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PreSonus AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle Instruction Manual

Model: AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle

1. INTRODUCTION

The PreSonus AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle is a comprehensive solution designed for musicians, podcasters, and content creators. This bundle provides professional-grade audio recording capabilities in a compact and affordable package. It includes the AudioBox 96 USB-C audio/MIDI interface, Studio One Artist software, Mackie CR3-XBT Bluetooth studio monitors, and essential recording accessories.

This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle to ensure optimal performance and longevity.



Image 1.1: Overview of the PreSonus AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle components.

2. SETUP GUIDE

Follow these steps to set up your PreSonus AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle.

2.1. AudioBox 96 Interface Connection

1. **Connect to Computer:** Use the provided USB-C cable to connect the AudioBox 96 interface to an available USB port on your computer.
2. **Power On:** The AudioBox 96 is bus-powered via USB. Ensure your computer is on.



Image 2.1: Front panel of the AudioBox 96 USB-C interface, showing inputs and controls.



Image 2.2: Rear panel of the AudioBox 96 USB-C interface, showing main outputs, MIDI I/O, and USB port.

2.2. Monitor Setup (Mackie CR3-XBT)

1. **Positioning:** Place the Mackie CR3-XBT monitors on a stable surface, ideally at ear level, forming an equilateral triangle with your listening position.
2. **Connect to AudioBox 96:** Use TRS cables to connect the Main Outputs (L/R) of the AudioBox 96 to the TRS Inputs (L/R) on the active Mackie CR3-XBT monitor.
3. **Connect Passive Speaker:** Use the included speaker wire to connect the active monitor to the passive monitor. Ensure correct polarity (+ to + and - to -).
4. **Power Connection:** Connect the active monitor to a power outlet.



Image 2.3: Mackie CR3-XBT Bluetooth Studio Monitors.



Image 2.4: Rear panel of Mackie CR3-XBT Studio Monitors, showing input and output connections.

2.3. Microphone and Headphone Setup

1. **Microphone Connection:** Connect the included microphone to one of the Mic/Inst inputs on the AudioBox 96 using an XLR cable. If using a condenser microphone, activate 48V phantom power on the AudioBox 96.
2. **Boom Stand and Pop Filter:** Assemble the boom stand and attach the microphone. Position the pop filter in front of the microphone to reduce plosive sounds.
3. **Headphone Connection:** Plug your headphones into the Headphone output on the AudioBox 96.





Image 2.5: Included studio microphone.



Image 2.6: Microphone mounted on a boom stand with a pop filter for vocal recording.

2.4. Software Installation (Studio One Artist)

1. **Download:** Visit the PreSonus website and register your AudioBox 96 to download the Studio One Artist software and any necessary drivers.
2. **Installation:** Follow the on-screen instructions to install Studio One Artist and the AudioBox 96 drivers on your computer.
3. **Activation:** Activate Studio One Artist using the provided product key.



Image 2.7: Studio One Artist Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) interface.



Image 2.8: Detailed view of Studio One Artist mixer and effects interface, demonstrating plugin integration.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

This section details the operation of the AudioBox 96 interface, Studio One Artist software, and Mackie CR3-XBT monitors.

3.1. AudioBox 96 Interface Operation

- **Input Gain:** Use the 'Gain' knobs for inputs 1 and 2 to adjust the input level of your microphone or instrument. Aim for a strong signal without clipping (distortion).
- **48V Phantom Power:** Press the '48V' button to supply phantom power to condenser microphones. Ensure this is off for dynamic microphones.
- **Mixer Knob:** The 'Mixer' knob blends the direct input signal with the playback from your computer. Turn it towards 'Inputs' for more direct monitoring (zero-latency) and towards 'Playback' for more computer audio.
- **Main Output:** The 'Main' knob controls the overall volume of the main outputs connected to your studio monitors.
- **Headphone Output:** The 'Phones' knob controls the volume of the headphone output.

3.2. Studio One Artist Basics

- **Creating a New Song:** Open Studio One Artist and select 'Create New Song'. Configure your sample rate (e.g., 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz) and bit depth (24-bit recommended).
- **Adding Tracks:** Add audio tracks for microphones/instruments or instrument tracks for MIDI devices.
- **Arming for Record:** Click the 'Record Enable' button on a track to prepare it for recording.
- **Monitoring:** Ensure the monitoring button on the track is enabled to hear your input through Studio One. Adjust the AudioBox 96 'Mixer' knob for your preferred blend.
- **Recording:** Press the 'Record' button in the transport section to start recording. Press 'Stop' to end.
- **Playback:** Use the 'Play' button to listen to your recorded audio.

3.3. Mackie CR3-XBT Monitor Operation

- **Power On/Off:** Use the power switch on the rear of the active monitor.
- **Volume Control:** Adjust the front-panel volume knob to control the overall output level.
- **Bluetooth Pairing:** Press and hold the Bluetooth button on the front panel until the LED flashes. Pair with your Bluetooth-enabled device.
- **Headphone Output:** The front-panel headphone jack allows for private listening, muting the main speakers when in use.

4. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your studio bundle components.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the surfaces of the AudioBox 96, monitors, and microphone. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Dust Protection:** When not in use, cover the equipment to prevent dust accumulation.
- **Cable Management:** Keep cables organized and avoid sharp bends or kinks to prevent damage.
- **Software Updates:** Regularly check the PreSonus website for driver and Studio One Artist software updates to ensure compatibility and access to new features.

- **Environmental Conditions:** Store and operate the equipment in a dry environment, away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, and moisture.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle, refer to the following troubleshooting tips.

5.1. No Sound Output

- **Check Connections:** Ensure all cables (USB, TRS, speaker wire, power) are securely connected.
- **Volume Levels:** Verify that the 'Main' and 'Phones' knobs on the AudioBox 96 are turned up. Check the volume knob on the Mackie CR3-XBT monitors.
- **Software Settings:** In Studio One Artist (or your DAW), ensure the AudioBox 96 is selected as the playback device and that track output levels are not muted or too low.
- **Monitor Power:** Confirm the Mackie CR3-XBT monitors are powered on.

5.2. No Input Signal

- **Cable Check:** Ensure the microphone/instrument cable is properly connected to the AudioBox 96 input.
- **Gain Knobs:** Turn up the 'Gain' knob for the corresponding input on the AudioBox 96.
- **48V Phantom Power:** If using a condenser microphone, ensure the '48V' button is engaged.
- **Software Input:** In Studio One Artist, verify that the correct input is selected for the track and that the track is armed for recording.
- **Microphone Functionality:** Test the microphone with another device if possible to rule out a faulty microphone.

5.3. Latency Issues (Delay in Monitoring)

- **Direct Monitoring:** Use the 'Mixer' knob on the AudioBox 96 to blend more towards 'Inputs' for zero-latency direct monitoring.
- **Buffer Size:** In Studio One Artist's audio device settings, try reducing the buffer size. Lower buffer sizes reduce latency but require more CPU power.
- **Driver Updates:** Ensure you have the latest AudioBox 96 drivers installed.

5.4. Bluetooth Pairing Problems (Mackie CR3-XBT)

- **Re-pair:** Delete the CR3-XBT from your device's Bluetooth list and attempt to pair again.
- **Distance:** Ensure your Bluetooth device is within range of the monitors.
- **Interference:** Move away from other wireless devices that might cause interference.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Audio Interface	PreSonus AudioBox 96 USB-C
Resolution	24-bit / 96 kHz

Feature	Specification
Inputs	2 x Combo Mic/Instrument/Line (XLR/TRS)
Preamps	XMAX-L mic preamps
Outputs	2 x TRS Main Outputs, 1 x Headphone Output
MIDI I/O	Yes
Connectivity	USB-C
Monitors	Mackie CR3-XBT Bluetooth Studio Monitors (3-inch drivers)
Software Included	Studio One Artist DAW, Plug-in Suite
Compatible Devices	Headphones, Microphones, Instruments
Operating System	iOS, macOS (and Windows via drivers)
Item Weight	20.8 pounds (total bundle)
Package Dimensions	32.6 x 15 x 9 inches

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

PreSonus products are designed for reliability and performance. For specific warranty information regarding your AudioBox 96 Studio Bundle, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official PreSonus website.

For technical support, driver downloads, software updates, and additional resources, please visit the PreSonus support page:

www.presonus.com/support

For support related to the Mackie CR3-XBT monitors, please refer to Mackie's official support channels.