



ADA MP-1
Level Switch Mod

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Overview:

Don't you just hate the idea of unranking your MP-1 to get at the little switch to change Output Levels? If you tweak your gear a lot and like to try out a bunch of different setups, or just want the peace of mind knowing that you can change the level output without having to unscrew the MP-1 out of the rack, then perhaps this mod is what you're looking for! It basically involves removing the original, hard-to-get-at switch and installing a new switch on the BACK of the MP-1. Not too hard to do, but it goes a long ways towards making your MP-1 even more versatile than it already is. Note that this mod is for the early MP-1 preamps that already have the switch inside to select between "Instrument" (-10 dBu) Level and "Line" (+4 dBu) Level. The later MP-1s output levels were fixed at "Line" Level. *If you're relatively new to soldering techniques, I **highly** recommend checking out some of Hairston Bagg's well-written documents regarding "Solder-Monkey" practices.*

What you need:

Soldering iron

Solder

De-soldering braid (or "solder-sucker")

3/16" Drill bit and drill (d'oh!)

Micromini DPDT toggle switch (Radio Shack part # 275-626A)

22-24 gauge wire (preferably 2 different colors)

A continuity tester is helpful for double-checking your work

Get on with it already!

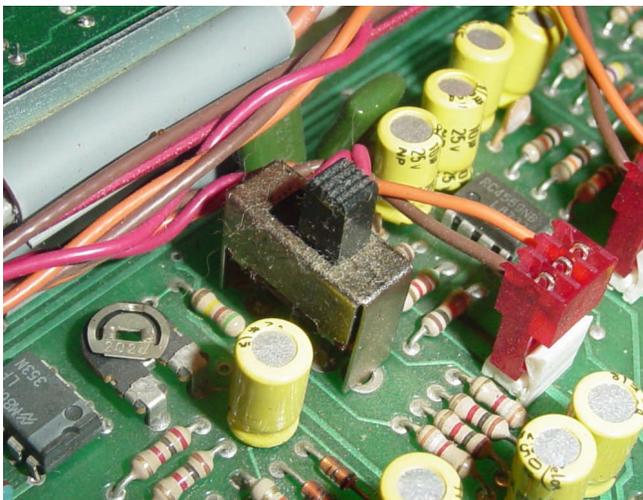
STEP 1

Unplug and unrank your MP-1. Remove both the top and bottom lids.

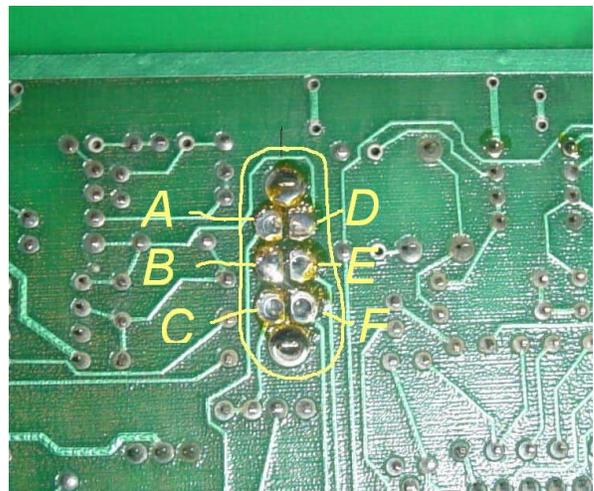
STEP 2

Locate the Level switch (top of motherboard) as well as the corresponding solder points (bottom of mb). Carefully de-solder and remove the switch. See **Pics A and B**.

Pic A



Pic B



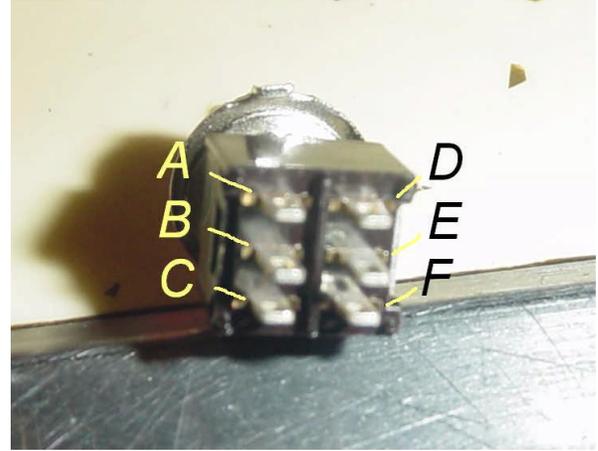
STEP 3

Cut 6 pieces of wire about 5 inches (12.7 cm) in length. Strip both ends of each wire. Solder one end of each wire to the terminals on the new switch. **Pic C** is a comparison of the old switch and the new one. If you have two different colors wire, it's easier to pay attention to which one goes where. Since we're using a DPDT (Double Pole, Double Throw) toggle, the terminals are in 3 pairs of 2. The middle pair is where the signal goes in to the switch. The outer pairs are the outputs from the switch, and depending on where the switch is thrown, one pair of output terminals or the other will be selected. See **Pics B and D**.

Pic C



Pic D



STEP 4

Solder the other ends of the 6 wires to the bottom side of the mb. These are also paired the same way the switch is. I labeled both the mb and the switch in the pics, so matching the numbers should make this really easy. Observe that some of the solder points share traces on both the top and bottom of the mb, so make sure you get a good solder joint on the topside as well.

STEP 5

Now for the scary part.... drilling a hole in your MP-1 chassis. Hey, it's not a big deal! You will be using a pre-existing hole and only making this hole a tad larger (3/16") than it already is, not drilling a brand-new hole in your virgin chassis! First, locate and remove this screw and nut in **Pic E**. This will be the best spot to mount the new switch. No new holes and no compromising the structural integrity of the unit once the switch is in place and tightened down. Drill the hole larger and make sure you drill through the hole on the inside bracket as well. Use a slow drill speed with light to medium pressure on the drill. Take your time here. Just because you're holding a gorilla-tool doesn't mean you can't use it with some finesse! After you drilled the hole out larger, make sure you blow out any of those nasty metal shavings that may have fallen inside the unit.

Pic E



STEP 6

Now install the new switch in the hole from the inside of the MP-1 and tighten the locknut. *Pic F shows the switch installed.* Replace the top and bottom lids and you're done! How cool is that?

Pic F

