

M-AUDIO 9900-52570-00

M-Audio Fast Track Ultra 8R USB 2.0 Audio/MIDI Interface User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

The M-Audio Fast Track Ultra 8R is a high-speed 8x8 USB 2.0 audio/MIDI interface designed for comprehensive studio work. It features eight preamps with Octane technology and MX Core DSP mixing/effects, providing a robust solution for recording and monitoring. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your device, ensuring optimal performance and longevity.

The Fast Track Ultra 8R supports 24-bit/96kHz audio resolution across all inputs and outputs simultaneously, offering superior fidelity for your recordings.

2. SETUP

2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the Fast Track Ultra 8R from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or storage.

2.2 Driver Installation

Before connecting the Fast Track Ultra 8R to your computer, it is crucial to install the latest drivers. Visit the official M-Audio support website to download the most current drivers compatible with your operating system. Follow the on-screen instructions provided by the installer. **Do not connect the device until instructed by the driver installation process.**

2.3 Physical Connections

- Power Connection:** Connect the included power adapter to the 'DC IN' port on the rear panel of the Fast Track Ultra 8R, then plug it into a standard AC power outlet.
- USB Connection:** Connect one end of the supplied USB 2.0 cable to the 'USB' port on the rear panel of the Fast Track Ultra 8R and the other end to an available USB 2.0 port on your computer.
- Audio Inputs:** Connect your microphones, instruments, or line-level devices to the appropriate input jacks on the front or rear panel. The Fast Track Ultra 8R features eight preamps, with inputs 1-2 on the front panel and inputs 3-8 on the rear.

4. **Audio Outputs:** Connect your studio monitors or headphones to the main output jacks or headphone outputs.
5. **MIDI Connections:** If using MIDI devices, connect your MIDI controller's 'MIDI OUT' to the Fast Track Ultra 8R's 'MIDI IN', and your MIDI device's 'MIDI IN' to the Fast Track Ultra 8R's 'MIDI OUT'.



Image: Front and rear view of the M-Audio Fast Track Ultra 8R. This image displays the various input and output ports, including XLR/TRS combo jacks, MIDI I/O, USB port, and power input, providing a visual guide for physical connections.

2.4 Powering On

After all connections are made and drivers are installed, press the power button on the unit. The power indicator light should illuminate, indicating the device is operational.

3. OPERATING

3.1 Basic Recording

The Fast Track Ultra 8R allows simultaneous recording on all eight inputs. Ensure your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software is configured to recognize the Fast Track Ultra 8R as its audio interface. Select the desired input channels within your DAW for recording.

3.2 MX Core DSP Mixer

The integrated MX Core DSP mixer processes eight hardware inputs and eight software returns to the eight hardware outputs. This expands the total I/O to a 16x8 configuration, offering flexible routing and monitoring capabilities. The DSP mixer also provides built-in delay and reverb effects for headphone outputs, with separate sends for each channel. This allows for latency-free monitoring with effects, reducing CPU load during tracking.

3.3 Phantom Power (+48V)

For condenser microphones requiring phantom power, activate the +48V phantom power switch located on the front panel. Ensure that only condenser microphones are connected when phantom power is engaged to prevent damage to other microphone types.

3.4 Headphone Monitoring

The Fast Track Ultra 8R includes two independent headphone outputs with dedicated volume controls. These outputs can be routed to monitor any combination of inputs and playback tracks, with or without DSP effects.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Cleaning

To clean the unit, use a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by a dry cloth.

Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish and internal components.

4.2 Storage

When not in use for extended periods, store the Fast Track Ultra 8R in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. It is recommended to use the original packaging for protection.

4.3 Software and Firmware Updates

Regularly check the M-Audio support website for updated drivers and firmware. Keeping your device's software up-to-date ensures compatibility with the latest operating systems and recording software, and can resolve potential issues or improve performance.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Fast Track Ultra 8R, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to both the unit and a working power outlet. Check the power button.
- **No Sound/Input Not Detected:**
 - Verify that the correct drivers are installed and up-to-date.
 - Check all cable connections (USB, audio inputs/outputs).
 - Confirm that the Fast Track Ultra 8R is selected as the audio input/output device in your computer's sound settings and your DAW.
 - Adjust input gain levels on the unit and within your DAW.
- **Distorted Audio:**
 - Reduce input gain to prevent clipping.
 - Check for proper impedance matching between your instrument/microphone and the interface.
 - Ensure sample rate and buffer size settings in your DAW match the interface's capabilities and are optimized for your system.
- **Driver Incompatibility (especially with newer OS versions):** Refer to the M-Audio support website for the latest driver information and compatibility charts. Older operating systems or discontinued driver support may limit functionality.
- **Channel Failure/Noise:** If a specific channel exhibits noise or fails, try connecting a different cable or source to isolate the problem. If the issue persists, contact M-Audio support.

For further assistance, consult the M-Audio support resources or contact their customer service.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Product Dimensions	22 x 13 x 4 inches
Item Weight	8.15 pounds
Model Number	9900-52570-00
ASIN	B0019LSGXW
Date First Available	October 2, 2001
USB 1.1 Speed	12 Mbps
USB 2.0 Speed	480 Mbps
FireWire 400 Speed	400 Mbps
Audio Resolution	24-bit/96kHz

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, and service, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official M-Audio website. M-Audio provides resources and contact information for customer assistance.