

QUICK START

Think of this like a fortune cookie: you have to read the saying before you eat it. But unlike a fortune cookie we don't want you to break your CM 86 before getting the message. So here's your fortune:

Rane adheres to the AES/ANSI/IEC standards of pin 2 positive, pin 3 negative and pin 1 ground. Choose between *either* the 3-pin (XLR-type) or the terminal strip **MIC IN**. Use only **ONE**; they are in parallel and do **NOT** sum. The **LINE IN** (unbalanced 1/4") is grounded when not used. This allows the **MIC/LINE** switch to act as an input **MUTE** switch whenever the **LINE IN** jack is not used. Likewise, if it is used then the **MIC/LINE** switch acts like a true source selector. Set the rear-mounted **MIC GAIN** control as necessary for your mic. Use the OL indicator as an adjustment aid: increase gain until this LED *occasionally* lights. Optimum noise performance results from taking as much gain as possible. (The OL indicator on the front panel *parallels* the one on the rear.) Select **PHANTOM POWER** as needed for each channel independently. When setting channel equalization, use the **IN/OUT** switch to compare equalized with unequalized material.

When using the **AUX A/B** level controls, remember to set the desired take-off location using the **PRE/POST** switches. **PRE** takes this signal *before* the Channel **LEVEL** controls, allowing independent operation of both. **POST** takes this signal *after* the Channel **LEVEL** controls, allowing the **LEVEL** controls to turn the Aux levels up/down simultaneously. Set the **OUTPUT SELECT** to assign each input channel to the desired output. Choose between "A" only, "B" only or "AB" both. Note that choosing only one, say "A," routes this input to *both* **MASTER 1A** and **MASTER 2A** outputs, but nothing goes to either B output.

When setting input **AUX A/B** and **LEVEL A/B** controls, keep an eye on the appropriate **PRE-OUTPUT OVERLOAD** indicators. They monitor overloading of the critical summing stages. Use the **METER & HEADPHONE ASSIGN** switch to select the desired output for metering and monitoring. The **HEADPHONE** connects to the same point as the **OUTPUT METERS** — what you see is what you hear.

Read the Rane **FLEX USERS GUIDE** for details about the Flex DIN connectors. Expansion and augmentation of the CM 86 is easily done using this handy bus. **TAPE OUT** is taken *after* the **MASTER INSERT LOOPS** and before the **MASTER 1 & 2 OUT LEVEL** controls. The **MASTER INSERT LOOPS** do *not* affect the **AUX A & B** outputs. All four **MASTER OUTS** are driven by high-current cross-coupled line drivers which will drive lines 1000 feet (305 meters) using Belden 8451 or equal wire.

Miscellaneous: The CM 86 does **NOT** invert signals. Use the LIFT (ground lift) switch to help eliminate stubborn hum problems. **NEVER CONNECT ANYTHING EXCEPT AN APPROVED RANE RS 2 (the big one) POWER SUPPLY TO THE RED JACK ON THE REAR OF THE UNIT.**

Good fortune and great wealth are coming your way.

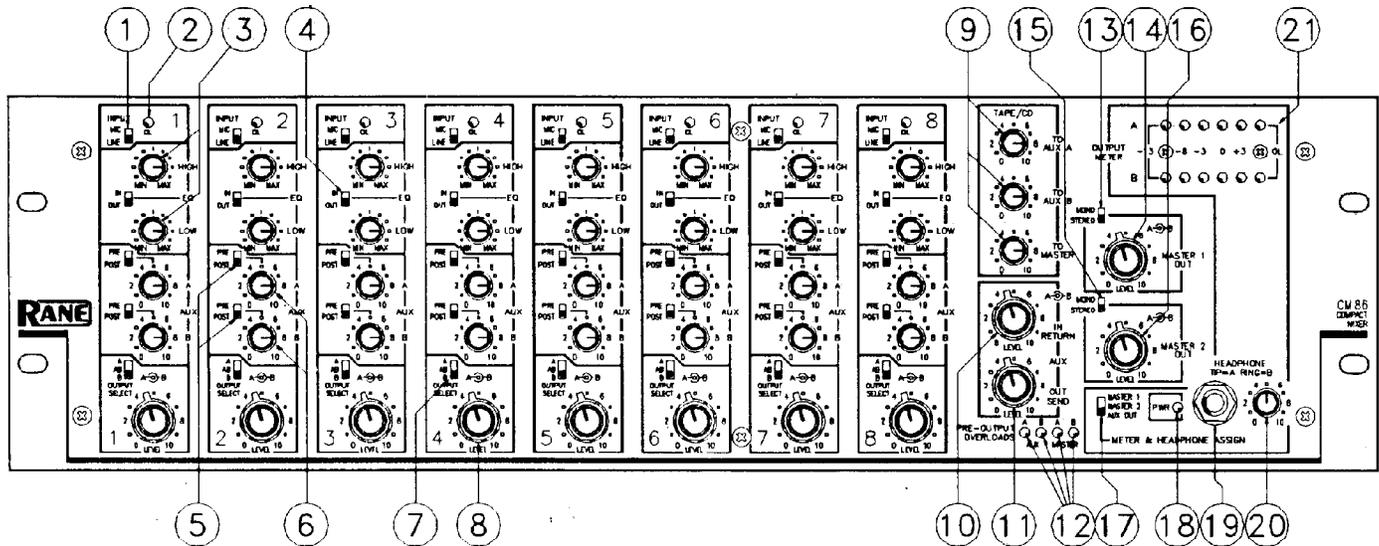
SYSTEM CONNECTION

When first connecting the CM 86, **LEAVE THE POWER SUPPLY FOR LAST**. This gives you a chance to make mistakes and correct them without damaging your fragile speakers, ears and nerves.

INPUTS. Each input channel has two **MIC IN** connectors. The 3-pin (XLR-type) *connector* and the terminal strip are wired in parallel and either one works equally well; however, they do **NOT** sum. **USE ONLY ONE**. Choose strictly from a required hardware point-of-view, there is no performance trade-off. Wiring convention conforms to the AES/ANSI/IEC standard of pin 2 positive, pin 3 negative and pin 1 ground, with *the shell being tied to chassis*. *Microphones requiring Phantom Powering must tie pin 1 to the shield*, otherwise the Phantom Power circuit is not completed. The **LINE IN** is an unbalanced 1/4" jack, and may be used in conjunction with the **MIC IN**. The **MIC/LINE** switch then operates as a selector switch. When

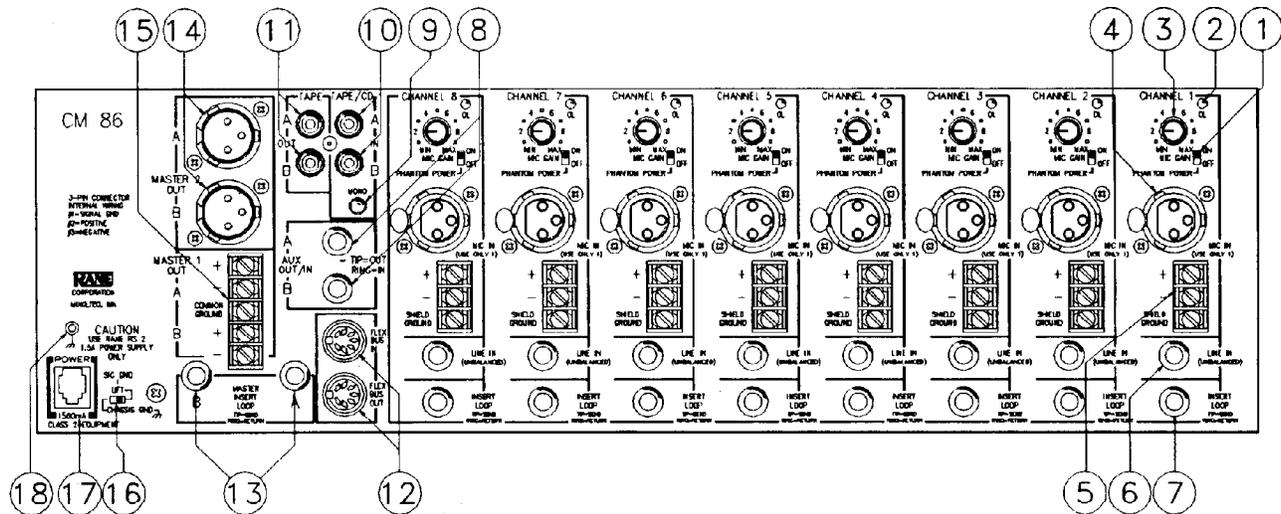
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FRONT PANEL DESCRIPTION



1. **INPUT SOURCE SELECTOR.** This slide switch selects between MIC or LINE inputs. Both inputs may be used; in which case this switch acts as a true source selector. If the LINE input is not used then it is internally grounded and this switch acts like a Mic Mute when moved to the LINE position.
2. **INPUT OVERLOAD INDICATOR.** This red LED parallels an identical one in the rear and monitors all critical input nodes. It lights whenever these levels exceed 4dB below clipping. Occasional flickering is normal; however, it should not be allowed to light steadily.
3. **INPUT EQUALIZATION CONTROLS.** A two-band shelving LOW (bass) and HIGH (treble) tone control circuit. These controls adjust the frequency contour of both MIC and LINE inputs. The EQ is located *before* the INSERT LOOP.
4. **EQ IN/OUT ENGAGE SWITCH.** This slide switch controls the EQ circuits. Useful for comparing equalized (IN) with unequalized (OUT) signals, or for guaranteeing flat frequency response (OUT).
5. **PRE/POST AUX-ASSIGN SWITCHES.** These slide switches allow choosing the AUX take-off points. Selecting PRE places the AUX Level *before* the Channel LEVEL controls, thus allowing independent operation between the two. Selecting POST takes the AUX Level after the Channel LEVEL controls, thereby allowing the LEVEL controls to affect all outputs.
6. **AUX CONTROLS.** Separate controls for mixing the input channel into the AUX A and AUX B Output (Send) signals.
7. **OUTPUT SELECT SWITCH.** A three-position slide switch that selects routing of this input channel. Choosing either "A" or "B" puts all of this signal into only the A or B outputs. Choosing "AB" puts this signal equally into both.
8. **CHANNEL LEVEL A/B CONTROLS (Input Faders).** Concentric controls used to set the amount of signal mixed into the MASTER A and B outputs.
9. **TAPE/CD MIX CONTROLS.** Three rotary controls that set the amount of the Tape, Tuner, or CD input signals mixed in with the AUX A, AUX B or MASTER outputs.
10. **AUX IN/RETURN LEVEL CONTROL.** Concentric knobs that control the amount of AUX signal coming into the AUX OUT/IN jacks (on the ring). Often the return path from an effects box in the AUX OUT/IN LOOP; or alternatively, it may control a separate AUX input.
11. **AUX OUT/SEND LEVEL CONTROL.** Concentric knobs that control the amount of AUX signal coming out of the AUX OUT/IN jacks (on the tip). Often the send path for an effect box in the AUX OUT/IN LOOP; or alternatively, it is the AUX output level.
12. **PRE-OUTPUT OVERLOADS.** LED indicators monitoring the four critical summing stages (Master A/B and Aux A/B). They light 4dB before actual clipping. Occasional blinking is okay, but do not allow them to light steady.
13. **MASTER 1 OUT STEREO/MONO SWITCH.** A slide switch used to mono the MASTER 1A & 1B outputs.
14. **MASTER 1 OUTPUT LEVEL CONTROLS.** Concentric controls used to set the desired output level.
15. **MASTER 2 OUT STEREO/MONO SWITCH.** A slide switch used to mono the MASTER 2A & 2B outputs.
16. **MASTER 2 OUTPUT LEVEL CONTROLS.** Concentric controls used to set the desired output level.
17. **METER & HEADPHONE ASSIGN SWITCH.** A three-position slide switch used to choose between MASTER 1A/1B, MASTER 2A/2B or AUX A/B outputs for monitoring by the OUTPUT METERS and HEADPHONE circuits.
18. **POWER INDICATOR.** A yellow LED that lights whenever proper power is applied to the CM 86.
19. **HEADPHONE JACK.** A standard 1/4" jack for stereo headphones. This allows headphone monitoring of whatever output is selected. Standard wiring convention is followed, i.e., Tip=Left ear= Channel A, and Ring=Right ear=Channel B.
20. **HEADPHONE LEVEL CONTROL.** Used to set the desired headphones listening level.
21. **OUTPUT METER.** A two-channel 6-segment peak responding LED meter accurately *calibrated in dBu units*.

REAR PANEL DESCRIPTION



1. **PHANTOM POWER SELECTOR SWITCH.** Turns the microphone Phantom Power voltage ON and OFF.
2. **INPUT OL (OVERLOAD) INDICATOR.** This red LED is identical to one on the front panel and monitors all critical input nodes. It lights when these levels exceed 4dB below clipping. Some flickering is normal; it should not light steadily.
3. **MIC GAIN TRIM CONTROL.** A rotary control used to set the correct gain required by your microphone.
4. **3-PIN MICROPHONE INPUT CONNECTOR.** Pin 2 is positive, pin 3 is negative and pin 1 is signal and shield ground. This connector is in parallel with the terminal strip below. USE ONLY ONE — THEY DO NOT SUM.
5. **TERMINAL STRIP MICROPHONE INPUT CONNECTOR.** Parallels the 3-pin connector above.
6. **LINE INPUT CONNECTOR, 1/4" UNBALANCED (mono)** input connector. Use for any line-level source. This input is automatically grounded when not used.
7. **INPUT CHANNEL INSERT LOOP.** This jack allows any outboard unit to be patched in-series with the input signal. LOCATED POST-EQ. Wired per standard tip=send/ring=return convention. Automatically bypassed when not used.
8. **AUX OUT/IN JACKS.** A pair of UNBALANCED 1/4" TRS jacks used for either AUX OUT alone, or as a Send/Receive (Out/In) effects loop for recording and other applications. For AUX OUT, use a standard MONO unbalanced 1/4" plug (the IN function is automatically grounded). For effects loop use, this jack follows the standard tip=send (out) / ring=receive (in) wiring convention. *Very clever (or desperate) users make use of this jack as a direct input to the Master summing networks. To do this, use a 1/4" TRS plug wired with the input signal going to the RING and leave the TIP open (unused).*
9. **TAPE/CD INPUT MONO PUSHBUTTON.** Used to mono whatever source is connected to the RCA input jacks.
10. **TAPE/CD RCA INPUTS JACKS.** A pair of RCA jacks used to connect a Tape player, Tuner, CD player, or any line-level source requiring this type of jack. Sums directly into the Aux and Master mixing buses via the Level controls on front.
11. **TAPE OUTPUT RCA JACKS.** A pair of RCA jacks used to connect a Tape Recorder. This output signal is located AFTER the Master Insert Loops and BEFORE the Master Output Level controls.
12. **FLEX BUS IN & OUT CONNECTORS.** A pair of 7-pin DIN jacks used to expand to another CM 86, or to augment input/output features by adding any of the Flex Modules using the Flex Bus. See the Rane FLEX USERS GUIDE for details.
13. **MASTER INSERT LOOP JACKS.** 1/4" TRS jacks wired tip=send/ring=return used to add any outboard effects unit in series with all the Master Outputs. Located BEFORE the Tape Out jacks.
14. **MASTER 2 A & B OUTPUT 3-PIN CONNECTORS.** Pin 2 is positive, pin 3 is negative and pin 1 is signal ground. Do NOT use pin 1 for true balanced interconnection; tie shield at one end ONLY. *Unbalanced use requires grounding of pin 3, i.e., tie pin 3 to pin 1.*
15. **MASTER 1 A & B OUTPUT TERMINAL STRIP.** Do NOT use COMMON GROUND for true balanced interconnection; tie shield at one end ONLY. *Unbalanced use requires grounding of negative ("–") output, i.e., tie the "–" and COMMON GROUND terminals together.*
16. **GROUND LIFT SWITCH.** Provides the ability to separate chassis and signal grounds. *Do not move this switch with your power amplifiers turned on and up.*
17. **REMOTE POWER SUPPLY INPUT.** The unit is supplied with the large Model RS 2 Remote Power Supply. NEVER USE A POWER SUPPLY OTHER THAN THE ONE SUPPLIED OR A REPLACEMENT APPROVED BY RANE CORPORATION.
18. **CHASSIS GROUND POINT.** Used for chassis grounding purposes. See CHASSIS GROUNDING on the last page for details.

(System Connection - continued from first page...)

the LINE IN is not used, it automatically grounds internally. This allows the MIC/LINE switch now to act like a *mic mute* switch since selecting LINE sees a grounded input.

The input channel INSERT LOOP allows any external processor to be tied in series with the input source before the MASTER and AUX Level controls. It is wired per the tip = send/ring = return convention.

A pair of RCA input jacks allow hook-up of a Tape Player, Tuner or CD Player. Use the MONO switch to combine the stereo inputs as required.

OUTPUTS. High-current cross-coupled amplifiers drive each of the four main outputs. The MASTER 1 OUTS leave through terminal strips while the MASTER 2 OUTS exit through 3-pin connectors wired per above. Use standard balanced wiring procedures of NOT connecting ground between units, and grounding the shield only at ONE end. If for some unforgivable reason you run unbalanced, then you MUST short pin 3, or the “-” terminal to pin 1 or ground. *Cross-coupled output stages demand GROUNDING of the unused output when operated unbalanced.* The AUX OUT/IN jacks serve two functions: 1) As Auxiliary Outputs use normal mono (1-wire) unbalanced 1/4" cable and connectors; 2) For effect box use, use stereo (2-wire) 1/4" TRS interconnecting cable and connectors wired per the standard insert loop convention of tip= send/ring= return. Since the AUX OUTS are unbalanced, they CANNOT be used to drive long (greater than 100 feet or 30.5 meters) lines. The unbalanced TAPE OUT RCA jacks should be treated similarly, i.e., restrict their

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

SETTING MIC GAIN CONTROL. Use the exact microphone for each input and approximate expected normal program levels and content. Observe the OL (Overload) indicator (above and to the right) as you increase the MIC GAIN control. The proper setting is when the OL light occasionally flickers with program material, but does not come on steady for long periods of time. The best signal-to-noise performance results from taking as much gain as possible at this stage. The OL indicator located at the top front of each input channel is a duplicate of the one in the rear. If an input sounds distorted, check these lights and turn down the MIC GAIN as necessary.

USING THE MIC/LINE SWITCH. Choosing between the MIC and LINE inputs is done with this slide switch. The LINE input is a bonafide separate input (not a pad inserted in the MIC input), which allows both inputs to be active and selected at any time. Additionally, the LINE input is automatically grounded when NOT in use, which lets this switch then act as a MIC MUTE.

IMPORTANT NOTE

CHASSIS GROUNDING

The CM 86 is supplied with a rear mounted LIFT (ground-lift) switch. The unit is shipped with this switch in the “grounded” position, tying circuit ground to chassis ground. If after hooking up your system it exhibits excessive hum or buzzing, there is an incompatibility in the grounding configuration. Your unholy task is to discover how this particular system wants to be grounded. Here are some things to try:

1. Try combinations of lifting grounds on units supplied with ground lift switches or links.
2. If your equipment is in a rack, verify that all chassis are tied to a good earth ground, either through the line cord grounding pins or through the rack screws via another grounded chassis.
3. Units with onboard power supplies do NOT ground their chassis through the line cord. Make sure that these units are grounded either to another chassis which is earth grounded, or directly to the grounding screw on an AC outlet cover by means of a wire connected to the CHASSIS GROUNDING SCREW.

Please refer to Rane Note 110 (supplied with your unit and available on request at no charge if you lost your first one) for further information on system grounding.

FLEX BUS. The Flex Bus allows you to expand the CM 86 using either another CM 86 or any of the Flex bus modules. The bus carries four signal lines (Master A & B and Aux A & B) and two spare. The signal lines come into the CM 86 via the FLEX BUS IN connector, sum with all local inputs and exit via the FLEX BUS OUT connector. This mixing is done before the Master Insert Loops. Signal comes straight in, mixes into the four summing buses and goes straight out. The two spare lines simply tie the bus connectors together. See the FLEX USERS GUIDE for additional details.

FOUR INDEPENDENT OUTPUT MIXES. The CM 86 allows you to create up to four independent output mixes: MASTER A, MASTER B, AUX A and AUX B. For true independence of the AUX mixes, remember to position the assign switches to the PRE position, otherwise changing input LEVEL controls also affects AUX levels.

Observe that MASTER OUT 1 and MASTER OUT 2 are the *same mix*, but may be set for different levels.