

## IK Multimedia IP-INT-AXEIO-IN

# IK Multimedia AXE I/O Audio Interface User Manual

Model: IP-INT-AXEIO-IN

Premium 2-in 5-out 24-bit, 192 kHz USB Audio Interface

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The IK Multimedia AXE I/O is a premium 2-in 5-out USB audio interface designed for guitarists and musicians seeking high-quality recording and advanced tone-shaping capabilities. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your AXE I/O interface, ensuring optimal performance and creative workflow.



Figure 1: Front view of the IK Multimedia AXE I/O Audio Interface.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read and follow all safety instructions to prevent damage to the device or personal injury.

- Do not expose the unit to rain, moisture, or extreme temperatures.
- Avoid placing the unit near heat sources or in direct sunlight.
- Use only the power supply specified by the manufacturer.
- Do not open the unit casing; refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- Keep the unit away from strong electromagnetic fields.

### 3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in the box:

- IK Multimedia AXE I/O Audio Interface
- USB-A to USB-C Cable
- External Power Supply (9V DC, 1.7A)
- Registration Card / Quick Start Guide
- Software Bundle Download Instructions (AmpliTube 5 SE, TONEX SE, Ableton Live 10 Lite)

### 4. HARDWARE OVERVIEW

#### 4.1 Front Panel Controls



Figure 2: Detailed view of the AXE I/O front panel controls.

- **Input 1 & 2 Gain Knobs:** Adjust input level for connected instruments or microphones.
- **Z-TONE Control:** Continuously variable impedance control for guitar inputs, allowing fine-tuning of tone.
- **Active/Passive Pickup Selector:** Optimizes input impedance for active or passive guitar pickups.
- **JFET/PURE Preamp Switch:** Selects between a warm JFET preamp or a transparent PURE preamp.
- **48V Phantom Power Button:** Activates phantom power for condenser microphones.
- **Preset Knob:** Assignable knob for quick recall of software presets.
- **Tuner Display:** Integrated guitar tuner.
- **Monitor Knob:** Blends direct input signal with DAW playback for zero-latency monitoring.
- **Headphones Output & Level Knob:** Stereo headphone output with dedicated volume control.
- **Master Volume Knob:** Controls the overall output level to your studio monitors.
- **Amp Out:** Dedicated output for re-amping through external amplifiers.

#### 4.2 Rear Panel Connections



Figure 3: Detailed view of the AXE I/O rear panel connections.

- **Power Switch & DC Input:** On/Off switch and connection for the external power supply.
- **MIDI In/Out:** 5-pin DIN connectors for MIDI devices.

- **USB 2.0 Port:** Connects the interface to your computer.
- **External Control Inputs (Switch/Pedal 1 & 2):** Connect expression pedals or footswitches for real-time control.
- **Line Outputs (1/L, 2/R, 3, 4):** Balanced TRS outputs for connecting to studio monitors or other audio equipment.
- **Mic/Line Inputs (1 & 2):** Combo XLR/TRS inputs for microphones or line-level sources.

## 5. SETUP

### 5.1 System Requirements

Ensure your computer meets the following minimum requirements:

- **Mac:** macOS 10.11 or later, Intel Core 2 Duo or later, 4 GB RAM (8 GB recommended).
- **PC:** Windows 7, 8, 10, or 11 (64-bit), Intel Core 2 Duo or AMD Athlon 64 X2 or later, 4 GB RAM (8 GB recommended).
- Available USB port.

### 5.2 Software Installation

Register your product and download the necessary software and drivers from the IK Multimedia website. This includes the AXE I/O control panel, AmpliTube 5 SE, TONEX SE, and Ableton Live 10 Lite.



Figure 4: Screenshot of the AmpliTube 5 SE software interface.

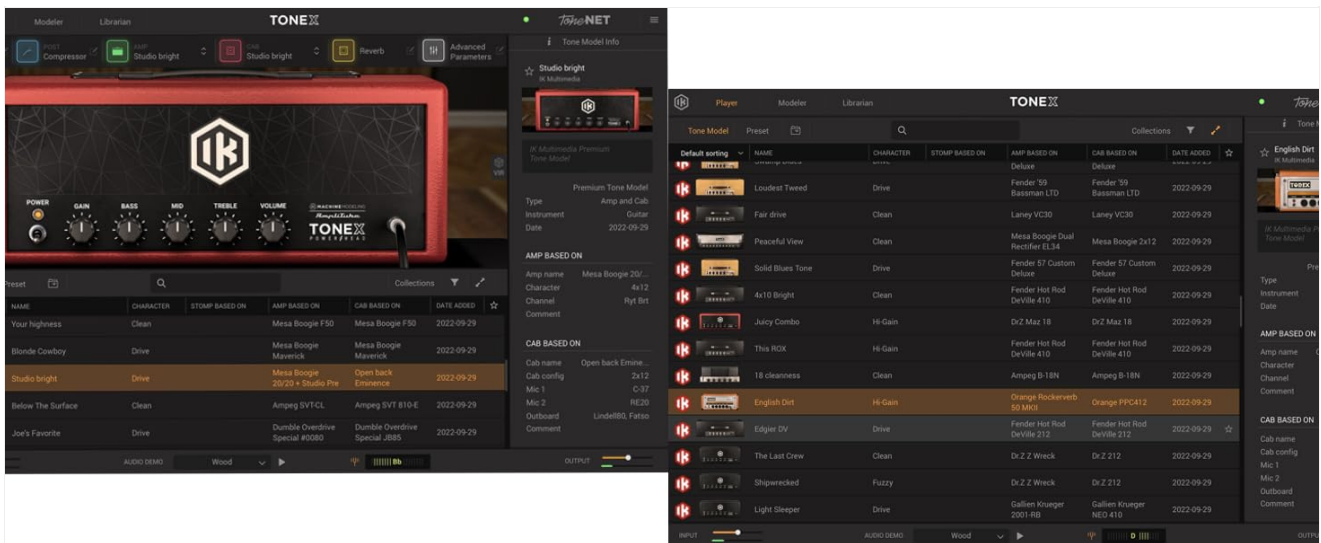


Figure 5: Screenshot of the TONEX SE software interface.

### 5.3 Hardware Connection

1. Connect the AXE I/O to your computer using the provided USB cable.
2. Connect the external power supply to the DC input and plug it into a power outlet.
3. Connect your guitar or bass to Input 1 or 2 on the front panel.
4. Connect your studio monitors to Line Outputs 1/L and 2/R on the rear panel.
5. Plug in headphones to the front panel headphone output for private monitoring.

## 6. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### 6.1 Basic Recording

To record your instrument or vocals:

1. Ensure the AXE I/O is connected and recognized by your DAW.
2. Select the appropriate input (Input 1 or 2) in your DAW.
3. Adjust the input gain using the corresponding knob on the front panel until the input level is healthy but not clipping.
4. Use the Monitor knob to blend your direct signal with the DAW playback for zero-latency monitoring.

## 6.2 Z-TONE Control and Preamp Selection

The Z-TONE control allows you to fine-tune the impedance of your guitar input, affecting the tone and feel of your instrument. Experiment with the knob to find the sweet spot for your guitar and playing style. The Active/Passive switch optimizes the input for different pickup types, while the JFET/PURE switch offers distinct preamp voicings.

## 6.3 Re-Amping Functionality

The dedicated Amp Out allows you to send a previously recorded dry guitar signal from your DAW to an external amplifier or stompbox for re-amping. This provides flexibility to experiment with different amp tones after the initial recording.

## 6.4 MIDI and External Control

Connect MIDI keyboards, controllers, or other MIDI-compatible devices to the MIDI In/Out ports. The two external control inputs can be configured via the AXE I/O control panel to control various parameters within your DAW or software effects using expression pedals or footswitches.



Figure 6: Screenshot of the AXE I/O control software for I/O configuration and external controls.

## 7. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your AXE I/O:

- Clean the unit with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- Keep the unit free from dust and debris.
- Store the unit in a cool, dry place when not in use.
- Regularly check cable connections for wear and tear.

## 8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	Incorrect audio device selection in DAW; cables not connected properly; volume knobs turned down.	Verify AXE I/O is selected as input/output in DAW; check all cable connections; ensure Master and Headphone volume knobs are up.
Input signal clipping	Input gain is too high.	Reduce the corresponding Input Gain knob until the CLIP indicator no longer lights up.
No phantom power for mic	48V button not engaged.	Press the 48V button on the front panel to activate phantom power.
High latency	Buffer size in DAW is too high.	Reduce the buffer size in your DAW's audio settings.

## 9. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Connectivity Technology:** USB
- **Number of Channels:** 2
- **Maximum Sample Rate:** 192 kHz
- **Audio Input:** USB
- **Compatible Devices:** Personal Computer (Mac/PC)
- **Supported Software:** AmpliTube 5 SE, TONEX SE, Mac/PC drivers
- **Item Weight:** 4 Pounds

## 10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The IK Multimedia AXE I/O comes with a **1-year manufacturer warranty**. For technical support, product registration, or further assistance, please visit the official IK Multimedia website or refer to the contact information provided in your product packaging.

Official product videos:

### AXE I/O 2-channel audio interface with guitar tone shaping

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*Video 1: An overview of the AXE I/O audio interface highlighting its guitar tone shaping features.*

### AXE I/O 2-channel audio interface with guitar tone shaping, amp output and software recording bundle

Your browser does not support the video tag.

*Video 2: A detailed look at the AXE I/O's features, including amp output and bundled software.*