Welcome...

...to TRAKTOR DJ Studio 2.5, the latest generation of the DJ mixing application for computers from Native Instruments. We have added exciting new features and improved the look and feel of TRAKTOR DJ Studio. No other hard or software offers such manipulation potential, power and flexibility – the perfect tool for every up-to-date DJ. This Quick Reference gives an introduction to the powerful new features of TRAKTOR DJ Studio 2.5. A detailed description of the basic working methods and an comprehensive explanation of all available features is given in the printed manual which comes with the program.

The basic features of the TRAKTOR Panel

- **Panel Buttons**: used to open and close individual Traktor panels
- **Setup Menu**: used to enter the setup dialog, to switch to full screen mode and to close the application
- **Master Panel**: used to control master volume, balance and the master clock
- **Filter**: used to transform the sound with powerful resonance filters (different filter characteristics selectable)
- **Waveform Display**: graphical overview of the track waveform with cue points and a separate track overview
- **Decks**: used to playback tracks, to synchronize the beats and to match the timing and pitch.
- **Mixer**: used to mix the sound with faders and equalizers and to monitor the mix on headphones.
- **File Browser**: used to organize the track collection, to compile playlists and offering an advanced file search function
- **Recording Section**: used to record your mix, playback Mixfiles, auto play play-lists and export mixes in WAV/AIFF files
- **Loop Panel**: used for beat accurate loop and the setup for up to 10 loops per track
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The Head Panel

This section enables you to adapt the appearance of TRAKTOR DJ Studio to your needs by opening and closing individual panels. Two independent screen settings can be saved.

The Head panel is visible all time and gives access to the Setup dialog for the program settings and the „About box“ which contains lots of useful support weblinks.

- **Setup**: click on the setup icon to open the setup dialog which lets you change the program preferences.
- **Full Screen**: use this icon to switch TRAKTOR DJ Studio to full-screen mode.
- **Help**: clicking on the Help icon opens the comprehensive „About Box“ which contains useful links to the Traktor Online FAQ, the Online Forum, Online Registration and more.
- **Close**: clicking on this icon will close TRAKTOR DJ Studio.
- **Layout Shortcuts**: user definable buttons for a fast change between two screen settings (right mouse click lets you store own screen settings).
- **Panel Buttons**: used to open and close the selected Traktor Panels.
To setup the audio connection of TRAKTOR DJ Studio you first have to select an installed sound or audio card. We recommend the use of a low latency audio card which supports a better audio quality and a more flexible monitoring function. Click on the Setup icon in the upper right corner of the Traktor interface to open the Setup dialog. After that select the „Audio“ tab.

1. Open Setup Dialog: click on the Setup icon in the upper right corner of the TRAKTOR user interface.

2. Select Audio Tab: click on the top of the setup dialog

3. Select Audio Device: choose the sound or audiocard you want to use for your TRAKTOR session

4. Select Master Output Channels: TRAKTOR will send the master output signal to the selected channels of your audiocard

5. Select Monitor Output Channels: TRAKTOR will send the monitor (headphone) output signal to the selected channels of your audiocard

6. Confirm your settings: click on the OK button to confirm your settings

Latency: if you recognize any audio problems during playback come back to this setup box and increase the latency (or choose another audiocard). Try out all available drivers listed in the device pull down menu and increase latency if you encounter audio dropouts.
The right settings for your audio and soundcard

Please proceed the correct settings as described below:

If you are running TRAKTOR with your onboard soundcard or a simple stereo soundcard we recommend to leave the monitor channel with the option "not connected".

 Optionally you can connect the left Master Left channel and the Monitor Left channel to hear both signals separately over your headphones (only in mono). With a standard dual headphone adapter (see picture aside) you can connect your mono master output with an additional amplifier.

If you have a multichannel audiocard you should assign the master channel of TRAKTOR to the audiocard outputs that are used for amplifier connection. The monitor outputs should be connected to the headphone outputs of the audio card. We recommend to use an optional headphone amplifier.

Many multichannel audiocards provide a separate headphone output that is identical to the outputs 1 and 2. In this case it is necessary to assign the TRAKTOR Monitor outputs to the outputs 1 and 2 of your audio card and the Master outputs to output 3 and 4 (which is the connection to your amplification system).

Click the OK button to close the Setup menu. To test your new audio connection load a music track from the List window in one of the decks by drag and drop. Click the Play button to start the playback. The waveform should now start moving while an audio signal is hearable over your amplification system.

If you observe sound disturbances you should go back to the audio settings and increase the latency value or buffer size of your audio card.

The output meter in the Mater panel shows you the level of the master output. If you shouldn’t hear any sound please verify first if the output meter is showing any signal presence.

The LOAD button in the Automate panel allows you to load stored mixes. We have prepared a short demo mix called demo.nmx to show you the various mixing techniques of TRAKTOR DJ Studio.

Press the Play Mix button after loading the demo file and enjoy the mix.
The File Browser Tree Window

The Tree window gives you fast access to all the music files stored on your computer hard disc. The first time TRAKTOR DJ Studio is started you should import all music files into the Track collection by dragging your music folders from the Explorer icon to the Track Collection icon. Once you have done this you have access to your music listed by artist, album, label and genre. The Quick Search Function is a very fast option for finding music titles on your system.

Quick Search: enter search name and confirm by pressing “Enter”
Shortcut: STRG + F

Go: executes Quick Search
Shortcut: ENTER

Current Playlist: shows played and enqueued tracks; drop tracks on this icon to enqueue them to the playlist

Search Results: search results of the last search processes

Track Collection: click on this icon to open the subfolders (Artists, Albums, Labels and Genres). Drop tracks or folders on this icon to add them to the collection

Collection Subfolders: click on the corresponding icon to open the subfolder. Click on the name to show all tracks in this collection; a double click on an entry selects all titles of this subfolder simultaneously

Explorer: navigates your harddisc drives; click on this icon to show all subfolders; click on the name to show the folders content

Playlists/Mixes: shows playlists and Mix-files contained in selected folder on your harddisc drive. Drop tracks on this icon to store them as a playlist

Playlisten: drop tracks on this icon to add tracks to the corresponding playlists - these are your virtual record bags

Audio CD: shows the content of an available audio CD in your CD-ROM drive

Pop-up menus: a right mouse click on an icon of the File Browser Tree window opens a pop-up menu with additional functions
The File Browser List Window

The List window shows you the selected playlist – this is your virtual record bag. Icons are giving status information about tracks in your DJ set. The new track analyzing function generates a separate graphical overview and stores volume and tempo information of the selected audio track.

- **Delete**: deletes selected tracks from the playlist or track collection
- **Reset**: resets the playlist icons or clears the current playlist
- **Edit**: opens an input dialog to change numerous attributes for the selected track
- **Search**: opens an advanced search window
- **Load/Save Playlist**: use these buttons to load and save current playlists or track collections
- **Analyse**: this new function analyses the selected track and stores its attributes automatically

**Icon A and B**: identifies tracks currently loaded into the decks A or B

**Headphone Icon**: identifies the track currently monitored/pre-listened

**Already Played Icon**: identifies already played tracks

**Diamond Track Icon**: identifies tracks already loaded into the playlist, but not played yet
The Waveform Display

The Waveform Display is a completely new way of controlling your mix. It shows marker, breaks and rhythmic grids several seconds ahead of time. The Track Overview gives you an basic view of the complete track inclusive all markers. The Text Display is providing important information of the played track.
Playback & Cue

The TRAKTOR DJ Studio decks are combining classic functions as known from DJ hardware with revolutionary new features like selectable Cue Points, beat grids and loop functions to give you extensive control over the mix.

- **Cue Point Select**: select a cue point from the pull down menu. A click on the EDIT button (or right mouse click on the cue point) sets the selection of a locked cue point type.
- **Cue Move**: moves to the locked cue mark points.
- **Lock**: locks or unlocks the current cue point. Unlocked cue points get lost during next Set/Pause.
- **Reverse Playing**: flips the direction of playback.
- **Snap**: if active, cue points snap to the next detected beat event or grid. Shortcut: X.
- **Move**: moves playback position by displayed amount (1, 4, 8 or 16 measures).
- **Loop**: sets a loop with the selected loop length (1, 4, 8 or 16 measures).
- **Cue Set**: sets a cue point on the fly without stopping playback. Combine with Snap for beat accurate positioning. Shortcut: CTRL + BACKSPACE.
- **Cue Pause**: moves to the current cue point and plays track until release of the button.
- **Cue Play**: moves to the current cue point and starts playback on release. Shortcut: ALT + BACKSPACE.
- **Play / Pause**: start/stops playback at the current position. Shortcut: SPACE BAR.
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Tempo, Pitch & Sync

TRAKTOR DJ Studio is equipped with fantastic syncing functions. Making beat accurate transitions and crossfades with pitch manipulation has never been easier. Automatic beat detection and accurate tempo synchronisation are handy tools for the perfect mix.
The DJ Mixer Panel

The mixer panel resembles closely the traditional hardware interface of common DJ mixer sets, and every DJ will soon feel at home here. But don’t forget - TRAKTOR DJ Studio comes with features way ahead of the capacities offered by traditional hardware mixers.
The Filter Panel

The Filter Panel provides real synthesizer functions for each desk. A filter with different characteristics and resonance can be used for changing the timbre of a track – perfect for the typical filter house effects that make the rave go.

- **Low Cut**: controls filter mode and cutoff frequency (Types: Lowpass/Highpass/Bandpass/Notch). Shortcut: W (up) / S (down)
- **Width**: distance from the lower to the upper edge of pass band/notch in filter curve. Shortcut: E (up) / D (down)
- **Resonance**: amplification/attenuation of edge frequencies (center=neutral). Shortcut: R (up) / F (down)
- **Filter Display**: shows a preview of the filter curve - highlighted if filter is active
- **Filter Amount**: controls the mix of original (turn left) to filtered (turn right) signal. Shortcut: Q (up) / A (down)
- **Mode**: selects filter types Lowpass, Highpass and Bandpass (upper switch) and Notch (lower switch). Shortcut: 2 (Deck A) / 3 (Deck B)
The loop system is used to repeat individual parts of a track transforming your performance into a unique mix and adding that special "thingy" to it. A loop can be set intuitive and beat accurate. TRAKTOR DJ Studio is capable to make unhearable loop transitions. Up to 10 different loops can be stored for each track.

**Set/In:** sets a complete loop based on the selected loop length, otherwise only a loop start is set. Overwrites previous loop if unlocked. Click again to leave loop.
Shortcut: L

**Active/Out:** sets loop end (after confirmation of Set/In), activates upcoming loop without setting new boundaries; leaves current loop

**Move Loop:** moves current loop left/right by the selected amount.
Shortcut: ; (left) / ' (right)

**Resize:** shrinks / expands current loop by the selected amount - perfect for spacy FX sounds

**Amount Display:** displays the amount of Move and Resize; right mouse click selects new amount

**Loop Length:** pre-selection of loop length measured in beats; right mouse click selects new amount. Shortcut: U / I / O / P

**Snap:** if active, all loop boundaries are snapped to next detected beat event

**Loop Cue:** cues to loop selected in display

**Select:** steps through all stored loops of a track; if Loop Cue is active also cues to loop

**Loop Lock:** locks (stores) and unlocks current loop; locked loops are stored in the Track Collection

**Loop Repeat:** sets number of repeats for a loop until it ends

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**The Loop Panel**

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**Set/In:**

**Active/Out:**

**Move Loop:**

**Resize:**

**Amount Display:**
The Automate Panel

For the first time you can record audio mixes as an automation file (Mixfile), overdub selected parameters and after all export the final mix as a Wave or AIFF file to burn a CD.

**Play Mix:** starts playback of recorded mixes; during overdubs switches to overwrite mode

**Autoplay:** starts playback of the current playlist automatically by using automatic fades

**Record:** starts recording directly after the last stop; during playback Record switches to overdub mode; recording can be seamlessly interrupted, interruption creates a file used by the Redo function

**Dub:** indicates the overdubbing of single controls; disable Dub to reset offset of overdubbed controls

**Redo:** interrupts and restarts recording at the previous Redo position created by the last recording interruption

**Cut:** cuts the mix at the current position and discards the first part of it

**Skip in Mix:** skips to previous/next mix transition; use Skip + SHIFT to skip to mix start/end

**Seek Mix:** seeks through the mix; Seek + SHIFT speeds the movement

**Mix Display:** displays time and size of the recorded mix as well as the positions of the next/previous transitions

**Save/Load:** saves current mix to your hard disc; loads mix into Automate panel

**Write:** fast export of the current Mixfile to hard disc as Wave or AIFF file

**Reset:** clears the memory before starting a new recording
Remote of TRAKTOR DJ Studio

More than 400 parameters of TRAKTOR DJ Studio can be controlled via keyboard shortcuts, MIDI controller or a MIDI keyboard.

1. Open the Setup Dialog: click on the setup icon in the upper right corner of the TRAKTOR user interface

2. Select the Input Tab: Click on the tab in the upper part of the setup dialog

3. Select MIDI Interface: connects your computer to your MIDI equipment. The interface has to be correctly installed and powered up before starting TRAKTOR

4. Select the TRAKTOR function: Select the desired function you like to be remote controlled

5. Press MIDI Learn Button: Move the desired knob of your MIDI controller that should be assigned to the selected function

6. Key Commands: alternatively press the Keyboard Learn button and hit the desired key (or key combination) on your computer keyboard that should be assigned to the selected function

7. Additional Entries: to assign more parameter please refer back to step 4 to 6

8. Confirm your settings: click on the OK button to confirm your settings
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Preferences and Appearance

Change the face of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** by selecting one of your favorite user interfaces.

The Sync function let you synchronize the TRAKTOR engine via MIDI clock or OSC (Open Sound Control) to external hard or software.

**Preferences:** a lot of additional preferences for parameters and functions let you configure TRAKTOR DJ Studio to your needs.

**Appearance:** in the appearance tab of the setup dialog you can select from a list of options regarding the look of the TRAKTOR graphical interface.

**Sync:** TRAKTOR is capable of syncing to external soft or hardware via OSC (Open Sound Control) or MIDI clock.

**Browser:** a lot of additional preferences for parameters and functions let you configure TRAKTOR DJ Studio to your needs.
And now...

...have fun with your first DJ mix!

Your Native Instruments Team