MtG

User Manual

MAAT Inc.

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Installation & Setup

When preparing for installation of your MAAT MtG, we recommend that you quit all applications prior to proceeding. Also, after downloading the installer and prior to installation, let any anti–malware measures you may have running scan the installer. Then, temporarily disable all anti–malware measures once scanning is complete.

To install, simply double click on the downloaded Installer for your particular operating system. The installation process will guide you through the install procedure. If you have an older OS version, restarting your host may be required. Don't forget to reënable anti–malware measures or simply restart your host.

Licensing

MAAT software is licensed through our dongle–free, cloud–based license control framework. If your hosts are net–connected, our licenses "float," making it easy to move from one machine to another. All you have to do is close all MAAT stuff on one machine before you open anything on another. If you're going to use the laptop in an environment where internet is spotty or non–existent, you can also go offline temporarily for up to 30 days.

To license your MAAT purchase, open yours or instantiate an example in your preferred plug–in host. When licensing, we recommend you open a new session in your DAW just for this purpose.

Figure 1: The initial Activation dialog

Online Activation

Once the Activation dialog appears, paste or type in your Product Key supplied at the time of purchase. Then click on Activate/Deactivate Online and follow the prompts.

Note: The Online process requires a live internet connection. You must have an active internet connection for activation.

A feature of our cloud–connected system is that, if you close a DAW session that contains MAAT plug instances, then open that session on another host, the license will "follow" you onto the new host as long as you have live internet.

You can also return or park your license on our licensing server, and pick it up later on another host. Once your product is licensed, click the Activate/Deactivate Online button to deactivate your license, then repeat to reactivate.

Offline Activation

If, for security reasons you have an offline host computer or you plan on working without a reliable internet connection, it is best to go with an offline license. There are two offline options, temporary offline and full offline.

Temporary Offline

If you plan on working without a reliable internet connection, we designed the temporary offline option just for you. The temporary offline process also requires a live internet connection, but only during activation.

A temp offline license has two unique features:

- It can remain offline, without an internet connection, for up to 30 days
- It auto–renews its lease whenever it does make a server connection

So, if your internet is spotty or unreliable, or you're heading temporarily to a location where an internet connection isn't available, the temporary offline option let's you work untethered to the 'net for up to a month.

By clicking the "30 Days Offline" button, your online license will become temporarily offline for a maximum of 30 days. If, however, you use the product while connected to the internet at all during that time, the "lease" duration is automatically reset, extending another 30 days.

Figure 2: The 30 Days Offline activation option

Full Offline

This will license your MAAT product without the need to periodically contact our licensing server. If you anticipate working without the internet for more than a month at a time or, for security purposes, your studio machine is "air gapped" and has no internet, take a moment to surrender your online license, and replace it with an offline version.

Note: A full offline license does need to be explicitly renewed once a year.

To prepare for offline activation, you will need:

1. Your Product Key!

2. Some method to move your License Confirmation file to the offline host machine.

That latter requirement can be accomplished in any number of ways, but a USB flash drive is often readily available and most convenient. You will also need your Product Key that was supplied to you via e–mail when you purchased your MAAT product.

The offline activation process starts with generating a License Request, with a "maatr" file extension, which is submitted on–line to our server or via e–mail to MAAT Support <support@maatinc.

zohodesk.com>. A License Confirmation file, with a “maatc” extension, will be returned to you, which will activate your product.

To proceed, click on the Activate/Deactivate Offline button, and follow the prompts.

In a year’s time, 365 days from the date the maatr file is created, a full offline license must be renewed using the same maatr/maatc method.

Introduction

Long ago, back when Digi was selling 8 bit drum samples, the first truly professional DAW had a command called Loop & Fill. That useful function in the Sonic System allowed you to define a clip of audio, and fill any empty space with as many repetitions of the defined clip as needed to fill the gap. MtG is a simple tool to replicate that function for the modern DAW. It automagically slugs in seamless room tone, ambience, actualities or whatever you need to reinforce the sense of verisimilitude in your cleaned dialog tracks. Sounds simple enough, but how exactly does that work?

Thanks for installing this copy of MAAT’s MtG plug–in. We think you like its simple and time saving functionality.

MtG’s functionality is wrapped in a visually unobtrusive user interface. The plug–in is responsive yet also very “light weight,” demanding a minimum of CPU resources so it won’t slow down your host. We’ve worked hard to make this an exceptionally useful and usable tool, and we hope you’ll dig it.

In Use

Figure 3: MtG’s user interface

Prep Your Loop

First, open a dialog recording and add MtG as the first plug–in instance in your signal chain. You want your dialog and the replaced room tone

to match in all ways; amplitude, power spectrum, et cetera. so, don't alter or process the dialog track in any way prior to instantiating MtG.

Room Tone Suggestions

Let's talk about that replacement room tone…You can either open a WAV or AIFF file that was recorded at the time the dialog was also captured or, record room tone after the fact. The former is preferable as it will match the dialog in all aspects. Recording room tone afterwards may result in a file that doesn't match the dialog as well.

When recording room tone, if possible use the same microphone in the same location as that which recorded the dialog. Also, in order to make the final result believable, you will need at minimum 2 seconds of room tone to loop. Twice that or more is better. Again, the intent should be to make the final result natural and believable.

Recording

To record in MtG, make sure you have your microphone input ready in your DAW, then click RECORD in MtG. The plug–in prompts you for a file name and, as with all engineering tasks, use good housekeeping practices. In this case, give the recording a meaningful name that associates it in the future with the dialog track you will be improving. Click on OK to begin recording. The user interface tells you MtG is recording, so wait for a sufficient time to elapse. During record, the RECORD button changes to STOP. So, click on STOP to complete the recording. Be sure to take the DAW out of Input mode.

If you have some room tone at the head or tail of an existing track, you can hit RECORD in MtG, then play back that audio from the DAW. The same suggestion as above apply to naming the new room tone file.

Trimming

As mentioned earlier, you can also open a WAV or AIFF file of room tone using the OPEN button. Whether you record it into MtG or open an existing file, that audio ends up in the waveform window. Notice the two vertical lavender editing trim handles snugged up against the left and right side of the waveform. Click and drag these to remove any junk audio at the head and tail of your tone. Use the PLAY button to audition the remaining audio as a loop. You can start and stop playing, and drag the Play Head around before clicking PLAY if need be. Also notice the minus and plus zoom controls at the bottom center of the waveform. For longer duration room tone files, these let you zoom out or in on a smaller section of time.

Channel Count

MtG is designed to work with monaural or stereo files. Match the room tone to the dialog track. If your dialog is stereo, open or record a stereo room tone file. On the other hand, if your dialog is monaural, then use or record mono room tone.

DAW Specifics

Each DAW is a bit different when it comes to how a plug–in instance is slotted into the signal flow and your workflow.

NOTE Wavelab and Logic have peculiarities when it comes to playing your room tone in MtG

MtG has a status indicator in the upper right corner. It will illuminate red when your DAW needs some additional love to fully embrace MtG. You will also see MtG's PLAY button light up as if it's playing, but no audio will result. In Wavelab, Logic and possibly other DAWs, when your project is paused or stopped, the DAW will not allow MtG to output sound.

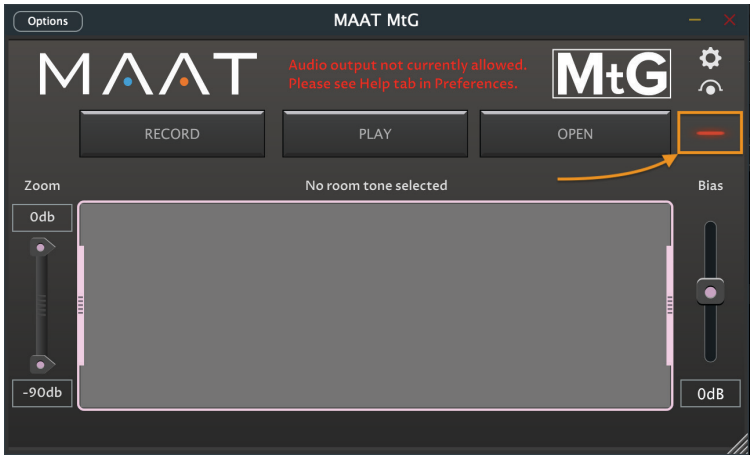

Figure 4: MtG's Status Light in error mode

As a workaround, start playback in a (muted) track that contains audio. This will enable the DAW to "allow" MtG to audition and trim your room tone. Once you have initially done this, MtG will operate normally after that and the status indicator will change to green. The MtG installer provides optional null data placeholder files if you'd like to open them in your DAW just for this purpose.

1) In MtG, click on PLAY
2) In your DAW, start playback in a track

Prepare Your Track

Next, strip out all the existing room tone from your track. You can do that manually or, even better for very long tracks, let your favorite DAW do it. It might be called Strip Silence, Remove Silence or Dynamic Split. Whatever the name, the function will edit out any audio below a user–defined amplitude and duration threshold. Be sure to leave some intake breath sounds and a few lips smacks so the cleaned track retains a natural aspect and doesn't sound too sterile.

Let MtG Fill

Once you have edited black or clips interspersed with edited silence, then all you have to do is reposition your DAW's play head at the start

of the dialog track and begin playback. MtG will switch its display from showing the loop to showing the dialog track with the edited gaps filled in with "zebra stripes."

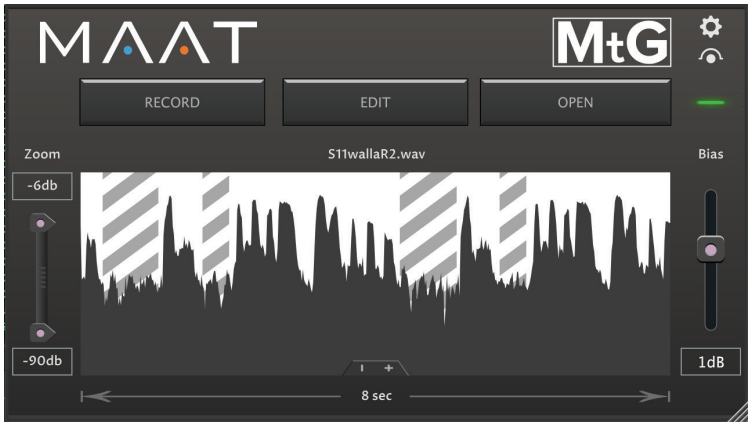

Figure 4: MtG in auto–fill mode

The working title for MtG was "Mind the Gap," and that's what it does: finds each gap in your dialog, and fills it with a loop of the defined room tone. Those zebra strips appear in MtG's waveform display wherever it's filled a gap.

Additional Controls

At lower left, notice the Zoom control. This continuous slider lets you zoom or magnify the waveform to better inspect the amplitude match between your dialog and looped replaced audio. At lower right is the Bias control. This continuous slider lets you increase the playback gain of the looped audio to, once again, better match your dialog and looped audio.

It's A Wrap

Having tried to make MtG as easy to use as possible, we hope it speeds your workflow and helps you move on to other tasks. Or, maybe you get to head out and absorb some sunshine. Either way, let us know how we can make MtG better…enjoy!

Specifications

System Requirements

- macOS: 10.9 and newer, 64 bit only
- Windows: 7 and newer, 32 & 64 bit
- 4GB RAM minimum

Supported formats

- 44.1 to 384 kHz sample rate
- AAX, AU, VST 2, VST 3

Updates

Please always use the latest version of the software! You can find your current version on the Info Tab in Preferences. You can download the latest version simply by visiting:

http://maat.digital/support/#installers

For optimal security and stability, you should always stay up to date with Operating System revisions, and we keep up with compatibility changes to our products. We also continue to optimize for reduced CPU load, and this very user manual gets its own improvements.

To stay up to date with the latest version and product releases, please watch out for our occasional newsletter. Don't worry, we know you are busy so we only send out an average of 8 to 12 mailings a year.

Support

For product support, please visit:

https://www.maat.digital/supports

License Central

License Central, located in MAAT's Shared directory, is a free utility that validates, repairs and logs your MAAT licenses. It also displays what MAAT products you have installed and assists in downloading both updates and demos.

License Central lists all of our products, and shows you:

- If a product is installed and what licenses you have [CLOUD, SUBSCRIPTION, TRIAL, OFFLINE and TEMP OFFLINE]
- What versions are installed, and version installers are available for download

It also provides:

- A one–click download of an update or a demo
- A button to activate or deactivate any of your licenses
- A copyable list of all your Product Keys
- One–click generation of the MAAT diagnostic report

It also fixes license issues automagically.

In Use

When you launch License Central, it scans your host computer and then attempts to match up each product found with a Product Key on our license server. That scanning happens in real time, and the process is shown as a progress bar. When quitting, this process happens in reverse.

Once all the licenses are validated, a list on the left displays all MAAT products, including License Central. Products that are not installed are

grayed out, and installed products are displayed in high contrast. To the right of each product entry is a check mark, which indicated that the product is licensed.

Selecting a product entry displays information about the installed version and if an update is available for download.

Controls

There are two persistent buttons along the top. At upper left is Check for Updates, which refreshes the list of installed products, and pings our server again for currently available versions to download. It also recreates your Product Key list.

At upper right, the Activate/Deactivate button brings up the familiar blue and orange MAAT license window, allowing you to deactivate or return your license to the Cloud, and to switch to a 30 day temporary offline license. If you have requested a 365 day full offline license, use the Create License Request function in the MAAT license window, and have received your ".maatc" confirmation file, you can also take your license offline. Finally, you can also paste in a Product Key to activate a new license.

Note: Switching to 30 day temp offline requires that your license be already activated. 365 day full offline licenses require a license confirmation file as supplied by MAAT's support department.

If atny product is out of date, a third Download Update button will appear when that product is selected. This button is an express method for updating you MAAT products.

At bottom left of the License Central window is an Auto–Refresh check box, which is selected by default. Deselecting that will prevent License Central from frequently scanning your host for changes including new installs. It starts a scan every 3 seconds, waiting for completion of that scan, then begins a new 3 second countdown before starting the next scan. If you find that License Central is interrupting you workflow while scanning, then disable Auto–Refresh.

Preferences

In License Central, the Preferences' gear icon brings up the Preferences window with four tabs.

Paths

For those who set up alternate directories for the management of their plug–ins in a Player app, two alternate plug–in paths can be defined. These directories will be also included when License Central searches.

Keys

This tab lists all of your Product Keys that are known to our license server. Please take a moment to copy all of your Product Keys, paste

them into a text or word processor file, and print out a hard copy. Your Product Keys are your proof of purchase and, without them, your purchase will not work and we cannot provide product support.

Troubleshooting

The Troubleshooting tab has one button, which generates a Diagnostics Report. This report, automatically written to the Desktop, gathers useful, non–personal information about your machine's state that our support team can use to diagnose any problems.

Info

As with all our products, the Info tab lists credits, copyright information, and the version number you are running.

Share The Love

Would you like to help us in our quest for better sound quality? Help support MAAT by sharing the love…Like us on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/maatdigital/

and Twitter too:

https://twitter.com/maat_digital

Please tell your friends and colleagues about us. We really appreciate it, and thank you for supporting better quality audio.

Credits

Product Concept:

Friedemann Tischmeyer

Programming:

Adam, Agent of Shield

UX & Product Development:

Oliver Masciarotte

About This Manual

This manual was written in Adobe InDesign 15.0.3, and is set in Robert Slimbach's Minion Pro and Myriad Pro. The cover page is set in Aldo Novarese's modernist geometric Eurostyle.

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