MOTU 848

MOTU 848 Audio Interface User Manual

Model: 848

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The MOTU 848 is a versatile 28x32 Thunderbolt 4 / USB4 audio interface designed for professional audio production on Mac, Windows, and iOS devices. It offers extremely low-latency performance and high-quality audio conversion, making it suitable for studio recording, mixing, and live sound applications.

Key features include 60 channels of audio I/O, 12x12 analog I/O, four ultra-quiet microphone inputs with extensive preamp gain, and superb analog performance powered by ESS Sabre32 DAC technology. The unit also incorporates two 8-channel banks of optical digital I/O, a 64-channel/32-bus mixer, and onboard 32-bit effects processing, including reverb, 4-band EQ, compressor, and gate. The included CueMix Pro app allows for flexible routing and control. Dual Gigabit AVB network ports enable daisy-chaining multiple units or building extensive audio networks.

Figure 1: Angled front view of the MOTU 848 audio interface, showcasing its robust design and front panel controls.

2. INITIAL SETUP

2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the MOTU 848 from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Ensure all included accessories, such as the Thunderbolt/USB4 compatible USB-C cable and power cable, are present.

2.2 Connecting to Power

Connect the provided AC power cable to the 848's power input on the rear panel and then to a standard AC power outlet. The unit will power on automatically.

2.3 Computer Connection (Thunderbolt/USB)

The MOTU 848 connects to your computer (Mac or PC) or iOS device using the included 40 Gbps Thunderbolt-compatible USB4 cable. Connect one end of the cable to the USB-C port on the 848's rear panel and the other end to a compatible port on your computer or iOS device. For optimal performance, ensure you have the latest MOTU drivers installed, which can be downloaded from the official MOTU website.

2.4 Audio Connections

The 848 offers a wide range of audio inputs and outputs:

- **Analog I/O:** Connect microphones, line-level instruments, and other analog gear to the 12x12 TRS analog inputs and outputs. The four front-panel mic inputs feature XLR/TRS combo jacks.
- **Optical Digital I/O:** Utilize the two banks of 8-channel optical I/O for ADAT or SMUX connections with compatible digital devices.
- **Headphone Outputs:** Two independent headphone outputs are available on the front panel for monitoring.

2.5 Network Connection (AVB)

For advanced setups, the 848 features two Gigabit AVB network ports. These ports allow you to daisy-chain multiple 848 units or integrate them into a larger AVB network using standard network cabling and an AVB switch. This enables streaming hundreds of audio channels between devices with ultra-low latency.

Figure 2: Rear panel connections of the MOTU 848, including power, network, optical, line, and mic/instrument inputs.

3. OPERATION GUIDE

3.1 Front Panel Controls

The front panel provides direct access to essential controls:

- **Headphone Outputs:** Independent volume controls for two headphone jacks.
- **Mic/Instrument Inputs (1-4):** Gain knobs for each input. Dedicated buttons for -20 dB pad, 48V phantom power, and phase invert.
- **Monitor Switching (A/B/C):** Buttons to quickly switch between three sets of studio monitors for comparison.
- **Talkback:** Activates the talkback microphone for communication with performers.
- **Mute/Sum-to-Mono:** Buttons for quick muting or summing the main output to mono.

3.2 TFT Display Navigation

The 3.9-inch TFT display provides high-resolution metering for all analog and digital I/O, detailed status information, and access to hardware settings. Use the MENU, BACK, and SELECT buttons along with the large rotary encoder to navigate the display and adjust parameters.

3.3 Software Control (CueMix Pro)

The CueMix Pro application, included with your MOTU 848, offers comprehensive control over the interface's internal mixer and effects. This powerful 32-bit floating-point DSP provides a 64-channel mixer with 64 inputs, 32 busses, and effects processing. You can route any source signal to any destination using virtual patch cords. All settings, including preamp controls, can be managed remotely from your computer or iOS device.

Figure 3: Front panel of the MOTU 848, highlighting the display and control knobs.

Figure 4: The MOTU 848 controlled remotely via the CueMix Pro app on an iPad.

4. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your MOTU 848, follow these care guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes.
- **Environment:** Operate the 848 in a clean, dry environment away from direct sunlight, excessive heat, moisture, or dust. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in its original packaging or a protective case.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

5.1 No Power

- Ensure the power cable is securely connected to both the 848 and a working AC outlet.
- Verify the AC outlet is supplying power.

5.2 Computer Not Recognizing Device

- Check the Thunderbolt/USB-C cable connection at both ends. Try a different port or cable if available.
- Ensure the latest MOTU drivers are installed on your computer.
- Restart your computer and the 848.
- Verify that the operating system's sound settings recognize the MOTU 848 as an audio device.

5.3 No Audio Input or Output

- Check all audio cable connections (microphones, instruments, monitors, headphones).
- Verify input gain levels on the 848's front panel and within the CueMix Pro software.
- Ensure correct routing in the CueMix Pro application.
- Check the monitor output levels and headphone volumes.
- Confirm that your DAW or audio application is configured to use the MOTU 848 as its audio interface.

6. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Item Model Number	848
Connectivity Technology	Thunderbolt, USB, AVB Ethernet
Number of Channels	60 (28 inputs, 32 outputs)
Compatible Devices	Guitar, Headphone, Microphone, Personal Computer, Speaker
Supported Software	All audio software (Class-compliant firmware)
Operating System	Windows, iOS, macOS
Item Weight	11 pounds (approx. 5 kg)
Product Dimensions	12.25 x 19 x 1.75 inches (approx. 31.1 x 48.3 x 4.4 cm)

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The MOTU 848 audio interface is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official MOTU website for detailed warranty terms and conditions.
For technical support, driver downloads, and additional resources, please visit the MOTU support page:
https://motu.com/support