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> Allen & Heath CQ-18T Digital Mixer User Manual

Allen & Heath AH-CQ18T

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Model: AH-CQ18T

INTRODUCTION

The Allen & Heath CQ-18T is a highly portable and user-friendly digital mixer designed for a wide range of applications. It operates on a 96kHz platform, offering smart processing capabilities and extensive connectivity options including network, WiFi, Bluetooth, SD, and USB. Its desktop format features a 7-inch touchscreen for direct control, complemented by wireless control via mobile devices. The CQ-18T can also be rack-mounted using an optional kit.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW



Figure 1: Top view of the CQ-18T Digital Mixer, showing the 7-inch touchscreen and various input/output connections.



Figure 2: Front view of the CQ-18T Digital Mixer, highlighting the compact design and control knobs.



Figure 3: Side view of the CQ-18T Digital Mixer, showing its profile and robust construction.



Figure 4: Rear view of the CQ-18T Digital Mixer, displaying the power input and other rear connections.

1. Unboxing and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove the CQ-18T mixer and all accessories from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage. Ensure all components listed in the packing list are present.

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Video 1: An overview of the Allen & Heath CQ-18T, demonstrating its physical features and initial setup steps, including power connection and port covers.

2. Power Connection

Connect the provided external power supply to the DC input on the rear panel of the mixer. Secure the power cable using the integrated clip to prevent accidental disconnection. Ensure the power switch is in the OFF position before connecting to a power outlet.

3. Physical Connections

The CQ-18T features 16 mic/line inputs (8 combo XLR/TRS, 8 XLR), plus a stereo line input. It also includes multiple outputs for various monitoring and main mix needs. Connect your microphones, instruments, and other audio sources to the appropriate input jacks. Connect your main speakers and monitors to the XLR and TRS outputs.

- **Inputs:** 16 Mic or Line (8 combi XLR/TRS, 8 XLR), plus stereo line input.
- **Outputs:** Multiple balanced XLR and TRS outputs for main and auxiliary mixes.
- **USB Interface:** 24x22 USB interface for multi-track recording and playback.
- **SD Record/Playback:** 24x22 SD record/playback capability.
- **Headphone Outputs:** Two independent headphone outputs on the front panel.

4. Wireless Connectivity

The mixer has built-in 2.4GHz/5GHz Wi-Fi with auto channel selection and Stereo Bluetooth input. Extend the Wi-Fi antenna located on the top panel. For wireless control, download the dedicated CQ app on your mobile device (tablet, phone, or laptop computer) and connect to the mixer's Wi-Fi network. The Bluetooth input allows for direct audio streaming from compatible devices.

5. Initial Power-Up

Once all connections are secure, switch the power ON. The 7-inch capacitive touchscreen will illuminate and display the boot-up sequence. Follow any on-screen prompts for initial setup or calibration.

OPERATING THE MIXER

1. Touchscreen Interface

The 7-inch touchscreen provides intuitive control over all mixer functions. Navigate through menus by tapping and swiping. The associated rotary control and custom SoftKeys/SoftRotaries offer tactile control for precise adjustments.

2. Audio Processing and Effects

The CQ-18T features smart processing capabilities and 4 FX engines. Utilize the built-in effects to enhance your audio. The mixer's 96kHz platform ensures high-quality sound processing.

3. Recording and Playback

Record multi-track audio directly to an SD card or via the USB interface. The 24x22 channels allow for comprehensive recording sessions. Playback can also be managed directly from the SD card or via USB.

4. Wireless Control

For enhanced flexibility, control the mixer wirelessly from your mobile device using the dedicated CQ app. This allows you to adjust settings and mixes from anywhere within the Wi-Fi range, providing freedom of movement during performances or recording sessions.

MAINTENANCE

1. Cleaning

Regularly clean the mixer's exterior with a soft, dry cloth. For the touchscreen, use a microfiber cloth specifically designed for electronic displays. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents that could damage the surface.

2. Ventilation

Ensure proper ventilation around the mixer to prevent overheating. Do not block the ventilation grilles, especially the fan on the bottom panel. Operating the mixer in a well-ventilated area will prolong its lifespan.

3. Software Updates

Periodically check the Allen & Heath website for firmware and software updates. Keeping your mixer's software up-to-date ensures optimal performance, new features, and bug fixes.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Common Issues and Solutions

- **No Power:** Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to both the mixer and a working power outlet. Check the power switch on the rear panel.
- **No Audio Output:** Verify that input sources are properly connected and gain levels are set correctly. Check main and auxiliary output levels. Ensure mute functions are disengaged.
- **Wi-Fi Connectivity Issues:** Confirm the Wi-Fi antenna is extended. Restart the mixer and your controlling device. Ensure your device is connected to the correct mixer Wi-Fi network.
- **Distorted Audio:** Check input gain levels to prevent clipping. Ensure output levels are not too high for connected devices. Inspect cables for damage.
- **Touchscreen Unresponsive:** Try restarting the mixer. If the issue persists, contact customer support.

For more detailed troubleshooting, refer to the comprehensive online resources available on the Allen & Heath support website.

SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature | Detail |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brand | Allen & Heath |
| Model Number | AH-CQ18T |
| Number of Channels | 16 |
| Item Weight | 10.31 pounds |
| Product Dimensions | 16.9 x 12.2 x 7.9 inches |
| Connectivity Technology | Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, USB |
| Audio Input | USB |

| Feature | Detail |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Touchscreen | 7-inch capacitive touchscreen |
| FX Engines | 4 |
| USB Interface | 24x22 |
| SD Record/Playback | 24x22 |

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding product warranty, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase or visit the official Allen & Heath website. For technical support, product registration, and additional resources, please visit the [Allen & Heath Support Page](#).
