

# Audessence ALPS-1

## Quick Start Guide



*ALPS-1 Audio Level Processing System*

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ALPS-1 Quick Start Guide [Version 4.00] 2012-11-14

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# AUDESSENCE ALPS-1 QUICKSTART GUIDE iss 4.0

**1./ Setup & Control:** ALPS-1 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 ALPS hardware box.

System requirements for GUI software: Windows PC running Windows: 2000 with SP4, any version of XP, Vista or Seven. RS232 serial port or USB port required. (RS232 works over longer distances than USB).

**2./ Software Installation.** Load software directly from the CD ***before*** connecting the ALPS unit to the PC! Once the software is all installed, then connect ALPS to USB or COM 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 COM1, or go to 'Connections' menu in the GUI to re-scan for available ports and / or 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 Menu under \Security\Login. (NB: the right-hand of the two big buttons at the top toggles the main screen between Menu and Presets).

Default password 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./ GUI Mode:** The GUI has two modes, **Easy Mode** and **Expert Mode:**

'Expert Mode' assumes expert knowledge of audio and audio-processing terminology and practice. In this mode, every parameter is available for adjustment over a wide range, and no attempt is made to restrict control ranges to safe values. Use this mode if you are very familiar with audio processors.

'Easy Mode' uses only four controls for the audio processing instead of around forty, and is designed for the non-expert to be able to use quickly and with a minimum of fuss to get the desired results. Each control has detailed help-text in a nearby window, which gives guidance on what each control does and how it should be set.

Note that the Mode of the software also affects the preset list available, i.e. each mode has its own list of presets.

Because of the simplified nature of 'Easy Mode', it cannot import Expert mode settings, but Expert Mode can import Easy Mode settings when swapping modes. If in doubt, use Easy Mode.

5./ **Input - Analogue or Digital?** Decide whether you are going to be using Analogue inputs or AES (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 wrong, digital audio inputs *will* be corrupted!

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

ALPS'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.

ALPS's **AES/ 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 if needed.

ALPS'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.

ALPS'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 AES 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!

7./ **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.**

... continued overleaf

8./ **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. See the full manual, page 15.



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

10./ **Problem?** Email [tech@audessence.com](mailto:tech@audessence.com) for fast tech support.

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