O P E R A T I N G G U I D E





multi-function digital signal processor



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Summary of Features

GRQ3121 (1U, single channel, one input, two outputs)

GRQ3122 (2U, dual channel, one input & output per channel)

GRQ3121-S (1U, blank front panel slave, single channel, one input, two outputs)

GRQ3122-S (1U, blank front panel slave, dual channel, one input & output per channel)

GRQ2 Remote for Windows[™] Software included with every unit; runs up to 8 Graphi-Q2s per COM port (maximum of 2 COM ports)

- All front panel controls are analog-style; signal path is digital
- "Tweek-n-Peek" feature: Front panel adjustments of all parameters are shown in LED display screen
- 24-bit A/D and D/A conversion, 32-bit processing
- 20 to 20 KHz Frequency Response
- +18 dBV Maximum Signal Input & Output
- Floating Point SHARC Processor
- >110 dB dynamic range

Each channel provides (now with fully independent processing on 1x2 units):

- 31-band graphic EQ, with ± 6 or 12 dB range (selectable)
- Crossover: Bessel, Butterworth, and Linkwitz Reily filters; slopes to 48 dB/octave (Software only)
- High Cut Filter (3KHz to 20KHz) and Low Cut Filter (20 Hz to 1KHz)
- FBX Feedback Exterminator: up to 12 Filters, with Setup Mode (Auto Setup Mode via remote control)
- Parametric Filters: up to 12 filters, numeric or graphic control (Software only)
- Compressor/Limiter, with controls for ratio, threshold, and gain (attack, release, and knee adjustable with remote)
- Digital Delay, with up to 1 second delay, adjustable in 20 microsecond increments
- Bypass: dedicated switches for FBX, EQ, and Delay with built in LED indicators
- LED Segmented Indicators: FBX Filters, Level, Gain Reduction
- LED Point Indicators: FBX Setup, Remote, EQ Range
- LED Character Display: Delay setting, EQ fader boost/cut, High Cut Filter setting Low Cut Filter setting, Compressor Ratio, Threshold, Gain, and Staus Messages.

Back Panel:

- XLR & 1/4" TRS inputs & outputs
- RS-232 Serial input & output (additional serial input on the slave front panels)
- Remote switching (8-position contact closure switch; allows switch selection of all 20 stored Graphi-Q2 presets)

Graphi-Q2 Remote Software Features:

All front panel controls, plus more, including:

- FBX filter depth & width adjustments; switchable to parametric filters (depth, width & frequency adjustments)
- Graphic EQ filter width adjustments
- Password protection
- View & edit frequency response curves
- 20 user-defined stored presets
- Control and link up to 8 Graphi-Q2s (16 channels of audio) per COM port (1 or 2 ports can be used)
- Future-proof FREE Flash RAM upgrade capability: upgrade your firmware and software from the Sabine website (www.Sabine.com)!

Operating Guide Version 2: for Sabine Graphi-Q2s with:

- GRQ2 Firmware Version 2.20 and up
- GRQ2 Remote Software Version 5.0 and up

EC - DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY CE Marking

We, the Manufacturer

SABINE, INC. 13301 NW US HIGHWAY 441 ALACHUA, FLORIDA USA

declare that the product

EQUALIZER SABINE MODEL GRQ3100

Is in conformity with

Council Directive: 73/23/EEC and 89/336/EEC (EMC Directives)

Standards to which conformity is declared:

EN 60065: 1993 EN 60742: 1995 EN 55103-1: 1997 EN 55022: 08:94 + a1:05:05 EN 55103-2: 1997

Manufacturer's Signature:

Vau

Date: October 31, 2002

Name: Doran Oster, Sabine President

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Section One: Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the Sabine Graphi-Q2. This product represents our latest breakthrough in our never-ending quest to improve the world's sound.

Aside from the powerful array of features packed into a single unit (graphic EQ, FBX filters, parametric filters, high and low cut filters, delay, compression, and limiting), the Graphi-Q2 also offers a choice of user interfaces.

Computer control: learn to love it. As the world becomes an increasingly digital place, the computer is omnipresent. Some regard this as a mixed blessing. In audio applications, the downside of computer-controlled digital audio stems from the unfamiliarity and operational limitations of its control interface. After years of experience with analog controls, many sound engineers prefer the "hands-on" approach to control audio with knobs and faders. It's intuitive and direct. To the analog lover, typing commands on a keyboard feels awkward and may require redirecting one's attention to the control interface, rather than the sound emerging from the speakers.

On the other hand, there is no question that the digital signal processing available through a computer interface offers improved precision and reliability of control over your audio. Equalization adjustments in the digital realm are exceptionally accurate, offer pinpoint resolution, and minimize phase distortion and frequency drift. Compressor parameters not only can be set quite precisely, but also offer an expanded range of adjustment and ease of storage and recall that are much more difficult to achieve with analog technology. And, with the Sabine FBX algorithm, one of the most serious problems of audio amplification — that lovely howling sound we call feedback — can be removed with the precision and delicacy of laser surgery.

Analog AND Digital - Best of Both Worlds. The Graphi-Q2 combines the best of both worlds. If you need to put your hands on faders and knobs to fully experience audio, we offer you the ease and comfort of our "analog-style" front panel. Push, pull, turn, and tweak to your heart's content!

If your fingers naturally gravitate toward computer keyboards, the Graphi-Q2 offers your kind of user interface as well. Each Graphi-Q2 comes equipped with an RS-232 serial interface and the Sabine Graphi-Q2 Remote for Windows[™] software. All the front panel controls, and some important additional ones, can be adjusted from your computer keyboard. And if you're seriously addicted to the thrill of punching keys, you can save some money as you indulge yourself with a Graphi-Q2 Blank Front Panel Slave unit. Only controllable via computer, these models make mis-adjustment by unauthorized, untrained, or unthinking individuals impossible!

Whatever your control preference, the Graphi-Q2 opens up a world of signal processing power previously unavailable at its exceptional price. All specifications are top notch (24-bit A/D and D/A, 32-bit internal processing) and all of its functions operate concurrently and ergonomically. So allow us to suggest you read and study this entire manual to understand the whole story. Enjoy!

Section Two: Analog vs. Digital Signal Processing (DSP)

The ongoing debate continues: what sounds better, digital or analog signal processing? Audio engineers ALL have an opinion on this, but the lack of documented research on the topic makes conclusions tentative. Nonetheless, the audio industry is slowly moving to digital as circuit designs continuously improve and technology advances into the realm of 24-bit resolution — which provides finer audio detail, particularly at low levels of dynamic range. The tentative conclusion we would suggest is that the sound of digital circuits is widely variable, encompassing the capacity to sound remarkably like analog circuits … and much more. Beyond these considerations, however, there are undeniable advantages to DSP … and one disadvantage that we believe we have solved with the Graphi-Q2.

THE ADVANTAGES

1. GREATER PRECISION AND REPEATABLE ACCURACY. Analog circuitry produces less exact and repeatable adjustment. Identical analog circuits may produce different results when processing an identical audio signal, due to the tolerance of components comprising the analog circuit. Digital circuits rely on repeatable mathematical calculations and thus are more consistent. For equalizers, this means that the slope, shape, and symmetry of digital EQs are consistent across frequencies, and from one application to the next.

In addition to the precision attributable to digital processing, the Graphi-Q2 offers a high degree of operational precision and repeatability as well. On an analog graphic equalizer, the operator must infer the value of a knob or EQ fader setting from its position. With the Graphi-Q2 Tweek-n-Peek feature, the exact value of each knob is visually displayed as each setting is adjusted.

- 2. LESS PHASE DISTORTION. All equalizers cause some degree of phase shifting. In analog filters, this phase shift exceeds the width of the filter often by a considerable margin. In other words, the phase shift encompasses frequencies beyond the boost or cut range of the filter. With digital filters, this phase shift can be restricted to within the filter width.
- 3. LESS FILTER DRIFT. Analog circuits rely on components that vary as they age and/or are subjected to different ambient temperatures. This variation can in turn cause analog filters to drift from their original settings. In contrast, digital filters are based on mathematical formulas and will remain constant over time and changing temperatures.
- 4. LESS NOISE. As analog parts wear, get dirty, or corrode, readjusting them can introduce noise into the signal path. All audio engineers are familiar with the sound of a "scratchy fader." Digital controls affect the signal, but are not actually in the audio path and thus cannot introduce noise.
- 5. RECALL AND STORAGE OF SETTINGS. Because digital filters can be represented mathematically, settings are easily stored, recalled, and copied to other channels or units. Analog filters are dependent on the physical position of potentiometers and sliders, and storing and recalling settings requires servo motors and automated repositioning of controls. This is both more expensive to build and produces less accurate results.
- 6. COST. As technology improves, features increase and prices plummet. Nowhere is this trend more apparent than in the digital world. DSP circuitry is generally smaller, less costly, and more powerful than comparable analog circuitry, which means you get a lot more bang for your buck (or DeutschMark, pound, or peso) with a digital box. Compare the price of the Graphi-Q2 to a high quality analog graphic equalizer, and you'll see what we mean especially when you add a compressor, delay, FBX and parametric EQ, and software interface to the comparison.

THE DISADVANTAGES

1. FAMILIARITY AND EASE OF USE. The sole disadvantage of digital processors that few if any sound engineers will argue has to do with the familiarity and user-friendliness of the digital control interface. Many powerful DSP products are menu-driven and difficult to use. One very special feature of the Graphi-Q2 GRQ3122 and GRQ3121 models is the familiar analog-style interface of the front panel. The control surface looks, feels, and operates like a graphic equalizer from the 1970's — with the power and features of 21st century technology. If you're a 21st century technophile who loves computers and knobs, then you won't be disappointed either—just plug in a serial cable, load up the software, and you'll find a whole new world of hacker-pleasing software control waiting for your command.



GRQ3122 Front Panel



GRQ3122 Back Panel



GRQ3122-S Front Panel



GRQ3122-S Back Panel



Section Four: Block Diagram/Internal Signal Path



Section Five: Installation

The Graphi-Q2 should be placed in a well-ventilated, well-grounded equipment rack, preferably within easy reach of the sound engineer. Graphi-Q2 slave units need not be as immediately accessible, since control is through a computer interface.

5.1. BETWEEN MIXER OUTPUT AND POWER AMPLIFIER

The most common placement of the Graphi-Q2 in a sound system is between the output of a mixing console and the input to a power amplifier. In this configuration the GRQ2 can provide all your system processing, including delay and crossover. A typical configuration will look like this:

This configuration can also be simplified using a single channel (one input, using only one output) Graphi-Q2.



5.2. TWO CHANNEL GRAPHI-Q2: MAINS AND MONITORS.

Alternatively, with a two-channel Graphi-Q2, you may elect to route one mixer output through Graphi-Q2 channel A into a power amp driving your main speakers, and your mixer monitor output into Graphi-Q2 channel B, routed to your monitor speakers. This configuration is diagrammed below:



5.3. USE WITH A POWERED MIXER

With a powered mixer, the Graphi-Q2 must be inserted between the "Line Out" jack(s) (line level output, before the signal goes through the amplifier) and the "Amplifier In" jack(s), as shown below:

NOTE: Not all powered mixers will offer such patch points, or they may label them differently. When in doubt consult the manual of the console manufacturer.



5.4. USE AT A MIXER INSERT POINT

The Graphi-Q2 may also be used at a mixer insert point, either for a single input channel, or for a group or bus insert point. This will dedicate all of the features and processing power of the Graphi-Q2 to one or two single channels on your mixer, or to a subgroup of inputs (for example, all the drums in your mix). The patching will look like this:



5.5. SINGLE CHANNEL GRAPHI-Q2: ONE INPUT - TWO OUTPUTS

The single channel Graphi-Q2 also offers a unique setup option, since it offers two parallel outputs. Using the Graphi-Q2 software, it is possible to separately assign the settings for graphic EQ filters, FBX/ parametric filters, high/low pass filters, compressor/limiter, and digital delay to either or both outputs. Compressor/limiter and all EQ adjustments will be the same for each output, but the digital delay and output level settings may be set individually for the two outputs. The diagram on the following page shows a possible one-input-into-two-outputs setup.

Note: Processing is now independent on 1x2 Graphi-Q2 units. FBX, EQ, compression, and delay settings can be unique on each output.



5.6. WHAT NOT TO DO

The Graphi-Q2 should NOT be used in the following configurations:

- 1. Do NOT plug a microphone directly into the Graphi-Q2 back panel. The Graphi-Q2 is designed for operation with line level signals only. Your microphone signal must first go through a wireless receiver, mixer, preamp, etc. that will boost its output gain to line level.
- 2. Do NOT use the Graphi-Q2 in an auxiliary or effects loop, such as would be used to add reverb to different channels in your mixer. Effects loops are designed to split signal paths, and then mix "wet" processed signals with the "dry" signal path. The Graphi-Q2 is designed for use as an "in line" processor, meaning all the signal path should be routed through it.
- 3. Do NOT mix balanced and unbalanced inputs and outputs to and from the Graphi-Q2. This will result in a reduction of signal level.

Section Six: Using Graphi-Q2 Front Panel Controls

Many Graphi-Q2 owners will be immediately familiar with the simple operation of the front panel controls. Operation of these controls will be very similar when using an RS-232 connection to control Graphi-Q2 functions from a Windows-based computer platform (see **Section Eight**).

IMPORTANT

Equipment Power-on Sequencing to Avoid Feedback

Important Note on Equipment Power-on Sequencing and Feedback Suppression

The Graphi-Q2 is similar to a computer in that it requires several seconds to boot up and become operative. Because of this, the potential exists for feedback to assault your system should you power up all of your equipment (including the Graphi-Q2) in unison, with volumes set to operating levels. Therefore, it is wise to consider either one of the following courses:

- 1. Sequence the power up so that the Graphi-Q2 turns on well ahead of the power amp. Allow a 5 second time differential for comfort.
- 2. Set up the Graphi-Q2 to give the signal a boost, and adjust the rest of your gain structure accordingly. When the Graphi-Q2 is bypassed (or still booting), the signal level will be below the feedback threshold.

6.1. FRONT PANEL CALIBRATION

IMPORTANT

Recalibrate the Front Panel Controls after Upgrading Firmware Your Sabine Graphi-Q2 ships from the factory with all front panel controls precisely calibrated for maximum accuracy. However, if you upgrade the Graphi-Q2 (GRQ3121 or GRQ3122 only) firmware, Sabine recommends recalibrating the front panel controls. You may also want to periodically recalibrate to assure the highest degree of front panel control precision.

Calibration is a simple process. Set all equalizer faders to the center detent position. Rotate the Hi Cut and Threshold knobs to the full clockwise position. Rotate the Lo Cut, Ratio, and Gain knobs fully counterclockwise. For two channel units you must set both sets of controls.

Hold down both the Fifth Octave and Set Fixed buttons until "Calibrating Front" appears on LED display. (For GRQ3122 use the buttons for the B channel). Release the buttons when the LED displays "Calibration Done."

6.2. GRAPHIC EQUALIZER CONTROLS

Please make note of the default front panel control protocols that apply when setting graphic EQ, FBX filters, compression, delay, and output level for the two outputs of the single-input Graphi-Q2 (GRQ3121). All processing, INCLUDING delay, is applied to Output B in the factory default setting. All processing EXCEPT delay is applied to Output A. Therefore, all graphic EQ, FBX, and compression adjustments will apply to both outputs, while front panel delay adjustments will affect only the B output. Remote control operation of the GRQ3121 will enable separate delay and output level control settings for Outputs A and B. All other processing (graphic EQ, parametric EQ, and compressor/limiter settings) can be applied to one or both outputs using software control, but the GRQ3121 will not permit unique output settings for any processing except delay, and for the output levels.

6.2.1. Front Panel Control

TECH TIP

Changing Boost/Cut range from ±12 dB to ±6 dB The Graphi-Q2 graphic EQ sliders have a center detent, calibrated to zero boost/cut at the factory. Raising the slider above the detent boosts a frequency band surrounding the center point nominal frequency; lowering the slider below the detent cuts the frequency band. The Graphi-Q2 comes from the factory set to a ± 12 dB boost/cut range. You may change this to a ± 6 dB range (and back again) by pressing and holding the delay up/down buttons simultaneously for approximately one second. An LED in the lower right section of the front panel will indicate the 6 dB range condition when it is illuminated. For two channel Graphi-Q2 units, pressing and holding either channel's delay up/down buttons will switch both channels' EQ ranges simultaneously. It is not possible to select different ranges for the two channels.

TECH TIP

Linking Channel A & Channel B Using GRQ3122 Front Panel NOTE: Pulling down the A channel sliders causes the B channel to become the master for both channels. This also slaves the compressor, high & low cut filters, and output gain. Delay, bypass, and FBX controls remain channel specific.



6.2.2. Linking Channel Controls (Two-channel Units)

Two channel Graphi-Q2 units offer a useful and unique feature for linking channel controls. Pulling all the A channel EQ sliders to the bottom defeats these controls, and applies the B channel settings to the A channel as well. Now the B channel sliders act as master control for both channels. This applies not only to the graphic EQ controls, but to controls for the compressor, high and low cut filters, and output gain. Delay, bypass, and FBX filter controls will remain channel specific (in other words, to bypass the graphic EQ for the A, you must press "Bypass" for channel A).

6.2.3. The Tweek-n-Peek Feature (Front Panel Models only)

If you've been experimenting with the controls on your Graphi-Q2 front panel, you've probably already figured out Sabine's new "Tweek-n-Peek" feature. If you've ever grabbed a graphic EQ fader, moved it, and wondered what the "real" setting was, your prayers have been answered. Tweek-n-Peek shows you the value of every control on the front panel while you adjust them. As you move a compressor knob or EQ slider, the value of the setting for that control will appear in the LED screen that normally displays the digital delay time. After two seconds of no further adjustment, the display will revert to the digital delay setting. This means you can adjust all your controls to a precise, repeatable setting, not just to a vague knob or fader position. The accuracy of your settings for all the parameters of your Graphi-Q2 is thus significantly improved. The resolution of front panel graphic EQ fader settings is ½ dB when the range of boost/cut is ±6 dB, or 1 dB when the range of boost/cut is ± 12 dB. (When using the remote software to control the EQ faders the resolution is always 1/2 dB, regardless of range.)



6.3. HIGH CUT/LOW CUT FILTERS 6.3.1. Front Panel Control

These controls are located immediately to the right of the graphic EQ sliders. For the LOW CUT FILTER, the Graphi-Q2 will attenuate frequencies at and below your knob setting with a slope of 12 dB per octave. For the HIGH CUT FILTER, frequencies at and above the knob setting will be attenuated 12 dB per octave. The extreme counterclockwise knob position of the LOW CUT FILTER and the extreme clockwise position of the HIGH CUT FILTER turn the filters off. The range of the HIGH CUT FILTER extends from a starting point of 3 KHz to 20 KHz. The range of the LOW CUT FILTER extends from 20 Hz at the bottom to 1 KHz at the top. The frequency chosen is the point at which attenuation of the filter reaches 3 dB. In other words, the filter roll-off actually begins just above (for low cut filter) or below (for high cut) the chosen frequency.



6.4. FEEDBACK CONTROL AND PARAMETRIC EQUALIZATION

Operation of the FBX Feedback Exterminator section of the front panel of your Graphi-Q2 is simple, but may require a brief explanation for those of you unfamiliar with Sabine FBX products and/or terminology. Let's begin by defining a few key terms.

6.4.1. Glossary of Terms

- **FEEDBACK** describes what happens when a loudspeaker disperses sound back into an amplified microphone, at a level sufficient to allow one or more frequencies to ring out of control. Feedback can occur at any frequency, but is especially painful at mid to high frequencies. The specific frequencies that feedback in a particular situation depend on the acoustics of the environment, the placement of the microphone(s) and speaker(s), the response characteristics of the sound system components, and the volume of amplification. Anyone who has operated a sound system or attended a conference or a concert is familiar with feedback and its unpleasant consequences!
- A PARAMETRIC EQUALIZER allows the user to precisely specify three critical values that determine an equalizer's characteristics: the center frequency of the EQ band that is boosted or cut (measured in Hertz), the amount of boost or cut imposed at the center point (measured in dB), and the width of the bell-curve shaped frequency band that is affected (typically measured in octaves).

- An FBX FILTER is essentially an automatically placed, narrowly attenuated parametric filter, with the center point of its narrow cut tuned to a precise frequency that feeds back when a sound system amplifies one or more microphones to a sufficient volume. The Graphi-Q2 will automatically place up to 12 FBX filters in the signal path, corresponding to 12 distinct frequencies of feedback.
- A FIXED FBX FILTER will not change the frequency of the filter notch. Once it sets itself, it remains at the same frequency. However, unless it is LOCKED, a FIXED FILTER may move its notch deeper without changing frequency. Fixed filters are typically set by turning up system gain to the point of feedback prior to sound check or performance, and will represent the "first layer" of feedback protection.
- A DYNAMIC FBX FILTER acts like a Fixed filter, until all available FBX filters (Fixed or Dynamic) are in use and a new frequency begins to feedback. When this happens, whichever Dynamic filter was set earliest in the performance will drop its original frequency and move to the new one. Dynamic filters are especially useful with mobile or wireless microphones (where feedback frequencies may change due to microphone repositioning) and represent the "second layer" of feedback protection. Note that both Fixed and Dynamic filters can be set while music is playing (except when in Setup Mode). One of the distinguishing properties of the Sabine FBX algorithm is its ability to distinguish music (or speech, or other sounds) from feedback.
- A LOCKED FBX FILTER is a Fixed filter locked in place; i.e., it cannot get any deeper or change its frequency. Locking Fixed filters ensures your first layer of feedback protection is always in place.
- FILTER WIDTH generally refers to the width (measured in octaves, or fractions thereof) of a filter, including graphic EQ filters, parametric filters, and FBX filters. More specifically, width is defined by determining the outer frequencies (surrounding the filter center point) that are altered ± 3 dB when the filter is imposed. This is shown in the diagram below:

In this example, the filter width is defined as approximately one-half octave, corresponding to the band of frequencies attenuated 3 dB or more when the filter is pulled down. In this example, the width

is the same whether the filter depth is -9 dB or -19 dB.

CONSTANT Q filters are filters whose widths remain constant regardless of the amount of boost or attenuation imposed by the filters. In other words, in the above example, a Constant Q filter that was one half-octave wide would remain a half-octave wide regardless of the EQ slider position. Some EQ units on the market are Constant Q; others are Proportional Q, meaning the filter gets wider as it gets



deeper. All Sabine products use Constant Q filters, to prevent affecting any more sound than necessary.

• **FBX Setup Mode** refers to Sabine's unique, exceptionally fast method of placing FBX filters during sound system setup. Setup Mode is less "fussy" about analyzing the sound it hears and is more likely to regard audio signals over a minimum threshold as feedback. It's also designed to allow feedback to occur at lower input levels, and, finally, it imposes a strong limiter on the feedback output as it occurs. The net result of all this black magic is that you are able to ring out feedback more quickly, and at a much quieter level! You'll know Setup Mode is engaged when the Setup LED (at the right of the front panel) is illuminated.

NOTE: MAKE SURE Setup Mode IS OFF WHEN YOU USE THE Graphi-Q2 OR YOUR AUDIO SIGNAL QUALITY MAY SUFFER! (See Section 6.4.2.3 Setup Mode Cautions).

IMPORTANT

FBX Setup Mode OFF During Performance

6.4.2. Front Panel Control of FBX filters

Note: Most of the front panel and GRQ-Remote control operation of the FBX section of the Graphi-Q2 is similar, except that the remote control replaces your fingers with a mouse. In addition, there are some controls offered only with GRQ-Remote software. These features are summarized in **Section Eight**.

Controls for the patented FBX Feedback Exterminator are located immediately to the right of the HIGH and LOW CUT FILTERS.

6.4.2.1. FBX Filter LED Indicators

The 12 LEDs on the front panel Graphi-Q2 correspond to 12 available FBX filters. Each time an FBX

filter sets, another LED will light. A blinking LED indicates which filter was most recently set or made deeper (a filter may start at one depth and notch deeper at the same frequency as the system gain increases). The Graphi-Q2 comes preset from the factory to a default setting of nine Fixed and three Dynamic filters. However, you may follow the instructions in STEP 5 below to reconfigure the setup to be any combination of Fixed and Dynamic filters.

6.4.2.2. Eliminating Feedback with the Graphi-Q2 FBX Filters

Follow these steps to obtain the maximum gain before feedback, with minimal or no loss in the tonal quality of your program. The steps that follow are applicable to setting up a one-channel unit (GRQ3121). When using the GRQ3122, we recommend setting up one channel at a time by turning down the other channel of the mixer or power amplifier. If you are using both outputs of your GRQ3121, you may wish to turn down the power amp gain for whichever output is less likely to produce feedback. If both channels are equally feedback prone, leave the power amps turned up. This will allow you to set filters that are specific to each channel of your sound system.



STEP ONE: EQUIPMENT SETUP

Set up your sound system and position all the speakers and microphones you anticipate using. When possible, avoid placing microphones directly in front of speakers.

STEP TWO: TURN OFF NOISE GATES

If there is any equipment in the signal path that incorporates a noise gate function, you MUST DISENGAGE these noise gates prior to the setup procedure. You may reengage them upon setup conclusion.

STEP THREE: GAIN DOWN, TURN ON

Set the master volumes on your mixer to their lowest gain positions. Turn on the mixer, then the Graphi-Q2, then any other accessories, and finally your power amplifier. Adjust the gain settings and balance for all your microphones, but keep your master mixer volume down.

STEP FOUR: RESET FILTERS

If there are FBX filters already set (indicated by illuminated LEDs), you should RESET these filters. (NOTE: For maximum FBX power, we recommend resetting filters every time you change or move your sound system.)

The Graphi-Q2 allows two stages of filter resetting. You may reset only the Dynamic filters, or you may elect to reset all (both Fixed and Dynamic).

 To RESET DYNAMIC FILTERS ONLY, press and hold the RESET button long enough for the Dynamic filter LEDs to flash three times, then release.

IMPORTANT

Turbo Mode needs QUIET. No program, talking, music or loud room noise! To **RESET ALL FILTERS**, press and hold the RESET button for seven flashes of all the LEDs, then release.

Note that resetting all filters automatically engages FBX Setup Mode, which will allow feedback to occur and be removed more readily, and at a lower volume. "Setup Mode on" will be indicated by the Setup LED (at the right of the front panel) illuminating.

NOTE: MAKE SURE Setup Mode IS OFF WHEN YOU USE THE Graphi-Q2 OR YOUR AUDIO SIGNAL QUALITY MAY SUFFER! (See Section 6.4.2.3 Setup Mode Cautions)

STEP FIVE: SET FIXED FILTERS (Optional)

If you want to change the factory default setting of nine Fixed and three Dynamic FBX filters, press and hold the SET FIXED button. The corresponding LEDs for all filters set to FIXED will come on, then all filter LEDs will flash, then each filter LED will begin to light in sequence. Continue to hold the button -- when the LED corresponding to the desired number of fixed filters lights, release the SET FIXED button. The number of fixed filters will automatically default to Dynamic filters — unless you are setting filters with your computer. (See **Section Eight**)

STEP SIX: SET FBX FILTER WIDTH (Optional)

FBX filters default to a Constant Q width of one-tenth of an octave. Extensive Sabine research has shown this width to be an ideal setting, wide enough to remove feedback with very little or no effect upon the rest of the audio program. In some applications (for example, speech-only applications, where audio quality is not as demanding as in a music program), however, it may be advisable to use a wider filter for more robust feedback elimination.

The Graphi-Q2 allows you to mix filter widths between one-tenth and one-fifth octaves. You may set all filters to one width, or some filters to tenth-octave and some to fifth-octave. Width selection is controlled by the button marked "FIFTH OCT" directly below the RESET button. When this button is pushed and the LED is illuminated, **any filters set after that point will be one-fifth octave wide**. Pushing the button again, and switching off the LED, will make any additional filters one-tenth octave wide.

STEP SEVEN: RAISE MASTER GAIN

IMPORTANT

Setup Mode needs QUIET. No program, talking, music or loud room noise! First, make sure your Graphi-Q2 is not set to bypass the FBX filters (check the Bypass button LED; it should be off). Then, make sure your power amplifier is turned up and your microphones are turned on. (Note: If you reset the FBX filters, your Graphi-Q2 will be in Setup Mode, as indicated by the front panel Setup LED. See the cautions below.) Slowly raise the master gain of your mixer until the first feedback begins. The FBX will quickly remove the feedback, by setting the first filter and lighting the first filter LED. Continue to raise the gain slowly. Try to avoid making two or more frequencies feed back at the same time, which sometimes happens if the gain is raised too quickly. As new frequencies feed back, new filters will be placed, as indicated by consecutive filter LEDs lighting up. (Note: sometimes the same frequency will feed back a second time, and an earlier filter will notch more deeply. When this happens, the original LED indicating this frequency will blink, showing it to be the most recently active filter.) Repeat this procedure until one of two things happens:

- 1. All of the Fixed filters and at least the first Dynamic filter are set. This will automatically turn **Setup Mode** off (LED will turn off to indicate this), or...
- You've set as many filters as you need or want, even though you haven't used them all. Press LOCK FIXED to prevent any more Fixed filters from setting, or any of the set Fixed filters from notching more deeply. Pressing LOCK FIXED also exits **Setup Mode**. If you wish to allow unused Fixed filters to set or allow deepening of Fixed filters press the Lock Fixed button again.

NOTE: While Setup Mode is operating, the compressor LEDs may indicate compressor activity. This is normal and will not affect compressor operation when Setup is not engaged. When Setup Mode automatically turns off, you'll be treated to a brief LED light show. The **filter LEDs will light in sequence back and forth to indicate that you are exiting Setup Mode -- stop raising gain!** Because Setup limits the volume of feedback as it occurs during setup, feedback volume may briefly increase when exiting Setup The dancing LED display is designed to caution you to monitor your master gain setting while coming out of Setup.

6.4.2.3. Setup Mode Cautions.

IMPORTANT

Setup Mode OFF During Performance Setup Mode is designed to allow fast and quiet feedback elimination during setup. Setup Mode should ONLY be used for pre-performance setup. DO NOT USE Setup Mode DURING A PERFORMANCE! This will produce distorted audio and set filters on music or audio program. Setup Mode also may not work well during setup in a very noisy environment. To speed up feedback elimination, Setup relaxes its criteria for distinguishing "good" audio from feedback and places filters more readily. If the environment is noisy, there is a greater likelihood of placing a filter on audio that is not feedback. When in doubt, turn Setup off by pressing the Lock Fixed button, then press Lock Fixed one more time (to ready the FBX Fixed filters) and raise your system gain as described in Step Seven above. This will still eliminate feedback very quickly, though not as quickly as Setup Mode, and without reducing the volume of the feedback before it is filtered out. You'll know if Setup is on by the LED indicator on the Graphi-Q2 front panel.

Whether or not Setup Mode is used, the end result of setting up FBX filters should be identical. Your sound system will have clearer, louder, feedback-free sound.

6.4.3. Adjustments Available Only with Remote Control

In addition to FBX, graphic, and high and low cut filters, your Graphi-Q2 can provide fully programmable parametric filters. These filters are accessible only through GRQ-Remote software. Each channel of your Graphi-Q2 can have up to 12 total filters, which can be configured as any combination of parametric, fixed FBX, or dynamic FBX filters. See **Section Eight** for a complete look at GRQ Remote Control Software.

6.5. COMPRESSOR/LIMITER CONTROLS

6.5.1. Front Panel Control

COMPRESSOR controls are located immediately to the right of the FBX controls. Front panel controls consist of standard RATIO, THRESHOLD, and GAIN makeup knobs, and two horizontal LED ladders showing channel input gain on the top, and compressor gain reduction on the bottom row.

TECH TIP

Unity Gain Set Gain to 12:00 (straight up) for unity gain. RATIO ranges from 1:1 to infinity: 1 (limiting).

The input level THRESHOLD, at which compression is engaged, can be adjusted from -30 dBV to + 31.5 dBV.

The output gain of the compressor can be increased or decreased by 12 dB (this will also serve as the control for the overall output level of the box).



Compressor KNEE, ATTACK, and RELEASE settings can only be set using

the Remote Control Software, and will default to the last settings programmed. (In addition, the remote software will allow setting of a separate limiter threshold.) The factory default settings are attack = 15 mSec, release = 400 mSec, and knee = 20. These will remain in place until they are reprogrammed using the software (see **Section 9.5.2** for detailed information on Compressor/Limiters and **Section 8.2.6** for using the Graphi-Q2 Remote Control Software Compressor/Limiter control).

6.6. DIGITAL DELAY CONTROLS

6.6.1. Front Panel Control

DIGITAL DELAY controls are located to the right of the COMPRESSOR controls. You may delay the output of the Graphi-Q2 audio signal by up to 999.96 mSec (essentially one second) by using the up/down increment buttons just below the display showing the amount of delay in mSec. Delay adjustments may be made with 20-microsecond precision.

For the GRQ3121 model, the digital delay adjustments from the front panel will affect ONLY the Output B signal. Output A will remain undelayed. You may of course alter the delay setting for either output using the GRQ Remote Software (see **Section Eight**). **Note:** For a complete discussion on using delays in sound systems (and we mean complete), see **Section 9.4**.



When the Graphi-Q2 is first turned on, the firmware version will display briefly within the Digital Delay LED screen. See **Section 6.2.3** for how Tweek-n-Peek uses the Digital Delay LED.

6.7. BYPASS

6.7.1. Front Panel Control

BYPASS controls are located at the far right of the Graphi-Q2 front panel. Separate push button controls allow independent bypass switching for graphic EQ, FBX, and digital delay settings. For two-channel Graphi-Q2s, separate bypass controls are available for each channel as well. When any feature is bypassed, the LED within the switch will illuminate.



Turning off power to the Graphi-Q2 will place the entire unit in hardwire bypass. Please note that a sudden bypass of FBX filters may result in a sudden burst of no-longer-filtered feedback. It ain't pretty when this happens, so proceed cautiously.

BYPASS

6.8. FRONT PANEL DEFAULT SETTINGS ADJUSTABLE ONLY BY SOFTWARE

Graphi-Q2 models GRQ3121 and GRQ3122 allow adjustment of most, but not all parameters from the front panel. Aside from control of parametric filters and the crossover, which can only be adjusted using the GRQ2 Remote software (see **Section 8.4**), the few parameters which cannot be front panel controlled include:

- 1. Compressor attack, release, knee, and (for GRQ3122) True Stereo/Dual Mono option
- 2. Limiter threshold
- 3. All global parameters (graphic EQ filter width, maximum FBX depth, and FBX sensitivity and persistence)

These controls can be adjusted using the GRQ2 Remote software as well. In addition, factory default settings made for front panel operation can be changed while the units are connected to the software. These changes will remain in place for all front panel operation, regardless of whether a computer is connected or not, until the defaults are changed again from the software.

To change compressor/limiter defaults, you must be using the GRQ2 software and be in Front Panel Mode (Preset #1). Select "Front Panel Defaults" (F8 key) from the MAIN MENU, and change the parameters to the values you desire.

To change Global Parameter settings, choose "Global Parameters" (F5 key) from the MAIN MENU, or "Global" from within the FBX/Parametric screen. You may change any value within the indicated ranges, and your new settings will be used as new defaults for current and subsequent front panel operation.

6.9. FRONT PANEL CONTROL OPTIONS

In default mode Graphi-Q2 models GRQ3121 and GRQ3122 are set for front panel control. There are three possible control scenarios for these units:

1. **Front panel control.** All controls are available on the front panel. The Remote Software cannot control the unit, but if your are connected you can observe the changes made by the front panel within the software.

2. **GRQ2 Remote Software control.** When any preset except Preset 1 is loaded via the software, then the software takes control and the front panel controls are locked out.

3. **Mixed Control.** Using the Front Panel control window in the software, you can selectively lock or unlock the front panel controls. This is useful in a variety of applications. You can, for example, easily provide access to the front panel FBX settings but not the graphic EQ. Or you could maintain control over several functions in a Graphi-Q2 network using the software, and allow a guest engineer access to other functions simultaneously during the show.

Choosing Mixed Control settings can only be done through GRQ2 Remote software. See section 8.2.10 for instructions on using this part of the software.

Section Seven: GRQ2 Remote Software Installation

The Graphi-Q2 models GRQ3121 and GRQ3122 are designed with easy-to-use, familiar, analog-style front panel controls on the one hand, and computer-based, software driven control on the other. In order for you to experience the full impressive capability of the Graphi-Q2, however, we recommend using the GRQ-Remote Software, which opens up a whole new level of programmability. Here are a few of the control features accessible using the Remote Software:

- **Parametric filters.** You can control up to 12 parametric filters per channel, change or combine FBX filters into parametric filters, etc.
- **Crossover.** Adjust slopes and roll-off points for both outputs, and choose filter types.
- **Channel and multiple unit linking.** With simple serial connectors, you may link up to 2 sets of Graphi-Qs, each consisting of up to 8 units (16 channels), that can be controlled from a single computer. Within each of these networks you can link channels from different units, allowing common control of any parameter.
- **Increased storage capacity.** You can save files of up to 67 different memory configurations, transfer files from one unit to another, and assign presets to contact closure switches.
- More control options. High and Low Cut filter slope can be adjusted to 24 or 12 dB/octave. Compressor/Limiter attack, release, and knee can be adjusted. Auto Setup Mode automates feedback control even more than before, plus graphs the filters as they are set, and reports the exact frequencies, depths, and widths of all FBX filters. Password Protection allows you to prevent unauthorized tampering, but still allow a less sophisticated user to load settings.
- **No cost future-proof upgrading.** Your Graphi-Q2 can be updated via a simple connection to the Sabine web site (www.Sabine.com), whenever firmware and/or software upgrades are announced.

All Graphi-Q2 models come equipped with the hardware and software necessary to run the units via remote control from a Windows-equipped computer. Your unit should include one CD ROM that includes the GRQ-Remote Software and the Sabine Upgrade Wizard for future upgrades of your firmware and/or Remote Software (see **Section 8.10.**).

7.1. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. PC computer equipped with Pentium processor 100 MHz or faster.
- 2. Hard disc with at least 5 MB of available space for program files.
- 3. Windows 95 or higher.
- 4. SVGA or greater resolution graphic card and monitor.
- 5. Recommended minimum monitor resolution: 1024 x 768 pixels (or 800 x 600 pixels for 15 inch monitors). Monitor display settings need to be set to "small fonts" and 16 bit color as default.
- 6. One COM port for a serial connection, with a 16550 or faster COM chip.

7.2. CONNECTIONS

If your computer has a 9-pin COM port, use a standard 9pin male to standard 9-pin female RS-232 connector, available from most computer stores (for connecting multiple GRQ2s, use the slimmer version of the serial cable: .625 inches or 15.9 mm maximum width). Connect the computer's COM portto the back of the Graphi-



Q RS-232 jack labeled SERIAL IN. For the GRQ3121-S and GRQ3122-S, you may also use the front panel RS-232 jack. However, make sure that only one serial port is connected, front OR back.

If your computer's COM port requires a 25-pin connector, use a standard RS-232 25-pin female to standard 9-pin male computer-store connector. Alternatively, you may use a 25-pin female to 9-pin male adapter with a standard 9-pin to 9-pin connector described above. **Do not use any connectors that are wired for a <u>null modem</u>.**

SECTION SEVEN: GRQ2 REMOTE SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

You may connect and control up to eight Graphi-Q2s from one COM port. If your computer offers two COM ports, you may set up two distinct Graphi-Q2 networks of up to eight units each—one for each port. Simply connect units in series from the SERIAL OUT jack of the previous unit to the SERIAL IN jack of the next in line. There is no need to complete a connection loop from the last unit in the chain, back to the computer.

Note that with many Graphi-Q2s in line, the last units in the chain may respond more slowly, depending on how "busy" the processors of your units are (for example, FBX processing is computation-intensive). Also, commands from the computer controller may sometimes be executed faster than the update of the screen that displays the parameters; in other words, the report of the execution of the command may lag behind its actual completion. This time delay is an inherent limit of RS-232 serial connection speed.

7.3. INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE

Follow these simple instructions for installing the Sabine Remote Control Software for the Graphi-Q2:

- 1. Start Windows 95 or higher.
- 2. Insert the GRQ-Remote CD into your CD ROM drive.
- 3. Follow the instructions on the screen. The software will install on your computer.
 - NOTE: it is recommended that you allow the installer to place the Graphi-Q2 software in the default folder location.
- 4. You now have a Program group window called GRQ Remote and an icon called GRQ Remote.

NOTE: for updating software or re-flashing firmware, see section 8.10. Upgrading Graphi-Q2 Firmware and Software.

TECH TIP						
Computer	F2	FBX/Parametrics	F8	Front Panel Defaults	Shift-F1	Save snapshot #1
Keyboard	F3	Comp/Limiter	F9	View Curves	Shift-F2	Save snapshot #2
Shortcuts	F4	Digital Delay	F11	Link Table	Shift-F3	Save snapshot #3
	F5	Global Parameters	F12	Reset Parameters	Ctrl-F1	Load snapshot #1
	F6	Stored Presets	Ctrl-A	Select GRQ #1	Ctrl -F2	Load snapshot #2
	F7	Contact Closure	Ctrl-B	Select GRQ #2, (etc.)	Ctrl-F3	Load snapshot #3
		Assignment			Escape	Closes current screen (except main screen)
TECH TIP PC can't find Graphi-Q2 Try these tips if you are having difficulty con- necting your Graphi-Q2 unit(s) to a Windows PC.	firm 2. Ch 3. CO 4. Ref In V Dot	itware Version. Make sure ware version of your Grap eck cable. You want a se M Port. Make sure the Co iresh your COM Ports. Vindows, click Start and se uble click System. ek on Hardware, Device M	hi-Q2. rial 9-pin, r OM Port se elect Settir	ot a null modem. elected is correct. Ings, Control Panel.		is compatible with the
	Rig You This	ht click the COM Port for y ur computer will verify your s will clean out previous se Graphi-Q2 software to loc	our Graph intent and ttings for de	i-Q2 and select Remove then reboot. As it reboots evices no longer attached	(or Uninsta , it will rebuil	ld your COM Port file.
		<u>s, Port Settings</u> (Bits pe phi-Q2 Software and need			bits & Flov	v control) are

Section Eight: Using GRQ2 Remote Software

8.1. WELCOME SCREEN/NETWORK CHAIN SCREEN

Refer to **Section Seven** for instructions about installing the software and connecting your computer to up to eight Graphi-Qs, or 16 channels of audio. You can mix the original Graphi-Qs with the new Graphi-Q2s in a network, but the older Graphi-Qs must come after the Graphi-Q2s in the chain. If you use two COM ports on your computer, you can set up two distinct networks of Graphi-Qs, each consisting of up to eight units. (NOTE: one COM port chain cannot communicate directly to another, only within its own chain.)

Double click your GRQ icon and you are presented with the Welcome Screen. You can connect to your

0		×
F	GRAPHI-G	ARE
GRAPH-Q?	\$}}}}}}	
Connect GRAPHI-Q	COMM Port	OFFLINE EDIT/DEMO

Graphi-Qs, or run the software off-line for editing, printing or demonstration.

Before clicking the connect button, make sure all units in your serial chain are connected properly (see **Section 7.2**). When "Connect" is chosen, you'll get a message indicating remote connection is in progress (this may take a moment, so be patient). If the Remote Software successfully recognizes one

(C) Netwo	rk Chain		<u> </u>
Model:	GRQ3122 GRQ3121		
Name:	Mains		
	GraphiQ2 Remote found 2 Gra	phiQs in the above order.	
	Accept	Retry	Close

or more Graphi-Qs in your serial chain, the following screen (Network Chain) will appear:

This screen shows all of the Graphi-Q units connected to your computer via serial connections from the designated COM port. (Remember the software will allow two separate chains of connected Graphi-Qs, using two different COM ports.) It will also display the serial number of each unit, the model number, and a user-assignable name (Mains, Monitors, etc.). To assign a name, simply highlight the NAME box for the unit you wish to identify, then type in up to 8 characters. When you've done this for all the units you wish to name, or if you've already named units previously or don't need any identification beyond serial numbers, click ACCEPT, and the software will open the main screen.

8.1.1. Default Control Status

For first time startup with GRQ3122 and GRQ3121 ONLY: After you choose "Connect Graphi-Q" for the first time, the software will open in **Front-Panel mode**. This means that the front panel still has control, not your GRQ software. To take control with the software, follow these steps:

- 1. Choose Stored Presets from the Options Menu, or hit the F6 key.
- 2. Click on "System Default", then on "Load".

This will enable your remote control, with all parameters set to the factory default. All front panel controls are locked by default when in computer control mode. You can selectively enable front panel control for any function. See section 8.2.10 Mixed Front Panel Control.

NOTE: When GRQ Remote is in control, the REMOTE LED on the front panel will light.

If you are using the **GRQ3122-S or GRQ3121-S**, your first session will begin with GRQ-Remote in control. There is no front panel mode available with these models.

8.2. GRQ2 MAIN SCREEN

The Main Remote screen (see page 26) is designed for easy access to all of the vital functions and controls of the Graphi-Q. Most can be accessed directly on the Main screen, and no control screen is more than a single keystroke away. If you're familiar with Windows applications, you will probably be an expert with a few minutes of experimenting. Read on for a description of the control protocols for GRQ functions.

8.2.1. Graphic Equalizer

Changing EQ slider settings can be accomplished in three ways: (1) Click and drag the desired EQ slider with the mouse; (2) Click the right mouse button, then type in the amount of boost or cut when prompted by a pop-up screen; or (3) Use the left-right arrow keys to navigate to the slider you desire (indicated in red), then use the up/down arrows to boost or cut. All EQ adjustments allow a half-dB resolution, with one exception: in front panel mode with the EQ range set to ± 12 dB, the resolution for adjusting EQ faders will be 1 dB. In remote control mode, however, the resolution for adjustment will always be $\frac{1}{2}$ dB, regardless of EQ range. The value of the current slider setting shows in a pop-up window whenever the slider is clicked with the left mouse button, or selected with a left-right arrow key.

A final extra control offered by the Remote Software is the level control slider to the right of the 31 EQ bands. This control is redundant with the gain knob on the compressor section of the Remote Software; changing one control will be reflected in the setting indication of the other.

For two channel Graphi-Q2s, click on the Channel selections to the right of the blue field to select the channel EQ controls you wish to adjust. For all Graphi-Q functions, the color yellow will represent all settings and displays associated with the left channel; green will represent the right channel.

Also to the right of the curve display are the controls that allow choice of EQ adjustment range (6 dB or 12 dB boost or cut).

8.2.2. High/Low Cut Filters

High and Low Cut Filter Controls on the Remote Control are located just below the slider controls. Changing high and low cut filters can be accomplished by two methods:

- 1. Click and drag on the left horizontal scroll bar to change the low cut filter, and on the right horizontal scroll bar to change the high cut filter; or
- 2. Click the right mouse button, and type in the filter value. Clicking with the left mouse button will also display the current value of the filter. Filter slope can be independently set for both high and low

cut filters by clicking on the slope indicators, located between the two horizontal scroll bars. Filter slope can be either 12 or 24 dB per octave.

8.2.3. Response Curve Display

The gray field below the graphic EQ controls is the Response Curve Display. In default mode, this will show the totality of all EQ changes (graphic EQ, parametric EQ, high cut, low cut, FBX) made manually or automatically to your audio signal, and currently in active mode, displayed separately for each output (yellow = channel A, green = channel B). If any EQ function is in bypass, the Response Curve Display will NOT show the effect of that EQ (in other words, what you hear and what you see will correspond).

8.2.3.1. View Curve

You can customize the Response Curve Display to show any or all of the various types of EQ programmable with the Graphi-Q (the default mode is to show all EQ). Select View Curve from the Options Menu, or press F9 to access the screen at right:

You can elect to show the effect any combination of Graphi-QEQ settings on your overall unit response curve, independently for any channel. Most commonly this selectability would be used in order to view the response curve associated with only one type of EQ (e.g., FBX) in the signal path. Our recommendation is to display all EQ response, as this is the true "audio picture" of the Graphi-Q EQ settings, and will show combined EQ results whenever a change is made. Otherwise, your response



curve display may not reflect the actual EQ and filtering applied to your audio signal.

8.2.4. Output Level

To the right of the 31 graphic EQ sliders is the Output Level Control. This may be adjusted in three ways: (1) Click and drag with the left mouse key; (2) Click with the right mouse key and type a value, or (3) Adjust the gain knob in the Compressor/Limiter section of the Remote Software main screen. Compressor Gain and Output Level Controls are redundant and will change together.

8.2.5. FBX Feedback Exterminator & Parametric Filters

The Graphi-Q2 Remote Control offers powerful options for setting and controlling FBX filters that are not available using front panel controls. In addition, the software allows programming of parametric EQ filters, which is not possible from the front panel.

To access FBX/Parametric controls, click on the box to the right of the Curve Display labeled FBX/ Parametrics, or press the F2 key, or choose "FBX & Parametric Filter" from the Main Menu. The screen shown on the following page will appear.

After highlighting the TYPE field for any or all of the 12 filters for each channel, you can change the type of filter from FBX F (for fixed) to FBX D (for dynamic) to PARA (for parametric) using the left mouse button and the horizontal scroll bar located below the filter table. Alternatively, you may type F, D, or P (Note: the factory default is nine FBX F and three FBX D Filters). When PARA is chosen for a particular filter, you may then click on the FREQ, WIDTH, and DEPTH fields, and either type, or use the scroll bar, to select your desired value. For two-channel Graphi-Qs, you may choose channels using the Channel A/ Channel B selectors at the right of the FBX/Parametrics screen, where you will also find the controls for locking fixed filters (which will change their display readout from FBX-F to FBX-L), and adjusting global settings for Graphi-Q2 operation (details on these operations follow).

NEW for the Graphi-Q2: You can now edit parametric filters by simply clicking on the response curve and drawing a filter. Left clicking and dragging adjusts filter centerpoint and depth. Right clicking and dragging controls filter width.

Active front panel Graphi-Q2s under remote control will light their filter LEDs whenever an FBX filter sets, regardless of width or depth settings.

MAIN GRQ REMOTE SCREEN



Scroll Bar changes values in selected field Click & drag the handle, or click anywhere in the bar for quick editing

FBX and PARAMETRIC FILTERS SCREEN



GLOBAL PARAMETERS SCREEN

Graphic EQ Filter Width	1	(0.50 to 1.00 Oct)	Channel	
FBX Filter Width	0.1	(0.01 to 1.00 Oct)	A B	Global Paramete
Max FBX Depth	-40	(-80 to -6 dB)		Link Indicator
Sensitivity	5	(0-10)	Help	
Persistence	3	(1-5)		
-			Close	

IMPORTANT

Equipment Power-on Sequencing to Avoid Feedback

Important Note on Equipment Power-on Sequencing and Feedback Suppression

The Graphi-Q2 is similar to a computer in that it requires several seconds to boot up and become operative. Because of this, the potential exists for feedback to assault your system should you power up all of your equipment (including the Graphi-Q2) in unison, with volumes set to operating levels. Therefore, it is wise to consider either one of the following courses:

- 1. Sequence the power up so that the Graphi-Q2 turns on well ahead of the power amp. Allow a 5 second time differential for comfort.
- 2. Set up the Graphi-Q2 to give the signal a boost, and adjust the rest of your gain structure accordingly. When the Graphi-Q2 is bypassed (or still booting), the signal level will be below the feedback threshold.

8.2.5.1. Setting FBX Filters with Graphi-Q Remote Software

The Remote Software offers an additional method for setting FBX filters. The new software option is called **Auto Setup Mode**. See **Section 6.4.1** for more information about feedback filter and terminology. Also please read **Section 6.4** for a more complete discussion of Setup Mode.

For Remote Control operation, Manual or Auto Setup Modes can only be accessed by resetting all FBX filters in one or both channels (for two channel units). If you have a 2-channel unit, and have reset filters in both channels, you will be asked to select the channel for setting FBX filters in Setup Mode.

NOTE: The FBX filters will not set on single channel units if you have the B output channel FBX filters in bypass **before** setup.

Once you are familiar with Setup options, you may move forward by clicking the appropriate selection. If you are unfamiliar with Setup Mode operation, click **Setup Help**.



Using Auto Setup: Before selecting **Auto Mode**, make sure all your microphones are positioned, and turned up to the approximate correct gain setting for each input, while the master gain on your mixer is turned down. Raise the master gain slowly (only for the appropriate channel for a 2-channel system) until you hear the first hint of feedback, then click on **Auto**. At this point, the Graphi-Q2 will take over, and slowly raise its output gain, setting FBX filters sequentially as the gain increases. You will see the filters being set in the FBX/Parametrics screen (the response curve will change and the actual frequency value of the feedback will be displayed) and a display of the amount of gain increase. Feedback will occur at a very low volume. Setup mode will exit, and the gain will be dropped slightly (for a safety margin), when all fixed filters and the first dynamic FBX filter have been set, or when Setup is turned off by clicking on the **Cancel Setup** button.

For two-channel systems, **Auto Setup** will prompt you to perform the same setup for the second channel, or exit to normal operation. For models GRQ3121 and GRQ3121-S, **Auto Setup** will set the same filters simultaneously for both A and B outputs, and will show the B output FBX/parametric screen during setup. You cannot set FBX filters in Output A if FBX/Parametric for Output B is bypassed <u>before</u> setup. Set filters first, then bypass B.

Using Manual Setup : If you select **Manual Mode**, the master gain must be raised manually (again, we recommend only one channel at a time for two-channel units). Raise the gain until the system is on the verge of feedback, then walk around the stage with a microphone until you find a position that excites feedback. Slowly raise the gain to cause enough feedback to set an FBX filter. Repeat the process until all of the Fixed filters and one Dynamic FBX filter are set. Then lower the gain slightly. During Manual Setup operation, feedback will be kept to a low volume, and you will be able to see filters setting on both the curve display, and in the FBX/Parametric screen. Manual Setup Mode will exit when either the first dynamic FBX filter is set, or when you click on the Cancel Setup button. You'll be prompted when Manual Setup is exiting, and you may need to adjust system gain when Setup is releasing and no longer limiting feedback to a lower level (setup only). Be aware of the potential for any ringing feedback to briefly rise in volume.

8.2.5.2. Gain Structure and Manual Setup

If your power amplifier gain is low, Manual Setup Mode may not work well. The level of feedback is compressed during Manual Setup, and the combination of compressed output and low amplifier gain may keep feedback below its threshold. Raise the amplifier gain to correct this. This situation cannot occur in Auto Setup Mode.

For two-channel systems, Manual Setup will allow you the choice of either performing the same setup

for the second channel, or exiting to normal operation.

8.2.5.3. Two Cautions When Using Setup Mode

- 1. Do not use turbo during a performance. It is a setup tool only. If you play audio through the Graphi-Q while it is in Setup Mode (Manual or Auto), the audio may sound distorted, and FBX filters will set inappropriately.
- Setup works best in a quiet environment. Because it relaxes its analysis of what constitutes feedback, Setup mode may cause the Graphi-Q2 to set filters for any sound picked up by a microphone.

When in doubt, exit **Setup Mode** and ring out feedback by raising system gain. The results should be identical, but feedback during setup will be louder.

8.2.5.4. Normal FBX Operation

After resetting FBX filters, if you close the Setup screen, your Graphi-Q will still place FBX filters when feedback occurs. You can place filters without Setup Mode simply by raising system gain until feedback occurs.

8.2.6. Crossover Adjustments

The new Graphi-Q2 crossover allows you to divide the input signal of any Graphi-Q2 by frequency range and send it to the two outputs. Here are a few important protocols when using the crossover:

Input/Output

-GRQ3121 or GRQ3121-S: These are 1x2 units. The A output is for the low frequency band, and the B output is for the high frequency band.

—GRQ3122 or GRQ3122-S: These are 2x2 units. When using the crossover use only the A channel input. Engaging the crossover will remove the B channel input from signal processing path. The A output is for the low frequency band, and the B output is for the high frequency band.

Front Panels and other processing

—GRQ3121 or GRQ3122: These are front-panel controlled units. When using the crossover the active independent processing for each channel is maintained. When the crossover is active the LED will display XOVR. Crossover controls are avilable in software while in Front Panel mode.

Control Tip

For GRQ3122 & 3122-S: When the crossover is engaged the A channel is the active input and the B channel is muted. --GRQ3121-S or GRQ3122-S: These are blank front panel units. When using the crossover the active independent processing for each channel is maintained.

Using the crossover

Selecting the Crossover button from the main screen of the GRQ2 Remote Software opens the window shown below. Choose your high and low shoulder frequencies, filter slopes, and filter types as shown. You may also control gain for each of the low (channel A) and high (channel B). This is the same gain control found on the Main Screen and the Compressor Screen.



8.2.7. Compressor/Limiter Adjustments

Compressor/limiter controls are located below the EQ curve display on the main Graphi-Q remote screen. You may adjust settings by clicking (left button) on a virtual knob or control and moving your mouse, or by clicking with the right mouse button and typing in a value. In the former instance, a pop-up window will appear to show the chang-

Control Tip

You can always rightclick any control knob to reveal the keyboard entry window for any parameter.

make adjustments. In addition, you may click the Compressor button to the right of the Curve Display, choose Compressor/Limiter from the Main Menu, or press F3. In each case, the screen shown at right will appear.



Within the Compressor/Limiter screen, you may change values for any of the seven compressor/limiter parameters (Ratio, Threshold, Gain, Attack, Release, Knee, and Limiter threshold) by clicking in the field and typing in a value, or clicking in the field and using the scroll bar at the bottom of the screen. For all parameters except Limiter threshold, you may also use the knobs at the bottom of the main screen. All parameter value indicators (knob position, numeric indicator, and scroll bar position) will co-vary. In addition to these indicators, the Compressor/Limiter screen will graphically display the dynamic relationship of input and output levels. (The front panel gain metering on the Graphi-Q will also reflect remote control settings.)

For GRQ3122 and GRQ3122-S models, you may choose to have your compressor operate in either True Stereo mode, or Dual Mono mode. In Dual Mono mode, the compressor for each channel acts independently. In True Stereo mode, the two channels interact to preserve stereo imaging, and a signal peak that exceeds the threshold in only one channel will be compressed in both channels. The more extreme ratio setting of the two channels will be the ratio applied to both signal paths as well.

Note that stereo compression is distinct from linked compressor settings. See Section 8.3.2.5. Compressor Linking Options for GRQ3122 and GRQ3122-S Models, for more information on these options and how they affect compressor operation.

8.2.8. Digital Delay Adjustments

Digital delay can be set from the main remote screen by three methods:

- 1. Using the up/down arrow keys below the delay readout
- 2. Right clicking on the delay readout, which will allow you to type and enter a delay value.
- 3. For a more detailed look, you can access the Digital Delay Screen by either selecting Digital Delay from the Main Menu, hitting the F4 key, or selecting the Delay button. The screen shown at right will appear.

DELAY 21.38	(1.38 TO 999.96 mS)	Channel
DELAY 24.13	(1.56 TO 1128.55 Ft)	AB
DELAY 7.35	(0.47 TO 343.99 M)	 Centigrade
		🕥 Fahrenheit

Inside the Delay Screen you may change the delay length by either using the horizontal scroll bar, or highlighting a field and typing the desired value. Note that all three scales (time, meters, feet) change together. Front panel delay displays will update when values are changed using the Remote Software.

Caution: We do not recommend making large changes in delay settings (or loading presets with large differences in delay settings) when program is playing through your system. Pitch shifting may temporarily occur as delay is adjusted. You may bypass the delay section without pitch change occurring, but the time relationship will change. In addition, to avoid "pops and clicks" in the audio signal, digital delay changes are implemented in steps rather than all at once, and will take a bit longer to be fully realized.

8.2.8.1. Temperature Gauge for Digital Delay

The speed of sound changes as a function of ambient air temperature. Therefore, the delay compensation

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required to synchronize the arrival of multiple sound sources (all at different positions) to a listener will vary as a function of temperature. The temperature gauge allows you to measure the distance you are compensating for, and to adjust the corresponding delays as a function of ambient temperature. Simply set temperature in Fahrenheit or Centigrade scales, either by clicking in the temperature field and entering a value, or by clicking and dragging on the "mercury" in the thermometer icon. The relationship between distance and milliseconds will be automatically set to the correct proportion for the specified temperature.

8.2.9. Bypass

CAUTION

FBX / Parametric Bypass

Be careful when bypassing FBX or Parametric filters. This may allow suppressed feedback to be released! Bypass settings are saved in Stored Presets and will be recalled as part of a saved preset. Bypass switching, however, is NOT subject to linked control (see next section). The Graphi-Q2 Remote Control software offers expanded control over various bypass functions. The Bypass controls are located at the bottom of the main screen, and are activated by clicking the appropriate bypass boxes. Active front panel units will display the appropriate bypass status as well.

The Remote Control allows all Graphi-Q2 processing to be bypassed individually by function and/or by channel. Use Bypass to customize the processing you need on each Graphi-Q2 channel.

For single channel Graphi-Qs, bypass controls apply to the two different outputs of the unit. In addition to the choice of Bypass or Active for each function for each output, you may set different values for delay time and output gain for Outputs A and B.

8.2.10. Front Panel Control Options

The new Graphi-Q2 allows you to selectively lock out each of the front panel control sections. You can, for example, allow a guest engineer to use the graphic EQ while locking out the compressor and FBX controls. The factory default is all front panel controls are enabled, and you can always go back to this condition by loading preset number 1 - Front Panel Control.

The window below shows the Front Panel Options control. Simply check the functions you wish to be controlled by the front panel and hit Apply. Control is unique to either the front panel or the Remote Control software, but not both simultaneously.

🕲 Front Panel Option	S		
Rer	note Control	Mode Options	
When the Graphi the functions belo	Q2 is in REMOTE I w in FRONT PAN	mode, you can choos EL mode by checking	e to keep the boxes
Function	REMOTE	FRONT PANEL	
EQ			Apply
FBX Reset	V		
FBX Lock Fixed	>		Destaur
FBX Fifth Octave	>		Restore Default
FBX Set Fixed #	V		Derault
Delay	V		
Compressor Thresh	V		
Compressor Ratio	V		
Gain	V		
FBX Bypass	V		
EQ Bypass	~		
Delay Bypass	V		

8.3. LINKING PARAMETERS AND CONTROL WITH THE GRQ-REMOTE SOFT-WARE

One of the most powerful features of the Graphi-Q2 Remote Software is its capability to control multiple units from a single central computer. Up to two sets of eight units can be linked via serial cables and controlled from a single laptop computer.

Control of so many audio channels can be greatly simplified by linking channels together, so that multiple channels may be controlled by a single keystroke. For example, if a sound system is using sets of identical speakers in acoustically similar settings, one graphic EQ curve may be applicable to all the audio channels, yet the different speakers may require different delay settings.

Linking units is accomplished via the Link Table, which can be opened from the Options menu, or by pressing F11. The screen shown at right will open:

Let's call each unit/channel combination (e.g., Graphi-Q2 #1, channel B) a "cell." You may link cells independently

٥L	ink Table Func	tion (Der	no)						_ 🗆	×
	Unit	GQ1	GQ2	GQ3	GQ4	GQ5	GQ6	GQ7	GQ8	
	Name									
	# of Channel	2								
	Graphic EQ A	A1	A1	A2	R1	A3				
	Graphic EQ B	A1	A1	A2	R1	A3				
	Parametric A	A1	A1	R1						
	Parametric B	A1	A1	R1						
	Comp/L A					A2	A2			
	Comp/L B					A2	A2			
	Digital Delay A	A3	A3					R1		
	Digital Delay B		A3					R1		
	Output Level A	A1	A1							
	Output Level B		A1							
	Global Para A			A1	A1					
	Global Para B			A1	A1					
	Apply		Remove	All Links		Help	_	Clo	se	
	Apply		Henlove			Пер		CIO	<u> </u>	

for all of the displayed parameters; in other words, you can choose to link graphic EQ settings for one group of cells, and link delay settings for a completely different grouping. There are three available conditions for linking cells:

- **NO LINK** Parameter settings are independent of all other channels and units. Changing the value of a parameter for an unlinked cell will not affect any other cell (default condition).
- ABSOLUTE LINK Values of parameters for ABSOLUTELY LINKED cells will be copied to the identical setting. The first cell you choose for your ABSOLUTE LINK group will be the source value for copying, and will be highlighted with a red color. Once ABSOLUTE LINK is established, all linked cell settings will change together when ANY of the linked cells is changed.
- **RELATIVE LINK** Value adjustments made to any REL LINKED cell will affect all REL LINKED cells up or down by equal amounts. Initial differences among cells will be maintained. Since values are relative, no one cell will act as a master or source value.

Using a combination of letters and numbers (A1, R2, A8, etc.), you may specify up to eight different linked combinations of cells for each parameter. For example, if you have 8 two channel Graphi-Q2s in your serial network, you could configure 8 linked groups, each linking together the two channels of each unit. Or, you could link all the A channels together for all 8 units, the B channels of the first four Graphi-Q2s, the B channels of units 5 and 6, etc., or any combination up to eight different groups. All cells in the same linked group must be either ABS LINKED or REL LINKED (e.g., cells labeled A1 and R1).

The links you program will not actually be applied to your Graphi-Q set up until you click APPLY at the bottom left of the Link Table Screen.

When any parameters for outputs A and B for any Graphi-Q2 unit are linked (either ABS or REL), this condition will be indicated on all appropriate software screens. One or two lines — REL and ABS respectively — will connect the appropriate channel indicators, with the main screen link indication reflecting linking for graphic EQ controls only. See page 24 (top) for an illustration.

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RANGE LIMITS If changing cell values within a REL group causes some or all of the linked cell values to reach and exceed the limits of available range, the initial offset will be reduced due to a "ceiling" (or "floor") effect. Once all REL cells reach their limit, all initial differences will disappear, and the group will effectively act as an ABS group from that time forward.

8.3.1. How To Set Linked Groups

Use F11 or the Options Menu to access the Link Table. Choose the parameter you wish to link, and choose the first cell in your linked group. Highlight the cell with your mouse, then type either A1 (for ABS) or R1 (for REL) and hit the ENTER key. Do the same for the other cells you wish to add to your group, then repeat the process for additional linked groups, using the code A2, R2, etc., up to eight linked groups for each parameter. NOTE: Whenever an ABS group is set, the **first cell chosen will act as the source value to be copied to all other ABS cells with the same number code**. When you first establish your ABS group, this cell will be highlighted in red. After the initial linking, all values will be the same.

8.3.2. Special Linking Considerations

8.3.2.1. GRQ3121 and GRQ3121-S units

Both models of the Sabine Graphi-Q2 that offer one channel input provide two independent outputs (see **Section 5.5**). This is a very useful feature that enables a single input unit to emulate two-channel operation, with additional control over the two outputs accessible with the Sabine GRQ2 Remote Software. All parameters can be set to separate values for each of the two outputs (unless of course they are linked using the Link Table). In other words, these outputs act independently, just like they do in te GRQ3122 and GRQ3122-S.

8.3.2.2. Bypass Linking

Bypass/Active status for all parameters is NOT included under the control of linked cells. In other words, bypass must be set for each channel of each unit manually. This affords more options for independent control of the two outputs of single input units, since you may elect to apply processing or not to each output (even though the settings for the processing may not be changed for the two outputs). For example, you could set up two different EQ curves for each output of a GRQ3121, by using graphic EQ settings applied to one output (and bypassed in the second), and using parametric EQ settings for the second output (bypassing the first).

8.3.2.3. FBX Filter Linking

Since feedback involves an interaction of speaker and microphone, FBX filtering is most accurate on a speaker-by-speaker, channel-by-channel basis. Linking FBX filters could end up applying filtering to one channel better suited to another. Therefore, FBX filters cannot be linked—either from one unit to another, or across same-unit channels for GRQ3122 and GRQ3122-S models. For GRQ3121 and GRQ3121-S models (one in and two out), FBX filters will be identical for outputs A and B. You may bypass FBX in either, both or neither of the outputs.

8.3.2.4. Parametric Filter Linking

Parametric filters can be linked, as shown below..

- 1. The simplest case occurs when you begin by setting all the filters you wish to be linked for <u>all</u> linked channels on <u>all</u> affected units to Parametric prior to any other manipulation (see Section 8.2.5). If you desire a REL link, set the frequencies, depths, and widths to independent values, then use the Link Table to create a REL LINK group. If you desire an ABS link, use the Link Table to create an ABS LINK group. Note that FBX filters in place always take precedence over corresponding Parametric filters in a linked network, to prevent unintentional removal of an FBX filter.
- 2. A more complicated scenario involves linking one channel to another without first setting corresponding filter types on other channels or units to Parametric. You must manually change ALL filters you wish to link to Parametric, and then change either width, depth, or frequency of any filter.

For the GRQ3121 and GRQ3121-S: You can have coresponding output filters set to different filter types. As explained in section 8.3.2.1 above, independent settings are allowed on these 1x2 units.

8.3.2.5. Compressor Linking Options for GRQ3122 and GRQ3122-S Models

Just as with any other parameter setting, you may link compressor channels, left or right, within the same unit, or between multiple units, in either ABS or REL linked networks. The procedure for this is identical as it is for other parameters.

However, for stereo programs, simply linking compressor settings of the left and right channels to be identical may not be appropriate. For example, if both channel A and channel B begin to compress when a peak level exceeds a certain threshold, and the sound engineer intentionally designs his audio program to have more sound in the left channel, that channel's sound will be compressed more readily than the right channel program. Since compression affects sound levels, such a setup will result in a difference in the balance of left-right channel output levels -- the stereo image will shift.

To preserve channel balance yet still allow compression, Sabine offers another method of linking left and right channels of GRQ3102 and GRQ3102-S models: True Stereo compression. In True Stereo mode, both channels are compressed equally if the threshold is exceeded in either channel. There are two methods by which True Stereo compression can be selected (note that changing compressor link status by either method will automatically update the status report in the other screen):

- 1. In the Link Table, enter the letter "S" in the appropriate channel boxes, and click "Apply."
- 2. In the Compressor/Limiter screen, you may toggle the box below the CLOSE button to engage either True Stereo or Dual Mono compressor modes.

True Stereo linking is subject to the following two conditions:

- 1. It may not be applied to GRQ3121 and GRQ3121-S models. Because these models do not offer two discrete channel signal paths, True Stereo linking will not apply to such units.
- In a multiple unit Graphi-Q network, you may NOT apply a True Stereo link from one unit to another, but only between the left and right channels of a single unit. All the units in a network may have their L-R channels linked, but each link will be independent of other units.

A GRQ3122 or GRQ3122-S unit with channels linked in True Stereo may not also be part of an ABS or REL link for compressor values. Of course other parameters may be linked (ABS or REL) independently of compressor relationships.

8.3.2.6. Crossover Settings

Because crossover settings are unique to a specific set of speakers and their environment, these settings are not available in the link table. When a crossover is in effect, be careful about linking other filters - you may attempt to control a filter that is not appropriate for the frequency response of a given output.

8.3.2.7. Relative Linking and Scale Values

All changes made to cells that are REL LINKED will increment or decrement by an identical number of steps in the scale of the parameter. This may not always be a linear relationship. For example, changing the compressor ratio in one REL LINKED cell from 1:1 to 1.4:1 will result in a change in another REL LINKED cell from 10:1 to 16:1. Both will move up one notch on the scale for compression ratio scale.

8.3.2.8. Loading Memory Presets to Linked Units

If you try to recall and load a stored memory (see **Section 8.6**) to a unit with cells linked to any other unit, the screen shown at below will appear.

Loading F	Preset
?	The GraphiQ you have selected is linked to other GraphiQ units in your serial chain. Loading parameters from a preset to current GraphiQ will cause linked values in other units to change accordingly. If you do not wish to change values on other units, change the Link Table to remove linking as needed. Do you want to load the preset with the current links in place?
	Yes No

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If you elect to continue, the value your loaded memory puts into any linked cell on the chosen Graphi-Q 2 will affect all other linked values as well. If you don't want this to happen, you must open the Link Table and remove the appropriate linking.

Loading a preset that changes a linked parametric or sets an FBX filter back to an unset FBX filter will NOT load a corresponding filter change to linked channels. Linked channel FBX or parametric filters will remain unchanged unless your reset or manually program a change.

8.3.2.9 Resetting Parameters When Units Are Linked

(See also **Section 8.4**) Resetting any parameter for any cell linked to another unit of channel will also change the value of all linked cells (except FBX filters and parametric filters in some instances). For ABS LINK, all linked cells will be reset to the default parameter values. For REL LINK, parameter values for linked cells will be decreased by the same amount as occurs by resetting the source cell. For example, resetting digital delay from 100 ms to the minimum value (1.38 ms) in the source cell will reduce all REL LINKED cells' delay times by 98.62 ms.

For GRQ3122 and GRQ3122-S models, RELLINK parameters can be reset separately or simultaneously for each output. Whether channels are reset separately or together (checking either one or both channel boxes on the reset screen), the reset procedure for REL LINK will use the channel currently selected on the main screen as the source cell. IMPORTANT: When resetting REL, **make sure the correct source is selected on the main software screen**, if you are resetting just one output channel. Note that FBX filters can be reset only one unit at a time. Parametric filters can be linked reset in ABS or REL groups, but the filters of linked units must correspond in position (filter #6, for example) and be set to Parametric in order to be reset via linking.

Resetting parameter values for linked units, or loading presets to linked units, can create some complicated scenarios. When in doubt, remove the relevant links, then restore after resetting.

8.3.2.10. Changing EQ Scale and/or High/Low Cut Filter Slope When Linked

For ABS LINK, changing the graphic EQ scale (from 6 to 12 dB or vice versa) will also change the scale for all linked units' graphic EQ settings. For REL LINK, all scales will not change when one unit's scale is altered. Instead, all changes made will be implemented proportionally according to scale. In other words, a change of 2 dB on a 12 dB scale will translate to a 1 dB change on a 6 dB scale. The same rules apply to variations in high and low cut filter slopes, which can be set to either 12 or 24 dB per octave.

8.3.2.11. Front Panel Mode and Linking

Any Graphi-Q under front panel control CANNOT be part of a linked network. Any Graphi-Q2 that is linked, then changed to front panel control, will be removed from the linked network. The unit will remain unlinked even if remote control is restored. You must use the Link Table to restore linking to any unit after it is placed in front panel control and then returned to remote control.

8.3.2.12. Link Table Memory

The setup information for your link table is stored in an .exe file as part of the Remote Software, and is independent of the memory storage of parameters, etc., which are stored in each individual Graphi-Q2. Therefore, if you change your serial network setup by reconfiguring Graphi-Q2s, changing the number of units, etc., your Link Table setup may no longer apply. For example, if you remove the middle unit in a 3-unit serial chain with Linking enabled, then reboot with only two units in your serial chain, the Link setup for the "missing" second unit will be applied to the former third (now second) unit. As a precaution, a warning screen will appear at the next software startup whenever the number or arrangement of linked units has changed.

8.3.2.13. Speed of Command Execution in Linked Networks

Due to the limitations of the speed of RS-232 communications, there may be some slight delays in

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command execution for a large network of Graphi-Qs for units near the end of the chain. Most of this delay is a <u>reporting</u> delay; the command will be executed quickly, but the computer screen indication of the implemented change may take up to a few seconds. Speed is dependent on several factors:

1. How "busy" each Graphi-Q is. Eliminating feedback, for example, is very processor-intensive and will delay speed.

2. The number of units in your serial network. The bigger the network, the longer the delay.

3. The nature of the parameter under control. Digital delay, for example, is slower to respond than the near-in-stantaneous response to graphic EQ change.

😇 Res	set Parame	ters		×
			egain down before resetting eedback.	
	*]]]]]		FBX Filters Dynamic FBX Filters Only Parametric Filters Graphic EQ Filters Low Cut / High Cut Filters Digital Delay Compressor/Limiter Output Level All	
	ок		CLOSE	

8.4. RESET PARAMETERS

You may use the Sabine Remote Software to reset all parameters, or a particular set of parameters. To access the Reset Parameters, press F12 Function Key, or select Reset Parameters from the Options Menu at the top of the main remote screen. The screen at right will appear:

Use your mouse to click on the settings you wish to reset, or the "ALL" choice if you want to reset everything. For two channel Graphi-Qs, you may reset settings for individual channels. For single channel Graphi-Qs, you may reset OUTPUT LEVEL and DIGITAL DELAY settings for the two different outputs possible with these units; all other parameter settings are common to both outputs and will be reset for both.

NOTE: Compressor output settings are NOT reset when the compressor /limiter parameters are reset. Output levels control the output gain of the Graphi-Q and must be reset separately.

NOTE: If you want to compare your settings to the Graphi-Q default condition (all settings zero), the best way to do this is to save your current setting to a Preset, then change between that Preset and Preset #0 (default).

8.5. PRINTING GRAPHI-Q2 SETTINGS FOR DOCUMENTATION

All settings loaded into a Graphi-Q2's memory may be printed out for ease of documentation, by simply selecting PRINT from the FILE menu at the top of the Remote Control main screen. Print one set of parameters for each GRQ2 in a linked chain. Printing can be done in Remote Control or Demo modes.

In addition to printing a record of parameter settings for an individual Graphi-Q2, you may elect to print a record of how controls are linked for a multiple-unit Graphi-Q2 system. Simply select "PRINT" from within the link table.

If you are out in the field and not attached to a printer, you can use the Off-Line Edit/Demo mode to print your parameter and link-table files when you get back to the office. Graphi-Q parameter files can be sent via e-mail as well.

8.6. STORING AND RECALLING GRQ2 PRESETS

8.6.1. Memory Storage and Recall Options

You may store and recall all settings of the Graphi-Q2, either within the Graphi-Q2 memory itself, or as an external file.

8.6.1.1. Storage within the Graphi-Q2 memory

There are two methods of storing memories inside the Graphi-Q2 itself:

 Using "Snapshot" memory storage. You may save and recall (load) up to three Snapshots of Graphi-Q settings. Select Snapshot 1, 2, or 3 from the Options Menu, or use the keyboard shortcuts Shift/ F1, Shift/F2, and Shift/F3. To recall Snapshots, select from the Options Menu, or use keyboard shortcuts Ctrl/F1, Ctrl/F2, and Ctrl/F3. Accessing the Stored Presets screen. This will allow up to 20 additional user-specified memory configurations to be stored. To open this screen, press F6 on your keyboard, or select Stored Presets from the Options Menu. The Stored Presets window will open (See top of page 33).

Preset 0 will always be the system default settings, effectively a blank template with all parameters set to "off" or zero. This configuration will permit remote control of the Graphi-Q from any computer meeting the minimum

#	Last Loaded	Last Saved	Preset Name
0	X	Read Only	SYSTEM DEFAULT
1		Read Only	Front Panel
2			Prog 2
2 3			Prog 3
4			Prog 4
5			Prog 5
6			Prog 6
7			Prog 7
8			Prog 8
9			Prog 9
-			
			Preset Choice: 0
	Save	Loa	d

requirements (see Section Seven) with the Graphi-Q2 Remote Control for Windows Software installed.

Preset 1 (FRONT PANEL) will apply only to Graphi-Q models GRQ3121 and GRQ3122, and not to the "S" (blank front panel slave) models. In this setting, the front panel controls of the Graphi-Q2 will provide the only means of controlling settings; any software-initiated controls will be ignored. However, any adjustments made on the Graphi-Q front panel WILL be displayed on the Remote Control screens. In addition, any of these adjustments, alone or in combination, can then be saved to any of the memory locations from #2 to #20. To accomplish this, open the Stored Preset screen, and select the Program Number/Program Name field. Type in the name you wish to give your memory, then choose SAVE. You can rename your configuration without resaving all the parameter settings by typing a new name and pressing the ENTER key.

If you save a program without naming it, the default name (e.g., Prog 1) will change to an all upper case version of the same name (e.g., PROG 1).

Programs 2 through 20 will only allow remote control of the Graphi-Q2, and front panel adjustments made when the remote control is in command will be ignored (unless you have chosen Mixed Control see section 8.2.10). Loading Preset #1 will return control to the front panel, and any physical adjustments made on the front panel while it was disconnected will be implemented at that time.

When loading or saving configurations, the Stored Presets screen will stay open until you close it. This allows comparisons between different configurations by loading them to active memory and auditioning the results.

8.6.1.2. Summary of Stored Preset Protocols

To summarize the control and indicator protocols of the Graphi-Q:

- Whenever Preset 1 is selected, the front panel settings will be absolute indicators of parameter settings, and manual adjustments will be implemented immediately. The Remote Control screens will display these manual adjustments, but remote control will be disabled. The Curve Display on your monitor will indicate "Preset #1 - Front Panel in Control".
- 2. Any adjustments made manually from the front panel when Preset 1 is loaded may be stored and named in any Preset from #2 to #20.
- 3. Presets 2 through 20 disable front panel control, in favor of Remote Control. All settings may be adjusted using the Remote Control software only. Updated or altered settings may be stored (using the same or a new name) in any location from #2 to #20.
- 4. For Presets 2 through 20, settings made by the Remote Control will be reflected by some but not all front panel settings (on the actual Graphi-Q unit), but all WILL be displayed on the Remote Control screens. Adjusting the Graphi-Q front panel settings will NOT affect the audio signal, nor will the Remote Control screens reflect these settings.
- 5. Changing programs can be done at any time, in the middle of an audio program if needed, PROVIDED

THERE IS NOT A BIG DIFFERENCE IN DELAY SETTINGS FROM ONE MEMORY TO THE NEXT. Loading a new preset with a different delay setting will cause a temporary pitch shift in the audio program if the change is made during program.

- 6. An X will appear to indicate last saved and last loaded presets. Clicking in the program name region will allow you to type in any name for your memory, up to 14 characters long. The number of the last saved and loaded presets will appear at the bottom of the main Remote Control screen.
- 7. The controlling interface (front panel or remote) will be indicated at the lower right of the main Remote Control screen at all times.
- 8. See **Section 6.8** for information about changing default values for front panel operation for parameters that are not accessible without Remote Control.

8.6.1.3. Saving Graphi-Q2 files externally

Use the File Menu at the top left of the Graphi-Q main screen for access to storage and recall of files on your computer (hard drive, floppy disc, flash drive, etc.). Storing these presets as files on your computer allows for moving them between Graphi-Qs and for creating backups of your work. When saving to a location outside the Graphi-Q2 itself, you'll need to name the file (Choose the File Menu, then Save the Current Preset to a Disk File) using the suffix ".grq" and choose a storage location. Recall your files by choosing the File Menu, then Load a Single Preset From a Disk File. You can track progress in loading and saving by observing the progress bar in the lower left part of your screen.

When a file has been loaded into a Graphi-Q2's memory from an external source, the bottom of the Main Screen will indicate "FILE" as the last loaded memory. The Stored Presets screen will NOT show any "X" under the Last Loaded column, indicating that the source of the last loaded preset was not an internal Graphi-Q2 memory. However, if you quit the Remote Software and relaunch the program without first saving and reloading a File in Graphi-Q2 memory (see **section 8.6.1.1**), the settings from the loaded file will remain in place, but the Last Loaded indicators will revert to show the last memory loaded from internal Graphi-Q storage.

When loading an external preset created on a GRQ3122 into a GRQ3121 you must remember that although the GRQ3121 has two outputs, most of the parameter settings can only be set to identical values for both outputs. For these parameters, the setting for channel A of the GRQ3122-saved preset will also be copied to the B-output for the GRQ3121 destination unit. For the parameters of the GRQ3121 unit that can be set independently (i.e., output gain, bypass settings, and delay) for the two outputs, the original preset values will be loaded, and can differ for outputs A and B.

In the opposite case, when a GRQ3121 preset is being loaded into a GRQ3122, both channels will be set to the identical values, except for output gain, bypass, and delay — which will reflect the possible differences in the settings in the loaded file.

8.6.2. Contact Closure Switch Recall

By wiring and connecting a contact closure switch to the rear panel of your Graphi-Q2 (using the accompanying Euro-block connector), and assigning presets to switch positions using the GRQ Remote Software, you can create enough configurations to load all possible internal Graphi-Q2 presets.

8.6.2.1. Contact Closure Switch Wiring

Switch wiring requires an 9-conductor cable. Attach these 8 conductors to the 9-pin Euro or Phoenix block

connector included with your purchase of the Graphi-Q2. This connector plugs into its mate in the back of the Graphi-Q2 chassis. The far left pin (as you look from the back) of the connection is the ground (common). The other end of the cable must be wired such that switch position one grounds pin one, position two grounds pin two, etc.

CC	Last Loaded	Last Saved	Preset Name	Preset #
1	24	Read Only	Front Panel	
2		-	Prog 2	2
3	2. 2.		Prog 3	3
4			Prog 4	4
5	2 2		Prog 5	5
6	24		Prog 6	6
7			Prog 7	7 🗣
		,		Close
8.6.2.2. Assigning Contact Closure

Choose ASSIGN CONTACT CLOSURE from the Options Menu, or press key F7. The screen at right will appear.

The far right column allows you to assign stored preset numbers to each contact closure switch combination. The switch diagram at the bottom of the screen displays the wiring combination that will load the corresponding Graphi-Q2 memory when the switch is changed to the corresponding position.

Note that switch position #1 will always give control to the front panel knobs and sliders, if you are using either a GRQ3121 or GRQ3122 model. In addition, switch positions 8 through 20 will default to front panel settings, until they are assigned other stored presets. All switch assignments for positions 2 through 7, and any new assignments for positions 8 and above, will render the front panel controls inoperative, until switch position #1 is chosen again. For GRQ3121-S and GRQ3122-S models, which do not have front panel controls, switch position #1 will be disallowed, and switch positions 8 through 20 will remain unassigned until they are reprogrammed.

Note that initial contact closure switch assignments require the Remote Control software, but once assigned, presets and memories can be loaded into the Graphi-Q2 simply by choosing the appropriate switch position. Momentary contact is all that is needed to load a new memory into the Graphi-Q2.

8.6.2.3. Contact closure changes with multiple units

In conditions where multiple Graphi-Qs are wired in parallel from a single contact-closure switch, ground loop problems can easily arise. To maximize your chances for problem-free operation, make sure all your audio connections are balanced (including downstream amplifier connections), and that your Graphi-Qs are placed in the same equipment rack and derive power from the same circuit.

Instead of using a switch wired in parallel, you might consider linking multiple Graphi-Qs with the Link Table (see section 8.3). Links for all parameters can be made relative or absolute, and you can change all units that are linked simply by using a contact closure switch wired to one of the units. NOTE: When using contact closure switching to control multiple units, be sure to allow sufficient time to lapse after a switch change to allow all affected units to update. Multiple rapid switching may result in only partial loading of changing parameter values in linked units.

8.6.3. Off Line Editing

From the Graphi-Q2 Welcome Screen (**Section 8.1**) that appears upon launching the program, you may click on the "Off-Line Edit/Demo" button instead of connecting to actual Graphi-Q. This will open the software and all of its features, and will look exactly the same as during connected operation, with one exception: the default mode of the Off-Line setup will display simulated signal levels on the on-screen metering. You can turn this simulated meter activity off by choosing Option/Turn off meter display from the top of the Main Remote screen.

Aside from demonstrating the look, feel, and control options of the Remote Software, this feature also allows you to program and/or edit a Graphi-Q preset off-line. You can create a complete setup, save it to a hard drive or disk, and load the preset into a Graphi-Q in another location or audio setup. To do this, simply choose "Save the current preset to a disk file" from the File menu at the top of the screen. You will be able to name the file and choose its storage location. Single files are designated with a ".grq" suffix, and are identical to files saved from an on-line Graphi-Q (see **Section 8.6.1.3**). Of course this means you may also load a file saved externally into the Off-Line Mode, edit the file, save under a different name, and load into another Graphi-Q.

Note that all Graphi-Q files created Off-Line are treated as a GRQ3122 (or GRQ3122-S) created file, and will obey the rules described in Section 8.6.1.3 when loaded into a GRQ3121 (or GRQ3121-S) unit.

8.7. ASSIGNING NAMES TO GRAPHI-Q2S

You can assign any 8-character name to all of the Graphi-Qs connected to your computer. You can do this from either the Network Chain screen (see **Section 8.1**), or by choosing Reference Name Edit at the bottom of the Options Menu. This latter action will open up a screen that will also display units, serial numbers, and names, which can be edited.

All assigned unit names will be displayed at the top of the Curve Display field on the Remote Software main screen. If no name has been chosen, the unit's serial number will be displayed.

8.8. PASSWORD PROTECTION WITH GRQ2 REMOTE SOFTWARE

8.8.1. Password Levels

The Graphi-Q2 Remote Software offers 4 levels of security access to its controls, as follows:

ADMINISTRATOR. This is the highest level of security access, allowing full control over all Graphi-Q2 parameters, and the important unique ability to set passwords for access to all security levels. Separate passwords can be set for ADMINISTRATOR, ENGINEER, and TECHNICIAN access.

ENGINEER. This is level 2, allowing full access to all controls, with the exception of setting passwords, which cannot be done at ENGINEER security level. This would be an appropriate access level for a skilled system operator.

TECHNICIAN. This is level 3. A TECHNICIAN cannot change any Graphi-Q parameters, but can load presets. This might be appropriate access for a semiskilled system operator who needs to load different setups for different applications, but has limited understanding of Graphi-Q operation.

VISITOR. No password is required for VISITOR access to the Graphi-Q. At this level, the Graphi-Q will display its current settings, but will be unresponsive to all commands. This level of access is appropriate for unauthorized or unsophisticated users.

Security access level will be indicated at the bottom of the main screen.

8.8.2. Setting or Changing Passwords

Only an ADMINISTRATOR can set passwords. However, until passwords are set, all users of the Graphi-Q will be allowed ADMINISTRATOR access. Therefore, if security is a concern, the first person to use the Graphi-Q should set passwords. To do this, open the PASSWORD screen from the Tool Bar at the top of the main screen. The PASSWORD screen looks like this:

Click the EDIT PASSWORD box. The three password boxes will change to zero. Type up to a 5number code (numbers only, no letters) in each of the password boxes (make sure you remember the passwords!), then click SAVE PASSWORD. Then close the screen. You have now entered the passwords necessary for varying levels of access to the Graphi-Q controls. When the software is restarted, any user will be required to provide the appropriate password to gain access to the allowed security level.

ngineer: Full Control ***** echnician: Load Preset Only ****	Security Level		Pass	word
echnician: Load Preset Only	Admin: Edit Password		*****	
	Engineer: Full Control		*****	
isitor: View only	Fechnician: Load Pres	set Only	*****	
	/isitor: View only			
	Edit Password		assword	Close

Passwords may be reset at any time, but only by the ADMINISTRATOR. The ADMINISTRATOR can always select EDIT PASSWORD from the password screen and enter new codes at any time.

Note that passwords are saved within the unit itself, not within the remote software. If two Graphi-Q2s connected to two separate computers are swapped, the access password will follow the Graphi-Q2.

8.8.3. Gaining Access With Your Password

Once passwords have been entered, one of the three codes must be given to allow access to the security level allowed. If no matching password is provided, the user will be allowed access at the VISITOR level only. If you gain entry at one security level and qualify for higher access (meaning you know the next level's password), you can enter the higher level password at any time after opening the PASSWORD screen. If you forget your password, call Sabine for the secret backdoor password, and be prepared at the time of your call to prove you own the unit!

8.8.4. Removing Password Protection

The ADMINISTRATOR can at any time remove password protection by entering a password of 0 (zero) at Administrator level.

8.8.5. Passwords For Multiple Units

In a multiple unit serial chain, any PASSWORDS saved will apply to the first unit, and will be copied to all units downstream in the serial chain. Any units that are separated from the serial chain in place at the time of saving passwords, will retain the same passwords in a new setup. If units with previously designated passwords are subsequently joined in a serial chain, only the password for the first unit will be required to access the entire network. If passwords are changed, the changes will be automatically copied to all units in the network. If passwords are NOT changed, and units are subsequently separated into new configurations, each will retain its original password.

8.9. NAVIGATING WITH MULTIPLE UNITS

SWITCHING CONTROL FROM ONE UNIT TO ANOTHER. This can be accomplished with either the pulldown menu, "Select Graphi-Q," or by the keyboard shortcut Control/A= unit #1, Control/B=unit #2, etc. The unit currently under control will be displayed in the center top of the Curve Display on the main screen. You may switch from controlling one unit to another with the Control key shortcut, no matter what screen (main or parameter screen) you are currently working in. This allows quick adjustments of the same parameters across all units in your serial chain.

8.10. UPGRADING GRAPHI-Q2 FIRMWARE & SOFTWARE

One more great feature of the Graphi-Q2 is its easy upgradability. Each units firmware (think of it as the operating system) is stored in on-board FLASH RAM, which means you can upgrade the system by loading in the latest firmware. In addition, you may download upgrades to the Remote Control software for the Graphi-Q2.

You can determine your Graphi-Q2's current firmware version by one of two methods:

- 1. For front panel models (GRQ3121 or GRQ3122), the firmware version will flash briefly in the digital delay display immediately following power-up of your unit.
- 2. For all models, the current firmware version will be stated in the "About" screen of the Remote Control software (unit connected and powered up).

NOTE: If you have a slave unit (GRQ3121-S or GRQ3122-S) that will not connect to a computer for remote control, and you are not certain of the unit's firmware version, contact the Sabine factory with the serial number of the unit. We can tell you the firmware contained when it left the factory.

When upgrading your Graphi-Q2's software or firmware, make sure you are upgrading to the latest released version of each. As new features develop and upgrades are made, we will post these on our website and make them available for downloading.

8.10.1. How to Upgrade Your Firmware

The **Sabine Upgrade Wizard** is a program that is automatically installed when you install your GRQ2 Remote software. You can install it manually on your computer by running the *setup.exe* file in the Upgrade Wizard directory. Alternatively, you may download the latest Upgrade Wizard program from the Sabine website (**www.Sabine.com**). The program will place an icon on your desktop called "Upgrader."

The program contains complete step-by-step instructions to upgrade both your Graphi-Q2 firmware and software. Follow these on-screen instructions. Note that for firmware upgrades there are two basic steps. One is downloading the firmware using your Internet connection, and the other is connecting your computer and uploading (flash) the firmware into the Graphi-Q2. These two steps can be done independently, allowing you to flash the units without being connected to the Internet.

IMPORTANT

Recalibrate the Front Panel Controls after Upgrading Firmware (see Section 6.1)

Section Nine: Suggestions for Optimal Use of the Graphi-Q

Like any powerful tool, the Graphi-Q offers an infinite number of possible control configurations, and the choices may at times appear overwhelming. Here are some helpful considerations for maximizing the audio quality of your sound system by taking advantage of the many powerful features of your Graphi-Q.

9.1. SYSTEM SETUP SUGGESTIONS

Long, long, ago, before the dawn of digital signal processing, sound engineers went bravely forth to their gigs, armed more with knowledge than with electronics. Fortunately, we now have both knowledge AND great tools like the Graphi-Q, but let's review some nonelectronic considerations for optimal sound system setup. (Our apologies to those of you who already know this information...of course you've already quit reading!)

9.1.1. Acoustics

You may not be able to build a bass trap in a boomy room, or convince a night club owner to carpet the dance floor. But if you are putting the Graphi-Q in a permanent installation, or your own rehearsal or project studio, there may be some easy-to-implement ideas that will help the acoustics prior to the introduction of amplification. Here are a few suggestions:

- 1. Ideally, a room with nonparallel, non-reflective surfaces that is large enough to accommodate a full wave length (30 feet+) low bass frequency will provide you with fewer resonance points, a more evenly balanced room response, and less feedback.
- 2. If you're working in a less-than-ideal acoustical environment (like most of us), you might be able to do some simple acoustical treatment. Try to break up reflective patterns caused by hard, reflective surfaces by covering at least one surface with an absorbent material. Duct board (used to make air conditioning ducts), made of compressed fiberglass, is cheap and works well...but be sure to cover the exposed fiberglass with fabric or carpet (fiberglass is nasty stuff). If you're rehearsing on a cement garage floor, carpeting the floor will help both your feet and your ears (by cutting down on some of the boomy reflections).
- 3. The smaller the room you're working in, the more the bass problem you'll have. You might consider building a bass trap to selectively absorb bass frequencies. Many of the current trade publications offer advice on easy, inexpensive bass trap construction.

9.1.2. Equipment Placement

If you're moving your sound system around and can't rebuild the room each time you move, or if you're working in an environment where you've done all you can to improve the acoustics, here are a few rules of thumb that will help your system sound better:

- 1. Placement of speakers and microphones. Obviously, avoid when possible pointing microphones directly at speakers, as this will optimize the likelihood of feedback. For the stage, it's best if the house speakers are lined up at the front of the stage, and the microphones are set up further back. Be aware also that placing speakers close to the floor, wall, ceiling, or especially a corner, will reinforce the amount of bass energy heard from the speaker (you can alter the bass response of your system just by speaker placement!). Finally, aiming speakers so that they reflect sound from a wall or large object back into the microphone should also be avoided.
- 2. Microphone considerations. Directional (cardioid) microphones reduce sound coming from behind and beside them and are less likely to feed back than omnidirectional microphones (which pick up sound equally from all directions). Stationary microphones are less likely to feedback than mobile microphones (frequency response will change as a function of location; more locations means more variety in frequency response, which means more frequencies can feed back). Finally, educating mic users in proper mic technique will reduce the need to add gain when someone does not speak or sing in close proximity to the microphone.
- 3. Placement of your "mix position." Ideally, you should set up your mix position out in front of the house speakers, closer to one set of speakers (not in the middle if you're sending sound out left and right speaker stacks), and not too close to a reflective room boundary like a wall. This will assure you of hearing sound directly from a speaker, uncolored by reflections or phase cancellation arising from the same sound reaching your ears at two different times.

A complete discussion of room acoustics, speaker and microphone placement, and so forth is obviously way beyond the scope of this manual. Likewise, a perfectly optimized acoustical space with an ideal sound system is as rare as a humble lead guitarist. Fortunately, the Graphi-Q is an ideal tool for overcoming the shortcomings of the real world. Better sound through electronics is easy and affordable.

So far, the tips offered by this humble narrative are probably familiar to many people purchasing a Graphi-Q. Read on for some less obvious suggestions.

9.2. WIDE & NARROW FILTERS: GRAPHIC, PARAMETRIC, AND FBX

Here's a trick question: how wide are the filters in a 1/3 octave graphic equalizer?

The answer to this question is not as obvious as the term "1/3 octave" would suggest. Much confusion stems from the fact that "1/3" refers to the center points of the frequencies on a graphic equalizer, NOT the width of the filters. In practice, most audio manufacturers conform to an informal industry norm that sets graphic EQ filters to a one- octave width.

This means that moving a graphic EQ slider up or down is not surgically precise, as you are actually controlling a wide band of frequencies, in a roughly symmetrical "bell curve" pattern centered on the nominal frequency. And since the width of each filter (one octave) is greater than the distance between adjacent graphic EQ center points (1/3 octave), this wide swath of filters that you're controlling with one slider actually overlaps the range of frequencies controlled by sliders to the right and left. For example, cutting the 1000 Hz EQ slider will also affect the 800 Hz and 1.25 Hz slider frequencies, to a lesser but still significant degree.



The diagram at right illustrates the wide cut of a single graphic EQ slider. Is the industry standard choice of filter width a good or a bad design? It depends entirely on the intended use of the equalizer in question.

There are at least two basic design intentions of equalizers, both of which are designed into the Sabine Graphi-Q:

- SYSTEM EQUALIZATION. Equalizers are used to achieve a desired system response curve, by
 compensating for acoustical resonances of a particular environment, and for the characteristics of
 particular audio gear (microphones, amplifiers, speakers, etc.). This kind of EQ is conducive to a
 relatively large number of filters of greater width, which facilitates achieving a smooth overall
 response. Narrow filter width produces more dramatic peaks and valleys in the response curve.
- "PINPOINT" EQUALIZATION. Equalizers are also used to correct very specific, relatively narrowband problems or deficiencies in audio signals. Common examples would include audio hum induced by AC electrical current (50 or 60 Hz plus harmonic multiples of those frequencies), or acoustical feedback that arises when amplified sound is directed back into a microphone or pickup and re-amplified to the point of screaming oscillation. Using a wide, graphic EQ filter to correct hum or feedback is overkill, since the filter is much wider than needed and unnecessarily affects frequencies outside the narrow "problem band." Using a graphic EQ filter to reduce feedback thus has the unfortunate side effect of also subtracting a significant portion of the "good audio." It's like throwing the baby out with the bath water.

In contrast to a graphic EQ filter, a PARAMETRIC filter affords a great deal of programmability. All the "parameters" of a filter can be specified precisely: Filter width, frequency, and dBs of boost or cut. A parametric filter can be much more "surgically" applied to an audio signal, sometimes with such precision as to be transparent to the listener, while correcting or improving the signal.

The patented Sabine FBX filter is essentially a parametric filter that is *automatically activated* when acoustical feedback occurs. It is placed exactly at the frequency of the feedback, to the minimum depth necessary to remove it, with a very narrow notch (typically 1/10 octave wide). The accuracy, narrow width, and minimum depth of the FBX filter means it can be placed with little or no adverse affect on the purity of the audio signal. In fact, because audio system gain is often limited by the onset of feedback as volume rises, FBX-equipped sound systems are both louder and clearer than systems that rely on alternative EQ filtering, or ignore feedback control altogether.

An additional very important benefit of the FBX algorithm is its ability to quickly and accurately distinguish feedback from audio program, allowing the automatic placement of filters during performance as well as setup.

Please note that graphic EQ and FBX filters are available using the front panel controls of your Graphi-Q. Parametric filters can only be set using the Graphi-Q Remote Software, with an RS-232 connection made to a computer controller.

9.3. RECOMMENDED EQ USAGE 9.3.1. Set the Graphic EQ First

Because of the considerations discussed above, Sabine recommends first adjusting graphic equalization settings, before addressing use of FBX or parametric filters. Graphic EQ filters will compensate for uneven system frequency response that arises from room acoustics and system components, with the ultimate goal of producing a balanced sound.

0 dB Program you DON'T LOSE when you use FBX instead of a 1/3-octave EQ. 6 dB 1/3-Octave EQ Filter 1/3-0ctave EQ Filter 1/3-0ctave 2 dB 500 Hz 2000 Hz 2 000 Hz 2 000 Hz

What constitutes a "balanced sound" is of course a subject of endless debate. Suffice it to say that

making a system sound as good as it can is both a scientific and an artistic process. There are many well-documented methods of optimizing your system, and useful measurement tools and techniques, but ultimately the skill of the operator is the determining factor of sound quality.

So you may elect to adjust your graphic EQ settings purely on the basis of what sounds good to your ears, or you may opt to use a reference microphone and Real Time Analyzer to set your system EQ, or you may combine these techniques.

Here are a few suggestions that may prove helpful:

- SET THE RANGE. Before you make any adjustments, set your graphic EQ range to allow either a ±6 dB or ±12 dB range of adjustment. The unit arrives from the factory preset to 12 dB range. To change to 6 dB, simultaneously press both the delay up and down buttons on the Graphi-Q front panel (for two channel units, either channel's buttons will produce the same result). (NOTE: this toggles the selection of 12 and 6 dB ranges, and will switch back to 6 if you're already set to 12). Whenever the range is set to 6 dB the LED in the lower right corner of the front panel will light.
- **BOOST = CUT**. Try to balance the degree of frequency cut and boost when you make your graphic EQ adjustments. This will make before/after comparisons more accurate and meaningful; otherwise, whichever condition is louder overall may sound better to your ears and cloud your judgment. Additionally, due to the bell-shaped boost or cut characteristics of EQ filters, the more extreme the boost or cut, the more "ripple" (peaks or dips centered at the EQ slider frequencies) there will be in the resultant system frequency response.
- VARY LEVEL AND LOCATION. If you're making adjustments on the basis of what you're hearing, listen to the system at various locations in the auditorium, and over a range of playback levels. Both location and system gain can radically affect the perceived frequency balance.
- **REFERENCE MICROPHONE**. If you're using a reference microphone and a Real Time Analyzer (such as those integral to the Sabine Power-Q or Real-Q2), you may also wish to study the results with the microphone at several locations. We recommend using a flat response, free-field reference microphone such as the Sabine SQ1001.
- **INTERACTIVE FADERS.** Remember pushing up or down a range of filters is actually boosting or cutting beyond the range of any individual slider, because adjacent filters overlap and the settings of each combine.

9.3.2. Using FBX filters

Once your graphic EQ curve is set, you are ready to move on to setting FBX filters. Setting filters in this order (graphic before FBX) means you're likely to get more benefit from your FBX filters. If there are frequency ranges attenuated or boosted by your system or acoustics that are not first compensated for by graphic EQ, your FBX filters may cluster together, using several narrow filters to address a problem better solved by one, wider filter, and more quickly exhausting available FBX filters.

9.3.3. Changing FBX filters to Parametric filters

Using the remote control (see **Section 8.2.5**) you can change FBX filters to parametric filters. This allows you to manually change the width and/or the depth of the feedback filter set automatically. This may prove useful if you set FBX filters and see that some have been placed close together. You may be able to program a parametric filter in between two filters with a slightly wider width or depth, and use one filter to do the job of two FBX filters. You can then reset FBX filters, rerun your setup, and get additional gain by adding another feedback filter to your arsenal.

9.4. USING DIGITAL DELAY

This section goes beyond the typical operating guide that only explains the front and back panel adjustments of a piece of equipment. Instead, we discuss the basic acoustical concepts needed to get the most out of the use of digital delay in sound systems. If you are familiar with these principles, feel free to skip ahead. Some principles may require additional delay channels and options available with the Sabine SDA102.

Why Digital Delays? The most intelligible sound occurs when two people speak face-to-face. The sound is loud and dry, and the direction of the sound aligns with the speaker. The most intelligible sound systems are the ones that come closest to emulating face to face communication. If this is your goal, a digital delay is essential to your sound system.

There are three distinct applications for digital delays. The first and most important is **synchronization of the loudspeakers** to control excess reverberation and echo. Second, digital delays help **control comb filter distortion**, and finally, digital delays are useful for **aligning the acoustic image** so the direction of the sound seems to be coming from the performer rather than from the loudspeaker.

9.4.1. Loudspeaker Synchronization

Sound travels at about 1,130 feet per second in air, or about 1 foot per millisecond. On the other hand, electronic signals travel almost one million times faster through your sound system to the loudspeakers. The main task for digital delays is to synchronize multiple loudspeakers so the sound traveling different distances arrives at the listener's ears at about the same time. Synchronizing the loudspeakers reduces reverberation and echoes for improved intelligibility.

9.4.1.1. How to Synchronize Your Signals

There are several powerful tools available for precisely measuring the time a loudspeaker signal takes to arrive at a certain point in the audience. Most of these tools are very sophisticated and tend to be quite expensive. Fortunately, simpler tools are sufficient for most applications.

In the 1930s, engineers synchronized the low and high frequency speakers in movie theaters by feeding a sharp click through the system. They moved the speakers until they could only hear a single sharp click coming from both speakers. You can use this same method with a common child's toy called a clicker. Pressing the thin metal strip makes a loud sharp click. A clicker is especially useful when synchronizing the direct sound from the performer with the sound from the loudspeakers.

Alternatively, you can use a phase checker especially for synchronizing the signals of two loudspeakers (either LF and HF or two full range systems) since most of the phase checkers include a click generator and receiver. Phase checkers are quite affordable and have other uses besides synchronization.

Calculating Delay Time Using Distance

Calculating delay time in terms of distance is a common and accepted method. For a good start, estimate the delay at 1 millisecond per foot between speakers. Use the following equation for more precise estimates: Delay (milliseconds) = 1000 $\begin{pmatrix} D \text{ (distance in meters)} \\ OR & 344 \end{pmatrix}$ Delay (milliseconds) = 1000 $\begin{pmatrix} D \text{ (distance in feet)} \\ 1130 \end{pmatrix}$

These measurements presume stan-

dard temperature (68 degrees F, 20 degrees C) and pressure (29.2 in. Hg., 760 mm Hg.). Sound travels slower in cooler or drier air and at higher pressures. For example, the speed of sound decreases about 0.61 meters per second as the temperature drops from 20 degrees C to 0 degrees C.

9.4.1.2. Processing (or Group) Delays

Converting signals back and forth from the analog to digital domain always delays the signal a little. These conversion delays are often called processing (or group) delays, and usually range between 0.9 and 5 milliseconds. You will notice that Sabine delays always display the processing delay as the smallest possible delay value. For the Graphi-Q, the processing delay is 1.38 milliseconds. You can bypass the unit for 0 seconds delay.

Not all manufacturers acknowledge processing delays in their specifications, but you *must* take them into account when synchronizing your system. Make sure all digital equipment is on and not bypassed when synchronizing. Also, be careful to make an appropriate adjustment in your delay lines if you later add any type of digital equipment to the system.

9.4.1.3. Center Cluster Speakers

Center cluster speakers offer several advantages over systems that have speakers mounted on the sides. The most obvious advantage is that the distance to the closest and most distant locations in the audience is often almost equal, so most listeners hear about the same level. Center clusters also offer two other advantages regarding visual imaging.

Studies have shown that people can detect even small horizontal changes in the direction of a sound source, but vertical shifts are much less noticeable. This suggests that the sound from center-cluster speakers is more likely to be visually aligned with the performer than loudspeakers placed on each side of the stage.

All those in the audience who are closer to the performer than the center cluster will hear the direct sound from the performer before they hear the sound from the loudspeakers. This makes the sound seem to come from the performer, not the loudspeakers (see **Section 9.4.3**: Precedence Effect).

9.4.2. Comb Filter Distortion

Many who took high school science may remember ripple tank experiments where waves are generated from two separate point sources. The waves from each source combine to form visible interference patterns. In some places the wave crests and troughs are in phase so they combined to make a larger wave. In other places the crests are out of phase, so the crest of one wave source is canceled by the trough of the other. Ripple tank experiments show the interference patterns are strongest when the amplitudes of the waves from each source are equal.



A similar interference occurs in sound systems when a signal is delayed and mixed back into the original signal. These interference patterns are called COMB FILTERS because their frequency response plots look like the teeth of a comb (see Delay Figs. 1 & 2). There are a number of common situations that

cause comb filters. For example, when the program is played through two loudspeakers, the loudspeaker that is farther away interferes with the closer loudspeaker. Comb filters are also created when a performer is picked up by two microphones, one closer than the other. You even introduce comb filters by mixing digital effects back into the "dry" signal at the mixer's effects loop.



Delay Figure 2: COMB FILTERS.

Input signal mixed with a 2 msec. delayed signal. (Delayed signal has 10 dB less amplitude. Max. filter gain is +2.5dB, and max. depth is -3.) Reducing the amplitude of the delayed signal reduces the comb filters' effect.

9.4.2.1. Calculating Comb Filter Frequencies

The frequencies of the reinforcements and cancellations depend on the delay time (the time difference between the arrival time of the original signal and the delayed signal). The frequency of the first cancellation occurs at 1/(2t) Hz, where t = the delay time in seconds. The cancellations are separated by (1/t) Hz. Delay Fig. 3 shows how the comb filters change with the delay time.

Delay Figure 3: Comb filters get closer as delay	Delay time = 0.002 sec.		Delay time = 0.003 sec.		Delay time = 0.004 sec.	
time increases.	Cancellation	Reinforcement	Cancellation	Reinforcement	Cancellation	Reinforcement
	Freq. (Hz)	Freq. (Hz)	Freq. (Hz)	Freq. (Hz)	Freq. (Hz)	Freq. (Hz)
	250	500	167	333	125	250
	750	1000	500	667	375	500
	1250	1500	833	1000	625	750
	1750	2000	1167	1333	875	1000
	2250	2500	1500	1667	1125	1250
	2750	3000	1833	2000	1375	1500
	3250	3500	2167	2333	1625	1750
	3750	4000	2500	2667	1875	2000
	4250	4500	2833	3000	2125	2250

9.4.2.2. Comb Filter Amplitude

If the original signal and the delayed signal are the same amplitude, the reinforced frequencies increase in amplitude by 6 dB, while the out-of-phase frequencies cancel completely to -4 dB.

Comb filters cause a lot of problems. The frequencies that are reinforced are prone to excite feedback, while the out-of-phase cancellations make the program sound thin and over equalized.

Try this simple experiment to hear what comb filters do to your sound:



Stack two identical full-range loudspeakers as shown in Delay Figure 4. Carefully align the HF horns and wire the speakers in mono. Stand in front while listening to your favorite full-spectrum CD. Ask a friend to move the top speaker slowly away from you. The degradation in sound quality you hear is caused by comb filters. The experiment is most dramatic when you use good quality speakers.

9.4.2.3. Correcting Comb Filters

Comb filters are inevitable to some degree in every live sound system, and they cannot be corrected with equalization. Fortunately, most comb filter problems can be reduced to a minimum by synchronizing the signals and reducing the amplitude of the delayed signal. The examples below show several practical applications.

9.4.3. The Precedence Effect: Aligning the Acoustic Image

Helmut Haas published a study in 1951 describing a series of experiments that demonstrated how people perceive delayed signals and echoes. In his experiments, a listener was positioned between two speakers placed 3 meters away; one was placed 45 degrees to the right and the other was placed 45 degrees to the left. When the same program was played through both speakers simultaneously, the listener perceived the acoustic image (the direction from which the sound seemed to be coming) centered between the speakers.

When Haas delayed the signal going to one of the speakers by somewhere between 5 to 35 milliseconds, the listener perceived a shift in the acoustic image to the speaker heard first. While the delayed speaker did not contribute to the apparent direction of the sound, it did make the program seem louder and "fuller."

Haas showed that you must increase the loudness of the delayed signal by about 8 to 10 dB (twice the perceived loudness) in order for the acoustic image to move back to the original center position.

Increasing the loudness more than this, or increasing the delay somewhat more than 35 milliseconds, makes the delayed signal sound like an echo.

The phenomenon describing how the acoustic image follows the signal we hear first is called the Precedence Effect. The phenomenon that makes two distinct sounds heard less than 35 msec. apart seem like only one sound is call the Haas Effect. However, the terms are often used interchangeably in the sound industry.

9.4.4. Three Applications for Digital Delays

9.4.4.1. Application I: Under-The-Balcony Speakers



Delay Figure 5: Overhead view of under-balcony application.

Delay Figure 5 shows a typical situation where the performer is amplified by a center cluster hanging above the stage. Almost everybody in the audience will enjoy good sound, except those seated in the shadow of the balcony. So we add an under-balcony speaker to fill in the shadow.

Now we have sufficient volume under the balcony, but the sound from the two speakers arrives at the listener's ears some 55 to 69 milliseconds apart. The two signals, along with their echoes, result in an unintelligible cacophony. We must delay the sound from the under-balcony speaker to synchronize the signals. Do we set the Graphi-Q delay to 55 or 69 milliseconds? Obviously, the geometry will not allow us to exactly synchronize every location under the balcony; we have to compromise.

First, consider the program type. For spoken word programs, you will produce the best intelligibility if the signals from the under-balcony speakers arrive within 10 msec. of the signals from the center cluster. Therefore we should set the delay to 65-69 msec. You can allow a little more reverberation for programs that are mostly music.

Next, we must eliminate comb filter distortion. Find the axis where the levels of the center cluster and underbalcony speaker are equal (see **Section 9.4.2. Comb Filter Distortion** on p.43) You can use the Graphi-Q to precisely synchronize the speakers along this axis to eliminate the most severe comb filters. Comb filters off the equal-level axis are much less of a problem since a louder signal is not affected very much by a weaker signal.

Finally, you can experiment with adding 5 to 10 milliseconds delay to both sets of speakers to enhance the Precedence Effect for the audience seated near the performer.

In the final analysis, every setting is a compromise, and your ear has to be the final judge. Check the sound in several different locations throughout the auditorium and correct the most severe irregularities.

9.4.4.2. Application II: Center Cluster with Front Fills

Delay Figure 6 below describes a typical application that has a stage with a microphone, a center cluster above the stage, and front fills in front of the stage. There must be thousands of installations throughout the world like this that "get by" without digital delays. But with the Graphi-Q, you can improve the intelligibility and add a new quality without ringing up any significant costs. Use the Graphi-Q in this situation to align the visual image with the acoustic image. The program is much more enjoyable when the amplified sound seems to be originating with the performer, not the loudspeakers.

SECTION NINE: SUGGESTIONS FOR OPTIMAL USE OF THE GRAPHI-Q2

Find a central place in the audience where the center cluster is 6 to 8 dB louder than the direct sound from the performer. Delay them so that their sound arrives 5 to 8 milliseconds after the direct sound from the performer. Experiment by bypassing the Graphi-Q in and out to hear how the source of the



What about the front fills? Their purpose is to add intelligibility and listening comfort to the first few rows nearest the stage by filling in the areas missed by the center clusters. Add about 8 msec. to the front fills to take advantage of the Precedence Effect.

The 8 msec. setting presumes the performer is standing on the front few feet of the stage. But some stages are well over 30 feet deep. What if there is a second performer standing 25 feet behind the first? The direct sound from his or her voice will reach the first few rows about 25 msec. after the first performer's. The audience will perceive the first performer directly and the second performer through the loudspeakers.

We can add the advantage of the Precedence Effect to the second performer by placing the Graphi-Q in the mixer's channel insert point and adding a 25 msec. delay.

Certainly taking advantage of the Precedence Effect is not as obvious to the audience as eliminating feedback, but it is nice to know you did all that is possible to make the performance enjoyable.

9.4.4.3. Application III: Synchronizing the signals of a far-throw and short-throw loudspeaker

In order to reach the proper coverage in larger venues, we often stack two full range speakers - a shortthrow center cluster for the audience below and a far-throw speaker for the back of the auditorium. It is almost impossible to perfectly align the stacked speakers mechanically, so comb filter distortion becomes a problem in the area where the levels from both speakers are equal. The same thing happens with speakers mounted on the right and left sides.

It is impossible to remove comb filters with equalization, but the Graphi-Q eliminates them in short order without affecting the spectral balance for the rest of the audience. Find the axis where the levels from

the two speakers are equal. This is where the comb filters are most severe. Carefully adjust the Graphi-Q so that the signal from both speakers arrives at precisely the same time. The Graphi-Q provides 20 microsecond resolution for this purpose.

Use the same procedure to align speakers within a cluster when necessary.

Stage



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9.5. USING THE COMPRESSOR/LIMITER

The dynamic range (how loud we can hear to how quiet a sound we can detect) of the human ear is far greater than the capacity of sound systems to reproduce. Although some of this equipment limitation is at the upper extreme of the dynamic range (where too loud a signal will produce distortion), much of the restriction occurs at the low level end, where the signal disappears below the "noise floor" of the circuitry.

A compressor (or in its most powerful form, a limiter) is the most widely used tool for controlling dynamic range. In the simplest terms, a compressor is designed to restrict the dynamic range of an audio program; i.e., to make quiet signals louder, and loud signals quieter. A compressor becomes a limiter when the compression ratio (the ratio of the input gain change to the output gain change) is so high that the output level won't rise above a "brick wall" ceiling regardless of how loud the input gets.

A compressor acts like an "automatic mix engineer" with a hand on the fader, and an inhumanly fast reaction time. When the input level increases, the engineer drops the fader; when the level decreases, the fader is raised. If the amount of fader compensation equals the variation in signal level, the output level of the audio program will sound consistent.

9.5.1. Practical Benefits & Potential Problems of Compression

Speaker protection A compressor will control sudden level peaks and prevent your speakers from damage.

- **Perceived increase in loudness** Because peak levels are kept from rising as high as uncompressed signals, you gain headroom for your audio program and can raise its overall average gain. Compression is often added to the entire audio mix, both in live sound and recording, to increase its perceived loudness.
- **Mix consistency** For expressive instruments or vocals, which may have a large dynamic range, compression can help maintain consistent mix levels. So a vocal that varies from a whisper to a scream will not disappear or stand out in the mix, relative to other less dynamic instruments.

Like any signal processing, compression can be misused, and cause undesirable problems in the audio signal. Some of these problems include:

- **Noise** If the threshold for compression is set too low, and the output gain is raised substantially to make up for the gain loss of compression, the resulting output signal can be noisy. This is because the input signal must be raised significantly to produce the same output level, and the noise floor of your equipment will be amplified unnecessarily. This problem will be exaggerated if the input signal level to the compressor is very low (which will already degrade the signal-to-noise ratio).
- **Breathing** In situations where the compression ratio is high, the threshold is low, and the release time of the compressor is short, the noise floor will modulate up and down as the audio signal stops and starts.
- PumpingWhen the compressor release time is set too long, low level signals that follow
a peak closely will disappear or fade back up as the compression releases.
Experiment with the release time to obtain the ideal setting; this will be a function
of the program content.
- **Over-compression** Applying too much compression to a mix can sometimes result in such evenedout dynamics that the "life" of the music has been removed or curtailed. Dynamic variation in music is a major component of its excitement and interest; don't remove them, just control them. This may be particularly true for percussive sounds such as drums. While compressing drums can "fatten" up the sound, setting the attack time to be longer may allow the initial strike of the drum to have more impact.

9.5.2. Compressor/Limiter Adjustments

Output	Output allows you to vary the signal gain after it has been compressed. Without
	this control, the output signal level would fall below the input, since the function
	of the compressor is to restrict the increase in gain of signals louder than a user-
	defined threshold. In effect, Output lets you make up the gain (and then some)
	lost by compressing the signal. Note that the Output control operates
	regardless of the other compressor/limiter settings, so it can serve as an output
	level control for the Graphi-Q. Exercise caution when raising the output level
	of the Graphi-Q, as this may have consequences for the equipment down-
	stream in the signal chain and your overall gain structure.

- Thresh Thresh sets the threshold at which the compressor begins to affect the signal. Any signal below this threshold will pass through the circuit with the gain unaltered (i.e., unity gain), assuming the output gain is not changed from **Unity** setting.
- Ratio Ratio is the compression ratio, designated by two numbers separated by a colon. The first number represents a potential change in gain at the input stage of the compressor; the second number represents the corresponding change that will be allowed at the output of the compressor. In other words, a 3:1 compression ratio means that the output signal level (in dB) will rise 1/3 as much as the gain change at the input level for signal levels that rise above the threshold. A compression ratio of 4:1 is effectively a limiter; no matter how much louder the input rises above the threshold, the output level remains unchanged.
- Knee Knee refers to a changing compression ratio as the compression threshold is approached and exceeded. Most compressors allow a choice of either "hard knee," which applies the full compression ratio dynamics control to the signal immediately as the input level crosses the threshold, or "soft knee," which varies the slope of the compression as the threshold is approached and crossed. Soft knee smooths the onset of the compression.

The Graphi-Q allows a variable, user adjustable knee. The degree of "softness" is adjustable using the Remote Control Software only, and is variable from 1 to 40 dB. This value refers to the range in dB of the input signal (with the threshold as the midpoint) over which the slope of the compression will vary.

The lowest knee value (Compressor Figure 1) represents instant full compression when the input level crosses the threshold. The highest value (40) represents a soft-knee compression (Compressor Figure 2) that will begin to gently compress the input signal 20 dB below the threshold, and allow the full compression ratio 20 dB above, for a total "soft-knee" range of 40 dB.



Compressor Figure 1: hard knee

	Section Nine: Suggestions for Optimal Use of the Graphi-Q2
Limit	Limit sets an absolute output gain level. Peak input signals rising above the threshold value set with this parameter will be compressed so extremely as to reflect no additional gain at the output stage. Note that the Limit threshold and the compressor threshold (Thresh) can be set independently, allowing both a mild degree of compression and brick wall peak limiting. All other parameters besides Thresh and Ratio are common for both the compressor and limiter.
Attack	Attack sets the speed with which the signal is compressed once the gain exceeds the threshold. Attack is generally set to a very quick response and can be varied from 1 to 99 msec.
Release	Release sets the speed with which the output signal returns to unity gain when the input signal falls below the threshold. It can be varied from 50 milliseconds to 5 seconds.

The compressor window also displays metering of the input signal (both channels) and the compression added to the signal (both channels). When compression is engaged, the meters will work in opposite directions.

Compressor/limiter functions on the GRQ3102 and GRQ3102-S models can be adjusted individually for channels A and B using Graphi-Q Remote Control software.

9.5.3. Suggested Compressor Settings

VOCAL COMPRESSION The renowned expressiveness of the human voice is due in large part to its dynamics. A vocal that varies from a whisper to a scream has a strong emotional impact, but those same dynamics present a challenge to the sound engineer.



Ideal vocal compression maintains some dynamic range while keeping the vocal the focal point of the mix. *Ratio set to 4 or 6:1; threshold set so vocal peaks are compressed about 4-6 dB, attack and release should be fairly quick; gain makeup boosted slightly to compensate for gain reduction, soft knee.*

DRUM COMPRESSION Compressing drums add punch and fullness to their sound, and also tend to make levels of individual drum hits more uniform. Care should be taken to avoid squashing the attack of the drum too much. Slowing down the attack time of the compressor will allow more of the stick impact to be



heard. You may elect to compress drums individually, or submix various drum mics through a compressor, to be fed back into the mix along with the uncompressed drum mix. *Ratio set to 3 to 6:1, threshold catches all hits, medium attack, quick release; gain makeup boosted slightly, soft knee.*

Ratio

Ratio

Thresh

Thresh

BASS GUITAR Bass players use a variety of techniques, often in the same song, that can benefit from compression. Compressing bass evens out peaks and keeps the bass level in the mix. Ratio set to 4:1, threshold set to compress peaks only, quick attack, medium release, hard knee, output boosted slightly.



Release

Release

Gain

Gain

Knee

Knee

Attack

Attack

GUITAR A high compression ratio (with gain makeup) will add sustain to held notes and chords. Moving the threshold will change the audible thick/thinness of the guitar tone, but generally you want to compress all the notes played. As with drums, be wary of too quick an

attack, which may reduce the percussive attack of the guitar notes. Be wary of too much gain makeup, and too high a compression ratio, which may make a noisy guitar amplifier more objectionable. *Ratio set from 6 to 20:1, threshold variable, slower attack, soft knee, output gain boosted slightly to significantly depending on amount of compression. Try various release settings, depending on the speed of notes played.*

ENTIRE MIX It's quite common to compress the entire mix, both live and in the studio. This elevates the average level of the mix, resulting in an apparent increase in volume. *Ratio set to 2 or 3:1, threshold set to compress peaks, medium attack, soft knee, output boosted slightly.*



Section Ten: Troubleshooting Tips

In the unlikely event you should experience trouble with the unit, here are some suggestions about what might be wrong. Some of these are pretty obvious, but so sometimes are the solutions! For additional assistance, call the Sabine Customer Service Department at (386) 418-2000, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern.

PROBLEM

SUGGESTION

LITTLE OR NO AUDIO COMING FROM GRAPH-Q OUTPUT	Check connections. Make sure they are line level. Are input and output reversed? Are the Graphi-Q2 LEDs showing signal? If no, make sure the unit is not in BYPASS mode, and that audio signal is feeding Graphi-Q2 input. If yes, check connections and gain downstream from Graphi-Q2.
AUDIO "PUMPS" or BREATHES	Check Graphi-Q compressor settings. See Section 9.5.
SPEAKER STACKS PLAY AUDIO OUT OF SYNC	Check Graphi-Q delay settings.
FEEDBACK NOT BEING REMOVED	Check filter availability. Make sure unit is not in BYPASS.
GRAPHI-Q APPEARS TO BE CATCHING FEEDBACK, BUT FEEDBACK STILL PRESENT	See Sections 6.4 & 8.2.5 . If you have the Graphi-Q patched in an effects or auxiliary loop, you will only catch the feedback in the effects loop, and not the mixer input channel. Or, you may have used up all the available FBX filters, leaving no additional filters for new feedback frequencies.
FEEDBACK FREQUENCIES CLUSTERED TOGETHER	Try using the graphic equalizer to "flatten" the room. There may be a big frequency "bump" in a room with less than ideal acoustics; this is better treated with a wider filter.
TURBO SETUP DOESN'T WORK CORRECTLY	Read this manual carefully; there's a lot to understand. Make sure you are raising the gain in the correct channel! Make sure your system is set up and audio is passing through.
DISTORTED AUDIO	Most likely you are pushing a VERY HOT signal into the box. It's hard to make the Graphi-Q clip. Check connections for intermit- tence, or check downstream from the Graphi-Q. Check the Graphi-Q output level and turn it up. ALTERNATIVELY: The Graphi-Q may still be in Setup Mode , which automatically maximizes the Clip Level until the first dynamic FBX filter is set. You may exit Setup Mode in several ways (see Sections 6.4.2.2 & 8.2.5.1).

PROBLEM	SUGGESTION
NOISY AUDIO	Bypass the Graphi-Q. If noise is still there, it's not the Graphi-Q. If noise goes away, check your gain structure. Make sure the input level to the Graphi-Q is robust. Turn down gain downstream.
FRONT PANEL CONTROLS DON'T WORK	Either your unit is (or was) connected to GRQ2 Remote or switched via contact closure, and the front panel is disabled. Resume control via GRQ2 Remote or contact switch. In a pinch short the extreme left & right pins of the back panel contact connector.
REMOTE CONTROL DOESN'T WORK	Is your Graphi-Q2 in front-panel mode? Load any Stored Preset other than #1.
SIGNAL LOSES GAIN GOING THROUGH Graphi-Q2	Check output level. Most likely you are mixing balanced and unbalanced connections, which lowers gain 6 dB.
PARAMETRIC FILTERS DO NOT LINK	Parametric filter linking obeys a set of rules that will make it difficult for you to accidentally defeat an FBX filter already in place. See Section 8.3.
REMOTE SOFTWARE SCREEN DISTORTED, LETTERS DO NOT FIT CORRECTLY	The Graphi-Q software requires that your computer display fonts be set to "small." Click the Start button and select Settings and Control Panel . Double-click Display and select Settings , then click the Ad- vanced button. Select Small Fonts and then OK to all. Restart your computer.
FBX FILTERS WILL NOT SET ON GRQ3121 OR GRQ3121-S	The FBX filters will not set on single channel units if you have the B output channel FBX filters in bypass BEFORE setup. Make sure the B output channel filters are not bypassed before attempting to set filters.
GRAPHI-Q2 REMOTE CONTROL SOFTWARE CANNOT FIND GRAPHI-Q UNIT(S) NOTE: <u>COM Port Properties</u> , <u>Port Settings</u> (Bits per second, Data bits, Parity, Stop bits & Flow control) are controlled by	 Make sure the software version installed in your computer is compatible with the firmware version of your Graphi-Q. Check cable. You want a serial 9-pin, not a null modem. Make sure the COM Port selected is correct. Refresh your COM Ports: In Windows, click Start and select Settings, Control Panel. Double click System. Click Hard- ware and then Device Manager, and then open up Ports (COM & LPT). Right click the COM Port for your Graphi-Q and select Remove (or Uninstall). Your computer will verify your intent and then reboot. As it reboots, it will rebuild your COM Port file. This will clean out previous settings for devices no longer attached to your
the Graphi-Q2 Software and need not be adjusted.	computer and may allow the Graphi-Q2 software to locate your unit(s).

Section Eleven: Graphi-Q2 Engineering Specifications

DIGITAL PROCESSING

24 bit A/D and D/A

32-bit DSP

GRAPHIC EQUALIZER

31 digital filters on 1/3-octave ISO center frequencies, width adjustable from 0.5 to 1.0 octave in .01 octave increments; ± 12 or 6 dB boost and cut

±6 or 12 dB boost and cut range

Independent display and control of A & B channels

FBX/PARAMETRIC FILTERS

Twelve independent digital filters per channel, controlled automatically or parametrically from 20 Hz to 20 KHz, each switchable (GRQ2 Remote) between FBX fixed filters, FBX dynamic filters, and parametric filters¹

Filter depth: user-controllable in 1 dB steps from +12 dB to -84 dB (parametric mode); 3 dB steps from 0 dB to -80 dB (FBX mode), max. FBX depth adjustable from -6 to -80 dB

Filter width: user-controllable from 9.99 to .01 octave (parametric), 1.0 to .01 octave (FBX*)

Low Cut Filter, user-controllable between 20 Hz and 1 KHz; 12 dB/ octave roll-off

High Cut Filter, user-controllable between 3 KHz and 20 KHz; 12 dB/octave roll-off

Resolution: 1 Hz from 20 Hz to 20 KHz, FBX & parametric mode

Time required to find and eliminate feedback: typically 0.3 seconds @ 1 KHz $\,$

Total number of combined filters active per channel: user-selectable, 0-12; plus low and high cut filters

CROSSOVER

1x2; available in all Graphi-Q2 units

Bessel, Butterworth, Linkwitz-Reily filters

Slopes: 12, 24, 36, and 48 dB/octave

DIGITAL COMPRESSOR/LIMITER

Threshold: +32 dBV to -30 dBV peak in 0.5 dB steps

Ratio: 1:1 through infinity

Knee: variable soft/hard

Attack: 1 to 99 msec in 1 msec steps1

Release: .05 to 5 sec in .05 sec steps1

Peak limit threshold: +32 dBV to -30 dBV peak in 0.5 dB steps1

DIGITAL DELAY

1.38 to 999.96 msec in 20 µsec steps

Programmable in milliseconds, feet or meters

PASSWORD CONFIGURATION

4 levels1

CONTROLS

GRQ3122, GRQ3121: Front panel, GRQ Remote (RS-232), Remote switching

 $\mathsf{GRQ3122}\text{-}\mathsf{S},\mathsf{GRQ3121}\text{-}\mathsf{S}:\mathsf{GRQ}$ Remote (RS-232), Remote switching

SAVE & RECALL CONFIGURATIONS¹

- 20 user defined
- 1 factory default
- 1 most recent configuration (power down save)

1 front panel

INPUT/OUTPUT**

Input impedance: Balanced > 10K Ohms, PIN 2 high

Output impedance: Balanced 50 Ohms nominal, PIN 2 high

Input/Output maximum signal levels: Balanced +18 dBV peak

Maximum output load: 600 Ohms balanced

Bypass: true power-off bypass

I/O connectors: XLR-3, 1/4" TRS

 ${\rm GRQ3122}$ and ${\rm GRQ3122}\mbox{-}S$: Dual channel, one input, one output per channel

GRQ3121, and GRQ3121-S: Single channel, one input, two outputs. Functions on each output selectable via GRQ2 Remote

PERFORMANCE²

Frequency response: 20 Hz to 20 KHz, ±0.2 dB @ +18 dBV

THD: <0.01% at 1.0 KHz at +18 dBV with 30KHz bandwidth

SNR***: >105 dB

Dynamic Range: >110 dB

Headroom: +14 dB @ 4 dBV nominal input (balanced)

UPGRADES

Operating system firmware stored in FLASH RAM. All future upgrades for firmware and software downloadable from Sabine website using the Sabine Upgrade Wizard (see **Section 8.10**).

POWER

50/60 Hz available in 100 V, 120 V, 230 V; 20 W

DIMENSIONS

2-U rack mount 19 x 3.5 x 9 in. (48.3 x 9 x 22.9 cm); 9 lb. (3.9 Kg)

1-U rack mount $19 \times 1.75 \times 9.5$ in. (48.3 x 4.5 x 22.9 cm); 8 lb. (3.6 Kg)

OPERATING TEMPERATURE

Safe Operating Temperature: 0 - 50 degrees centigrade ambient temperature (32-129F)

* Below approximately 200 Hz the feedback filters become slightly wider to increase the feedback and rumble capture speed at these low frequencies.

** Inputs may be balanced or unbalanced. For maximum output capabilities, outputs must be balanced (XLR or TRS). If either side of an output is grounded, the peak and output dynamic range will be reduced by 6 dB.

*** Signal-to-noise ratio is the ratio of the maximum undistorted signal by specification (26 dBV RMS sinewave) to the noise floor.

¹ Available using GRQ Remote Software only.

²Tests performed using an Audio Precision System One model 322 or equal.

SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Section Twelve: Cautions & Warranty

Warning! This equipment must be earthed.

Caution! Risk of electric shock. Do not open.

Caution! Shock hazard. Do not remove covers. No user serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.

Warning! To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this product to rain or moisture.

Attention! Cet appareil doit être relié à la terre.

Attention! Risque de choc électrique; ne pas ouvrir.

Attention! Risque de choc; ne pas oter les capots. Aucune pièce accessible à l'intérieur. S'addresser à un technicien qualifié.

Attention! Pour réduire le risque d'incendie ou de choc électrique, ne pas laisser l'appareil sous la plouie ou à l'humidité.

Achtung! Dieses Gerät muss schutzgeerdet sein.

Achtung! Gefar eines elektrischen Stormschlags. Gehause nicht öffnen. Achtung! Gefar eines elektrischen Stormschlags. Gehäuse nicht öffnen. Keine con Benutzer zu bedienenden Teile im Geräteinneren.

Überlassen Sie das Gerät zu Servicezwecken nur geschultem Fachpersonal. Um Brandgefar oder das Risiko eines elektrischen Schlags auszuschließen, das Gerät vor Nässe und Feuchtigkeit schützen.

Advertencia! Este equipo debe estar conectado a tierra.

Precaución! Reisgo de descarga eléctrica. No abrir.

Precaución! Riesgo de descarga eléctrica. No desmontar las tapas. Piezas interiores no reparables por el usuario. Reparable sólo por personal cualificado. Advertencia! Para reducir el riesgo de incendio o de descarga eléctrica no exponga este producto a la lluvia o humedad.

FCC Statement:

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference; and (2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation. *Warning:* Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

•Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

- •Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- •Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different
- from that to which the receiver is connected.
- •Consult the dealer or an experienced radio TV technician for help.

Canadian Compliance Statement

This digital apparatus does not exceed the Class B limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus set out in the Radio Interference Regulations of the Canadian Department of Communications.

Le present appareil numerique n'emet pas de bruits radioelectriques depassant les limites applicables aux appareils numeriques de la class B prescrites dans le Reglement sur le brouillage radioelectrique edicte par le ministere des Communications du Canada.

Japanese EMI Compliance Statement

この装置は、第二種情報装置

(住宅地域又はその隣接した地域において使用されるべき情報装置) で住宅地域での電波障害防止を目的とした情報処理装置等電波障害 自主規制協議会(VCCI)基準に適合しております。

しかし、本装置をラジオ、テレビジョン受信機に近接してご使用に なると、受信障害の原因となることがあります。

取扱説明書に従って正しい取り扱いをして下さい。



The Graphi-Q is designed to operate from standard AC power. Please be sure the power in your area is compatible with the power requirements marked on the rear of the unit. Using the wrong input voltage may cause permanent damage to the unit and will void the warranty.

The Graphi-Q is supplied with one of the following AC power cords: Japan 100 VAC U.S./North America 120 VAC Continental Europe 230 VAC United Kingdom 240 VAC

240 VAC 240 VAC

Australia



Replace the fuse with a fuse of exactly the same rating specified on the rear of the product.

- 1. Read all safety and operating instructions before using this product.
- 2. All safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.
- 3. Obey all cautions in the operating instructions and on the unit.
- 4. All operating instructions should be followed.
- 5. Use only shielded audio and data cables.
- 6. This product should not be used in the presence of moisture or rain, or near any water, i.e., a bathtub, sink, swimming pool, wet basement, etc.
- This product should be located so that its position does not interfere with proper ventilation. Do not use in direct sunlight. Do not place flat against a wall or in a built-in enclosure that will impede the flow of cooling air.
- 8. This product should not be placed near a source of heat such as a stove or radiator.
- 9. Connect only to a power supply of the type marked on the unit adjacent to the power entry module.
- 10. Never break off the ground pin on the power supply cord.
- 11. Power supply cords should always be handled carefully. Never walk or place equipment on power supply cords. Periodically check cords for cuts or signs of stress, especially at the plug and the point where the cord exits the unit.
- 12. The power supply cord should be unplugged when the unit is to be unused for long periods of time.
- Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the unit through the ventilation holes or any other openings.
- 14. This unit should be checked by a qualified service technician if:
 - A. The power supply cord or plug has been damaged.
 - B. Anything has fallen or been spilled into the unit.
 - C. The unit does not operate correctly.
 - D. The unit has been dropped or the enclosure damaged.
- The user should not attempt to service this equipment. All service work should be done by a qualified service technician.

OSHA 2201; 1995 revised.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREMELY HIGH NOISE LEVELS MAY CAUSE A PERMANENT HEARING LOSS. INDIVIDUALS VARY CONSIG**ERATUTE ONCE** TO BILITY TO NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS, BUT NEARLY EVERYONE WILL LOSE SOME HEARING IF EXPOSED TO SUFFICIENTLY INTENSE NOISE FOR A SUFFICIENT TIME. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) HAS SPECIFIED THE FOLLOWING PERMISSIBLE NOISE LEVEL EXPOSURES:

DURATION/DAY IN HOURS SOUND LEVEL IN dBA, SLOW RESPONSE 90

8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1-1/2	102
1	105
1/2	110
1/4 or less	115

ACCORDING TO OSHA, ANY EXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF THE ABOVE PERMISSIBLE LIMITS COULD RESULT IN HEARING LOSS. EAR PLUGS OR PROTECTORS IN THE EAR CANALS OR OVER THE EARS MUST BE WORN WHEN OPERATING THIS DEVICE IN ORDER TO PREVENT A PERMANENT HEARING LOSS, IF EXPOSURE IS IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITS AS SET FORTH ABOVE. 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 SUCH AS THIS DEVICE BE PROTECTED BY HEARING PROTECTORS WHILE THIS UNIT IS IN OPERATION.

CAUTION /!\ This apparatus contains a lithium battery. Replacement shall be made by gualified service personnel only.

Call Sabine at (386) 418-2000 or consult an authorized Sabine agent.

FBX and FBX Feedback Exterminator are registered trademarks of Sabine, Inc., and are the brand names of its line of automatic feedback controllers. Covered by U.S. Patent No. 5,245,665, Australian Patent No. 653,736, Canadian Patent No. 2,066,624-2, German Patent No. 69118486.0, and U.K. Patent No. 0486679. Other patents pending.

REAL-Q and REAL-Q2 are protected by U.S. Patent No. 5,506,910. Other patents pending.

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SABINE, INC. ("SABINE") warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from date of purchase PROVIDED, however, that this limited warranty is extended only to the original retail purchaser and is subject to the conditions, exclusions and limitations hereinafter set forth:

CONDITIONS, EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF LIMITED WARRANTIES These limited warranties shall be void and of no effect if:

a. The first purchase of the product is for the purpose of resale; or b. The original retail purchase is not made from an AUTHORIZED SABINE DEALER; or

The product has been damaged by accident or unreasonable use, neglect, improper service

or maintenance, or other causes not arising out of defects in material or workmanship; or

d. The serial number affixed to the product is altered, defaced or removed; or
 e. The power supply grounding pin is removed or otherwise defeated. In the event of a defect

in material and/or workmanship covered by this limited warranty, Sabine will repair the defect in material or workmanship or replace the product, at Sabine's option; and provided, however, that, in any case, all costs of shipping, if necessary, are paid by you, the purchaser. THE WARRANTY IS NOT VALID UNLESS THE PRODUCT IS REGISTERED ONLINE AT WWW.SABINE.COM AND RECEIVED BY SABINE WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS OF PURCHASE.

In order to obtain service under these warranties, you must:

a. Bring the defective item to any Authorized SABINE DEALER and present therewith the ORIGINAL PROOF OF PURCHASE supplied to you by the AUTHORIZED SABINE DEALER in connection with your purchase from him of this product. If the DEALER is unable to provide the necessary warranty service, you will be directed to the nearest other SABINE AUTHORIZED DEALER which can provide such service. OR

b. Ship the defective item, prepaid, to:

SABINE, INC 13301 HIGHWAY 441 ALACHUA, FL 32615-8544

including therewith a complete, detailed description of the problem, together with a legible copy of the original PROOF OF PURCHASE and a complete return address. Upon Sabine's receipt of these items:

If the defect is remedial under the limited warranties and the other terms and conditions expressed have been complied with, Sabine will provide the necessary warranty service to repair or replace the product and will return it, FREIGHT COLLECT, to you, the purchaser. Sabine's liability to the purchaser for damages from any cause whatsoever and regardless of the form of action, including negligence, is limited to the actual damages up to the greater of \$500.00 or an amount equal to the purchase price of the product that caused the damage or that is the subject of or is directly related to the cause of action. Such purchase price will be that in effect for the specific product when the cause of action arose. This limitation of liability

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Your remedies for breach of these warranties are limited to those remedies provided herein, and Sabine gives this limited warranty only with respect to equipment purchased in the United States of America

INSTRUCTIONS - WARRANTY REGISTRATION

1. REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SABINE.COM

- a. Keep the PROOF OF PURCHASE. In the event warranty service is required during the warranty period, you will need this document. There will be no identification card issued by Sabine, Inc.
- 2. IMPORTANCE OF ONLINE WARRANTY REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES OF ADDRESS:
 - a. Completion of online warranty registration Should notification become necessary for any condition that may require correction, the online registration will help ensure that you are contacted and properly notified.
 - b. Notice of email address changes If you change the email address used for the online registration, you should notify Sabine of the change so as to facilitate your receipt of any bulletins or other forms of notification which may become necessary in connection with any condition that may require dissemination of information or correction.
- 3. You may contact Sabine directly by telephoning (386) 418-2000.
- 4. Please have the Sabine product name and serial number available when communicating with Sabine Customer Service.



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