

CEntrance

MicPort Pro 2

USB Mic Preamp



User Manual

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Recording Studio, in Your Hand

These days, your smart phone or tablet is not only your Digital Audio Workstation, but also your means of sharing content with the world online. MicPort Pro 2 lets you take advantage of this connected environment by bringing your audio sources to the digital ecosystem, making it the ultimate mobile recording interface.

Traveling audio professionals demand field reliability and rechargeable batteries. VO artists, musicians, online personalities, and field recording enthusiasts alike share a need for a durable, portable recording tool that delivers pristine audio quality, available on-the-go, session after session.

If you are a voice-over actor, broadcaster or radio journalist, you already know the original CEntrance MicPort Pro Classic. That ground breaking USB preamp connected any professional mic to a computer for making professional recordings on the go. Endorsed by 100+ broadcasters, it created a much-needed bridge between your laptop and your favorite mic. But it didn't support your phone.

The new MicPort Pro 2 is a totally portable USB mic preamp. Smaller than most mics, it is feature-rich, easy to use, and travel-friendly. A built-in rechargeable battery lets you record to your phone and tablet. The low-noise Jasmine™ mic preamp and a musical, soft-knee limiter make it a portable vocal processor and put MicPort Pro 2 in a class of its own.

MicPort Pro 2 — a modern, sophisticated piece of recording equipment, which allows you to create pro-level content in any location.



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Features at a Glance

One of the most impressive features of MicPort Pro 2 lies in its digital technology, which connects the built-in pristine analog preamplifiers to your phone and tablet's audio app for recording and playback. While your phone or tablet replaces the laptop, MicPort Pro 2 places the entire production studio in the palm of your hand. Let's look at the product's features.

Intuitive Tactile Controls

MicPort Pro is part high quality mic preamp and part USB recording interface. The top panel looks like a familiar music mixer channel, offering an easy way to adjust signal and monitoring levels. The controls are laid out logically, making sure all audio adjustments are right at your fingertips.

Preamps and A/D Converters

Don't let the small size fool you! MicPort Pro 2 packs a boutique microphone preamplifier with custom ***Jasmine***[™] technology, which delivers clean, velvety-smooth sound with high gain, and lowest noise and distortion.

MicPort Pro 2 uses a professional A/D and D/A converter, which operates at sampling rates of up to 192kHz, and resolutions up to 24-bit, meeting the most demanding needs of today's content producers.

Phantom Power

MicPort Pro 2 offers +48V phantom power, enabling you to use professional condenser microphones anywhere. Unlike other devices, it offers true +48V, which means you can use any condenser mic in your mic locker. This feature was previously found only in studio-level products, but now MicPort Pro 2 makes it available in a mobile package.

Signal Peak & Present LEDs

To ensure high-quality, distortion-free recording, the mic preamplifier features bright “SIG” and “PK” LED indicators for monitoring incoming signal strength. The White LED indicates signal present (“SIG”) and Red LED indicates overload or peak (“PK”).

- White LED turns on when the input signal level is 30dB below clipping.
- Red LED turns on when the input signal is 6dB below clipping.
- Once triggered, all LEDs remain on for a little while to make sure you notice them.

-12 dB Safety Track

Nobody wants clipping in their recordings. Clipping happens as the result of input overload and sounds like nasty, crunchy distortion. In addition to the limiter, MicPort Pro 2 has a useful feature, which makes it virtually impossible to "clip" the input.

It works like this. Even though MicPort Pro 2 is a single-channel device, it records in stereo, yet the two channels are not the same. While the Left channel records regular audio, the right channel records the same audio -12dB lower in level. This way, even if the main channel clips at the input of the A/D converter, you would still have a safety copy available to you on the other channel, which is not clipped. You will be able to use that

safety copy in post production and replace the clipped part with clean audio.

Dual Clipping Protection

The Dual Clipping Protection feature refers to the combination of the soft limiter and the built-in -12dB safety track recording. When both are used together, it is virtually impossible to clip the A/D input.

Top Panel Controls



Top panel controls, as described below.

Channel Switches

All switches are active when the lever is moved to the right. The levers are recessed to prevent accidental adjustment. Use a thin, sharp object, such as a paperclip, toothpick or a pen tip to slide the lever to the right to activate the feature.



Hi-Z and HPF switches and the GAIN knob

LINE / Hi-Z switch

MicPort Pro 2 can act as a direct box. It includes an electric guitar preamplifier with a high impedance (“Hi-Z”) input. This means you can connect an electric guitar or bass directly to MicPort Pro 2 to record anywhere.

This Hi-Z switch selects between line input and electric guitar or bass (“Hi-Z”) input on the ¼” portion of the Neutrik combo jack.

Hi-Z switch operation is described below:

- Slide the lever to the right to engage the “Hi-Z” feature per channel. Ideal for plugging an electric guitar and bass straight into the combo XLR’s ¼” side.

- Slide the lever to the left to engage the “Line” position. Hi-Z input is disconnected and input gain is reduced to accommodate line-level sources on the 1/4” jack

Low Cut Switch (HPF)

To simplify recording in noisy environments and reduce wind or mic handling noise in outdoor recordings, a low cut switch is available as part of the input channel. By design, the low frequency rumble is cut early – right at the input jack, long before the mic preamp has a chance to overload and ruin your take. The switch is labeled HPF, short for “High Pass Filter”, which is a more appropriate name, if you want to get technical about it. The 6dB/octave cut is below 130Hz.

GAIN Control

The MicPort Pro 2 Jasmine™ preamplifier has a wide gain adjustment range of over 55dB. This covers a variety of applications – from on-the-mic narration, to recording from a distance. The preamp is compatible with such staples of the radio and broadcast industry as SM7B and RE-20 microphones, both known for needing a high-gain preamp. MicPort Pro handles them with ease and delivers clean, low-noise sound.

The GAIN control knob lets you adjust the input level for minimum noise and distortion. A common guideline when adjusting input levels is to let the red “peak” LED blink occasionally, but to not stay illuminated all

the time. The white “signal present” LED is useful to check signal level during quieter passages.

Blend Control (IN ... USB)

The Blend control knob adjusts the mix between zero latency input signal and USB playback. This allows you to strike the right balance between the mic signal (turn CCW) and the signal coming back from your computer or smart phone (turn CW), as seen below:



You will find the Blend knob useful when playing over a backing track fed from the computer. It will allow you to dial in the perfect mix of direct and backing tracks.

Another use of this feature is in Voiceover, where you need to narrate over a music bed playing back from the computer. In both cases you can adjust the blend to taste.

The Blend knob also comes in handy when you are using your computer or smartphone as an effects processor and need to dial in just the right amount of direct signal vs. effects return (AKA dry/wet control).

When specifically monitoring the inputs, rotate the dial counter-clockwise to silence the signal from USB. When focusing on

playback from the computer, smart phone or tablet, rotate the dial clockwise to silence the input channels.

Note: The blend you create is provided for headphone monitoring convenience. The blend will not be recorded.

MONITOR Control

The MONITOR knob adjusts the volume level in your headphones.

Tip: If the MONITOR knob is turned all the way up and your volume level is still too low, adjust the blend control counter-clockwise.

Front Panel Features

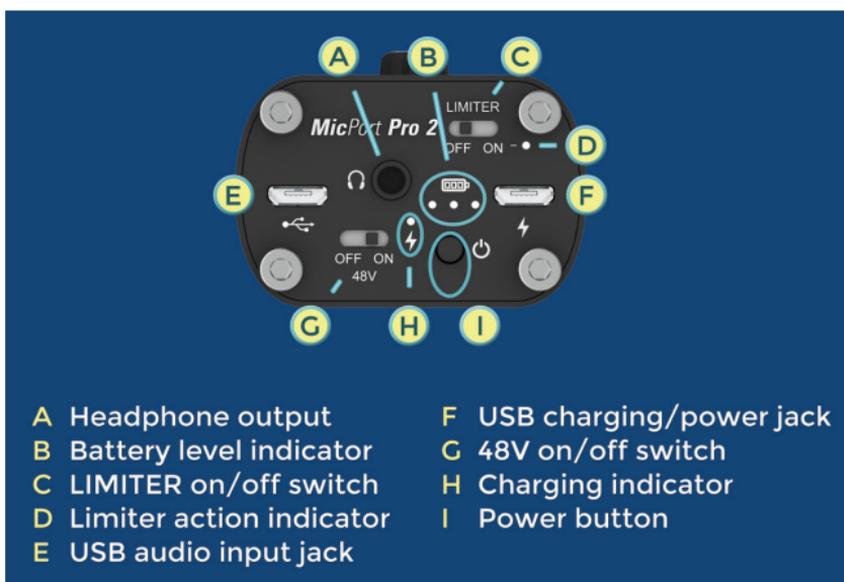
The front panel contains the combo input jack.



MicPort Pro V2 features a genuine Neutrik combo XLR jack, ideal for connecting mics, line-level sources, electric guitar, bass, etc.

Back Panel Features

Back panel controls are explained in the diagram below.



A detailed description follows.

Power Button

The power button turns the power on/off.

- To turn on, press and hold for two seconds until the battery level LEDs light up.
- To turn off, press and hold for two seconds until the battery level LEDs rapidly blink to indicate: “bye-bye”.

Charger Connection

MicPort Pro V2 will charge from any standard 5V charger by connecting a USB cable to the *right hand side* micro USB jack, located next to the battery LED indicators. For best results, use a charger that offers at least 2A of output current.

The charging LED turns on when the unit is charging from an external source. This LED will turn off when charging is complete. This LED works independently of the power switch and only tracks the battery charging status.

Note: There is no danger in leaving the charger plugged in indefinitely – the battery will stop charging when full and will top off as

needed, automatically. This is similar to how cell phones operate.

Battery Level and Charging LEDs

Three white LEDs to the left of the power jack indicate charge level when the unit is turned on, as follows:

- 3 LEDs: over 75% battery is left
- 2 LEDs: about 50% battery is left
- 1 LED: less than 25% of battery is left

Battery Operation

MicPort Pro 2 will operate for about 5 hours on a full charge. Phantom power and certain condenser microphones may reduce this time slightly. The unit should charge to 90% in 3 hours and to 100% in 4 hours. The battery is not user replaceable, but is expected to provide years of uninterrupted service.

48V Phantom Power Switch

For Condenser microphones MicPort Pro 2 supplies +48V phantom power selectable via a back panel switch. Move the switch to the right to turn 48V on. It will be applied to both input channels at once. Be careful, a pop

may be heard in headphones as you move the switch, so turn the MONITOR knob all the way down, or take the headphones off your head to protect your ears as you switch Phantom power ON or OFF.

Notes: The 1/4" input is not affected by 48V. Turn 48V off when using the 1/4" input, XLR cables with line-level sources, or dynamic microphones.

Note: Engaging phantom power will increase battery drain, resulting in shorter use on a fresh charge. Assume about 30 min reduction with 48V ON (varies by microphone model).

Headphone / Line Output

MicPort Pro 2 can accommodate a wide range of headphones for monitoring. It features a 1/8" (3.5mm) headphone jack and a clean, powerful headphone amplifier. Headphone models with lower impedance (25...50 Ohms) will generally offer higher sound level.

The Headphone output can also serve as a line output and feed audio to another device, such as a DSLR camera. This way MicPort Pro 2 serves as a high-quality mic preamp for your camera, which dramatically improves your video's audio quality. You could also connect this output to a mixer or an external recorder, for additional monitoring options or for recording a safety copy.

Audio Limiter

The limiter in the MicPort Pro 2 is clean and unobtrusive. Designed primarily for vocal use, it removes loud peaks, but otherwise stays out of the way of your audio. This is due to the special "soft knee" function, which prevents "pumping", an audible artifact of simpler or improperly adjusted limiters.



Limiter Controls

Limiter Controls

In the picture above, take a look at the back panel. You will see a limiter ON/OFF switch in the top right hand corner. Right next to it, there is a white LED. In the OFF position, the limiter is completely out of the circuit. But move the switch to the "ON" position and you will get the benefit of its smooth action.

The White LED next to the switch will only light up when the limiter is working. Don't be surprised if you have turned the limiter ON but the LED is not lit up. You will only see the LED pulsing with the audio if the signal is getting close to clipping. The limiter will quickly and quietly turn the gain down and the LED brightness will correspond do the amount of momentary gain adjustment.

USB Audio connection

MicPort Pro 2 may be used with iOS, Android, Windows, Mac and Linux devices as a USB recording device. Connect a standard micro USB cable from your smartphone, tablet or computer to the *left hand side* micro USB socket on the back panel of MicPort Pro 2. The MicPort Pro 2 is now ready to be used as a USB recording interface.

Notes: For iOS devices, a Lightning to USB adaptor is required. It can be purchased from Apple or online. For Android devices, an "OTG cable" or USB micro B to USB C cable is required. For Windows devices, download an ASIO driver from the CEntrance website.

Troubleshooting steps

Here are some quick troubleshooting steps in case your product is misbehaving:

Symptom	Cause	Resolution
All LEDs are off, no sound is heard	Battery is dead	Connect a charger to the right USB jack
Charging takes too long	Insufficient charger	Use 2A (or greater) charger
No sound in headphones	Input level or volume control	Check GAIN or MONITOR knobs
Cannot hear input channel or playback	Blend control in the wrong position	Turn Blend knob CW to hear USB or CCW to hear input

Symptom	Cause	Resolution
Input is clipping	Gain is too high or wrong input used	Adjust gain; turn the limiter ON if available. Switch to line-level inputs.
Guitar is too quiet	Hi-Z mode not enabled	Check the Hi-Z switch
Unit does not connect over USB	USB cable plugged into the wrong jack	Plug USB cable to the left USB jack
Cannot connect to iPhone	Unapproved cable is used	Only use Apple's Lightning to USB3 adapter
ASIO doesn't work with Windows	CEntrance Universal Driver not installed	Download and install driver from centrance.com

Warranty Service

MicPort Pro 2 comes with a one-year worldwide warranty. In the unlikely event that the product requires service, please contact CEntrance by one of the ways listed below. We will be glad to help. If you are planning to send the unit in for repair, please first request an RMA number by calling or emailing us.

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We spent a long time painstakingly developing this product. We wish that MicPort Pro 2 brings you many years of quality service!

- The CEntrance Team