

**MACKIE®**

# ONYX·1640

PREMIUM ANALOG MIXER  
w/PERKINS EQ & FIREWIRE OPTION

OWNER'S MANUAL

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## Important Safety Instructions

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12. Use only with a cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
13. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
15. This Onyx mixer has been designed with Class-I construction and must be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection (the third grounding prong).
16. This Onyx mixer has been equipped with an all-pole, rocker-style AC mains power switch. This switch is located on the rear panel and should remain readily accessible to the user.
17. This apparatus does not exceed the Class A/Class B (whichever is applicable) limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus as set out in the radio interference regulations of the Canadian Department of Communications.

**ATTENTION** — *Le présent appareil numérique n'émet pas de bruits radioélectriques dépassant les limites applicables aux appareils numériques de class A/de class B (selon le cas) prescrites dans le règlement sur le brouillage radioélectrique édicté par les ministere des communications du Canada.*

18. Exposure to extremely high noise levels may cause permanent hearing loss. Individuals vary considerably in susceptibility to noise-induced hearing loss, but nearly everyone will lose some hearing if exposed to sufficiently intense noise for a period of time. The U.S. Government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has specified the permissible noise level exposures shown in the following chart.

According to OSHA, any exposure in excess of these permissible limits could result in some hearing loss. To ensure against potentially dangerous exposure to high sound pressure levels, it is recommended that all persons exposed to equipment capable of producing high sound pressure levels use hearing protectors while the equipment is in operation. Ear plugs or protectors in the ear canals or over the ears must be worn when operating the equipment in order to prevent permanent hearing loss if exposure is in excess of the limits set forth here.

Duration Per Day In Hours	Sound Level dBA, Slow Response	Typical Example
8	90	Duo in small club
6	92	
4	95	Subway Train
3	97	
2	100	Very loud classical music
1.5	102	
1	105	Tami screaming at Adrian about deadlines
0.5	110	
0.25 or less	115	Loudest parts at a rock concert

### PORTABLE CART WARNING



Carts and stands - The Component should be used only with a cart or stand that is recommended by the manufacturer. A Component and cart combination should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause the Component and cart combination to overturn.

CAUTION AVIS

RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK  
DO NOT OPEN

RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE  
NE PAS OUVRIR

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CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK  
DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK)  
NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE  
REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL

ATTENTION: POUR EVITER LES RISQUES DE CHOC  
ELECTRIQUE, NE PAS ENLEVER LE COUVERCLE. AUCUN  
ENTRETIEN DE PIECES INTERIEURES PAR L'USAGER. CONFIER  
L'ENTRETIEN AU PERSONNEL QUALIFIE.

AVIS: POUR EVITER LES RISQUES D'INCENDIE OU  
D'ELECTROCUTION, N'EXPOSEZ PAS CET ARTICLE  
A LA PLUIE OU A L'HUMIDITE

The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure, that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.  
Le symbole clair avec point de flèche l'intérieur d'un triangle équilatéral est utilisé pour alerter l'utilisateur de la présence d'un risque de choc électrique.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user of the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.  
Le point d'exclamation l'intérieur d'un triangle équilatéral est employé pour alerter les utilisateurs de la présence d'instructions importantes pour le fonctionnement et l'entretien (service) dans le livret d'instruction accompagnant l'appareil.

**WARNING** — To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.

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Don't forget to visit our website at [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com) for more information about this and other Mackie products.



# Introduction

Thank you for choosing a Mackie Onyx 1640 professional compact mixing console. The Onyx Series of mixers are designed for the digital era and offer the newest features and latest technologies for live sound reinforcement and analog or digital studio recording in a durable, road-worthy package.

The Onyx 1640 is equipped with sixteen of our new premium precision-engineered studio-grade Onyx mic preamps. Mackie is renowned for the high-quality mic preamps used in our mixers, and the Onyx mic pre's are better than ever, with specifications rivaling expensive stand-alone mic preamplifiers.

Channels 1 and 2 feature high-impedance instrument/line-level inputs so you can connect an acoustic, electric, or bass guitar directly into the mixer, eliminating the need for an external direct box.

Each of the sixteen mono channels has individual phantom power switches, low-cut filters, pre-EQ channel inserts, and an all new four-band EQ design with sweepable mids and EQ bypass switch.

All sixteen channels have six Aux sends, Pan, Mute, Sub Assign, Solo, 60 mm faders, and four signal level indicators.

A built-in Talkback mic with routing switches allows you to communicate through the Aux Sends 1-4, Aux Sends 5-6, Sub 1-4, or the Phones output.

All sixteen channels have balanced recording outputs on two DB-25 connectors for multitrack recording. An optional FireWire card provides all sixteen direct outputs and the L-R Main Mix on a FireWire interface for streaming digital audio to a laptop for multitrack recording in a live situation, or connecting to a DAW in a home studio.

Like our popular 1604-VLZ PRO, the Onyx 1640 has a “rotopod” connector section. This allows the connector panel to rotate so it faces up (all the connectors are on the same surface as the knobs and faders), to the rear (default mixer configuration), or toward the back (for rack mounting, using the included rack ears).

**Please write your serial number here for future reference (i.e., insurance claims, tech support, return authorization, etc.)**

**Purchased at:**

**Date of purchase:**

## HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

We know that many of you can't wait to get your new mixer hooked up, and you're probably not going to read the manual first (sigh!). So the first section after this Introduction is a Quick-Start Guide to help you get the mixer set up fast so you can start using it right away. Right after that are the ever popular hook-up diagrams that show typical mixer setups for live sound, recording, and mixdown.

Then, when you have time, read the Features Description section. This describes every knob, button, and connection point on the Onyx 1640, roughly following the signal flow through the mixer from top to bottom and left to right.

Throughout this section you'll find illustrations with each feature numbered. If you want to know more about a feature, simply locate it on the appropriate illustration, notice the number attached to it, and find that number in the nearby paragraphs.



This icon marks information that is critically important or unique to the Onyx 1640. For your own good, read them and remember them. They will be on the final test.



This icon leads you to in-depth explanations of features and practical tips. While not mandatory, they usually have some valuable nugget of information.

## A PLUG FOR THE CONNECTOR SECTION

Appendix B is a section on connectors: XLR connectors, balanced connectors, unbalanced connectors, and special hybrid connectors.

**More resources on our website at [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com).**

## THE GLOSSARY: A Haven of Non-Techiness for the Neophyte

The “Glossary of Terms” is a fairly comprehensive dictionary of pro-audio terms. If terms like “clipping,” “noise floor,” or “unbalanced” leave you blank, refer to this glossary for a quick explanation.

## ARCANE MYSTERIES ILLUMINATED

“Arcane Mysteries” discusses some of the down ‘n’ dirty practical realities of microphones, fixed installations, grounding, and balanced versus unbalanced lines. It's a goldmine for the neophyte, and even the seasoned pro might learn a thing or two.

# Getting Started

## READ THIS PAGE!!



Even if you're one of those people who never reads manuals, all we ask is that you read this page now before you begin using the Onyx 1640. You'll be glad you did!

## Zero the Controls

1. Turn down the channel GAIN, AUX, and Fader controls, and center the channel EQ and PAN controls.
2. Set all push button switches to their "out" positions.
3. In the output section (right hand side), turn all the rotary knobs "down," the switches "out," and the SUB 1-4 and MAIN MIX faders down.
4. Turn the POWER switch off.

## Connections

If you already know how you want to connect the Onyx 1640, go ahead and connect the inputs and outputs the way you want them. If you just want to get sound through the mixer, follow these steps:

1. Plug in the detachable linecord, connect it to an AC outlet, and turn on the Onyx 1640's POWER switch.
2. Plug a microphone or other signal source into channel 1's MIC or LINE input.
3. Connect cords from the Onyx 1640's MAIN OUTS (XLR connectors or 1/4" TRS connectors on the rear panel) to your amplifier.
4. Hook up speakers to the amp and turn it on. If the amplifier has level controls, set them however the manufacturer recommends (usually all the way up).

## Set the Levels

To set the channel GAIN controls, it's not even necessary to hear what you're doing at the outputs of the mixer. If you want to listen while you work, plug headphones into the PHONES jack on the front panel, then set the PHONES knob about one-quarter of the way up.

The following steps must be performed one channel at a time.

1. Push in the channel's SOLO [17] switch. Make sure the SOLO MODE [34] switch is up (PFL).
2. Play something into the selected input. This could be an instrument, a singing or speaking voice, or

a line input such as a CD player or tape recorder output. Be sure that the volume of the input source is the same as it would be during normal use. If it isn't, you might have to readjust these levels during the middle of the set.

3. Adjust the channel's GAIN [4] control so that the LEDs on the RIGHT meter [31] stay around "0" and never go higher than "+7."
4. If you'd like to apply some EQ, do so now and return to step 3. Remember to push in the EQ IN/OUT button or the EQ controls won't do anything.
5. Disengage that channel's SOLO switch.
6. Repeat for each channel.

## Instant Mixing

1. Leave the microphone plugged into channel 1 and connect a keyboard, guitar or other instrument to channel 2. Be sure to "Set the Levels" for channel 2 as described above.
2. To get sound out of the speakers, turn up channel 1 and 2 faders to the "U" mark, push in the MAIN MIX ASSIGN buttons on channels 1 and 2, and slowly turn up the MAIN MIX fader to a comfortable listening level.
3. Sing and play. You're a star! Adjust the faders for channels 1 and 2 to bring your voice and your instrument up and down to create your own mix.

## Other Nuggets of Wisdom

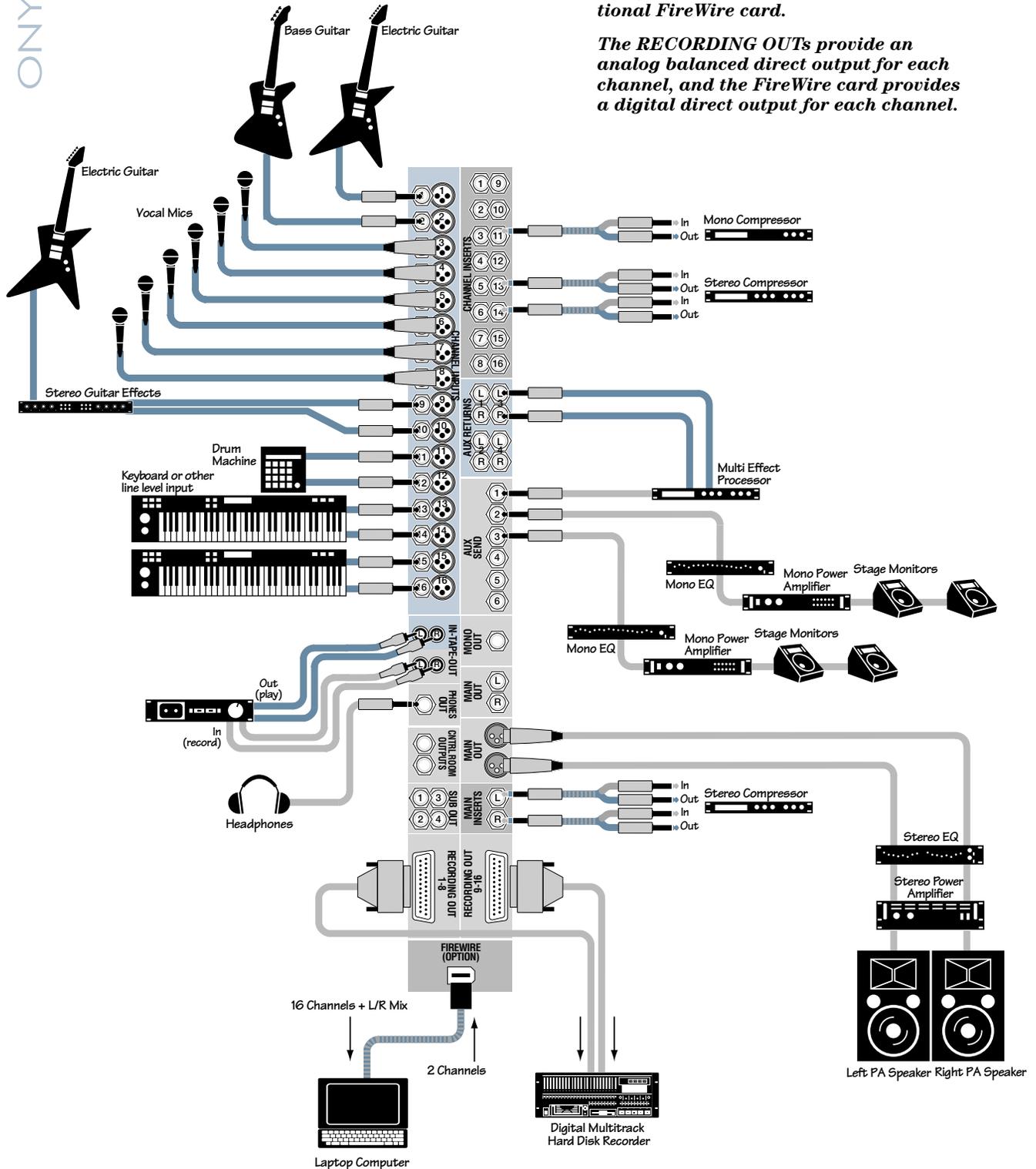
- For optimum sonic performance, the channel and MAIN MIX faders should be set near the "U" (unity gain) markings.
- Always turn the MAIN MIX fader and CONTROL ROOM knob down before making connections to and from your Onyx 1640.
- When you shut down your equipment, turn off the amplifiers first. When powering up, turn on the amplifiers last.
- Never listen to loud music for prolonged periods. Please see the Safety Instructions on page 2 for information on hearing protection.
- Save the shipping box! You may need it someday, and you don't want to have to pay for another one.

That's it for the "Getting Started" section. Next comes the "Hookup" section that shows you some typical ways that you might use the Onyx 1640 in real applications. After that, you can take the grand tour of the mixer, with descriptions of every knob, button, input, and output. We encourage you to take the time to read all of the feature descriptions, but at least you know it's there if you have any questions.

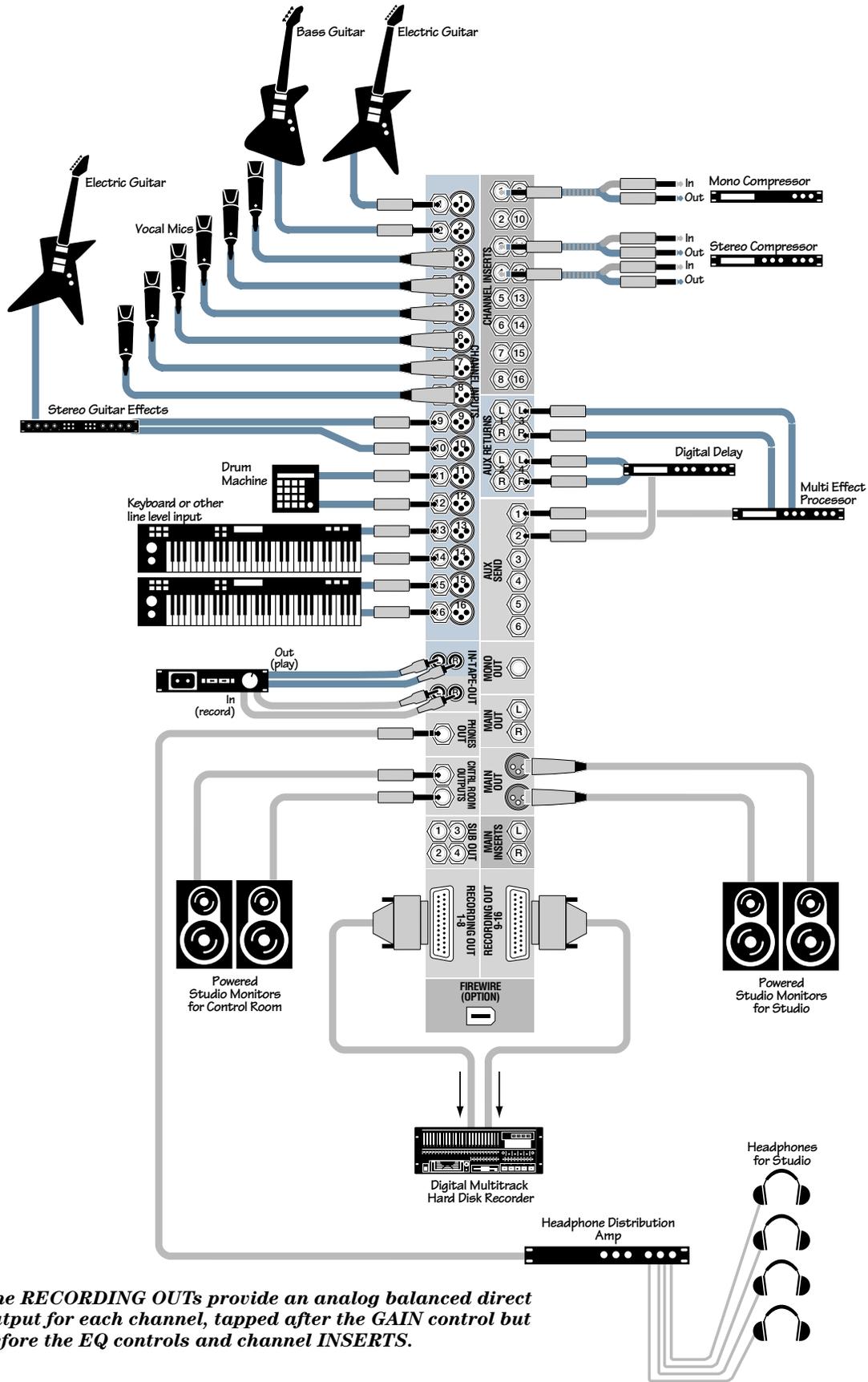
# Hookup Diagrams

*This hookup diagram demonstrates how you can do a live multitrack recording using the RECORDING OUTs or the optional FireWire card.*

*The RECORDING OUTs provide an analog balanced direct output for each channel, and the FireWire card provides a digital direct output for each channel.*

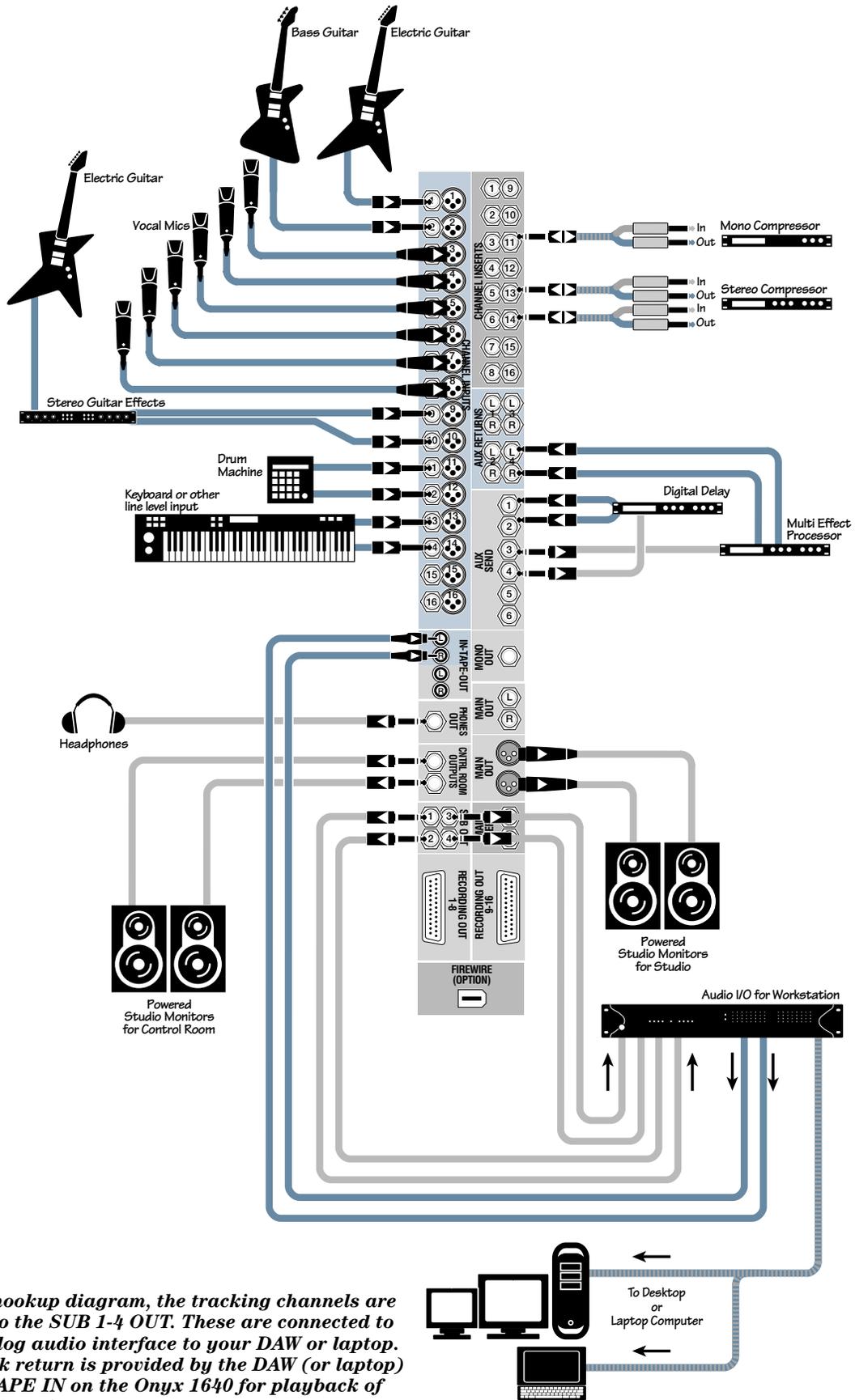


## Onyx 1640 Live Mix and Multitrack Recording



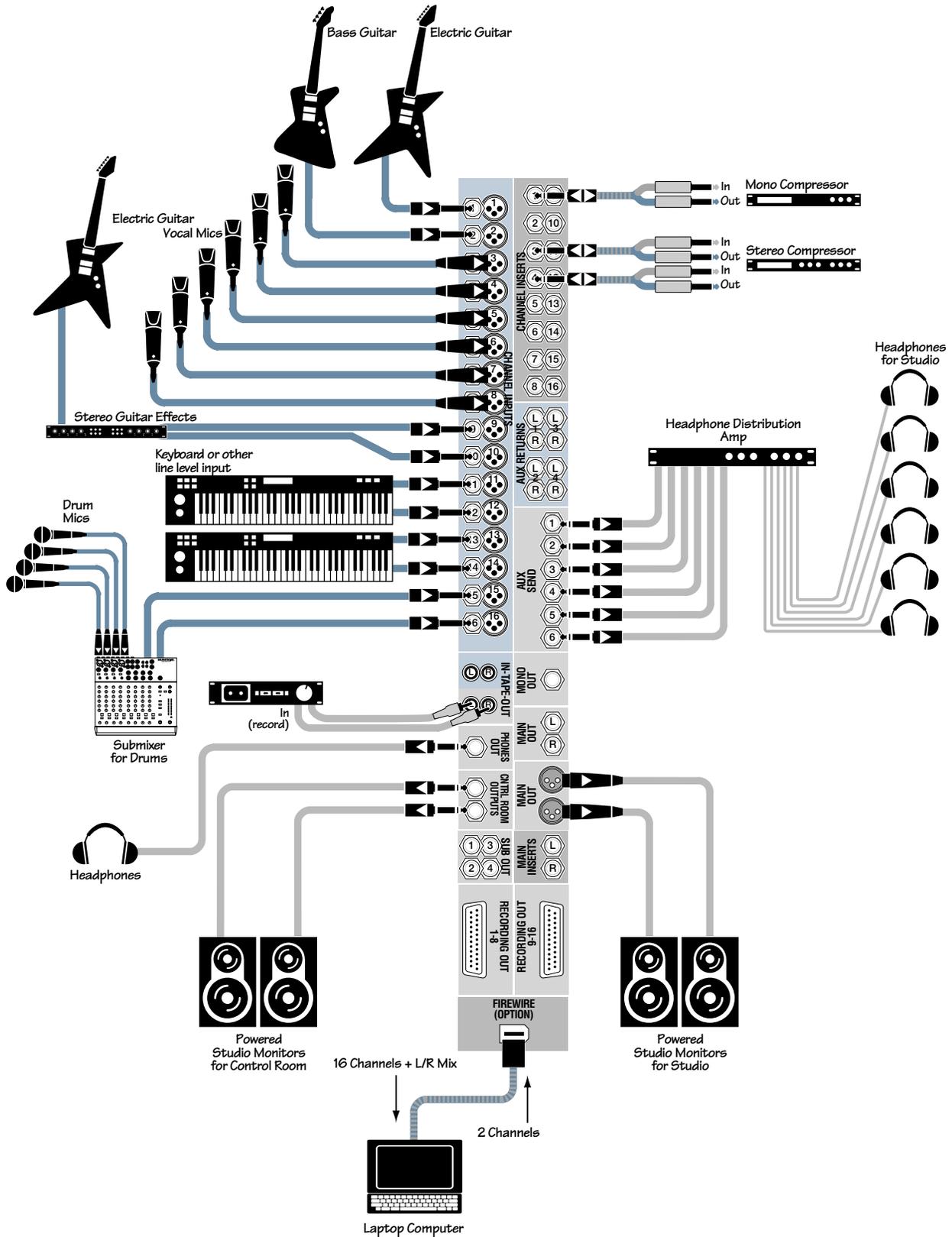
*The RECORDING OUTs provide an analog balanced direct output for each channel, tapped after the GAIN control but before the EQ controls and channel INSERTS.*

**Onyx 1640 Multitrack Recording in a Studio (Tracking)**



*In this hookup diagram, the tracking channels are routed to the SUB 1-4 OUT. These are connected to the analog audio interface to your DAW or laptop. A 2-track return is provided by the DAW (or laptop) to the TAPE IN on the Onyx 1640 for playback of the master mix.*

**Onyx 1640 Computer Recording**



*The optional FireWire card provides a digital direct output for each channel, as well as the L/R Mix. Two tracks can be returned to the Onyx from the computer for playback monitoring in the Control Room Outputs, or mixdown to two tracks at the TAPE OUT. The six AUX SENDS provide six separate mono headphone mixes to the talent.*

**Onyx 1640 Recording with FireWire to a Laptop**

# Onyx 1640 Features

## Channel Strips



All sixteen channels on the Onyx 1640 look alike and function identically with the following exception: Channels 1 and 2 have high-impedance instrument inputs in addition to the mic and line inputs so you can connect a guitar directly to the mixer.

All the input and output connectors (except for the headphone jack) are located on the rear rotopod. We'll take a look at them after we explore the front panel.

### 1. 48V Phantom Power Switch

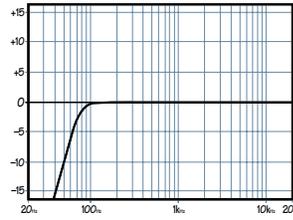
Most professional condenser microphones require phantom power, which is a low-current DC voltage delivered to the microphone on pins 2 and 3 of the XLR microphone connector. Push in the 48V button if your microphone needs phantom power. An LED lights just above the button to indicate that phantom power is active on that channel.

Dynamic microphones, like Shure's SM57 and SM58, do not require phantom power. However, phantom power will not harm most dynamic microphones should you accidentally plug one in while the phantom power is turned on. Be careful with older ribbon microphones. Check the manual for your microphone to find out for sure whether or not phantom power can damage it.

**Note:** Be sure the MAIN MIX fader [46] is turned down when connecting microphones to the MIC Inputs, especially when phantom power is turned on, to prevent pops from getting through to the speakers.

### 2. Low-Cut Switch

The Low-Cut switch, often referred to as a high-pass filter, cuts bass frequencies below 75 Hz at a rate of 18 dB per octave.



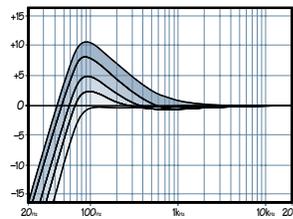
**Low Cut**

We recommend that you use the Low-Cut filter on every microphone application except kick drum, bass guitar, bassy synth patches, or recordings of earthquakes. These aside, there isn't much down there that you want to

hear, and filtering it out makes the low stuff you do want much more crisp and tasty. Not only that, but the Low-Cut filter can help reduce the possibility of feedback in live situations and it helps to conserve amplifier power.



Another way to use the Low Cut filter is in combination with the LOW EQ on vocals during live performances. Many times, bass shelving EQ can really benefit voices. Trouble is, adding LOW EQ also boosts stage rumble, mic handling clunks, and breath pops. Low Cut removes all those problems so you can add LOW EQ without losing a woofer.



**Low Cut with Low EQ Boosted**

Here's what the combination of LOW EQ and Low Cut looks like in terms of frequency curves.

### 3. MIC/HI-Z Switch (Channels 1 and 2)

Channels 1 and 2 have an extra button for switching between the MIC and HI-Z inputs. When the button is out (MIC), the XLR MIC input is used and the HI-Z input is disconnected. When the button is pushed in (HI-Z), the 1/4" HI-Z input is used and the XLR MIC input is disconnected. The input stage of the HI-Z inputs is specially designed for the high-impedance pickups on guitars.



Plugging a guitar into a lower-impedance line input (like those on channels 3-16) can result in the loss of high frequencies, causing an unnatural and dull sound. Normally, you must use a direct box between a guitar and a mixer's input, which serves to convert the impedance of the guitar from high to low. The HI-Z inputs on channels 1 and 2 make the need for a direct box unnecessary.

**HOWEVER:** The HI-Z inputs are unbalanced, so if you're doing a live show and running a long cord between the instrument and the mixer (say over 25 or 30 feet), it is best to use a direct box with a balanced output to avoid picking up noise over the length of the cord.

#### 4. GAIN Control

If you haven't already, please read "Set the Levels" on page 5.

The GAIN control adjusts the input sensitivity of the mic and line inputs. This allows the signal from the outside world to be adjusted to optimal internal operating levels.

If the signal is plugged into the XLR jack, there is 0 dB of gain (unity gain) with the knob turned all the way down, ramping up to 60 dB of gain fully up.

When connected to the 1/4" jack, there is 20 dB of attenuation all the way down, and 40 dB of gain fully up, with a "U" (unity gain) mark at about 10:00.

#### 5. EQ IN/OUT Switch

This is a true hardware bypass of the Perkins EQ circuitry to insure that there is no coloration of the signal if the EQ is not needed. When this button is out, the EQ controls have no effect on the signal. You can use this switch to make an A/B comparison between the EQ'd signal and the signal without EQ.



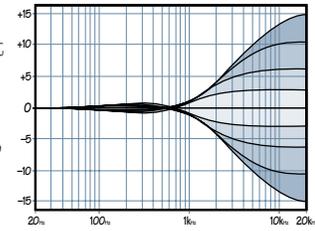
We have completely redesigned the EQ circuits in the Onyx Series of mixers, based on the designs of Cal Perkins, an industry-leader in audio engineering for over three decades and long-time Mackie collaborator.

This "neo-classic" design provides the sweet musicality of the British EQ sound, while still maintaining 15 dB of boost and cut with optimum Q and minimum phase shift (in other words, it gives you plenty of control and is pleasing to the ear!).

The 4-band equalization has LOW shelving at 80 Hz, LOW MID peaking, sweepable from 100 Hz to 2 kHz, HIGH MID peaking, sweepable from 400 Hz to 8 kHz, and HIGH shelving at 12 kHz. "Shelving" means that the circuitry boosts or cuts all frequencies past the specified frequency. For example, rotating the LOW EQ knob 15 dB to the right boosts bass frequencies starting at 80 Hz and continuing on down to the lowest note you ever heard. "Peaking" means that the frequencies around the center frequency are less affected by the EQ the further away they are.

#### 6. HIGH EQ

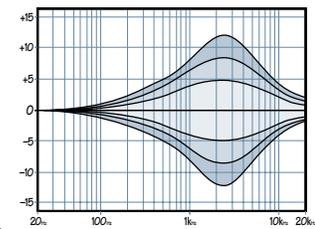
This control gives you up to 15 dB boost or cut at 12 kHz, and it is also flat at the center detent. Use it to add sizzle to cymbals, and an overall sense of transparency or edge to the keyboards, vocals, guitar, and bacon frying. Turn it down a little to reduce sibilance, or to hide tape hiss.



**High EQ**

#### 7. HIGH MID EQ

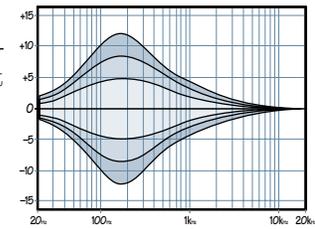
Short for "midrange," this knob provides 15 dB of boost or cut centered at the frequency determined by its FREQ [9] knob. Midrange EQ is often thought of as the most dynamic because the frequencies that define any particular sound are almost always found in this range. The HIGH MID EQ range (400 Hz to 8 kHz) includes the female vocal range as well as the fundamentals and harmonics for many instruments.



**High Mid EQ**

#### 8. LOW MID EQ

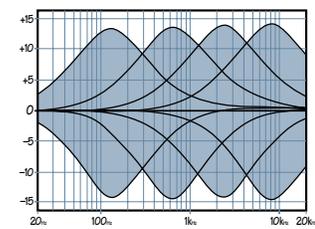
This is a second mid-range EQ control that provides 15 dB of boost or cut centered at the frequency determined by its FREQ knob. It extends down to 100 Hz, which includes the male vocal range and the fundamentals of some lower instruments (guitar, lower brass).



**Low Mid EQ**

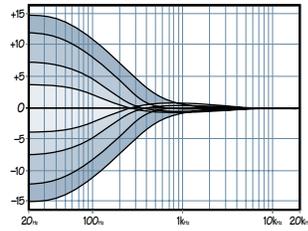
#### 9. FREQ

This knob ranges from 100 Hz to 2 kHz for the LOW MID EQ, and 400 Hz to 8 kHz for the HIGH MID EQ. This determines the center frequency for the EQ filter, and allows you to zero in on the precise narrow band of frequencies you want to have affected by the LOW MID and HIGH MID EQ.



**Mid EQ Freq Sweep**

## 10. LOW EQ



Low EQ

This control gives you up to 15 dB of boost or cut at 80 Hz. The circuit is flat (no boost or cut) at the center detent position. This frequency represents the punch in bass drums, bass guitar, fat synth patches, and some really serious male singers.

**Note:** Used in conjunction with the Low Cut switch, you can boost the LOW EQ without injecting tons of infrasonic debris into the mix.

## 11. AUX Sends

These six knobs tap a portion of each channel's signal out to either an effects processor or for stage monitoring. The AUX Send levels are controlled by the channel's AUX 1-6 knobs, and by the AUX MASTER 1-6 knobs.

These are more than just effects and monitor sends. They can be used to generate separate mixes for recording, for another zone, or "mix-minuses" for broadcast or conference rooms.

## 12. PAN

PAN adjusts the amount of channel signal sent to the left versus the right outputs.

With the PAN knob hard left, the signal feeds the MAIN LEFT, SUB 1, or SUB 3 buses, depending on the setting of the ASSIGN switches. With the knob hard right, the signal feeds the MAIN RIGHT, SUB 2, or SUB 4 buses.



**Constant Loudness:** The Onyx 1640's PAN control employs a design called "Constant Loudness." If you have a channel panned hard left (or right) and then pan to the center, the signal is attenuated about 3 dB to maintain the same apparent loudness. Otherwise, it would make the sound appear much louder when panned center.

## 13. MUTE

Engaging a channel's MUTE switch provides (almost) the same results as turning the fader all the way down (a pre-aux send is not affected by the channel fader, but it is by the MUTE switch). Any channel assignments to MAIN MIX, SUB 1-2, or SUB 3-4 will be interrupted, all the AUX sends will be silenced (both pre- and post-fader), as will the AFL SOLO. The RECORDING OUT, channel INSERT, and PFL SOLO will continue to provide a signal when a channel is muted.

The LED next to the MUTE switch lights to let you know when the MUTE function is active.

## 14. Channel Fader

The fader controls the channel's level...from off to unity gain at the "U" marking, on up to 10 dB of additional gain.



### "U" Like Unity Gain

Mackie mixers have a "U" symbol on almost every level control. This "U" stands for "unity gain," meaning no change in signal level. Once you have adjusted the input signal to line-level, you can set every control at "U" and your signals will travel through the mixer at optimal levels. What's more, all the labels on our level controls are measured in decibels (dB), so you'll know what you're doing level-wise if you choose to change a control's settings.

## 15. Signal Level LEDs

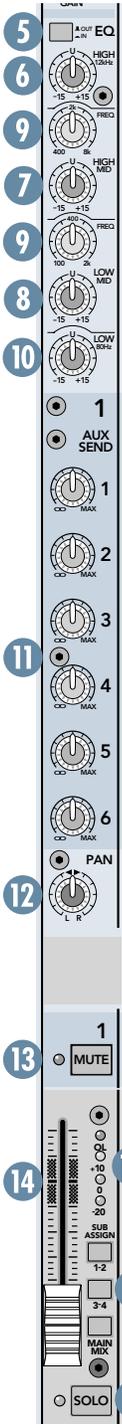
These LEDs indicate the channel's signal level after the GAIN control, INSERT jack, and EQ controls, but just prior to the channel's fader. So even if the fader is turned down, you can see if a signal is present.

If you've followed the "Set the Levels" procedure, the -20 and 0 LEDs should light frequently, the +10 LED should light occasionally, and the OL (Overload) LED should not light at all. If the OL LED is blinking frequently, the signal is probably distorted from overdriving the input. Either turn down the GAIN control or turn down the signal at its source.

## 16. ASSIGN Switches

Alongside each channel fader are three buttons referred to as channel assignment switches. Used in conjunction with the channel's PAN knob, they are used to determine the destination of the channel's signal.

With the PAN knob [12] at the center detent, the left and right sides receive equal signal levels (MAIN MIX L-R, SUB 1-2, and SUB 3-4). To feed only one side or the other, turn the PAN knob accordingly.



If you're doing a mixdown to a 2-track, for example, simply engage the MAIN MIX switch on each channel that you want to hear, and they'll be sent to the MAIN MIX bus. If you want to create a subgroup of certain channels, engage either the 1-2 or 3-4 switches instead of the MAIN MIX, and they'll be sent to the appropriate subgroup faders. From there, the subgroups can be sent back to the MAIN MIX (using the SUB ASSIGN switches [43] above the subgroup faders), allowing you to use the subgroup faders as a master control for those channels.

If you're creating new tracks or bouncing existing ones, you'll also use the 1-2 and 3-4 switches, but not the MAIN MIX switch. Here, you don't want the subgroups sent back into the MAIN MIX bus, but sent out, via the SUB OUT jacks [60], to your multitrack inputs. However, if you're printing tracks via the RECORDING OUTS [63] (or via the optional FireWire card), the channel assignment switches don't matter because the RECORDING OUTS come before the ASSIGN switches.

The Onyx 1640 is what we call a "true 4-bus mixer." Each channel can be assigned or unassigned to any of the subgroups without affecting the other subgroups or settings within the channel, and each subgroup has its own master fader and dedicated output. In fact, since there are four subgroups *and* the MAIN MIX, it's actually a true 6-bus mixer. We should have named it the Onyx 1660!

## 17. SOLO Switch

This handy switch allows you to hear signals through your headphones or control room outputs without having to route them to the MAIN or SUB mixes. Folks use solo in live work to preview channels before they are let into the mix, or just to check out what a particular channel is up to anytime during a session. You can solo as many channels at a time as you like.

Your Onyx 1640 has "Dual-Mode Solo." A switch in the master section, SOLO MODE [34] determines which mode you'll be hearing. With the switch up, you'll get "PFL" (Pre-Fader Listen), which is after the GAIN and EQ controls, but before the channel fader. With the switch down, you're in "AFL" (After-Fader Listen), which is post-fader and post-PAN, making it ideal for mixdown soloing.

Soloed channels are sent to the SOURCE mix [18], which ultimately feeds your CONTROL ROOM, PHONES, and Meters. Whenever SOLO is engaged, all SOURCE selections (MAIN MIX, TAPE, SUB 1-2, SUB 3-4, and FIREWIRE) are defeated, to allow the soloed signal to do just that—solo!

## Control Room Matrix, Metering, and Phones

Typically, the engineer sends the MAIN MIX to an audience (if live) or to a mixdown deck (if recording). But what if the engineer needs to hear something other than the MAIN MIX in the control room or headphones? With the Onyx 1640, the engineer has several choices of what to listen to. This is one of those tricky parts, so buckle up.

## 18. CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE

Using the SOURCE switches, you can choose to listen to any combination of MAIN MIX, TAPE, SUB 1-2, SUB 3-4, and FIREWIRE (optional). By now, you probably know what the MAIN MIX is. TAPE is the stereo signal coming in from the TAPE IN RCA jacks. The four SUBGROUPS can be used for additional mono or stereo mix outputs. FIREWIRE is a 2-track feed coming in through the optional FireWire card from your computer.

Selections made in the SOURCE matrix deliver stereo signals to the C-R OUT, PHONES, and Meters. These signals are tapped after their respective level controls—post-MAIN MIX fader, post-SUB 1-4 faders, and post-TAPE IN knob. With no switches engaged, there will be no signal at these outputs and no meter indication.

The exception to that is the SOLO function. Regardless of the SOURCE matrix selection, engaging a channel's SOLO switch will replace that selection with the SOLO signal, also sent to the CONTROL ROOM, PHONES, and Meters.

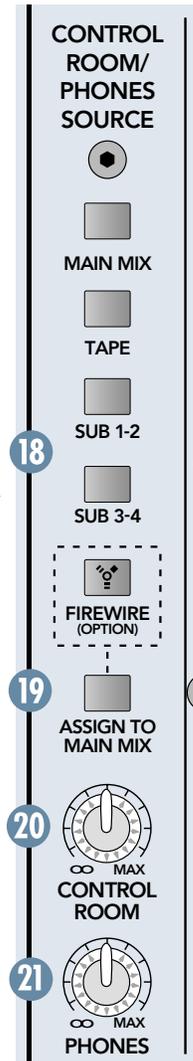


There is an alternate way to get the TAPE, SUB 1-4 and FIREWIRE signals into the Control Room outputs. Each of these signals can be routed

directly to the main mix bus, and then assigned to the C-R OUT and PHONES by selecting MAIN MIX in the SOURCE matrix, the difference being that the signals pass through the MAIN MIX INSERT and MAIN MIX fader first.

Just under the TAPE IN knob, there is a button called TAPE TO MAIN MIX [23]. This routes the stereo tape mix to the main mix bus.

The SUB ASSIGN switches [43] are used to route the subgroups to the left and right main mix bus.



The ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX button [19] routes the stereo mix from the optional FIREWIRE card to the main mix bus.

This gives you the flexibility of monitoring the TAPE, SUB 1-4, or FIREWIRE signals as they appear at the MAIN OUT rather than at a point just after their respective level controls.

### 19. ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX (FIREWIRE)

Let's say you're doing a live show. Intermission is nearing and you have a playlist of MP3 files on your laptop you want to play during the break. Get the optional FireWire card and engage the ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX button to play your MP3s directly from your computer, into the MAIN MIX.

### 20. CONTROL ROOM Knob

This controls the volume at the C-R OUTs [59], from off ( $\infty$ ) to maximum gain (MAX).

### 21. PHONES Knob

This controls the volume at the PHONES output [30], from off ( $\infty$ ) to maximum gain (MAX).

### 22. TAPE IN Knob

This controls the volume at the TAPE input [58], from off ( $\infty$ ) to maximum gain (MAX).

### 23. TAPE TO MAIN MIX

Push this button in to route the TAPE IN signal to the main mix bus.



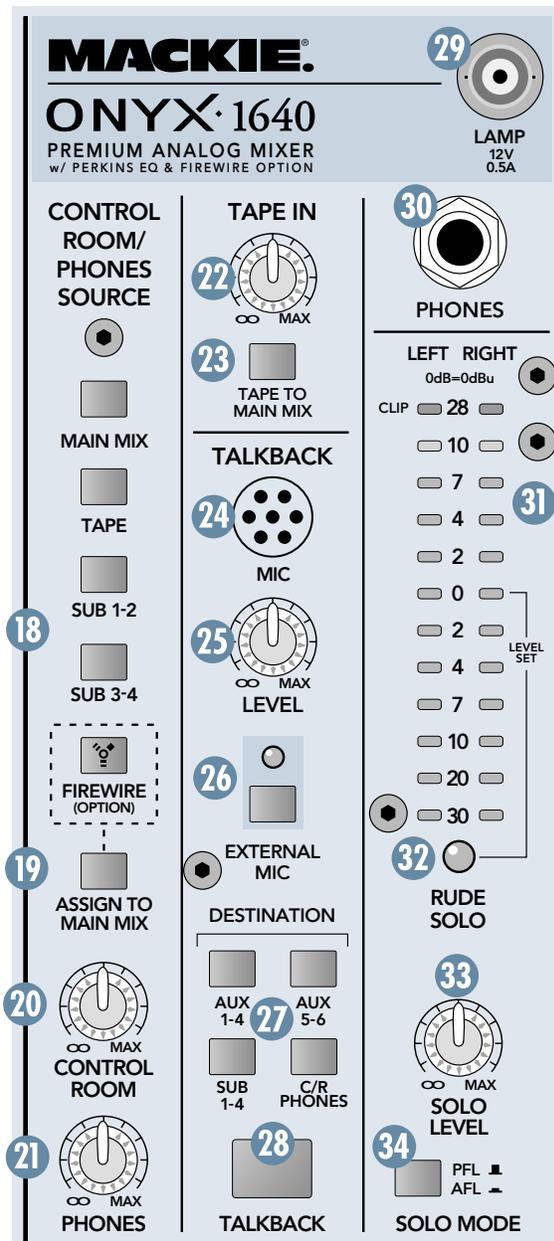
**WARNING:** Pushing in the TAPE TO MAIN MIX button can create a feedback path between TAPE IN and TAPE OUT. Make sure your tape deck is not in record, record-pause, or input monitor mode when you engage this switch, or make sure the TAPE IN knob [22] is turned all the way down (off) when recording.

## TALKBACK Section

The talkback feature allows the engineer to communicate with the talent either through the PHONES output [30], the AUX 1-4 outputs [62], the AUX 5-6 outputs, or the SUB 1-4 outputs [60]. A talkback microphone is built into the Onyx 1640, or you have the option of connecting an external microphone at the TALKBACK MIC XLR [51] connector on the rear panel, which may be preferable in live or noisy situations.

### 24. Internal TALKBACK MIC

This is where the built-in talkback microphone is located. This is an omni-directional dynamic microphone, so it will pick up your voice from anywhere in front of the mixer.



## 25. TALKBACK LEVEL

Use this knob to control the level of the talkback signal being routed to the various outputs. This controls the talkback level for either the internal or external TALKBACK MICs.

You should start with the TALKBACK LEVEL control turned down, and then slowly turn it up until you get confirmation from whoever is listening to headphones or monitors that they can hear you. Once you have set the level, you can leave it there for the duration of the session (or the gig).

## 26. EXTERNAL MIC Switch

If you are in a noisy environment, the built-in talkback mic may not work as well because it picks up the ambient noise as well as your voice. You will probably have better results if you use an external microphone that you can talk directly into.

If you are using an external mic, you must push in the EXTERNAL MIC switch. The indicating LED lets you know when the switch is pushed. When the switch is out, the built-in TALKBACK MIC is used, regardless of whether or not you have an external mic plugged in. When the switch is pushed in, the built-in mic is disconnected and only the external mic is used.

## 27. DESTINATION

Push in the CR/PHONES switch to route the talkback signal to the PHONES [30] output. Use this to communicate with the talent in the studio through the headphones during a recording session. When the talkback circuit is activated (by pushing the TALKBACK [28] switch) and the CR/PHONES switch is in, the CONTROL ROOM outputs are attenuated by 20 dB to allow the engineer's voice to come through loud and clear.

Push in the AUX 1-4 switch to route the talkback signal to the AUX 1 through 4 outputs [62]. Use this to communicate with the musicians on-stage through their monitors during a live performance, or to studio musicians through a headphone distribution system.

Push in the AUX 5-6 switch to route the talkback signal to the AUX 5 and 6 outputs. This splits up the talkback signal in the AUX SENDS so you can talk to one group without the other group hearing (e.g., "Yeah, I know the drummer sucks. We're firing him on Monday!")

Push in the SUB 1-4 switch to route the talkback signal to the SUB 1-4 OUTs [60].

By the way, it is okay to have any combination, or all, of the destination switches pushed in at the same time. The talkback signal will be routed to all the destinations. But if you don't have any of the destina-

tion switches pushed in, the talkback signal won't go anywhere. You might as well be talking to a brick wall.

## 28. TALKBACK Switch

This is a momentary switch, meaning it's only active when you hold the switch down. As long as you hold this switch down, the talkback signal is routed to the outputs determined by the destination switches [27]. Release the switch, and the talkback circuit is turned off.

## 29. LAMP

This female BNC connector provides 12 volts DC on its center pin. Connect any quality gooseneck lamp here.

## 30. PHONES

This is where you plug in your stereo headphones. It is a 1/4" TRS stereo jack and provides the same signal that is routed to the CONTROL ROOM outputs [59], as determined by the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE matrix [18]. The volume is controlled with the PHONES knob [21].



**WARNING:** The headphone amp is designed to drive any standard headphones to a very loud level. We're not kidding! It can cause permanent hearing damage. Even intermediate levels may be painfully loud with some headphones. **BE CAREFUL!** Always start with the PHONES level turned all the way down before connecting headphones to the PHONES jack. Keep it down until you've put on the headphones. Then turn it up slowly. Why? Always remember: *"Engineers who fry their ears, find themselves with short careers."*

## 31. LEFT/RIGHT Level Meters

The Onyx 1640's peak meters are made up of two columns of twelve LEDs, with three colors to indicate different ranges of signal level, traffic light style. They range from -30 at the bottom, to 0 in the middle, to +20 (CLIP) at the top.

The 0 LED in the middle is labeled LEVEL SET to show where the level should be when adjusting a channel's gain in the solo mode, as described in "Set the Levels" on page 5.

If nothing is selected in the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE matrix [18] and no channels are in SOLO, the meters won't do anything. To display a signal level, a source must be selected in the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE matrix, which feeds the CONTROL ROOM [59] and PHONES [30] outputs. The meters reflect the program level of the selected source prior to the CONTROL ROOM and PHONES [20/21] level knobs.

The reason for this is because you want the meters to reflect what the engineer is listening to, and as we've covered, the engineer is listening either to the CONTROL ROOM outputs or the PHONES outputs. The only difference is that while the listening levels are controlled by the CONTROL ROOM and PHONES knobs, the meters indicate the SOURCE mix before those knobs, giving you the real facts at all times, even if you're not listening at all.

When a channel is soloed, the meters change to reflect the level of that channel's signal level, pre- or post-fader, depending on the SOLO MODE [25] setting.



You may already be an expert at the world of "+4" (+4 dBu=1.23 V) and "-10" (-10 dBV=0.32 V) operating levels. What makes a mixer one or the other is the relative 0 dB VU (or 0 VU) chosen for the meters. A "+4" mixer, with +4 dBu pouring out the back will actually read 0 VU on its meters. A "-10" mixer, with a -10 dBV signal trickling out will read, you guessed it, 0 VU on its meters. So when is 0 VU actually 0 dBu? Right now!

Mackie mixers show things as they really are. When 0 dBu (0.775 V) is at the outputs, it shows as 0 dB VU on the meters. What could be easier? By the way, the most wonderful thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from.

Thanks to the Onyx 1640's wide dynamic range, you can get a good mix with peaks flashing anywhere between -20 and +10 dB on the meters. Most amplifiers clip at about +10 dBu, and some recorders aren't so forgiving either. For best real-world results, try to keep your peaks between "0" and "+7."

Remember, audio meters are just tools to help assure you that your levels are "in the ballpark." You don't have to stare at them (unless you want to).

### 32. RUDE SOLO Light

This large green LED flashes on and off when a channel's solo is active, as an additional reminder beyond the indicating LEDs next to each SOLO button. If you work on a mixer that has a solo function with no indicator lights and you happen to forget you're in solo mode, you can easily be tricked into thinking that something is wrong with your mixer. Hence, the RUDE SOLO light. It's

especially handy at about 3 am when no sound is coming out of your monitors but your multitrack is playing back like mad.

### 33. SOLO LEVEL

The SOLO LEVEL control is used to adjust the volume of the solo'ed signal as it is routed to the CONTROL ROOM and PHONES outputs. This control is independent of, and prior to, the CONTROL ROOM and PHONES level controls.

This controls the solo signal level for both PFL and AFL solo modes (see next paragraph).

### 34. SOLO MODE

Engaging a channel's SOLO switch will cause this dramatic turn of events: Any existing SOURCE matrix selections are replaced by the SOLO signal, appearing at the CONTROL ROOM OUTPUTS, PHONES and at the RIGHT METER (LEFT and RIGHT METERS when in AFL SOLO MODE). The audible SOLO levels are then controlled by the CONTROL ROOM knob [20]. The SOLO levels appearing on the meters are not controlled by the CONTROL ROOM knob—you wouldn't want that. You want to see the actual channel level on the meters regardless of how loud you're listening.

With the SOLO MODE switch in the up position, you're in PFL mode, meaning Pre-Fader Listen (post-EQ). This mode is required for the "Set the Levels" procedure and is handy for quick spot-checks of channels, especially ones that have their faders turned down.

With the switch down, you're in AFL mode, meaning After-Fader Listen. You'll hear the stereo output of the soloed channel—it will follow the channel's GAIN, EQ, FADER and PAN settings. It's similar to muting all the other channels, but without the hassle. Use AFL mode during mixdown.

In PFL mode, SOLO will not be affected by a channel's MUTE switch position.



Remember, PFL mode taps the channel signal before the fader. If you have a channel's fader set way below "U" (unity gain), SOLO won't know that and will send a unity gain signal to the to the C-R OUTS, PHONES output, and meter display. That may result in a startling level boost at these outputs when switching from AFL to PFL mode, depending on the position of the SOLO LEVEL knob [33].

**30** PHONES

LEFT RIGHT  
0dB=0dBu

CLIP 28 10 7 4 2 0 2 4 7 10 20 30

**31** LEVEL SET

**32** RUDE SOLO

**33** MAX SOLO LEVEL

**34** PFL AFL SOLO MODE

## Auxiliary Section

This section includes the AUX MASTERS (Sends) and the AUX RETURNS. These can be a bit confusing to the uninitiated, so here's the whole idea behind aux sends and returns: sends are outputs and returns are inputs. AUX SENDs tap signals off the channels, via the AUX knobs [11], mix these signals together, then send them out the AUX SEND jacks [62].

These outputs are fed to the inputs of an external processor like a reverb or digital delay. From there, the outputs of this external device are fed back to the mixer's AUX RETURN jacks [61]. Then these signals are sent through the AUX RETURN level controls [38], and finally delivered to the MAIN MIX [46].

So, the original "dry" signals go from the channels to the MAIN MIX and the affected "wet" signals go from the AUX RETURNS to the MAIN MIX, and once mixed together, the dry and wet signals combine to create a glorious sound!

The AUX SENDS can also be used to provide another mix for stage monitors, for example. In this case, the AUX RETURNS aren't used to return the signal. Instead, they can be used as additional stereo inputs.

### 35. AUX 1-6 MASTERS

The AUX MASTERS provide overall control over the AUX SEND levels, just before they are delivered to the AUX SEND outputs [62]. These knobs go from off ( $\infty$ ) to +15 dB when turned all the way up.

This is usually the knob you turn up when the lead singer glares at you, points at his stage monitor, and sticks his thumb up in the air. (It would follow that if the singer stuck his thumb down, you'd turn the knob down, but that never happens.)

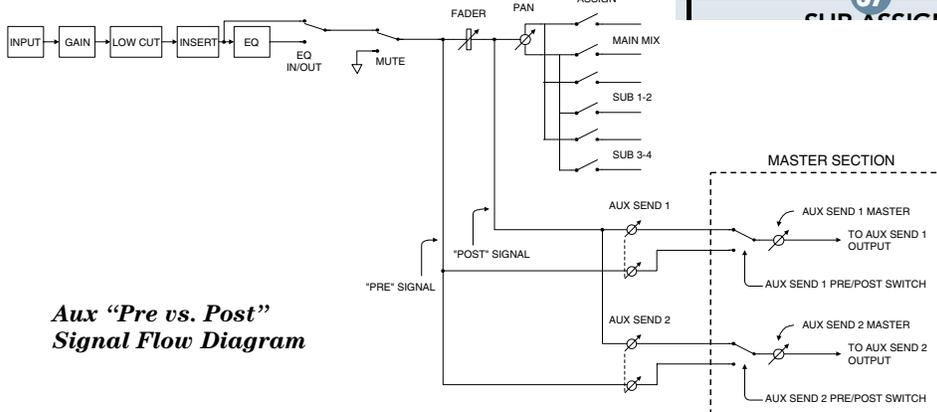
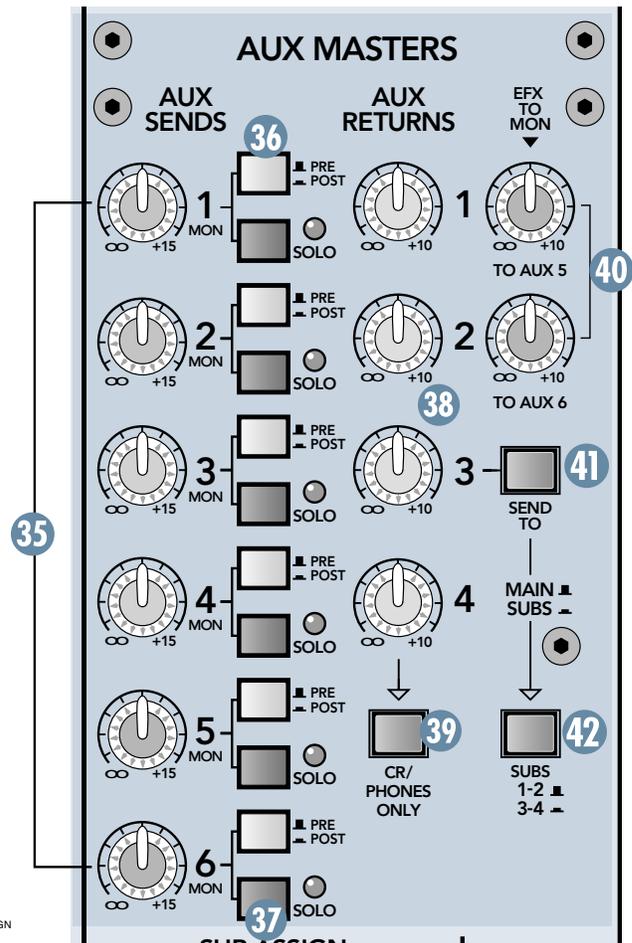
### 36. AUX PRE/POST

The PRE/POST switches determine whether the AUX SEND signal is tapped from the channel before the fader

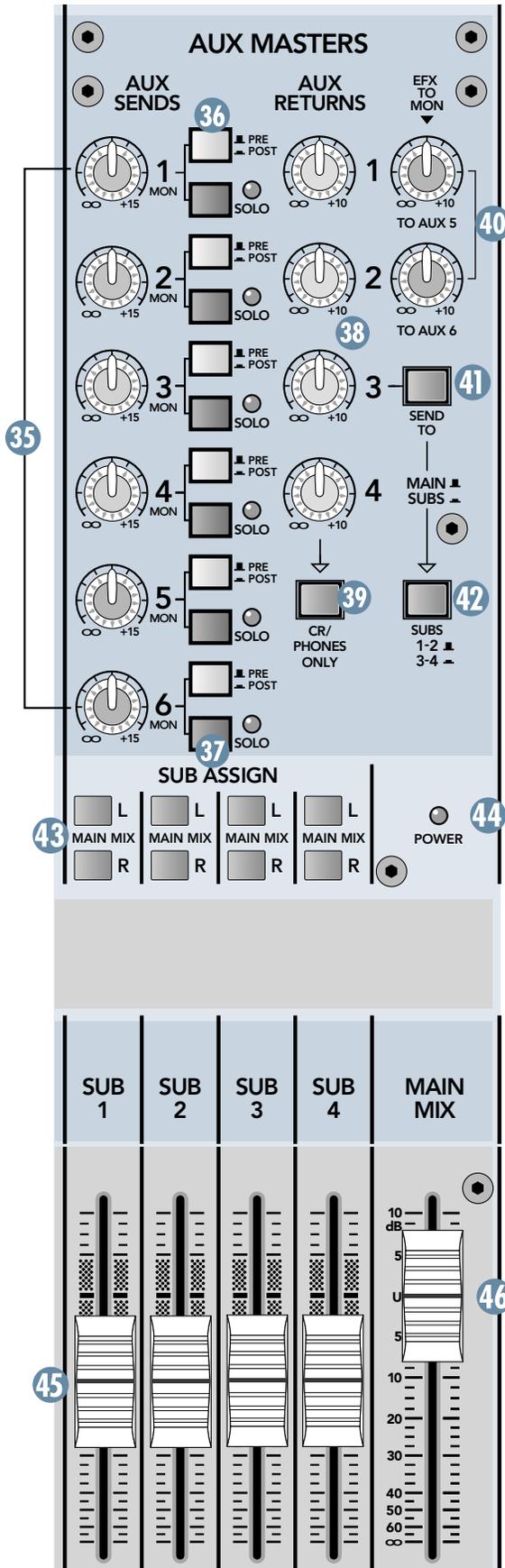
(pre-fader) or after the fader (post-fader). Typically, you use a pre-fader send for monitors so you can control the monitor levels independently from the MAIN MIX. Use a post-fader send for effects, so that the "wet" signal level follows the "dry" signal level.

Most other mixing consoles require you to assign the pre/post function in pairs (Aux 1/2, Aux 3/4), which can be very limiting if you want to provide three monitor sends and one effects send, for example. The Onyx 1640 allows you to assign the pre/post function for each AUX SEND individually!

Both pre- and post-fader sends are affected by the MUTE button and the EQ controls (unless the EQ is bypassed, of course).



**Aux "Pre vs. Post"  
Signal Flow Diagram**



### 37. AUX SENDS SOLO

This button allows you to solo an individual AUX SEND. If you are using the aux sends to feed your stage monitors, you can use these buttons to check your monitor mix. Beside each switch is an indicating LED to let you easily spot a soloed aux send.

The aux send solo is not affected by the SOLO MODE switch (PFL/AFL), except that in PFL mode only the right meter indicates the signal. The aux send's PFL/AFL status is determined by the PRE/POST switches next to the AUX SEND MASTERS.

### 38. AUX 1-4 RETURNS

These four controls set the overall level of effects received from the stereo AUX RETURN 1-4 inputs [61]. These controls range from off ( $\infty$ ) to +10 dB of gain when fully clockwise, to compensate for low-level effects.

Signals passing through the AUX RETURN level controls proceed directly to the MAIN MIX bus where they are combined with the other channels just before the MAIN MIX fader [38].

### 39. AUX RETURN 4 to CR/PHONES ONLY

When this button is up, AUX RETURN 4 is routed to the MAIN MIX bus, just as the AUX RETURNS 1-3 are. When the button is down, the AUX RETURN 4 stereo signal is routed to the CR/PHONES matrix instead. It doesn't matter if any of the SOURCE buttons are assigned, but it will be interrupted, as usual, if a SOLO button is engaged.

Let's pretend you're doing a live mix to a 2-track deck, a house PA, or both, and you want to play along to a click track. You could run the click track directly into the MAIN MIX, but you don't want the mixdown deck or the audience to hear it. Oh yeah, you can route it to the control room and phones output instead! Similarly, it can be used for voice-over tracks, narration, anything you want heard by the engineer and players but not by the audience and mixdown deck.

### 40. EFX TO MON Level Controls

These controls route the signal from AUX RETURNS 1 and 2 to the AUX 5 and 6 SENDS. This allows you to use an external effects device, like a reverb or delay, exclusively for the monitors. When these controls are turned up, the stereo effects return signal is summed to mono and combined with the signals coming from all the channel AUX 5 and AUX 6 send controls.

If you want to add reverb or delay to the stage monitor mixes, these are the knobs for you. Operating independently of their respectively numbered AUX RETURNS level controls, these knobs are exactly the same as the AUX 5 and AUX 6 knobs found in the channel strip.

These two knobs feed their respective stereo AUX RETURN signals to a mono summing amp and then: TO AUX 5 feeds AUX RETURN 1 to AUX SEND 5 master, and TO AUX 6 feeds AUX RETURN 2 to AUX SEND 6 master. They are off when turned fully down, and provide up to 10 dB gain turned fully up.

#### 41. AUX RETURN 3 SEND TO MAIN/SUBS

With this button up, AUX RETURN 3 behaves like the other AUX RETURNS—it delivers a stereo signal, regulated by its level knob, to the MAIN MIX. When you push this button in, the AUX RETURN 3 signals are removed from the MAIN MIX buses and sent to the SUBS 1-2/3-4 switch, which diverts the signal once more. We're not finished. Please read on.

#### 42. SUBS 1-2/3-4

If the AUX RETURN 3 SEND TO MAIN/SUBS button is up, the SUBS 1-2/3-4 button does absolutely nothing. Let's now assume it is pushed in. AUX RETURN 3's stereo signal will not be sent to the MAIN MIX, but to the subgroup faders 1 and 2 (SUBS 1-2/3-4 button up) or to subgroup faders 3 and 4 (SUBS 1-2/3-4 button down).

Let's say you've made a stereo drum submix on subgroup faders 1 and 2, so you can ride those two faders instead of the seven channels that the drums came from. Subgroup fader 1 has its ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX LEFT button engaged and subgroup fader 2 has its ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX RIGHT button engaged, blending the drum submix back into the MAIN MIX. The drum channels are also sending signals to your reverb via the AUX sends and the reverb outputs are patched into the AUX RETURN 3. So far, so good.

Even though you could send AUX RETURN 3 directly to the MAIN MIX (AUX RETURN 3 SEND TO MAIN/SUBS button up), you don't want to. Instead, engage the AUX RETURN 3 SEND TO MAIN/SUBS switch and make sure the SUBS 1-2/3-4 switch is up. Now the reverb return is blended into the drum submix, and as you ride the two subgroup faders, the reverb level will follow.

Why do we want that? Because if you had just sent the reverb directly to the MAIN MIX (AUX RETURN 3 SEND TO MAIN/SUBS button up) and you did a drum fade-out using the subgroup faders 1 and 2, the "dry" signals would fade out, but the "wet" signals would keep on singing. All you would hear is the drum reverb (the "wet"), and none of the original drum signals (the "dry"). That's because the reverb is being fed by the channel's AUX SEND, and they have no idea that you've pulled down the subgroup faders. That's why we threw in these switches.

#### 45. SUB 1-4 Faders

As you might expect, these faders control the levels of the signals sent to the SUB OUTS. All channels that are assigned to subgroups, not muted, and not turned fully down will appear at the SUB OUTS. Unlike the MAIN OUT, the subgroup signals do not pass through an insert jack on their way to the subgroup faders. That's no problem—should you want to send these signals through a serial effects processor, simply patch from the SUB OUTS to the effect's input, and from the effect's output to whatever the final destination is, usually a multitrack recorder.

The subgroup signal is off when its fader is fully down, the "U" marking is unity gain, and fully up provides 10 dB additional gain. Remember that if you're treating two subgroups as a stereo pair, subgroup 1 and 2 for example, make sure that both subgroup faders "ride" together to maintain the left/right balance.

#### 43. SUB ASSIGN

One popular use of the subgroups is to use them as master faders for a group of channels on their way to the MAIN MIX. Let's say you've got a drum kit hogging up seven channels and you're going to want to fade them out at a different rate than the other channels. You don't want to try that with seven hands or seven fingers, so just un-assign these channels from the MAIN MIX, reassign them to subgroups 1-2, engage the ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX LEFT on subgroup 1 and ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX RIGHT on subgroup 2. Now you can ride the entire drum mix with two faders—subgroups 1 and 2.

If you engage just one ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX button per subgroup (LEFT or RIGHT), the signal sent to the MAIN MIX will be the same level as the SUB OUTS. If you want the subgroup to appear in the center of the main mix, engage both the ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX LEFT and RIGHT buttons. The signal will be sent to both sides.

#### 44. POWER LED

This LED performs one function—it lets you know when the Onyx 1640 is turned on and ready to go!

#### 46. MAIN MIX Fader

The MAIN MIX fader controls the output level just before the MAIN OUTPUTS (1/4" and XLR) [52/54] and the TAPE OUTPUTS [58]. When MAIN MIX is selected for the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE [18], the MAIN MIX fader [46] also controls the main mix level in the CONTROL ROOM and PHONES outputs [59/30].

When the fader is fully down, the MAIN MIX is off. The "U" marking indicates unity gain, and fully up provides 10 dB of additional gain. Typically, this fader is set near the "U" label and left alone, but it can be used for song fade-outs or quick system-wide mutes.

## Rear Panel

This is where all the connections are made to the Onyx 1640 (except the headphones and the lamp).

One of the things that revolutionized the compact mixer industry was the “convertible pod” found on the original, classic CR-1604. Using an ordinary phillips screwdriver, the mixer could be converted from desk-top mode (as it comes from the factory) to rackmount mode. Fear not. This feature is so popular that we have kept it in the Onyx 1640. Refer to Appendix D for instructions on converting the I/O pod for rack mounting.

A third option allows you to rotate the pod so that the jacks are on the same plane as all the knobs, buttons, and faders. This is a lifesaver when you have to do frequent repatching of the connectors. This, however, requires the optional rotopod bracket, not supplied with the Onyx 1640. Contact your Mackie dealer for details.

### 47. MIC Input

This is a female XLR connector, which accepts a balanced microphone input from almost any type of microphone. The microphone preamps feature our new Onyx design, with higher fidelity and headroom rivaling any standalone mic preamp on the market today.

The XLR inputs are wired as follows:

- Pin 1 = Shield or ground
- Pin 2 = Positive (+ or hot)
- Pin 3 = Negative (- or cold)

### 48. LINE Input (Channels 3-16)

This is a 1/4" TRS connector, which accepts a balanced or unbalanced line-level input signal from almost any source.

When connecting a balanced signal to the LINE inputs, wire them as follows:

- Tip = Positive (+ or hot)
- Ring = Negative (- or cold)
- Sleeve = Shield or ground

When connecting an unbalanced signal, wire them as follows:

- Tip = Positive (+ or hot)
- Sleeve = Shield or ground

### 49. HI-Z Instrument Input (Channels 1-2)

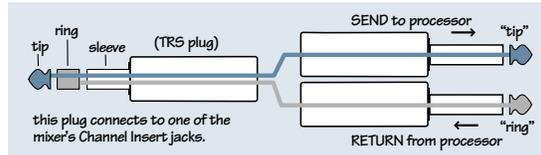
This is a 1/4" connector, which accepts an unbalanced instrument-level input signal from a high-impedance instrument like a guitar.

### 50. CHANNEL INSERT

These 1/4" TRS jacks provide a send and return point for channels 1-16. Use the CHANNEL INSERT jacks to connect serial effects devices such as compressors, equalizers, de-essers, or filters to each individual channel.

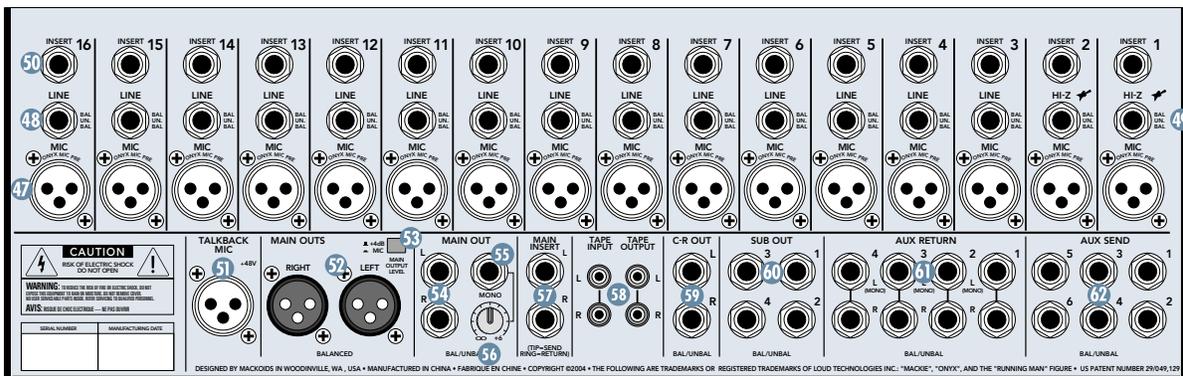
The INSERT points are after the GAIN and Low Cut controls, but before the EQ and Fader controls. The send (tip) is low-impedance, capable of driving any device. The return (ring) is high-impedance and can be driven by almost any device.

Special insert cables are available, specially designed for this kind of insert jack. They are wired as follows:

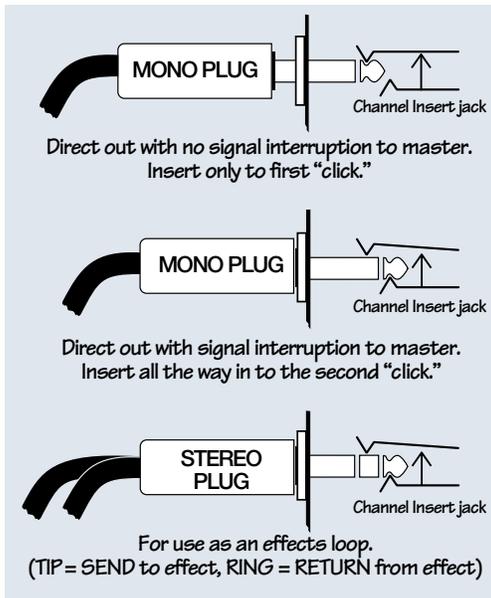


- Tip = Send (output to effects device)
- Ring = Return (input from effects device)
- Sleeve = Common ground (connect shield to all three sleeves)

Besides being used for inserting external devices, these jacks can also be used as channel direct outputs; post-GAIN, post-LOW CUT, and pre-EQ. This is an unbalanced direct out, in contrast to the RECORDING OUTS on the rear panel, which are balanced direct outputs, post-GAIN, pre-LOW CUT.



Here are three ways you use the INSERT jacks:



## 51. TALKBACK MIC

This is where you plug in your external talkback microphone if you need to have one. This female XLR connector has +48 VDC phantom power always applied, so you can use dynamic or condenser microphones.

**Note:** Almost all dynamic microphones can be used with phantom power, but you might want to check the documentation that came with your microphone to be sure.

## 52. RIGHT/LEFT MAIN OUTPUTS

These male XLR connectors provide a balanced line-level signal that represent the end of the mixer chain, where your fully mixed stereo signal enters the real world. Connect these to the inputs of your main power amplifiers, powered speakers, or serial effects processor (like a graphic equalizer or compressor/limiter). It provides a fully balanced signal that is the same as the 1/4" TRS MAIN OUT jacks next door (except the 1/4" jacks are not affected by the MAIN OUTPUT LEVEL switch).

## 53. MAIN OUTPUT LEVEL

When this switch is out (+4 dB), the XLR MAIN OUTPUTS provide a +4 dBu line-level signal. When the switch is pushed in (MIC), the signal is attenuated by 40 dB to a microphone level. You can connect the XLR MAIN OUTPUTS to the microphone inputs of another mixer, providing a submix for keyboards or drums, for example, in a live sound application.

**Note:** You can safely plug this output into a microphone input that provides 48 V phantom power.

## 54. MAIN OUT

These 1/4" TRS output connectors provide balanced or unbalanced line-level signals. This is the same signal that appears at the XLR MAIN OUTPUTS [52] (except the 1/4" jacks are not affected by the MAIN OUTPUT LEVEL switch). Connect these to the next device in the signal chain like an external processor (graphic equalizer or compressor/limiter), or directly to the inputs of the main amplifier.

## 55. MONO OUT

This 1/4" TRS output connector provides a balanced or unbalanced line-level signal that is a combination of the left and right MAIN OUT signals (L+R). You can use this for a separate mix that doesn't require a stereo feed, or to simply test the monaural compatibility of your stereo mix.

## 56. MONO OUT LEVEL Control

This is a separate level control for the MONO OUT. It comes after the MAIN MIX fader but before the MAIN OUTPUT LEVEL switch, so turning the MAIN MIX fader up and down does affect the MONO OUT signal. With this control turned all the way up, you'll have 6 dB of extra gain at the MONO OUT.

## 57. MAIN INSERTS

These 1/4" TRS jacks are for connecting serial effects such as compressors, equalizers, deessers, or filters. The insert point is after the mix amps, but before the MAIN MIX fader. Refer to the description of the channel insert on the previous page to see how to make this connection.

## 58. TAPE IN/OUT

These RCA jacks are used to connect to the inputs and outputs of a tape recorder or other recording device.

The TAPE IN jacks accept an unbalanced signal from a tape recorder or other signal source (could be a CD player, if you want) using standard hi-fi hookup cables. The signal is routed to the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE matrix [18]. Push in the TAPE button to route the tape input to the CONTROL ROOM and PHONES outputs [59/30]. This allows you to playback recordings of your mixes.

Push in the TAPE TO MAIN MIX button [23] to route the tape input to the MAIN OUTs [52/54]. This allows you to playback music between sets over the main PA speakers.



**WARNING!** Pushing the TAPE TO MAIN MIX button can create a feedback path between TAPE IN and TAPE OUT. Make sure your tape deck is not in record, record pause, or input monitor mode when you engage these switches, or make sure the TAPE IN level control is turned all the way down.

The TAPE OUT jacks produce an unbalanced signal that is tapped off the MAIN OUTs. Normally, you would connect these to the inputs of a recorder, but you can use them as an extra set of main outputs for feeding another zone, for example.

## 59. CONTROL RM Outputs

These 1/4" TRS jacks provide a balanced line-level signal that can be used to provide another main mix output (with MAIN MIX selected in the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE), or to monitor the SUB 1-2 outputs, SUB 3-4 outputs, TAPE inputs, or a 2-track feed from your computer (with the optional FireWire card installed).

Connect these outputs to the inputs of an amplifier, powered speaker, headphone distribution amplifier, or recording device.

## 60. SUB Outputs

These 1/4" TRS jacks are usually patched to the inputs of a multitrack deck, or to secondary amplifiers in a complex installation.

## 61. AUX RETURN 1-4

These 1/4" TRS input connectors accept balanced or unbalanced line-level stereo signals from an external processor or other device. The stereo AUX RETURNS use a technique called jack normalling. If a signal is plugged into the LEFT (MONO) side and nothing is plugged into the RIGHT side, the signal is automatically connected to both LEFT and RIGHT sides. As soon as something is plugged into the RIGHT side, the normalled connection is broken and the LEFT and RIGHT inputs become stereo inputs (LEFT goes to the LEFT MAIN OUT and RIGHT goes to the RIGHT MAIN OUT).

## 62. AUX SEND 1-6

These 1/4" TRS output connectors provide balanced or unbalanced line-level signals for connecting to the inputs of effects devices or stage monitor amplifiers.

## 63. RECORDING OUTS

These two DB-25 connectors provide balanced direct outputs for channels 1-8 and 9-16, respectively. They are designed to be connected directly to a recorder's analog inputs, and use the TASCAM standard pinout for analog signal connections (the same standard used on the analog cards for the Mackie D8B and Hard Disk Recorder).

The signal at the RECORDING OUTS comes just after the input GAIN control, and before the Low-Cut switch, INSERT jacks, and EQ. This way you can EQ a channel, connect a compressor or other dynamics processor to the INSERT jack, and adjust the channel fader to suit your live mix, but it has no effect on the signal going to the recorder. This provides maximum flexibility for the mixdown stage.

See Appendix B for a wiring diagram of these connectors.

## 64. FIREWIRE I/O OPTION

Okay, we saved the best for last (well, almost last). FireWire (a.k.a. IEEE 1394) is a high-speed serial I/O interface for connecting digital devices, with more than 30 times the bandwidth of USB 1.1. You can install the optional Onyx FireWire card in this slot, which provides an interface for transferring digital audio to and from your laptop computer or digital audio workstation (DAW) with absolute zero latency.

The FireWire interface provides the direct outputs for all sixteen channels and the Left/Right Mix. The Left/Right Mix is pre-fader at the FireWire output, so its level is independent of the MAIN MIX fader (important for live gigs). Instead, it has a rotary level control that provides 10 dB of boost or cut for the Left/Right mix, to optimize the level for the recorder or DAW. Use the FireWire interface to record a live performance directly to your laptop, which you can mixdown to a stereo mix later. Or you can use it to turn your Onyx mixer into a high-quality computer audio interface for your DAW.

The card also provides a return for two channels from the DAW, which can be routed through the CONTROL ROOM/PHONES SOURCE matrix [18] via the FIREWIRE button, to monitor the computer audio through your control room speakers or headphones (or through the main speakers if ASSIGN TO MAIN MIX is selected).

The FireWire interface works with both PC and Mac. As an added bonus, we include a free copy of Tracktion with the FireWire card, our multitrack recording and sequencing software application for PC and Mac.

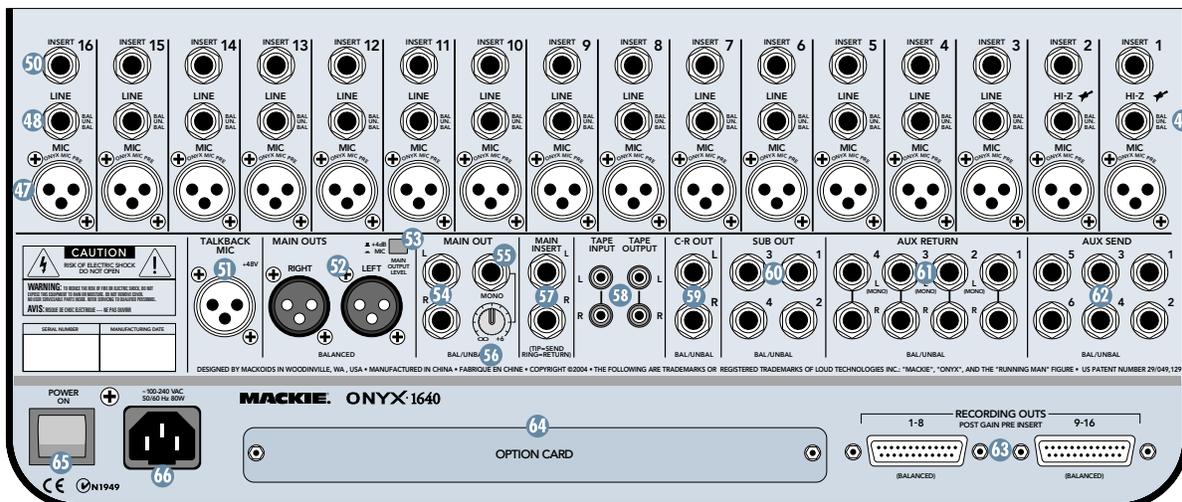
Visit our website at [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com) for more information about the Onyx FireWire card.

## 65. POWER Switch

This one is self-explanatory. When the POWER switch is turned ON, power is supplied to the Onyx 1640 and the POWER LED on the front panel lights up.

## 66. Power Receptacle

This is a standard 3-prong IEC power connector. Connect the detachable linecord (included in the box with your Onyx 1640) to the power receptacle, and plug the other end of the linecord into an AC outlet. The Onyx 1640 has a universal power supply that can accept any AC voltage ranging from 100 VAC to 240 VAC. No need for voltage select switches. It will work virtually anywhere in the world. That's why we call it a "Planet-Earth" power supply! This also means that it is less susceptible to voltage sags or spikes, providing greater electromagnetic isolation and better protection against AC line noise.



# Appendix A: Service Information

## Warranty Service

Details concerning Warranty Service are spelled out in the Warranty section on page 35.

If you think your Onyx mixer has a problem, please do everything you can to confirm it before calling for service. Doing so might save you from the deprivation of your Onyx mixer and the associated suffering.

These may sound obvious to you, but here are some things you can check. Read on.

## Troubleshooting

### No Power

- Our favorite question: Is it plugged in?
- Make sure the power cord is securely seated in the IEC socket [66] and plugged all the way into the AC outlet.
- Make sure the AC outlet is live (check with a tester or lamp).
- Is the POWER [65] switch on? Make sure the POWER switch on the rear panel is in the ON position (up).
- Is the POWER LED [44] on the front panel illuminated? If not, make sure the AC outlet is live.
- Are all the lights out in your building? If so, contact your local power company to get power restored.
- If the POWER LED is not illuminated, and you are certain that the AC outlet is live, it will be necessary to have your Onyx 1640 serviced. *There are no user serviceable parts inside.* Refer to “Repair” at the end of this section to find out how to proceed.

### Bad Channel

- Is the MUTE button [13] pushed in?
- Is the input GAIN control [4] for the channel turned up?
- Is the fader [14] turned up?
- Is the signal source turned up? Make sure the signal level from the selected input source is high enough to light up some of the INPUT meter [15] LEDs next to the channel’s fader.
- Is the channel assigned to a bus (SUB ASSIGN or MAIN MIX button pushed in)?

- If it is channel 1 or 2, make sure the MIC/HI-Z switch [3] is in the right position.
- Is there something plugged into the CHANNEL INSERT jack [50]? Try unplugging any INSERT devices.
- Try the same source signal in another channel, set up exactly like the suspect channel.

### Bad Output

- Is the associated level control (if any) turned up?
- If it’s one of the MAIN OUTPUTS, try unplugging all the others. For example, if it’s the 1/4" LEFT MAIN OUT, unplug the RCA LEFT TAPE OUT and XLR LEFT OUTPUT. If the problem goes away, it’s not the mixer.
- If it’s a stereo pair, try switching them around. For example, if a left output is presumed dead, switch the left and right cords at the mixer end. If the problem stays on the left side, it’s not the mixer.

### Bad Sound

- Is the input connector plugged completely into the jack?
- Is it loud and distorted? Make sure the input GAIN control for the input is set correctly. Reduce the signal level on the input source if possible.
- If possible, listen to the signal with headphones plugged into the input source device. If it sounds bad there, it’s not the Onyx causing the problem.

### Noise/Hum

- Turn down the AUX RETURN knobs [38]. If the noise disappears, it’s coming from whatever is plugged into the AUX RETURNS [61].
- Turn down each channel, one by one. If the noise disappears, it’s coming from whatever is plugged into that channel.
- Check the signal cables between the input sources and the Onyx. Disconnect them one by one. When the noise goes away, you’ll know which input source is causing the problem.
- Sometimes it helps to plug all the audio equipment into the same AC circuit so they share a common ground.

## Repair

Service for Mackie products is available at our galactic headquarters, located in sunny Woodinville, Washington. Service for Mackie products living outside the United States can be obtained through local dealers or distributors.

If your Onyx 1640 needs service, follow these instructions:

1. Review the preceding troubleshooting suggestions. Please.
2. Call Tech Support at 1-800-898-3211, 7 am to 5 pm PST, to explain the problem and request an RA (Return Authorization) number. Have your Onyx 1640's serial number ready. **You must have an RA number before you can obtain service at the factory.**
3. Keep this owner's manual and the detachable line-cord. We don't need them to repair the mixer.
4. Pack the mixer in its original package, including endcaps and box. This is **VERY IMPORTANT**. When you call for the RA number, please let Tech Support know if you need new packaging. *Mackie is not responsible for any damage that occurs due to non-factory packaging.*
5. Include a legible note stating your name, shipping address (no P.O. boxes), daytime phone number, RA number, and a detailed description of the problem, including how we can duplicate it.
6. Write the RA number in **BIG PRINT** on top of the box. Units sent to us without the RA number will be refused.
7. Ship the mixer to us. We suggest insurance for all forms of cartage. Ship to this address:
 

**MACKIE**  
**SERVICE DEPARTMENT**  
**16220 Wood-Red Road NE**  
**Woodinville, WA 98072**
8. We'll try to fix the mixer within three to five business days. Ask Tech Support for the latest turnaround times when you call for your RA number. The mixer must be packaged in its original packing box, and must have the RA number on the box. Once it's repaired, we'll ship it back the same way in which it was received. This paragraph does not necessarily apply to non-warranty repair.
 

**Note:** You must have a sales receipt from an Authorized Mackie Dealer to qualify for a warranty repair.

### Need Help?

**You can reach a technical support representative  
Monday through Friday  
from 7 AM to 5 PM PST at:**

**1-800-898-3211**

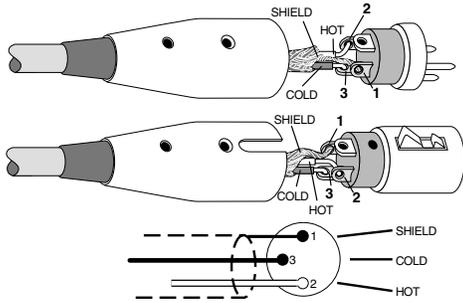
**After hours, visit [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com) and click Support,  
or email us at: [techmail@mackie.com](mailto:techmail@mackie.com)**



# Appendix B: Connections

## XLR Connectors

Channels 1-16 use 3-pin female XLR connectors on the MIC inputs. They are wired as follows, according to standards specified by the AES (Audio Engineering Society).



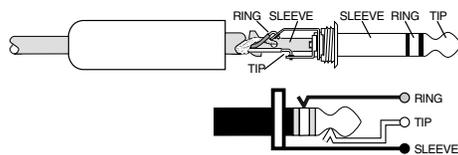
### XLR Balanced Wiring:

- Pin 1 = Shield
- Pin 2 = Hot (+)
- Pin 3 = Cold (-)

## 1/4" TRS Phone Plugs and Jacks

“TRS” stands for Tip-Ring-Sleeve, the three connection points available on a stereo 1/4" or balanced phone jack or plug. TRS jacks and plugs are used for balanced signals and stereo headphones:

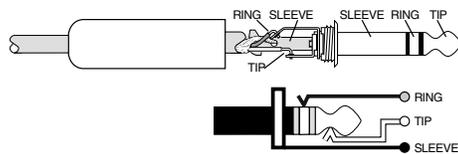
### Balanced Mono



### 1/4" TRS Balanced Mono Wiring:

- Sleeve = Shield
- Tip = Hot (+)
- Ring = Cold (-)

### Stereo Headphones

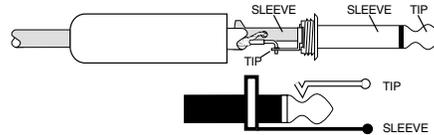


### 1/4" TRS Stereo Unbalanced Wiring:

- Sleeve = Shield
- Tip = Left
- Ring = Right

## 1/4" TS Phone Plugs and Jacks

“TS” stands for Tip-Sleeve, the two connection points available on a mono 1/4" phone jack or plug. They are used for unbalanced signals.



### 1/4" TS Unbalanced Wiring:

- Sleeve = Shield
- Tip = Hot (+)

## RCA Plugs and Jacks

RCA-type plugs (also known as phono plugs) and jacks are often used in home stereo and video equipment and in many other applications. They are unbalanced and electrically equivalent to a 1/4" TS phone plug.



### RCA Unbalanced Wiring:

- Sleeve = Shield
- Tip = Hot (+)

## Unbalancing a Line

In most studio, stage, and sound reinforcement situations, there is a combination of balanced and unbalanced inputs and outputs on the various pieces of equipment. This usually will not be a problem in making connections.

- When connecting a balanced output to an unbalanced input, be sure the signal high (hot) connections are wired to each other, and that the balanced signal low (cold) goes to the ground (earth) connection at the unbalanced input. In most cases, the balanced ground (earth) will also be connected to the ground (earth) at the unbalanced input. If there are ground-loop problems, this connection may be left disconnected at the balanced end.

- When connecting an unbalanced output to a balanced input, be sure that the signal high (hot) connections are wired to each other. The unbalanced ground (earth) connection should be wired to the low (cold) and the ground (earth) connections of the balanced input. If there are ground-loop problems, try disconnecting the unbalanced ground (earth) connection from the balanced input ground (earth) connection, leaving the unbalanced ground connected to the balanced input low (cold) connection only.

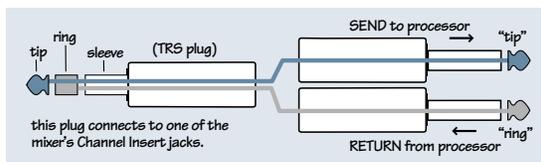
In some cases, you may have to make up special adapters to interconnect your equipment. For example, you may need a balanced XLR female connected to an unbalanced 1/4" TS phone plug. Many common adapters can be found at your local electronics supply store.

The balanced-to-unbalanced connection has been anticipated in the wiring of Mackie jacks. A 1/4" TS plug inserted into a 1/4" TRS balanced input, for example, will automatically unbalance the input and make all the right connections. Conversely, a 1/4" TRS plug inserted into a 1/4" unbalanced input will automatically tie the ring (low or cold) to ground (earth).

## TRS Send/Receive Insert Jacks

Mackie's single-jack inserts are three-conductor 1/4" TRS phone jacks. They are unbalanced, but have both the mixer output (send) and mixer input (return) signals in one connector.

The sleeve is the common ground (earth) for both signals. The send from the mixer to the external unit is carried on the tip, and the return from the unit to the mixer is on the ring.



## Using the Send Only on an Insert Jack

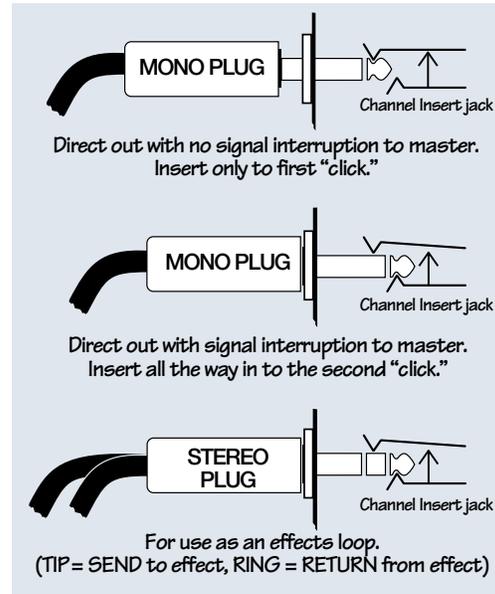
If you insert a 1/4" TS (mono) plug only partially (to the first click) into a Mackie insert jack, the plug will not activate the jack switch and will not open the insert loop in the circuit (thereby allowing the channel signal to continue on its merry way through the mixer).

This allows you to tap out the channel's signal at that point in the circuit without interrupting normal operation.



**Note:** Do not overload or short-circuit the signal you are tapping from the mixer. That will affect the internal signal.

If you push the 1/4" TS plug in to the second click, you will open the jack switch and create a direct out, which does interrupt the signal in that channel.

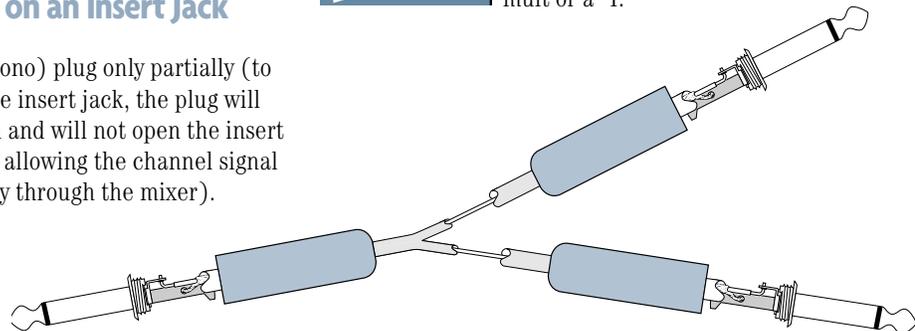


## Mults and "Y"s

A mult or "Y" connector allows you to route one output to two or more inputs by simply providing parallel wiring connections. You can make "Y"s and mults for the outputs of both unbalanced and balanced circuits.



**Remember:** Only mult or "Y" an output into several inputs. If you need to combine several outputs into one input, you must use a mixer, not a mult or a "Y."

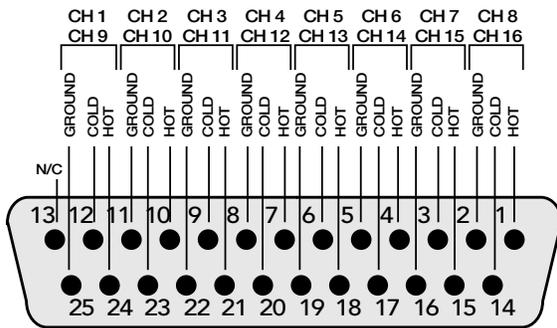


**Y-Cord Splitter**

## DB25 Connectors

The RECORDING OUTS on the back of the Onyx 1640 provide balanced direct outputs for channels 1-16 on two female DB25 connectors. These connectors are pin-for-pin compatible with the analog (not TDIF) DB25 connectors found on TASCAM DTRS recorders, which has become an industry standard for many professional audio manufacturers. They are also the same pinout as the analog cards for the Mackie D8B and hard disk recorders.

Pin	Signal Description	REC OUTS 1-8	REC OUTS 9-16	Pin	Signal Description	REC OUTS 1-8	REC OUTS 9-16
Pin 1	+	Ch 8	Ch 16	Pin 14	-	Ch 8	Ch 16
Pin 2	shield	Ch 8	Ch 16	Pin 15	+	Ch 7	Ch 15
Pin 3	-	Ch 7	Ch 15	Pin 16	shield	Ch 7	Ch 15
Pin 4	+	Ch 6	Ch 14	Pin 17	-	Ch 6	Ch 14
Pin 5	shield	Ch 6	Ch 14	Pin 18	+	Ch 5	Ch 13
Pin 6	-	Ch 5	Ch 13	Pin 19	shield	Ch 5	Ch 13
Pin 7	+	Ch 4	Ch 12	Pin 20	-	Ch 4	Ch 12
Pin 8	shield	Ch 4	Ch 12	Pin 21	+	Ch 3	Ch 11
Pin 9	-	Ch 3	Ch 11	Pin 22	shield	Ch 3	Ch 11
Pin 10	+	Ch 2	Ch 10	Pin 23	-	Ch 2	Ch 10
Pin 11	shield	Ch 2	Ch 10	Pin 24	+	Ch 1	Ch 9
Pin 12	-	Ch 1	Ch 9	Pin 25	shield	Ch 1	Ch 9
Pin 13	N/C	---	---				



Several companies make DB25-to-DB25 cables specifically for audio, with proper shielding to reduce crosstalk and noise.

DB25 cables that break out to XLR, 1/4" TRS, or TT connectors for connecting to other mixers or audio gear are also readily available. See your Mackie dealer for details.



# Appendix C: Technical Info

## Onyx 1640 Specifications

### Frequency Response

Mic Input to Main Output (Gain @ Unity)  
 +0, -1 dB, 20 Hz to 50 kHz  
 +0, -3 dB, <10 Hz to >100 kHz

### Distortion (THD & IMD)

Mic Input to Main Output (@ +4 dBu)  
 THD: < 0.01%, 20 Hz to 20 kHz  
 SMPTE IMD: < 0.005% (7 kHz/60 Hz, 4:1)

### Dynamic Range

>110 dB (Mic In to Main Out)

### Noise Floor

Signal-to-Noise Ratio:  
 -93 dBu (ref. +4 dBu, Mic In to Main Out, Channel and Main Mix levels at unity)

Equivalent Input Noise (E.I.N.), 20 Hz to 20 kHz Bandwidth, 150Ω source impedance  
 -129.5 dBu @ +60 dB gain

Mic Output Noise:  
 Recording Output: -100 dBu (minimum gain)

Residual Output Noise:  
 Main Out: -102 dBu (Channel and Main Mix levels off)  
 Main Out: -88 dBu (Channel and Main Mix levels at unity)

### Common Mode Rejection Ratio (CMRR)

Mic In: >60 dB @ 1 kHz, Gain @ maximum

### Crosstalk

Adjacent Inputs: < -95 dB @ 1 kHz  
 Input to Output: < -75 dB @ 1 kHz

### Input Gain Control Range

Mic In: 0 dB to +60 dB  
 Line In: -20 dB to +40 dB, mono channels

### Phantom Power

+48 VDC

### Equalization

Mono Channel EQ:  
 High: ±15 dB @ 12 kHz  
 High Mid: ±15 dB, sweepable from 400 Hz to 8 kHz  
 Low Mid: ±15 dB, sweepable from 100 Hz to 2 kHz  
 Low: ±15 dB @ 80 Hz

### Mixer Rated Output

Main: +4 dBu  
 Aux Send: +4 dBu  
 Control Room: +4 dBu  
 Sub: +4 dBu  
 Maximum Rated Output:  
 +21 dBu @ Main XLR and TRS outputs

### Maximum Input Levels

Mic Input: +21 dBu, Gain @ unity  
 Inst Input: +21 dBu, Gain @ -20 dB  
 Line Input: +30 dBu, Gain @ -20 dB  
 Tape Input: +21 dBu  
 Aux Return: +21 dBu

### Maximum Voltage Gain

Mic Input to:  
 Main Output: 80 dB  
 Tape Output: 80 dB  
 Sub Output: 80 dB  
 Aux Sends: 86 dB  
 Control Rm Output: 90 dB  
 Phones Output: 90 dB

Inst Input to:  
 Main Output: 60 dB  
 Tape Output: 60 dB  
 Sub Output: 60 dB  
 Aux Sends: 66 dB  
 Control Rm Output: 70 dB  
 Phones Output: 70 dB

Tape Input to:  
 Main Output: 20 dB  
 Tape Output: 20 dB  
 Control Rm Output: 20 dB  
 Phones Output: 20 dB

Aux Return to:  
 Main Output: 20 dB  
 Tape Output: 20 dB  
 Sub Output: 20 dB  
 Aux Send: 22 dB  
 Control Rm Output: 30 dB  
 Phones Output: 30 dB

### Input Impedance

Mic Input: 2.4 kΩ, balanced  
 Inst Input: 1 MΩ  
 Mono Channel Line Input: 30 kΩ balanced;  
 15 kΩ unbalanced  
 Stereo Aux Returns: 20 kΩ balanced;  
 10 kΩ unbalanced  
 Tape In: 20 kΩ, unbalanced

**Output Impedance**

Main: 150 Ω balanced, XLR outputs;  
 300 Ω TRS outputs  
 Recording Outputs: 300 Ω  
 Control Room: 300 Ω  
 Sub Output: 300 Ω  
 Aux Sends: 300 Ω  
 Tape Output: 2.2 kΩ  
 Phones Output: 25 Ω

**Channel Level Set LED (Sensitivity)**

0 dBu (normal operating level)

**VU Meters**

Main Left and Right, 12 segments:  
 Clip (+20), +10, +7, +4, +2, 0, -2, -4, -7, -10, -20, -30  
 0 LED = 0 dBu

**AC Power Requirements**

Power Consumption: < 80 watts  
 Universal AC Power Supply:  
 100 VAC – 240 VAC, 50-60 Hz

**Physical Dimensions and Weight**

(Default Configuration)

Height: 24.3 in/617 mm  
 Width: 17.4 in/442 mm  
 19.0 in/483 mm with rack ears  
 Depth: 7.5 in/191 mm  
 Weight: 29.7 lb/13.5 kg

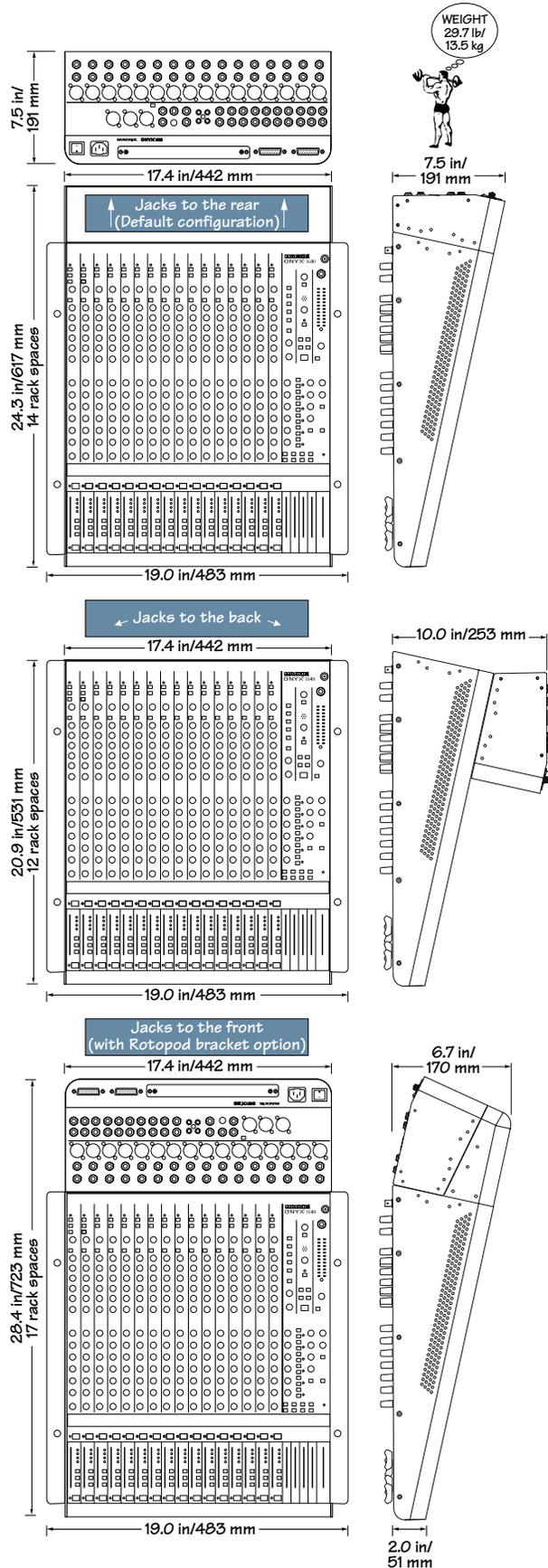
**Options**

Onyx FireWire Interface Card  
 Rotopod Bracket

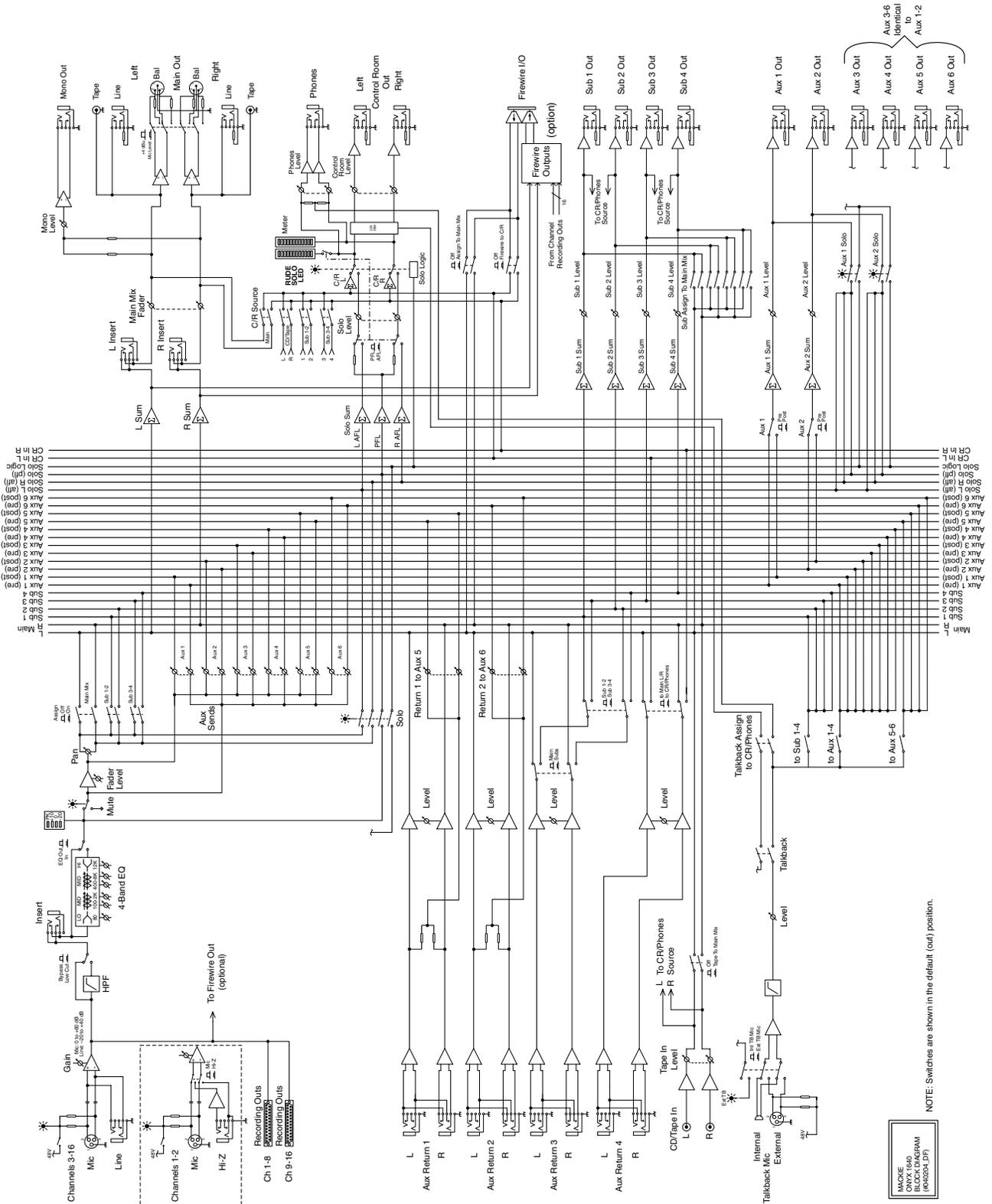
LOUD Technologies Inc. is always striving to improve our products by incorporating new and improved materials, components, and manufacturing methods. Therefore, we reserve the right to change these specifications at any time without notice.

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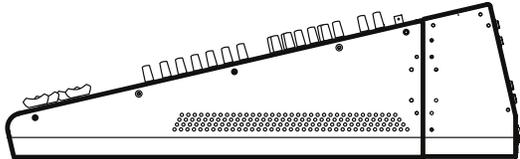
# Onyx 1640 Block Diagram



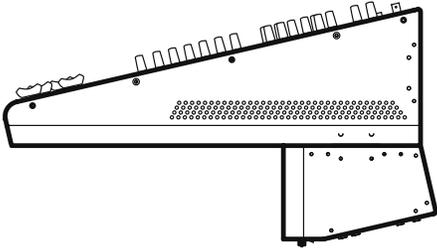
# Appendix D: Rotopod Instructions

The Pod section of the Onyx 1640 mixer can be fitted in three different orientations to suit your preference:

1. From the factory, the Pod section has the input and output connections at the rear of the mixer. If you rack mount it, this will take up 14 rack spaces. (Allow one or two extra rack spaces for making your connections.)

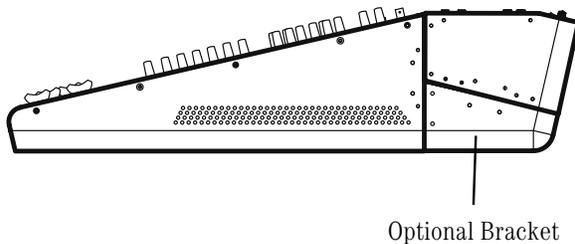


2. The Pod can be fitted on the back of the mixer, with the connections pointing out the back. This will take up 12 rack spaces. The details below show how to change to this configuration. All you need is a Phillips screwdriver.



3. Using an optional bracket, it can also be fitted so the connections face the same direction as the console side (the fun side) of the mixer. This will take up 17 rack spaces.

If you would like to order the bracket, please contact your Mackie dealer or Mackie technical support for details. The bracket comes with complete installation instructions.



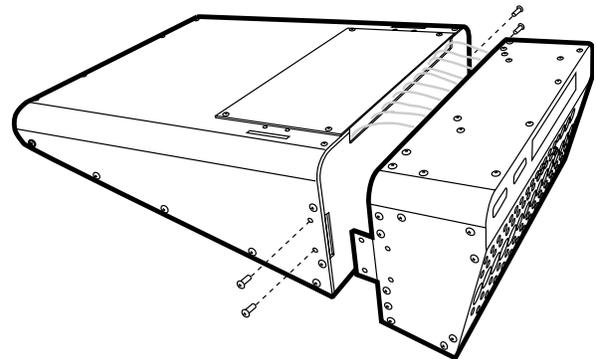
## Rear Mounting the Pod Section

### Tools and qualifications:

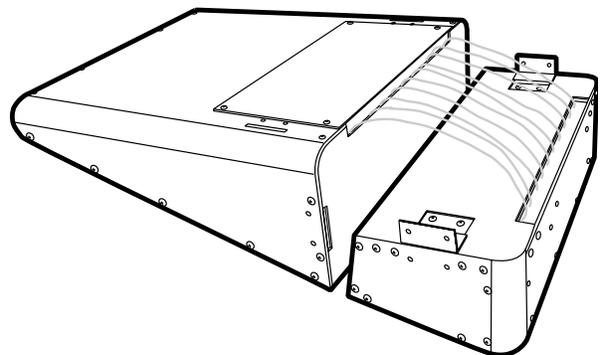
1. Phillips screwdriver.
2. Pod Relocation Operator's General Journeyman's Certification License (PROGJCL grade III or higher) from a Mackie-accredited Four-Year Pod Relocation Technical Institute.

### Procedure:

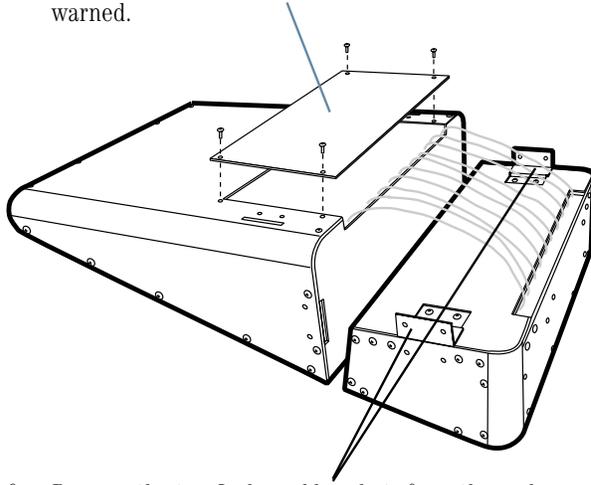
1. Turn off the mixer, and disconnect the power cord, and all connecting cords. Put down that Ham sandwich and stand away from the bag of Cheezey What-nots.
2. Place the mixer face down on a soft and dry flat surface, previously prepared by removing all dust, crumbs, small children, gnus, long-haired pets, and wildebeests (okay, a wildebeest *is* a gnu).
3. Remove the four screws as shown below, and keep them handy for step 8.



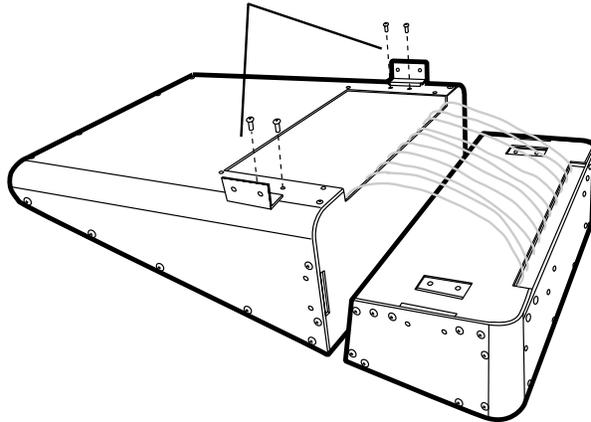
4. **Gently** pull the pod section away from the main section, and rotate it so the connections are face downwards. Do not strain the electrical wires joining the two.



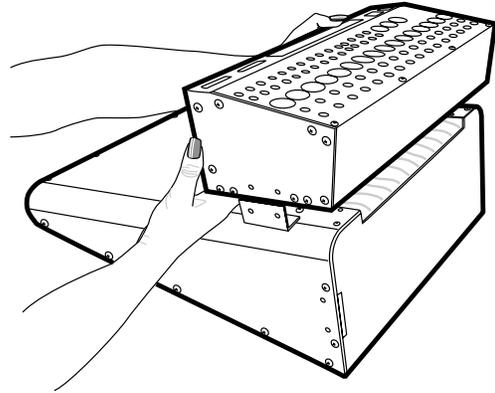
- Undo the four screws and remove the metal escape hatch (not needed for the rear mounting position). Keep the screws and the plate safe. Make sure that nothing accidentally falls inside the mixer. Pet rodents like nothing better than to nibble on electrical connections and build nests inside, so be warned.



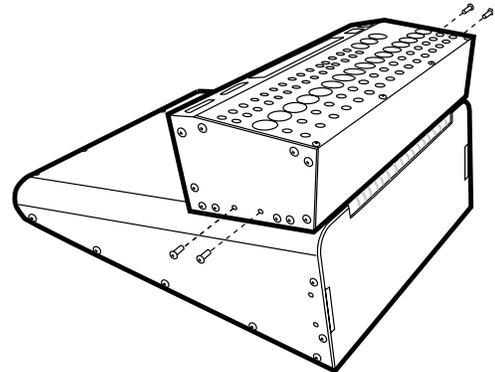
- Remove the two L-shaped brackets from the pod section by undoing the two screws on each one. Look at how they come out of the slots as the screws are removed, and then add them to the main section in the same way. Secure the brackets with the same screws.



- Gently pick up the Pod without straining the wires, rotate it so the connections are pointing up, and place it over the brackets. Tuck the excess wire lengths gently inside the main unit. The Pod has two slots which fit over the brackets, so make sure the slots and the brackets line up.



- Gently press the Pod down until it is flush with the mixer bottom surface. Make certain that none of the wires are pinched, then secure the Pod with the four screws shown below (saved from step 3).



- Verify that your connections are secure.
- This orientation is ideal for rack mounting, so you will want to add the rack ear brackets at this time. The details are described in the next section.

## Rack Mounting the Onyx 1640

The Rack Ear brackets supplied with the Onyx 1640 allow the mixer to be mounted in a standard 19" rack.

The mixer will take up 14 rack spaces in its normal Pod position, and you should allow an extra 1 or 2 rack spaces above to make your connections. (If you have rear-mounted the Pod, the mixer will take up 12 rack spaces.)

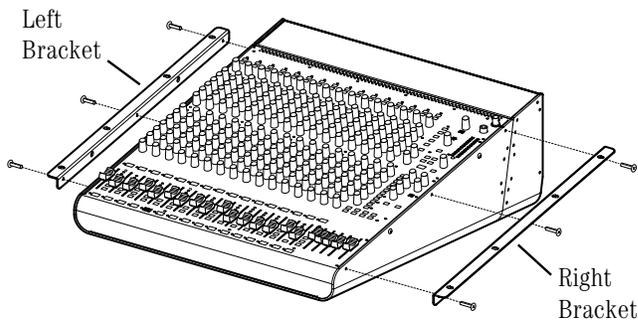
The mixer comes with a left and a right rack ear bracket, and a little plastic bag containing six countersunk screws (longer than the original screws).

### Tools Required:

One Phillips screwdriver.

### Procedure:

1. Turn off the mixer, and disconnect the power cord, and all connecting cords.
2. Place the mixer face up on a soft and dry flat surface.
3. Remove the six screws as shown below, and keep them in a safe place for further use. Do not remove all the screws on each side, as two remain in place as shown. If you are not planning on using the old screws again, take them down to your local recycling plant. They may give you some money just to go away.



4. Using only the new screws supplied, secure the rack ear brackets to each side of the mixer as shown. Hand-tighten the screws securely. The brackets are marked left and right, so make sure they go on the correct side.
5. Offer up the mixer to your rack and secure it in place with eight rack screws (not supplied). Remember to leave enough room at the top so you can easily make your connections.
6. That's about it really. Take the rest of the day off — you have done well.

# Onyx 1640 Limited Warranty

**Please keep your sales receipt in a safe place.**

**A.** LOUD Technologies Inc. warrants all materials, workmanship and proper operation of this product for a period of **three years** from the original date of purchase. If any defects are found in the materials or workmanship or if the product fails to function properly during the applicable warranty period, LOUD Technologies, at its option, will repair or replace the product. **This warranty applies only to equipment sold and delivered within the U.S. by LOUD Technologies Inc. or its authorized dealers.**

**B.** Failure to register online or return the product registration card will not void the three-year warranty.

**C.** Service and repairs of Mackie products are to be performed **only** at the factory (see D below) OR at an Authorized Mackie Service Center (see E below). Unauthorized service, repairs, or modification will void this warranty. To obtain repairs under warranty, you must have a copy of your sales receipt from the authorized Mackie dealer where you bought the product. It is necessary to establish purchase date and thus determine whether or not your Mackie product is still under warranty.

**D.** To obtain factory service:

1. Call Mackie Service at 800/898-3211, 7 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday (Pacific Time) to get a Return Authorization (RA). Products returned without an RA number will be refused.

2. Pack the product in its original shipping carton. If you do not have the carton, just ask for one when you get your RA number, and we'll send a shipping carton out promptly. More information on packing can be found in the *Service* section of this manual. Please seal the Mackie product in a plastic bag.

3. Also include a note explaining exactly how to duplicate the problem, a copy of the sales receipt with price and date showing, and your return street address (no P.O. boxes or route numbers, please!). If we cannot duplicate the problem or establish the starting date of your Limited Warranty, we may, at our option, charge for service time.

4. Ship the product in its original shipping carton, **freight prepaid** to:

MACKIE SERVICE DEPARTMENT  
16220 Wood-Red Road NE  
Woodinville, WA, 98072, USA

**IMPORTANT: Make sure that the RA number is plainly written on the shipping carton.**

**E.** To obtain service from an Authorized Mackie Service Center:

1. Call Mackie Service at 800/898-3211, 7 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday (Pacific Time) to get: 1) The name and address of your nearest Authorized Mackie Service Center and 2) A return authorization (RA). You must have an RA number before taking your unit to a service center.

2. Make sure that you have a copy of your sales receipt from the authorized Mackie dealer where you bought the product. If you can't find it, the Authorized Service Center may charge you for repairs even if your Mackie product is still covered by the Three-Year Limited Warranty.

3. Make sure that the problem can be duplicated. If you bring your Mackie product to an Authorized Service Center and they can't find anything wrong with it, you may be charged a service fee.

4. If the Authorized Mackie Service Center is located in another city, pack the mixer in its original shipping carton. More information on packing can be found in the *Service* section of this manual.

5. Contact the Authorized Mackie Service Center to arrange service or bring the Mackie product to them.

**F.** LOUD Technologies and Authorized Mackie Service Centers reserve the right to inspect any products that may be the subject of any warranty claims before repair or replacement is carried out. LOUD Technologies and Authorized Mackie Service Centers may, at their option, require proof of the original date of purchase in the form of a dated copy of the original dealer's invoice or sales receipt. Final determination of warranty coverage lies solely with LOUD Technologies or its Authorized Service Centers.

**G.** Mackie products returned to LOUD Technologies and deemed eligible for repair or replacement under the terms of this warranty will be repaired or replaced within thirty days of receipt by LOUD Technologies. LOUD Technologies may use refurbished parts for repair or replacement of any product. Products returned to LOUD Technologies that do not meet the terms of this Warranty will be repaired and returned C.O.D. with billing for labor, materials, return freight, and insurance. Products repaired under warranty at the factory will be returned freight prepaid by LOUD Technologies to any location within the boundaries of the USA.

**H.** LOUD Technologies warrants all repairs performed for 90 days or for the remainder of the warranty period. This warranty does not extend to damage resulting from improper installation, misuse, neglect or abuse, or to exterior appearance. This warranty is recognized only if the inspection seals and serial number on the unit have not been defaced or removed.

**I.** LOUD Technologies assumes no responsibility for the quality or timeliness of repairs performed by Authorized Mackie Service Centers.

**J.** This warranty is extended to the original purchaser and to anyone who may subsequently purchase this product within the applicable warranty period. A copy of the original sales receipt is required to obtain warranty repairs.

**K.** This is your sole warranty. LOUD Technologies does not authorize any third party, including any dealer or sales representative, to assume any liability on behalf of LOUD Technologies or to make any warranty for LOUD Technologies Inc.

**L.** THE WARRANTY GIVEN ON THIS PAGE IS THE SOLE WARRANTY GIVEN BY LOUD TECHNOLOGIES INC. AND IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THE WARRANTY GIVEN ON THIS PAGE SHALL BE STRICTLY LIMITED IN DURATION TO THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF ORIGINAL PURCHASE FROM AN AUTHORIZED MACKIE DEALER. UPON EXPIRATION OF THE APPLICABLE WARRANTY PERIOD, LOUD TECHNOLOGIES INC. SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER WARRANTY OBLIGATION OF ANY KIND. LOUD TECHNOLOGIES INC. SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES THAT MAY RESULT FROM ANY DEFECT IN THE MACKIE PRODUCT OR ANY WARRANTY CLAIM. Some states do not allow exclusion or limitation of incidental, special, or consequential damages or a limitation on how long warranties last, so some of the above limitations and exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty provides specific legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

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