

Midas XL8 Live Performance System:

Quick mix guide

Fast zone and detail panel areas

The input module is divided into two areas, the “fast zone” (the eight channel strips to the left on the input bay), where all of the “must have now” controls are located, and the detailed channel strip (the vertically orientated channel on the right on the input bay), which gives more comprehensive control. Visual feedback for both areas is provided from the screen above. Scroll the input modules’ view using scroll buttons above the keypad, until the desired channels appear on the screen.

Digital signal path and input routing

Once the digital network is configured, the default state of the system is for input 1 on mic box 1 to be routed to channel 1 on the control surface. This follows through to channel 24, at which point input 1 on mic box 2 routes to channel 25, through to 48, etc.

Setting the input gains

The XL8 has two input gains, one is the remote analogue gain for the mic box, the other is a digital trim. Both are set from the common gain rotary, using the “gain swap” button to select analogue gain or digital trim. Select the analogue gain, and set input level for desired preference. Once this is achieved, select digital trim and set for preferred gain structure. The gain rotary in the detail area always controls the alternative “swap” to the fast zone.

Routing to master stereo outputs

Press the “stereo” button above the “image” rotary on the fast zone, check nothing is muted and the master faders are up, you will have audio!

Input equalisation (E-zone)

Switch the EQ section in using the button on the fast zone. Select desired filter using fast zone navigation buttons, or E-zone nudge buttons (found in the detail panel). Use filter controls in E-zone to apply EQ. The “mode” switch selects the filter types for the high and low shelving filters individually. Variable high and low pass filters are located next to the mic gain in the detail area, both feature a choice of two filter slopes. Visual feedback for EQ is provided from the screen, a graphical representation of the filters is shown above the detail area.

Input dynamics processing (D-zone)

Switch dynamics processors in using the buttons on the fast zone. Select desired process (Comp or gate) using fast zone navigation buttons, or D-zone nudge buttons (found in the detail panel). Use controls in D-zone to apply processing. Mode switch selects from a choice of four compressor styles, visual feedback for both comp and gate is provided from the fast zone hardware meters, the dashboard meters, and the screen above the appropriate input.

VCA-centric mixing and POPulation (POP) groups

The VCA-centric method of mixing was conceived around the way engineers use visual recognition to navigate around a desk, rather than memorising channels in numerical sequences. XL8 has been designed so the engineer doesn’t have to think in terms of numbers, pages or layers. Users navigate the system and identify channels by colours and groupings, which they themselves create. VCA-centric mixing allows an individualised approach to the system, rather than working within hardware-dictated numerical limitations. This reassuringly familiar way of operating is central to the console, and ensures that engineers don’t have to change their mindset to be able to mix on the XL8.

Assigning to VCAs (variable control association)

Press and hold desired VCA select button. Press channel select buttons to assign to VCA. Release VCA select button to confirm selections. The assigned input channels will adopt the VCA’s (user defined) colour as a default (this can be edited).

Assigning to POP (population) groups

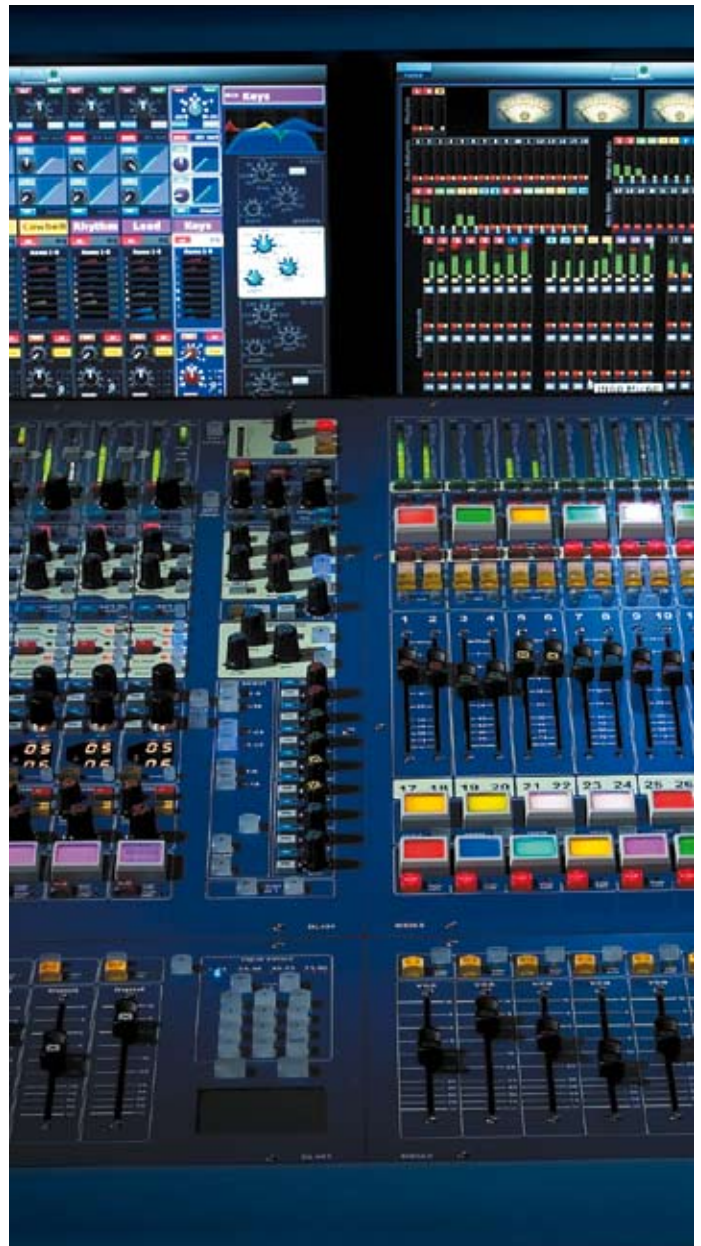
Population groups are created to bring a user-configured group of input channels to a desired area of the control centre, for viewing or adjustment. Press and hold desired POP group select button. Press channel select buttons to assign to POP group. Release POP group select button to confirm selections. The assigned input channels will adopt the POP groups (user defined) colour as a default (this can be edited).

Setting an AUX preset

Aux presets are created to enable an operator to “lock” the most relevant pair of aux or matrix sends to each channel, on a scene-by-scene basis. Press and hold the “preset” button in the detail panel. Scroll through the 48 mix busses using the “scroll pair” buttons in the aux assign area. Press the aux select button in the fast zone when the required pair of mixes appears at each channel. Release the “preset” button to confirm selections. The preset will be displayed whenever the preset button is pressed. Mix send rotary controls will display the default colour of the selected busses.

Building the FX rack

Press the “effects” button on the trackball area (output module). You will be presented with an empty 19” rack on the screen above. Using the right-hand trackball, click on one of the blank rack panels, click on the “change device type” button at the top of the blank rack panel. Select your desired effects processor from the menu, then click the “ok” button to load it into your effects rack. Click on the front panel of your effect to open a processor for editing, use the buttons and rotary controls immediately below the matrix output faders for parameter entry. You need to look no further than the XL8 effects rack for the best in performance enhancing creative processing.



Quick mix guide key

