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Strymon PCH

Strymon PCH Stereo Active Direct Interface User Manual

Model: PCH

INTRODUCTION

The Strymon PCH is an advanced stereo active direct interface designed for musicians and audio professionals. It provides a transparent signal path for instruments like guitars, keyboards, and synthesizers, allowing direct connection to mixing consoles or recording interfaces. The PCH also features a studio-grade headphone amplifier for personal monitoring and silent practice. This manual provides detailed instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Strymon PCH to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

KEY FEATURES

- **Advanced Direct Interface:** Offers a transparent stereo active direct interface for various instruments.
- **Console-Quality Headphone Amplifier:** Built-in headphone amp for detailed stereo monitoring or silent practice, capable of driving high-impedance headphones.
- **Virtually Unclippable Design:** Internal power circuit boosts standard 9V DC to 24V for massive headroom.
- **Flexible Pro Outputs:** Supports stereo or dual mono operation with stereo XLR outputs, switchable mic/line level, and ground lift. Stereo Thru outputs include a mono sum ability.
- **Rugged Build:** Housed in a durable extruded aluminum chassis for silent operation and flat frequency response.

SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your Strymon PCH:

1. **Power Connection:** Connect a standard 9V DC power supply (center-negative) to the 9VDC input jack on the PCH. The unit will internally boost this to 24V for optimal performance.
2. **Instrument Input:** Connect your instrument (guitar, synth, keyboard, etc.) to the IN (Left/Right) 1/4" input jacks. For mono instruments, use the Left IN jack.
3. **Thru Outputs:** Use the THRU (Left/Right) 1/4" jacks to send the input signal to other devices, such as an amplifier or pedalboard. The THRU outputs can be summed to mono using the 'sum stereo' switch if desired.
4. **XLR Outputs:** Connect the LEFT OUT and RIGHT OUT XLR jacks to your mixing console, audio interface, or PA system.

5. **Headphone Connection:** Plug your headphones into the PHONES 1/4" stereo jack for personal monitoring.



strymon®

PCH

Active Direct Interface

HEAR EVERYTHING

An ultra-premium, transparent stereo direct interface with a built-in console-quality headphone amp for local monitoring.

Image: Overview of the Strymon PCH showing input, thru, headphone, and output connections.



Transparent By Design

PCH was designed from the ground up to be sonically transparent, virtually unclippable and bulletproof - it's the ultimate solution for your pedalboard, keyboard rig or synth setup.

Image: Close-up of the PCH rear panel, highlighting the IN, THRU, PHONES, and 9VDC power connections.

OPERATION

Understanding the controls of your PCH is essential for optimal sound routing and monitoring.

- **PHONES Volume Knob:** Adjusts the output level for the connected headphones. Rotate clockwise to increase volume, counter-clockwise to decrease.
- **SUM (THRU) Switch:** This switch affects the THRU outputs.
 - When set to **'sum'**, the Left and Right input signals are summed to mono and sent to both THRU outputs.
 - When set to **'stereo'**, the Left input goes to the Left THRU, and the Right input goes to the Right THRU.
- **LEVEL (XLR Outputs) Switch:** Located near the XLR outputs, this switch selects the output level for the XLR connections.
 - Set to **'mic'** for connecting to microphone preamps or inputs expecting a mic-level signal.
 - Set to **'line'** for connecting to line-level inputs on mixers or audio interfaces.
- **GROUND (XLR Outputs) Lift Switch:** This switch helps eliminate hum and noise caused by ground loops.
 - Set to **'lift'** to disconnect the ground connection between the PCH and the connected device via XLR.
 - Set to **'gnd'** (ground) for a standard ground connection. If you experience hum, try switching to 'lift'.



Console-Quality Headphone Amp

PCH has a recording console-quality headphone amplifier onboard, making it easy to monitor or practice listening to the sound of your entire rig or pedalboard in full stereo, no matter the pedal order or the components.

Direct Sound. Direct Control.

No matter what instrument or genre of music you play, if you need to connect unbalanced outputs to a PA, recording interface or flat response speaker system, PCH is the ultimate choice for an absolutely transparent stereo direct interface - and it's the only one that you can listen to locally via the headphone amp.

Image: Close-up of the PCH XLR outputs, showing the LEVEL (mic/line) and GROUND (lift/gnd) switches.



Image: Top view of the Strymon PCH, illustrating the overall layout of controls and connections.

MAINTENANCE

The Strymon PCH is designed for durability and requires minimal maintenance.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the PCH in a dry environment, away from extreme temperatures and direct sunlight.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all cable connections for secure fit and signs of wear.
- **Power Supply:** Always use a compatible 9V DC (center-negative) power supply. Using an incorrect power supply can damage the unit.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Strymon PCH, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No Sound Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ensure the power supply is correctly connected and functioning. ◦ Check all input and output cables for secure connections. ◦ Verify the PHONES volume knob is turned up. ◦ Confirm the LEVEL switch for XLR outputs is set appropriately (mic/line) for the receiving device.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
Hum or Buzzing Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Engage the GROUND LIFT switch to 'lift'. ◦ Check for faulty cables or improper grounding in your audio chain. ◦ Ensure the power supply is not introducing noise.
Low Headphone Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Increase the PHONES volume knob. ◦ Ensure your headphones are properly connected and functioning. ◦ The PCH headphone amp is powerful, but extremely high-impedance headphones might require maximum volume.
Distorted Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Reduce the input level from your instrument if it's excessively hot. ◦ Ensure the receiving device (mixer, interface) is not being overdriven. ◦ While the PCH is designed to be unclippable, extreme input levels can still cause issues further down the signal chain.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	PCH
Item Weight	1.2 pounds (0.54 kg)
Product Dimensions	4.88" x 2.97" x 1.94" (12.4 x 7.5 x 4.9 cm)
Connectivity Technology	XLR, 1/4" TRS
Number of Channels	4 (Stereo In, Stereo Thru, Stereo Out)
Compatible Devices	Guitar, Keyboard, Synthesizer, Pedalboards, Personal Computer, Portable Media Player, Speaker
Material Type	Extruded Aluminum
Power Requirement	9V DC (center-negative)
Internal Operating Voltage	24V (internally boosted)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Strymon website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Strymon Official Website: www.strymon.net

