

Focusrite 428MKII

Focusrite ISA 428 MK2 4-Channel Microphone Preamp User Manual

Model: 428MKII

INTRODUCTION

The Focusrite ISA 428 MK2 is a high-quality 4-channel microphone preamplifier designed for professional audio recording environments. It features Focusrite's renowned transformer-based preamps, offering exceptional sonic clarity and versatility. This manual provides essential information for the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your ISA 428 MK2.



Figure 1: Front panel of the ISA 428 MK2, showing four input channels with controls and metering.

SETUP

Proper setup ensures optimal performance and longevity of your ISA 428 MK2. Follow these steps for initial installation:

- Unpacking:** Carefully remove the ISA 428 MK2 from its packaging. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or storage.
- Rack Mounting:** The ISA 428 MK2 is designed for standard 19-inch rack mounting. Secure the unit using appropriate rack screws. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit.
- Power Connection:** Connect the supplied power cord to the IEC inlet on the rear panel of the unit and then to a grounded AC power outlet. The unit operates on Corded Electric power.
- Audio Connections:**
 - Microphone Inputs:** Connect microphones to the XLR inputs on the rear panel.
 - Line/Instrument Inputs:** Use the 1/4" jack inputs for line-level signals or direct instrument connections.
 - Outputs:** Connect the XLR outputs to your audio interface, mixer, or recording device.
 - Insert Points:** Utilize the dedicated insert points for integrating external signal processors like compressors or EQs.



Figure 2: Rear panel of the ISA 428 MK2, illustrating the various audio input and output connections.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The ISA 428 MK2 offers precise control over your audio signals. Familiarize yourself with the following operational aspects:

Gain Control

Each channel features a versatile gain range from 0dB to +60dB, with an additional 20dB variable trim. Adjust the gain knob to achieve optimal signal levels without clipping. Monitor the input level meters to prevent overload.

Impedance Control

The ISA 428 MK2 allows you to tailor the preamp to your microphone with selectable impedance options: 600, 1400, 2400, and 6800 Ohms. Experiment with different impedance settings to find the optimal match for your microphone, which can significantly affect its tonal character and performance.

Phantom Power (48V)

Engage the 48V phantom power switch for condenser microphones that require external power. Ensure the microphone is connected before activating phantom power to prevent damage.

High-Pass Filter

Each channel includes a high-pass filter to remove unwanted low-frequency rumble or noise. Activate this filter when recording sources prone to such issues, like vocals or acoustic instruments in a live room.

Metering

The front panel features clear LED metering for each channel, allowing you to visually monitor input and output levels and prevent digital clipping.



Figure 3: Angled view of the ISA 428 MK2, providing a clearer perspective of the front panel controls and indicators.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your ISA 428 MK2, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents, which can damage the finish.

- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the ventilation slots are clear of dust and obstructions to prevent overheating.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in a cool, dry place, ideally in its original packaging or a protective case.
- **Power Off:** Always power off the unit and disconnect it from the mains before cleaning or performing any maintenance.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your ISA 428 MK2, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cable disconnected; Power outlet faulty; Unit fuse blown.	Check power cable connection; Try a different outlet; Consult a qualified technician for fuse replacement.
No audio output	Incorrect cabling; Gain set too low; Phantom power not engaged for condenser mics; Output device issues.	Verify all audio cables are correctly connected; Increase gain; Activate 48V phantom power if needed; Check your audio interface/mixer settings.
Distorted audio	Input signal too hot (clipping); Faulty cable; Microphone impedance mismatch.	Reduce input gain; Try a different cable; Adjust impedance setting on the ISA 428 MK2.
Hum or noise	Ground loop; Faulty cable; External interference.	Ensure all equipment is properly grounded; Try different cables; Isolate the unit from other electronic devices.

If the problem persists after attempting these solutions, please contact Focusrite customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed technical specifications for the Focusrite ISA 428 MK2:

- **Model:** 428MKII
- **Channels:** 4 Microphone Preamps
- **Gain Range:** 0dB to +60dB (Mic), +20dB variable trim
- **Input Impedance:** Selectable (600, 1400, 2400, 6800 Ohms)
- **Connectivity:** XLR Mic Inputs, 1/4" Line/Instrument Inputs, XLR Outputs, Insert Points
- **THD+N:** As low as 0.0009%
- **Dimensions (Product):** 25 x 17.4 x 8.9 inches
- **Weight (Item):** 12.1 pounds
- **Power Source:** Corded Electric
- **Mounting:** 19" Rack-mountable

WARRANTY INFORMATION

The Focusrite ISA 428 MK2 comes with a **2-year Focusrite warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. For full terms and conditions, refer to the official Focusrite website or contact their support.

SUPPORT AND CONTACT


For further assistance, technical support, or to register your product, please visit the official Focusrite website:

[Focusrite Support Website](#)

You can also find additional resources, FAQs, and driver downloads on their support pages.

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Related Documents

	<p>Focusrite ISA 428 Pre Pack User Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite ISA 428 Pre Pack, detailing its features, connections, operation, and specifications for professional audio recording.</p>
	<p>Focusrite Clarett+ OctoPre User Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite Clarett+ OctoPre, an eight-channel microphone preamplifier with ADAT connectivity, detailing its features, setup, and technical specifications.</p>
	<p>Focusrite ISA Two: Two Channel Classic Transformer Microphone Preamplifier User Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite ISA Two, a two-channel classic transformer microphone preamplifier. Learn about its features, controls, connectivity, specifications, and troubleshooting.</p>
	<p>Focusrite Liquid Channel™ User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Focusrite Liquid Channel™, detailing its Liquid Technology, preamplification, compression, equalization, digital connectivity, and operational features for professional audio production.</p>



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network.com _ PROFESSIONAL AUDIO ... in no particular order: FOCUSRITE ISA

428 QUAD PREAMPLIFIER: I ve got the original version, not the **428MKII** with the

larger knobs. Wow, if I think about the amount of sessions I ve used this on. ..It ...

lang:en score:8 filesize: 11.71 M page_count: 60 document date: 2025-03-23