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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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I don't see a USB Port. How do I connect my USB Flash Drive to the unit?

On the front of the PMA8000B MP3 you'll see a 2.5 mm jack. This us a multi-purpose jack, which will accept cell phone, iPod, or the PS Engineering supplier USB cable, Part Number 425-006-7026, which has a USB connector on one end.
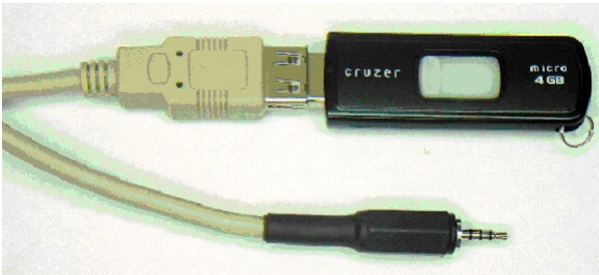
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When interfacing to my laptop, my computer isn't recognizing the PMA8000B.

First, be certain that your laptop have up to date USB drivers. If not, update them. Next, format THE PMA8000B MP3 unit, setting "FAT" for the File System. You may want to add "PMA8000BMP3 as the volume label. Note, do not use any spaces or special characters in the Volume Label.

Format Removable Disk (G:) ❓ ✖

Capacity:
`996 MB ▾`

File system
`FAT ▾` ◁ Select FAT, not FAT32

Allocation unit size
`Default allocation size ▾`

Volume label
`PMA8000BMP3` ◁ Add label, if desired

Format options
☐ Quick Format
☐ Enable Compression
☐ Create an MS-DOS startup disk

[Start] [Close]
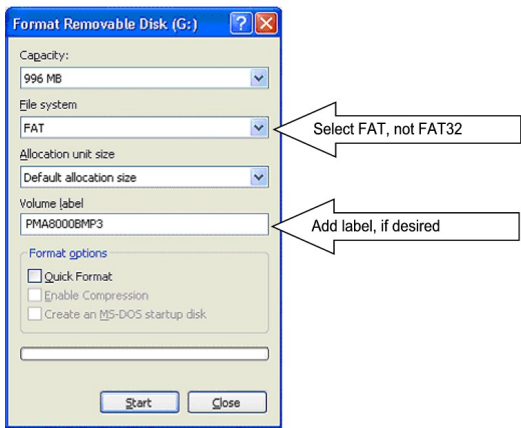
Once the unit has been formatted, you can move a folder with your music to the PMA8000B MP3.
You should not experience any more problems after you format the unit with a specific laptop computer.
However, if you transfer files from a USB drive, you may need to reformat the unit to go back to the laptop.

Which is better, laptop, or USB device?

Using a laptop PC is certainly faster. Transferring 1GB will take 5 to 9 minutes (depending on the speed of the USB port, whereas a direct USB transfer can take an hour. A USB drive is certainly more convenient to carry and plug in.

Can I have multiple music folders?

Yes. But random mode will play each music folder, and then move to the next one.

Can I play Podcasts or audio books on the unit?

Absolutely! If they are in MP3 format. Books are a bit tricky, because files are loaded in an order assigned by Microsoft, so the chapters might not work out right if you do a direct USB transfer. But remember, flying is top priority, so don't get distracted by the subject matter!

Can I use a USB drive larger than 1GB?

Yes, but only 1G will be transferred, and we can't predict which files will be transferred

Can non-music files be on the USB drive?

Yes, but the PMA8000B MP3 will look at each file, and determine if it IS a compatible one, slowing the transfer process.

What happens if I accidentally start transfer with no USB plugged in?

Nothing. The unit will announce "Transfer Error" and retain the existing play list.

What happens if I accidentally unplug the cable during transfer?

When the cable is unplugged, the unit will store the songs it has received, and ignore any incomplete files. So your play list will be shorter, depending on how long after the transfer started that the cable was unplugged.

When I connect a USB device and start transfer, it pauses for a few seconds, and then says "Transfer Error." What's up?

One of two things. Either the 2.5 mm jack isn't plugged ALL the way into the unit, or, you are using the cheapest USB drive you can find. For some reason, they don't always work; Use a name-brand like SanDisc, Lexar, etc. The good news is that you won't lose what is in the audio panel when this happens.

How come I can only get 980 Megabytes onto the 1GB unit?

It's called "overhead.' Some space is left for housekeeping in the drive. All storage devices are like that; it's a fact of life.

Can I play my iTunes music?

No, not unless they can be exported as an MP3 file, the PMA8000B MP3 does not support .aac file formats

Why can't I hear music?

Several things will inhibit the music. First, be sure that the TEL is not active, as this will inhibit the music *and* the intercom. Then be sure that you are not in split transmit mode (all COM 1 and COM 2 LEDs lit). Also the pilot does not hear music in ISO, even though you will hear the annunciations. You should also cycle the "Mute" function, and check for open radio or microphone squelch. Also, try increasing the volume by pressing and holding TEL-SPR for several seconds.

Even though I'm in "Random" mode, the audio panel always starts with the same song?

Because we do not have a back-up battery in the PMA8000B-MP3, (it would only serve this purpose and we couldn't justify the costs and additional maintenance of the system) we can't store the music file

"pointer" during power off. Just hit the "Next" function (TEL + MKR), and move on to the next tune selected at random.

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Why does my transfer hang up about half way through 1 GB transfer?

To use the full 1GB, you must place the music files in a subfolder, and not just in the root directory. Otherwise, the unit limits to about 100 songs.

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Can I transfer from the USB in flight?

We wouldn't recommend it. Although the audio panel will function during transfer, it will reset automatically at the end of the transfer process and build the play list, your audio panel is effectively off for a few seconds.

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After I turn the audio panel back on after transferring the files, the MP3 won't play?

Just be patient. It takes several seconds for the unit to build a play list after new files are loaded, and the MP3 player won't turn on until it is ready to play.

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