Optimal Audio
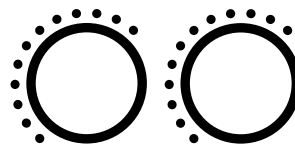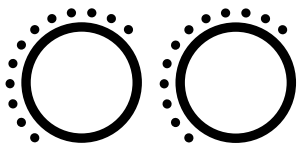
USER GUIDE

Talk 8

Digital Paging Station
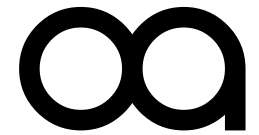
Controllers

Talk 8
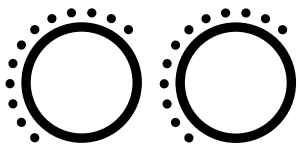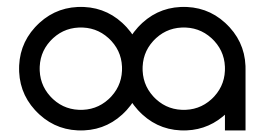Digital Paging Station

Optimal Audio

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Optimal Audio

Congratulations on your choice of Optimal Audio for your latest sound system installation.

The Optimal Audio range of compatible audio zone processors, amplifiers and loudspeakers are designed to work together simply and effectively. Our quick start guides will take you through the simple connection and set up procedure.
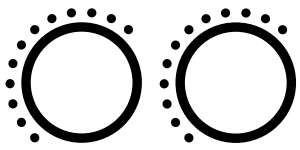
Talk 8 is a powerful and intuitive digital paging station, designed to deliver clear and reliable communication in multi-zoned commercial audio systems. Simple to set up and operate, it allows users to page individual zones or multiple zones simultaneously, ensuring messages reach the right areas with ease.

With Talk 8, you can customise paging groups, schedule announcements, and control priorities using WebApp. Features like a backlit TALK button, optional chime, and instant message replay buttons make operation seamless, while onboard storage allows for over 12 hours of scheduled or manual message playback.

For examples of how Talk 8 can enhance your venue, visit optimal-audio.co.uk.
This user guide will help you get up and running quickly, ensuring the best results from your system.
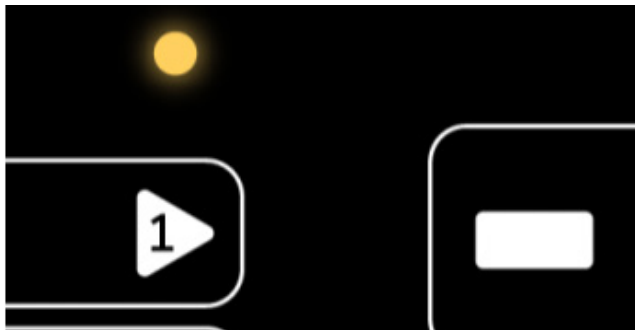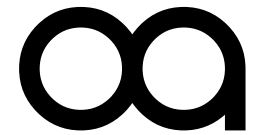
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Connections

Talk 8 is connected via a single CAT5 cable to the Zone unit. Identify the socket on the rear of the Talk 8 marked ZONE. Connect to one of the sockets on the rear of the Zone unit marked PAGING INPUTS.

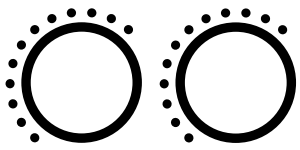Up to two units can be connected to operate together on Zone 4, 4P, 8 or 8P.

The Talk 8 will update its firmware from the Zone unit in the same way as a ZonePad if there is an update available. This will be indicated by the Status light flashing orange.

If the Talk 8's status light flashes blue and red, the Talk 8 has failed to establish a connection with the main zone unit, check the CAT5 cable is connected to the socket marked ZONE, and not the socket marked EXPANSION.
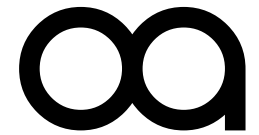

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Configuring for the first time

When connecting for the first time, it is recommended to connect to WebApp as some settings are only available via WebApp.

Once the Talk 8 is connected and displays a white status light the Talk 8 can be configured.

The settings available to change are: Lock, Chime, Playback buttons and Groups. And the brightness of the unit can be controlled in the Wall Controllers page.

Paging Station Input 1. Paging Station
Version 1.4.0

Display brightness
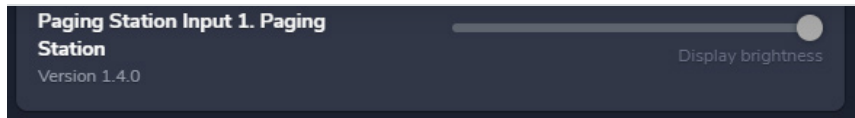
Paging Station Input 1

☐ Disable User Edits
Disables USB access and prevents users from editing paging station groups

☑ Allow Paging Toggle
Continuous paging following a brief press of the talk button

☑ Allow Paging Recents
Paging to recently paged zones without a chime by using the talk button

Announcement Chime

Select...

Announcement Buttons

Button 1

Select...

Button 2

Select...

Button 3

Select...

Button 4

Select...

Button 5

Select...

Button 6

Select...

Groups

Group A
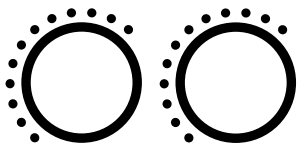
☑ Zone 1   ☐ Zone 5

☑ Zone 2   ☐ Zone 6
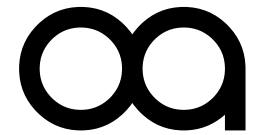
☐ Zone 3   ☐ Zone 7

☐ Zone 4   ☐ Zone 8

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Usability Options

Disable User Edits

This disables the USB access and group editing from the Talk 8. It is recommended that this is turned on after initial setup to prevent any unexpected file or group modification.
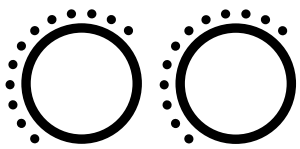
Allow Paging Toggle

The normal operation of the Talk button is push and hold to talk. This setting allows the Talk button to toggle the paging state, so a user doesn't need to hold the Talk button for the duration of the announcement. This comes with a risk of the user not following up with a second press of the Talk button to stop the announcement.

Allow Paging Recents

This allows immediate paging to the most recently paged zones by using the Talk button within five seconds of finishing the last announcement. If any zones have been blocked that conflict with the recent zones, then paging to recent zones is not available.

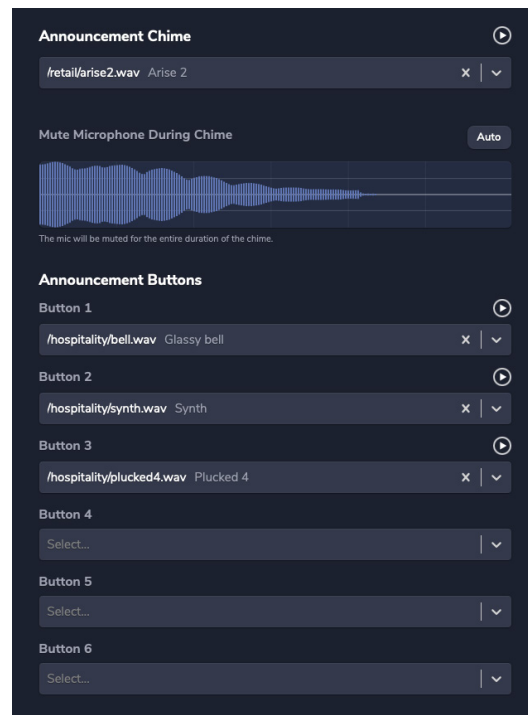**USER GUIDE**

Announcement Chime

A drop down allows assignment of a chime that will play before making an announcement on the Talk 8, using the X on the right will clear this and no chime will play before making an announcement.

Once a chime has been selected, the wave form of the file will be displayed below. This can be used to set a unmute point for the microphone, so talking can begin while the chime plays out, allowing for a smoother transition from the chime to talking. Using the Auto button will place the unmute point where the rest of the chime is at 50% volume or below.

The unmute point can also be manually moved by either clicking or dragging the marker to where it needs to be.

The play icon inline with the "Announcement Chime" title allows auditioning of the selected track, this will start playback of the track into Zone 1 only, providing an opportunity to select and to audition the desired track.
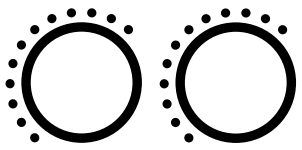
The "Level Trim" control will reduce the chime by the set amount, this applies to auditioning the chime as well.
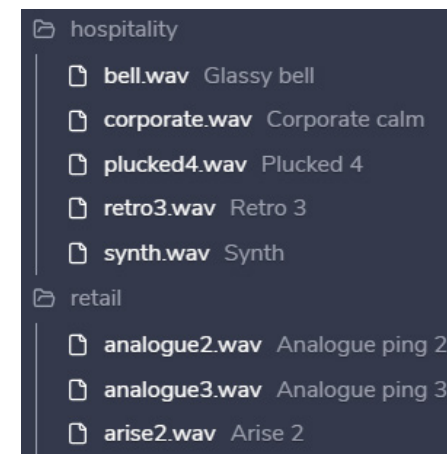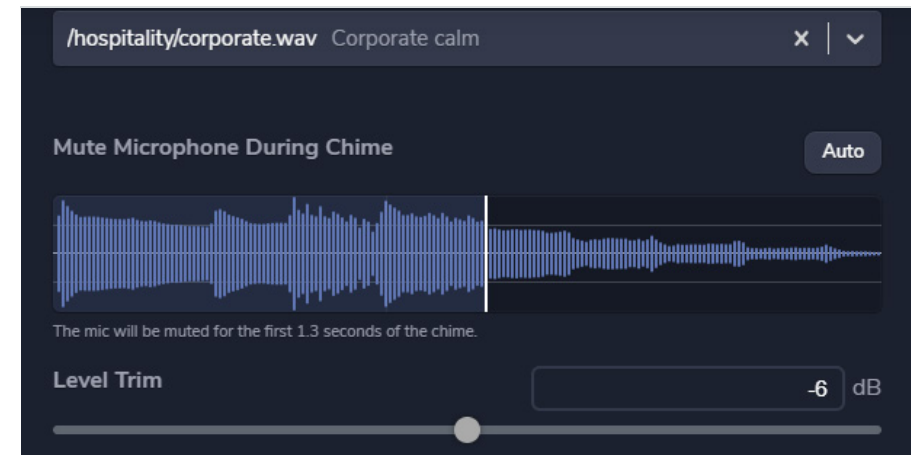
The Talk 8 ships with pre-installed chimes, which are split into two folders, "hospitality" and "retail".
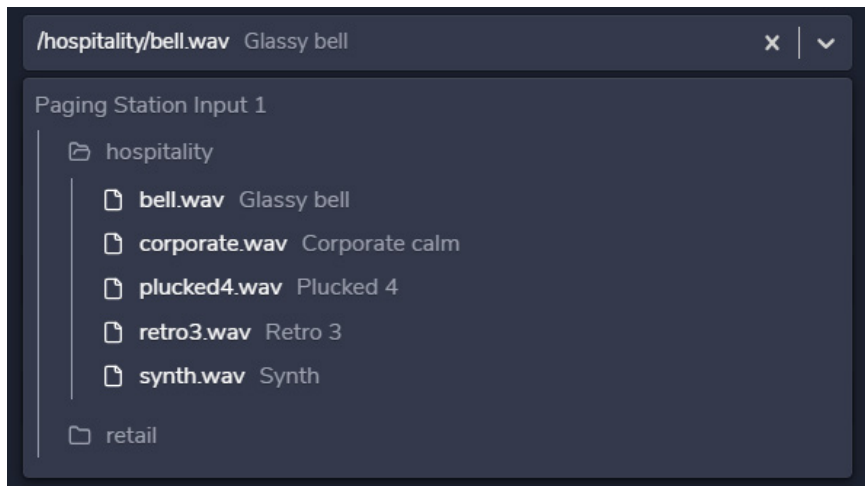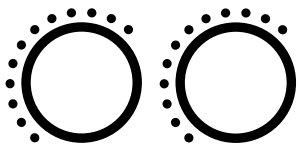
Playback Buttons

These drop downs allow assigning any .wav files to the 6 playback buttons on the surface of the Talk 8. Additional chimes and playback sounds can be uploaded by connecting the Talk 8 to a host computer via the USB C connector on the back of the Talk 8 (USB C cable not included).

The audition button is also available here.
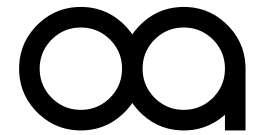
Groups

The Talk 8 has four group buttons which can be used as a short-cut to selecting multiple zones. Using the check boxes each group can be configured to contain any selection of zones. These groups can also be updated on the Talk 8 itself. This is done by holding the group button down for more than 1 second; the Status light will turn purple to indicate the Talk 8 is in Group Edit mode. Pressing a zone button will toggle that zone in and out of the group, indicated by the zone button lighting up white. Releasing the group button will save these changes.

These groups can also be updated in the WebApp by clicking on the tick box for each zone, which will toggle its membership of the group.
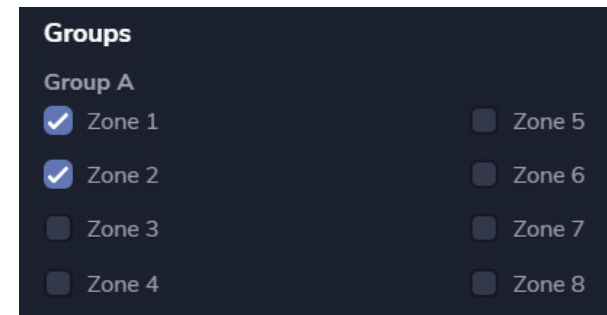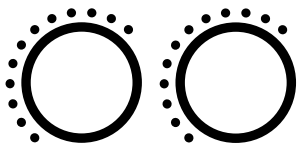
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Using the Talk 8

The first step in operating the Talk 8 is to select one or more zones. This can be done in two ways. The first is to select the zones by pressing their buttons. Once a zone is selected, the Talk 8 will be in its zone selection state. This will be shown by the Talk button being either white or yellow.

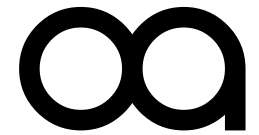If the Talk button is white, the Talk 8 is ready to make an announcement page. If the Talk button is yellow then a chime has been selected and will be played before an announcement can be made. The zones that are currently selected will light up white. To return to an Idle state the Clear All button can be pressed, or by toggling off all the selected zones.

Another way to set the zone selection is by using the Select All button, which will add all zones to the selection, from there individual zones can be toggled off.

The last way to set the zone selection is by using the Group buttons. More than one group can be selected at a time, and all zones inside these groups will be added to the selection.

Once the selection of zones have be set, the user can press the Talk button to begin announcing. If an announcement chime has
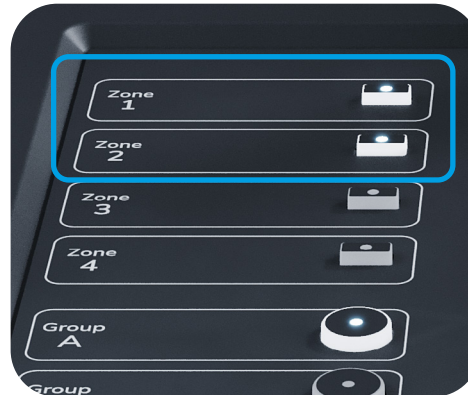
been configured, then the talk button will flash yellow while the chime plays. Once the microphone is unmuted, the Talk button will turn green ready for the announcement.

The Talk button has two modes, hold and toggle. When holding, the Talk 8 will stay in its paging mode while the Talk button is held down, and once the Talk button is released the Talk 8 will return to its Idle state. However if the Talk button is pressed briefly, then the Talk 8 will stay in its paging state until the Talk button is pressed again, at which point it will return to its Idle state.

Once an announcement is complete, there is a five second window where the Talk button can be used again while the Talk 8 is idle, this will result in another announcement being made without chime, automatically recalling the previously selected zones. This is intended to be used as a way to add onto a previous announcement without needing to reselect the zones and without a chime playing if one is selected. It's important to note, that if a zone becomes blocked between the end of the first announcement, and the attempt for a follow up, then the follow up with recent zones becomes unavailable.

If any zones are unavailable to be added to the selection, they will light up red to show they are blocked. And if a group contains one or more blocked zones, they will also light up red. The Talk 8 will not allow selection of a blocked zone or group, this is because the zone or group are blocked by the another Talk 8 having selected these zones.
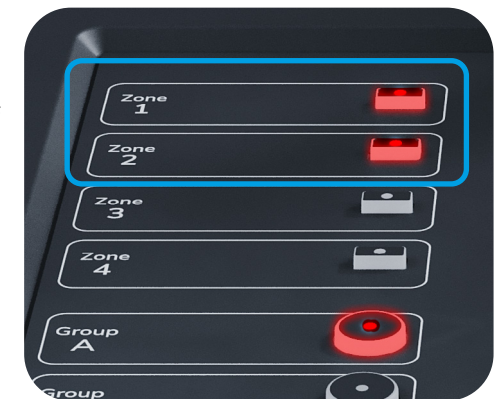
USER GUIDE
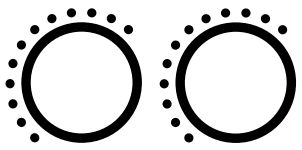
WebApp Indication

When using the Talk 8 to make an announcement, or if play back of a file has been triggered, this is indicated in WebApp when in the zone control view. There are two places where this indication happens, in the zone selection panel which shows which zones are being announced to, indicated by the announcement icon.
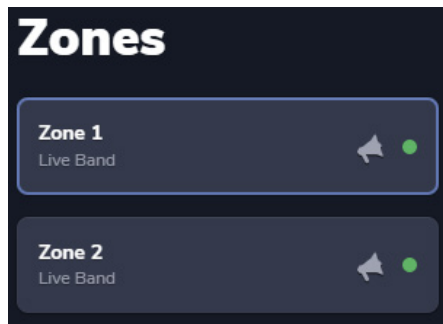
In the zone control page, announcements in progress are indicated by the yellow banner at the top of the page.
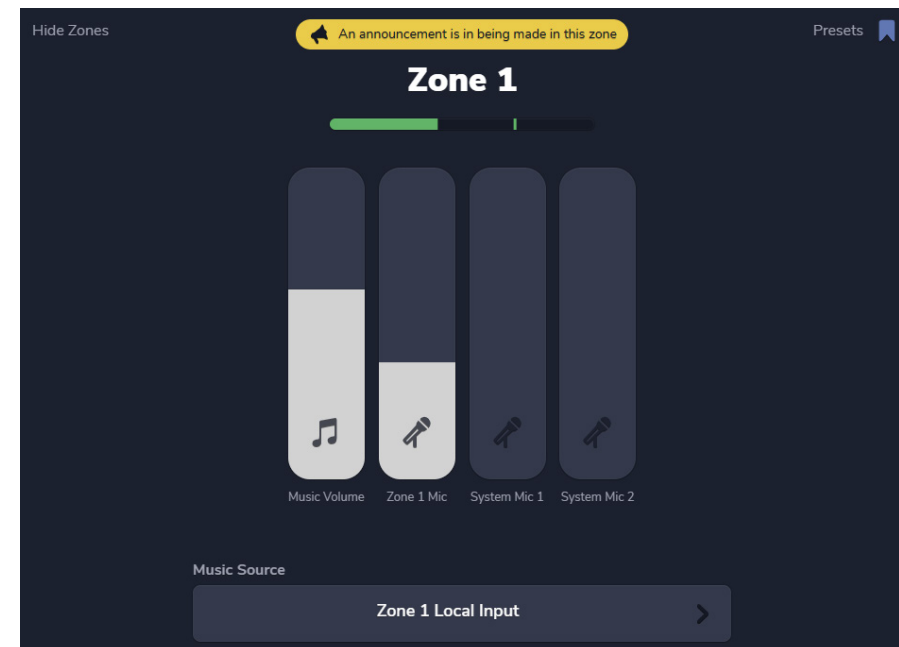
Uploading Files

How to change, add and remove files

To upload new files, connect the Talk 8 to a host computer, and it will show up as an external USB drive. Navigate to this drive and you will be able to add and remove audio files as needed.
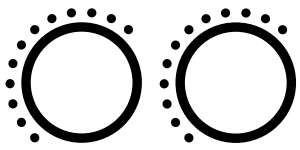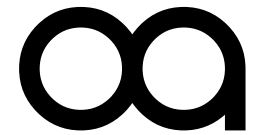
Adding sub folders can be used to help organize audio files and to make it easier when assigning files to buttons and routines, but there is a **path length limit of 85 characters and a maximum of two folders deep.**

Once the new files have been added and old ones modified or removed, eject the drive and disconnect the USB cable and the Talk 8 will then prepare the list of files to show in WebApp.

If a file has been removed from the Talk 8 that the chime or an announcement button was using, WebApp will show a warning prompting the user to take action.

Talk 8 will generate a hidden peak (.pk) file for each audio file to store the wave form that is displayed on the WebApp. These ".pk" files can be ignored as the Talk 8 will update, regenerate or remove them for each audio file as necessary.

File formats

When uploading audio files to the Talk 8 they must be of the ".wav" format, either 44.1kHz or 48kHz sample rate, up to 2 channels and a 16bit depth.
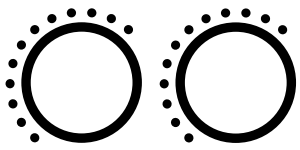
Playback Buttons

To start play back of a file using the playback buttons a zone selection is required. This is done in the same way as making a zone selection for talking, but instead of pressing talk, the user will press the required playback button.

If a playback button lights up white during zone selection, this indicates an announcement file has been assigned to the button and can be played by pressing it.

The playback button will flash white while the announcement file is being played. After the file has finished playing the zone will return to its idle state. The play back can also be stopped by pressing the flashing play back button again.
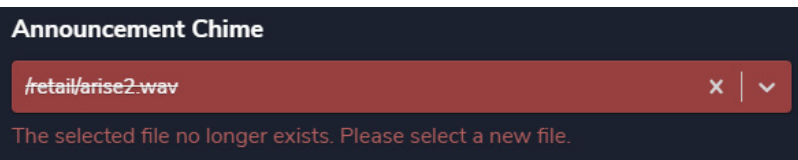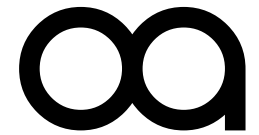
Announcement Chime

/retail/arise2.wav   ✕ | ⌄

The selected file no longer exists. Please select a new file.

Routine Announcements

Making a routine

Announcements are configured within Routines at the bottom of the routine create / edit page.

Select the file to be played and the zones you want the announcement to be played in. There is a checkbox for showing this routine in the announcements page; this is enabled by default.

There is also a new schedule setup to repeat at common intervals. This will then trigger the announcement each interval from the start time until the end time, and this will happen for everyday selected.

A custom schedule can also be made to give more detailed control over when the announcement will be triggered.
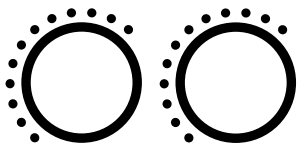
Announcement page

If a routine contains an announcement, it can be manually triggered from the announcements page, (accessible from the home page) by pressing anywhere on the announcement box. When playing the icon will indicate playback progression, and a stop icon will appear. This can be used to stop the play back before the end of the file.

Announcements triggered from the announcement page can also be cancelled on the Talk 8 itself by pressing the Clear / cancel button, which flashes white, but also by triggering the routine which contains this announcement. This second press of a routine will not apply any preset values inside that routine, it will just stop the announcement. This can be done from either the routines page, a ZonePad 4 in single zone mode with the routine assigned to one of the zones, or from 3rd party controllers triggering the routine via OSC.

ZonePad 4 in single zone mode with a routine assigned that contains an announcement, will also flash the zone light while the announcement is playing, signaling which button to press to stop that announcement.

Zones

Global Presets

Routines

Announcements

Settings

Announcements

Closing in 5 minutes
Paging Station Input 1
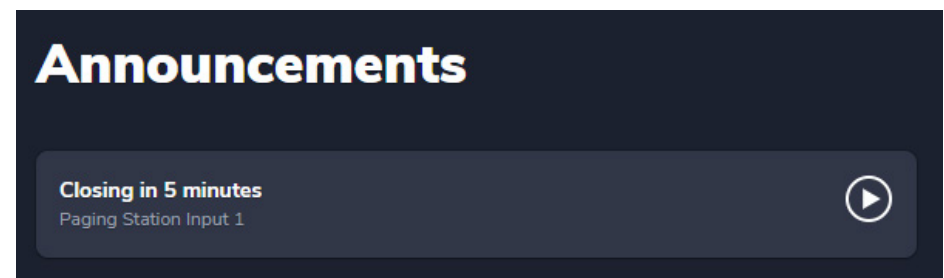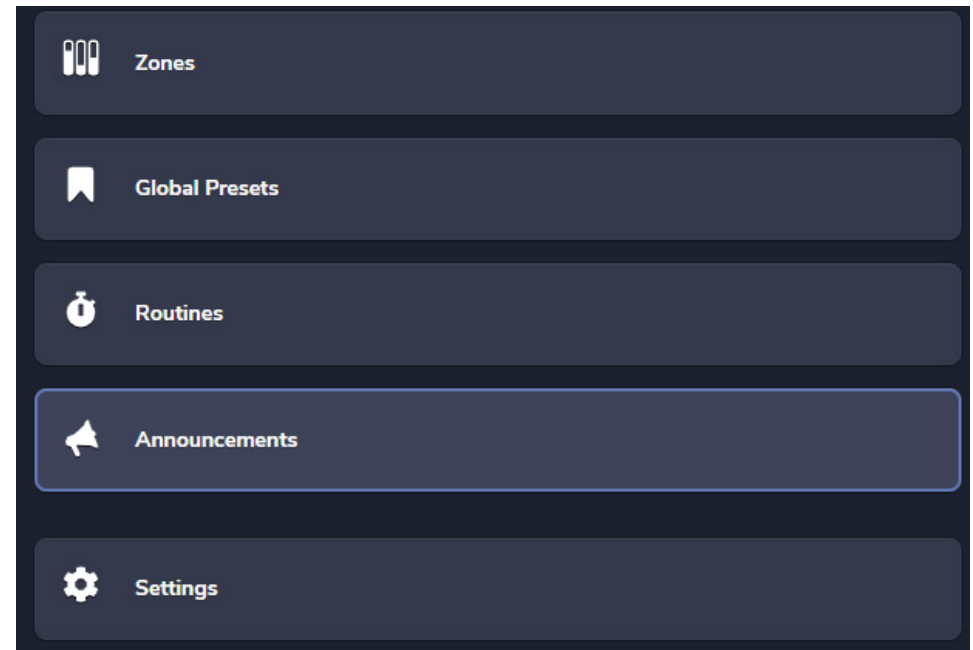
USER GUIDE
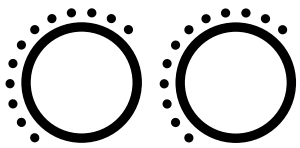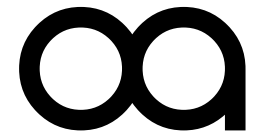
Working with two Talk 8 devices

Blocking of groups:

When two Talk 8s are connected to a Zone unit, they will work together. When a zone selection is made on one station, it will be blocked on the other, by lighting those selection buttons in red, as a Zone can only receive an announcement from one of the Talk 8 paging stations at a time – this also applies to a group. The group button will light up red, showing that one or more zones in that group are blocked. Zones will also be blocked if a timed announcement is triggered.

Once the Talk 8 has finished its announcement or playback, the zones will be released for selection on the other Talk 8.

Maintenance Mode

If the Talk 8 fails to update, it will boot into a maintenance mode, where the buttons will not respond but the USB will be enabled. This will allow a host device to connect and to diagnose why the Talk 8 won't update.
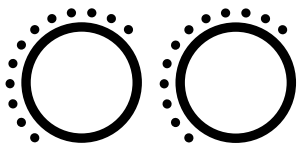
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LED Colour Definitions

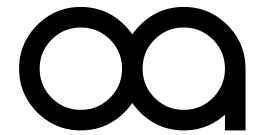| Status light	
Blue	Power up. The unit is performing initial firmware checks in bootloader
Orange flashing	Updating. The unit is updating its firmware from the main zone unit.
White	Normal operation.
Green	The unit is attached to a computer via USB for audio file maintenance. The surface buttons will not operate in this mode.
Green flashing	Information about the new audio files is being prepared and sent to the main zone unit.
Purple	The unit is in Group edit mode.
Red & Green (Flashing)	The unit is in maintenance mode.
Red & Blue (Flashing)	The unit has failed to establish a connection with the main zone unit, check the connections.
Red	A critical error has occurred and the unit has stopped. Reboot and check log files for details.

Talk light	
Off	Idle. The unit is in an idle state.
White	Zone selection. There are zones selected and the unit is ready to make an announcement.
Yellow	Zone selection with chime. The are zones selected and the unit is ready to play an announcement chime before the microphone is unmuted.
Yellow flashing	The selected chime is playing and the microphone is muted.
Green	Talking. The microphone is unmuted and routed to the selected zones.

Announcement Buttons light	
White	File available. There is an announcement file available to play on the selected zones.
White flashing	The file is playing. The file attached to that button is currently being played.

Zone Button lights	
White	Zone selected. That zone is currently selected and will receive audio from the unit (file or microphone).
Red	Zone blocked. That zone is unavailable for paging as it is selected elsewhere.

Group Button lights	
White	Group(s) selected. All zones within the selected group(s) will receive audio from the unit.
Red	Group(s) blocked. One or more zones in that group are unavailable to receive audio from the unit.

Select All light	
White	All Zones selected. All zones are selected to receive audio from the unit.

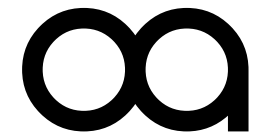| Clear / cancel light	
White flashing	File playing. There is a file triggered from the routine announcement system.
White	The clear / cancel button is pressed.

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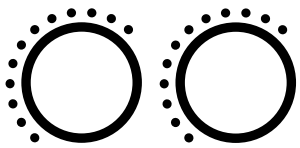
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WARNING!
DO NOT EXPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE

This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

CAUTION
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN

This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of **sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk** of electric shock to persons.

THIS EQUIPMENT MUST BE EARTHED

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 opening. 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. To reduce the risk of electrical shock, the power cord shall be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.
10. 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 are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
11. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
12. Do not unplug the unit by pulling on the cord, use the plug.
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.
15. The appliance coupler, or the AC Mains plug, is the AC mains disconnect device and shall remain readily accessible after installation.
16. The apparatus shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing and no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on the apparatus.
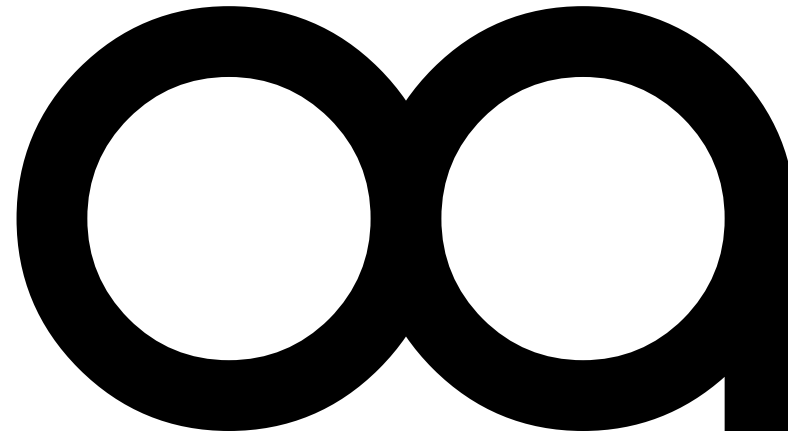17. Do not remove any covers, loosen any fixings or allow items to enter any aperture.

FCC Compliance

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This device may not cause harmful interference.
2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Note: 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.

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Relax, It's Optimal Audio.