Universal Audio APTXQG2-ESS

Universal Audio Apollo Twin X QUAD Gen 2 Essentials + Edition

THUNDERBOLT 3 AUDIO INTERFACE INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Introduction

The Universal Audio Apollo Twin X QUAD Gen 2 Essentials + Edition is a high-resolution Thunderbolt 3 audio interface designed for professional recording and mixing. It features next-generation audio conversion, dual Unison mic preamps, and QUAD Core DSP processing, allowing for real-time processing with UAD plug-ins. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your Apollo Twin X.
Key features include:

- Next-generation audio conversion with wide dynamic range and low distortion.
- Unison preamps for authentic emulations of classic analog gear.
- Access to a comprehensive library of UAD DSP and Native plug-ins.
- Apollo Monitor Correction powered by Sonarworks for confident mixing.
- Auto-Gain feature for quick level setting across multiple inputs.

Setup

1. Unboxing and Contents

Carefully remove all components from the packaging. Ensure the following items are present:

- Universal Audio Apollo Twin X QUAD Gen 2 Interface
- External Power Supply
- Documentation (Quick Start Guide, Registration Card)

Note: A Thunderbolt 3 cable is not included and must be purchased separately.

2. Connecting the Hardware

Before connecting, ensure your computer meets the system requirements (Windows or macOS with Thunderbolt 3 port). Refer to the rear panel diagram for connection points.

Figure 1: Rear panel of the Apollo Twin X, illustrating the Optical In, Thunderbolt 3 port, Power input, Line Out, Monitor outputs, and Mic/Line inputs.

1. **Connect Power:** Plug the external power supply into the 12VDC input on the rear panel and then into a wall outlet.
2. **Connect to Computer:** Use a Thunderbolt 3 cable to connect the Apollo Twin X to your computer's Thunderbolt 3 port.
3. **Connect Microphones/Instruments:** Use XLR cables for microphones into the MIC/LINE 1 and MIC/LINE 2 inputs. For instruments, use a 1/4-inch TS cable into the HI-Z input on the front panel.
4. **Connect Monitors:** Connect your studio monitors to the MONITOR L and R outputs using 1/4-inch TRS cables. Additional line outputs (LINE OUT 3/4) are available for other devices.

3. Software Installation

After connecting the hardware, you will need to install the Universal Audio software. This typically involves downloading the latest UAD Software from the Universal Audio website. Follow the on-screen instructions for installation and registration to activate your device and included plug-ins.

Operating the Apollo Twin X

1. Front Panel Controls

Figure 2: Front panel of the Apollo Twin X, displaying the large main knob, input/output metering, and various control buttons for preamp, input, and monitor functions.

The front panel provides intuitive control over your audio interface:

- **Large Knob:** Controls monitor output level by default. Can be assigned to control preamp gain or headphone level.
- **CH1/CH2 Meters:** Display input levels for channels 1 and 2.
- **MONITOR/HEADPHONE Meters:** Display output levels for monitors and headphones.
- **PREAMP Button:** Toggles between controlling preamp gain for CH1 or CH2 with the large knob.
- **INPUT Buttons (TALK, DIM, +48V, PAD, FCN, MONO, MUTE):**Control various input and monitoring functions. For example, +48V activates phantom power for condenser microphones.
- **MONITOR Button:** Toggles between controlling monitor or headphone level with the large knob.

2. Unison Preamps and UAD Plug-ins

The Apollo Twin X features Unison-enabled mic preamps, which allow you to record through authentic emulations of classic analog hardware from brands like Neve, API, and Manley. When a Unison plug-in is loaded on an input channel in the UAD Console application, the Apollo Twin X's mic preamp physically reconfigures its impedance, gain staging, and circuit behavior to match the emulated hardware.

Figure 3: A visual representation of various UAD plug-ins, including emulations of classic compressors, EQs, and effects, alongside the UAD Essentials+ software package.

The included UAD Essentials+ bundle provides a powerful suite of plug-ins to get you started. These plug-ins run on the interface's built-in QUAD Core DSP, allowing for near-zero latency recording with effects.

3. Auto-Gain Feature

The Auto-Gain feature simplifies setting optimal input levels. By activating Auto-Gain, the Apollo Twin X automatically adjusts the preamp gain for your inputs, ensuring a healthy signal without clipping. This is particularly useful for quickly setting up multiple microphones or instruments.

4. Apollo Monitor Correction (Sonarworks)

For accurate mixing, the Apollo Twin X integrates with Sonarworks technology for monitor correction. This feature helps to flatten the frequency response of your listening environment, providing a more neutral and reliable sound for critical mixing decisions. Calibration requires a Sonarworks measurement microphone and software (sold separately).

Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Apollo Twin X.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Software Updates:** Regularly check the Universal Audio website for the latest UAD software updates. These updates often include performance improvements, bug fixes, and new features.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Disconnect all cables.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the unit has adequate ventilation to prevent overheating. Do not block the vents on the top or sides of the interface.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Apollo Twin X, try the following troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to both the unit and a working power outlet. Check the power switch on the rear panel is in the 'ON' position.
- **No Sound/Input Signal:**
  a. Verify all cables (Thunderbolt, audio inputs/outputs) are securely connected.
  b. Check input selection (MIC/LINE/HI-Z) in the UAD Console application or via the front panel buttons.
  c. Ensure input gain is set appropriately and not muted.
  d. Confirm your DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) is configured to use the Apollo Twin X as its audio interface.
  e. For microphones requiring phantom power, ensure +48V is enabled.

- **Connection Issues (Thunderbolt):**
  a. Try a different Thunderbolt 3 port on your computer.
  b. Ensure your Thunderbolt 3 cable is certified and functioning correctly.
  c. Update your computer's Thunderbolt drivers and firmware.

- **Software/Plug-in Problems:**
  a. Restart your computer and the Apollo Twin X.
  b. Ensure your UAD software is up to date.
  c. Re-authorize your UAD plug-ins via the UAD Meter & Control Panel application.

For more detailed troubleshooting or technical support, please visit the Universal Audio support website or contact their customer service.

Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Number	APTXQG2-ESS
Connectivity Technology	Thunderbolt 3
Number of Channels	32
Operating System	Windows, macOS
Supported Software	Pro Tools, Logic Pro, Ableton Live, Cubase, and other major DAW software
Compatible Devices	Personal Computer
Item Weight	4 pounds
Product Dimensions	8 x 8 x 6 inches
Country of Origin	China
Date First Available	October 8, 2024

Warranty and Support

For information regarding product warranty, please refer to the documentation included with your Apollo Twin X or visit the official Universal Audio website. Universal Audio offers various protection plans for extended coverage.
For technical assistance, product registration, or to access the latest drivers and software, please visit the Universal Audio support portal:

Universal Audio Support

Documents - Universal Audio – APTXQG2-ESS