

Focusrite 8Pre (18-in/20-out)

Focusrite Clarett 8Pre USB Audio Interface User Manual

Model: 8Pre (18-in/20-out)

INTRODUCTION

The Focusrite Clarett 8Pre USB is a high-performance 18-in/20-out audio interface designed for professional recording environments. It features specially engineered low-noise mic preamps, high-quality 24-bit/192kHz A-D and D-A conversion, and versatile connectivity options for both Mac and PC systems. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Clarett 8Pre USB interface.

KEY FEATURES

- **Eight Air-enabled Mic Preamps:** Features specially designed, ultra-low noise mic preamps with an 'Air' mode that emulates the sound of Focusrite's classic ISA transformer-based preamps.
- **High-Quality Conversion:** Precision 24-bit/192kHz A-D and D-A conversion ensures a superior signal path with 118dB dynamic range.
- **Versatile Inputs:** Includes eight mic/line inputs, with two also functioning as high-impedance instrument inputs for direct recording of guitars and basses without unwanted distortion.
- **Extensive Outputs:** Ten 1/4-inch balanced jack outputs, including a dedicated stereo pair, and two independent headphone outputs with individual volume controls.
- **Digital Connectivity:** MIDI I/O, S/PDIF I/O, and ADAT I/O for expanding your setup with up to eight additional inputs and outputs.
- **Low Latency:** Achieves super-low round-trip latency for real-time monitoring and recording through amp simulators and effects plug-ins.
- **Cross-Platform Compatibility:** Connects to Mac or PC using included standard USB and USB Type-C cables.
- **Focusrite Control Software:** User-friendly software for configuring routing and monitor mixes from Mac, PC, iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch.
- **Included Software Bundle:** Comes with Ableton Live Lite, Brainworx bx_console Focusrite, Softube Time and Tone Bundle, Focusrite's Red Plug-in Suite, a choice of one free XLN Addictive Keys virtual instrument, and Loopmasters content.

SETUP GUIDE

Unboxing and Initial Inspection

Upon opening the package, verify that all components are present and undamaged. The box should contain the Clarett 8Pre USB interface, a power supply, a standard USB cable, and a USB Type-C cable. Refer to the image below for typical box contents.



Figure 1: Clarett 8Pre USB Box Contents. This image displays the Clarett 8Pre USB interface, its power cable, and both standard USB and USB Type-C cables, along with the included documentation.

Connecting to Your Computer

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the included power supply to the Clarett 8Pre USB and plug it into a suitable power outlet.
2. **USB Connection:** Use either the standard USB cable or the USB Type-C cable to connect the Clarett 8Pre USB to an available USB port on your Mac or PC.
3. **Software Installation:** Visit the Focusrite website to download and install the latest drivers and the Focusrite Control software for your operating system. This software is crucial for managing the interface's settings, routing, and monitoring mixes.



Figure 2: Front Panel Overview. This image shows the front panel of the Clarett 8Pre USB, highlighting the input jacks, gain knobs, and metering display.



Figure 3: Rear Panel Connectivity. This image provides a detailed view of the rear panel, illustrating the various analog and digital input/output ports, including MIDI, S/PDIF, and ADAT connections.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Input Connections

The Clarett 8Pre USB offers a variety of input options:

- **Mic/Line Inputs (1-8):** Connect microphones via XLR or line-level instruments/devices via 1/4-inch TRS cables.
- **Instrument Inputs (1-2):** Inputs 1 and 2 can also be used for high-impedance instruments like guitars and basses. Ensure the 'INST' button is engaged for these inputs.
- **48V Phantom Power:** For condenser microphones, activate 48V phantom power using the dedicated buttons. Phantom power can be applied to inputs 1-4 and/or 5-8.
- **'Air' Mode:** Engage the 'Air' button for inputs to activate an analog model of Focusrite's transformer-based ISA mic preamps, adding clarity and presence to your recordings.

Output Connections

The interface provides flexible output routing:

- **Line Outputs (1-10):** Connect to studio monitors, external effects processors, or other line-level devices. Outputs 1-2 are typically used for main monitor outputs and feature anti-thump technology.
- **Headphone Outputs (1-2):** Two independent headphone outputs with dedicated volume controls allow for separate monitoring mixes for performers and engineers.
- **Digital Outputs:** S/PDIF and ADAT outputs allow for digital signal transfer to compatible devices, expanding your input/output capabilities.
- **Word Clock Output:** Ensures precise synchronization with other digital audio equipment in your studio.

Using Focusrite Control Software

Focusrite Control is the companion software for your Clarett 8Pre USB, providing comprehensive control over routing, monitoring, and hardware settings. It allows you to:

- Create custom monitor mixes for artists and engineers.
- Adjust input gain and phantom power settings.
- Configure digital I/O settings (S/PDIF, ADAT).
- Manage latency settings for optimal performance.

For detailed instructions on using Focusrite Control, refer to the software's built-in help documentation or the Focusrite support website.

Product Overview Video

Watch this official product video for a comprehensive overview of the Focusrite Clarett 8Pre USB's features and connectivity options.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: Focusrite Clarett 8Pre USB 18-In/20-Out Audio Interface. This video provides a detailed look at the interface's features, including its various inputs and outputs, 'Air' mode, and low-latency performance.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure proper ventilation around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block ventilation openings.
- **Firmware Updates:** Regularly check the Focusrite website for firmware updates to ensure optimal performance and compatibility.
- **Cable Management:** Organize cables to prevent strain on connectors and accidental disconnections.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Common Issues and Solutions

- **No Power:**
 - Ensure the power cable is securely connected to both the interface and a working power outlet.
 - Check the power switch on the front panel is in the 'ON' position.
- **No Sound/Input Signal:**
 - Verify that the USB cable is securely connected to both the interface and your computer.
 - Check input gain knobs are turned up sufficiently.
 - Ensure correct input selection (Mic/Line/Inst) in Focusrite Control.
 - Confirm phantom power (48V) is enabled for condenser microphones.
 - Check your DAW's input/output settings to ensure the Clarett 8Pre USB is selected as the audio device.
- **Crackling/Distortion:**
 - Reduce input gain to prevent clipping (indicated by red lights on the meters).
 - Increase buffer size in your DAW's audio settings to reduce CPU strain.
 - Ensure your computer meets the minimum system requirements for the interface and your DAW.
- **Latency Issues:**
 - Decrease buffer size in your DAW's audio settings.
 - Utilize the direct monitoring features within Focusrite Control to monitor inputs with zero-latency.

For further assistance, visit the Focusrite Help Centre or contact Focusrite Support.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Clarett 8Pre USB (18-in/20-out)
Inputs	8 x Mic/Line/Instrument Combo Inputs (XLR/TRS), ADAT Optical In, S/PDIF In, MIDI In
Outputs	10 x Line Outputs (1/4" TRS), 2 x Headphone Outputs (1/4" TRS), ADAT Optical Out, S/PDIF Out, MIDI Out, Word Clock Out

Feature	Detail
Connectivity	USB 2.0 and above (USB Type-A and Type-C cables included)
A/D D/A Conversion	24-bit / 192 kHz
Dynamic Range	118dB
Mic Preamps	8 x Clarett 'Air' enabled, ultra-low noise (-128dB EIN)
Instrument Inputs	2 x High-impedance
Dimensions (W x D x H)	19 x 11.46 x 1.73 inches
Weight	10.14 pounds
Compatible OS	Mac and PC (USB 2.0 and above)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Focusrite Clarett 8Pre USB is protected by a **Two-Year Warranty**. This warranty covers manufacturing defects and ensures your product performs as expected.


For technical assistance, product registration, or to access the latest drivers and software, please visit the official Focusrite support website:

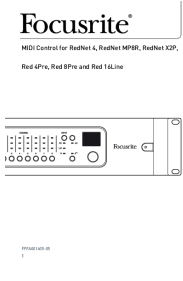
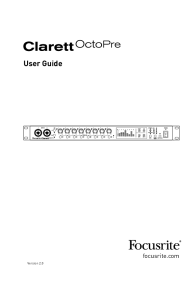
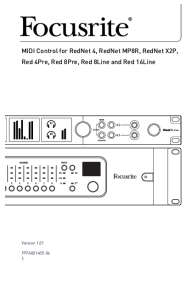


[Focusrite Support Website](#)

Focusrite also offers best-in-class technical support to assist you with any queries or issues you may encounter.

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Related Documents - 8Pre (18-in/20-out)

<div><p>Clarett+ OctoPre</p><p>Focusrite Clarett+ OctoPre User Guide</p></div>	<p>Focusrite Clarett+ OctoPre User Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite Clarett+ OctoPre, an eight-channel microphone preamplifier with ADAT connectivity, detailing its features, setup, and technical specifications.</p>
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 <p>Focusrite® MIDI Control for RedNet 4, RedNet MP8R, RedNet X2P, Red 4Pre, Red 8Pre and Red 16Line</p> <p>Version 1.01 ©2014 Focusrite Ltd.</p>	<p>Focusrite RedNet MIDI Control Setup Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive guide to setting up and utilizing MIDI control for Focusrite RedNet audio interfaces (RedNet 4, MP8R, X2P, 4Pre, 8Pre, 16Line) via RedNet Control software and Pro Tools. Covers prerequisites, configuration, CC and SysEx protocols, and troubleshooting for professional audio workflows.</p>
 <p>Clarett OctoPre User Guide</p> <p>Version 1.0 ©2014 Focusrite Ltd.</p>	<p>Focusrite Clarett OctoPre User Guide</p> <p>A comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite Clarett OctoPre, detailing its features, operation, technical specifications, and example setups for audio professionals.</p>
 <p>Focusrite® MIDI Control for RedNet 4, RedNet MP8R, RedNet X2P, Red 4Pre, Red 8Pre, Red 16Line and Red 16Line</p> <p>Version 1.01 ©2014 Focusrite Ltd.</p>	<p>Focusrite RedNet MIDI Control Guide</p> <p>A comprehensive guide to using MIDI control for Focusrite RedNet devices, including setup with Pro Tools, CC protocol, and SysEx protocol. Covers prerequisites, configuration within RedNet Control and Pro Tools, and detailed protocol specifications.</p>
 <p>Scarlett 18i20 User Guide</p> <p>Version 1.0 ©2014 Focusrite Ltd.</p>	<p>Focusrite Scarlett 18i20 3rd Gen User Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite Scarlett 18i20 3rd Generation audio interface, covering setup, hardware features, software control, specifications, and troubleshooting.</p>
 <p>Scarlett 18i20 User Guide</p> <p>Version 1.0 ©2014 Focusrite Ltd.</p>	<p>Focusrite Scarlett 18i20 User Guide: Professional Audio Interface</p> <p>Comprehensive user guide for the Focusrite Scarlett 18i20, an 18-in/20-out USB audio interface. Learn about hardware features, software installation, DAW setup, monitoring, and specifications.</p>