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Allen & Heath AH-ZED24

Allen & Heath ZED 24 Mixer User Manual

Model: AH-ZED24

Introduction

The Allen & Heath ZED-24 is a versatile 24-channel live mixer designed for professional audio applications. It features high-quality DuoPre preamps, flexible 3-band MusiQ EQs, and convenient USB connectivity for seamless integration with computer-based recording and playback systems. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your ZED-24 mixer to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

Key Features

- **DuoPre XLR Microphone Preamps:** High-quality preamps with 48V Phantom power and up to 69dB of gain, utilizing two gain stages for accurate sound across the entire gain range.
- **Flexible 3-Band MusiQ EQ:** Features a 100Hz High Pass Filter on mono inputs and a 3-band EQ with swept mid-frequency for precise sound sculpting.
- **Multiple Auxiliary Outputs:** Two 'Pre-Fade' auxiliary outputs for monitor mixes and two 'Post-Fade' auxiliary outputs for external effects or recording feeds.
- **Channel Inserts:** Every mono channel and the main mix include insert sockets for connecting external processors like compressors or graphic equalizers.
- **USB Audio Connectivity:** A routable stereo-in stereo-out USB connection for easy recording and playback with computers and mobile devices, class compliant with no drivers required.
- **Comprehensive Inputs:** 16 Mic/Line/Instrument inputs, 2 Stereo inputs, and 2 USB Audio inputs.

Setup Guide

1. Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the ZED-24 mixer from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during transit. Ensure all accessories, including the power cable and any documentation, are present.



Figure 1: Angled view of the Allen & Heath ZED 24 Mixer.



Figure 2: Top-down view of the ZED 24 Mixer's control surface.

2. Power Connection

Connect the supplied AC power cable to the mixer's power inlet on the rear panel. Ensure the power switch is in the OFF position before connecting to a power outlet. Once connected, you can switch the unit ON.



Figure 3: Rear panel connections, including power input and USB port.

3. Input Connections

- **Microphones:** Connect XLR microphones to the XLR inputs on the mono channels. Activate 48V Phantom power if using condenser microphones.
- **Line-Level Devices:** Connect instruments or line-level devices (e.g., keyboards, CD players) to the 1/4" jack inputs on the mono or stereo channels.
- **USB Audio:** Connect a USB cable from the mixer's USB port to your computer for stereo audio input and output.

4. Output Connections

- **Main Mix:** Connect the main XLR outputs to your power amplifier or powered speakers.
- **Auxiliary Sends:** Connect auxiliary outputs to monitor speakers or external effects processors.
- **Headphones:** Connect headphones to the dedicated headphone jack for monitoring.

Operating Instructions

1. Channel Strip Overview

Each mono input channel on the ZED-24 features a comprehensive set of controls:

- **Gain Control:** Adjusts the input sensitivity for microphones and line-level signals.
- **100Hz High Pass Filter:** Removes unwanted low-frequency rumble.
- **MusiQ EQ:** 3-band equalizer with swept mid-frequency for tone shaping.

- **Auxiliary Sends:** Controls for sending signal to the four auxiliary outputs.
- **Pan Control:** Positions the channel's signal within the stereo field.
- **Mute Button:** Silences the channel.
- **PFL (Pre-Fade Listen) Button:** Routes the channel's signal to the headphones for solo monitoring.
- **Channel Fader:** Controls the overall level of the channel in the main mix.



Figure 4: Detail of channel faders and associated controls.



Figure 5: Close-up of auxiliary send knobs.

2. DuoPre Preamps

The DuoPre preamps provide exceptional clarity and headroom. Adjust the GAIN knob to achieve an optimal input level, indicated by the channel's peak LED. Avoid clipping (red LED constantly lit) to prevent distortion.

3. MusiQ EQ Section

Use the HIGH, MID, and LOW knobs to shape the tone of each channel. The MID knob features a swept frequency control, allowing you to select the exact frequency to boost or cut, providing precise control over vocals and instruments.

4. Auxiliary Sends

The ZED-24 offers four auxiliary sends. AUX 1 and AUX 2 are pre-fade, meaning their level is independent of the channel fader, ideal for monitor mixes. AUX 3 and AUX 4 are post-fade, following the channel fader, suitable for effects sends or recording feeds.

5. USB Connectivity

The built-in USB audio interface allows for stereo recording of the main mix or selected channels to a computer, and stereo playback from the computer back into the mixer. Connect the USB cable and select the ZED-24 as your audio device in your computer's sound settings or DAW.

Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Allen & Heath ZED-24 mixer, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Regularly wipe the mixer's surface with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. For stubborn dirt, use a slightly damp cloth and mild detergent, then dry thoroughly. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Dust Protection:** Keep the mixer covered when not in use to prevent dust accumulation, especially on faders and knobs.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure proper airflow around the mixer to prevent overheating. Do not block ventilation slots.
- **Cable Management:** Organize cables neatly to prevent strain on connectors and accidental disconnections.
- **Storage:** Store the mixer in a cool, dry environment, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive humidity.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your ZED-24 mixer.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	Power off; cables disconnected; faders down; mute engaged; incorrect routing.	Check power, all cable connections, master fader, channel faders, mute buttons, and routing to main mix.
Distorted sound	Input gain too high; output level too high; faulty cable/device.	Reduce input GAIN; lower master/channel faders; check cables and connected devices.
Hum or noise	Ground loop; faulty cables; interference from other electronics.	Ensure proper grounding; use balanced cables; separate audio cables from power cables; try a different power outlet.
USB audio not recognized	USB cable issue; incorrect computer settings; mixer not powered on.	Check USB cable connection; ensure mixer is ON; select ZED-24 as audio device in computer settings/DAW.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Allen & Heath

Feature	Detail
Model Number	AH-ZED24
Number of Channels	24
Item Weight	23.1 pounds
Product Dimensions	18.3 x 3.9 x 25.4 inches
Connectivity Technology	USB
Power Source	Corded Electric
Color Name	Grey/Red
Date First Available	November 20, 2007

Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Allen & Heath documentation included with your product or visit the Allen & Heath website.
An official User Guide PDF is available for download: Download User Guide (PDF)

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