cassette number TX-3151, white on black, is appropriate for use with many of their printers.

In addition to the spare connector locations on the back panel, provision has been made to allow easy interconnection with the Model 220's printed-circuit-board-mounted input and output connectors. This was accomplished by including numerous 3-position male "header" connectors on the Model 220's circuit board. These headers, on 0.1-inch centers, are wired in parallel with the Model 220's connectors. This "no solder" solution makes customizing a Model 220 a simple process. The headers, located on the Model 220's printed circuit board, are Molex® part number 22-23-2031. They mate with Molex housing number 22-01-3037. To make the interconnection, separate crimp terminals are attached to loose wires and then "snapped" into the housing. Molex

part number 08-50-0114 specifies crimp terminals that are appropriate for wires of 22 to 30 gauge. These parts are available worldwide from sources such as Digi-Key, website www.digikey.com.

To make the process of connecting to the Model 220's headers a simple task an interface cable kit, part number 31087, is available from Studio Technologies. Each kit includes five cable assemblies and a length of heat-shrinkable tubing. Each cable assembly consists of a mating connector with three color-coded wires attached. These wires, nominally 12 inches in length, allow convenient soldering to a connector slated to be installed in a spare location on the Model 220's back panel. For reference, the wire color for pin 1 is gray, pin 2 is yellow, and pin 3 is blue.

The heat-shrinkable tubing is provided so that the connector solder cups can be insulated from each other. It will also provide some strain relief to the solder joints. Be certain to slip the desired length of tubing over the wire prior to soldering a connection! (If the writer had a dollar for every time he forgot to put tubing on a wire (or slip on a connector shell) before making a solder connection...)

The Model 220's enclosure must be disassembled prior to installing connectors in the spare locations. Four hex-head machine screws, two on the bottom front of the enclosure and two on the back panel, must be removed. A 5/64-inch hex driver is required. The cover can then be carefully separated from the chassis, remaining attached by means of a flexible cable assembly. This "flex-cable" assembly links the main printed circuit board assembly with the board assembly that

contains the pushbuttons and LED indicators. Ensure that the flex cable is not damaged while the Model 220 is being customized. For easier access, the pushbutton/LED board assembly can also be easily removed.

The 3-position headers on the Model 220's main circuit board assembly are located close to their related input or output connectors. The following list provides the printed circuit board reference numbers and associated functions:

P4: Headphone output, pin 1 common, pin 2 tip (left), pin 3 ring (right).

P5: Microphone input, pin 1 shield, pin 2 high, pin 3 low. Follows back-panel 3-pin female XLR pin assignment.

P6: Main output, pin 1 shield, pin 2 high, pin 3 low. Careful! Back-panel 3-pin male XLR has pin 1 floating, pin 2 high, pin 3 low.

P7: Talkback output 1, pin 1 shield, pin 2 high, pin 3 low. Careful! Back-panel 3-pin male XLR has pin 1 floating, pin 2 high, pin 3 low.

P8: Talkback output 2, pin 1 shield, pin 2 high, pin 3 low. Careful! Back-panel 3-pin male XLR has pin 1 floating, pin 2 high, pin 3 low.

P11: IFB input, pin 1 common, pin 2 DC with channel 1 audio, pin 3 channel 2 audio. Follows back-panel 3-pin female XLR pin assignment.

P13: External 24 volt DC input, pin 1 common, pin 2 +24 volts, pin 3 not used. Back-panel 2.1 x 5.0 mm jack has +24 volts on center pin. Header P12 is used by the back-panel 24VDC jack assembly and is electrically in parallel with P13.

P14: Line input 1, pin 1 common, pin 2 high, pin 3 low.

P15: Line input 2, pin 1 common, pin 2 high, pin 3 low.

Additional functions can be accessed using these 3-position headers:

P9: Auxiliary relay contact B, pin 1 normally closed, pin 2 common, pin 3 normally open.

P10: Auxiliary relay contact A, pin 1 normally closed, pin 2 common, pin 3 normally open.

P17: Remote switch connections, pin 1 common, pin 2 talkback 1 button, pin 3 talkback 2 button.

P18: Remote switch connections, pin 1 common, pin 2 main out button, pin 3 auxiliary (currently not supported in software).

P20: Pushbutton backlighting, pin 1 common, pin 2 button lamps, pin 3 current limited 24 volts from external 24 volt DC input.

Pushbutton Backlighting

For special applications, provision has been made to allow illumination ("backlighting") of the three pushbutton switches. This may prove useful for applications where adequate room lighting is not available. It can also serve in custom Model 220 configurations. Note that this is an advanced feature, intended only to be implemented by a qualified technician.

From the outset several limitations must be discussed. The first is that button backlighting is not intended to serve tally applications. (A common connection to power all three lamps is provided; independent access to the lamp connections on each button is not provided.) It

is strictly intended to provide a moderate amount of illumination to the button's clear lens and associated labeling. The second restriction is that power for the backlighting function cannot be provided by the IFB input—there is simply not enough current available from a typical IFB circuit to power the Model 220 and light the lamps. However, power from the external 24 volt DC source can be used. This requires that this power source be connected whenever backlighting is desired.

From the factory, lamps ("bulbs") are not installed in the pushbutton housings. They are pluggable T-1 bi-pin type and are simple to install. The mating socket is accessed by removing the button's lens caps, graphic label, and back frosted lens. Compatible incandescent lamps with a nominal rating of 18 volts, 28 mA are available from Studio Technologies (part number 12030). Bulbs with other nominal voltages should also be available from electronics parts vendors. While compatible LED-based lamps are probably also available, incandescent lamps, when powered below their rated current and voltage, can provide extremely long and reliable operation.

A 3-position header connector, labeled P20, is located on the Model 220's main printed circuit board. It provides access to, and a means to power, the three lamps. Pin 1 of the header is connected to the common point of the Model 220's circuitry, which is also connected to one contact on both lamps. Pin 2 of the header is connected to the other contact on both lamps. Pin 3 is connected, by means of a current limiting resistor, to the external 24 volt DC source. If lamps were obtained from Studio Technologies then adding a "jumper" from pin 2 to pin 3 is all that is required

to get things going. A standard 0.1-inch-center jumper, commonly used on electronic equipment, is all that is required. A 200 ohm, 2 watt resistor is electronically in series between the external 24 volt DC input and pin 3 of the header. When used with the lamps available from Studio Technologies, the resistor limits the lamp current to approximately 65 mA. This lights the lamps to a moderate intensity. If a different type of lamp is installed, its power source should be connected to pins 1 (common) and 2 (lamps) of the header.

Remote Control Connections

Provision has been made on the Model 220's printed circuit board assembly to allow external switches or contact closures to control the main and talkback output functions. Two 3-position headers, labeled P17 and P18, provide access to the circuitry associated with the functions.

P17: Pin 1 is connected to the common point of the Model 220's circuitry. Pin 2 is connected to the circuitry associated with the talkback 1 button. Pin 3 is connected to the circuitry associated with the talkback 2 button.

P18: Pin 1 is connected to the common point of the Model 220's circuitry. Pin 2 is connected to the circuitry associated with the main out button. Pin 3 is connected to the circuitry associated with the auxiliary pushbutton input. (This function is not currently supported in software.)

The input circuitry is "active low," with a 10 k ohm resistor connected to +5 volts acting as a pull up. A combination of resistors and capacitors provide ESD protection. A qualified technician can use these inputs for special applications. Contact the factory for additional details.

Compressor Circuit

In this section some general information about the Model 220's compressor circuit will be provided. As previously discussed, the output of the microphone preamplifier circuit is connected to a studio-quality compressor circuit. The output of the compressor is used by the talkback outputs and, if configured, the main output. (In most cases the main output will utilize the signal coming directly out of the microphone preamplifier.) The gain element in the compressor circuit is a laser-trimmed voltage-controlled-amplifier integrated circuit. It provides accurate, low-noise, low-distortion performance. The threshold of the compressor circuit is 2 dB above the Model 220's nominal internal operating level of -2 dBu. A 5:1 compression ratio is implemented and, like the threshold level, is not field adjustable. The threshold and ratio settings were selected so that excellent talkback audio would be provided. By controlling the dynamic range, intelligibility can be improved and overloading of connected devices can be avoided. An LED indicator lights whenever the compressor's threshold has been reached and the circuit is actively controlling the dynamic range. This LED is provided as an aid when setting the gain of the microphone preamplifier.

Auxiliary Relay

The Model 220 provides an auxiliary relay for use in specialized applications. Some "head scratching" or "brainstorming" should lead to a number of interesting ways to take advantage of this unique resource. To implement any auxiliary relay application does require the services of a qualified technician. This is because the Model 220's enclosure must be disassembled and the desired wiring scheme implemented. The

relay operates under software control, following the configuration selected using two of the DIP-type switches. Four operating modes are available: relay disabled, relay follows main output status, relay follows talkback output 1 button status, and relay follows talkback output 2 button status. These choices were previously discussed in this user guide and should be reviewed.

The relay provides two "form-C" contacts, each consisting of a common, normally open (not shorted), and normally closed (shorted) connection. Obviously the two form-C contacts change state in unison; two independent relay functions are not provided. These relay contacts are accessible on the Model 220's main printed circuit board assembly by way of 3-position header connectors. The contacts are titled A and B, but there is no significance between the two. The header labeled P10 provides access to auxiliary relay contact A. Header P9 provides access to auxiliary relay contact B. With both headers pin 1 is normally closed, pin 2 is common, and pin 3 is normally open. For additional details on connecting to the 3-position headers please refer to the Additional Connectors section in the Technical Notes area of this user guide.

Direct Microphone Output

The Model 220's main output is intended to be used as the on-air, stadium announcement, or other primary audio feed. The path from the unit's microphone input connector to the main output connector is by way of active circuitry. A low noise, low distortion microphone preamplifier stage, "clickless" audio switching, and a high-quality transformer-coupled output circuit work together in achieving excellent performance. The nominal level

of the main output is -2 dBu, allowing interconnection with related devices at a near-standard "line" level. However, there may be applications where an output that directly relates to the connected microphone would be beneficial. The Model 220 has made provision to accomplish this by using the optional direct microphone output card. This card, available from Studio Technologies and purchased separately (part number 31058), is mounted in a spare connector location available on the Model 220's back panel. With this addition both an "active" main output and a "passive" direct microphone output will be available. Of course, both outputs provide quiet noise-free on/off ("muting") control.

The primary application for the direct microphone output is when the Model 220 is integrated into a system that includes a high-performance microphone preamplifier. This preamplifier may be part of a stand-alone voice-processor unit, or a microphone input associated with an audio console. Engineering personnel may prefer the sonic characteristics of the external microphone preamp over that of the one integrated into the Model 220.

It's important to note that the direct microphone output card provides a direct "metallic" path from the microphone input to the external preamplifier circuitry. It is not simply an audio "pad" (attenuator) that reduces the level of the main output from "line" to "mic." The Model 220's auxiliary relay contacts, along with circuitry on the direct microphone output card, provide click-free muting of the signal.

The direct microphone output card contains only passive circuitry. A 3-pin male XLR-type connector is provided for the output signal. A resistor and large electrolytic capacitor form the muting circuit. This

arrangement allows muting to take place without disturbing phantom-power that may be enabled to support a condenser-type microphone. The direct microphone output card also contacts two 3-position header connectors. These interface with "headers" on the Model 220's main printed circuit board assembly, providing access to the microphone input connector and auxiliary relay contact.

The direct microphone output card kit contains a printed circuit board assembly, two interconnecting cables, and mounting hardware. Installing the kit is very simple. The card's 3-pin male XLR-type connector is mounted into one of the three spare connector locations on the Model 220's back panel. Specifically, the connector location that is closest to the microphone input connector should be used. The two screws, with associated locking nuts, are used to secure the connector and associated printed circuit board to the enclosure. The interconnecting cables are then used to link the card with the Model 220's main printed circuit board assembly. One end of the first interconnecting cable is plugged into the card's 3-position header that is labeled IN. The other end of this cable is plugged into the 3-position header associated with the microphone input connector, labeled P5, located on the main printed circuit board assembly. One end of the second interconnecting cable is plugged into the card's header that is labeled RELAY. The other end of this cable is plugged into the header associated with the auxiliary relay, labeled P9, located on the main printed circuit board. Additional installation details are provided in the Additional Connectors section of the user guide. A recommended connector labeling method is also included.

After the direct microphone output card has been installed, one configuration step must also be performed. Using the configuration switches, located on the bottom of the Model 220's enclosure, the auxiliary relay control mode must be set to the "follows main output status" position. This provides the on/off (muting) control of the direct microphone output signal. Should the auxiliary relay's configuration be left in the "relay disabled" position, the direct microphone output will always be in the off (muted) state. It's interesting to note that the recommended auxiliary relay configuration assumes that the direct microphone output will be used in place of the Model 220's main output. However, for other applications there is certainly no reason why the direct microphone output can't be configured to follow the status of one of the talkback buttons. Special situations may benefit from having a microphone signal that is active only during "talkback."

Using the direct microphone output is essentially the same as connecting directly to a microphone. An interface cable should be wired so that signal high (+ or hot) is connected to pin 2, signal low (- or cold) is connected to pin 3, and shield is connected to pin 1. When connecting a condenser microphone it's recommended that the Model 220 provide the source of phantom power. In this way the microphone will stay active whenever the Model 220 is operating, even if the connection made to the direct microphone output is broken. By ensuring that the microphone remains active, the talkback functions will continue to operate correctly.

Several slight differences between connecting to a stand-alone microphone and

connecting to the Model 220's direct microphone output should be noted. The first is that pin 1 on the direct microphone output is electrically connected to pin 1 on the Model 220's microphone input connector, as well as the Model 220's signal common/chassis connection. This is required so that the Model 220's phantom power circuit can function and that proper microphone-cable shielding can be provided. It's not expected that this will cause any problems.

Also, while the circuitry between the microphone input and direct microphone output is entirely passive, it will still impact the microphone signal. The impact is benign but is still worthy of description. The circuitry associated with the Model 220's microphone preamplifier and phantom power supply is always connected across ("bridged onto") the microphone input. This adds a 2 k ohm essentially resistive load to the microphone, something that should have no sonic impact. In some case it may possibly reduce the microphone signal level by less than one dB. Two 150 ohm resistors are electrically connected in series between the microphone input connector and the direct microphone output connector. These resistors provide isolation, allowing the direct microphone output to be muted while still maintaining microphone audio on the Model 220's preamplifier input. This audio is necessary so that the talkback functions can continue to operate. The series resistors will have minimal impact, simply raising the microphone's apparent source impedance as "seen" by the external preamplifier.

Specifications

General Audio:

Frequency Response: 20 Hz-20 kHz, ± 0.1 dB, mic in/main out

Distortion (THD+N): 0.008%, measured at 1 kHz, mic in/main out

S/N Ratio: 80 dB, referenced to -46 dBu mic in/-2 dBu main out

Connectors:

Mic In, IFB In, Line In 1 & 2: 3-pin female XLR-type

Main Out, Talkback Out 1 & 2: 3-pin male XLR-type

Headphone Out: 1/4-inch 3-conductor phone jack

24 Vdc Power In: coaxial power jack, 2.1 x 5.0 mm, locking bushing, compatible with Switchcraft S760K plug

Spare Connector Locations: 3

Allows up to three Neutrik NC*D-L-1 connectors to be installed (*=3F, 3M, 5F, 5M, 6F, 6FS, etc.)

Microphone Input/Preamplifier:

Type: electronically balanced

Input Impedance: 2 k ohms, nominal

Gain Range: 20 to 60 dB, nominal, adjustable in 10 dB steps

Compatibility: dynamic or phantom-powered mics

Phantom Power: 48 Vdc, nominal, meets IEC 61938

IFB Input:

Type: 2-channel, unbalanced (pin 1 common; pin 2 DC with channel 1 audio; pin 3 channel 2 audio)

Impedance: 10 k ohms, nominal

Nominal Level: -10 dBu

Line Inputs: 2

Type: balanced, transformer-coupled

Impedance: 10 k ohms, nominal

Nominal Level: -12 dBV to +6 dBu, adjustable

Compressor:

Threshold: 2 dB above nominal level

Attack/Release Time: 2 mSec/100 mSec, nominal

Slope: 5:1, nominal

Status LED: compressor active

Main Output:

Type: balanced, transformer-coupled

Nominal Level: -2 dBu

Maximum Level: +20 dBu into 2 k ohms

Impedance: 100 ohms, nominal

Talkback Outputs: 2

Type: transformer-coupled with series capacitors and isolation resistors

Impedance: 600 ohms, nominal

Nominal Level: +4 dBu

Maximum Level: +11 dBu (compressor restricts maximum)

Headphone Output: 1, stereo

Compatibility: intended for connection to mono or stereo headphones or headsets with nominal impedance of 100 ohms or greater

Type: voltage driver

Maximum Output Voltage: 8 Vpp, 150 ohm load

Auxiliary Relay:

Function: software configurable

Contacts: 2, form C (Common, Normally Closed, Normally Open)

Rating: 1 A, 30 W (resistive)

Access: requires user-implemented connector scheme

Power Sources:

IFB: 24-32 Vdc, 125 mA

External: 24 Vdc nominal, 80 mA @ 24 Vdc; acceptable range 20-30 Vdc. Units shipped to North America and Japan include a 120 V input/24 Vdc output power supply. Units shipped to all other locations include a universal input/24 Vdc output power supply.

Options:

Direct microphone output card

Dimensions (Overall):

8.1 inches wide (20.6 cm)

3.3 inches high (8.4 cm)

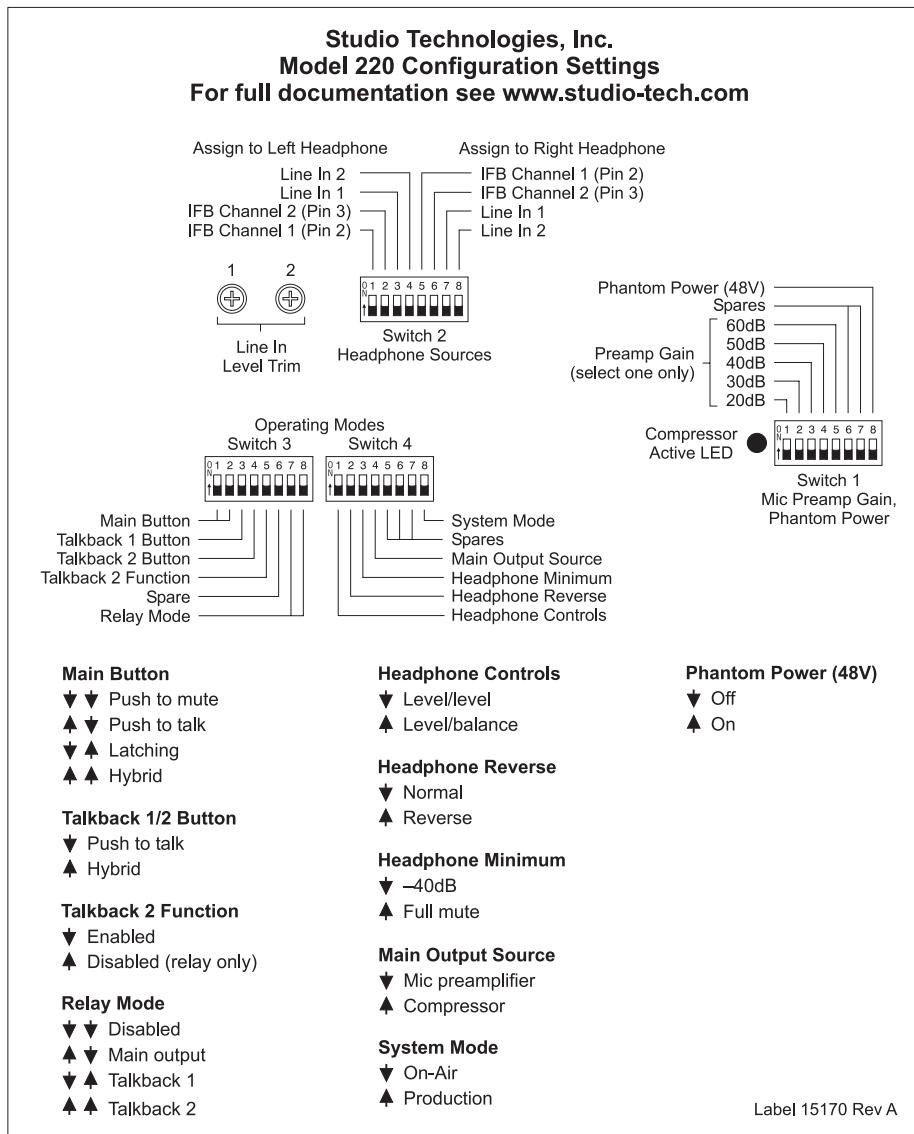
8.5 inches deep (22.4 cm)

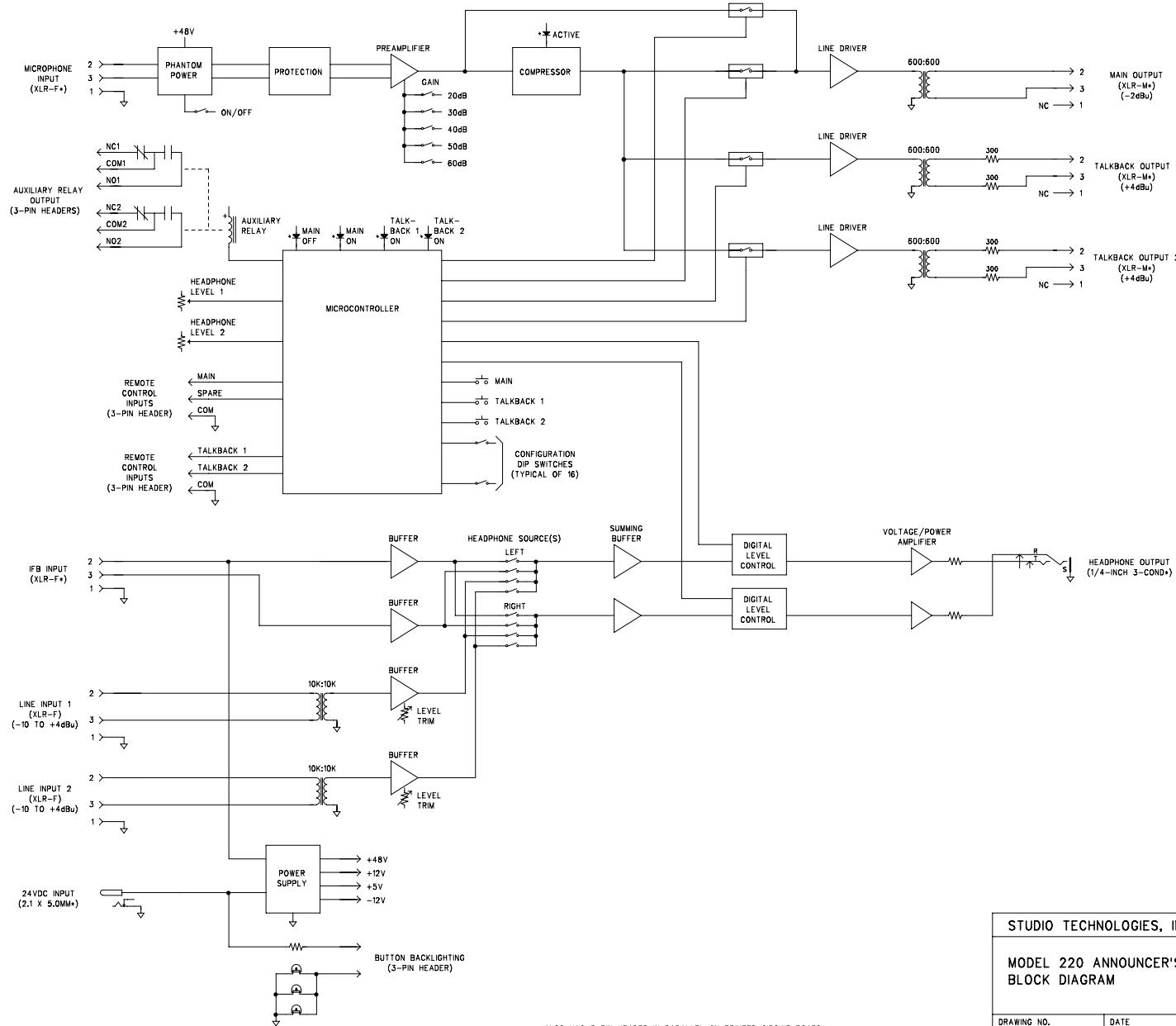
Weight: 4.5 pounds (2.1 kg)

Specifications and information contained in this User Guide subject to change without notice.

Appendix A

A label is attached to the security plate on the bottom of the unit. It provides a summary of the configurable parameters and related information. The actual label size 4.80 inches by 5.90 inches.





STUDIO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

M220BD_A
MODEL 220 ANNOUNCER'S CONSOLE
BLOCK DIAGRAM