Alto Professional ZMX862

Alto Professional ZMX862 6-Channel/2-Bus Compact Audio Mixing Desk Instruction Manual

Model: ZMX862

1. INTRODUCTION

The Alto Professional ZMX862 is a 6-channel, 2-bus mixer designed for various audio applications, including solo performances and multimedia studios. It features two mono channels with XLR microphone inputs (including Phantom Power) and balanced TRS inputs with three-band EQs. Additionally, it includes two stereo channels, each with two balanced TRS inputs. A two-track input/output is provided for connecting external media players and recorders. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your ZMX862 mixer.

Front view of the Alto Professional ZMX862 mixer, showcasing its compact design and control layout.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Read and retain these instructions.
- Heed all warnings.
- Do not use this apparatus near water.
- Clean only with a dry cloth.
- Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
- Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

- Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
- This apparatus shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing and no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on the apparatus.
- The mains plug or an appliance coupler is used as the disconnect device, so the disconnect device shall remain readily operable.

WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.

3. SETUP

3.1 Unpacking

Carefully unpack your ZMX862 mixer and inspect it for any signs of damage that may have occurred during transit. If the unit is damaged, contact your dealer immediately. Ensure all listed contents are present.

3.2 Power Connection

Connect the included power adapter to the mixer's power input and then to a suitable power outlet. Ensure the mixer's power switch is in the OFF position before connecting.

3.3 Input Connections

The ZMX862 offers various input options:

- **Microphone Inputs (Channels 1-2):** Use XLR cables to connect dynamic or condenser microphones. Activate +48V Phantom Power for condenser microphones using the dedicated switch.
- **Line Inputs (Channels 1-2):** Use 1/4" TRS cables for balanced line-level sources or 1/4" TS cables for unbalanced sources.
- **Stereo Inputs (Channels 3/4 and 5/6):** Use 1/4" TRS cables for stereo line-level sources like keyboards or drum machines.
- **2-Track Input:** Connect external media players (e.g., MP3 players, CD players) using RCA cables.

This image displays the top panel of the ZMX862 mixer, highlighting the microphone (XLR) and line (1/4 inch) input jacks for channels 1 through 6, along with the 2-track input/output section.

TWEAK YOUR SOUND

1 **WARM, NATURAL THREE-BAND EQ ON ALL THE CHANNELS** FOR ADDING STUDIO GRADE PROCESSING TO YOUR DYNAMIC, RIBBON AND CONDENSER MICROPHONE SIGNALS

A detailed view of the ZMX862's input and output section, showing the various connectors for microphones, line-level devices, and main/control room outputs.

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This video provides an overview of the Alto Professional ZEPHYR ZMX series mixers, demonstrating their features and connectivity options.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Basic Controls

Familiarize yourself with the main controls:

- **Gain Knobs:** Adjust the input sensitivity for each channel. Set these to achieve a strong signal without clipping (indicated by the Peak LED).
- **EQ (High, Mid, Low):** Three-band equalizer for shaping the tone of each channel.
- **AUX Send:** Controls the amount of signal sent from each channel to the auxiliary output, useful for monitor mixes or external effects.
- **Pan/Bal:** Adjusts the stereo position of the channel's signal.

- **Level:** Controls the overall output level of each channel to the main mix.
- **Phantom Power (+48V):** Supplies power to condenser microphones. Activate only when using condenser microphones.

SUPERIOR SOUND QUALITY

HIGH HEADROOM CIRCUITRY OFFERING EXTRA DYNAMIC RANGE AND ULTRA-LOW-NOISE FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE FROM YOUR STUDIO MICROPHONES

A detailed view of the ZMX862's channel strip, showing the three-band EQ (High, Mid, Low) and AUX Send controls for precise audio shaping.

4.2 Output Connections

The ZMX862 provides flexible output options:

- **Main Outputs (1/4" TRS):** Connect to your main PA system or recording interface.
- **Control Room Outputs (1/4" TRS):** Connect to a separate pair of reference monitors.
- **Headphone Output (1/4" TRS):** For monitoring your mix.
- **AUX Send/Return:** For connecting external effects processors or creating monitor mixes.
- **2-Track Output:** For sending the main mix to an external recording device.

4.3 Using Effects

The ZMX862 features built-in digital effects. Use the FX Send controls on each channel to send signal to the effects processor. Adjust the FX Return level to blend the effect into your main mix.

This image shows the master section of the ZMX862, including the main output level control, LED meters, and the effects selection and return controls.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

Regularly clean the mixer's surface with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents.

5.2 Storage

When not in use, store the mixer in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

5.3 Cable Management

Ensure cables are neatly organized and not under tension to prevent damage to connectors and the mixer.

6. Troubleshooting

6.1 No Sound Output

- Check all cable connections to and from the mixer.
- Ensure the main level and channel level controls are turned up.
- Verify that your speakers or amplifier are powered on and connected correctly.
- Check the input gain settings for each channel to ensure a signal is present.

6.2 Hum or Noise

- Ensure all cables are properly shielded and in good condition.
- Check for ground loops. Try connecting all audio equipment to the same power outlet or using a ground lift adapter (use with caution).
- Reduce input gain if the signal is too hot, causing distortion.

6.3 Phantom Power Issues

- Ensure the +48V phantom power switch is activated for condenser microphones.
- Verify that your microphone requires phantom power. Dynamic microphones do not.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Model Number	ZMX862
Number of Channels	6
Item Weight	3.53 pounds (1600 Grams)
Product Dimensions	10.63 x 5.08 x 15.12 inches (2.5"D x 10.5"W x 2.5"H)
Power Source	Corded Electric
Connectivity Technology	Auxiliary
Speaker Amplification Type	Active
Date First Available	October 6, 2011

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Alto Professional website or contact your local dealer. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.