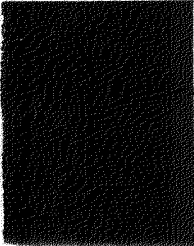# AKAI
DIGITAL

MT8

MIX TAB

950510 Printed in Japan

Operator's Manual

WARNING
To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture.

Contents

Introduction

Thank you for buying an AKAI MT8 Mix Tab. Connected with the DR8 Hard Disk Recorder, the MT8 allows remote control of the DR8 internal mixer (TRACK MIX, THRU MIX) with functions like fading, panning, sending, or EQ processing (if the DR8 incorporates an optional EQ board). It will be very useful for you to take snapshots (scene settings) for automated mixing.

Before using the MT8, take time to read this manual thoroughly. Also remember to keep the manual in a convenient location for future reference.

Note: To properly operate the MT8, the DR8 software version 1.3 or later is required. If your DR8 uses a previous version, software update is necessary. Consult your "AKAI professional" dealer for detailed information.

Protecting Yourself and the MT8

- Allow only an "AKAI professional" dealer or qualified professional engineer to repair or reassemble the MT8. Apart from voiding the warranty, unauthorized engineers might touch live internal parts and receive a serious electrical shock.
- Do not put, or allow anyone to put any object, especially metal objects, into the MT8.
- If water or any other liquid is spilled into or onto the MT8, disconnect the power, and call your dealer.
- Make sure that the unit is well ventilated, and away from the direct sunlight.
- To avoid damage to internal circuitry, as well as the external finish, keep the MT8 away from sources of direct heat (stoves, radiators, etc.).
- Avoid using aerosol insecticides, etc., near the MT8. They may damage the surface, and may ignite.
- Do not use denatured alcohol, thinner or similar chemicals to clean the MT8. They will damage the finish.
- Modification of this equipment is dangerous, and can result in the functions of the MT8 being impaired. Never attempt to modify the equipment in any way.
- In order to assure optimum performance of your MT8, select the setup location carefully, and make sure the equipment is used properly. Avoid setting the MT8 in the following locations:
  1. In a humid or dusty environment
  2. In a room with poor ventilation
  3. On a surface that is not horizontal
  4. Inside a vehicle such as a car, where it will be subject to vibration
  5. In an extremely hot or cold environment

General Notes on Handling the MT8

Cleaning the chassis or panels
Use a dry soft cloth to clean the device. To remove heavy stains, use a cloth slightly damped with a weak solution of dish washing detergent and water. Do not use other chemicals such as paint thinner, benzine, etc.

Aerosol spray insecticides
Do not spray insecticides directly onto the device. The spray may damage the finish of the device.

Relocation
Before you move the MT8, first turn off the DR8, then remove the remote cable connected from the DR8 to the MT8. Carefully handle the MT8 as it is a precision device.

Malfunctioning and servicing
If the device is malfunctioning or you suspect the device is damaged and needs to be repaired or serviced, contact the dealer from whom you purchased the device. If you are traveling, contact the nearest "AKAI professional" dealer.

Copyright Notice

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Warranty

AKAI Electric Co. Ltd. warrants its products, when purchased from an authorized "AKAI professional" dealer, to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 12 (twelve) months from the date of purchase. Warranty service is effective and available to the original purchase only, and only on completion and return of the AKAI Warranty Registration Card within 14 days of purchase.

Warranty coverage is valid for factory-authorized updates to AKAI instruments and their software, when their installation is performed by an authorized AKAI Service Center, and a properly completed Warranty Registration has been returned to your "AKAI professional" dealer.

To obtain service under this warranty, the product must, on discovery of the detect, be properly packed and shipped to the nearest AKAI Service Center. The party requesting warranty service must provide proof of original ownership and date of purchase of the product.

If the warranty is valid, AKAI will, without charge for parts or labor, either repair or replace the defective part(s). Without a valid warranty, the entire cost of the repair (parts and labor) is the responsibility of the product's owner.

AKAI warrants that it will make all necessary adjustments, repairs and replacements at no cost to the original owner within 12 (twelve) months of the purchase date if:

1) The product fails to perform its specified functions due to failure of one or more of its components.
2) The product fails to perform its specified functions due to defects in workmanship.
3) The product has been maintained and operated by the owner in strict accordance with the written instructions for proper maintenance and use as specified in this Operator's Manual.

Before purchase and use, owners should determine the suitability of the product for their intended use, and owner assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection therewith. AKAI shall not be liable for any injury, loss or damage, direct or consequential, arising out of use, or inability to use the product.

The warranty provides only those benefits specified, and does not cover defects or repairs needed as a result of acts beyond the control of AKAI, including but not limited to:

1) Damage caused by abuse, accident, negligence. AKAI will not cover under warranty any original factory disk damaged or destroyed as a result of the owner's mishandling.
2) Damage caused by any tampering, alteration or modification of the product: operating software, mechanical or electronic components.
3) Damage caused by failure to maintain and operate the product in strict accordance with the written instructions for proper maintenance and use as specified in this Operator's Manual.
4) Damage caused by repairs or attempted repairs by unauthorized persons.
5) Damage caused by fire, smoke, falling objects, water or other liquids, or natural events such as rain, floods, earthquakes, lightning, tornadoes, storms, etc.
6) Damage caused by operation on improper voltages.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This warranty becomes void if the product or its software is electronically modified, altered or tampered with in any way.

AKAI shall not be liable for costs involved in packing or preparing the product for shipping, with regard to time, labor, or materials, shipping or freight costs, or time or expense involved in transporting the product to and from AKAI Authorized Service Center or Authorized Dealer.

AKAI will not cover under warranty an apparent malfunction that is determined to be user error, or owner's inability to use the product.
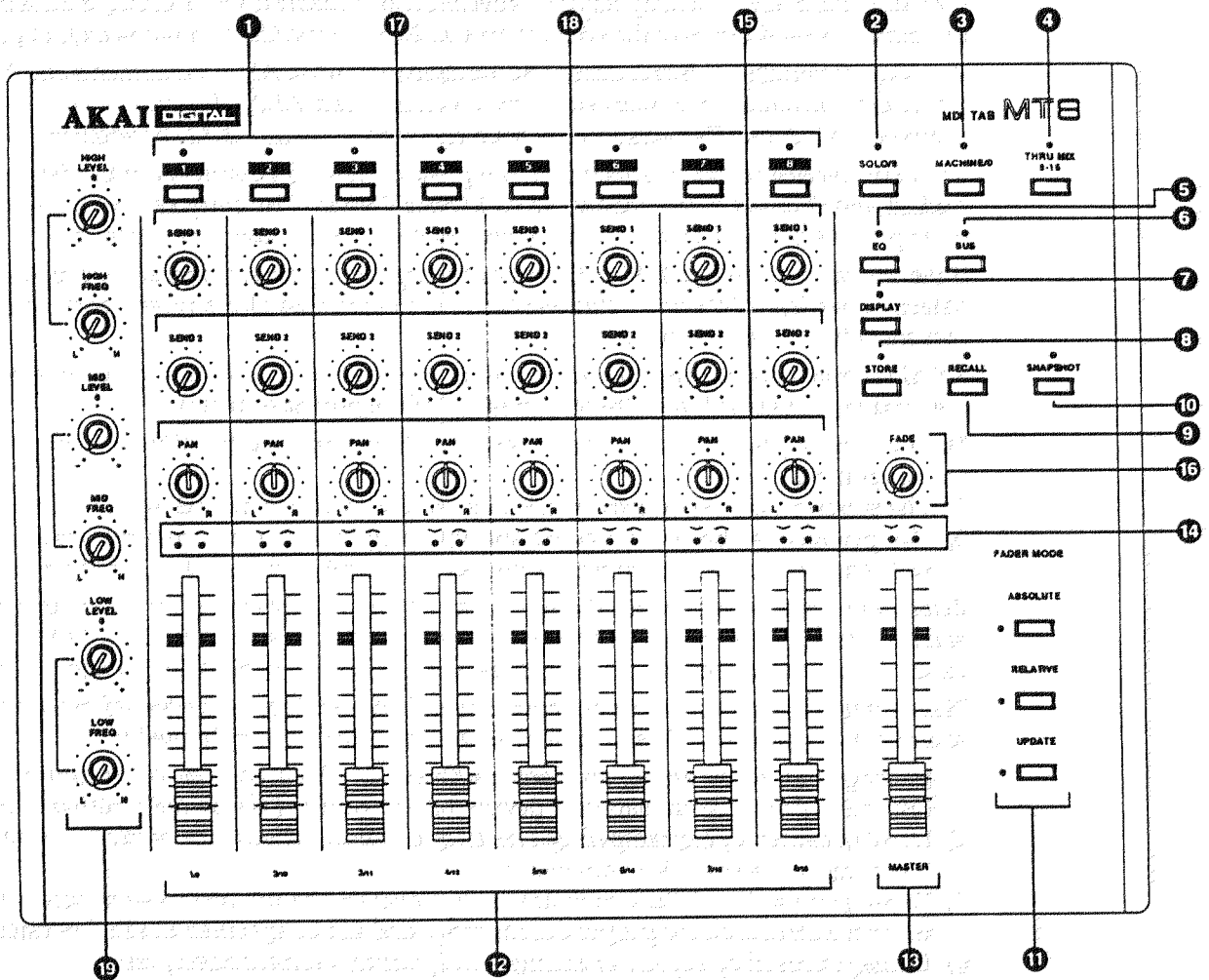
THE DURATION OF ANY OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER IMPLIED OR EXPRESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED CONDITION OF MERCHANTABILITY, IS LIMITED TO THE DURATION OF THE EXPRESS WARRANTY HEREIN.

AKAI hereby excludes incidental or consequential damages, including but not limited to:

1) Loss of time.
2) Inconvenience
3) Delay in performance of the Warranty.
4) The loss of use of the product.
5) Commercial loss.
6) Breach of any express or implied warranty, including the Implied Warranty of Merchantability, applicable to this product.

1. Panel Descriptions

Operation Panel

① Channel keys 1~8

These keys select their corresponding TRACK MIX channels of the DR8. When the THRU MIX 9~16 key is turned on, the channel keys select their corresponding THRU MIX channels. The channel keys are also used as the numeric 1~8 keys or for DR8 machine ID selection.

② SOLO/9 key

This toggle key turns on or off soloing the channels currently selected. The SOLO/9 key is also used as the numeric 9 key.

③ MACHINE/0 key

Press this key to select the DR8 machine ID. When the MT8 is turned on, the green LEDs of MACHINE/0 and channel 1 keys will light for a few seconds to indicate that the current machine ID is "0"; Channel numbers 1~8 respectively correspond to machine IDs 0~7. The MACHINE/0 key is also used as the numeric 0 key.

④ THRU MIX 9~16 key

Press this key to control the DR8 THRU MIX. (Its red LED will light.)

⑤ EQ key

With an optional EQ board attached to the DR8, press this key for EQ setting mode. (Its green LED will light.)

⑥ BUS key

Press this key to show the "bus-assigned" channels lit in green. At this point, pressing the channel keys (1~8) will redo channel-to-bus assignment.

❼ DISPLAY key

If this key is pressed, its green LED will light up and the DR8 display turns into the MT8 graphic display (initially fader level display). Thus, if you turn a PAN control on the MT8, the DR8 shows a panning display, or it shows a send level display when you turn the SEND 1 control, etc. If you simultaneously control, for insatance, a fader and pan, the DR8 always shows a display for the "last edited" controller at that point. If the DISPLAY key is pressed a second time, its green LED will go out, the DR8 will show the previous display.

❽ STORE key

Use this key to memorize a mixer setting as a snapshot with a two digit number. Pressing the STORE key will flash its red LED and ones of the numeric keys (1~8, SOLO/9, MACHINE/0); Specifying a two digit number (ex. 0, 3) using the numeric keys will immediately store the current mixer setting as snapshot "03" and all flashing LEDs will go out.

❾ RECALL key

Use this key to recall a stored snapshot. Pressing the RECALL key will flash its green LED and ones of the numeric keys (1~8, SOLO/9, MACHINE/0); Specifying a two digit number (ex. 0, 3) using the numeric keys will recall the snapshot mixer setting immediately and all flashing LEDs will go out.

❿ SNAPSHOT key

Press this key to activate auto-mix playback feature. (Its green LED will light.)

⑪ Fader mode (Channel fader/Master fader)

When one of the following fader mode keys is pressed (with its LED lit), the MT8 will enter Fader mode and directly control the DR8 internal level settings.

ABSOLUTE key:
An MT8 fader position and its corresponding DR8 level are always matched.

RELATIVE key:
As an MT8 fader is moved, the corresponding DR8 level will change (increase/decrease) with the same amount.

UPDATE key:
When an MT8 fader is moved over/under the corresponding DR8 current level, that DR8 level will change.

Note: When the current fader mode key is pressed a second time (Its LED goes out.), the MT8 does not send any fader or pot control value to the DR8. This is useful when you change fader mode (RELATIVE to ABSOLUTE, etc.) without drastic level change caused by the first operation after changing fader mode. (It depends on previous pannel settings.) Thus, you can reset panel settings while "muting" faders or pot controls until turning the desired fader mode key on.

⑫ Channel faders

Use these to change their respective DR8 channel levels within a range of 0~127.

⑬ MASTER fader

Use this to change the DR8 MASTER OUT stereo level within a range of 0~127.

⑭ Fader position LED

These LED indicates that the current fader level (position) is under/over its corresponding DR8 level.

- With the left "∨" LED lit, the current fader level is over the DR8 level.
- With the right "∧" LED lit, the current fader level is under the DR8 level.

Note: The fader position LED will go out when the current fader level matches its corresponding DR8 level.

⑮ PAN control

This adjusts its corresponding DR8 channel panning within a range of L63~MID~R63.

Note: Because of resolution limitation of the volume control, specific PAN values will be rounded to leftmost or rightmost settings as:

  • L62, L60, L58, L56 → L63
  • R62, R60, R58, R56 → R63

  If you need a precise setting for value setting, manually adjust it on the DR8.

⑯ FADE control

This adjusts the fade time between snapshots with OFF (turned to the leftmost), fade time, or ALL (turned to the rightmost) setting.

Note: For detailed information on how to use the FADE control, see the DR8 Version 1.3 addendum manual.

⑰ SEND 1 control

This adjusts the SEND 1/SENDS level of its corresponding DR8 channel within a range of 0~127.
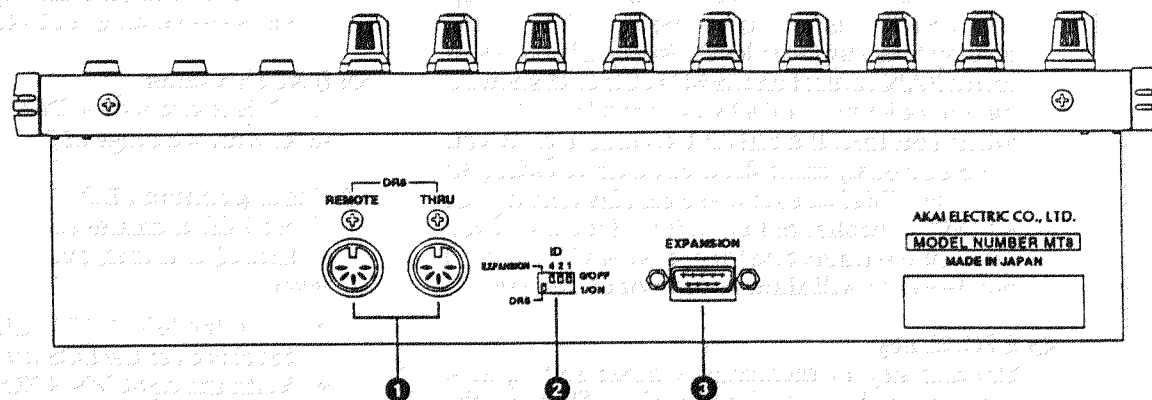
⑱ SEND 2 control

This adjusts the SEND 2/SDPAN level of its corresponding DR8 channel within a range of 0~127/L63~MID~R63.

⑲ EQ controls

These are usable with an optional EQ board installed to the DR8. To make EQ settings, press the EQ key to enter EQ setting mode; Adjust EQs (Hi, Mid, Low) for channel(s) of current selection using LEVEL and FREQ controls.

Note: For detailed information on how to use the EQ controls, see the optional EQ board manual and DR8 Version 1.5 addendum manual.
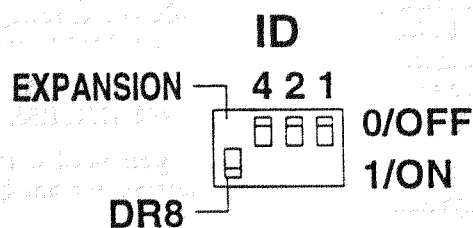
Rear Panel

❶ REMOTE/THRU terminals

The REMOTE terminal is connected with the DR8 REMOTE terminal using the remote cable included in the MT8 package. The THRU terminal is used to connect with another MT8 REMOTE terminal, to separately control TRACK MIX and THRU MIX from two units of MT8s.

❷ DIP switches

These define MT8 ID number, DR8 or EXPANSION mode, etc.

Note: When two units of MT8s are used, set the one's ID number to "1", the other to "0". This will make that MT8 for THRU MIX control. With other ID settings, the MT8 will make for TRACK MIX control.
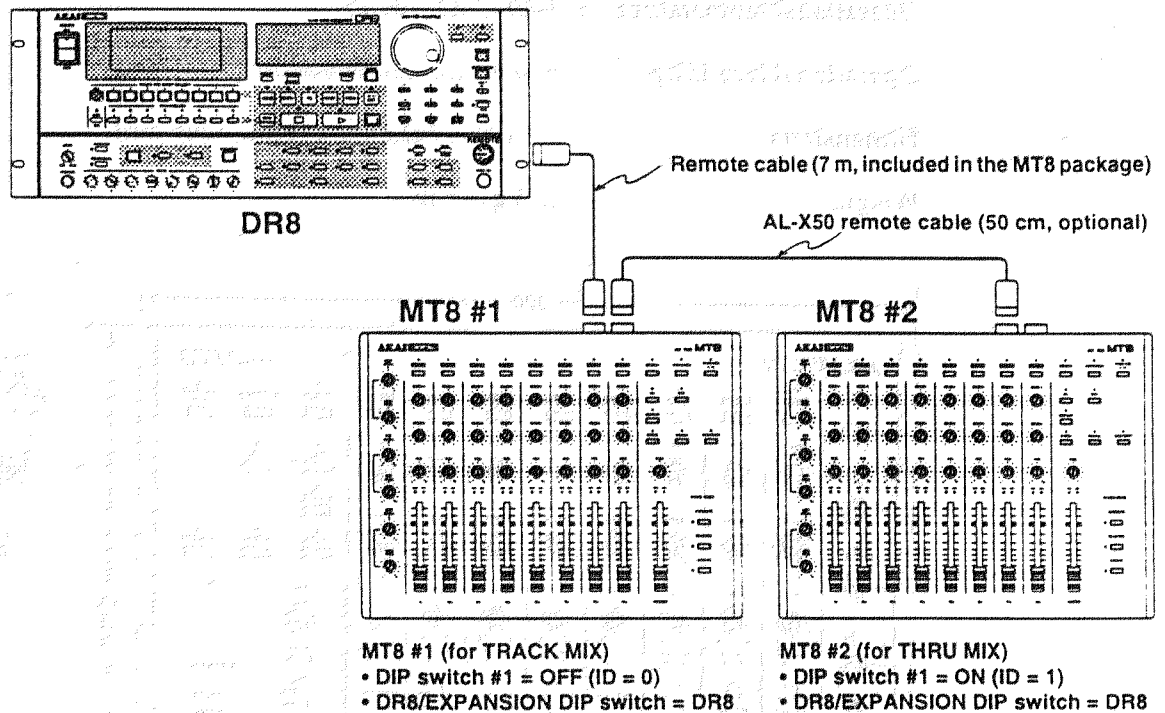
ID settings

ID number	DIP switch setting		
	4	2	1
0	OFF	OFF	OFF
1	OFF	OFF	ON
2	OFF	ON	OFF
3	OFF	ON	ON
4	ON	OFF	OFF
5	ON	OFF	ON
6	ON	ON	OFF
7	ON	ON	ON

❸ EXPANSION terminal

This is for future use. The MT8 software version 1.0 does not support the function.

2. Connection

The following illustration shows two units of MT8s separately control the DR8 TRACK MIX and THRU MIX.

DR8

Remote cable (7 m, included in the MT8 package)

AL-X50 remote cable (50 cm, optional)

MT8 #1   **MT8 #2**

MT8 #1 (for TRACK MIX)
- DIP switch #1 = OFF (ID = 0)
- DR8/EXPANSION DIP switch = DR8

MT8 #2 (for THRU MIX)
- DIP switch #1 = ON (ID = 1)
- DR8/EXPANSION DIP switch = DR8

Notes on connections
1) *When connecting the remote cable, always turn the DR8 off. Connect using the remote cable included in the MT8 package or optional AL-X50 remote cable. If the remote cable is connected while the DR8 is turned on, the MT8 cannot be booted up.*
2) *If the remote cable happens to be disconnected during operation, first turn the DR8 off, then reconnect the cable, and reboot the DR8.*

3. Operation

Powering Up

1) Turn the DR8 on.
   - The LEDs of the channel key "1" and MACHINE/0 key will light for a few seconds and go out. This indicates that the current machine ID is "0"; Channel numbers 1~8 respectively correspond to machine IDs 0~7.
   - The LED of the ABSOLUTE key will light up.
   - When using two units of MT8s, one (ID=0) will make for TRACK MIX control and the other (ID=1) for THRU MIX control.

2) Use the MT8 panel faders and controls to remote control DR8 TRACK MIX. THRU MIX is also accessible with the THRU MIX 9~16 key pressed.
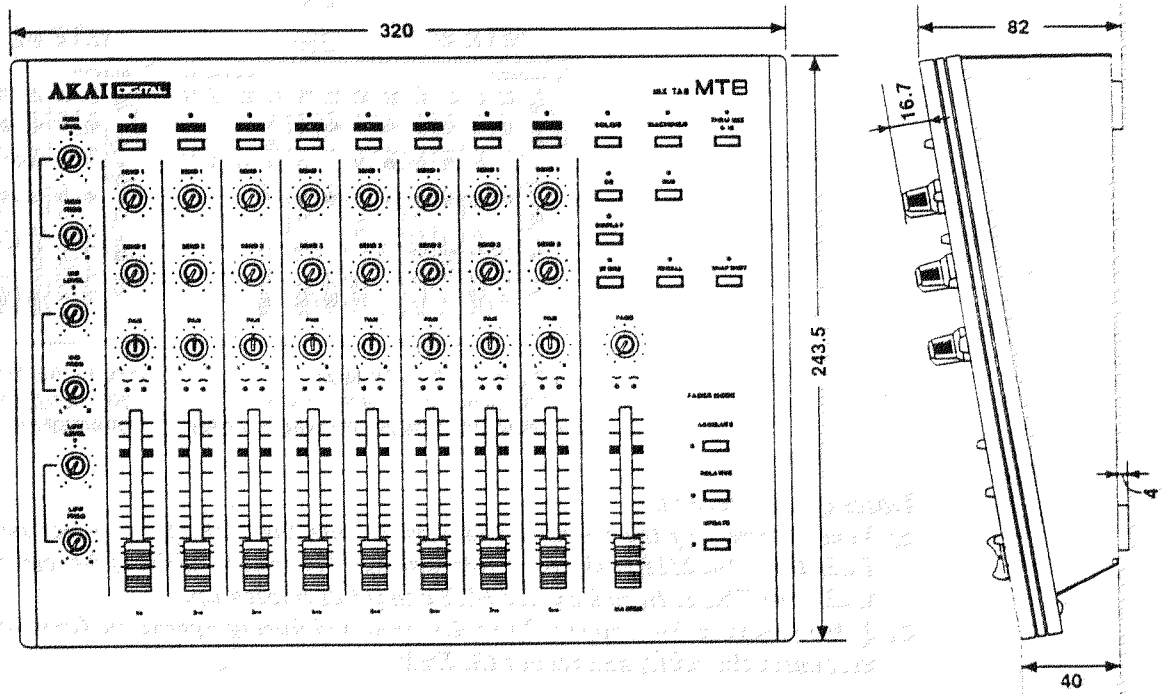
3) You may store mixing conditions as up to 99 snapshots.

   Note: If you arrange those snapshots using the MAP feature on the DR8, you have a fully automated mix playback.

4) To execute auto-mix playback, press the SNAPSHOT key on the MT8, then press the PLAY key on the DR8.

4. Specifications

Power Source	: DC supplied from the DR8 REMOTE terminal
Operational temperature	: 5~40°C (41~104°F)
Operational humidity	: 30~80% (no condensation)
Dimensions	: 320 x 82 x 243.5 (W x H x D, unit: mm)
Weight	: 2.1 kg (4.6 lb.)

REMOTE/THRU terminal	: DIN 8P
EXPANSION terminal	: 9-pin D-suB (male)
DIP switches	: ID selection, DR8/EXPANSION mode selection
Accessories	: Remote cable (7m x 1), Operator's Manual

* Above specifications are subject to change without prior notice.