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PreSonus AudioBox USB 96 Digital Audio Interface User Manual

Model: AudioBox USB 96

1. INTRODUCTION

The PreSonus AudioBox USB 96 is a compact, bus-powered, 2-channel digital audio interface designed for musicians, podcasters, and producers. It features high-performance Class A mic preamplifiers and professional-quality 24-bit, 96 kHz converters, making it suitable for various recording applications. This device is compatible with both Mac and Windows operating systems and includes PreSonus Studio One Artist DAW software. Its rugged steel chassis ensures durability, while its intuitive controls provide an efficient recording experience. The AudioBox USB 96 offers two front-panel combo mic/instrument inputs, balanced line-level outputs, a headphone output, and MIDI I/O.

2. SETUP

2.1. Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the AudioBox USB 96 from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. If the unit is damaged, contact your dealer immediately.

2.2. Hardware Connections

- Connect to Computer:** Use the provided USB 2.0 cable to connect the AudioBox USB 96 to an available USB port on your computer. The device is bus-powered, so no external power supply is needed.
- Connect Microphones/Instruments:** Plug your microphones or instruments (guitars, basses) into the two combo XLR/TRS inputs on the front panel. These inputs are labeled '1' and '2'.
- Connect Headphones:** Plug your headphones into the 1/4-inch stereo headphone jack on the front panel.
- Connect Studio Monitors:** Connect your powered studio monitors to the balanced 1/4-inch TRS Main Outputs on the rear panel.
- Connect MIDI Devices (Optional):** If using MIDI controllers or other MIDI equipment, connect them to the MIDI In and MIDI Out ports on the rear panel.



Figure 1: Front panel of the AudioBox USB 96, displaying the two combo inputs, gain knobs, 48V phantom power button, mixer, headphone, and main output controls.



Figure 2: Close-up of the AudioBox USB 96 front panel, highlighting the input gain controls, clip indicators, 48V button, and output level knobs.

2.3. Software Installation

Before using your AudioBox USB 96, install the necessary drivers and the included Studio One Artist software. Visit the official PreSonus website (www.presonus.com) to download the latest drivers and register your product to access Studio One Artist.

1. Download and install the AudioBox USB 96 drivers for your operating system (Windows or macOS).
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the driver installation.
3. Install PreSonus Studio One Artist or your preferred Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).
4. Configure your DAW to use the AudioBox USB 96 as its audio input and output device.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Powering On

The AudioBox USB 96 powers on automatically when connected to your computer via USB. The 'Power' LED on the front panel will illuminate.

3.2. Input Gain Adjustment

- **MIC/INST Gain Knobs:** Use the 'MIC/INST' gain knobs for inputs 1 and 2 to adjust the input level of your microphones or instruments. Turn the knob clockwise to increase gain and counter-clockwise to decrease it.
- **Clip Indicators:** The 'Clip' LED next to each gain knob indicates when the input signal is too high, potentially

causing distortion. Adjust the gain so that the 'Clip' LED only flashes occasionally during the loudest parts of your performance.

3.3. 48V Phantom Power

The '48V' button on the front panel activates phantom power for condenser microphones. Press this button when using condenser microphones. Ensure dynamic microphones or ribbon microphones are not connected when 48V phantom power is active, unless they are specifically designed to handle it.

3.4. Monitoring

- Mixer Knob:** The 'Mixer' knob allows you to blend the direct input signal (Input) with the playback from your computer (Playback). This provides zero-latency monitoring, allowing you to hear your input signal without delay while recording. Turn clockwise for more input signal, counter-clockwise for more playback.
- Headphone Output:** Use the 'Headphone' knob to adjust the volume of the headphone output.
- Main Output:** The 'Main' knob controls the overall output level to your studio monitors connected to the Main Outputs.



Figure 3: The AudioBox USB 96 shown from both top and front perspectives, illustrating its compact design and accessible controls.

3.5. MIDI Operation

The MIDI In and Out ports allow you to connect MIDI keyboards, controllers, or other MIDI devices to your computer through the AudioBox USB 96. Ensure your DAW is configured to recognize the MIDI input and output from the interface.

4. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the exterior of the AudioBox USB 96. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the device in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures or humidity.
- **Cable Management:** Ensure all cables are neatly organized and not under tension to prevent damage to the connectors or the unit.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Power:**

- Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the AudioBox USB 96 and your computer.
- Try a different USB port on your computer.
- Verify your computer is powered on and not in a low-power state.

- **No Sound:**

- Check all audio cable connections (microphones, instruments, headphones, monitors).
- Ensure the 'Main' and 'Headphone' volume knobs are turned up.
- Verify the 'Mixer' knob is set appropriately to blend input and playback.
- Check your computer's sound settings to ensure the AudioBox USB 96 is selected as the default input and output device.
- In your DAW, confirm the AudioBox USB 96 is selected as the audio interface and input/output routing is correct.

- **Distorted Sound:**

- Reduce the 'MIC/INST' gain knobs if the 'Clip' LED is frequently illuminating.
- Check for damaged audio cables.
- Ensure the sample rate and buffer size settings in your DAW match the AudioBox USB 96 capabilities and are optimized for your system.

- **Latency (Delay) During Recording:**

- Use the 'Mixer' knob for zero-latency direct monitoring of your input signal.
- Adjust the buffer size in your DAW's audio settings. A smaller buffer size reduces latency but requires more CPU power.

- **48V Phantom Power Not Working:**

- Ensure the '48V' button is pressed and its indicator light is on.
- Verify your condenser microphone requires phantom power and is correctly connected.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature | Detail |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Connectivity Technology | USB 2.0 |

| Feature | Detail |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Number of Channels | 2 Input / 2 Output |
| Resolution | 24-bit |
| Sampling Rates | 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96 kHz |
| Preamplifiers | 2 Class A Mic/Instrument Preamplifiers |
| Phantom Power | 48V (switchable) |
| MIDI I/O | Yes (5-pin DIN In/Out) |
| Bus-Powered | Yes |
| Compatible Devices | Microphones, Instruments, Headphones, Studio Monitors, MIDI Devices |
| Operating System Compatibility | Windows, macOS |

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information and technical support, please visit the official PreSonus website. You can find product registration, driver downloads, FAQs, and contact information for customer service there.

PreSonus Official Website: www.presonus.com