

ELECRAFT Operating Note

Using the Rich Audio Features of the KX3

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While it contains a built-in speaker, many operators are finding far more benefits with the rich set of audio processing features in the Elecraft KX3. These features are intended to provide additional tools for the DX and Contesting operator to complete contacts. In order to use these features, however, the operator will need to use of stereo speakers or headphones. The internally-mounted speaker in the KX3 cannot be expected to deliver any more than basic CW or Phone QSOs, primarily in quieter operating environments.

Using dual speakers or headphones

When you use 2 speakers or headphones the following features can be used to advantage:

- ⤴ Audio Effects options for Normal and Delay modes (MENU: AFX MD)
- ⤴ Receive Equalization settings (MENU: RX EQ)
- ⤴ Dual Watch using one receiver (MENU: DUAL RX)

The internal speaker is small of necessity due to the form factor of the KX3. It should be considered as a backup when headphones or external powered speakers are not available.

What are these rich audio features?

- ⤴ **Audio Effects (AFX)** which sets up stereo audio effects of Delay and Pitch Mapping
 - ⤴ Delay is a quasi-stereo effect intended to provide depth and space to the received audio. Use this effect for extended operating sessions and for hearing more 'space' between closely spaced stations.
 - ⤴ Pitch Matching is a dual-ear effect intended specifically for CW users to move around or onto a specific CW station. This uses the typical SPOT function but delivers it so that the operator's ears hear the 'beat' difference more effectively.

- ⤴ **Receive Equalization settings**

Use the 8 band equalizer to adjust the audio signal so that the speaker or headphones you are using enhance the sound by reducing the levels on the upper and lower frequencies typically not found for communication audio. The amplifier in the KX3 is wide-banded for quality AM playback but this may not be needed for DX and Contests.

When using the internal speaker on the KX3, reduce the lower frequencies which will help conserve power for voice frequencies. In many cases, this will help clear up what appears to be garbled contacts.

▲ **Dual Watch using one receiver**

Dual Watch allows you to listen to both VFO A and VFO B frequencies at the same time, as if you have 2 receivers in the KX3. When enabled, you will hear VFO A in the left channel and VFO B in the right channel.

You can use Dual Watch to monitor DX, Expedition or Contesting QSOs operating Split. Then you can use the A/B button to quickly pounce on the contact when a clear spot appears.