

AI-03822 XR18 Cakewalk Zed12FX Mixer Setup

Owner	© Rigel Arcayan
Tags	Project
Created time	May 15, 2026 8:37 AM

I have 2 macbook pros, kopul blt-96,FBQ EQ 2 ts115a and a polk sub. I want a PA, Spotify Playback from my iphone and I also want to Play Spotify via DAW using Cakewalk.

You already have enough gear to build a **solid hybrid PA + playback + DAW system**—you just need to think in terms of **signal flow roles**, not individual devices.

I'll simplify your setup into 3 clear systems:

1. Your system goal (what you're actually building)

You want 3 things:

A) Live PA (room sound)

- Mic / instruments / DAW audio → mixer → **TS115A mains + Polk sub**

B) iPhone Spotify playback (simple music source)

- iPhone → mixer → PA

C) DAW Spotify playback (Cakewalk via MacBooks)

- MacBook → audio interface (UMC404HD or XR18) → mixer → PA
-

2. Best way to organize YOUR existing gear

You basically have two usable “brains”:

- **Behringer XR18** → best as your *main digital mixer + USB interface*
- **Behringer UMC404HD** → backup/simple interface (less flexible)
- **FBQ EQ + Zed12FX** → optional analog tone shaping / fallback

👉 The cleanest design is:

| **XR18 becomes your central hub (recommended)**

3. Recommended system layout (clean + practical)

CORE SIGNAL FLOW

Inputs into XR18

- MacBook #1 → USB → XR18 (DAW / Cakewalk / Spotify playback)
- MacBook #2 → USB or line-in (backup DAW / second source)
- iPhone Spotify → stereo RCA/3.5mm → XR18 stereo channel
- (Optional) Zed12FX or FBQ EQ in-line for tone shaping

XR18 outputs

- Main L/R → TS115A speakers
 - Sub out or AUX → Polk 15" sub
-

4. Two ways to run Spotify (important distinction)

OPTION 1 — SIMPLE MODE (recommended for most use)

Use XR18 like a DJ mixer:

- iPhone → XR18 stereo channel
- MacBook Spotify → XR18 stereo channel
- Switch sources like inputs

✓ Fast

✓ Reliable

✓ No DAW needed for casual listening

OPTION 2 — DAW MODE (Cakewalk integration)

- MacBook → XR18 via USB audio interface mode
- Cakewalk outputs stereo mix to XR18

You can:

- Route Spotify inside Cakewalk
- Add EQ, compression, crossfade automation
- Treat Spotify like a "virtual deck"

✓ More control

✗ More setup complexity

5. Recommended PA routing (important for your speakers)

Basic live routing

- XR18 MAIN L/R → TS115A (left/right mains)
- XR18 AUX → Polk sub (low-frequency feed)

Then:

- Set crossover in XR18 or Polk sub
 - Let sub handle <80–100 Hz range
-

6. Where your FBQ EQ + Zed12FX fits

These are optional now, but useful:

FBQ EQ

- Insert between XR18 main out → speakers
- Use for:
 - room correction
 - feedback control
 - tonal shaping

Zed12FX

- Can act as:
 - backup analog mixer
 - quick jam setup without booting XR18
-

7. Key concept (this is the real unlock)

Think of your system like this:

XR18 = brain (routing + mixing)

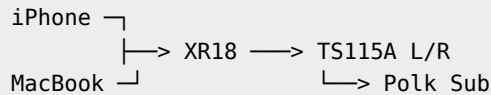
MacBooks = content generators

iPhone = quick playback device

TS115A + Polk = output stage

Everything flows INTO XR18 first.

8. Simple wiring diagram (mental model)



(Optional analog EQ between XR18 and speakers)

9. If you want the “pro upgrade path”

Later improvements (optional):

- Add **proper crossover management inside XR18**
 - Use **USB multitrack from Cakewalk**
 - Add **tablet control (Mixing Station app)**
 - Replace iPhone input with DI box for cleaner signal
-

10. Bottom line

With your gear, the best setup is:

▮ **XR18 as the central mixer + USB DAW interface + Spotify hub**

Everything else becomes either:

- input sources (iPhone, MacBooks)
 - or tone shaping (FBQ EQ / Zed12FX)
 - or output amplification (TS115A + Polk sub)
-

If you want next step, I can draw you a **full physical wiring map (exact cables, ports, and routing inside XR18)** or optimize it for **lowest latency Cakewalk playback + live PA use.**