

SOUND REINFORCEMENT



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All Kustom amplifiers, power units, mixers, and their associated components and parts, except as specified below, are guaranteed, by Kustom Electronics, Inc., to the original purchaser to be free of defects in material or workmanship for a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase.

- and -

All Kustom speaker cabinets and their associated components and parts, except as specified below, are guaranteed, by Kustom Electronics, Inc., to the original purchaser to be free of any defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of purchase.

- provided -

- (1) The original purchaser applies for a Kustom Warranty Card for the guaranteed product(s) within 10 days of the date of purchase; and,
- (2) Within the applicable period of this guarantee, the original purchaser delivers, at his own expense, the defective product(s) to an Authorized Kustom Dealer or Service Center for repair; or, where no such dealer or service center is nearby, obtains at his own expense from Kustom Electronics, Inc., an "Authorization Number" to return merchandise and ships, at his own expense, the defective product(s) to Kustom Electronics Customer Service, 909 W. Cherry, Chanute, Kansas 66720. The repaired product(s) will be returned freight prepaid.

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Any modification of the Kustom-manufactured product(s) such as the installation of substitute parts, rewiring or other changes to the system without written authorization from Kustom Electronics, Inc., will automatically void this warranty.

Kustom Electronics, Inc., shall not be liable for any direct, special, incidental or consequential damages incurred by reason of a breach of the above provisions, except as expressly provided above.

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KUSTOM XII SRM



INTRODUCTION

The Kustom XII SRM is a high-performance, state-of-the-art stereo sound reinforcement mixing console which will provide exceptional performance and reliability when operated correctly. This instruction manual provides useful information which could prevent problems on a gig. A little time spent reading the manual could save a lot of time trying to find problems that do not exist.

GENERAL

The Kustom XII SRM is a 12-input stereo mixer designed to drive external power and monitor amplifier systems. The mixer is equipped with LED peak-level indicators instead of conventional VU meters. These devices allow the operator to detect extremely fast transients which would go unnoticed by a standard VU meter. The mixer is specifically designed to drive the Kustom VIII SRS (200, watt RMS bi-amp slave), or the Kustom XII SRS (400-watt RMS bi-amp slave), and the Kustom III Monitor, a 125-watt RMS monitor power amplifier/graphic equalizer. Several loudspeaker systems are also available for use with these power amplifiers.

INPUTS

The Kustom XII SRM is equipped with both high and low impedance inputs. It should be noted that only one input is operative at a time. For example, if a low impedance microphone is in use and a high impedance unit is plugged in, only the high impedance input will function.

OUTPUTS

The Kustom XII SRM main outputs are low impedance type (less than 600 ohms), and will drive almost any type of power amplifier to full output. At 100% indication on the LED Peak Level Indicators, the output levels will be 1.0 volt RMS.

The monitor outputs are also of the low-impedance, line-level type. Like the main outputs, the 100% indication is 1.0 volt RMS.

CONNECTION AND LOCATION

Place the mixer at the desired location and connect the mixer output to the bi-amplifier slaves or power amplifiers using shielded microphone cable. Due to the very low impedance output from the mixer, this cable may be up to 200 feet long. Ideally, an operator should adjust the console during the performance, and the console should be located where the operator can hear the reinforced sound and make adjustments as necessary. If this is not possible, locate the console on the stage with easy access by the musician/operator. It is strongly recommended that the console not be placed on top of or in front of speaker cabinets (especially bass); this will cause vibration in the mixer's reverb spring assembly.

If a monitor system is used, plug the monitor drive cable into the MONITOR OUTPUT jack. This cable may also be up to 200 feet in length without excess high frequency losses.

NOTE

If excessive 60Hz hum is noted in the main or monitor systems, it is likely that the console and the power amlifiers are plugged into different phases of the building AC distribution system. This is a common occurrence whenever the console is located some distance from the power amplifiers and speaker system. To correct this problem use a line isolation plug (available at any hardware store) on the **power amplifier** line cord(s).

OPERATION

If possible, locate the speaker systems in front of and directed away from the microphones, greatly reducing the possibility of feedback. Feedback will occur with any type of PA system, regardless of size or price, whenever the loudness is increased past a critical point determined by microphone location, speaker placement, and room acoustics. Usually little can be done to correct for proper room acoustics. However, with proper microphone selection and speaker placement, the possibility of feedback can be greatly reduced.

For an initial set up, it is suggested that all low frequency and high frequency equalization controls be adjusted to the "0" or 12 o'clock position and the graphic equalizer slides be placed in the center of their operating range. This will place the console in an electrically "flat" frequency response state.

The following procedure of professional sound reinforcement techniques should be followed until you are thoroughly familiar with the mixer and its capabilities:

- 1. Adjust all equalization controls for a "flat" response as previously described. All input PAD switches should be in the position 0. Adjust the HORN LEVEL control to the position 5.
- 2. Adjust the MAIN LEVEL controls to position 5.
- 3. Set all PAN controls at 12 o'clock (position 0).
- 4. With program material into the first channel adjust the GAIN control slides for the desired loudness level. If the LED PEAK OVERLOAD indicator is indicating a preamplifier overload condition, either reduce the GAIN slides' position or place the input PAD switch to the -10dB or -20dB position as required.

- Adjust the channel equalization controls for the desired amount of equalization. Note the LED PEAK LEVEL indicator as boosting of certain frequencies may have caused an overload condition.
- 6. Adjust the MASTER REVERB control to position 5.
- 7. Adjust the channel REVERB SEND control for the desired amount of reverberation.
- 8. Adjust the PAN control for stereo balance.
- 9. Note the MAIN LEVEL LED PEAK LEVEL indicators. Under normal operating conditions (maximum output) the indicators should be indicating 80% to 100% with occasional peaks in the CLIP region. Adjust the MAIN LEVEL and channel GAIN controls for the desired sound pressure level without overloading the mixer. Overloading or "clipping" is constantly monitored by the channel input LED peak overload indicators and the MAIN LEVEL LED peak level indicators. Adjust the channel GAIN and MAIN LEVEL controls as a team for optimum signal-to-noise ratio. An indication of incorrect operation is when either the MAIN LEVEL or the channel GAIN controls are at maximum.
- 10. Adjust the total system for the desired sound pressure level or until feedback occurs.
- 11. If feedback occurs, the graphic equalizers should be used to "notch out" the feedback frequency(s). Graphic equalization is a valuable tool if used correctly, but a real problem if incorrectly used. Professional sound engineers generally agree that the more graphic equalization used, the worse the overall sound will be. Some use the graphic equalizer for "room equalization". This practice is acceptable if the operator remembers that the room is not really equalized at all locations, just at the point where his ears and the equalizer are located. Rooms contain dead spots or locations where some frequencies disappear entirely; this is a normal phenomenon and occurs in every type of enclosure from the smallest night club to the most professional recording studio.

The graphic equalizer is a valuable tool if used properly. Always use one slide at a time, and if the desired results are not obtained, return it to the center position and proceed to the next slide.

- Readjust the HORN LEVEL control (located on the power slave unit) as required for the desired bass and treble balance. No amount of channel equalization or graphic equalization will bring up the "high end" if the HORN LEVEL control is turned down or off.
- 13. After the main system is adjusted and a monitor system is in use, adjust the channel MONITOR SEND and MAIN LEVEL controls for the desired monitor levels. Observe the MON LEVEL LED peak level indicators to prevent overloading of the monitor slave units.

The preceeding procedure is typical of the operation of a professional sound reinforcement system. All operating situations were not covered because every location and type of music is different.

GRAPHIC EQUALIZER

The dual nine-band (frequency) graphic equalizer section of your Kustom XII SRM represents the ultimate in feedback and equalization control flexibility. Nine points (60Hz, 125Hz, 250Hz, 500Hz, 1.0KHz, 2.0KHz, 4.0KHz, 8.0KHz, and 16.0KHz) are provided to allow for adjustment in the most critical portion of the audio spectrum. A maximum of $\pm 12.0dB$ of boost and cut is provided at each of these frequencies. As a point of interest, each of the frequencies represents the center point on the frequency at which maximum control action occurs. The actual control action at 125Hz, for example, is that the frequencies in the range of 60Hz to 200Hz are boosted or cut. This allows a smooth response to be obtained over a usable portion of the audio spectrum.

It is suggested that when first setting up a system for operation that all of the equalizer controls be adjusted to the center or flat position. This will eliminate the possibility of feedback, or if all controls are in the "cut" position, the apparent loss of signal level. Normal operating procedure is to use the individual channel tone controls to adjust for the desired sound, and then use the graphic equalizer to compensate for poor room acoustics and feedback.

There is no simple way to "equalize out" a room. The quickest (and often the best) method is to carefully listen to the system and make small adjustments to achieve the desired sound. It should be remembered that the sound the operator hears and adjusts for is only in the one spot where he is located. At any other point in the room or club, the sound will be slightly different due to room acoustics (carpeting, reflections off walls, and many other factors).

When using the graphic equalizer for feedback control, find the feedback frequency by adjusting each of the equalizer controls. Once the frequency and corresponding control is located, adjust the equalizer only to the point at which the feedback stops. Once this point is reached, no further feedback control improvement will result, and the overall sound quality will be degraded.

MICROPHONES

CARDIOID MICROPHONE

The pickup pattern of a cardioid microphone – relatively dead at the sides and rear – tends to increase the working distance (the distance between the sound source and the microphone) beyond which:

- 1. The sound becomes over-reverberant.
- 2. The pickup of random background noise becomes excessive.
- 3. Sound system feedback results.

This increase in working distance is theoretically more than 1.7 to 1. For instance, if the maximum effective working distance of an omnidirectional microphone is 10 inches, then a cardioid mike can be used at 17 inches with the same effectiveness!

The feedback-reducing characteristics of a cardioid microphone would seem to make a clear-cut case for the use of a cardioid microphone by professional performers. In marginal feedback systems, the cardioid will tend to produce a higher level in the room before system feedback, especially where high levels of direct speaker sound reaches the microphone from the sides or rear. This situation is often encountered in portable PA systems as well as other systems employing high-level stage monitors. Usually in such instances, the loudspeakers are closer to the microphones than would be desirable from a sound-system design standpoint.

OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

In many systems where loudspeakers are located 20 to 40 feet away from the microphone – as at the top of a proscenium arch – a cardioid microphone is likely to show only negligible advantage with respect to feedback over an omnidirectional microphone. This is especially true where extremely close working distances are employed – say 1/8 to six inches.

The omnidirectional microphone, where it can be used, has several advantages in its favor:

- 1. For a given price, an omnidirectional microphone generally has a smoother frequency response than its cardioid counterpart. Such smoothness of response is important because any roughness invites feedback.
- 2. An omnidirectional microphone is significantly less susceptible to breath pops than its cardioid counterpart.
- 3. An omnidirectional microphone is significantly less sensitive to mechanical shock than its cardioid counterpart.
- 4. An omnidirectional microphone is often more rugged than its cardioid counterpart.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

	Preamplifier gain measured at 1.0KHz. Equalizer controls maximum.	16.0dB
	Signal-to-noise ratio.	Gain min84.0dB Gain max58.0dB
	Minimum input voltage required for rated output. Equalization controls adjusted for 12 o'clock position. Gain controls adjusted for maximum.	13mV RMS
	Main channel output at 100% indication of peak level indicator.	1.0V RMS
	Monitor channel output at 100% indication of peak level indicator.	1.0V RMS
	Rated minimum load impedance for MAIN and MONITOR outputs.	600 ohms
	Channel equalization control range:	
	HF Equalization LF Equalization Graphic Equalizers	±12.0dB @ 10.0KHz ±10.0dB @ 50.0Hz ±12.0dB @ each frequency
	Frequency response measured with equalization controls indicating flat response.	±2.0dB, 40Hz-17KHz
	Total harmonic distortion at normal (100% indi- cation) operating levels.	0.15%
	AC accessory receptacle maximum load.	200 watts
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FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM





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