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## Mackie 1202VLZ4

# Mackie 1202VLZ4 12-Channel Analog Mixer Instruction Manual

High-Performance VLZ4 Series Phantom Powered 12-Channel Analog Mixing Station

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Mackie 1202VLZ4 is a high-performance 12-channel analog mixing station designed for professional and personal audio applications. It features 4 Onyx microphone preamps and 4 stereo channels, providing versatile connectivity and robust sound quality. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your mixer.

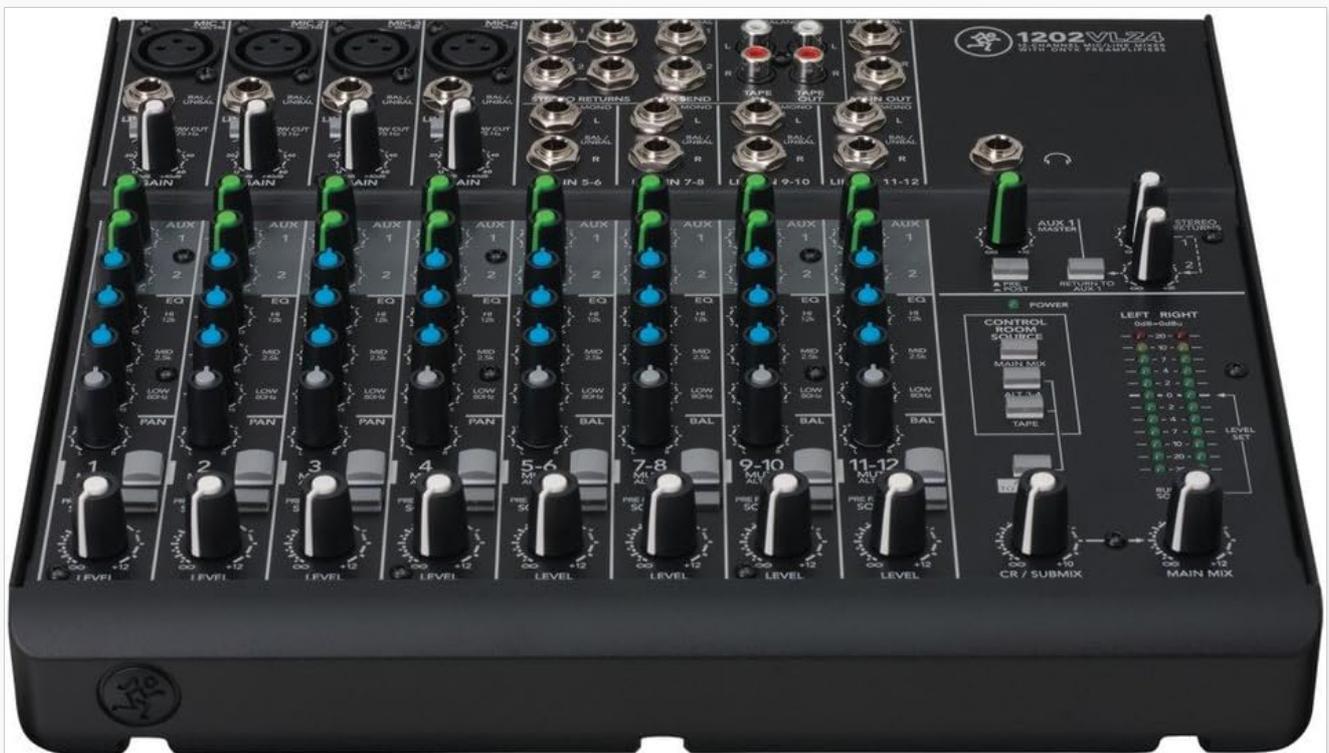


Figure 1: Front view of the Mackie 1202VLZ4 12-Channel Analog Mixer. This image displays the main control surface with various knobs and faders for input channels, EQ, auxiliary sends, and master output.

## 2. SETUP

Proper setup is crucial for optimal performance of your Mackie 1202VLZ4 mixer. Follow these steps to get started:

1. **Zero the Board:** Before connecting any equipment, ensure all level knobs are turned down (counter-clockwise) and all buttons are in their 'out' (disengaged) position. This prevents sudden loud noises or damage to your equipment.
2. **Connect Main Outputs:** Use TRS to XLR cables to connect the main outputs of the mixer to the inputs of your powered speakers or amplifier. The main outputs are typically labeled 'MAIN OUT' or 'L/R'.
3. **Connect Power:** Plug the provided power supply into the mixer's power input and then into a suitable electrical outlet. Ensure the mixer's power switch is in the 'off' position before plugging it in.
4. **Connect Sound Sources:** Plug your microphones into the XLR inputs (channels 1-4) and line-level instruments or devices (e.g., keyboards, drum machines) into the 1/4-inch TRS inputs (channels 1-12). For stereo sources, use the dedicated stereo channels (5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12).
5. **Set Input Gain:** For each active channel, speak or play into your sound source at the level you intend to use during performance. Slowly turn up the channel's 'GAIN' knob until the main meters begin to bounce around the '0' mark. This ensures a strong, clean signal without distortion. Once set, turn the channel's level knob back down.
6. **Power On:** Turn on the mixer's power switch. Then, turn on your powered speakers or amplifier.

For a visual guide on basic setup, refer to the video below:

Your browser does not support the video tag.

*Video 1: Basic Setup for Mackie Mixers. This video demonstrates the initial steps for setting up a Mackie mixer, including zeroing the board, connecting outputs, plugging in power, connecting inputs, and setting gain levels.*



Figure 2: Top-down view of the Mackie 1202VLZ4 12-Channel Analog Mixer. This perspective highlights the layout of all input and output jacks, as well as the various control knobs for each channel.

### 3. OPERATING THE MIXER

Once your mixer is set up, you can begin mixing your audio sources. The 1202VLZ4 offers intuitive controls for shaping your sound.

- **Channel Level:** Use the 'LEVEL' knob on each channel to adjust the individual volume of that input in the main mix.
- **Equalization (EQ):** Each channel features a 3-band EQ (High, Mid, Low) to sculpt the tone of your audio. Turn the 'HI' knob to adjust high frequencies (12kHz), 'MID' for mid-range (2.5kHz), and 'LOW' for bass frequencies (80Hz).
- **Pan/Balance:** The 'PAN' knob (for mono channels) or 'BAL' knob (for stereo channels) allows you to position the sound source within the stereo field (left to right).
- **Auxiliary Sends (AUX):** The 'AUX' knobs on each channel send a portion of that channel's signal to an external effects processor or monitor mix. The 'AUX MASTER' knob controls the overall level of the auxiliary send.
- **Main Mix:** The 'MAIN MIX' knob controls the overall output volume of the stereo mix. Adjust this to the desired

listening level for your audience.

- **Headphones/Control Room:** The 'CR/PHONES' section allows you to monitor the main mix or other selected sources through headphones or control room monitors. Adjust the 'PHONES' knob for headphone volume.

## 4. MAINTENANCE

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To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Mackie 1202VLZ4 mixer, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Regularly wipe the mixer's surface with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish and controls.
- **Dust Protection:** When not in use, cover the mixer with a dust cover to prevent dust and debris from accumulating in the faders and knobs.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Operate and store the mixer in a cool, dry environment away from direct sunlight, excessive heat, moisture, or extreme temperature changes.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure all cables are neatly organized and not under tension. Avoid bending cables sharply or placing heavy objects on them, which can lead to damage.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your Mackie 1202VLZ4, try these common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound:**
  - Check all power connections for the mixer and powered speakers.
  - Ensure the mixer's power switch is on.
  - Verify that all channel 'LEVEL' knobs and the 'MAIN MIX' knob are turned up.
  - Confirm that input sources are properly connected and producing a signal.
  - Check all cables for damage or improper connection.
- **Distortion:**
  - Reduce the 'GAIN' knob on the input channel.
  - Lower the 'LEVEL' knob on the input channel or the 'MAIN MIX' knob.
  - Ensure your input source is not sending an excessively hot signal.
- **Hum or Noise:**
  - Check for ground loops by ensuring all equipment is plugged into the same power strip or outlet.
  - Use balanced cables (XLR or TRS) whenever possible.
  - Ensure cables are not running parallel to power lines.
- **Phantom Power Not Working:**
  - Verify that the +48V phantom power switch is engaged.
  - Ensure your microphone requires phantom power.

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

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Feature	Specification
Item Weight	10.18 pounds
Package Dimensions	14 x 13.3 x 6.1 inches
ASIN	B00J9V3DXC
Date First Available	August 16, 2014
Power Source	Corded Electric
Brand	Mackie
Number of Channels	12
Connectivity Technology	Auxiliary
Output Connector Type	XLR, TRS



Figure 3: Rear view of the Mackie 1202VLZ4 12-Channel Analog Mixer. This image shows the power input, main outputs, control room outputs, and channel inserts.

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the official Mackie website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.