

Mackie MDB-2P

Mackie MDB-2P Passive Stereo Direct Box Instruction Manual

Model: MDB-2P | Brand: Mackie

1. INTRODUCTION

The Mackie MDB-2P is a high-quality passive stereo direct box designed to convert unbalanced, high-impedance signals from instruments like keyboards and synthesizers into balanced, low-impedance signals suitable for professional audio mixers and recording equipment. This ensures a clean, noise-free signal over long cable runs, making it an essential tool for electronic musicians, live sound engineers, and recording studios.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **High-impedance 1/4" Inputs with Thru Outputs:** Connect your instruments directly and send a parallel signal to an amplifier or monitor.
- **Balanced XLR Outputs with Ground Lift:** Provides a clean, balanced signal for long cable runs to a mixer, with a ground lift switch to eliminate hum and buzz.
- **Ultra-low Noise and Distortion:** Ensures pristine audio quality without unwanted artifacts.
- **-15dB Pads:** Attenuates hot signals from high-output sources, preventing distortion.
- **Built-like-a-Tank Construction:** Durable design to withstand the rigors of live performance and studio use.

3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Familiarize yourself with the inputs, outputs, and controls of your Mackie MDB-2P.



Figure 1: Angled view of the Mackie MDB-2P, highlighting its compact and robust design.



Figure 2: Detailed view of the front panel with 1/4" Input and Thru jacks for Left and Right channels, along with -15dB Pad switches.



Figure 3: Detailed view of the rear panel featuring Left and Right XLR Output connectors and the Ground Lift switch.

Front Panel

- **INPUT (1/4" TS):** Connect your instrument (e.g., keyboard, synthesizer) here.
- **THRU (1/4" TS):** Provides a direct, unprocessed signal from the INPUT to send to an amplifier or stage monitor.
- **PAD (-15dB):** Engages a -15dB attenuation pad for high-output sources to prevent input clipping and distortion.

Rear Panel

- **OUTPUT (XLR Male):** Balanced, low-impedance output to connect to a mixer's microphone input.
- **GROUND LIFT:** Disconnects the ground connection between the input and output to eliminate hum and buzz caused by ground loops.

4. SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your Mackie MDB-2P:

1. **Connect Your Instrument:** Plug your instrument's 1/4" output cable into the corresponding **INPUT** jack (Left or Right) on the MDB-2P.
2. **Connect to an Amplifier/Monitor (Optional):** If you need to hear your instrument on stage, connect a 1/4" cable from the **THRU** jack to your instrument amplifier or stage monitor.
3. **Connect to a Mixer:** Use standard XLR cables to connect the **OUTPUT** (Left and Right) jacks of the MDB-2P to the microphone inputs on your audio mixer.
4. **Engage Pad (If Necessary):** If your instrument has a very high output level and you notice distortion or clipping at the mixer, engage the **-15dB PAD** switch for the affected channel(s).
5. **Use Ground Lift (If Necessary):** If you hear a persistent hum or buzz in your audio signal, try engaging the **GROUND LIFT** switch. This can help break ground loops that cause unwanted noise.

The MDB-2P is a passive device and does not require external power.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: This video demonstrates the connection process for a stereo direct box with high-impedance inputs, similar to the Mackie MDB-2P. It illustrates how to connect instruments and route signals to a mixer and amplifier.

5. OPERATING

Once connected, the MDB-2P operates transparently, converting your instrument's signal without coloring its tone. The primary operational considerations are the use of the Pad and Ground Lift switches.

- **Signal Flow:** Your instrument's signal enters the 1/4" INPUT, is converted to a balanced low-impedance signal, and exits via the XLR OUTPUT. A copy of the input signal is also available at the 1/4" THRU output.
- **Pad Usage:** Always engage the -15dB pad if your instrument's output is particularly strong (e.g., some active pickups, high-output keyboards) to prevent overloading the DI box or the mixer's input. This ensures a clean signal without unwanted clipping.
- **Ground Lift:** If you encounter a low-frequency hum or buzz, especially when connecting multiple pieces of equipment that share different power sources, toggle the Ground Lift switch. This can often resolve ground loop issues.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: This short preview video demonstrates the basic functionality and connections of a single-channel passive direct box, illustrating the simplicity of operation.

6. MAINTENANCE

The Mackie MDB-2P is designed for durability and requires minimal maintenance.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from extreme temperatures and moisture when not in use.
- **Inspection:** Periodically check all cables and connectors for signs of wear or damage.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your MDB-2P, try the following:

- **No Sound:**
 - Ensure all cables are securely connected.
 - Check the input levels on your mixer.
 - Verify that the -15dB PAD is not engaged if your instrument has a low output.
 - Test with different cables and instruments to isolate the problem.
- **Hum or Buzz:**
 - Engage the **GROUND LIFT** switch.
 - Ensure all equipment is plugged into properly grounded outlets.
 - Try plugging all audio equipment into the same power strip or circuit.

- **Distorted Sound:**

- Engage the **-15dB PAD** switch if your instrument has a high output.
- Reduce the output level of your instrument.
- Check the input gain settings on your mixer.

8. SPECIFICATIONS


Specification	Value
Model Number	MDB-2P
Item Weight	14.4 ounces
Product Dimensions	3.4 x 5.8 x 1.5 inches
Color Name	Black
Audio Output Mode	Stereo
Speaker Amplification Type	Passive
Date First Available	January 27, 2018




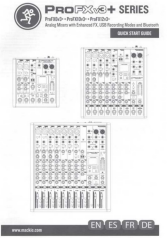

9. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

Mackie products are built to last, and the MDB-2P is no exception. For detailed warranty information and technical support, please visit the official Mackie website or contact their customer service. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

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Related Documents - MDB-2P

	<p>Mackie MDB-USB Stereo Direct Box Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the Mackie MDB-USB Stereo Direct Box, covering features, setup, safety instructions, troubleshooting, technical specifications, and warranty information.</p>
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	<p>Mackie M-800 High-Current Power Amplifier - Specifications and Features</p> <p>Explore the Mackie M-800, a powerful dual-channel high-current power amplifier featuring Fast Recovery circuitry, T-Design cooling, and versatile connectivity for professional audio applications. Includes detailed specifications and features.</p>
	<p>Mackie Loudspeaker & Subwoofer Quick Start Guide: C200, C300z, S512, S515, S525, S518S</p> <p>Quick start guide for Mackie C200, C300z, S512, S515, S525, and S518S passive loudspeakers and subwoofers. Includes setup, safety instructions, hookup diagrams, technical specifications, and support information.</p>
	<p>Mackie Thump12A and Thump15A Powered Loudspeakers Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for Mackie Thump12A and Thump15A 1300W powered loudspeakers, covering features, setup, operation, specifications, and troubleshooting. Includes details on controls, speaker modes, system examples, and dimensions.</p>
	<p>Mackie ProFXv3+ Series Analog Mixers: Enhanced FX, USB, Bluetooth</p> <p>Explore the Mackie ProFXv3+ Series, professional analog mixers featuring enhanced GigFX+ effects, a 24-Bit/192kHz USB-C audio interface, and bi-directional Bluetooth. Ideal for studio recording, live sound, and streaming, these mixers offer award-winning Onyx preamps and intuitive controls.</p>
	<p>Mackie S218s Passive Subwoofer Specifications and Maintenance Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive specifications, care, and maintenance information for the Mackie S218s passive subwoofer, including acoustic performance, physical dimensions, input/output details, and construction features.</p>