

**Passport**<sup>®</sup>  
PD-250  
**PORTABLE  
SOUND SYSTEMS**

INSTRUCTION MANUAL  
INSTRUCCIONES DE FUNCIONAMIENTO  
MODE D'EMPLOI  
ISTRUZIONI OPERATIVE  
BEDIENUNGSANLEITUNG  
操作方法





# Fender Passport PD-250

## Deluxe Portable Sound System

### INTRODUCTION

250 Watts of Clear Stereo Sound

Custom Designed Loudspeakers Utilizing the latest in High-Performance Speaker technology

Built-in Digital Reverb

VIP™ (Vocal Input Priority) Allows input one to automatically override all other inputs when a signal is present on input one

Four Mono Microphone / Line Inputs with XLR and 1/4" balanced inputs connections

Two Stereo Inputs with 1/4" and RCA Connections

Switch Mode Power Supply Allows Use Anywhere In The World

Everything You Need To Get Started:

- Passport Mixer Amplifier
- Two Dynamic Microphones & Cables
- Two Speaker Cables, 9m (30')
- IEC Power Cable
- Two, State of the Art, Full-Range Speaker

Enclosures

- Full transportation enclosure

Congratulations on your purchase of a Fender Passport PD-250 high performance, self-contained portable audio system. Your Passport includes everything you will need for great sound... Anywhere.

Carry your Passport as you would a large sized suit case. Flip open the speaker latches, and you'll discover two full-range speaker cabinets, a powered mixer, dynamic microphones, plus all the cables you need to get started. Use your Passport to amplify voices, musical instruments, computer sound cards, CD's, tape playback and more. Passport's quick and easy set-up, its ability to cover large audiences and simple operation are the hallmarks of this innovative product line.

The Passport's control panel features four mono mic/line inputs and two stereo channels (six channels total). The stereo input channels can be used for either mono or stereo operation allowing superb flexibility in input use. Moreover, the revolutionary speaker technology in each speaker enclosure deliver remarkably clean, full range sound with exceptional audience coverage and remarkable feedback rejection. The self-powered mixer provides a total of 250 watts of high quality stereo sound.

For vocal operation, the Passport's VIP (Vocal Input Priority) feature can be used to reduce or "duck" the background music level as you begin to speak and then restore your background music when you have finished speaking. Experiment with the tone controls, digital reverb and speaker placement and discover the Passport's incredible power and versatility.

### IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS:

- **WARNING : TO PREVENT DAMAGE, FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.**
- **NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE, REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL ONLY.**
- **THIS UNIT MUST BE EARTH GROUNDED.**



This symbol warns the user of dangerous voltage levels localized within the enclosure.



This symbol advises the user to read all accompanying literature for safe operation of the unit.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



The Fender Passport sound system is supplied with a detachable power cable with an IEC female connector and a male AC connector.

Depending on the territory in which the Passport system is purchased, the power cable will be supplied with one of a number of male AC connectors to accommodate the different safety and code requirements of specific countries. All AC cables supplied with Passport products are three pin grounded types.

Under no circumstances should the ground (earth) pin be disconnected or removed.

Your Passport System features a Switch-Mode-Power-Supply designed to operate on any AC voltage and line frequency to convert AC power with maximum efficiency.

When traveling abroad with the Passport system, as a standard precaution, always check the local voltage and set the voltage selector switch located adjacent to the power input socket on the rear of the mixer / amplifier to the appropriate operating range. This check must be performed before connecting the power cable. The Fender Passport has two range settings: 115 V or 230 V.

*Failure to select the appropriate voltage range will cause the unit to go into protect mode, void any warranty and may cause damage to the unit.*

For example, The United States of America is standardized at 117 volts / 60 Hz, Japan operates on 100 volts / 50 Hz. For both of these countries the range selector must be set to 115 V. Countries in the EEC have standardized at 230 volts / 50 Hz., however, there are different types of AC plugs used. For all these countries the selector should be at the 230 V position. When using plug adapters or operating in a territory other than the one in which the unit was purchased, take great care to comply with local safety requirements and electrical codes of practice.

**If you are not sure of the local voltage, wiring codes & colors, AC grounding, or correct procedures for connection, consult a qualified technician.**

### Warning

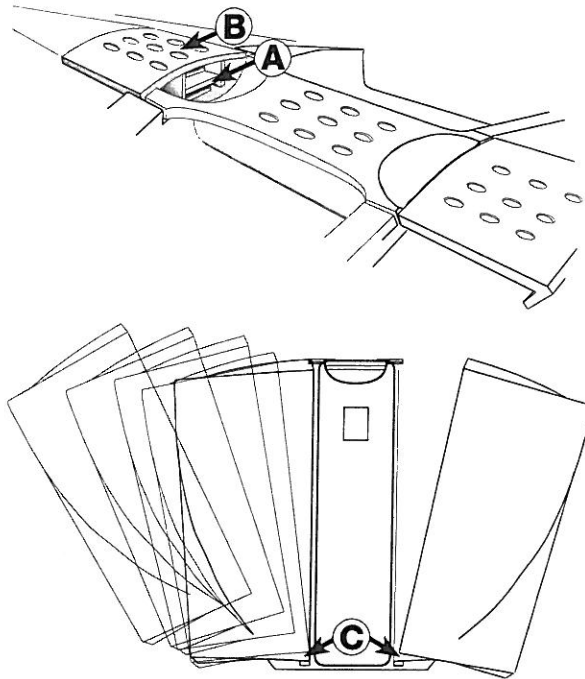


Under no circumstances should the ground pin on the Passport or on any of your electrical equipment be lifted (cut off or disconnected).

By following the correct procedures and safety precautions, risks of severe shock hazard can be minimized. Best of all, avoid operating the system in conjunction with ungrounded or improperly grounded electrical equipment.

## TRANSPORTATION LATCHES

To open and close your Passport system, simply follow these guidelines:



1. Place your finger tip under the safety latch and gently lift. When the safety latch has disengaged, lift the main latch to remove the speaker.
2. To replace, position the speaker on the tower foot and bring the speaker in to close the engagement with the tower and latch. Position the latch hook over the speaker notch and close the latch. The safety latch will automatically engage.

*Note: These parts are precision engineered and no force is needed to secure them. Careful alignment of parts will ensure easy operation.*

## MONO MIC / LINE CONTROL FUNCTIONS

### CHANNELS 1 - 4



**J. LEVEL** – Adjusts the volume level of the individual channel. Rotating the knob clockwise increases the respective channel’s contribution to the “Main Out” mix, while rotating it counterclockwise decreases the volume. Adjust this control after the Passport’s master output level volume has been set.

**K. VIP (CHANNEL 1 ONLY)** – The VIP or Vocal Input Priority control adjusts the level at which the volume of all other channels are automatically reduced in favor of the source attached to the Mic/Line Input 1. This unique feature permits a user to speak while other inputs (such as background music) continue at temporarily reduced levels. The VIP circuit is “pre-volume control” which means it is effective regardless of level control setting of channel one. Adjust this control while speaking into a microphone on channel 1, with other program material input through another channel. Depending on the duration and level of the signal being input to Mic/Line 1 and the position of the control, the VIP circuit will trigger a reduction in level of all the other channels. The original levels will be automatically restored when there is no signal present on channel 1. In typical use, the circuit will return normal levels in about 4 seconds. With the level set at a higher or a stronger signal, normal levels will be restored after approximately 6 seconds. The VIP circuit has an intentionally slow release time which prevents interruptions when a speaker pauses for thought or effect. Care should be taken to avoid the VIP triggering on sound from the main speakers. At high settings, the microphone may “hear” the main system speakers and trigger a reduction in level. **When not using the VIP feature, be sure to turn the control completely counterclockwise.**

**L. EQ** – Adjusts the amount of frequency increase or decrease in the channel. Rotating the knob counterclockwise increases the bass or low frequency response while simultaneously decreasing the treble or high frequency response. Likewise, rotating the knob clockwise increases the treble or high frequency response while simultaneously decreasing the bass or low frequency response. When the tone controls are set at their notched or straight up position, the channel response is “flat” with no frequencies increased or decreased. To set the EQ, start with this control in the 12 o’clock (notched) position. Simply turn the control until things sound good!

**M. REV/AUX** – Adjusts the amount of signal sent to the Reverb processor, and to the Rev/Aux output jack. Reverb can be used to enhance the sound quality of any

performance where appropriate and desired. In the full left position there is no level sent to the reverb processor or Rev/Aux jack. Care should be taken to set the Reverb return master control to a middle position or above, before adjusting levels from the individual channels. When the reverb/auxiliary mix is set, overall levels of reverb can be adjusted at the master control.

Keep in mind that while Reverb or effects can enhance a musical performance or presentation. Too much reverb can make the same performance or presentation unintelligible or “muffled”. Keep your audience in mind when setting reverb levels.

**N. PAN** – The Pan control features a notched position indicator and adjusts the perceived “position” of the mono signal from the input within the stereo field created by the two speaker cabinets. Full Left or Right rotation of this control sends the signal to the that channel only, with no signal sent to the other. The center position sends the

## STEREO CONTROL FUNCTIONS

same amount of signal to both speakers.



**J. STEREO INPUT LEVEL** – Adjusts the volume level of the stereo input channel. Rotating the knob clockwise increases the stereo input channel’s contribution to the “Main Out” mix, while rotating it counterclockwise decreases the volume. Adjust this control after the Passport’s master output level volume has been set.

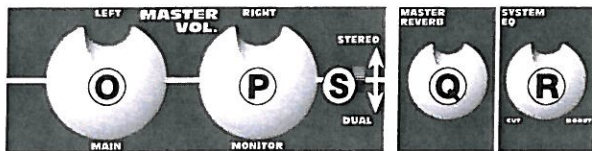
**L. EQ LOW** – Adjusts the relative level of the low frequency content for the stereo channel. Rotating the knob counterclockwise decreases the bass or low frequency response. Likewise, rotating the knob clockwise increases the bass or low frequency response.

**L. EQ HI** – Adjusts the relative level of the high frequency content. Rotating the knob counterclockwise decreases the treble or high frequency response. Likewise, rotating the knob clockwise increases the treble or high frequency response. When the EQ controls are set at their notched or straight up position, the channel frequency response is “flat” with no frequencies increased or decreased.

**M. REV/AUX** – Adjusts the amount of signal sent to the internal Reverb processor, and to the Rev/Aux output jack. In the full left position the control is effectively off. Care should be taken to set the Reverb return master control to a middle position or above, before adjusting levels from the individual channels. When the reverb/auxiliary mix is set, overall levels of reverb can be adjusted at the master control.

**N. BAL** – The balance control features a notched position indicator and adjusts the perceived “position” of the mono signal from the input within the stereo field created by the two speakers. Full Left or Right rotation of this control sends the signal to the that channel only, with no signal sent to the other. The center position sends the same amount of signal to both speakers.

### MASTER CONTROL FUNCTIONS



**O & P. MASTER VOLUME LEVEL CONTROLS** – The Left and Right Master Volume Controls adjust the output volume of the PD-250. The Master controls feature notched position indicators. For the majority of applications the Passport system has been balanced to operate with these controls at their notched 12 o'clock positions. In situations where more volume is required the master controls can provide an additional 6 dB of gain when turned to the right of the center position.

Set the system up in the normal manner and adjust levels as necessary. Raise the master volume controls beyond their 12 o'clock positions only after increasing the individual channel level controls.

Passport's internal amplifiers have on-board processing designed to optimize the system's performance when used with the custom designed PD-250 speakers.

**S. STEREO/ DUAL SELECTOR SWITCH** – Allows the PD-250's power amps to be configured as stereo or “dual-mono”. In the Stereo mode, the system operates as a traditional stereo power mixer/ amplifier. In the Dual mode, the channel level controls set the level for the Main mix (LEFT master volume control). The Rev/Aux controls set the individual channel levels for the Monitor (RIGHT master volume control).

When the Dual mode position is selected with the switch, the Pan and Balance controls become inoperative (you have selected a mono setting for the output). Additionally, the internal reverb is only sent to the MAIN speaker output. Reverb is not available to the MONITOR speaker output. The reverb level sends for the MAIN mix are also controlled from the channel REV/AUX channel controls.

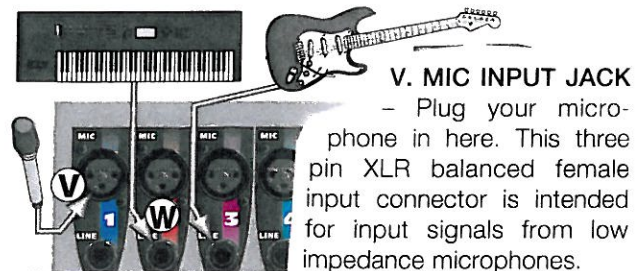
The overall reverb level to the MAIN mix is controlled by the Reverb Master Control.

**Q. MASTER REVERB** – Adjusts the amount of reverb signal level sent to the mix or output. Rotating the knob clockwise increases the reverb signal sent to the main mix. When the knob is in its full counterclockwise position, there is no reverb heard in the mix.

**R. SYSTEM EQ** – Adjusts the overall amount of frequency increase or decrease on the Passport. Rotating the knob counterclockwise increases the bass frequency response while simultaneously decreasing the high frequency response. Likewise, rotating the knob clockwise increases the high frequency response while simultaneously decreasing the bass frequency response. When the system EQ control is set at its notched or straight up position, the channel response is “flat” with no frequencies increased or decreased. To set the System EQ, start with this control in the 12 o'clock (flat) position. Simply turn the control until things sound good!

You will notice that the input jacks and channel controls are color coded. This is done to easily identify which set of controls is associated with which input connections.

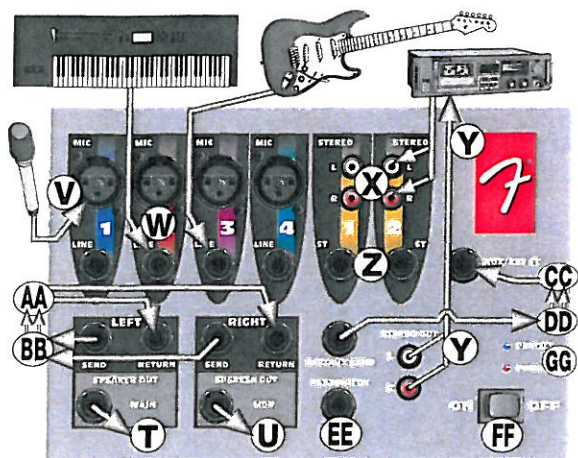
### MIC / LINE / STEREO INPUTS



#### V. MIC INPUT JACK

– Plug your microphone in here. This three pin XLR balanced female input connector is intended for input signals from low impedance microphones.

**W. LINE INPUT JACK** – Plug your instrument in here. This 1/4 inch balanced input jack suited for use with items having a line level output such as high impedance microphones, keyboards, drum machines, outboard effects, etc. It accepts both balanced and unbalanced cables.



**X & Z. STEREO INPUTS** – Stereo phono (RCA) input jacks and 1/4" TRS jacks (wired for Tip=Left, Ring=Right and Sleeve=Ground, the standard format of commercially available cables) designed for use with a tape player, CD player, or any other stereo source. Use these jacks for connecting the output of a computer sound card or other similar device to your Passport. Adapters that convert an 1/8" male plug to RCA male phono plugs are readily available at electronics stores. Note: These connectors are set at a constant "line level".

**Y. STEREO OUT** – The Tape Out RCA jacks provide a mix output that is independent of the Master Level Controls. Connect these to the inputs of a recording device, such as a cassette or DAT recorder, to record your event. Changes made during the performance, to the input level controls, channel EQ, and reverb controls will be heard in the Tape Out mix. Changes made to the master level controls will not effect the level of the recording. Adjust recording levels according to the instructions on your recording device.

### AUX AND FOOTSWITCH JACKS

**DD. REV/ AUX SEND** – Plug your external effects signal processor in here. Although the Passport is already equipped with on-board digital reverb, an external effects signal processor can be incorporated into the Passport's signal flow. This 1/4 inch output jack is designed to feed the Passport's effects bus signal to an external signal processing device, such as a digital delay or a chorus.

**CC. AUX RETURN** – Plug your external effects signal processor's output signal in here. This 1/4 inch input stereo jack is designed to accept signals from an external processing device, such as a digital delay or a chorus unit. This input can also be used as a stereo input with the volume controlled at the master volume knobs.

**EE. FOOT SWITCH** – The Footswitch connector allows the internal reverb return to be muted, or shut off, through the use of a simple foot operated switch (Fender part number 099-4052-000). The footswitch should be wired to connect the tip to the sleeve to turn the reverb off, and requires a standard speaker or instrument cable.

**AA & BB. – AMPLIFIER SEND/ RETURN JACKS** – Each channel of the amplifier has a Send and Return jack. These jacks provide a point to patch in an equalizer, or other processor into the sound system. The signal at the send jack is located after the mixer section and before the power amplifier. The send jack should be connected to the input of the external device. The return jack is a patch point that enters into the power amplifiers. The return jack should be connected to the output of the external device.

**T & U. SPEAKER OUTPUTS** – These are speaker level (powered) output jacks designed to feed each of your Passport speaker enclosures. Use the enclosed cables (or other speaker cable) to connect the Passport's speakers to the power tower.

**FF. POWER SWITCH** – Turns the AC power ON and OFF. When the switch is in the OFF position, your Passport is completely shut down.

### REAR PANEL

**AC CONNECTOR/ LINE CORD** – The Passport is equipped with a grounding type IEC supply cord to reduce the possibility of shock hazard. Be sure to connect it to a grounded AC receptacle. **DO NOT ALTER THE AC PLUG.**



The power mains (AC) fuse and fuse holder are under the IEC (power cord) socket. Replacement fuses must be of the same rating (6.3A, 250V) and size as originally equipped. To replace a blown fuse, remove the IEC power cord. Pull out the fuse holder and find the spare fuse inside.

Your Passport system is capable of running on battery power. The off-white plastic connector on the rear of your Passport is the DC power input connector for connecting the Passport DC-DC converter. The converter is then connected to a battery. Available accessories include the Passport DC-DC converter (Fender part number 069-1002-000) and 12 volt battery pack (Fender part number 069-9003-000).

## **REAR STORAGE COMPARTMENT**

A small storage compartment can be found on the rear of the Passport tower. To access this compartment, simply lift the latch and pull open the storage door. This compartment is ideal for storing cables, microphones or other items when you are transporting your Passport.

On the back panel of the storage compartment you will see a narrow metal strip with a screw on either end. This is the protective cover for the wireless adapter terminal. Custom wireless systems are available for your Passport. The receiver for the wireless system installs in the storage compartment.

## **SET-UP AND CONNECTIONS**

Before turning on the Power, read and heed the safety warnings on page 2.

It is wise to establish a routine for connecting and powering up your sound system. Provided you have a properly grounded AC outlet or outlet strip with sufficient power handling capacity, plug all sound system equipment into the same outlet or strip. This will enhance system safety and performance. Take care that the AC circuit is capable of handling the peak power demands of your system. Consult the product handbooks or a qualified electrician if in doubt.

When setting up, be sure to follow these simple set-up guidelines:

1. First, turn all channel Level, VIP (channel 1 ONLY) and Rev/Aux controls to their full counterclockwise (OFF) positions. Next, place all EQ, Pan and Master controls at 12 o'clock in their center notched positions. Be sure to set the appropriate input (mic/line switch position) for the source you are setting up.
2. Next, connect each speaker cable to the appropriate Left & Right Speaker outputs on the rear tower and on each speaker front panel with the enclosed cables.
3. Connect all sources such as microphones, tape decks, keyboards etc., into the appropriate inputs.
4. Finally, check the local voltage and set the voltage selector switch located adjacent to the power input socket on the rear of the mixer/amplifier to the appropriate operating range. (See Safety Precautions on page 2.) Plug the power cable into the IEC (power cord) socket on the rear of the Passport Tower and connect the other end to a properly grounded 3 wire AC power outlet.

## **POWERING UP**

Turn the Power Switch to the ON position. The Power LED will illuminate green and the system will turn on. If other powered equipment is to be attached to the system, it is always advisable to turn on your Passport last. In this way any transient spikes and thumps caused by other equipment will not be amplified and sent to your system speakers. For the same reasons it is advisable to turn off your Passport system first before turning off the attached equipment.

Should the Power LED not illuminate when the rear panel power switch is operated, check your power connections and retry. Should the Power LED still fail to illuminate after you have confirmed the power connections, disconnect all cables and check the Passport fuses. Be sure to replace any blown fuses with fuses of the correct value. Reconnect the power and speaker cables and turn the rear panel power switch on.

Re-set the system by turning on the power switch. If the Power LED illuminates red, the system is indicating a thermal protect mode or cooling problem. Be sure to check the air inlet filter at the base of the unit by removing it and making sure it is clear of debris.

Turn power off and wait for a few minutes allowing heat to dissipate and the Passport to reset itself. If after doing so the Power LED continues to glow red this indicates a fault with your system and you should consult an authorized Fender service center.

If no audio is present in one of the speakers, check to see if your control settings are correct. Next, unplug the cable from your working speaker and reconnect it to the other speaker. If the second speaker now works, this indicates that the first cable is bad, and should be repaired or replaced.

## **SET-UP SYSTEM VOLUME AND LEVELS**

To set system volume and operating levels, be sure to follow these simple set-up guidelines:

1. First, slowly raise the large Left and Right Master volume controls to their 12 o'clock notched positions.
2. Use a microphone (or other source) in the same position as it will be used on stage and in the manner in which it will be used for the event. Slowly bring up the appropriate channel input level control listening for the onset of feedback or howling or until the required level is reached. Have a helper "walk" the audience area to make sure coverage and levels are sufficient for your needs. The system's overall volume can be raised simply by rotating the Left and Right Master volume controls to the desired level.

3. Consider the application and needs of the event and set the System EQ control as appropriate. This is best achieved by playing recorded material of the same type as your show program, or by having an assistant speak into the microphone while you listen in the audience area.

For public address (spoken voice), it is advisable to rotate the System EQ control clockwise to enhance the mid and high frequencies, and limit the low frequency content. For large outdoor spaces this will also give the maximum headroom and output capability. Carefully consider the individual event's needs and set your control for the maximum effect.

#### POWER TOWER™

In setting up the system, the Passport Mixing console should ideally be placed where system performance can be evaluated by the operator. If no ongoing adjustments will be necessary, the mixer may be placed conveniently and where the cable lengths allow.

Take care to place the Power Tower where the cables will not trip anyone. All cables should be carefully secured.

The storage compartment in the rear of the Tower can hold cables, microphones and other system parts. To open simply slide the catch upwards and pull open.

The mains (AC) fuse holder is under the IEC (power cord) socket on the right rear of the Tower. To change a fuse, remove the IEC plug and, using an appropriate tool pull out the fuse holder. Note there is a spare fuse in the fuse holder; the Passport utilizes a T6.3A 250V fuse. Only replace fuses with one of an identical value and size.

The Passport System is weather resistant in its packed- transport mode. However, when operating outdoors, take care to fully protect the Power Tower in the event of exposure to rain.

**Remember to allow free air flow through the front air inlet located at the bottom of the front panel on the Passport power tower.**

## SPECIFICATIONS

#### Part Number

069-2001-0X3

#### Frequency Response

20 Hz to 40 kHz  $\pm$  1 dB (at send output)  
30 Hz to 30 kHz  $\pm$  1 dB (at speaker output,  
with processor threshold exceeded)

#### Distortion

< 0.05%, 20 Hz to 20 kHz, 1 dB below rated output

#### System Signal to Noise Ratio

> 80 dB @ 1 w, "A" WTD

#### Power Output

125 W/ch continuous average power, 8ohm,  
both channels driven with THD < 1%

#### Input Impedance (Channels 1-2-3 XLR and 1/4")

"Mic" switch position: 2 k ohm  
"Line" switch position: 66 k ohm

#### Input Impedance (Phono and Stereo Channel 1/4")

78 k ohm

#### Max. Input Level

Mic: -7 dBu  
Line: 30 dBu  
Stereo: 26 dBu

#### Return Input Impedance

47 k ohm

#### Fuse type

T6.3A, 250 V

#### Passport System

Width: 840 mm (33.7 in.)  
Height: 615 mm (24.2 in.)  
Depth: 300 mm (11.8 in.)  
Weight: 24 kgs (53 lbs)

#### Speakers

Width: 340 mm (13.4 in.)  
Height: 610 mm (24.2 in.)  
Depth: 300 mm (11.8 in.)  
Weight: 6.8 kgs (15 lbs)

#### Power Tower

Width 185 mm (7.3 in.)  
Height 615 mm (24.2 in.)  
Depth 300 mm (11.8 in.)  
Weight 10.5 kgs (23 lbs)

#### Tower Footprint

350 x 300 mm (13.8 x 11.8 in.)

#### Microphone

Dynamic Cardioid, balanced

#### Microphone Cable

XL -Male to XL-Female, 6 m (20 feet)

#### Speaker Cables

1/4 in. to 1/4 in., 9 m (30 feet)  
0 dBu is referenced to 0.775 volts rms

VISIT US ON THE WEB – For information on all of Fender's Passport and Fender Audio products, go to [www.fenderaudio.com](http://www.fenderaudio.com).

PASSPORT ACCESSORIES – A complete line of accessories are available for your Passport Sound System. Contact your local dealer or visit our website for more information.

ST275 SPEAKER STAND KIT – Includes 2 heavy duty, lightweight aluminum speaker stands and a carry bag.  
Part Number 069-9001-000

ST280 STAND KIT – Includes 2 heavy duty, lightweight aluminum speaker stands, two tripod microphone stands and a carry bag.  
Part Number 069-9008-000

P51 MICROPHONE KIT – Contains one dynamic cardioid microphone, mic clip, mic cable and vinyl carry pouch.  
Part Number 069-9000-000

DC-DC CONVERTER – Necessary for running your Passport system off battery power.  
Part Number 069-9002-000

PASSPORT BATTERY PACK – Deep-cycle 12v battery capable of running a Passport system for up to 6 hours on a single charge. (note must use the DC-DC converter when running a Passport off a battery).  
Part Number 069-9003-000

DC ACCESSORY BAG – Custom designed carry bag for the DC-DC Converter and Passport Battery Pack.  
Part Number 069-9009-000

PASSPORT P-150 PROTECTIVE COVER – Padded vinyl cover for your Passport P-150 and PD-150 system.  
Part Number - 069-9010-000

DUAL SPEAKER MOUNT – Adapter for mounting two speakers on a single speaker stand.  
Part Number - 069-9007-000

WALL MOUNT ADAPTER – A single heavy duty wall-mount bracket for mounting a Passport speaker for installation.  
Part Number - 069-9006-000

PASSPORT HAND HELD WIRELESS SYSTEM – Custom designed wireless system for use with Passport sound systems. Once installed, this system becomes a permanent part of your sound system. Includes a hand held electret condenser microphone and receiver module.  
Part Number - 069-1201-00x (x indicates frequency)

PASSPORT EXECUTIVE WIRELESS SYSTEM – Custom designed wireless system for use with Passport sound systems. Once installed, this system becomes a permanent part of your sound system. Includes a receiver module, and a belt pack transmitter with interchangeable headset, lavalier and instrument cable elements. Custom molded carry case included.  
Part Number - 069-1205-00x (x indicates frequency)

FENDER DYNAMIC CARDIOID MICROPHONE – High quality, dynamic cardioid hand held microphone. Includes mic clip.  
Part Number - 069-9012-000