



TALES OF THE CON

PODCAST.TALESOFTHECON.COM

Mixers 101

Twist those knobs!

Welcome! - Mixers 101

- Christopher Hoff of TalesOfTheCon.com



Goals when we first started our podcast...

- Consistency
- Professional sound
- Spend as little as possible

What is a mixer?

- A mixer is a device that combines audio from multiple sources into a final output. In this case a recording: your podcast!



A few reasons you should get a mixer

- Lets you use better microphones. XLR mics are industry standard.
- A mixer will usually provide power to XLR microphones as needed (48vDC)
- Lets you have multiple microphones easily, no need for multiple USB adapters, etc
- Connect a computer or iPad to mix in intro/outro music
- A mixer will allow you to combine audio of different volumes and normalize it.
- Save editing time by “Live mixing” – Adjust sound levels on the fly so you don’t have to do it later.

Live Mixing

- Fade in your intro music, fade it out when its time.
- What if you are louder than your cohost? What if they are louder than you? Just adjust accordingly on-the-fly.
- Mix-Minus – Hold an interview with a remote guest or co-host via skype or telephone. A mixer makes it easy without echo. (More on this later)



What to look for in a mixer

- **Head room.** You want enough inputs to handle all your microphones, your audio sources and maybe a bit more. Plan for the future!



What to look for in a mixer

- **Head room.** You want enough inputs to handle all your microphones, your audio sources and maybe a bit more. Plan for the future!



What to look for in a mixer

These inputs will handle XLR and...



What to look for in a mixer

These inputs will handle both XLR and ¼" connectors



What to look for in a mixer

These inputs will only handle ¼" connectors



What to look for in a mixer

AUX OUT (a.k.a. *AUX SEND*, *FX OUT*, or *FX SEND*)



What to look for in a mixer

AUX OUT (a.k.a. *AUX SEND*, *FX OUT*, *FX SEND*)

This is vital to a professional Skype setup (More later)



What to look for in a mixer

USB?



What to look for in a mixer



USB?

- Tends to be more expensive.
- Problematic software and drivers
- Can grant you additional flexibility in recording.

What to look for in a mixer

USB?

- Software and drivers are improving. Especially with newest models.
- Overall I personally don't recommend USB for beginners. Keep it simple.
- If you want to futureproof go ahead and get a newer USB model.

Headphone amp

Highly recommend a headphone amp. (It's a glorified splitter)

- This unit will allow you to connect multiple headphones for all your hosts.
- They can set their own individual volume levels without changing the recording output.



Some basic setups - #1

This setup will include:

- Two Mics in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Basic Setup #1

- Two Mics in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Basic Setup

- A mixer has two connector sections.

INPUTS



Basic Setup

- A mixer has two connector sections.

INPUTS



OUTPUTS



Basic Setup #1



- Two Mics in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Basic Setup #1



- Two Mics in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Basic Setup #1



- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Basic Setup #1



- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Basic Setup #1

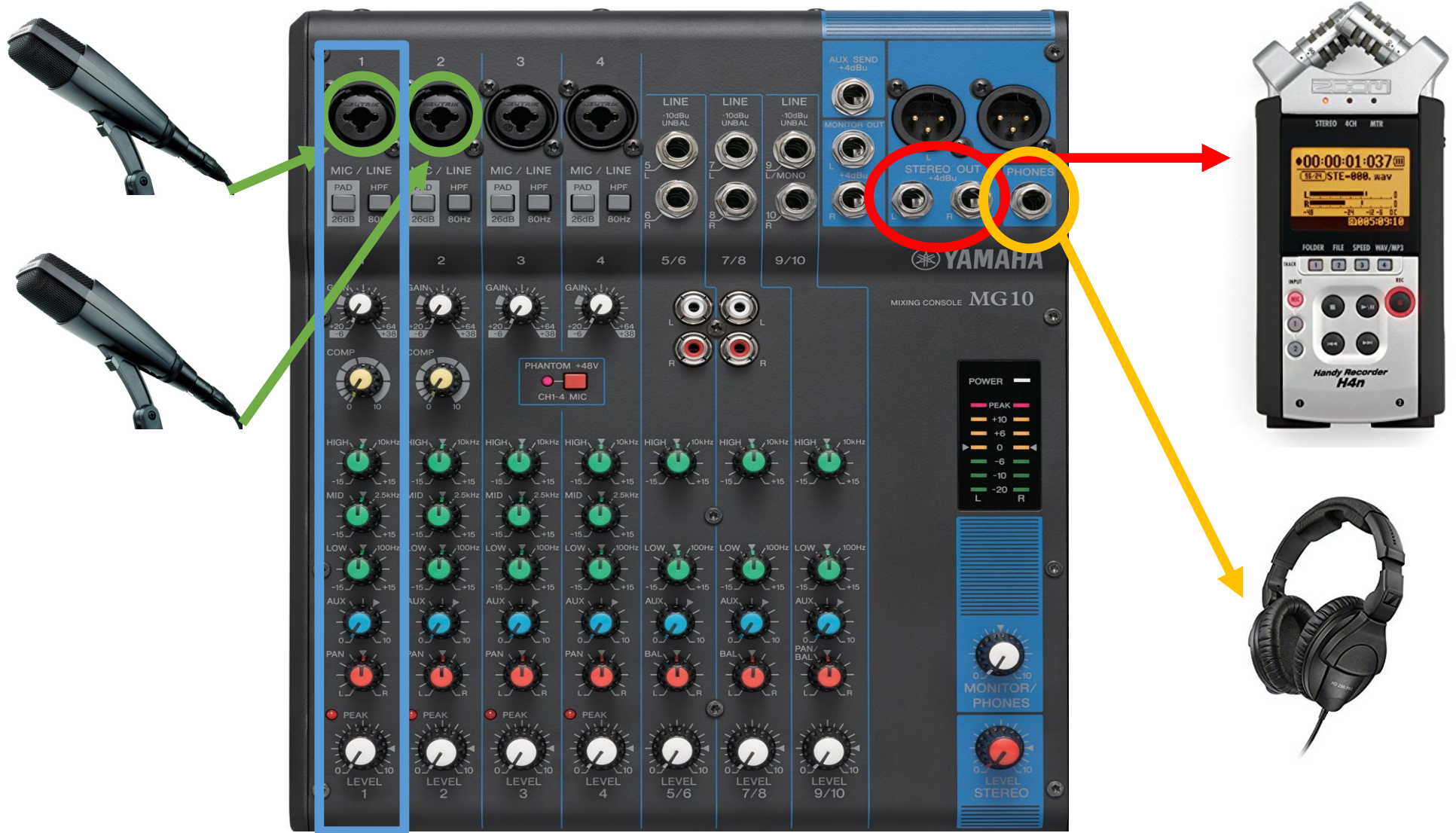


- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder





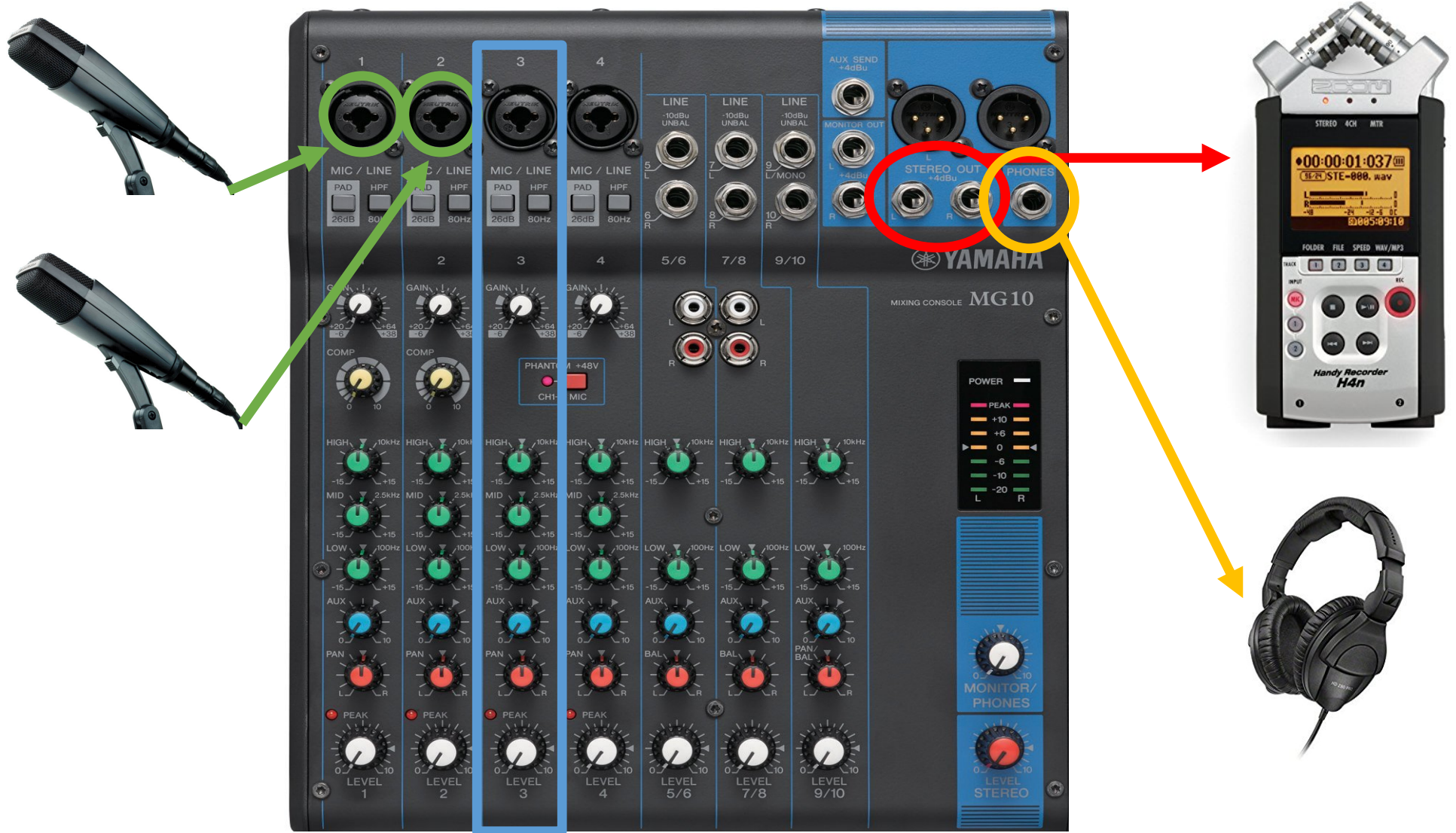


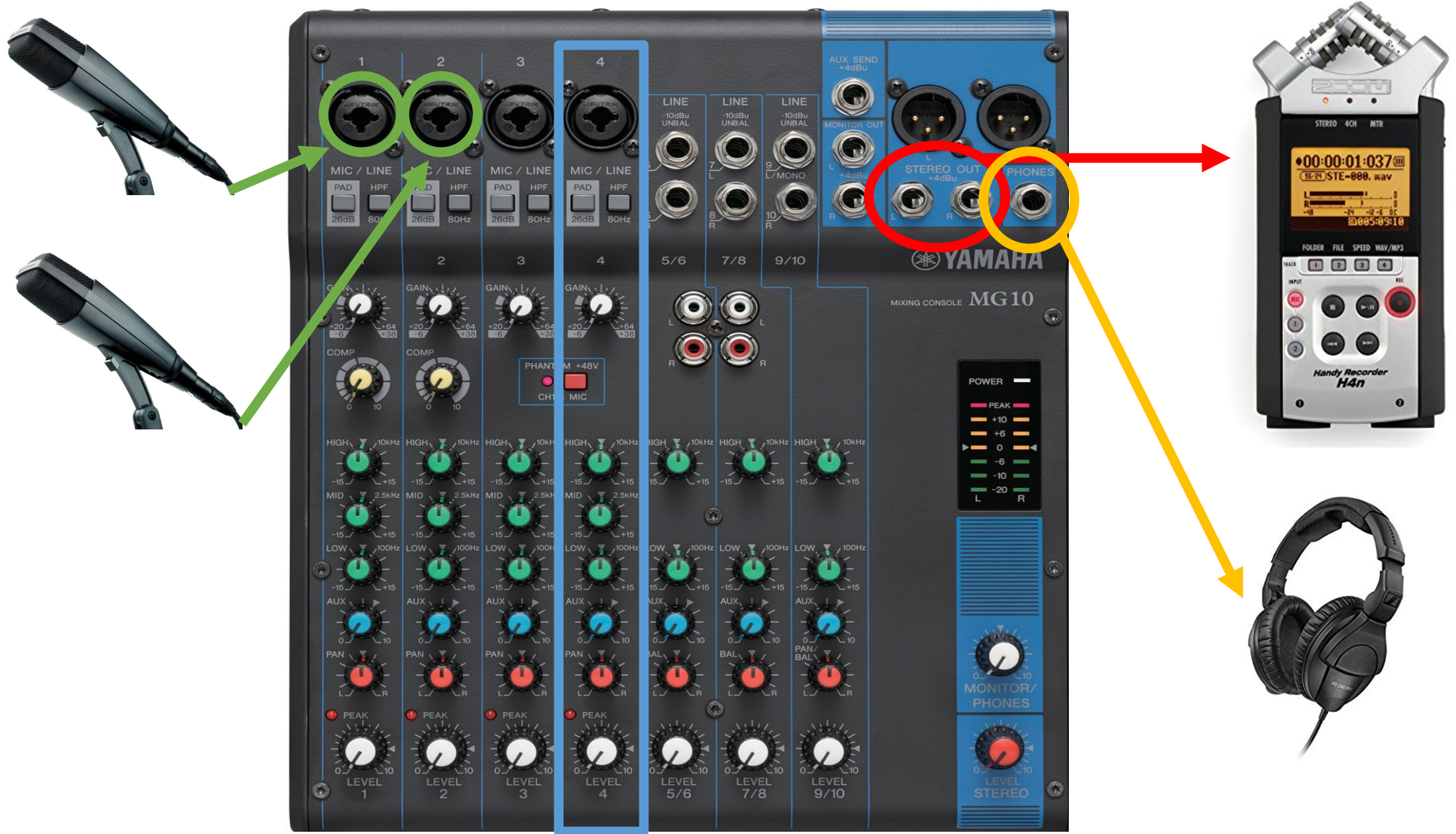


























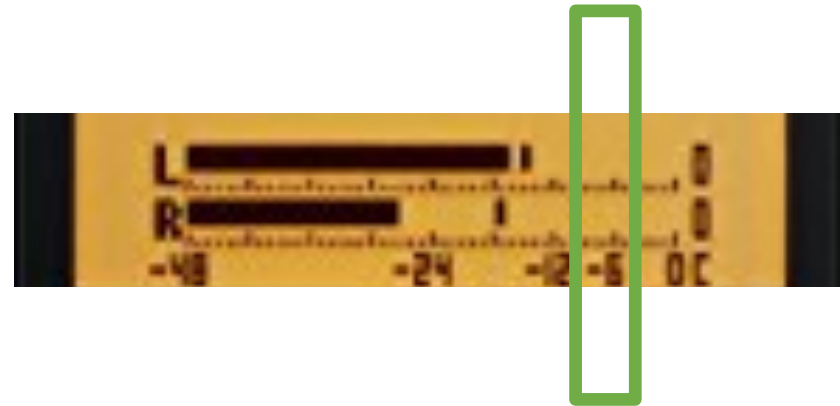
The Meter



The Meter



The Meter



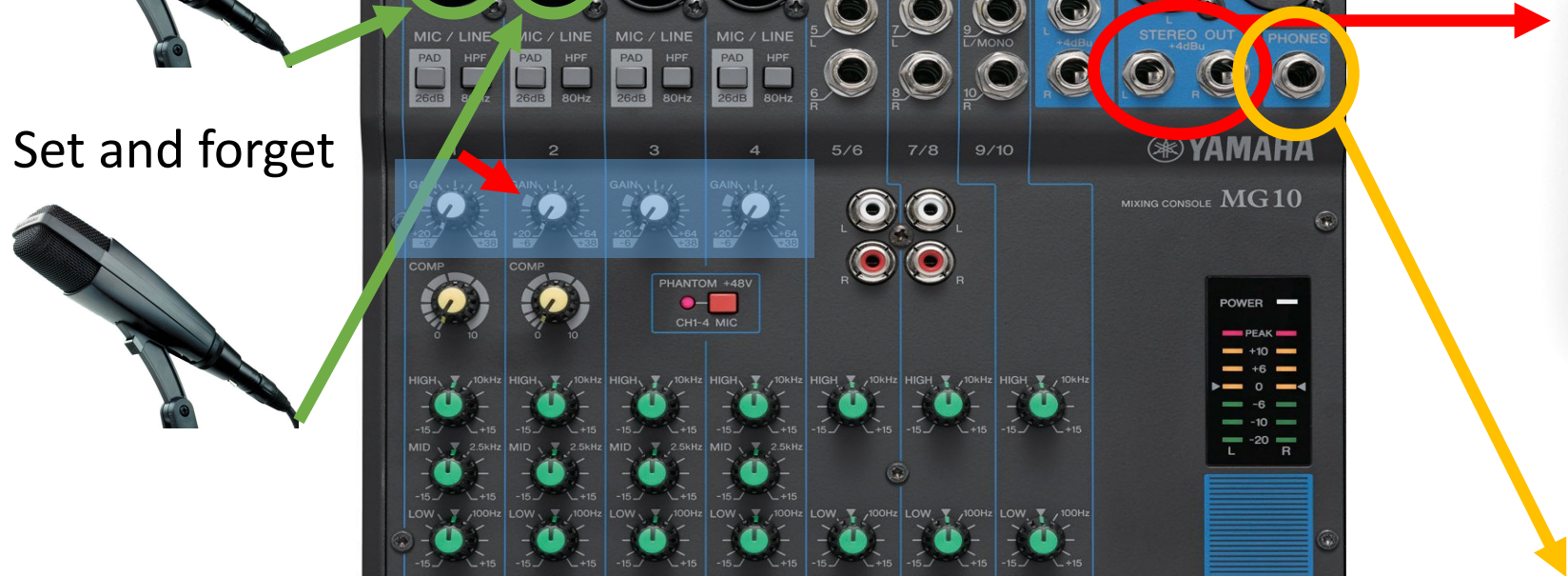
The Meter







Set and forget



Usually you can set and forget



Usually you can set and forget







Fine tune with these

Fine tune with these

..





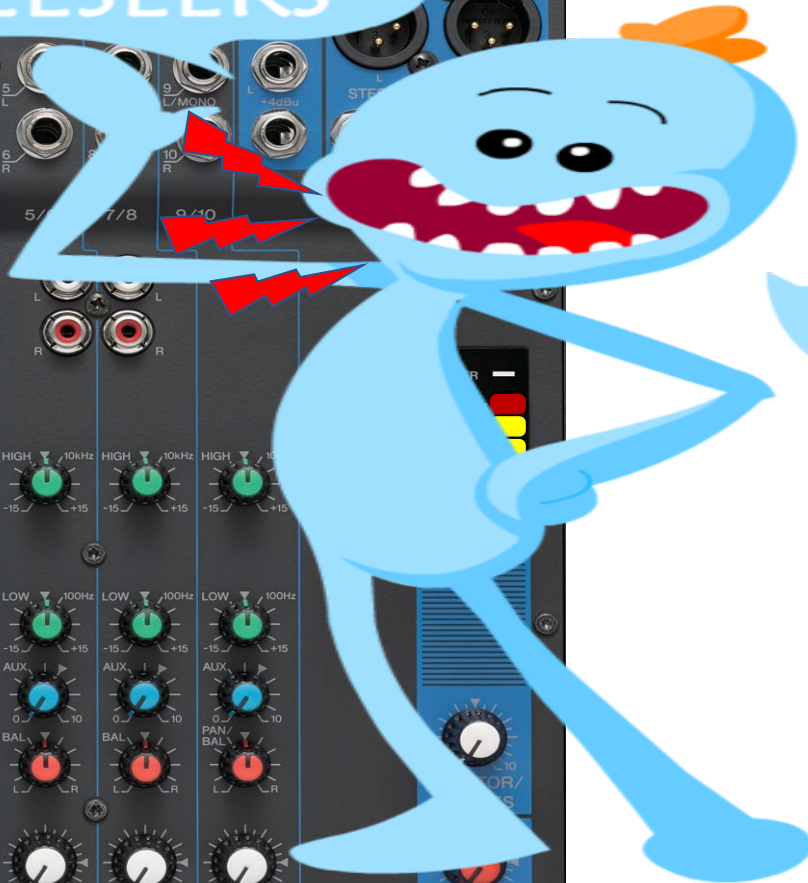


What if someone yells!?!

I'M MR. MEESEEKS

LOOK AT ME!

RIEK AND MORTY





I'M MR.MEESEKKS

LOOK AT ME!



RIEK AND MORTY



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Mix-Minus (For Skype)



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer

USE STEREO CABLES



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer



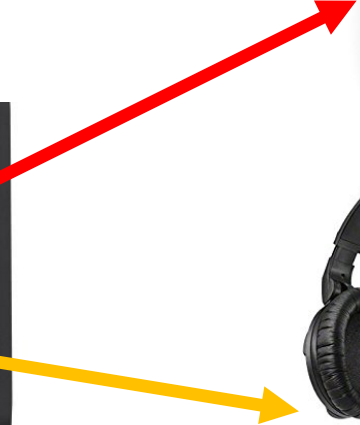
Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder
- Computer speakers out to input on Mixer



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Microphones in.
- Output to headphones
- Output to Recorder
- Computer speakers out to input on Mixer
- AUX out of mixer to Microphone input on Computer



Mix-Minus (For Skype)

- Computer *speakers out* to input on Mixer
- *AUX OUT* from mixer to *Microphone* input on Computer





TALES OF THE CON

PODCAST.TALESOFTHECON.COM