PreSonus AudioBox USB96

Easy Operation Manual

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1. Introduction

The **PreSonus AudioBox USB96** is a compact, USB-powered audio interface suitable for:

- Home and project studio recording
- Audio measurement setups
- Podcasting and live streaming

Key features include:

- 2 combo mic/instrument inputs
- 24-bit, up to 96 kHz recording
- MIDI in/out ports
- Direct monitoring for zero-latency recording

2. Front Panel Features

1. **Mic/Instrument Combo Inputs (CH 1 & 2)**
   Accepts:
   - XLR connector for microphones
   - 1/4" TRS for instruments (guitar/bass)
2. **Gain Knobs (CH 1 & 2)**
   Adjust input gain for each channel. Watch for clipping (red LED).
3. **Clip LEDs**
   Light up red when input signal is too strong; reduce gain to avoid distortion.
4. **48V Phantom Power Button**
   Provides +48V power for condenser microphones on both XLR inputs.
5. **Mixer Knob**
   Blends input signal with playback from the computer:

- Fully left: direct input monitoring
- Fully right: playback from DAW
- In between: mix of both

6. **Main Output Level Knob**
   Controls volume of the main line outputs (rear panel).

7. **Headphone Level Knob**
   Controls headphone output volume.

8. **Headphone Jack (1/4")**
   Plug in studio headphones for monitoring.

3. Rear Panel Features

1. **Main Outputs (Left and Right, 1/4" TRS)**
   Connect to powered monitors or mixer.

2. **MIDI In/Out Ports**
   For connecting MIDI keyboards, controllers, or external synths.

3. **USB 2.0 Port**
   Connects to computer; powers the device. No external power needed.

4. Setting Up

1. **Install Universal Control Driver (if needed)**
   - Windows: Install from `https://www.presonus.com/products/AudioBox-USB-96`
   - Mac: Class compliant, generally no driver needed.

2. **Connect USB cable** between AudioBox and computer.

3. **Connect Microphones/Instruments** to combo inputs.

4. **Enable 48V** if using condenser microphones.

5. **Set Gain Levels** using the gain knobs. Avoid clipping.

6. **Connect Headphones** to the headphone jack for monitoring.

7. **Adjust Mixer Knob** to blend input signal and computer playback as needed.

8. **Select AudioBox as Audio Input/Output Device** in your DAW (e.g. Audacity, REW, Studio One).

5. Using Direct Monitoring

For zero-latency monitoring during recording:

- Turn **Mixer knob fully left** to hear direct input only.
- Adjust blend as needed to balance between playback track and input.

6. Recording Example (Using REW or DAW)

1. Open REW or DAW software.
2. Select **AudioBox USB96** as input and output device.
3. Set input gain so levels remain below clipping.
4. Record sweep signals, instruments, or vocals as needed.

7. LED Indicators Summary

- **Clip LED (Red)**: Input signal too strong; reduce gain.
- **48V LED**: Phantom power active.

8. Safety and Best Practices

- Do not connect ribbon mics with 48V engaged.
- Reduce gain knobs before connecting microphones or instruments.
- Avoid hot-plugging MIDI devices while in use.
- Always monitor input levels to prevent distortion.

9. Specifications (Summary)

- **Resolution**: 24-bit
- **Sample Rates**: 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96 kHz
- **Mic Preamp Gain Range**: 0–35 dB
- **Phantom Power**: +48V
- **Power**: USB bus-powered

10. Further Resources

Refer to the official user manual for advanced routing and troubleshooting:
`https://www.presonus.com/products/AudioBox-USB-96`

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