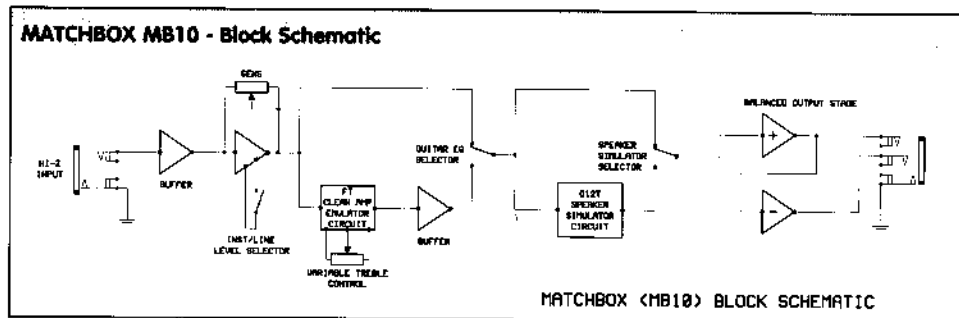


MatchBox Operating Instructions... continued.

If the sound is distorted, check that the SENS control is not set too high or that the INST/LINE selector is not set to INST when it should be set to LINE. If the problem persists, check to see that MATCHBOX is not overdriving the mixer or amplification system it is being fed into. If it is, reduce the mixers/amplifiers input sensitivity or gain setting. A flat or weak battery can also produce a distorted sound



Thankyou for your time in reading these instructions and hope you will have as much pleasure using MATCHBOX, as we did in researching and designing it.

MatchBox Operating Instructions.

AWARD "MATCHBOX'S" are a family of high quality, multi-purpose, DI box's designed for use with line and instrument level signals. They employ extremely low noise circuitry making them suitable for use in the most discerning, professional environments. Their cases are robustly engineered offering maximum durability for the long, hard life they must expect.

Model MB10 for Electric Guitar

Unlike conventional DI boxes however, MB10 incorporates additional features that are immensely beneficial to the guitar player such as classic tube-amp voicing, variable TREBLE control and state of the art SPEAKER SIMULATION based on the G12T speaker simulator used in the highly acclaimed SESSIONMASTER Direct Recording Guitar Pre-Amplifier. Not only can the MATCHBOX provide a ready-to-record clean electric guitar sound straight into the mixing desk, it may also be used with standard effect and overdrive pedals to provide a 'mic-d-up' guitar sound straight onto tape dispensing with the need for noisy guitar amplifiers or microphones.

But the guitar applications don't end with the electric guitar, it may also be used with bass guitar or acoustic guitars fitted with pickups or transducers. And, for the keyboard player, the speaker simulator can be used to add the kind of warmth and weight to modern synthesizer sounds that is normally associated with analogue synthesizers.

The MATCHBOX MB10 may also be used as a high quality microphone pre-amplifier for High-Z (High Impedance) microphones and can also accommodate Low-Z types with the addition of a mic' matching transformer. These are readily available from outlets such as Tandy/Radio Shack. This unique combination of features makes the MATCHBOX MB10 an indispensable tool for the recording guitarist/musician, the home or professional recording studio or live performer.

Battery

The MATCHBOX MB10 is powered from a standard 9V, PP3 type battery which is automatically switched off when the input is unplugged. For this reason, avoid leaving a lead plugged into the input when the unit is not in use as this will considerably reduce the battery life. With normal use, the battery will last for many months and the circuitry will run equally well from rechargeable NICAD batteries if required. The unit may also be powered from the optional AC Adapter type DC10-30 which provides the unit with over 20V DC enabling much higher "head room" (>18dBm) to be achieved in professional studios. The operational amplifiers used in the circuitry have been chosen for low noise performance rather than minimum current drain.

The Controls

INPUT: Line, microphone or instrument sources are connected to the input using a standard, (unbalanced) instrument 1/4" jack lead. The unit is activated on the insertion of the input jack and switched off automatically when the jack is removed.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST THE LOUDSPEAKER OUTPUT OF A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT BE CONNECTED TO THIS SOCKET.

SENSITIVITY: Adjusts the gain of MATCHBOX to suit the input signal. Normally, the gain control should be set as high as possible but not so high that the signal becomes audibly distorted. If this should happen, back off the gain control until the signal remains clear. If the sound remains distorted, switch the INST/LINE switch to LINE position.

Made in England by:

AWARD - SESSION

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MatchBox Operating Instructions... continued.

INST/LINE: Selects the overall sensitivity of the unit to match either mic, instrument or line level sources. In general, use the INST setting for Acoustic guitars fitted with transducers, electric guitars, electric basses, effects pedals, High Z microphones and LowZ microphones connected via a matching transformer. The LINE level setting should only be used sources such as pre-amp outputs, active guitar/basses, studio effects and processors.

TREBLE: The TREBLE control has a wide tonal range and functions when the GUITAR EQ is switched on. When the GUITAR EQ is switched off, the TREBLE control has no effect.

Inside MATCHBOX MB10 is a passive equaliser based on the design used in many of the classic tube guitar amplifiers which we call FT emulation. When used in conjunction with the 'G12T' speaker simulator section, provides a very natural 'mic'd up' guitar amp sound. Brighter rhythm sounds may also be achieved by turning the speaker simulator section off.

GUITAR EQ: Switches in the FT guitar voicing equaliser and also activates the TREBLE control. In addition to it's electric guitar applications, this setting may also be used to modify the sound of bass guitars synthesizers or acoustic guitars fitted with pickup systems.

When the GUITAR EQ is activated and the unit is set to INST sensitivity, the signal path has additional BRIGHTNESS, which results in crisp, ringing guitar tones. When LINE is selected, the tone is darker and more suited to jazz styles. The SENS control should be adjusted to compensate for the gain difference caused by alternating between LINE and INST settings. This facility is only active when GUITAR EQ is selected.

SPEAKER SIMULATION: Switches in the G12T speaker simulator circuit which is designed to emulate the sound of a typical guitar speaker cabinet fitted with 12" drivers. Speaker cabinets have a profound effect on the overall tone of a guitar sound and also tend to filter out unpleasant high frequency harmonics created when overdrive effects are used.

Note: MATCHBOX does not create overdrive sounds and must be used in conjunction with a suitable effects pedal or guitar pre-amp if these effects are required.

When the MATCHBOX is being used with an overdrive pedal or fed from a guitar pre-amplifier and overdrive is being used, switching the G12T speaker simulator on will produce the most pleasing, natural results.

BALANCED OUTPUT: The output from MATCHBOX is at nominal line level and is provided on a stereo 1/4" socket wired for balanced operation. The output may be used unbalanced simply by plugging in a standard, unbalanced (mono) jack instrument lead.

The output can be used to feed directly into a cassette multitracking systems, mixing console line inputs or the AUX inputs of a Hi-Fi system for practise. MATCHBOX also enables the use of a PA or keyboard type amplifier without compromising the tone.

Applications

MATCHBOX has a very wide range of sensitivity and may be used with a whole range of input and line level sources. If in doubt about what input setting you should be using, select LINE and set the SENS control to it's half way position before proceeding.

GUITAR: Passive electric guitars have a relatively high output impedance which means the tone usually suffers when they are plugged directly into a mixing console. By going via the MATCHBOX (INST level) which has a high input impedance, the guitar sound retains all of it's original tone and sparkle. Furthermore, guitar amplifiers are 'voiced' to provide a bright, punchy tone from the instrument. Without this sector the guitar sound lacks bite and clarity which is why the MATCHBOX is equipped with the FT clean amp emulator (activated by the GUITAR EQ switch).

MatchBox Operating Instructions... continued.

For clean guitar sounds experiment by seeing how the sound changes when the GUITAR EQ is switched in and out and when the SPEAKER SIMULATION is turned on and off. The TREBLE control may also be used to add further variation when the GUITAR EQ is selected, and by trying various permutations of the above settings, the whole range of clean guitar tones is available from warm, mellow rhythm to shimmering, bright sounds.

Acoustic guitars will sound most natural with the GUITAR EQ and SPEAKER SIMULATION turned off, but don't be afraid to experiment. For electric bass guitar MATCHBOX MB12 is available which has the GUITAR EQ section specially optimised for bass use.

Active guitars and basses may normally be used with the input set to LINE, but if this provides insufficient level, try the INST setting.

When using an overdrive pedal, use the INST setting with the SPEAKER SIMULATOR turned on. This will produce a close approximation to a mic'd amp sound which can then be made even more realistic by adding a little reverb. Remember however, that the extra BRIGHTNESS of the INST setting could make overdrive pedals sound very brittle (thrash sound). If you do not like this aggressive sound, select LINE setting which will then provide a 'classic' rock overdrive sound. These options are intentional, and are to provide the widest possible tone options. Whilst recording, further tonal changes can be made using the EQ controls on the mixer or cassette multitracker.

When using pre-amp outputs, the GUITAR EQ may normally be left off as there is voicing circuitry within the pre-amp. However, this does not preclude experimentation to see what can be achieved by combining the pre-amp EQ with the GUITAR EQ on MATCHBOX. The input selector will normally need to be set to LINE and the SPEAKER SIMULATOR turned on.

STUDIO TIP: For a really 'produced sound' plug the output of the MATCHBOX into a compressor set as follows:

*Ratio of around 10:1
Attack time 3mS
Release time 0.5S*

Threshold should be set so that between 5 and 10 dB of gain reduction occurs when playing normally. This provides an even, punchy sound with a long sustain and a subtle attack suitable for those Dire Straits and Chris Rea licks.

MICROPHONES: The MATCHBOX makes an exceptionally good mic pre-amp for High-Z microphones or for Low-Z mic's if connected via a low to high impedance matching transformer. If you mic is fitted with a fixed lead terminating in a jack plug, then it's most likely a High-Z type and can be used directly into MATCHBOX.

Low-Z mic's are commonly fitted with removable leads which connect to the mic' via a three pin XLR plug.

For use with mic's, set the input to INST and turn off the GUITAR EQ and SPEAKER SIMULATION unless you want to use these for special effects. For example, the SPEAKER SIMULATION can give voice or music a kind of vintage 'wireless' tonal character.

KEYBOARDS: Electronic keyboards may normally be recorded directly into a mixer, though some home keyboards have a very low output level and could benefit from the extra gain offered by MATCHBOX. If the LINE setting doesn't provide enough gain, switch to INST. However, the SPEAKER SIMULATOR can be used as a creative effect to 'warm up' synth sounds, and in conjunction with a distortion pedal, a synth can be made to sound similar to an electric guitar. The GUITAR EQ may be brought into play as an effect.