

User's Guide



Fireface 802 FS

A legend reborn!

24 Bit / 192 kHz ✓

TotalMix™



SyncAlign™

SteadyClock FS™



USB 2.0 Digital I/O System
12 + 16 + 2 Channels
Analog / ADAT / AES / SPDIF Interface
24 Bit / 192 kHz Digital Audio
60 x 30 Matrix Router
MIDI I/O
Stand-Alone Operation
Class Compliant Operation
ARC USB & MIDI Remote Control

Important Safety Instructions



ATTENTION! Do not open chassis – risk of electric shock

The unit has non-isolated live parts inside. No user serviceable parts inside. Refer service to qualified service personnel.



Mains

- The device must be earthed – never use it without proper grounding
- Do not use defective power cords
- Operation of the device is limited to the manual
- Use same type of fuse only



To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock do not expose this device to rain or moisture. Prevent moisture and water from entering the device. Never leave a pot with liquid on top of the device. Do not use this product near water, i. e. swimming pool, bathtub or wet basement. Danger of condensation inside – don't turn on before the device has reached room temperature.



Installation

Surface may become hot during operation – ensure sufficient ventilation. Avoid direct sun light and do not place it near other sources of heat, like radiators or stoves. When mounting in a rack, leave some space between this device and others for ventilation.



To comply with the European CE standard, the Fireface 802 FS must be used in a CE approved Class B computer. All connecting cables must be shielded. The computer and all cables connected to the Fireface 802 FS must be properly grounded. Operation with non-certified computers and cables may cause interference to other devices as well as the Fireface 802 FS.



Unauthorized servicing/repair voids warranty. Only use accessories specified by the manufacturer.



Read the manual completely. It includes all information necessary to use and operate this device.

▶	Important Safety Instructions	2
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▶ **General**

1	Introduction	8
2	Package Contents	8
3	System Requirements	8
4	Brief Description and Characteristics	8
5	First Usage - Quick Start	
5.1	Connectors – Controls - Display	9
5.2	Mounting the Rack Adapter Brackets	10
5.3	Quick Start	11

▶ **Installation and Operation - Windows**

6	Driver and Firmware - Windows	
6.1	Driver Installation	14
6.2	Uninstalling the Drivers	14
6.3	Firmware Update	14
7	Configuring the Fireface	
7.1	Settings Dialog – General	15
7.2	Settings Dialog – Pitch	17
8	Operation and Usage	
8.1	Playback	18
8.2	DVD Playback (AC-3 / DTS)	19
8.3	Notes on WDM	19
8.4	Channel Count under WDM	20
8.5	Multi-client Operation	20
8.6	Analog Recording	21
8.7	Digital Recording	21
8.8	Clock Modes - Synchronization	22
9	Operation under ASIO	
9.1	General	23
9.2	Channel Count under ASIO	23
9.3	Known Problems	24
10	Using more than one Fireface 802	24
11	DIGICheck Windows	25
12	Hotline – Troubleshooting	26

► Installation and Operation - Mac OS X

13	Driver and Firmware – Mac OS X	
13.1	Driver Installation	28
13.2	Uninstalling the Drivers	28
13.3	Firmware Update.....	29
14	Configuring the Fireface	
14.1	Settings Dialog	30
14.2	Clock Modes - Synchronization	32
15	Mac OS X FAQ	
15.1	MIDI doesn't work.....	33
15.2	Repairing Disk Permissions	33
15.3	Supported Sample Rates	33
15.4	Channel Count under Core Audio.....	33
15.5	Various Information	34
16	Using more than one Fireface	34
17	DIGiCheck Mac	35
18	Hotline – Troubleshooting	36

► Inputs and Outputs

19	Analog Inputs	
19.1	Line Rear.....	38
19.2	Microphone / Line / Inst Front	38
20	Analog Outputs	
20.1	Line.....	39
20.2	Phones / Line Out	39
20.3	DC-coupled Outputs (CV/Gate)	40
21	Digital Connections	
21.1	ADAT (SPDIF optical)	41
21.2	AES	41
21.3	MIDI.....	42
22	Word Clock	
22.1	Word Clock Input and Output.....	43
22.2	Technical Description and Background	44
22.3	Cables and Termination	45
22.4	General Operation.....	45

► Stand-Alone Operation

23	Operation and Usage	
23.1	General.....	48
23.2	Settings at the Unit.....	48
23.3	Storing Setups from the Computer	48
24	Examples	
24.1	12-Channel AD/DA-Converter	49
24.2	4-Channel Mic Preamp	49
24.3	Monitor Mixer	49
24.4	Digital Format Converter.....	49
24.5	Analog/Digital Routing Matrix.....	49

▶ TotalMix FX

25	Routing and Monitoring	
25.1	Overview	52
25.2	The User Interface	54
25.3	The Channel	55
25.3.1	Settings	57
25.3.2	Equalizer	58
25.3.3	Room EQ	60
25.3.4	Dynamics	61
25.4	Section Control Room.....	62
25.5	The Control Strip.....	63
25.5.1	View Options.....	64
25.5.2	Snapshots - Groups.....	65
25.5.3	Channel Layout – Layout Presets.....	66
25.5.4	Scroll Location Markers	67
25.6	Reverb and Echo	68
25.7	Preferences.....	71
25.7.1	Store for Current or All Users	72
25.8	Settings.....	73
25.8.1	Mixer Page.....	73
25.8.2	MIDI Page	74
25.8.3	OSC Page.....	75
25.8.4	Aux Devices	76
25.9	Hotkeys and Usage.....	77
25.10	Menu Options.....	78
25.11	Menu Window	79
26	The Matrix	
26.1	Overview	80
26.2	Elements of the Matrix View	80
26.3	Usage.....	80
27	Tips and Tricks	
27.1	ASIO Direct Monitoring (Windows)	81
27.2	Copy a Submix.....	81
27.3	Doubling the Output Signal (Mirror)	81
27.4	Delete a Submix.....	81
27.5	Copy and Paste everywhere.....	82
27.6	Recording a Submix - Loopback.....	82
27.7	MS Processing.....	83
27.8	Program start options (Windows)	83
28	MIDI Remote Control	
28.1	Overview	84
28.2	Mapping	84
28.3	Setup.....	85
28.4	Operation	85
28.5	Simple MIDI Control.....	86
28.6	Stand-Alone MIDI Control.....	87
28.7	Loopback Detection	89
28.8	OSC (Open Sound Control).....	89
29	DAW Mode	89
30	TotalMix Remote	90

▶ Class Compliant Mode

31	General	94
32	System Requirements	94
33	Operation	95
	33.1 Useful Hints	95
	33.2 Class Compliant under Windows and macOS	96
34	Supported Inputs and Outputs	96
35	Operation at the Unit	97
36	Audio Routing and Processing	97

▶ Technical Reference

37	Technical Specifications	
	37.1 Analog	100
	37.2 MIDI.....	101
	37.3 Digital	101
	37.4 Digital Inputs	101
	37.5 Digital Outputs.....	102
	37.6 General.....	102
38	Technical Background	
	38.1 Lock and SyncCheck	103
	38.2 Latency and Monitoring.....	104
	38.3 USB Audio.....	105
	38.4 DS – Double Speed	106
	38.5 QS – Quad Speed.....	107
	38.6 Noise Level in DS / QS Mode	107
	38.7 SteadyClock FS	108
39	Diagrams	
	39.1 Block Diagram Fireface 802 FS	109
	39.2 Connector Pinouts.....	110

▶ Miscellaneous

40	Accessories	112
41	Warranty	112
42	Appendix	112
43	Declaration of Conformity	114

User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

► General

1. Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Fireface 802 FS. This unique audio system is capable of transferring analog and digital audio data directly to a computer from practically any device. Numerous unique features, well thought-out configuration dialogs, an industry-leading mixing engine and monitoring solution, professional DSP effects and class-leading analog circuits with latest digital converters put the Fireface 802 at the very top of the range of computer-based audio interfaces.

Drivers are available for Windows 7 to 11 (Intel, ARM), Mac OS X x86 (Intel) and macOS (Intel, Mx).

RME's high-performance philosophy guarantees maximum system performance by executing as many functions as possible not in the driver (i.e. the CPU), but within the audio hardware.

2. Package Contents

- Fireface 802 FS
- Cable USB 2.0, 1.8 m (6 ft) USB-A/B
- Power cord
- Manual
- 1 optical cable (TOSLINK), 2 m (6.6 ft)
- 4 rubber feet, self adhesive

3. System Requirements

- Windows 7 or up, Intel Mac OS X (10.12 or up)
- 1 x USB 2.0 port or USB 3.0 port
- For USB: Computer with at least Intel Core i5 CPU

4. Brief Description and Characteristics

- All settings can be changed in real-time
- Buffer sizes/latencies from 48 up to 8192 samples selectable
- 16 channels 48 kHz/24 bit Record/Playback via ADAT optical
- 8 channels 96 kHz/24 bit Record/Playback via ADAT optical (S/MUX)
- 4 channels 192 kHz/24 bit Record/Playback via ADAT optical (S/MUX4)
- Clock modes slave and master
- Automatic and intelligent master/slave clock control
- Unsurpassed Bitclock PLL (audio synchronization) in ADAT mode
- SteadyClock: Jitter-immune, super-stable digital clock
- DDS technology for free setting of the sample rate
- SyncAlign guarantees sample aligned and never swapping channels
- SyncCheck tests and reports the synchronization status of input signals
- TotalMix for latency-free submixes and perfect ASIO Direct Monitoring
- TotalMix: 1800 channel mixer with 46 bit internal resolution
- TotalMix FX: 3-band EQ, Low Cut, Reverb, Echo, Compressor, Expander, Auto Level
- MIDI I/O with 16 channels high-speed Low-Jitter MIDI
- 2 x Hi-power low impedance headphone outputs
- DIGICheck DSP: Professional instruments for audio analysis

5. First Usage – Quick Start

5.1 Connectors – Controls – Display

The front of the Fireface 802 FS features four instrument and microphone inputs, two stereo headphone outputs, six pots, a power switch, and several status LEDs.

The Neutrik combo sockets of the four **Mic/Line/Inst** inputs provide XLR and 6.3 mm / 1/4" TRS connection. They have LEDs for Signal (SIG), Phantom power (48V) and activated TS input (INST). The latter is high impedance and can be used as instrument input as well.



The analog outputs 9 to 12 feed the headphones outputs **Phones 1** and **Phones 2**. These low impedance outputs of highest quality are able to drive headphones at higher levels undistorted, no matter if low or high impedance headphones are used. The **Volume** knobs serve to quickly adjust the headphone output's monitor volume.

State LEDs. WC, AES, ADAT1, ADAT2. Indicate a valid input signal separately for each digital input. Additionally, RME's exclusive *SyncCheck* indicates if one of these inputs is locked, but not synchronous to the others, in which case the LED will flash. See also chapter 8.8 / 14.2, Clock Modes - Synchronization.



MIDI LEDs. Indicate separately for input and output if MIDI is received or transmitted.

The green LED **USB** extinguishes if no USB connection has been initialised, or has been interrupted (error, cable not connected etc.). The yellow LED **CC** (Class Compliant) signals CC mode, activated by the push button on the rear.

The rear panel of the Fireface 802 FS features eight analog inputs and outputs, the power socket, and all digital inputs and outputs:

Balanced Line Level Inputs. 8 balanced analog inputs via 6.3 mm stereo TRS.

Balanced Line Level Outputs. 8 balanced analog outputs, six via 6.3 mm stereo TRS, two via XLR.

AES/EBU I/O. XLR. The Fireface 802 accepts the commonly used digital audio formats, SPDIF as well as AES/EBU.

ADAT1 I/O. TOSLINK. Standard ADAT optical port, 8 channels. Can also be used as optical SPDIF input and output, if set up accordingly in the Settings dialog.



ADAT2 I/O. TOSLINK. Standard ADAT optical port, 8 channels. Can also be used as optical SPDIF input and output, if set up accordingly in the Settings dialog.

Word Clock I/O. BNC. The Settings dialog includes an option to activate internal termination (75 Ohms).

Remote. Connector for the optional Advanced Remote Control USB (ARC USB) when the Fireface 802 FS is used in stand-alone and Class Compliant mode. This port can also be used alternatively to the connection of the ARC USB to the computer.

USB 2.0. USB socket for connection to the computer.

MIDI I/O. Two 5-pin DIN connectors provide the first MIDI input and output.

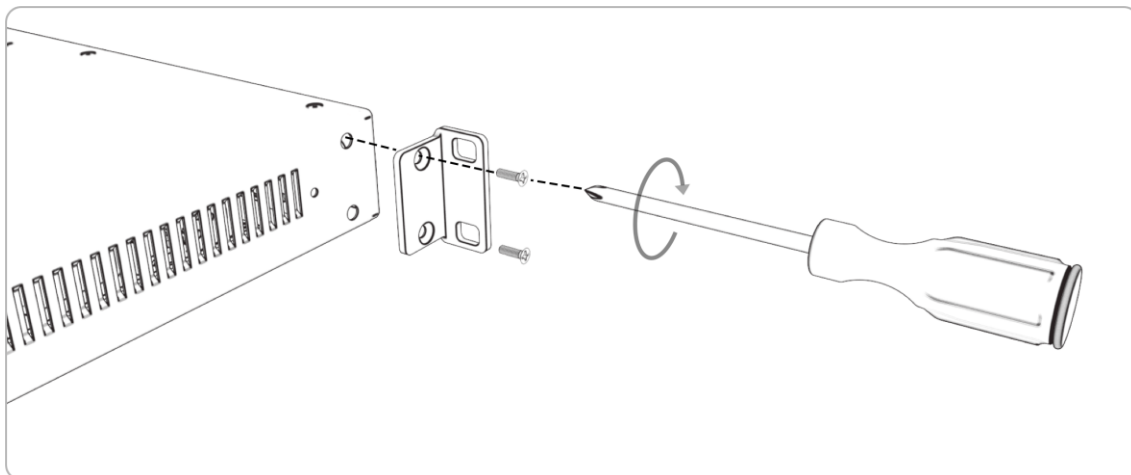
Hook. Secure any loose cable by feeding it through the hook first.

IEC receptacle for mains power connection. The specially developed, internal high-performance switch mode power supply makes the Fireface operate in the range of 100V to 240V AC. It is short-circuit-proof, has an integrated line filter, is fully regulated against voltage fluctuations, and suppresses mains interference.



5.2 Mounting the Rack Adapter Brackets

The device is shipped with mounted rack adapter brackets. In case of removal or remounting please note the following information:



Mount each bracket with two screws using a Philips PH-1 screwdriver.

- ! Do not use screws other than the ones included. Using longer or improper screws may result in the internal damage of the device!
- ! Never insert the screws without the rack adapter bracket. This can damage the device internally.

5.3 Quick Start

After the driver installation (chapter 6 / 13) connect the TRS jacks or the XLR inputs with the analog signal source. The input sensitivity of the rear inputs can be changed in TotalMix (Input Channel Settings, Level), assuring the highest signal to noise ratio will be achieved. Also try to achieve an optimum input level by adjusting the source itself. Raise the source's output level until the peak level meters in TotalMix reach about -3 dB.

The analog line inputs of the Fireface 802 can be used with +4 dBu and -10 dBV signals. The electronic input stage can handle balanced (XLR, TRS jacks) and unbalanced (TS jacks) input signals correctly.

The signal level of the front inputs can also be optimized directly at the Fireface. A two-colour LED beside the sockets signals overload by a colour change from green to red.

The digital outputs of the Fireface 802 FS provide AES/EBU (SPDIF compatible) and ADAT optical (SPDIF compatible) signals at the corresponding ports.

On the analog playback side (the DA side), a coarse adjustment of the analog output level at the rear jacks is available in TotalMix (Output Channel Settings, Level) or the Channel Settings directly at the device.

The output signal of channels 9/10 and 11/12 is available on the front. Their output level can be set directly using the VOL pot.. This output is a very low impedance type, which can also be used to connect headphones.

The Fireface 802 FS can store and load its current state in 6 different memory slots, called Setups. With this, the Fireface 802 FS can be used stand-alone after setting it up accordingly, replacing lots of dedicated devices (see chapter 24).

User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

► Installation and Operation – Windows

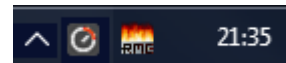
6. Driver and Firmware - Windows

6.1 Driver Installation

To simplify installation it is recommended to first install the drivers before the unit is connected to the computer. But it will also work the other way round.

RME is constantly improving the drivers. Please download the latest drivers from the RME website at <http://rme.to/usb>. Unzip the downloaded file, start *rmeinstaller.exe* and follow the instructions of the installer. After installation connect computer and 802 FS using a USB cable. Windows detects the new hardware as **Fireface 802 FS** and installs the drivers automatically.

After a reboot, the icons of TotalMix FX and Settings dialog appear in the notification area. If they do not appear, click the small triangle and choose *Customize* to configure appearance settings for these icons.



Driver Updates do not require to remove the existing drivers. Simply install the new driver over the existing one.

6.2 Uninstalling the Drivers

A de-installation of the driver files is not necessary. Thanks to full Plug & Play support, the driver files will not be loaded after the hardware has been removed.

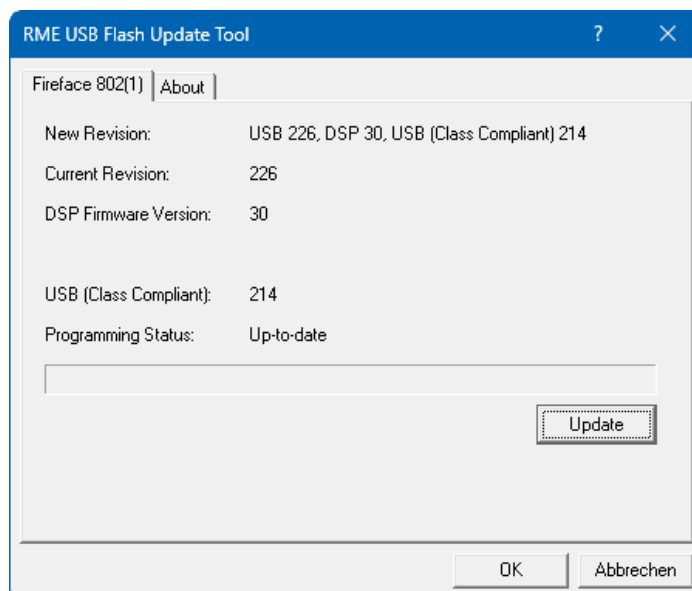
For an uninstall start the RME installer (*rmeinstaller.exe*) and select *Uninstall the last installed driver package*.

6.3 Firmware Update

Updating the Firmware of the Fireface 802 FS requires an installed driver.

The Flash Update Tool, downloadable from the RME website (<http://rme.to/usb>), updates the firmware of the device to the latest version. Unpack the downloaded file then start *fut.exe*. The Flash Update Tool displays the current revision of the Fireface firmware, and whether it needs an update or not. If so, then simply press the 'Update' button. A progress bar will indicate when the flash process is finished (Verify Ok).

After the update the unit needs to be reset. This is done by powering down the unit for a few seconds. A reboot of the computer is not necessary.



If the update unexpectedly fails (status: failure), the unit's Safety BIOS will be used from the next boot on, the unit stays fully functional. The flash process should then be tried again.

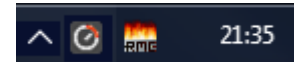
7. Configuring the Fireface

7.1 Settings dialog - General

Configuration of the Fireface 802 FS is done via its own settings dialog. The panel 'Settings' can be opened:

- by clicking on the fire symbol in the Task Bar's system tray

The mixer of the Fireface 802, TotalMix, can be opened:



- by clicking on the DSP FX symbol in the Task Bar's system tray

The hardware of the Fireface 802 offers a number of helpful, well thought-of practical functions and options which affect how the card operates - it can be configured to suit many different requirements. The following is available in the 'Settings' dialog:

- Latency
- Operation of the DSP
- Configuration of the digital I/Os
- Current sample rate
- Synchronization behaviour
- State of input and output

Any changes made in the Settings dialog are applied immediately - confirmation (e.g. by clicking on OK or exiting the dialog) is not required.

However, settings should not be changed during playback or record to avoid unwanted noises.

Also, please note that even in 'Stop' mode, several programs keep the recording and playback devices open, which means that any new settings might not be applied immediately.

The tab **About** includes information about the current driver and firmware version of the Fireface 802 plus three more options:

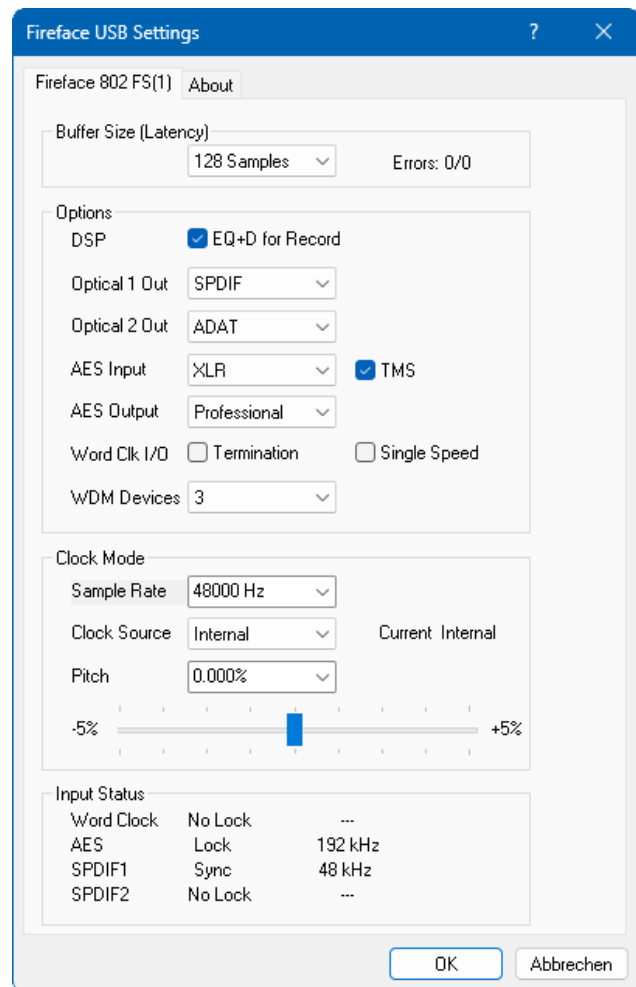
Lock Registry

Default: off. Checking this option brings up a dialog to enter a password. Changes in the Settings dialog are no longer written to the registry. As the settings are always loaded from the registry when starting the computer, this method provides an easy way to define an initial state of the Fireface 802.

Enable MMCSS for ASIO activates support with higher priority for the ASIO driver. Note: At this time, activating this option seems to be useful only with the latest Cubase/Nuendo at higher load. With other software this option can decrease performance. The change becomes active after an ASIO reset. Therefore it is easy to quickly check which setting works better.

Sort ASIO Devices

Changes the order only of the ASIO channels when using more than one interface.



Buffer Size

The setting *Buffer Size* determines the latency between incoming and outgoing ASIO and WDM data, as well as affecting system stability (see chapter 9.1).

Errors does not refer to buffer errors, but USB transmission errors. The display will be reset on any start of a playback/record. More information can be found in chapter 38.3.

Options

DSP – EQ+D for Record

Switches EQ and Dynamics of all input channels into the recording path. In case Loopback has been activated the EQ and Dynamics of the Output channel are within the recording path. See also chapter 27.6.

Optical 1 Out

This optical TOSLINK output can operate as ADAT or SPDIF output. ADAT includes channels 15-22, SPDIF channels 15/16. In SPDIF mode the output channels 17-22 can only be used for Loopback purposes.

Optical 2 Out

This optical TOSLINK output can operate as ADAT or SPDIF output. ADAT includes channels 23-30, SPDIF channels 23/24. In SPDIF mode the output channels 25-30 can only be used for Loopback purposes. Selecting AES the output signal of the AES channel (XLR) is also send out as optical SPDIF.

AES Input

Default: *XLR*. If *Optical 2* is selected, an SPDIF signal present at the ADAT 2 input is switched to the AES input channel, see also block diagram in chapter 39.1. The input signal of the AES XLR socket is then no longer available.

TMS activates the transmission of Channel Status data and Track Marker information. In case these information are not required the feature should be turned off.

AES Output

The AES output signal can have the Channel Status Professional or Consumer (SPDIF). For further details please refer to chapter 21.2.

Word Clk I/O

Termination

Checking this option terminates the word input internally with 75 Ohms.

(Always) Single Speed

The *word clock output* signal equals the current sample rate. Selecting *Single Speed* causes the output signal to always stay within the range of 32 kHz to 48 kHz. So at 96 kHz and 192 kHz sample rate, the output word clock is 48 kHz.

Only in stand-alone mode: When clocked via the *word clock input* the sample rate of the 802 FS directly follows the incoming signal across Single, Double and Quad Speed. A word clock signal at 192 kHz therefore results in an internal and OS sample rate of 192 kHz. This feature is also called *Follow Clock*. With Single Speed active and stored into the device the word clock input adapts to the frequency ranges. So 48 kHz word clock synchronizes the internal clock to 48 kHz, 96 kHz and 192 kHz.

WDM Devices

Reduce the number of WDM devices to the ones really needed to improve performance of the operating system.

Clock Mode

Sample Rate

Sets the currently used sample rate. Offers a central and comfortable way of configuring the sample rate of all WDM devices to the same value, as since Vista the audio software is no longer allowed to set the sample rate. However, an ASIO program can still set the sample rate by itself.

During record/playback the selection is greyed out, so no change is possible.

Clock Source

The unit can be configured to use its own clock (Internal = Master), or one of the input signals (Word, AES, ADAT1 and ADAT2). If the selected source isn't available (Input Status No Lock), the unit will change to the next available one (AutoSync). If none is available then the internal clock is used. The current clock source is displayed as *Current*.

Pitch

More information on Pitch is available in chapter 7.2.

Input Status

Indicates for each input (Word, AES, ADAT1, ADAT2) whether there is a valid signal (Lock, No Lock), or if there is a valid *and* synchronous signal (Sync). The third column shows the sample frequency detected by the hardware (coarse recognition, 32 kHz, 44.1 kHz, 48 kHz etc.). In *Clock Mode* the clock reference is shown. See also chapter 38.1.

7.2 Settings Dialog - Pitch

Usually soundcards and audio interfaces generate their internal clock (master mode) by a quartz. Therefore the internal clock can be set to 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz, but not to a value in between. SteadyClock, RME's sensational Low Jitter Clock System, is based on a Direct Digital Synthesizer (DDS). This superior circuitry can generate nearly any frequency with highest precision.

DDS has been implemented into the Fireface with regard to the needs of professional video applications, as well as to maximum flexibility. The section Pitch includes both a list of typical video frequencies (so called pull up/pull down at 0.1% and 4%) and a fader to freely change the basic sample rate in steps of 1 Hz (!) over a range of +/- 5%.

! *The Pitch function requires the Fireface to be in clock mode Master! The frequency setting will only be applied to this one specific Fireface!*

! *Changing the sample rate during record/playback often results in a loss of audio, or brings up warning messages of the audio software. Therefore the desired sample rate should be set at least coarsely before starting the software.*

Coarse

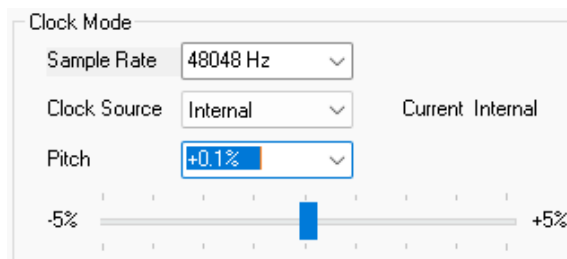
Coarse modification in steps of 50 Hz is done by clicking with the mouse to the left and right of the fader knob.

Fine

Fine modification in steps of 1 Hz is done by using the left/right cursor keys.

Reset

Ctrl key plus left mouse click.



Application examples

Pitch allows for a simultaneous change of speed and tune during record and playback. From alignment to other sources up to creative effects – everything is possible.

Pitch enables you to intentionally de-tune the complete DAW. This way, the DAW can match instruments which have a wrong or unchangeable tuning.

Pitch allows for the change of the sample rate of all WDM devices at the same time. Since Vista this is no longer possible via the audio program, thus requires a manual reconfiguration of all WDM devices. Changing the sample rate from the Settings dialog solves this problem. As the change within the system requires some time, record/playback should not be started immediately, but only after at least 5 seconds after a change.

Tip: the current CPU load can be used to determine if the audio subsystem has finished the re-configuration.

8. Operation and Usage

8.1 Playback

In the audio application being used, Fireface must be selected as output device. This can often be found in the *Options, Preferences* or *Settings* menus under *Playback Device, Audio Devices, Audio* etc.

! WDM playback devices are not available if the number of WDM devices is set to 0 in the Settings dialog.

Although the Fireface 802 comes with extensive support for system audio, setting it to be the *Default Device* for playback could cause problems, especially when working with ASIO. RME also recommends switching off all system sounds (via Control Panel *Sound*, tab *Sounds*).

Increasing the number and/or size of audio buffers in the application (WDM) or the RME Settings dialog (ASIO) may prevent the audio signal from breaking up, but also increases latency i.e. output is delayed.

Note: Since Vista the audio application can no longer control the sample rate under WDM. Therefore the driver of the Fireface 802 includes a way to set the sample rate globally for all WDM devices within the Settings dialog, see chapter 7.1.

8.2 DVD-Playback (AC-3/DTS)

AC-3 / DTS

Popular DVD software players can send their audio data stream to any AC-3/DTS capable receiver via the Fireface's SPDIF output.

! *The sample rate must be set to 48 kHz in the Fireface Settings dialog, or the software will only play back a stereo 2-channel downmix via SPDIF.*

In some cases the Fireface 802 has to be selected as default in >Control Panel/ Sound/Playback< for the software to recognize it.

The DVD software's audio properties now show the options 'SPDIF Out' or similar. When selecting it, the software will transfer the non-decoded digital multichannel data stream to the Fireface.

Note: This 'SPDIF' signal sounds like chopped noise at highest level.

Multichannel

DVD software players can also operate as software decoder, sending a DVD's multichannel data stream directly to the analog outputs of the Fireface. For this to work select the WDM playback device 'Loudspeaker' of the Fireface 802 in >Control Panel/ Sound/ Playback < as 'Standard'. Additionally the loudspeaker setup, found under >Configuration<, has to be changed from *Stereo* to *5.1 Surround*.

The audio properties of the playback software now list several multichannel modes. If one of these is selected, the software sends the decoded analog multichannel data to the Fireface. TotalMix can then be used to play back via any desired output channels.

The typical channel assignment for surround playback is:

- 1 - Left
- 2 - Right
- 3 - Center
- 4 - LFE (Low Frequency Effects)
- 5 - SL (Surround Left)
- 6 - SR (Surround Right)

Note 1: Selecting the Fireface to be used as system playback device is against our recommendations, as professional interfaces should not be disturbed by system events. Make sure to re-assign the selection after usage, or disable any system sounds (tab Sounds, scheme 'No audio').

Note 2: The DVD player will be synced backwards from the Fireface. This means when using AutoSync and/or word clock, the playback speed and pitch follows the incoming clock signal.

8.3 Notes on WDM

The settings dialog of the Fireface 802 allows you to adjust the number of WDM devices to suit your personal working method. Unaffected by the system with audio only by ASIO - select WDM devices - 0. Playback of system audio via the Fireface 802: activate at least 1 stereo device.

The further configuration of WDM devices is done in Windows under >Control Panel / Sound <.

The WDM Streaming device *Loudspeaker* (Analog 1+2) of the RME driver can operate as usual stereo device, or as up to 8-channel device.

An 8-channel playback using the Windows Media Player requires the speaker setup *7.1 Surround*, to be configured under >Control Panel /Sound /Playback /Loudspeaker /Configure <

8.4 Channel Count under WDM

The Fireface ADAT optical ports allow to record sample rates of up to 192 kHz using a standard ADAT recorder. For this to work single-channel data is spread to two or four ADAT channels using the *Sample Multiplexing* technique. This reduces the number of available ADAT channels from 8 to 4 or 2 per ADAT port.

Whenever the Fireface changes into Double Speed (88.2/96 kHz) or Quad Speed mode (176.4/192 kHz) all devices no longer available vanish automatically.

WDM Stereo device	Double Speed	Quad Speed
Fireface Analog (1+2)	Fireface Analog (1+2)	Fireface Analog (1+2)
Fireface Analog (3+4)	Fireface Analog (3+4)	Fireface Analog (3+4)
Fireface Analog (5+6)	Fireface Analog (5+6)	Fireface Analog (5+6)
Fireface Analog (7+8)	Fireface Analog (7+8)	Fireface Analog (7+8)
Fireface Analog (9+10)	Fireface Analog (9+10)	Fireface Analog (9+10)
Fireface SPDIF	Fireface SPDIF	Fireface SPDIF
Fireface ADAT 1 (1+2)	Fireface ADAT 1 (1+2)	Fireface ADAT 1 (1+2)
Fireface ADAT 1 (3+4)	Fireface ADAT 1 (3+4)	Fireface ADAT 1 (3+4)
Fireface ADAT 1 (5+6)	Fireface ADAT 1 (5+6)	Fireface ADAT 1 (5+6)
Fireface ADAT 1 (7+8)	Fireface ADAT 1 (7+8)	Fireface ADAT 1 (7+8)
Fireface ADAT 2 (1+2)	Fireface ADAT 2 (1+2)	Fireface ADAT 2 (1+2)
Fireface ADAT 2 (3+4)	Fireface ADAT 2 (3+4)	Fireface ADAT 2 (3+4)
Fireface ADAT 2 (5+6)	Fireface ADAT 2 (5+6)	Fireface ADAT 2 (5+6)
Fireface ADAT 2 (7+8)	Fireface ADAT 2 (7+8)	Fireface ADAT 2 (7+8)

Note: Since Windows Vista the analog outputs 1/2 show up as *Loudspeaker*.

8.5 Multi-client Operation

RME audio interfaces support multi-client operation. Several programs can be used at the same time. The formats ASIO and WDM can even be used on the same playback channels simultaneously. But as WDM uses a real-time sample rate conversion (ASIO does not), all active ASIO software has to use the same sample rate.

However, a better overview is maintained by using the channels exclusively. This is no limitation at all, because TotalMix allows for any output routing, and therefore a playback of multiple software on the same hardware outputs.

Inputs can be used from an unlimited number of WDM and ASIO software at the same time, as the driver simply sends the data to all applications simultaneously.

RME's sophisticated tool *DIGICheck* is an exception to this rule. It operates like an ASIO host, using a special technique to access playback channels directly. Therefore DIGICheck is able to analyse and display playback data from any software, no matter which format it uses.

8.6 Analog Recording

For recordings via the analog inputs the corresponding record device has to be chosen (Fireface 802 Analog (x+y)).

The input sensitivity of the rear inputs can be changed in two steps in TotalMix (Input Channel Settings, Level), assuring the highest signal to noise ratio will be achieved. Additionally a digital gain of 0 up to 12 dB can be applied. A further optimization can be achieved by adjusting the source itself. Raise the source's output level until the peak level meters in TotalMix reach about -3 dB.

The level of the front-side analog inputs can be optimized by the Gain pots. A double coloured signal and clip LED provides useful information about the current level state.

Further information is found in chapter 19.

It often makes sense to monitor the input signal or send it directly to the output. This can be done at zero latency using **TotalMix** (see chapter 25).

An *automated* control of real-time monitoring can be achieved by Steinberg's ASIO protocol with RME's ASIO drivers and all ASIO 2.0 compatible programs. When 'ASIO Direct Monitoring' has been switched on, the input signal is routed in real-time to the output whenever a recording is started (punch-in).

8.7 Digital Recording

Unlike analog soundcards which produce empty wave files (or noise) when no input signal is present, digital interfaces always need a valid input signal to start recording.

Taking this into account, RME added a comprehensive I/O signal status display to the Fireface 802, showing sample frequency, lock and sync status for every input, and several status LEDs directly at the unit.

The sample frequency shown in the fields Clock Mode and Input Status is useful as a quick display of the current configuration of the unit and the connected external equipment. If no sample frequency is recognized, it will read 'No Lock'.

Input Status		
Word Clock	No Lock	---
AES	Lock	192 kHz
SPDIF1	Sync	48 kHz
ADAT2	Sync	48 kHz

This way, configuring any suitable audio application for digital recording is simple. After selecting the correct input, Fireface 802 displays the current sample frequency. This parameter can then be changed in the application's audio attributes (or similar) dialog.

8.8 Clock Modes - Synchronization

In the digital world, all devices must be either Master (clock source) or Slave (clock receiver). Whenever several devices are linked within a system, there must always be a single master clock.

! *A digital system can only have one master! If the Fireface's clock mode is set to 'Master', all other devices must be set to 'Slave'.*

The Fireface 802 utilizes a very user-friendly, intelligent clock control, called **AutoSync**. In AutoSync mode, the system constantly scans the digital input for a valid signal. If any valid signal is found, the Fireface switches from the internal quartz (*Clock Source* – Current Internal) to a clock extracted from the input signal (*Clock Source* – Current ADAT, AES or Word). The difference to a usual slave mode is that whenever the clock reference fails, the system will automatically use its internal clock and operate in clock mode Master.

AutoSync guarantees that record and record-while-play will always work correctly. In certain cases however, e.g. when the inputs and outputs of a DAT machine are connected directly to the Fireface 802, AutoSync may cause feedback in the digital carrier, so synchronization breaks down. To solve this problem switch the Fireface clock mode to Master (Clock Source – Internal).

The Fireface's ADAT optical and AES inputs operate simultaneously. Because there is no input selector however, the unit has to be told which one of the signals is the sync reference (a digital device can only be clocked from a *single* source). By selecting a Clock Source a preferred input is defined. As long as the unit sees a valid signal there, this input will be designated as the sync source.

In some situations changing the clock source can not be avoided. Example: An ADAT recorder is connected to the ADAT input (ADAT immediately becomes the AutoSync source) and a CD player is connected to the AES input. Try recording a few samples from the CD and you will be disappointed - few CD players can be synchronized. The samples will inevitably be corrupted, because the signal from the CD player is read with the clock from the ADAT. In this case the Clock Source should be temporarily set to AES.

RME's exclusive **SyncCheck** technology (first implemented in the Hammerfall) offers an easy to use check and display of the current clock status. *SyncCheck* indicates whether there is a valid signal (Lock, No Lock) for each input (Word Clock, ADAT, AES), or if there is a valid *and* synchronous signal (Sync). The field *Clock Source* also shows the clock reference. See chapter 38.1.

Under WDM the Fireface will (has to) set the sample rate. Therefore the error shown to the right can occur. A stable signal with a sample rate of 48 kHz is detected, but Windows audio operates at 44100 Hz. The red colour of the text label signals the error condition, and prompts the user to set 48000 Hz manually as sample rate. Under ASIO the audio software sets the sample rate, so that such an error can not happen. If the input sample rate is different then there will be no Sync indication.

In practice, SyncCheck provides the user with an easy way of checking whether all digital devices connected to the system are properly configured.

The screenshot shows the 'Clock Mode' control panel. It includes a 'Sample Rate' dropdown menu with '44100 Hz' selected and highlighted in red, indicating a mismatch. The 'Current' value is '48000 Hz'. Below it, the 'Clock Source' is set to 'AES' and the 'Current' is 'AES'. A 'Pitch' dropdown is set to '0.000%'. A slider below the pitch dropdown ranges from -5% to +5%. The 'Input Status' section shows a table of input lock and sync status.

Input Status		
Word Clock	No Lock	---
AES	Sync	48 kHz
SPDIF1	Sync	48 kHz
ADAT2	Sync	48 kHz

With SyncCheck, finally anyone can master this common source of error, previously one of the most complex issues in the digital studio world.

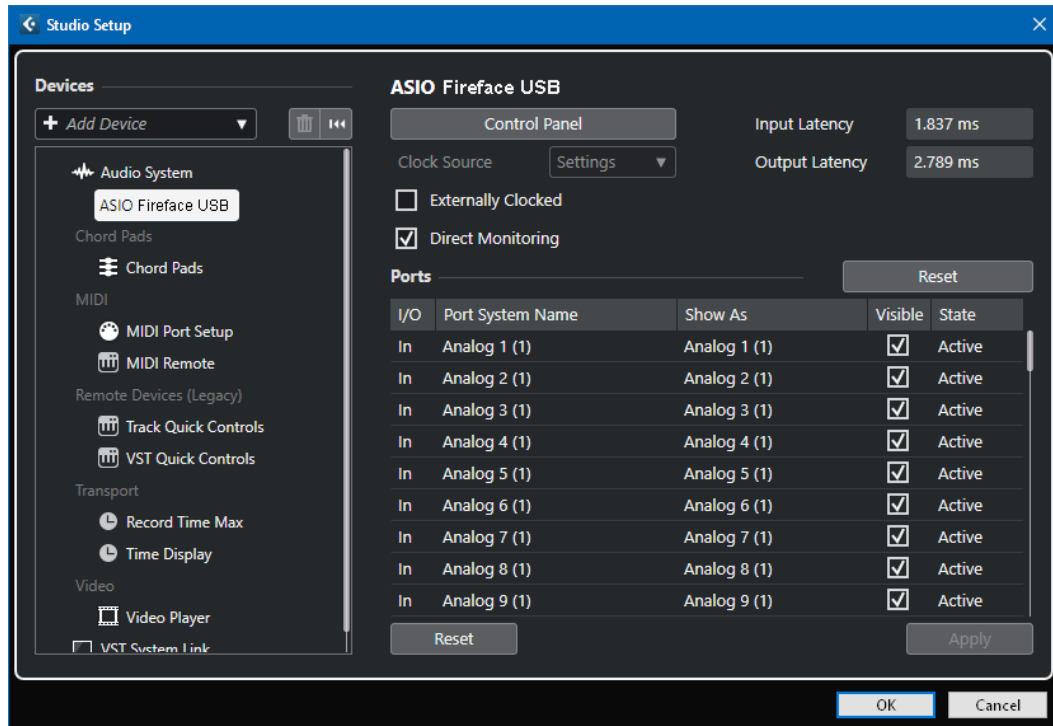
9. Operation under ASIO

9.1 General

Start the ASIO software and select **ASIO Fireface USB** as the audio I/O device or the audio driver.

The Fireface 802 supports *ASIO Direct Monitoring* (ADM).

The Fireface 802 MIDI I/O can be used with both MME MIDI and DirectMusic MIDI.



9.2 Channel Count under ASIO

At a sample rate of 88.2 or 96 kHz, the ADAT optical input and outputs operate in S/MUX mode, so the number of available channels per port is reduced from 8 to 4.

At a sample rate of 176.4 and 192 kHz, the ADAT optical input and output operates in S/MUX4 mode, so the number of available channels is limited to 2.

Note: When changing the sample rate range between Single, Double and Quad Speed the number of channels presented from the ASIO driver will change too. This may require a reset of the I/O list in the audio software.

Single Speed	Double Speed	Quad Speed
Fireface Analog 1 to 12	Fireface Analog 1 to 12	Fireface Analog 1 to 12
Fireface AES L / R	Fireface AES L / R	Fireface AES L / R
Fireface ADAT 1 to 16	Fireface ADAT 1 to 8	Fireface ADAT 1 to 4

9.3 Known Problems

If a computer does not provide sufficient CPU-power and/or sufficient USB or PCI bus transfer rates, then drop outs, crackling and noise will appear. Raising the buffer size in the Settings dialog of the Fireface 802 helps in most cases. It is also recommended to deactivate all PlugIns to verify that these are not the reason for such effects. Further information is found in chapter 38.3.

Another common source of trouble is incorrect synchronization. ASIO does not support asynchronous operation, which means that the input and output signals not only have to use the same sample frequency, but also have to be in sync. All devices connected to the Fireface 802 must be properly configured for Full Duplex operation. As long as SyncCheck (in the Settings dialog) only displays *Lock* instead of *Sync*, the devices have not been set up properly!

The same applies when using more than one Fireface 802 - they all have to be in sync. Else a periodically repeated noise will be heard.

Fireface 802 supports *ASIO Direct Monitoring* (ADM). Please note that not all programs support ADM completely or error-free. The most often reported problem is the wrong behaviour of panorama in a stereo channel. Also try to avoid setting the TotalMix FX hardware outputs (third row) to mono mode. This will most likely break ADM compatibility.

In case of a drift between audio and MIDI, or in case of a fixed deviation (MIDI notes placed close before or behind the correct position), the settings in Cubase/Nuendo have to be changed. At the time of print the option 'Use System Timestamp' should be activated. The Fireface supports both MME MIDI and DirectMusic MIDI. It depends on the used application which one will work better.

10. Using more than one Fireface 802

The current driver supports up to three Fireface 802. All units have to be in sync, i.e. have to receive valid sync information (either via word clock or by using AutoSync and feeding synchronized signals).

- If one of the Firefaces is set to clock mode Master, all others have to be set to clock mode AutoSync, and have to be synced from the master, for example by feeding word clock. The clock modes of all units have to be set up correctly in the Fireface Settings dialog.
- If all units are fed with a synchronous clock, i.e. all units show *Sync* in their Settings dialog, all channels can be used at once. This is especially easy to handle under ASIO, as the ASIO driver presents all units as one.

Note: TotalMix is part of the hardware of each Fireface. Up to three mixers are available, but these are separated and can't interchange data. Therefore a global mixer for all units is not possible.

In real-world an operation of more than one Fireface 802 might be difficult. Each further unit will lead to problems on the USB and FireWire bus, caused by the high number of channels. It makes more sense to connect external converters to the ADAT I/Os of the 802, adding up to 16 channels of analog record and analog playback.

11. DIGICheck Windows

The DIGICheck software is a unique utility developed for testing, measuring and analysing digital audio streams. Although this Windows software is fairly self-explanatory, it still includes a comprehensive online help. DIGICheck 5.96 operates as multi-client ASIO host, therefore can be used in parallel to any software, be it WDM or ASIO, with both inputs and outputs (!). The following is a short summary of the currently available functions:

- **Level Meter.** High precision 24-bit resolution, 2/8/30 channels. Application examples: Peak level measurement, RMS level measurement, over-detection, phase correlation measurement, dynamic range and signal-to-noise ratios, RMS to peak difference (loudness), long term peak measurement, input check. Oversampling mode for levels higher than 0 dBFS. Vertical and horizontal mode. Slow RMS and RLB weighting filter. Supports visualization according to the K-System.
- **Hardware Level Meter for Input, Playback and Output.** Reference Level Meter freely configurable, causing near zero CPU load, because calculated from the Fireface hardware.
- **Vector Audio Scope.** World wide unique Goniometer showing the typical afterglow of an oscilloscope-tube. Includes Correlation meter and level meter.
- **Spectral Analyser.** World wide unique 10-, 20- or 30-band display in analog bandpass-filter technology. 192 kHz-capable!
- **Totallyser.** Spectral Analyser, Level Meter and Vector Audio Scope in a single window.
- **Surround Audio Scope.** Professional Surround Level Meter with extended correlation analysis, ITU weighting and ITU summing meter.
- **ITU1770/EBU R128 Meter.** For standardized loudness measurements.
- **Bit Statistics & Noise.** Shows the true resolution of audio signals as well as errors and DC offset. Includes Signal to Noise measurement in dB and dBA, plus DC measurement.
- **Channel Status Display.** Detailed analysis and display of SPDIF and AES/EBU Channel Status data.
- **Global Record.** Long-term recording of all channels at lowest system load.
- **Completely multi-client.** Open as many measurement windows as you like, on any channels and inputs or outputs!

A newer version for more up-to-date hardware, called **DigiCheck NG**, is also available. It is freely scalable, offers multi-instrument windows, and includes further instruments, like *VU-Meter*, *Spectroscope*, *Oscilloscope* and *Frequency Measurement*.

DIGICheck is free but works only with RME interfaces. It is constantly improved and updated. The latest version is available on RME's website www.rme-audio.com, section **Downloads / Software**.

12. Hotline – Troubleshooting

The newest information can always be found on our website www.rme-audio.com, section FAQ, Latest Additions.

The 8 ADAT channels don't seem to work

- The optical output ADAT 2 has been switched to 'AES'. As can be seen in the block diagram, chapter 39.1, all channels and their assignments still exist, but the optical transmitter has been disconnected from ADAT2 and is now fed from the AES output (channels 13/14). The ADAT2 playback devices are still usable by routing and mixing them in TotalMix to other outputs.

Playback works, but record doesn't

- Check that there is a valid signal at the input. If so, the current sample frequency is displayed in the Settings dialog.
- Check whether the Fireface 802 has been selected as recording device in the audio application.
- Check whether the sample frequency set in the audio application ('Recording properties' or similar) matches the input signal.
- Check that cables/devices have not been connected in a closed loop. If so, set the system's clock mode to Master.

Crackle during record or playback

- Increase the number and size of buffers in the 'Settings' dialog or in the application.
- Try different cables (coaxial or optical) to rule out any defects here.
- Check that cables/devices have not been connected in a closed loop. If so, set the system's clock mode to 'Master'.
- Check the Settings dialog for displayed Errors.

Driver installation and Settings dialog/TotalMix work, but a playback or record is not possible

- While recognition and control of the device are low bandwidth applications, playback/record needs the full USB transmission performance. Therefore, defective USB cables with limited transmission bandwidth can cause such an error scheme.

User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

► Installation and Operation – Mac OS X

13. Driver and Firmware – Mac OS X

13.1 Driver Installation

After the Fireface has been connected to the computer install the drivers matching your current macOS.

RME is constantly improving the drivers. Please download the latest drivers from the RME website at <http://rme.to/usbe>. Unzip the downloaded file and start the driver installation by double-clicking **Fireface USB xxx.pkg** or **Fireface USB DK xxx.pkg**.

During driver installation the programs **Totalmix** (TotalMix FX) and **Fireface USB Settings** are copied to the Applications folder. They will automatically start into the dock if a Fireface 802 is connected. After installation reboot the computer.

Driver Updates do not require to remove the existing drivers. Simply install the new driver over the existing one.

Important note on driver installation: RME offers both a Kernel Extension (KE) and a DK driver (DriverKit). The installation of these two differs significantly and also depends on the computer architecture (Intel/Apple Silicon) and the macOS version. Due to the many variants, as well as several changes in the last macOS, the document *Installing the Fireface USB kernel extension driver.rtf* or *Installing the Fireface DK USB driver.rtf* in the respective downloaded driver archive contains all details.

13.2 Uninstalling the Drivers

For latest information on uninstallation see text file in the downloaded driver archive.

For older versions: In case of problems the driver files can be deleted manually by dragging them to the trash bin:

```
/Applications/Fireface USB Settings  
/Applications/Totalmix  
/Library/Extensions/RMEFirefaceUSB.kext  
/Users/username/Library/Preferences/de.rme-audio.TotalmixFX.plist  
/Users/username/Library/Preferences/de.rme-audio.Fireface_USB_Settings.plist  
/Library/LaunchAgents/de.rme-audio.firefaceUSBAgent.plist
```

On Mac OS X the User/Library folder is not visible in the Finder. To unhide it start Finder, click on the menu item Go. Hold down the option (alt) key, then click on Library.

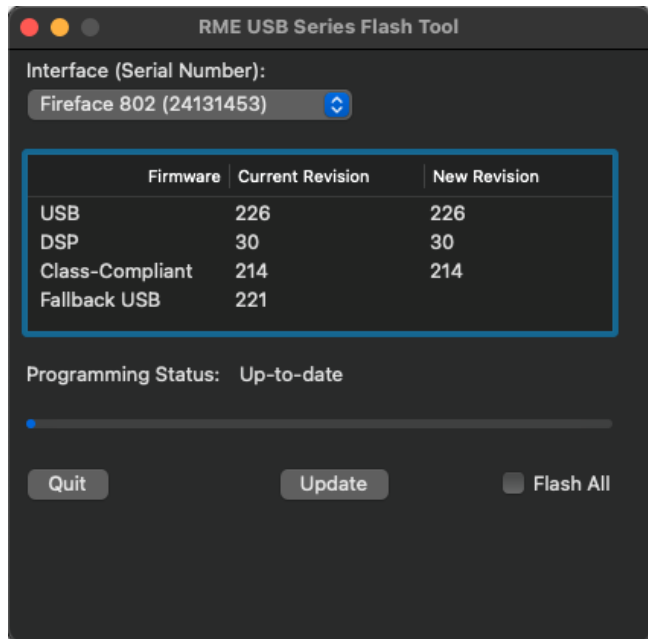
13.3 Firmware Update

The Flash Update Tool updates the firmware of the Fireface 802 to the latest version. It requires an installed USB driver.

Download the latest version from the RME website at <http://rme.to/usbe>. Unpack the downloaded file then start the program **Fireface USB Flash**. The Flash Update Tool displays the current revision of the Fireface 802 firmware, and whether it needs an update or not. If so, simply press the 'Update' button. A progress bar will indicate when the flash process is finished (Verify Ok).

After the update the Fireface 802 needs to be reset. This is done by powering down the Fireface 802 for a few seconds. A reboot of the computer is not necessary.

To reduce the time needed for the flash process the tool updates only the parts of the firmware that are present in a newer version. The option *Flash All* forces the tool to update all parts.



When the update fails (status: failure), the unit's second BIOS will be used from the next cold boot on. Therefore the unit stays fully functional and the flash process can be tried again.

14. Configuring the Fireface 802

14.1 Settings Dialog

Configuring the Fireface is done via its own settings dialog. Start the program **Fireface USB Settings**. The mixer of the Fireface 802 (TotalMix FX) can be configured by starting the program **Totalmix**.

The Fireface's hardware offers a number of helpful, well thought-out practical functions and options which affect how the card operates - it can be configured to suit many different requirements.

The following is available in the 'Settings' dialog:

- Operation of the DSP
- Configuration of digital I/Os
- Current sample rate
- Synchronization behaviour
- State of input and output

Any changes performed in the Settings dialog are applied immediately - confirmation (e.g. by exiting the dialog) is not required.

However, settings should not be changed during playback or record if it can be avoided, as this can cause unwanted noises.

Use the drop down menu **Properties For** to select the unit to be configured.

On the right of it the current firmware and driver version is shown.

Options

DSP – EQ+D for Record

Switches EQ and Dynamics of all input channels into the recording path. In case Loopback has been activated the EQ and Dynamics of the Output channel are within the recording path. See also chapter 27.6.

AES Input Source

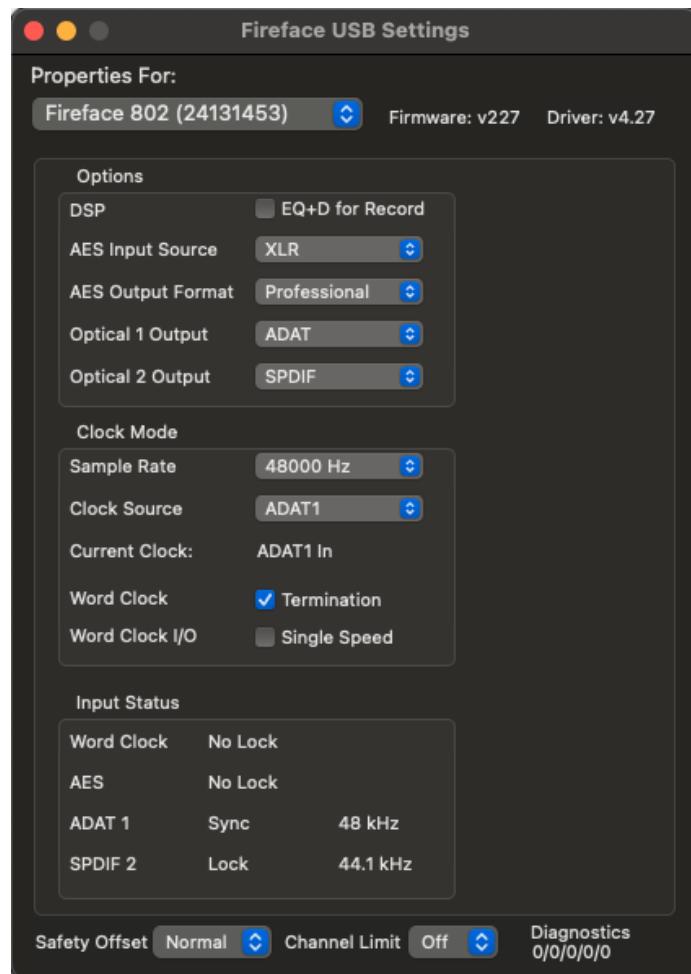
Default: *XLR*. If *Optical 2* is selected, an SPDIF signal present at the ADAT 2 input is switched to the AES input channel, see also block diagram in chapter 39.1. The input signal of the AES XLR socket is then no longer available.

AES Output Format

The SPDIF output can have the Channel Status Consumer (SPDIF) or Professional indication.. For further details please refer to chapter 21.2.

Optical 1 Out

This optical TOSLINK output can operate as ADAT or SPDIF output. ADAT includes channels 15-22, SPDIF channels 15/16. In SPDIF mode the output channels 17-22 can only be used for Loopback purposes.



Optical 2 Out

This optical TOSLINK output can operate as ADAT or SPDIF output. ADAT includes channels 23-30, SPDIF channels 23/24. In SPDIF mode the output channels 25-30 can only be used for Loopback purposes. Selecting AES the output signal of the AES channel (XLR) is also sent out as optical SPDIF.

Clock Mode

Sample Rate

Used to set the current sample rate. This is the same setting as in the Audio MIDI Setup, just added here for your convenience.

Clock Source

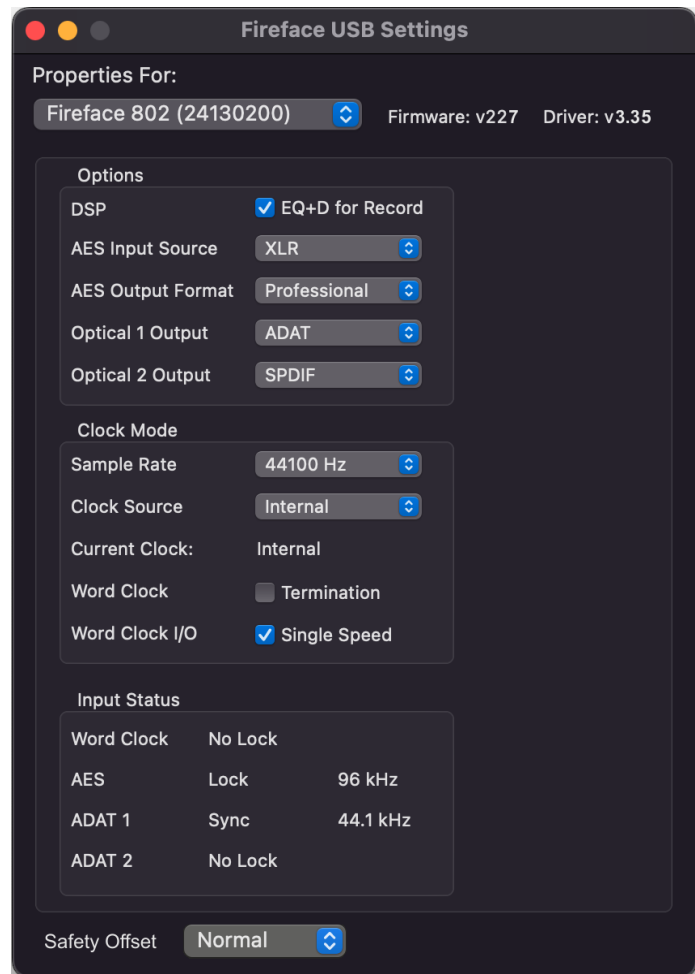
The unit can be configured to use its own clock (Internal, Master), or one of the input signals (Word, AES, ADAT/SPDIF1 and ADAT/SPDIF2). If the selected source isn't available (Input Status No Lock), the unit will change to the next available one (AutoSync). If none is available then the internal clock is used. The **Current Clock** source is shown below.

Word Clock - Termination

Checking this option terminates the word clock input internally with 75 Ohms.

Word Clock I/O – Single Speed

The *word clock output* signal equals the current sample rate. Selecting *Single Speed* causes the output signal to always stay within the range of 32 kHz to 48 kHz. So at 96 kHz and 192 kHz sample rate, the output word clock is 48 kHz.



When clocked via the *word clock input* the sample rate of the 802 FS and Core Audio directly follow the incoming signal across Single, Double and Quad Speed. A word clock signal at 192 kHz therefore results in an internal and OS sample rate of 192 kHz. This feature is also called *Follow Clock*. With Single Speed active the word clock input adapts to the frequency ranges. So 48 kHz word clock synchronizes the internal clock to 48 kHz, 96 kHz and 192 kHz.

Input Status

Indicates for each input (Word, AES, Optical 1 and Optical 2) whether there is a valid signal (Lock, No Lock), or if there is a valid *and* synchronous signal (Sync). The third column shows the sample frequency detected by the hardware (coarse recognition, 32 kHz, 44.1 kHz, 48 kHz etc.). In *Clock Mode* the clock reference is shown. See also chapter 38.1.

Short Safety Offset

Allows the audio subsystem to be adapted to the computer performance. Short reduces the latency due to a smaller safety offset (12 instead of 24 samples), but can lead to clicks or dropouts. The Kernel Extension driver also has the *Large* option for maximum security against such effects.

Channel Limit (only DriverKit)

Allows for USB performance optimization by transmitting less channels (8, 16, 32). The change is performed in real-time, but many apps require a restart to correctly recognize the changed status and to resume recording and playing audio without issues.

Diagnostics (only DriverKit)

Counters for various error states. These are explained in detail in the integrated help section of the Settings dialog. See also chapter 38.3.

14.2 Clock Modes - Synchronization

In the digital world, all devices must be either Master (clock source) or Slave (clock receiver). Whenever several devices are linked within a system, there must always be a single master clock.

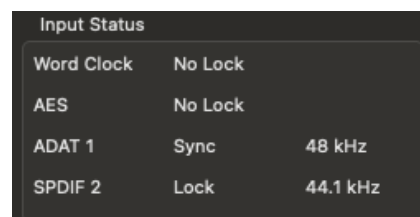
! *A digital system can only have one master! If the Fireface's clock mode is set to 'Master', all other devices must be set to 'Slave'.*

The Fireface 802 utilizes a very user-friendly, intelligent clock control, called **AutoSync**. In AutoSync mode, the system constantly scans the digital input for a valid signal. If any valid signal is found, the Fireface switches from the internal quartz (*Clock Source – Current Internal*) to a clock extracted from the input signal (*Clock Source – Current ADAT, AES or Word*). The difference to a usual slave mode is that whenever the clock reference fails, the system will automatically use its internal clock and operate in clock mode Master.

AutoSync guarantees that record and record-while-play will always work correctly. In certain cases however, e.g. when the inputs and outputs of a DAT machine are connected directly to the Fireface 802, AutoSync may cause feedback in the digital carrier, so synchronization breaks down. To solve this problem switch the Fireface clock mode to Master (Clock Source – Internal).

The Fireface's ADAT optical and AES inputs operate simultaneously. Because there is no input selector however, the unit has to be told which one of the signals is the sync reference (a digital device can only be clocked from a *single* source). By selecting a Clock Source a preferred input is defined. As long as the unit sees a valid signal there, this input will be designated as the sync source.

In some situations changing the clock source can not be avoided. Example: An ADAT recorder is connected to the ADAT input (ADAT immediately becomes the AutoSync source) and a CD player is connected to the AES input. Try recording a few samples from the CD and you will be disappointed - few CD players can be synchronized. The samples will inevitably be corrupted, because the signal from the CD player is read with the clock from the ADAT. In this case the Clock Source should be temporarily set to ADAT 2 (SPDIF).



Input Status		
Word Clock	No Lock	
AES	No Lock	
ADAT 1	Sync	48 kHz
SPDIF 2	Lock	44.1 kHz

RME's exclusive **SyncCheck** technology (first implemented in the Hammerfall) enables an easy to use check and display of the current clock status. *SyncCheck* indicates whether there is a valid signal (Lock, No Lock) for each input (Word Clock, ADAT, AES), or if there is a valid *and* synchronous signal (Sync). In the field *Clock Mode* the clock reference is shown. See chapter 38.1.

In practice, SyncCheck provides the user with an easy way of checking whether all digital devices connected to the system are properly configured. With SyncCheck, finally anyone can master this common source of error, previously one of the most complex issues in the digital studio world.

15. Mac OS X FAQ

15.1 MIDI doesn't work

In some cases the applications do not show the MIDI port. The reason for this is usually visible within the **Audio MIDI Setup**. It displays no RME MIDI device, or the device is greyed out and therefore inactive. Mostly, removing the greyed out device and searching for MIDI devices again will solve the problem.

The Fireface 802 is class compliant. Therefore it comes without a MIDI driver. OS X recognizes it as MIDI device and will be using it with the driver included in the operating system.

15.2 Repairing Disk Permissions

Repairing permission can solve problems with the installation process - plus many others. To do this, launch **Disk Utility** located in **Utilities**. Select your system drive in the drive/volume list to the left. The **First Aid** tab to the right now allows you to check and repair disk permissions.

15.3 Supported Sample Rates

RME's Mac OS X driver supports all sampling frequencies provided by the hardware. This includes **32 kHz** and **64 kHz**, and even **128 kHz**, **176.4 kHz** and **192 kHz**.

But not any software will support all the hardware's sample rates. The hardware's capabilities can easily be verified in the **Audio MIDI Setup**. Select **Audio devices** under **Properties of:** and choose the Fireface. A click on **Format** will list the supported sample frequencies.

15.4 Channel Count under Core Audio

At a sample rate of 88.2 or 96 kHz, the ADAT optical input and output operates in S/MUX mode, so the number of available channels is reduced from 8 to 4. At a sample rate of 176.4 and 192 kHz, the ADAT optical input and output operates in S/MUX4 mode, so the number of available channels is limited to 2.

It is not possible to change the number of Core Audio devices without a reboot of the computer. Therefore whenever the Fireface changes into Double Speed (88.2/96 kHz) or Quad Speed mode (176.4/192 kHz) all Core Audio channels stay present, but become partly inactive.

Single Speed	Double Speed	Quad Speed
Fireface Analog 1 to 12	Fireface Analog 1 to 12	Fireface Analog 1 to 12
Fireface AES L / R	Fireface AES L / R	Fireface AES L / R
Fireface ADAT 1 to 16	Fireface ADAT 1 to 8	Fireface ADAT 1 to 4

15.5 Various Information

The driver of the Fireface requires at least Mac OS 10.12.

Programs that don't support card or channel selection will use the device chosen as **Input** and **Output** in the **System Preferences – Sound** panel.

Via **Launchpad – Other – Audio MIDI Setup** the Fireface can be configured for the system wide usage in more detail.

Programs that don't support channel selection will always use channels 1/2, the first stereo pair. To access other inputs, use the following workaround with TotalMix: route the desired input signal to output channels 1/2. In the channel settings of outputs 1/2 activate *Loopback*. Result: the desired input signal is now available at input channel 1/2, without further delay/latency.

Use **Configure Speakers** to freely configure the stereo or multichannel playback to any available channels.

16. Using more than one Fireface

OS X supports the usage of more than one audio device within an audio software. This is done via the Core Audio function **Aggregate Devices**, which allows to combine several devices into one.

The current driver supports up to three Fireface 802. All units have to be in sync, i.e. have to receive valid sync information either via word clock or by feeding synchronized signals.

- If one of the Firefaces is set to clock mode Master, all others have to be set to clock mode Slave, and have to be synced from the master, for example by feeding word clock. The clock modes of all units have to be set up correctly in the Fireface Settings dialog.
- If all units are fed with a synchronous clock, i.e. all units show *Sync* in their Settings dialog, all channels can be used at once.

Note: TotalMix is part of the Fireface hardware. Up to three mixers are available, but these are separated and can't interchange data. Therefore a global mixer for all units is not possible.

In real-world an operation of more than one Fireface 802 might be difficult. Each further unit will lead to problems on the USB bus, caused by the high number of channels. It makes more sense to connect external converters to the ADAT I/Os of the 802, adding up to 16 channels of analog record and analog playback.

17. DIGICheck NG Mac

The DigiCheck software is a unique utility developed for testing, measuring and analysing digital audio streams. Although this software is fairly self-explanatory, it still includes a comprehensive online help. DigiCheck NG v0.93 operates in parallel to any software. Using the DriverKit driver it can visualize both input and playback data. The Kernel Extension driver supports read out of the input data. DigiCheck NG is freely scalable, and with its multi-instrument windows very flexible in configuration.

The following is a short summary of the currently available functions:

- **Level Meter.** High precision 24-bit resolution, 2/8/30 channels. Application examples: Peak level measurement, RMS level measurement, over-detection, phase correlation measurement, dynamic range and signal-to-noise ratios, RMS to peak difference (loudness), long term peak measurement, input check. Oversampling mode for levels higher than 0 dBFS. Vertical and horizontal mode. Slow RMS and RLB weighting filter. Supports visualization according to the K-System.
- **Program Meters.** VU meters with multiple configuration options.
- **Spectral Analyser.** World wide unique 10-, 20- or 30-band display in analog bandpass filter technology. 192 kHz-capable!
- **Vector Audio Scope.** World wide unique Goniometer showing the typical afterglow of a oscilloscope-tube. Includes Correlation meter and level meter.
- **Totalyser.** Spectral Analyser, Level Meter and Vector Audio Scope in a single window.
- **Surround Audio Scope.** Professional Surround Level Meter with extended correlation analysis, ITU weighting and ITU summing meter.
- **ITU1770/EBU R128 Meter.** For standardized loudness measurements.
- **Bit Statistics & Noise.** Shows the true resolution of audio signals as well as errors and DC offset. Includes Signal to Noise measurement in dB and dBA, plus DC measurement.
- **Frequency Measurement.** Finds frequencies within an audio signal.
- **Oscilloscope.** Professional Digital Storage Oscilloscope with up to 8 channels.
- **Spectroscopy.** Outstanding spectral analysis in re-assignment technology, with numerous display options.
- **Completely multi-client.** Open as many measurement windows as you like, on any channels and inputs or outputs!

DIGICheck is constantly updated. The latest version is always available on RME's website www.rme-audio.com, section **Downloads / Software**.

18. Hotline – Troubleshooting

The newest information can always be found on our website www.rme-audio.com, section FAQ, latest Additions.

The unit and drivers have been installed correctly, but playback does not work:

- Is Fireface 802 listed in the System Profiler? (Vendor ID 2613).
- Has Fireface been selected as current playback device in the audio application?

The 8 ADAT channels don't seem to work

- The optical output ADAT2 has been switched to 'AES'. As can be seen in the block diagram, chapter 39.1, all channels and their assignments still exist, but the optical transmitter has been disconnected from ADAT2 and is now fed from the AES output (channels 13/14). The ADAT2 playback devices are still usable by routing and mixing them in TotalMix to other outputs.

Playback works, but record doesn't:

- Check that there is a valid signal at the input. If so, the current sample frequency is displayed in the Settings dialog.
- Check whether the Fireface 802 has been selected as recording device in the audio application.
- Check whether the sample frequency set in the audio application ('Recording properties' or similar) matches the input signal.
- Check that cables/devices have not been connected in a closed loop. If so, set the system's clock mode to 'Master'.

Crackle during record or playback:

- Increase the number and size of buffers in the application.
- Try different cables (coaxial or optical) to rule out any defects here.
- Check that cables/devices have not been connected in a closed loop. If so, set the system's clock mode to 'Master'.
- Check the Settings dialog for displayed Errors.

Possible causes for a Fireface not working

- The USB cable is not, or not correctly inserted into the socket

Driver installation and Settings dialog/TotalMix work, but a playback or record is not possible

- While recognition and control of the device are low bandwidth applications, playback/record needs the full USB transmission performance. Therefore, defective USB cables with limited transmission bandwidth can cause such an error scheme.

User's Guide



Fireface 802 FS

► Inputs and Outputs

19. Analog Inputs

19.1 Line Rear

The Fireface has eight balanced Line inputs as 1/4" TRS jacks on the back of the unit. The electronic input stage is built in a servo balanced design which handles unbalanced (mono jacks) and balanced (stereo jacks) correctly, automatically adjusting the level reference.

! *When using unbalanced cables with TRS jacks: be sure to connect the 'ring' contact of the TRS jack to ground. Otherwise noise may occur, caused by the unconnected negative input of the balanced input.*

One of the main issues when working with an AD-converter is to maintain the full dynamic range within the best operating level. Therefore the Fireface 802 FSI internally uses hi-quality electronic switches, which allow for a perfect adaptation of all rear inputs individually to the most often used studio levels. The Fireface 802 FS provides +13 dBu and +19 dBu with 12 dB of variable gain.:

Reference	0 dBFS @	Headroom	Gain
Lo Gain	+19 dBu	15 dB	0 dB
+4 dBu	+13 dBu	9 dB	0 dB
-10 dBV	+2 dBV	12 dB	+4 dBu with 8.5 dB

The above levels are also found in all other RME devices. Therefore they are fully compatible to each other. A reference level of -10 dBV can be set by using +4 dBu and adding 9 dB of gain with the Gain knob in the TotalMix FX channel settings.

19.2 Microphone / Line / Inst Front

The four servo-balanced microphone inputs of the Fireface 802 use XLR/TRS combo jacks. A two colour LED displays present signal (green, from -46 dBFS) and warns against overload (red, 0 dBFS).

XLR

The gain range of the XLR inputs is 54 dB, adjustable from +6 dB to +60 dB. This equals a sensitivity from +10 dBu down to -44 dBu, referenced to full scale of the AD-converter. The soft switching, hi-current Phantom power (48 Volt), switchable per channel, provides a professional handling of condenser mics. The usage of a hi-end integrated circuit (That 1510) guarantees outstanding sound quality, lowest THD, and maximum Signal to Noise ratio in any gain setting. Up to a level of +10 dBu, the front XLR input can also be used as Line input.

TS

The unbalanced TS Line inputs, which can be used alternatively, add even greater flexibility to the Fireface 802. With 800 kOhm input impedance (Hi-Z), TS jack and adjustable input gain over a range of 54 dB the front-side inputs can be used perfectly with keyboards, sampler, CD player, guitars and much more. These inputs handle levels from -33 dBu up to +21 dBu, turning them into full level Line inputs. Thus the unit can also be used as Line gain amplifier.

The TS jacks are free of phantom power.

20. Analog Outputs

20.1 Line

The short circuit protected, low impedance line outputs of channels 1 to 8 are available as 1/4" TRS jacks on the back of the unit. The electronic output stage is built in a servo balanced design which handles unbalanced (mono jacks) and balanced (stereo jacks) correctly.

To maintain an optimum level for devices connected to the analog outputs, the Fireface 802 internally uses hi-quality electronic switches, which allow for a perfect adaptation of all outputs to the three most often used studio levels.

As with the analog inputs, the analog output levels are defined to maintain a problem-free operation with most other devices. The headroom of the Fireface 802 lies between 9 and 15 dB, according to the chosen reference level:

Reference	0 dBFS @	Headroom
Hi Gain	+19 dBu	15 dB
+4 dBu	+13 dBu	9 dB
-10 dBV	+2 dBV	12 dB

The above levels are also found in all other RME devices. Therefore they are fully compatible to each other.

20.2 Headphones / Line Out

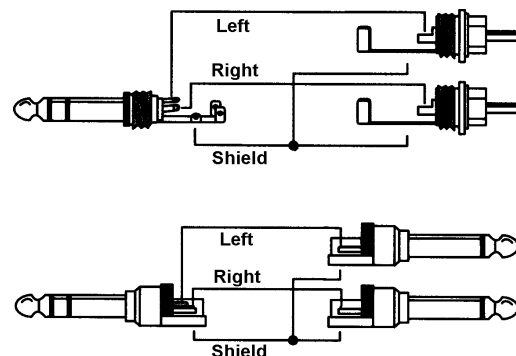
Channels 9 to 12 of the Fireface are available on the front as 1/4" TRS jacks. These channels use the same converters as the other Line outputs, therefore offer the same technical data (118 dBA SNR).

The output level is changed step-less via a VOL pot. The outputs are special low impedance types, ready to be used with headphones. But they can also be used as high-quality (yet unbalanced) Line outputs.

Setting the output level, i.e. the monitoring volume, is done – besides the VOL pot - via TotalMix (Hardware Output, PH 9/10 and PH 11/12).

In case the output should operate as line output, an adapter TRS plug to RCA phono plugs, or TRS plug to TS plugs is required.

The pin assignment follows international standards. The left channel is connected to the tip, the right channel to the ring of the TRS jack/plug.



20.3 DC-coupled Outputs (CV/Gate)

Except for the headphone outputs all 8 line outputs of the 802 FS are DC-coupled. AC coupling via capacitor is common, both directly after the DAC chip and directly at the output socket. This prevents a fixed DC component at the output, which could cause negative effects such as popping noise or malfunctions in other devices that are also DC-coupled. However, it also serves as protection against dangerous DC from the outside.

DC coupling has the obvious advantage of allowing the output to operate level-linearly down to 0 Hz. Even at extremely low bass (16 Hz) phase shifts are avoided. DC-coupled inputs are rare, especially for power amplifiers, so a possible DC offset of a playback normally does not cause serious issues.

In order to realize the outputs stable and reliable (robust) as DC-coupled, the circuitry was designed for low DC-offsets and sufficient overvoltage protection. That this works has been proven for years, not only by RME's ADI series.

To be able to generate DC is quite useful in measurement technology, also in connection with audio. However, DC coupling is especially desirable in combination with analog, electronic sound generators (synthesizers). These have an input that can control the pitch as well as other functions via a DC voltage. Control Voltage, short CV, often also CV/Gate (gate determines tone on or off), CV Filter etc. is mostly based on the voltage range 0 to +5 Volt. If an audio interface can output such DC voltages then synthesizers can be controlled via suitable software and the analog outputs of the audio interface.

The DA converters and analog output stages used in the 802 FS have a very low DC drift and generate the DC voltages very reliably and reproducibly, so they are very well suited for this application.

Polarity - Phase

Since the outputs (of course) have a correct polarity, and TotalMix fully supports DC (via fader and level meter), a positive voltage appears at the analog output when a digital positive DC is played. The amount of voltage can be measured accurately and directly with any cheap multimeter.

- ! *Negative output voltages should be avoided, because they could theoretically lead to defects in the CV input. Even if the software used generates only positive signals, a simple phase inversion in TotalMix can invert the signal so that a negative voltage is sent out.*

Voltage Ranges

Line Out 1-8, unbalanced (mono jack), unloaded:

+19 dBu: +9.5 V, +13 dBu: +4.75 V, +4 dBu: +1.7 V

Note: The level meters in TotalMix show DC 3 dB higher due to its factory default setting. This can be changed by disabling the *Settings - Level Meters - RMS +3 dB* option in TotalMix FX.

21. Digital Connections

21.1 ADAT (SPDIF optical)

The ADAT optical inputs of the Fireface 802 FS are fully compatible with all ADAT optical outputs. RME's unsurpassed Bitclock PLL prevents clicks and drop outs even in extreme varipitch operation, and guarantees a fast and low jitter lock to the digital input signal. A usual TOSLINK cable is sufficient for connection.

ADAT1 In

Interface for the first or only device sending an ADAT signal to the Fireface 802. Carries the channels 1 to 8. When receiving a Double Speed signal, this input carries the channels 1 to 4, at Quad Speed the channels 1 and 2. Automatically recognizes 2-channel input signals in SPDIF format.

ADAT2 In

Interface for the second device sending an ADAT signal to the Fireface 802. Carries the channels 9 to 16. When receiving a Double Speed signal, this input carries the channels 5 to 8, at Quad Speed* the channels 3 and 4. Automatically recognizes 2-channel input signals in SPDIF format.

ADAT1 Out

Interface for the first or only device receiving an ADAT signal from the Fireface 802. Transmits channels 1 to 8. When sending a Double Speed signal, this port carries channels 1 to 4, at Quad Speed the channels 1 and 2. Can optionally be used as SPDIF optical output.

ADAT2 Out

Interface for the second device receiving an ADAT signal from the Fireface 802. Transmits channels 9 to 16. When sending a Double Speed signal, this port carries channels 5 to 8, at Quad Speed* the channels 3 and 4. Can optionally be used as SPDIF optical output.

* With Windows USB, at 192 kHz the Fireface 802's total number of input channels is limited to 16. Therefore ADAT 3/4 is unfortunately not available at 176.4 kHz and 192 kHz, even if SPDIF is fed to ADAT2.

21.2 AES

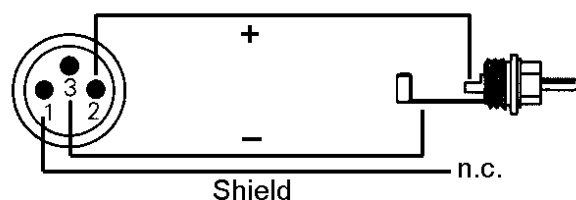
The Fireface 802 provides one XLR AES/EBU input and output each. Connection is accomplished using balanced cables with XLR plugs. Input and Output are transformer-balanced and ground-free. The incoming channel status is ignored.

AES/EBU (and SPDIF) can contain Emphasis information. Audio signals with Emphasis have a strong high frequency boost, requiring high frequency attenuation on playback.

! *An Emphasis indication gets lost as there exists no standardized interface on computers to handle this information!*

Input

Thanks to a highly sensitive input stage SPDIF coaxial can be fed too by using a simple cable adapter phono/XLR. To achieve this, pins 2 and 3 of a male XLR plug are connected individually to the two pins of a phono plug. The cable shielding is only connected to pin 1 of the XLR - not to the phono plug.



Output

Using the cable adapter XLR/phono described above, devices with coaxial SPDIF interface can be connected to the AES output of the Fireface 802 as well. Note that most consumer equipment with phono (SPDIF) inputs will only accept signals having a Channel Status 'Consumer' format. The Consumer status is activated in the Settings dialog of the Fireface 802. In Consumer mode the output voltage is reduced as well, as SPDIF calls for a lower voltage than AES/EBU.

The output signal coding of the Fireface 802 has been implemented according to AES3-1992 Amendment 4:

- 32 / 44.1 / 48 kHz, 64 / 88.2 / 96 kHz, 176.4 / 192 kHz depending on the current sample rate
- Audio use
- No Copyright, Copy permitted
- Format Professional or Consumer
- Category General, Generation not indicated
- 2-Channel, No Emphasis
- Aux Bits Audio use, 24 Bit
- Origin: RME

21.3 MIDI

Fireface 802 has a MIDI I/O via four 5-pin DIN sockets. The MIDI ports are added to the system by the driver. Using MIDI capable software, these ports can be accessed under the name *Fireface MIDI*. Using more than one Fireface, the operating system adds a consecutive number to the port name, like *Fireface MIDI (2)* etc.

The MIDI ports support multi-client operation. A MIDI input signal can be received from several programs at the same time. Even the MIDI output can be used by multiple programs simultaneously. However, due to the limited bandwidth of MIDI, this kind of application will often show various problems.

Note: The MIDI input LEDs display any kind of MIDI activity, including MIDI Clock, MTC and Active Sensing. The latter is sent by most keyboards every 0.3 seconds.

22. Word Clock

22.1 Word Clock Input and Output

SteadyClock guarantees an excellent performance in all clock modes. Based on the highly efficient jitter suppression, the Fireface refreshes and cleans up any clock signal, and provides it as reference clock at the BNC output (see section 38.7).

Input

The Fireface's word clock input is active when *Pref. Sync Ref* in the Settings dialog has been switched to *Word Clock*, the clock mode *AutoSync* has been activated, and a valid word clock signal is present. The signal at the BNC input can be Single, Double or Quad Speed, the Fireface 802 automatically adapts to it. As soon as a valid signal is detected, the WC LED is lit, and the Settings dialog shows either Lock or Sync (see chapter 38.1).

Thanks to RME's *Signal Adaptation Circuit*, the word clock input still works correctly even with heavily mis-shaped, dc-prone, too small or overshoot-prone signals. Thanks to automatic signal centering, 300 mV (0.3V) input level is sufficient in principle. An additional hysteresis reduces sensitivity to 1.0 V, so that over- and undershoots and high frequency disturbances don't cause a wrong trigger.

The Fireface's word clock input is shipped as high impedance type (not terminated). A push switch allows for internal termination (75 Ohms). The switch is found on the back beside the word clock input socket. Use a small pencil or similar and carefully push the blue switch so that it snaps into its lock position. The yellow LED will be lit when termination is active. Another push will release it again and de-activate the termination.

Output

The word clock output of the Fireface is constantly active, providing the current sample frequency as word clock signal. As a result, in Master mode the provided word clock is defined by the currently used software. In Slave mode the provided frequency is identical to the one present at the currently chosen clock input. When the current clock signal fails, the Fireface 802 switches to Master mode and adjusts itself to the next, best matching frequency (44.1 kHz, 48 kHz etc.).



Selecting *Single Speed* in the Settings dialog causes the output signal to always stay within the range of 32 kHz to 48 kHz. So at 96 kHz and 192 kHz sample rate, the output word clock is 48 kHz.

The received word clock signal can be distributed to other devices by using the word clock output. With this the usual T-adaptor can be avoided, and the Fireface 802 operates as *Signal Refresher*. This kind of operation is highly recommended, because

- input and output are phase-locked and in phase (0°) to each other
- *SteadyClock* removes nearly all jitter from the input signal
- the exceptional input (1 Vpp sensitivity instead of the usual 2.5 Vpp, dc cut, *Signal Adaptation Circuit*) plus *SteadyClock* guarantee a secure function even with highly critical word clock signals

Thanks to a low impedance, but short circuit proof output, the Fireface delivers 4 Vpp to 75 Ohms. For wrong termination with 2 x 75 Ohms (37.5 Ohms), there are still 3.3 Vpp at the output.

22.2 Technical Description and Usage

In the analog domain one can connect any device to another device, a synchronization is not necessary. Digital audio is different. It uses a clock, the sample frequency. The signal can only be processed and transmitted when all participating devices share the same clock. If not, the signal will suffer from wrong samples, distortion, crackle sounds and drop outs.

AES/EBU, SPDIF and ADAT are self-clocking, an additional word clock connection in principle isn't necessary. But when using more than one device simultaneously problems are likely to happen. For example any self-clocking will not work in a loop cabling, when there is no 'master' (main clock) inside the loop. Additionally the clock of all participating devices has to be synchronous. This is often impossible with devices limited to playback, for example CD players, as these have no SPDIF input, thus can't use the self clocking technique as clock reference.

In a digital studio synchronisation is maintained by connecting all devices to a central sync source. For example the mixing desk works as master and sends a reference signal, the word clock, to all other devices. Of course this will only work as long as all other devices are equipped with a word clock or sync input, thus being able to work as slave (some professional CD players indeed have a word clock input). Then all devices get the same clock and will work in every possible combination with each other.



A digital system can only have one master! If the Fireface's clock mode is set to 'Master', all other devices must be set to 'Slave'.

But word clock is not only the 'great problem solver', it also has some disadvantages. The word clock is based on a fraction of the really needed clock. For example SPDIF: 44.1 kHz word clock (a simple square wave signal) has to be multiplied by 256 inside the device using a special PLL (to about 11.2 MHz). This signal then replaces the one from the quartz crystal. Big disadvantage: because of the high multiplication factor the reconstructed clock will have great deviations called jitter. The jitter of a word clock is typically 15 times higher as when using a quartz based clock.

The end of these problems is offered by the **SteadyClock** technology of the Fireface 802. Combining the advantages of modern and fastest digital technology with analog filter techniques, regaining a low jitter clock signal of 22 MHz from a slow word clock of 44.1 kHz is no problem anymore. Additionally, jitter on the input signal is highly rejected, so that even in real world usage the re-gained clock signal is of highest quality.

22.3 Cabling and Termination

Word clock signals are usually distributed in the form of a network, split with BNC T-adapters and terminated with resistors. We recommend using off-the-shelf BNC cables to connect all devices, as this type of cable is used for most computer networks. You will find all the necessary components (T-adapters, terminators, cables) in most electronics and/or computer stores. The latter usually carries 50 Ohms components. The 75 Ohms components used for word clock are part of video technology (RG59).

Ideally, the word clock signal is a 5 Volt square wave with the frequency of the sample rate, of which the harmonics go up to far above 500 kHz. To avoid voltage loss and reflections, both the cable itself and the terminating resistor at the end of the chain should have an impedance of 75 Ohm. If the voltage is too low, synchronization will fail. High frequency reflection effects can cause both jitter and sync failure.

Unfortunately there are still devices on the market supplied with a word clock output that can only be called unsatisfactory. If the output breaks down to 3 Volts when terminating with 75 Ohms, you have to take into account that a device, of which the input only works from 2.8 Volts and above, does not function correctly already after 3 meter cable length. So it is not astonishing that because of the higher voltage, word clock networks are in some cases more stable and reliable if cables are not terminated at all.

Ideally all outputs of word clock delivering devices are designed as low impedance types, but all word clock inputs as high impedance types, in order to not weaken the signal on the chain. But there are also devices where the 75 Ohms are built-in and cannot be switched off. In this case the network load is often 2 x 75 Ohms, and the user is forced to buy a special word clock distributor (such a device is generally recommended for bigger studios).

Therefore it seems of advantage to design outputs of word clock as low impedance types, but all word clock inputs as high impedance types, in order to not weaken the signal on the chain.

The Fireface's word clock input can be high-impedance or terminated internally, ensuring maximum flexibility. If termination is necessary (e.g. because the Fireface is the last device in the chain), check the option *Word Clock In Term.* in the Settings dialog (see chapter 22.1).

In case the Fireface 802 resides within a chain of devices receiving word clock, plug a T-adapter into its BNC input jack, and the cable supplying the word clock signal to one end of the adapter. Connect the free end to the next device in the chain via a further BNC cable. The last device in the chain should be terminated using another T-adapter and a 75 Ohm resistor (available as short BNC plug). Of course devices with internal termination do not need T-adaptor and terminator plug.

! *Due to the outstanding SteadyClock technology of the Fireface 802, it is recommended not to pass the input signal via T-adapter, but to use the Fireface's word clock output instead. Thanks to SteadyClock, the input signal will both be freed from jitter and - in case of loss or drop out – be reset to a valid frequency.*

22.4 Operation

The green Lock LED on the front (STATE) will light up as soon as a word clock signal is detected. To change to word clock as clock source, activate there Clock Source Word in the field Clock Mode within the Settings dialog. The status display *Current* changes to *Word* as soon as a valid signal is present at the BNC jack. This message has the same meaning as the green state LED, but appears on the monitor, i.e. the user can check immediately whether a valid word clock signal is present and is currently being used.

User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

▶ Stand-Alone Operation

23. Operation and Usage

23.1 General

The Fireface 802 FS has internal memory for the permanent storage of six different states of the unit, which can be recalled via the optional ARC USB (Advanced Remote Control USB). This way the Fireface 802 FS is able to operate without any connected computer. In stand-alone operation it can transform into totally different devices by the simple click of a button. Furthermore TotalMix, and with this the application examples shown below, can also be controlled via MIDI, see chapter 28.6, *Stand-Alone MIDI Control*.

23.2 Settings at the Unit

The front panel operation is identical to the one under Windows and OS X. It is limited to the direct access on Gains and Volume, and the functions enabled by the ARC*.

The front panel operation corresponds to that under Windows and Mac. It is limited to gains and volume due to the lack of further controls. Additional functions are enabled by the optional ARC USB, connected to the remote port on the back. Additionally it has to be activated for stand-alone use, which is done online in TotalMix FX (Options, Enable Stand Alone ARC USB).

In stand-alone mode the ARC USB has a fixed setup with the following functions:

Encoder	controls Main Out Volume
VOL PH1	Encoder controls volume of Phones 1* output
VOL PH2	Encoder controls volume of output Phones 2*.

* The maximum volume is determined by the position of the potentiometer on the front panel.

DIM	DIM for Main Out
DIM	Press longer for function Recall of Main Out

The following functions require the key to be held down for 1 second (safety function against unintentional operation):

Snap 1-6	loads the setups 1 to 6 stored in the device
7	loads the 1:1 routing mode (All Channel) for the CC mode
8	loads the Phones Mix mode for CC mode
9	loads a default AD/DA configuration**

** Button 9 also resets all FX, including channel EQs etc.

23.3 Storing Setups from the Computer

Setups can be loaded from the computer into the interface. In TotalMix FX use *Options / Store current state into device* to select the desired storage place (Setup) within the unit. Loading the Setups in stand-alone mode is done with the optional Advanced Remote Control* (ARC) or the corresponding MIDI notes.

24. Examples

24.1 12-Channel AD/DA-Converter

With TotalMix you can quickly set up a routing of all analog inputs to the ADAT outputs, as well as a routing of the ADAT inputs to the analog outputs. This turns the Fireface 802 into a high-quality 12-channel AD/DA converter, which also provides monitoring of all DA channels on one of the phones, if desired. Of course, monitoring (mixdown) of all or specific I/Os is also possible via the AES output.

It's easy to build the setup. For a clean start perform a *Total Reset* from the Options menu. Then select the ADAT Output 1/2 in the third row, and pull up the faders of the Analog input 1/2 in the first row. Then select ADAT 3/4, pull up Analog 3/4 and so on until all 12 analog inputs are routed to the corresponding 12 (8+4) ADAT channels. Now do the same for the analog outputs, route all ADAT inputs to these one after the other. A monitoring of all or selected I/Os can be easily set up for the AES output, or as analog mixdown on one of the phones outputs.

24.2 4-Channel Mic Preamp

Use TotalMix to route the four microphone inputs directly to the analog outputs. This turns the Fireface 802 into a 4-channel microphone preamp. The AD- and DA-conversion will cause a small delay of the signals of around 0.1 ms (at 192 kHz, see chapter 38.2). But this is nothing to worry about, as it is the same delay that would be caused by changing the microphone's position by about 3.3 centimeter (1.5 inches).

24.3 Monitor Mixer

TotalMix allows ANY configuration of all I/Os of the Fireface. For example, set up the device as monitor mixer for 12 analog signals, 16 digital via ADAT and 2 via AES. Additionally, TotalMix lets you set up ANY submixes, so all existing outputs can be used for different and independent monitorings of the input signals. The perfect headphone monitor mixer!

24.4 Digital Format Converter

As TotalMix allows for any routing of the input signals, the Fireface 802 can be used as ADAT to AES converter, ADAT to two ADAT splitter, and AES to ADAT converter.

24.5 Analog / Digital Routing Matrix

The Matrix in TotalMix enables you to route and link all inputs and outputs completely freely. All the above functionalities are even available simultaneously, can be mixed and combined in many ways. Simply said: the Fireface 802 is a perfect analog/digital routing matrix!

User's Guide



Fireface 802 FS

► TotalMix FX

25. TotalMix: Routing and Monitoring

25.1 Overview

The Fireface 802 includes a powerful digital real-time mixer, the *Fireface 802 mixer*, based on RME's unique, sample-rate independent **TotalMix** technology. It allows for practically unlimited mixing and routing operations, with all inputs and playback channels simultaneously, to any hardware outputs. **TotalMix FX** adds 3-band parametric Equalizer, Low Cut, Echo, Reverb, Compressor, Expander and Auto Level.

Here are some typical applications for TotalMix:

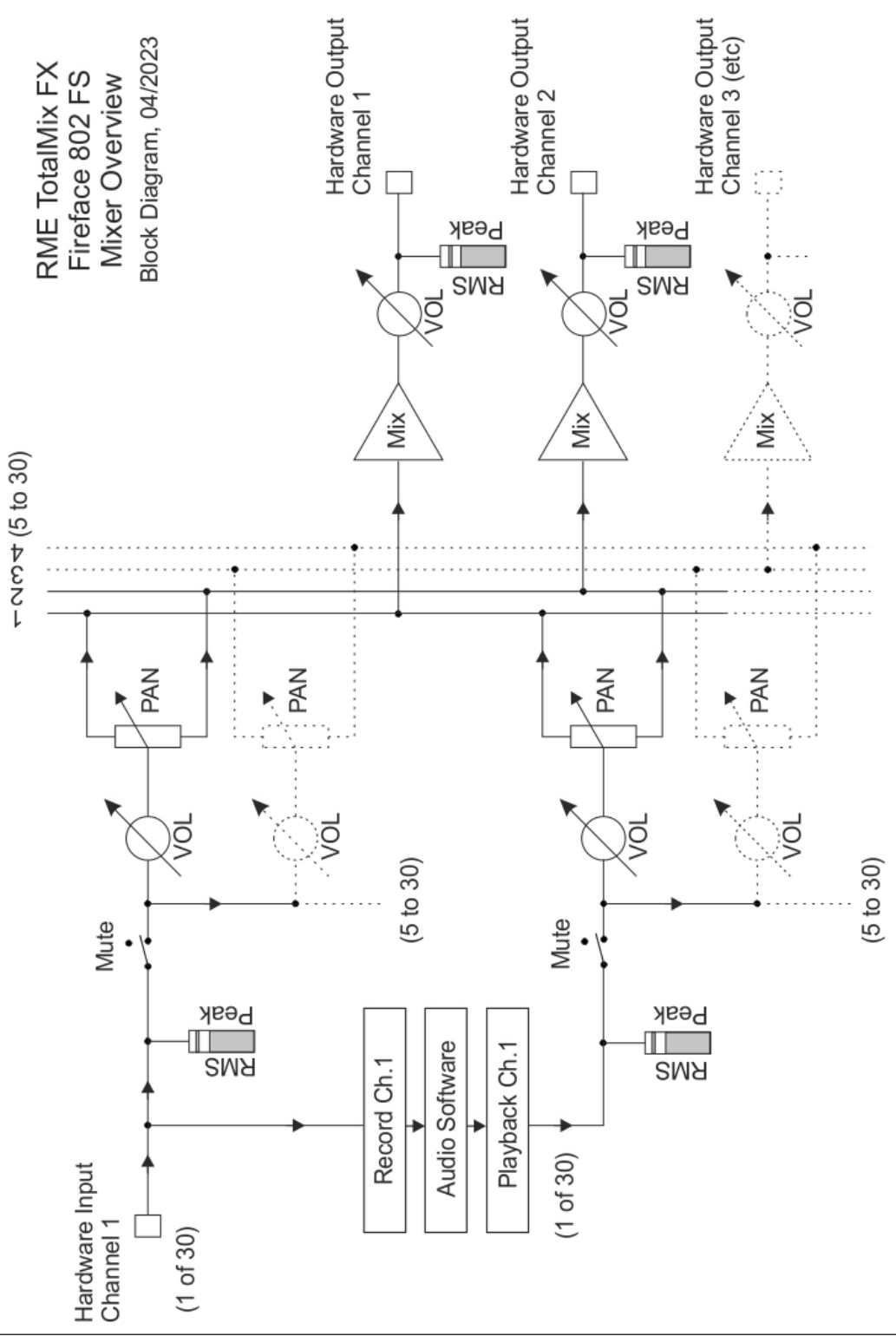
- Setting up delay-free submixes (headphone mixes). The Fireface 802 allows for up to 15 fully independent stereo submixes. On an analog mixing desk, this would equal 30 Aux sends.
- Unlimited routing of inputs and outputs (free utilisation, patchbay functionality).
- Distributing signals to several outputs simultaneously. TotalMix offers state-of-the-art splitter and distributor functions.
- Simultaneous playback of different programs via a single stereo output. The ASIO multi-client driver supports the usage of several programs at the same time. If this happens on different playback channels TotalMix provides the means to mix and monitor these on a single stereo output.
- Mixing of the input signal to the playback signal (complete ASIO Direct Monitoring). RME is not only *the* pioneer of ADM, but also offers the most complete implementation of the ADM functions.
- Integration of external devices. Use TotalMix to insert external effects devices, be it in the playback or in the record path. Depending on the current application, the functionality equals insert or effects send and effects return, for example as used during real-time monitoring when adding some reverb to the vocals.

Every single input channel, playback channel and hardware output features a Peak and RMS level meter, calculated in hardware. These level displays are very useful to determine the presence and routing destinations of the audio signals.

For a better understanding of the TotalMix mixer you should know the following:

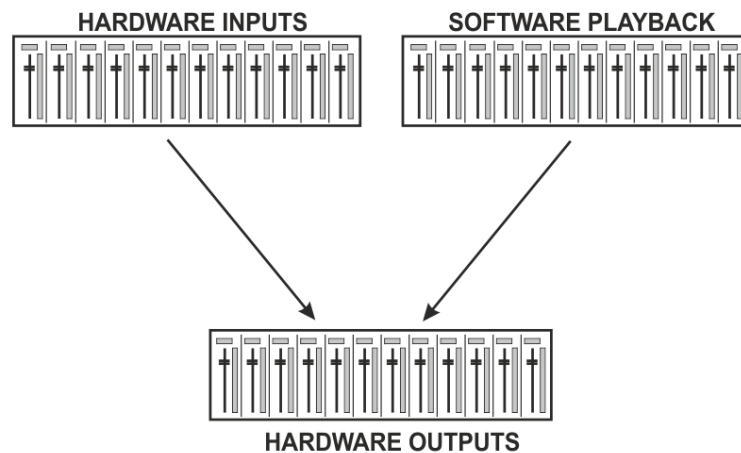
- As shown in the block diagram (next page), the record signal usually stays un-altered. TotalMix does not reside within the record path, and does not change the record level or the audio data to be recorded (exceptions: *EQ+D for Record* and *Loopback* mode).
- The hardware input signal can be passed on as often as desired, even with different levels. This is a big difference to conventional mixing desks, where the channel fader always controls the level for all routing destinations simultaneously.
- The level meters of input and playback channels are connected pre-fader, to be able to visually monitor where a signal is currently present. The level meters of the hardware outputs are connected post-fader, thus displaying the actual output level.

RME TotalMix FX
 Fireface 802 FS
 Mixer Overview
 Block Diagram, 04/2023



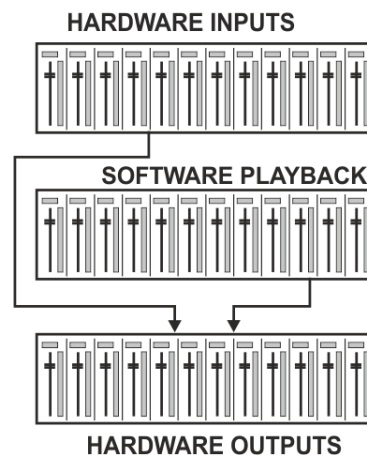
25.2 The User Interface

The visual design of the TotalMix mixer is a result of its capability to route hardware inputs and software playback channels to any hardware output. The Fireface 802 has 30 input channels, 30 software playback channels, and 30 hardware output channels:



TotalMix can be used in the above view (View Options **2 Rows**). However, the default is a vertical alignment in three rows as known from an Inline desk, so that the row *Software Playback* equals the *Tape Return* of a real mixing desk:

- Top row: Hardware inputs. The level shown is that of the input signal, i.e. fader independent. Via fader and routing menu, any input channel can be routed and mixed to any hardware output (bottom row).
- Middle row: Playback channels (playback tracks of the audio software). Via fader and routing menu, any playback channel can be routed and mixed to any hardware output (bottom row).
- Bottom row: Hardware outputs. Here, the total level of the output can be adjusted. This may be the level of connected loudspeakers, or the level of any submix.



Usage in mode Submix View (Default)

If you click with the mouse on the hardware output at which a signal is to appear, it is displayed brighter and is selected as the current submix. Now pull up the faders of all sources - inputs and playback channels in the first and second row - that are to appear at this submix output. The audio signals from inputs (monitoring) as well as playback (DAW software) now appear at exactly this output, which can be verified at any time thanks to the level meters.

The following chapters explain step by step all functions of the user interface.

25.3 The Channels

A single channel can be switched between mono and stereo mode. The mode is set in the channel settings.

Channel name. The name field is the preferred place to select a channel by a mouse click. A double click opens a dialog to assign a different name. The original name will be shown when activating the option *Names* in the View Options.

Panorama. Routes the input signal freely to the left and right routing destination (lower label, see below). The level reduction in center position is -3 dB.

Mute and Solo. Input channels and playback channels each have a mute and solo button.

Numerical level display. Shows the current RMS or Peak level, updated twice per second. OVR means overload. The setting Peak/RMS is changed in the View Options.

Level meter. The meter shows both peak values (zero attack, 1 sample is enough for a full scale display) by means of a yellow line, and mathematically correct RMS values by means of a green bar. The RMS display has a relatively slow time constant, so that it shows the average loudness quite well. Overs are shown in red at the top of the bar. In the Preferences dialog (F2) the Peak Hold time, the over detection and the RMS reference can be set.



Fader. Determines the gain/level of the signal routed to the current routing destination (lower label). Please note that this fader is not *the* fader of the channel, but only the fader of the current routing. Compared to a standard mixing desk TotalMix does not have a channel fader, but only Aux Sends, as many as there are hardware outputs. Therefore TotalMix can create as many different Submixes as there are hardware outputs. This concept is understood best in the Submix View, but more on that later.

Below the fader the **Gain** is shown in a numerical display field, according to the current fader position. The fader can be:

- dragged with the left mouse button pressed
- moved by the mouse wheel
- set to 0 dB and $-\infty$ by a double click. The same happens with a single click plus held down Ctrl key.
- adjusted in fine mode by mouse drag and mouse wheel when holding the Shift key down

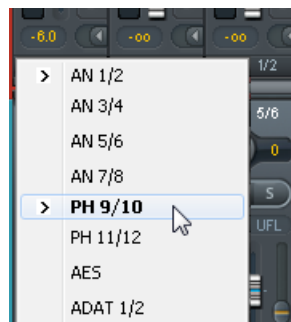
A Shift-click on a fader adds the fader to the **temporary fader group**. All faders now marked yellow are ganged, and move simultaneously in a relative way. The temporary fader group is deleted by a click on the F symbol in the upper right of the window.



The **arrow symbol** at the bottom minimizes the channel width to that of the level meters. Another click maximizes it again. A mouse click with held Ctrl key causes all channels to the right to enlarge and minimize at once.

The lowest field shows the current **routing target**. A mouse click opens the routing window to select a routing target. The list shows all activated routings of the current channel by arrows in front of the listed entries, the current one is shown in bold letters.

An arrow is only shown with an activated routing. A routing is seen as activated when audio data is sent. As long as the fader is set to $-\infty$ the current routing will be shown in bold letters, but not have an arrow in the front.



Trim Gain. After a click on the **T**-button one channel's faders are all synchronized. Instead of changing only a single routing the fader affects all the channel's active routings. For a better overview the faders currently not visible are indicated by orange triangles beside the fader path. When moving the fader the triangles also move to a new position, equalling the faders new settings.

Note that the fader button is set to the highest routing gain of all routings so that best control is offered. The gain (fader knob position) of the currently active routing (the submix selected in the third row) is shown as white triangle.

Background: TotalMix has no fixed channel fader. In case of the Fireface 802 there are 15 stereo Aux sends, shown alternately as single fader within the channel strip. The high number of Aux sends enables multiple and fully independent routings.

In some cases it is necessary to synchronize the gain changes of these routings. An example is the Post fader function, where a change of the singer's volume shall be performed identical to the volume change of the signal sent to the reverb device, so that the reverb level keeps its relation to the original signal. Another example is the signal of a guitar that is routed to different submixes, means hardware outputs, which gets much too loud during the solo part, and therefore needs to be reduced in volume on all outputs simultaneously. After a click on the Trim button this can be done easily and with a perfect overview.

As all channel's routings change simultaneously when Trim is active, this mode basically causes the same behaviour as a trim pot within the input channel, affecting the signal already before the mixer. That's how this function got its name.

In the View Options / Show the function Trim Gains can be globally switched on and off for all channels. The global Trim mode is recommended when using TotalMix FX as live mixing desk.



The Context Menu. With a right click on the input, playback and output channels their context menus provide advanced functionality (these menus are also available in the Matrix, but only directly on the channel labels). The entries are self-explanatory and automatically adjust to where the click is performed. On all of these the first entry opens the *Channel Layout* dialog. The input channels offer *Clear*, *Copy input*, *paste the input mix* and *paste its FX*. On a playback channel *Copy*, *Paste* and *Clear the playback mix* are available. On an output channel *Copy* and *Mirror* functionality for the current submix and *copying* of the FX settings is offered.

25.3.1 Settings

A click on the tool symbol opens the channel's **Settings** panel with differing elements. For example the option **Inst** exists only in input channels 9-12, and the ADAT channels do not offer the phantom power option.

Stereo. Switches the channel to mono or stereo mode.

48V. Activates phantom power at the corresponding input. Serves as power supply for high quality condenser mics. This option should stay off with other sources to prevent failure by spikes.

Inst. Switches inputs 9 to 12 individually from XLR to the TS jack.

Gain. Sets the additional gain of 0 up to +12 dB for the eight rear inputs AN 1-8. The knob can be adjusted by dragging the mouse or by the mouse wheel. This also works when the mouse has been moved over the two gain displays. Then the gain can be changed separately for left and right channel, even when the channel is in stereo mode.

Level. Sets the reference level individually for the 8 rear Line inputs. The available settings are +4 dBu and LoGain.

Width. Defines the stereo width. 1.00 equals full stereo, 0.00 mono, -1.00 swapped channels.

FX Send. Setting the level of the signal sent to the FX bus which feeds Echo and Reverb. The current setting is also visible with closed channel settings, because knob and small fader are always synchronized. To make this function as useful as possible FX Send is locked to the highest submix, thus imitating the *Aux Post Fader* function of a standard mixing desk. When moving the big fader both knob and small fader will also move. This way the reverb signal will always have the same relation to the dry signal.

The level of the signal sent to the effects can be controlled by the *FX In* level meters of the FX window. It becomes visible after a click on FX in the View Options.

MS Proc. Activates M/S processing within the stereo channel. Monaural information is sent to the left channel, stereo information to the right.

Phase L. Inverts the phase of the left channel by 180°.

Phase R. Inverts the phase of the right channel by 180°.

Note: the functions Width, MS Proc, Phase L and Phase R affect all routings of the respective channel.



Besides Stereo/Mono, Phase L und Phase R the settings of the Hardware Outputs have further options:

Level. Sets the reference levels of the 8 analog Line outputs. The available settings are -10 dBV, +4 dBu and HiGain.

FX Return. The effect signal (Echo and Reverb) is mixed to the respective hardware output by the duo knob/small fader.

Crossfeed. Adjustable to 5 levels. Can be activated in a maximum of 6 stereo channels. Crossfeed uses the Bauer Binaural method for stereo loudspeaker simulation for headphones. This method, adopted from the ADI-2 series, creates a similar listening impression with headphones as with a normal loudspeaker setup.

Room EQ. Opens a window with 9-band Parametric Equalizer, Delay and Volume Calibration. See chapter 25.3.3.

Talkback. Activates this channel as receiver and output of the Talkback signal. This way Talkback can be sent to any outputs, not only the Phones in the Control Room section. Another application could be to send a certain signal to specific outputs by the push of a button.



No Trim. Sometimes channels need to have a fixed routing and level, which should not be changed in any case. An example is the stereo mixdown for recording of a live show. With *No Trim* active, the routing to this output channel is excluded from the Trim Gains function, therefore is not changed unintentionally.

Loopback. Sends the output data to the driver as record data. The corresponding submix can be recorded then. This channel's hardware input sends its data only to TotalMix, no longer to the recording software. In the input channel an orange dot indicates active loopback.



Another difference to the input and playback channels is the **Cue** button instead of Solo. A click on Cue sends the respective Hardware Output's audio to the **Main** Out, or any of the Phones outputs (option *Assign / Cue to* in the Control Room section). With this any hardware output can be controlled and listened to through the monitoring output very conveniently.

25.3.2 Equalizer

A click on EQ opens the 3-band parametric equalizer, PEQ. Available in all input and output channels it affects all the channel's routings (pre fader). The panel also includes a low cut which can be activated separately.

EQ. Activated by the EQ button.

Type. Band 1 and 3 can operate in Bell (peak), Shelving (shelf), High-Pass and Low-Pass mode. The middle band is fixed to Bell mode.

Gain. All three bands can change their amplification between +20 dB to -20 dB.

Freq. The filter's center frequency is adjustable between 20 Hz and 20 kHz. While in Bell mode the center frequency is adjusted, in shelving mode the cut-off point (-3 dB) will be changed.

Q. The Quality factor of the filter is adjustable from 0.4 (wide) to 9.9 (narrow).

Lo Cut. Activated by the button Lo Cut. The slope of the high-pass filter is adjustable between 6, 12, 18 and 24 dB per octave. The cut-off point (-3 dB) is adjustable between 20 Hz and 500 Hz.

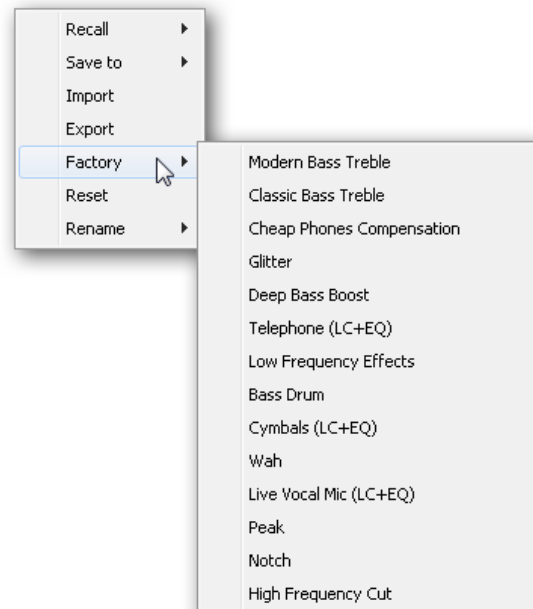
The frequency graphics give a precise overview of the filter results. Overlapping filters influence each other. This can be used to achieve more than 20 dB amplitude, or to generate difficult frequency response optimizations.

Note: TotalMix has a headroom of 24 dB. Extreme boosts with overlapping filters can therefore cause an internal overload. In any case such an overload is displayed by the Over LED of the channel's level meter.



Preset. Settings of the EQ and the Low Cut can be stored, loaded, and copied between channels at any time. A click on Preset opens a menu with several entries:

- **Recall:** Presets stored before by the user can be selected and loaded
- **Save to:** There are 16 storage places available (EQ Preset 1 to 16)
- **Import:** Loads a previously stored TM EQ file (.tmeq)
- **Export:** Stores the current state as TM EQ file (.tmeq)
- **Factory:** Includes 14 examples for the creative use of Low Cut and Equalizer
- **Reset:** Resets the Low Cut and EQ to have zero influence (Gain 0 dB)
- **Rename:** The EQ Presets 1 to 16 can be renamed. The changes will be shown in both lists Recall and Save to.



Notes on the EQ Presets

Copy between channels: The EQ Preset menu of all channels is identical. If an EQ setup is stored via *Save to* on one of the 16 storage places, it is then also available in any other channel via *Recall*.

Copy between Snapshots: The Presets are not saved in Snapshots, therefore do not change when a different Snapshot is loaded. Presets are saved in Workspaces and also loaded with these.

Copy between Workspaces: is done by the export and import function of the Preset menu. Important and useful Presets should always be saved as TM EQ file, so that they can not get lost even on accidental overwrite.

Factory Presets load like all Presets the settings of both Low Cut and EQ simultaneously. The current state, On or Off, is neither saved nor activated. Therefore a preset can be loaded anytime, but will not become active before the user switches EQ and/or LC on – except they had been active already before the load process. For this reason some Factory Presets have special names. For example Telephone (LC+EQ) will sound much better when the LC has been activated additionally to the EQ, as the LC here is set to an unusual high frequency of 500 Hz.

25.3.3 Room EQ

Almost everything written in the previous chapter also applies to the Room EQ. It is based on the technology and design of the 3-band PEQ, but offers 9 bands and is specifically intended for room correction – which is why it is only available in the output channels. As a 'fixed speaker correction', it is typically not part of the mixing, its settings thus only saved in the Workspace. But Room EQs can also be loaded via Snapshot using the *Load Room EQs with Snapshot* option in Preferences.

Here the gain of the filters can be adjusted in steps of 0.1 dB (3-band PEQ: 0.5 dB).

- In the *Options - Reset Mix* menu, there are additional options: *Clear channel effects without Room EQ* and *Total Reset without Room EQ*.
- The Room EQ is located directly behind the 3-band PEQ and can be recorded via Loopback.
- The Room EQ preset files have the extension .tmreq and are not compatible with those of the 3-band EQ (.tmeq).
- A maximum of 20 channels of Room EQ or 10 stereo channels of Room EQ can be used.
- The button Room EQ only switches this one on and off. Delay and Vol.Cal are off at 0 ms and 0 dB, otherwise they are always on. This is also signaled by the Room EQ button lighting up orange within in the channel settings panel.
- The Room EQ can work on mono and stereo output channels and can also be set differently for each channel, see screenshot below.

Delay offers a delay of 0 ms up to 42 ms, in steps of 0.01 ms, at all supported sample rates.

Vol.Cal changes the channel output level in the range +3 dB to -24 dB, in steps of 0.1 dB.

Quick Configuration Tips

Gain to 0 dB: Ctrl - left mouse button. Any parameter values: Double-click and type in the value. Quick adjustment via mouse or mouse wheel: Hold down Shift.



25.3.4 Dynamics

A click on D opens the **Dynamics** panel with Compressor, Expander and Auto Level. They are available in all input and output channels, and affects all routings of the respective channel.

Dynamics. Activated by this button.

Thresh. Threshold where Compressor or Expander start to work. The Compressor is adjustable from -60 dB to 0 dB, the Expander is adjustable from -99 dB to -20 dB.

Ratio. Ratio of input to output signal. Defines the intensity of the signal processing. Adjustable from 1 to 10.

Gain. Gain stage to compensate a loss in level caused by the Compressor. Adjustable from -30 to +30 dB. With inactive Compressor (Threshold 0 dB, Gain 1:1) this function can also be used as universal digital gain stage.

Attack. Defines the rise time for the control voltage of Compressor/Expander. Adjustable from 0 ms to 200 ms.

Release. Defines the release time for the control voltage of Compressor and Expander. Adjustable from 100 ms to 999 ms.



The amplitude graphics give a precise overview of the level changes caused by the current settings of Compressor and Expander. The white dot shows the level of the input signal and with this whether the signal is within the processing range or not. The small light blue lines in the level meter show the currently active gain reduction. Settings for these *Dynamic Meters* are found in the Preferences dialog (F2).

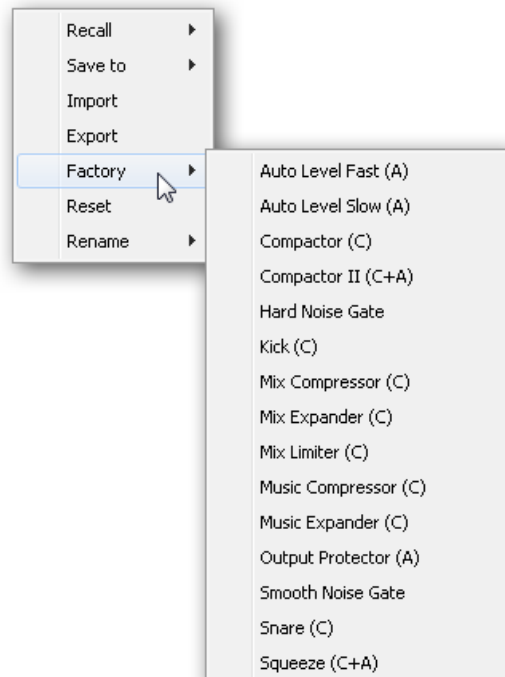
Auto Level. Activated by this button.

Max. Gain. Defines the maximum amplification of the input signal. Adjustable from 0 dB to 18 dB.

Headroom. To minimize short-time overloads and clipping of the signal peaks Auto Level can be set to operate at a fixed offset to 0 dBFS. Adjustable from 3 dB to 12 dB.

Rise Time. Defines the speed of a level increase after a level reduction. Adjustable from 0.1 s to 9.9 s.

Preset. Includes the same functions as described on the previous page for the Equalizer. The names of the Factory Presets make clear whether Compressor, Auto Level or both (C+A) have to be switched on.



25.4 Section Control Room

In the section Control Room the menu *Assign* defines the **Main Out** which is used for listening in the studio. For this output the functions Dim, Recall, Mono, Talkback, External In and Mute FX are automatically applied.

Additionally the channel will be shifted from the Hardware Outputs into the Control Room section, and renamed *Main*. The same happens when assigning Main Out B or the Phones. The original name can be displayed by the function *Names* in the View Options at any time.

Phones 1 to 4 will have Dim (set in Settings) and a special routing applied when Talkback is activated. Also putting them beside the Main Out increases the overview within the output section greatly.

Dim. The volume will be reduced by the amount set in the Settings dialog (F3).

Recall. Sets the gain value defined in the Settings dialog.

Speaker B. Switches playback from Main Out to Main Out B. The faders of the channels Main and Speaker B can be ganged via Link.

Mono. Mixes left and right channel. Useful to check for mono compatibility and phase problems.

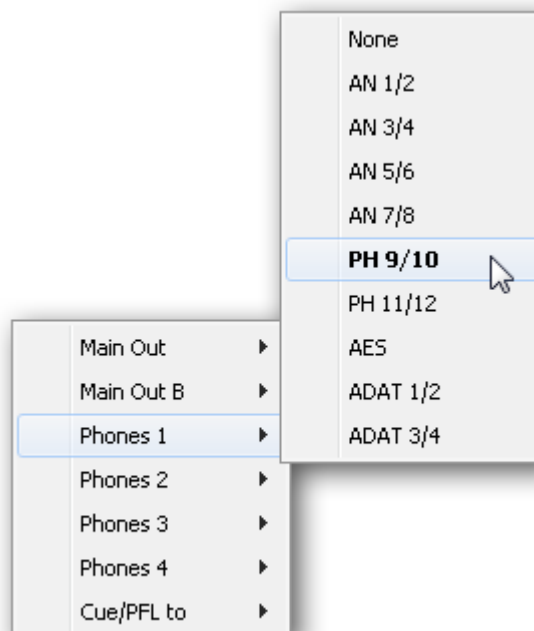
Talkback. A click on this button will dim all signals on the *Phones* outputs by an amount set up in the Preferences dialog. At the same time the control room's microphone signal (source defined in Preferences) is sent to the *Phones*. The microphone level is adjusted with the channel's input fader.

External Input. Switches Main monitoring from the mix bus to the stereo input defined in the Settings dialog (F3). The relative volume of the stereo signal is adjusted there as well.

Mute FX. Mutes Reverb and Echo on the Main Out, to hear the mix without those effects.

Assign. Allows to define the Main Out, Main Out B (Speaker B), and up to four Phones outs.

The output for the Cue signal, which is usually Main, can also be set to one of the Phones outputs. The setting *Cue/PFL to* also controls the PFL monitoring.



25.5 The Control Strip

The Control Strip on the right side is a fixed element. It combines different functions that are either required globally, or constantly used, and therefore should not be hidden in a menu. It can still be hidden via the top menu Window – Hide Control Strip.

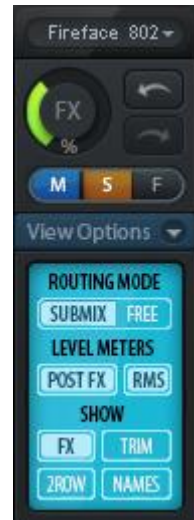
The areas described in the following chapters can be minimized by a click on the arrow in their title bar.

Device selection. Select the unit to be controlled in case more than one is installed on the computer.

FX - DSP Meter. Shows the DSP load caused by activated EQ, Low Cut, Compressor, Auto Level, Echo and Reverb. The DSP of the Fireface 802 has an automatic load limiter. If no DSP resources are left further effects can not be activated. When switching to DS and QS modes effects will be deactivated automatically until the DSP is not overloaded anymore.

Undo / Redo. With the unlimited Undo and Redo changes of the mix can be undone and redone, at any time. Undo/Redo does not cover graphical changes (window size, position, channels wide/narrow etc.), and also no changes to the Presets. The accidental overwrite of an EQ Preset can not be made undone.

Undo/Redo also operates across Workspaces. Therefore a completely differently set up mixer view can be loaded via Workspace, and with a single click on Undo the previous internal mixer state is returned – but the new mixer view stays.



Global Mute Solo Fader.

Mute. Global Mute operates in a pre fader style, muting all currently activated routings of the channel. As soon as any Mute button is pressed, the *Mute Master* button lights up in the Control Strip area. With this button all selected mutes can be switched off and on again. One can comfortably set up a mute group or activate and deactivate several mute buttons simultaneously.

Solo. As soon as any Solo button is pressed, the *Solo Master* button lights up in the Control Strip area. With this button all selected Solos are switched off and on again. Solo operates as Solo-in-Place, post fader style, as known from common mixing desks. A typical limitation for mixing desks, Solo working only globally and only for the Main Out, does not exist in TotalMix. Solo is always activated for the current submix only.

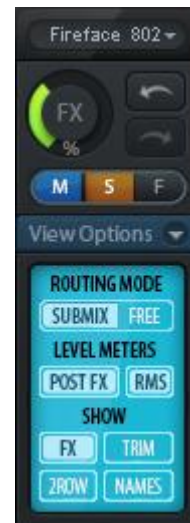
Fader. A Shift-click on a fader adds the fader to the **temporary fader group**. All faders now marked yellow are ganged, and move simultaneously in a relative way. The temporary fader group is deleted by a click on the F symbol.

25.5.1 View Options

The field **Show** combines different functions of routing, the level meters and the mixer view.

Routing Mode

- **Submix.** The Submix view (default) is the preferred view and delivers the quickest overview, operation and understanding of TotalMix. The click on one of the Hardware Output channels selects the respective submix, all other outputs are darkened. At the same time all routing fields are set to this channel. With Submix view, it is very easy to generate a submix for any output: select the output channel, adjust the fader and pans of first and second row – finished.
- **Free.** The Free view is for advanced users. It is used to edit several submixes simultaneously, without the need to change between them. Here one works with the routings fields of the input and playback channels only, which then show different routing destinations.



Level Meters

- **Post FX.** Switches all level meters before (pre) or after (post) the effects. Level changes by these can be easily checked using this feature. Additionally the input signal can be checked for overloads. It is recommended to use Post FX as default setting, as the extreme reduction of a signal by LC/EQ is very seldom. Also all over displays of all level meters operate both pre and post, efficiently preventing overloads going unnoticed.
- **RMS.** The numerical level display in the channels displays peak or RMS.

Show

- **FX.** Opens the window to set up the effects Reverb and Echo.
- **Trim.** Activates all Trim buttons on all channels. TotalMix thus behaves like a conventional, simple mixing desk. Each fader affects all active routings of the channel simultaneously, as if the fader were a trim-pot in the hardware input.
- **2 Row.** Switches the mixer view to 2 rows. Hardware Inputs and Software Playbacks are placed side by side. This view saves a lot of space, especially in height. In Settings the Playback channels can be shifted to the lower row (2-Row Mode with only Input in first row), so that the whole width can be used for the input channels.
- **Names.** Display of the original names of channels when they had been renamed by the user.

25.5.2 Snapshots - Groups

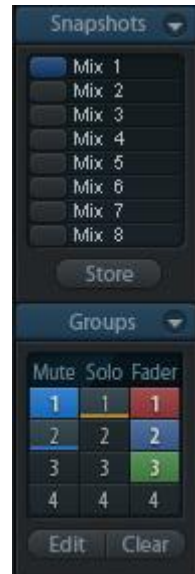
Snapshots. Snapshots include all mixer settings, but no graphical elements like window positions, window size, number of windows, visible EQs or Settings, scroll states, Presets etc. Only the state wide/narrow of the channels is registered. Moreover the Snapshot is only temporarily stored. Loading a Workspace causes the loss of all current Snapshots, when these all had not been saved before in a Workspace, or separately via *File / Save Snapshot as*. Via *File / Load Snapshot* the mixer states can be loaded individually, or preloaded all together in inactive state when loading a workspace file via *File / Preload all Snapshots*.

Eight different mixes can be stored under individual names in the Snapshot section. A click on any of the eight buttons loads the corresponding Snapshot. A double click on the name field opens the dialog *Input Name* to edit the name. As soon as the mixer state is changed the button starts flashing. A click on Store lets all buttons flash, whereby the last loaded one, the base of the current state, flashes inversely. The storage finishes by clicking the desired button (means storage place). The storage process is exited by another click on the flashing Store button.

The area Snapshots can be minimized by a click on the arrow in the title bar.

Groups. The area Groups provides 4 storage places each for fader, mute and solo groups. The groups are valid per Workspace, being active and usable in all 8 Snapshots. But with this they are also lost when loading a new workspace, in case they have not been saved before in a different Workspace.

Note: The Undo function will help in case of an accidental overwrite or deletion of the groups.



TotalMix uses flashing signals to guide you through the group setup. After a click on Edit and click on the desired storage place all desired functions for this group have to be activated or selected. The storage process is finished by another click on Edit.

When setting up a fader group make sure to not add faders that are at the top or low position, except all faders of that group have this position.

The Mute groups operate – other than the global mute – exclusively for the current routing. This way you can not mute signals on all outputs unintentionally. Instead signals can be muted on specific submixes by the push of a button.

A solo group operates exactly like the global solo, signals outside the current routing are not affected.

25.5.3 Channel Layout - Layout Presets

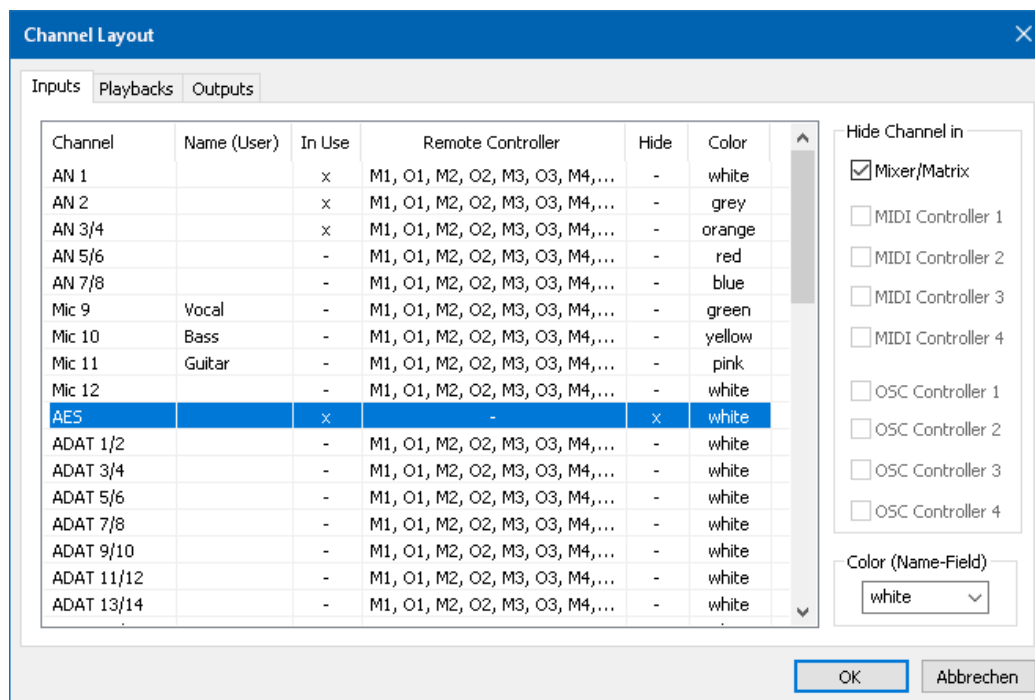
To maintain overview within TotalMix FX channels can be hidden. Channels can also be excluded from being remotied. Under *Options / Channel Layout* a dialog lists all I/Os with their current state. Selecting one or several channels enables the options to the right:

- **Hide Channel in Mixer/Matrix.** The selected channels are no longer shown in TotalMix FX, nor are they available via MIDI or OSC remote control.
- **Hide Channel in MIDI Remote 1-4.** The selected channels are hidden for MIDI remote (CC and Mackie Protocol).
- **Hide Channel in OSC Remote 1-4.** The selected channels are hidden for OSC remote control.

Hidden channels in Mixer/Matrix are still fully functional. An existing routing/mixing/FX processing stays active. But as the channel is no longer visible it can not be edited anymore. At the same time the hidden channels are removed from the list of remote controllable channels, to prevent them from being edited unnoticed.

Hidden channels in *MIDI Remote x* are removed from the list of remote controllable channels. Within an 8-channel block of a Mackie compatible control they are skipped. The control therefore is no longer bound to consecutive orders. For example it will control channels 1, 2, and 6 to 11, when channels 3 to 5 are hidden.

The same can be done for OSC. With unnecessary channels made invisible for the OSC remote the more important channels are available as one block on the remote.



The dialog can be called directly from TotalMix by a right mouse click on any channel. The corresponding channel will then be preselected in the dialog.

Rows Inputs, Playbacks and Outputs are set up individually by the tabs at the top. *In Use* shows which channels are currently used in the mixing process.

In the above example the AES input channel has been made invisible. When AES is not used this is an easy way to remove it from the mixer completely. A more complex setup would be to only show all channels of the drum section, the horn section or the violins.

A double click onto any line opens the edit field for the *Name (User)* column. Editing channel names in this dialog is quick, Enter jumps to the next line. The names of the channels in the Control Room section can only be changed this way.

After clicking on a field in the *Color* column, the color of the channel name can be changed. The locator picture below shows the effect and the available colors.

After finishing those settings the whole state can be stored as **Layout Preset**. A click on *Store* and the desired memory slot makes the current channel layout recallable anytime. The button *All* makes all channels temporarily visible again.

With a simple click on a button it will then be possible to easily switch views of only the channels involved with the mixing of the drum section, the horn section, the violins, or any other useful view. An optimized remote layout can be activated here as well, with or without visible changes. Double-click the default slot name to enter any other name.



! *Layout Presets are stored within the Workspace, so make sure to save the current state before loading a different Workspace!*

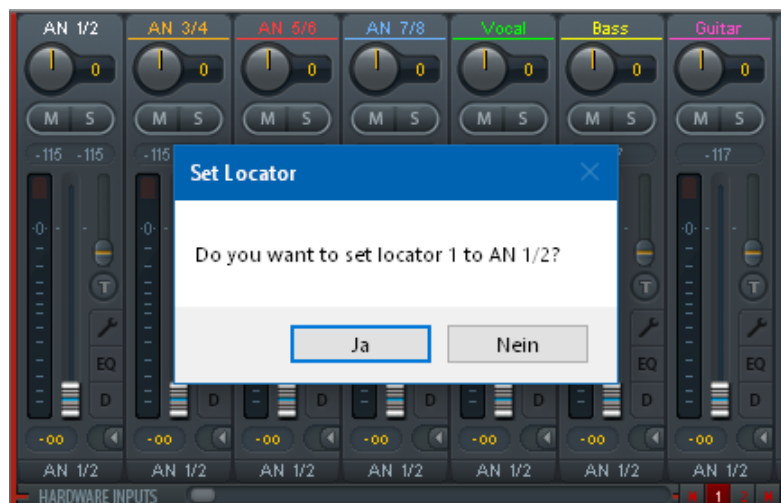
The button *Sub* activates another useful special view. When in *Submix view*, *Sub* will cause all channels to disappear that are not part of the currently selected Submix/Hardware Output. *Sub* temporarily shows the mix based on all channels from Inputs and Playback row, independent from the current Layout Preset. That makes it very easy to see and to verify which channels are mixed/routed to the current output. *Sub* makes checking and verifying of mixes, but also the mix editing itself, a lot easier, and maintains perfect overview even with lots of channels.

25.5.4 Scroll Location Markers

Another feature to improve overview and working with TotalMix FX are scroll location markers (TotalMix view only). These are displayed automatically when the horizontal size of the TotalMix FX window is smaller than the channel display requires. Shown on the right side of the scrollbar of each row they have four elements:

- **Arrow to the left.** A left mouse click let the channels scroll to the very first one, or most left.
- **1.** Marker number 1. Scroll to the desired position and perform a right mouse click on 1. A dialog comes up with precise information. Once stored, a left mouse click will scroll the channels to the stored position.
- **2.** Marker number 2. See 1 for details.
- **Arrow to the right.** A left mouse click let the channels scroll the last one, or most right.

Scroll Location Markers are stored in the Workspace.



25.6 Reverb and Echo

A click on FX in the *View Options / Show* brings up the Output FX panel. Here all parameters for the effects Reverb and Echo are adjusted.

Reverb. Activated by the On button.

Type. Lists different reverb types for selection. Available are:

- **Rooms Small, Medium, Large, Walls.** Room simulation of rooms in different size and behaviour.
- **Shorty** provides a short, rich and warm reverb.
- **Attack** slaps back.
- **Swagger** enriches and blows up the original sound source.
- **Old School** is just that.
- **Echoistic** has a heavy echo part within the reverb sound which brings some nice stereo effect as well.
- **8plus9** is a mixture of Old School and Echoistic.
- **Grand Wide** stands for a wide and open room and space.
- **Thicker** can be used as short reverb to enrich the original signal.
- **Space** has the most sizzle and longest reverb time.
- **Envelope.** Reverb effect where the volume course (envelope) is freely adjustable.
- **Gated.** Simpler version of the Envelope reverb for cut reverb effects.

Please note that all these reverb types are extremely flexible due to the available Smooth and Room Scale controls. Most of them can be used as short and long reverb, and sound totally different with Smooth turned to maximum or minimum.



TotalMix FX comes with factory presets and default values for all reverb types to ensure a fast setup time and quick results. Please take the time to experiment with them with different signals and different settings, to learn how different they can sound and can be used.

General Settings

PreDelay. Delay of the reverb signal. Adjustable from 0 ms up to 999 ms.

Low Cut. High-pass filter *before* the reverb generation, removes low frequency signals which should not cause a reverb sound. Adjustable from 20 Hz up to 500 Hz.

High Cut. Low-pass filter *after* the reverb generation. A reduction of the treble often lets the reverb sound more natural. Adjustable from 5 kHz up to 20 kHz.

Smooth. Softens the reverb effect, affects stereo width, density and sound colour. Adjustable from 0 up to 100.

Width. Adjusts the stereo width of the reverb signal from 100 (stereo) to 0 (mono).

Volume. Adjusts the level of the reverb effects signal sent to the FX return bus.

Special Settings for Room Types

Room Scale. Determines the size of the room, thus changing density and length of the reverb effect. Adjustable from 0.5 up to 3.0.

Special Settings for Envelope and Gated

Attack. Length of time for the volume increase of the reverb signal. Also called rise time. Adjustable from 5 ms up to 400 ms.

Hold. Length of time for the fixed volume part of the reverb signal. Adjustable from 5 ms up to 400 ms.

Release. Length of time for the volume decrease of the reverb signal. Adjustable from 5 ms up to 400 ms.

Special Settings for Space

Reverb Time. Sets the duration of the reverb referenced to a volume drop of 20 dB. Adjustable from 0.1 s up to 4.9 s.

High Damp. Sets the treble damping over time for the reverb signal. In principle, this is a low-pass filter like High Cut. Because of the operation principle of this reverb it shows a slightly different behaviour. Adjustable from 5 kHz up to 20 kHz.

Echo. Activated by the On button.

Type. Lists different echo algorithms for selection. Available are:

- **Stereo Echo.** Separated echo generators on left and right channel. As a result the echo follows the sound source within the stereo field.
- **Stereo Cross.** Echo generator on left and right channel with cross coupled feedback which is only working for the stereo parts of the input signal. In case the input signal is only left or right the Stereo Cross acts exactly like the Pong Echo.
- **Pong Echo.** Generates an echo that jumps between left and right channel, independent from the source signal's stereo position.

Settings

Delay Time. Sets the delay time for the first echo.

BPM. A double click on the lower value field offers a delay adjustment as *Beats Per Minute*.

Feedback. Feedback to produce further echoes.

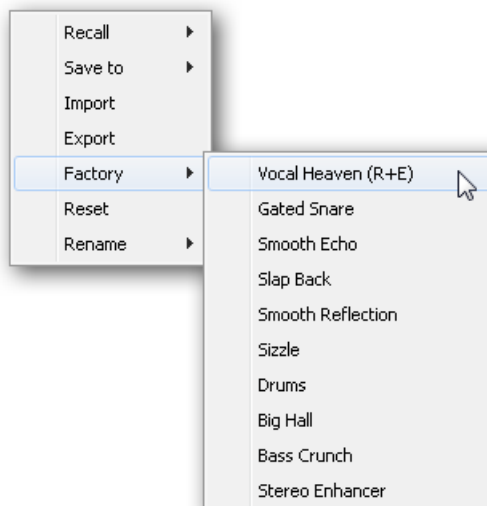
Width. Adjusts the stereo width of the echo signal from 100 (stereo) to 0 (mono).

Volume. Adjusts the level of the echo effects signal sent to the FX return bus.

High Cut (HC). Option for more natural sound or intentional damping of the delayed signal.

Preset. Settings of the Reverb and the Echo can be stored, loaded, and copied between channels at any time. A click on Preset opens a menu with several entries:

- **Recall:** Presets stored before by the user can be selected and loaded
- **Save to:** There are 16 storage places available (Reverb/Echo Preset 1 to 16)
- **Import:** Loads a previously stored TM FX Reverb file (.tmrv) or a TM FX Echo file (.tmeo)
- **Export:** Stores the current state as TM FX Reverb file (.tmrv) or as TM FX Echo file (.tmeo)
- **Factory:** Includes 10 examples for the configuration of the Reverb
- **Reset:** Resets the Reverb or Echo
- **Rename:** The Presets 1 to 16 can be renamed. The changes will be shown in both lists Recall and Save to.



25.7 Preferences

The dialog Preferences can be opened via the *Options* menu or directly via F2.

Level Meters

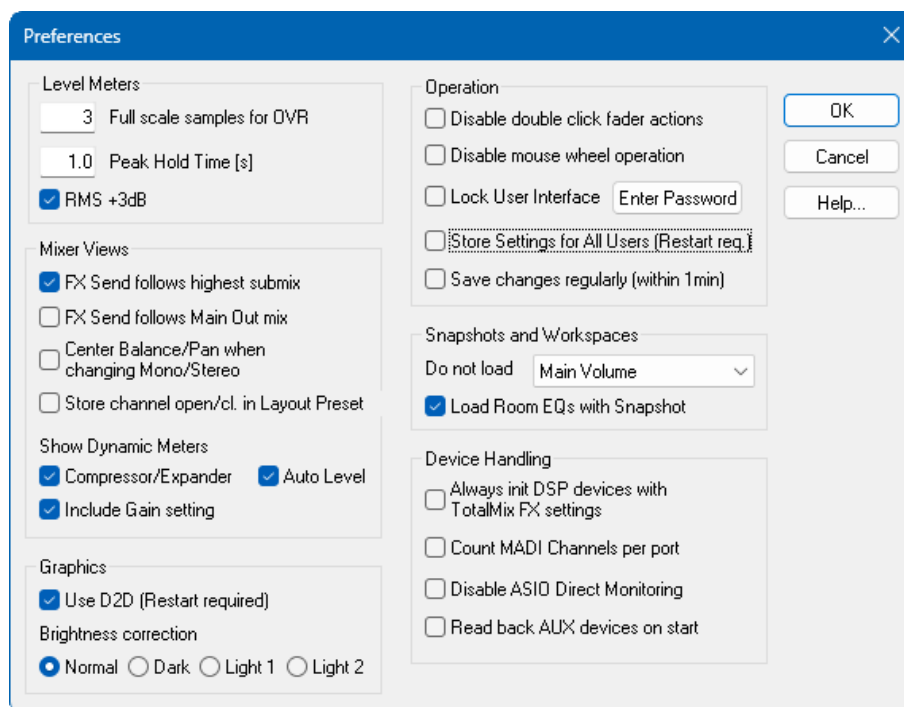
- **Full scale samples for OVR.** Number of consecutive samples to trigger an over detection (1 to 10).
- **Peak Hold Time.** Hold time of the peak value. Adjustable from 0.1 up to 9.9 s.
- **RMS +3 dB.** Shifts the RMS value by +3 dB, so that full scale level is identical for Peak and RMS at 0 dBFS.

Mixer Views

- **FX Send follows highest Submix.** Locks the FX Send knob to the channel fader. As TotalMix supports multiple routings per channel, a definition is needed which fader (only one is visible) is the one that FX Send will follow. This is always the one with the highest fader position, means the highest gain.
- **FX Send follows Main Out mix.** Locks the FX Send knob to the channel fader only for the Main Out submix. This is a typical Live feature, where the FX Send is always tied to the fader for the most important output - the Main Out. When adjusting other submixes the FX send will not follow the fader movement.
- **Center Balance/Pan when changing Mono/Stereo.** When switching a stereo channel into two mono channels the pan-pots are set fully left and right. This option will set them to center instead.
- **Store channel open/close in Layout Preset.** Also loads the state of the channel panels (Setting/EQ/Dyn).

Show Dynamic Meters

- **Compressor/Expander.** Activates the display of the Compressor/Expander's gain reduction as thin blue line in the level meters of the corresponding channel.
- **Auto Level.** Activates the display of Auto Level's variable amplification. As Auto Level can both amplify and attenuate the audio signal, depending on its configuration, the display can show negative (typical gain reduction) as well as positive (above 0 dB, amplification) values.
- **Include Gain setting.** The currently set fixed amplification value (by the Gain knob) is included in the display. This can lead to positive values, with the display limited to +6 dB. In case the option Compressor/Expander is deactivated this option is also not available, therefore grayed out.



Graphics

- **Use D2D (Change requires restart).** Default on. Can be deactivated to use a compatible but CPU-taxing graphics mode, in case graphics problems show up.
- **Brightness Correction.** Adjusts the brightness of the TotalMix FX graphics.

Operation

- **Disable double click fader action.** Prevents unintentional gain settings, for example when using sensitive touchpads.
- **Disable mouse wheel operation.** Deactivates the mouse wheel.
- **Lock User Interface.** Default off. Can be activated to freeze the current mix state. Faders, buttons and knobs relating to the mix state can not be moved anymore.
- **Enter Password (Windows only).** Secures the locked user interface with an additional password.
- **Store Setting for All Users (Restart required).** See next chapter.
- **Save changes regularly (within 1 min).** TotalMix FX saves the current state in the laststatexxx.xml file every minute instead of only at the end of the session.

Snapshots and Workspaces

- **Do not load - Main Volume, Main/Phones Volumes, Control Room Settings.** The selected values stored in the Snapshot are not loaded, so the current setting is not changed.
- **Load Room EQs with Snapshot.** More flexible use of the Room EQ. By default, loading is only possible with workspaces.

Device Handling

- **Always init DSP devices with TotalMix FX settings.** Used to suppress the mismatch message after using the unit stand-alone. Settings in the unit are lost.
- **Count MADI Channels per port.** Not available with the Fireface 802.
- **Disable ASIO Direct Monitoring.** Disables ASIO Direct Monitoring (ADM) for the Fireface 802 within TotalMix FX.
- **Read back AUX devices on start.** Transfers the settings of the AUX devices to TotalMix FX. Respective settings in TotalMix FX will be overwritten.

25.7.1 Store Settings for All Users

TotalMix FX stores all settings, workspaces and snapshots for the *current user* in:

XP: C:\Documents and Settings\Username\Local Settings\Application Data\TotalMixFX

Since Vista: C:\Users\Username\AppData\Local\TotalMixFX

Mac Current User: user/Library/Application Support/RME TotalMix FX

Mac All Users: /Library/Application Support/RME TotalMix FX

Current User ensures that when workstations are used by several people they all find their own settings. In case the settings should be identical or given for any user, TotalMix FX can be changed to use the *All User* directory instead of *Username* when checking this option.

An admin could even write protect the file **lastFireface8021.xml**, which results in a complete reset to that file's content whenever TotalMix FX is restarted. The xml-file is updated on exit, so simply set up TotalMix as desired and exit it (right mouse click on the symbol in the notification area), then change the file attribute.

25.8 Settings

The dialog Settings can be opened via the *Options* menu or directly via F3.

25.8.1 Mixer Page

On the mixer page some typical settings for the mixer operation are set, like Talkback source, Dim amount when Talkback is active, the stored main volume or the input used for the External Input function.

Talkback

- **Input.** Selects the input channel of the Talkback signal (microphone in control room). Default: None.
- **Dim.** Amount of attenuation of the signals routed to the *Phones* in dB.

Listenback

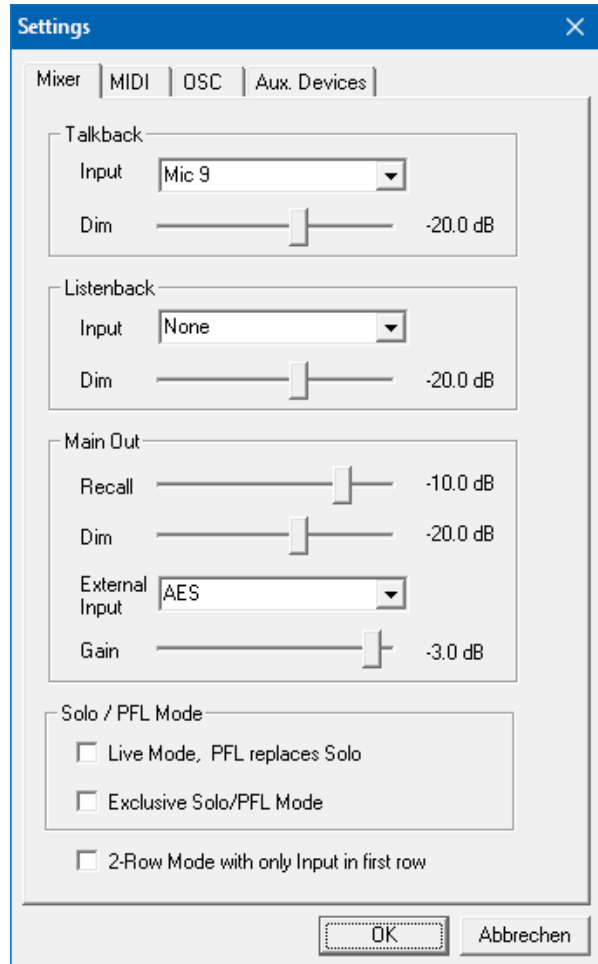
- **Input.** Selects the input channel of the Listenback signal (microphone in recording room). Default: None.
- **Dim.** Amount of attenuation of the signals routed to the *Main Out* in dB.

Main Out

- **Recall.** User defined listening volume, activated by the Recall button at the unit or in TotalMix.
- **Dim.** Amount of attenuation for the Main Out in dB.
- **External Input.** Selects the stereo input that replaces the mix signal on the Main Out when activated. The volume of the stereo signal is adjusted by the slider Gain.

Solo/PFL Mode

- **Live Mode, PFL replaces Solo.** PFL means Pre Fader Listening. This feature is very useful when operating TotalMix in a live environment, as it allows to quickly listen/monitor any of the inputs by hitting the Solo button. Monitoring happens on the output set for the *Cue/PFL* signal via the Assign dialog.
- **Exclusive Solo/PFL Mode.** Only a single Solo or PFL can be active at a time. Activating a different one automatically deactivates the previous one.
- **2-Row Mode with only Input in first row.** The Software Playback channels are shifted to the lower row, beside the Hardware Outputs.



Note: The Talkback signal goes to all output channels that have Talkback activated in their channel settings (default for Phones in the Control Room section). The Listenback signal only goes to the current Main Out. In addition to input gain, the volume of both signals can also be adjusted via their channel faders. Unlike Talkback and Listenback, the External Input signal can be routed, mixed and monitored at any time. With External Input active, however, routing to the current Main Out takes place independently of the channel fader setting, with the gain selected in Settings.

25.8.2 MIDI Page

The MIDI page has four independent settings for up to four MIDI remote controls, using CC commands or the Mackie Control protocol.

Index

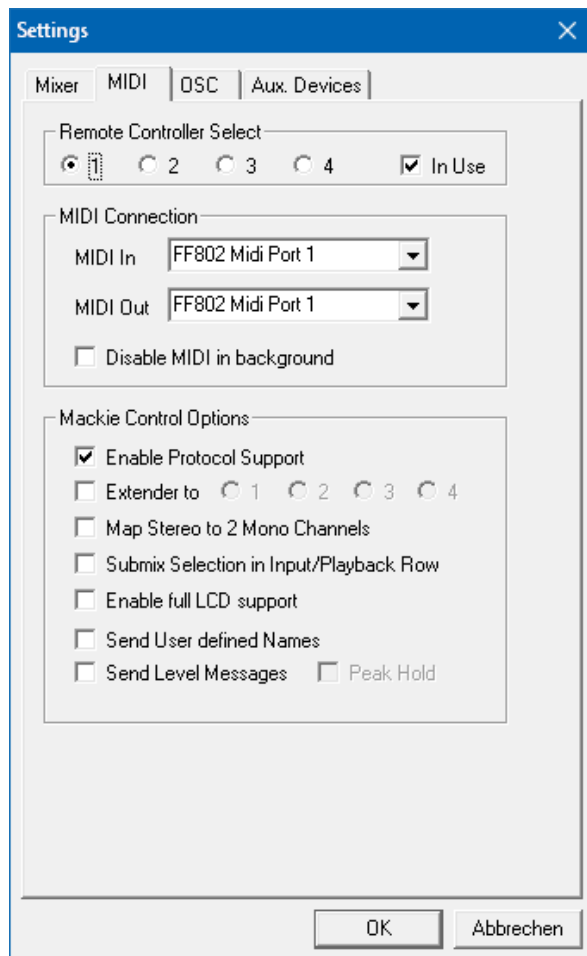
Select one of four settings pages and thus remote controls. Settings are remembered automatically. To activate or deactivate any of the four remote controls check or uncheck 'In Use'.

MIDI Remote Control

- **MIDI In.** Input where TotalMix receives MIDI Remote data.
- **MIDI Out.** Output where TotalMix sends MIDI Remote data.
- **Disable MIDI in background.** Deactivates MIDI Remote Control as soon as another application is in the focus, or when TotalMix has been minimized.

Mackie Control Options

- **Enable Protocol Support.** When disabled TM FX will only react on the Control Change commands of chapter 28.5.
- **Extender to.** Sets the current remote to be an extender to the main remote. Both remotes will be shown as one block and navigate simultaneously.
- **Map Stereo to 2 Mono Channels.** One fader controls one (mono) channel. Should be disabled when stereo channels are used.
- **Submix Selection in Input/Playback Row.** Enables a selection of the submix when in first row, without having to change to the third row first. However, when using both mono and stereo channels first and third row usually do not match anymore, so the selection often becomes unclear this way.
- **Enable full LCD support.** Activates full Mackie Control LCD support with eight channel names and eight volume/pan values.
- **Send User defined Names.** Channel names defined by the user will be sent to the remote device via MIDI and – if supported – shown in its display.
- **Send Level Messages.** Activates the transmission of the level meter data. *Peak Hold* activates the peak hold function as set up for the TotalMix level meters in the preferences.



Note: When MIDI Out is set to NONE then TotalMix FX can still be controlled by Mackie Control MIDI commands, but the 8-channel block is not marked as remote target.

25.8.3 OSC Page

The OSC page has four independent settings for up to four MIDI remote controls via Open Sound Control (OSC). This is a network based remote protocol that can be used for example by Apple's iPad with the app *TouchOSC* or *Lemur* to wirelessly remote control TotalMix FX running on a Mac or Windows computer.

Index

Select one of four settings pages and thus remote controls. Settings are remembered automatically. To activate or deactivate any of the four remote controls check or uncheck 'In Use'.

TotalMix FX OSC Service

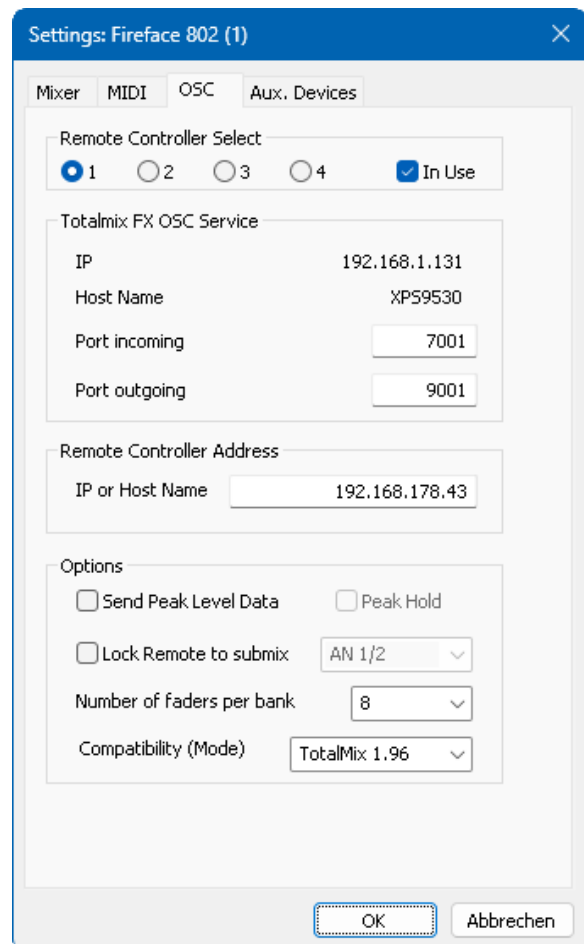
- **IP.** Shows the network address of the computer running TotalMix FX (local host). This address must be entered on the remote side.
- **Host Name.** Local computer name.
- **Port incoming.** Must match the remote entry 'Port outgoing'. Typical values are 7001 or 8000.
- **Port outgoing.** Must match the remote entry 'Port incoming'. Typical values are 9001 or 9000.

Remote Control

- **IP or Host name.** Enter the IP or host name of the remote control. Please note that the IP number usually works better than the host name.

Options

- **Send Peak Level.** Activates the transmission of the peak level meter data. *Peak Hold* activates the peak hold function as set up for the TotalMix level meters in the preferences.
- **Lock Remote to submix.** When activated the current remote control can only modify the submix selected from the drop-down list. This prevents havoc in multi-remote monitoring environments.
- **Number of faders per bank.** Available choices are 8 (default), 12, 16, 24, 32 and 48. Note that when working in underperforming networks, especially wireless, a higher number of faders might not work as smooth as expected.
- **Compatibility (Mode).** Since version 1.96, TotalMix FX uses an extended OSC command set. If problems occur with TotalMix-based controllers, the previous command set can be used (select TotalMix 1.90). See also chapter 28.8.



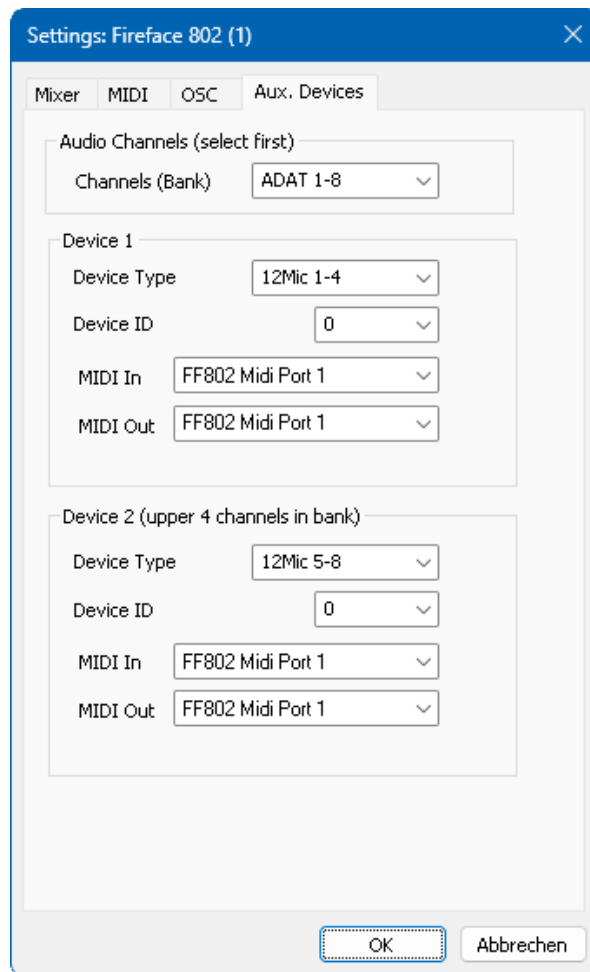
25.8.4 Aux Devices

RME's OctaMic XTC, 12Mic, 12Mic-D and AVB Tool offer flexible hi-quality microphone, line and instrument preamps with integrated AD-conversion to ADAT, AES/EBU and MADI. They can be used as universal front-end for the Fireface 802 and other RME interfaces.

To simplify operation the most important input parameters (gain, 48V, mute, AutoSet) can be controlled directly from the TotalMix FX input channels. This special remote control uses MIDI of any format (DIN, USB, MIDI over MADI).

Device Settings

- **Digital Channels.** Select where the 4 or 8 analog input channels come in. With the 802 this can be ADAT channels 1-8 and 9-16.
- **Device Type.** Select the external unit. Currently supported are OctaMic XTC, 12Mic, 12Mic-D and the AVB Tool.
- **Device ID.** Default 0. This setting relates to the current choice of Digital Channels.
- **MIDI In.** Set the currently used MIDI connection to the external device.
- **MIDI Out.** Set the currently used MIDI connection to the external device.



When using more than one external device of the same type these must have different Device IDs (configuration is done at the device).

When using the 12-channel 12Mic, three 4-channel entries are used instead of one 8-channel entry. The screenshot shows the settings for channels 1-4 and 5-8. Channels 9-12 (etc.) appear when the next bank is selected under Channels (Bank), ADAT 9-16.

The screenshot to the right shows what happens as soon as the above settings have been confirmed with OK. The ADAT channels show new elements for phantom power, Inst/PAD, Gain and AutoSet. Control operates bidirectional, so changing the gain at the unit will be mirrored in the TotalMix channels. Changing the gain in TotalMix FX will set the gain in the unit, which is also shown on the unit's display.

For the remote to work the XTC's currently used MIDI I/Os have to be set to *Control*. More details are found in the manual of the OctaMic XTC.



25.9 Hotkeys and Usage

TotalMix FX has many hotkeys and mouse/hotkey combinations to speed up and simplify the usage. The below description refers to Windows. On Mac substitute *Ctrl* in the below list with the command key (⌘).

The **Shift** key enables a fine-tuning of the gain with all faders and in the Matrix. On all knobs it will speed up the setting.

A click on a **fader** with held down **Shift** key adds the fader to the temporary fader group.

A click in the **fader path** with held down **Ctrl** key will let the fader jump to 0 dB, at the next click to $-\infty$. Same function: Double click of the mouse.

Clicking on one of the **Panorama** or **Gain** knobs with held down **Ctrl** key lets the knob jump to center position. Same function: Double click of the mouse.

Clicking on the **Panorama** knob with held down **Shift** key lets the knob jump to fully left, with **Shift-Ctrl** to fully right.

Clicking on one of the channel settings buttons (slim/normal, Settings, EQ, Dynamics) with held down **Ctrl** key lets all channels to the right change their state. For example all panels can be opened/closed simultaneously.

A **double click** of the mouse on a knob or its numerical field opens the according *Input Value* dialog. The desired value can then be set by keyboard.

Dragging the mouse from a parameter field increases (move up) or decreases (move down) the value in the field.

Ctrl-N opens the dialog *Function Select* to open a new TotalMix window.

Ctrl-W opens the dialog *File Open* of the operating system to load a TotalMix Workspace file.

The key **W** starts the dialog *Workspace Quick Select* for a direct selection or storage of up to 30 Workspaces.

The key **M** switches the active window to Mixer view. The key **X** switches the active window to Matrix view. **Ctrl-M** opens a new Mixer window, **Ctrl-X** opens a new Matrix window. Another Ctrl-M or Ctrl-X closes the new window again.

F1 opens the online help. The Level Meter setup dialog can be opened with **F2** (same as in DIGCheck). The dialog Preferences is opened with **F3**.

Alt-F4 closes the current window.

Alt and **number** keys 1 to 8 (not on the numeric keypad!) will load the corresponding Workspace from the Workspace Quick Select feature (hotkey W).

25.10 Menu Options

Deactivate Screensaver: When active (checked) any activated Windows screensaver will be disabled temporarily.

Always on Top: When active (checked) the TotalMix window will always be on top of the Windows desktop. Note: This function may result in problems with windows containing help text, as the TotalMix window will even be on top of those windows, so the help text isn't readable.

Enable MIDI /OSC Control: Activates external MIDI control of the TotalMix mixer. In Mackie Protocol mode the channels which are currently under MIDI control are indicated by a colour change of the name field.

Submix linked to MIDI / OSC control (1-4). The 8-channel group follows the currently selected submix, means Hardware Output, when a different submix is chosen on the remote as well as when doing this in TotalMix. When using multiple windows it can be useful to deactivate this feature for specific windows. The view will not change then.

Preferences: Opens a dialog box to configure several functions of the level meters and the mixer. See chapter 25.7. Hotkey F2.

Settings. Opens a dialog box to configure several functions like Talkback, Listenback, Main Out and the MIDI Remote Control. See chapter 25.8. Hotkey F3.

Channel Layout. Hide channels visually and from remote. See chapter 25.5.3.

ARC & Key Commands. Opens a window to configure the programmable buttons of the optional ARC USB, and of the computer's keyboard keys F4 to F8.

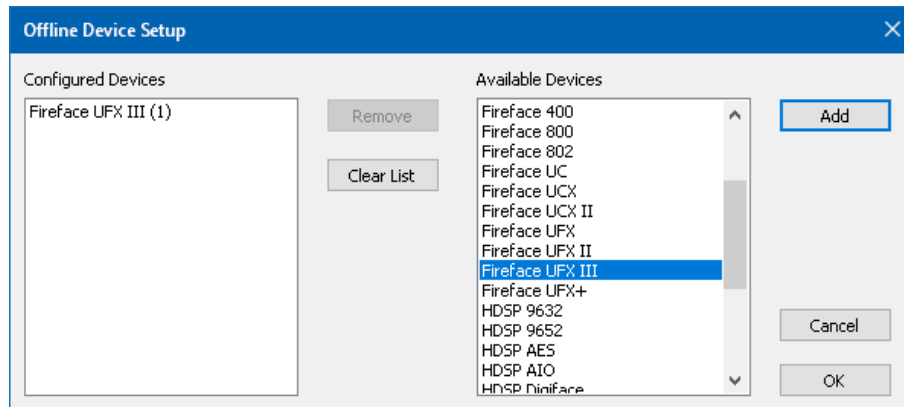
Reset Mix. Offers several options to reset the mixer state:

- **Straight playback with all to Main Out.** All Playback channels are routed 1:1 to the Hardware Outputs. Simultaneously all playbacks are mixed down to the Main Out. The faders in the third row are not changed.
- **Straight Playback.** All Playback channels are routed 1:1 to the Hardware outputs. The faders in the third row are not changed.
- **Clear all submixes.** Deletes all submixes.
- **Clear channel effects.** Switches off all EQs, Low Cuts, Reverb, Echo, Dynamics and Stereo Width and sets their knobs to default position.
- **Clear channel effects w/o Room EQ.** Does not reset Room EQ.
- **Set output volumes.** All faders of the third row set to 0 dB, Main and Speaker B to -10 dB.
- **Reset channel names.** Removes all names assigned by the user.
- **Set all channels mono.** Reconfigures all TotalMix FX channels to mono mode.
- **Set all channels stereo.** Reconfigures all TotalMix FX channels to stereo mode.
- **Set inputs mono / outputs stereo (ADM).** Preferred setup for best ASIO Direct Monitoring compatibility. In most cases mono hardware outputs will break ADM. Mono inputs are in most cases compatible. If not wrong panning might occur.

- **Total Reset.** Playback routing 1:1 with mixdown to Main Out. Switches off all other functions.
- **Total Reset w/o Room EQ.** Does not reset Room EQ.

Operational Mode. Defines TotalMix FX basic operational mode. Choices are *Full Mode* (default, mixer active, all routing options available), and *Digital Audio Workstation Mode* (straight playback routing, no input mix). See chapter 29 for details.

Offline Device Setup. Makes all devices supported by TotalMix FX available offline. This 'demo' mode can load and save workspaces, and thus also allows offline editing and visual inspection of workspaces and snapshots.



Setup: Select the desired devices and add them to the list of Configured Devices by clicking *Add*. Close the dialog by clicking *OK*.

Mixer and Matrix can now be opened even without a connected device. The device selection is done on the top right via the device selection field in the Control Strip.

Note: Offline devices may cause interference due to double assignments. This can be avoided by selecting the option *Disable when device is offline* for each individual offline device in the ARC USB Settings under *Usage of PC connected ARC USB*.

Network Remote Settings. Settings to remote control TotalMix FX by TotalMix Remote via network. See chapter 30.

Store current state into device. The unit can store up to 6 setups (the current state) in its own memory. This function has been developed especially for the stand-alone mode operation, where there are no playback channels. Therefore using it under Windows, Mac or iOS will result in incomplete setups.

The setups stored into the unit can be recalled both via simple MIDI notes (see chapter 28.6) as well as the optional ARC USB.

Enable Stand Alone MIDI. Not connected to a computer the Fireface 802 can still be controlled directly by MIDI. See chapter 28.6.

Enable Stand Alone ARC USB. Allows the ARC USB to be used on the rear remote port when in stand-alone mode.

25.11 Menu Window

Zoom Options 100%, 135%, 200%, 270%. Depending on size and resolution of the monitor TotalMix FX might be too small and the controls too tiny to easily operate them. Zoom and 2 Row mode enable many different window sizes that suit all monitors and resolutions.

Hide Control Strip. Shifts the Control Strip out of the visible area to gain more space for other elements.

26. The Matrix

26.1 Overview

While the TotalMix view presented so far works in a similar way to stereo-based mixing consoles, the Matrix also offers a mono-based channel assignment method. However, the Fireface Matrix goes one step further, because unlike a crossbar or mechanical patch panel, TotalMix allows any gain value per crosspoint.

Matrix and TotalMix are different ways of displaying the same processes. Because of this both views are always fully synchronized. Each change in one view is immediately reflected in the other view as well.

26.2 Elements of the Matrix View

The visual design of the TotalMix Matrix is mainly determined by the architecture of the Fireface 802 system:

- **Horizontal labels.** All hardware outputs
- **Vertical labels.** All hardware inputs. Below are all playback channels.
- **Green 0.0 dB field.** Standard 1:1 routing
- **Dark grey field with number.** Shows the current gain value as dB
- **Blue field.** This routing is muted
- **Red field.** Phase 180° (inverted)
- **Dark grey field.** No routing.

	Out 1	Out 2	Out 3	Out 4	Out 5
AN 1/2	0.0	-6.5			
AN 3			0.0		
AN 4				-18.3	
AN 5/6					0.0
AN 7/8					

To maintain overview when the window size has been reduced, labels are floating. They stay in the visible area when scrolling. A right mouse click on the labels brings up a context menu with the same options as in the mixer view: Copy / Mirror / Paste / Clear input channels and submixes.

26.3 Operation

Using the Matrix is a breeze. It is very easy to identify the current crosspoint, because the outer labels light up in orange according to the mouse position.

- If input 1 is to be routed to output 1, use the mouse and click one time on crosspoint **In 1 / AN 1** with held down Ctrl key. Two green 0.0 dB field pop in, another click removes them.
- To change the gain (equals the use of a different fader position, see simultaneous display of the mixer view), drag the mouse up or down, starting from the gain field. The value within the field changes accordingly. The corresponding fader in the mixer view is moving simultaneously, in case the currently modified routing is visible.
- On the right side is the Control Strip from the mixer window, adapted to the Matrix. The button for the temporary fader group is missing as well as all View options, as they don't make sense here. Instead the button *Mono Mode* lets you decide whether all the actions performed in the Matrix are valid for two channels or just one.

The Matrix not always replaces the mixer view, but it significantly enhances the routing capabilities and - more important - is a brilliant way to get a fast overview of all active routings. It shows you in a glance what's going on. And since the Matrix operates monaural, it is very easy to set up specific routings with specific gains.

Further notes on operation

- A double click on a crosspoint toggles between 0.0 dB and mute.
- Holding down Ctrl while clicking on one of the surrounding labels, or a double click on these activates/deactivates mute for all horizontal or vertical crosspoints.
- Holding down Shift while clicking on one of the surrounding labels activates/deactivates Phase for all horizontal or vertical crosspoints.

27. Tips and Tricks

27.1 ASIO Direct Monitoring (Windows)

Programs that support ADM (ASIO Direct Monitoring - Samplitude, Sequoia, Cubase, Nuendo etc.) send control commands to TotalMix. This is directly shown by TotalMix. When a fader is moved in the ASIO host the corresponding fader in TotalMix will move too. TotalMix reflects all ADM gain and pan changes in real-time.

But: the faders only move when the currently activated routing (the selected submix) corresponds to the routing in the ASIO host. The Matrix on the other hand will show any change, as it shows all possible routings in one view.

27.2 Copy a Submix

TotalMix allows you to copy complete submixes to other outputs. In case a complex submix is need with only a few changes on a different output, the whole submix can be copied to that output. Right click with the mouse on the original submix output, means Hardware Output. In the context menu select Copy Submix. Then right click on the new submix output, choose Paste Submix in the context menu. Now fine tune the submix.

27.3 Doubling the Output Signal (Mirror)

If a mix should be sent out via two (or more) different hardware outputs simply mirror that mix to any number of other outputs. A right click on the original output brings up the option to *Copy/Mirror <name>*. Another right click on the new output, then selecting *Mirror of Output <name>* will paste the whole submix and then synchronize it automatically to any future changes. The outputs now always send out the same signals, but their main volume (fader) and the EQ and Dynamics settings stay fully independent.

27.4 Delete a Submix

The easiest and quickest way to delete complex routings is by selection of the according output channel in the mixer view by a right mouse click, and selection of the menu entry *Clear Submix*. As TotalMix FX includes an unlimited undo the delete process can be undone without any problem.

27.5 Copy and Paste everywhere

The above three tips use functions found in the right click context menu available on all channels of the TotalMix FX mixer view. These menus are also available in the Matrix, but only directly on the channel labels. They are self-explanatory and automatically adjust to where the click is performed. The input channels offer *Clear*, *Copy input*, *Paste the input mix* and *Paste its FX*. On a playback channel *Copy*, *Paste* and *Clear the playback mix* are available. On an output channel *Copy* and *Mirror* functionality for the current submix and *copying* of the FX settings is offered.

These options are very advanced and mighty tools to quickly do the impossible. Still there is no need to fear breaking something, as a simple click (or several) on the Undo button will get you back to where you started!

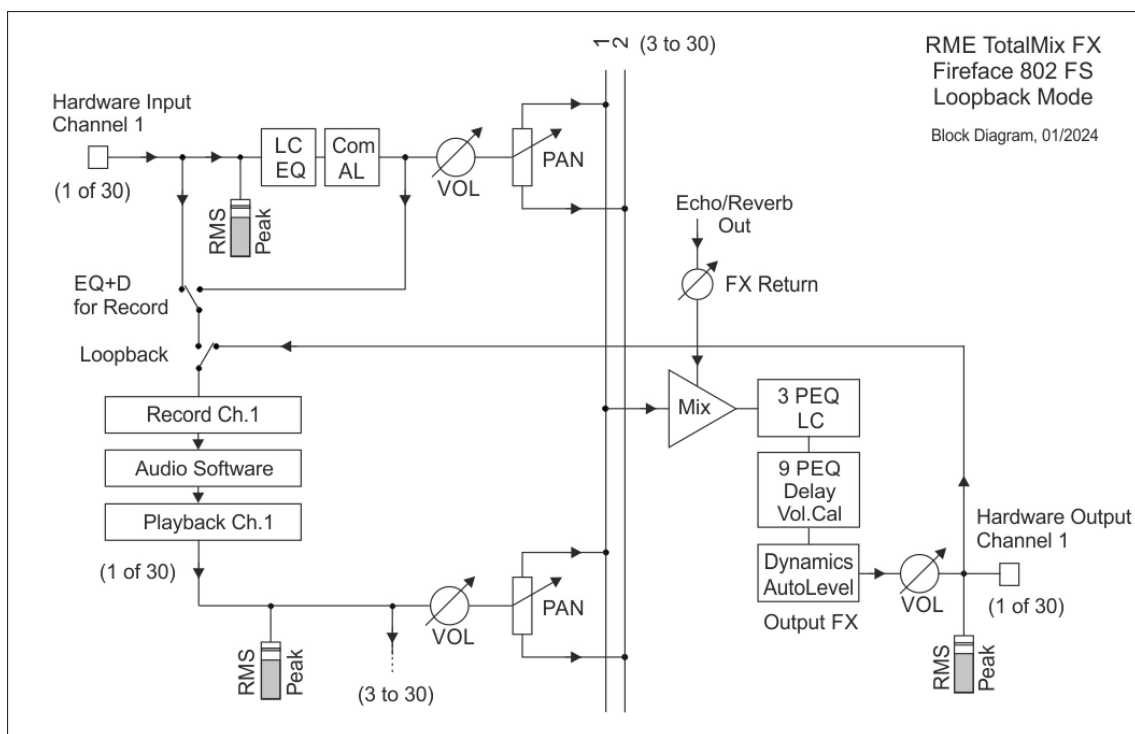
27.6 Recording a Submix - Loopback

TotalMix includes an internal loopback function, from the Hardware Outputs to the recording software. Instead of the signal at the hardware input, the signal at the hardware output is sent to the record software. This way, submixes can be recorded without an external loopback cable. Also the playback from a software can be recorded by another software.

The function is activated by the **Loopback** button in the Settings panel of the Hardware Outputs. In loopback mode, the signal at the hardware input of the corresponding channel is no longer sent to the recording software, but still passed through to TotalMix. Therefore TotalMix can be used to route this input signal to any hardware output. Using the subgroup recording, the input can still be recorded on a different channel.

As each of the 15 stereo hardware outputs can be routed to the record software, and none of these hardware inputs get lost, TotalMix offers an overall flexibility and performance not rivalled by any other solution.

The risk of feedbacks, a basic problem of loopback methods, is low, because the feedback can not happen within the mixer, only when the audio software is switched into monitoring mode.



The block diagram shows how the software's input signal is played back, and fed back from the Hardware Output to the software input.

The block diagram also shows why with activated Loopback all PEQs etc of the Hardware Output are now within the record path. With Loopback active PEQ and Dyn of the input is not in the record path, only in the monitoring path, even when the Option *DSP – EQ+D for Record* is activated.

Recording a Software's playback

In real world application, recording a software's output with another software will show the following problem: The record software tries to open the same playback channel as the playback software (already active), or the playback one has already opened the input channel which should be used by the record software.

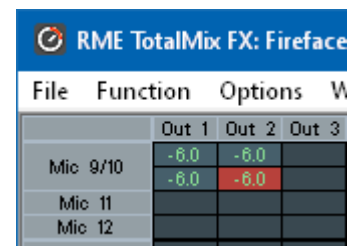
This problem can easily be solved. First make sure that all rules for proper multi-client operation are met (not using the same record/playback channels in both programs). Then route the playback signal via TotalMix to a hardware output in the range of the record software, and activate Loopback for recording.

Mixing several input signals into one record channel

In some cases it is useful to record several sources into only one track. For example when using two microphones recording instruments and loudspeakers, TotalMix' Loopback mode saves an external mixing desk. Simply route/mix the input signals to the same output (third row), then re-define this output into a record channel via Loopback. This way any number of input channels from different sources can be recorded into one single track.

27.7 MS Processing

The mid/side principle is a special positioning technique for microphones, which results in a mid signal on one channel and a side signal on the other channel. This information can be transformed back into a stereo signal quite easily. The process sends the monaural mid channel to left and right, the side channel too, but phase inverted (180°) to the right channel. For a better understanding: the mid channel represents the function L+R, while the side channel represents L-R.



File	Function	Options	W	
		Out 1	Out 2	Out 3
Mic 9/10		-6.0	-6.0	
Mic 11		-6.0	-6.0	
Mic 12				

During record the monitoring needs to be done in 'conventional' stereo. Therefore TotalMix also offers the functionality of a M/S-decoder. Activation is done in the Settings panel of the Hardware Input and Software Playback channels via the **MS Proc** button.

The M/S-Processing automatically operates as M/S encoder or decoder, depending on the source signal format. When processing a usual stereo signal, all monaural information will be shifted into the left channel, all stereo information into the right channel. Thus the stereo signal is M/S encoded. This yields some interesting insights into the mono/stereo contents of modern music productions. Additionally some very interesting methods of manipulating the stereo base and generating stereo effects come up, as it is then very easy to process the side channel with Low Cut, Expander, Compressor or Delay.

The most popular application is the manipulation of the stereo width: a change of the level of the side channel allows to manipulate the stereo width from mono to stereo up to extended.

27.8 Program start options (Windows only)

Under Windows TotalMix FX supports command line options. Appending the file name of a workspace loads it. Example: *TotalMixFX.exe path\startworkspace.tmws*. For automated loading, the parameter */nc* can be used to suppress the confirmation dialog of loading the workspace.

28. MIDI Remote Control

28.1 Overview

TotalMix can be remote controlled via MIDI. It is compatible to the widely spread Mackie Control protocol, so TotalMix can be controlled with all hardware controllers supporting this standard. Examples are the Mackie Control, Tascam US-2400 or Behringer BCF 2000.

Additionally, the stereo output faders (lowest row) which are set up as *Main Out* in the Control Room section can also be controlled by the standard **Control Change Volume** via **MIDI channel 1**. With this, the main volume of the Fireface is controllable from nearly any MIDI equipped hardware device.

MIDI Remote Control always operates in View *Submix* mode, even when the View Option *Free* is currently selected in TotalMix FX.

28.2 Mapping

TotalMix supports the following Mackie Control surface elements*:

Element:	Meaning in TotalMix:
Channel faders 1 – 8	volume
Master fader	Main Out channel fader
V-Pots 1 – 8	pan
pressing V-Pot knobs	pan = center
CHANNEL LEFT or REWIND	move one channel left
CHANNEL RIGHT or FAST FORWARD	move one channel right
BANK LEFT or ARROW LEFT	move eight channels left
BANK RIGHT or ARROW RIGHT	move eight channels right
ARROW UP or Assignable1/PAGE+	move one row up
ARROW DOWN or Assignable2/PAGE-	move one row down
EQ	Master Mute
PLUGINS/INSERT	Master Solo
STOP	Dim Main Out
PLAY	Talkback
PAN	Mono Main Out
FLIP	Speaker B
DYN/INSTRUMENT	TrimGains
MUTE Ch. 1 – 8	Mute
SOLO Ch. 1 – 8	Solo
SELECT Ch. 1 – 8	Select
REC Ch. 1 – 8	select output bus (Submix)
RECORD	Recall
F1 - F8	load Snapshot 1 - 8
F9	select Main Out
F10 - F12	select Cue Phones 1 - 3

*Tested with Behringer BCF2000 Firmware v1.07 in Mackie Control emulation for Steinberg mode and with Mackie Control under Mac OS X.

28.3 Setup

Open the Preferences dialog (menu Options or F3). Select the MIDI Input and MIDI Output port where your controller is connected to.

When no feedback is needed select NONE as MIDI Output.

Check *Enable MIDI Control* in the Options menu.

28.4 Operation

The channels being under Mackie MIDI control are indicated by a colour change of the name field, black turns to brown.

The 8-fader block can be moved horizontally and vertically, in steps of one or eight channels.

Faders can be selected to gang them.

In Submix View mode, the current routing destination (output bus) can be selected via REC Ch. 1 – 8. This equals the selection of a different output channel in the lowest row by a mouse click when in Submix View. In MIDI operation it is not necessary to jump to the lowest row to perform this selection. This way even the routing can be easily changed via MIDI.

Full LC Display Support. This option in Preferences (F3) activates complete Mackie Control LCD support with eight channel names and eight volume/pan values. When *Full LC Display Support* is turned off, only a brief information about the first fader of the block (channel and row) is sent. This brief information is also available on the LED display of the Behringer BCF2000.

Disable MIDI in Background (menu Options, Settings) disables the MIDI control as soon as another application is in the focus, or in case TotalMix has been minimized. This way the hardware controller will control the main DAW application only, except when TotalMix is in the foreground. Often the DAW application can be set to become inactive in background too, so that MIDI control is switched between TotalMix and the application automatically when switching between both applications.

TotalMix also supports the 9th fader of the Mackie Control. This fader (labelled Master) will control the stereo output faders (lowest row) which are set up as *Main Out* in the Control Room section.

Extender support (Settings, tab MIDI) enables the use of the special Extender mixing desk, but also the addition of any other Mackie compatible remote. Setting the main remote as number 2 and the extender as number 1 will cause the extender to be on the left side. Using this function the remotes will be shown as one fader block and navigate as one.

28.5 MIDI Control

The hardware output which is set up as *Main Out* can be controlled by the standard **Control Change Volume** via **MIDI channel 1**. With this, the main volume of the Fireface is controllable from nearly any MIDI equipped hardware device.

Even if you don't want to control all faders and pans, some buttons are highly desired to be available in 'hardware'. These are mainly the *Talkback* and the *Dim* button, and the monitoring options (listen to Phones submixes). Fortunately a Mackie Control compatible controller is not required to control these buttons, as they are steered by simple Note On/Off commands on MIDI channel 1.

The notes are (hex / decimal / keys):

Dim: 5D / 93 / **A 6**

Mono: 2A / 42 / **#F 2**

Talkback: 5E / 94 / **#A 6**

Recall: 5F / 95 / **B 6**

Speaker B: 32 / 50 / **D3**

Cue Main Out: 3E / 62 / **D 4**

Cue Phones 1: 3F / 63 / **#D 4**

Cue Phones 2: 40 / 64 / **E 4**

Cue Phones 3: 41 / 65 / **F 4**

Cue Phones 4: 42 / 66 / **#F 4**

Snapshot 1: 36 / 54 / **#F 3**

Snapshot 2: 37 / 55 / **G 3**

Snapshot 3: 38 / 56 / **#G 3**

Snapshot 4: 39 / 57 / **A 3**

Snapshot 5: 3A / 58 / **#A 3**

Snapshot 6: 3B / 59 / **B 3**

Snapshot 7: 3C / 60 / **C 4**

Snapshot 8: 3D / 61 / **#C 4**

Trim Gains: 2D / 45 / **A 2**

Master Mute: 2C / 44 / **#G 2**

Master Solo: 2B / 43 / **G 2**

Note: The hex value is standardized, the key (note) is not. If it doesn't work try all notes one octave lower. Disabling Mackie protocol support via Settings / Mackie Control Options also disables the above simple MIDI commands, as they are part of the Mackie protocol.

Furthermore all faders of all three rows can be controlled via simple **Control Change** commands. The format for the Control Change commands is:

Bx yy zz

x = MIDI channel

yy = control number

zz = value

The first row in TotalMix is addressed by MIDI channels 1 up to 4, the middle row by channels 5 up to 8 and the bottom row by channels 9 up to 12.

16 Controller numbers are used: 102 up to 117 (= hex 66 to 75). With these 16 Controllers (= faders) and 4 MIDI channels each per row, up to 64 faders can be controlled per row (as required by the HDSPE MAD1).

Examples for sending MIDI strings:

- Set input 1 to 0 dB: B0 66 68
- Set input 17 to maximum attenuation: B1 66 0
- Set playback 1 to maximum: B4 66 7F
- Set Output 16 to 0 dB: B8 75 68

Note: Sending MIDI strings requires to use programmer's logic for the MIDI channel, starting with 0 for channel 1 and ending with 15 for channel 16.

Further functions:

- Trim Gains On: BC 66 xx (BC = MIDI channel 13, xx = any value)
- Trim Gains Off: BC 66 xx or select a submix

Select submix (fader) in third row:

- channel 1/2: BC 68/69 xx
 - channel 3/4: BC 6A/6B xx
- etc.

Input Gain control is available via CC9, value range as the gain itself (up to 65). The MIDI channel determines the controlled channel, from 1 to 16 (Fireface 802: 9 to 12). For this to work, *Enable MIDI Control* in the Options menu has to be activated.

The **Reverb** and **Echo User Presets** can be changed via MIDI CC: B2 0C nn for Reverb preset 1 to 16, B3 0C nn for Echo preset 1 to 16

28.6 Stand-Alone MIDI Control

When not connected to a computer, the Fireface 802 can be controlled directly via MIDI. The menu entry *Options / Enable Stand-Alone MIDI* in TotalMix FX activates this mode.

Note: When not needed the stand-alone MIDI operation should not be active, as the unit will react on MIDI notes after power-on, and will also send MIDI notes.

Control is performed via both the **Mackie Control protocol** and some **standard** MIDI functions (see below). In stand-alone mode not all functions known from TotalMix are available, because some of them aren't hardware, but software routines. Functions like *Talkback*, *Mono*, *Solo*, *relative* ganging of the faders, *Monitor Main* and *Monitor Phones* are realized by complex software code, therefore not available in stand-alone MIDI control operation.

Still many functions, and especially the most important functions to control the Fireface 802, are implemented in hardware, thus available also in stand-alone mode:

- All faders and pans of the first and third row
- Mute of the input signal per channel
- Ganging via 'Select'
- Choice of the routing destination, i.e. the current submix
- Sending of LED and display data to the MIDI controller

The second row (software playback) is skipped. The Fireface 802 sends display data as brief information, enabling an easy navigation through lines and rows. Other data like PAN and miscellaneous status LEDs are supported as well. Channel names, level data and fader values are not transmitted in stand-alone mode.

In stand-alone mode the unit always operates in **View Submix** mode. Only this way the routing destination can be changed, and several mixdowns/submixes can be set up quickly and easily. If the current TotalMix setup is transferred into the Fireface via 'Flash current mixer state', the currently selected submix output is also pre-configured in the hardware for stand-alone MIDI remote operation.

Mackie Control Protocol

The stand-alone operation supports the following Mackie Control surface elements*:

*Tested with Behringer BCF2000 Firmware v1.07 in Mackie Control emulation for Steinberg mode.

Element:	Meaning in Fireface:
Channel faders 1 – 8	volume
V-Pots 1 – 8	pan
pressing V-Pot knobs	pan = center
CHANNEL LEFT or REWIND	move one channel left
CHANNEL RIGHT or FAST FORWARD	move one channel right
BANK LEFT or ARROW LEFT	move eight channels left
BANK RIGHT or ARROW RIGHT	move eight channels right
ARROW UP or Assignable1/PAGE+	move one row up
ARROW DOWN or Assignable2/PAGE-	move one row down
STOP	Dim Main Out
EQ	Master Mute
MUTE Ch. 1 – 8	Mute
SELECT Ch. 1 – 8	Select
REC Ch. 1 – 8	select output bus (current submix)
F1 – F6	load Setup 1 - 6

Additionally the following functions are available in stand-alone mode via simple MIDI notes on MIDI channel 1:

Dim: 5D / 93 / **A 6**

Setup 1: 36 / 54 / **#F 3**

Setup 2: 37 / 55 / **G 3**

Setup 3: 38 / 56 / **#G 3**

Setup 4: 39 / 57 / **A 3**

Setup 5: 3A / 58 / **#A 3**

Setup 6: 3B / 59 / **B 3**

Loading the Setups stored in the device enables a quick configuration change of the 802. With this any possible operation state can be activated by the push of a button at any time.

28.7 Loopback Detection

The Mackie Control protocol requires feedback of the received commands, back to the hardware controller. So usually TotalMix will be set up with both a MIDI input and MIDI output. Unfortunately any small error in wiring and setup will cause a MIDI feedback loop here, which then completely blocks the computer (the CPU).

To prevent the computer from freezing, TotalMix sends a special MIDI note every 0.5 seconds to its MIDI output. As soon as it detects this special note at the input, the MIDI functionality is disabled. After fixing the loopback, check *Enable MIDI Control* under Options to reactivate the TotalMix MIDI.

28.8 OSC (Open Sound Control)

Besides simple MIDI notes, the Mackie Protocol and Control Change commands, TotalMix FX can also be controlled by the Open Sound Control, OSC. For details on setup and usage see chapter 25.8.3.

An OSC implementation chart can be downloaded from the RME website:

http://www.rme-audio.de/downloads/osc_table_totalmix_new.zip

RME offers a free iPad template for the iOS app TouchOSC (by Hexler, available in the Apple App-Store):

http://www.rme-audio.de/downloads/tosc_tm_ipad_template.zip

The RME forum hosts further information, more templates (iPhone...) and lots of useful user feedback.

29. DAW Mode

Users that work exclusively with their DAW software, and don't want to use TotalMix FX for additional routing tasks, need a way to be sure that TotalMix FX currently doesn't change the DAW's routing. While *Reset Mix* can do so, those users would be better served with a very simple surface that offers the interface's hardware controls (gain, phantom control, instrument...), but guarantees a straight 1:1 routing for all playback channels, and has no hardware monitoring of the input channels (which is then done by the DAW software).

For such cases TotalMix FX includes an alternative operating mode. It can be booted into the so called *DAW mode*. This simplified interface is for anyone performing all monitoring and routing within the DAW. The DAW mode restarts TM FX into a light version with just two rows, no playback row, and no mixing faders in the input row. Routing is 1:1 only. Just the hardware controls (if existing) and hardware output levels are available.

To change the current mode go to the menu, Options, and click on *Operational Mode*. Choices are *Full Mode* (default, mixer active, all routing options available), and *Digital Audio Workstation Mode* (straight playback routing, no input mix).

Several useful, advanced features are still available in TotalMix FX in DAW mode:

- Talkback, External Input
- Phones definition and handling with Talkback
- Speaker A / B
- All FX (EQ, Dynamics, Echo, Reverb)
- Mute and Solo
- Cue / PFL

30. TotalMix Remote

TotalMix Remote is a remote control for TotalMix FX v1.50 and up, to control the hardware mixer and effects in RME audio interfaces. TotalMix Remote mirrors the current state of the host system on the iPad and Windows/Mac computers - the entire mixing state, the complete routing, all FX settings, up to the level meters, and everything in real-time. TotalMix Remote supports up to three hosts with multiple interfaces each, allowing Apple's popular iPad and Windows/Mac computers to adjust all the mixer and FX settings from a distance, via Ethernet and WiFi.

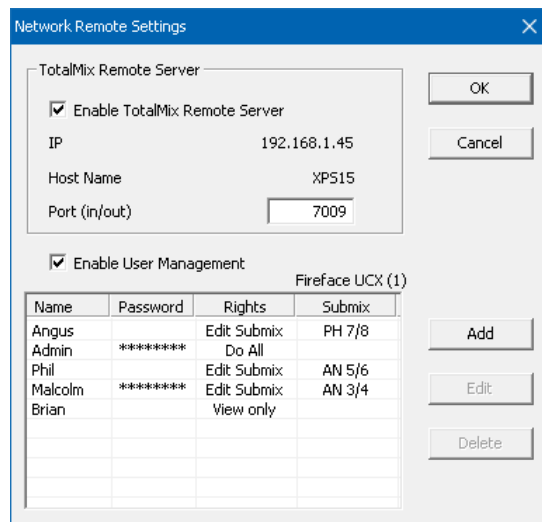
Supported Hardware

TotalMix Remote communicates with TotalMix FX 1.50 or up. Any RME hardware that can be used with TotalMix FX is supported automatically.

Quick Start

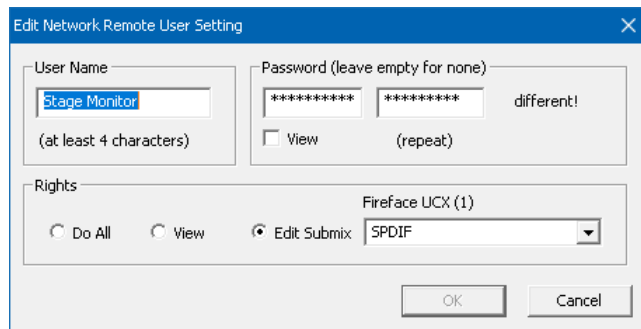
On the host (the computer with the connected audio interface) go to the TotalMix FX menu *Options, Network Remote Settings*. Click *Enable TotalMix Remote Server* to start this service. Under Windows a Firewall warning will come up. Allow TotalMix FX or it won't work. This dialog also shows the host's IP, like 192.168.1.45.

Make sure both host and remote computer / iPad reside in the same network. Start TotalMix Remote on the remote computer / iPad (not on the host!). On the iPad, tap on the gear symbol in the upper right corner, then on *Host Connection Settings*. On Windows / Mac either the dialog comes up automatically or can be called from the *Search Connected Hosts* dialog. Type in the **host's** IP address (like 192.168.1.45) into the IP field of *Host Connection 1*, and make sure it is activated. The port defaults to 7009 and usually must not be changed. In case this port is unexpectedly occupied a warning message will be issued. Choose a different port then. Under Windows a Firewall warning will come up. Allow TotalMix Remote or it won't work.



Tap Done on top or click Ok. In the mixer view the state should change from *offline* to *connected* within a few seconds.

The Add button provides access to the user-management that can be configured in detail. Here users can be defined, with and without a password, and the rights can be assigned to viewing only, changing a specific sub-mix, or full access. For example, using Total-Mix FX as a monitor controller for all band members, user-management prevents the bassist from changing the guitarist's monitor mix. Or the drummer making himself too loud. Etc.



Tip

The remotes have the option *Sync Channel Layouts* active as default (in Preferences). This option transfers the Layout Presets and the current Channel Layout state from host to remote. Apart from the channel width state this option makes a mirror-style setup most easy. But when using the remote as individual setup, make sure to disable this option to have independent Layout Presets on the remote.

Limitations

- Mixer View & GUI. When connected the remote computer / iPad will immediately have the complete routing and FX settings of the host, including mono and stereo channels, but not the host's GUI setup, like panel states open/closed of Settings/EQ/Dynamic, FX panel visibility, 2-Row or 3-Row mode and channel width. Channel width states can be stored as usual per Snapshot and completely as Workspace, locally on the remote computer. They need to be loaded manually after loading a Workspace on the host in case a 100% identical view is required.
- Workspaces. The Remote shows the Quick Workspaces (hotkey W on Windows/Mac) stored on the host, and allows to remotely load them. It is not possible to save complete Workspaces with mixer state from the Remote, or on the Remote. The Workspaces saved locally include GUI information only (Channel state wide/narrow, Channel Layouts, window size and position) and further local settings, to be able to have personalized views on the remote computer, independent from the view on the host.
- Real-time behaviour. Can suffer when the network is overloaded or the WiFi reception is insufficient. Level Meters will stutter then and faders do not move smoothly.
- Background operation on iPad - is not possible. This should not be a problem as the Remote doesn't need to do anything in background, and when called up very quickly reconnects and synchronizes its state.
- State. Is shown in the upper right corner (offline or connected), or the Mac/Windows title bar.

Downloads

Remote Windows

http://www.rme-audio.de/download/tmfx_win_remote.zip

Remote Mac

http://www.rme-audio.de/download/tmfx_mac_remote.zip

iPad

From the Apple App Store, search for 'TotalMix Remote'. This app is free.

User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

▶ Class Compliant Mode

31. General

The Fireface 802 operates in three different modes: **driver-based USB 2**, **stand-alone** mode, and **Class Compliant** mode. The latter describes a standard that is natively supported by operating systems like Windows, Mac OS X and Linux. No proprietary drivers are required, the device will be directly recognized when the CC firmware is loaded. The natively available features will be limited in comparison to those provided by the RME driver for the 802. For example there will be no hardware settings, no (Total) Mix and no settings for the effects. On the iPad (iOS) the 802 can be fully controlled by the optional app *TotalMix FX for iPad*.

The Class Compliant mode can be activated via the switch on the back of the unit.

Neither Windows nor Mac Class Compliant support is relevant, though, since there are dedicated and matured drivers for both OS X and Windows, which provide ALL the device's features at lowest latencies. The main reason for implementing Class Compliant mode was to enable a driverless usage under Linux, and to provide an exceptional hardware frontend to the Apple iPad®.

The 802 provides the iPad with the professional analog I/O connections it lacks. Superb microphone preamps with EQ, dynamics, even with the AutoSet feature, in addition to professional balanced line outputs, and hi-power headphone outputs which also excel with high impedance phones. Plus level and gain adjustments, AES and ADAT I/O, reverb, echo, zero latency monitoring, digitally via USB, without any limitation in quality, at up to 96 kHz and 24 bit. And of course a Sysex-capable double MIDI I/O.

TotalMix FX for iPad also provides full support for the optional ARC USB, an Advanced Remote Control specifically for RME interfaces, making operation and handling of the iPad DAW even more easy and comfortable.

32. System requirements

- Fireface 802 in Class Compliant mode
- Any Apple iPad with at least iOS 9
- iPhone with iOS 9 or higher
- Apple iPad Camera Connection Kit or Lightning to USB adapter
- iPad Pro requires no active adapter, just a simple USB-C to USB-B cable

33. Operation

In normal USB mode, the Fireface 802 FS does not automatically switch to CC mode when an iPad or iPhone is connected. Instead, USB 2 mode is active, and the iPhone/iPad displays the message that the device is not supported. The CC mode must always be activated manually!

Activate the Class Compliant mode

Remove USB cable from Fireface 802 FS and press recessed CC Mode switch on the back. The CC LED on the front lights up.

By means of *CC routing*, two different routings of the playback signals can be activated. See chapter 36.

Connect the USB cable to 802 and the Camera Connection Kit. Start the iPad/iPhone and insert the Camera Connection Kit into the iPad/iPhone. Audio playback from iTunes now occurs automatically through the 802, on analog outputs 1/2.

Apps that support Core MIDI offer a dialog for selecting the MIDI port of the 802.

33.1 Useful hints

If the unit is not in CC mode, the iPad will detect an incompatible USB device, and display a message saying “Cannot Use Device – The connected USB device is not supported”.



No sound: Incorrect output gain settings or wrong routing, see chapter 34. Please note that the iPad/iPhone volume control is inactive during USB operation.

If the unit does not enter Host mode: Remove and reconnect the Connection Kit.

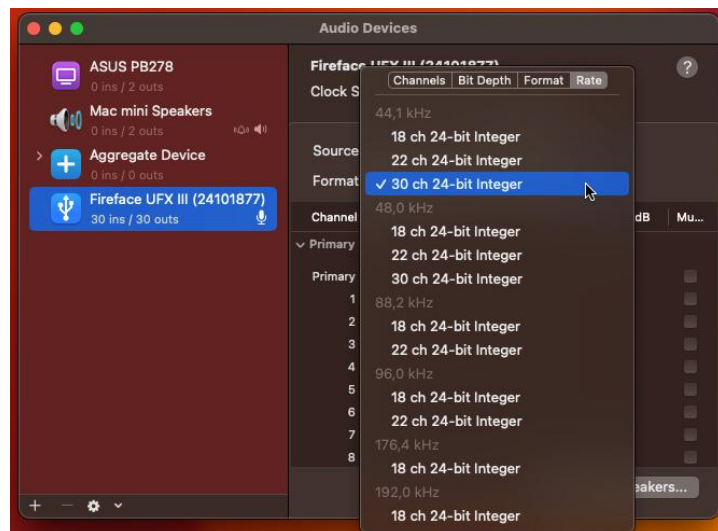
Since 2016 Apple offers another version of the *USB to Lightning Adapter*, called *Lightning to USB 3 Camera Adapter*. It has an additional Lightning port for power supply that charges the iPhone/iPad even when used with the Fireface 802.

The iPad Pro with its USB-C socket operates as regular USB host. Therefore, no adapter is needed, only a matching cable (USB-C to USB-B). Even the use of powered USB hubs is possible.

33.2 Class Compliant Mode under Windows and Mac OS X

The USB 2 Class Compliant mode of the Fireface 802 FS (18 channels playback) is compatible to Windows 11.

macOS can be used in Class Compliant mode, although without Settings dialog and TotalMix FX it makes not much sense to do so. At least one can use the *Audio MIDI Setup* to check the available CC modes.



iOS/iPadOS

These modes also exist when connecting an iPad, but cannot be freely used and assigned by iOS and iPadOS. It is up to the application alone whether certain sample rates and channel numbers are available. Most iPad DAWs are limited to 24 channels, which are also available at 96 kHz in *Cubasis* with USB 3, and 22 channels with USB 2 (see pic above). Stereo players like *Neutron* use all sample rates of the Fireface 802. A mixed playlist with music from 44.1 kHz to 192 kHz is played by *Neutron* with the original sample rates without any problems.

34. Supported Inputs and Outputs

With macOS any of the available modes will work, depending on the choice in the Audio MIDI Setup.

When connected to an iPad, the analog mic/line input 1 works with mono apps, inputs 1 and 2 with stereo apps (both dual mono and stereo), and up to 8 inputs with 8-channel applications like *MultiTrack DAW* and *Music Studio*. *Garage Band* supports all inputs, but only two at a time. *Auria* and *Cubasis* can record 24 inputs simultaneously.

Playback will use the rear-side analog outputs 1 and 2, or even more channels if the app supports such operation. The Fireface 802 FS can optionally copy the playback channels 1/2 to outputs 9/10 and 11/12, for easier monitoring (CC routing *Phones*, via the optional ARC USB).

Configuring the Fireface 802 FS is ideally done via the app *TotalMix FX for iPad*, otherwise by loading Setups. These are written into the unit while operated with PC/Mac via TotalMix FX, also storing control clock mode master or AutoSync and the current sample rate. Using RME's iPad app the routing *Phones* is automatically disabled as all routing is now controlled by the app.

The Fireface 802 (and with it the iPhone/iPad) will be synchronized to an external digital sample rate if there is a valid digital input signal. With a wrong sample rate heavy audio noise will occur. Without an SPDIF, ADAT or AES input signal the Fireface enters master mode and uses the sample rate set by Mac OS X or iOS (the app in use).

While the MIDI I/Os will send and receive Sysex messages, not all apps are ready to do this. The app *Midi Tool Box* can be used to verify Sysex functionality.

35. Front panel operation

The front panel operation is identical to the one under Windows and OS X or stand-alone. It is limited to the direct access on Gains and Volume.

The operation on the device corresponds to that under Windows and Mac. It is limited to gains and volume due to the lack of further controls. Additional functions are enabled by the optional ARC USB, connected to the remote port on the rear panel. Information on this can be found in chapter 23.2, Settings at the unit.

36. Audio Routing und Processing

In Class Compliant mode, the 802 FS features operation very similar to normal operation with TotalMix FX, with two major differences:

- There is no second TotalMix row (no software playback channels), hence no individual routing or mixing of playback channels*. These will always be connected either straight to the physical outputs (CC-Routing All Ch.), or have an additional signal copy from 1/2 to 9/10 and 11/12 (CC-Routing Phones), making the headphone outputs work.

Both modes can be activated at any time and do not influence the mixer state loaded via the Setups, as they only influence the playback routing. The current routing can easily be checked and verified with the level meter display.

- The input effects EQ/Dyn will always be active in the recording path

The 802 FS can be pre-configured for CC mode via TotalMix FX under Windows/Mac by saving up to 6 configurations into its setup memory, see chapter 23.2.

The input signal will pass through all activated functions of the TM FX input channel, namely settings, EQ, and Dynamics, and is then sent to the iPhone/iPad. Like under Windows and Mac, the input fader setting controls direct monitoring to the specified outputs. The FX send control for echo/reverb is also active.

- ! *As in normal TotalMix FX use, the options Stereo Width, MS Proc and Phase L/R are NOT within the recording path, but in the monitor path. This is technically determined and can not be changed.*

The iPhone/iPad output signal passes through all activated functions of the TM FX hardware outputs settings, PEQ, Room EQ and Dynamics. The third row's fader sets the output level.

- ! *Control Room Section settings are inactive. Configuring the Phones output is done by output channel 9/10 and 11/12.*

Both modes can be activated at any time and do not influence the mixer state loaded via the Setups, as they only influence the playback routing.

*Not valid when using an iPad and the optional app *TotalMix FX for iPad*.

User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

► **Technical Reference**

37. Technical Specifications

37.1 Analog

AD, Line In 1-8, rear

- Input: 6.3 mm TRS, electronically balanced
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR) @ LoGain: 116 dB (AES17), 118 dBA
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR) @ +4 dBu: 115 dB (AES17), 117 dBA
- Frequency response @ 44.1 kHz, -0.1 dB: 8.9 Hz – 20.4 kHz
- Frequency response @ 96 kHz, -0.5 dB: 4.3 Hz – 45.2 kHz
- Frequency response @ 192 kHz, -1 dB: 3 Hz – 89 kHz
- Filter: Short Delay Sharp, 5 / 5 / 6 samples delay
- THD @ -1 dBFS: < -120 dB, < 0.0001 %
- THD+N @ -1 dBFS: < -110 dB, < 0.00032 %
- Channel separation: > 110 dB
- Maximum input level: +19 dBu
- Input: 6.3 mm TRS jack, electronically balanced
- Input impedance @ 1 kHz: 10 kOhm unbalanced, 10.6 kOhm balanced
- Input sensitivity switchable between Lo Gain and +4 dBu
- Input level for 0 dBFS @ Lo Gain: +19 dBu
- Input level for 0 dBFS @ +4 dBu: +13 dBu
- Variable digital gain: 0 to +12 dB
- Minimum level for 0 dBFS: +1 dBu, -1.2 dBV

Microphone In 9-12, front

As AD, but:

- Input: XLR, electronically balanced
- Input impedance: 3.4 kOhm
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR): 113 dB RMS unweighted, 116 dBA
- Gain range: 54 dB
- Maximum input level, Gain +6 dB: +10 dBu
- Maximum input level, Gain +60 dB: -44 dBu
- EIN: -131 dBu A-weighted, 54 dB gain, 150 Ohm, 20 Hz – 20 kHz
- CLIP LED: 0 dBFS
- SIG LED: -42 dBFS

Instrument In 9-12, front

As AD, but:

- Input: 6.3 mm TS jack, unbalanced
- Input impedance: 1 MOhm
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR): 113 dB RMS unweighted, 116 dBA
- Maximum input level, Gain +6 dB: +21 dBu
- Maximum input level, Gain +60 dB: -33 dBu
- Frequency response @ 44.1 kHz, -0.5 dB: 2.5 Hz – 20.8 kHz
- Frequency response @ 96 kHz, -0.5 dB: 2.5 Hz – 25 kHz
- Frequency response @ 192 kHz, -1 dB: 1.7 Hz – 36 kHz

DA - Stereo Monitor Output Phones (9-12)

As DA, but:

- Output: 2 x 6.3 mm TRS stereo jack, unbalanced
- Maximum output level at 0 dBFS: +17 dBu
- Max power per channel @ 32 Ohm load, 0.02% THD: 200 mW (2.5 Vrms, +10 dBu)
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR): 116 dB (AES17), 118 dBA
- Output impedance: 2 Ohm

DA, Line Out 1-8, rear

- Output: 6.3 mm TRS jack, servo-balanced
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR) @ HiGain: 116.5 dB (AES17), 118.5 dBA
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR) @ +4 dBu: 116 dB (AES17), 118 dBA
- Signal to Noise ratio (SNR) @ -10 dBV: 107 dB (AES17), 109 dBA
- Frequency response @ 44.1 kHz, -0.1 dB: 0 Hz – 20.2 kHz
- Frequency response @ 96 kHz, -0.5 dB: 0 Hz – 44.6 kHz
- Frequency response @ 192 kHz, -1 dB: 0 Hz – 77.5 kHz
- THD+N: < -110 dB, < 0.00032 %
- Channel separation: > 110 dB
- Output level switchable Hi Gain, +4 dBu, -10 dBV
- Output level at 0 dBFS @ Hi Gain: +19 dBu
- Output level at 0 dBFS @ +4 dBu: +13 dBu
- Output level at 0 dBFS @ -10 dBV: +2 dBV (+4.2 dBu)
- Output impedance: 75 Ohm

37.2 MIDI

- 1 x MIDI I/O via 5-pin DIN jacks
- Galvanically isolated by optocoupled input
- Hi-speed mode: Jitter and response time typically below 1 ms
- Separate 128 byte FIFOs for input and output

37.3 Digital

- Clocks: Internal, ADAT In, AES In, SPDIF In, Word Clock In
- Jitter suppression of external clocks: > 50 dB (> 1 Hz)
- Effective clock jitter influence on AD and DA conversion: near zero
- PLL ensures zero dropout, even at more than 100 ns jitter
- Digital Bitclock PLL for trouble-free varispeed ADAT operation
- Supported sample rates: 28 kHz up to 200 kHz

37.4 Digital Inputs

AES/EBU

- 1 x XLR, transformer-balanced, galvanically isolated, according to AES3-1992
- High-sensitivity input stage (< 0.3 Vpp)
- SPDIF compatible (IEC 60958)
- Accepts Consumer and Professional format
- Lock range: 27 kHz – 200 kHz
- Jitter suppression: > 50 dB (> 1 Hz)

ADAT Optical

- 2 x TOSLINK, format according to Alesis specification
- Standard: 2 x 8 channels 24 bit, up to 48 kHz
- Double Speed (S/MUX): 2 x 4 channels 24 bit 96 kHz
- Quad Speed (S/MUX4): 2 x 2 channels 24 bit 192 kHz
- Windows USB Quad Speed: 1 x 2 channels 24 bit 192 kHz
- Bitclock PLL ensures perfect synchronisation even in varispeed operation
- Lock range: 31.5 kHz – 50 kHz
- Jitter suppression: > 50 dB (> 1 Hz)

SPDIF optical (ADAT1/2)

- 1 x optical, according to IEC 60958
- Accepts Consumer and Professional format
- Lock range: 27 kHz – 200 kHz
- Jitter suppression: > 50 dB (> 1 Hz)

Word Clock

- BNC, not terminated (10 kOhm)
- Switch for internal termination 75 Ohm
- Automatic Double/Quad Speed detection and internal conversion to Single Speed
- SteadyClock guarantees super low jitter synchronization even in varispeed operation
- Not affected by DC-offsets within the network
- Signal Adaptation Circuit: signal refresh through auto-center and hysteresis
- Overvoltage protection
- Level range: 1.0 Vpp – 5.6 Vpp
- Lock Range: 27 kHz – 200 kHz
- Jitter suppression: > 50 dB (> 1 Hz)

37.5 Digital Outputs

AES/EBU

- 1 x XLR, transformer-balanced, galvanically isolated, according to AES3-1992
- Output level Professional 4.2 Vpp, Consumer 2.4 Vpp
- Format Professional according to AES3-1992 Amendment 4
- Format Consumer (SPDIF) according to IEC 60958
- Single Wire mode, sample rate 28 kHz up to 200 kHz

ADAT

- 2 x TOSLINK
- Standard: 2 x 8 channels 24 bit, up to 48 kHz
- Double Speed (S/MUX): 2 x 4 channels 24 bit 96 kHz
- Quad Speed (S/MUX4): 2 x 2 channels 24 bit 192 kHz
- Windows USB Quad Speed: 1 x 2 channels 24 bit 192 kHz

SPDIF optical (ADAT1/2)

- Format Consumer (SPDIF) according to IEC 60958
- Sample rate 28 kHz up to 200 kHz

Word Clock

- BNC
- Max. output voltage: 5 Vpp
- Output voltage @ 75 Ohm termination: 4.0 Vpp
- Output impedance: 10 Ohm
- Frequency range: 27 kHz – 200 kHz

37.6 General

- Power supply: Internal switching PSU, 100 - 240 V AC, 30 Watt
- Idle power consumption: 15 Watt
- Typical power consumption: 22 Watt
- Dimensions including rack ears (WxHxD): 483 x 44 x 242 mm (19" x 1.73" x 9.5")
- Dimensions without rack ears/handles (WxHxD): 436 x 44 x 235 mm (17.2" x 1.73" x 9.3")
- Weight: 2.8 kg (6.2 lbs)
- Temperature range: +5° up to +50° Celsius (41° F up to 122°F)
- Relative humidity: < 75%, non condensing

38. Technical Background

38.1 Lock and SyncCheck

Digital signals consist of a carrier and the data. If a digital signal is applied to an input, the receiver has to synchronize to the carrier clock in order to read the data correctly. To achieve this, the receiver uses a PLL (Phase Locked Loop). As soon as the receiver meets the exact frequency of the incoming signal, it is locked. This **Lock** state remains even with small changes of the frequency, because the PLL tracks the receiver's frequency.

If an ADAT or SPDIF signal is applied to the Fireface 802, the corresponding input LED starts flashing. The unit indicates LOCK, i. e. a valid input signal (in case the signal is also in sync, the LED is constantly lit, see below).

Unfortunately, LOCK does not necessarily mean that the received signal is correct with respect to the clock which processes the read out of the embedded data. Example [1]: The Fireface is set to 44.1 kHz internally (clock mode Master), and a mixing desk with ADAT output is connected to input ADAT1. The corresponding LED will show LOCK immediately, but usually the mixing desk's sample rate is generated internally (also Master), and thus slightly higher or lower than the Fireface's internal sample rate. Result: When reading out the data, there will frequently be read errors that cause clicks and drop outs.

Also when using multiple inputs, a simple LOCK is not sufficient. The above described problem can be solved elegantly by setting the Fireface from Master to AutoSync (its internal clock will then be the clock delivered by the mixing desk). But in case another, un-synchronous device is connected, there will again be a slight difference in the sample rate, and therefore clicks and drop outs.

In order to display those problems optically at the device, the Fireface includes **SyncCheck**. It checks all clocks used for *synchronicity*. If they are not synchronous to each other (i. e. absolutely identical), the SYNC LED of the asynchronous input flashes. In case they are completely synchronous, all LEDs are constantly lit. In example 1 it would have been obvious that the LED ADAT 1 kept on flashing after connecting the mixing desk.

In practice, SyncCheck allows for a quick overview of the correct configuration of all digital devices. So one of the most difficult and error-prone topics of the digital studio world finally becomes easy to handle.

The same information is presented in the Fireface's Settings dialog. In the status display *Sync-Check* the state of all clocks is decoded and shown as simple text (No Lock, Lock, Sync).

38.2 Latency and Monitoring

The term **Zero Latency Monitoring** has been introduced by RME in 1998 for the DIGI96 series of audio cards. It stands for the ability to pass-through the computer's input signal at the interface directly to the output. Since then, the idea behind has become one of the most important features of modern hard disk recording. In the year 2000, RME published two ground-breaking Tech Infos on the topics *Low Latency Background*, which are still up-to-date: *Monitoring, ZLM and ASIO*, and *Buffer and Latency Jitter*, both found on the RME website.

How much Zero is Zero?

From a technical view there is no zero. Even the analog pass-through is subject to phase errors, equalling a delay between input and output. However, delays below certain values can subjectively be claimed to be a zero-latency. This applies to analog routing and mixing, and in our opinion also to RME's Zero Latency Monitoring. The term describes the digital path of the audio data from the input of the interface to its output. The digital receiver of the Fireface 802 can't operate un-buffered, and together with TotalMix and the output via the transmitter, it causes a typical delay of 3 samples. At 44.1 kHz this equals about 68 μ s (0.000068 s), at 192 kHz only 15 μ s. The delay is valid for ADAT and SPDIF in the same way.

Oversampling

While the delays of digital interfaces can be disregarded altogether, the analog inputs and outputs do cause a significant delay. Modern converter chips operate with 64 or 128 times oversampling plus digital filtering, in order to move the error-prone analog filters away from the audible frequency range as far as possible. This typically generates a delay of one millisecond. A playback and re-record of the same signal via DA and AD (loopback) then causes an offset of the newly recorded track of about 2 ms.

Low Latency!

The Fireface 802 FS uses AD and DA converters with an innovative digital filter, causing a delay of only a few samples. With 5 samples AD and 6 samples DA the delay caused by the conversion is only about a quarter of previous generations. The exact delays of the Fireface 802 FS are:

Sample rate kHz	44.1	48	88.2	96	176.4	192
AD (5 x 1/fs) ms	0.11	0.104				
AD (5 x 1/fs) ms			0.057	0.052		
AD (6 x 1/fs) ms					0.034	0.031
DA (6 x 1/fs) ms	0.136	0.125	0.068	0.063	0.034	0.031

Buffer Size (Latency)

Windows: This option found in the Settings dialog defines the size of the buffers for the audio data used in ASIO and WDM (see chapter 7).

Mac OS X: The buffer size is defined within the application. Only some do not offer any setting. For example iTunes is fixed to 512 samples.

General: A setting of 64 samples at 44.1 kHz causes a latency of 1.5 ms, for record and playback each. But when performing a digital loopback test no latency/offset can be detected. The reason is that the software naturally knows the size of the buffers, therefore is able to position the newly recorded data at a place equalling a latency-free system.

AD/DA Offset under ASIO and OS X: ASIO (Windows) and Core Audio (Mac OS X) allow for the signalling of an offset value to correct buffer independent delays, like AD- and DA-conversion or the Safety Buffer described below. An analog loopback test will then show no offset, because the application shifts the recorded data accordingly. Because in real world operation analog record and playback is unavoidable, the drivers include an offset value matching the Fireface's converter delays.

Therefore, in a **digital** loopback test a *negative* offset of about 18 samples occurs. No real problem, because this way of working is seldom, the offset is quite small (< 0.5 ms), and can usually be compensated manually. Additionally, keep in mind that even when using the digital I/Os usually at some place an AD- and DA-conversion is involved.

Note: Cubase and Nuendo display the latency values signalled from the driver separately for record and playback. The values do not exactly equal the buffer size (for example 3 ms at 128 samples), instead a higher value is shown, including the time needed for the AD/DA-conversion. Playback shows an even higher value – see Safety Buffer.

Safety Buffer

An additional small safety buffer on the playback side has proven to be very efficient and useful. It is therefore implemented in all RME interfaces. Under Windows the Fireface 802 uses a fixed additional buffer of 32 samples with USB, which is added to the current buffer size. The main advantage is the ability to use lowest latency at highest CPU loads. Furthermore, the fixed buffer does not add to the latency jitter (see Tech Info), the subjective timing is extraordinary.

Core Audio's Safety Offset

Under OS X, every audio interface has to use a so called *Safety Offset* on record and playback, otherwise Core Audio won't operate click-free. The Fireface 802 uses a Safety Offset of 24 samples, 12 sample with setting Short. This offset is signalled to the system, and the software can calculate and display the total latency of buffer size, hardware latency, Safety Offset and Safety Buffer for the current sample rate.

38.3 USB Audio

USB audio is in several ways different from PCI based audio interfaces. A Fireface 802 can achieve a performance similar to a PCI or PCI Express card when used with an optimal PC. Low CPU load and click-free operation even at 48 samples buffer size are indeed possible on current computers.

A computer blocked for a short time – no matter if ASIO or WDM – will lose one or more data packets. Such problems can be solved by increasing the buffer size (and with this the latency).

The Fireface features a unique data checking, detecting errors during transmission via USB and displaying them in the Settings dialog.



Additionally the Fireface provides a special mechanism to continue recording and playback in case of drop-outs, and to correct the sample position in real-time.

Like any audio interface the Fireface should use a data transmission to the computer as undisturbed as possible. The easiest way to guarantee this is to connect it to its own USB bus, which should be no big problem as most USB 2.0 interfaces are a double bus design. A check in the Device Manager can be done as follows:

- Connect the Fireface to a USB port
- Start the Device Manager, View set to Devices by Connection
- Select ACPI x86-based PC, Microsoft ACPI-Compliant System, expand PCI Bus

This branch normally includes two entries of a *USB2 Enhanced Host Controller*. A USB Root Hub can be seen, which then connects all USB devices, including the Fireface. By reconnecting to a different port this view immediately shows at which of the two controllers the Fireface is connected. With multiple devices it can also be checked if they are connected to the same controller.

Furthermore this information can be used to operate an external USB drive without disturbing the Fireface, by simply connecting the drive to the other controller.

Especially with notebooks it can happen that all internal devices and all the sockets/ports are connected to the same controller, with the second controller not used at all. In that case all devices have to use the same bus and interfere with each other.

The Mac DriverKit driver has a detailed *Diagnostics* display at the right bottom of the Settings dialog. There are 5 counters (left to right):

- USB transfer issues
- USB data issues
- Audio restarts caused by USB transfers
- Audio HAL issues
- Data delayed

Normally the counters should stay at zero. Single restarts can occur on sleep/wakeup, sample rate change or changes of safety offset option or transfer mode - all these are not problematic.

Audio HAL problems are typically caused by high load, leading to delayed write/read, e.g. at start of audio playback in Safari.

Data delayed is a problem caused by longer signal path to the USB port, e.g. when using Thunderbolt docks. Then a larger Safety Offset must be used.

When the first 2 USB counters count up, you should try another port, check/replace USB cable or check for ground loops.

38.4 DS - Double Speed

When activating the *Double Speed* mode the Fireface 802 operates at double sample rate. The internal clock 44.1 kHz turns to 88.2 kHz, 48 kHz to 96 kHz. The internal resolution is still 24 bit.

Sample rates above 48 kHz were not always taken for granted, and are still not widely used because of the CD format (44.1 kHz) dominating everything. Before 1998 there were no receiver/transmitter circuits available that could receive or transmit more than 48 kHz. Therefore a work-around was used: instead of two channels, one AES line only carries one channel, whose odd and even samples are being distributed to the former left and right channels. By this, you get the double amount of data, i. e. also double sample rate. Of course in order to transmit a stereo signal two AES/EBU ports are necessary then.

This transmission mode is called *Double Wire* in the professional studio world, and is also known as *S/MUX (Sample Multiplexing)* in connection with the ADAT format.

Because the ADAT interface does not allow for sampling frequencies above 48 kHz (a limitation of the interface hardware), the Fireface 802 automatically uses *Sample Multiplexing* in DS mode. As the transmission of double rate signals is done at standard sample rate (Single Speed), the ADAT outputs still deliver 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz.

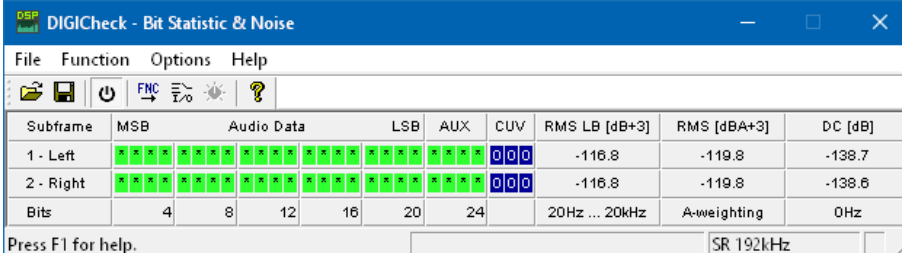
38.5 QS – Quad Speed

Due to the small number of available devices that use sample rates up to 192 kHz, but even more due to a missing real world application (CD...), Quad Speed has had no broad success so far. An implementation of the ADAT format as double S/MUX results in only two channels per optical output.

In Quad Speed mode the Fireface 802 automatically uses *Sample Multiplexing*. One channel's data is distributed to four channels. In any way the ADAT output physically always delivers 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz only.

38.6 Noise level in DS / QS Mode

The outstanding signal to noise ratio of the Fireface 802 AD-converters can be verified even without expensive test equipment, by using record level meters of various software. But when activating the DS and QS mode, the displayed noise level will rise from -116 dB to -108 dB at 96 kHz, and -82 dB at 192 kHz. This is not a failure. The software measures the noise of the whole frequency range, at 96 kHz from 0 Hz to 48 kHz (RMS unweighted), at 192 kHz from 0 Hz to 96 kHz.



The screenshot shows the 'DIGICheck - Bit Statistic & Noise' window. It features a menu bar (File, Function, Options, Help) and a toolbar with icons for file operations, power, and help. The main area is a table with columns for Subframe, MSB, Audio Data, LSB, AUX, CUV, RMS LB [dB+3], RMS [dBA+3], and DC [dB]. The table contains data for two channels: '1 - Left' and '2 - Right'. The 'Audio Data' column is filled with green 'x' marks, and the 'CUV' column shows '000'. The RMS values are -116.8 dB for both channels. The DC value is -138.7 dB for the left channel and -138.6 dB for the right channel. The 'Bits' row shows 4 bits for MSB, 8 for Audio Data, 12 for LSB, 16 for AUX, and 24 for CUV. The frequency range is 20Hz ... 20kHz, and the weighting is A-weighting. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'SR 192kHz'.

Subframe	MSB	Audio Data	LSB	AUX	CUV	RMS LB [dB+3]	RMS [dBA+3]	DC [dB]
1 - Left	x	x	x	x	000	-116.8	-119.8	-138.7
2 - Right	x	x	x	x	000	-116.8	-119.8	-138.6
Bits	4	8	12	16	24	20Hz ... 20kHz	A-weighting	0Hz

When limiting the measurement range from 20 Hz to 20 kHz (so called audio bandpass) the value would be -113 dB again. This can be verified with RME's *DIGICheck*. The function **Bit Statistic & Noise** measures the noise floor by *Limited Bandwidth*, ignoring DC and ultrasound.

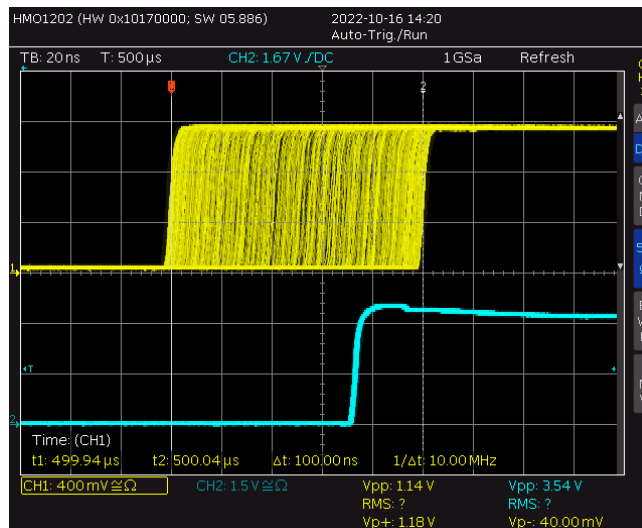
The reason for this behaviour is the noise shaping technology of the analog to digital converters. They move all noise and distortion to the in-audible higher frequency range, above 24 kHz. That's how they achieve their outstanding performance and sonic clarity. Therefore the noise is slightly increased in the ultrasound area. High-frequent noise has a high energy. Add the doubled (quadrupled) bandwidth, and a wideband measurement will show a significant drop in SNR, while the human ear will notice absolutely no change in the audible noise floor.

38.7 SteadyClock FS

RME's SteadyClock technology guarantees an excellent performance in all clock modes. Its highly efficient jitter suppression refreshes and cleans up any clock signal. Thanks to the efficient jitter suppression, the AD- and DA-conversion always operates on highest sonic level, being completely independent from the quality of the incoming clock signal.

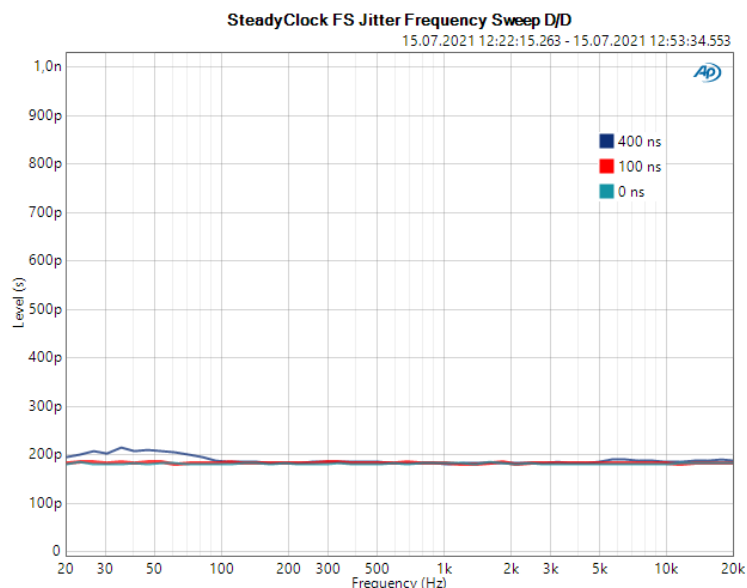
RME realizes modern circuit designs like hi-speed digital synthesizer, digital PLL and 800 MHz sample rate cost- and space-saving right within the FPGA. Combined with analog and digital filtering a professional clock technology is created that is second to none. Also SteadyClock reacts quite fast compared to other techniques. It locks in fractions of a second to the input signal, follows even extreme varipitch changes with phase accuracy, and locks directly within a range of 28 kHz up to 200 kHz.

The analysis of so-called *interface jitter* with the help of an oscilloscope shows how it works. The screenshot shows a very jittery SPDIF signal with about 50 ns jitter (top graph, yellow). SteadyClock turns this signal into a clean clock signal with less than 2 ns jitter (lower graph, blue). The signal processed by SteadyClock is not only used internally, but also used to clock the digital outputs. Therefore the refreshed and jitter-cleaned signal can be used as reference clock without hesitation. Additionally SteadyClock not only processes word clock, but any input signal – SPDIF, AES, ADAT, MADI...



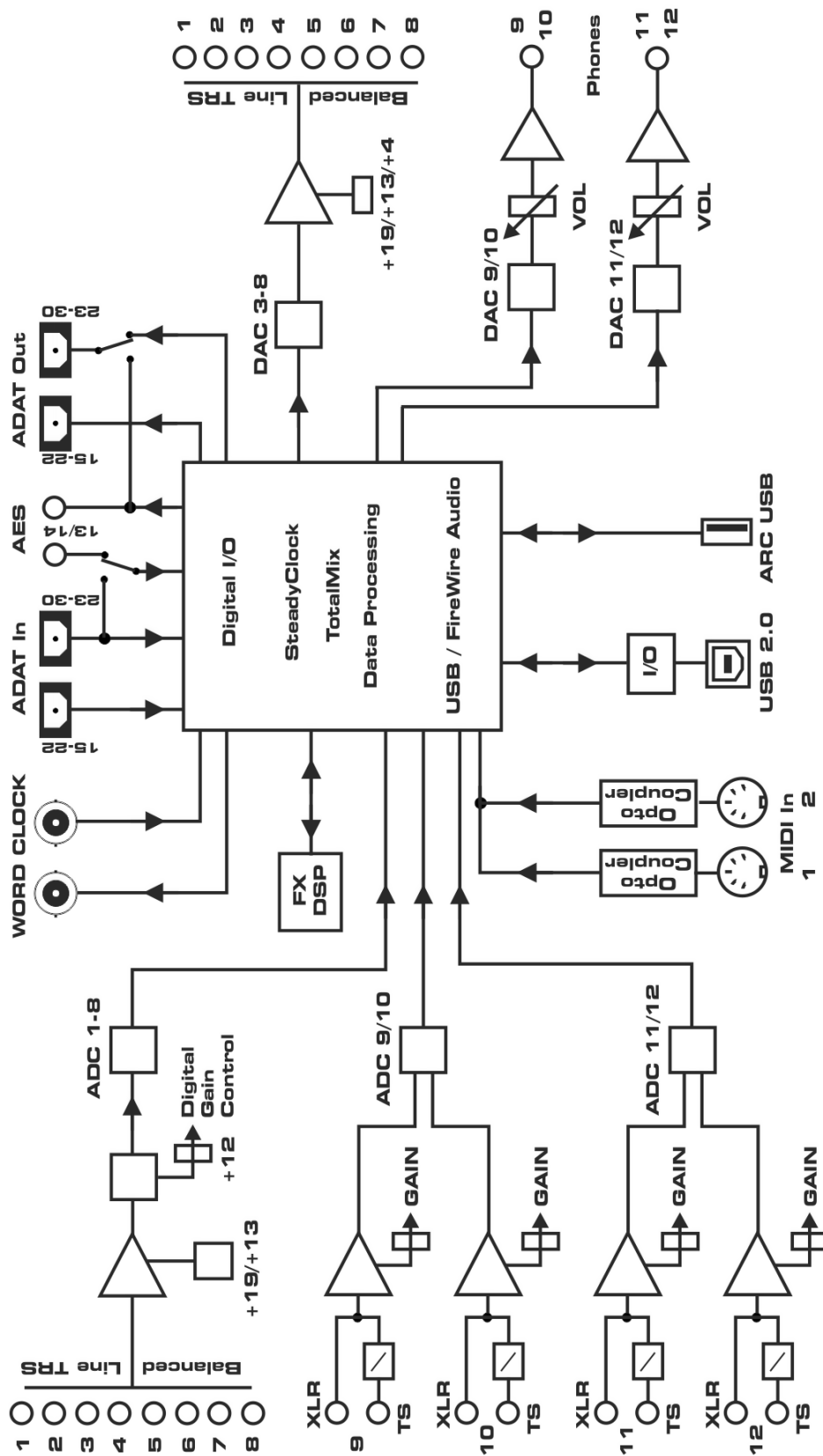
The so-called *sampling jitter*, usually in the range of picoseconds, is also very low in the 802 FS. One way to show this is to send out a specially modulated 11.025 kHz sine from the analog output, then analyze the sampled result. Jitter products are shown in the measurement as symmetrical sidebands, like narrow needles. SteadyClock does not show obvious sidebands. Also remarkable is the identical performance when using internal or external clock – a typical SteadyClock feature. Check RME's YouTube channel for a video showing and explaining such measurements.

The further improved *Steady-Clock FS* technology attenuates even lowest frequency jitter (>1 Hz), and provides an even higher jitter suppression at lowest self-jitter. Of course, this can also be proven by measurement. In this measurement, an AES signal with 0 ns (reference), 100 ns and 400 ns (!) jitter is applied, and the modulation frequency is swept in the range 20 Hz to 20 kHz in each case. At 50 Hz, approximately 210 ps can be detected, corresponding to a jitter suppression of > 65 dB. This is simply fantastic for such low frequencies.



39. Diagrams

39.1 Block Diagram Fireface 802 FS



39.2 Connector Pinouts

TRS jacks of analog input / output

The stereo 1/4" TRS jacks of the analog inputs and outputs are wired according to international standards:

Tip = + (hot)
Ring = - (cold)
Sleeve = GND

The servo balanced input and output circuitry allows to use monaural TS jacks (unbalanced) with no loss in level. This is the same as when using a TRS-jack with ring connected to ground.

XLR jacks of analog inputs

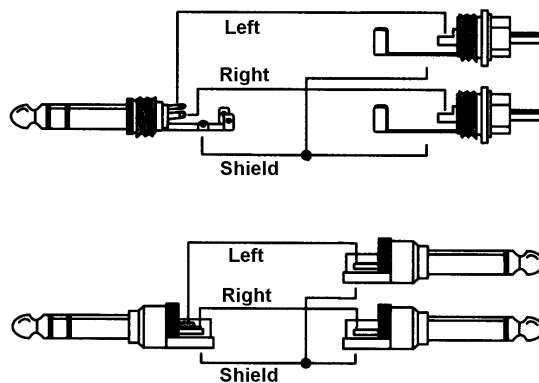
The XLR jacks are wired according to international standards:

1 = GND (shield)
2 = + (hot)
3 = - (cold)

TRS Phones jack

The analog monitor outputs on the front are accessible through stereo 1/4" TRS jacks. This allows a direct connection of headphones. In case the output should operate as Line output, an adapter TRS plug to RCA phono plugs, or TRS plug to TS plugs is required.

The pin assignment follows international standards. The left channel is connected to the tip, the right channel to the ring of the TRS jack/plug.



User's Guide



Fireface 802 *FS*

► **Miscellaneous**

40. Accessories

RME offers several optional components for the Fireface 802:

Part Number	Description
Optical cable with TOSLINK connectors:	
OK0100PRO	Optical cable, TOSLINK, 1 m (3.3 ft)
OK0200PRO	Optical cable, TOSLINK, 2 m (6.6 ft)
OK0300PRO	Optical cable, TOSLINK, 3 m (9.9 ft)
OK0500PRO	Optical cable, TOSLINK, 5 m (16.4 ft)
OK1000PRO	Optical cable, TOSLINK, 10 m (33 ft)
ARC USB	Advanced Remote Control USB

41. Warranty

Each individual Fireface 802 FS undergoes comprehensive quality control and a complete test at IMM before shipping. The usage of high grade components should guarantee a long and trouble-free operation of the unit.

If you suspect that your product is faulty, please contact your local retailer.

Audio AG grants a limited manufacturer warranty of 6 months from the day of invoice showing the date of sale. The length of the warranty period is different per country. Please contact your local distributor for extended warranty information and service. Note that each country may have regional specific warranty implications.

In any case warranty does not cover damage caused by improper installation or maltreatment - replacement or repair in such cases can only be carried out at the owner's expense.

No warranty service is provided when the product is not returned to the local distributor in the region where the product had been originally shipped.

Audio AG does not accept claims for damages of any kind, especially consequential damage. Liability is limited to the value of the Fireface 802 FS. The general terms of business drawn up by Audio AG apply at all times.

42. Appendix

RME news, driver updates and further product information are available on RME's website:

<https://www.rme-audio.com>

Worldwide distribution: Audio AG, Am Pfanderling 60, D-85778 Haimhausen, Tel.: (49) 08133 / 918170

Support via e-mail: support@rme-audio.com

List of international supporters: <https://www.rme-audio.de/support.html>

RME user forum: <https://forum.rme-audio.de>

Manufacturer: IMM electronics GmbH, Leipziger Strasse 32, D-09648 Mittweida

Trademarks

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Current driver versions:

Windows 1.276, Mac OS depending on version: 4.27 (DK), 3.35 (KE), 3.223 (up to macOS 10)
TotalMix FX: 1.99

Firmware Versions

Current: Fireface 802 FS, Hw Rev. 7: USB 227, DSP 31, Class Compliant 215

Note: Only Hw Rev. 7 (802 FS) has triple AES/SPDIF, Room EQ and SteadyClock FS 1 Hz filter.

Firmware versions of older hardware (no FS):

Fireface 802 Hw Rev. A: USB 20, DSP 9, FW 9, Class Compliant 12

Fireface 802 Hw Rev. E: USB 112, FW 101, CC 101, DSP 9, Class Compliant 101

Although the contents of this User's Guide have been thoroughly checked for errors, RME can not guarantee that it is correct throughout. RME does not accept responsibility for any misleading or incorrect information within this guide. Lending or copying any part of the guide or the RME Driver CD, or any commercial exploitation of these media without express written permission from RME Intelligent Audio Solutions is prohibited. RME reserves the right to change specifications at any time without notice.

Note on Disposal

According to the guide line RL2012/19EU (WEEE – Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment), valid for all European countries, this product has to be recycled at the end of its lifetime.

In case a disposal of electronic waste is not possible, the recycling can also be done by IMM electronics GmbH, the manufacturer of the Fireface 802 FS.

For this the device has to be sent **free to the door** to:

IMM electronics GmbH
Leipziger Straße 32
D-09648 Mittweida
Germany



Shipments not prepaid will be rejected and returned on the original sender's costs.

43. CE / FCC Compliance

CE

This device has been tested and found to comply with the limits of the European Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to electromagnetic compatibility according to RL2014/30/EU, and European Low Voltage Directive RL2014/35/EU.

FCC

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Warning: Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Responsible Party in USA:

Synthax United States, 6600 NW 16th Street, Suite 10, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33313
T.:754.206.4220

Trade Name: RME, Model Number: Fireplace 802 FS

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Caution: To comply with the limits of the Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules, this device must be operated with computer equipment certified to comply with Class B limits. All cables used to connect to the computer and peripherals must be shielded and grounded. Operation with non-certified computers or unshielded cables may cause interference to radio or television reception.

RoHS

This product has been soldered lead-free and fulfils the requirements of the RoHS directive.