MatchBox Operating Instructions... continued.

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

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

MatchBox Operating Instructions.

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

Model MB10 for Electric Guitars

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

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

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

Battery

The MATCHBOX MB10 is powered from a standard 9V, PP3 type battery which is automatically switched off when the input is unplugged. For this reason, avoid leaving a lead plugged into the input when the unit is not in use as this will considerably reduce the battery life. With normal use, the battery will last for many months and the circuitry will run equally well from rechargeable NICAD batteries if required.

The unit may also be powered from the optional AC Adapter type DC10-20 which provides the unit with over 20V DC enabling much higher "head room" (18dBm) to be achieved in professional studios. The operational amplifiers used in the circuitry have been chosen for low noise performance rather than minimum current drain.

The Controls

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When using pre-amp outputs, the GUITAR EQ may normally be left off as there is no voicing circuitry within the pre-amp. However, this does not preclude experimentation to see what can be achieved by combining the pre-amp EQ with the GUITAR EQ on MATCHBOX. The input selector will normally need to be set to LINE and the SPEAKER SIMULATOR turned on.

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

Ratio of around 10:1
Attack time 3mS
Release time 0.55
Threshold should be set so that between 5 and 10 dB of gain reduction occurs when playing normally. This provides an even, punchy sound with a long sustain and a subtle attack suitable for those Dire Straits and Chris Rea licks.

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

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

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

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