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Mackie BIG KNOB STUDIO

Mackie Big Knob Studio 3x2 Studio Monitor Controller User Manual

Model: BIG KNOB STUDIO

Product Overview

The Mackie Big Knob Studio is a versatile studio monitor controller and 96kHz/24-bit USB audio interface designed for professional audio production environments. It combines high-quality recording capabilities with comprehensive monitor control features, allowing users to manage multiple audio sources and monitor outputs efficiently. This device is ideal for home studios and professional setups requiring precise audio routing and monitoring.



Figure 1: Front panel view of the Mackie Big Knob Studio, showing controls for inputs, source selection, volume, and monitor selection.

Setup and Connections

Before operating your Mackie Big Knob Studio, ensure all connections are made correctly. Refer to the rear panel diagram for port identification.



Figure 2: Rear panel connections of the Mackie Big Knob Studio, including power, USB, monitor outputs, and audio inputs.

Connecting to Power

1. Connect the included 18VDC 1.5A power adapter to the "POWER" input on the rear panel.
2. Plug the power adapter into a suitable AC outlet.
3. Ensure the power switch is in the "OFF" position before connecting.

USB Connection

- Connect the Big Knob Studio to your computer using the supplied USB 2.0 cable. The unit functions as a 96kHz/24-bit audio interface.
- For Windows operating systems, ensure the necessary drivers are installed. Refer to the official Mackie website for the latest driver downloads.

Audio Input Connections

- **Onyx Mic Preamps (1L, 2R):** Connect microphones or line-level instruments using XLR or 1/4-inch TRS cables. These inputs feature Mackie's Onyx preamps for high-fidelity audio capture.
- **Source 3/4 (Stereo):** Connect additional stereo sources (e.g., a smartphone, CD player) via 1/4-inch TRS cables to the "3/4 SOURCE" inputs.

Monitor Output Connections

- **Monitor A/B Outputs:** Connect your primary and secondary studio monitors to the "MONITOR A" and "MONITOR B" outputs using balanced 1/4-inch TRS cables.

Headphone Connections

- Two independent headphone outputs (Phones 1, Phones 2) are located on the front panel. Connect your headphones using 1/4-inch TRS jacks.

Operating Instructions

This section details the functions of the controls on your Big Knob Studio.

Front Panel Controls

- **Onyx Mic Preamps (1L, 2R) & Mic/Line/Inst Gain:** Adjusts the input gain for channels 1 and 2. Use the associated buttons for +48V phantom power (for condenser microphones) and Stereo Pan.
- **Inputs (1/2, 3/4, USB):** Selects the active input source for monitoring. Press the corresponding button to enable the input.
- **Trim (3/4, Mic):** Adjusts the input level for the 3/4 stereo input and the built-in talkback microphone.
- **Volume Knob:** The large central knob controls the overall output volume to the selected monitor outputs.
- **Mono Button:** Sums the stereo output to mono. Useful for checking phase compatibility and mix balance.
- **Mute Button:** Mutes all audio output to the selected monitors.
- **Dim Button:** Reduces the output volume by a fixed amount, allowing for quick level drops without losing your main volume setting.
- **Monitor Select (A, B):** Selects which pair of studio monitors (A or B) receives the audio output.
- **Talkback Level & To Cue:** Adjusts the volume of the talkback microphone. The "To Cue" button routes the talkback signal to the headphone outputs for communication with performers.
- **Direct Monitoring:** Allows for zero-latency monitoring of input signals directly through the headphones, bypassing computer processing.
- **Phones 1 & Phones 2:** Independent volume controls for the two headphone outputs.

Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Mackie Big Knob Studio.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by a dry one. Ensure no liquids enter the unit.
- **Dust Protection:** Keep the unit covered when not in use to prevent dust accumulation, especially on knobs and faders.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block ventilation openings.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Big Knob Studio, consult the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No audio output	Incorrect source selection, muted output, low volume, incorrect monitor selection.	Check selected input (1/2, 3/4, USB). Ensure Mute is not engaged. Increase Volume knob. Verify correct Monitor A/B is selected. Check speaker connections.
No sound from headphones	Headphone volume low, headphones not fully plugged in.	Increase Phones 1/2 volume. Ensure headphone jack is fully inserted.
Microphone not working	Phantom power off, incorrect gain, mic not connected.	Activate +48V phantom power for condenser mics. Adjust Mic/Line/Inst Gain. Ensure microphone is properly connected to input 1 or 2.
Unit not recognized by computer	USB cable issue, driver not installed (Windows), power off.	Try a different USB port or cable. Install the latest drivers from Mackie's website. Ensure the unit is powered on.

Specifications

- **Model:** BIG KNOB STUDIO
- **Brand:** Mackie
- **Item Weight:** 5 pounds
- **Product Dimensions:** 13.4 x 8.7 x 5.6 inches
- **Hardware Interface:** USB 2.0
- **Number of Channels:** 2
- **Connectivity Technology:** USB
- **Compatible Devices:** Smartphone (via 3/4 input), Computer
- **Operating System:** Windows (drivers required), macOS (class compliant)
- **Included in Box:** Mackie Big Knob Series, 3x2 Studio Monitor Controller 192kHz USB I/O, Quick Start Guide

Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Mackie website or contact their customer service. The product typically includes a standard manufacturer's warranty. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty claims.
Additional resources:

- User Guide (PDF): Download User Guide
- User Manual (PDF): Download User Manual
- Visit the Mackie Store: Mackie Official Store

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