



Model 5518A Mic/Line Interface Featuring ST 2110 Technology

Key Features

- Supports SMPTE ST 2110, AMWA NMOS IS-04 and IS-05
- Eight mic/line inputs and eight analog outputs
- Flexible monitoring with metering and headphone output
- Connection management using webpages or ANEMAN™
- Three Gigabit Ethernet interfaces
- Standard connectors
- Excellent audio quality
- AC mains and 12 volt DC powering
- Lightweight enclosure, single rack-space (1U) mounting

Introduction

The Model 5518A Mic/Line Interface provides a simple yet high-performance means of interfacing analog signals with applications that utilize the SMPTE® ST 2110 suite of standards to implement audio-over-Ethernet networking connectivity. Redundant stream performance is supported following the ST 2022-7 standard. The unit is compatible with the SMPTE ST 2110-30 standard for PCM audio signals and the ST 2110-10 standard for signal timing.

Eight analog microphone- or line-level sources can be connected to the unit and then output in the digital domain by way of the Ethernet interfaces. Eight digital audio signals, which arrive by way of Ethernet, are converted to analog and then output as balanced line-level signals. For application troubleshooting, a configuration choice allows 1 kHz tones or the mic/line inputs to be selected as the sources for the analog output channels.

A monitor section allows the input and output signals to be selectively observed using a meter function, a headphone output, and, if desired, two line-level analog outputs.

The Model 5518A is a fully professional product that offers the audio quality, features, and reliability required by 24-hour on-air and commercial applications. Located on the unit's front panel, the eight mic/line audio inputs use standard 3-pin female XLR connectors for easy interfacing with balanced and unbalanced sources. The input circuitry features adjustable gain, P48 phantom power, and high-pass filter functions. Configuration of the input channels can be made locally using pushbutton switches and an associated OLED display. Webpages, accessible using the Model 5518A's integrated web server, allow remote control of the input parameters. The analog mic/line input audio signals are converted to 24-bit PCM digital and then transported via the Ethernet network interfaces.

The destination routing of the mic/line input signals can be performed using the Model 5518A's internally provided webpages or JSON API commands. In addition, NMOS and ANEMAN network management can also be utilized.

Digital audio sources associated with ST 2110-compliant devices can be routed to the Model 5518A, converted to analog, and then provided to users as balanced line-level analog outputs. A 25-pin female D-subminiature connector, located on the unit's back panel, provides access to the eight analog outputs. The digital audio sources can be routed to the Model 5518A using internally provided webpages, JSON API commands, or the ANEMAN software application. Configuration tasks can also be performed following the NMOS IS-04 and IS-05 standards.



Model 5518A Front and Rear Views

The monitor section provides the user with the ability to select any input or output signal, or signal pair, for monitoring using the 2-channel (stereo) headphone output. A configuration choice allows selected analog outputs to provide a monitoring function for connection to inputs on amplified loudspeakers or audio power amplifiers. An OLED display, located on the unit's front panel, offers a metering function which allows the input and output audio signals to be visually monitored.

The Model 5518A provides three Gigabit Ethernet (GigE) network interfaces, two to support redundant operation following the ST 2022-7 standard and the third for accessing the management menu system. An internal web server allows fast and flexible monitoring and configuration of the unit's audio input and output performance. Front-panel indicators, an OLED display, and pushbutton switches provide users with direct access to key operating parameters.

The Model 5518A can be powered by 100-240 V, 50/60 Hz mains or a source of 12 volts DC. Both can be simultaneously connected to provide redundant operation. The lightweight enclosure mounts in one space (1U) of a standard 19-inch rack. Industry-standard connectors are used for the audio input, audio output, Ethernet, AC mains, and DC power interconnections.

Audio over Managed IP Networks

Digital audio data associated with the Model 5518A is interfaced with local area network (LAN) connections following the SMPTE ST 2110 standards. A highlight of ST 2110 is its ability to utilize any standard Ethernet network implementation, including switches, to directly transport professional audio signals. For signal integrity the Model 5518A supports redundant audio data streams per the ST 2022-7 standard. The unit supports digital audio signals with a sampling rate of 48 kHz and a bit depth of 24. This ensures compatibility with virtually all broadcast, production, industrial, and commercial applications.

Network Interfaces

The Model 5518A's Primary + Control and Secondary Ethernet interfaces can be utilized for 2022-7 Redundant Stream applications. The third Ethernet interface, named MGMT (Management), will always be used to access the unit's management webpages. This interface can be connected to an independent network that some facilities implement for equipment monitoring and maintenance purposes. The unit's management web server can also be connected to the network that is being used for ST 2110 operation. This would function correctly since the management web server will always have a unique IP address that would not interact with audio and related data. Status LEDs,

located on the unit's back panel, provide a real-time indication of LAN performance.

Applications

The Model 5518A is a general-purpose mic/line input, analog output, and monitoring device intended for a variety of audio and audio-for-picture applications that utilize the ST 2110 suite of standards. It's suitable for use in demanding on-air broadcast and live-event applications that require both excellent audio performance and reliable operation. The rack-mounted unit is appropriate for installation in fixed locations, serving the needs of systems associated with post-production, content distribution, education, commercial, and government facilities. Its lightweight enclosure also makes it suitable for mobile and field uses.

The Model 5518A features an optimized set of controls and indicators that makes it simple and intuitive to use. With the unit's headphone and level monitoring resources it's easy for operators to obtain optimal performance. By providing standard connectors for all inputs and outputs, operating changes can be completed simply and rapidly.

ST 2110 Networking

ST 2110 is an emerging technology that is finding wide acceptance as an audio, video, and ancillary data transport "backbone" due to its interoperability, flexibility, and support by a large number of equipment manufacturers. The Model 5518A can serve as an "edge" device for ST 2110-compliant implementations, providing high-performance input, output, and monitor resources in a compact, cost-effective package. The unit can also serve as a general-purpose audio "tool" to help extend ST 2110 capabilities to facilities and applications that were initially implemented to support signals in the analog domain.

The Model 5518A's ST 2110 interface supports conformance levels A, B, C, AX, BX, and CX in single and redundant streams. The latter follows the SMPTE ST 2022-7 standard and allows connection of one or two networks as desired. The Primary + Control Ethernet interface allows configuration of the ST 2110 interface by way of webpages. NMOS support that follows the IS-04 and IS-05 standards is provided. The Merging Technologies ANEMAN Audio Network Manager application can also be utilized as can a JSON API. The ST 2110 audio sample rate is selected for 48 kHz with a bit depth of 24.

Studio Technologies has not fully explored the Model 5518A's ability to support Ravenna and AES67. The ST 2110 capabilities in the Model 5518A are provided by the ZMAN module from Merging Technologies. The ZMAN specifications indicate full compatibility with Ravenna and AES67. As such, Model 5518A ST 2110 audio channels should be directly compatible

with AES67 audio channels. (Actually, our impression is that ST 2110 audio was based on ensuring compatibility with AES67.) Ravenna is also, depending on its configuration, directly compatible with AES67. So, in theory, the Model 5518A can serve both as a Ravenna to Dante and a AES67 to Dante bridge. Settings in the ZMAN-provided configuration webpages may have to be selected specifically for compatibility with Ravenna or AES67, but the required parameters should be able to be selected. Over time Studio Technologies will explore this subject further and a conversation with factory personnel may provide additional clarity.

Mic/Line Inputs

The Model 5518A provides eight analog inputs that are compatible with microphone and line-level signals. The mic/line input circuitry allows the level of the connected sources to be boosted as required, converted to digital, and then output as part of an IP stream via an Ethernet network. Each mic/line input can be individually configured to meet the requirements posed by a wide range of sources. The configuration choices can be made either locally or by way of webpages associated with an internal web server. The preamplifier of each channel can be selected for 0 dB of gain to support line-level sources or 10 to 60 dB of gain, in 1-dB steps, for microphones. A source of P48 phantom power can be enabled to power condenser microphones. In addition, a high-pass filter (HPF) function can be enabled as required to reduce the presence of unwanted low-frequency content typically associated with hum, rumble, or wind noise.

Compatible signal sources include dynamic, ribbon, and phantom-powered condenser (capacitor) microphones. The preamplifier gain setting of 0 dB and the range of 10 to 20 dB were specifically included to support connection of balanced and unbalanced line-level signals that are commonly provided by professional and semi-professional audio equipment. Typical nominal levels for these sources would be +4 dBu and -10 dBV, respectively. Devices providing these analog signal sources could include audio consoles, wireless microphone receivers, and broadcast playback equipment.

For front-panel space efficiency the eight mic/line input channels share a common configuration section which includes seven pushbutton switches and an OLED display. The buttons allow rapid local selection of the preamplifier gain as well as controlling the on/off status of the P48 phantom power and high-pass filter (HPF) functions. The OLED display allows the preamplifier gain of each mic/line input channel to be observed. Audio channel level metering is also provided as part of the OLED display's resources. The "virtual" meters can assist users in optimizing

the preamplifier gain settings which in turn will provide the best possible conversion from the analog to the digital domain. LED indicators associated with each mic/line input channel provide the on/off status of the P48 phantom power and high-pass filter (HPF) functions.

The mic/line inputs are electronically balanced (differential), capacitor-coupled, and ESD (static) protected for reliable operation in demanding applications. Extensive filtering minimizes the chance that radio frequency (RF) energy will cause interference. The inputs are protected from damage should a moderate DC voltage be accidentally connected. The sum of these characteristics makes the mic/line inputs suitable for use in studio and mobile facilities as well as field-deployed environments.

The eight 3-pin female XLR connectors associated with the Model 5518A's mic/line inputs were specifically located on the front panel. This can eliminate the need for an external I/O or "patch" panel, allowing signal sources and their associated interconnecting cables to be rapidly connected and disconnected as required. Rather than being buried in the back of a rack enclosure, the Model 5518A provides convenient access to the mic/line input connectors and their associated configuration buttons, indicators, and OLED display.

The audio performance of the Model 5518A's mic/line inputs is very good. Low-noise, wide dynamic-range preamplifier circuits ensure that input audio quality is preserved. The P48 phantom power source is extremely low noise, allowing optimal microphone operation and imparting little signal degradation. The outputs of the preamplifiers are routed to high-performance analog-to-digital conversion (ADC) sections that support a 48 kHz sampling rate and a bit depth of 24. A precision voltage-reference circuit helps the ADC circuitry perform highly accurate signal conversion. The audio signals, now in the digital domain, are packetized and prepared for transport over Ethernet networking.

Analog Outputs

The Model 5518A provides eight general-purpose line-level analog output channels. Each channel can be individually configured to use as its input source a ST 2110-30 receiver (input) channel, a mic/line input channel, one of the monitor output channels, or a 1 kHz sine-wave tone. In most applications, a digital receiver (input) channel associated with the unit's Ethernet interfaces will serve as the audio source. The unit's JSON API or the ANEMAN software application would be used to select the sources which originate from channels on designated ST 2110-compliant equipment.

Another configuration choice allows an analog signal associated with the unit's mic/line inputs to serve as the source for an analog output channel. The selected signal would be post (after) the mic/line input circuitry and provide a broadcast-style "hot mic" line-level analog output version of its associated mic/line input signal. To allow connection to inputs on amplified speakers any analog output channel can also be configured to use either of the two monitor outputs as its source. For troubleshooting purposes, a 1 kHz sine-wave tone can be assigned as the source for any analog output channel. This resulting analog output signal would have a nominal level of +4 dBu.

The Model 5518A's analog outputs have a maximum level of +24 dBu. This allows both compatibility and sufficient headroom in applications where digital audio signals with a nominal level of -20 dBFS need to translate into analog signals that have a nominal level of +4 dBu. For flexibility, a configuration menu choice allows the level of each analog output channel to be individually adjusted ("trimmed") over a range of ±20 dB in 1-dB steps. This ensures that the Model 5518A will also be compatible in environments that utilize 0, +4, +6, or even +8 dBu nominal output levels.

The analog outputs are electronically balanced, capacitor-coupled, and ESD (static) protected. High-quality components, including the important digital-to-analog converters (DAC), are used to provide low-distortion, low-noise, and sonically excellent performance. Robust circuitry provides protection from damage should a moderate DC voltage be accidentally connected, something especially useful in broadcast applications. The analog outputs are compatible with virtually all balanced and unbalanced loads with an impedance of 2 k ohms or greater.

Audio Input and Output Monitoring

A flexible, easy-to-use monitor section offers users the ability to listen to and visually observe the level of the audio signals that are associated with the eight mic/line input channels and the eight analog output channels. A mode configuration choice allows monitoring of either a single audio channel or a pair of audio channels. This can be valuable when monitoring monaural or stereo (dual-channel) signals. Using a ¼-inch 3-conductor jack, located on the front panel, a 2-channel output supports the connection of a pair of stereo headphones. A rotary control allows the level of the headphone output to be adjusted.

For application flexibility, a 2-channel line-level analog monitor output can also be created. The analog outputs selected for this function would be connected to inputs on amplified loudspeakers or a power amplifier associated with monitor loudspeakers. In

this way, the audio signals that are selected for the headphone output will also be used by the designated analog output channels. A configuration choice allows the selected audio sources to be either pre (before) or post (after) the rotary level control. The front-panel OLED display provides "bar graph" signal level metering. Depending on how the monitor section is being used, one, two, or even eight channels of level can be simultaneously displayed.

Simple Installation

The Model 5518A uses standard connectors to allow fast and convenient interconnections. 3-conductor female XLR connectors, a 25-pin female D-subminiature connector, and a 3-conductor ¼-inch jack are used to interface with the mic/line input, analog output, and headphone output audio signals. The unit connects to local area networks (LANs) using three RJ45 connectors. Multiple LEDs on the unit's back panel display the status of the network connections. A detachable power cord can be used to connect a source of mains power. A DC power source would connect using a 4-pin XLR connector. The lightweight aluminum enclosure mounts in one space (1U) of a standard 19-inch rack enclosure.

Operating Power

The Model 5518A allows an AC mains source of 100-240 V, 50/60 Hz to be connected by way of a standard detachable mains power cord. It can also be DC powered using a 10-16-volt source that is connected via a broadcast-standard 4-pin XLR connector. If both AC and DC power sources are connected, the unit will be powered by the AC mains supply. Only if the AC mains source fails will a load be placed on the DC source. This allows a source of DC, such as a battery pack, to serve in a backup capacity. With this arrangement, normal operation can continue even if AC mains power is lost.

Future Capabilities and Firmware Updating

The Model 5518A was designed so that its capabilities can be easily updated and enhanced in the future. A USB host connector, located on the unit's back panel, allows the main and FPGA (programmable-logic) firmware (embedded software) to be updated using a USB flash drive. A Merging Technologies ZMAN module is used to implement the Model 5518A's ST 2110 functionality. The module's firmware can be updated using a web browser connected to the Ethernet interface utilized for ST 2110 control use. All software files and configuration parameters are stored in non-volatile memory.

Model 5518A Specifications

Network Audio Technology – ST 2110:

Type: SMPTE ST 2110-10:2017 and ST 2110-30:2017

Supports Conformance Levels:

A: 48 kHz streams with 1-8 audio channels at packet times of 1 ms

B: 48 kHz streams with 1-8 audio channels at packet times of 125 μ s

C: 48 kHz streams with 1-64 audio channels at packet times of 1 ms

AX: 96 kHz streams with 1-4 audio channels at packet times of 1 ms

BX: 96 kHz streams with 1-8 audio channels at packet times of 125 μ s

CX: 96 kHz streams with 1-32 audio channels at packet times of 125 μ s

AMWA NMOS Support: IS-04 Discover & Registration ("Discovery") and IS-05 Device Connection Management ("Routing")

Redundant Streams: compliant with Level B, SMPTE ST 2022-7:2013

Seamless Protection Switching (8-channel stream at 48 kHz sample rate, packet time 125 μ s)

Synchronization: per SMPTE ST 2110-10, Precision Time Protocol (PTP) IEEE® 1588-2008 Version 2; supported profile IEEE 1588:2008

Compatibility: JT-NM TR-1001 (System Environment and Device Behavior)

Discovery, Control, and Connection Management: includes web user interface, NMOS, Merging Technologies' ANEMAN Audio Network Manager, and JSON API,

Audio Performance and Transport: digital

Audio Type: pulse-code modulation (PCM)

Sampling Rate: 48 kHz

Bit Depth: 24

Number of Sender (Output) Channels: 8

Number of Receiver (Input) Channels: 8

Remote Control of Mic/Line Input Parameters: webpages provided by internal web server

Network Interfaces:

Qty: 3; ST 2110 Primary + Control, ST 2110 Secondary, and Management

Type: 1000BASE-T (Gigabit Ethernet (GigE)) per IEEE 802.3ab

NIC Status LEDs: one link and one activity for each Ethernet interface

Mic/Line Inputs: 8

Compatibility: dynamic, ribbon, or phantom-powered mics; mic/line-level sources

Type: analog, electronically balanced, capacitor coupled

Impedance – Mic Setting: 3.0 k ohms, nominal

Impedance – Line Setting: 6.4 k ohms, nominal

Gain: 0 dB (line), 10-60 dB in 1-dB steps

Maximum Level: +24 dBu, 0 dB gain selected (results in digital output level of 0 dBFS)

EIN: -126 dBu, 22 kHz bandwidth, 49 dB gain, 150 ohms source resistance

Dynamic Range: >117 dB, 0 dB gain, A-weighted

Distortion (THD+N): <0.001% (-101 dB) at -1 dBFS, 40 dB gain, 22 kHz bandwidth

Frequency Response: +0.0/-0.1 dB, 20 Hz to 22 kHz, HPF off
High-Pass Filter (HPF): -6 dB at 75 Hz, 18 dB per octave, on/off selectable per channel

Phantom Power: P48 per IEC 61938:2013 standard, +46 volts DC nominal, on/off selectable per channel

Metering: part of OLED display function

Status LEDs per Input Channel: 3; P48, HPF, and input channel selected

Remote Configuration Capability: preamplifier gain, P48 phantom power on/off status, and high-pass filter (HPF) on/off status (uses webpages accessible by way of Ethernet interface)

Analog Outputs: 8

Type: line-level, electronically balanced, capacitor coupled, intended to drive balanced or unbalanced loads of 2 k ohms or greater

Source Impedance: 200 ohms

Nominal Level: +4 dBu, reference -20 dBFS, adjustable \pm 20 dB in 1-dB steps

Maximum Level: +24 dBu

Dynamic Range: >119 dB, A-weighted

Distortion (THD+N): 0.001% (-100 dB), reference 1 kHz, measured at +23 dBu output (-1 dBFS input)

Frequency Response: \pm 0.1 dB, 6 Hz to 20 kHz

Audio Monitoring:

Source: mic/line inputs or analog outputs, selectable as monaural (one channel) or stereo (two channels)

Meter Function: part of OLED display function

Headphone Output:

Type: stereo (dual-channel)

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

Maximum Output Voltage: 4.9 volts RMS, 1 kHz, 150 ohms load

Frequency Response: +0/-1.4 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz

Distortion (THD+N): 0.005%

Dynamic Range: >100 dB

Front-Panel Display: OLED

Software Updating: USB flash drive supports updating of main and FPGA firmware (embedded software); webpages via PRI+CRTL interface used to update ZMAN module used for ST 2110

Power Sources:

AC Mains: 100 to 240 V, 50/60 Hz, 20 W maximum

DC: 10 to 16 V, 1.6 A max at 10 V; 1.5 A max at 12 V

Connectors:

Mic/Line Inputs: 3-pin female XLR

Analog Outputs: 25-pin female D-subminiature (DB-25F), AES59-2012 compliant

Ethernet Interfaces: RJ45

Headphone Output: 3-conductor ¼-inch jack

USB: type A receptacle (used only for main and FPGA firmware updates)

AC Mains Input: 3-blade, IEC 320 C14-compatible (mates with IEC 320 C13)

DC Input: 4-pin male XLR (pin 1 negative, pin 4 positive)

Environmental:

Operating Temperature: 0 to 50 degrees C (32 to 122 degrees F)

Storage Temperature: -40 to 70 degrees C (-40 to 158 degrees F)

Humidity: 5 to 95%, non-condensing

Altitude: not characterized

Dimensions – Overall:

19.0 inches wide (48.3 cm)

1.72 inches high (4.4 cm)

7.8 inches deep (19.8 cm); 8.3 inches (21.1 cm) overall

Mounting: one space (1U) in a standard 19-inch rack

Weight: 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg)

Specifications and information subject to change without notice.

Studio Technologies, Inc.

Skokie, Illinois USA

© by Studio Technologies, Inc., February 2025

studio-tech.com