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Model: Element 88

INTRODUCTION

The Apogee Element 88 is a high-performance Thunderbolt audio interface designed for Mac users, offering exceptional sound quality and streamlined operation. It integrates advanced Apogee technologies into a compact form factor, providing eight world-class microphone preamps with phantom power and line-level inputs. This manual will guide you through the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Element 88 to ensure optimal performance in your recording environment.

SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your Apogee Element 88 audio interface:

- Unpack the Device:** Carefully remove the Element 88 from its packaging. Verify that all included components are present: Element 88 unit, Universal Power Supply with standard 3-pin IEC cable, Rack ears and mounting screws, Quick Start Guide, and Warranty Booklet.
- Power Connection:** Connect the Universal Power Supply to the DC 9-18V 30W input on the rear panel of the Element 88. Plug the power cable into a suitable AC outlet.
- Thunderbolt Connection:** Connect the Element 88 to your Mac using a Thunderbolt cable (sold separately). The Element 88 utilizes a single Thunderbolt port for ultra-low latency performance.
- Software Installation:** Download and install the latest Element Control software and drivers from the official Apogee website. This software is essential for controlling all hardware parameters.
- Initial Configuration:** Launch the Element Control software. The software will guide you through the initial setup, including driver verification and basic input/output routing.



Figure 1: The Apogee Element 88 Thunderbolt Audio Interface, showcasing its sleek, compact design. This unit features a minimalist front panel, emphasizing its software-controlled functionality.



Figure 2: A detailed view of the Element 88's rear panel, highlighting the main outputs, alternate outputs, optical inputs/outputs, Word Clock connections, Thunderbolt port, and power input.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Element 88 is designed for intuitive operation primarily through its dedicated Element Control software or the optional Apogee Control hardware remote.

Inputs and Preamps

- The Element 88 features 8 analog inputs with world-class mic preamps.
- Each input supports microphones, instruments, or line-level devices.
- Selectable 48V phantom power is available for condenser microphones.
- Adjust input gain and other parameters directly from the Element Control software.

Outputs and Monitoring

- The unit provides 16 outputs for flexible routing to monitors, headphones, and other outboard gear.
- Utilize the Element Control software for low-latency monitoring, allowing you to hear your input signal with minimal delay during recording.
- Multiple independent mixes can be created and routed to different outputs.

Element Control Software

The Element Control software for Mac provides comprehensive control over all hardware parameters, including input gain, output level, and low-latency monitoring. Its intuitive graphical interface allows for easy management of your recording session.



Figure 3: The Element Control software interface displayed on a computer monitor, showing virtual faders, input gain controls, output levels, and monitoring options for comprehensive hardware management.

Apogee Control Hardware Remote (Optional)

For tactile control, the optional Apogee Control hardware remote connects via USB and allows direct adjustment of key functions such as input gain, output levels, and monitor mute. This provides a hands-on experience without needing to interact directly with the software interface.



Figure 4: The Apogee Control hardware remote, a compact desktop unit featuring a large, assignable control knob, input selection buttons, and LED indicators for tactile control over the Element 88.

Multi-Unit Support

The Element 88 supports multi-unit Thunderbolt connectivity, allowing you to connect any two Element audio I/O boxes directly to Thunderbolt ports on your computer for expanded I/O capabilities.

Official Product Videos

Video 1: This video demonstrates the Apogee Element 88 in a live recording scenario, showcasing its audio quality and ease of integration for capturing musical performances.

Video 2: Composer Jeff Rona discusses his experience using the Apogee Element 88 and Ensemble interfaces, highlighting their flexibility, sound quality, and the benefits of Apogee FX Rack plugins in a professional studio environment.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Element 88.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Software Updates:** Regularly check the Apogee website for the latest firmware and software updates. Keeping your Element Control software and drivers up-to-date ensures compatibility and access to new features or performance improvements.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Operate the Element 88 in a clean, dry environment, away from extreme temperatures, humidity, and direct sunlight. Ensure adequate ventilation to prevent overheating.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Element 88, consider the following common solutions:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power supply is securely connected to both the Element 88 and a working AC outlet. Check the power indicator light on the unit.
- **No Thunderbolt Connection:** Verify that the Thunderbolt cable is firmly connected to both the Element 88 and your Mac. Try a different Thunderbolt port or cable if available.
- **Software Not Recognizing Device:** Ensure the latest Element Control software and drivers are installed. On macOS, check System Settings > Privacy & Security > Security for any blocked software from Apogee Electronics Corp. and allow it. Restart your Mac and the Element 88.
- **Audio Dropouts/Latency:** Increase your DAW's buffer size. Ensure your Mac's CPU is not overloaded by closing unnecessary applications. Verify that your Thunderbolt cable is functioning correctly.
- **Phantom Power Issues:** Confirm that 48V phantom power is enabled for the specific input channel in the Element Control software when using condenser microphones.

For further assistance, refer to the comprehensive support resources on the Apogee website or contact their customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Apogee
Model	Element 88
Compatible Devices	Personal Computer (Mac)
Supported Software	Element Control software for Mac
Connectivity Technology	Thunderbolt, USB (for optional remote), XLR
Number of Channels	8 (inputs) x 16 (outputs)
Operating System	macOS
Audio Input	XLR
Maximum Sample Rate	192 KHz
Item Weight	1.59 Kilograms
UPC	805676301839
Included Components	Element 88, Quick Start Guide, Rack ears and mounting screws, Universal Power Supply with standard 3 pin-IEC cable, Warranty Booklet

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Apogee Electronics Corporation warrants products to be free of defects in material and manufacture under normal use for a period of 12 months. The term of this warranty begins on the date of sale to the purchaser from an authorized Apogee reseller (proof of purchase in the form of a receipt may be required). Units returned for warranty repair to Apogee or an authorized Apogee warranty repair facility will be repaired or replaced at the manufacturer's option, free of charge. Please note this guarantee may be subject to other conditions as dictated by the customer's legal warranty rights under the applicable national legislation governing the sale of consumer goods. Apogee reserves the right to change or improve design at any time without prior notification. Design changes are not implemented retroactively, and the incorporation of design changes into future units does not imply the availability of an upgrade to existing units. This warranty is void if Apogee determines, in its sole business judgment, the defect to be the result of abuse, neglect, alteration or attempted repair by unauthorized personnel. The warranties set forth above are in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, and Apogee specifically disclaims any and all implied warranty of merchantability or of fitness for a particular purpose. The buyer acknowledges and agrees that in no event shall the company be held liable for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential damages, or for injury, loss or damage sustained by any person or property, that may result from this product failing to operate correctly at any time.

SUPPORT

For additional support, including FAQs, driver downloads, and contact information for technical assistance, please visit the official Apogee Electronics website. Regularly checking the support section can provide solutions to common issues and keep you informed about product updates.

