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## M-Audio AIR 192|8

# M-Audio AIR 192|8 USB C MIDI Audio Interface

User Manual

## 1. Introduction

The M-Audio AIR 192|8 is a 24-bit/192kHz USB-C audio/MIDI interface designed for recording music, vocals, and guitar with studio-quality sound. This interface provides a high-speed connection to your Mac or PC, offering low-latency performance and a comprehensive set of inputs and outputs for various recording and monitoring needs. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your AIR 192|8 interface to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

## 2. Package Contents

- AIR 192|8 Audio Interface
- USB-C-to-USB-C Cable
- USB-C-to-USB-A Cable
- Software Download Cards
- User Guide (this document)
- Safety & Warranty Manual

## 3. Setup

### 3.1 Driver Installation

Before connecting the AIR 192|8 to your computer, it is recommended to download and install the latest drivers from the official M-Audio website. Follow the on-screen instructions for your operating system (Windows or macOS).

### 3.2 Connecting to Your Computer

1. Ensure your computer is powered on.
2. Connect one end of the provided USB-C cable to the USB port on the rear of the AIR 192|8.
3. Connect the other end of the USB-C cable to an available USB port on your computer. If your computer only has USB-A ports, use the provided USB-C-to-USB-A cable.
4. The interface will power on, and your computer should recognize the device.

### 3.3 Connecting Audio Devices

The AIR 192|8 offers versatile connectivity for various audio sources:

- **Microphones:** Connect XLR microphones to the (2) XLR+¼” TRS combo inputs on the front panel. Activate 48V Phantom Power for condenser microphones using the dedicated switch.
- **Instruments:** Connect guitars, basses, or other instruments directly to the (2) ¼” instrument inputs on the front panel. These inputs feature a specially designed gain and impedance stage.
- **Line-Level Devices:** Connect line-level sources (e.g., synthesizers, drum machines) to the ¼” TRS inputs on the front panel or the RCA inputs on the rear.
- **Studio Monitors:** Connect your studio monitors to the stereo ¼” TRS outputs or RCA outputs on the rear panel.
- **Headphones:** Connect headphones to the ¼” headphone output on the front panel.
- **MIDI Devices:** Use the 5-pin MIDI In/Out connections on the rear panel to connect synthesizers, sequencers, or other external MIDI gear.




Figure 3.3.1: Top and rear view of the M-Audio AIR 192|8 audio interface, showing all inputs, outputs, and controls.




Figure 3.3.2: Detailed view of the M-Audio AIR 192|8's connectivity ports, including XLR/TRS combo inputs, instrument inputs, MIDI In/Out, and various audio outputs.

## 4. Operating Instructions

### 4.1 Front Panel Controls




Figure 4.1.1: Close-up of the M-Audio AIR 192|8 front panel, highlighting input gain knobs, VU meters, direct monitor controls, and the large central volume knob.

- **Input Gain Knobs:** Adjust the input level for each of the two combo inputs. Ensure the signal does not clip (indicated by the red CLIP LED).
- **Mic Pad (-10dB):** Reduces the input signal by 10dB for very loud microphones or sources.
- **VU LED Meters:** Provide visual feedback on input signal levels. Aim for signals to be in the green/yellow range, avoiding red (clipping).
- **Direct Monitor Knob:** Blends the direct input signal with the playback from your computer. This allows for zero-latency monitoring.

- **Direct Monitor Mono/Stereo Switch:** Selects between mono or stereo direct monitoring. Mono is typically used for single microphone or instrument recordings, while stereo is for stereo sources.
- **Large Central Volume Control:** Adjusts the overall output volume for your main studio monitors.
- **Headphone Volume Knob:** Adjusts the volume for the headphone output.
- **Phantom Power (48V) Switch:** Engages 48V phantom power for condenser microphones connected to the XLR inputs. Ensure this is only activated when using microphones that require phantom power.
- **USB/Direct Knob:** Controls the balance between the audio signal coming from your computer (USB) and the direct input signal (Direct) for monitoring.
- **1/2 or 3/4 Switch:** Selects which pair of outputs (1/2 or 3/4) is routed to the headphone output for monitoring.

## 4.2 Recording Workflow

1. Connect your microphone or instrument to the appropriate input.
2. Open your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software.
3. Select the M-Audio AIR 192|8 as your audio input and output device in your DAW's preferences.
4. Create a new audio track in your DAW and select the corresponding input channel from the AIR 192|8.
5. Adjust the input gain on the AIR 192|8 until the signal is strong but not clipping, as indicated by the VU meters.
6. Use the Direct Monitor knob to blend your input signal with the DAW playback for comfortable, low-latency monitoring.
7. Begin recording in your DAW.


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Figure 4.2.1: A user operating the M-Audio AIR 192|8 interface in a home studio setup, demonstrating its use for recording vocals and instruments.

## 5. Features

- **Professional Resolution:** 24-bit/192kHz for high-fidelity audio recording and monitoring.
- **Ultra-Low Latency:** Hi-Speed USB/USB-C circuitry provides a class-leading round trip latency of 2.59ms.
- **Crystal Preamps:** Transparent, low-noise preamps for capturing clear and accurate sound from microphones.
- **Pristine A/D Converters:** Ensures explosive dynamic range and captures every nuance of the performance.
- **Versatile Inputs:** Two XLR+¼" TRS combo inputs with switchable -10dB mic pad, and two ¼" instrument inputs with optimized gain and impedance.
- **Multiple Outputs:** Two ¼" TRS outputs and four RCA outputs for connecting to various monitoring systems or outboard gear.
- **MIDI Connectivity:** 5-pin MIDI In/Out for integrating external MIDI devices.
- **Direct Monitoring:** USB/Direct knob for zero-latency monitoring of input signals.
- **Rugged Construction:** Durable metal chassis designed for reliability.
- **Visual Feedback:** VU LED meters for precise level monitoring.

## 6. Software Included

The M-Audio AIR 192|8 comes bundled with a comprehensive software suite to enhance your music production capabilities. Software availability is upon product registration.




Figure 6.1.1: A visual representation of the digital audio workstations, virtual instruments, and effects plugins included with the M-Audio AIR 192|8.

- **Digital Audio Workstations:** Ableton Live Lite, AKAI Professional's MPC Beats.
- **Virtual Instruments:** Xpand!2, Mini Grand, DB33, Strike.
- **Effects Plugins:** AIR's Creative FX Collection, Revalver (2x Amps, 3x Cabs, 3x Mics, 3x Effects).
- **Sound Content:** Touch Loops (2GB of factory content with bonus F9 instruments library).

## 7. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the interface in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure all cables are neatly organized and not under strain to prevent damage to connectors and ports.
- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the M-Audio website for firmware updates to ensure optimal performance and compatibility.

## 8. Troubleshooting

- **No Power:** Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the interface and your computer. Try a different USB port or cable.
- **No Sound:**
  - Verify that the AIR 192|8 is selected as the input/output device in your computer's sound settings and your DAW.
  - Check all volume knobs (main, headphone, input gain) on the interface and in your DAW.
  - Ensure speakers/headphones are properly connected and powered.
- **Audio Dropouts/Crackling:**
  - Increase the buffer size in your DAW's audio settings.
  - Ensure you have the latest drivers installed.
  - Try connecting the interface to a different USB port, preferably a direct port on your computer rather than a hub.
  - Disconnect other USB devices that might be consuming bandwidth.
- **Input Signal Too Low/High:** Adjust the input gain knob for the specific input. Use the -10dB Mic Pad for very loud microphone signals.
- **Phantom Power Not Working:** Ensure the 48V switch is engaged and your condenser microphone is properly connected.

## 9. Specifications

| Attribute | Value |
|---|---|
| Item Weight | 1.98 pounds |
| Product Dimensions | 6 x 7.8 x 2.76 inches |
| Item Model Number | AIR 192\|8 |
| Color Name | ONE COLOR |
| Compatible Devices | Personal Computer |
| Hardware Interface | USB |
| Operating System | Windows, macOS |
| Voltage | 5 Volts |
| Connectivity Technology | USB |
| Number of Channels | 6 |

## 10. Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the Safety & Warranty Manual included with your product or visit the official M-Audio website. You can also find the comprehensive User Guide in PDF format here. M-Audio is committed to providing high-quality products and support. If you encounter any issues not covered in this manual, please contact M-Audio customer service for assistance.

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