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EXTENSIVE MANUAL



🎧 The Pod Cave 🎧

How to use
the RØDEcaster Pro II

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This RØDECaster Pro II works a little differently than the older device in the Newsroom and the mobile set that can be borrowed in the media library. You do need a different app on your own laptop.

Getting started

In this section we'll walk you through the basic setup process of the RØDECaster Pro II, including connecting headphones and speakers, connecting and setting up microphones, instruments and other devices, updating firmware and more.

Starting up

1. Select language

When you first start up your RØDECaster Pro II, you will be asked to choose your default language. There are 10 languages to choose from: English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. The default language can be changed at any time by tapping the settings icon and selecting 'System' > 'Language'.



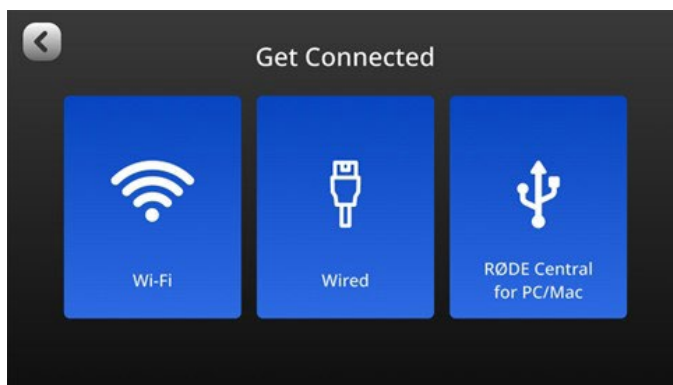
2. Set time and date

You will then be asked to set the time and date for your device. Use the rotary encoder and the touchscreen to set your local time and date. At the bottom left you can also choose whether you want the time and date to be displayed on the home screen.



3. Updating firmware

Next you will be prompted to connect your RØDECaster Pro II to a computer via Wi-Fi, Ethernet or USB to ensure you are running the latest firmware. Select your preferred connection and follow the instructions to establish an internet connection.



4. The setup wizard

You will then be taken through the Setup Wizard process, which provides step-by-step instructions on how to configure your device. These steps are covered below. You can access the Setup Wizard at any time by creating a new 'Show' (tap the 'Show' icon at the top right of the home page and then select 'New Show').



Connecting headphones and speakers

1. Connecting headphones

On the rear of the RØDECaster Pro II there are four output sockets for connecting up to four pairs of headphones. These feature high quality ¼ inch connectors. If your headphones have a 3.5mm connector, use a ¼-inch to 3.5mm adapter such as the RØDE HJA-4 to connect them to the device.



Pro tip

If you're a podcast host or responsible for production/engineering a recording, we recommend always plugging into headphone output 1. This is because when you press the 'Listen' button on a fader, it isolates it to headphone output 1 only. This allows you to listen to that channel without disrupting the recording for other people in your session.

2. Adjusting headphone levels

Each headphone output has an independent level control. These are located on the front of the device and are labeled 1-4. This allows you to easily control the volume of your headphones and balance the levels for those you're recording with.



You can also optimize the output level for the type of headphones you're using (for example, whether they're high sensitivity or low sensitivity). To do this, tap the settings icon, go to 'Outputs' > 'Headphones', then select the type of headphone. High sensitivity models have more output, while low sensitivity models have less output. Selecting the right setting for your headphone type optimizes the gain structure to make headphone volume settings as consistent as possible.

Pro tip

To avoid unexpectedly loud sounds in your headphones, we recommend always starting with low headphone levels before setting up your inputs for recording, and then increasing them to a comfortable level.

3. Connecting and using speakers/monitors

On the rear of the RØDECaster Pro II there are two balanced ¼-inch line outputs for connecting a pair of speakers/monitors. These are clearly labelled Left and Right. The level of the monitor output is controlled using the rotary encoder on the front of the unit, and there is an icon at the top of the mixer screen to check your level.



Pro tip

To avoid interference or electrical noise when using speakers/monitors, we recommend using balanced TRS cables.

4. Monitor Output Settings

You can access two additional settings for the monitor outputs by tapping the settings icon, then 'Outputs' > 'Monitor'.

Auto mute output

When enabled, the monitor output will automatically be muted when a microphone channel fader is raised to prevent feedback.

Auto mute Bluetooth output

When enabled, the Bluetooth output will be muted when a microphone channel fader is raised to prevent feedback.

Fixed output level

When enabled, the monitor output level is set to line level and cannot be adjusted. This is useful if you are using the monitor outputs to send audio to external equipment, such as broadcast or livestream equipment, and want to ensure that your levels are not too high or too low.



Connecting microphones, instruments and other devices

The RØDECaster Pro II features four high-quality Neutrik™ combo sockets for connecting microphones, instruments (such as guitars and basses) and line-level devices such as keyboards and drum machines. In this section, we'll show you how to connect these devices and set them up for recording.

1. Connecting microphones

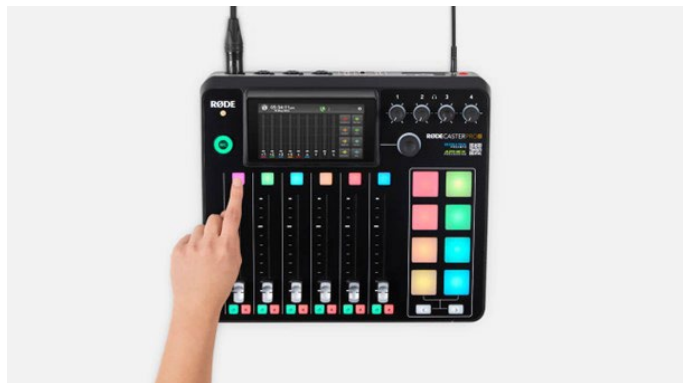
Start by connecting your microphone to Input 1 on the rear of the unit using a standard 3-pin XLR cable. You can use any XLR microphone with the RØDECaster Pro II, including condenser microphones that require phantom power (note: USB microphones cannot be used with the RØDECaster Pro II). By default, inputs 1-4 are assigned to faders 1-4 on the mixer.



Make sure fader 1 is turned all the way down and also connect a pair of headphones to headphone channel 1 so you can monitor your audio.

2. Basic microphone settings

To open the channel 1 settings screen, press the colored button above the physical fader or tap the fader on the screen. Here you can select the type of microphone you are using, which will adjust the level, tone, and phantom power (if needed). If your microphone does not appear in the “microphone locker” menu, select the universal dynamic or condenser option. You can also manually turn the phantom power on and off.

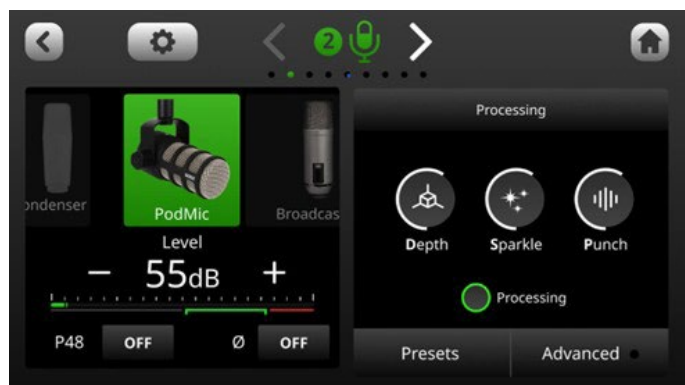


Pro tip

The four analogue inputs on the RØDECaster Pro II feature our top-of-the-range Revolution Preamps™. These are ultra-clean, high-quality, high-gain preamps that will give you ample output with even the most demanding dynamic microphones, while remaining incredibly quiet. This eliminates the need for a line amplifier or lifter with your microphones. In fact, the noise level of the Revolution Preamps is so low that using a lifter will actually add noise to your signal, so we strongly advise against using one.

3. Setting up the microphone levels

Once your microphone is set, push fader 1 up to the thick line just over halfway down the fader. This represents 'unity gain'. Next, turn up channel 1 of the headphones to a comfortable listening level. Underneath the 'mic locker' is a level meter and a gain control. Keep an eye on the level meter and speak at a natural level, as close to the microphone as you will be while recording. Your audio should be in the green section of the meter as you speak. If you have selected the correct microphone setting, you should already be at a good recording level. Use the '+' and '-' buttons to adjust as necessary. Repeat this process for as many microphones as you need for your recording.



Underneath the 'mic locker' is a level meter and a gain control. Keep an eye on the level meter and speak at a natural level, as close to the microphone as you will be while recording. Your audio should be in the green section of the meter as you speak. If you have selected the correct microphone setting, you should already be at a good recording level. Use the '+' and '-' buttons to adjust as necessary. Repeat this process for as many microphones as you need for your recording.

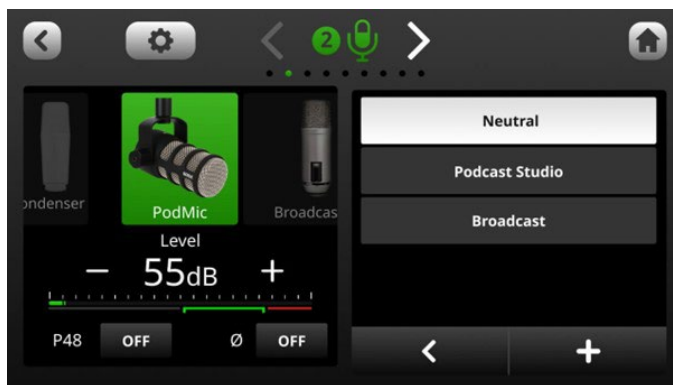
Note: You may still see levels on the meter even with the fader turned all the way down. This is because the fader controls the level that is sent to the output of the RØDECaster Pro II, not the input level of the channel.

4. Microphone technique tips

Good microphone technique is extremely important for capturing clean, clear recordings and getting the most out of your microphone and recording device, while poor technique can be detrimental to your recording. Click the link below for more information on microphone technique, as well as tips on setting your gain correctly and choosing the right recording space.

5. Using microphone presets

The RØDECaster Pro II offers a selection of professionally tuned microphone presets that are ideal for podcasting and live streaming. To access these, click on the 'Presets' tab in the channel settings screen. There are three default presets to choose from: 'Neutral', 'Podcast Studio' and 'Broadcast'. You can also create your own presets (see the 'How to Use On-board Processing' section to learn more about creating presets).



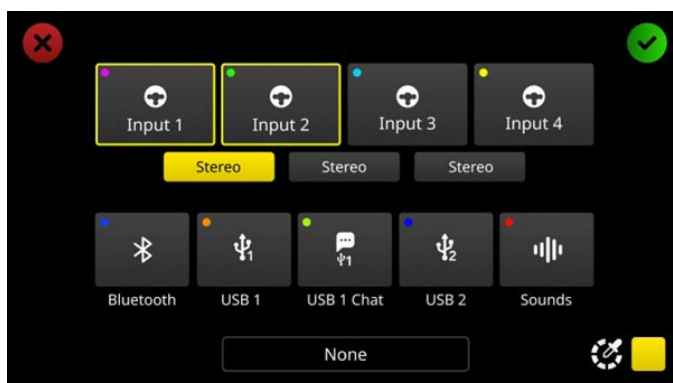
6. Connecting instruments and line-level devices

To connect an instrument or line-level device, the process is much the same as connecting a microphone: simply plug it into one of the four inputs using a TRS or instrument cable. Then open the channel settings screen and select 'Line-in' or 'Instrument' from the 'mic locker' menu – this will adjust the input gain to a suitable level depending on what is connected. Use the level meter and the '+' and '-' buttons to adjust the input gain as needed.



7. Stereo linking inputs

If you're using a line-level instrument or device with stereo outputs, or recording a stereo microphone pair, you can link two inputs and route them to a single channel. This allows you to control the level of both inputs with a single fader, so that both channel levels are exactly the same.



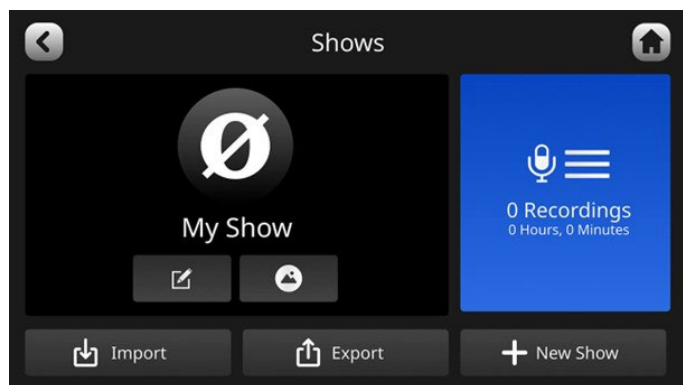
To link two inputs, open the settings screen for the fader you want to assign them to and click the gear icon to open the fader assignment screen. Then tap the “Stereo” icon under the inputs you want to link (note: you can only link inputs that are adjacent to each other, for example 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4). Tap the green check icon to save. After saving, make sure you have selected the correct input type in the “mic locker” menu.

Pro tip

Linked inputs are automatically panned hard left and right, giving you a full stereo image. You’ll also notice that faders with linked inputs have dual level meters on the mixer screen, so you can monitor the level of each input independently.

8. Save and export settings as a ‘Show’

All of your settings, including your channel configuration, mixer and SMART pad configuration, processing, effects and device configuration can be saved to a microSD card or hard drive as a ‘Show’. To do this, tap the icon in the top left corner of the home screen or tap the cog icon, then ‘Show’, then tap ‘Export’. This will take



a snapshot of all of your settings and save them as a file on your storage device, which can then be transferred to your computer.

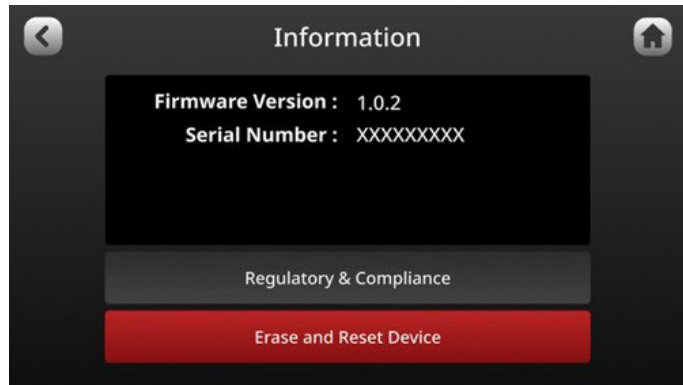
You can save and export as many ‘Show’ snapshots as you like, which is useful if you’re sharing your RØDEcaster Pro II with other creators or if you’re creating different podcasts, live streams or different types of content.

To import a ‘Show’ you’ve saved, make sure the file is loaded onto a microSD card or hard drive, connect it to your device, tap the icon in the top left corner of the home screen or tap the gear icon, then go to ‘Show’ > ‘Import’, then select the ‘Show’ you want to import from the list.

9. Factory reset

To perform a factory reset, tap the settings icon, then 'System' > 'Information' > 'View device information', then 'Erase and restore device'.

Note: *This will permanently delete all current configuration data. If you wish to save this data before erasing, see the section above on exporting your 'Show'.*



10. Powering the RØDECaster Pro II

The RØDECaster Pro II comes with a power adaptor. Plug this into the USB-C socket next to the red button on the back of the device to provide power. It can also be powered by a USB power bank, as long as it is capable of delivering 30W USB-C PD (15V, 2A). You'll get about an hour of runtime per 10Wh of capacity, so a



high-quality battery will give you about ten hours of power (note: battery power consumption will vary based on usage factors such as screen and LED brightness, USB connectivity, and phantom power status, so results may vary). If there's not enough power being supplied to the device, you'll see a warning screen. In this case, either use the included power adaptor or one that meets the specifications above.

Setting up channels and outputs on the RØDECaster Pro II

In this section we will guide you through setting up the mixer, assigning channels and configuring outputs on the RØDECaster Pro II. The six physical faders and three virtual faders can be individually assigned, allowing you to tailor the mixer to your ideal setup and workflow. Likewise, all ten outputs are fully configurable with a variety of routing options.

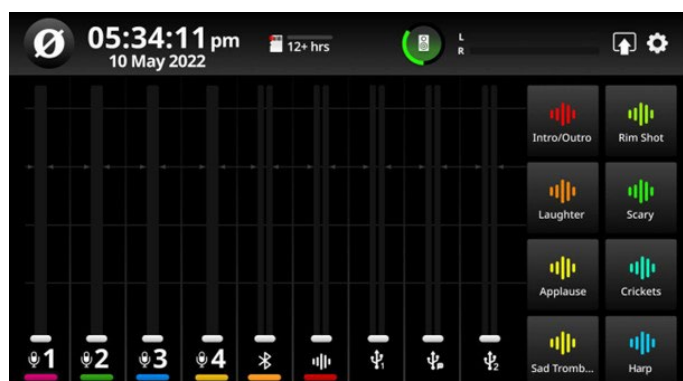


1. Default mixer configuration

The RØDECaster Pro II has nine separate inputs for connecting different devices and audio sources. This includes four combi sockets for connecting microphones, instruments and other devices, two wireless receivers for pairing with compatible RØDE Series IV wireless transmitters, a Bluetooth channel for wireless connection to computers and mobile devices, the SMART Pad channel and dual USB-C interfaces for connecting two computers and mobile devices, plus an additional virtual USB channel called 'Chat' for connecting chat apps, useful for live streaming and other applications.

By default, these channels are assigned to the sliders as follows (unless otherwise specified during the Setup Wizard process):

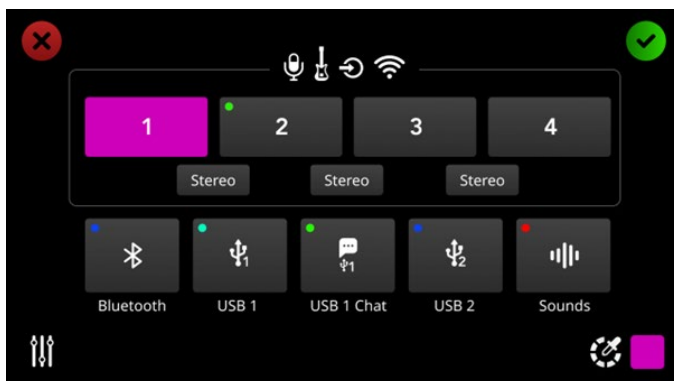
- Slider 1-4: XLR/TRS Inputs 1-4
- Slider 5: Bluetooth
- Slider 6: SMART Pads
- Slider 7: USB 1
- Slider 8: USB 1 Chat
- Slider 9: USB 2



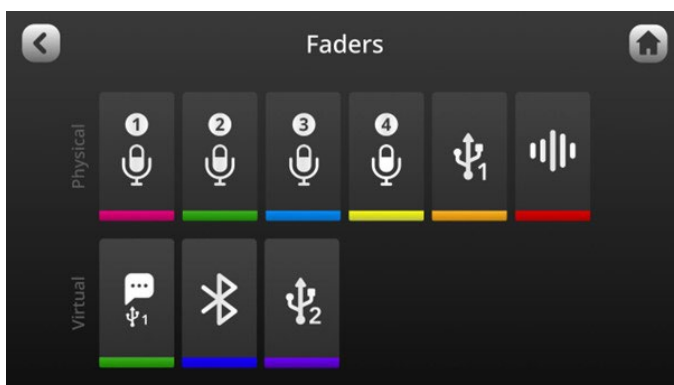
2. Assigning inputs to faders

There are multiple ways to change the mixer configuration, both during the Setup Wizard process and via the Fader Settings screen or the Channel Settings screen.

To access the Channel Settings screen for a fader, simply tap the button above the fader or the icon below the level meter, then tap the gear icon to open the Channel Assignment screen. Here you can select which input is assigned to that channel, disable inputs, map stereo inputs, and change the color coding of the channel. Once you have configured the channel, tap the green check icon to save the settings. Repeat the process for any other faders you want to assign inputs to.

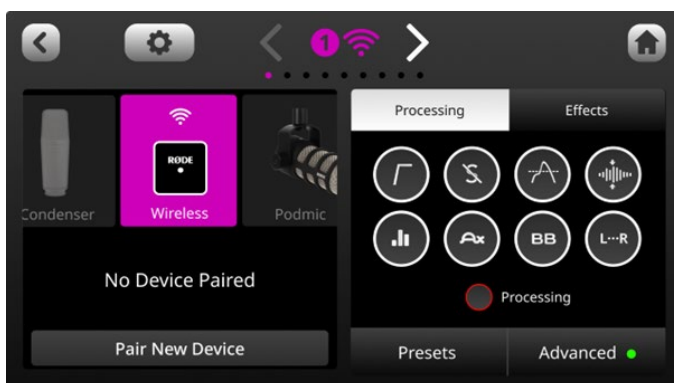


To access the Fader Settings screen, tap the gear icon and then tap Faders (or tap the slider icon at the bottom left of the Channel Settings screen). Here you can assign channels to the physical and virtual faders by dragging and dropping their icons to the desired location using the touchscreen. This is a quick and easy way to change the mixer's configuration. You can also tap a slider icon to open the channel assignment screen.



3. Pairing and assigning a wireless device

To pair a RØDE Series IV wireless device (such as the Wireless GO II and Wireless ME) to your RØDECaster Pro II, go to the channel settings screen by pressing the physical button above the slider that you want to assign the wireless device to. On this screen you will see a list of microphone, instrument and other input options that you can scroll through. Scroll left to select the 'Wireless' option, tap 'Pair New Device' to enter pairing mode and follow

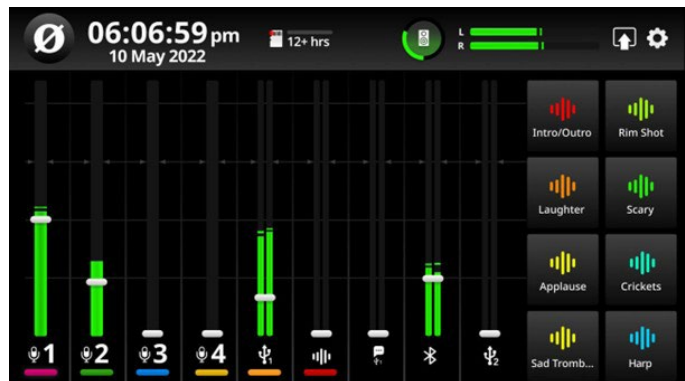


the pairing process for your product to connect your wireless device and assign it to this input.

Note: Assigning any of the four input channels to the 'Wireless' option will override the corresponding physical XLR/TRS input, meaning you will not hear audio from microphones or instruments connected to that channel.

4. Using the physical and virtual faders

The RØDECaster Pro II has six broadcast-quality physical faders and three virtual faders, allowing you to mix a total of nine separate input sources with complete hands-on control. The physical faders work like any other mixer: simply use the faders to adjust the level for that channel. The fader position is reflected in real time on the mixer interface.



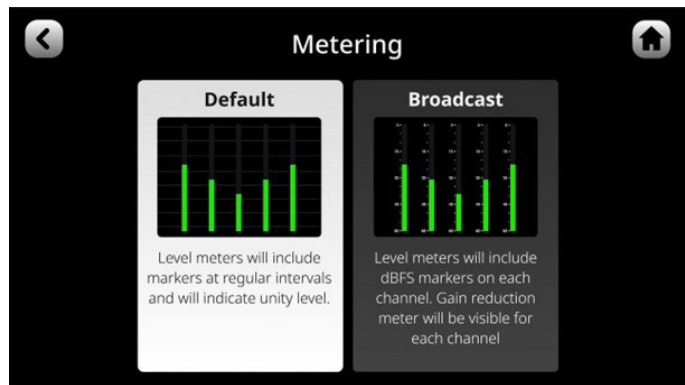
The virtual faders work just like the physical faders, except you have a digital fader that is controlled by tapping the level meter and then using the rotary control. You can also simply cycle through the virtual channels by pressing the rotary control. Holding the rotary control will mute the selected virtual channel.

Pro tip

'Unity gain' for each fader is indicated by the white markers on the physical mixer and the small arrows on the virtual mixer (in standard level meter mode only). This is useful for balancing the input level with the output level and is a good starting point when setting your levels. If a slider is set to unity gain and the signal is still too low, increase the pre-gain level in the channel settings screen instead of pushing the slider up further. This will help you get a healthy signal with minimal noise.

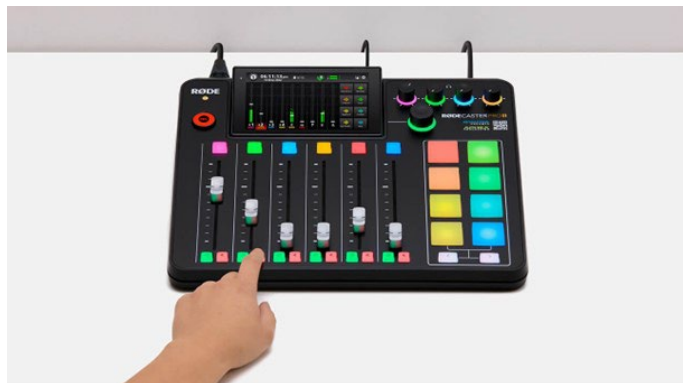
5. Changing the level meter display

There are two ways to display the level meters on the virtual mixer: 'Standard' mode and 'Broadcast' mode. In 'Standard' mode there are markers at regular intervals, making it easy to visualise your levels, as well as a unity gain marker. In 'Broadcast' mode the level meters include dBFS (decibels full scale) markers and a gain reduction meter (if the compressor is activated on that channel). To switch between the two modes, go to settings, then 'Display' > 'Metering' and select 'Standard' or 'Broadcast'.



6. Using the mute switches

The red button under each physical slider on the RØDEcaster Pro II is a mute switch. This allows you to easily mute that channel on the output. You can also access a mute button for the three virtual channels by tapping the level meter and then tapping the mute icon, or by holding down the dial when a channel is selected.



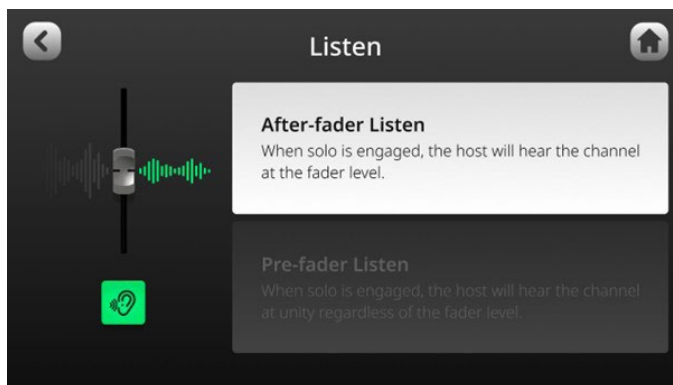
When a channel is muted, the knob and slider on the virtual mixer will illuminate red.

Pro tip

When a channel is muted, audio will still come through at the preamp level but will not be sent to the output, meaning you can adjust the gain level in the channel settings screen while a channel is muted, although you won't be able to hear it.

7. Using the listen buttons

The green button below each physical slider on the RØDECaster Pro II is a “listen” button (also known as a solo button). This allows you to listen to the audio from one channel in isolation, without the rest of the audio mix (note: the soloed audio will only be heard by the host/producer on headphone channel 1). You can also access this function for the three virtual channels by tapping the level meter and then tapping the ear icon.



Note: Pressing both the listen and mute buttons will activate the ‘Back Channel’ mode, allowing the host/producer and guest to communicate “off-air”. This action can also be assigned to a SMART Pad - see the ‘Using the SMART Pads’ section for more information. There are two different listen button modes: ‘Post-fader listen’ and ‘Pre-fader listen’. To switch between these modes, go to settings, then ‘Output’ > ‘Listen’.

- **‘Post-Fader Listen’:** When ‘Listen’ is enabled, the host/producer on headphone channel 1 will hear the channel at the fader level.
- **‘Pre-Fader Listen’:** When ‘Listen’ is enabled, the host/producer on headphone channel 1 will hear the channel at unity gain, regardless of the fader position.

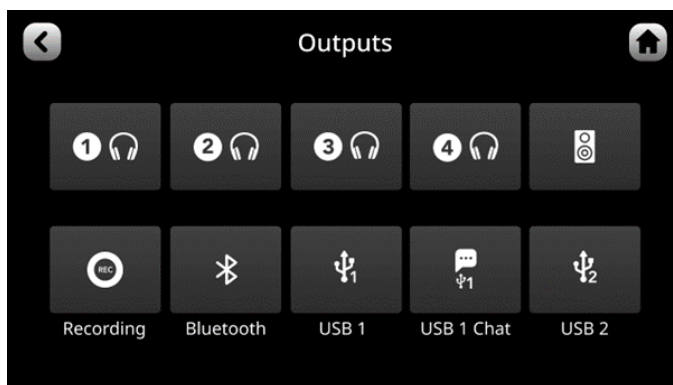
Pro tip

You don’t need to select the green listen buttons for all of the channels you’re recording. They’re meant to “listen” to a particular channel without hearing the rest of the audio. Selecting the listen buttons for all of your channels may result in unexpected audio being recorded (for example, if you’ve isolated all of the active channels with the listen buttons, you may not notice audio coming through another channel because it’s muted in your headphones, even though it’s still being recorded).

8. Understand the outputs

The RØDECaster Pro II has a total of ten audio outputs. These include both analogue outputs, including the four headphone outputs and the stereo monitor output, and digital outputs, including the Bluetooth channel, audio recorded to the on-board microSD card, and the three USB outputs.

By default, the levels you set using the physical and virtual sliders on the main mixer dictate the audio mix that goes to all of these outputs. However, you can also create custom sub-mixes for these outputs (see below). This is particularly useful for streaming applications where you want complete control over which audio sources and audio levels are sent to your stream, chat, headphones, and other audio destinations. For channels used for two-way communication, you can also set the output configuration as mix-minus to reduce unwanted echo or delay (see below for more information).



9. Creating custom submixes

To create a sub-mix for any of the outputs, tap the settings icon in the top right corner of the main mixer screen, then go to 'Outputs' > 'Routing'. Here you will see a menu of each of your ten different audio outputs. Tap the output you want to configure and select 'Custom' at the top of the screen.

Levels

Tap one of the sliders and use the rotary encoder to adjust the level of an individual input channel up or down for the selected output submix.

Links

The 'Link' button below each fader allows you to link the volume level for that channel to the main mix level, which is set by the physical and virtual faders on the mixer's main screen. By default, all channels are linked (indicated by the white link icon with the dash in the middle), but tapping this button will unlink the fader in the submix (yellow icon without a dash in the middle).



When linked, adjusting individual levels in a submix will create offset levels relative to the main mix fader, indicated by the blue bar on the fader. This means that any adjustments to the fader in the main mix will increase or decrease the submix level, but will maintain this offset. When unlinked, fader levels in a submix will not change when the associated channel in the main mix is adjusted.

Mute

The third option on the link button (a red 'x') mutes the associated channel in this submix (note: when you select the mute setting on a channel in a submix, the custom level setting you had set on that input's fader will be cleared and reset to the level set by the main mix).

10. Main mix and mix-minus

Along with the 'Custom' setting, on some outputs you can also select 'Main mix' (which simply uses the levels set by the physical and virtual faders on the main mixer) or 'Mix-Minus' for the output mix. For the Bluetooth and USB outputs, the 'Mix-Minus' option uses the same settings as the main mix, but excludes the input from the selected channel (for example, the USB 1 input from the USB 1 output channel) to avoid feedback or echo. For more information on mix-minus, please see our guides on USB connections and connecting online callers.

Possible problems

1. Rodecaster won't turn on?

- a. Power connected properly on both sides?

2. No signal?

- a. Microphones connected properly?
- b. Microphone level up?
- c. Faders up?
- d. Correct input selected? Correct microphone (podmic)?

3. No sound in headphones?

- a. Headphones connected properly?
- b. Headphone level up?

4. You cannot record?

- a. Is there a microSD card in the Rodecaster?
- b. Is there space on the SD card? Format it if necessary.

5. Noise on your signal?

- a. Correct input selected?
- b. Microphone level not too high?
- c. Is your audio processing turned on?
- d. Is the power cable touching the XLR cables of the microphones?

6. Can't put files on the computer?

- a. Cable connected properly?
- b. Correct application used?
- c. Recorded correctly? Stereo or multitrack?

7. Phone call is bad or not working?

- a. Are you calling via WhatsApp? Best quality.
- b. Are you calling via WiFi or 4G? Not enough coverage in the room for a regular phone