

*Hughes & Kettner*

era C

Acoustic Amplifier

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# 1 General information



This document contains important instructions for the safe operation of the product. Read and follow the safety instructions and all other instructions. Keep the document for future reference. Make sure that it is available to all those using the product. If you sell the product to another user, be sure that they also receive this document.

Our products and documentation are subject to a process of continuous development. They are therefore subject to change. Please refer to the latest version of the documentation, which is ready for download under ➔ [www.thomann.de](http://www.thomann.de).

## 1.1 Symbols and signal words

In this section you will find an overview of the meaning of symbols and signal words that are used in this document.

Signal word	Meaning
<b>DANGER</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates an immediate dangerous situation that will result in death or serious injury if it is not avoided.
<b>WARNING</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in death or serious injury if it is not avoided.

Signal word	Meaning
<b>CAUTION</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in minor injury if it is not avoided.
<b>NOTICE</b>	This combination of symbol and signal word indicates a possible dangerous situation that can result in material and environmental damage if it is not avoided.
Warning signs	Type of danger
	Warning – danger zone.
	Warning – high-voltage.

## 2 Safety instructions

### Intended use

This device is used for amplifying and reproducing the signals of acoustic and electric musical instruments, microphones and external players. Use the device only as described in this user manual. Any other use or use under other operating conditions is considered to be improper and may result in personal injury or property damage. No liability will be assumed for damage resulting from improper use.

This device may be used only by persons with sufficient physical, sensory, and intellectual abilities and the necessary knowledge and experience. Other persons may use this device only if they are supervised or instructed by a person who is responsible for their safety.

### Safety



#### **DANGER**

#### **Risk of injury and choking hazard for children!**

Children can suffocate on packaging material and small parts. Children can injure themselves when handling the device. Never allow children to play with the packaging material and the device. Always store packaging material out of the reach of babies and small children. Always dispose of packaging material properly when it is not in use. Never allow children to use the device without supervision. Keep small parts away from children and make sure that the device does not shed any small parts (such knobs) that children could play with.



### **DANGER**

#### **Danger to life due to electric current!**

Within the device there are areas where high voltages may be present. Never remove any covers. There are no user-serviceable parts inside. Do not use the device when covers, safety equipment or optical components are missing or damaged.



### **WARNING**

#### **Possible hearing damage due to operating the device at a high volume!**

The device can produce volume levels that, when operated at a high volume, may cause temporary or permanent hearing impairment. Over an extended period of time, even levels that seem to be uncritical can cause hearing damage. Avoid operating the device at excessively high volumes over an extended period of time. Decrease the volume level immediately if you experience ringing in your ears or hearing impairment. If this is not possible, keep a greater distance or use adequate ear-muffs.



### **WARNING**

#### **Possible hearing damage due to high volumes on headphones!**

The use of headphones at high volumes may result in permanent hearing impairment. Over an extended period of time, even levels that seem to be uncritical can cause hearing damage. Avoid operating headphones at high volumes, in particular over an extended period of time.



### **NOTICE**

#### **Risk of fire due to covered vents and neighbouring heat sources!**

If the vents of the device are covered or the device is operated in the immediate vicinity of other heat sources, the device can overheat and burst into flames. Never cover the device or the vents. Do not install the device in the immediate vicinity of other heat sources. Never operate the device in the immediate vicinity of naked flames.

 **NOTICE****Damage to the device if operated in unsuitable ambient conditions!**

The device can be damaged if it is operated in unsuitable ambient conditions. Only operate the device indoors within the ambient conditions specified in the “Technical specifications” chapter of this user manual. Avoid operating it in environments with direct sunlight, heavy dirt and strong vibrations. Avoid operating it in environments with strong temperature fluctuations. If temperature fluctuations cannot be avoided (for example after transport in low outside temperatures), do not switch on the device immediately. Never subject the device to liquids or moisture. Never move the device to another location while it is in operation. In environments with increased dirt levels (for example due to dust, smoke, nicotine or mist): Have the device cleaned by qualified specialists at regular intervals to prevent damage due to overheating and other malfunctions.

 **NOTICE****Damage to the external power supply due to high voltages!**

The device is powered by an external power supply. The external power supply can be damaged if it is operated with the incorrect voltage or if high voltage peaks occur. In the worst case, excess voltages can also cause a risk of injury and fires. Make sure that the voltage specification on the external power supply matches the local power grid before plugging in the power supply. Only operate the external power supply from professionally installed mains sockets that are protected by a residual current circuit breaker (FI). Ensure that the power cord plug is easily accessible at all times if it is the only device to safely disconnect the device from the mains supply. As a precaution, disconnect the power supply from the power grid when storms are approaching or if the device will not be used for a longer period.



### NOTICE

#### **Damage to the device due to use of unsuitable external power supplies!**

If the device is operated with an unsuitable external power supply, the device can be damaged by overvoltage or incorrect polarity. If things go badly, using an unsuitable power supply can also cause a risk of injury and fire. Only use the external power supply designated for the device or an equivalent external power supply with identical parameters. If in doubt, compare the voltage specifications on the external power supply and the polarity (+/-) with the specifications in this manual and printed on the device. Voltage and polarity must always match.

### 3 Features

Special features of the device:

- Class D acoustic amplifier with 60 watts of power
- 8" speaker
- Bluetooth® LE (Low Energy)
- Inputs:
  - Channels 1 and 2: Microphones and instruments
  - Channel 3: external players, e.g. smartphone and MP3 player
  - Channel 4/FX Return: Line level devices (mixers, preamplified instruments and drum computers) and external effects devices
  - Instruments with passive or active pickup
  - Dynamic microphones and condenser microphones
  - Dual foot switch (optionally available, item no. 135680)
- Outputs:
  - DI Out: Mixers or amplifiers
  - FX-Send: external effects devices
  - Headphones
- Mute, sound control and phantom power for channels 1 and 2
- Controls for gain, bass, mid, treble, notch and master volume
- Channel-specific FX engine with 8 effects programmes (reverb, delay)

## Features

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- 35 mm stand flange and angled plate with 25° or 35° (optionally available)
- Colour: Black (item no. 622884), wood (item no. 622885)

## 4 Installation and starting up

Unpack and check carefully there is no transportation damage before using the unit. Keep the equipment packaging. To fully protect the product against vibration, dust and moisture during transportation or storage use the original packaging or your own packaging material suitable for transport or storage, respectively.

Create all connections while the device is off. Use the shortest possible high-quality cables for all connections. Take care when running the cables to prevent tripping hazards.



### CAUTION

#### **Risk of injury due to tipping of the product on unsuitable ground!**

If the product is set up on soft or uneven ground, the product can tip over and cause injuries and property damage.

Always set up the product on firm and level ground.

### NOTICE

#### **Possible property damage to adjacent devices due to magnetic fields.**

Speakers generate a static magnetic field. This magnetic field can affect other neighbouring units and in unfavourable cases damage them.


Ensure that speakers are always a sufficient distance away from sensitive equipment that may be affected by an external magnetic field.

### NOTICE

#### **Potential property damage due to unsuitable stands!**

If the product is mounted on an unsuitable stand, there is a risk that the stand will fall over and cause damage.

Only use stands whose maximum load-bearing capacity is at least as high as the weight of the product. Always ensure that the stand is stable.

 **NOTICE****Possible staining due to plasticiser in rubber feet!**

The plasticiser in the rubber feet of this product may react with the coating of the floor, resulting in permanent dark stains after a while.

If necessary, use a suitable mat or felt pads to prevent direct contact between the product's rubber feet and the floor.

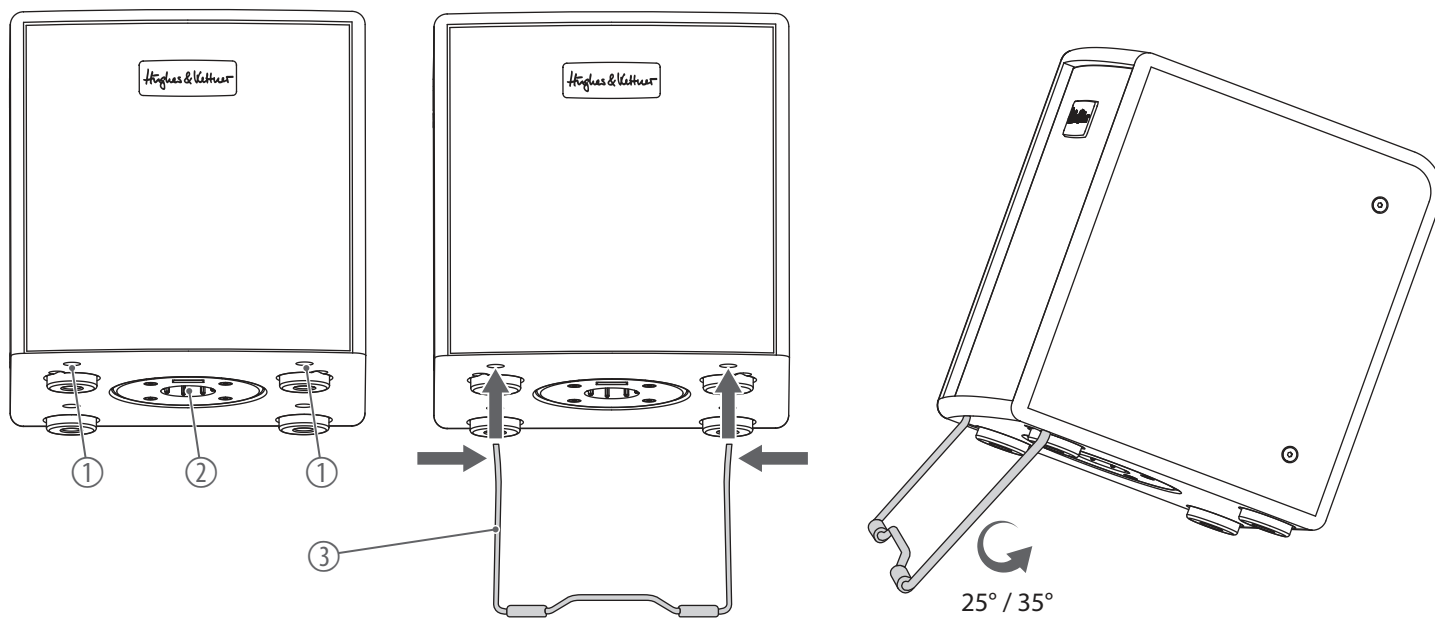
***Comply with regulations***

*When installing and operating, make sure to follow the standards and regulations that apply in your country.*

**Mounting options**

You can install the device on a stand or standing (with or without an angled plate). When in use, the device must always be attached to a solid surface or an approved mount.

## Installation and starting up

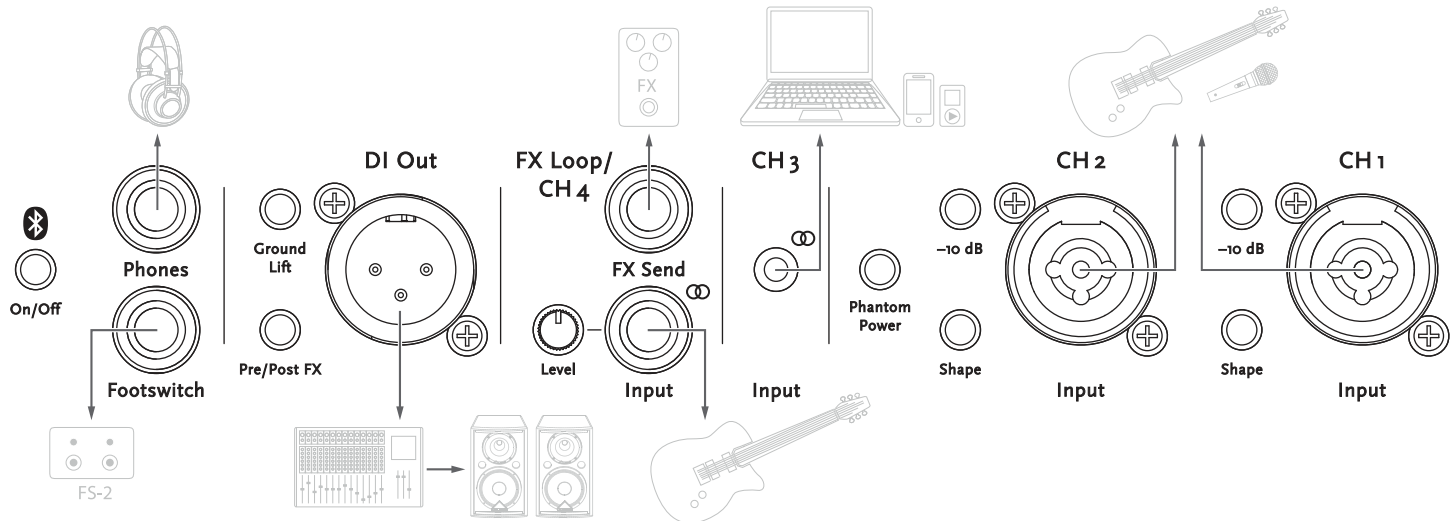


- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Openings for the angled plate       |
| 2 | 35 mm stand flange for the stand    |
| 3 | Angled plate (optionally available) |

**Mounting the angled plate (optionally available)**

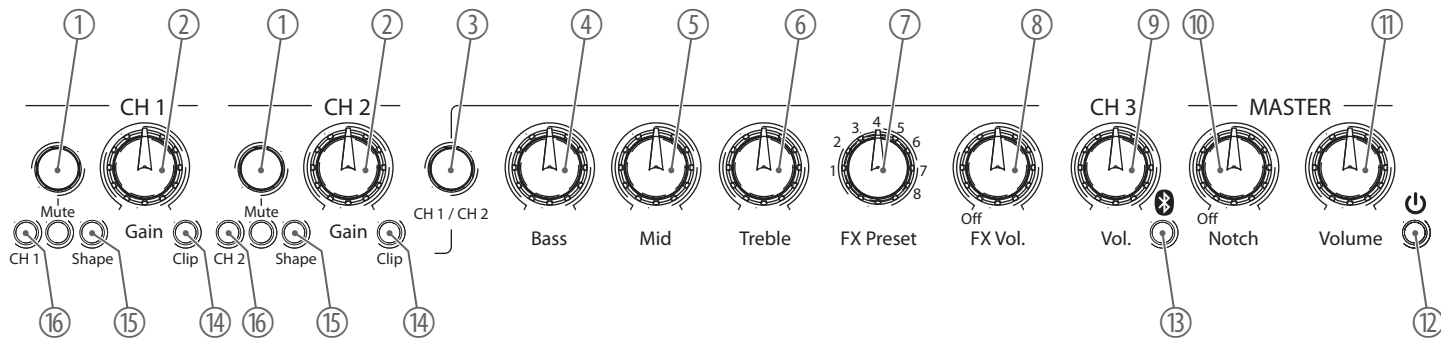
1. ➔ Gently press the two ends of the angled plate together and insert the angled plate into the 2 openings on the underside of the device.
2. ➔ Set the angled plate to the required angle (25° or 35°).

**Connection options**





## 5 Connections and controls

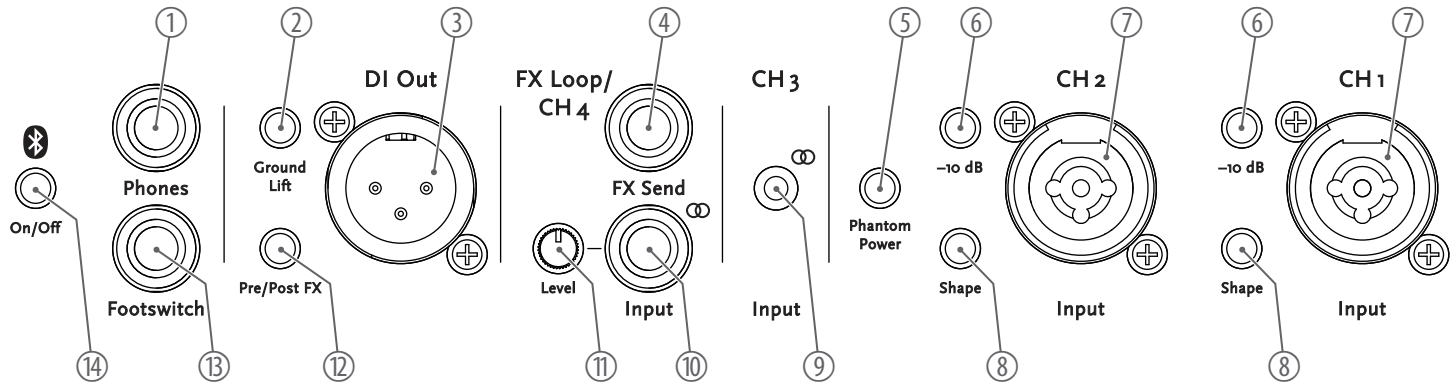
Top



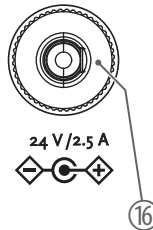
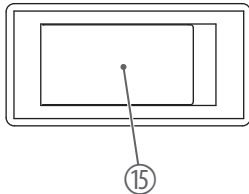
1	<i>[Mute – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Mutes channel 1 or 2. The associated LED indicates that mute is active. If a dual foot switch is connected, muting cannot be activated. Muting by means of the foot switch is only possible for both channels at the same time.
2	<i>[Gain – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Controls the input gain of the microphone signal or instrument signal from channel 1 or 2.
3	<i>[CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Activates the <i>[Bass]</i> , <i>[Mid]</i> , <i>[Treble]</i> , <i>[FX Preset]</i> and <i>[FX Vol.]</i> controls for channel 1 or 2. If the <i>[CH 1]</i> LED lights up, the controls for channel 1 are activated. If the <i>[CH 2]</i> LED lights up, the controls for channel 2 are activated.
4	<i>[Bass]</i>   Lowers and raises bass frequencies. In the middle position, the frequency response is unaffected.
5	<i>[Mid]</i>   Lowers and raises the mids. In the middle position, the frequency response is unaffected.
6	<i>[Treble]</i>   Lowers and raises the treble. In the middle position, the frequency response is unaffected.
7	<i>[FX Preset]</i>   Selects one of 8 effects programmes. ➔ <i>'Adjusting the effects' on page 24</i>
8	<i>[FX Vol.]</i>   Controls the volume of the selected effects programme. To switch off the effects programme, turn to <i>[Off]</i> .
9	<i>[Vol. – CH 3]</i>   Controls the volume of the connected player and a Bluetooth audio signal.
10	<i>[Notch – MASTER]</i>   Controls the notch filter to reduce interfering frequencies such as feedback or resonances. To detect interfering frequencies (41 Hz... 180 Hz), turn <i>[Notch – MASTER]</i> slowly. To turn off the notch filter, turn to <i>[Off]</i> .
11	<i>[Volume – MASTER]</i>   Controls the overall volume.

12	   Indicates that the device is on.
13	   Indicates the status of the Bluetooth connection. ➔ <i>'Activating and deactivating Bluetooth' on page 24</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Off: Bluetooth is deactivated.</li><li>■ Flashing slowly: The device is searching for available devices.</li><li>■ Lights up: The device is connected to a mobile device.</li><li>■ Flashing quickly: Bluetooth connection failed.</li></ul>
14	<i>[Clip – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Indicates an overdrive of the input amplifier. <p>If one of the LEDs (channel 1 or 2) lights up for a long time, turn <i>[Gain – CH 1/CH 2]</i> (channel 1 or 2) to the left to reduce the input gain. To reduce the input gain even further, press <i>[-10 dB]</i>.</p> <p>If both LEDs light up at the same time, channel 3 or 4 is clipping. Reduce the input gain of the player until both LEDs go out.</p>
15	<i>[Shape – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Indicates that sound control for channel 1 or 2 is active.
16	<i>[CH1]/[CH2]</i>   Indicates that channel 1 or 2 is active.

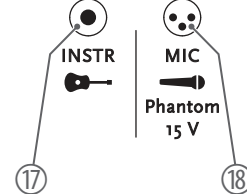
Rear panel




Power



Input CH 1/2











1	<p><i>[Phones]</i>   6.35 mm jack socket for connecting headphones</p> <p>When the headphones are connected, the speaker of the device is muted. In addition to the signal from channels 1 and 2, the signal from a player via channel 3, the internal effects and the signal from the FX loop/channel 4 are also active on this output.</p>
2	<p><i>[Ground Lift]</i>   Disconnects the ground connection (pin 1) and prevents ground loops (hum loops).</p>
3	<p><i>[DI Out]</i>   XLR panel connector for connecting a mixer or amplifier</p> <p>Transmits the balanced preamp signal from channels 1 and 2 either with or without effects (without internal effects and without the signal from the FX loop/channel 4), e.g. to a mixer for transmission via a PA. A balanced signal can be transmitted over long cable paths without interference.</p>
4	<p><i>[FX Send – FX Loop/CH 4]</i>   6.35 mm jack socket for connecting an external effects device for channels 1 and 2</p> <p>Transmits an unbalanced preamp line-level signal (after EQ, without internal effects).</p>
5	<p><i>[Phantom Power]</i>   Supplies 15 V to the connected microphone on channels 1 and 2.</p> <p>If the microphone does not require a phantom power supply, turn off the phantom power supply. The phantom power supply is only available on the XLR panel connectors <i>[input – CH 1/CH 2]</i>.</p>
6	<p><i>[-10 dB – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Reduces the input gain by -10 dB.</p> <p>If one of the <i>[Clip – CH 1/CH 2]</i> LEDs lights up for a long time and a reduction with <i>[Gain – CH 1/CH 2]</i> is not sufficient, press <i>[-10 dB]</i>.</p>
7	<p><i>[Input – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   XLR/6.35 mm jack combo socket for connecting a microphone or instrument</p>

8	<i>[Shape – CH 1/CH 2]</i>   Activates sound control for channel 1 or 2. When the corresponding <i>[Shape – CH 1/CH 2]</i> LED lights up, sound control for channel 1 or 2 is active.
9	<i>[Input – CH 3]</i>   3.5 mm jack socket for connecting an external player, e.g. a smartphone and MP3 player
10	<i>[Input – FX Loop/CH 4]</i>   6.35 mm jack socket for connecting an external effects device (in combination with FX-Send as FX-Loop) and other line level devices (mixers, preamplified instruments and drum computers)
11	<i>[Level – FX Loop/CH 4]</i>   Controls the input level of the <i>[input – FX Loop/CH 4]</i> .
12	<i>[Pre/Post FX]</i>   Controls the signal from <i>[DI Out]</i> . When <i>[Pre/Post FX]</i> is activated, the signal is tapped before the FX engine (without effects). When <i>[Pre/Post FX]</i> is disabled, the signal is tapped after the FX engine (with effects).
13	<i>[Footswitch]</i>   6.35 mm jack socket for connecting the dual foot switch The first switch mutes channels 1 and 2 (LED 1 of the foot switch lights up). The second switch turns the internal effects off (LED 2 of the foot switch lights up) and on (LED 2 of the foot switch does not light up).
14	 <i>[On/off]</i>   Activates and deactivates Bluetooth. → 'Activating and deactivating Bluetooth' on page 24
15	<i>[Power]</i>   Turns the device on and off.
16	<i>[24 V/2.5 A]</i>   Connection of the external plug-in power supply
17	<i>[INSTR – Input CH 1/2]</i>   3.5 mm jack socket for connecting an instrument with passive or active pickup
18	<i>[MIC – Input CH 1/2]</i>   XLR panel connector for connecting a dynamic microphone or condenser microphone

## 6 Functions

### Activating and deactivating Bluetooth

1.  To activate Bluetooth on the device, press  [On/Off].
  - ➔ The  LED flashes slowly.
2.  Activate Bluetooth on the mobile device and select 'H&K ERA-C'.
  - ➔ The  LED lights up.
  - ➔ The Bluetooth connection to the new device is established.
3.  To disable Bluetooth on the device, hold down  [On/Off] until the LED  goes out.



*The device will automatically start searching for and connecting to the last connected device after activating Bluetooth. This function protects against an unwanted connection.*





*To connect the device to a new mobile device, deactivate Bluetooth on the last connected mobile device or switch off the mobile device.*

### Adjusting the effects

The device has 8 effects programmes. One parameter per effect can be changed and saved.

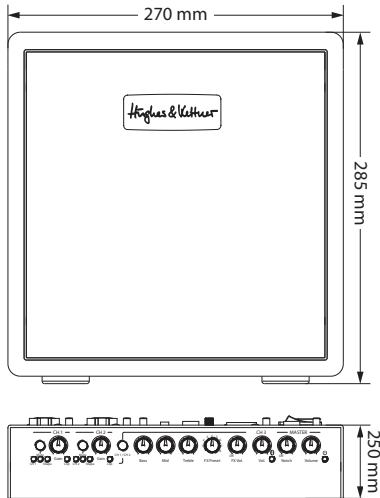
No.	Effect	Description	Parameter
1	Reverb Room Dark	Reverb length short, HF damping dark	Short or long
2	Reverb Room Bright	Reverb length short, HF damping light	Short or long

No.	Effect	Description	Parameter
3	Reverb Hall Warm	Reverb length medium, HF damping warm	Short or long
4	Reverb Hall Bright	Reverb length medium, HF damping slightly light	Short or long
5	Reverb Church	Reverb length long, HF damping slightly light	Short or long
6	Delay Short	Single repetition, slapback at 80 ms	20 ms...270 ms
7	Delay Mid	Multiple repetitions, 170 ms	20 ms...270 ms
8	Delay Long	Multiple repetitions, 800 ms  The effect acts on channels 1 and 2 at the same time. The setting is valid for both channels, regardless of which channel the setting is made on.	100 ms...540 ms

1.  Press *[CH 1/CH 2]* to select the required channel.
  - ➔ The *[CH 1]* or *[CH 2]* LED lights up.
2.  Use *[FX Preset]* to select the required effects programme 1...8.
3.  Press and hold *[CH 1/CH 2]* for 3 seconds until the *[CH 1]* or *[CH 2]* LED flashes.
  - ➔ You are in FX mode.
4.  Use *[Vol. – CH 3]* to set the required parameter.

- 5.** ▶ To save the setting, hold down *[CH 1/CH 2]* for 3 seconds.
  - ➔ All LEDs flash.
- 6.** ▶ To exit FX mode, press *[CH 1/CH 2]* or turn *[FX Preset]*.

## 7 Technical specifications



Configuration		1 × 8-inch speaker
Input connections	Power supply	External plug-in power supply
	Microphone/instrument (channels 1 and 2)	2 × XLR/6.35-mm jack combo socket
	Instrument (INSTR)	1 × 3.5 mm jack socket
	Microphone (MIC)	1 × XLR panel connector
	Aux In (channel 3)	1 × 3.5 mm jack socket
	FX Return/Line (effect/channel 4)	1 × 6.35 mm jack socket
	Dual foot switch	1 × 6.35 mm jack socket
Output connections	DI Out	1 × XLR panel connector
	FX-Send (effect)	1 × 6.35 mm jack socket
	Headphones	1 × 6.35 mm jack socket
Input impedance	Microphone (channels 1 and 2)	2.2 MΩ

	Instrument (channels 1 and 2)	1 k $\Omega$
Output power		60 W (RMS) at 4 $\Omega$
Frequency range		35 Hz...20 kHz
Total harmonic distortion (THD)	Microphone	< 0.05%
	Instrument	< 1.16%
	Aux In (channel 3)	< 0.09%
	FX Return/Line (effect/channel 4)	< 0.22%
Bluetooth®	Frequency range	2.412 GHz...2.484 GHz
	Max. transmission power	+10.82 dBm
	Standard	LE (Low Energy)
Power supply		External plug-in power supply, 100 - 240 V ~ 50/60 Hz
Operating voltage/current		24 V $\overline{\text{---}}$ / min. 2.5 A, polarity: Centre positive
Dimensions (W $\times$ H $\times$ D)		270 mm $\times$ 285 mm $\times$ 250 mm
Weight	Item no. 622884	6.4 kg

	Item no. 622885	6.2 kg
Ambient conditions	Temperature range	0 °C...40 °C
	Relative humidity	20%...80% (non-condensing)

**Further information**

Colour	Item no. 622884	Black
	Item no. 622885	Wood
Channels		4
Reverb		Yes
Effects processor		Yes
External effects loop		Yes
Microphone input		Yes
Phantom Power		Yes
Line input		Yes
Battery operation		No
Foot switch connection		Yes

## Technical specifications

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Including Foot switch	No (optionally available, item no. 135680)
Including Angled plate	No (optionally available)
Bluetooth	Yes
Tone control	Yes
Stand flange	35 mm

## 8 Plug and connection assignment

### Introduction

This chapter will help you select the right cables and plugs to connect your valuable equipment in such a way that a perfect sound experience is ensured.

Please note these advices, because especially in 'Sound & Light' caution is indicated: Even if a plug fits into the socket, an incorrect connection may result in a destroyed power amp, a short circuit or 'just' in poor transmission quality!

### Balanced and unbalanced transmission

Unbalanced transmission is mainly used in semi-professional environment and in hifi use. Instrument cables with two conductors (one core plus shielding) are typical representatives of the unbalanced transmission. One conductor is ground and shielding while the signal is transmitted through the core.

Unbalanced transmission is susceptible to electromagnetic interference, especially at low levels, such as microphone signals and when using long cables.

In a professional environment, therefore, the balanced transmission is preferred, because this enables an undisturbed transmission of signals over long distances. In addition to the conductors 'Ground' and 'Signal', in a balanced transmission a second core is added. This also transfers the signal, but phase-shifted by 180°.

Since the interference affects both cores equally, by subtracting the phase-shifted signals, the interfering signal is completely neutralized. The result is a pure signal without any noise interference.

## Plug and connection assignment

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### 1/4" TS phone plug (mono, unbalanced)



1	Signal
2	Ground, shielding

### 1/4" TRS phone plug (stereo, unbalanced)



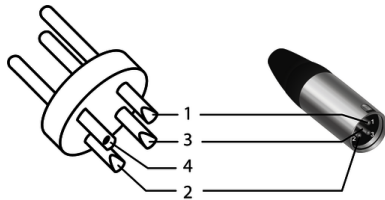
1	Signal (left)
2	Signal (right)
3	Ground

**Three-pole 1/8" mini phone jack (stereo, unbalanced)**



1	Signal (left)
2	Signal (right)
3	Ground, shielding

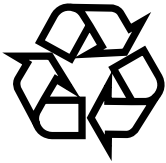
**XLR plug (balanced)**



1	Ground, shielding
2	Signal (in phase, +)
3	Signal (out of phase, -)
4	Shielding on plug housing (option)

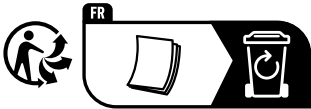
## 9 Protecting the environment

### Disposal of the packing material



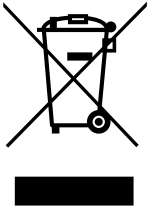
Environmentally friendly materials have been chosen for the packaging. These materials can be sent for normal recycling. Ensure that plastic bags, packaging, etc. are disposed of in the proper manner.

Do not dispose of these materials with your normal household waste, but make sure that they are collected for recycling. Please follow the instructions and markings on the packaging.



Observe the disposal note regarding documentation in France.

## Disposal of your old device



This product is subject to the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) as amended.

Do not dispose of your old device with your normal household waste; instead, deliver it for controlled disposal by an approved waste disposal firm or through your local waste facility. If in doubt, consult your local waste management facility. You can also return the device to a retailer if they offer to take the device back for free or if they are legally obliged to do so. When disposing of the device, comply with the rules and regulations that apply in your country. You can also return your old device to Thomann GmbH at no charge. Check the current conditions on ➔ [www.thomann.de](http://www.thomann.de).

Proper disposal protects the environment as well as the health of your fellow human beings. This is because the proper handling of old devices negates the potential negative effects of hazardous substances, and because it conserves resources by recycling them.

Also note that waste avoidance is a valuable contribution to environmental protection. Repairing a device or passing it on to another user is an ecologically valuable alternative to disposal. For example, use the classified ads of Thomann GmbH.

If your old device contains personal data, delete those data before disposing of it.









