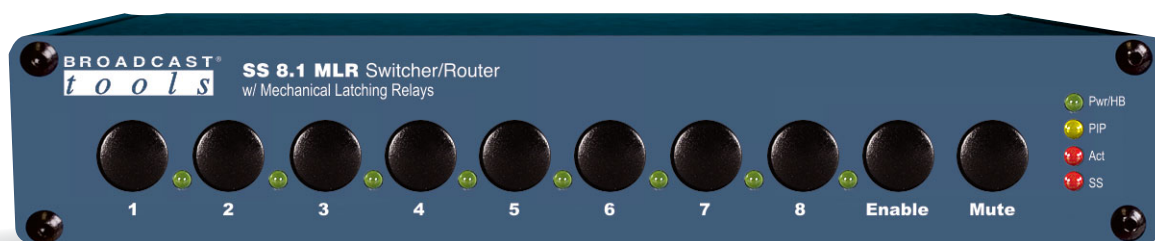


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**t o o l s** **INC**  
**PROBLEM SOLVED**

***Installation and Operation Manual***



**SS 8.1 MLR/RJ**

***Eight Channel Audio Switcher/Router with Mechanical Latching Relays***

Firmware Version 1.2 and above

Manual update: 5/10/2021

If you need a firmware upgrade, contact Broadcast Tools®

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**NOTE: We recommend the use of Chrome, Firefox or Safari as your browser.**

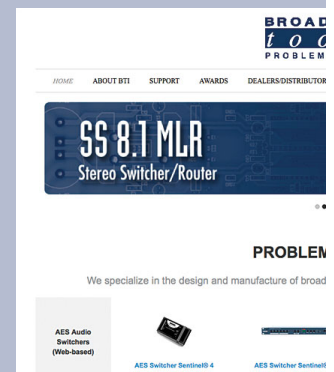
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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your purchase of a Broadcast Tools® SS 8.1 MLR/RJ transparent eight input, one output switcher/router (referred to as the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ throughout this manual). We are confident that this product will give you many years of dependable service. This manual is intended to give you all the information needed to install and operate the Broadcast Tools® SS 8.1 MLR/RJ.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Only qualified technical personnel should install the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ. Any attempt to install this device by a person who is not technically qualified could result in a hazardous condition to the installer or other personnel or damage to the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ or other equipment. Please ensure that proper safety precautions have been taken before installing this device. If you are unfamiliar with this type of equipment, please contact a properly qualified engineer to handle the installation and setup of the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ. Broadcast Tools, Inc., is unable to support NON-Broadcast Tools software, hardware, or NON-Broadcast Tools computer/hardware/software problems. If you experience these problems, please research your hardware/software instruction manuals, or contact the manufacturers technical support department.

## WHO TO CONTACT FOR HELP

If you have any questions regarding your product or you need assistance, please contact your distributor from whom you purchased this equipment. If you would like more information about BROADCAST TOOLS® products, you may reach us at:

### Broadcast Tools, Inc.

131 State Street  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-1503 USA  
Voice: 360.854.9559  
Fax: 866.783.1742

Internet Home Page: [www.broadcasttools.com](http://www.broadcasttools.com)  
E-mail: [support@broadcasttools.com](mailto:support@broadcasttools.com)

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### CAUTION!

**Broadcast Tools®** Products, as with any electronic device, can fail without warning. Do not use this product in applications where a life threatening condition could result due to failure.

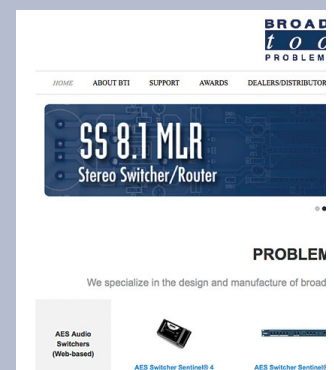


### NOTE:

This manual should be read thoroughly before installation and operation.

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## INTRODUCTION

### Product Overview

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ is a transparent eight channel audio switcher/router with mechanical latching relays. The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ is perfect for all types of passive signal switching controlled via front panel switches, contact closures and/or multi-drop RS-232 serial. Switching is accomplished with mechanical latching gold contact relays, which means that the unit can route a signal in either direction and keep routing signals even after losing power. Due to the passive nature of the switching, any input level and impedance can be used. Inputs may be balanced or unbalanced, while output levels, impedance, distortion, noise, and balancing will match that of the selected input.

### Features/Benefits

- Front panel channel selection push buttons with active channel LED indicators.
- Audio “MUTE” function allows the user to mute/turn off all audio to the output.
- Front panel Enable switch can be configured to provide a safety lock to the front panel selection push buttons.
- Audio/signal switching via sealed mechanical latching relays utilizing 2-form-C bifurcated - crossbar silver alloy with gold overlay contacts.
- Eight shielded RJ45 audio input jacks and one shielded RJ45 audio output jack.
- Removable euro-block screw terminal connectors are used for remote control connections. Necessary mating plugs are supplied.
- Output audio silence sensor with front panel LED indicator, SPDT/SPST silence sensor alarm relay with adjustable alarm delay and restore duration. May be disabled.
- Eight input GPI port (PIP/triggers or Remote Control) with LED indicator.
- Remote control via contact closures, 5-volt TTL/CMOS logic levels and/or the multi-drop RS-232 serial port.
- Eight open collector outputs for remote channel status.
- Power-up selection of input to output, mute or last source selected. If power is lost, the last selected channel is passed to the output.
- Fully RFI proofed.
- Surge protected internal power supply, universal switching power supply with domestic connector supplied. International power supply optional.
- Up to two units may be mounted on the optional RA-1 rack shelf. Desktop and wall mounting is also possible.

### Applications

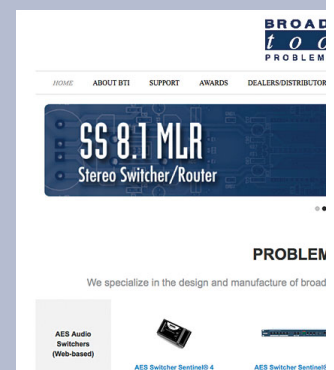
Automation source switching with eight trigger inputs; Studio selection and routing; Audio processing selection; Exciter input selection; Remote broadcast input selection; STL source selection; Multiple station program on-hold and/or PA switching; EAS audio switching; Codec or Phone hybrid feed selection; IFB selection; Satellite audio channel switching and console monitor input and output selection.

### Inspection

Please examine your SS 8.1 MLR/RJ carefully for any damage that may have been sustained during shipping. If any damage is present, please notify the shipper immediately and retain the packaging for inspection by the shipper. The package should contain the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ, a modular cable with 9-pin “S9” female D-sub adapter, and a 9 VDC power supply. Manuals may be downloaded from our web site.

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### OVERVIEW

## Installation

### Surge Protection

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ has built-in resistance to voltage changes; we recommend that you use a power surge protector or line conditioner on the incoming AC line. Lightning strikes and/or other high voltage surges may damage your SS 8.1 MLR/RJ and connected equipment if it is not properly protected. For lightning protection devices, check out [www.polyphaser.com](http://www.polyphaser.com) and [www.itwlinx.com](http://www.itwlinx.com).

### UPS Standby Power System

We recommend that you connect your SS 8.1 MLR/RJ to a UPS system. A UPS helps minimize the risk to the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ and provides power during a power outage.

**NOTE: If power is lost, the last selected channel is passed to the output.**

## Installation/Operation

### Input, Mute, and Enable Push Buttons

Each of the eight audio inputs and mute can be selected via its front panel push button labelled “1”, “2”, “3”, “4”, “5”, “6”, “7”, “8” and “Mute” respectively. Each input push button has an associated LED indicator which will illuminate when the channel is selected. When an input channel is selected, the previous channel is deselected (interlock). The “Enable” (safety) push button can be configured to require the user to hold down the enable push button while selecting any of the other front panel push buttons, see page 9 for more information.

### LED indicators

- “PWR” LED: Illuminates when power is applied and blinks when serial data is active.
- “PIP” LED: Flashes to indicate PIP/trigger activity.
- “ACT” LED: Illuminates when audio is detected on the output.
- “SS”: Silence Sensor indicator LED, lit when silence is detected (if enabled.)
- Channel (“1-8”) LEDs: illuminate when the channel on.

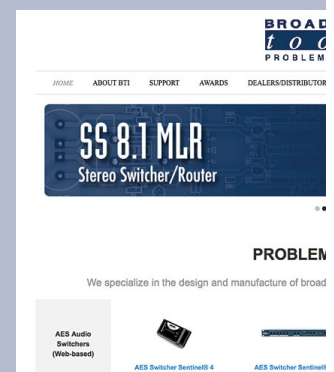
### Power

Connect the 2.1mm barrel type center positive power connector into the unit and the 9 to 12 VDC power supply with domestic connector into a 120 Vac 50-60 Hz power source. Never use any type of power supply other than the specified/supplied power supply.

**Chassis Ground screw (CHS GND):** The #6-32 sized chassis ground screw should be tied to the station (house) or system ground.

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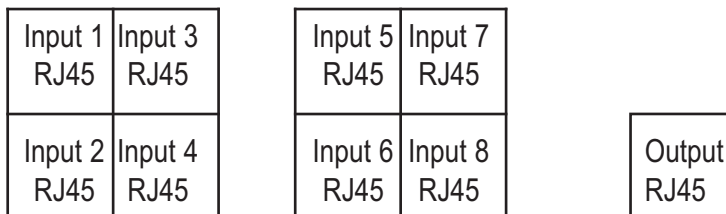


## INSTALLATION

## I/O Connections

The rear panel contains all the input, output, and remote-control connectors. The multi-drop RS-232 serial port is equipped with a modular RJ-11 jack and an “S9” modular to DB9 adapter/cable.

## RJ45 Audio Inputs and Output



Input sources that are NOT selected are terminated with a 10K ohm resistor. If you do not require this load applied to the deselected sources, they may be removed from each channel. Each channel has a pair of resistors. Removal information: Channel 1 = R6 & R14. Channel 2 = R7 & R15. Channel 3, R8 & R16. Channel 4 = R9 & R17. Channel 5 = R10 & R18. Channel 6 = R11 & RR19. Channel 7 = R12 & R20. Channel 8 = R13 & R21.

If the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ is to be used for applications other than switching analog audio, the Silence Sensor and audio activity (ACT) detection circuit should be disabled. To disable, remove RP9 from its socket.

## RJ45 Audio Cables

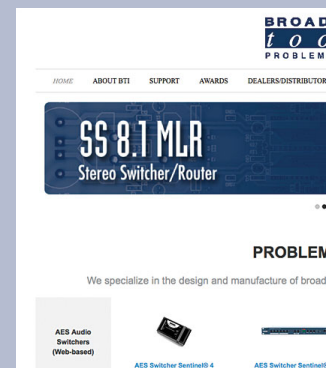
Please use shielded twisted pair Cat5e or Cat6 cables and connectors (STP) with the input and output RJ45 audio jacks.

### RJ45 Audio Cat5/6 Pinout:

Function:	Wire Pair:	RJ45 Pins:
Left+/AES+	White/Orange	1
Left-/AES-	Orange/White	2
Right+	White/Green	3
Right -	Green/White	6
n/c	White/Blue	5
DC GND	Blue/White	4
n/c	White/Brown	7
n/c	Brown/White	8
Sig. Shield	Shield	Connector Shield

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## PIP (GPI)/Remote Control Inputs

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ interfaces to external equipment through removable euro-block screw terminals. The terminals accommodate wire sizes from 16 - 28 AWG solid or stranded wire. Before installing a wire, remove the euro-block screw terminal plug and turn each capture screw fully counterclockwise. Strip each conductor to a length of 0.25" and insert the conductor fully into the terminal. Turn the capture screw fully clockwise to secure the conductor.

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ has eight status inputs that may be configured for PIP ("triggers") or remote-control operation and accept momentary contact closures (sustained, if break before make); open collector or TTL/CMOS input logic levels.

(Top row, TB6)						(Top row, TB7)					
PIP1 IN-1	PIP2 IN-2	PIP3 IN-3	PIP4 IN-4	PIP5 IN-5	PIP6 IN-6	PIP7 IN-7	PIP8 IN-8	MUTE	STEP		
											DGND
See Open Collector Outputs (Bottom row, TB6)						See Open Collector Outputs (Bottom row, TB7)					

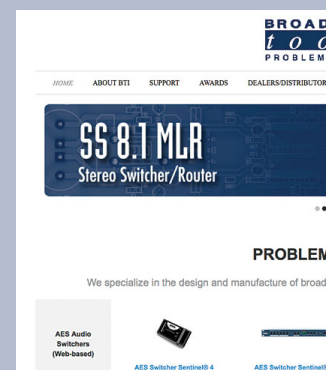
The PIP/remote control operation mode is set by the SW11-7 dipswitch, when SW11-7 is OFF the unit is in remote control mode and when SW11-7 is ON the unit is in PIP mode. The PIP/remote control connections to the switcher are found on the top rows of the connectors TB6 and TB7. Each channel may be selected by a momentary contact to ground (DGND) located on the bottom TB7 connector. Each channel is pulled high (5-volts) through a 22K resistor. For example, pulsing the "MUTE" input to ground would turn off the output of the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ until a front panel source switch is pressed, a different remote-control input is activated, the unit is powered up and/or a serial command is received from a PC or other serial device.

Pulsing the "STEP" input to ground will step the unit one source for each low to high transition on this input. Automatic timed sequencing may be accomplished by holding the step input low. The unit will now step to each source at a user programmable rate from 1 to 99 seconds (10 seconds by default). The last step channel is user programmable and is set to 8 by default. This feature may be used to sequence through multiple station air monitor signals for a program on-hold feed.

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ is also capable of being used for EAS audio insertion. This feature is enabled by setting the EAS controlled input channel via RS232 to the desired audio input channel (see the Serial Operation section of this manual for more information.) Once an input channel has been designated the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ will automatically switch to that input for the duration of a sustained closure to ground on the designated PIP/remote control input. When released, the previous selected input will be activated.

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## Open Collector and Silence Sense Relay Outputs

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ has eight open collector outputs that are used to indicate channel selection status. OC1 indicates for Input 1, OC2 indicates for Input 2, etc. The status open collector (OCx) output for the selected channel will go low providing a return (ground) for an LED indicator, TTL/CMOS logic, or relay. External pull-up resistors may be required in some installations, voltages must be limited to 6 VDC at 600 mA.

In addition to the open collector outputs two sets of silence sense alarm relay contacts are also present, labeled S1-CM (common), S1-NO (normally open), S1-NC (normally closed), and S2-CM (common), S2-NO (normally open) respectively. When the output silence sensor is enabled, the relays will close when silence is detected and stay closed until valid audio returns to the output.

(Top row, TB6) See PIP/Remote Control						(Top row, TB7) See PIP/Remote Control					
										S2-NO	S2-NO
OC1	OC2	OC3	OC4	OC5	OC6	OC7	OC8	S1-NC	S1-CM	S1-NO	DGND
(Bottom row, TB6)						(Bottom row, TB7)					

## RS-232 Serial Port (RJ-11 Jack):

This RJ-11 jack is used to connect the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ to a computer's COM port for RS-232 serial operation using the included reverse modular cable with 9-pin "S9" female D-sub adapter. If your PC does not have a built-in RS-232 serial port but does have USB, then a USB-to-serial adapter cable is a good way to add USB serial capability. We recommend USB-to-serial adapter cables that use the FTDI chipset and have had good results with the model "SBT-FTDI" from Sabrent.



## CAUTION!

*Installation of the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ in high RF environments should be performed with care. The station ground should be connected to the designated chassis ground terminal using a 20 to 24-gauge wire.*

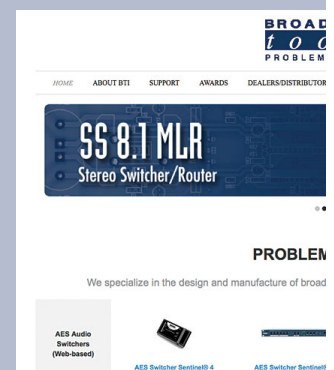


## NOTE:

*For wiring information, refer to the grids in this section of the manual, the silk-screen text on the rear panel of the product or the fractional schematic in the appendix.*

## WEBSITE:

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## Configuration Jumper Setup

JP1: To enable the front panel “ENABLE” switch remove and stow the jumper installed on the JP1 PCB header. Factory configuration: disabled.

**NOTE:** The enable push button must be held closed to operate any of the other front panel push buttons and is not associated with any of the remote-control functions.

## Configuration Dip-switch Setup

Follow the tables below for SW11 dip-switch configuration options.

Unit ID	SW11-1	SW11-2	SW11-3
ID 0 *	OFF	OFF	OFF
ID 1	<b>ON</b>	OFF	OFF
ID 2	OFF	<b>ON</b>	OFF
ID 3	<b>ON</b>	<b>ON</b>	OFF
ID 4	OFF	OFF	<b>ON</b>
ID 5	<b>ON</b>	OFF	<b>ON</b>
ID 6	OFF	<b>ON</b>	<b>ON</b>
ID 7	<b>ON</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>ON</b>

Baud Rate	SW11-4	SW11-5
2400	<b>ON</b>	OFF
9600 *	OFF	OFF
19200	OFF	<b>ON</b>
38400	<b>ON</b>	<b>ON</b>

Power Up	SW11-6
User selected	<b>ON</b>
Last source selected *	OFF

**Note:** To select an input at power-up with SW11-6 ON, hold down the push-button for the desired input channel or mute until the front panel LED’s flash.

Operation Mode	SW11-7
Remote Control *	<b>OFF</b>
PIP	ON

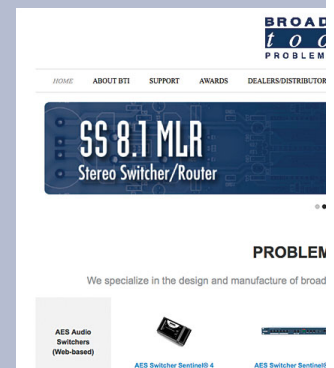
- Remote control operation mode: Pulse PIP1 to ground (DGND) to select channel 1, pulse PIP8 to select input 8 etc., pulse the Mute pin to turn off all channels.
- PIP mode: activity on any of the PIP inputs will generate a serial status string in the PIP format. For use with automation software.

**Note:** After changing any dipswitch, please repower the unit.

**Note:** \* Denotes factory setting.

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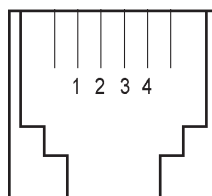
## SERIAL OPERATION

### RS-232 Control

Connect one end of the modular cable to the RJ11 jack on the rear panel of the product and the other end to the RJ11 to the jack on the “S9” 9-pin female D-sub adapter. Connect the 9-pin female D-sub “S9” adapter to the COM port of the controlling PC. Note: A USB to RS-232 adapter cable or card may be required if your PC isn’t equipped with a RS-232 COM port.

The default protocol is as follows: 9600, N, 8, 1, no flow control (other baud rates are user selectable). From the factory the unit ID is set to 0. Select the desired unit ID address for each unit using the configuration dipswitches, zero is the factory default setting. Never duplicate addresses.

RJ-11 Adapter Pin	DB-9 D-SUB Pin #	Product’s point of view Function Name.
4	3	RS-232 Receive
3	2	RS-232 Transmit
2	5	Ground



Modular Jack Pin Numbers

### Menu Operation

To connect to the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ over its serial interface: start a serial terminal application like Tera Term, PuTTY or HyperTerminal configured the COM port the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ is assigned/connected to for 9600 baud ,8, N, 1, flow control to NONE, Emulation set to ANSI, and local character echo enabled. Type \*0MM into the terminal window to enter menu mode:

```

Broadcast Tools(R) SS 8.1 MLR, v1.2 - Setup Menu

1 - Set PIP Minimum Hold Time(0 - 2.55 sec) - Now:0.05
2 - Set Silence Sense Acquire Delay (sec) - Now: 10
3 - Set Silence Sense Restore Delay (sec) - Now: 2
4 - Set Silence Sense Threshold - Now:-25 dBu
5 - Set Stepping Interval (sec 1-99) - Now: 10
6 - Set Last Step Channel - Now: 8
7 - Lock/Unlock Front Panel - Now:UNLOCKED
8 - Set EAS Controlled Input - Now: Off

S - Turn ON audio input
M - Turn OFF audio

V - Save Audio State for Power Up
C - Show Configuration and Status
F - Set Factory Defaults

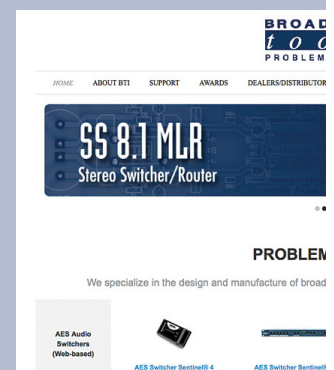
Audio Status:Silent - Channel 1

Enter Selection, or Q to quit:
    
```

To select a menu function, simply enter the letter on the left side of the menu and wait for the prompt. Example: Type the letter “S” Response: Enter Input Channel: Entering a 1 would select channel 1.

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### OPERATION

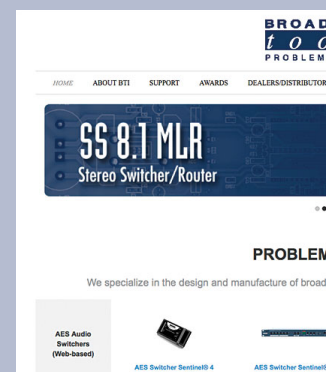
## Serial Commands

The switcher may be controlled and monitored by serial command strings or by the embedded menu.

- Where the
- < \* > Denotes start of string character
  - < u > Unit ID (address, 0 through 7) 0 by default.
  - < ii > Input channel (01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08)
  - < o > Output channel (1)
- \*u*ii* - Turn on input *ii*
  - \*uMA - Mute output
  - \*uMM - Go to setup menu, see menu operation section of the manual for more information.
- Examples:
- \*008 This string would turn on channel 8 for unit ID 0.
  - \*0MM Accesses the setup menu. (NOTE: The setup menu times out after 60 seconds of keyboard inactivity).
- \*POLL Returns unit ID number in appropriate time slot.
  - \*uSL Sends audio status for all inputs: SuLo,x,x,x,x,x,x,x,x<CR><LF>
  - \*uSP*ii* Sends PIP status for input *ii*: SuP,*ii*,x
  - \*uSPA Sends PIP status for all inputs: SuP,A,x,x,x,x,x,x,x,x <CR><LF>
- \*uSS Sends status of silence sensor: SuS,a<CR><LF>  
a = 1 = not silent, 0 is silent
  - \*uU Sends unit firmware version: <name><version><lf>
  - \*uY Display configuration.
  - \*uZx Echo character x to serial control port - for debugging command strings.
- \*uCEx Enable error and good responses if x = Y (default N)
  - \*uCDEF Reset to factory defaults.
  - \*uCLx Lock front panel: x = L (Lock) x = U (Unlock)
  - \*uCIIttt Sets PIP minimum pulse length ttt: 000 - 255 => off to 2.55 seconds.
- \*uCPS Power up audio state: save power up state now
- \*uCSLx Sets silence sensor detection threshold to Off, -20, -25, -30 dB (0,1,2,3)
  - \*uCSAtttt Sets silence sensor acquire delay to tttt seconds (0, 2-255)
  - \*uCSBttt Sets silence sensor restore delay to tttt seconds (0, 2-255)
- \*uCSCtt Sets step interval in seconds 1-99 seconds.
  - \*uCSSt Sets last step channel 1-8 (0 disables step feature.)
- \*uCSEi Sets EAS controlled input channel (i) to 1-8 or 0 for off. This allows you to assign one input channel that will be switched to with sustained closure to ground on its remote-control input from an EAS encoder for EAS audio insertion with the SS 8.1 MLR/RJ.
  - \*uDxx Delay xx seconds before processing next command.
  - \*uDLxxx Delay xxx seconds before processing next command.

### WEBSITE:

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### SPECIFICATIONS

Inputs/Outputs:	Any input level and impedance can be used. Inputs may be balanced or unbalanced. Output levels, impedance, distortion, noise, and balancing will match that of the selected input.
Switching Method:	Passive. Mechanical latching sealed relays utilizing 2-form-C bifurcated-crossbar silver alloy with gold overlay contacts.
Logic:	Flash microprocessor with non-volatile memory.
Operation Control:	Front Panel - Momentary switches. Remote - Momentary or sustained compatible with 5 volts CMOS/TTL logic, open collector or contact closures to ground.  RS-232 Serial - Multi-drop, 2400, 9600, 19200, 38400 baud, 8, N,1.
Status:	Front Panel - LED Indicators.  Remote - Eight open collector status outputs rated at 6 vdc @ 100ma each. One SPDT and one SPST silence sense relay. 1-amp 30 vdc maximum.
Interfacing:	Audio I/O: shielded RJ45 audio jacks. Remote control: (4) 6-position pluggable screw terminal blocks, mating connectors supplied. Serial: RJ-11 jack. Reversed RJ11 modular cable/female "S9" 9-pin D-Sub adapter supplied.

#### **CAUTION! For safety, never connect 120 Vac circuits to the relays!**

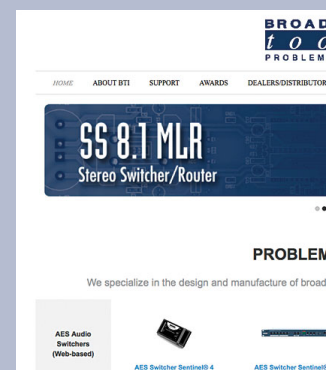
Refer to the fractional schematic and/or text on the rear panel for connection details.

Power Requirements:	9 to 12 VDC @ >500 ma. Universal switching power supply with domestic connector supplied. International power supply optional.
Physical Dimensions:	8.50" x 7.10" x 1.576" (WDH) aluminum extrusion chassis with (4) #6-32 screw thread mounting holes for optional RA-1 rack shelf.
Weight:	3.0 lb.
Shipping Weight:	4.0 lb.
Options:	RA-1 rack shelf, holds two units (1-RU) / Filler panels supplied.

The SS 8.1 MLR/RJ conforms to the same CE certification as the SS 8.1 II it replaces.

#### **WEBSITE:**

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### LIMITED WARRANTY

The term "Buyer" as used in this document refers to and includes both (but only) (a) any person or entity who acquires such an item for the purpose of resale to others (i.e., a dealer or distributor of an item), and (b) the first person or entity who acquires such an item for such person's or entity's own use.

Broadcast Tools warrants to each Buyer of any item manufactured by Broadcast Tools that the item will be free from defects in materials and workmanship at the time it is shipped by Broadcast Tools if the item is properly installed, used and maintained.

### EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES

If Broadcast Tools is notified, in writing, of a failure of any item manufactured by Broadcast Tools to conform to the foregoing Limited Warranty within one (1) year following the date of the Buyer's acquisition of the item, and if the item is returned to Broadcast Tools in accordance with Broadcast Tools' instructions for confirmation by inspection of the defect (which at Broadcast Tools' election may include, without limitation, a requirement that the Buyer first obtain a Return Authorization number from Broadcast Tools, that the Buyer furnish proof of purchase in the form of an invoice and/or receipt, and that the Buyer prepay all freight charges associated with any return of the item to Broadcast Tools using such freight service as Broadcast Tools reasonably may specify), Broadcast Tools will repair or replace the defective item, or will refund the purchase price paid by the Buyer for the item. Broadcast Tools shall have the exclusive right to choose between these alternative remedies.

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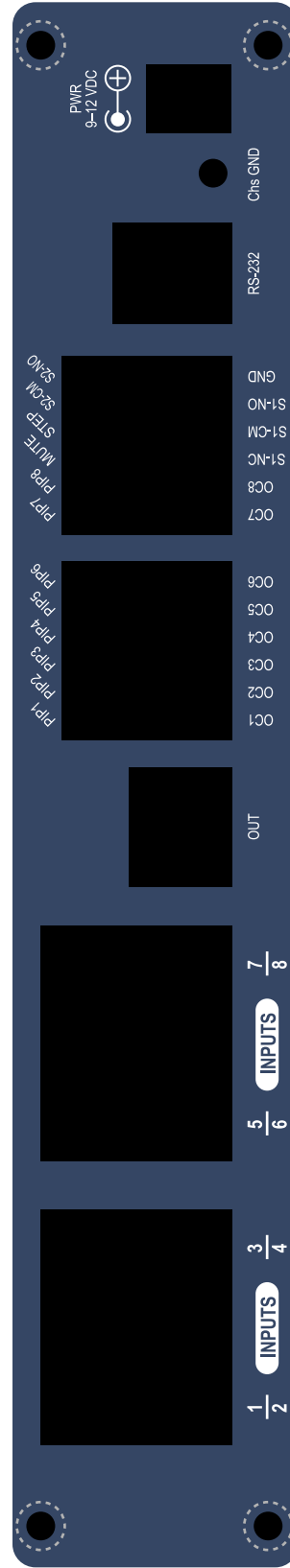
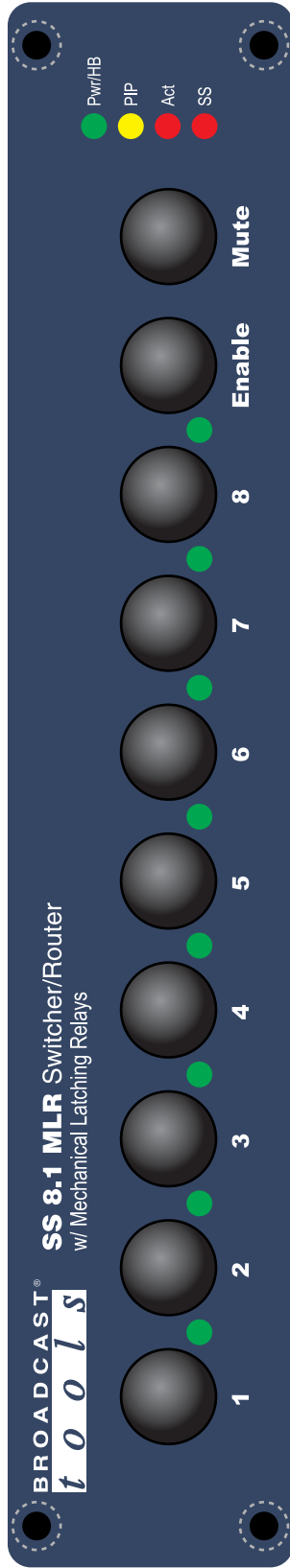
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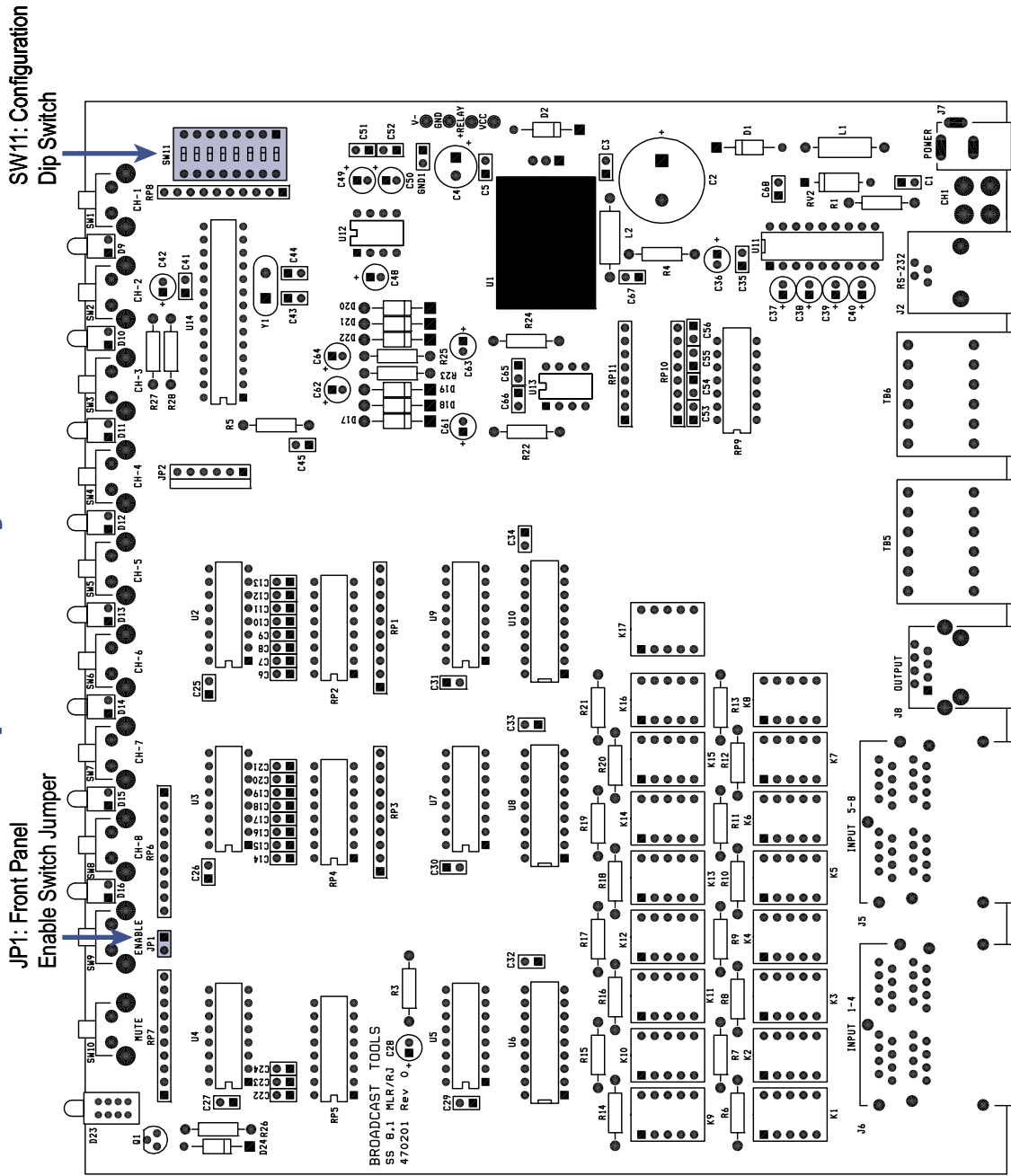
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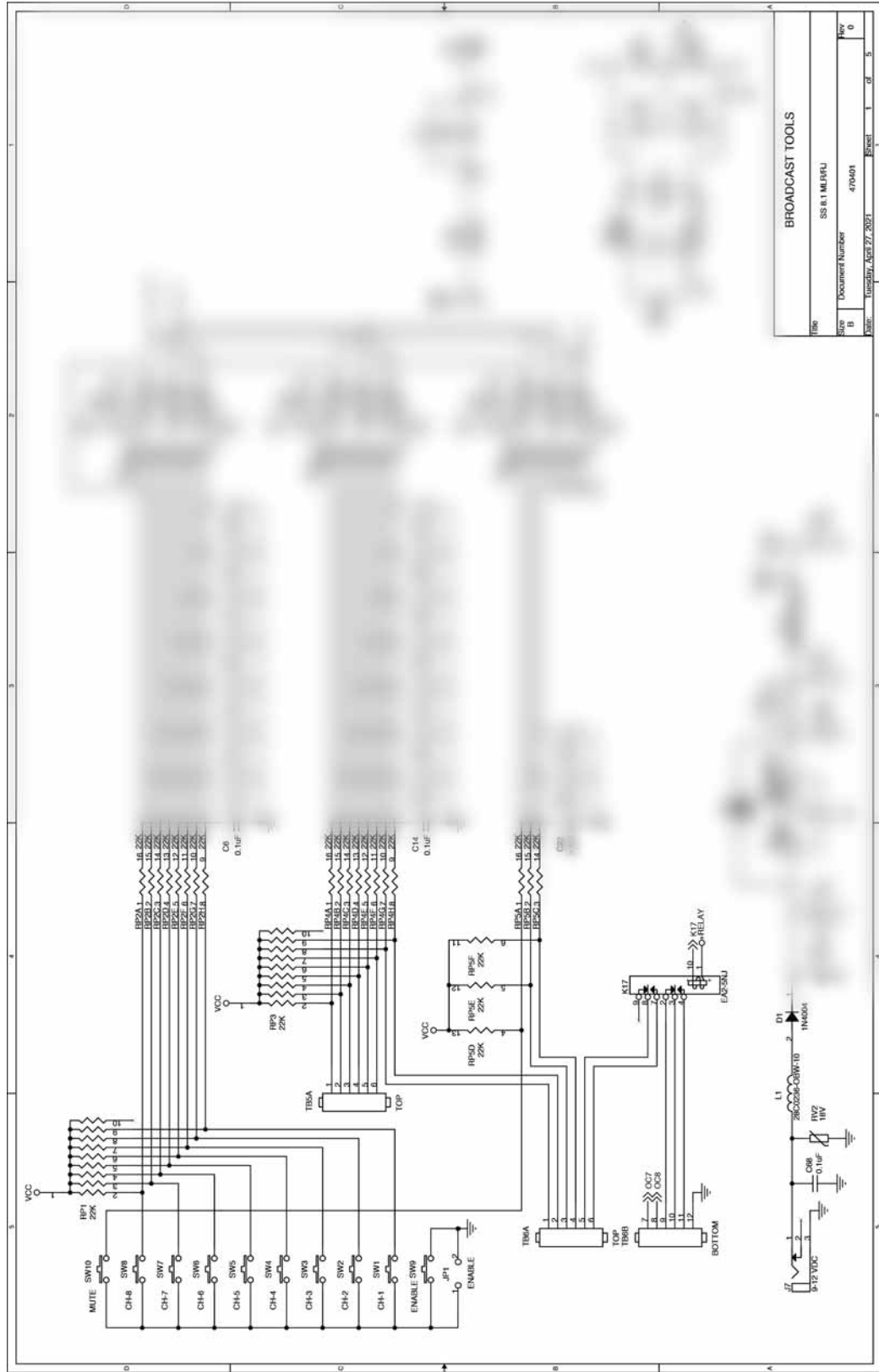
360.854.9559 **voice** • 866.783.1742 **fax**  
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### Component Layout



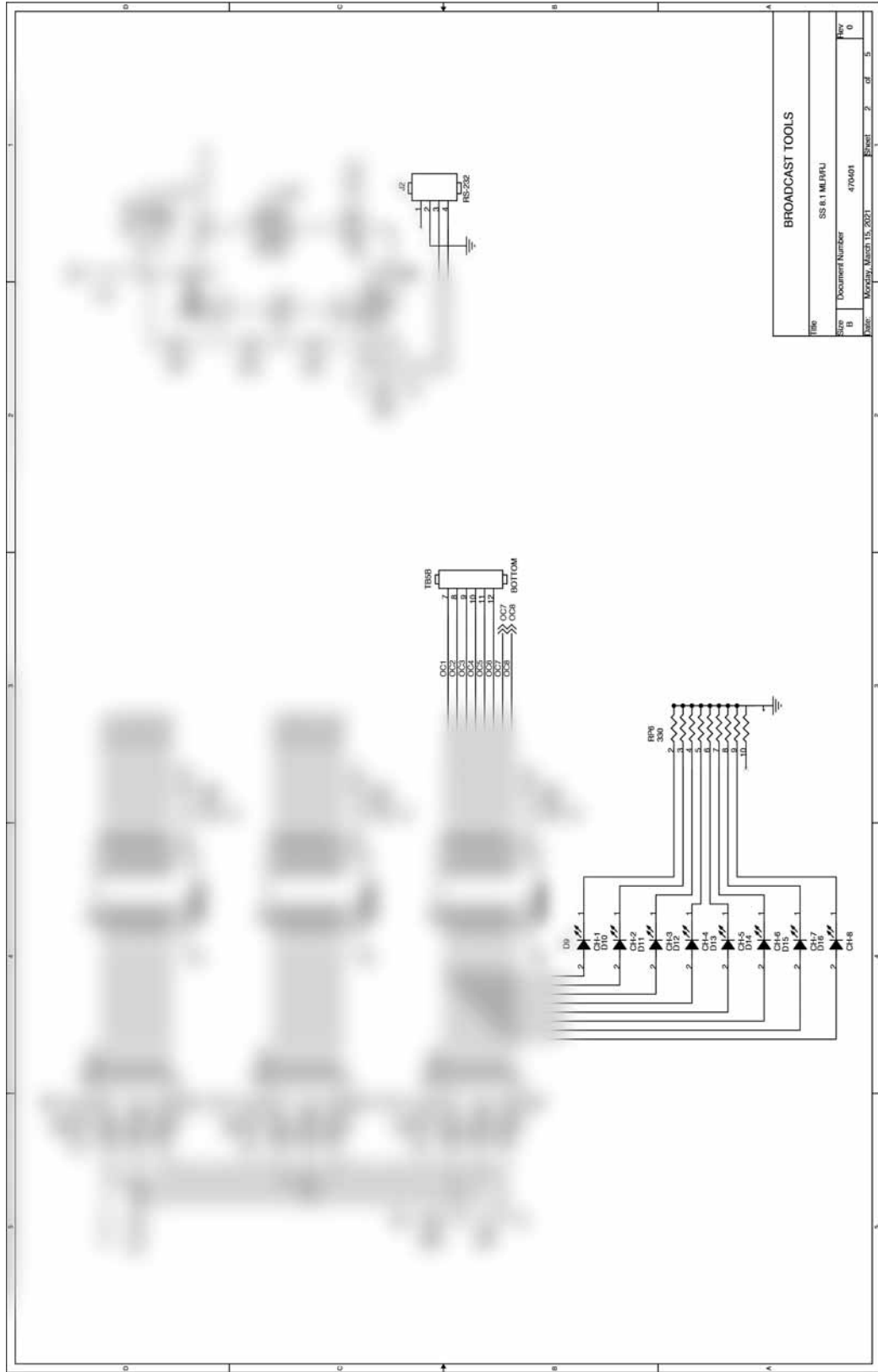
### Fractional Schematic



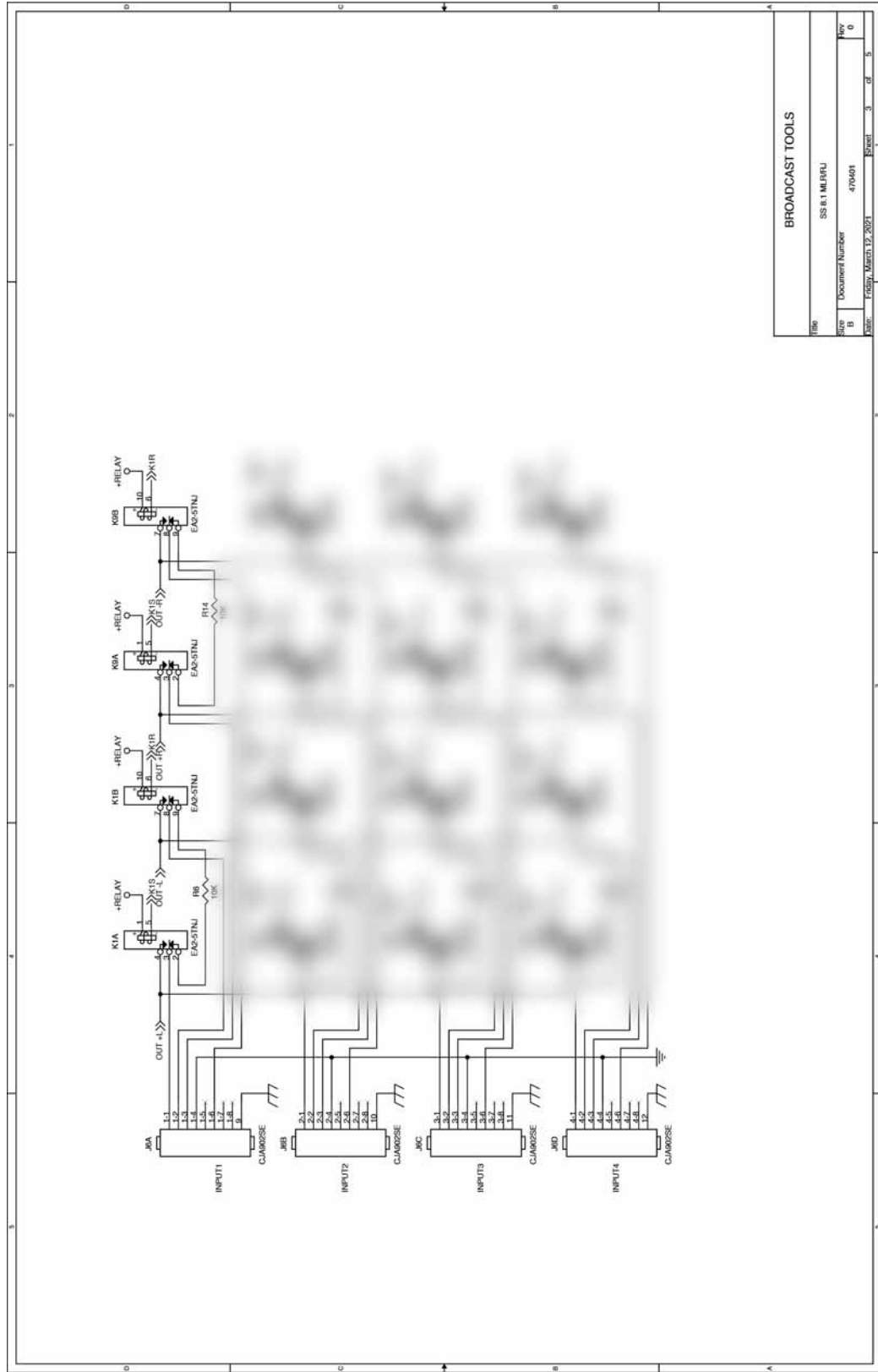
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**Fractional Schematic**

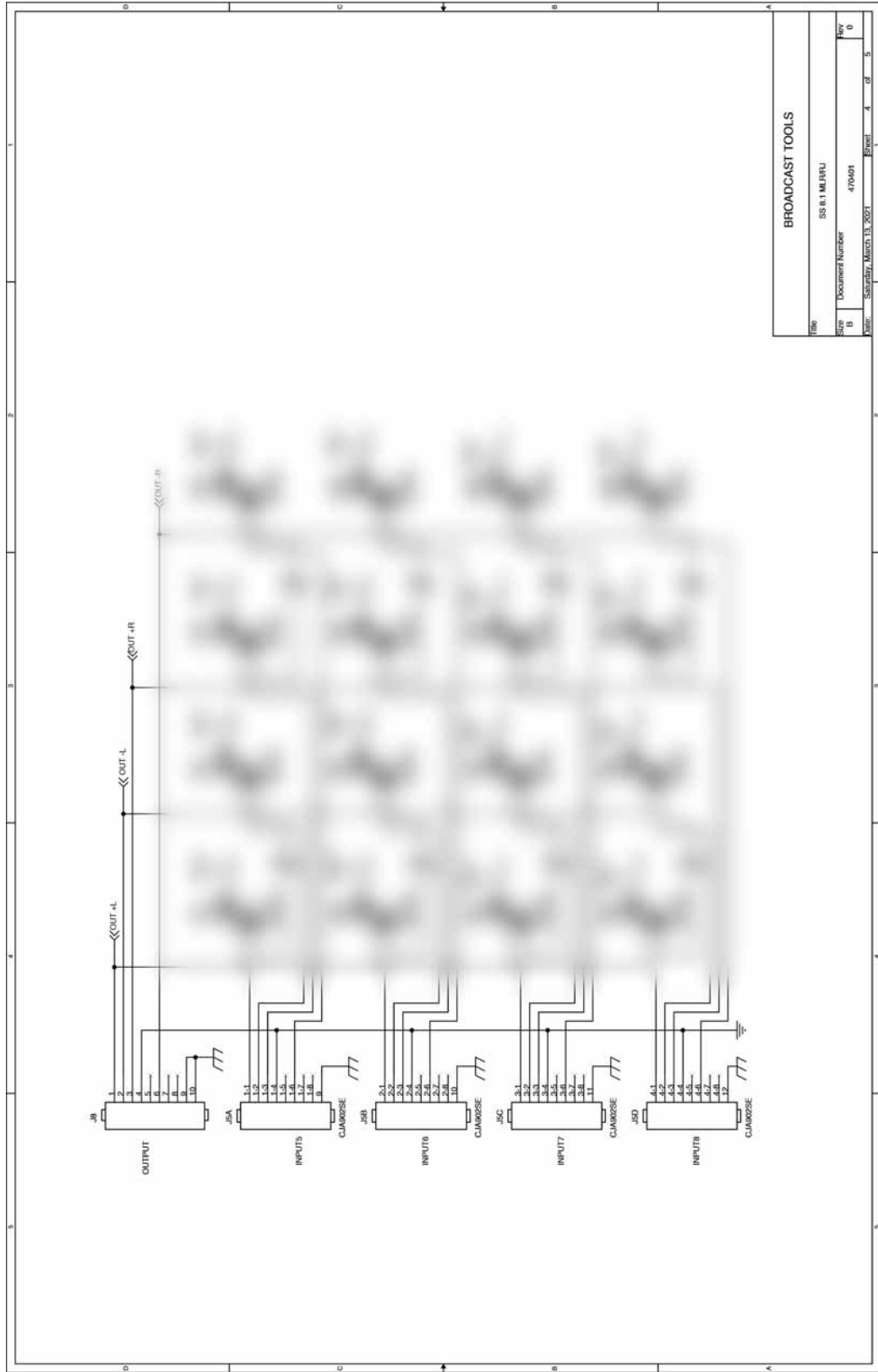


**Fractional Schematic**



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### Fractional Schematic



### Fractional Schematic

