

Mackie 2404-VLZ3

Mackie 2404-VLZ3 Premium 24-Channel FX Mixer with USB Instruction Manual

Model: 2404-VLZ3

INTRODUCTION

The Mackie 2404-VLZ3 is a 24-channel, 4-bus mixer designed for live sound and recording applications. It features VLZ3 low-noise, high-headroom design, 20 XDR2™ mic preamps, 3-band active EQ, dual RMFX+™ effects processors, and an integrated 4x2 24-bit USB interface. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your mixer.

SETUP

Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the mixer 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 service needs.

Power Connection

Connect the supplied AC power cord to the mixer's IEC power inlet on the rear panel. Ensure the power switch is in the OFF position before connecting to a power outlet. The mixer operates on standard AC power (Corded Electric).



Figure 1: Rear panel connections of the Mackie 2404-VLZ3 mixer. Note the power inlet on the far left.

Audio Connections

The 2404-VLZ3 offers a variety of input and output options. Refer to the rear panel image for connection points.

- **Microphone Inputs:** Use XLR cables for the 20 XDR2 mic preamps.
- **Line Inputs:** Use 1/4" TRS or TS cables for line-level sources.
- **Main Outputs:** Connect your main speakers or recording device using XLR or 1/4" TRS cables.
- **USB Connectivity:** Connect a USB cable from the mixer's USB port to your computer for 4x2 24-bit audio interface functionality.

OPERATION

This section outlines the primary operational features of the Mackie 2404-VLZ3 mixer.



Figure 2: Top view of the Mackie 2404-VLZ3 mixer's control surface.

Channel Strips

Each channel strip includes controls for input gain, EQ, auxiliary sends, pan, mute, solo, and a level fader. Adjust the gain control to achieve an optimal input level, indicated by the channel's LED indicators.

XDR2 Mic Preamps

The mixer features 20 studio-grade XDR2 mic preamps, designed for low-noise and high-headroom performance. Ensure phantom power (+48V) is engaged for condenser microphones via the global switch.

3-Band Active EQ

Each mono channel is equipped with a 3-band active EQ with carefully selected frequency ranges for maximum flexibility in shaping your sound. Adjust the High, Mid, and Low frequency bands as needed.

RMFX+ Effects Processors

The dual 32-bit RMFX+ processors offer 24 "Gig Ready" effects, including reverbs, choruses, and tap delay. Use the dedicated controls in the master section to select and apply effects to your mix.

Integrated 4x2 24-bit USB Interface

The built-in USB interface allows for 4-track recording and playback. Connect the mixer to a computer via USB to stream audio to and from your digital audio workstation (DAW).

Channel/Subgroup Compression

The mixer includes compression on select channels and subgroups. These compressors are designed to provide a "soft

compression" effect, helping to manage dynamic range and prevent signal peaks. Adjust the compression knob to apply the desired amount of dynamic control.

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Video 1: Overview of a related Mackie VLZ3 series mixer (3204-VLZ3). While a different model, many operational principles and features are similar to the 2404-VLZ3.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

To clean the mixer, use a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, ensuring no liquid enters the controls or openings. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.

Storage

When not in use, store the mixer in a cool, dry environment, away from direct sunlight and excessive dust. Covering the unit can help protect it from dust accumulation.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Sound Output:**

- Check all power connections and ensure the mixer is powered on.
- Verify main output faders are up and not muted.
- Confirm input signals are present and channel faders are raised.
- Ensure correct routing to main mix or subgroups.

- **Distorted Audio:**

- Reduce input gain (trim) on channels to prevent clipping (indicated by red peak LEDs).
- Check output levels to ensure they are not overdriving connected amplifiers or recording devices.
- Inspect cables for damage.

- **Effects Not Working:**

- Ensure effects sends are turned up on the desired channels.
- Verify the RMFX+ processor is active and an effect is selected.
- Check the effects return level in the master section.

- **USB Audio Issues:**

- Confirm the USB cable is securely connected to both the mixer and computer.
- Check your computer's sound settings to ensure the Mackie mixer is selected as the input/output device.
- Install any necessary drivers from the manufacturer's website if required by your operating system.

- **Compression Behavior:**

Note that the built-in compression is a "soft compression" and does not offer advanced ratio or threshold controls. Its primary function is gentle dynamic control, not aggressive limiting. If more precise compression is needed, external processors may be required.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Mackie
Model Number	2404-VLZ3
Number of Channels	24
Item Weight	37 Pounds
Connectivity Technology	USB
Power Source	Corded Electric
Output Connector Type	TRS, XLR
Audio Input	USB
UPC	663961030075
Manufacturer	Loud Technologies Inc.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Mackie 2404-VLZ3 mixer comes with a **1-year all-inclusive, non-transferable warranty**. For technical support, service, or warranty claims, please contact Mackie customer service or visit the official Mackie website for detailed support resources.

You can find more information and support resources on the [Mackie Brand Store](#).

