

Multi-track technology for the 21st century

BLACKBOX PLAYER

Replay multi-channel backing tracks and surround stems for live shows and themed entertainment



24/64 TRACKS • 24 BIT • 96kHz

The BlackBox Player is a powerful software upgrade for the BlackBox Recorder that enables automated, high-quality, multi-channel audio playback (up to 24bit/96kHz) for live shows and themed entertainment, without requiring a computer.

Available for 24- and 64-channel BlackBox systems, Player functionality differs from standard BlackBox Recorder playback in that content for an entire show, exhibition or broadcast can be arranged into an easily editable playlist. Cues are preloaded for instant playback and, should the running order change, a playlist can be adjusted on the fly. It can also be looped to provide continuous playback.

Playback material can be created using any workstation that generates valid WAV or B-WAV files. Mono, stereo and polywav files can be used. Audio is stored on an external USB2 hard drive or USB2 Flash drive. A simple file naming procedure ensures sample accurate synchronous playback of each audio file through its respective output. The show setlist is configured as a simple XML format playlist, with each song automatically pre-loading. Changes can also be made manually. Multiple playlists can be stored for different shows or performances.

The Player can be operated and controlled via footswitch, QWERTY keyboard, timecode, MIDI commands, or JoeCoRemote for iPad. Channels can be separately balanced, EQ'd and processed alongside other live audio to compensate for venue acoustics, or audience generated noise during performances. Foldback mixes incorporating Player audio can be created, and an additional mix also sent via the Player's headphone output.

To synchronize audio with visual media, the Player can be configured to start in sync with incoming timecode and audio clock. All standard timecode frame rates are supported. Like all BlackBox systems the Player contains a number of built-in safety features; for example a pair of Balanced Players can be configured for automated fail-over, making sure that the show goes on regardless.

The BlackBox Player system includes full BlackBox Recorder functionality. A simple menu selection turns the system into either a Recorder or a Player as required. Player software is also available as a separate upgrade for existing BlackBox Recorder owners.

Features:

- Synchronous multi-channel playback in up to 24bit / 96kHz quality. No computer required.
- Files for playback can be loaded from any Digital Audio Workstation capable of creating valid WAV/BWAV files, or recorded directly.
- Audio can be stored on USB2 hard drive or fast Flash drive.
- Simple naming convention ensures that the correct file is replayed through each output.
- Output options include unbalanced and balanced analogue, digital AES/EBU, Lightpipe, MADI and DANTE.
- Set lists configured as simple XML format playlist files.
- Remote control via QWERTY keyboard, footswitch, MIDI, SONY 9-pin and JoeCoRemote for iPad.
- Synchronous playback to SMPTE timecode (LTC and MTC).
- Multiple playlists can be stored for quick changes or alternative show formats.
- Separate foldback mixes can be configured via the console. An additional mix can be sent via the headphone output (e.g. for the musical director).
- Can be configured to accept an incoming source of digital clock.
- Built-in safety features including automated fail-over for Balanced Player pairs.

Technical Specifications:

Model	BBP1U	BBP1B	BBP1A	BBP1D	BBP64 MADI	BBP64 DANTE
Analogue out (switchable -10dBu /+4dBu)	Unbalanced wired for inserts	Balanced	Unbalanced wired for inserts	Unbalanced wired for inserts	none	none
Headphones	Mono or stereo solo or mixed output from internal mixer					
Analogue in (switchable -10dBu /+4dBu)	Unbalanced wired for inserts	Balanced	Unbalanced wired for inserts	Unbalanced wired for inserts	8 ch balanced	8 ch balanced
Digital out	None	None	Lightpipe	AES / EBU	MADI	DANTE
Digital in	None	None	Lightpipe	AES / EBU	MADI	DANTE
Sample rates						
44.1kHz	24ch	24ch	24ch	24ch	64ch	64ch
48kHz	24ch	24ch	24ch	24ch	64ch	64ch
88.2kHz	24ch	24ch	12ch*	24ch	32ch*	32ch*
96kHz	24ch	24ch	12ch*	24ch	32ch*	32ch*
Connections						
Unbalanced Analogue	3 x 25way D-sub adapted TASCAM analogue pin-out. (Hot = in, cold = out (In on Tip, Out on Ring of ¼" TRS jack) for connection into insert points on console)					
Balanced Analogue	3 x 25way D-sub TASCAM analogue format inputs; 3 x 25way D-sub TASCAM analogue format outputs;					
AES/EBU:	3 x 25way D-sub YAMAHA digital format (TASCAM format to special order)					
Lightpipe:	3 x TOSLINK (* reduced track counts at higher sample rates – SMUX2)					
MADI	MADI in & out (SC optical & BNC (Coax)), 1 x 8ch balanced analogue in (TASCAM analogue format). (* reduced track counts at higher sample rates)					
DANTE	1 x Dante RJ24 Gigabit Ethernet, 1 x 8ch balanced analogue in (TASCAM analogue format). (* reduced track counts at higher sample rates)					
Storage medium	External USB2 storage device <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USB2 drive • Flash RAM drive (thumb drive) 32GB minimum, high performance) • SDHC card via USB2 converter (Class 10 minimum) 					
Audio file format	Broadcast WAV files: Accepts mono, stereo and polywav files					
Audio file naming convention	sss-ft.songname-trackname.wav where: sss is the song number (001-999)[determines which tracks play together as a Song] -ft. is the track number (01-24)[determines which output each track is replayed through] songname is the (optional) song name [free text up to 32 characters] -trackname is the (optional) track name [free text up to 24 characters] .wav is the file extension [mandatory]					
Playlist format	Simple XML file structure for easy playlist editing					
Pre-load time	Typically < 3 seconds					
Control	Instant replay controlled by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time code (LTC or MTC) • Footswitch (GPI) • QWERTY keyboard • MIDI control • Real-time clock • JoeCoRemote for iPad Automatic pre-load of next song in playlist					
MIDI Controls	MIDI open loop connection MIDI Start, Stop commands MIDI Song Select: for preloading specific Songs MIDI Program Change MIDI Show Control					
Audio clocks	Selectable between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal • AES/EBU or SPDIF clock • MADI in • Dante in • Word clock (available on BBP1A and BBP1D only) 					
Timecode / GPI	¼" TRS jack – tip = unbal TC, Ring = GPI, sleeve = GND. All standard frame rates supported					
Auto fail-over	Analogue fail-over automatically switches to synchronous secondary system in case of replay problem (Balanced Player pairs).Uses 1 channel of playback					
Physical	Size: 19" rack mounting x 1U (435 x 44 x 170mm) Weight: < 2.5kg DC input: 9-12V dc (PSU supplied) Power: < 25W					

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