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dbx DriveRack PA2

dbx DriveRack PA2 Loudspeaker Management System Instruction Manual

Brand: dbx | **Model:** DriveRack PA2

1. Introduction

The dbx DriveRack PA2 is a comprehensive loudspeaker management processor designed to optimize and protect your loudspeakers in live sound applications. It integrates advanced processing capabilities to ensure superior audio quality and system reliability. This manual will guide you through the setup, operation, and maintenance of your DriveRack PA2.

2. Key Features

- **New, Improved AutoEQ Algorithm:** Ensures an extremely accurate, fast, and non-intrusive automatic EQ experience, setting speaker levels and room EQ automatically in seconds.
- **Enhanced AFS Feedback Elimination:** Provides faster, more precise feedback elimination without adversely affecting your system's tone.
- **Input Delay Module:** Allows delaying the Front of House (FOH) system to the backline, ensuring accurate time alignment.
- **Mobile Control:** Ethernet control via Android, iOS, Mac, or Windows devices for convenient and flexible operation.
- **Updated Wizard Setup Functions:** Guides users through easy, step-by-step processes for initial setup, level balancing, AutoEQ, and Advanced Feedback Suppression.
- **Comprehensive Processing:** Includes dbx Compression, Graphic EQ, 8-Band Parametric EQ, Input Subharmonic Synthesis, Crossover (supports full range, 2-way, and 3-way systems), dbx Limiting, and Driver Alignment Delays.

3. Product Overview



Figure 3.1: Front Panel View. This image displays the front panel of the dbx DriveRack PA2, showing the display screen, control knob, input/output meters, and various function buttons for easy access to settings.



Figure 3.2: Rear Panel View. This image illustrates the rear panel of the dbx DriveRack PA2, highlighting the power input, Ethernet port, USB port, and various XLR input and output connectors for audio signals.

4. Setup and Connections

Proper setup and connection are crucial for optimal performance of your dbx DriveRack PA2. Follow these steps to integrate the unit into your sound system.

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the power cable to the AC inlet on the rear panel and then to a suitable power outlet.
2. **Input Connections:** Connect the main outputs of your mixer to the analog inputs (e.g., Analog 1 and 2) of the DriveRack PA2 using XLR cables. If using monitor sends, connect them to additional analog inputs (e.g., Analog 3).
3. **Output Connections:** Connect the outputs of the DriveRack PA2 to your amplifiers or powered speakers. The unit supports various configurations (high, mid, low) for 2-way or 3-way systems, as well as mono subwoofers.
4. **RTA Mic Input:** Connect your RTA (Real-Time Analyzer) microphone to the dedicated RTA Mic Input on the front panel for AutoEQ functionality.
5. **Ethernet Connection:** For mobile control, connect an Ethernet cable from the DriveRack PA2 to your network router or directly to a compatible device (Android, iOS, Mac, Windows).

For a visual guide on setting up your DriveRack system, please refer to the video below:

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 4.1: DBX DriveRack PA 2 x 6 PA Management Processor Setup. This video demonstrates the physical connections and initial setup steps for a dbx DriveRack PA series processor, including input and output routing for various speaker configurations.

5. Operating the DriveRack PA2

The DriveRack PA2 offers intuitive operation through its front panel controls and mobile app. The built-in Wizards simplify complex tasks.

5.1. Using the Setup Wizards

The Wizards guide you through configuring your system. Access them via the front panel or the mobile app.

- **System Setup Wizard:** Helps define your speaker and amplifier configuration (e.g., full range, 2-way, 3-way, with or without subwoofers).
- **AutoEQ Wizard:** Utilizes the RTA mic to automatically set speaker levels and room equalization for optimal sound.
- **AFS Wizard:** Guides you through setting up the Advanced Feedback Suppression to eliminate unwanted feedback.

5.2. Mobile Control

Download the dbx DriveRack PA2 app for your Android, iOS, Mac, or Windows device. Connect your device to the DriveRack PA2 via Ethernet for full control over all functions, including EQ, compression, limiting, and delays.

5.3. Manual Adjustments

For fine-tuning, you can manually adjust individual processing modules:

- **Graphic EQ:** Adjust frequency bands to shape the overall sound.
- **Parametric EQ:** Provides precise control over specific frequencies, gain, and Q factor.
- **Compression:** Control dynamic range to prevent clipping and enhance audio presence.
- **Limiting:** Protects your speakers from excessive signal levels.
- **Crossover:** Manually set crossover points and slopes for multi-way speaker systems.
- **Driver Alignment Delays:** Adjust delays to ensure all speakers are time-aligned for a cohesive sound.

6. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your dbx DriveRack PA2, follow these general maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Regularly wipe the unit with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure proper airflow around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block ventilation openings.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Cable Management:** Keep all cables neatly organized and free from kinks or damage to prevent signal loss or electrical issues.

7. Troubleshooting

If you encounter any issues with your DriveRack PA2, refer to the following basic troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Check the power cable connection and ensure the power outlet is functional. Verify the unit's power switch is in the 'ON' position.
- **No Audio Output:** Confirm all input and output cables are securely connected. Check the mixer's output levels and the DriveRack PA2's input/output meters. Ensure no channels are muted.
- **Feedback Issues:** Rerun the AFS Wizard to recalibrate feedback suppression. Check microphone placement and gain staging.
- **Distorted Audio:** Verify input levels are not too high, causing clipping. Check speaker and amplifier connections.
- **Mobile App Connectivity:** Ensure the Ethernet cable is properly connected and your device is on the same network as the DriveRack PA2. Restart both the unit and your control device if necessary.

For more detailed troubleshooting, consult the full product manual available on the dbx website or contact customer support.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Item Weight	6.74 pounds
Product Dimensions	22.25 x 11.5 x 3.75 inches
Compatible Devices	Microphone, Personal Computer, Smartphone, Speaker, Tablet

Feature	Detail
Supported Software	Android, iOS, Mac, Windows
Operating System	Android, Windows, iOS, macOS
Connectivity Technology	XLR, Ethernet
Number of Channels	8

9. Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official dbx website or contact your authorized dbx dealer. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

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