

The Revolutionary Way to Mix, Master and Make CDs

The Alesis MasterLink™ ML-9600 is a visionary product destined to become the new standard for high-resolution two-track audio.

It's a pioneering concept: an integrated, standalone system that combines hard disk recording, digital signal processing, audio editing and compact disc creation/playback. By bringing together all of these capabilities, MasterLink provides an affordable, all-in-one solution for high-resolution mixdown, mastering and CD-burning. It's fully compatible with today's CD and digital audio formats, and also delivers the sonic quality you'll need for tomorrow.

The MasterLink Advantage

With MasterLink, you can easily create polished, professional discs with the standard Red Book format used by CD players worldwide. But the true power of MasterLink lies in the debut CD24™ (patent pending), a revolutionary new Alesis technology that allows you to record and play CDs with up to 24-bit, 96kHz resolution using inexpensive, readily available CD-R media.

MasterLink's high-resolution audio performance and built-in editing capabilities offer huge advantages over less advanced mixdown tools such as DAT, cassette and standard CD recorders. It's a creative tool that can improve your sound right now... and continue paying big dividends in the future.

Get it all together with MasterLink...

High-Resolution Hard Disk Recording

- Your choice of digital resolution...supports all industry-standard formats from 16-bit, 44.1kHz to 24-bit, 96kHz
- The ultimate sonic quality for mixdown, archiving and delivery
- Massive 4.3GB hard drive stores up to five hours of digital audio

Editing, Mastering and Finishing Tools

- Set precise start and end points to each track
- Apply real-time DSP – compression, equalization, limiting and normalization
- Compile 16 playlists with up to 99 songs each
- Full control of song order, track gain, fade-ins and fade-outs

CD Recording and Playback

- Create and play back Red Book and CD24 discs
- Red Book format: the worldwide CD standard (16-bit, 44.1kHz)
- CD24: Hi-res AIFF-compatible CDs with your choice of resolution
- The first format to offer 24-bit, 96kHz audio quality using low-cost CD-Rs

...and kiss your DAT
goodbye



MasterLink ML-9600 Rear Panel:

Analog inputs and outputs (balanced XLR left/right, unbalanced phono left/right), digital inputs and outputs (balanced AES/EBU-compatible left/right, unbalanced S/PDIF-compatible left/right), IEC power receptacle.

SPECIFICATIONS

Audio (44.1/48kHz frequencies)

Frequency Response:
20Hz-20kHz, +0, -0.3 dB
THD+N:
<0.002% @ 1kHz, -1 dBFS
Signal-to-Noise Ratio:
113 dB, A-weighted

Analog/Digital Converter:

24-bit 128x oversampling

Digital/Analog Converter:

24-bit 128x oversampling

Sample Rates:

44.1, 48, 88.2, 96kHz

Word Lengths:

16-, 20-, 24-bit

CD Drive Type:

ATAPI CD-ROM
(8x read, 4x write)

CD Read/Write Formats:

Red Book, CD24

Hard Disk Type:

4.3GB IDE Drive

Hard Disk Max

Recording Times:
95 minutes @ 24-bit/96kHz
310 minutes @ 16-bit/44.1kHz

Digital Inputs and Outputs:

AES/EBU-compatible balanced XLR connectors
S/PDIF-compatible unbalanced coaxial connectors

Analog Inputs and Outputs:

Balanced XLR connectors (+4dBu)
Unbalanced phono (RCA) connectors (-10dBV)

Nominal Input and Output Level:

Balanced: +4dBu (-15dBFS)
Unbalanced: -10dBV (-15dBFS)

Maximum Output

Balanced: +19dBu = 0dBFS
Unbalanced: +5dBV = 0dBFS

Input Impedance

Balanced: 15kΩ nominal
Unbalanced: 10kΩ nominal

Output Impedance

Balanced: 75Ω nominal
Unbalanced: 150Ω nominal

Power Requirements:

90-240 VAC, 40W max, 50/60Hz

Dimensions (WxHxD):

19" x 3.5" x 11"
(483mm x 88mm x 279mm)

Weight:

16.55 lbs. (6.2kg)

MasterLink ML-9600 supplied accessories:

Infrared remote control, blank CD-R, rack ears, standard IEC power cord.



MASTERLINK

A Complete Solution From First Mix...

Input Selector

Choose between two digital inputs and balanced or unbalanced analog inputs

CD-R Resolution Selector

Choose between Red Book and CD24 high-resolution formats when creating discs

CD-R Drive

Read/write capability for playing digital audio, updating software, and recording discs using Red Book and CD24 formats

Vacuum Fluorescent Display

Provides information for naming songs, applying DSP, naming and editing playlists, and more

Transport Controls

Familiar, intuitive layout for immediate ease-of-use

Hard Disk / CD Selector

Assigns transport control and other functions to either internal hard disk or CD drive



Sample Rate Selector

Choose between industry-standard sample rates for hard disk recording and CD creation

Word Length Selector

Choose bit word length digital resolution for hard disk recording and CD creation

Create CD Button

A simple, one-touch command for creating Red Book and CD24 discs

Playlist Editing

Multi-button controls for creating, naming, editing and organizing 16 different playlists, containing up to 99 songs each

Digital Signal Processing

Single-button access to powerful built-in DSP functions – compression, equalization, limiting and normalization – that can be adjusted and combined for each individual song

Stereo Headphone

Headphone output and volume control make it easy to use MasterLink on the go



Begin by recording your mixes onto MasterLink's huge 4.3GB internal hard disk.



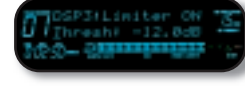
Name your songs and arrange them into 16 different playlists.



Optimize the dynamics of each song with MasterLink's flexible built-in compressor.



Fine-tune the timbre of each song with MasterLink's 3-band, fully parametric EQ.



Use MasterLink's real-time limiting and normalization to take full advantage of available dynamic range.



Record your master to CD using inexpensive CD-Rs. MasterLink will create standard 16-bit Red Book CDs, as well as high-resolution CD24 discs.

Huge Advantages for Every Application

MasterLink's incredible sonic quality, flexibility and affordability make it perfect for any setting where stereo audio is used... including music, broadcast, sound-for-picture, multimedia, DJs and theater.

MasterLink offers studios a powerful all-in-one solution for mixing, mastering and making CDs. In a compact, easy-to-use package you'll get the creative control you need for perfectly arranging your music, sound effects, or broadcast spots.

Commercial studios will find MasterLink ideal for mixdown, archiving and delivery of stereo tracks to mastering houses and duplication facilities. MasterLink's groundbreaking technology ensures that your masters will sound their best today, and possess the high-resolution performance you'll need for the future.

MasterLink Comparison Chart

Features	MasterLink ML-9600	Standalone CD-R Recorders	DAT Recorders ¹
Maximum digital audio resolution	24-bit, 96kHz	16-bit, 44.1kHz	16-bit, 48kHz
Suitable for high-resolution mixdown and archiving?	Yes	No	No
Built-in ability to control:			
Song names?	Yes	No	Some
Multiple playlists?	16, with up to 99 songs each	No	No
Individual song volume levels?	Yes	No	Some
Fade-ins and fade-outs?	Yes	Some	Some
Onboard DSP	Yes	Some	No
Creates Standard Red Book CDs	Yes	Yes	No
Creates high-resolution audio CDs	Yes - up to 24-bit, 96kHz resolution	No	No
Creates AIFF-compatible audio files for DAWs	Yes	No	No
Average media cost	CD-R disc: about \$1.25	CD-R disc: about \$1.25	DAT tape: about \$10

¹ Comparison based on standard 16-bit DAT recorders

High-Resolution Hard Disk Recording

The MasterLink revolution begins when you record two-track audio to its high-capacity 4.3GB internal hard drive. MasterLink provides a full complement of connections for bringing in analog or digital audio from your mixer, DAW, and other sources. You can even play a CD on MasterLink's CD drive and record the audio onto its hard disk.

During hard disk recording, you can choose any combination of four sample rates (44.1, 48, 88.2 or 96kHz) and three word lengths (16-, 20-, and 24-bit). To take advantage of growing opportunities in hi-res multimedia and DVD audio, the MasterLink allows you to choose 24 bit/96kHz as your primary format for mixdown, delivery and archiving.



Alesis' state-of-the-art 24-bit digital converters offer better sonic performance than any other affordable mixdown format. For creating standard audio CDs, MasterLink's sample rate conversion and noise shaping technology is specially designed to keep your audio sounding its best at every resolution.

Track Editing and DSP Finishing Tools™

MasterLink is much more than just a mixdown deck or CD burner. It offers you a level of creative control previously available only from much more elaborate and expensive mastering systems.

After recording a track on hard disk and assigning it a name, you can set precise start and end points to each song using MasterLink's cropping features.



MasterLink's built-in mastering toolbox includes non-destructive DSP capabilities: real-time compression, equalization, limiting and normalization. These functions can be adjusted and combined, allowing you to optimize the timbre and dynamics of each individual song, as well as establishing a professional sonic consistency from track to track.



Multiple Custom Playlists

One of MasterLink's most powerful, flexible mastering tools is its multiple playlist capability. You can create, name and edit 16 different playlists containing up to 99 songs in each. Each playlist offers full control of song order, track gain, fade-ins and fade-outs, and length of time between tracks. With MasterLink, you can store 16 CD masters worth of music with polished, professional quality and presentation.

CD24...the New Frontier

After fine-tuning your playlist on MasterLink's hard drive, CD creation is simple: a one-button command is all it takes to record your master onto CD-R using either the Red Book standard (16-bit, 44.1kHz resolution, compatible with CD players worldwide) or the revolutionary new CD24 format.



CD24 takes the compact disc to previously unimagined levels of sonic excellence. Its high-resolution performance far exceeds the 16-bit limitation of

CD and standard DAT tape, and offers up to 24-bit, 96kHz quality...perfect for high-resolution archiving or delivering mixes to mastering studios.

CD24 Audio Compatibility

Although the MasterLink is the only mixdown tool that offers the CD24 format, its high-resolution discs can be accessed by Macintosh®, Windows® and Unix® computer platforms. Since CD24 uses the ISO 9660 CD-ROM disc format and the standard AIFF audio file format, high-resolution discs can easily be utilized by digital audio workstations at professional facilities worldwide.



MasterLink's CD-R drive is also capable of uploading new software and DSP functions. Future software updates on CD-ROM will add features for a variety of applications.

...to Finished Disc.