

CEDAR



DNS 4 dialogue noise suppressor

OWNER'S MANUAL

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Manual version 1.00 September 2022

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Introduction to the DNS 4

The DNS 4 is a further development of the DNS technology introduced in our Academy Award® winning DNS1000 and subsequent dialogue noise suppressors. Despite offering four channels of noise suppression, it is small, light and portable, and its slick user-interface allows users to obtain optimum results almost instantly and with the minimum of effort. It also retains the near-zero latency of its predecessors and, with its 4-pin 12VDC power socket, it's suitable for use in all live situations - not just on location and for live-to-air broadcasting, but also for live sound in venues such as theatres, concert halls, conferences venues, and places of worship.

Quality, speed and simplicity were paramount considerations when designing the DNS 4, which offers the following:

■ Near zero latency

Its low latency ensures that there is no loss of lip-sync.

■ Flexibility

It's able to handle a wide range of noise suppression requirements.

■ Speed and ease of use

Its carefully designed user-interface maximises speed and ease of use.

■ 12VDC power

It accepts power from industry standard adapters and power packs for use anywhere in the world.

■ Powerful processors

The latest technology to ensure that it will handle the most complex processing requirements.

Safety instructions

Read these instructions, and follow them.

■ Water and moisture

The DNS 4 must not be exposed to rain or moisture. Furthermore, if it is brought directly from a cold environment into a warm one, moisture may condense inside it. This, in itself, will not cause damage, but may cause electrical shorting. This could damage the unit, and even cause danger to life. Always allow the unit to reach ambient temperatures naturally before connecting the mains power.

■ Mounting and ventilation

You should place the DNS 4 on a flat, stable surface or in a suitable equipment bag. Do not subject it to strong sunlight, excessive dust, mechanical vibration or periodic shocks. It is not susceptible to excessive heat build-up, but should be installed away from heat sources such as radiators and audio devices that produce large amounts of heat.

■ Power sources

The DNS 4 operates on nominally 12VDC power, although it will operate on voltages in the range from 8V - 17.5V. You should route power cables so that they will not be walked on or pinched. Unplug the supply cord to isolate the external PSU from the mains supply if it is not to be used for some time. Grasp the supply cord by the plug, never by the cord itself.

■ Connections

Turn off the power to all equipment before making any connections. In order to comply with EMC regulations, you must use metal-shelled connectors and good quality shielded cable suitable for AES3 connections.

■ Cleaning

Clean the DNS 4 only with a dry cloth. Never use abrasive pads, water or liquid cleaners such as alcohol or benzene.

■ Damage requiring service

The DNS 4 contains no user-serviceable parts and should on no account be opened or dismantled by unauthorised personnel. A unit should be returned to qualified service agents when it has been exposed to liquids, when it fails to function correctly, when it has been dropped, or when the case is damaged.

Setting up the DNS 4

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Unpacking

Unpack the DNS 4 carefully. Save the carton and all packing materials since you may need them to transport the unit in the future. In addition to the DNS 4 and its packaging, the box should contain the following:

- 12V DC power supply
- start-up and safety instructions sheet
- a warranty registration card

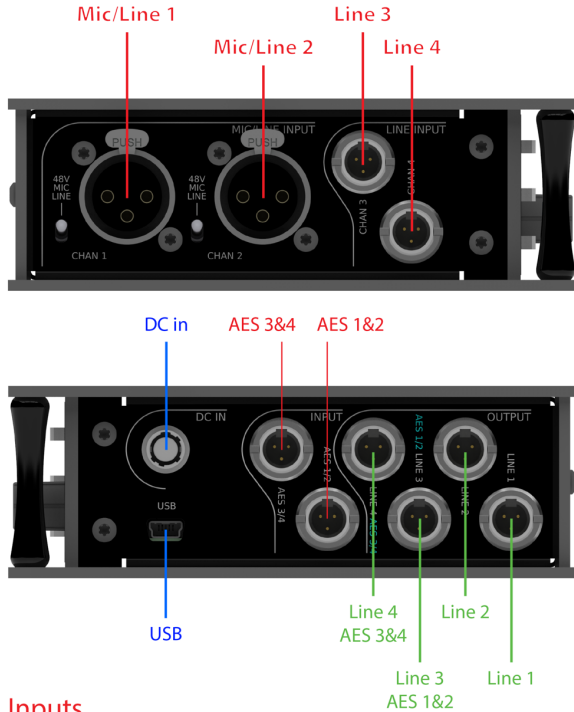
To maintain reliability and prolong operating life, observe the following environmental considerations:

- the temperature should be maintained between 5 and 30 Celsius
- relative humidity should be in the range 30% to 80% non-condensing
- strong magnetic fields should not exist nearby.

Power source

A 12V PSU is included with the DNS 4 and this will work on any mains supply in the range 85V to 250V, 50/60Hz AC. Connect its output to the DNS 4 power input and then plug it into the mains supply.

Audio setup



Inputs
Outputs
Other

The audio connectors are on the sides of the unit; analogue inputs are on the left, while analogue outputs and all digital I/O are on the right side. Connections of a similar function are grouped together, with the low channel numbers within each group towards the rear of the unit.

■ Inputs

There is a single global user control to switch between analogue or digital inputs. (See Global setup.)

When analogue inputs 1&2 are in use, a pair of three-position switches select between line, microphone and microphone with +48V phantom powering for each of these channels.

■ Outputs

The first two output sockets are dedicated analogue line outputs for channels 1&2. The next two are dual-purpose and can carry either analogue or digital signals according to the user setup option. (See Global setup.)

All of the outputs are active when any analogue I/O is selected. When digital operation is selected for both the inputs and the outputs, the analogue circuitry is turned off to save power and the Line 1 and Line 2 outputs are not operational.

■ Audio clock

A single audio clock is used for the DSP, ADC, DAC and AES3 transmitter. When analogue I/O is used, the internal 48kHz clock is used. When AES3 input 1&2 is connected, the clock is derived from that source. Operation at 44.1kHz, 48kHz and 96kHz is supported.

USB

There is a USB socket for updating the firmware. You can also obtain this manual from the DNS 4's internal storage via USB.

The front panel



The DNS 4 front panel is divided into three sections: a set of three fixed-function buttons to the left, an OLED screen, plus six context-sensitive buttons and an encoder to the right.

The screen dims to a lower brightness after a few seconds of inactivity, and returns to full brightness when any control is operated.

Pages

There are three control pages, and the functions of the context-sensitive controls depend on which is active:

Process

The main page displays control and status information about the processing.

Channel setup

Allows access to options that are specific to a given channel.

Global setup

Allows access to unit-wide options, and also displays static information about the unit.

Fixed-function buttons

■ Power/lock

The DNS 4 switches on automatically when power is applied and displays the Process page. This guarantees that it reboots after a power failure. The Power/lock button is illuminated while the unit is powered on.

Once the DNS 4 is powered up, you can press the Power/lock button a second time to lock the panel. When it's locked, the Power/lock and Setup buttons continue to operate, but all the other controls are disabled. Hold down the Power/lock button for around three seconds to unlock the panel.

When the panel is unlocked, you can switch the DNS 4 off by pressing and holding the Power/lock button for around three seconds. The current settings will be stored during shutdown and will be recalled when the unit is turned on again. If the unit is not shut down correctly, the settings may not be stored.

The DNS 4's current settings are also stored a few seconds after you stop adjusting the controls.

Should something cause the unit to freeze, you can switch it off by holding the Power/lock button for approximately six seconds.

■ Setup

The Setup button cycles through additional pages to access the setup parameters. It's illuminated when the unit is displaying pages other than the Process page.

■ Bypass

The Bypass button acts as a global process on/off control. When active, it's illuminated and the noise reduction process is disabled on all four channels. The input gain and high-pass filter (see Channel setup) are unaffected by the bypass state.

It offers two actions:

Short press

Toggles between bypass on and off

Long press

When bypass is off, pressing and holding the button acts as a preview, switching bypass on for as long as the button is held. Then, when released, bypass returns to the off state.

The process page



The DNS 4 boots into the Process page and returns to it from any other page after a short timeout. This displays information about all four channels simultaneously.

■ Input level meters

The left of the display shows input level meters for each of the four channels. These are for information only; the input gain controls are available in the Channel setup page.

■ Process readouts

The rest of the display shows the process settings for each of the four channels. The information shown for each channel is:

- the noise Attenuation
- the Bias
- the linking status

Channel linking

You can link certain combinations of channels into groups. Grouping channels makes them adopt identical settings, and allows you to adjust them together. The channels in a group share the same values of the following parameters:

- input gain
- high-pass filter on/off
- processing on/off
- learn on/off
- Attenuation
- Bias

Nonetheless, the Learn function continues to work independently for each channel in a group and the signal processing itself is not linked. This ensures that, if the parameters are appropriate, the processing is appropriate for the signal in each channel.

The permissible combinations of groups are as follows:

Channels:	1	2	3	4
Independent	-	-	-	-
First pair linked	1&2		-	-
Second pair linked	-	-	3&4	
Two pairs linked	1&2		3&4	
All linked	1&2&3&4			

You create a group by pressing simultaneously the channel selection buttons for the first and last channels to be included in it. Pressing the same pair of buttons again destroys the group and the channels return to being independent.

When a group is created, the process parameters from the lowest-numbered channel in the new group are copied to the other channel(s) in the group. No process parameters are changed when a group is destroyed.

Groups can be created and destroyed on both the Process page or the Channel setup page; the operation is identical in both cases. Note that the channel linking/grouping operates independently of split mode. (See Global setup.)

The channel setup page

Pressing **Setup** once accesses the Channel setup page.

■ Digital inputs selected (see Global setup)



If digital inputs are selected, the page displays:

- the input source for the active channels (see Global setup)
- the high-pass filter status for each channel
- the linking status

The unit will lock to any AES3 signal with a nominal sample rate of up to 96kHz that is presented to its inputs. Operation is supported at 44.1kHz, 48kHz and 96kHz.

■ Analogue inputs selected (see Global setup)



When the analogue inputs are used, a second vertical display is shown for each channel. This is the input gain, and you adjust this by selecting the appropriate channel and turning the encoder.

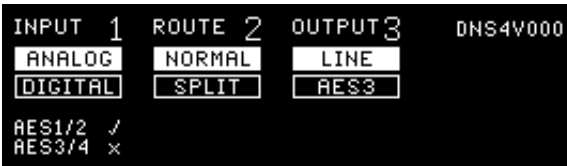
Note that, if channel 1 is set to MIC or 48V and channel 2 is set to LINE (or vice versa) their gain and high-pass filter settings remain independent, even if channels 1 and 2 are linked.

■ High-pass filter

An 80Hz, -18dB/oct high-pass filter is available for each input. To toggle this on and off for any channel, press any of the row of four channel access buttons at the top right of the unit to bring its associated channel (or group) into focus. When a channel is in focus, the **dns on** button toggles the high-pass filter.

An icon in each channel display will show whether the filter is active  or not .

The global setup page



Pressing **Setup** a second time takes you to the Global setup page. There are three parameters, each of which has two possible settings.

■ Inputs

Select the analogue or digital inputs. If the input selection is set to digital and no valid digital signal is present at the digital input, a flashing cross will appear inside the AES1/2 or AES3/4 fields and the DNS 4 will not process audio.

■ Routing: Split mode operation

In split mode, the signals presented to inputs 1&2 are duplicated and sent to channels 3&4. This allows inputs 1&2 to be processed and output in two different ways, including outputting the duplicate pair without processing to create 'iso' tracks.

■ Outputs 3 & 4: analogue line or AES3 digital

Select whether outputs 3&4 carry line level analogue or digital signals. The input/output selections operate as follows:

	Input	Output	Output 1	Output 2	Output 3	Output 4
1	Analogue	Analogue	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4
2	Analogue	Digital	Line 1	Line 2	AES 3 1&2	AES 3 3&4
3	Digital	Analogue	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4
4	Digital	Digital	-	-	AES 3 1&2	AES 3 3&4

Principal uses:

- 1: integrates the DNS 4 into an analogue system
- 2: allows the DNS 4 to be used as a mic pre as well as a processor within an otherwise digital system
- 3: allows you to output analogue signals from a digital system
- 4: is digital-to-digital and all the analogue I/O is switched off to save power.

Press **setup** again or wait for the timeout to return to the Process screen.

Using the DNS 4

Processing

When you are in the Process page, pressing any of the row of four channel access buttons at the top right of the unit brings its associated channel into focus. Once a given channel has focus, its associated button is lit and you can adjust its parameters. Channels can also be grouped and their parameters adjusted together.

The process is controlled by an encoder plus dedicated buttons for process on/off and learn on/off. Normally the encoder is focused upon the Attenuation parameter. Clicking it switches its focus to the Bias parameter, and a second click returns it to the Attenuation. The encoder focus also reverts to Attenuation after a short timeout.

■ Process On/Off

Use the **dns on** button to switch the DNS processing on and off.

■ Learn

The Learn button controls whether or not the noise detector adapts continuously to changes in the noise content within the audio signal. When it's On, the DNS 4 continually identifies the power and spectral distribution of the noise. When it's Off, the noise estimate is frozen at the last determined values and remains so until it's switched on again.

Note: Learn is not a method for taking a 'noise fingerprint' and, for most jobs, by far the best results are obtained by leaving it switched on permanently.

■ Channel selection

Before adjusting anything further, use the channel selector buttons 1- 4 to select the individual channel or, if linked, the group of channels that you wish to control.

The process parameters

■ Attenuation

The default action of the encoder is to adjust the amount of noise attenuation applied to the signal in the selected channel(s). The representation of the left-hand fader within each channel shows the current position of the control, and the bargraph shows the instantaneous amount of attenuation being applied to the signal. The solid bar shows the average attenuation across all frequencies, and the shaded bar shows the maximum attenuation across all frequencies.

■ Bias

The encoder also provides control of the Bias, which is shown on the right-hand half of each channel's display. Click the encoder to enable adjustment of the Bias, and click it again when you wish to switch back to controlling the Attenuation. The encoder will also revert to controlling the Attenuation after a short idle period.

The Bias is a 'center-zero' control, and the fader shows the current position. Raise the Bias to bias the algorithm toward detecting more noise. This will allow the process to remove more noise, but may lead to compression of the wanted audio and make the signal sound dry. Lower the Bias to bias the algorithm toward detecting less noise. This will allow the process to retain more 'atmos', but may allow noise to leak back into the wanted signal. In most cases, the optimum value for the Bias is the central, zero point.

The right-hand bargraph shows the detected signal to noise ratio (SNR). The solid bar shows the noise level, and the shaded bar shows the signal level; consequently, the difference between the heights of the solid and shaded bars indicates the SNR. You can see the affect of altering the Bias reflected in the height of the solid bar, which tends to increase as you raise the Bias, and vice-versa.

Summary of operation

■ Learn

When Learn is on, the DNS 4 continually identifies the power and spectral distribution of the noise present. This is the normal mode of operation.

When Learn is off, the noise identification is frozen at the last determined values.

■ Bias

This influences the amount of noise detected by Learn. You can bias the detection upward (more noise detected) or downward (less noise detected).

■ Attenuation

This determines how much noise will be removed from the signal.

In short

- **Learn** and **Bias** determine what is detected as noise.
- **Attenuation** determines how much of the detected noise is suppressed.

The display



- ① The average attenuation being applied across all frequencies
- ② The maximum attenuation being applied at some frequency
- ③ The current position of the Atten control
- ④ The detected signal level
- ⑤ The detected noise level
- ⑥ The current position of the Bias control

Additional information

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Declaration of conformity

Date of issue 1 September 2022
Equipment CEDAR DNS 4
Manufacturer CEDAR Audio Ltd
Address 20 Home End, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5BS, UK

This is to certify that the aforementioned equipment, when used in accordance with the instructions in this manual, fully conforms to the protection requirements of the following EC Council Directives: on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to:

- **2004/108/EEC Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive**
Applicable standards: EN 55032-2015
 EN 55035 - 2017
- **2006/95/EC Low Voltage Directive**
Applicable standard: EN 62368-1-2014+A11-2017

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In accordance with Directive 2002/96/EC, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, CEDAR Audio Ltd will provide its customers with information about local organisations that can reprocess CEDAR products that have reached their end of use. Alternatively such products can be returned to CEDAR Audio Ltd in the UK at the owner’s cost and they will then be reprocessed correctly free of charge.

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Worldwide Dealer List:

Visit www.cedaraudio.com.

Specifications

Line inputs

Connectors:	
Channels 1&2	Balanced XLR3F
Channels 3&4	Balanced TA3 mini-XLR
Impedance:	10k Ω
Nominal signal level (0dB gain):	+4dBu
ADC line up (0dB gain):	+4dBu : -20dBFS
Clipping level (0dB gain):	+24dBu
Dynamic range (0dB gain):	>102dB (AES17 unweighted)
Gain range:	0dB to +20dB

Microphone inputs

Connector:	Balanced XLR3F
Impedance:	2k Ω
Gain range:	18dB to 78dB
ADC line up (36dB gain):	-32dBu : -20dBFS
Dynamic range (36dB gain):	>102dB (AES17 unweighted)

Phantom Power

Type:	P48 (IEC61958)
Unloaded voltage:	+48V \pm 4V
Current available:	10mA per microphone
Short circuit protection:	Indefinite

AD/DA conversion

Resolution:	24-bit linear PCM
Sample rate (internal sync):	48kHz
Sample rate (external sync):	40kHz - 100kHz

Digital inputs

Connector:	Balanced TA3 mini-XLR
Format:	AES3 (IEC60958) or AES11 (DARS)
Sample rate sync ranges:	43kHz - 49kHz, 86kHz - 98kHz

Line outputs

Connector:	Balanced TA3 mini-XLR
Nominal signal level:	+4dBu
DAC line up:	-20dBFS : +4dBu
Maximum output:	+24dBu
Dynamic range:	>96dB (AES17 unweighted)
Minimum load impedance:	600Ω
Short circuit protection:	Indefinite

Digital outputs

Connector:	Balanced TA3 mini-XLR
Format:	AES3 (IEC60958)
Sample rate (internal sync):	48kHz (±50ppm)
Sample rate (external sync):	locked to digital input

DSP

Type:	Floating point
Resolution:	40-bit
Sample rates:	44.1kHz, 48kHz, 96kHz
Latency:	<4ms in all modes

Power input

Voltage:	8V to 17.5V (nominal 12V)
Connector:	Hirose 4-pin HR10 (pin1 -, pin4 +)
Reverse polarity protection:	Indefinite
Over-voltage protection:	Indefinite, up to 50V
Max power consumption @ 12V:	10W

Power adapter

Input voltage:	85VAC - 260VAC, 50 - 60Hz
Input power:	15W
Input connector:	UK/US/EU
Output voltage:	12V
Output connector:	Hirose 4-pin HR10 (pin1 -, pin4 +)

*E&OE**The Company reserves the right to change specifications without notice.*

Licence and limited warranty

1. DEFINITIONS

In this Licence and Limited Warranty the following words and phrases shall bear the following meanings:

- 'the Company' is CEDAR Audio Limited of 20 Home End, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5BS, UK;
- 'a/the System' means an instance of the DNS 4 sound processing system comprising hardware and software developed by the Company;
- 'this Document' means this Licence and Limited Warranty.

2. ISSUE AND USE OF THE SYSTEM

- 2.1 The terms and conditions of this Document are implicitly accepted by any person or body corporate who shall at any time use or have access to the System, and are effective from the date of supply of the System by CEDAR Audio Limited to its immediate customer.
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14. HEADINGS

The headings to the Clauses are for ease of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation or construction of this Document.

15. LAW

This Document shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law and all disputes between the parties shall be determined in England in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1950 and 1979.

CEDAR

dns 4

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QC Engineer:	
Serial number:	

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