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AV Series, AudioVision: Level Sensitivity Settings (1/94)

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TOPIC -----

What are the line level sensitivity settings found in Sound Options dialog box in the AV Series Sound control panel. I'm using the AudioVision 14 Display with my AV Series Macintosh. The AV Series manual does not explain these settings and I'd like to know more.

DISCUSSION -----

The following information was extracted from the Apple AudioVision 14 Display Developer Notes; Pages 32-34.

AudioVision Sound Options Dialog Box

- The controls in this dialog box are intended for power users.
- When you select an option in this dialog box, it is effective immediately.

AudioVision Sound Options functions. The remainder of this article explains the Sound Options dialog box controls.

External Sound Input buttons

These controls allows you to set the levels of the external sound input, specifically line level and microphone level.

The AudioVision 14 Display accepts 2.0 V and 4.0 V peak-to-peak sound input signals. When you power up the display initially, the Line Level button with low sensitivity will be selected. This means that the display is set to accept the 4.0 V peak-to-peak input.

If your sound input device provides a 2.0 V peak-to-peak signal, the sound output from the display will seem relatively quiet. To compensate for

this, and boost the level of the sound output, you should select Microphone Level high sensitivity. Once you have done this, the Manager saves the setting, which becomes the default unless you change it.

You should generally select Line Level low sensitivity for audio cassettes, audio CDs, and some Apple microphones. You should select Microphone Level (high or low sensitivity) for most other microphones.

External sound input plays through speakers and headphones
(Internal microphone disables external sound input)

During normal operation, you should select "External sound input plays through speakers and headphones." When this option is selected, the "Internal microphone disables external sound input" option is also available.

You should select "Internal microphone disables external sound input" only when your sound input device is a CD player plugged into the audio input connector on the side panel of the display.

Note that Internal microphone disables external sound input may only be selected when External sound input plays through speakers and headphones is selected.

The CD player typically provides a 16-bit sound input, which is transferred through the display to the CPU, and then back from the CPU to be output from the display's speakers or headphone jack. Since the CPU supports only 8-bit sound I/O, the sound output provided in this way is distorted and inferior to the original input.

If you select "Internal microphone disables external sound input," the sound input will be routed directly from the input port to the display's speakers and headphone outputs, without going through the CPU. This enables the display to function as a powered speaker system, and ensures that there is no loss in sound output quality.

If you are recording from the CD (or other sound device) input, the sound input must be routed through the CPU, and you should select "External sound input plays through speakers and headphones."

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