Soundcraft EPM8

Soundcraft EPM8 High-Performance 8-channel Audio Mixer Instruction Manual

MODEL: EPM8

Brand: Soundcraft

INTRODUCTION

The Soundcraft EPM8 is a high-performance 8-channel audio mixer designed for quality sound and reliable operation. It features an easy-to-understand control surface, utilizing surface mount technology for high accuracy and repeatable settings. The mixer incorporates the highly-transparent GB30 Mic amp, offering high-resolution adjustment over a wide gain range and providing +22dB headroom. Professional 48-volt phantom power is available for condenser microphones. A unique PEAK LED system monitors signal overload across multiple points in the channel strip. For precise control, the EPM8 is equipped with 60mm high-quality faders. It also includes parallel monitor and headphone outputs, 2 configurable auxiliary buses, various connector types (XLR, 1/4" metal jack, RCA phono), 3-band EQ with a swept mid on mono inputs, 2-band EQ on stereo inputs, TRS insert sockets on mono inputs and mix output, ten-segment LED output metering, and an intuitive solo system. The unit is easily rack-mountable.

Figure 1: Top-down view of the Soundcraft EPM8 8-channel Audio Mixer, showcasing its comprehensive control surface.

Key Features

- 2 configurable auxiliary buses for flexible routing.
- XLR-type and 1/4" metal jack connector sockets for versatile input options.
- RCA phono stereo playback inputs and record outputs for external devices.
- 3-band EQ with a swept mid on mono inputs for precise tone shaping.
- TRS insert sockets and inserts on all mono inputs and mix output for external processing.
- Highly-transparent GB30 Mic preamps for superior audio quality.
- Professional 48-volt phantom power for condenser microphones.
- Intuitive and comprehensive solo system for monitoring.
- 60mm high-quality faders for smooth and accurate channel control.
- Easily rack-mountable design for integration into existing setups.

Setup Guide

Before connecting any devices, ensure the mixer is powered off. Place the mixer on a stable, flat surface or install it into a rack using appropriate rack ears.

1. Connecting Audio Sources

The EPM8 offers a variety of input options for microphones, line-level instruments, and other audio devices.

- **Microphone Inputs:** Use XLR cables to connect microphones to the MIC/LINE inputs (channels 1-8). For condenser microphones, activate the 48V phantom power switch located near the master section.
- **Line Inputs:** Connect line-level instruments (keyboards, drum machines, etc.) using 1/4" TRS or TS cables to the LINE inputs. Stereo inputs are available on channels 7/8.
- **RCA Phono Inputs:** Use RCA cables to connect stereo playback devices (CD players, media players) to the dedicated RCA phono inputs.

Figure 2: Close-up view of the XLR/TRS input jacks on the Soundcraft EPM8, showing the robust metal construction.

2. Connecting Outputs

Connect your monitoring and recording devices to the mixer's output jacks.

- **Main Outputs:** Connect your main PA system or recording interface to the MASTER L/R XLR outputs.
- **Monitor Outputs:** Use the 1/4" MON outputs to connect stage monitors or additional monitoring systems.
- **Headphone Output:** Connect headphones to the 1/4" HEADPHONE jack for personal monitoring.
- **Record Outputs:** Use the RCA phono record outputs to send the main mix to a recording device.

Figure 3: Close-up view of the master outputs and RCA phono inputs/outputs on the Soundcraft EPM8.

3. Connecting Power

Connect the supplied AC power adapter to the mixer's power input. Ensure the power cable is securely connected. The power input is conveniently located underneath the board to prevent interference with other cables.

4. Basic Mix Theory (Video)

For a fundamental understanding of mixer operation and signal flow, watch this introductory video from Soundcraft.

Video 1: Soundcraft Basic Mix Theory. This video provides an overview of fundamental concepts for using an audio mixer.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Soundcraft EPM8 features a straightforward control layout for intuitive operation.

1. Channel Strip Controls

Each mono input channel (1-8) includes the following controls:

- **Gain Control:** Adjusts the input sensitivity for the connected microphone or line-level device.
- **3-Band EQ:** High, Mid (swept), and Low frequency controls to shape the tone of the input signal.
- **AUX Sends:** Two auxiliary sends (AUX1, AUX2) can be configured for monitor mixes or external effects.
- **PAN Control:** Adjusts the stereo position of the channel in the main mix.
- **MUTE/PFL Buttons:** Mute silences the channel. PFL (Pre-Fader Listen) routes the channel signal to the headphone output for isolated monitoring.
- **Channel Fader:** The 60mm fader controls the overall level of the channel in the main mix.

Figure 4: Close-up view of the smooth 60mm faders and associated controls on the Soundcraft EPM8.

2. Master Section Controls

The master section provides overall control for the mixer's outputs.

- **Main Mix Faders:** Control the overall output level of the stereo main mix.
- **Monitor/Headphone Level:** Adjusts the volume for the monitor outputs and headphone jack.
- **Output Metering:** Ten-segment LED meters display the output level of the main mix. The PEAK LED indicates signal overload.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Soundcraft EPM8 mixer, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Regularly wipe the mixer's surface with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Environmental Care:** Keep the mixer away from excessive dust, moisture, and extreme temperatures. Avoid direct sunlight.
- **Spill Prevention:** Do not place liquids on or near the mixer to prevent accidental spills, which can cause severe damage.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure all cables are properly routed and secured to prevent strain on connectors and accidental disconnections.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the mixer in a clean, dry environment. If transporting, use a protective case.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Soundcraft EPM8 mixer, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to both the mixer and a working AC outlet. Check the power switch.
- **No Sound Output:** Verify that all input sources are connected correctly and their gain/level controls are

appropriately set. Check master faders and monitor/headphone levels. Ensure output cables are connected to active speakers or amplifiers.

- **Distorted Sound:** Reduce input gain levels if the PEAK LED is frequently lighting up. Check for damaged cables or faulty connections. Ensure connected devices are not sending an excessively hot signal.
- **Hum or Noise:** Check all cable connections for proper seating. Ensure balanced cables are used where appropriate. Isolate potential ground loops.
- **Phantom Power Issue:** Confirm the 48V phantom power switch is engaged for condenser microphones. Ensure the microphone itself is functional.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Item Weight	12.34 pounds
Product Dimensions	14.25 x 13 x 3.56 inches
Item Model Number	EPM8
Date First Available	November 20, 2007
Size	8-Channel
Hardware Platform	CONSUMER_ELECTRONICS
Power Source	Corded Electric
Voltage	48 Volts
Number of Channels	8
Connectivity Technology	Auxiliary

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official Soundcraft website. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.