Symphony I/O Mk II

Quick Start Guide

April 2016

APOGEE

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February 2016

APOGEE

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Overview

Introduction

Symphony I/O Mk II is the most advanced and flexible multi-channel audio interface available. Featuring Apogee's newest flagship AD/DA conversion, modular I/O (up to 32 inputs and outputs), and intuitive touchscreen display, Symphony I/O Mk II offers direct connectivity to one of three different platforms - Thunderbolt™, Pro Tools® HD or Waves SoundGrid® network.

This Quick Start Guide describes the steps to set up Symphony I/O Mk II with an Apple Mac via Thunderbolt and Avid Pro Tools HD systems.

To ensure that you're using the very latest Symphony I/O Mk II software and documentation, please download the most current package from our website:

http://www.apogeedigital.com

System Requirements

Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt

- Thunderbolt equipped Mac computer, 4GB memory required, 8GB recommended
- Mac OS 10.9.5 or greater

Symphony I/O Mk II Pro Tools HD

- Pro Tools HDX, HD Native Thunderbolt, HD PCI Native or HD Core/Accel hardware
- Pro Tools 10 software or greater, Mac or Windows OS

In the box

The following items are included in the box with Symphony I/O Mk II:

- Symphony I/O Mk II
- 3-pin IEC power cable
- Quick Start Guide
- Warranty Booklet

Note: Thunderbolt models, Thunderbolt cable not included
Pro Tools HD models, HD cable not included.

Register your product

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www.apogeedigital.com/register

Symphony I/O Mk II

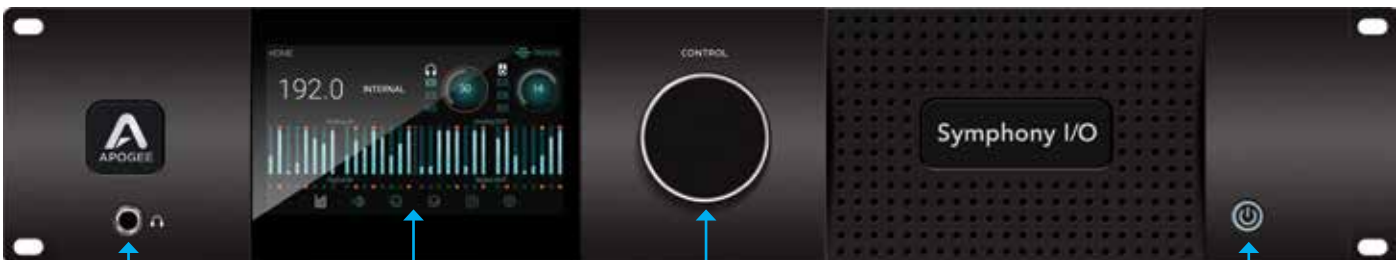
3-pin IEC power cable

Quick Start Guide

Warranty Booklet

Product Tour

Front panel



Navigating the touchscreen

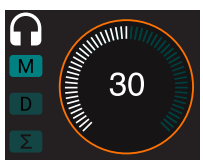
Swipe to navigate
You can swipe the screen left or right to access any of the main sections; HOME, MONITOR, INPUT, OUTPUT, DIGITAL I/O, SETTINGS.
Swiping can be disabled in SETTINGS.

Tap section icons to navigate
You can also directly select any of the section icons on the bottom of the screen to jump directly to a section.

Navigating the touchscreen

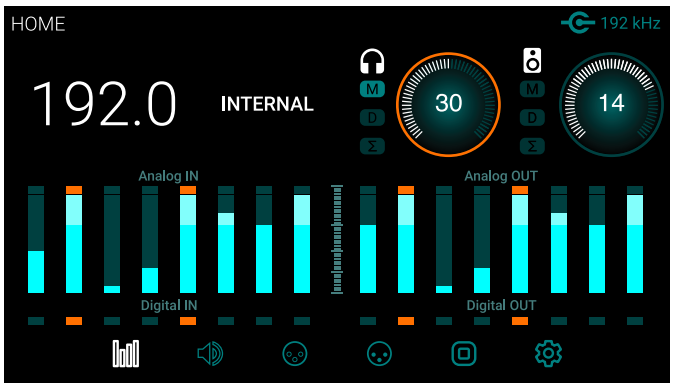
Symphony I/O Mk II's front panel touchscreen offers convenient access to nearly every setting.

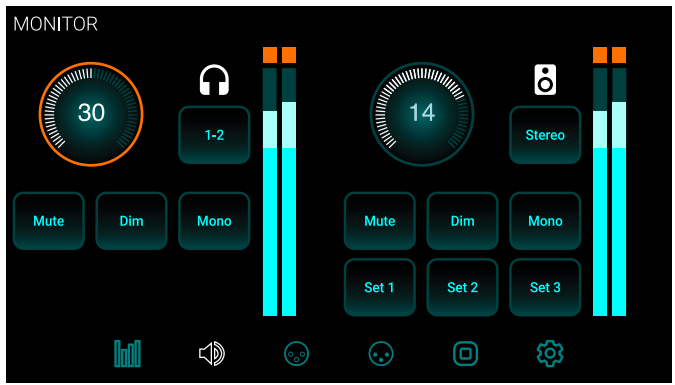
Control knob focus selection
Settings that may be controlled using the front panel control knob are displayed as a circle; i.e. Speaker and Headphone, Input calibration and Gain levels
To "focus" the control knob to the desired setting, tap the circle; an orange ring indicates that the control knob is currently focused on the setting.



Muting with the control knob
Pressing the control knob mutes and un-mutes the sound coming out of Symphony I/O Mk II, and is indicated on the Home page with the "M" lit up.

Touchscreen section overview

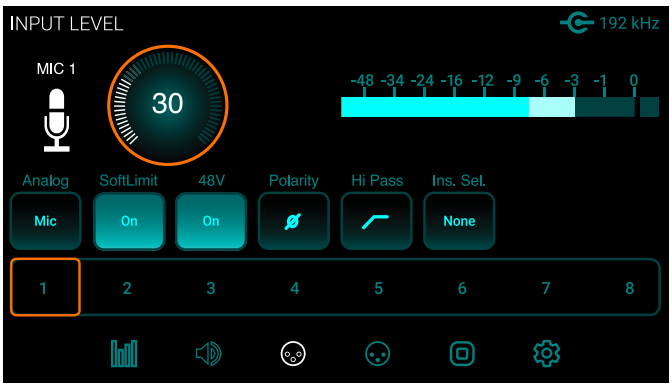


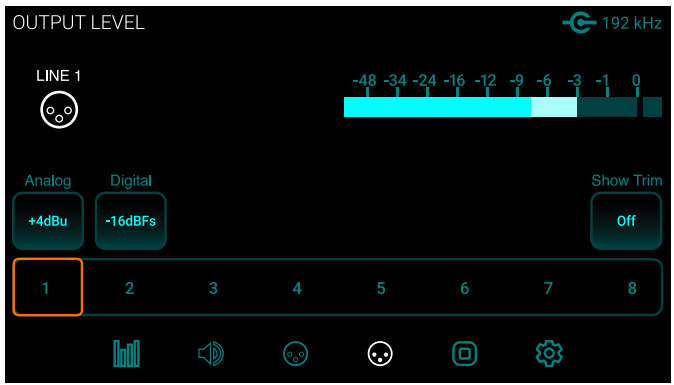


HOME
Sample Rate, Clock Source, Headphone & Speaker output levels, Meters for all I/O, and section navigation

MONITOR
Headphone & speaker output levels, mute, dim, sum to mono, headphone ouput selection, speaker set selection and section navigation

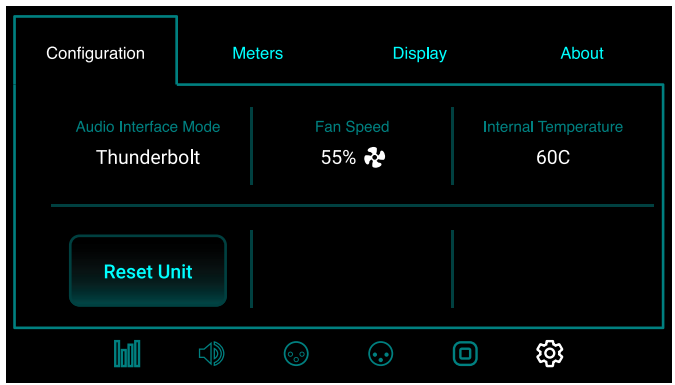
Touchscreen section overview





INPUT LEVEL
Analog input reference levels, calibration, Soft Limit, mic pre parameters (when 8 channel mic preamp module is installed) and section navigation

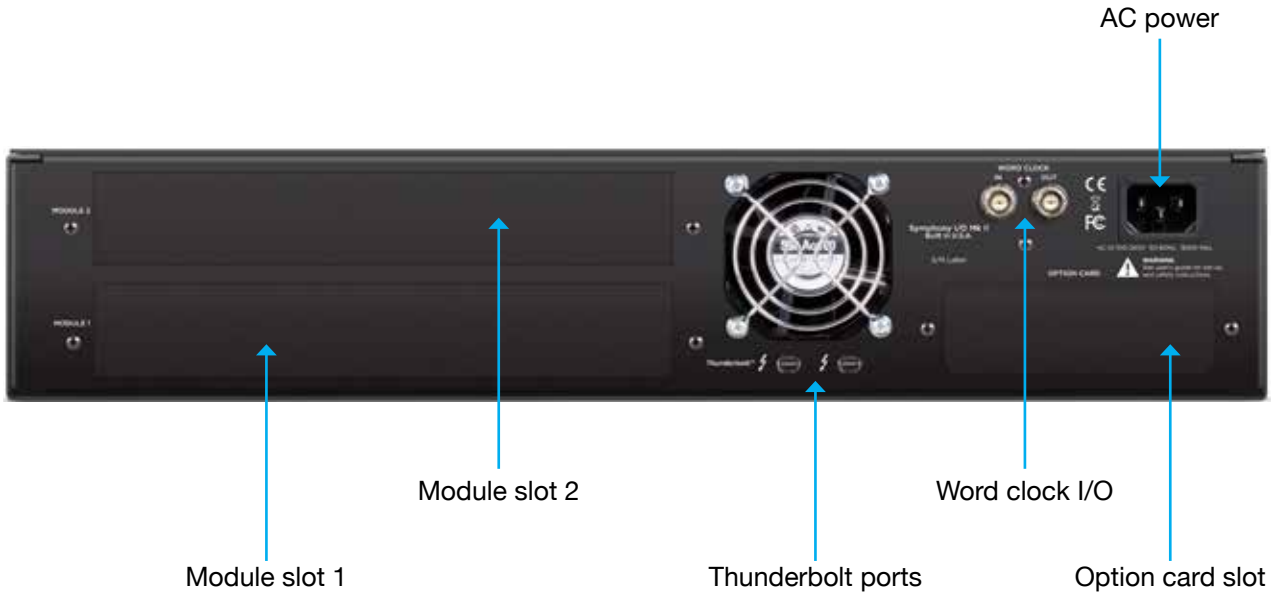
OUTPUT LEVEL
Analog output reference levels, calibration and section navigation



DIGITAL I/O
Digital format settings, Digital input signal meters, SPDIF Coax In replaces and coax output mirrors settings and section navigation

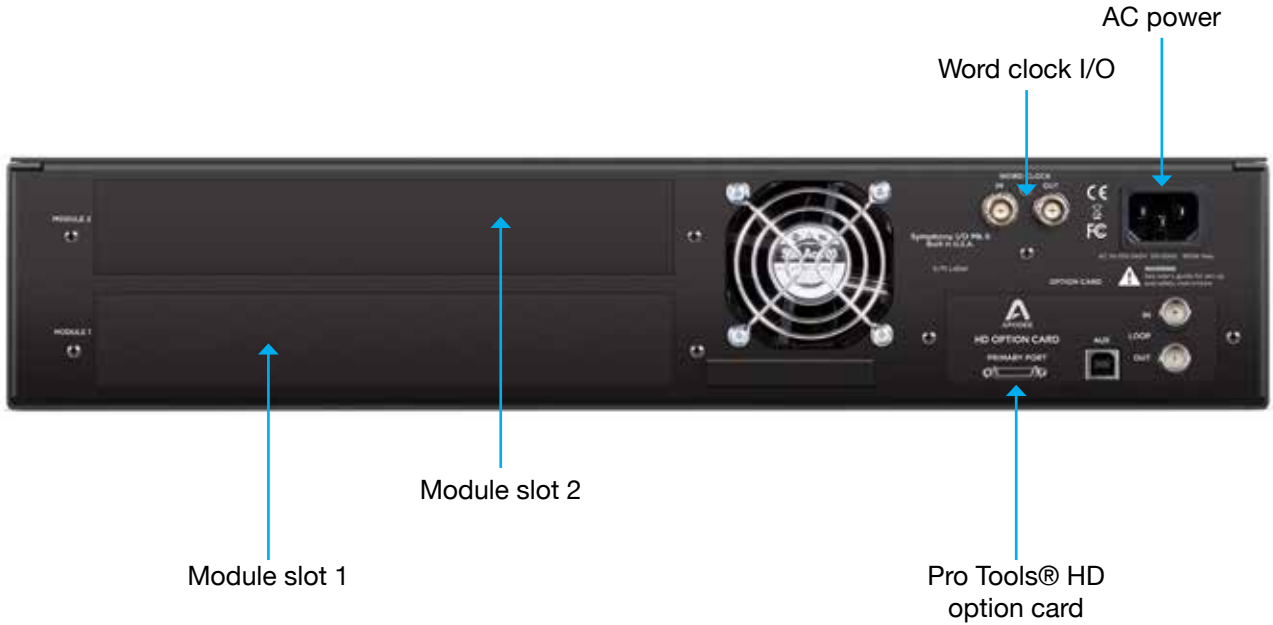
SETTINGS
Reset, WC termination, Internal temperature, Meter characteristics, Display brightness

Rear panel - Thunderbolt™ model



Chassis shown without I/O modules installed

Rear panel - HD model



Chassis shown without I/O modules installed

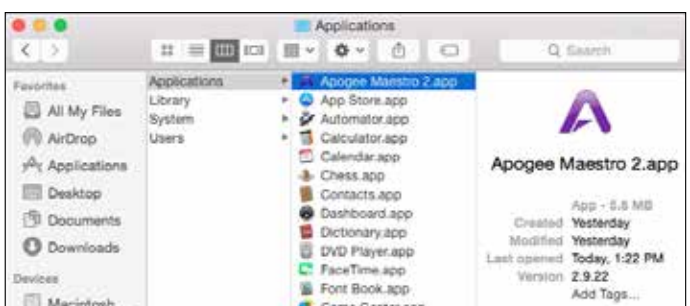
Thunderbolt - Setup

System Requirements

- Computer: Thunderbolt™ equipped Mac
- Memory: 4GB RAM minimum, 8GB RAM recommended
- OS X 10.9.5 or greater
- Thunderbolt cable (sold separately)

Install Symphony I/O Mk II Software

1. Go to http://www.apogeedigital.com/support/symphony-io-mk-ii
2. Download the latest Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt software installer.
3. Open the downloaded .dmg file and double-click Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt Software Installer.pkg
4. Follow the prompts. You will be required to restart your computer.



Apogee Maestro

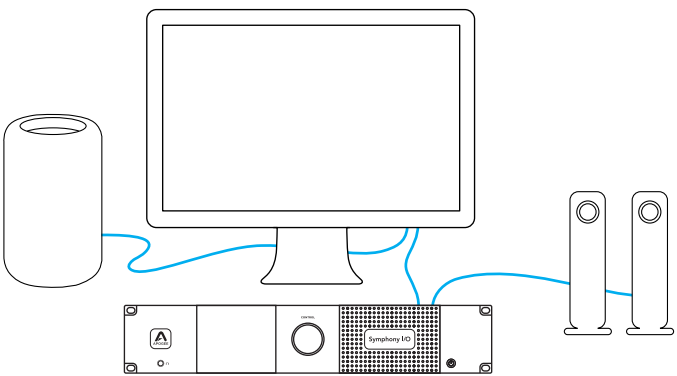
Apogee Maestro is a controller software for Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt. All settings and parameters can be controlled from this application. When installing the latest software from the Apogee Website, Apogee Maestro is placed in your Mac's Application folder.

Connecting to your computer

Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt features two connections to enable daisy-chaining of other Thunderbolt peripherals to your computer. It does not matter which position Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt is placed in the chain.

1. Using a certified Thunderbolt cable, connect Symphony I/O Mk II to a Thunderbolt port on your computer.
2. Connect other certified Thunderbolt devices to Symphony I/O Mk II's remaining Thunderbolt port.

Make sure that your Mac has the Thunderbolt logo. The Mini DisplayPort, featured on many pre-Thunderbolt Macs, is the exact size of a Thunderbolt port but does NOT support Thunderbolt devices. See the difference below:



✖ Mini Display Port

✔ Thunderbolt Port

Note: Apogee cannot guarantee performance if utilizing an uncertified Thunderbolt device in the same chain as Symphony I/O Mk II. To see if a device is certified, please go to:
https://thunderbolttechnology.net/products

Powering On

1. Ensure any speakers or amplifiers connected to the outputs are turned off, or the volume turned to the minimum setting.

2. Press Symphony I/O Mk II's Power button.

After a moment, the unit will power up.

3. Power on or raise the volume level of any speakers or amplifiers connected to Symphony I/O Mk II's outputs.

Powering Off

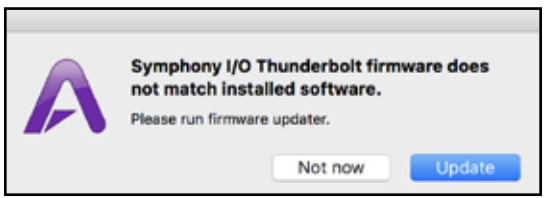
Powering Symphony I/O Mk II off is the reverse of powering the unit on.

1. Power off, or turn the volume to minimum, any speakers or amplifiers connected to Symphony I/O Mk II's outputs.

2. Press Symphony I/O Mk II's Power button.

Note: Thunderbolt peripherals will continue to operate when unit is powered off.

Update Firmware

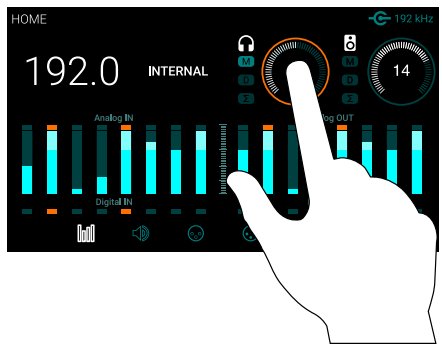


After the software installation, you may be prompted to update the firmware.

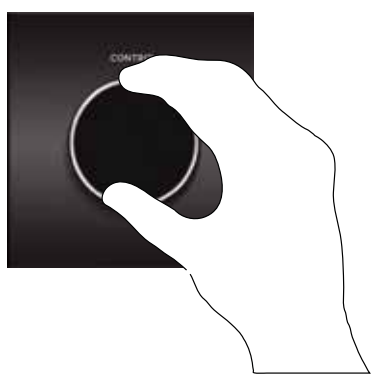
1. Open Symphony I/O Mk II Thunderbolt Firmware Updater.app located in your computer's Applications > Utilities folder.
2. Select "Update"
3. Follow any prompts that may appear.
4. When the progress reaches 100% and says "Update Complete", you are done and can quit the updater.

Connecting headphones

1. Connect headphones to the front panel headphone output.



2. To control the volume of the headphone output tap the headphone level ring on the HOME screen or the MONITOR screen.



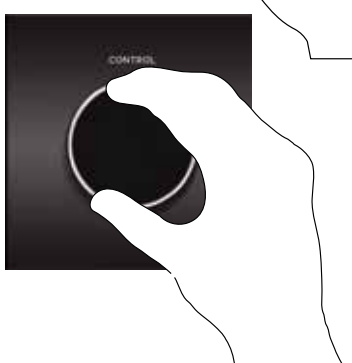
3. Adjust the volume by turning the control knob.

Connecting speakers

1. Connect a DB25 breakout cable (not included) to the Analog OUT connector on Module 1 (bottom slot)

2. Connect breakout cable outputs 1-2 to your speakers. Connect outputs 3-4 and 5-6 to alternate speaker sets if desired.

3. Tap the speaker level focus ring on the HOME screen or the MONITOR screen to set your output level.



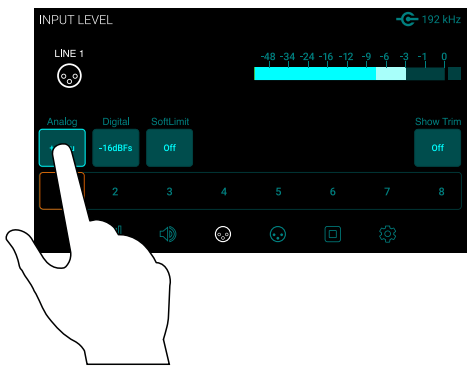
Connecting inputs

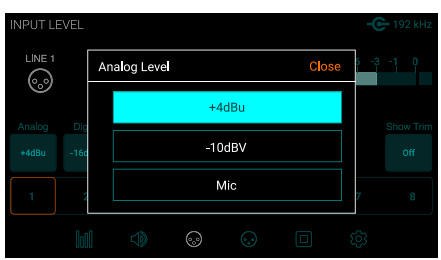
1. Connect an 8 channel DB25 breakout cable (not included) to Analog IN on the lower I/O Module (Module Slot1) and plug in the desired input source.

2. On the front panel touchscreen, tap the INPUT icon to navigate to the INPUT page.

3. Select the corresponding input channel then tap the Analog Level button to select the desired level +4dB, -10dB or Mic if you have an 8 channel mic preamp module installed.

4. To adjust the line input trim, press the Show Trim button and tap the trim focus ring to enable the control knob. If you have an 8 channel mic preamp module installed tap the gain focus ring to enable the control knob and adjust the mic pre gain.





Playback from iTunes

To route audio from general audio applications such as iTunes and Safari through Symphony I/O Mk II, you must set up Symphony I/O Mk II as the default output device in Mac System Preferences.

NOTE: Make sure you have already installed the most recent Symphony I/O Mk II Software from the Apogee website before proceeding.

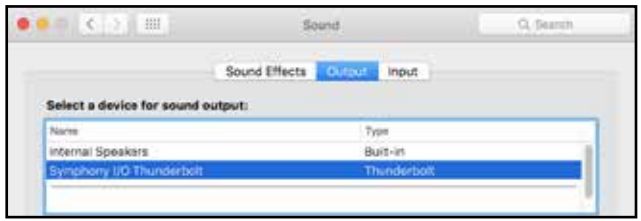
1. Click the icon in the upper-left corner of your Mac's display.

2. From the drop-down menu, select "System Preferences…"

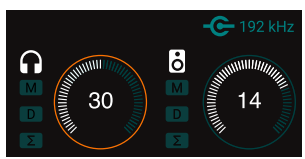
3. In the System Preferences control panel, select "Sound"

4. At the top of the Sound Preferences panel, select the "Output" tab

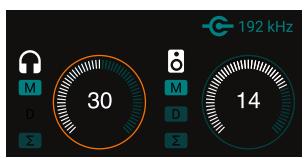
5. Under "Select a device for sound output:" click Symphony I/O Thunderbolt



Now sound from iTunes or Safari can be played through Symphony I/O Mk II's default outputs.



Outputs un-muted



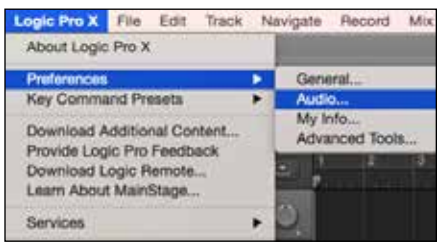
Outputs muted

If you do not hear sound verify the output has not been muted by looking at the M icon below the headphone or speaker icon on the HOME screen. To un-mute headphones or speakers, simply press the control knob with the desired output selected.

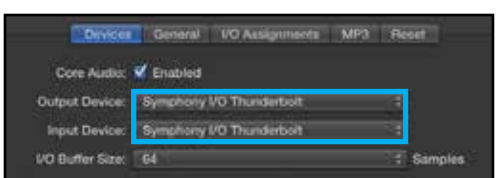
Setting Up Symphony I/O Mk II with Logic Pro X

Most professional applications have their own audio preferences that are separate from the Mac System Preferences. Basic steps for setting up Symphony I/O Mk II are provided. For more detail on this topic, refer to the documentation that comes with your recording program.

1. Go to Logic Pro X > Preferences > Audio.



2. In the Devices Tab, select “Symphony I/O Mk II” in the Output Device and Input Device drop-down boxes.



3. Start by setting the I/O Buffer Size to “64 Samples”. Adjust the setting based on your computer’s performance.

4. Select “Apply Changes” and close the Preferences window.

Maestro control software

Apogee Maestro software provides complete control and monitoring of all Symphony I/O Mk II functions and settings, from levels to direct monitoring to routing and more.

See page 16 for Maestro installation instructions (Thunderbolt models only).

Complete information for Maestro can be found in the User's Guide which can be downloaded at:
www.apogeedigital.com/support/

Pro Tools® Setup

Connecting to Avid HDX, HD Native Thunderbolt and HD Core/Accel Hardware

The following instructions refer to Symphony I/O Mk II Pro Tools HD models. No software installation is required or provided with Symphony I/O Mk II HD. All Symphony I/O Mk II hardware settings can be made from the front panel touchscreen.

To connect a single Symphony I/O Mk II to your Pro Tools HDX or HD Native hardware, simply connect Symphony I/O Mk II's Option card HD port directly to any available port.

Instructions to add additional Avid or Apogee interfaces can be found in the User's Guide.

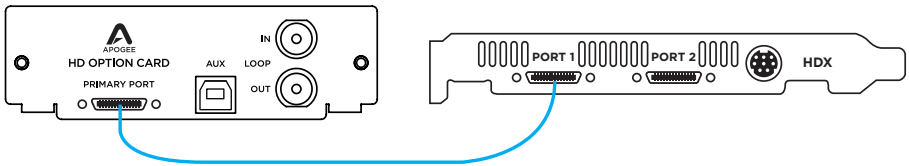
Note you can not connect Symphony I/O Mk II to an Avid interface. Avid interfaces and Symphony I/O Mk II interfaces must be connected to separate ports.

Once hardware connections have been made, launch Pro Tools software.

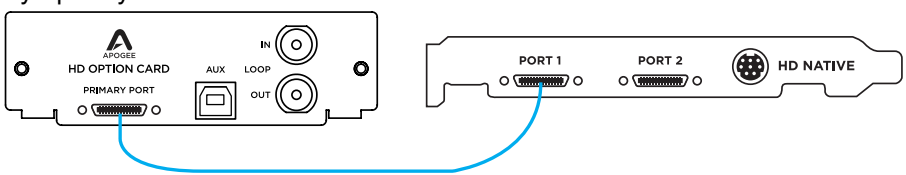
If a single I/O Module is installed, then Symphony I/O Mk II appears in Pro Tools Hardware Setup as a single HD I/O.

If two I/O Modules are installed, then Symphony I/O Mk II appears in Pro Tools Hardware Setup as two HD I/Os.

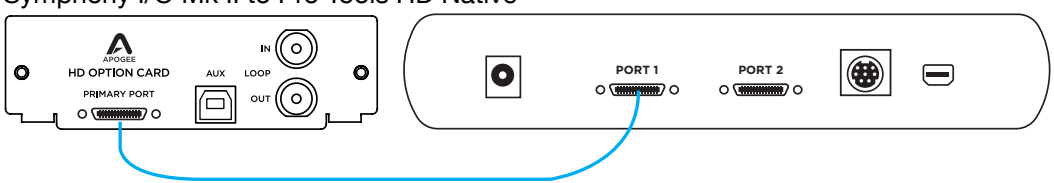
Symphony I/O Mk II to Pro Tools HDX



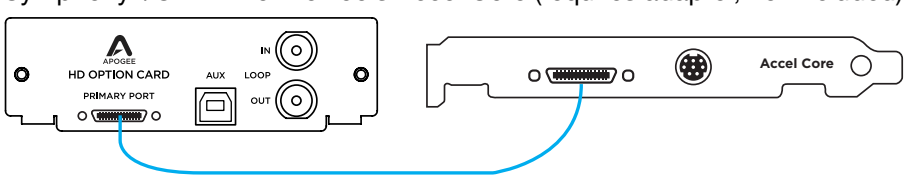
Symphony I/O Mk II to Pro Tools HD Native PCI



Symphony I/O Mk II to Pro Tools HD Native



Symphony I/O Mk II to Pro Tools Accel Core (requires adapter, not included)



Additional Support

For more information

- Symphony I/O Mk II User's Guide
- Apogee KnowledgeBase and FAQs
- Apogee support and live chat

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