



Mic Mate™

USB Mini Mixer Kit

User Manual



USB Mini Mixer Kit



Congratulations on your purchase of the Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer Kit. The Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer Kit puts the power of professional recording and mixing in the palm of your hand. Before you get started, we encourage you to read the following manual to learn as much as you can about this amazing product.

The Mic Mate™ Mini Mixer Kit was designed to make recording multiple inputs easy and portable while still maintaining the highest quality audio. The Mic Mate™ Mini Mixer takes up to four dynamic microphones or self-powered condenser microphones and connects to your computer via USB for stereo recording. Inputs 1 and 2 on the Mini Mixer record to the left channel (channel 1) and inputs 3 and 4 record to the right channel (channel 2). The four segment meters on the top of the Mini Mixer allow precise visual cues for setting the levels of each microphone while the headphone jack allows live monitoring of the microphones and audio playback from the computer.

This pocket size device will save you the hassle of lugging around a lot of extra gear and you'll amaze listeners with superior audio.

Unpack Your Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer Kit

Begin by examining the contents of your USB Mini Mixer Kit. You should have the following components:

- 1 Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer
- 1 USB 2.0 high speed cable
- 1 XLR-to-mini microphone cable
- 1 Tripod desktop mic stand
- 1 Micro-fiber cleaning cloth
- Carrying case
- Microphone application guide
- 1 Dynamic MXL Mic

If any items are missing, contact the retailer where you purchased your Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer Kit.

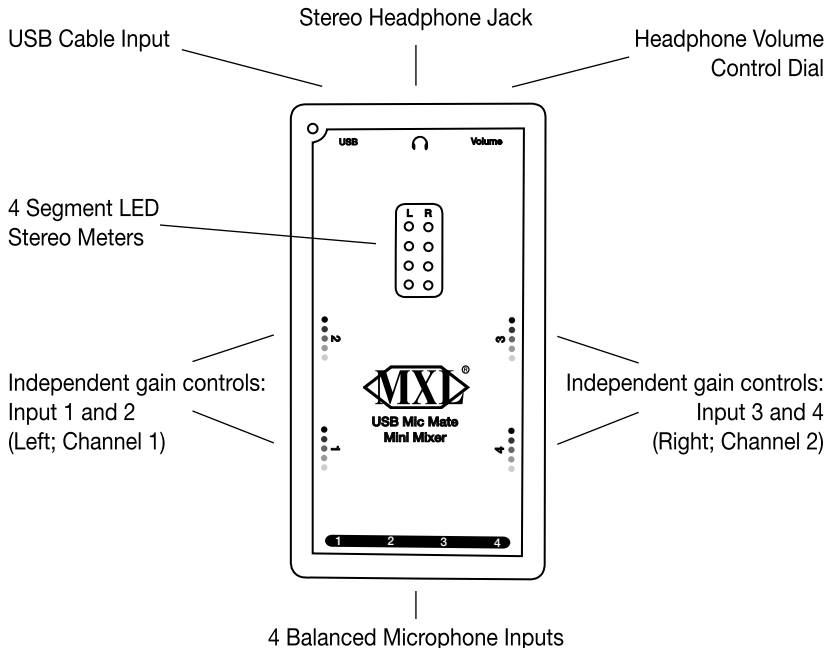
System Requirements:

The Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer Kit is compatible with both Mac and PC computers and works with today's popular music recording software like GarageBand, Cubase, Reaper and others. We recommend that your system have at least the following:

- Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7
- Macintosh OS X

USB Mini Mixer Kit

Getting to Know Your USB Mini Mixer



USB Connection:

The small end of the USB cable plugs in here. The Mini Mixer is backwards compatible with USB 1.1 and 2.0. We do not recommend that you plug the Mini Mixer into a hub, as this could potentially limit the power and audio bandwidth the Mini Mixer needs to operate.

Stereo Headphone Jack:

The 1/8-inch stereo headphone input accepts most headphones. Maximum headphone volume will vary by manufacturer and model, so care should always be exercised when plugging in.

Headphone Volume Control Dial:

Used to adjust the volume of your headphones

Dynamic Microphone Inputs:

Plug your Fox dynamic microphone into any of these inputs. You may also add up to three more dynamic microphones or self-powered condenser microphones like the MXL D.R.K. microphone.

Independent Gain Controls:

Use these dials to control the record level of the microphone into the computer. These controls change the analog signal before the A/D converter.

USB Mini Mixer Kit

LED:

When the yellow LED is illuminated, this indicates that the Mini Mixer is connected to USB power and functioning correctly.

Meter:

These LEDs indicate the signal level going to the computer. The Left side of the meter displays the combined signal level of inputs 1 and 2. The Right side of the meter displays the combined signal level of inputs 3 and 4. If you see the red LED come on it means that your signal is probably clipping and you should adjust your volume levels.

Getting to Know Your Fox Microphone

This MXL Fox microphone included in your kit is a super-cardioid dynamic microphone designed primarily as a vocal microphone. The term “super-cardioid response” means that The Fox is most sensitive to sound arriving from the front, and less sensitive to sounds from the rear and sides.

Caring for Your Fox:

Dust and foreign material can degrade the performance of a microphone over time so always store the unit in its case.



Setting Up Your Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer:

First, insert the Fox microphone into the tripod mic clip. The microphone should sit securely in the mic clip; use a flathead screw driver to tighten or loosen the mic clip. Next, attach XLR female end of the included XLR-to-mini cable to the male XLR connector on the Fox microphone. Attach the 1/8-inch mini connector to any one of the four microphone inputs on your Mini Mixer.

Take Note:

Audio and video recording can be very taxing to a computer's resources. For this reason, you should close any and all running applications that are non-essential. If open, close your audio recording application. You will open it after the MXL Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer is connected and operational.

Next, connect the included USB cable to the Mini Mixer USB input and connect the other end to a USB input on your computer. You are now ready to get started!

Initial Setup with Windows XP

To select the MXL USB Mini Mixer as the default audio device, go to the Start Menu and select **Control Panel**.

Select **Sounds** and **Audio Devices**.

Click on the **Audio** tab and select **USB Audio Codec** as the default device for **Sound playback** and **Sound Recording**.

USB Mini Mixer Kit

To adjust the output volume from the computer, click on the **Volume** button under **Sound playback**.

The master volume output can be changed by moving the Speaker fader up or down.

Your Windows XP computer is now set up to use the MXL USB Mini Mixer Kit.

Initial Setup with Windows Vista

To select the MXL Mini Mixer as the default audio device, go to the **Start Menu** and select **Control Panel**.

Double click the **Sound icon**.

Select the **Playback** tab. Highlight the speaker icon labeled as **USB Audio Device** and click the **Set Default** button. To make further adjustments to the playback volume and settings, double-click on the speaker icon labeled **USB Audio Device**.

To adjust the volume from the computer, click on the tab labeled **Levels**. The master volume output can be changed by moving the Speaker fader left or right.

To change the sample rate and bit depth, click on the tab labeled **Advanced**. From the drop-down menu, you can change the sample rate and bit-depth for audio playback. When you are finished making changes, click the OK button. Please note that you should verify that these settings match the settings in your recording application.

To set the MXL Mini Mixer as the default audio input, select the **Recording** tab back in the **Sound** window. Highlight the microphone icon labeled **USB Audio Device** and click **Set Default**. To make further adjustments to the recording settings, double-click on the microphone icon labeled **USB Audio Device**. Click on the tab labeled **Advanced**. From the drop-down menu you can change the sample rate and bit-depth for audio recording. Please note that you should verify that these settings match the settings in your recording application.

Your Windows Vista computer is now set up to use the Mic Mate™ USB Mini Mixer Kit. Some recording applications will require additional settings to be changed within the program. Please see your recording software manual for proper setup.

Initial setup with Macintosh® OS X

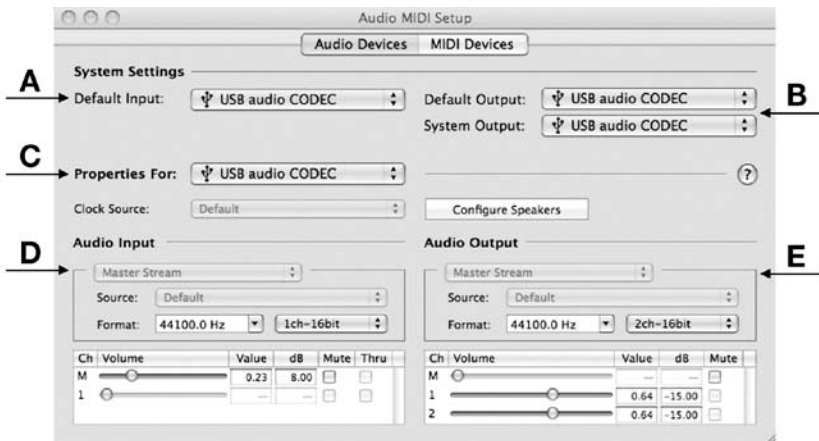
To select the MXL USB Mini Mixer the default audio device, click on the **Apple** icon at the top of the screen then select the **System Preferences**. Click on the speaker icon labeled **Sound**.

Click on the Input tab then select the device named **USB Audio Codec**. You will notice there are no input level controls for this device. This is because the analog gain control is found on the back of the MXL USB Mini Mixer.

Next, click on the **Output** tab and select the device named **USB Audio Codec**. The master volume output can be changed by adjusting the “output volume fader” left or right.

USB Mini Mixer Kit

Further adjustments to the sample rate and bit-depths can be found in the **Audio Midi Setup** (Macintosh HD > Applications > Utilities > Audio Midi Setup). You should, however, check the settings in the recording program you are using as they may override or conflict with these settings.



By selecting the **USB Audio Codec** as the “Default Input,” the MXL USB Mini Mixer will automatically be selected as the audio input device the next time it is plugged in.

By selecting the **USB Audio Codec** as the “Default Output” the MXL USB Mini Mixer will automatically be selected as the audio output device the next time it is plugged in. By selecting the **USB Audio Codec** as the “System Output,” the microphone will be used as the output device for any system sounds.

Select the **USB Audio Codec** to make adjustments to the sample rate and bit-depth. You will see sections D and E appear in the lower portion of the window.

Here you can make adjustments to the sample rate and bit-depth for the input (the microphone signal).

Here you can make adjustments to the sample rate and bit-depth for the output (the signal to the headphones).

Your computer is now set up to use the MXL USB Mini Mixer Kit. However, after changing these settings you should still check the settings in your recording software. If the sample rate and/or bit-depth in the recording software do not match your hardware, you will most likely hear clicks and pops or the audio will be the wrong pitch.

USB Mini Mixer Kit

Multi-tracking (Windows):

To get started with multi-tracking and overdubbing, we recommend the free 30 day trial shareware version of Reaper. To download Reaper go to: <http://www.reaper.fm>.

Multi-tracking (Macintosh):

Garage Band is the easiest way to get started if you are using a Macintosh computer. Since it's included on most Macintosh computers, you probably have it installed and are ready to go!

Testing Your MXL USB Mini Mixer:

After you have connected your microphone and set up your computer, plug a set of headphones into the 1/8-inch stereo jack located on the MXL USB Mini Mixer.

Important Note:

The headphone amplifier can produce very loud sound levels that, when exposed to over a period of time, can cause irreparable hearing damage. Please adjust the headphone level carefully!

You should now be able to hear your computer audio playback as well as the live microphone. When you're ready to begin tracking, open your favorite recording software and make sure it's set up for use with the MXL Mini Mixer according to the software manufacturer recommendations.

With everything set up and your software application running, snap your fingers in front of the grill and look for a signal level on the LED input meters on the top of the Mini Mixer. Never “tap” on the grill to test if a signal is present as this could cause peaking if the microphone gain is set too high. With the signal present, simply position the microphone to best capture the performance. Begin testing the sound source with the microphone and watch the red LEDs on the input meters for clipping. Clipping is a form of distortion that occurs when an amplifier is overdriven and is also represented by a red bar in your software. Clipping should be avoided at all times for a recording free of poor sounding digital distortion. Use the analog gain control on the Mini Mixer to set the input level to best capture the sound source without clipping.

A Few Recording Tips:

If you would like to listen to computer playback while recording or practicing, use the volume control in the computer in combination with the volume dial on the Mini Mixer to create a balance between computer playback and the live microphone inputs. The microphones are mixed to the headphone before any digital conversion to provide the highest audio quality without sound delay (latency) often associated with computer recording. While there is no right or wrong way to record a performance, you can find our Recording Basics guide at www.mxlmics.com to help you with the basic techniques. Remember, recording is a creative process, so experimentation is the key for the best results. Enjoy!

USB Mini Mixer Kit

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Warranty:

Marshall Microphones are guaranteed against defects in material and workmanship for three years from date of purchase. Should you encounter any problem with this kit, promptly contact the company you purchased it from for assistance. The original dated sales receipt will be necessary for any warranty claim. Do not send any unit directly to us without prior authorization from our service department! Warranty coverage is limited to repair or replacement (at our option) of the microphone, and does not cover incidental damages due to use of this unit, nor damage caused by accidental misuse of this product.

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