

Pro Tools LE 5.3.1 (Windows Systems Only)

This Read Me documents compatibility details, known issues, and guide addenda for Pro Tools LE 5.3.1 systems on Windows.

Compatibility

Digidesign can only assure compatibility and provide support for Digidesign-qualified hardware and software configurations. For a list of Digidesign-qualified computers, operating systems, and third-party devices, refer to the latest compatibility information on the Digidesign Web site (www.digidesign.com).

Pro Tools LE Authorization Window Buttons

Upon the first launch of Pro Tools LE, the authorization window's "Cancel" and "Validate" buttons may be only partially visible or may not be visible at all. Should this happen, you can still enter your authorization code and press enter or click the box on the right (which is the "Validate" button) to validate your copy of Pro Tools LE.

Setting up Pro Tools LE Hardware with Windows

There have been changes in the installation process since the last release of Pro Tools LE. After installing your hardware and starting up your computer wait for the Found New Hardware Wizard dialog to appear and leave it open. Leaving the Wizard on screen, place the Pro Tools LE Installer CD-ROM for Windows in your CD-ROM drive. Locate (in the Pro Tools LE Installer folder) and double-click the Setup icon. To avoid installation problems, please read carefully and follow the installation instructions in the Pro Tools LE 5.3.1 Addendum.

Upgrading Plug-Ins from Earlier Versions of Windows

Before you upgrade your operating system, it is important that you de-authorize any Pace InterLok floppy disk copy protected plug-ins that you may have on a Pro Tools LE 5.1.1 (or earlier) system. Plug-ins can be re-authorized with the same Pace InterLok floppy disk once your operating system upgrade is complete.

Updating Windows Software And Drivers

Most hardware devices (such as MIDI interfaces) which worked on older versions of Windows will not function correctly with newer versions of Windows without software or driver updates. Please check with the manufacture of the various system devices you plan to use, to ensure you are using the latest Windows software or drivers.

Using MacOpener

Windows XP Professional may not be able to read from HFS or HFS+ drives on a system with MacOpener installed until MacOpener's MacLic.exe is run.

If you get errors such as "Access Denied" or "Error executing inpage command" when attempting to use MacOpener's HFS or HFS+ drive compatibility in Pro Tools LE, close Pro Tools LE, run MacLic.exe (the MacOpener License application that was installed with MacOpener), and relaunch Pro Tools LE.

Compaq EVO W8000 and DOS Boot Disks

PC-DOS boot disks are not supported with the Compaq EVO W8000. Use MS-DOS boot disks with the Compaq EVO W8000.

Dual Monitor Systems

Pro Tools LE does not fully support true Windows “Separate Resolution” video modes for Windows systems with more than one VGA output. On systems with a dual port VGA card, the QuickTime Movie window displays an empty white box instead of the QuickTime Movie. Other issues include dialogs and pop-up menus appearing on the first monitor connected to a dual port VGA card of Pro Tools LE windows that reside on the second monitor; and the Session Setup window radio buttons and their corresponding text do not appear when open on the second monitor. However, Pro Tools LE fully supports dual monitor modes where Display Settings are routed to multiple monitors by the Windows operating system to create a single desktop. Consult your video card driver’s documentation on how to use dual monitor VGA cards without using “Separate Resolution” modes.

Opening TDM Sessions on LE Systems

Because Pro Tools LE does not support “mixed audio file format” sessions created on a Pro Tools TDM system, TDM users must first select Save Session Copy In with all audio files in a single file format before they can be opened on an LE system.

Transferring Sessions with Plug-Ins Between TDM and LE Systems

When transferring sessions between LE and TDM systems, plug-in settings should be copied to the session's Plug-In settings folder. This helps restore the proper plug-in preset names.

Known Issues

The following sections document known issues you may encounter when using Pro Tools LE 5.3.1, along with workarounds if they exist.

Up and Down Arrow Keys and Adjusting Input Level Sliders

The Up and Down arrow keys don't work correctly when adjusting input level sliders. Use the left and right arrows to adjust the input level sliders.

Low Latency Monitor and Auxiliary Input Sends (Digi 001 Only)

When Low Latency Monitoring is enabled, sends and inserts are supposed to become muted automatically (note that they become dimmed). However, in some instances, after toggling Low Latency Monitoring on and off, the send may not get muted, even though it is dimmed.

“Access Violation” on Playback of Read-Only Sessions

Pressing play in a session recently restored from CD-ROM results in dialog stating “Access Violation.” The session (and it’s audio files) are marked with the Read-Only flag. If you do not know how to remove the Read-Only flag from your files, please consult Windows Help.

Task Manager CPU Usage Limit

Regardless of percentage chosen by the Playback Engine > CPU Usage Limit, Task Manager shows 99% of the CPU being used by Pro Tools LE when Pro Tools LE is running. The Task Manager measures CPU usage by keeping track of how much time an application spends “doing nothing.” Pro Tools LE is almost always “doing something,” and although this confuses Task Manager’s measurements, it shouldn’t directly affect the performance of other applications. The CPU Percentage shown by the Playback Engine is an accurate representation of the true amount of CPU utilization in a session with RTAS plug-ins. Sessions without RTAS plug-ins will utilize the CPU only lightly during most Pro Tools LE operations.

Bounce to Windows Media

Currently, you can only bounce to windows media file if the quality is set to 6.5. As a workaround, bounce to a stereo WAV file from Pro Tools LE, and then use a WMA application to create the WMA file at any quality level.

Performance issue with QuickTime 5.02

Pro Tools LE 5.3.1 for Windows ships with the installer for QuickTime 5.0.2. This version of QuickTime has a known bug that occurs in the stand alone QuickTime Player as well as within Pro Tools LE: MPEG clips will drop a few frames during the first few seconds of playback. Please check the Apple Web site (www.apple.com) for an updated version of QuickTime.

Video Playback Performance

When Movie > Highest Priority Playback is enabled, clicking on menus may affect video playback. This is a known issue and menu drop downs will be deactivated when playing back in highest priority playback mode in a future release.

Save Session Copy In

In Pro Tools LE, choosing File > Save Session Copy In does not allow copying of Video Files. You must manually copy video files. The OMFI sequence or “cut list” file will reside in your original session folder, while the video files themselves will reside in another folder, which you selected during capture.

Plug-Ins

Expired Demo Plug-Ins

Using a demo plug-in whose trial period has ended may result in an “Illegal Instruction Attempted” error within Pro Tools LE. Removing the expired demo plug-ins from your Plug-In folder will rectify the situation.

Pace InterLok Plug-In Authorization Lost in NTFS Boot Drives with Long Names

If your system contains one or more drive(s) formatted with NTFS, and which have volume names longer than 11 characters, corruption of InterLok Plug-In authorizations may occur. In order to remedy this issue before corruption can occur, rename NTFS volumes to names that are 11 characters or less before installing or launching Pro Tools LE. Should you attempt to launch Pro Tools LE with NTFS drives longer than 11 characters, a dialog should appear alerting you to this fact.

Routing MIDI Data to Plug-Ins

When a MIDI track’s output is routed to a plug-in MIDI input (for DirectConnect), making the plug-in or its track inactive will cause the MIDI track’s output to be set to “None.” After making the plug-in active, make sure to reassign the MIDI track’s output.

DigiRack Dither Multichannel Limitations

The DigiRack Dither plug-in only provides eight channels of un-correlated dithering noise and is not supported for more than eight channels of Dither. If the DigiRack Dither is used on more than eight tracks, the dither's noise seeds begin to repeat themselves. For example, if two Quad DigiRack Dithers are instantiated in a session, both Quad instances of dither will have all of its dither noise un-correlated. However, any additional instances of the Dither plug-in will begin to repeat its noise seeds.

Mod Delay II Plug-In Delay Time

After a Duration (note value) has been set in the Mod Delay II window, changing the Delay time using a control surface (such as Digidesign’s Control|24) will not deselect the Duration parameter. Changing the Delay time control in the plug-in window will work correctly.

Mod Delay II Plug-in Delays May Not Copy & Paste

For stereo Mod Delay II plug-ins where a note value is active, occasionally the Delay time will be lost when copying and pasting the parameters to another stereo Mod Delay II plug-in. All other parameters are accurately copied. The only current workaround is to manually enter the Delay time for the new plug-in.

Mod Delay Plug-In and Automation Data

Mod Delay cannot have automation data copied and pasted to the adjacent left or right audio channel, even when the automation data is to or from the same control. For example, Feedback Left automation data cannot be copied to Feedback Right.

To apply automation data to both the left and right channels of the Mod Delay stereo outputs, use multi-mono plug-ins in place of the stereo or mono-to-stereo Mod Delay. Multi-mono plug-ins allow automation to be linked, thereby providing the same automation data to all linked channels.

RTAS Signal Generator Playback “Pop”

The RTAS Signal Generator may produce an audible “pop” upon session playback.

Signal Generator Pink Noise

The Signal Generator plug-in has an improved pink noise signal output that makes Signal Generator appropriate for room calibration and similar applications. This pink noise output level is much higher than in versions prior to version 5.3 of Signal Generator. To avoid audible distortion while running pink noise, set the Signal Generator volume slider to -12 dB to avoid clipping.

Pitch Shift AudioSuite Plug-In

When batch processing several stereo or multi-mono files in the Regions List using the AudioSuite Pitch Shift plug-in with time correction turned off, the right channel of each resulting file after the first is random audio or white noise. If using the AudioSuite Pitch Shift plug-in, process each stereo or multi-mono file individually, or split the files into individual mono files prior to batch processing.

Pitch Shift AudioSuite Plug-In and Previewing

The Pitch Shift AudioSuite plug-in is for processing only, and cannot be previewed because the Preview control of the AudioSuite Pitch Shift plug-in does not factor in time correction.

AudioSuite Processing and Side Chain Inputs

Side chain inputs for plug-ins (such as Compressor and Limiter) have no effect on AudioSuite processes when the Selection Reference is set to Region List.

AudioSuite Processing and Multichannel Regions

When processing multiple regions of different formats (such as mono and stereo), only regions in the format supported by the plug-in will be processed.

Using AudioSuite Plug-Ins on Sessions residing in “Read-Only” Folders

Attempting to use AudioSuite processing on sessions residing in “Read-Only” folders will result in “Access Violations,” 7100 DAE errors, or -7453 DAE errors. Changing the session folder to a “Normal” status, and rebooting the session will alleviate these errors.

Canceling AudioSuite Batch Process Results in Unreadable Files

Canceling out of very large batches of AudioSuite processing will leave behind audio files that are unreadable by Pro Tools LE. This only occurs when canceling out of processing several thousand files at a time. Allowing the process to complete will yield healthy processed files.

Key Commands

Key command for opening playback engine automatically after launch does not work. This is a legacy feature that may possibly be documented in certain guides but no longer exists.

Key command Ctrl-Shift-E for toggling the “compare” plug-in setting is currently not functioning.

The keys for switching between various tabs in the peripheral dialog are Ctrl + 1 through 7. If you hit Ctrl along with other keypad keys that are not numbers 1 through 7, this key command set may become stuck. As a workaround, close and re-open the preferences dialog, or use your mouse to click on the various tabs.

Additions and Corrections to Guides

The following sections document additions and corrections to the Pro Tools 5.3.1 guides (that are not included in the Pro Tools LE 5.3.1 Addendum). Refer to the addendum for additional items.

Tip for Cutting (or Copying) and Pasting Right Pan Automation Data

After cutting Right Pan automation data, the cut automation data can only be pasted to another right side of a stereo track, unless you hold down the Control key. Hold down the Control key whenever pasting different automation types.

Tip for Improving Performance

Pro Tools LE performance is affected by the number of levels of Undo defined. To ensure optimized Pro Tools LE performance, set the Levels of Undo to the lowest acceptable value for you in the Editing pane of the Pro Tools LE Preference dialog. This can be especially helpful when performing edits involving large numbers of regions (for example, more than a few thousand).

Tip for Creating New Fades

To save time (up to two times faster) when creating new fades using the Batch Fades dialog, disable the Adjust Existing Fades checkbox.

Creating Fades on a Region Abutted to a Second Region

When attempting to create a Fade In or Fade Out on a region abutted to a second region, the Crossfade dialog appears instead of the Fade In or Fade Out dialog. In these instances, use the Smart Tool to create a Fade In or Fade Out, or use the Fade to Head and Fade to Tail commands.

Key Commands

The following corrections are for the *Pro Tools LE Keyboard Shortcuts for Windows Systems*:

- Key command for “Trim left edge of region to right/left by Nudge value” may be listed as “Alt - Start - +/-”. The correct key command for this is “Alt - +/-”.
- Key command for “Trim right edge of region to right/left by Nudge value” may be listed as “Ctrl - Start - +/-”. The correct key command for this is “Ctrl - +/-”.
- Key command for “Bypass Plug-in Insert” may be listed as “Alt - click on insert name in Inserts view”. The correct key command is “Ctrl - click on insert name in Inserts view”.
- Key command for “Send mute” may be listed as “Alt - click on send name in Sends view”. The correct key command is “Ctrl - click on send name in Sends view”.