

Soundcraft Notepad-8FX

Soundcraft Notepad-8FX 8-Channel Professional USB Audio Interface Mixer User Manual

Model: Notepad-8FX

1. INTRODUCTION

The Soundcraft Notepad-8FX is a compact 8-channel analog mixer with an integrated USB audio interface, designed for a variety of audio applications including live performances, podcast recording, and home studio use. It features Soundcraft's professional microphone preamps and built-in Lexicon effects, offering clear audio quality and versatile connectivity in a durable metal build.



Figure 1: Top view of the Soundcraft Notepad-8FX mixer.

2. SETUP

2.1 Powering On/Off

The Notepad-8FX mixer does not feature a dedicated power switch. To power the unit on or off, connect or disconnect the power cord from the mixer's power input.

2.2 Connecting Inputs

- **Microphones/Line-Level Devices:** Use the combined XLR/TRS inputs on channels 1 and 2 for microphones or line-level instruments. These channels offer 48V phantom power for condenser microphones and a -20dB pad.
- **High-Impedance (Hi-Z) Instruments:** Channel 1 includes a Hi-Z button, ideal for directly connecting electric guitars or bass guitars without needing an external DI box.
- **Stereo Line Inputs:** Channels 3/4 and 5/6 provide 1/4-inch TRS stereo line inputs, suitable for keyboards, drum machines, or other stereo line-level sources.
- **RCA Inputs:** Channels 7/8 feature RCA inputs for connecting external playback devices like CD players or media players.
- **USB Audio:** The USB port allows for 2-in/2-out audio streaming to and from a computer. Ensure the necessary drivers are installed on your PC or Mac for proper functionality.

2.3 Connecting Outputs

- **Main Outputs:** Use the XLR Master L/R outputs to connect the mixer to powered speakers, a power amplifier, or an audio interface for recording.
- **Headphone Output:** A 1/4-inch TRS headphone jack is provided for monitoring. The Phones Level knob controls the volume.
- **Auxiliary Output:** A 1/4-inch TRS Aux output can function as either a line output to send a signal to another device or as a second headphone output by pressing the corresponding button.

3. OPERATING THE MIXER

3.1 Input Channel Controls

- **Gain Knob (Burgundy):** Adjusts the input signal level for each channel. Aim for green or orange LED indicators, avoiding red to prevent clipping.
- **Hi-Z Button:** Activates high-impedance input for instruments like electric guitars or basses on Channel 1.
- **High-Pass Filter (100Hz):** Reduces low-frequency rumble and unwanted noise.
- **3-Band Equalizer (EQ):** Adjusts the Highs, Mids, and Lows frequencies for each channel to shape the tone of your audio source.
- **Aux/FX Send Knob (Blue):** Controls the amount of signal sent from the channel to the internal Lexicon effects processor or the auxiliary output.
- **Pan Knob (Yellow):** Adjusts the stereo positioning of the channel's signal (left to right).
- **Level Knob (Red):** Controls the individual volume level of each channel in the main mix.

3.2 Lexicon Effects Section

The Notepad-8FX features built-in Lexicon effects, including Delay, Chorus, and Reverb. These effects can be applied to individual channels using the Aux/FX Send knobs.

- **Effect Selection Buttons:** Select Delay, Chorus, or Reverb. Multiple effects can be activated simultaneously.
- **Parameter Knob (Blue):** Adjusts specific parameters of the selected effect (e.g., delay time, chorus depth, reverb decay).
- **Tap Tempo Button:** For the Delay effect, this button allows you to set the repeat time by tapping it in rhythm.
- **Effect Level Knob:** Controls the overall wet/dry mix of the selected effects. Note that if multiple effects are active, this single knob controls the combined level of all active effects.

3.3 Master Section

- **Master Volume Fader:** Controls the overall output volume of the main mix.
- **LED Indicators:** Display the output level of the main mix, helping to prevent clipping.
- **Phones Level Knob:** Adjusts the volume of the headphone output.
- **Master Aux Button:** Toggles the Aux output between line output mode and headphone output mode.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 1: A detailed demonstration of the Soundcraft Notepad-8FX mixer's features, including input connections, EQ adjustments, Lexicon effects, and output controls.

4. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Description
Brand	Soundcraft
Number of Channels	8
Item Weight	1 Kilograms
Connectivity Technology	USB
Power Source	Corded Electric

5. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the mixer's surface. Avoid liquid cleaners or solvents that could damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** Store the mixer in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure cables are neatly organized and not under tension to prevent damage to connectors and ports.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Sound Output:** Check all cable connections, ensure input gain and channel level knobs are appropriately set, and verify the master volume fader is up. Confirm the correct output type (mono line out/stereo phones) is selected.
- **Distorted Sound:** Reduce input gain and channel level knobs. Ensure LED indicators are not consistently red. Check for proper impedance matching (e.g., Hi-Z for guitars).
- **Effects Not Working:** Verify the Aux/FX Send knob for the channel is turned up, and the Effect Level knob in the Lexicon Effects section is also adjusted. Ensure an effect is selected.
- **USB Connection Issues:** Ensure the correct drivers are installed on your computer. Check the USB cable connection.

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

MANUFACTURERS LIMITED PRODUCT WARRANTY for Soundcraft products applies only when the purchase is made from Soundcraft Authorized North American Dealers. For full details and support, please refer to the official Soundcraft website or contact an authorized dealer.

