

MP3 Export Option

Version 7.4



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chapter 1

Introduction

The MP3 Export Option lets you create MP3 files from Pro Tools sessions when using Bounce to Disk or exporting a region as a new audio file.

 *For information on importing MP3 files, see the Pro Tools Reference Guide.*

System Requirements

To use the MP3 Export Option, you need:

- A Digidesign-qualified Pro Tools system

For complete system requirements, visit the Digidesign website (www.digidesign.com).

Compatibility Information

Digidesign can only assure compatibility and provide support for hardware and software it has tested and approved.

For a list of Digidesign-qualified computers, operating systems, hard drives, and third-party devices, visit the Digidesign website (www.digidesign.com).

Conventions Used in This Guide

All Digidesign guides use the following conventions to indicate menu choices and key commands:

Convention	Action
File > Save	Choose Save from the File menu
Control+N	Hold down the Control key and press the N key
Control-click	Hold down the Control key and click the mouse button
Right-click	Click with the right mouse button

The following symbols are used to highlight important information:



User Tips are helpful hints for getting the most from your Pro Tools system.



Important Notices include information that could affect your Pro Tools session data or the performance of your Pro Tools system.



Shortcuts show you useful keyboard or mouse shortcuts.



Cross References point to related sections in this guide or other Digidesign guides.

About www.digidesign.com

The Digidesign Web site (www.digidesign.com) is your best online source for information to help you get the most out of your Pro Tools system. The following are just a few of the services and features available.

Registration Register your purchase on-line. See the enclosed registration form for instructions.

Support Contact Digidesign Technical Support or Customer Service; download software updates and the latest online manuals; browse the Compatibility documents for system requirements; search the online Answerbase or join the worldwide Pro Tools community on the Digidesign User Conference.

Training and Education Study on your own using courses available online or find out how you can learn in a classroom setting at a certified Pro Tools training center.

Products and Developers Learn about Digidesign products; download demo software or learn about our Development Partners and their plugins, applications, and hardware.

News and Events Get the latest news from Digidesign or sign up for a Pro Tools demo.

To learn more about these and other resources available from Digidesign, visit the Digidesign Web site (www.digidesign.com).

chapter 2

Installation and Authorization

The MP3 Export Option Installer is included with your Pro Tools Installer disc and major Pro Tools web updaters.

Installing the MP3 Export Option Software

Windows

To install the MP3 Export Option software for Pro Tools on Windows:

- 1 Start Windows, logging in with Administrator privileges. For details on Administrator privileges, refer to your Windows documentation.
- 2 Insert the Pro Tools Installer disc into your CD/DVD drive.
- 3 Locate and open the Pro Tools Installer folder, and double-click the Setup icon.
- 4 Follow the on-screen instructions to continue and accept installation.
- 5 Select Modify when prompted to modify, repair, or remove options.

- 6 In the Select Features window, select the MP3 Export Option. Be sure that Pro Tools is also selected and that another options or features that you have installed are selected as well.

▲ *Any features that are not selected, if they are already installed, will be uninstalled (including Pro Tools).*

- 7 Follow the remaining on-screen instructions to complete installation.

- 8 When the installation is complete, click Finish.

- 9 To use the MP3 Export Option, it must be authorized. See “Authorizing the MP3 Export Option” on page 4.

Mac


To install the MP3 Export Option software for Pro Tools on a Mac:


- 1 Make sure you are logged in as an Administrator for the account where you want to install Pro Tools. For details on Administrator privileges in Mac OS X, refer to your Apple Mac OS X documentation.
- 2 Insert the Pro Tools Installer disc into your CD/DVD drive.
- 3 Double-click the “Install Pro Tools” icon.

- 4 Follow the on-screen instructions to continue and accept installation.
- 5 In the Custom Installer page, make sure that only the MP3 Export Option option is selected. Deselect all other options, including the Pro Tools option.
- 6 Follow the remaining on-screen instructions to complete installation.
- 7 When the installation is complete, click Quit.
- 8 To use the MP3 Export Option, it must be authorized. See “Authorizing the MP3 Export Option” on page 4.

Authorizing the MP3 Export Option


The MP3 Export Option must be authorized before it can be used in a Pro Tools session. The MP3 Export Option can be authorized using an Authorization Code or iLok License.

 *When authorizing using an Authorization Code, the authorization is installed to your hard disk. When authorizing using an iLok License, the authorization is installed to your iLok USB Smart Key (iLok).*

 *To authorize the MP3 Export option using an iLok License, Pro Tools 7.3 or higher is required.*

When you purchase the software online at the DigiStore (www.digidesign.com), you can choose which method you want to use.

- If you receive an authorization code when you purchase the MP3 Export Option, see “Authorizing the MP3 Export Option Using an Authorization Code” on page 4.
- If you receive an iLok License, see “Authorizing the MP3 Export Option with an iLok” on page 5.

 *You can also purchase, then authorize the MP3 Option from within a Pro Tools session. For details, see “Purchasing and Authorizing the MP3 Option in a Pro Tools Session” on page 6.*

Authorizing the MP3 Export Option Using an Authorization Code

To authorize the MP3 Export Option using an authorization code:

- 1 Launch Pro Tools.
- 2 Open a session.
- 3 Do one of the following:
 - Click on a region and choose Region List > Export Regions as Files.
 - or –
 - Make an Edit selection and choose Bounce to Disk.
- 4 Select MP3 as the File Type.
- 5 Click Export (in the Export dialog) or Bounce (in the Bounce to Disk dialog).
- 6 In the Pro Tools MP3 Option dialog, click Authorize.
- 7 In the Pro Tools MP3 Export Option dialog, Deselect the “Use my iLok Smart Key” option, then click Next.

- 8 In the Pro Tools MP3 Export Option dialog, choose Manual Activation, then click Next.
- 9 When prompted, type in the Pro Tools MP3 Export Option authorization code.
- 10 Click Next and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the authorization process.

Authorizing the MP3 Export Option with an iLok

(Pro Tools 7.3 or Higher Only)

The MP3 Export Option can be authorized using the iLok USB Smart Key (iLok), manufactured by PACE Anti-Piracy, Inc.



iLok USB Smart Key


The iLok is similar to a dongle, but unlike a dongle, it is designed to securely authorize multiple software applications from a variety of software developers.

This key can hold over 100 licenses for all of your iLok-enabled software. Once an iLok is authorized for a given piece of software, you can use the iLok to authorize that software on any computer.

⚠ *The iLok USB Smart Key is not supplied with your plug-in or software option. You can use the one included with certain Pro Tools systems (such as Pro Tools|HD-series systems), or purchase one separately.*

To authorize the MP3 Export Option using an iLok License:

- 1 If you do not have an existing iLok.com account, visit www.iLok.com and sign up for an iLok.com account.
- 2 Transfer the licenses from your iLok.com account to your iLok USB Smart Key by doing the following:
 - Insert the iLok into an available USB port on your computer.
 - Go to www.iLok.com and log in.
 - Follow the on-screen instructions for transferring your licenses to your iLok.

 *For information about iLok technology and licenses, see the electronic PDF of the iLok Usage Guide.*

- 3 Launch Pro Tools.
- 4 Open a session.
- 5 Do one of the following:
 - Click on a region and choose Region List > Export Regions as Files.
 - or –
 - Make an Edit selection and choose Bounce to Disk.
- 6 Select MP3 as the File Type.
- 7 Click Export (in the Export dialog) or Bounce (in the Bounce to Disk dialog).
- 8 In the Pro Tools MP3 Option dialog, click Authorize.
- 9 In the Pro Tools MP3 Export Option dialog, check the “Use my iLok Smart Key” option and click Next.
- 10 If prompted, deselect the “Use License Card” option.
- 11 Click Next and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the authorization process.

Purchasing and Authorizing the MP3 Option in a Pro Tools Session

The MP3 Export Option can be purchased online at the DigiStore (www.digidesign.com). You can also purchase and authorize this option from within Pro Tools software.


To purchase the MP3 Export Option while in a Pro Tools session:

- 1** Launch Pro Tools.
- 2** Open a session.
- 3** Do one of the following:
 - Click on a region and choose Region List > Export Regions as Files.
 - or –
 - Make an Edit selection and choose Bounce to Disk.
- 4** Select MP3 as the File Type.
- 5** Click Export (in the Export dialog) or Bounce (in the Bounce to Disk dialog).
- 6** In the Pro Tools MP3 Option dialog, click Authorize.
- 7** In the Pro Tools MP3 Export Option dialog, Deselect the “Use my iLok Smart Key” option, then click Next.
- 8** In the Pro Tools MP3 Export Option dialog, choose Internet, then click Next.
- 9** Follow the online instructions to purchase and authorize the MP3 Export Option.

chapter 3

MP3 Export Option Parameters

With the MP3 Export Option, the MP3 file type is available when using Bounce to Disk or exporting a region from the Region List as a new audio file. Pro Tools uses the Fraunhofer codec for encoding MP3 files.

 *For information on using Bounce to Disk or exporting a region as a new audio file, see the Pro Tools Reference Guide.*

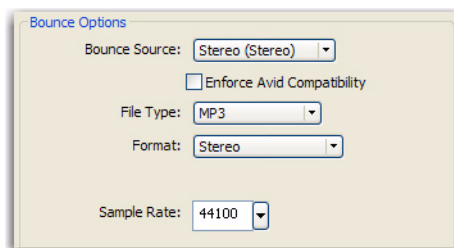
MPEG-1 Layer 3 (MP3)

The MPEG-1 Layer 3 compression format (MP3) is used for streaming and downloading audio over the Internet, and for playback on portable devices.

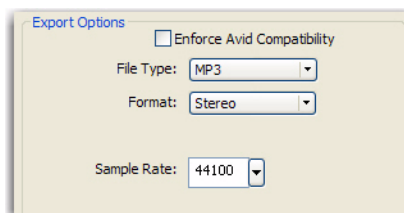
To export an MP3 from Pro Tools:

- 1 Do one of the following:
 - Make a Timeline selection and choose File > Bounce To > Disk.
 - or –
 - Select an audio region and from the Region List pop-up menu, choose Export Regions as Files.
- 2 From the File Type pop-up menu, select MP3.

When you select this format, the Resolution (or Bit Depth) pop-up menu in the Pro Tools Bounce Options (or Export Selected) dialog is unavailable.



Bounce dialog, Bounce Options



Export Selected dialog, Export Options

- 3 Configure the other settings as desired.
- 4 Depending on whether you are bouncing to disk or exported a region, click either Bounce or Export.
- 5 In the resulting MP3 dialog, configure the MP3 encoding options as desired and click OK.

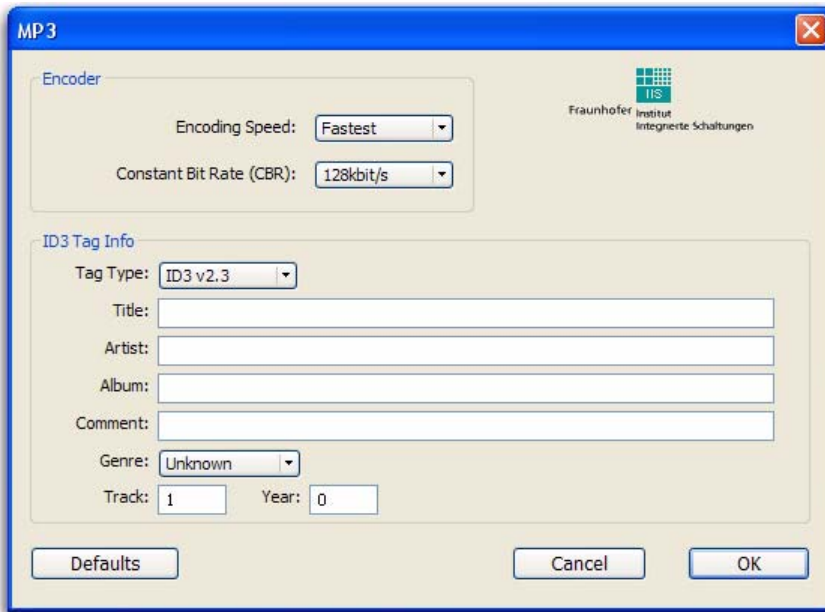


Figure 1. MP3 dialog

Encoder Settings

Encoding Speed Determines the audio quality of the bounced file. There are two options: Fastest and Slowest.


The Slowest setting can take up to five times longer to process audio than the Fastest Encoding setting, so you should use it only when the highest fidelity is essential and you have a considerable amount of time to devote to the encoding process.

Constant Bit Rate (CBR) Encodes the file at a single bit rate that you choose from the CBR pop-up menu. Because the bit rate is fixed, the quality of the encoded audio will vary depending on the nature of the material being compressed. This option is best for streaming over the Internet, since it has predictable bandwidth requirements.

ID3 Tag Info Settings

ID3 Tag Type The ID3 tag stores data about the encoded audio file that is used by MP3 players to display information about the file. Pro Tools supports three versions of this tag, in order to provide backward compatibility with older MP3 players:

- ID3 v1.0: Appears at the end of a streaming MP3 file, so that tag information is only displayed after software streaming is finished.
- ID3 v1.1: Same as version 1.0, but adds track number information to the tag.
- ID3 v2.3: Appears at the front of a streaming MP3 file, so that tag information is displayed when streaming begins.

 *While ID3 v2.3 is becoming the standard MP3 format, not all MP3 players currently support ID3 v2.3. Contact the developer of your player software for compatibility information.*

Title/Artist/Album/Comment Type the title, artist, and other information for the MP3 file. This information is displayed by many MP3 players.

Genre Choose a genre for the file. This information is displayed by many MP3 players, and can appear in searchable catalogs and databases.

Track Number If you select ID3 tag type v1.1 or v2.3, you can enter a CD track number for the file. This information is displayed by many MP3 players.

Year Enter a year for the file. This information is displayed by many MP3 players.

Default Button

To restore all settings in this dialog to their default values, click Defaults.



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