

# MAX-X3

2 WAY STEREO  
3 WAY MONO CROSSOVER

OWNERS MANUAL



**BBE**<sup>®</sup>  
Sound Inc.

# SAFETY RELATED SYMBOLS



The symbol is used to indicate that some hazardous live terminals are involved within this apparatus, even under the normal operating conditions.



The symbol is used in the service documentation to indicate that a specific component shall be only replaced by the component specified in that documentation for safety reasons.



Protective grounding terminal.



Alternating current /voltage.



Hazardous live terminal.

**ON:** Denotes the apparatus is turned on.

**OFF:** Denotes the apparatus is turned off, because it uses the single pole switch, be sure to unplug the AC power to prevent any electric shock before you proceed with your service.

**WARNING:** Describes precautions that should be observed to prevent the danger of injury or death to the user.

**CAUTION:** Describes precautions that should be observed to prevent danger of the apparatus.

## WARNING

### • Power Supply

Ensures the source voltage matches the voltage of the power supply before turning ON the apparatus. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

### • External Connection

The external wiring connected to the output hazardous live terminals requires installation by an instructed person, or the use of ready-made leads or cords.

### • Do not Remove any Cover

There are maybe some areas with high voltages inside, to reduce the risk of electric shock, do not remove any cover if the power supply is connected. The cover should be removed by qualified personnel only.

No user serviceable parts inside.

### • Fuse

To prevent a fire, make sure to use fuses with specified standard (current, voltage, type). Do not use a different fuse or short circuit the fuse holder.

Before replacing the fuse, turn OFF the apparatus and disconnect the power source.

### • Protective Grounding

Make sure to connect the protective grounding to prevent any electric shock before turning ON the apparatus. Never cut off the internal or external

protective grounding wire or disconnect the wiring of protective grounding terminal.

### • Operating Conditions

This apparatus shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing and that no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on this apparatus.

To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.

Do not use this apparatus near water. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

Do not block any ventilation openings.

No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Read these instructions.
- Heed all warnings.
- Follow all instructions.
- Keep these instructions.

Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.

### • Power Cord and Plug

Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at the plug, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.

### • Cleaning

When the apparatus needs a cleaning, you can blow off dust from the apparatus with a blower or clean with a rag etc. Don't use solvents such as benzol, alcohol, or other fluids with very strong volatility and flammability for cleaning the apparatus body. Clean only with a dry cloth.

### • Servicing

Refer all servicing to qualified personnel. To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not perform any servicing other than that contained in the operating instructions unless you are qualified to do so.

Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as the power supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

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# SPECIFICATIONS

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## SPECIFICATIONS

CROSSOVER TYPE	.....	Mono 3 way/Stereo 2 way
FILTER TYPE	.....	Linkwitz/Riley 24dB/octave
CROSSOVER FREQUENCY	Max-X3	
LOW-MID Range 1	.....	80Hz-1KHz
MID-HIGH Range 10	.....	800Hz-10KHz
INPUTS: TYPE	.....	Balanced XLR and Unbalanced 1/4"
IMPEDANCE	.....	100KOhms
OUTPUTS: TYPE	.....	Balanced XLR and Unbalanced 1/4"
IMPEDANCE	.....	600 Ohms
HUM & NOISE	.....	AV=0dB, fc=800Hz
LOW SECTION (OUTPUT@0dB)	.....	-106dBu
HIGH SECTION (OUTPUT@0dB)	.....	-97dBu
S/N RATIO	.....	118dB
POWER SUPPLY	.....	see label on the apparatus
DIMENSIONS	.....	483mm(W) 194.5(D) 44mm(H) /19.01"(W) 7.66"(D) 1.73"(H)
WEIGHT	.....	2.5Kg (5.51lb)

## SERVICE

We recommend that if at all possible, a BBE Max-X3 which requires service be sent to our facility in Huntington Beach, California. We request that a "RETURN AUTHORIZATION" be issued by the dealer from whom you purchased the unit. If this is not possible, call BBE Sound, Inc. directly at (714) 897-6766, extension 116 to obtain a "RETURN AUTHORIZATION". Include a copy of the bill of sale with the unit when it is shipped to BBE Sound, Inc. so that the service can be expedited.

As the repair turnaround time is minimal, we request that the unit be sent to BBE Sound, Inc. We also need to add reliability data to our files so that future revisions may be undertaken, if necessary, to improve the product. If unit has been purchased outside the US, please contact your national distributor.

## WARRANTY

Warranty registration of the unit to BBE Sound, Inc. is not necessary. It is strongly recommended that you retain a copy of the bill of sale for future reference.

IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE END USER TO PROVIDE THE BILL OF SALE OR OTHER MEANS OF PROOF OF PURCHASE TO VALIDATE THE WARRANTY IF WARRANTY SERVICE IS REQUESTED.

The BBE Max-X3 is warranted against defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years from date of purchase from BBE Sound Inc. or from an authorized dealer. During this period, we will repair units free of charge providing that they are shipped prepaid to BBE Sound, Inc., 5381 Production Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. We will pay return UPS shipping charges within the USA. All charges related to non-UPS shipping, including customs clearance, will be billed. The warranty will be honored for the longer of either 90 days from the date of any service or the remainder of the original 2 year factory warranty.

This warranty will be considered null and void by BBE Sound, Inc. if any of the following is found:

1. The equipment has been physically damaged.
2. The equipment shows signs of abuse.
3. The equipment has been electrically damaged by improper connection or attempted repair by the customer or a third party.
4. The equipment has been modified without authorization.
5. The bill of sale indicates that the purchase date of the equipment is not within the warranty period.

All non-warranty repairs are warranted for a period of 90 days from the date of service.

BBE Sound, Inc. is NOT LIABLE FOR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. Should the unit fail to operate for any reason, our sole obligation is to repair it as described above.

**DO NOT RETURN ANY PRODUCT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND AUTHORIZATION ISSUED BY THE ABOVE LOCATION.**

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and thank you for your purchase of the BBE Max-X3. You have acquired an extremely efficient and universal stereo crossover with an integral BBE® Sonic Maximizer™.

## GETTING STARTED

### READ BEFORE USING

Before starting to use the crossover in your sound system there is some information you should know and procedures you should follow.

The Max-X3 is a fourth order Linkwitz-Riley electronic crossover.

These units can be used both in stereo and mono modes allowing the following configurations:

- Stereo mode 2-way
- Mono mode 3-way

Stereo and mono modes can be easily set by pushing the rear panel switch and connecting inputs and outputs properly.

### FEATURE LIST

- Single rack unit (1U)
- Robust and compact design
- Phase inversion switches
- Servo-balanced XLR inputs/outputs. 1/4"TRS input/outputs for any combination of balanced and unbalanced operation
- State-variable Linkwitz/Riley 24dB/Octave filters
- Switchable Constant Directivity horn equalization circuit for use with horns requiring a high frequency boost
- Clip LED indicators
- Mute switches
- Designed for the most precise control
- Top audio performance with high slew rate circuitry
- Over 115dB dynamic range
- Manufactured Under ISO9001 Certified management system

### INPUTS & OUTPUTS

All inputs and outputs are floating and balanced when connected via a tip, ring, sleeve 1/4" connector to other floating and balanced equipment. Any combination of balanced and unbalanced operation is permitted (see also "Connection Cables").

### SONIC MAXIMIZER

Loudspeakers have difficulty working with the electronic signals supplied by an amplifier. These difficulties cause such major phase and amplitude distortion that the sound reproduced by speaker differs significantly from the sound produced by the original source.

In the past, these problems proved unsolvable and were thus delegated to a position of secondary importance in audio system design. However, phase and amplitude integrity is essential to accurate sound reproduction. Research shows that the information which the listener translates into the recognizable characteristics of a live performance are intimately tied into complex time and amplitude relationships between the fundamental and harmonic components of a given musical note or sound. These relationships define a sound's "sound".

When these complex relationships pass through a speaker, the proper order is lost. The higher frequencies are delayed. A lower frequency may reach the listener's ear first or perhaps simultaneously with that of a higher frequency. In some cases, the fundamental components may be so time-shifted that they reach the listener's ear ahead of some or all of the harmonic components.

# INTRODUCTION

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This change in the phase and amplitude relationship on the harmonic and fundamental frequencies is technically called “envelope distortion.” The listener perceives this loss of sound integrity in the reproduced sound as “muddy” and “smeared.” In the extreme, it can become difficult to tell the difference between musical instruments, for example, an oboe and a clarinet.

BBE Sound, Inc. conducted extensive studies of numerous speaker systems over a ten year period. With this knowledge, it became possible to identify the characteristics of an ideal speaker and to distill the corrections necessary to return the fundamental and harmonic frequency structures to their correct order. While there are differences among various speaker designs in the magnitude of their correction, the overall pattern of correction needed is remarkably consistent.

## CLIP LED

This LED will light when output capability is being exceeded with clipping distortion. Occasional flickering of the Clip LED is acceptable, but if it remains on continuously you should turn down the level control or reduce the output level of the preceding component to avoid audible distortion.

## RANGE X1 & X10

This switch sets the range of crossover frequencies.

OFF : Frequency x1 = 80Hz -1KHz

ON : Frequency x10 = 800Hz -10KHz

**CAUTION: to prevent transients and possible equipment damage, never change the frequency range switch from the x1 position to the x 10 (or vice versa) while passing signal.**

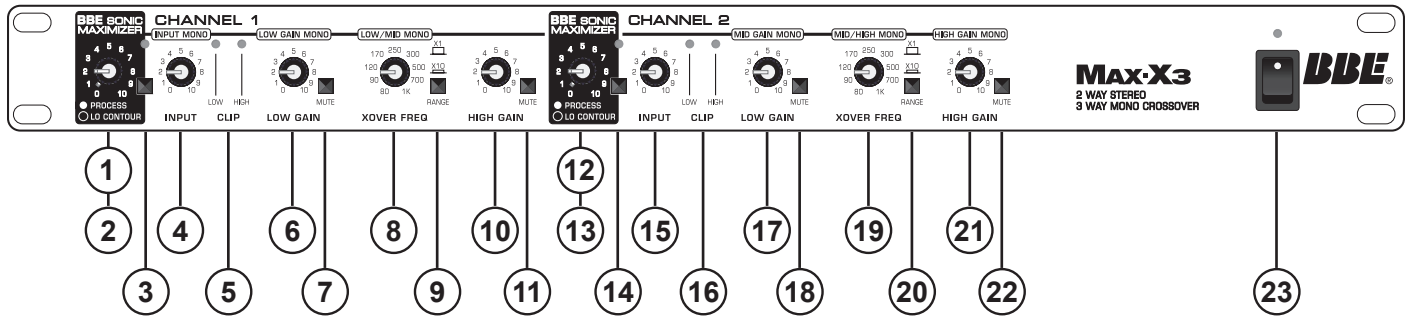
## PHASE INVERSION

These phase inversion switches reverse the audio signal’s phase by 180° . Normally, you won’t need this switch, however, in some cases, it might be necessary. For example, the inversion of the pins of the XLR connector may be necessary to alter the audio phase to compensate for phase cancellation.

## MODE SWITCH

This switch sets the operational mode of this unit. When it is pressed, this unit is in the state of mono application, you can operate it as a 3-way mono crossover (High/Mid/Low). Otherwise, this unit is in the state of stereo application, you can operate it as a 2-way stereo crossover (High/Low).

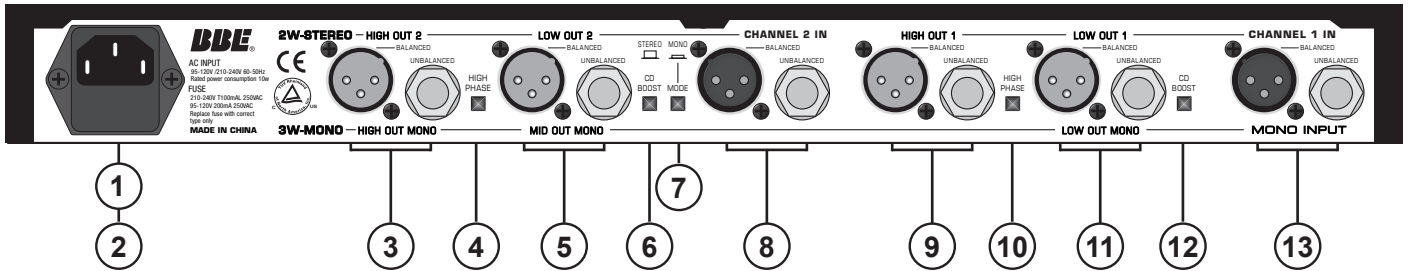
**Max-X3 FRONT PANEL**



	<b>2-way Stereo Mode</b>	<b>3-way Mono Mode</b>
1	Ch1 BBE Process Control	BBE Process Control
2	Ch1 BBE Lo Contour Control	BBE Lo Contour Control
3	Ch1 BBE switch	BBE switch
4	Ch1 Input Level	Input Level
5	Ch1 LOW & Ch1 HIGH Clip LEDs	Low & Mid Clip LEDs
6	Ch1 LOW Gain	LOW Gain
7	Ch1 LOW Mute	LOW Mute
8	Ch1 LOW-HIGH Crossover Frequency	LOW-MID Crossover Frequency
9	Ch1 LOW-HIGH Crossover Range	LOW-MID Crossover Range
10	Ch1 HIGH Gain	(not used)
11	Ch1 HIGH Mute	(not used)
12	Ch2 BBE Process Control	(not used)
13	Ch2 BBE Lo Contour Control	(not used)
14	Ch2 BBE switch	(not used)
15	Ch2 Input Level	(not used)
16	Ch2 LOW & Ch1 HIGH Clip LEDs	HIGH Clip LED
17	Ch2 LOW Gain	MID Gain
18	Ch2 LOW Mute	MID Mute
19	Ch2 LOW-HIGH Crossover Frequency	MID-HIGH Crossover Frequency
20	Ch2 LOW-HIGH Crossover Range	MID-HIGH Crossover Range
21	Ch2 HIGH Gain	HIGH Gain
22	Ch2 HIGH Mute	HIGH Mute
23	POWER SWITCH	

# REAR PANEL

## Max-X3 REAR PANEL



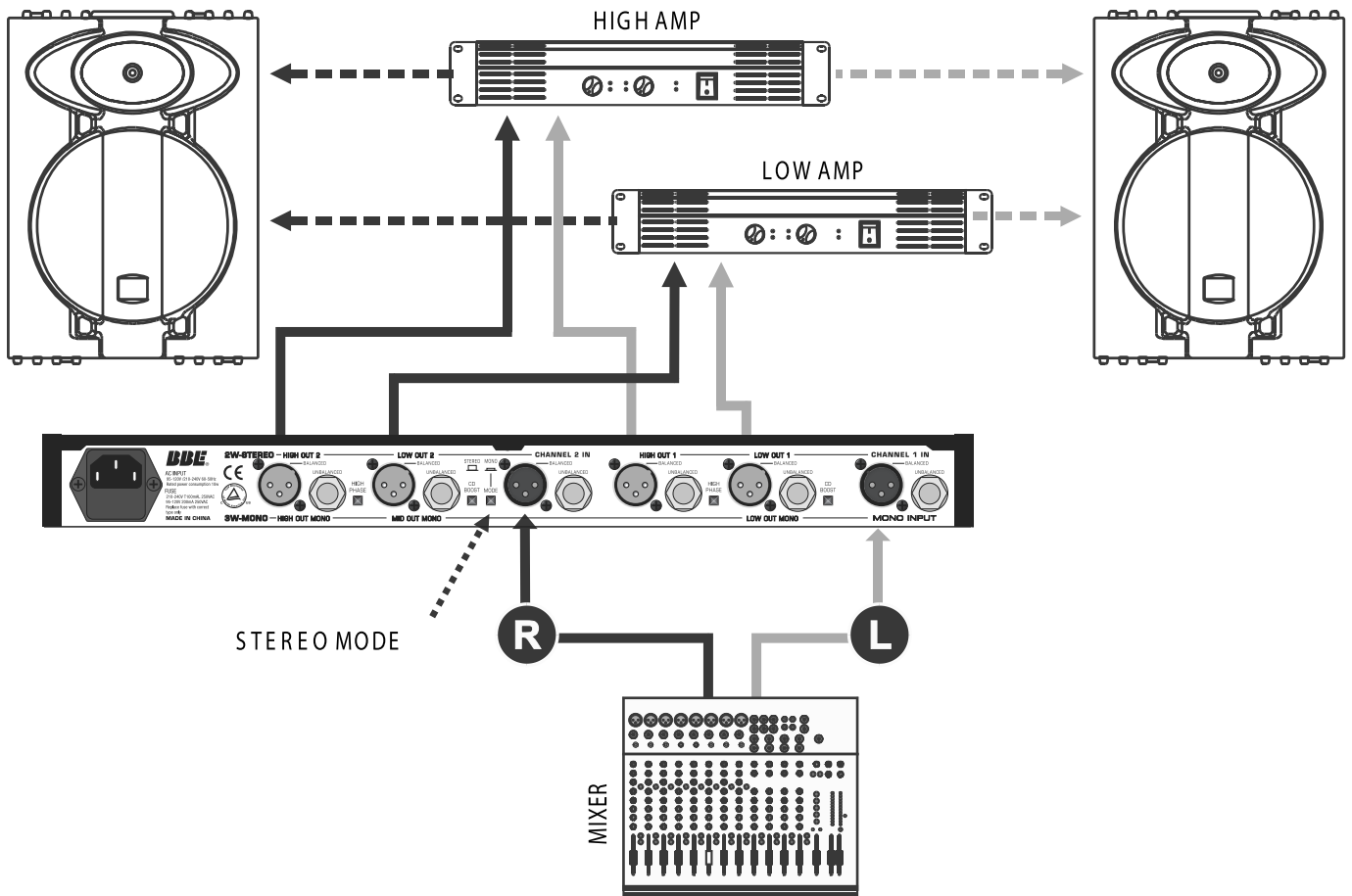
	<b>2-way Stereo Mode</b>	<b>3-way Mono Mode</b>
1	Power Cord	
2	Fuse Holder	
3	Ch2 HIGH Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)	HIGH Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)
4	Ch2 HIGH Phase Inversion	HIGH phase inversion
5	Ch2 LOW Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)	MID Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)
6	Ch2 Constant Directivity Boost	(not used)
7	Switch Out - 2-way Stereo Mode	Switch In - 3-way Mono Mode
8	Ch2 Line Input (Linked XLR-F & Jack)	(not used)
9	Ch1 HIGH Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)	(not used)
10	Ch1 HIGH Phase Inversion	MID Phase Inversion
11	Ch1 LOW Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)	LOW Output (Linked XLR-M & Jack)
12	Ch1 Constant Directivity Boost	Constant Directivity Boost
13	Ch1 Line Input (Linked XLR-F & Jack)	Line Input (Linked XLR-F & Jack)



## Max-X3 CONNECTION EXAMPLES

### Max-X3 2-WAY STEREO OPERATION

1. Set Mode switch to stereo Mode.
2. Plug the Left line-in to INPUT 1 and the Right line-in to INPUT 2.
3. Connect the LOW OUT 1 to the Left input of the Low frequency amplifier, and the LOW OUT 2 to the Right input of Low frequency amplifier.
4. Connect the HIGH OUT 1 to the Left input of the High frequency amplifier, and the HIGH OUT 2 to the Right input of High frequency amplifier.
5. Set the XOVER FREQ 1 and XOVER FREQ 2.



# INSTALLATION

## MAX-X3 3-WAY MONO OPERATION

### Rear Panel

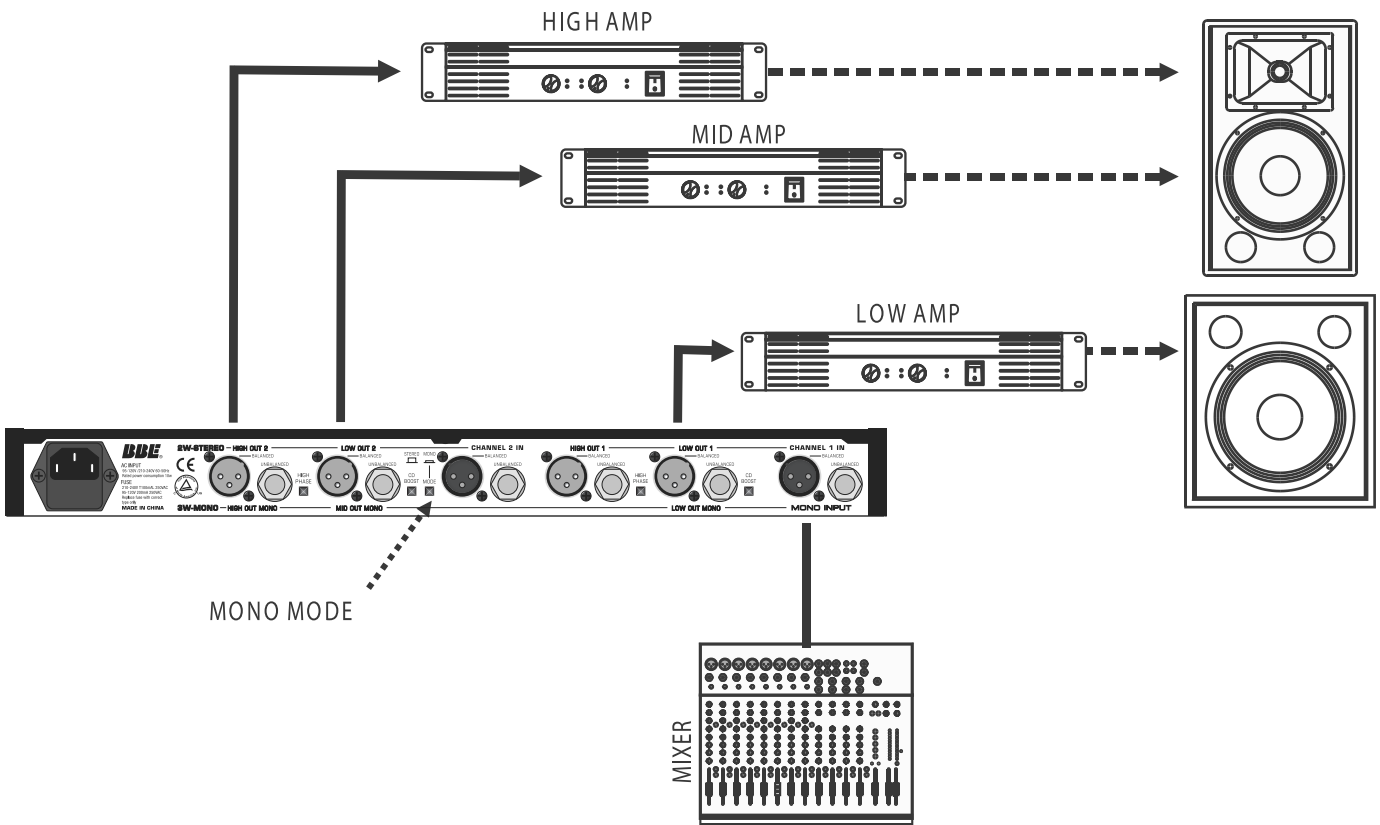
1. Set Mode switch to Mono mode.
2. Plug the line-in into INPUT 1.
3. Connect LOW OUT 1 to the Low frequency amplifier.
4. Connect LOW OUT 2 to the Midrange frequency amplifier.
5. Connect HIGH OUT 2 to the High frequency amplifier.

### NOTE:

Do not connect anything into INPUT 2.  
Do not connect anything from HIGH OUT 1.  
(The inputs/outputs are automatically normalled when unplugged).

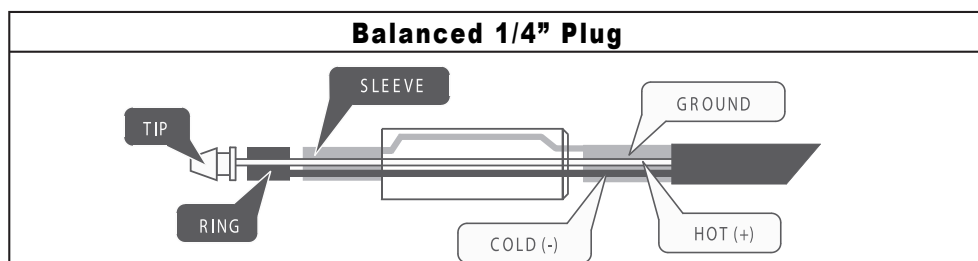
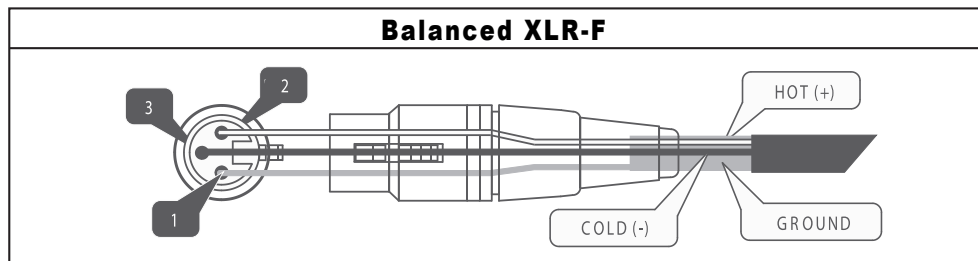
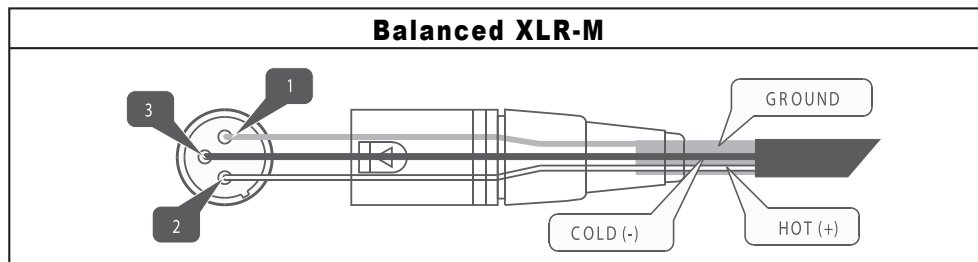
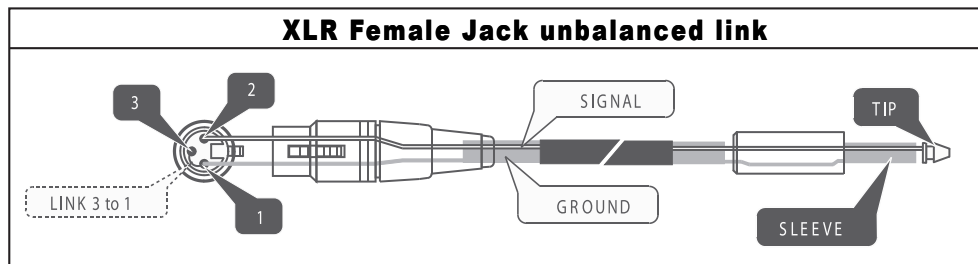
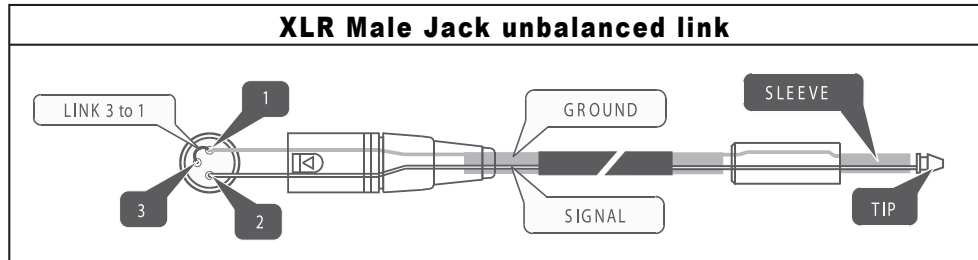
### Front Panel

1. BBE 1 ..... BBE main control
2. INPUT 1 ..... main input level control
3. LOW GAIN 1 ..... Low frequency amplifier level control
4. XOVER FREQ 1 ..... set to x1 - LOW-MID Crossover control
5. HIGH GAIN 1 ..... set to 0 and Mute
6. INPUT 2 ..... set to 0
7. LOW Gain 2 ..... Mid frequency amplifier level control
8. XOVER FREQ 2 ..... set to x10 - MID-HIGH Crossover control
9. HIGH GAIN ..... High frequency amplifier level control



## CONNECTION CABLES

In this chapter you'll find the wiring diagrams for the connectors to be used with your crossover. Take care of the connector cable. Always holding them by the connectors and avoiding knots and twists when coiling them: this gives the advantage of increasing their life and reliability, which is always to your advantage. Periodically check that your cables are in good condition, that they are correctly wired and that all their contact are perfectly efficient: a great number of problems (faulty contacts, ground hum, discharges, etc.) are caused entirely by using unsuitable or faulty cables



**BBE<sup>®</sup>**  
**Sound Inc.**

5381 PRODUCTION DRIVE  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92649  
714-897-6766 • FAX 714-896-0736

[WWW.BBESOUND.COM](http://WWW.BBESOUND.COM)

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