AB168 AudioRack

The **AB168** is a portable, rugged audio interface box for the Allen & Heath GLD and Qu digital mixing systems. It provides 16 remote controlled mic/line preamps and 8 XLR line outputs. It connects to the mixer over a single Cat5 cable using the Allen & Heath dSNAKE protocol. A second AB168 can be connected to the AB168 to expand the number of system inputs and outputs.

The AB168 is simply an audio interface. It cannot be used by itself. It must connect to the GLD or Qu mixer which is where the audio is processed.

The AB168 is not compatible with Allen & Heath iLive Series components or ACE connection.

Refer to the GLD User Guide AP8561 and Qu User Guide AP9372 for instructions on connecting and using the AB168 with your system. Refer to the Allen & Heath web site for more information and suitable Cat5 cables.

The AB168 can be operated horizontally with the connectors facing upward or sideward, or vertically to save space on stage. It can also be mounted in a 19" equipment rack or case using the optional **AB168-RK10** kit.
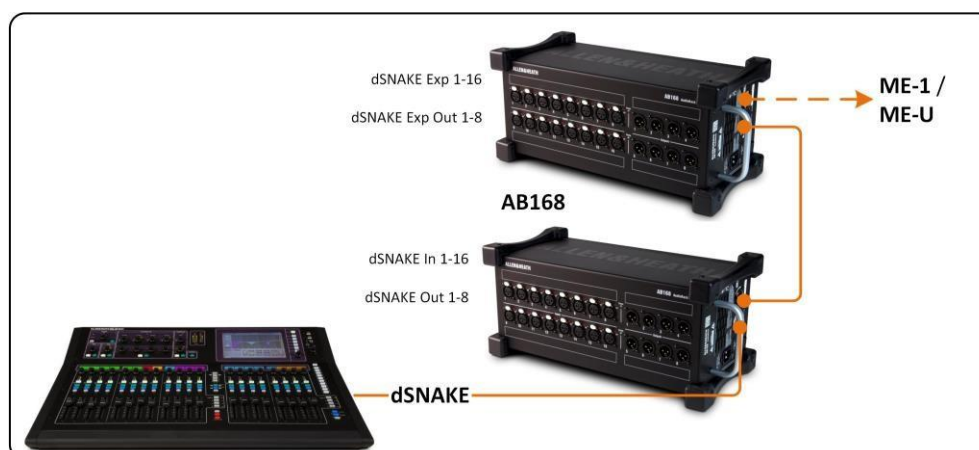
The diagrams below show two example applications.

Qu-16 + AB168

Access all 16 mic inputs on stage

GLD-80 + 2x AB168

32 inputs, 16 outputs on stage

Allen & Heath can provide the following CAT5e cables:

AH9650   100m drum of Etherflex cable with Neutrik EtherCon locking connectors.

AH9651   20m Etherflex cable with Neutrik EtherCon locking connectors.

AB168 Panel Layout

① **Input sockets** 16 balanced XLR mic/line inputs with +48V Phantom Power indicator. The preamps are built into the AB168 and their Gain, Pad and 48V phantom power are remote controlled from the mixer via the dSNAKE link. The outputs of the analogue preamps are converted to digital format and transported via dSNAKE to be processed and mixed at the GLD or Qu mixer.

The sockets are numbered 1-16. On GLD, any input can be patched to any channel at the console. On Qu, sockets are mapped one-to-one to input channels.

The Phantom Power indicator detects voltage at the socket whether supplied by the AB168 or received from an external source.

② **Output sockets** 8 balanced XLR outputs operating at nominal +4dBu line level. Any signal can be patched to any socket using the GLD **I/O** screen or Qu **Setup / Output Patch / dSNAKE** menu. The mixer defaults to a logical mapping of these sockets to get you started.

③ Space is provided next to the sockets for custom labelling.

④ **dSNAKE port** Cat5 cable link to connect to the mixer or AR2412 rack. This carries the inputs, outputs and the monitor sends to and from the AB168 as well as preamp control and system status. Maximum Cat5 cable length is 120m (396') depending on cable type.

● We recommend using EtherCon locking connectors to prevent damage to cables or ports.

⑤ **EXPANDER port** Cat5 cable link to connect a second AB168 rack to add further mic/line inputs and XLR line outputs. It can also be used to connect to the Allen & Heath ME personal mixing system.

⑥ **Mains power input** IEC connector and fuse for the built-in universal voltage power supply unit. This accepts worldwide voltages from 100 to 240V AC 50/60Hz. Check that you have received the correct mains lead for your territory.

Secure the cable in place using the plastic P-clip. Use a T20 Torx screwdriver to refit the screw.

⑦ **Vents** Ensure good ventilation at the sides and back of the rack. Avoid obstruction of vents while operating. Avoid dirt or liquid ingress.