



# Live Recorder LR-16



## PRODUCT MANUAL

Version 2.0

Firmware Release 83859

December 2014

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.....4

1.1. AC adapter ..... 4

1.2. Environment ..... 4

1.3. Handling ..... 4

1.4. Connecting cables and input and output jacks ..... 4

1.5. Alterations ..... 4

1.6. Volume ..... 4

2. USAGE PRECAUTIONS .....5

2.1. Electrical interference ..... 5

2.2. Cleaning ..... 5

3. LIMITED WARRANTY.....5

4. INTRODUCTION .....6

5. WHAT'S IN THE BOX.....6

6. LR-16 CONNECTIONS AND USER INTERFACE .....7

6.1. Front Panel..... 7

6.2. Rear Panel ..... 7

6.3. Top Panel ..... 8

7. SIGNAL FLOW .....9

8. DIRECT TO USB RECORDING .....10

8.1. Turn on the device..... 10

8.2. Connect USB storage device..... 10

8.2.1. Device Details .....10

8.2.2. Wrong file system.....11

8.2.3. Disk error.....11

8.3. Recording 'Home screen'..... 12

8.4. Start recording ..... 13

8.5. Creating a new take "on the fly" ..... 13

8.6. Stop the recording..... 14

8.7. Playing back the recorded tracks..... 14

8.8. Recording priority..... 14

8.9. Recorder Menu ..... 15

8.9.1. Recorder Configuration.....15

8.9.2. Sample rate & sample width (bit-depth).....16

8.9.3. Pad settings.....17

8.9.4. Monitor settings.....17

8.9.5. Delete recording.....18

8.9.6. Format USB device .....19

8.9.7. MMC/Mackie Control (USB Interface Mode Only).....19

9. PLAYER MODE.....20

9.1. Start playback ..... 20

9.2. Using the Player Menu ..... 21

10. USB HARD DRIVES VS. USB FLASH DRIVES .....21

10.1. USB Hard Drive ..... 21

10.2. USB Flash Drive..... 21

10.3. Auto-Detection of USB Drive Type ..... 22

11. CONNECTING RECORDING SOURCES.....23

11.1. Connecting the LR-16 to TRS Insert Plugs of a Mixing Console ..... 23

11.2. Connecting the LR-16 to Unbalanced Direct Outputs ..... 24

11.3. Connecting the LR-16 to Balanced Direct Outputs ..... 24

12. 16X2 CHANNEL USB INTERFACE MODE.....26

12.1. Using the LR-16 as an Audio Interface with Microsoft Windows ..... 27

12.1.1. Minimum System Requirements ..... 27

12.1.2. WDM and ASIO driver installation ..... 27

12.2. LR-16 Mixer / Control Panel for PC.....27

12.2.1. Mixer View ..... 28

12.2.2. Settings View: Synchronization Tab ..... 28

12.2.3. Settings View: Buffers Tab ..... 29

12.2.4. Settings View: Input Channels Tab ..... 30

12.2.5. Settings View: Output Channels Tab ..... 30

12.2.6. Settings View: About Tab ..... 31

12.2.7. Minimizing the Mixer Panel ..... 32

12.3. Using the LR-16 as an Audio Interface with an OS X ..... 32

12.3.1. Minimum System Requirements ..... 32

12.3.2. Driver Installation ..... 33

12.4. Using the LR-16 as an Audio Interface with an Apple® iPad® ..... 33

12.4.1. Minimum System requirements ..... 33

12.4.2. Driver Installation ..... 33

13. UPDATING THE FIRMWARE ON YOUR LR-16 .....34

14. TROUBLESHOOTING.....34

14.1. Direct-to-USB recording mode / Player mode ..... 34

14.2. 16 Channel USB audio interface mode..... 35

15. SPECIFICATIONS .....35

16. LEGAL DISCLAIMER .....36

## 1. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

### 1.1. AC adapter

- Be sure to use only the supplied 12 V DC, 1000 mA AC adapter, which is equipped with a “center-positive” plug. The use of an adapter other than the specified type may damage the unit and pose a safety hazard.
- Connect the AC adapter only to an AC outlet that supplies the rated voltage required by the adapter.
- When disconnecting the AC adapter from the AC outlet, always grasp the adapter itself and do not pull at the cable.
- During lightning or when not using the unit for an extended period, disconnect the AC adapter from the AC outlet.

### 1.2. Environment

To prevent the risk of fire, electric shock or malfunction, avoid using your Live Recorder LR-16 in environments where it will be exposed to:

- Extreme temperatures
- Heat sources
- Excessive humidity or moisture
- Excessive dust or sand
- Excessive vibration or shock

### 1.3. Handling

- Never place objects filled with liquids on the Live Recorder LR-16, as this can cause electric shock.
- Do not place an open flame source, such as a lighted candle, on the Live Recorder LR-16 since this can cause fire.
- The Live Recorder LR-16 is a precision instrument. Do not exert undue pressure on the keys and other controls. Also take care not to drop the unit, and do not subject it to shock or excessive pressure.
- Take care that no foreign objects (coins, pins etc.) or liquids can enter the unit.

### 1.4. Connecting cables and input and output jacks

Always turn off the power to the Live Recorder LR-16 and all other equipment before connecting or disconnecting the power source. Make sure to disconnect all connection cables and the power cord before moving the Live Recorder LR-16.

### 1.5. Alterations

Do not open the case of the Live Recorder LR-16, or attempt to modify the product in any way. Doing so will void the warranty. There are no serviceable parts inside the unit.

### 1.6. Volume

Do not use the headphone output of the Live Recorder LR-16 at a loud volume for a long time since this can cause hearing impairment.

## 2. USAGE PRECAUTIONS

### 2.1. Electrical interference

For safety considerations, the Live Recorder LR-16 has been designed to provide maximum protection against the emission of electromagnetic radiation from inside the device, and protection from external interference. However, equipment that is very susceptible to interference or that emits powerful electromagnetic waves should not be placed near the Live Recorder LR-16, as the possibility of interference cannot be ruled out entirely. With any type of digital control device, the Live Recorder LR-16 included, electromagnetic interference can cause malfunctioning and can corrupt or destroy data. Care should be taken to minimize the risk of damage.

### 2.2. Cleaning

Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the Live Recorder LR-16. If necessary, slightly moisten the cloth. Do not use abrasive cleanser, wax, or solvents (such as paint thinner or cleaning alcohol), since these may dull the finish or damage the surface.

## 3. LIMITED WARRANTY

For the applicable warranty terms and conditions and additional information on Cymatic Audio's Limited Warranty, please see complete details online at [www.cymaticaudio.com/warranty](http://www.cymaticaudio.com/warranty)

### CERTIFICATIONS



This product complies with the European Union Council Directives and Standards relating to Directive 2004/108/EC for Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC



This product is compliant with the EU Directive 2011/65/EU for the Restriction of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment. No lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), hexavalent chromium (Cr+6), PBB or PBDE is intentionally added to this device. Any traces of impurities of these substances contained in the parts are below the RoHS specified threshold levels.



This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the requirements of 47 CFR of PART 15 limit for radiation and conduction emission relating to FCC rules Part 15B: 2010.



## 4. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Cymatic Audio Live Recorder LR-16.

The Live Recorder LR-16 is the world's easiest to use Direct to USB 16-track recorder and 16 in / 2 out USB audio interface for PC, Mac® and iPad®.

The LR-16 was designed using high-grade components, in order to ensure optimum performance as a recorder for live performances, while sparing users the hassle of “traditional” multi-track recording. The LR-16 does not require any additional hardware, other than a USB hard drive and cabling, in order to record 16 audio tracks as standard wave files directly from a live sound mixer's insert connections. Perfect for beginner recordists who don't want to deal with difficult and time consuming learning curves, as well as the most seasoned professionals who don't want to be troubled with complicated setups.

Used in connection with a PC, Mac® or iPad®, the LR-16 also serves as an 16 input/ 2 output USB audio interface. When you've finished your live recording in the field, simply connect the LR-16 to your computer or Ipad, and you have a high quality USB audio interface. Plug your USB drive into your computer, and drag and drop your files into your favorite DAW to edit your audio and perform additional overdubs. Convenient features such as native Mac and iPad® driver support make installation a breeze. Zero latency hardware monitoring and a built in digital mixer allow for near-zero latency recording, flexibility and a hassle free setup.

The LR-16 User Manual contains in-depth details of your Live Recorder's features and functionality, including:

- Direct to USB hard drive recording (16 tracks at 24-bit, 44.1/48kHz, 2 tracks at 24-bit, 96kHz)
- 16 analog 1/4" TRS insert-style inputs
- Independent and Global 10dB input level padding on all inputs
- Stereo Line level output
- Front panel headphone output with dedicated level control
- Zero latency hardware input monitoring
- Built in digital mixer with per-channel level control, panning, mute, and solo functions
- 24 bit/44.1/48/96 kHz USB Class Compliant Audio Interface
- Mac® OS-X® compatible: Core Audio plug and play drivers
- Windows® PC compatible (Windows XP, Vista, 7 & 8 32-bit/64-bit) WDM and ASIO® drivers.
- iPad® compatible: Plug and play (USB adapter required including
  - Apple® Lightning to USB Camera Adapter
  - Apple® USB Camera Connection Kit
- Stereo wave file player for background/break music

## 5. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

- LR-16 recorder
- AC/DC power adapter and power cable
- USB cable
- Quick Start Guide

## 6. LR-16 CONNECTIONS AND USER INTERFACE

### 6.1. Front Panel



#### 1. USB Storage Connector

USB 2.0 connector, for connection of a USB hard drive or thumb drive

#### 2. Headphone

1/4 Inch Headphone Connector

#### 3. Headphone Volume

### 6.2. Rear Panel



#### 1. USB 2.0 Port

For connection to a Mac®, PC or iPad when device is used as audio interface

#### 2. Power Switch

#### 3. Line Level Inputs 1-16

16 analog 1/4" TRS insert-style inputs (unbalanced)

#### 4. Line Out Stereo

Stereo, fixed-level, line output (unbalanced), contains stereo mix of all input channels

#### 5. Power Connector

12V DC, 1000mA, center positive

6.3. Top Panel



The LR-16 contains two separate modes of operation:

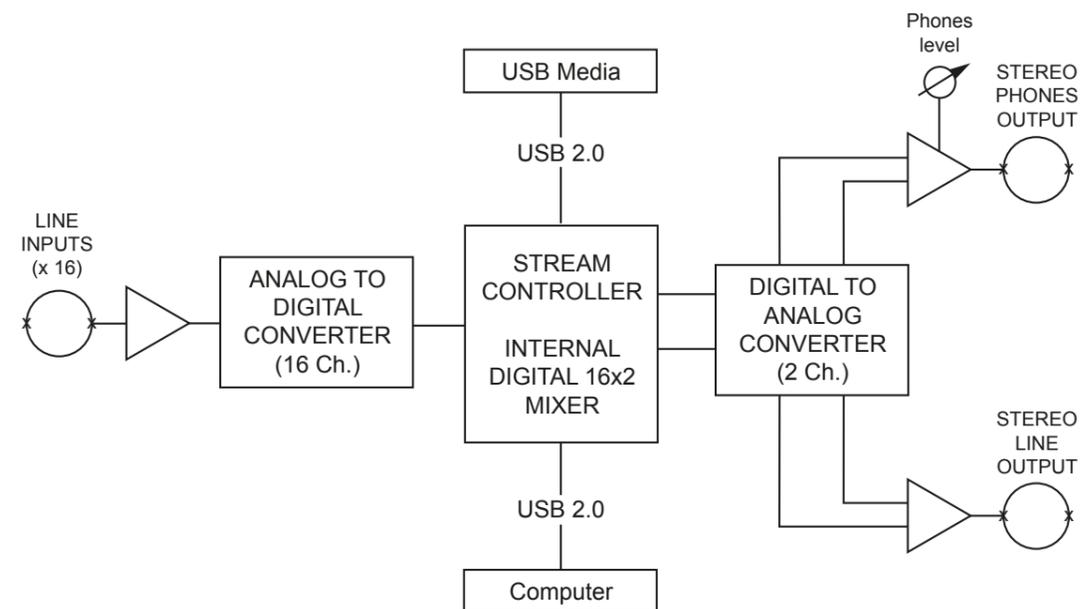
- **Recorder Mode:** The main mode of operation, this mode allows recording of 16 separate signals feeding the inputs.
- **Player Mode:** This mode allows playback of stereo wave files, for playback of song files for pre/post/break music.

The top panel buttons perform the following functions when the unit is set to the two different modes:

	Recorder Mode	Player Mode	USB Interface Mode
1	Switch to player mode	Switch to recorder mode	N/A
2	Show recorder menu	Show player menu	Show input settings menu
3	Go back to previous screen	Go back to previous screen	Go back to previous screen
4	Go to previous song	Go to previous song	Mackie Control/MMC Skip Back
5	Go to next song	Go to next song	Mackie Control/MMC Skip Forward
6	Stop recording / playback	Stop playback	Mackie Control/MMC Stop Back
7	Start / pause playback	Start / pause playback	Mackie Control/MMC Play
8	Start new recording	Switch to recorder mode/start recording	N/A
9	Selection up	Selection up	Selection up
10	Select	Select	Select
11	Selection down	Selection down	Selection down

7. SIGNAL FLOW

- The LR-16 contains 16 separate line-level inputs, which are digitized into 16 discrete audio streams and sent to the internal stream controller
- The LR-16 contains an internal digital mixer that provides a stereo mix down of the 16 separate incoming audio signals, to a 2-channel stereo mix
- This 2-channel mix is output to both the stereo line output, as well as the stereo phones output (recorder mode)
- When operating as a USB computer audio interface, the stereo line output/phones output is sourced from a combination of the internal mixer and 2-channel DAW return (Windows) or purely the 2-channel DAW return (OS X).



8. DIRECT TO USB RECORDING

8.1. Turn on the device

Connect the LR-16 to the power supply and turn it on. After the start-up screen you will see the following screen:



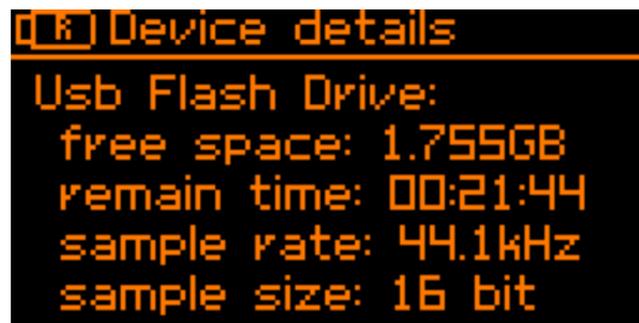
8.2. Connect USB storage device

When a USB drive is attached to the front panel USB port, the attached drive is mounted and then the LR-16 optimizes itself for reading and writing the drive. With large drives it may take around half a minute to complete this process.



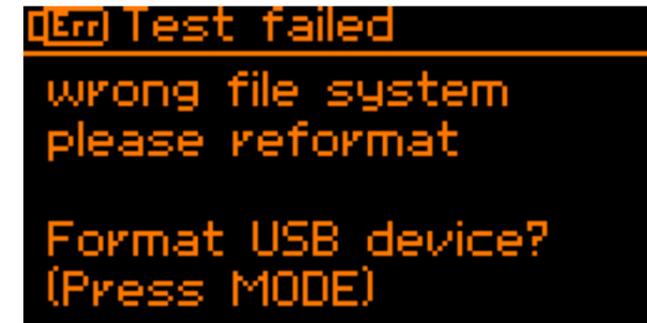
8.2.1. Device Details

After the optimization process is concluded the device details are displayed.



8.2.2. Wrong file system

The inserted drive needs to be formatted in the FAT32 format, in order to be suitable for Direct-to-USB recording. If this is not the case, you are given the option to format the drive.

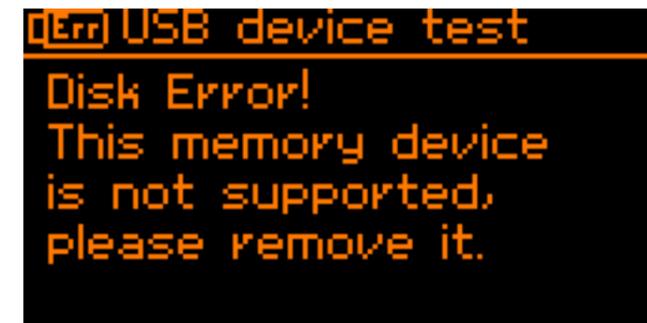


! Please keep in mind that formatting the drive will erase all data currently residing on the drive. Please see section "Format USB device"

8.2.3. Disk error

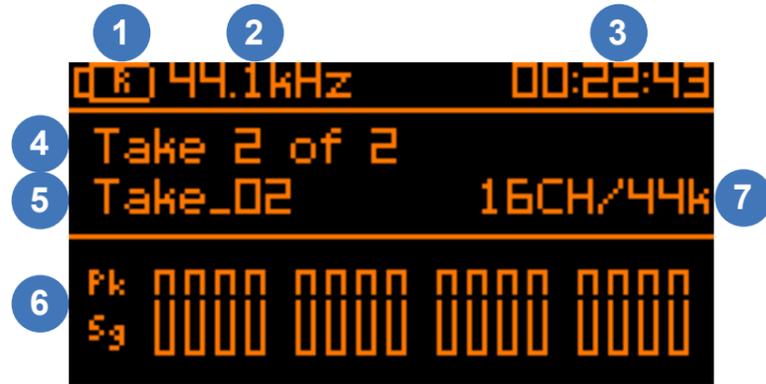
If the inserted drive is defective or not supported, the screen will show a "Disk Error".

If this occurs, please remove the device and refer to section 'USB Hard Drives vs. USB Flash Drives'.



### 8.3. Recording 'Home screen'

After the attached drive has been successfully tested, the LR-16's screen will display the recording "home screen". This screen displays the pertinent settings and displays you will want to view, when performing a recording operation.



#### 1. LR-16 connection status

This icon shows whether the device is connected to a PC / Mac or a USB storage device. When the screen displays a USB drive icon with an "R" inside it, the LR-16 is in "recorder mode", with a valid USB drive attached, and is ready to record 16 separate tracks.

#### 2. Currently selected sample rate

This number shows the sample rate that will be used when starting a new recording. To change the sample rate please, refer to section "Recorder Menu / Sample rate & bit-depth".

#### 3. Remaining time

This number represents the available recording time still available on the attached drive. This number will dynamically adjust itself, based on three separate settings you can adjust, that affect how quickly you use up the available storage of an attached drive:

- Number of Tracks recorded in the take (2, 4, 8, or 16)
- Sample Rate (44.1kHz, 48kHz, or 96kHz)
- Bit-Depth (16 or 24-bit)

Press and hold SELECT to see the total available recording time on the USB storage device.

#### 4. Total number of recordings on device

This line displays the name of the current recording, as well as the total number of recordings on the attached drive.

#### 5. Name of currently selected recording

This line displays the name of the currently selected recording. All recordings will automatically be named and numbered sequentially, starting with "Take\_01" and going all the way up to "Take\_99".

The maximum number of recordings per attached drive is 99 separate takes.

#### 6. Signal / Peak Meters (-30dB / -3dB / 0dB)

This group of meters displays the approximate signal strength of an audio signal for all active input channels. If a signal reaches the peak level of the meter, you should lower the input sensitivity of the LR-16 in order to prevent signal distortion. Please refer to section "Recorder Menu / Input sensitivity".

The meters display will only show signal meters that correspond to the currently active number of input channels. For example, if you have configured the recorder to only record 8 tracks, only the first 8 meters will be visible.

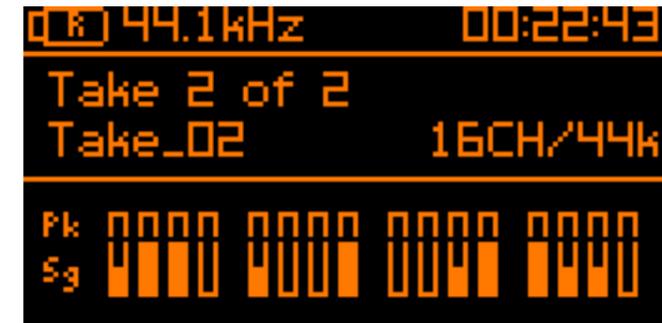
### 7. Number of Channels/Sample rate of currently selected recording

This line displays both the number of tracks, as well as the sample rate of currently selected recording. To change the sample rate of the recorder for subsequent recordings, please refer to the section "Recorder Menu / Sample rate & width".

### 8.4. Start recording

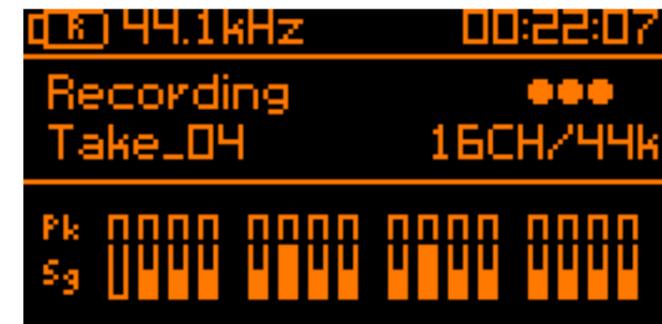
Connect your recording source to the inputs on the rear panel of the LR-16 (please refer to section "Connecting recording sources") and check whether you have an input signal by observing the Signal / Peak detection meters.

If necessary, adjust the input levels of the LR-16 (please refer to section "Recorder Menu / Input sensitivity").



Press the Record button to start the recording. The LR-16 will create a new take, the hardware record button light will illuminate in red, and the "walking dots" in the display indicate that the recording is running.

At the same time the "Remaining time" indicator in the top right corner will start counting down the maximum remaining time for this recording. The recording will be stored as separate wave files into the 'Recording/Take XX' folder, located on the attached USB drive.



### 8.5. Creating a new take "on the fly"

When the Record button is pressed while the LR-16 is already recording, it will close the current take, and create a new take on the USB storage device.

Note that when creating a new recording on the fly, the transition between the two takes will not be seamless. There will be a gap between the former recording and the new one, in the same way as if you first pressed stop, and then pressed record to initiate a new recording. Creating a new take on the fly simply saves an extra button press.

For live recordings where you do not want any gaps between songs of any kind, it is required to record the event as one single long take.

### 8.6. Stop the recording

To stop the recording, press the Stop button. The Play and Record buttons will flash for a few moments and the display will display "Please wait" until the LR-16 has finished writing all data to the storage device.



Warning! Do NOT remove the storage device while the Record and Play buttons are still flashing. Your recording might become unusable if you do so.

### 8.7. Playing back the recorded tracks

Use the Next / Previous or Up / Down buttons to step through the existing recorded tracks on the attached drive.

Press the Play button to start playing back a track. The stereo mix down of the multi-track recording will be played out of the stereo headphone output, as well as the rear-panel stereo Line output.

To change the levels and panning of each individual channel, as well as mute/solo individual channels, please refer to the section "Monitoring settings".



### 8.8. Recording priority

No matter what mode the LR-16 currently is in (Recorder mode or Player Mode), pressing the Record button will always cause it to instantly go into recording mode and start a new recording.

While recording, all buttons except for the Record and Stop buttons are blocked from use.

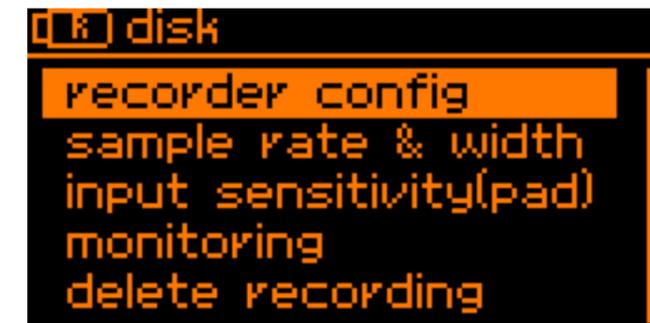
### 8.9. Recorder Menu

Pressing the Menu Button while in recording mode will take you to the Recorder Menu. This menu contains assorted settings that affect the operation of the LR-16 when it is operating in recorder mode.

Use the Next / Previous buttons, or alternatively the Up / Down buttons, to navigate to the desired configuration, which will be highlighted on the display.

Press the Select button to adjust the highlighted selection.

The display will switch to the specific settings for that selection, as detailed below:

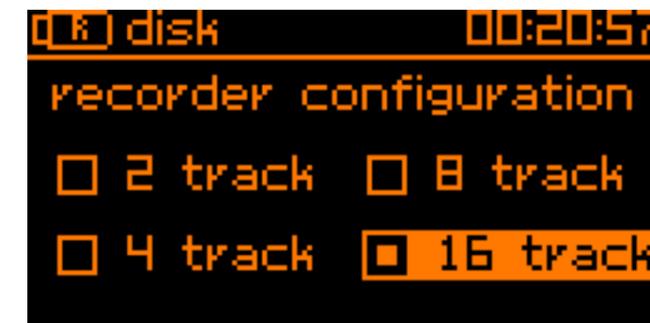


#### 8.9.1. Recorder Configuration

This screen allows you to configure the LR-16 to record the desired number of tracks.

Choices include the 16 tracks (the default setting), as well as 2, 4, or 8 tracks.

Use the Up / Down to highlight the desired number of tracks, then press the Select buttons to make the selection.



When a new recording has started, the recording screen will momentarily display the configured number of tracks being recorded at the bottom of the screen, as a reminder. The bottom of the screen will then be replaced by the metering display.



Choosing an appropriate number of tracks for your particular recording session has the following advantages:

- The amount of available space on the attached USB drive is not wasted on “empty” tracks that are not actually being fed an audio signal
- When attaching the USB drive to a computer and copying the files over, the drive will not contain “extra” tracks that are empty and are not relevant to the take
  - In 2-track mode, audio inputs 1-2 are active
  - In 4-track mode, audio inputs 1-4 are active
  - In 8-track mode, audio inputs 1-8 are active
  - In 16-track mode, all 16 audio inputs are active

### 8.9.2. Sample rate & sample width (bit-depth)

This screen allows you to select both the sample rate, as well as the sample width of for the LR-16.



The default recording settings are:

- 44.1kHz / 16 bit (automatically selected if a smaller form factor USB “thumb drive” is inserted)
- 44.1kHz / 24 bit (automatically inserted if a USB hard drive is inserted)

Use the Up / Down and Select buttons to make a selection, if you wish to select a sample rate/ bit-depth other than the ones automatically selected by the LR-16.

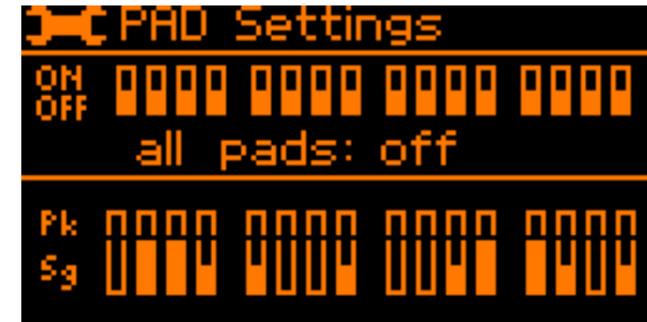
! *Note: The LR-16 does not distinguish between the above two types of drives based on the read/write speed that it discovers on the drive, during the drive test procedure. Instead, the LR-16 reads the “device ID” that all external USB drives contain, where the type of drive is reported to the recorder.*

! *Note: When selecting 96kHz, the LR-16 will be restricted to recording 2-channels only. When selecting the number of tracks to be used in the recorder configuration screen, all choices except 2 tracks will be unavailable for selection.*

Newer generations of thumb drives are now available that offer the read/write speeds of a conventional USB external “spinning platter” hard drive, and will report themselves to the recorder as a hard drive. Check the Cymatic Audio website for the latest details on recommended drives.

### 8.9.3. Pad settings

The rear-panel analog inputs of the LR-16 contain a set of 16 individual level “pads” that allow you to adjust the input sensitivity of each input.



Since the LR-16 is most often interfaces with a live sound mixing console, there may be times when the channel gain has been optimized for the mixing console, but is outputting too high a signal level, out of the mixer’s insert sends or direct outputs, to the LR-16 recorder. You will know if this is occurring if you see the “peak” segments illuminating on the LR-16’s input meters.

In these situations, turning the LR-16’s input pads to the “on” setting will allow you to lower the input level, by 10dB, on a channel by channel basis, and thus avoid overloading the relevant inputs.

This approach is preferable to lowering the channel gain on the mixing console itself, which would affect the gain staging for the audience mix that has been carefully set up by the Front of House engineer.

Use the Up / Down buttons to select a channel to adjust the input pad for, and then press the Select button to toggle the pad on/off.

Additionally, when initially entering the Pad Settings menu option, all channels can be toggled between pad on/off.

### 8.9.4. Monitor settings

The LR-16 contains an internal digital mixer that mixes down the 16 individual channels to a single master stereo signal, allowing you to easily monitor a stereo mix of the tracks that are being recorded.

This function is very useful because it allows you to monitor a mix of all of the tracks being recorded, as a group or checking individual channels, without any additional equipment beyond a pair of headphones connected to the front panel headphone output.



The Monitor Settings screen is where you can adjust various aspects of the internal digital mixer on a per channel basis. Including:

- Channel level
- Channel left-right panning

- Channel mute
- Channel solo

To adjust the above settings on an individual channel, perform the following steps:

- Use the Up/Down buttons to cycle the cursor through the different channels. The currently selected channel will be highlighted.
- Once the desired channel is selected, press the select button to toggle between volume, mute/solo and panning.
- Set the desired values with the up/down buttons. The display will change to show you the adjustments being made
- A fourth press of the select button will un-highlight the parameters of the selected channel, and you are now free to use the Up/Down buttons to navigate to another channel.

In order to prevent unintended operations of assorted mixer settings that may cause confusion when operating the recorder, the above settings work as follows:

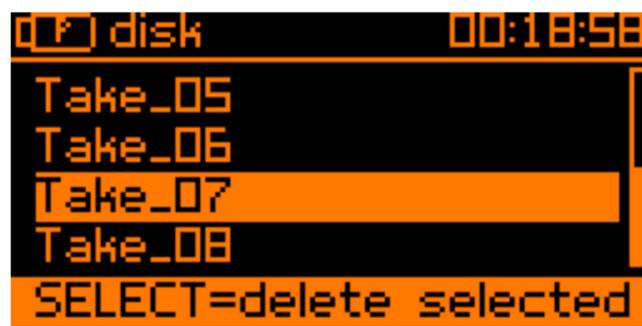
- The solo settings will only be active while the monitoring menu is active and visible
- The mute setting will only be active until the LR-16 is restarted

In contrast, the volume and panning settings for each channel are saved to the Live Recorder's internal memory, and will be preserved upon the next powering on of the unit.

Note that user adjustments to the internal mixer can only be done when the LR-16 is currently recording or playing back a take; Adjustments must be made while the no recording is currently occurring.

### 8.9.5. Delete recording

This screen allows you to delete previously recorded takes from the attached USB disk.



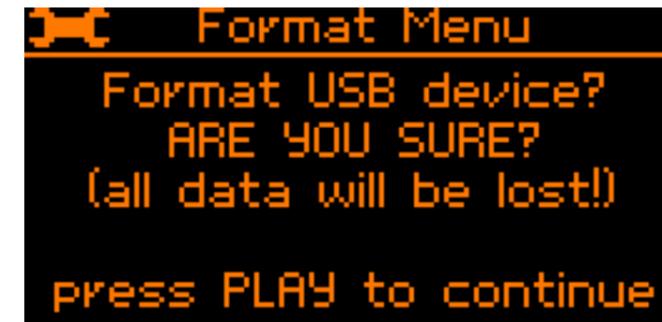
This feature can be useful if previous takes are no longer needed (for example they have already been copied to your computer/DAW) and you need to free up additional space on the attached drive.

To delete a take, press the Up/Down buttons to select a track, then press the Select button to delete the selected track.

To prevent accidental deletion of a take, the LR-16 will present you with an "Are You Sure" message before deleting the selected take.

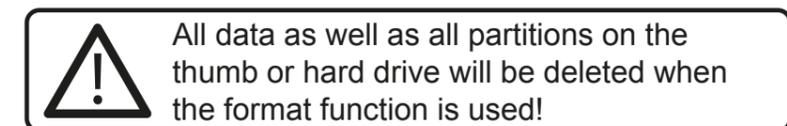
### 8.9.6. Format USB device

The format function can be used to format an attached hard drive or thumb drive that is connected to the Live Recorder.



This operation can be useful in the following scenarios:

- The attached drive has not passed the LR-16's drive test, because it is not currently formatted in the required FAT-32 disk format
- The attached drive has been previously formatted in the correct FAT-32 format, but has not had its data blocks optimized properly by the computer it was formatted on, resulting in a failure of the LR-16 disk test.
- The attached disc is full, due to containing previous takes that are no longer needed since they have been copied to a computer, and all of the disc's space needs to be freed up for recordings that are about to take place. In this case, formatting the disk may be a quicker method than deleting existing takes, one by one, on the "Delete Recordings" screen.



### 8.9.7. MMC/Mackie Control (USB Interface Mode Only)

When the LR-16 is attached to a computer and operating as a USB computer audio interface, an additional menu choice appears "MMC/Mackie Control".



This menu allows you to configure the five transport keys on the top panel of the LR-16, to transmit control surface commands using either of two common protocols:

- MIDI Machine Control (MMC)
- Mackie Control

With either of these protocols enabled, you may use the transport keys to control the transport in any DAW that is compatible with either MMC or Mackie Control. This capability provides a more comfortable method of controlling the DAW transport, than selecting its onscreen transport controls using a mouse.

LR-16 Transport Key	MMC Command	Mackie Control Command
Skip Back	Rewind	Rewind
Skip Forward	Fast Forward	Fast Forward
Stop	Stop	Stop
Play/Pause	Play	Play
Record	Record	Record

When the LR-16 is connected to the computer over USB and one of the two protocols are activated, the LR-16 will appear as a 1x1 MIDI device to the OS X/Windows machine, labeled as LR-16.

Refer to the user's manual of your DAW for more details about configuring it to work with either MMC or Mackie Control protocols. Select the device labeled LR-16 when configuring the MMC/Mackie Control device with your particular DAW.

## 9. PLAYER MODE

The LR-16 offers a handy "Player Mode" where it acts as a stereo wave player, playing back 44.1 and 48 kHz stereo wave files that are stored in the "Music" folder on the attached USB drive.

Playback of these stereo files can be useful for playing pre-show music before the concert, break music during intermission, and post-show music when the concert is finished. The stereo files will be output from both the front-panel headphone output, as well as the rear panel line level stereo output, which can be patched into the live sound console, for playback to the audience.

To transfer stereo audio files to the Music folder of the USB drive:

- Attach the drive to a computer containing the desired files
- Copy the desired stereo wave files from the computer's hard drive, to the "Music" folder on the drive
- Attach the USB drive to the LR-16.
- The files now residing in the "Music" folder of the attached drive will now be available to the LR-16 in Player mode.

**!** *Note: The LR-16 only plays back wave format files, it does not play back stereo files in other commonly available consumer formats such as MP3, AAC, WMA, and FLAC.*

If the stereo song files you wish to use are in one of these other formats, make sure to first convert them to the wave file format, using an audio utility on your computer.

There are many freeware utilities available online that can convert from the above unsupported formats, to a wave file. For example, the free of charge Apple iTunes software performs this type of conversion; instructions for doing so can be read at <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1550>

To play back the stereo files on the attached drive, perform the following steps:

### 9.1. Start playback

- Switch the LR-16 into the player mode by pressing the Mode button. All of the wave files stored in the 'Music' folder on the USB drive will be displayed in an alphabetical list.



- Press the Up / Down or Previous / Next buttons to select a song
- Press the Select or Play/Pause buttons to start playback of the currently selected song.
- The song that is currently playing will be displayed in the bottom line of the display with an accompanying playback icon.

### 9.2. Using the Player Menu

When the LR-16 is in Player Mode, it contains its own custom menu screen, offering settings that are specific to that mode.

To enter the Player mode menu, press the Menu button. The Player menu will be displayed, and four separate playback modes can be set.



- Normal: The current song will be played once and then the transport will stop
- Continuous: All of the songs contained in the "Music" folder will be played in alphabetical sequence
- Repeat: The currently selected song will be repeated endlessly
- Shuffle: The LR-16 will continuously choose songs to play at random.

Press the Up / Down buttons to select the desired setting, then press the Select button.

## 10. USB HARD DRIVES VS. USB FLASH DRIVES

When recording audio with the Live Recorder LR-16 and a connected USB drive, it is important to understand the difference between the two key types of USB drives available in the marketplace.

### 10.1. USB Hard Drive

A USB hard drive is a traditional "moving parts" hard drive that records its data on spinning platters. This is the recommended type of USB drive to use with the Live Recorder LR-16, as its data read/write speeds are the most reliable and consistent

You are free to use two different types of USB hard drives with the Live Recorder LR-16:

- Large capacity 3.5" hard drives, that traditionally receive their electrical power from a dedicated external power supply that connects to a wall outlet
- Smaller capacity 2.5" hard drives, that are "bus-powered" and receive their power from the same USB data cable that connects it to the Live Recorder LR-16. This solution tends to be more convenient since there is one less cable to connect and the drives are smaller and lighter.

### 10.2. USB Flash Drive

A USB Flash drive is a USB drive that uses flash memory and contains no moving parts. Examples of a USB flash drive would be:

- USB "thumb drives" or "keychain drives", small in size and available in capacities of 4GB through 128 GB.
- USB "Solid State Drives" (aka SSD), commonly housed in a 2.5" drive enclosure and commanding a price premium. Common sizes include 120 Gigabytes through 1 Terabyte.

It is NOT recommended to use the Live Recorder LR-16 with either of the above two types of USB flash drives; the nature of these drives results in them offering unreliable read/write speeds. Although they can offer very fast AVERAGE data read/write speeds, they are subject to occasional pauses in data writing. This is not practical for a device like the Live Recorder LR-16 that needs to constantly write a data stream to the attached disk in order to avoid dropouts.

### 10.3. Auto-Detection of USB Drive Type

When a USB drive is attached to the front panel USB port, the attached drive is mounted and then the Live Recorder LR-16 optimizes itself for reading and writing the drive. With large drives it may take around half a minute to complete this process.

- The default recording parameters for the Live Recorder LR-16 are 16 tracks, 24-bit, 48 kHz.
- A USB hard drive is most often fast enough to handle these settings with no dropouts whatsoever. It is still recommended to always perform a test recording the length of your planned recording, using the same drive you will use at the event.
- If the drive reports itself as a USB flash drive, the Live Recorder LR-16 then automatically sets the recording parameters to a lower value of 16-bit, in case they were preset to higher values.

These settings require less data throughput from the attached drive, and are thus more likely to work correctly with a flash drive. You are still free to then change the recording settings using the 'Sample rate & Width' menu, but again you should perform a long test recording to make sure the USB drive you plan to use is sufficiently fast.

In summary, to have confidence that your recordings will be 100% dropout free, each and every time, follows these steps:

- Use a USB hard drive; do NOT use a USB flash drive
- Format the attached drive using the Live Recorder LR-16 format utility, do NOT format the drive using your computer
- Perform a test recording using your planned USB hard drive, making sure the test recording is as long, or longer than the event you plan to record. Check that you do not see any dropouts reported on the recording page at the end of the recording, and that you do not see a dropouts log file in the take folder of the USB drive, when you mount the drive on your computer.
- Always re-format the USB hard drive, using the Live Recorder LR-16 format utility, each and every time you record a new event. Although this is technically not required, it reduces the chance of cluttering up your hard drive with multiple recordings from different dates, and causing disk fragmentation.

As long as you do not see any dropouts during your test recording, and you reformat your drive on the Live Recorder LR-16 before the real recording, your recordings should be error free each and every time.

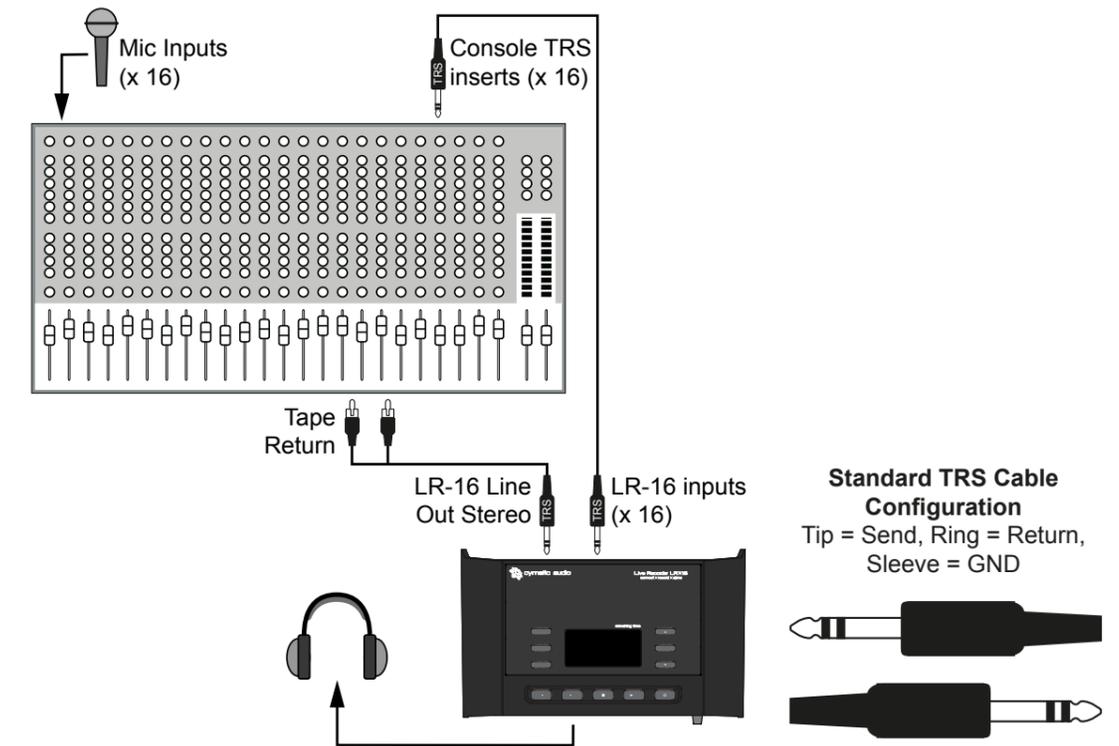
Since the read/write speed of a freshly formatted USB hard drive is a consistent and known quantity that never changes (unlike a USB flash drive), you can be confident that the real recording will occur exactly as the test recording did.

## 11. CONNECTING RECORDING SOURCES

### 11.1. Connecting the LR-16 to TRS Insert Plugs of a Mixing Console

The LR-16 offers 16 analog input connectors, using a TRS (tip-ring-sleeve) insert configuration. Thus, it is best connected to recording sources (such as a mixing console) that provide TRS style insert connectors on every channel. When connected with the above scenario, the LR-16 operates as follows:

- The 16 individual signal return outputs, feeding the individual signals back to the mixing console, is taken as a direct "loop output" from the LR-16's line inputs.
- The signal path of the LR-16 is designed to never interrupt the signal path of the audio channels of the mixing console, and will always "stay out of the way" of the mixing console's primary role of providing a live sound mix to an audience. Even if the LR-16 is not recording, or even if power is for some reason cut to the device and it accidentally switched off, the signal path of the mixing console's TRS connectors will remain uninterrupted, so that the "show will go on".



The illustration above shows the following connections:

- Microphones or other input sources are connected to the inputs of a mixing console
- Up to 16 separate TRS to TRS cables are used, connecting the TRS insert connectors of the mixing console, to the TRS inputs of the LR-16 recorder
- A set of headphones is connected to the front panel headphone output, allowing you to monitor the stereo signal generated by the internal mixer
- The Stereo Line Out connector of the LR-16 is used with a "Y-cable" that splits the stereo signal into RCA connectors carrying the left and right channels. These are connected to the tape return path of the mixing console, allowing you to switch the LR-16 to player mode during a break, and playback break music from the unit.

### 11.2. Connecting the LR-16 to Unbalanced Direct Outputs

In other situations, the inputs of the LR-16 may be fed from “direct outputs” of a signal source, either a mixing console, or alternatively a pair of standalone 8-channel microphone pre-amplifiers.

In some mixing consoles, these direct outputs will be in the form of an unbalanced 1/4” connector, also known as a TS (tip-sleeve) connector.

#### Standard TS Cable Configuration

Tip = Output, Sleeve = GND



In these situations, the LR-16’s inputs will expect to be fed from a TRS connector at its inputs. In order to achieve this, use one of the following two solutions:

- Use a set of cables that provide an unbalanced TS connector on one end, and a balanced TRS connector on the other end. The cables would provide this unbalanced to balanced conversion by disconnecting the ring portion of the TRS connector from the signal path.
- Use a TS to TRS cable, and on the end of the cable that connects to the LR-16 input, add a TS-to-TRS adapter



TS-to-TRS Adapter (ring not connected)

Refer to the LR-16 product page on the Cymatic Audio website, for links on where to purchase either of the above types of cables/adapters.

### 11.3. Connecting the LR-16 to Balanced Direct Outputs

Another possible connection scenario for the LR-16 is connecting it again to the direct outputs of a mixing console or multi-channel microphone preamp, but in this case, those devices only offer direct outputs in balanced form.

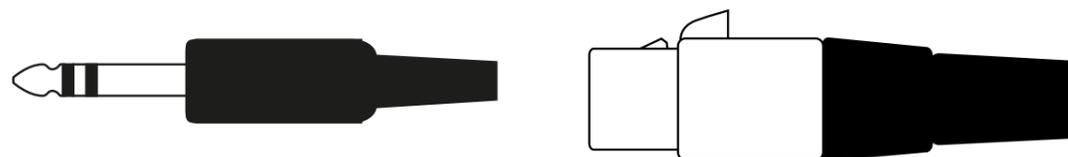
Balanced direct outputs are typically offered as TRS connectors, XLR connectors, or sometimes as an 8-channel “DB-25” connector that is meant to be used with a cable harness, that terminates on the other end with the appropriate connectors.

When feeding the LR-16’s inputs from a balanced source, the connectors feeding the LR-16 inputs must handle a short from Ring to ground (GND) properly. The same setup as previously described for an unbalanced direct output can be used.

The two diagrams below show the normal configuration for a balanced signal when present on a TRS connector, as well as an XLR connector.

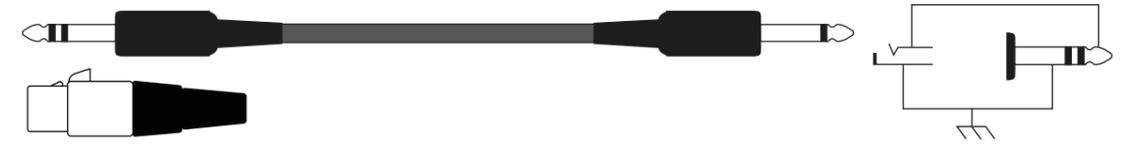
Tip = hot, Ring = cold, Sleeve = GND

2 hot, 3 = cold, 1 = GND



Make sure to use a cable that offers a TRS or XLR connector on one end (which will be connected to the balanced direct output) and an unbalanced TS connector on the other end. This type of cable will perform the balanced to unbalanced conversion by leaving the “cold” signal disconnected (pin 3 on an XLR cable, or the ring on a TRS connector).

Then, attach a TS-TRS adapter, wired as shown below, to the TS connector. The TS connector, now adapted for balanced operation, can connect to an input of the LR-16.



TS-to-TRS Adapter (ring not connected)

Another option is to purchase a multi-channel wiring harness that implements these signal path modifications within the cable, so that no physical adapters are required.

In rare cases where the balanced audio source cannot tolerate a shorted Ring to ground, as described above, you may use the following approach:

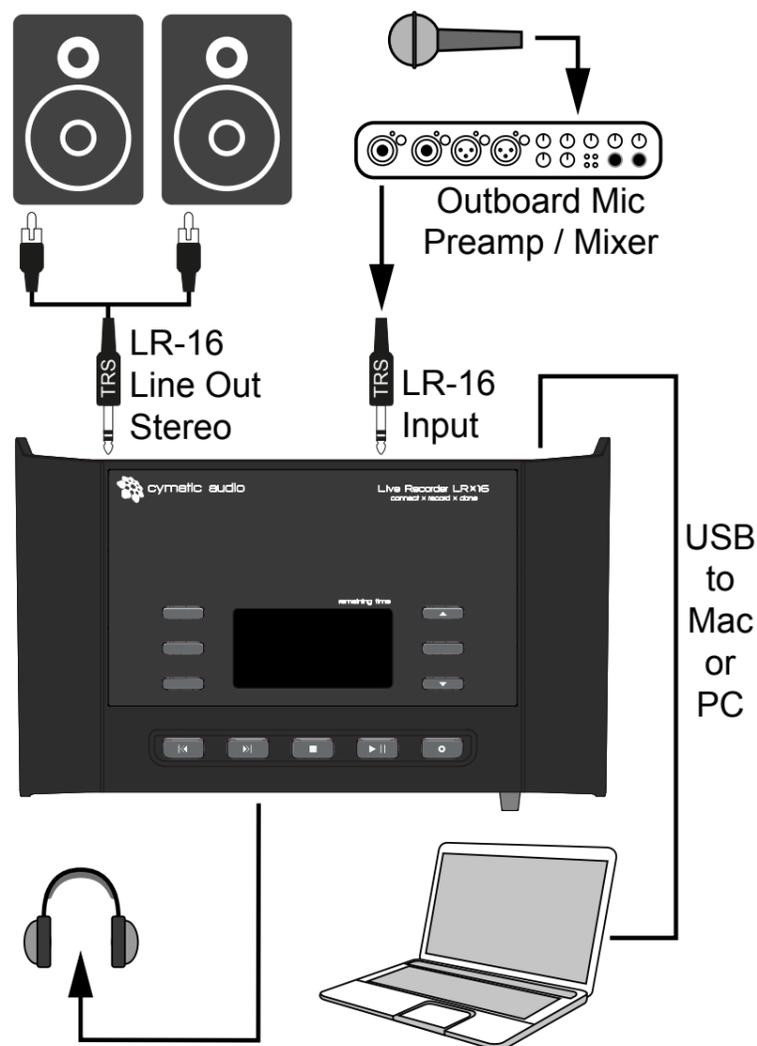
- Use a cable such as Hosa PXF105 (an XLR-to-TS cable that leaves XLR pin 3 open)
- Attach TS-to-TRS adapters to the TS connectors of the PXF105, at the LR16 inputs

## 12. 16X2 CHANNEL USB INTERFACE MODE

Besides functioning as a direct to USB 16-track recorder, the LR-16 has the ability, when connected to your Mac®, PC, or iPad®, to operate as a 16 input / 2 output, 24 bit/96 kHz USB class compliant computer audio interface.

To operate the LR-16 as a computer audio interface, perform the following steps:

- Make sure that there is no USB storage device connected to the front-panel USB storage connector. If any drive is connected to the front panel USB port, the LR-16 will only operate in standalone recorder mode.
- Connect one end of the included USB cable to the LR-16's rear panel USB port on one end, and an available USB port of your Mac/PC on the other end
- If using the LR-16 with an iPad, connect the USB cable to the USB port of an:
  - Apple iPad Camera Connection Kit
  - Apple Lightning to USB Camera Adapter



The illustration above shows the following connections:

- Microphones or other input sources are connected to the inputs of a standalone microphone preamplifier. If a large number of sources are to be recorded at once, the LR-16 could be interfaced with an analog mixing console, as shown in the diagram in section 7.
- Audio is fed from the microphone preamp or mixing console to the TRS inputs of the LR-16 recorder. Depending on the type of connector used by the mic preamp/mixing console (TRS

insert, unbalanced direct out, balanced direct out), make sure to use the proper cables/ adapters as explained in the previous section

- A set of headphones is connected to the front panel headphone output, allowing you to monitor the 2-channel stereo output of your favorite DAW software, the stereo output of the LR-16's internal mixer, or a combination of both signal paths
- The same stereo output signal path is output by the Stereo Line out, which is fed to a pair of powered desktop monitors. Make sure to use monitors that provide an onboard volume control, or alternatively, insert a volume adjustment accessory between the LR-16 stereo output and the monitors.

## 12.1. Using the LR-16 as an Audio Interface with Microsoft Windows

### 12.1.1. Minimum System Requirements

Operating Systems (32- or 64bit):

- Windows® XP(SP2), Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 (usually installed automatically by Windows update.)
- For Windows versions where the .NET Framework 4.0 is not already installed, the installation wizard will automatically start when the mixer / control panel is started for the first time.)
- The LR-16 device drivers do not require the .NET Framework.

Hardware:

- Pentium® IV 1.2 GHz or better
- 512 MB Ram ( 1GB or more recommended)
- 1 free USB2.0 compatible port on PC

**!** *NOTE: The speed of your computer's processor, amount of RAM, and the capacity, size, and speed of your hard drives will greatly affect the overall performance of your recording system. A faster processor and more RAM can reduce signal latency (delay) and improve overall performance.*

### 12.1.2. WDM and ASIO driver installation

Before connecting the LR-16 to your PC, please download the driver package from the download section at the Cymatic Audio website: <http://www.cymaticaudio.com>

After the download has finished:

- Unzip the downloaded archive to a folder on your PC.
- In the resulting folder, double click the "setup.exe" file and follow the on-screen instructions. (It is strongly recommended that you exit all other programs before running the LR-16 driver installation program)
- When prompted by the installation program, connect the LR-16 to your PC by connecting the supplied USB cable to the LR-16 USB 2.0 connector on the rear panel and an available USB2.0 port on your PC.

## 12.2. LR-16 Mixer / Control Panel for PC

The LR-16 driver installation program will automatically install the LR-16 Mixer / Control panel on your PC.

You can launch it by clicking on the LR-16 icon that will be present in the Windows task bar, or by locating the program's entry in the Windows start menu.

The Mixer control panel allows adjustment of the LR-16's internal DSP mixer. When connected to a computer and operating as a USB interface, graphical control of the internal DSP mixer is offered, for quicker and easier adjustments.

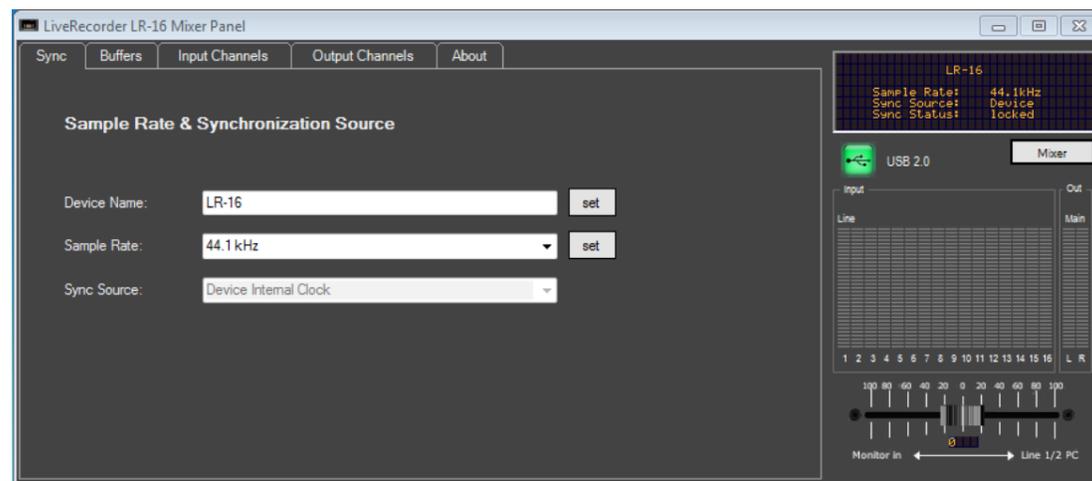
You can use the internal DSP mixer to generate a monitor mix that has a lower latency (delay) when monitoring tracks you are recording, than is often possible when monitoring through your DAW software.

12.2.1. Mixer View



- 1. Monitor panning
- 2. Input level faders
- 3. Input level meters
- 4. Mute
- 5. Solo
- 6. Channel link
- 7. Main out level meters
- 8. Crossfader
- 9. USB connection indicator
- 10. Display device settings

12.2.2. Settings View: Synchronization Tab



**Device Name**

The device name field controls what device name will appear in your DAW software. The default name is "LR-16" but it can be modified to the name of your choosing.

**Sample Rate**

Click on this field to select what sample rate you wish to operate the LP-16 at when using it as an audio interface. Choices include:

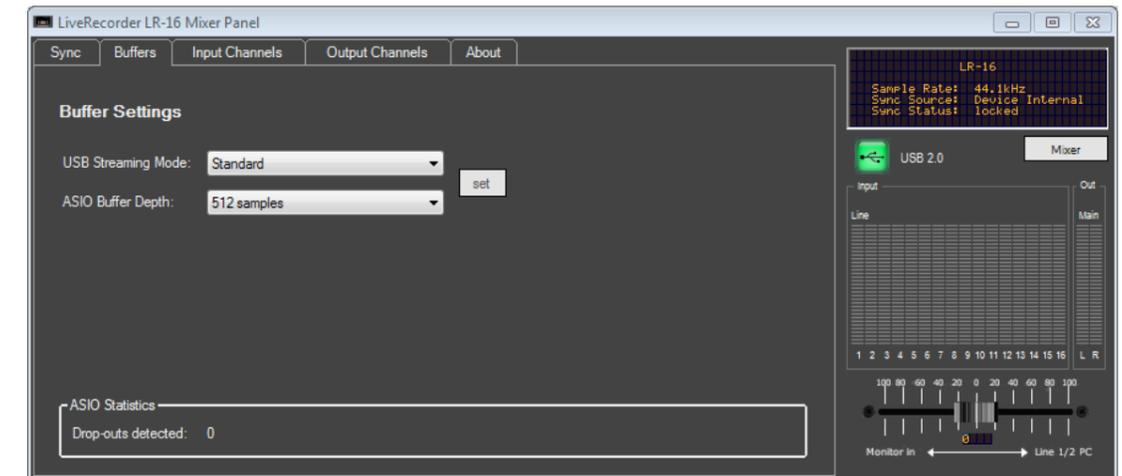
- 44.1kHz
- 48kHz
- 88.2kHz
- 96kHz

**Sync Source Display**

This field displays the current synchronization source.

12.2.3. Settings View: Buffers Tab

The control panel's buffers screen allows adjustment of the ASIO buffers used by your ASIO compatible DAW software.



**USB Streaming Mode**

Adjust this value to set the basic mode of operation of the LR-16 drivers.

**ASIO Buffer Depth**

Adjust this setting to configure the size of the ASIO buffer, measured in samples.

When using an older, slower computer, you may need to set your latency value to a higher amount. This will reduce the overhead to the computer's CPU and allow your DAW session to run more smoothly, but will result in a higher amount of delay between the original incoming audio signal, and the DAW software'

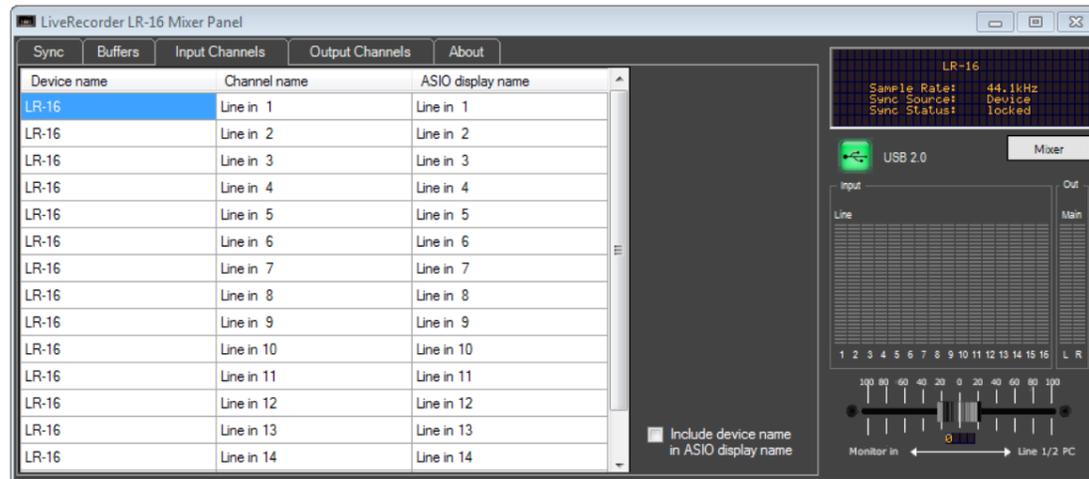
When using a newer, faster computer, the buffer depth can be set to a lower amount, and latency will be minimized.

**ASIO Dropout Statistics**

This display field indicates how many "drop-outs" have occurred, if any, with the currently selected buffer settings.

Dropouts indicate that your computer's CPU cannot keep up with the demand that is placed on it by the current buffer depth. If any dropouts occur, increase the size of the buffer depth and / or change the streaming mode until no more dropouts are reported.

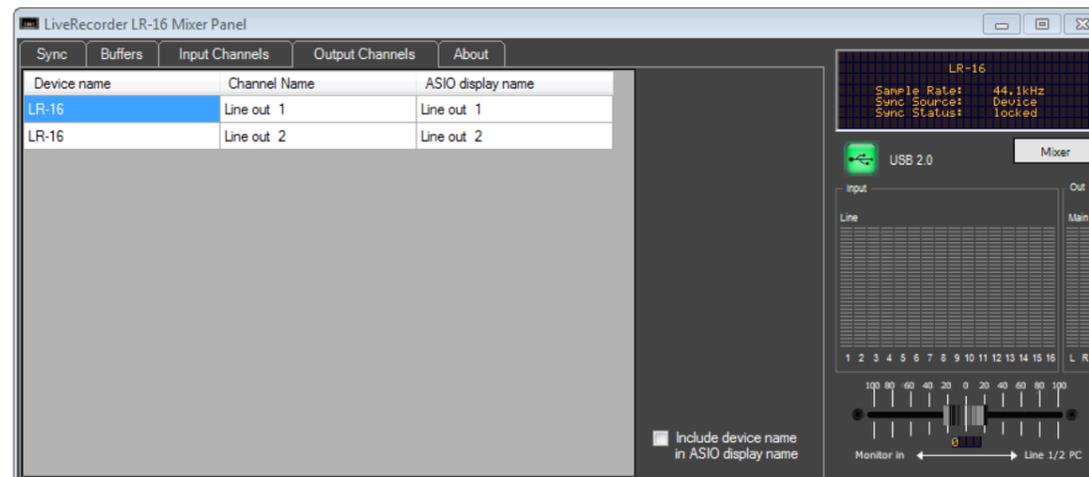
12.2.4. Settings View: Input Channels Tab



Double click an entry in the “channel name” column to modify the input channel names as they will appear in your DAW.

Click on the checkbox labeled ‘Include device name in ASIO display name’ if you wish for the channel names to be prepended with the device name.

12.2.5. Settings View: Output Channels Tab



Double click an entry in the “channel name” column to modify the output channel names as they will appear in your DAW.

Click on the checkbox labeled ‘Include device name in ASIO display name’ if you wish for the channel output names to be prepended with the device name.

12.2.6. Settings View: About Tab



**Revision**

Displays the revision number of the control panel itself.

**Live Player LP-16**

Displays the connection-status for the LP-16, indicating if the device is connected and recognized by the computer.

**Serial Number**

Displays the specific serial number of the connected LP-16 unit.

**Driver Version**

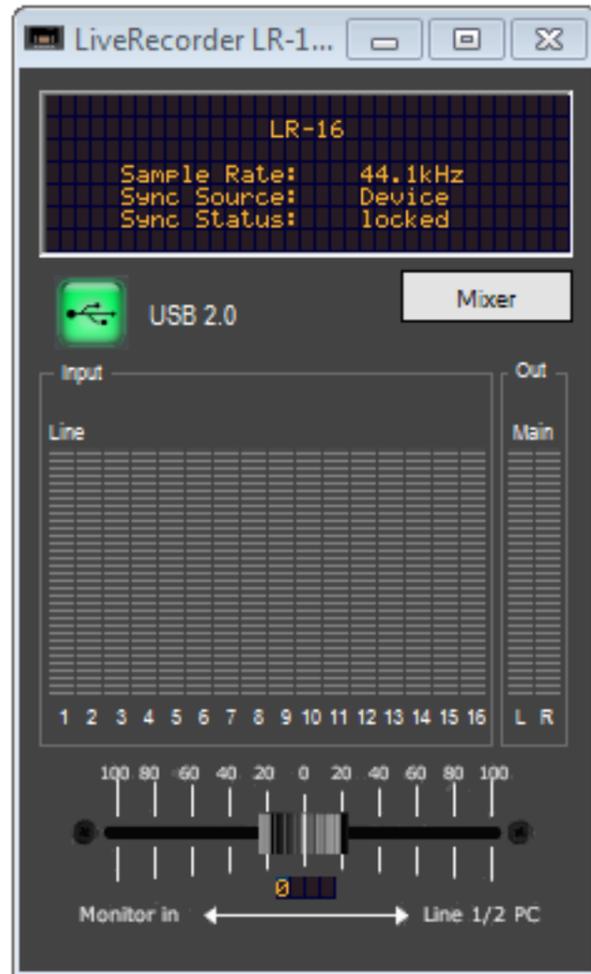
Displays the version number of the installed device driver

**Firmware Version**

Displays the current firmware version of the connected LP-16 unit.

### 12.2.7. Minimizing the Mixer Panel

The LR-16 Mixer Panel also be run in a minimized mode, which allows you to keep an eye on the level meters, while the control panel itself uses much less space on your desktop.



## 12.3. Using the LR-16 as an Audio Interface with an OS X

### 12.3.1. Minimum System Requirements

Operating Systems:

- Mac OS-X® 10.8 or higher

Hardware:

- Any Mac hardware compatible with OS X 10.8 or higher
- 512 MB Ram (1GB or more recommended)
- 1 free USB 2.0 compatible port

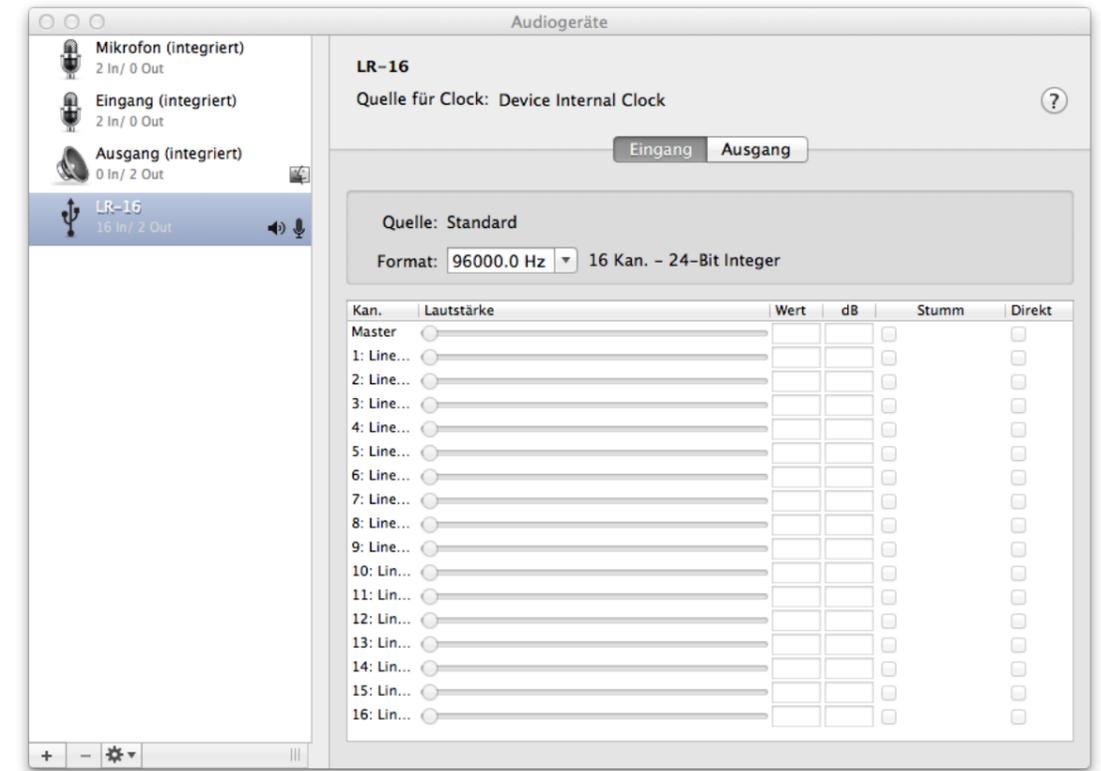
! **NOTE:** The speed of your processor, amount of RAM, and capacity, size, and speed of your hard drives will greatly affect the overall performance of your recording system.

A faster processor and more RAM can reduce signal latency (delay) and improve overall performance.

### 12.3.2. Driver Installation

There is no driver installation for Mac Computers necessary. Simply connect the LR-16 to your Mac® by connecting the supplied USB cable to the LR-16 USB2.0 connector on the rear panel, and an available USB2.0 port on your Mac.

The device will now be selecteable in the “Audio MIDI Setup” application, which can be found in the Applications/Utilities folder.



! **Note** that no custom LR-16 mixer control panel is available for the Mac, as there is when using the LR-16 with Windows. The internal mixer of the LR-16 is not available when connected to a Mac, so all monitoring must be done through the DAW software.

## 12.4. Using the LR-16 as an Audio Interface with an Apple® iPad®

### 12.4.1. Minimum System requirements

Operating Systems:

- iOS® 5 or higher

Hardware:

- iPad® 2 or newer
- Apple® iPad Camera Connection Kit)
- Apple Lightning to USB Camera Adapter

### 12.4.2. Driver Installation

There is no driver installation for the iPad® necessary. Simply connect the LR-16 to your iPad® by connecting the supplied USB cable to the LR-16 USB2.0 connector on the rear panel and the iPad® using the appropriate Apple USB adapter.

The LR-16 can now be used as a 16-inout, 2-output audio interface with the iPad® and appropriate multi-channel iOS recording software.

### 13. UPDATING THE FIRMWARE ON YOUR LR-16

Please check the Cymatic Audio website ([www.cymaticaudio.com](http://www.cymaticaudio.com)) for any available firmware updates.

The LR-16's currently installed firmware version is shown briefly on the start screen when the unit is powering up and can also be found in the PC Mixer Panels 'About' tab.

If you find that your firmware version number is lower than the latest firmware released on the website, please download and install the newer firmware, following the instructions that accompany the firmware download file.

### 14. TROUBLESHOOTING

Always make sure that you have downloaded and installed the latest drivers and firmware for your Live Recorder LR-16. The latest firmware and driver downloads are available at <http://www.cymaticaudio.com>

#### 14.1. Direct-to-USB recording mode / Player mode

Problem	Possible Solutions
When I listen back to my recording, I hear noise or buzzing on some of the tracks	Check the audio connections feeding the LR-16 recorder for any loose connections.
My recording has audio drop-outs, even though the USB storage device performance test was successfully passed	Format the USB storage device using the LR-16's format function. This will optimize the file system to work as effectively as possible. In advance of your live recording, perform your own manual testing process, where you record silence for as long a time as the recorder will allow, and then check if any dropouts are reported at the end of the process.
My external USB2.0 hard disk is not recognized by the Live Recorder when plugged in, even though I can hear that the disk is running.	The hard disk may be asking for more USB bus power than is allowed by the USB standard for bus powered devices. Try using the hard disk with its external power supply, if one is available.
The meters on the LR-16 are showing peak overloads too often, and I am hearing digital overload distortion on the tracks.	Adjust the pad settings on the problem channels, turning on the 10dB pad for the channels that are overloading. If feeding the LR-16 from the inserts or direct outputs of a console, reduce the mic input gain level on the console's input channel.
I am not able to make adjustments to the internal monitor mixer when recording. I would like to mute or solo some channels while the recording is occurring.	This is expected behavior. The settings for the internal monitor mixer can only be adjusted when a recording is being played back, but not while recording.

#### 14.2. 16 Channel USB audio interface mode

Problem	Possible Solutions
On my Windows PC, the LR-16 is not recognized by the PC, even though I the device drivers have been installed and the device is plugged in using the supplied USB cable.	Make sure that there is no USB storage device connected to the front panel USB storage connector of the LR-16. Doing so will automatically put the LR-16 into "recorder mode" and it will not be usable as a computer audio interface at the same time.
When I connect the rear-panel stereo line output to my powered speakers, the signal is too loud and I have no way to adjust the listening volume.	The stereo line output of the LR-16 does not have a volume control of its own. To use it with a set of powered speakers, you can: 1-Connect the stereo output to a pair of powered speakers that have their own onboard volume control 2-Connect the output of the LR-16 to the line inputs of a small desktop audio mixer or standalone volume control unit, and then connect the outputs of those to your powered monitors.
I cannot find the Macintosh OS X version of the monitor mixer control panel	Currently, no OS X version of the monitor mixer control panel is available.

### 15. SPECIFICATIONS

<b>STEREO LINE OUTPUT</b>	Full-scale output	8.2dBu, 2 Vrms
	Frequency response	± 0.2 dB, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	THD+N @ 0dBFS (1kHz sine wave)	-85dB, < 0.005, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	THD+N @ -6dBFS	< -82dB, < 0.008, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	SNR	> 99dB, < 0.001%, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	Crosstalk	< -89 dB, 20 Hz- 20 kHz
<b>HEADPHONES OUTPUT</b>	Full-scale output	8.2dBu, 2 Vrms
	Frequency response	± 0.2 dB, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	THD+N @ 0dBFS (1kHz sine wave)	-85dB, < 0.005% Vrms, 20 Hz-20 kHz
<b>LINE INPUTS</b>	SNR	> 93 dB, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	Full-scale input (pad ON)	Unbalanced, 20dBu, 7.7 Vrms
	Full-scale input (pad OFF)	Unbalanced, 8.2dBu, 2 Vrms
	Frequency response	± 0.2 dB, 20 Hz-20 kHz
	THD+N @ -1dBFS	-73dB, < 0.022% Vrms, 20 Hz-20 kHz
SNR	>95dB, A-weighted	

## 16. LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Technical specifications and appearance are subject to change without notice and accuracy is not guaranteed. Cymatic Audio accepts no liability for any loss which may be suffered by any person who relies either wholly or in part upon any description, photograph or statement contained herein. Colors and specifications may vary from the actual product.

Cymatic Audio products are sold through resellers only. Fulfillers and resellers are not agents of Cymatic Audio and have absolutely no authority to bind Cymatic Audio by any express or implied undertaking or representation.

Apple Macintosh is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. ASIO is a registered trademark of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH. All other trademarks, product names, and company names mentioned in this document are the property of their respective owners.



# Live Recorder LR-16

**Cymatic Technologies B.V.**

P.O. Box 208  
6590 AE Gennep  
The Netherlands

[www.cymaticaudio.com](http://www.cymaticaudio.com)

**Support:**

For Europe:  
[support-EMEA@  
cymaticaudio.com](mailto:support-EMEA@cymaticaudio.com)

Rest of the world:  
[support@cymaticaudio.com](mailto:support@cymaticaudio.com)



## PRODUCT MANUAL

Version 2.0

Firmware Release 83859

December 2014

© copyright 2015 Cymatic Audio B.V.