AUDESSENCE PODBLASTER QUICKSTART GUIDE   iss 3.0

1./   Setup & Control: PodBlaster can only be set up via computer control. Graphical User Interface (GUI) software, supplied on CD with every unit, gives full control of all parameters and the PC can be remote from the PodBlaster hardware box.

System requirements for GUI software: Windows PC running Windows 2000 with SP4, any version of XP, Vista, or Windows 7. USB port required.

2./   Software Installation. Load software directly from the CD _**before**_ connecting the PodBlaster unit to the PC. Once the software is all installed, then connect PodBlaster to the USB port _**afterwards**_. Installer programme should auto-run from CD, or if necessary run 'setup.exe' manually. Installer shell checks for required framework (Microsoft .NET ver 2) and USB drivers, and installs them from the CD if not already present.

Default connection at PC end is COM-1. You need to go to 'Connections' menu in the GUI to re-scan for available ports and select USB (USB runs as virtual COM port and will often be the highest COM port number in the list).

3./   Login and Security: When using the GUI, after pressing 'Connect', note that although you will be able to see menus and controls without logging-in, it will not be possible to change anything until logged in. Login is found in Menus under \Security\Login. (NB: the right-hand of the two big buttons at the top toggles the main screen between Menus and Presets).

Default pasword for log-in is AAAA. **N.B: Sessions TIME-OUT after about 10 minutes of inactivity!** If controls aren't working, try logging in again.

4./   Input – Analogue or Digital? Decide whether you are going to be using Analogue inputs or S-PDIF (digital) input. Navigate to 'Input' menu and select the input you wish to use. In the GUI this is found in 'Setup\Input' menu.

If you select AES (Digital) input then **N.B:** _sample rate selection_ is much more important than with other processors. When selecting digital (AES) input, at the same time you **must** select whether the Base Rate is 96kHz (supports professional rates of 32, 48, 96kHz ONLY at the input) or 88.2kHz (supports consumer rates of 44.1 and 88.2 kHz ONLY at the input). If base rate is not selected properly, digital audio inputs _will_ be corrupted!

5./   Levels setup: You have gain trims on the inputs and Cieling (=maximum allowed level) controls for the Outputs.

PodBlaster's **analogue input** expects to receive a signal *peaking* at +4dBu to +8dBu. If the input is going to be significantly above or below this level, you can adjust the Analogue Input Gain trim to compensate.

PodBlaster's **S-PDIF/ digital input** expects to receive a signal *peaking* at –20 to –16dBFS. If the input is going to be significantly above or below this level, you can adjust the Digital Input Gain trim to compensate.

PodBlaster's **analogue output** will normally send out a signal peaking at up to +8dBu but never above this 'ceiling' value. If you require a higher or lower level, you can adjust the Analogue Output ceiling directly to whatever *maximum* output level in dBu you require.

PodBlaster's **digital output** will normally send out a signal peaking at up to 0dBFS but never above this 'ceiling' value. If you require a lower level, you can adjust the Digital Output ceiling to whatever *maximum* output level in dBFS you require.

On the S-PDIF digital output you can also select Double Rate (96/88.2kHz) or Half Rate (48 / 44.1kHz).

If in doubt leave all Output settings at their default values (+8dBu analogue level, 0dBFS digital level and 96kHz sample rate) and come back later - armed with the full manual!

6./   Saving Changes: Any changes made via the GUI are NOT permanent until stored to non-volatile memory.

Changes are only saved to non-volatile memory when you press 'Save' button (it is in the 'Save' menu), or when you exit the GUI programme. *ALWAYS press the 'Disconnect' button before shutting down the GUI, disconnecting the ALPS unit, or turning off power; then your settings will be saved safely.*

7./   Getting Started: For the vast majority of applications, just plug in and go - and you will find your levels are much better controlled than before! The next step, still easy, is to select a Factory Preset from one of the nine factory presets stored in the ALPS-1 unit. See manual page 13.

8./   Grounding.   Always ground the equipment using a permanent cable connected to the M4 ground point provided on the rear panel of PodBlaster.

9./   Problem? Email tech@audessence.com for fast tech support.

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