Pro Tools® | Software Installation Guide

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003, 192 Digital I/O, 192 I/O, 96 I/O, 96i I/O, Adrenaline, AirSpeed, ALEX, Alienbrain, AME, AniMatte, Archive, Archive II, Assistant Station, AudioPages, AudioStation, AutoLoop, AutoSync, Avid, Avid Active, Avid Advanced Response, Avid DNA, Avid DNxcel, Avid DNxHD, Avid DS Assist Station, Avid Ignite, Avid Liquid, Avid Media Engine, Avid Media Processor, Avid MEDIArray, Avid Mojo, Avid Remote Response, Avid Unity, Avid Unity ISIS, Avid VideoRAID, AvidRAID, AvidShare, AVIDstripe, AVX, Beat Detective, Beauty Without The Bandwidth, Beyond Reality, BF Essentials, Bomb Factory, Bruno, C|24, CaptureManager, ChromaCurve, ChromaWheel, Cineractive Engine, Cineractive Player, Cineractive Viewer, Color Conductor, Command|8, Control|24, Cosmonaut Voice, CountDown, d2, d3, DAE, D-Command, D-Control, Deko, DekoCast, D-Fi, D-fx, Digi 002, Digi 003, DigiBase, Digidesign, Digidesign Audio Engine, Digidesign Development Partners, Digidesign Intelligent Noise Reduction, Digidesign TDM Bus, DigiLink, DigiMeter, DigiPanner, DigiProNet, DigiRack, DigiSerial, DigiSnake, DigiSystem, Digital Choreography, Digital Nonlinear Accelerator, DigiTest, DigiTranslator, DigiWear, DINR, DNxchange, Do More, DPP-1, D-Show, DSP Manager, DS-StorageCalc, DV Toolkit, DVD Complete, D-Verb, Eleven, EM, Euphonix, EUCON, EveryPhase, Expander, ExpertRender, Fairchild, FastBreak, Fast Track, Film Cutter, FilmScribe, Flexevent, FluidMotion, Frame Chase, FXDeko, HD Core, HD Process, HDpack, Home-to-Hollywood, HyperSPACE, HyperSPACE HDCAM, iKnowledge, Impact, Improv, iNEWS, iNEWS Assign, iNEWS ControlAir, InGame, Instantwrite, Instinct, Intelligent Content Management, Intelligent Digital Actor Technology, IntelliRender, Intelli-Sat, Intelli-Sat Broadcasting Recording Manager, InterFX, Interplay, inTONE, Intraframe, iS Expander, iS9, iS18, iS23, iS36, ISIS, IsoSync, LaunchPad, LeaderPlus, LFX, Lightning, Link & Sync, ListSync, LKT-200, Lo-Fi, MachineControl, Magic Mask, Make Anything Hollywood, make manage move|media, Marquee, MassivePack, MassivePack Pro, Maxim, Mbox, Media Composer, MediaFlow, MediaLog, MediaMix, Media Reader, Media Recorder, MEDIArray, MediaServer, MediaShare, MetaFuze, MetaSync, MIDI I/O, Mix Rack, Moviestar, MultiShell, NaturalMatch, NewsCutter, NewsView, NewsVision, Nitris, NL3D, NLP, NSDOS, NSWIN, OMF, OMF Interchange, OMM, OnDVD, Open Media Framework, Open Media Management, Painterly Effects, Palladiium, Personal Q, PET, Podcast Factory, PowerSwap, PRE, ProControl, ProEncode, Profiler, Pro Tools, Pro Tools|HD, Pro Tools LE, Pro Tools M-Powered, Pro Transfer, QuickPunch, QuietDrive, Realtime Motion Synthesis, Recti-Fi, Reel Tape Delay, Reel Tape Flanger, Reel Tape Saturation, Reprise, Res Rocket Surfer, Reso, RetroLoop, Reverb One, ReVibe, Revolution, rS9, rS18, RTAS, Salesview, Sci-Fi, Scorch, ScriptSync, SecureProductionEnvironment, Shape-to-Shape, ShuttleCase, Sibelius, SimulPlay, SimulRecord, Slightly Rude Compressor, Smack!, Soft SampleCell, Soft-Clip Limiter, SoundReplacer, SPACE, SPACEShift, SpectraGraph, SpectraMatte, SteadyGlide, Streamfactory, Streamgenie, StreamRAID, SubCap, Sundance, Sundance Digital, SurroundScope, Symphony, SYNC HD, SYNC I/O, Synchronic, SynchroScope, Syntax, TDM FlexCable, TechFlix, Tel-Ray, Thunder, TimeLiner, Titansync, Titan, TL Aggro, TL AutoPan, TL Drum Rehab, TL Everyphase, TL Fauxlder, TL In Tune, TL MasterMeter, TL Metro, TL Space, TL Utilities, tools for storytellers, Transit, TransJammer, Trillium Lane Labs, TruTouch, UnityRAID, Vari-Fi, Video the Web Way, VideoRAID, VideoSPACE, VTEM, Work-N-Play, Xdeck, X-Form, and XMON are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Avid Technology, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries.

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Installing Pro Tools | Software

Welcome to Pro Tools® | Software from Avid. This guide explains how to install and authorize Pro Tools software on Mac and Windows systems. For detailed information on configuring your Pro Tools system, and for complete information about Pro Tools system capabilities and functionality, see the *Pro Tools Reference Guide* (available from the Help menu in Pro Tools).

There are two types of Pro Tools software:

Pro Tools HD

Pro Tools | HD Software can be used with the following hardware:

- Pro Tools | HDX hardware for expanded I/O, low latency monitoring, and dedicated DSP for plug-in processing and large mixer configurations
- Pro Tools | HD Native hardware for expanded I/O and low latency monitoring
- Avid 003™ family, Pro Tools | Eleven® Rack, Pro Tools | Mbox® (3rd generation), and Pro Tools | Fast Track® hardware
- Third-party audio hardware with supported Core Audio (Mac) or ASIO (Windows) drivers, including built-in audio hardware on Mac computers

Pro Tools

Pro Tools software can be used with the following hardware:

- Avid 003 family, Eleven Rack, Mbox (3rd generation), Fast Track, Pro Tools | Duet, and Pro Tools | Quartet hardware
- Third-party audio hardware with supported Core Audio (Mac) or ASIO (Windows) drivers, including built-in audio hardware on Mac computers

For a list of qualified audio interfaces and computers for all Pro Tools systems, visit www.avid.com/compatibility.

System Requirements and Compatibility

An Internet connection is required to install and authorize Pro Tools software (to download the Pro Tools installer and Pro Tools authorization).

The following are required to run Pro Tools software:

- A qualified Windows or Mac computer
- A qualified audio interface (or built-in audio capability)
- An iLok USB key (2nd generation) to authorize Pro Tools software

Avid can only assure compatibility and provide support for hardware and software it has tested and approved. For complete system requirements and a list of qualified computers, operating systems, hard drives, and third-party devices, visit *www.avid.com/compatibility.*

About iLok

Pro Tools software is authorized using an iLok USB key (2nd generation) from PACE Anti-Piracy. An iLok can hold hundreds of authorizations for all of your iLok-enabled software. After a software license is placed on an iLok, you can use the iLok to authorize that software on any computer.

iLok USB key (2nd generation)

- If you purchased a boxed version of Pro Tools, or Avid hardware bundled with a version of Pro Tools or Pro Tools HD software, it includes an iLok USB key (2nd generation) and an activation card with a printed activation code.
- If you are upgrading from a previous version of Pro Tools or Pro Tools HD software, you will need to use your own iLok USB key (a 2nd generation iLok is required).

MIDI Requirements

USB, FireWire, Thunderbolt, and PCI MIDI interfaces work effectively with Pro Tools systems on Mac or Windows.

Hard Drive Requirements

For optimal audio recording and playback, all Pro Tools systems require one or more qualified hard drives.

Avoid Recording to the System Drive

Recording to your system drive is allowed, but not recommended. Recording and playback on a system drive may result in lower track counts and fewer plug-ins.

For optimum performance, you may want to designate your system drive as a Playback or Transfer volume in the Pro Tools Workspace. For more information, see the Pro Tools Reference Guide.

Installation Overview

Installation of Pro Tools includes the following steps:

1. “Creating Your Avid Account” on page 2.
2. “Retrieving Your Pro Tools | Software License” on page 3.
3. “Removing Previous Versions of Pro Tools | Software” on page 3.
4. “Installing Hardware Drivers” on page 3.
5. “Installing Pro Tools | Software” on page 3.
6. “Starting Up or Shutting Down Your System” on page 4.
7. “Launching and Authorizing Pro Tools | Software” on page 5.
8. Configuring your system for improved performance.

Creating Your Avid Account

An Avid account is required to activate Pro Tools software, and, if you purchased a download version of Pro Tools, to download your software.

- If you don’t have an Avid account, visit *www.avid.com/myavid* to create your account.

Retrieving Your Pro Tools | Software License

When you purchase a boxed version of Pro Tools, you receive an activation code, either on an activation card or through your Avid account. If you purchased Pro Tools from the Avid store, you will receive your license online and can skip the following procedure.

To retrieve your Pro Tools software license:

1. If you don't already have an iLok account, visit www.ilok.com to sign up for an account.
2. Visit *www.avid.com/activation* and log into your Avid account (if you don't already have an Avid account, click "Create Your Account").
3. Enter your activation code and your iLok.com User ID.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to deposit your license into your iLok.com account.

Removing Previous Versions of Pro Tools | Software

If you have a previous version of Pro Tools installed, remove it according to the instructions in the Installation Guide for that version.

It is possible to have Pro Tools 10.3.6 or higher installed at the same time as Pro Tools 12. However, Pro Tools 12 will overwrite Pro Tools 11 on installation. Visit www.avid.com/compatibility or see the Pro Tools Read Me for details.

Installing Hardware Drivers

Before installing Pro Tools software, install the latest drivers for your hardware. Refer to the documentation that came with your audio hardware for more information. For Avid audio interfaces, download and install the drivers for your Avid hardware from *www.avid.com/drivers*.

Pro Tools will not recognize your audio interface if you do not install the drivers. If you are upgrading Pro Tools, be sure to install the latest drivers for your hardware.

Installing Pro Tools | Software

After you have installed the drivers for your audio interface, you are ready to install Pro Tools.

Before installing Pro Tools, refer to the Pro Tools Read Me included with the installer.

Installing Pro Tools on Mac

To install Pro Tools on Mac:

1. Download the Pro Tools Installer from your online Avid account.
2. Open the Pro Tools disk image.
3. Double-click Install Pro Tools 12.pkg.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to continue installation.
5. Once the installation is complete, click Close.

Installing Pro Tools on Windows

To install Pro Tools on Windows:

1 Make sure you are logged in as an Administrator for the account where you want to install Pro Tools.

- Download the Pro Tools Installer from your online Avid account.

2 Do one of the following:

- If Windows AutoRun is enabled, a mini-browser appears. Select Install Pro Tools to begin installation.
- If Windows AutoRun is disabled, locate and double-click Setup.exe, and then select Install Pro Tools to begin installation.

⚠ *On Windows, if the User Account Control dialog appears, click Allow. Several messages are displayed during installation that can be ignored, including multiple "Found New Hardware" dialogs and "A Problem Occurred During Hardware Installation." If you get a warning dialog about the driver not passing Windows Logo testing, click Continue Anyway.*

3 Follow the on-screen instructions to continue installation.

4 When the Install Wizard is done, click Finish.

Avid Application Manager

When you install Pro Tools, the Avid Application Manager is also installed. The Avid Application Manager is used to manage your software and entitlements related to your MyAvid account. The Avid Application Manager helps you maintain the most current Pro Tools software and audio plug-in updates that you are entitled to when new versions become available. For more information about the Avid Application Manager, see the *Avid Application Manager Guide* (available online through the Avid Knowledgebase).

Starting Up or Shutting Down Your System

To ensure that the components of your Pro Tools system communicate properly with each other, start them in a particular order.

Start up your Pro Tools system in this order:

1 Make sure all your equipment (including your computer) is off.

2 Lower the volume of all output devices in your system.

3 For systems with an expansion chassis, turn on the chassis.

4 Turn on any external hard drives. Wait ten seconds for them to spin up to speed.

5 Turn on any control surfaces.

6 Turn on any MIDI interfaces and devices, or synchronization peripherals.

7 For systems requiring external power, turn on the hardware (such as HD I/O or 003). Wait at least fifteen seconds for the audio interface to initialize and the status LEDs to stop flashing.

8 Turn on your computer.

9 Launch Pro Tools (see "Launching and Authorizing Pro Tools | Software" on page 5).

Shut down your Pro Tools system in this order:

1 Quit Pro Tools (on Mac: Pro Tools > Quit, or on Windows: File > Exit).

2 Turn off or lower the volume of all output devices in your system.

3 Turn off your computer.

4 For systems that use hardware requiring external power, turn off the hardware.

5 Turn off your Pro Tools audio interfaces.

6 For systems with an expansion chassis, turn off the chassis.

7 Turn off any MIDI interfaces, MIDI devices, or synchronization peripherals.

8 Turn off any control surfaces or worksurfaces.

9 Turn off any external hard drives.

Launching and Authorizing Pro Tools | Software

To launch and authorize Pro Tools software:

1 Make sure your audio interface is connected to your computer and powered on.

2 Make sure your iLok (2nd generation) is connected to an available USB port on your computer.

⚠ *Do not remove the iLok while launching or running Pro Tools.*

3 Do one of the following:

- On Mac, double-click the application icon in Macintosh HD/Applications/Pro Tools.
- On Windows, double-click the Pro Tools shortcut on the desktop (or double-click the application in Program Files\Avid\Pro Tools).

4 When the Pro Tools activation screen appears, click Activate.

5 Log into your iLok.com account.

6 When the list of available licenses appears, select the license for Pro Tools 12 and click Next.

7 Select your iLok as the location for the license and click Next.

8 After activation is complete, click Continue to launch Pro Tools.

Configuring Your Pro Tools System

After you have installed, authorized, and launched Pro Tools software, you can configure your Pro Tools system to meet the specific needs of your studio. For detailed information on configuring your Pro Tools software, see the *Pro Tools Reference Guide* (available from the Help menu in Pro Tools).

Optimizing a Mac System for Pro Tools | Software

To ensure optimum performance with Pro Tools, configure your computer first.

For a complete list of recommended optimizations for your operating system, visit www.avid.com/optimize.

Before configuring your computer, make sure you are logged in as an Administrator for the account where you want to install Pro Tools. For details on Administrator privileges in Mac OS X, see your Apple OS X documentation.

⚠ *Do not use the Mac OS X automatic Software Update feature, as it may upgrade your system to a version of Mac OS that has not yet been qualified for Pro Tools. For details on qualified versions of Mac OS, visit www.avid.com/compatibility.*

Turning Off Energy Saver

To turn off the Energy Saver feature:

1. Choose System Preferences from the Apple menu.
2. Click Energy Saver.
3. Set the Computer Sleep setting to Never.
4. Set the Display Sleep setting to Never.
5. Deselect "Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible" option.

Disable or Reassign Mac Keyboard Shortcuts Used by Pro Tools

To have the full complement of Pro Tools keyboard shortcuts, you need to disable or reassign conflicting Mac OS X Keyboard Shortcuts in the Apple System Preferences.

For a complete list of Pro Tools keyboard shortcuts, see the Pro Tools Shortcuts Guide (Help > Pro Tools Shortcuts).

To disable or reassign Mac keyboard shortcuts used by Pro Tools:

1. From the Apple menu, choose System Preferences.
2. Click Keyboard.
3. Click the Keyboard Shortcuts tab.
4. You can disable or reassign Mac OS keyboard shortcuts that conflict with Pro Tools keyboard shortcuts. The following list includes several common Mac keyboard shortcuts that, depending on the make and model of your Mac, may also be used by Pro Tools:

- Under "Launchpad & Dock"
  - "Turn Dock Hiding On/Off"
- Under "Mission Control"
  - "Mission Control"
  - "Application windows"
  - "Show Desktop"
  - "Show Dashboard"
  - "Mission Control > Move left a space"
  - "Mission Control > Move right a space"
  - "Mission Control > Switch to Desktop *n*"
- Under "Keyboard & Text Input"
  - "Turn keyboard access on or off"
  - "Move focus to the window drawer"
  - "Move focus to the Dock"
  - "Move Focus to active or next window"
- Under "Services"
  - "Send File To Bluetooth Device"
  - "Search With Google"
  - "Spotlight"
- Under "Spotlight"
  - "Show Spotlight search field"
  - "Show Spotlight window"
- Under "Accessibility"
  - "Zoom"
  - "Contrast"
- Under "Application Shortcuts"
  - "Show Help menu"

Enabling Journaling for Audio Drives

To yield higher performance from audio drives, enable journaling.

To enable journaling:

1. Launch the Disk Utility application, located in Applications/Utilities.
2. Select the volume in the left column of the Disk Utility window.
3. Select Enable Journaling in the toolbar.

Optimizing a Windows System for Pro Tools | Software

To ensure optimum performance with Pro Tools, configure your computer before using Pro Tools hardware and software.

For a complete list of recommended optimizations for your operating system, visit www.avid.com/optimize.

Before configuring your computer, make sure you are logged in as an Administrator for the account where you want to install Pro Tools. For details on Administrator privileges, see your Windows documentation.

Required Optimizations

To ensure optimum performance with Pro Tools, configure the following settings before using Pro Tools hardware and software.

When you are finished changing Windows system settings, restart your computer.

Disabling User Account Control

To disable User Account Control (UAC):

1. Choose Start > Control Panel.
2. Click User Accounts and Family Safety.
3. Click User Accounts.
4. Click on Change User Account Control settings.
5. Set the slider to Never Notify.
6. Click OK.

Configuring System Standby and Power Management

When using Pro Tools, the Windows System Standby power scheme must be set to Always On. This prevents long record or playback passes from stopping due to system resources powering down.

To configure Windows Power Management:

1. Choose Start > Control Panel.
2. Click on System and Security.
3. Click Power Options.
4. Click on the arrow to Show Additional Plans.
5. Select High Performance.
6. Click Change plan settings.
7. Click Change advanced power settings.
8. In the Power Options dialog, reveal Hard disk > Turn off hard disk after.
9. Click Setting option.
10. Select the value in the Setting (Minutes) field and press Backspace on your computer keyboard or scroll the value to Never.
11. Click OK. The hard disk setting changes to Never and the Power Options dialog closes.
12. In the Edit Plan Settings window, click Save changes and close the window.

Pro Tools automatically switches to the "High Performance" Power Management settings on launch. Windows reverts to the previously selected Power Management settings (if different) when exiting Pro Tools. Consequently, when optimizing the Power Management settings for Pro Tools, you should always only optimize the High Performance configuration.

Recommended Optimizations

Pro Tools can also be affected by other software and hardware drivers installed on your computer. For best possible performance, it is recommended (but not required) that you do the following:

- Avoid running any unneeded programs at the same time as Pro Tools.
- Turn off any software utilities that run in the background, such as disk maintenance programs.
- Turn off any non-essential USB devices while running Pro Tools.

Optional Optimizations

The following system optimizations may help Pro Tools perform better on some systems. It is recommended that you only try these optimizations if necessary, as they may disable or adversely affect the functionality of other programs on your system.

Adjusting Processor Scheduling

To adjust Processor Scheduling performance:

1. Right-click Computer and choose Properties.
2. Click Advanced system settings.
3. Under the Performance section, click the Settings button.
4. In the Performance Options window, click the Advanced tab.
5. Under the Processor Scheduling section, select the Background Services option.
6. Click OK to close the Performance Options window.
7. Click OK to close the System Properties window.

Disabling System Startup Items

The fewer items in use by your computer, the more resources are available for Pro Tools. Some startup applications may be consuming unnecessary CPU resources, and can be turned off.

If you disable any of the following startup items, do so carefully:

- Portable media serial number (required for some applications that utilize a copy protection key)
- The Plug and Play service
- Event log
- Cryptographic services

To Disable System Startup Items:

1. From the Start menu, type “msconfig” in Start Search and press Enter to open the System Configuration Utility.
2. Under the General tab, choose Selective Startup.
3. Deselect Load Startup Items and click OK.
4. Click Restart to restart the computer.
5. After restarting, the computer displays a System Configuration message. Check to see if Pro Tools performance has increased before you deselect the “Don't show this message again” option. If performance has not changed, run “msconfig” and return your computer Startup Selection back to Normal Startup - load all device drives and services. Alternatively, try disabling Startup items and non-essential processes individually.

Backing Up Your System

After setting up your system and installing Pro Tools, you should save an image of your system drive using a backup utility. By doing this, you can quickly restore your system configuration and settings if you encounter any problems.

Avid
280 N Bernardo Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043 USA

Technical Support (USA)
Visit the Online Support Center at
www.avid.com/support

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