Frequently Asked Questions

What version of Bluetooth is used in Freeplay?

FreePlay employees the Bluetooth v3.0 spec, which includes support for Classic Bluetooth, Bluetooth high speed and Bluetooth low energy protocols.

How do I control music playback out of Freeplay? Do I have to use Freeplay Connect?

From any BT-equipped source device (tablets, smartphones, etc.), users will be able to stream the audio of their choice from the audio source app of their choice, with or without the FreePlay Connect app.

As such, all of the typical controls that your source device/app offers (play, pause, skip, volume control, etc.) will still be available when paired/connected with FreePlay.

Meanwhile, on the hardware side, FreePlay allows users to control level for each input channel (mic/line 1, 2 and Bluetooth).

And in the FreePlay Connect app (for iOS), users gain additional control over EQ settings and FX level for all input channels.

Why is there a dedicated app for Freeplay?

Similar to the My Fader app for the DL series, FreePlay Connect gives users control from the mic stand, podium or pocket over all input levels, EQ settings and effects levels, freeing you up to address all settings from the app instead of the hardware.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of controls are we likely to see with the application and the hardware respectively?

The FreePlay hardware offers users control over all input levels, main level, FX levels for inputs 1 and 2, as well as FX selection (up to 4 FX), feedback elimination and voicing settings of the product.

Add in the FreePlay connect app, and users have control over all the on-product settings, as well as EQ settings for all inputs (channels 1, 2 and Bluetooth), additional FX selection (up to 16), FX level for the Bluetooth, FX return for all channels, and mutes for all input channels and/or main output.

How many Bluetooth enabled devices can the hardware pair with at a time?

Note that pairing is different than connecting. Pairing is when devices "learn about" one another, and users can pair all of their various BT source devices with their FreePlay at their leisure, such that they instantly connect upon power-up during future use. However, only one device can be actively connected at any given time.

How far can you be away (distance wise) from the speaker before you lose connection.

The Bluetooth v3.0 spec allows for up to 300 feet between the source device and playback device, however different environments (and other devices in the area) effect range and performance in different ways as well as the capability of your device. However it is always recommended to keep the source device as close to the playback device as possible – ideally less than 30 feet – for optimal results.

Are there any determining factors that will limit or interrupt the Bluetooth signal to the speaker from the phone?

There are plenty of resources that appropriately cover the various materials and devices that can cause Bluetooth interference. As an owner of Bluetooth products, we recommend you become familiar with these resources:

http://classroom.synonym.com/block-bluetooth-signal-17777.html
http://support.apple.com/en-us/HT1365
http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/collateral/wireless/spectrum-expert-wi-fi/prod_white_paper0900ae-cd807395a9.html

Frequently Asked Questions

Which devices are compatible with the Freeplay Connect app?

Currently the Freeplay Connect app is only available for iOS devices. Here are the required specs.

iOS 8 and later.

iPhone 4S and later.

iPod Touch 5th Gen. and later.

Does using the unit with batteries vs plugged into the wall have any bearing on how the Bluetooth functality will perform?

Bluetooth range and signal strength is not impacted by battery operation.

Does Freeplay have phantom power?

No.

Is there a built in reverb, delay, or compressors?

There are 16-built in reverbs, choruses and delays, with access of 2 reverbs and 2 delays via the on-product UI, and all 16 FX via the FreePlay Connect app.

How many channels are there on the mixer portion of Freeplay?

There are three input channels: Inputs 1, 2 and Bluetooth (stereo), an FX bus (stereo output), and a Main output (stereo) as well. There is also a Monitor output, which is "redundant" of the Main output, and designed to feed a subwoofer or second monitoring device.

Will Freeplay Connect be available for other operating systems in the future?

While we initially only support the iOS platform, we plan to add Android support in the near future.

16220 Wood-Red Rd NE •Woodinville, WA•98072•USA
Phone: 425.487.4333 • Toll-free: 800.898.3211
Fax: 425.487.4337 Email: Techmail@loudtechinc.com

www.mackie.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a USB port for connecting/charging my device?

No.

Will there be compatibility updates in the future for Freeplay Connect?

Yes. We will periodically release updates to Freeplay Connect to ensure compatibility with current operating systems.

How much does the Freeplay Connect app cost?

The FreePlay Connect app is available for free on the Apple store, and you can download and demo the app before buying the product.

Will the 1/4" TRS balanced output work with an unbalanced cable/destination as well?

Yes, the Mon Out jack works with balanced TRS and/or unbalanced TS cables, although balanced cables are always recommended in pro audio.

Is there a "Main Mix" output from the speaker to feed a mixer or outboard recording device?

Instead of a main out, Freeplay has a monitor out.

Since FreePlay is a self-contained, all-in-one PA, the product features a Mon Out (or Monitor Out) jack. The Mon Out signal is a "copy" of the Main Mix output signal of the product.

Generally speaking, this feature was included so performers could to feed another powered loudspeaker which is acting as performance monitor, but you may instead choose to run this signal into a mixer or recording device if you so choose. Just make sure the Main volume is up, as the Mon Out is post Main fader.

Will the volume control of the monitor output be independent from FreePlay's volume controls?

The Mon Out signal is a "copy" of the Main Mix signal, post Main fader, and, no, it cannot be adjusted independently.

16220 Wood-Red Rd NE •Woodinville, WA•98072•USA
Phone: 425.487.4333 • Toll-free: 800.898.3211
Fax: 425.487.4337   Email: Techmail@loudtechinc.com
www.mackie.com

Why can't I find the FreePlay Control application on my iPad?

Right now we only have an iPhone app, and it is only visible in the App store as such. User's searching for the app on an iPad will only be able to find the iPhone version if they alter their store search preferences. *See our knowledgebase document regarding how to change your search preferences to install iPhone apps on your iPad.

Will the FreePlay Control application allow me to control panning of my sources?

The FreePlay Control application does not support any panning functions at this time.

16220 Wood-Red Rd NE •Woodinville, WA•98072•USA
Phone: 425.487.4333 • Toll-free: 800.898.3211
Fax: 425.487.4337 Email: Techmail@loudtechinc.com
www.mackie.com