

FLX-AES50

AES50-to-everything

Digital Audio Converter

User's Manual

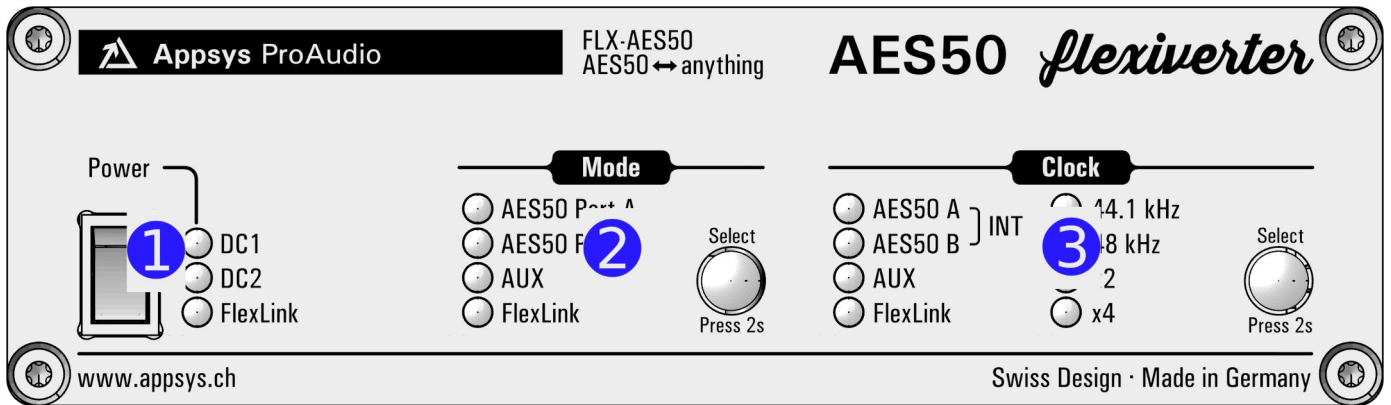
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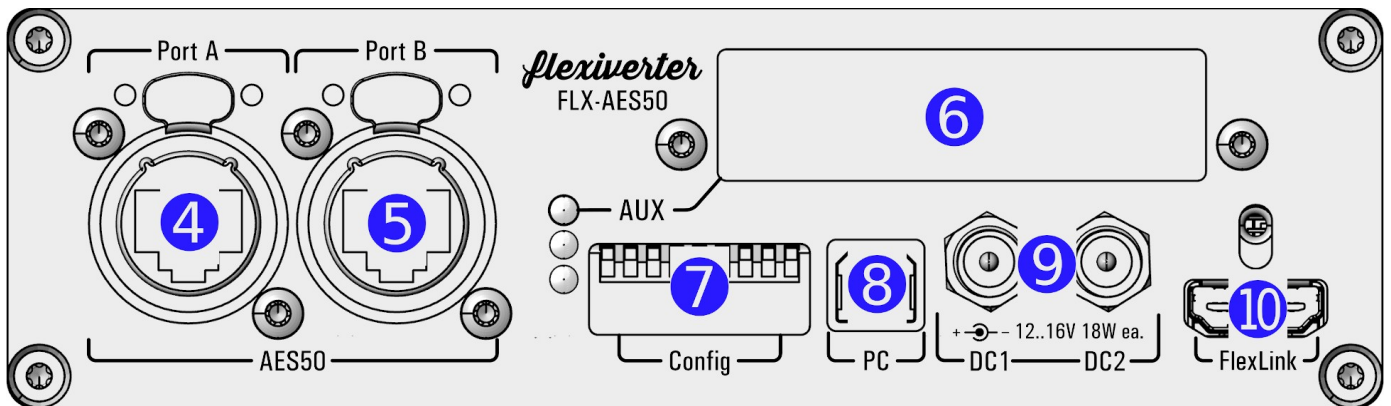
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1. QUICK REFERENCE



- 1 Power switch and "power good" indicators. LEDs light up blue when power is available on the respective port.
- 2 Mode indicators/selector. Long-press the "Select" button to change the audio routing between the interfaces. Wait four seconds to activate the selected mode.
- 3 Clock indicators/selector. Long-press the "Select" button to change the clock source and sample-rate. Wait four seconds to activate the selected mode.



- 4 5 AES50 ports A and B
- 6 AUX slot. Accepts optional card for standalone use
- 7 DIP switches, mostly to control output data format. See [8. DIP Settings](#)
- 8 USB port (firmware update only, no audio)
- 9 Redundant DC input ports
- 10 FlexLink: optional connection to second flexiverter, or to multiverter.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Purpose

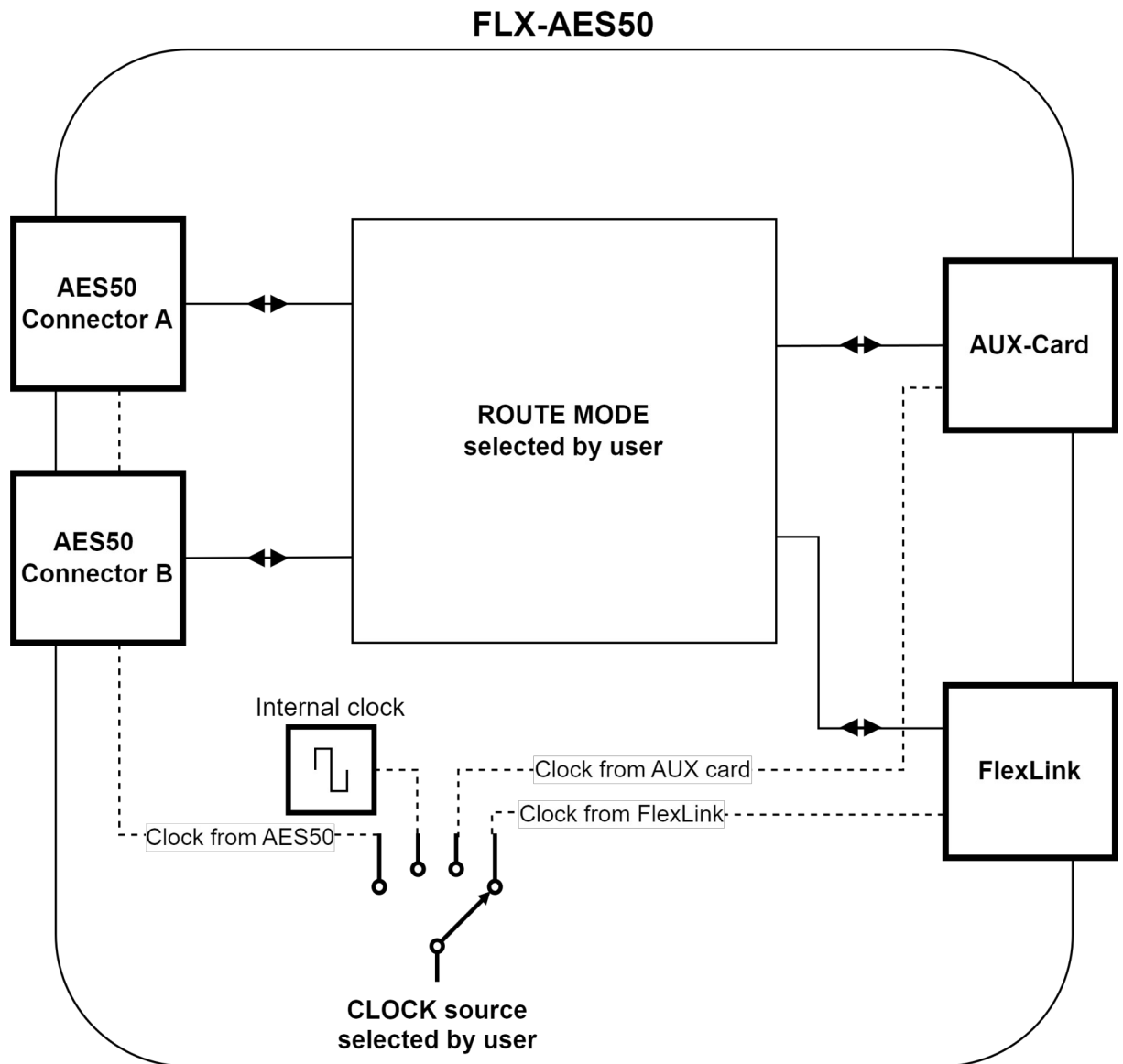
The FLX-AES50 device is a digital audio converter, providing two built-in AES50 interfaces (96x96 channels @ 48kHz) and additional slot for one AUX card. It can be used in different setups, depending on the user's needs:

- standalone, to **convert between the built-in AES50 and an AUX** card (AES50-to-anything).
- Transfer **AES50 over fiber** (DN9620 replacement, with AUX-MADI-SFP card), or **AES50-over-Dante** (with AUX-DANTE card) including the AES50 AUX channel for **full headamp control**.¹
- standalone in-line: signals are transparently **passed between both AES50** ports and **split to the AUX** card (plug-in recording split), while maintaining stagebox remote control
- **together with another flexiverter**, connected via FlexLink (for up to 160x160 channels),
- **together with the multiverter**, connected via FlexLink. This provides remote control, channel-wise routing and SRC (Sample Rate Conversion).

For a detailed description of possible configurations see [3. Possible Setups](#).

¹ Headamp remote control data can be passed over normal audio channels, which enables headamp control over MADI or DANTE. Requires firmware 2.6 or higher.






2.2. Block diagram



2.3. Box Contents

- 1 FLX-AES50 Converter
- 1 HDMI cable 0.5m / 1.7 ft with locking screws
- 1 Power supply
- 1 Power cord (country specific)
- This manual

2.4. Conventions used in this manual

- A button on the front is shown like this:  **Mode** or  **Clock**
- A LED is shown like this:  off /  on /  blinking





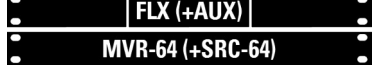
Filled circles with an exclamation mark indicates an action that must be performed ("Required").



A section marked with an "information" icon indicates a useful tip.

3. POSSIBLE SETUPS

The device can be used in three different setups, shown below:

	SETUP		
	flexiverter + AUX card	Double-flexiverter	flexiverter + multiverter
			
How it works	Converts between built-in interface and the AUX card, or splits AES50 to the AUX card. For a list of AUX cards, see 3.1 Available AUX cards .	Devices are connected via FlexLink cable. Converts between one FLX(+AUX) and the other FLX(+AUX).	Flexiverter connected to multiverter via FlexLink cable. FLX(+AUX) serves as extension to the MVR-64
Channels (all can be used at the same time)	96x96 AES50 @ 48kHz 48x48 AES50 @ 96kHz or maximum capacity of the AUX card, whichever is less	96x96 AES50 @ 48kHz 48x48 AES50 @ 96kHz plus what the AUX card provides	448x448 from multiverter plus 96x96 AES50 plus what the AUX card provides
Redundant power supply	up to 2x	up to 3x	up to 3x
Battery-powered operation (DC 12-15V)	yes	yes	yes
Sample Rate Conversion	no	no	yes (with SRC-64 card in Multiverter)
Signal splitting	yes (to AUX or FlexLink)	yes (to AUX or FlexLink)	yes, to everything
Channel-wise routing	no	no	yes, via MVR-64 (web, telnet or serial terminal)
Remote control	no	no	yes, via MVR-64 (web, telnet or serial terminal)
Rack mount	1U total	1U total	2U total

3.1. Available AUX cards

At the time of writing (2025-01), the following AUX cards are available. More will come, please check www.appsys.ch for updates.

Item	Description
AUX-ADAT	16x16ch ADAT I/O (2x In + 2x out). Supports also S/PDIF
AUX-ADAT-64	64x64ch ADAT I/O (8x In + 8x out). Connectors on breakout box
AUX-AES3	8x8ch AES3 I/O on 1x DB25, fully transformer isolated

Item	Description
AUX-DANTE	64x64ch DANTE network card
AUX-MADI-COAX	64x64ch MADI for coaxial cable (2xBNC connectors)
AUX-MADI-OPTO	64x64ch MADI optical, SC connector (Multimode 125um 1310 nm)
AUX-MADI-SFP	64x64ch MADI for SFP (Small-Factor Pluggable) modules
AUX-MADI-TP	64x64ch Twisted-Pair (Cat5) MADI I/O for DiGiCo/Soundcraft/Studer
AUX-TDM	32x32 channel TAM (Time Division Multiplexing/I2S), 3.3V LVCMOS I/O, ribbon cable connector
AUX-WORDCLOCK	BNC wordclock I/O

3.2. Available FLX devices

At the time of writing (2025-01), the following FLX devices are available. More will come, please check www.appsys.ch for updates.

Item	Description
FLX-AES3	16x16 channel AES3 flexiverter (with AUX slot)
FLX-AES3/SRC	16x16 channel AES3 flexiverter with individual SRCs on the AES3 inputs
FLX-AES50	96x96 channel AES50 flexiverter (with AUX slot)
FLX-DANTE	64x64 channel DANTE flexiverter (with AUX slot)
FLX-DANTE/SRC	64x64 channel DANTE flexiverter with bi-directional 64x64ch SRC
FLX-MADI	128x128 channel MADI SFP & MADI coaxial module (with AUX slot)

3.3. FlexLink connection

The FlexLink connection is designed to connect Flexiverter with each other, or with the Multiverter. It provides:

- 192x192 channels bi-directional transmission of 24-bit uncompressed audio (fully transparent to AES3 compatible metadata bits)
- Super-low link latency of 4 samples (ca. 83µs)
- Dedicated, high-quality reference clock signal with automatic configuration
- Power supply for connected devices (to reduce cabling), alternatively serves as redundancy scheme when both devices are powered: in case of power failure, both devices keep working from the remaining power supply.
- Uses standard HDMI cables (with locking screws), to provide easy field replacement in case of defects.

4. AUDIO ROUTING

The flexiverter can operate in various routing modes, allowing you to pass audio between the available interfaces in many different ways. The LEDs in the "MODE" section indicate the involved interfaces.

4.1. Modes and indication

#	Routing	Operation (Example)	Setup (blinking alternately)	Remarks
#1	AES50 A + B (+ AUX) < > FlexLink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AES50 Port A ● AES50 Port B ○ AUX ● FlexLink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ ○ AES50 Port A ✱ ○ AES50 Port B ✱ ○ AUX ○ ✱ FlexLink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ AUX LED only active when card installed. ■ Headamp remote data: DIP3 UP: forwarding between A < > B DOWN: tunneling over audio² ■ AUX audio can be mapped directly after AES50 B on FlexLink Lane2, or separate on Lane 3³
#2	AES50 A + B < > AUX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AES50 Port A ● AES50 Port B ● AUX ○ FlexLink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ ○ AES50 Port A ✱ AES50 Port B ○ ✱ AUX ○ ○ FlexLink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Converts 48 + 16ch or 32 + 32ch AES50 A + B < > AUX⁴. ■ Channel offset in AUX can be changed.⁵ ■ Headamp remote control (DIP3): UP: forwarding between A < > B DOWN: tunneling over audio² ■ Additional split of everything to FlexLink⁶
#3	AES50 A < > AES50 B + split to AUX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AES50 Port A ● AES50 Port B ● AUX ○ FlexLink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ ○ AES50 Port A ○ ✱ AES50 Port B ✱ ✱ AUX ○ ○ FlexLink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Splits 48 + 16ch or 32 + 32ch from A + B to AUX⁴ ■ Headamp remote control forwarding between A < > B ■ Additional split of everything to FlexLink⁶

LED color	Meaning
○ off	Interface not active / involved
● green	IN and OUT valid
● white	OUT valid, but no IN detected




2 See 8.3 Headamp control data handling (DIP3)

3 See 8.2 AUX < > FlexLink channel mapping (DIP2)



4 See 8.1 AES50 port A + B < > AUX mapping (DIP1,3)

5 See 8.5 AUX Card Channel Offset (DIP7..9)




6 All incoming data is also split (output) to FlexLink: AES50 Port A is split to Lane 1 (ch1-64), AES50 Port B is split to Lane 2 (ch65-128) and AUX is split to Lane 3 (ch129-192). The split is not indicated on the LEDs for clarity but is always active.

LED color	Meaning
 red	No valid signal or no valid clock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If the clock LEDs show red, make sure the clock mode is set correctly and a valid clock is supplied. ◆ If the clock LEDs show green, the clock is ok but the input is not detected. Check the respective connection.
 red blinking	Interface is currently booting and not yet active
 yellow blinking	Mode setting active: Alternately blinking LEDs indicate the interfaces between which data is converted; constant lit LEDs indicate splitting destinations. Press MODE button again to cycle through available modes. After 4 seconds, the selected mode is applied automatically.

4.2. Selecting the Route Mode

- Long-press the  **Mode** button until the LEDs are blinking yellow.
- Current routing mode is shown by alternately yellow blinking LEDs, indicating the interfaces where the signal is passed between.
- Press the  **Mode** button repeatedly to cycle between available modes, until the desired mode is shown.
- After four seconds without interaction, selection mode is terminated and the current setting comes into effect.

4.3. Remarks

- Routing between the selected interfaces is always bi-directional, meaning that audio is passed between them both ways. A working bi-directional link shows  green for both interfaces. If the LED shows  white, the corresponding interface does only output data but no input on it has been detected. If the LED shows  red, the interface is not connected, or the clock is invalid or missing.
- Channel-wise routing and splitting (crosspoint switch/matrix) between all channels is possible when the flexiverter is connected to a multiverter. Routing is then done via the multiverter's web interface or via the command line.

5. CLOCK SETTINGS







5.1. Clock sources and indication

The flexiverter can be clocked from every interface (acting as clock slave), or can run on its internal clock (acting as clock master).

Clock source	"Clock" Indication (Example)	Remarks
AES50 Port A	<input checked="" type="radio"/> AES50 A <input type="radio"/> 44.1 kHz <input type="radio"/> AES50 B <input checked="" type="radio"/> 48 kHz <input type="radio"/> AUX <input type="radio"/> x2 <input type="radio"/> FlexLink <input type="radio"/> x4	
AES50 Port B	<input type="radio"/> AES50 A <input type="radio"/> 44.1 kHz <input checked="" type="radio"/> AES50 B <input checked="" type="radio"/> 48 kHz <input type="radio"/> AUX <input type="radio"/> x2 <input type="radio"/> FlexLink <input type="radio"/> x4	
Internal ("INT")	<input checked="" type="radio"/> AES50 A \ INT <input checked="" type="radio"/> AES50 B / INT <input type="radio"/> 44.1 kHz <input type="radio"/> AES50 B / INT <input checked="" type="radio"/> 48 kHz <input type="radio"/> AUX <input type="radio"/> x2 <input type="radio"/> FlexLink <input type="radio"/> x4	Flexiverter acts as clock master.
AUX	<input type="radio"/> AES50 A <input type="radio"/> 44.1 kHz <input type="radio"/> AES50 B <input checked="" type="radio"/> 48 kHz <input checked="" type="radio"/> AUX <input type="radio"/> x2 <input type="radio"/> FlexLink <input type="radio"/> x4	Only available with AUX installed. AUX card acts as clock master. Use an AUX-WORDCLOCK if you need BNC wordclock I/O.
FlexLink	<input type="radio"/> AES50 A <input type="radio"/> 44.1 kHz <input type="radio"/> AES50 B <input checked="" type="radio"/> 48 kHz <input type="radio"/> AUX <input type="radio"/> x2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> FlexLink <input type="radio"/> x4	Clock is taken from the peer device (Flexiverter or Multiverter)

LED color	Meaning
<input type="radio"/> off	Interface not active / not involved
<input checked="" type="radio"/> green	Selected, locked and synced
<input checked="" type="radio"/> red	No valid clock. No input connected or no master clock signal detected
<input checked="" type="radio"/> * yellow blinking	Clock setting active. Press CLOCK button to go to the next clock source. After 4 seconds, selection mode is terminated and the selected mode comes into effect.

5.2. Selecting the Clock Source

- Long-press the  button until the LEDs are blinking yellow.
- Current clock source/modes is shown by blinking LED(s).
- Press the  button repeatedly to cycle between the available clock sources. Depending on the source, you might need to select the desired sample rate ( **44.1 kHz** or  **48 kHz**) and/or the appropriate multipliers ( **x2** /  **x4**).
- After four seconds without interaction, clock setting is automatically terminated and the selected clock source comes into effect.



When the samplerate is incorrectly set (e.g. 48k with 96k data), unwanted effects (double samples, zero samples, channel crosstalk etc.) may occur and might not be noticed immediately. Always double-check that the samplerate is set correctly on all involved devices!

6. REMOTE CONTROL

6.1. Browser-based control

This does not require any software to be installed. It works as hybrid app where the user interface is fetched from the web, and your browser talks to the device via USB connection.



Web control requires “Web Serial API” which is currently only available in **Chrome, Edge and Opera** on Windows and Mac. Not supported on mobile devices and Safari/Firefox.

To use web control,

- Connect the device to your computer using an USB cable
- Open your browser and go to appsys.ch/remote
- When the browser requests access to the serial port, give permission on the first port listed

6.2. Command line control

A command line is available via the USB serial port. To use it, you need a terminal software (Hyperterminal, PuTTY, minicom or similar) which can talk to a serial (“COM”) port.

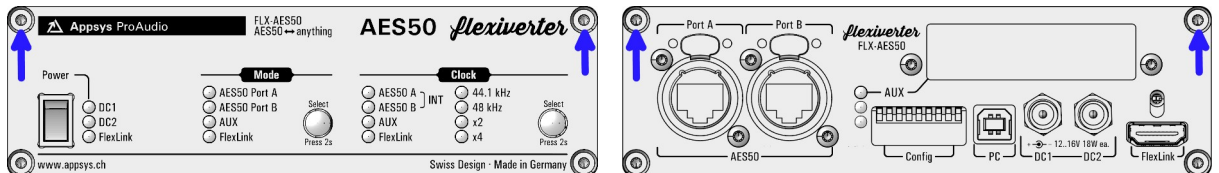
To use the command line,

- Connect the device to your computer using an USB cable
- Open the terminal software. Select the first COM port which appears when plugging in the device
- Select 115200 bps, 8N1 as communication parameters
- To see what you’re typing, turn local echo “on” in the terminal software
- To see a list of available commands, type **help** at the **FLX>** command prompt

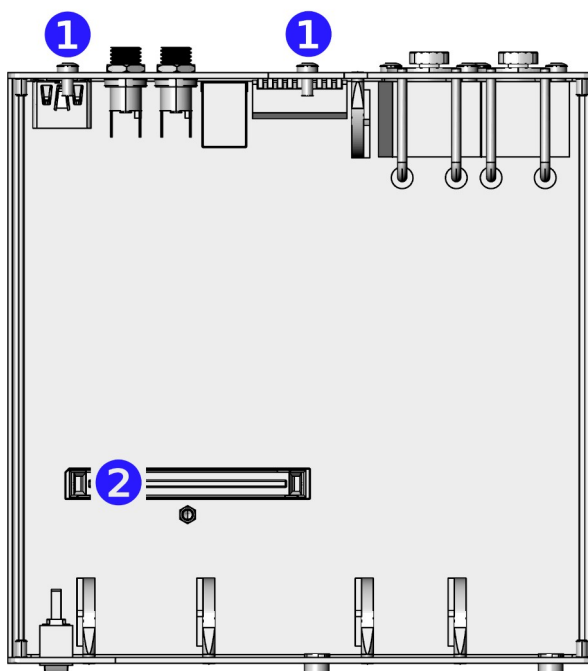
7. ACCESSING INTERNALS

7.1. Opening the device

- Required: Torx T10 screwdriver.
- Power off the device and detach all cables to avoid short-circuit or damage.
- Detach the device from the rack-mount kit.
- Remove the four top screws and the top cover by pulling it upwards:



7.2. Inside view



- ① Screws for AUX cover plate
- ② AUX card connector

7.3. Installing AUX cards

- Remove the screws holding the cover plate, and the blank cover plate ①
- Insert the AUX card from inside, using the supplied cover plate. Make sure it is correctly fitted to the card connector ②
- Secure the card using two cover screws ①
- The card has been installed correctly if you are able to select an audio routing mode involving AUX (long-press MODE button to enter Route Mode Selection).

8. DIP SETTINGS

Fine-tuning of the flexiverter's built-in interface behavior and of the AUX card can be achieved via DIP settings on the back side. Changing the DIP settings will come immediately into effect. **Default setting: all switches up.**

8.1. AES50 port A + B < > AUX mapping (DIP1,3)

Determines how AES50 ports A and B are mapped to the 64 channels of the AUX card (has only an effect in routing modes #2 and #3).

Note: The location on the AUX card can additionally be shifted by multiples of 8. See 8.5 AUX Card Channel Offset (DIP7..9)



<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3	*48 + 16ch, headamp control passthru between A < > B. AUX channels 1-64 contain: 1-48 48ch audio of AES50 port A 49-64 16ch audio of AES50 port B
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3	48 + 8ch, headamp control (port A only) over audio channels 57-64 AUX channels 1-64 contain: 1-48 48ch audio of AES50 port A 49-56 8ch audio of AES50 port B 57-64 Headamp remote control data from/to AES50 port A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3	32 + 32ch, headamp control passthru between A < > B. AUX channels 1-64 contain: 1-32 32ch audio of AES50 port A 33-64 32ch audio of AES50 port B
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3	24 + 24ch, with headamp control (both ports) over 2*8 audio channels⁷. AUX channels 1-64 contain: 1-24 24ch audio of AES50 port A 25-32 Headamp remote control data of AES50 port A 33-56 24ch audio of AES50 port B 57-64 Headamp remote control data of AES50 port B

* Default setting

⁷ From firmware 2.9 on.

8.2. AUX < > FlexLink channel mapping (DIP2)⁸

Determines how the AUX card channels are mapped to the FlexLink interface (has only an effect in routing mode #1). Note: FlexLink Lanes can additionally be swapped afterwards. See 8.6 FlexLink Lane Assignment (DIP7..9)

 2	FlexLink Lane 1 (ch1-64): AES50 Port A FlexLink Lane 2 (ch65-128): AES50 Port B FlexLink Lane 3 (ch129-192): AUX (up to 64ch) *
 2	FlexLink Lane 1 (ch1-64): AES50 Port A FlexLink Lane 2 (ch65-128): ch1-48: AES50 Port B , ch49-64: AUX ch1-16 FlexLink Lane 3 (ch129-192): not used



* Default setting

8.3. Headamp control data handling (DIP3)⁹

The FLX-AES50 recognizes headamp control data (called "AUX channel" by Behringer/MIDAS - not to be confused with the Apsys AUX card). This data is embedded in the AES50 stream and is used to control gain and phantom power of Behringer and MIDAS preamps. The FLX-AES50 can handle this data in two ways:

- **forward between AES50 ports A and B (passthru):**
Use this setting if you have a console connected to one port, and the stagebox to the other port, and want to control the stagebox from the console
- **embed into standard audio channels:**
Control data from AES50 converted to a block 8 channels of "normal" audio and can be passed over any other connection, i.e. over MAD1 or Dante, to a peer FLX-AES50 device or a multiverter on the other end.

DIP3 controls the behaviour of headamp data handling:

 3	Forward headamp control data between AES50 ports A and B (passthru). *
 3	Tunnel headamp control data over blocks of 8 consecutive audio channels. DIP1 affects how headamp control data is embedded. See 8.1 AES50 port A + B < > AUX mapping (DIP1,3)

* Default setting

⁸ Available from firmware 1.1 on

⁹ Available from firmware 2.6 on

8.4. AUX Card Config (DIP4..6)

Many AUX card provide additional settings, which can be adjusted using these switches. The actual meaning depends on the type of AUX card installed:

AUX-ADAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Channels 1-8: 4 ADAT format* ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Channels 9-16: 5 ADAT format* ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Clock source: 6 Auto* ¹¹
	<input type="checkbox"/> Channels 1-2: 4 AES3/SPDIF format ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Channels 9-10: 5 AES3/SPDIF format ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/> Clock source: 6 Always input ¹¹
AUX-ADAT-64	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> ADAT output on all connectors 1-8 * 4 5		<input type="checkbox"/> Clock source: 6 Auto* ¹¹
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> SPDIF/AES3 output on connector 1 4 5 ADAT output on connectors 2-8		<input type="checkbox"/> Clock source: 6 Always input ¹¹
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> SPDIF/AES3 output on conn. 1-2 4 5 ADAT output on connectors 3-8		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> SPDIF/AES3 output on conn. 1-3 4 5 ADAT output on connectors 5-8		
AUX-AES3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Single Wire (full channel count at 48k, 96k 4 5 and 192k), professional format for metadata*		<input type="checkbox"/> Clock source: 6 Auto* ¹¹
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Double wire (half channel count), 4 5 only in 96k and 192k modes		<input type="checkbox"/> Clock source: 6 Always input ¹¹
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Quad wire (quarter channel count), 4 5 only in 192k mode		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Single wire, 4 5 SPDIF (consumer) format for metadata		
AUX-DANTE	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable AUX-DANTE card auto configuration (external WCLK yes/no, 4 samplerate) depending on flexiverter settings		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disable AUX-DANTE card auto configuration 4 Use this if you want to control behavior by Dante Domain Manager		
AUX-MADI-COAX AUX-MADI-OPTO AUX-MADI-SFP AUX-MADI-TP	<input type="checkbox"/> 96k frame* ¹⁰ 4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 64ch output* ¹⁰ 5 6	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 48k frame ¹⁰ 4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 57ch (use for DiGiCo stagebox control) ¹⁰ 5 6	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 56ch output ¹⁰ 5 6	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> reserved 5 6	

¹⁰ Applies to output only, input-format is always auto-detected

¹¹ From FLX device firmware 3.0 on. Older firmware has always "AUTO"

AUX-TDM	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	*TDM16. Each I/O line carries 16 channels of 32 bit audio data each (512 bits/BCLK cycles per LRCLK)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TDM8. Each I/O line carries 8 channels of 32 bit audio data each (256 bits/BCLK cycles per LRCLK)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TDM4. Each I/O line carries 4 channels of 32 bit audio data each (128 bits/BCLK cycles per LRCLK)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TDM2 (Stereo). Each I/O line carries 2 channels of 32 bit audio data ea. (64 bits/BCLK cycles per LRCLK)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	*Left-justified, 32 bit per ch (24 bit audio data + 8 bits zero padding)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I2S-Format, 32 bit per ch (24 bit audio data + 8 bits zero padding) Data is delayed by 1 BCLK cycle


AUX-WORDCLOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	True to samplerate* ¹⁰
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Always x1 (single speed) ¹⁰

* Default setting









For cards not listed, refer to the manual of the respective card, or check for a newer version of this manual.

8.5. AUX Card Channel Offset (DIP7..9)¹²

For some configurations (i.e. multiple flexinverters with daisy-chained AUX-MADI cards), it may be desired to keep the incoming AUX data and insert/extract the converted data not at the beginning of the AUX stream, but on a different location. The location within AUX where the insertion/extraction of the converted data starts is called "offset" and can set below using DIP switches 7..9.



AUX Card Channel Offset via DIP7..9 is only available in mode #2 where the AUX card is the primary conversion target. See 4.1 Modes and indication.

	Offset	Description
 7 8 9	0*	Audio data is copied from/to AUX starting from channel 0 (default)
 7 8 9	8	Audio data is copied from/to AUX starting at the specified offset (NOTE: numbers are halved at 96k, and quartered at 192k) The AUX input channels below this offset are directly passed through to the AUX , i.e. are copied from AUX input to AUX output. All channels exceeding the capacity of the AUX card are ignored.
 7 8 9	16	
 7 8 9	24	
 7 8 9	32	
 7 8 9	40	
 7 8 9	48	
 7 8 9	56	

8.6. FlexLink Lane Assignment (DIP7..9)







The FlexLink interface can transmit 192x192 channels, organized in three lanes with 64 channels each. The channel and lane assignment can be adjusted to meet the user's needs, particularly when the device is used in double-FLX configuration (to make sure that all interfaces and channels are mapped to the desired target on the peer FLX device).

¹² Available from firmware 3.0 on



FlexLink Lane Assignment (DIP7..9) is only available in modes where FlexLink is the primary conversion target¹³. For the FLX-50, these modes are #1 and #3 (see 4.1 Modes and indication)

The FlexLink interface can transmit 192x192 channels, organized in three lanes with 64 channels each. The channel assignment can be adjusted to meet the user's needs, particularly when the device is used in double-FLX configuration (to make sure that all interfaces and channels are mapped to the desired target on the peer FLX device).

DIP	Lane 1 (ch1-64)	Lane 2 (ch65-128)	Lane 3 (ch129-192)
	AES50 Port A	AES50 Port B	AUX
	AES50 Port A	AUX	AES50 Port B
	AES50 Port B	AES50 Port A	AUX
	AES50 Port B	AUX	AES50 Port A
	AUX	AES50 Port A	AES50 Port B
	AUX	AES50 Port B	AES50 Port A

* Default setting

¹³ From firmware 3.0 on

9. SPECIAL OPERATING MODES

Special operating modes are accessible by *holding down the* *button while switching on the device.* Press again to switch to the next mode:



9.1. Version Display

The hardware and firmware version are indicated on the MODE and CLOCK leds¹⁴. The values are binary encoded. To get the version number, add all numbers from the "value" column where the corresponding LED is lit. The example below shows: hardware version 1, firmware version 2.6:

Value	MODE	CLOCK	
	Hardware version: green LEDS	Major	Minor
8	○	○	○
4	○	○	●
2	○	●	●
1	●	○	○

- Blinking LEDs mean that the currently installed firmware is a "beta" version. It is advised to upgrade to an official release version as soon as it is released.
- Press again to proceed to LED test.




9.2. LED Test

- All LEDs on the front and on the back should show ● white.
- Press again to proceed to Interface Self-Test.

¹⁴In firmware 2.5 and earlier, the system was different: number of green LEDs = hardware version, number of pink LEDs = firmware major version, number of orange LEDs = firmware minor version.

9.3. Interface Self-Test

All built-in interfaces and the optional AUX card can be tested for correct operation by the user. This is done using the special self-test mode, in which the device outputs a special random test pattern on all channels. This pattern is looped back via an external cable into the corresponding inputs, where it is checked for consistency.

- Self-test mode is indicated with "CLOCK" showing INT/48kHz in  cyan color. The "MODE" LEDs indicate  red (error/no connection) or  green (loopback data received ok) for the respective interface.
- Connect AES50 Port A to Port B using a standard Cat5 cable
- If an AUX card is installed, connect all output ports of the AUX card to the respective inputs using a loop-back cable. Note: NOT supported with AUX-ADC, AUX-AES67, AUX-AVB, AUX-DANTE.

9.4. Firmware update

The firmware can be updated from any **Windows PC** over the rear **USB** port.

► To update:

- Download the latest firmware from www.appsys.ch/FLX-AES50
- Unpack the firmware package FLX-AES50-Firmware_x.y.zip
- Connect your PC via USB to the flexiverter
- Power ON the device
- Run the **FLX-AES50_Updater.bat** file from the firmware package and follow the instructions on the screen.
- Power cycle the device to effect the update.



Thanks to the special design of the updater, it is virtually impossible to damage ("brick") the device during update. If updating fails or is interrupted, restart the procedure. You can also can go back to any older firmware version at any time.

10. SPECIFICATIONS

Parameter	Value	
Dimensions	152x44x153mm (WxHxD) excluding connectors/buttons 152x44x163mm (WxHxD) including device-side connectors/buttons	
Weight	560g	
Operating temperature	0.. +55 °C, non-condensing	
Storage temperature	-40.. +85 °C, non-condensing	
Power consumption	+15V DC, 9W max (18W to power two devices via FlexLink) Triple-redundant input (2x DC, 1x via FlexLink)	
AES50 Ports	Compatible to Behringer/MIDAS implementations at 44.1/48kHz and 88.2/96kHz Forwarding of Behringer/MIDAS Stagebox Remote Control Data between A and B Tunneling of Behringer/MIDAS Stagebox Remote Control Data over 8 standard audio channels	
Cable lengths	FlexLink	1m/3ft. max. recommended
	AES50	100m/300 ft.
Channel count	96x96 @ 48kHz 32x32 @ 96kHz, plus additional AUX channels depending on AUX card	
Sample rates	44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz	
Latency	Conversion AES50 < > FlexLink: 4 samples Conversion AES50 < > AUX: 4 samples plus AUX card latency (depending on AUX card)	
Internal clock precision	Jitter: Phase RMS: < 1ps, Peak-peak: < 50ps. Stability: ± 25 ppm including all effects including aging, temperatur, supply, calibration, shock, vibration	

11. ACCESSORIES

11.1. Rack mount kits

For integration in 19" racks, two kinds of rack mount kits / brackets are available:

- **RM-FLX1:** For mounting one FLX device into 1U 19" space
- **RM-FLX2:** For mounting two FLX devices into 1U 19" space

11.2. Additional (redundant) power supply

- **PWR-FLX:** Additional power supply to provide redundancy for single-FLX configurations
- **FlexLink Cable 0.5m.** HDMI cable with locking screws

12. APPENDIX

12.1. Warranty

We offer a full two (2) year warranty from the date of purchase. Within this period, we repair or exchange your device free of charge in case of any defect*. If you experience any problems, please contact us first. We try hard to solve your problem as soon as possible, even after the warranty period.

* Not covered by the warranty are any damages resulting out of improper use, willful damage, normal wear-out (especially of the connectors) or connection with incompatible devices.

12.2. Manufacturer contact

Appsys ProAudio
Rolf Eichenseher
Bullingerstr. 63 / BK241
CH-8004 Zürich
Switzerland

www.appsys.ch
info@appsys.ch
Phone: +41 43 537 28 51
Mobile: +41 76 747 07 42

12.3. FCC Compliance

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 a residential installation. 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

This equipment has been verified to comply with the limits for a class B computing device, pursuant to FCC Rules. In order to maintain compliance with FCC regulations, shielded cables must be used with this equipment. Operation with non-approved equipment or unshielded cables is likely to result in interference to radio and TV reception. The user is cautioned that changes and modifications made to the equipment without the approval of manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

12.4. Recycling



According to EU directive 2002/96/EU, electronic devices with a crossed-out dustbin may not be disposed into normal domestic waste. Please return the products back for environment-friendly recycling, we'll refund you the shipping fees.

12.5. Document Revision History

12.6. About this document

All trademarks mentioned in this document are property of the respective owners. All information provided here is subject to change without prior notice.

Document Revision: 5 · 2025-03-11

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Rev 5: Added block diagram, AUX card channel offset (Firmware 2.9)

Rev 4: Added headamp control data over audio ch57-64 tunneling

Rev 3: Added remote control

Rev 2: Added DIP2 settings

Rev 1: Initial release

IDENT 9.00.16144.00

Declaration of Conformity

The manufacturer:

**Appsys ProAudio
Rolf Eichenseher
Bullingerstr. 63 BK 241
CH-8004 Zürich
Switzerland**

declares under sole responsibility that the products mentioned below:

Flexiverter FLX-AES50

meet the requirements of the following standards:

**EN 55024:2010
EN 55032:2015 Class B
EN 61000-3-2:2006/A1/A2:2009
EN 61000-3-3:2009
EN 61000-6-3:2007/A1:2011**

Therefore the product fulfills the demand of the following EC directives:

73/23/EWG

(Directive related to electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits)

89/336/EWG

(Directive related to electromagnetic compatibility)

The devices are marked accordingly.

Zürich, 21.11.2021



Rolf Eichenseher (CEO)