

SETTING UP A PA

1. The basics you need are speakers, a mixer, leads and sometimes a multicore.
2. The sound (the band) goes INTO the mixer (sometimes via the multicore and sometimes directly). Then the sound goes OUT of the mixer and INTO the speakers and then comes out of the speakers so people can hear the sound.

3. The picture shows two common ways that people use PA.

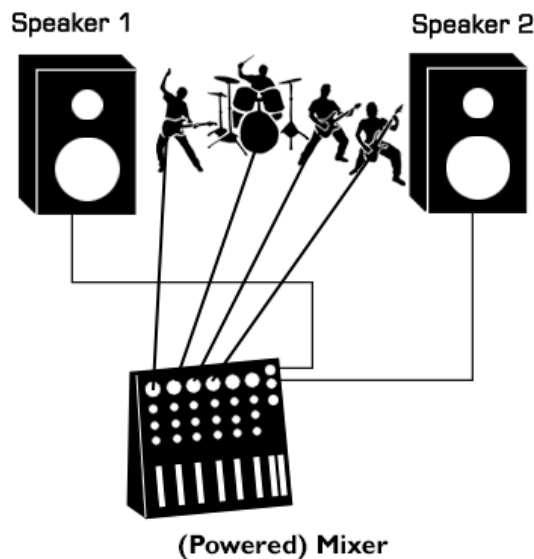
4. Three basics to remember:

- There is a 'master fader' which controls the overall level of all the sound

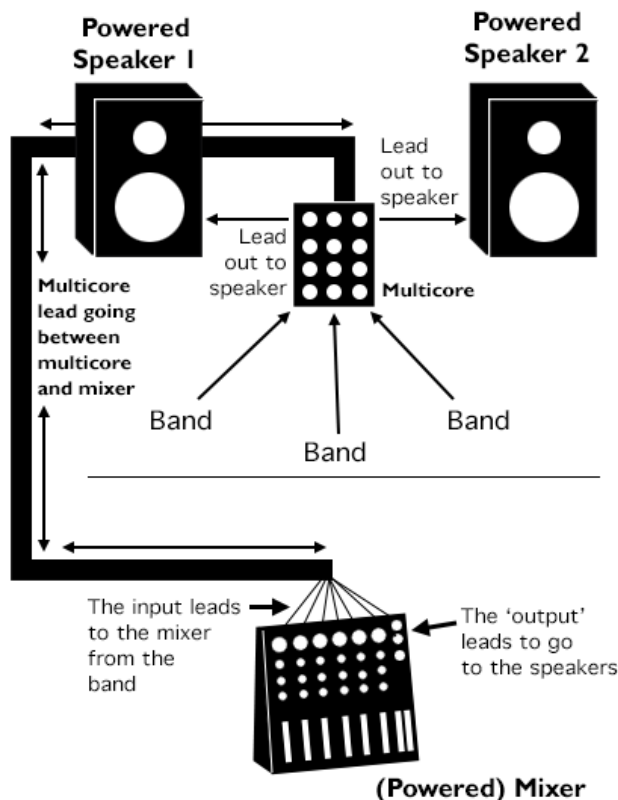
- There are individual input channels where you plug each part of the band in. These are all numbered.

- On each individual channel, there is an 'input gain' knob which controls how loud the sound is that goes into the mixer. This is found at the 'top' of the mixer. If this is too high, the sound will distort and sound bad.

There is then a 'fader' which controls the volume for the individual channel.



In this example there are two main speakers and a mixer. The band plug direct into the mixer. The mics plug into the mixer using XLR leads. Guitars and keys plug into a DI box (via jack leads), then from the DI to the mixer via XLR. The mixer then outputs to speakers via XLR leads. The 'power' can come from speakers or the mixer.



In this more common way of doing things, there are 2 powered speakers and the mixer and speakers / band are linked by a 'multicore'. This is just a way of having lots of cables in one neat place. The band plug into the multicore on stage and there are outputs to go to the speakers. At the mixer end, the band cables plug into the mixer inputs and the speaker cables plug into the mixer outputs.

If using DI Boxes, make sure both the 'Power' and the 'Phantom Power' are both on (back of the mixer). The Phantom Power is what powers things like DI boxes. If not using them, leave the phantom power off.

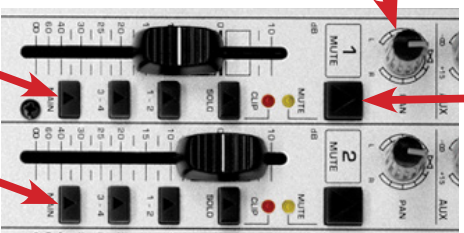


The Mixer - key elements

Common Problems
and Things to check
if No Sound

Mute button
(silences sound
when on, i.e. when
pressed down). Light
shows when on

The pan
button
to make
sound go
left / right.
Usually
needs
to be in its
central
position.



Make sure the
'main' button is
pressed down on
each channel used.
This makes sure the
sound goes out
of the mixer

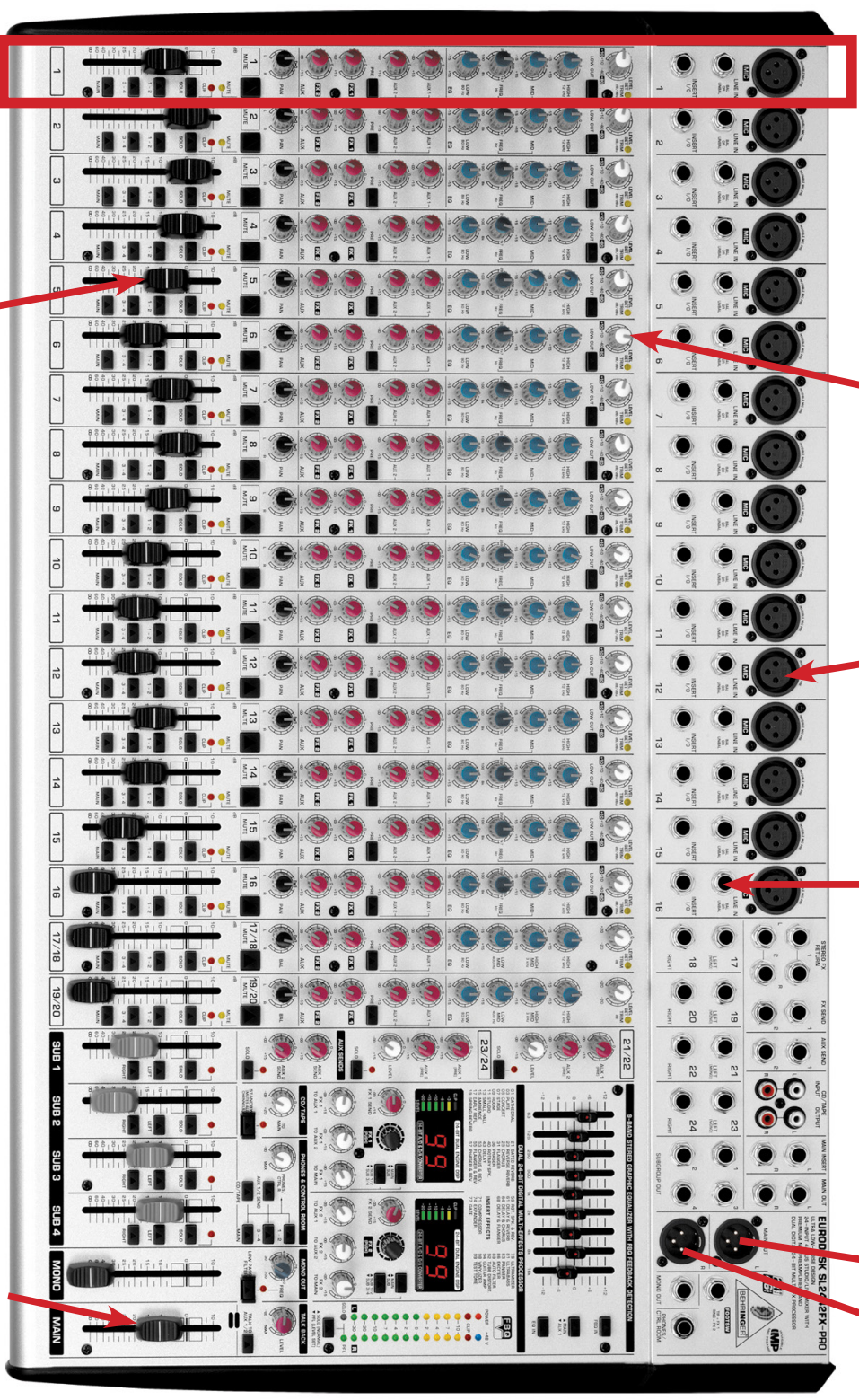
Input channel
strip

Input gain
knob

Input (XLR)
'Mic'

Input (Jack)
'Line In'

Output (XLR)
to Speakers



Channel fader. Push it
up to increase volume

Master Fader.
Push up to
increase vol.

SETTING UP A PA - THE SPEAKERS

There is good practice when turning on a PA.

1. Turn on the mixer (make sure all the faders are turned down).
2. Turn on the speakers (make sure the volume is turned right down)
3. Then turn the volume on the speakers up to about half or to 3/4.
4. When setting stuff down, do the reverse order... Turn speaker volume to zero; then turn off speakers; then turn off the mixer. All this avoids damaging equipment and loud 'pops' !!



Connect the other end of each of the leads to to this socket here on each of the two speakers

Here is the volume switch, 0 (left), full (right)
(I usually turn the volume up $\frac{3}{4}$)

Here is the power switch (on / off)
Keep the power off until everything else
(mixer etc) is connected up

Here is the power input.