Model 742

Model 742 Audio Mixer

User Guide

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This User Guide is applicable for serial numbers:

M742-00151 and later

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Model 742

Introduction

What This User Guide Covers

This User Guide is designed to assist you when installing, configuring, and using the Model 742 Audio Mixer. Additional background and technical information is also provided, as well as a product block diagram included at the end of this guide.

System Overview

The Model 742 Audio Mixer is expressly designed for use in electronic-newsgathering (ENG) vehicles, small production trucks, and other specialized mobile broadcast applications. Many other audio production applications can also be supported. Model 742 features include four mic/line inputs, four line inputs, two output buses, LED level metering, and monitoring. The Model 742 was specifically designed as a dual-channel audio mixer, rather than as a typical stereo device. This approach makes it excellent for "dual-path" on-air applications.

The Model 742 is targeted for use by operators with numerous audio sources that need to be quickly and reliably adjusted and routed to create one or two independent audio mixes. In these days of operators having too many tasks to handle, and too little time to do them, the Model 742 is a refreshing combination of performance and simplicity. Using their experience in mobile broadcast applications, the engineers at Studio Technologies were able to design the Model 742 to include all the crucial features required to meet the needs of fast-paced news-gathering operations, while still providing the operator with an easy-to-use product.

The hallmarks of the Model 742 are application flexibility, simplicity in use, audio quality, and long-term reliability. A number of internal configuration "jumpers" allow the unit's performance to be tailored to the needs of specific installations. The carefully selected feature set ensures that the Model 742 will be a "team player" when it is integrated into an audio system. While



Model 742 Front Panel



Model 742 Back Panel

there's flexibility on the inside, the operator is presented with an easy-to-use set of front-panel controls and indicators—the operator never has to access the back panel to operate the unit. In this way the goal of delivering successful on-air and production audio, day-after-day, can best be achieved. The Model 742's audio quality is "pro" throughout. The components were carefully selected to deliver low-noise, low-distortion performance.

Long-term reliability was also part of the Model 742's design criteria. To that end the unit's enclosure is made of steel, combining strength with effective RF rejection. On the inside, all components are mounted on an FR4 (fiberglass-based) circuit board assembly.

System Features

Mic/Line Inputs

Four input channels are provided for connection to microphone or line-level signals. The electronically balanced circuitry is "ruggedized" for reliable operation under tough operating conditions. The low-noise, low-distortion, high-headroom audio performance is what's expected of sophisticated "pro audio" equipment. Features provided for each input channel include an input sensitivity button, rotary level control, level status LED, and output bus assignment switch. To support condenser microphones, the four mic/line inputs can be internally configured to provide 12-volt phantom power.

For ease of use, the rotary level control sets the gain of the input circuit as well as the level being sent to the selected main output bus (or buses). For convenience

the input sensitivity button, like all of the Model 742's operator controls, is located on the front panel. For operator assistance, a dual-color level status LED provides signal present and peak level indication. Associated with each mic/line input channel is a 3-position output bus assignment switch. This allows each input to be assigned to bus 1, bus 2, or both, quickly creating two fully independent audio "feeds."

Bus assignment switches, rather than the more-typical "pan pots," were specifically selected for the Model 742's design. This allows a more positive assignment of an input source to the desired output bus (or buses), minimizing the chance of unwanted "leakage." Pan pots are fine in an audio mixer destined for use in stereo music situations, but are inferior when used for two-bus applications.

Line Inputs

Four input channels are provided for connection to line-level signals. Features provided for each line input channel include a rotary level control, level status LED, and output bus assignment switch. The rotary level control is used to set the amount of input signal that is sent to the selected main output bus (or buses). The dual-color level status LED provides signal present and peak level indication. A 3-position switch allows the input signal to be assigned to the desired output bus (or buses).

Main Output Buses

Signals from the eight input channels (four mic/line and four line) are routed and combined to create the two main output buses. A dual rotary control is used to set the overall level of the two buses. An electronically balanced output circuit is

associated with each main output bus. They provide line-level signals capable of driving balanced or unbalanced loads of 600 ohms or greater. Separate studioquality audio compressor circuits are provided to control the dynamic range of each main output bus. An LED indicator is associated with each compressor, lighting whenever the circuit is actively controlling signal level. Far from simple "clippers," the compressor circuits utilize sophisticated laser-trimmed voltagecontrolled amplifier (VCA) integrated circuits for quiet, low-distortion operation. To help minimize operator error no compressor on/off switches are provided on the Model 742's front panel. Internal configuration jumpers determine the compressor circuits' operating modes. From the factory the jumpers are set so that the compressors' operating threshold is 6 dB above the nominal +4 dBu output level. This is an excellent general-purpose setting for broadcast use where voice signals are the primary audio content.

To meet the needs of other applications, a technician can change the jumpers to make the compressor threshold 2 dB above the nominal +4 dBu. This could prove useful when using the Model 742 with level-sensitive RF transmission systems. For other applications a technician can set the jumpers to a third position which completely disables the compressor functions.

Monitor Section

The Model 742's monitor section provides two line-level monitor outputs and a "stereo" headphone output. Monitor outputs 1 and 2 are electrically balanced with output buses 1 and 2, respectively, assigned as their audio sources. The

headphone output has main output bus 1 as its left-channel source and main output bus 2 as its right-channel source. Associated with the monitor section is a dual rotary level control that allows independent setting of the monitor output levels. The level of the headphone output is always adjusted using these controls. Internal configuration jumpers are used to select the operation of the line-level monitor outputs. They can either be "post" the controls, allowing an adjustable output level. or be set to fixed -10 or +4 dBu nominal levels. This allows the monitor outputs to be compatible with a variety of monitor amplifiers, amplified loudspeakers, or to even serve as an additional set of main bus line-level outputs.

From the factory the monitor outputs are configured to the "post" setting, enabling them to "follow" the setting of the frontpanel level controls. This is appropriate where monitor loudspeakers and associated power amplifier channels are used. A technician can change the jumper positions so that the monitor outputs are electrically before ("pre") the level controls. Two jumper positions are available, corresponding to -10 and +4 dBu nominal output levels. The "pre -10" position is very useful when an amplified loudspeaker that contains a user-accessible level control is connected. Examples of amplified speakers that contain user level controls include the popular Fostex® 6301-series. With the jumpers set to the "pre -10" position, only one level control—the one on the amplified speaker—would be used to set the speaker level. This can greatly minimize operator confusion and enhance performance.

When configured for "pre +4" operation, the monitor outputs are again "pre" the level controls, but this time with a nominal level of +4 dBu. This can be used for various applications, including providing an additional set of main bus outputs. In certain cases this may eliminate the need for an external distribution amplifier to be included as part of the installed system.

Metering

As previously discussed, dual-color signal present/peak LEDs are associated with each of the eight input channels. In addition, two 10-segment LED meters provide an indication of audio-signal levels on the main output buses. The meters use three LED colors: green, yellow, and red. The LEDs are calibrated such that the actual output level, in dBu, is indicated.

Reference Tone

A sine-wave audio tone is provided for alignment and reference use. From the factory the tone is configured for 400 Hz. If required, a technician can revise the frequency to be 1 kHz. A button on the Model 742's front panel allows the tone to be connected to the main output buses. In addition, a dedicated reference tone output is also provided. This continuous source of sine-wave signal is accessed by means of a balanced line-level output on the back panel. The dedicated reference tone output is intended to provide a setup or test signal that is available at all times, without interfering with normal operation of the main output buses.

Mounting, Connectors, and Mains Power

The Model 742 requires one space in a standard 19-inch rack. Industry-standard XLR-type and ¼-inch 3-conductor connectors are used for all audio interconnections. To maximize reliability, all connectors were carefully selected from among premiumgrade models. For example, the XLR-type connectors feature metal shells and are manufactured by Neutrik®. AC mains power is connected directly to the Model 742 by way of a standard 3-pin detachable IEC cord set; no external power supply is used. AC mains power is factory configured for 100, 120, or 220/240 volts, 50/60 Hz.

Configuration Review

In this section you will be reviewing the configuration of the Model 742. Configuration changes will be made if required. Any changes should be made prior to installing the unit.

As previously mentioned in this guide, four Model 742 operating parameters can be configured to meet the exact needs of specific applications. These include phantom power, compressor mode, monitor output mode, and reference tone frequency. While simple to perform, all changes do require the skill of an experienced technician. This person must ensure that AC mains power is disconnected prior to removing the unit's cover. Then the locations of the configuration jumpers can be identified and changes made as required. In the case of revising the reference tone frequency, a calibration trim pot must also be adjusted.

Phantom Power

In most broadcast news applications, phantom-powered condenser microphones are not utilized. However, exceptions do arise and the Model 742 does allow 12-volt phantom power to be supplied to the four mic/line input channels. One configuration jumper is used to select the phantom power on/off status for all four channels; independent control is not provided. From the factory phantom power is selected to be off. Note that if phantom power is enabled, it is only active when a mic/line input channel's sensitivity switch is set to its "mic" (out) position.

Compressor Modes

The compressor circuits associated with the two output buses can be configured to operate from one of three modes:

- From the factory the compressors are set to have an operating threshold of 6 dB above the main outputs' nominal +4 dBu operating level. In other words, the compressors will begin to function whenever the main output levels reach about +10 dBu, as measured on the output connectors. This is an excellent general-purpose setting that is appropriate for most applications.
- Alternately, the compressors' threshold can be changed to be 2 dB above the nominal +4 dBu operating level. This may be appropriate for applications where an RF transmission chain places severe restrictions on the audio signal's dynamic range.
- While not recommended for most applications, the compressors can also be configured to be disabled. With this configuration, no dynamic range control

will take place. For most on-air applications this is probably not appropriate. Take advantage of the Model 742's highly effective dynamic range control to assist in providing clear, intelligible audio!

Monitor Output Modes

The line-level monitor outputs can be configured to operate from one of three modes:

- From the factory the monitor outputs are set to follow the position of the frontpanel rotary level controls. This mode of operation is referred to as being "post" the level controls.
- An alternate configuration is specifically provided for use in applications where amplified loudspeakers with built-in user level controls are connected. This "pre" level-control mode provides fixed nominal output levels of –10 dBu. This prevents the confusing situation of having multiple level controls—the Model 742's and the amplified speakers'—both impacting the level of a speaker. In this case the Model 742's front-panel controls will only impact the headphone output.
- A third configuration provides a "pre" level-control mode with a fixed nominal output level of +4 dBu. This can be useful for applications where an additional set of main outputs is required. Except for using ¼-inch 3-conductor jacks (versus XLR-type) the monitor outputs are identical in quality as compared to the main outputs. Again in this mode the Model 742's front-panel controls will only impact the headphone output.

Reference Tone Frequency

From the factory the frequency of the reference tone is configured to be 400 Hz. This is a nice alternative to the more typical 1 kHz, a frequency which can soon become very annoying to a listener's ears. In most cases 400 Hz will be perfectly acceptable, and actually preferred. But in those situations where 1 kHz is necessary, two configuration jumpers are provided to shift the frequency range so that the oscillator circuitry can be calibrated for 1 kHz.

Configuration Wrap-Up

If it is determined that any configuration changes are required, they should now be performed. For specific details on how to make configuration changes, refer to the Technical Notes section of this guide. The details provided should make the process simple and relatively painless.

It's highly recommended that a Model 742's actual configuration be confirmed prior to installation. Even factory-fresh units can "mysteriously" end up having their default configurations changed prior to actual installation. The same "gremlin" that borrows (and doesn't return) tools, drinks your favorite soda that you left in the tech-shop refrigerator, and pulls important patch cords has been known to sneak inside equipment and revise settings!

Installation

In this section, the Model 742 will be installed in an equipment rack. Audio input and output connections will be made using the Model 742's XLR-type connectors and 1/4-inch 3-conductor jacks. As a final step AC mains power will be connected.

System Components

The shipping carton contains a Model 742 Audio Mixer and user guide. Units destined for North America and Japan also include an AC mains cord. Your dealer or distributor will provide an AC mains cord for non-North American destinations.

Locating the Unit

Now that the Model 742's configuration has been reviewed and, if required, revised, the unit can be mounted in an equipment rack. Physical access and viewing angles are the primary issues to be considered when choosing a mounting location. By its very nature as an audio mixer, an operator will need easy access to all the controls. A good sight line to the LED level meters, located on the right side of the front panel, is also important.

As a device that contains high-gain audio stages, hum, and noise pickup is possible by way of the chassis and associated cabling. Locating the unit away from devices that radiate strong AC fields is an excellent idea. While not likely, it is also possible that the Model 742's toroidal power transformer could radiate energy into adjacent equipment. Located on the far right side of the unit it may need to be physically isolated from sensitive equipment such as videotape recorders.

During normal operation, access to the Model 742's back panel is not required. However, there is one trim potentiometer that may need to be adjusted prior to the Model 742 going into service. This trim pot sets the level of the reference tone direct output. Please refer to the Post-Installation Calibration section of this guide for details.

Mounting

The Model 742 is intended for mounting in a standard 19-inch equipment rack, requiring 1.75 vertical inches (one standard rack space). It weighs 8.7 pounds (4.0 kg) and operates on mains power of 100, 120, or 220/240 volts, 50/60 Hz. The maximum current draw is less than 0.2 amperes. Four mounting screws, two per side, are used to secure the unit into the equipment rack.

Connections

The Model 742's audio connections are made using 3-pin male and female XLR-type connectors as well as ½-inch 3-conductor phone jacks. AC mains power is connected by means of a detachable cord set that is compatible with the unit's 3-pin IEC 320 C14-compatible inlet connector.

Mic/Line Inputs

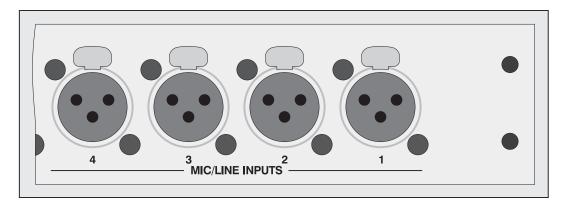
The Model 742 contains four input channels that are compatible with microphone and line-level sources. Each input uses a 3-pin female XLR-type connector. Prepare the mating connectors (males) so that pin 2 is signal high (+ or hot), pin 3 is low (– or cold), and pin 1 is shield.

It's possible that some of the mic/line inputs will be wired to an input/output (I/O) panel located on the side or rear of a broadcast vehicle. If this is the case, it's also nice to have one or two of the inputs "multed" to connectors inside the vehicle. This will allow the rapid connection of microphone or line-level signals during specialized situations. For example, during inclement weather on-air talent may wish to connect a microphone to the Model 742 from inside a vehicle.

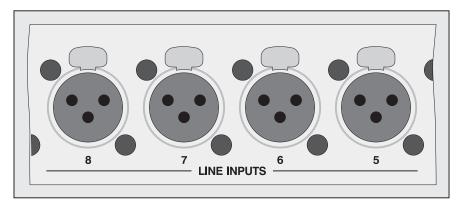
To minimize potential hum or noise problems, it is recommended that microphonelevel signals connected to the mic/line inputs not be wired by way of points on an audio patch bay. It certainly can be done, but the possibility for intermittent connections, especially in mobile applications, may significantly increase.

Line Inputs

The Model 742 contains four line-level input channels. Each input uses a 3-pin female XLR-type connector. 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. Unbalanced



Detail of back panel showing mic/line input connectors



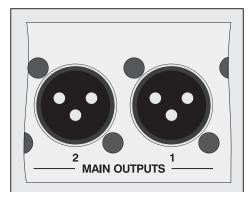
Detail of back panel showing line input connectors

signals can also be connected. In this case, pin 2 is connected to signal high (+ or hot), and pins 1 and 3 are connected to shield. If this results in hum or other noise being present, try connecting pin 2 to signal high and shield to pin 3; leave pin 1 unconnected ("floating"). To provide maximum flexibility, it is recommended that the signals connected to the line inputs be wired by way of points on an audio patch bay.

Main Outputs

The Model 742 contains two main outputs which are directly associated with output buses 1 and 2. They are electronically balanced, capacitor coupled, with a nominal level of +4 dBu. The output circuitry is capable of driving balanced or unbalanced loads of 600 ohms or greater. Note, however, that as the load impedance approaches 600 ohms the output levels will drop slightly. A 0.5 dB difference in output level can be expected as the load impedance changes from 10 k ohms to 600 ohms. This loading situation applies to the monitor outputs and reference tone direct outputs as well.

Note that the main outputs are intended only for connection to devices located within a broadcast vehicle or dedicated indoor facility. While the circuitry used in the outputs is robust and sonically excellent, they're not intended for direct exposure to the extreme conditions that can occur in the nasty "outside world." This limitation is normally not an issue as the main outputs will typically be connected to inputs on a distribution amplifier. Should the main outputs need to be connected directly to a vehicle's I/O panel, it's recommended that one-to-one isolation transformers be placed in their signal paths. Ensure that any transformer selected is specified for use in line-level applications.



Detail of back panel showing main output connectors

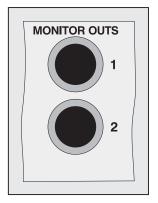
The main outputs utilize 3-pin male XLR-type connectors for interconnection. Prepare the mating connectors (females) so that pin 2 is signal high (+ or hot), pin 3 is low (- or cold), and pin 1 is shield. Whether these outputs are wired via a patch bay will depend on the specific installation. But at least having "mults" of the main outputs on patch points is probably a good idea.

While balanced operation is generally preferred, unbalanced operation is not a problem for the output circuitry. To connect to unbalanced loads prepare the mating connectors so that pin 2 is high (+ or hot), and both pins 1 and 3 are shield. For optimal unbalanced operation, it is important to connect pins 1 and 3 together directly on the connector that mates with the Model 742, not at the other end of the cable.

Monitor Outputs

The monitor outputs are designed to connect to a variety of devices. In some applications they will connect to an audio power amplifier associated with a set of monitor loudspeakers. In mobile applications it's popular to use loudspeakers with an internal amplifier, such as those from Fostex. And, depending on how the monitor outputs are internally configured, they can also serve as a second set of +4 dBu nominal main outputs.

The monitor outputs are electronically balanced, capacitor coupled, and line-level. They can drive balanced or unbalanced loads of 600 ohms or greater. Configuration jumpers allow the monitor outputs to be set from among three operating modes. In the "post" mode the output levels are dependent upon the settings of the front-panel level controls. In the "pre –10" mode the monitor outputs have



Detail of back panel showing monitor output connectors

a fixed nominal output level of –10 dBu. In this mode, the nominal output level has been optimized to match the input sensitivity typically found on amplified loudspeakers. In the "pre +4" mode the monitor outputs have a fixed nominal output level of +4 dBu.

The monitor outputs utilize 1/4-inch 3-conductor jacks for interconnection. Prepare the mating connectors (plugs) so the tip is signal high (+ or hot), ring is low (- or cold), and sleeve is shield. To connect to an unbalanced load connect tip to high (+ or hot) and both ring and sleeve to shield. Whether or not these outputs are wired via a patch bay will depend on the specific installation. In most cases they will not be.

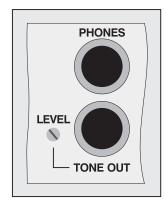
Reference Tone Direct Output

Direct access to a continuous source of sine-wave reference tone is provided by means of a line-level output. As one of the unique features of the Model 742, it should definitely be utilized! This output is intended to be connected to an audio input associated with a audio/video switcher's "bars and tone" position. For maximum flexibility, it is recommended that this signal be routed via a patch bay.

In this way it can be easily accessed for other test and calibration purposes.

The reference tone direct output is electronically balanced, has a nominal +4 dBu level, and is accessible via a ¼-inch 3-conductor jack which is located on the back panel. The output circuitry is capable of driving a balanced or unbalanced load of 600 ohms or greater. Prepare the mating plug so that tip is signal high (+ or hot), ring is low (– or cold), and sleeve is shield. To connect to an unbalanced load connect tip to high (+ or hot) and both ring and sleeve to shield.

A trim potentiometer, accessible from the back panel, can be used to set the precise level of the reference tone direct output. After an installation has been completed it may be desirable to set the trim pot to provide the required level. For details please refer to the Post-Installation Calibration section of this user guide.



Detail of back panel showing reference tone direct output connector, associated level trim pot, and headphone output jack

Headphone Output

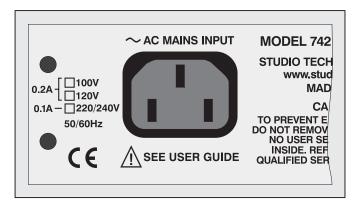
The Model 742 contains one headphone output which is located on the back panel. The output jack is a ¼-inch 3-conductor ("stereo") tip-ring-sleeve type. The audio source for the tip lead is main output bus 1. The audio source for the ring lead is main output bus 2. The levels of the two channels of the headphone output are adjusted using the dual front-panel control.

Locating the headphone jack on the back panel allows the installation of a remote headphone jack at the exact desired location. This eliminates having to plug headphones into the usual location on the front panel of an audio mixer, which itself is typically mounted in a very crowded rack. The problem of a draped headphone cord that is easily snagged or tangled won't occur. As a suggestion, locating a headphone jack on an I/O panel associated with a PC-based editing location, voice-over area, etc., can prove very useful.

There may be cases where the headphone output may need to support a monaural earpiece, such as at a talent voice-over position. In this case, simply connect only the tip and sleeve terminals for main output bus 1, or the ring and sleeve terminals for main output bus 2, on the 3-conductor plug used to mate with the Model 742's back-panel jack. Don't use a 2-conductor (mono) plug as the headphone output for main output bus 2 will be shorted.

Connecting AC Mains Power

The Model 742 is factory configured to operate from AC mains power of nominal 100, 120, or 220/240 volts, 50/60 Hz. A maximum of 0.2 amperes of current is required. Units shipped to locations within North America are factory configured for



Detail of back panel showing AC mains power connector

120 volt operation and are supplied with an internal 0.2 A, 5 x 20 mm time-lag fuse. Units shipped to Japan are factory configured for 100 volt operation and use the same 0.2 A, 5 x 20 mm time-lag fuse. Units configured for 220/240 volt operation are supplied with a 0.1 A, 5 x 20 mm time-lag fuse.

Before connecting the Model 742 to AC mains power, determine the actual mains voltage and confirm that the Model 742 has been configured appropriately. As should be expected, an incompatible mains voltage configuration could seriously damage the unit. Should it be necessary to change the unit's mains voltage configuration contact Studio Technologies' technical support personnel for details.

The Model 742 uses a 3-pin IEC 320 C14-compatible inlet connector to mate with a detachable mains cord set. For units shipped to North America and Japan, a cord is supplied that has a North-American (NEMA 15L) standard plug on one end and an IEC 320 C13-compatible connector on the other. Units bound for other destinations require that the appropriate cord set be obtained. The wire colors in the mains cord must conform to

the internationally recognized color code and should be terminated accordingly:

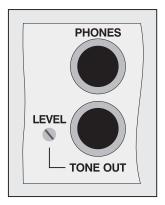
Connection	Wire Color
Neutral (N)	Light Blue
Line (L)	Brown
Earth/Ground (E)	Green/Yellow

Because the Model 742 contains no AC mains on/off switch it will begin operation as soon as AC mains power is connected.

Post-Installation Calibration

Reference Tone Direct Output

If the reference tone direct output is used, it is important to confirm that its output level is correct for the installation. In most cases, the output level will need to be adjusted to match the precise requirement of the system. This is because the load applied to the output may very well be different from the 100 k ohm load that is applied during testing at the factory. As previously noted, while the output circuitry is capable of driving loads of 600 ohms or greater, the output level will drop slightly as the load impedance changes, especially as it approaches 600 ohms.



Detail of back panel showing reference tone direct output connector and associated level trim pot

Depending on the Model 742's internal configuration the tone frequency will be either 400 Hz or 1 kHz. A trim potentiometer allows adjustment of the output level over a range of approximately +3 to +7 dBu. The trim pot is accessible by way of a small access hole in the back panel, adjacent to the reference tone direct output's 1/4-inch jack. At the factory this output is loaded with 100 k ohms and then the trim pot is adjusted to give an output level of +4 dBu.

In practice, calibrating the output level is quite simple:

- 1. Confirm that the reference tone direct output is terminated with its installation-specific load impedance.
- 2. Ensure that the Model 742 is connected to AC mains power.
- 3. Using an appropriate adapter cable, connect a high-input-impedance audio level meter directly across the reference tone direct output. Ensure that this meter connection does not remove the normal load! The level meter must be a precision device that's intended for audio use—a general-purpose voltmeter is not adequate!

 While carefully observing the level meter, adjust the trim pot to give the desired output level.

Labeling the Unit for Clarity

Once the Model 742 has been installed. installation-specific labeling of the front panel may want to be performed. This additional clarity can greatly assist operators in correctly using the unit. For example, instead of the first line input channel having the factory-standard text INPUT 5, it could reflect its exact function, such as TAPE 1. The unit's front-panel graphics were specifically created to simplify the task of adding custom labels. Each front-panel section heading text is underlined with a horizontal green line, which, besides looking pretty sharp, is intended to serve as a "guide" for adding installation-specific labels. The distance from the guide line to the top of the front panel was specifically designed to allow 1/4-inch-high label material to fit correctly.



Detail of front panel showing installation-specific label

For a great look it's recommended that Brother® P-Touch ¼-inch (6 mm) labels be created. Selecting tape material that prints white text on a black background works out perfectly for the Model 742. The Brother label cassette number TX-3151, white on black, is appropriate for use with some of their printers.

Operation

While the Model 742 Audio Mixer is quite simple to operate, there are nuances in its design that make a detailed discussion worthwhile. We'll start with the individual sections that make up the Model 742, then we'll review how the sections work together to become your audio "master control."

Mic/Line Inputs

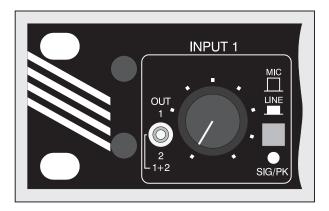
Four identical mic/line input channels are provided, each being compatible with microphone and line-level signals. The following provides a detailed description of one of the mic/line inputs:

Input Sensitivity

The input circuitry is compatible with a wide range of signal levels, as well as being protected from overload. The mic/line pushbutton is used to select the sensitivity of the input. In the mic (out) position, the expected nominal input level range is –55 to –35 dBu. In the line (in) position, a 43 dB pad is inserted into the circuit, making the expected nominal input level range –12 to +8 dBu.

Phantom Power

Depending on how the Model 742 was configured at the time of installation, 12-volt phantom power may be available to support condenser microphones. (A



Detail of front panel showing one mic/line input channel

single configuration jumper, located inside the unit's enclosure, is technician-selected to enable or disable phantom power for all four mic/line inputs.) If the unit is configured for phantom power, it will only be available when the input sensitivity switch is set to its mic position. Phantom power is not available in the line position. Note that it's normal for a slight "click" or "pop" to be heard when moving the sensitivity switch between the mic and line positions, and vice versa. This noise, while slightly annoying, will not harm the circuitry. It also provides an aural indication that phantom power is available. (It's not a technical limitation, it's a feature!) If the unit is internally configured not to supply phantom power, no click will be heard when changing the position of the switch.

Status LED

A dual-color LED acts as a userconfidence indication of the overall signal level in the mic/line input channel's circuitry. The LED will light green as a signal present indicator, showing that the input signal, along with the gain of the input preamplifier, is at least 18 dB below the nominal internal operating level. The LED will light red as a peak signal indicator, showing that the input signal, along with the gain of the preamplifier, is within 6 dB of the circuitry's maximum level.

Level Control

The rotary control is used to adjust the gain of the input section's preamplifier circuitry. It also controls the amount of signal that can be sent to the output bus (or buses). In the fully counterclockwise position the preamplifier gain is set to its minimum, and full attenuation to the bus (or buses) is achieved. This means that no signal continues on to the mixing circuitry that creates the main outputs. As the level control is rotated in the clockwise direction the gain of the preamplifier increases, as does the level of the signal sent to the selected output bus (or buses).

Output Assignment Switch

A 3-position toggle-type switch is used to assign which of the output buses the signal will be routed to. In the "up" position the signal is sent only to output bus 1. In the "down" position the signal is sent only to output bus 2. In the "center" position the signal is sent to both output buses 1 and 2.

Line Inputs

Four identical line-level input channels are provided. The following provides a detailed description of one of them:

Status LED

A dual-color LED acts as a user-confidence indication of the overall signal level in the circuitry associated with the line-level input. The LED will light green as a signal present indicator, showing that the input signal, along with the gain or loss of



Detail of front panel showing one line input channel

the input amplifier, is at least 18 dB below the nominal internal operating level. The LED will light red as a peak signal indicator, showing that the level is within 6 dB of the circuitry's maximum.

Level Control

The rotary control is used to adjust the overall gain or loss of the line input's amplifier circuitry, thus setting the amount of signal that is sent to the output bus (or buses). In the fully counterclockwise position the amplifier gain is set to its minimum, and full attenuation is achieved. This means that no signal continues on to the mixing circuitry that creates the main outputs. As the level control is rotated in the clockwise direction the gain of the preamplifier increases, as does the level of the signal sent to the selected output bus (or buses).

Output Assignment Switch

A 3-position toggle-type switch is used to assign which of the output buses the signal will be routed to. In the "up" position the signal is sent only to output bus 1. In the "down" position the signal is sent only to output bus 2. In the "center" position the signal is sent to both output buses 1 and 2.

Master Section/Main Output Buses

The Model 742's master section supports output buses 1 and 2 with several controls and switches, compressor circuitry, and level and status indications. The following sections provide detailed descriptions of each of them.

Master Level Controls

Two rotary controls are used to set the overall level of output buses 1 and 2. The controls are "concentric" type, with the inner knob controlling bus 1 and the outer knob controlling bus 2. On the front panel, note the graphic symbol and the letter "U," located at the approximately "1-o'clock" rotational position. This indicates the correct setting to provide unity gain through the circuitry, and is the position where the controls should normally be set.

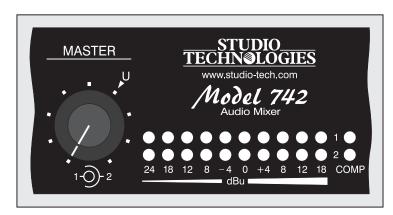
Compressor

Studio-quality compressor circuits are associated with the two output buses. A yellow LED, located to the right of each LED meter, will light whenever its respective compressor is controlling the dynamic range of the output bus. The operating

threshold of the compressors and associated LEDs depends on how the Model 742 has been configured:

- From the factory the compressor thresholds are set to be 6 dB over the Model 742's nominal output level of +4 dBu. This correlates to a level on the main output connectors of +10 dBu.
- The compressors' configuration can also be revised so that thresholds of 2 dB over nominal are selected. This correlates to a nominal level on the main output connector of +6 dBu. With this configuration the compressors may be active quite frequently during typical Model 742 operation.
- A third configuration is also available which serves to disable the compressors. In this case dynamic range control will never take place and the LEDs will never light.

If the compressors are set to use one of the two thresholds, i.e., +10 or +6 the compressor active LEDs should prove useful. With the input and master level controls set correctly, the compressor active LEDs will typically light only when peak signals are present. In an "ideal"



Detail of front panel highlighting master level controls, 10-segment LED level meters, and compressor active LEDs

world where maximum audio fidelity is the goal, the LEDs should rarely, if ever, light.

Level Meters

Two 10-segment LED meters display the level present on main outputs 1 and 2. Each meter has seven green LEDs which light in the presence of signals in the normal operating range. Two yellow LEDs light with signals slightly higher in level than normal. One red LED lights whenever the signal level is in the "headroom" area. The ballistics of the meters is a cross between that of VU and a peak (PPM) meters. (We affectionately refer to them as "PU" meters!) The way the LEDs "move" in response to signals should be comfortable for most users to observe.

While the meters are easy to interpret, they are somewhat different from ones that are marked with "VU" nomenclature. The important thing to remember is that the steps show level in dBu, rather than VU units. So, for example, when the meter step that is labeled "0" lights, it indicates that 0 dBu is present on its associated main output connector. It doesn't indicate 0 VU! (Remember that 0 VU typically indicates a device's reference operating level—often +4 dBm.)

The seven green LEDs in each meter display a dynamic range of 28 dB, with thresholds of –24 dBu, –18 dBu, –12 dBu, –8 dBu, –4 dBu, 0 dBu, and +4 dBu. This is the range that typical signals should display if correct settings have been made to the input sensitivity switches, input level controls, and master level controls. The two yellow LEDs light when a signal level has exceeded the Model 742's nominal +4 dBu output level. Their thresholds

are +8 dBu and +12 dBu, well within the capabilities of the unit's circuitry. The red LED lights when signal on the main output meets or exceeds +18 dBu. This is dangerously close to the Model 742's maximum output level and should be avoided.

But now back to reality when it comes to how the meters will function during actual Model 742 use. To a great degree meter activity will depend on how the compressors have been configured to operate. As discussed in previous sections of this user guide, a technician can set the Model 742's compressors to operate from one of three modes:

- If the factory-default compressor threshold of +10 dBu is in effect, normal audio content will cause each meter to display a small to moderate amount of dynamic range control. The yellow level LEDs may light on peak signal levels, along with the compressor active LED. The red LED will essentially never light.
- If the thresholds are set for +6 dBu, typically only a meter's first yellow LED will light. The second yellow LED will rarely light; the red LED will probably never light. With this configuration there often may be a large amount of dynamic range control being performed by the compressors. Obviously the goal in this case is for the operator to carefully set the Model 742's controls so that the signal level generally stays below the compressor's threshold. But with the fairly low threshold of +6 dBu, it may be difficult to not have the compressors active almost all the time.

If the compressors have been configured not to function (disabled), the meters will get their biggest workout.
 Depending on the setting of the input and master output controls, all ten segments of each meter may often come into play.

Reference Tone

A sine-wave tone can be connected to the two output buses, serving as a reference signal for local and remote use. A pushbutton switch selects its status; when the switch is in its on (in) position tone is connected to both output bus 1 and 2. An LED indicator, which is located directly below the switch, lights whenever tone is being sent to the main buses. The distinctive blue color of the LED is intended to clearly alert the user that tone is active. The level of the tone generation circuitry is adjusted at the factory to match the Model 742's internal operating level. When the tone is connected to the output buses, the master level controls should be adjusted to give +4 dBu indications on the level meters.

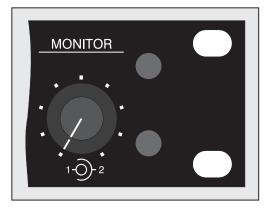


Detail of front panel showing master level controls, reference tone on/off button, and reference tone active LED

Monitor Section

The monitor section can assist an operator in obtaining the best performance from the Model 742 and associated equipment. The monitor section supports the connection of both a loudspeaker system and a headphone device. The two monitor outputs are line-level and designed to be connected to audio power amplifier channels and associated loudspeakers. Alternatively, they can be connected to "amplified" loudspeakers that contain internal power amplifiers. The headphone output, located on the back panel, is designed to support stereo devices.

Monitor output 1, and the left channel of the headphone output, use output bus 1 as their audio source. Monitor output 2, and the right channel of the headphone output, use output bus 2 as their audio source. A rotary control sets the output levels of the headphone channels and, depending on the Model 742's configuration, may also control the level of the monitor loudspeakers. Understanding and becoming comfortable with using the monitor section is important in obtaining optimal Model 742 performance.



Detail of front panel showing monitor output level controls

Level Controls

The rotary controls are always used to adjust the output level of the headphone output channels. Like the master output controls, they are concentric, the inner knob controlling channel 1 and the outer knob channel 2. Depending on how the monitor output mode is configured, the rotary controls may also adjust the levels of the connected loudspeakers. There are three ways that the monitor output can be configured:

- From the factory the monitor output is configured to follow the position of the front-panel level controls ("post" level controls). In this mode the front-panel controls are used to adjust the levels of the monitor outputs, and thus the monitor loudspeakers.
- A second configuration mode takes the Model 742's front-panel level controls out of the picture vis-à-vis the monitor outputs. It does this by setting the nominal level of the monitor outputs at a fixed value of -10 dBu. In this mode the level controls on the connected amplifier channels, or amplified loudspeakers, are used to adjust the loudspeaker levels.
- A third configuration mode also takes the Model 742's front-panel level controls out of the picture. In this case the nominal level of the monitor outputs is fixed at +4 dBu. Again in this mode the level controls on the connected amplifier channels, or amplified loudspeakers, are used to adjust the loudspeaker levels.

Headphone Output

The headphone output is designed to work well with virtually any of the contemporary medium- and high-impedance stereo headphones. Sony headphones were used during the design of the Model 742; their high sensitivity made them go "way loud"! (While a bit "bright" in the high-end for our taste, their comfort and fine design make them a good choice for use with the Model 742.) Using the headphone output to monitor the Model 742 is a bit different than monitoring a typical "stereo" audio source. This is because the audio source for the left channel of the headphone output is always output bus 1 while the audio source for the right channel is output bus 2. This means that the monitor level controls will be used not only to set the overall headphone output levels, but also to select which output bus or buses are going to be monitored.

Warning: Protect your ears! The Model 742 is capable of driving headphones to extremely high sound pressure levels. Hearing experts advise against continuous extended play, especially at high levels. Polka music has been found to be especially dangerous, so please be careful.

Practical Operating Tips

Now that we've reviewed all the sections that comprise the Model 742, it's time to actually use the unit. The following paragraphs provide suggestions regarding how to best use the Model 742.

Setting the Output Bus Operating Levels

The two output bus master level controls allow the overall gain structure of the main audio buses to be set. Correctly setting these controls ensures that the best audio quality will be achieved. In most cases simply setting both controls to the unity gain position is appropriate; the unity gain position is clearly marked with a triangle or "carrot" and a "U" on the front panel. If you are a fanatic for accuracy you may want set the level controls "precisely" using the following procedure:

- Set the tone button to the on (in) position. This will cause the blue LED to light and a precision-level sine-wave tone to be connected to output buses 1 and 2. (The factory-default frequency for the tone is 400 Hz tone but a configuration change allows 1 kHz.)
- 2. Adjust the master level controls so that the +4 dBu LEDs on the meters just begin to light. The audio buses are now set for unity gain.
- 3. The procedure has now been completed. Return the tone button to the off (out) position.

Signal Present/Peak LEDs

Dual-color status LEDs are associated with each of the four mic/line inputs as well as the four line-level inputs. Simply stated, lighting green is fine, lighting red is bad. When a mic/line input channel has its input sensitivity (mic/line) switch and level control set correctly only the LED's green color should light. Each line-level input channel should have its level control set so that only the LED's green color lights. With both types of input channels,

signal peaks may cause an occasional red "flash," but sustained red lighting indicates that audio performance is being compromised.

Compressor Active LEDs

Compressor active LEDs, one for each output bus, are located directly to the right of the level meters. They will light with a yellow color whenever dynamic range control is taking place. If the compressors have been configured not to operate (disabled) then obviously the LEDs will never light. If the compressors are enabled, typical operation should find the LEDs lighting on occasion, or even frequently, on signal peaks. But the LEDs should never light continuously. If this is the case the input level controls should be adjusted to reduce the amount of signal being sent to the audio buses. Also, the position of the master level controls should be checked to ensure that they are set correctly. In most cases they should be set to the reference position, marked "U" for unity gain.

Technical Notes

Configuration Changes

Warning: A competent technician is required to perform any configuration review or changes. The cover of the Model 742 must be removed to access the configuration jumpers. This exposes the technician to a potential shock hazard. Only after AC mains power has been disconnected and the mains cord removed from the back of the Model 742, should the cover be removed. Four screws, two on each side of the chassis, are used to secure the cover.

Phantom Power

The four mic/line inputs can be configured to provide 12-volt phantom power, allowing support for condenser microphones. If phantom power is configured to be available, it will be present only when an input sensitivity switch is set to its mic (out) position. One configuration jumper is used to select whether phantom power (for all four mic/line inputs) is on or off. The factory default has the jumper set to the off position. To enable phantom power, move the jumper to the on position. Finding the phantom power configuration location takes a "keen eye." When viewed with the Model 742's cover off, it is located near the front of the printed circuit board, near the input sensitivity (mic/line) switch associated with mic/line input 4. The jumper section is labeled 12 V PHANTOM.

Compressor Configurations

The compressor circuits that control the dynamic range of the main output buses can be configured to operate from one of three modes. Two configuration jumpers, one for each compressor circuit, are used to select which mode is active. From the factory the jumpers are placed across the pins labeled +10 dBu. This sets the thresholds to be 6 dB above the main outputs' +4 dBu nominal output level. Moving the jumpers to the +6 dBu positions sets the thresholds to be 2 dB above the +4 dBu nominal output level. To disable compressor operation place the jumpers on the pins labeled OFF. Finding the compressor configuration locations is not difficult. When viewed with the cover off, they are located at the back of the printed circuit board, near the XLR-type connectors that are associated with the main outputs. The jumper sections are labeled

COMPRESSOR 1 and COMPRESSOR 2. The factory default has the jumpers set to their +10 dBu positions.

Monitor Output Configurations

The monitor section's line-level outputs are configured to operate from one of three modes. Two configuration jumpers, one for each monitor output, are used to select the desired mode. From the factory the jumpers are placed across the pins labeled POST. This configures the monitor outputs so that they are after ("post") the level controls. Moving the jumpers to the PRE -10 locations sets the monitor outputs to be electrically before ("pre") the level controls and to have a nominal level of -10 dBu. This is appropriate when connecting the monitor outputs to the inputs of most amplified loudspeakers. Moving the jumpers to the PRE +4 locations sets the monitor outputs to be "pre" the level controls but with a +4 dBu nominal level. This mode allows the monitor outputs to serve as an additional set of line-level main outputs. Finding the configuration locations for the monitor outputs is not difficult. When viewed with the cover off, they are located at the back of the printed circuit board, near the XLR-type connectors that are associated with the main outputs. The jumper sections are labeled MONITOR 1 and MONITOR 2. The factory default has the jumpers set to the POST positions.

Reference Tone Frequency Configuration

Two configuration jumpers are used to select the nominal frequency range of the reference tone oscillator. A trim potentiometer is then used to set the frequency to the exact desired value. From the factory the frequency of the reference tone is set

to be 400 Hz. This was accomplished during the testing process in two steps. The first step was to set the jumpers to the two locations that are labeled 400 Hz. Then the trim pot labeled TONE FREQ was adjusted so that a 400 Hz signal was generated, as measured between the COM and the TONE test points.

To change the frequency to 1 kHz start by moving the jumpers to the positions labeled 1 kHz. Then, using a frequency counter or other measuring device, adjust the trim pot labeled TONE FREQ so that a 1 kHz signal is present on the test point labeled TONE, when measured in reference to the test point labeled COM. Finding the reference tone frequency configuration location on the printed circuit board is not difficult. When viewed from the front with the cover off, it is located on the far right side of the printed circuitry board, directly in front of the mains power transformer. It is labeled TONE FREQ.

Be careful not to adjust the trim pot that is labeled TONE LEVEL. This adjusts the output level of the oscillator to give precisely –2 dBu to the main audio buses when the front-panel tone button is enabled. Should this pot have to be readjusted the procedure is quite simple: measure across the COM and TONE test points and adjust the trim pot to give –2 dBu. The measurement equipment must have a high input impedance (>2 k ohms) so as not to load the oscillator's output.

Model 742 Feature Set

The Model 742 was carefully designed with simplicity of operation in mind. Only the required features and functions were included. The goal was reliable audio performance with little risk that operator

confusion or errors would occur. Protecting the audio signals associated with live news "shots" was foremost on the list of requirements. The Model 742's design team spent lots of time making lists of what features could be included, only to be told by field personnel that everything that wasn't absolutely required should stay out! Here's a review of several common features that weren't included and the reasons why:

- Including high-pass (low cut) filters on the mic/line inputs was a possibility. But in the "heat of battle" it's unlikely that an operator will have the time to enable them. Also, these functions require another four front-panel switches for high-pass enable/disable selection.
 More switches can lead to more operator error! If wind noise is an issue, microphone selection (or adding a windscreen) will often resolve the issue. Alternately, personnel "down stream" in an editing suite or at a live audio console can typically apply a high-pass filter as required.
- Allowing an operator front-panel adjustment of the compressor functions was certainly a possibility. But frankly, it would guarantee that audio performance would often be compromised. The Model 742's compressor circuits were optimized for the unit's intended applications. The compression ratio, nominally 5:1, is very effective in controlling the dynamic range of voice signals, the primary application for the unit. The attack and release times were also carefully selected for overall excellent performance. A typical user is not in a position to, "on the fly," improve compressor performance. In addition, no operator-accessible compressor

on/off switches are provided. If at the time of installation the "powers that be" make the decision that dynamic range control is desired, the internal jumpers are configured accordingly. From then on "hands off" operation will take place.

Definition of Level

Studio Technologies has opted to use the dBu designation. Using dBm was fine when all audio outputs were terminated with 600 ohm loads. In this way it was easy to say that "0 dB" was 1 milliwatt dissipated in the known load (i.e., 0 dBm across 600 ohms will measure 0.775 V). Today, an output is rarely terminated with 600 ohms; generally 10 k ohms or higher. The dBu designation is better because it refers to dB referenced to 0.775 V, with load impedance not a factor. This takes into account the contemporary audio scene where most equipment has a low output source impedance and a high input impedance.

Mic/Line Switching

As previously discussed, the four mic/line input circuits can be selected for compatibility with microphone or line-level signals. For compatibility with line-level signals a 43 dB balanced attenuator ("pad") is connected between an input connector and its associated microphone preamplifier circuit. Front-panel pushbutton switches are used to select whether the pads are bypassed (mic input setting) or active (line input setting). In addition, 12-volt phantom power, if internally configured, also passes through the pushbutton switches. Phantom power is turned off when a switch is set to its line (in) position.

While the switches are conveniently located on the front panel, audio does not actually pass through them. Instead, the audio signals are routed through sealed, bifurcated contact electromechanical relays. These subminiature relays are located very close to the mic/line input connectors, minimizing the chance of hum or noise pickup and helping to maintain good common-mode rejection. The relays should prove to be very reliable, being designed for telecom use where typical operating life is in the millions of cycles.

Specifications

General Audio Parameters:

Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20 kHz, ±0.5 dB,

mic/line in to main outs

Distortion (THD+N): 0.03 %, measured at 1 kHz,

+4 dBu, mic/line in to main outs

S/N Ratio: 74 dB, referenced to +4 dBu, mic/line

in to main outs, 22 Hz to 22 kHz

Mic/Line Inputs: 4

Input Sensitivity: switch selectable for microphone or live-level signals; 43 dB line input "pad" implemented using sealed bifurcated contact

telecom relays

Phantom Power: 12 Vdc, nominal, meets IEC

61938 P12 standard

Operating Level Range: mic input position: -76 to -8 dBu; line position: -32 to +28 dBu. Range specified to give +4 dBu on main outs, master level controls set to unity gain.

Type: electronically balanced

Impedance: mic position 1.3 k ohms, line position

15 k ohms

Common Mode Rejection Ratio: 74 dB @ 60 Hz, 73 dB @ 40 kHz (typical), mic position, ref +4 dBu

on main outs

Status LED: dual-color, displays signal present

and peak

Line Inputs: 4

Operating Level Range: -14 to +28 dBu. Range specified to give +4 dBu on main outs, master

level controls set to unity gain. **Type:** electronically balanced

Impedance: 24 k ohms, nominal

Common Mode Rejection Ratio: 85 dB @ 60 Hz, 85 dB @ 40 kHz (typical), ref +4 dBu on main outs

Status LED: dual-color, displays signal present

and peak

Compressors: 2

Function: controls dynamic range of output buses

1 and 2

Type: single-knee, VCA-controlled

Slope: 5:1

Threshold: configurable, choices are: 6 dB over nominal (+10 dBu on main output, factory default); 2 dB over nominal (+6 dBu on main out); disabled

Attack Time: 2 ms Release Time: 100 ms

Status LEDs: 2, compressor active

Main Outputs: 2

Type: electronically balanced, capacitor-coupled, intended to drive balanced or unbalanced loads of

600 ohms or greater

Source Impedance: 50 ohms, nominal

Nominal Level: +4 dBu

Maximum Level: +26 dBu into 10 k ohms,

+25 dBu into 600 ohms

Monitor Outputs: 2

Signal Sources: output buses 1 and 2

Type: electronically balanced, capacitor-coupled, intended to drive balanced or unbalanced loads of

600 ohms or greater

Source Impedance: 50 ohms, nominal

Nominal Level: configurable, choice are: +6 dBu, with monitor level control @ 100%, mode configured for POST level control; -10 dBu when configured for PRE -10; +4 dBu when configured for PRE +4

Maximum Level: +26 dBu into 10 k ohms,

+25 dBu into 600 ohms

Headphone Output:

Signal Sources: output buses 1 and 2 ("post"

monitor level controls)

Type: stereo, configured to drive headphones

through 100 ohm series resistors

Compatibility: intended for connection to headphones with impedance of 100 ohms or greater

Maximum Voltage: 8 Vpp, 100 ohm load

Reference Tone:

Frequency and Wave Form: 400 Hz nominal, sine

wave (technician can revise to 1 kHz)

Direct Output Level: +4 dBu, nominal, adjustable

over -1/+3 dB range

Direct Output Type: electronically balanced, capacitor-coupled, intended to drive balanced or

unbalanced loads of 600 ohms or greater

Direct Output Source Impedance: 100 ohms,

nominal

Meters: 2

Function: displays level of output buses 1 and 2 **Type:** 10-segment LED, modified VU ballistics

Connectors:

Mic/Line and Line Inputs: 3-pin female XLR-type

Main Outputs: 3-pin male XLR-type

Reference Tone Direct Output, Monitor Outputs, Headphone Output: 1/4-inch 3-conductor phone

jacks

AC Mains: 3-blade, IEC 320 C14-compatible

(mates with IEC 320 C13)

AC Mains Requirement:

100, 120, or 220/240 volts, ±10%, factory configured; 50/60 Hz; 0.2 A maximum @ 100 and 120 volts, 0.1 A maximum @ 220/240 volts

Mains Fusing:

Type: 5 x 20 mm, time-lag

Rating: 0.2 A for 100 and 120 volt AC mains, 0.1 A

for 220/240 volt AC mains

Dimensions (Overall):

19.00 inches wide (48.3 cm) 1.72 inches high (8.9 cm) 9.5 inches deep (24.1 cm)

Mounting: One standard rack space

Weight:

8.5 pounds (3.9 kg)

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

