



EXECUTIONER 4:4:2 DJ MIXER



Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Subject</u>
3:	Thank You, Acknowledgements & Dedications
4:	Introduction
5:	A tour of Executioner
6:	How to connect up audio
7:	Working with Executioner
9:	The Input section
9:	The Channel section
10:	The Master Section
11:	The Send FX section
12:	CV inputs and controls
13:	How to 'latch' your own MIDI via Remote Overriding
14:	Licence Agreement

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for expressing your confidence in our products by purchasing one of our Rack Extensions, the Executioner 4:4:2 Dj Mixer. This 4-input/4send-and-return/2 + 2-output high-quality mixer was designed with our experience of both djing needs and requirements in the digital realm as well as the crafting of audio for all types of users; producers, engineers, artists and djs alike.

We hope you continue to enjoy using Executioner in your projects for now and for future.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the Executioner betatesters for helping with this product;

Testers:

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William "White Noise Bleed",

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Jonny McCupCake

...plus many more (you know who you are, and thanks for participating)

Propellerhead Software (for Reason, the SDK and the concept of the Re)

Promotional video testimonials:

Jason "Shokstar" McKean appears courtesy of

Juan Pablo appears courtesy of synclab

Andrew Skelton appear courtesy of Andrew Skelton Productions

Andrew "DJ EQ" Cox appearance for scratching demonstration

DEDICATIONS & ACCOLADES

To my wife Alicia who after waiting for me to code this up is now a happy bunny (again) :D

This Re is dedicated to all the Propellerhead Reason users & forum threaders, friends, & colleagues we have spoken to over the years.

Dj Fresha: Thanks goes out to my studio buddies; DOS aka ORCO, Dj EQ, for the support & feedback, all the betatesters and conception team & individuals for the amazing work and betabug smashing, shouts go out to all who know me, including FLAVAUNIT crew, REBIRTH massive & SUBTRONIK crew, and of course the Propellerheads, and the Reason Users & Community

Now let's get into the Executioner....

Introduction

The Executioner 4:4:2 Dj Mixer is a dedicated rack unit, built as a Rack Extension for the Propellerhead Reason environment. This device has a maximum of what would be 3U space in the real world. Being a Rack Extension (Re), this gives you various options of versatility within your projects.

The Executioner features 4 true stereo input pairs of sockets, 4 true stereo send-and-return pairs of sockets, plus 2 true stereo master output sockets and 2 true stereo cue output sockets. Additionally, the mixer has 4 input gain control knobs, an input routing selection to each channel, 4 return-channel toggles with return gain controls, plus 2 dedicated channel controls (input selection/balance, level, balance, mute, EQ section, kill switches and not forgetting the dual-mode filter with own frequency, resonance and mode-mix controls)

All these controls are adjustable to suit your application, and these settings can be stored as your own presets within a Combinator preset. As Executioner is a utility device, you cannot save presets directly within Executioner.

Executioner is designed to be a transparent effect, meaning that if no adjustments are made on the device, the audio passing through the effect is 'clean' and has not been affected by the equalisation filters or the low pass or high pass filters. This is the ideal, so that no coloration is applied to the sound.

A tour of Executioner

Executioner is based on real-world DJ mixers.



The Front Panel

- [1] FOLD-UNFOLD – To allow the RE to be maximized or minimized
- [2] TAPE STRIP – Used to identify the RE. Double click to edit
- [3] INPUT SECTION – Input source level controls, Input metering, customisable labels, Deck assigning controls
- [4] CHANNEL SECTION – Dedicated 3 band EQ gain controls (Bass / Mid / High) & corresponding Kill switches
Dedicated multi-mode filter with filter mix (between types), resonance and frequency controls, plus Filter activation button
Channel level control, pan control and metering, Cue active buttons, FX active buttons, Mute buttons
- [5] MASTER SECTION - Cue gain control, Cue input selection, Master gain control, Crossfader Curve, Master Output metering, Channel 1 Deck Balance, Channel 2 Deck Balance, Crossfader
- [6] SEND FX SECTION - Return source level controls, source+destination toggle controls, Return metering, customisable labels



The Back Panel

- | | |
|---|--|
| [1] FOLD-UNFOLD – | To allow the RE to be maximized or minimized |
| [2] TAPE STRIP – | Used to identify the RE. Double click to edit |
| [3] INPUT AUDIO SOCKETS
& CV SOCKETS & TRIMS – | Used to allow input audio to any of the Input Source locations
and use CV signals to modulate the gain controls |
| [4] SEND & RETURN AUDIO SOCKETS
& CV SOCKETS & TRIMS - | Used to send audio from and return audio to the designated channel via the
Designation toggle, and use CV signals to modulate the gain controls |
| [5] ADDITIONAL CV SOCKETS & TRIMS - | Used to allow external Control Voltage signals to affect various controls for
additional modulations |
| [6] MASTER & CUE OUTPUTS - | Master audio outputs & Cue audio output sockets |

How to connect audio

To connect Executioner you can use Reason's own auto-connection system, and Executioner will decide the best way to auto-wire. Alternatively, you may want to use Executioner as a true DJ mixer for live performance mixing – ideally for this case you may require a multi-channel soundcard (at least 4 outputs is best suited), but there are workarounds possible if you only have 2 channel basic soundcard.

- 1) Create a Mix Channel Strip.
- 2) Shift-create an Executioner DJ mixer – this allows you to freely wire up Executioner.
- 3) Flip the rack to the back by pressing the TAB key, to show the back of the units. Take the MASTER OUTPUT sockets and connect them to the Mix Channel
- 4) Create two sound modules or audio tracks, as points of source audio. Take the outputs of the sound source (main outs of the rack sound modules, or DIRECT OUT of Mix Channels / Audio Channels) and connect them to your chosen input audio sockets pair on Executioner (ie Dr.Octorex into Input 1 left & right, ReDrum into Input 2 left and right).

This is a basic setup, ideal for loop manipulation and sound design. You can expand further on this by adding extra input sources as well as effects chains using the send and return channels and the various routings (see Using Effects with Executioner section)

Working with Executioner

So now you know the controls, how to connect Executioner up; now you would want to put your new RE into action. Primarily, Executioner may be seen as a djing tool, and you'd be correct. But, since we're talking about a Rack Extension, the possibilities are way more productive than your everyday dj mixing too.

So what else can we use Executioner for instead of djing? Well, you can use Executioner to create fluid sound collages and foleys to blend your sounds into one another using all the available controls. Or maybe you want to get creative with just one stereo signal, split it into two of the input channels and have the crossfader being your pan while riding the channel faders to have full stereo control... Feel free to explore more of Executioner for your own projects.

Ok, so let's start from the beginning to what a dj mixer actually is.

A dj mixer is a simple sound levelling device that allows the user to control commonly two sources (the channels, usually channel 1 and channel 2) and mix between them by means of a crossfader. The crossfader is the key 'channel blending' control, allowing the user to determine when the channel will be heard by the audience.

As djing became more popular and club music began to snowball, the dj mixers got progressively more complex to allow for 'on-the-fly' edits like bass cuts and filter sweeps on transitions, aiming to achieve the best possible impact on the dancefloor.

Executioner allows these features to be used by means of separate channel controls (levels & gains, pans, eqs, filters, input selection), Master controls (crossfader, crossfader curve control, master-FX activation, master output gain, cue output gain and cue source selection), and a dedicated 'hotswappable' send-and-return style section to incorporate stock effects and other Rack Extensions into the mix.

What more advantageous with Executioner is the ability to record your performance as MIDI and audio data in Reason's sequencer, allowing you to edit and further manipulate to perfection.

Now we'll go through a simple setup to create a 'broken beat' type of loop.

Recipe:

1 x Mix Channel
1 x Executioner
2x Dr OctoRex's
Reason Factory Soundband

- 1) Create a Mix Channel in the Rack
- 2) Create Executioner in the Rack, via the 'SHIFT-CREATE' option, so not to autowire
- 3) Create 2 Dr OctoRex units directly under Executioner – they should patch into Inputs 1 & 2 of Executioner
- 4) Flip the rack to the back, and patch the Master Outs of Executioner to the Mix Channel inputs

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- 5) Flip the rack back to the front, and load up a drum loop into each of the Dr OctoRex's – can be any tempo & style, as they will be beat-synchronized to the sequencer tempo

 - 6) Move the crossfader of Executioner to the left – this makes Channel 1 the 'actively heard' channel for now. Looking at the Input section you can see Input 1 is pointing to Deck A (see the A/C balance control position). Also note Input 2 is pointing to Deck B (see the B/D balance control position). This means that when the crossfader is far left, Input 1 > Deck A = Channel 1, while Input 2 > Deck B > Channel 2.

 - 7) Turn on the LOOP option on the sequencer, and press PLAY. Whilst playing back, move the crossfader between the two channels. If you find the channel levels are not loud enough or too loud, you can control the volume at source by adjusting the Input 1 Gain and Input 2 Gain. Yellow LEDs on the metering is just about right.

 - 8) All well and good. Now if you want to record your performance (ie the crossfader), right click on Executioner and select 'Create Track for Execute-Dj #' where # is the unit number. A new sequencer lane will appear. Pressing RECORD on the sequencer allows the automation to be recorded, so start to move the crossfader and the MIDI information will record into the sequencer. This is beneficial when you want to edit certain crossfader actions – a lot faster than trying two or more vertical faders.

You can also bounce the performance as audio, for more editing and effects

For deeper and more complex setups, see the Lab One Recordings Youtube Channel.

The Input Section

Executioner has a dedicated re-routable input section, which allows up to 4 inputs and routes to 4 possible 'Decks'.

Each Input has an Input Gain control, an Input to Deck assignable button, Input level metering and an editable label.

The metering system shows how loud the input is. A single green LED indicates any level between -12dB and -96dB (CD standard dynamic range). A yellow LED when lit indicates that the level is between -3dB and -12dB (generally a great position for audio, not too quiet and not too loud). A red LED is your pre-warning : the level is pretty loud, between -3dB and 0dB, and you could potentially start to clip if you're not careful. 3 red LEDs is your big warning – you've gone over what would be deemed as 'digital headroom', and if left as it is the audio can suffer from hardclipping. When you see this, back down off the input for a better sound. This metering system works in the same manner throughout Executioner.

The Channel Section

Executioner has two main channels that allow further control of your sounds. Each channel has a dedicated level control, pan control, Deck balance control, Bass/Mid/High EQ gain controls and kill switches, Channel Cue, Channel FX toggle, mute toggle, multi-mode filter and metering.

The level control aids you in setting the overall volume of the channel.

The pan control aids you to set the panoramic placement of the channel, using +6dB pan law (0dB gain at centre point).

The Deck balance control is a means to level the assigned inputs before the level control – Deck A+C are for Channel 1, Deck B + D are for Channel 2.

The Bass, Mid and High EQ controls allow you to lower or raise the bass, midrange, or high end signal of the channel (+12dB to -48dB range). The kill switches completely remove that section of the audio (to -inf dB), for those classic dj 'bass-', 'mid-' and 'high-cut' effects.

The Channel Cue toggle allows the listener to hear the channel through the CUE outputs. This button is used specifically in PFL (pre-fader-listen) mode (see the Master Section), and has no effect in other CUE modes.

The Channel FX toggle allows you to activate the send-and-return configuration of Executioner so you can patch in additional effects and signals to the corresponding channel (see the Send Effects Section).

The Channel Mute toggle allows muting of the channel – works well with reverb effect tails (see the Send Effects Section).

The multi-mode filter is a specially designed filter made for Executioner. It allows you to Low pass to HighPass filter the channel, and also allows you to Bandpass the channel too, and is determined by the Filter Mix control. The Filter Mix control determines the balance between LowPass <> Highpass and BandPass modes.

The Channel metering system shows how loud the input is. The highest green LED indicates -12dB, the lowest indicates -96dB (CD standard dynamic range). The yellow LEDs indicate that the level is between -3dB and -12dB (generally a great position for audio, not too quiet and not too loud). The red LED is your pre-warning : the level is pretty loud, between -3dB and 0dB, and you could potentially start to clip if you're not careful. All red LEDs is your big warning – you've gone over what would be deemed as 'digital headroom', and if left as it is the audio can suffer from hardclipping. When you see this, back down off the input for a better sound. This metering system works in the same manner throughout Executioner.

The Master Section

The Master Section of Executioner consists of Cue Input, Cue Level, Master FX toggle, Master Level, Crossfader Curve and the Crossfader, and the Master metering.

The Cue Input allows you to listen via the Cue Output sockets the chosen mode.

PFL mode (pre-fader-listen) allows you to hear the active Channel via the Channel Cue buttons before the fader level. This means that the listen can hear prior to the audience. Channel FX toggles can be heard when activated, and Channel FX are only heard when the corresponding Channel Cue toggle is activated (and effects are running / assigned).

PGM mode (programme) allows you to hear exactly what the Master Outputs are playing. This can help to identify what the main speakers would be playing to your audience. FX toggles for the Channels and the Master Section will be heard if activated (and effects are running / assigned).

A / B / C / D: These modes allow you to hear the Deck Inputs before reaching the Deck balance controls. The Channel FX toggles have no effect on these signals.

The Cue Level works in tandem with the Cue input control – this is for monitoring purposes (so you can hear loud enough over the main system via headphones easily). Range of +12dB to -inf dB (0dB at default).

The Master FX toggle allows you to activate the send-and-return configuration of Executioner so you can patch in additional effects and signals to the Master Output signals (see the Send Effects Section).

The Master Level is used to raise or lower the Master Output signal level, and can be used together with the Master Metering. Range of +12dB to -inf dB (0dB at default)

The Crossfader Curve control is used to reshape the way the crossfader works. Far left position sets the crossfader to a traditional 'X' style curve, where the centre point of the crossfader is a 50%/50% even level between Channels 1 & 2. The more towards the right the curve setting is set, the shorter the range of crossfade occurs. See below for more information.

The Channel metering system shows how loud the input is. The highest green LED indicates -12dB, the lowest indicates

-96dB (CD standard dynamic range). The yellow LEDs indicate that the level is between -3dB and -12dB (generally a great position for audio, not too quiet and not too loud). The red LED is your pre-warning : the level is pretty loud, between -3dB and 0dB, and you could potentially start to clip if you're not careful. All red LEDs is your big warning – you've gone over what would be deemed as 'digital headroom', and if left as it is the audio can suffer from hardclipping. When you see this, back down off the input for a better sound. This metering system works in the same manner throughout Executioner.

Send Effects Section

Executioner has an additional patch bay for allowing your favourite effects and alternative Rack Extensions become a part of the signal chain. The patch bay is full re-routable, and allows up to 4 send-and-return effects and routes to Channel 1, Channel 2 and Master FX at the flip of a switch.

Each Send Effect Input has an Effect Amount Gain control, assignable destination slider, Return level metering and an editable label.

The Effect Amount Gain control is used to determine how the channel is effected when the corresponding FX toggle is activated; either there is no difference in sound (-100% setting, far left), as you reach towards 0% (centre) you get a mix of dry signal + effected signal (using a send-and-return logic), and continue to the maximum setting (+100%, far right) the effect becomes an insert-effect. Experiment with different effects and gain settings, as well as routing the effects to hear the differences the settings can make.

The designation slider determines which channel the effect will be applied to; the settings are OFF, CH1, CH2, and PGM.

OFF = No effect output, no effect routing

CH1 = Channel 1 dry signal sent to the send-out sockets, and mixed in parallel with the return signal, before the Channel 2 fader.

CH2 = Channel 2 dry signal sent to the send-out sockets, and mixed in parallel with the return signal, before the Channel 2 fader.

PGM= Master output dry signal sent to the send-out sockets, and mixed in parallel with the return signal, after the crossfader.

This configuration allows the effected signal to be either pre-crossfaded (Channel 1 and Channel 2), or post-crossfaded, and can be freely changed, without the need to rewire the cables – just simple swapping of the paths.

The metering system shows how loud the input is. A single green LED indicates any level between -12dB and – 96dB (CD standard dynamic range). A yellow LED when lit indicates that the level is between -3dB and -12dB (generally a great position for audio, not too quiet and not too loud). A red LED is your pre-warning : the level is pretty loud, between -3dB and 0dB, and you could potentially start to clip if you're not careful. 3 red LEDs is your big warning – you've gone over what would be deemed as 'digital headroom', and if left as it is the audio can suffer from hardclipping. When you see this, back down off the input for a better sound. This metering system works in the same manner throughout Executioner.

CV inputs and controls

Executioner has various Control Voltage (CV) inputs and trim controls. This gives you more creative use of the mixer where you see best fits your application.

To use the CV inputs, simply connect a CV output from another device. Default settings for CV trim knobs are at maximum (Reason default setting)

The types of CV signals that can be accepted into Executioner are Bi-Polar and Uni-Polar. The list below indicates which signal the parameters would be best suited.

Remote Mapping Executioner

Executioner has been checked and uses Remote Mapping for all controls seen on the front of the device. This also means that every control is MIDI recordable and automatable.

The list of Remoteables that exist in Executioner are listed below:

How to 'latch' your own MIDI via Remote Overriding

Reason allows the user to re-define certain controls via MIDI devices by using the Remote Override configuration. This means that a control on Executioner can be mapped by any MIDI controller you have connected to your DAW.

You can only map one specific control to any of the available Remote 'receiving' controls on the Rack Extension – if you use a specific control and want to re-map it afterwards, you will lose the original Override. Also, custom-set Remote Override controls are only saved within each independent Reason song file. Ideally, if you use a dedicated piece of MIDI equipment for Executioner, a template start-up file would be a better option, so that the Remote Override template is pre-defined on each new song/project.

All of the controls on Executioner are Remote Override-able. To access the override editor, select from the 'Options' Menu 'Edit Remote Overrides'. The Rack will now display the specific device selected, with either pre-defined Remote control indicators (the Remote symbol), yellow Lightning bolts (over-ridden Remote controls pre-defined) or blue arrows (unassigned Remote controls)

You can right-click one of the controls and select 'Edit Remote override'. This will open a new popup window, with some available options, and to show you which MIDI controller is currently set to that specific Remote Override. This may be a better option to edit, and utilise the CHANNEL setting so you can define your own controls if you so desire.

By moving one of the controls on your MIDI device (already pre-defined in Reason), you should then see MIDI activity indicator display that a MIDI message was received. Note also the control surface and the control itself on the MIDI device that was adjusted relays to the new Remote Override.

Once you are happy with the control being set, you can click 'OK' to continue with the new setting, or 'CANCEL' to abort the mapping. Also note that if you accept this mapping, the control (if already linked to another) will be fixed to the new mapping. Any previously set mappings will be 'moved' to the new mapped control. This should be used with care if you already have pre-defined Remote Override mappings.

This Remote Overriding method can be handy if you don't know how to set up your own MIDI controller to the dedicated MIDI controls mentioned in the previous chapter. For speed, you can simply double click a blue arrow, and the arrow will turn into a spinning yellow Lightning bolt, indicating that Reason is awaiting a MIDI signal to that control. You can then adjust a MIDI control on your MIDI device, and the control will map automatically without the need to use the popup previously mentioned. Double-click each specific control you want to map to save time and to use the mapping in a faster method.

All Remote Overrides can then be used to record automation within Reason, which can be fine tuned using the Sequencer and the clips (see the Reason Operating Manual for more information on how to edit & record automation)

Remote templates (which are currently in use by supported manufacturers) are currently not available for Red Queen, but may be implemented and available in the near future

MIDI Implementation table

Below is a listing of all MIDI Control Change (CC) numbers, which can be applied to your choice of device.

MIDI CC	CONTROL	MIDI CC	CONTROL
4	CROSSFADER	34	CHANNEL 1 FILTER MIX
5	MASTER FX TOGGLE	35	CHANNEL 1 RESONANCE
7	A/C BALANCE	36	CHANNEL 1 FREQUENCY
8	B/D BALANCE	37	CHANNEL 1 FILTER ON
13	INPUT 1 GAIN	39	CHANNEL 2 FILTER MIX
14	INPUT 2 GAIN	40	CHANNEL 2 RESONANCE
15	INPUT 3 GAN	41	CHANNEL 2 FREQUENCY
16	INPUT 4 GAIN	42	CHANNEL 2 FILTER ON
17	CHANNEL 1 LEVEL	43	EFFECT MIX A
18	CHANNEL 2 LEVEL	44	EFFECT MIX B
19	CHANNEL 1 PAN	45	EFFECT MIX C
20	CHANNEL 2 PAN	46	EFFECT MIX D
21	CHANNEL 1 KILL BASS	47	CHANNEL 1 MUTE
22	CHANNEL 1 KILL MID	48	CHANNEL 1 FX ON
23	CHANNEL 1 KILL HIGH	49	CHANNEL 2 MUTE
24	CHANNEL 2 KILL BASS	50	CHANNEL 2 FX ON
25	CHANNEL 2 KILL MID	51	EFFECT A DESTINATION
26	CHANNEL 2 KILL HIGH	52	EFFECT B DESTINATION
27	CUE INPUT LEVEL	53	EFFECT C DESTINATION
28	CHANNEL 1 CUE ON	54	EFFECT D DESTINATION
29	CHANNEL 2 CUE ON	55	CHANNEL 1 BASS GAIN
30	CUE INPUT SELECT	56	CHANNEL 1 MID GAIN
31	MASTER GAIN	57	CHANNEL 1 HIGH GAIN
33	CROSSFADER CURVE	58	CHANNEL 2 BASS GAIN
		59	CHANNEL 2 MID GAIN
		60	CHANNEL 2 HIGH GAIN
		61	INPUT 1 TO DECK
		62	INPUT 2 TO DECK
		63	INPUT 3 TO DECK
		65	INPUT 4 TO DECK

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To contact Lab:One Recordings, please send correspondence to:

info@lab-one-recordings.co.uk

Or by post:

Lab:One Recordings, 41 Sedbergh Road, Corby, Northants, NN18 0NT, UK

