VoiceLive 3

VoiceLive 3
Getting started – English quick guide

Important safety instructions

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with a dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong is provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12. Use only with a cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
13. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

Caution

You are cautioned that any change or modifications not expressly approved in this manual could void your authority to operate this equipment.

Service

– All service must be performed by qualified personnel.
– There are no user-serviceable parts inside.

Warning

– To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture and objects filled with liquids, such as vases, should not be placed on this apparatus.
– This apparatus must be earthed.
– Use a three wire grounding type line cord like the one supplied with the product.
– Be advised that different operating voltages require the use of different types of line cord and attachment plugs.
– Check the voltage in your area and use the correct type.

Voltage	Line plug according to standard
110 to 125 V	UL817 and CSA C22.2 no 42.
220 to 230 V	CEE 7 page VII, SR section 107-2-D1 / IEC 83 page C4.

– This equipment should be installed near the socket outlet and disconnection of the device should be easily accessible.
– To completely disconnect from AC mains, disconnect the power supply cord from the AC receptacle.
– The mains plug of the power supply shall remain readily operable.
– Do not install this device in a confined space.
– For use at an altitude of 2000 m or lower.
– Do not open the unit – risk of electric shock inside.

EMC / EMI

Electromagnetic compatibility /
Electromagnetic interference

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC rules.

These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in residential installations. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation.

If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

– Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
– Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
– Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
– Consult the dealer or an experienced radio / TV technician for help.

For customers in Canada

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

Explanation of graphic symbols

The lightning bolt triangle is used to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltages" within the unit's chassis that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to humans.

The exclamation point triangle is used to alert the user to presence of important operating and service instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

Before you begin

About the VoiceLive 3 quick guide

This quick guide will help you learn understanding and operating your VoiceLive 3.

You can download the most current version of this quick guide from
tc-helicon.com/products/voicelive-3/support/

To get the most from this quick guide, please read it from start to finish, or you may miss important information.

Be sure to download the VoiceLive 3 reference manual!

Please note that this document is just a quick guide – not the full manual! It is intended to get you up and running with your VoiceLive 3, but we really just skim the surface here.

For information on all of the functions and features in your new VoiceLive 3, make sure you download the complete **reference manual** from tc-helicon.com/products/voicelive-3/support/.

Getting support

If you still have questions about the product after reading this quick guide and the reference manual, please get in touch with TC-Helicon Support:
tc-helicon.com/support/

VoiceSupport

VoiceSupport is the application that allows you to fully unlock the potential of your TC-Helicon product and stay in touch with the latest news, tips and tricks.

VoiceSupport key features include:

– Professionally authored preset libraries
– Direct access to product manuals
– Update messaging – helping you stay up to date with the latest software
– Drag & drop preset management
– Customizable content about your products
– VoiceCouncil feeds for the latest advice for singers
– Firmware upgrading
– Account management
– Access to support.

You can download VoiceSupport for Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X from
tc-helicon.com/products/voicesupport/

Please register your VoiceLive 3

To register your VoiceLive 3 using the VoiceSupport software, launch VoiceSupport and click on the ACCOUNT button.

! Please note that registration of your product is NOT required to use VoiceSupport, download presets, update firmware or contact support.

Diagrams
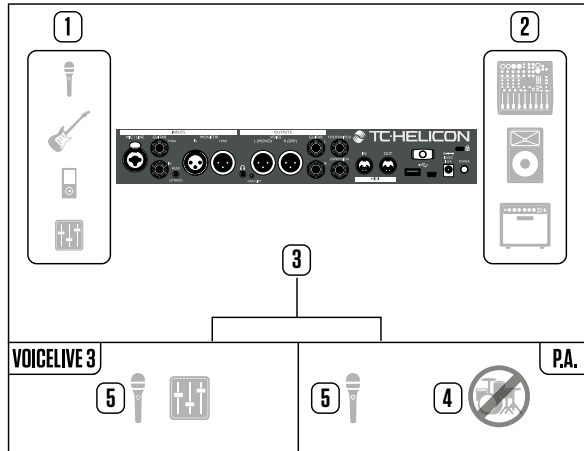
To give you clear and concise representations of what goes where, we have provided several connection diagrams in the "Making connections" (page 6) section. There are a few things we would like you to keep in mind as you follow these diagrams:

– Signal sources that go into your VoiceLive 3 (e.g. microphone or guitar) will always be shown to the *left* of the back panel image **(1)**.
– "Downstream" devices (mixers, speakers) will always be shown to the *right* of the back panel image **(2)**.
– The box in the *lower left corner* shows what signals you will hear from the VoiceLive 3 headphone output.
– The box in the *lower right corner* shows what you will hear from your mixer/PA speakers. This could be anything from a "stick system" or a portable/all-in-one loudspeaker system to powered studio monitors or even a DAW recording interface.

In many cases, what you hear from the VoiceLive 3 headphone output and your PA will be the same **(5)** – but it can also be different.

Please note that we do not account for other inputs or instruments in these diagrams – so you won't see pictures of drums **(4)** etc. When a setup example includes a connection to your guitar amp, we do *not* show that amp being miked and sent through the PA (which often is the case) – we are just showing you how to connect Voice-

Live 3 in a particular setup. This means the "what you hear" section in the lower right corner does not show guitar sounds coming from the PA – even though they might at a gig.

Legend

The following symbols are used in the setup examples section of this quick guide:

	Microphone
	Acoustic guitar
	Electric guitar
	Keyboard or other instrument
	Mixing desk
	P.A.
	Guitar or keyboard amp
	Monitor mix
	Important
	XLR cable
	TRS cable
	TS (guitar) cable
	1/8" cable

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing VoiceLive 3!

Your new Vocal, Guitar and Loop processor is quite an amazing piece of technology. With literally thousands of effect combinations and many versatile controls, you can completely customize your sound.

VoiceLive 3 replaces stand-alone vocal processors, guitar multi effects units and phrase loopers – reducing your "gig weight" to what you can throw in a backpack.

We're really excited to get you up and running quickly, so let's get started!

In the box

The VoiceLive 3 box should contain the following items:

– 1 VoiceLive 3 vocal processor
– 1 power adaptor
– 1 USB cable
– 1 guitar/headphone cable
– this manual.

If you are missing an item, please contact your retailer immediately.

Inspect all items for signs of transit damage. In the unlikely event of transit damage, inform the carrier and supplier.

If damage has occurred, keep all packaging as it can be used as evidence of excessive handling force.

VoiceLive 3 key features

Just to whet your appetite, here is a basic overview of VoiceLive 3's many exciting features!

Vocal Effects Suite
– Adaptive Tone
– EQ
– Compression
– De-ess
– Reverb
– Delay (Echo)
– Double
– Harmony
– Choir
– Vocoder/Talk Box/Vocal Synth
– Rhythmic
– µMod (pronounced "micro mod"):
 Flanger/Chorus/Detune
– Transducer
– HardTune
– Whammy

Guitar Effects Suite
– Amp Simulation
– Reverb
– Delay
– µMod: Flanger/Chorus/Detune
– Drive
– Compressor
– Rhythm/Tremolo
– Wah Wah
– Octave Down

Multi-Phrase Looper
– Loop Assist™ quantization
– Swap Mode
  For easy verse/chorus/bridge style looping.
– Onboard loop storage

– **Customizable button layout**
  Completely remappable footswitches
– **Easy Top-Level Editing**
  Deep controls when you're ready
– **HIT function**
  Add multiple effects to Vocals, Guitar or both with one button press.
– **Direct guitar out** – go straight to your amp.
– **Independent headphone mix**
  Perfect for in-ear monitoring without an expensive transmitter/receiver system.

Making connections
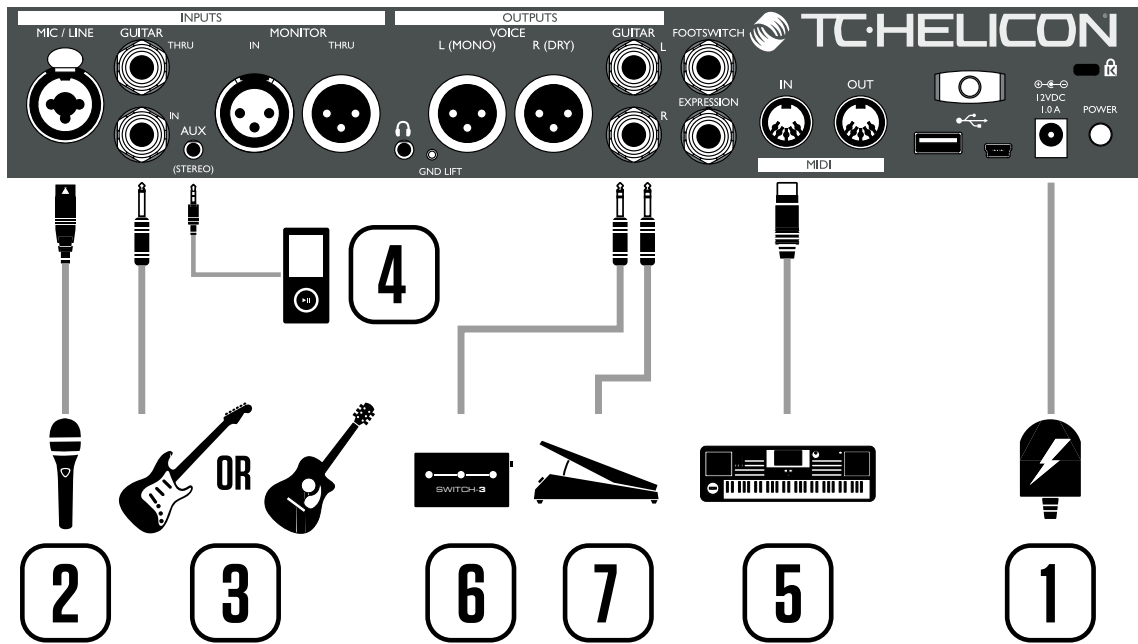
Inputs

1. Connect the supplied power adapter to the 12 V DC jack of your VoiceLive 3 and plug the adapter into a wall outlet. Do not power up your VoiceLive 3 yet.
2. Plug your microphone into the MIC / LINE jack using an XLR cable.
3. Connect your guitar to the GUITAR IN jack using a ¼" Tip Sleeve (TS) cable (i.e., a regular guitar cable).
4. Connect your MP3 player or smartphone to the AUX jack using a 1/8" cable.
5. Connect your MIDI master keyboard or synthesizer to the MIDI IN jack using a MIDI cable.
6. Plug your Switch-3 into the FOOTSWITCH jack using a ¼" Tip Ring Sleeve (TRS) cable (the cable that came with the Switch-3).
7. Plug your Expression pedal into the EXPRESSION jack.

! Do you have a condenser, MP-75 or e835FX microphone? When the unit is powered up (there's a few more steps before that happens), you'll need to enable Phantom Power. To enable Phantom Power, press SETUP and navigate to the INPUT tab using the < and > buttons below the large control knob. Find the Mic Type parameter and change it to Condenser. Press SETUP to exit. These instructions are also printed on the bottom of your VoiceLive 3.

Outputs

Depending on what kind of amplification system you are using, there are lots of options. We cover a few common setups on the following pages.

In the reference manual, we'll show many more connection options, including incoming monitor mixes.

# 1. Vocals and guitar using guitar/headphone cable
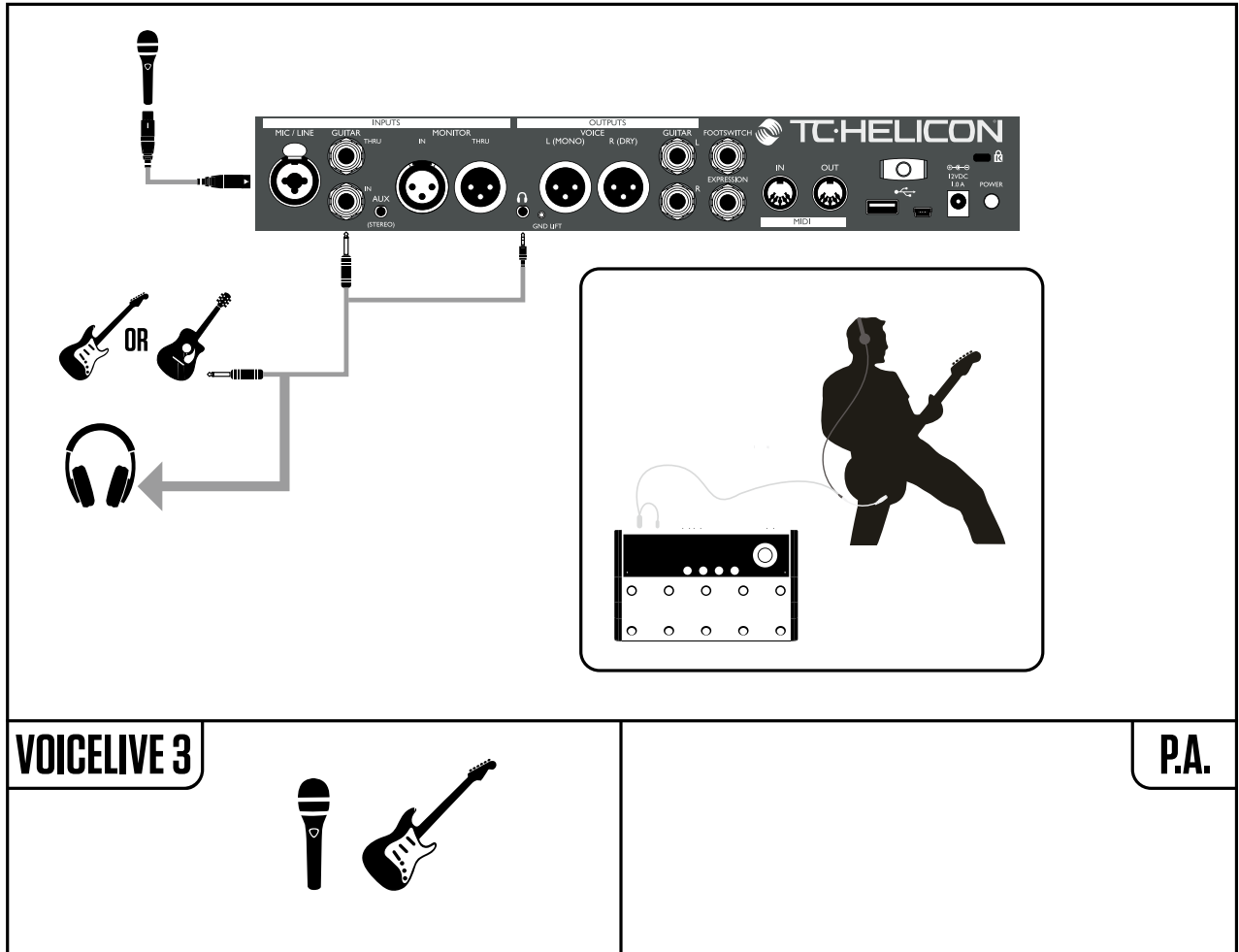
This setup utilizes the included guitar/headphone cable, which is perfect for personal monitoring in any setup. You will see that the two smaller ends of the cable are different. One end has a male headphone jack beside the guitar jack. Connect these to the GUITAR IN and HEADPHONE jacks. The other end plugs into your guitar and has a female jack for your headphones/in-ear monitors.

## 2. Stereo vocal and stereo guitar (2 channels)
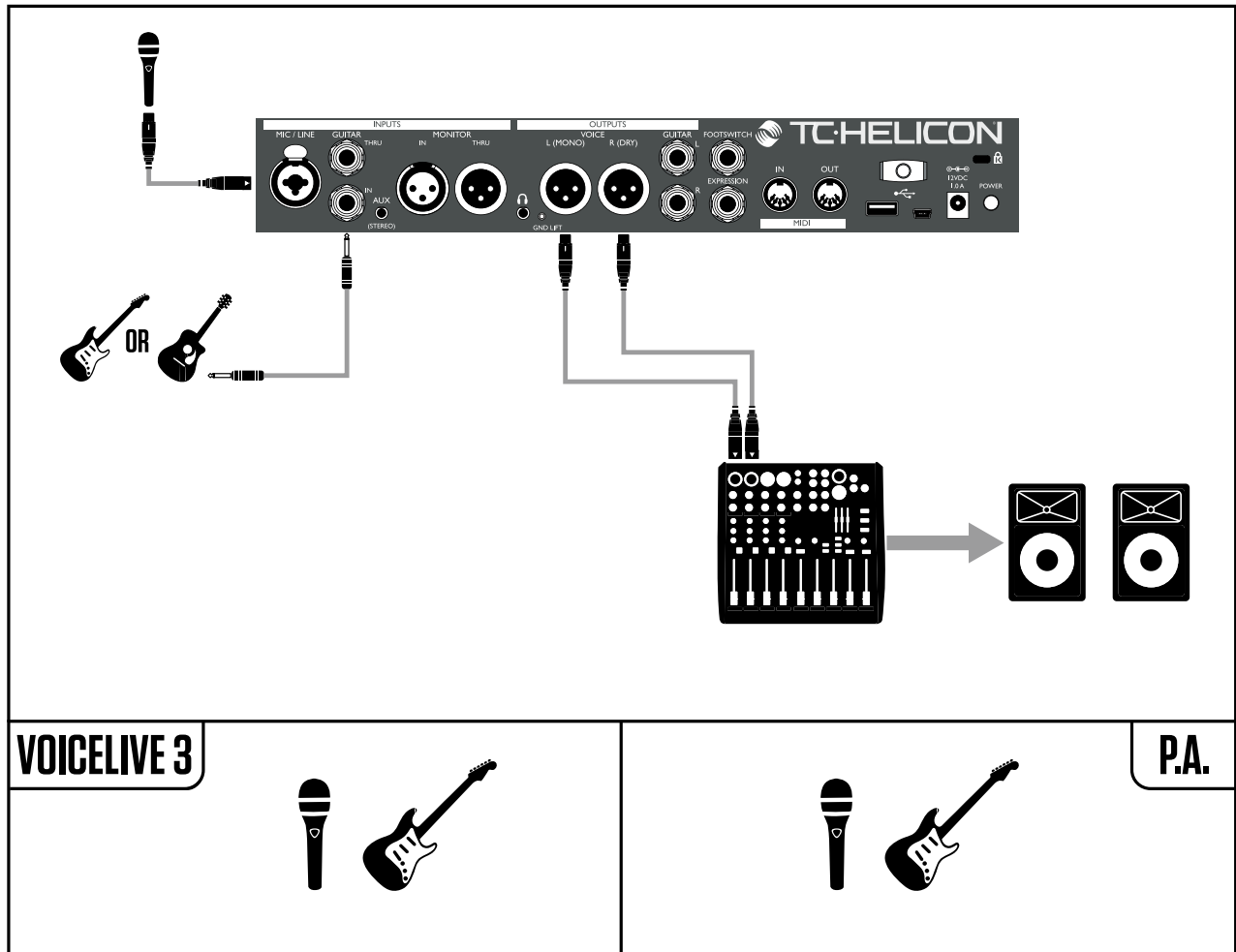
This is a very common setup for both live per-formances with a stereo PA (double-check that the venue PA system is actually in stereo!) or for basic 2 channel recording.

3. Stereo vocals and stereo guitar (4 channels)
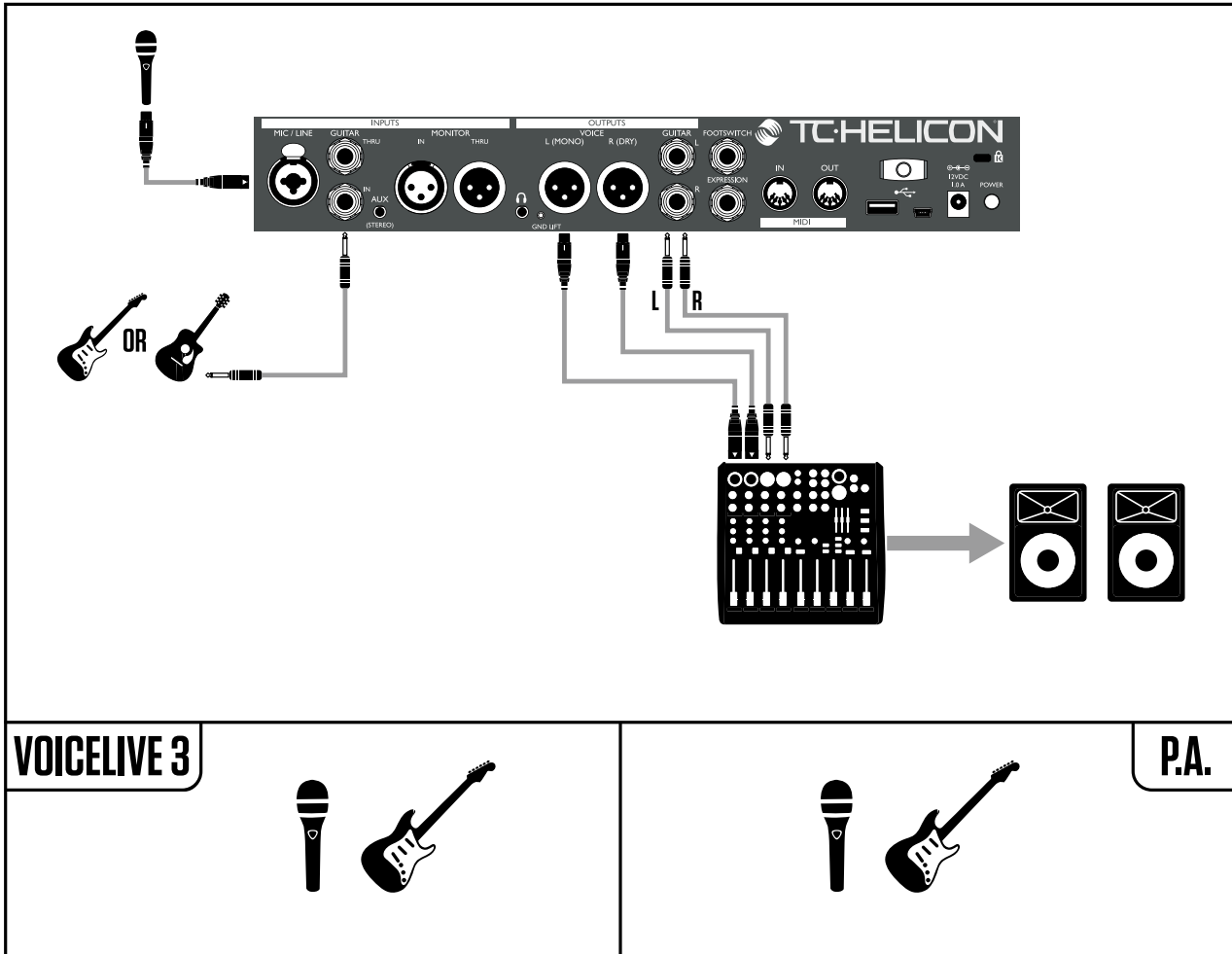
VoiceLive 3 features "jack sensing" on several inputs and outputs. With this connection setup, all guitar signals are removed from the XLR signal path when ¼" Guitar OUT connections are made. This gives you separate stereo channels for your vocals and guitar. This is a great setup for connecting to a 4 channel audio interface.
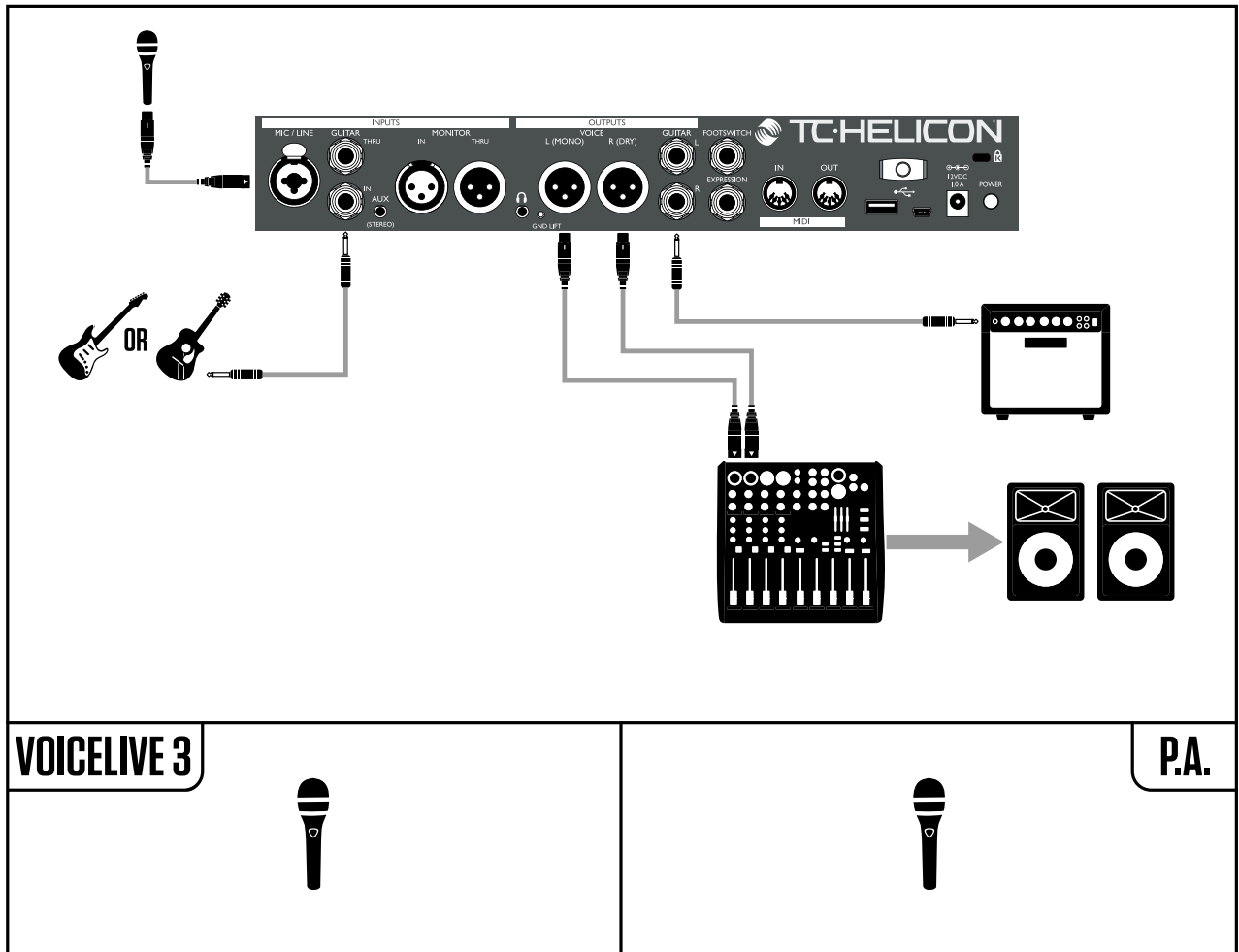
4. Mono vocals and mono guitar (dual mono mode)
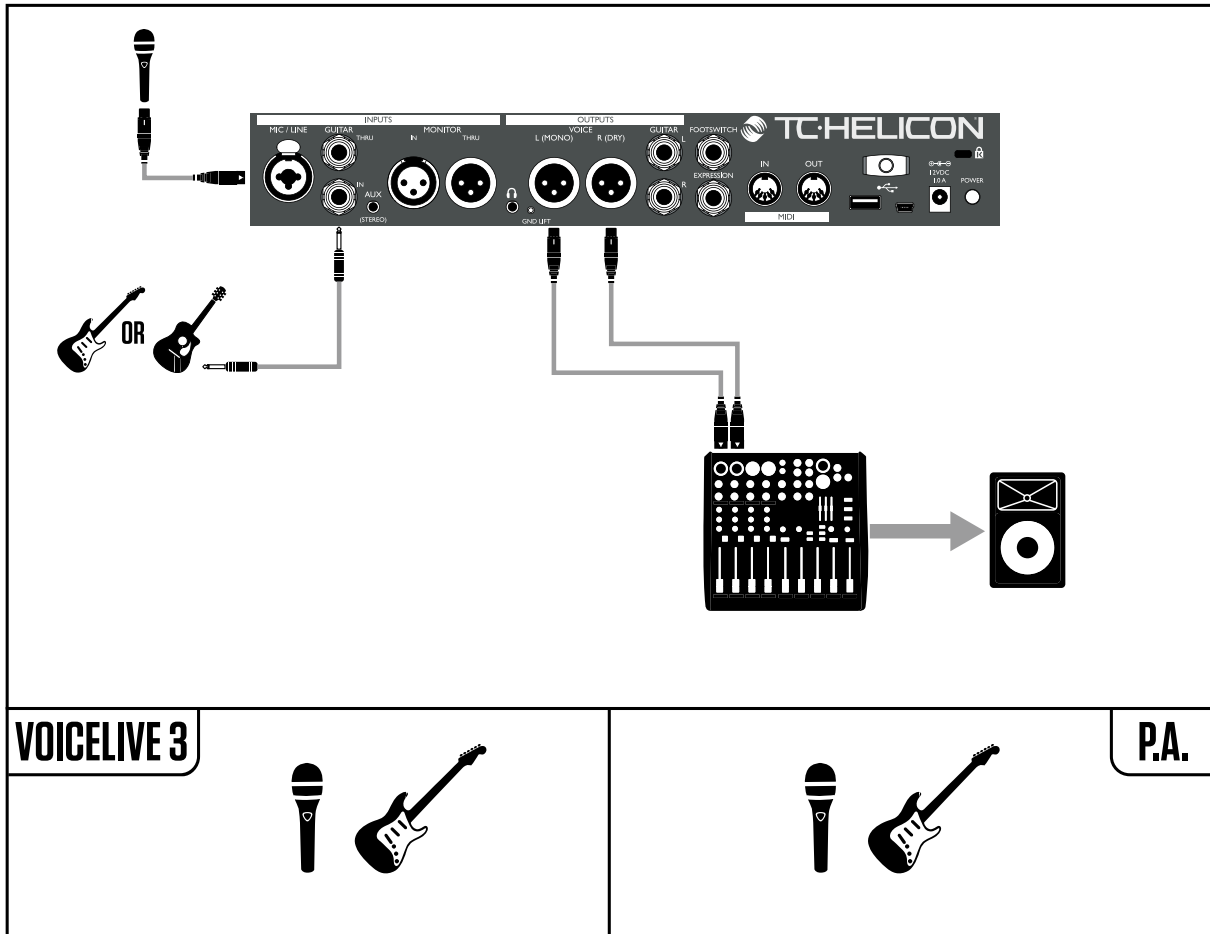
If you are not using a guitar amplifier, this is a common connection setup for most live venues, since the PA is typically in mono. It also allows a sound tech to control the overall balance between your vocals and guitar.

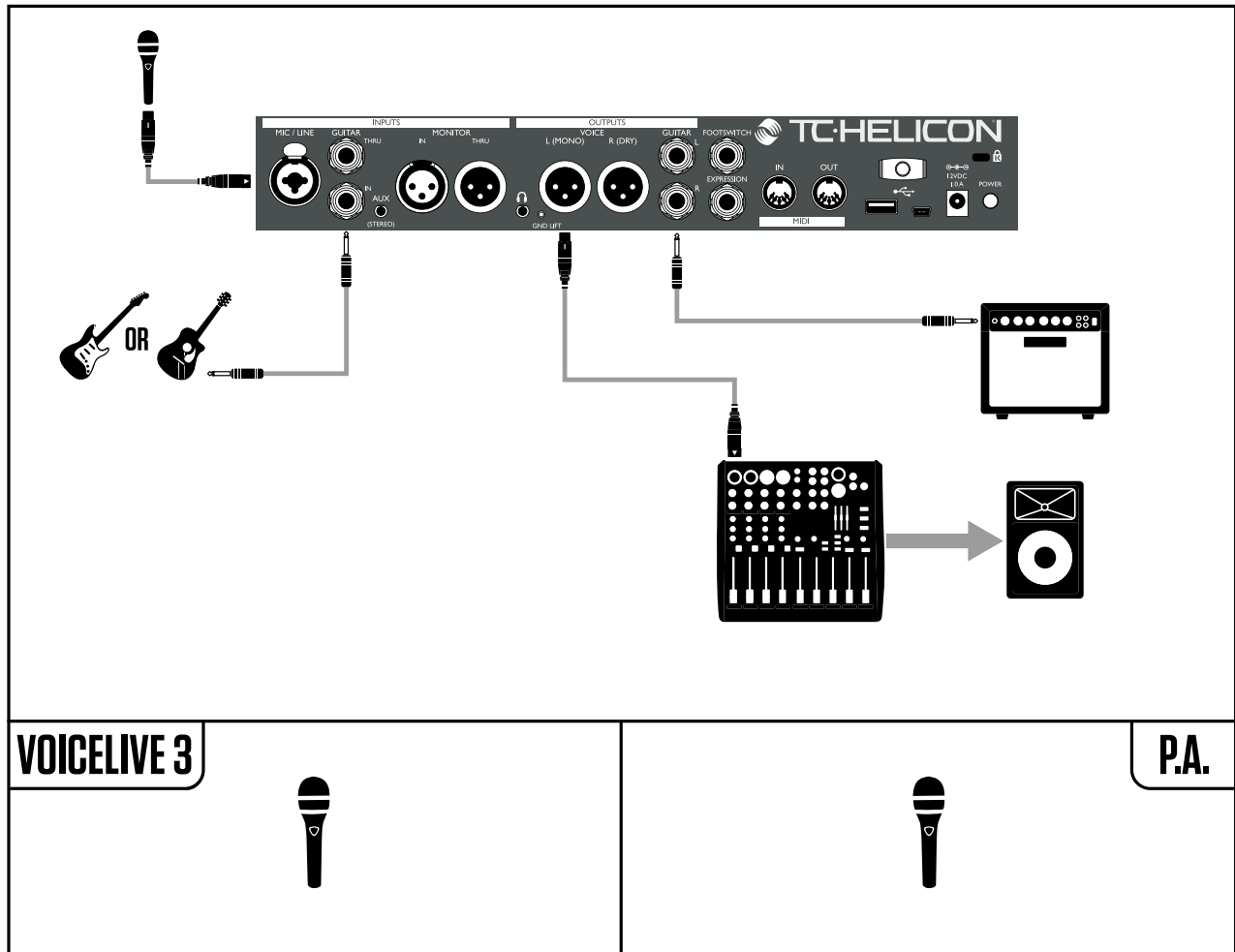Output modes can be changed in the Setup/Output menu.

5. Stereo vocals and guitar amplifier

Keep in mind that your guitar amp may be miked and come out through the PA. That part of the signal flow isn't shown in this setup example.

Guitar output is automatically muted in the XLR signal path when a 1/4" guitar out connection is made.
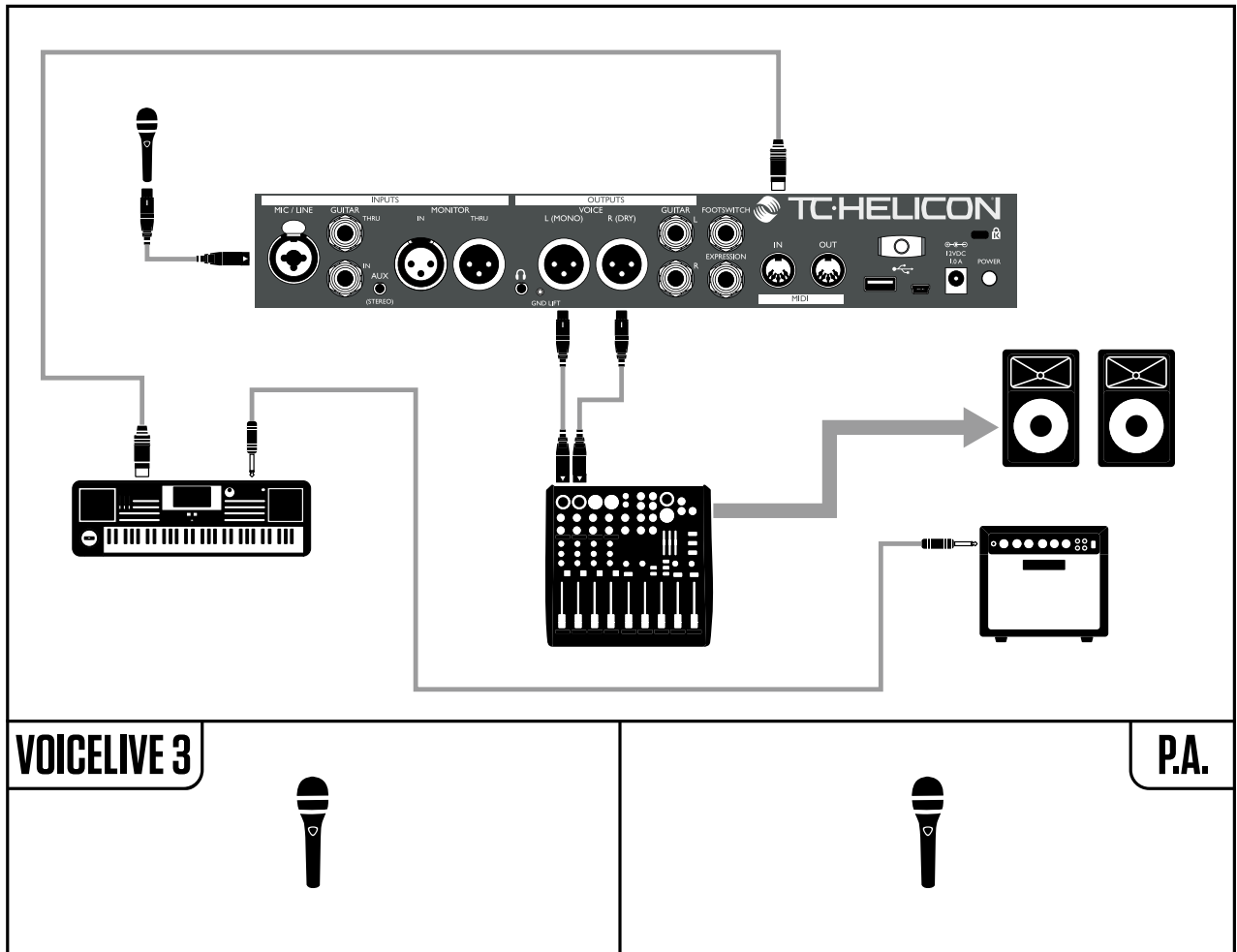
6. Mono vocals and guitar amplifier

Keep in mind that your guitar amp may be miked and come out through the PA. That part of the signal flow isn't shown in this setup example.

Guitar output is automatically muted in the XLR signal path when a 1/4" guitar out connection is made.

7. Stereo vocals and MIDI keyboard

VoiceLive 3 is not a synthesizer and cannot convert MIDI note messages to audio. The MIDI connection is only used for NaturalPlay chord detection and other control data. You will still need to connect your keyboard to the PA or an amplifier for it to be heard!

Let's get going!

Make all connections as seen in "Making connections" (page 6).

Before you power up VoiceLive 3, make sure that the amplifier or PA it is connected to is muted or turned all the way down!
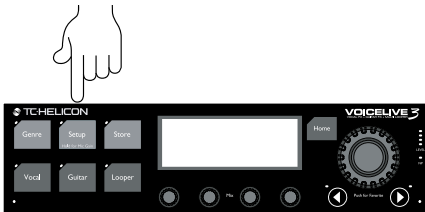
Press the POWER switch on the back of the unit.
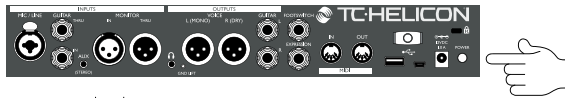
! Booting will take a few seconds – so it is normal if you see a blank screen for a short while.

Auto Gain
The easiest way to set the input levels for your microphone and guitar is to press and hold the Setup button.


You will see a series of on-screen instructions. When you are done, gain settings will be optimized for your microphone and guitar.

You should only have to use Auto Gain once. There is no need to go through this procedure each time you power on the unit.

If you have a condenser, MP-75, or e835FX mic, this is a good time to enable it. Follow the instructions printed on the bottom of your VoiceLive 3.

## Setting input gain on your mixer
While singing and playing at your loudest volume, *slowly* turn up the input gain/trim knobs of the mixer channels your VoiceLive 3 is connected to. When the clip indicator on your mixer lights up, reduce input gain/trim slightly.
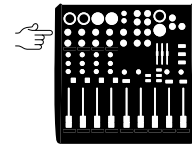

For additional information on input trim, please refer to your PA or mixer's instruction manual. If you need a bit more guidance, check out this "Craig's Corner" video explaining mixer setup: youtube.com/watch?v=qq0AOtafIjs

Time to have some fun!
It's time to hear what your VoiceLive 3 really can do! Set the VoiceLive 3 channel faders on your mixer to 0 or "Unity", whichever applies.
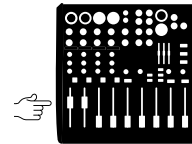
. *Slowly* turn up the master/main volume on your PA/Mixer (and on your guitar amp if you are hooked up to one).
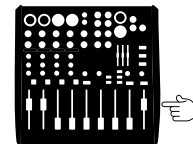
Sing and play!

If you encounter feedback, turn the master volume down until it goes away. For more information on feedback and how to overcome it, check out this "Craig's Corner" video: youtube.com/watch?v=VlN1RJ4gcAo

Explore the sounds
The best way to get an idea of your VoiceLive 3's potential is to browse the presets. The factory presets have tons of great sounds, so we suggest you carve out a little time to go through and listen to them.

To browse presets, press the footswitches with the up and down arrows on the far left.
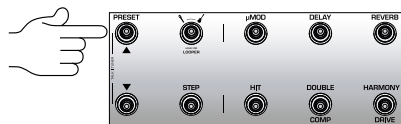
Note which presets you enjoy the most – you can use them as a starting point for creating your own presets later.

VoiceLive 3 for acoustic guitar players

VoiceLive 3 comes with pristine reverbs, modulation effects, EQs and delays to make your acoustic guitar sound better than it ever has. However, you may *not* want heavy overdrive or radical flanging applied to the output of your handmade masterpiece…

If you have a nice effects setup for your acoustic guitar that you want to use for all your songs, press SETUP, go to the SYSTEM tab and set ALL GUITAR FX GLOBAL to ON. This will "lock" the guitar effects so they won't change when you switch presets.

Let's make it a HIT!

When you are checking out presets, be sure to press the HIT button.
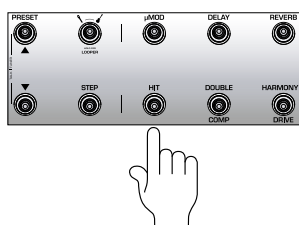
HIT allows you to add (or remove) multiple effects for both your vocals and/or guitar with a single button press. It can be used as a flexible "A/B" feature for two variations of a preset, or as a "turbo". E.g., HIT allows you to bring in Harmony at just the right time, or you can use it to turn off the Delay and activate the Vocoder in the bridge of a song. Be adventurous – HIT really brings out new and interesting facets of the presets.

Editing HIT settings is covered in the reference manual.

Are we there yet?
Frankly, we haven't even started…

By now, you have probably realized that we have merely scratched the surface of what you can do with your VoiceLive 3 – there is a *lot* to learn and do!

If you really want to know how deep the rabbit hole goes, download the full reference manual for your VoiceLive 3. It will show you how to…

– use vocal, guitar and loop "layers"
– edit presets
– turn individual effects on and off
– remap effect buttons
– use Harmony modes effectively
– tweak all effect parameters
– create and edit loops
– Global effects assignments
– browse presets by genre
– adapt audio signal routings to your needs
– mix audio signals
– set up MIDI controls
– *… and much more!*

You can download the VoiceLive 3 **reference manual** from
tc-helicon.com/products/voicelive-3/support/.

Technical specifications

Inputs	
Voice connector	Combo Balanced XLR/ Balanced TRS ¼"phone jack
Input impedance balanced	3.08 kOhm
Mic input level @ 0 dBFS	-52 dBu to +7 dBu
Line input level @ 0 dBFS	-40 dBu to +19 dBu
EIN @ max mic gain rg = 150 ohm	-127 dBu
Mic SNR	>100 dB at typical Mic Input gain
A to D conversion	24 Bit, 128 x oversampling bitstream, 110 dB SNR A-weighted
Guitar connector	¼" phone jack
Guitar input impedance	1 MOhm
Guitar input level @ 0 dBFS	-2 dBU to 14 dBu
Guitar input SNR	>108 dB
A to D conversion	24 Bit, 128 x oversampling bitstream, 110 dB SNR A-weighted
Monitor connector	Balanced XLR
Input impedance balanced	25 kOhm
Monitor input level @ 0 dBFS	+16 dBu
Aux	
Aux connector	1/8" stereo mini jack
Aux input level @ 0 dBFS	+2 dBu
Analog outputs	
Voice out connectors	balanced XLR
Output impedance balanced/unbalanced	300/150 Ohm
Output range @ 0 dBFS	Line Level: +14 dBu; Mic Level: -2 dBu
Dynamic range	>109 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz
Frequency response	+0/-0.3 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz
D to A conversion	24 Bit, 128 x oversampling bitstream, 115 dB SNR A-weighted
Guitar out connectors	1/4" TRS phone jack
Output impedance balanced/unbalanced	442/221 Ohm
Output range @ 0 dBFS	Line Level: +14 dBu; Mic Level: - 2 dBu
Dynamic range	>101 dB, 20 Hz to 20 kHz

D to A conversion	24 Bit, 128 x oversampling bitstream, 106 dB SNR A-weighted
Headphone out	
Headphone out connector	1/8" Mini stereo jack, 50 Ohm, +14 dBu max
Guitar thru	
Buffered guitar input connector	1/4" TRS phone jack
Output impedance bal/unbal.	270/540 Ohms
Monitor thru	
Direct connection to monitor input connector	Balanced XLR
Control	
USB	USB-B, USB-A
MIDI in	5 Pin DIN
Pedal	1/4" TRS phone jack
Power	
External power supply	100 to 240 VAC, 50 to 60 Hz (auto-select)
Power consumption	< 14 W
Safety	
EMC	Complies with EN 55103-1:2009, EN 55103-2:2009, FCC CFR 47 Part 15B and ICES-003:2004 4th Ed.
Safety	Certified to IEC 65, EN 60065, UL6500 and CSA IEC 65, EN 60065, UL6500 and CSA
Operating requirements	
Operating temperature	32° F to 122° F (0° C to 50° C)
Storage temperature	-22° F to 167° F (-30° C to 70° C)
Humidity	max. 90 % non-condensing
Size & weight	
Dimensions	9" x 4" x 7" (230 x 100 x 180)
Weight	5 lb. (2.3 kg)
Warranty	
See www.tc-helicon.com/support for warranty information.	