



Assembly Instructions



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Introduction



Important Safety Warnings

• **Warning**: Read and follow all warnings and instructions to avoid risk of serious injury or death.

• Warning: Do not allow children under the age of 12 to play with, use, or attempt to assemble this product. Children over the age of 12 should be supervised by a responsible adult during the assembly of this product.

• **Warning**: Check to make sure the product is correctly assembled before use. An incorrectly assembled product may pose the risk of electric shock, fire, overheating, or explosion.

• **Warning**: Ensure you have consulted relevant training information for how to assemble kit electronics. This guide should only by used to supplement formal educational material. If you are unsure of any element or step, seek the help of an individual who is qualified as an instructor or a trained service technician.

• **Warning**: Do not put your fingers in the component envelopes! The component legs have sharp points and can get caught between your finger and your nail!



• **Warning**: Eyes protection must be used when soldering due to fumes and risk of solder splatter.

• **Warning**: Ensure all soldering assembly is done in a well ventilated area.

• Warning: Soldering irons get very hot. Do not touch the metal part. Handle with care. Follow original manufacturers instructions closely and use appropriate protective equipment.

• **Warning**: Some metal components may have sharp edges. Handle with care. • **Warning**: Handle mechanical tools with caution. Ensure that all screw drivers are the correct sizes for the screws. Slipping with a spanner, screwdriver or any other tool, can cause severe injury and damage to components or circuits.

• **Warning**: Incorrect assembly of some components might cause them to explode or fail.

• **Warning**: Electrical shorts might cause components to malfunction and break or overheat. Check all joints for shorts and confirm component orientations are correct before attempting to power the unit.

• **Warning**: Turning on or attempting to power the unit during the assembly process can lead to damage to component as well as physicial harm to the user.

• **Caution**: This kit contains delicate electronic circuits and components which can be broken easily. Please handle with care and take appropriate steps to avoid damage.

Advice for Teachers

Before proceeding with this project in an educational setting there is a video which should be watched before the first session. This video gives some examples of the equipment required, as well as some general advice on how to proceed safely and efficiently through the assembly process.

> Instructions for teachers



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Soldering Tips

Soldering Step-by-Step

These are some steps which act as a rough guide to solder the components.

I. Check to see if there is a required orienatation for the component

2. Load the component into the holes

3. Make sure the component is sitting flat

4. Clean and tin the tip of the soldering iron

5. Position the flat edge of the tip of the soldering iron against the board and component leg for 3 - 5 seconds

6. Hold a length of solder and manoeuvre it so that the end taps the point where the component and the solder pad meet. Be careful not to use too much solder

7. Inspect the joint to make sure there is a good connection and the correct amount of solder has been used

All components should be soldered on the same side of the board, with the exception of one LED which will be soldered on the opposite side of one board only. The silk-screening (white printed ink) on the PCB is used to identify the location of each component - if there is no silk-screening then this means that the board is upside down.

Soldering Tutorial Videos

There is a QR code for each step which links to a video showing how the component is soldered. These videos are identified by the icons below - this QR code links to a video on how to solder.





Additional Soldering Advice

For a more in depth introduction to soldering, this YouTube video provides a detailed guide to soldering

How to Solder (Beginner's Guide) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jAw41LRBxU)





Soldering General Advice and Precautions

These are some things to watch out for.

• Soldering should be done on a solid, level surface and the soldering iron should never be put into contact with flammable materials.

• Solder components in a well-ventilated area and avoid inhalation of soldering smoke/fumes.

• Ground planes take longer to heat up - these are identifiable by the fact they are surrounded by copper (other pads often have a single track leading up to them). These might take 5 seconds or so to heat up.

• Some components have orientations - soldering these in the wrong way round could cause the component to break or explode!

• Some components are sensitive to too much heat. This is true for the ICs (Integrated Circuits - black rectangles with lots of legs). These styles of component should not normally take more than 5 seconds for the solder to join to both the component and the pad. Allow time for component to cool down between legs.

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 $\int \tau e \alpha M$ powered mixer

Before you begin

Tools Required

Electronic Assembly:

- Eye protection
- Appropriate clothing e.g. lab coats
- Soldering iron
- Solder Lead free solder must be used
- Flux
- Wire Cutters

Mechanical Assembly:

- # 0 PoziDriv[®] Screw Driver
- # I PoziDriv[®] Screw Driver
- 10 mm Spanner

Power and Cables Required for Operation of Finished Unit

- 3.5 mm to 3.5 mm Auxillary Cable x 2 хI
- USBA USB B Cable
- Recommended PSU USB 2.0, 5V 0.5 A max хI

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What's in the box? Mechanical Components: Chassis Top хI Chassis Bottom хI **VU Bracket** хI **Clear Acrylic Sides** x 2 Fader Cap хI Rotary Knobs x 7 Rubber O-Ring x 7 Rectangular Push-Switch Caps x 4 M2 Countersink Screws x 2 M3 Button Head Screws x 27 Adhesive Foot x 4 Plastic Grommet хI Wiring Looms: **VU** Meter Loom x 2 Fader Loom хI Ribbon Cable Loom хI Electronic Components: Line In PCB x 2 Master Out PCB хI Line In Components Box x 2 Master Out Components Box хI

Line In PCB

Solder Assembly Guide



Line In PCB Components

Issue A Bare PCB Resistor 330R 1/4W Resistor IK I/4W Resistor IK2 I/4W Resistor 3K6 I/4W Resistor 4K7 1/4W Resistor 10K 1/4W Resistor 15K 1/4W Resistor 22K 1/4W Resistor 47K I/4W Op-Amp Capacitor Ceramic 47pF 100V 5% Capacitor Polyester 47nF 100V Capacitor Polyester 100nF 63V 3.5mm Stereo Audio Jack Connector 10 Way Right-Angle IDC Header Switch Horizontal Push Latched 4-Pole Pot. Rotary 10K Lin +/-20% Pot. Rotary 10K Log +/-20% Pot. Rotary 100K Lin +/-20% Capacitor Electrolytic 22uF 20% 50V Green LED

Line In PCB Bare Board

- Thick white lines shows the channel signal
- Dotted white lines show control signals
- Dotted boxes identify different processing sections.



INPUT BUFFER



Line In PCB Circuit Diagram















Capacitor Ceramic 47pF

C4, C5 ,C6 ,C7, CII, CI8

Orientation Not Critical

How to solder a ceramic capacitor

Soldering Tips:

Pull component through the board as far as it can go
Put a 45 degree bend in each leg to hold the

component in position while making sure that the component is still flat

- 3. Solder the component
- 4. Using wire cutters, trim the leg to roughly I mm long

Note: Orientation is not important for these parts - but it is for some capacitors!

Warning! These components can get hot very quickly which can cause a risk of burning.

Warning! While soldering, there is a risk of solder splatter. Make sure you are wearing eye protection.

Warning! When trimming the component legs with cutters, shards of metal and wire can fire off in unpredictable directions. Make sure you are wearing eye protection.

Capacitor Polyester 100nF C3, C8, C14, C15, C21, C22

Soldering Tips:

I. Pull component through the board as far as it can go

2. Put a 45 degree bend in each leg to hold the

How to solder a polyester capacitor

component in position while making sure that the component is still flat

- 3. Solder the component
- 4. Using wire cutters, trim the leg to roughly 1 mm long

Note: Orientation is not important for these parts - but it is for some capacitors!

Warning! These components can get hot very quickly which can cause a risk of burning.

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Board Complete

Master Out PCB

Solder Assembly

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Master Out PCB Components

Issue A Bare PCB

- Resistor 47R 1/4W
- Resistor 2K4 1/4W
- Resistor 3K6 1/4W
- Resistor 4K7 1/4W
 - Resistor 5K6 1/4W
- Resistor 6K8 1/4W
- Resistor 7K5 1/4W
- Resistor I0K I/4W
- Resistor 15K 1/4W
- Resistor 47K 1/4W
- Capacitor Ceramic 47pF 100V 5%
- Capacitor Electrolytic 22uF 20% 50V
- Capacitor Polyester 100nF 63V
 - Capacitor Polyester 2700pF 100V
 - Capacitor Electrolytic 4.7uF 16V
- Axial Inductor 6.8uH
- Diode 1N5711 70V 15mA
- Op-Amp
- IC Switch SPDT
- Isolated Module DC-DC Converter
- 3.5mm Stereo Audio Jack Connector
- 10 Way Right-Angle IDC Header
- Connector 4 Way USB 2.0 type B R/A
- Header SIL 2 Way Friction Lock 0.156"
- Header SIL 6 Way Friction Lock 0.1"

continued overleaf

Master Out PCB components continued

- Pot. Rotary 10K Lin +/-20%
 - Switch Horizontal Push Latched 2Pole
- 26 27 28 29 30 Metal Joint Block M9000
 - Capacitor Ceramic Disc 470 pF 3 kV
 - Axial Fuse 125V I A

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Master Out PCB Bare Board

• Thin white lines show input channel signals

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VU METERS

- Thick white lines shows the master channel signal
- Dotted white lines show control signals
- Dotted boxes identify different processing sections.











Resistor 4K7 I/4W RI, R3, R6, R9, R12, R16 ∫τeαΜ Master 4K7 ×6 **Orientation Not Critical** How to solder 💻 a resistor Soldering Tips: Ι. Pull component through the board 2. Using pliers if necessary, pull the component flat against the board 3. Put a 45 degree bend in each leg to hold the component in position while making sure that the component is still flat 4. Solder the component 5. Using wire cutters, trim the leg to roughly I mm long Note: Orientation is not important for these parts, although "וממממי for some people, convention is that the gold band is on the right or top Warning! These components can get hot very quickly which can cause a risk of burning. Warning! While soldering, there is a risk of solder splatter. Make sure you are wearing eye protection. Warning! When trimming the component legs with cutters, shards of metal and wire can fire off in unpredictable directions. Make sure you are wearing eye protection.



Resistor 6K8 I/4W 6 R27, R33 6 ∫τεαΜ Master 6K8 ×2 **Orientation Not Critical** How to solder 💻 a resistor Soldering Tips: Ι. Pull component through the board 2. Using pliers if necessary, pull the component flat against the board 3. Put a 45 degree bend in each leg to hold the component in position while making sure that the component is still flat 4. Solder the component 5. Using wire cutters, trim the leg to roughly I mm long Note: Orientation is not important for these parts, although "וממממי for some people, convention is that the gold band is on the right or top Warning! These components can get hot very quickly which can cause a risk of burning. Warning! While soldering, there is a risk of solder splatter. Make sure you are wearing eye protection. Warning! When trimming the component legs with cutters, shards of metal and wire can fire off in unpredictable directions. Make sure you are wearing eye protection.



Master Out PCB Solder Assembly Resistor I0K I/4W 8 R8. R10 8 ∫τeαΜ Master 10K ×2 **Orientation Not Critical** How to solder 💻 a resistor Soldering Tips: Ι. Pull component through the board 2. Using pliers if necessary, pull the component flat against the board 3. Put a 45 degree bend in each leg to hold the component in position while making sure that the component is still flat 4. Solder the component 5. Using wire cutters, trim the leg to roughly I mm long Note: Orientation is not important for these parts, although ה<u>לםם</u>ל for some people, convention is that the gold band is on the right or top Warning! These components can get hot very quickly which can cause a risk of burning. Warning! While soldering, there is a risk of solder splatter. Make sure you are wearing eye protection. Warning! When trimming the component legs with cutters, shards of metal and wire can fire off in unpredictable directions. Make sure you are wearing eye protection.

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Warning! While soldering, there is a risk of solder splatter. Make sure you are wearing eye protection.

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Board Complete

Mechanical Assembly

Metalwork Assembly


Mechanical Assembly Components Mechanical Components: Chassis Top хI Chassis Bottom хI **VU Bracket** хI **Clear Acrylic Sides** x 2 Fader Cap хI Rotary Knobs x 7 Rubber O-Ring x 7 Rectangular Push-Switch Caps x 4 M2 Countersink Screws x 2 M3 Button Head Screws x 27 Adhesive Foot x 4 Plastic Grommet хI Wiring Looms: x 2 **VU** Meter Loom Fader Loom хI Ribbon Cable Loom хI









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Mechanical Assembly





Assembly Notes:

• Fit the Washer, Nut and then Rubber O-ring. Make sure the O-Ring is sitting in the middle of the smooth section of the potentiometer shaft.







Assembly Notes:

• Fit the Washer, Nut and then Rubber O-ring. Make sure the O-Ring is sitting in the middle of the smooth section of the potentiometer shaft.











Mechanical Assembly Complete



How to Use Your Finished Mixer

• **Warning!** Check to make sure the product is correctly assembled before use. An incorrectly assembled product may pose the risk of electric shock, fire, overheating or explosion.



Rear Panel Diagram and Explanation





USB B Power input. 5V 500 mA. **Warning:** This must be provided from a rated and certified supply. Using an unrated supply could result in fire, risk of serious injury or death.



Channel I Line Input. The unit is designed for consumer rated electronic outputs, for example laptops, audio players, mobile phones. (Rated to -10 dBV). Connector socket is a 3.5 mm jack.

Channel 2 Line Input. The unit is designed for consumer rated electronic outputs, for example laptops, audio players, mobile phones. (Rated to -10 dBV). Connector socket is a 3.5 mm jack.



Master Line Output. The output is designed for powered/active speakers.. Connector socket is a 3.5 mm jack.

Front Panel Diagram



Front Panel Diagram Explaination



Graphical representation of Channel I Line Input. This indicates the beginning of the signal path within the mixer



High Pass Filter. This knob attenuatates (removes) lower frequencies. It is used as an effect to create a sense of drama and to ensure that the bass frequencies of both tracks are not clashing (clashing bass frequencies are very noticable, whereas higher frequencies tend to blend together more nicely)



Headphone Cue Switch. Press this switch to listen to this channel in your headphones. **Warning:** If the Cue/Phones level is too loud, pressing this switch could damage your hearing! Check that the Cue/Phones is at a reasonable level for your headphones. **Note**: If the cue button does not appear to be working on the channels, it could be that the master switch is activated (see item 8)



Channel I Output Level. Use this knob to control the output level of Channel I. This will control how much signal is sent to the master bus (bus is a word used in audio which normally refers to a channel which sums its inputs and routes them to a mono or stereo output)



Left/Right Balance. Use this knob to direct how much signal is sent to the left and right master stereo outputs. This is also known as panning

Boost Button. This button takes advantage of a psycho-acoustic effect to make the sound of the track sound bigger/fatter. It boosts the low and high frequencies while lowering the mids. Use with caution - if your channel level is already high, the signal will clip



Cue Master Button. This button is useful as it allows you to hear your master mix without having speakers plugged in. **Note**: This switch will bypass Cue for Channel I and Channel 2, if it is pressed, it will always solo/cue the master channel, **regardless of whether or not the other two switches are pressed**.

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Operation of Unit



Cue/Phones Level and Output. This knob controls the output level for the headphones **Warning:** If the Cue/Phones level is too loud this **will** damage your hearing! Check that the Cue/Phones is at a reasonable level for your headphones. Take a break after listening for an extending period of time. Ears are very sensistive to sound. If you want a long career in audio then you need to look after your hearing (it's also a good idea wearing ear plugs at gigs and clubs too)



Headphone Output. This output provides an amplified headphone output capable of driving a variety of headphone types



Master Level. Use this fader to turn the mix all the way up to 11. Turn it back down a bit if it starts clipping (once it starts clipping, it won't get any louder, it will just sound more distorted)



VU Meters.VU stands for Voltage Unit.VU meters give a Root-Mean Square average of a signal (This turns the negative parts of the signal to positive, and then takes an average of the whole signal).VU meters have a relatively slow response time, which means they provide a good indicator of the average signal over a few hundred milliseconds. If the signal is going past 0 dB then this is clipping



How to use your mixer



 $\int \tau e \alpha M$ powered mixer

System Block Diagram



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Further Research

Links to Engineering Channels

Moritz Klein - DIY Modular Synthesis

This YouTube channel has a lot of great explantions on basic principles of electronics, as well as how different modules are made for audio synthesisers and their functions.

The analog oscillator core anyone can build https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBatvo8bCa4



3Blue | Brown - Mathematical Principles

This channel is great for learning more generally about mathematics - it covers advanced topics but in a very approachable way

The essence of calculus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUvTyaaNkzM



Coding Train - Software Development

This channel is mostly unrelated audio technology, it refers to a different type of engineering - software engineering. Software is a vital component in all modern digital mixing desks. This channel is a fun way to learn the basics

Coding Challenge #3: The Snake Game https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaGK-fj-BAM



Khan Academy - Engineering Courses

If you want to learn more about the practice of electrical engineering (which will also provide a good foundation for analogue and digital electronics), then this is a course which goes over the fundamentals of electrical engineering

https://www.khanacademy.org/science/electrical-engineering

