

Using A Mixer For Input And Output

The unbelievable Behringer Xenyx 802 has been a really good seller and, of course, we answer questions on it all the time. Last week, we received a question that I'd never heard before. It was simple enough on the surface - "Can I use the Behringer to control the volumes of the inputs to my sound card and, at the same time, use it to control the playback volume of my soundcard?"

This created kind of a Yogi Berra moment where you open your mouth to say something and then stop when you realize the question deserves a thoughtful answer - and requires some thought.

On the surface, you'd think you would need to have two mixers - one to mix together and control all the input sources to the soundcard, and another to control the output of the soundcard. Now this is fine since the Behringer mixers are so cheap, but we did think of a way to actually do this. Here's the way you can use your Behringer mixer on BOTH the input and output. This can cause some brain bending to understand, but just draw out the signal path and you'll see that it works fine.

I'm using it right now and trust me, it works! Here's how to do it:

1. Connect all your input sources to the mixer inputs. This includes a cassette player, reel to reel, VCR, CD player, etc.
2. Connect the Main Outs of the mixer to the line input of the soundcard. So far so good. It's easy to understand this setup. The mixer allows control of each of your sources without bothering with plugging and unplugging. Now we start to get tricky.
3. Take the output of the soundcard (where your speakers probably are now) and plug them into another set of inputs on the mixer. "What!", you are thinking, "You just connected the output of the soundcard to the same mixer connected to the input. That can't work." Yes, it can. Read on.
4. Now we need to connect our speakers. They are hooked up to nothing right now. Just plug them into the jacks labeled CTRL Room Out. Yes, that's right. Make sure the switch labeled "tape to control room" is NOT pressed in.
5. We now have all our inputs connected to the soundcard thru the mixer AND we have our soundcard output also connected to a mixer input. It's time for the last step.

You now have to disable Monitoring on your soundcard. With a built in soundcard or SB clone, you just double click the little speaker icon and mute the input your are using (usually called Line Input). Other soundcards may be different, but we need to disable monitoring or else you'll get some interesting "double audio" effects.

That's it. You are hooked up now. To control the master volume to your speakers you just use the control labeled "Phones/CNTL room". This is your master playback volume control.

Your master record volume control is now the control labeled Main Mix. Each individual input device also has it's own control.

This may seem complicated, but it works great and even allows you to easily record what you are playing with your soundcard with no need to make any changes.

A great 8-channel mixer is only \$59.99! Just click on the link below:

<http://www.tracertek.com/khxc/index.php?app=ccp0&ns=prodshow&ref=Xenyx802>