Quick Start Guide

This guide is intended to help get you started quickly.
In order to achieve optimal usage of your new uTrack 24,
please carefully study this Quick Start Guide, as well as:

uTrack 24 Full User's Guide
WavTool Software User's Manual
Playlist Editor (Windows Only) User's Manual

All documents are available at http://www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads

For support requests please email support@cymaticaudio.com.

NOTE: All users should update their unit to the latest firmware
as well as update all accompanying software to the latest version

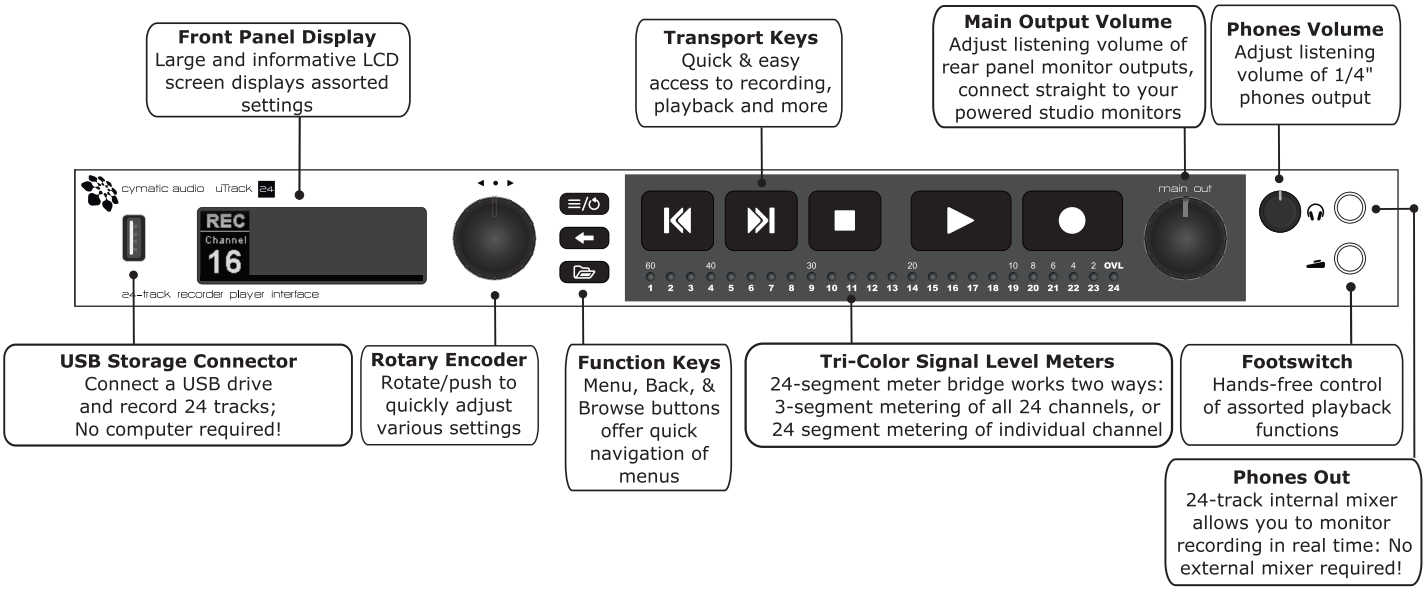
For further details, please visit http://www.cymaticaudio.com/download

1. What's in the box

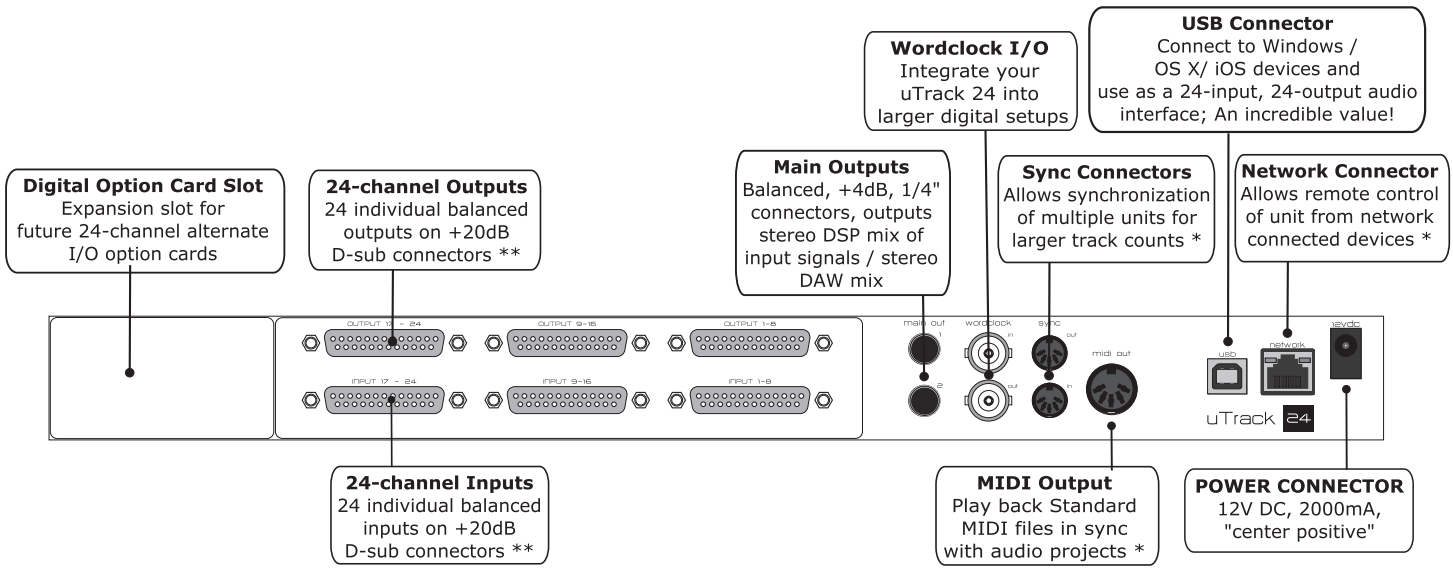
- uTrack 24
- AC/DC Power Adapter and power cable
- Removable Rack Ears
- USB cable
- Printed Quick Start Guide

2. Connections & User interface

Front Panel View



Rear Panel View



* Available in future firmware update
** D-sub connectors are wired to the Tascam Standard

Using the uTrack 24 with a Mixer

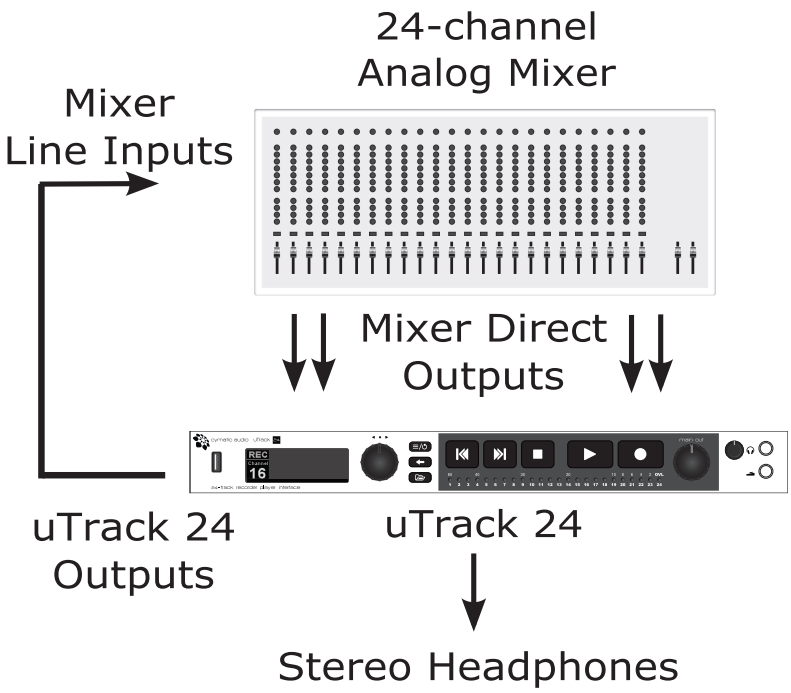
The uTrack 24 is the perfect tool for capturing 24 individual tracks of a live concert, which can then be imported into your DAW software of choice. The physical connections work as follows:

1. Connect 24 balanced, direct outs of an analog mixer to the analog inputs of the uTrack 24

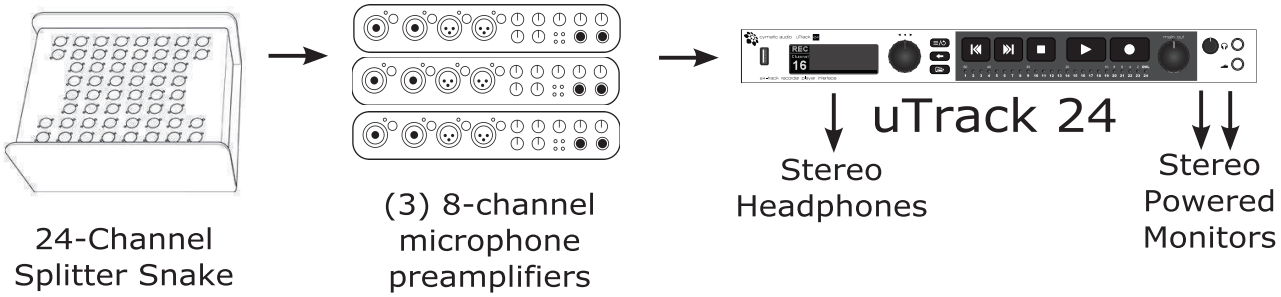
2. Connect a pair of headphones to the uTrack 24's front panel phones jack, or a set of monitors to the rear panel main output; You can monitor and adjust an onboard stereo mix of the 24-track recording, without the hassle, expense, and cabling of connecting an outboard monitor mixer.

3. The uTrack 24 allows you to play back 24 channels of multi-track audio back into the live sound console, perfect for performing a "virtual sound check" using recordings of previous performances, or for expanding live performances with individual pre-recorded tracks.

Connect the analog outputs of the uTrack 24 to the line inputs of the mixer. The FOH operator can switch to the mixer channel's line inputs to monitor the uTrack 24's 24 channels of playback.



Using the uTrack 24 with Outboard Mic Preamps (Remote Recording)



The uTrack 24 can also be used in a remote recording setup, with a dedicated recording split of a stage snake, as opposed to the mixer's direct outs. In this case, the connections would work as shown above.

About the uTrack File Format

The uTrack24 is specifically designed for continuous capturing of audio over longer periods of time. Since the length of your performance may often exceed the 2GB file size, which is the maximum file size many audio editing programs ("DAWs") can handle, the uTrack 24 incorporates an intelligent system for file-splitting that closely monitors the size of your files as you are recording: every time your recording reaches the critical size of 2 GB, the uTrack 24 will automatically create a new file ("Chunk"). This is done in a "gapless" fashion without losing a single sample of your recording.

The above process also allows you to record without limits in time or file size. The only limiting factor would be your storage space (for instance, a 500 GB USB drive allows you to do a 70-hour non-stop recording in CD quality).

As many DAWs do support the multichannel wave format created by the uTrack 24, it is possible to simply drag and drop the recorded files from the USB drive used with the uTrack 24 directly into your DAW. This would, however, require you to manually join the different chunks together within the DAW environment, a potentially tedious process especially with long recordings.

Cymatic offers a free software tool named "WavTool" (available at www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads) that automatically joins a take's separate chunks together. At the same time, the WavTool also splits the multitrack wave files into their underlying standard mono wave files that can simply be dragged and dropped into your DAW application of choice. Since copying large amounts of data can be time consuming, the WavTool combines copying the recording, joining the chunks and splitting the channels into one process.

GETTING STARTED

1. Preparing the attached USB drive for recording

The uTrack 24 records 24 separate tracks of 16 or 24-bit audio, directly to any off-the-shelf USB drive; No computer required! The USB drive must be formatted FAT32.

In order to ensure that the USB drive is optimally formatted for audio recording, it is highly recommended that you format the attached USB drive using the uTrack 24's "Format USB Drive" menu function. To do so, press MENU, scroll to "UTILITIES", then select "Format USB Drive".

NOTE: All existing data and partitions on the drive will be lost when formatting.

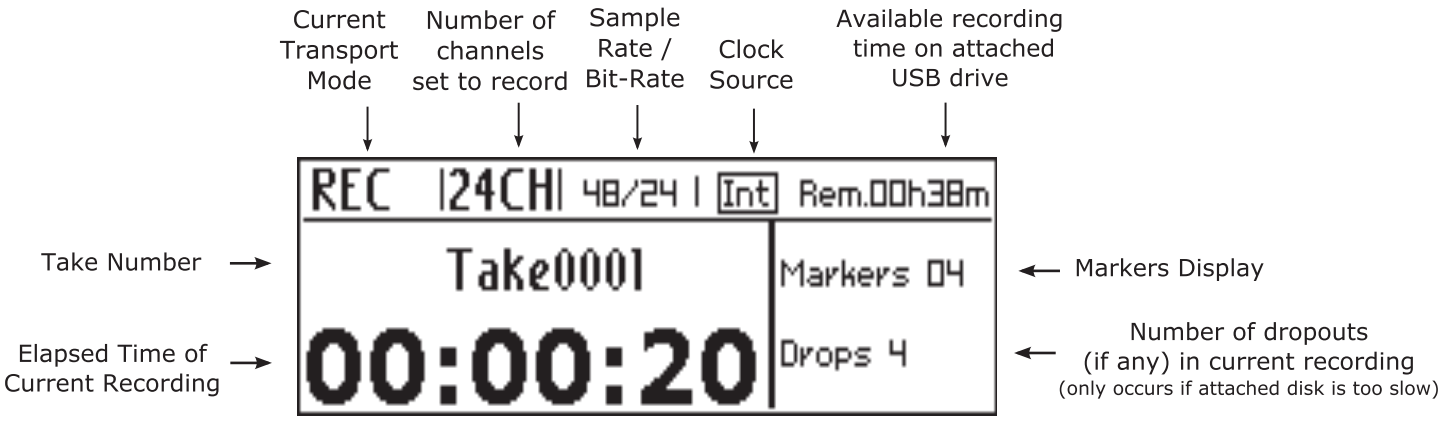
2. Starting a Recording

To begin a recording, simply press the front panel RECORD button. The uTrack 24 will immediately start recording the audio to the attached USB drive and will switch to the RECORD screen.

When the uTrack 24 is neither playing back nor in playlist-mode, it will automatically switch to "pre-recording" mode. This means that it will constantly buffer a minimum of 2.7 seconds (depending on the number of recorded channels, sample rate and resolution) of the incoming audio signal and write this audio data to the recorded file once have pressed the record button.

3. The RECORD Screen

The record screen provides a wealth of useful information about the current recording.



4. 24-Channel Input Metering

The front panel of the uTrack 24 contains 24 separate LEDs; each one serves as an individual input level meter for the corresponding record channel. This allows you to monitor the incoming signal level for each track, and adjust the output level of the signal source accordingly.

Each channel's individual meter LED is a 3-color design, offering 3 metering segments per channel. Green: -30dB
Yellow: -6dB
Red: Overload.

5. Adding Markers

One useful feature you can use during a recording is to add up to 99 "markers" per take, locational references that help you remember different spots in the recording (song 1, song 2, verse, chorus).

To add a new marker while a recording is taking place, simply press the front panel PLAY button. A new marker will be created and the "Markers" field on the screen will increment by one digit.

If supported by your DAW, these markers will be visible in the DAW session after you have imported your files. The markers can also be used to split your recordings at the marker points when using the WavTool to copy the recording from your USB device.

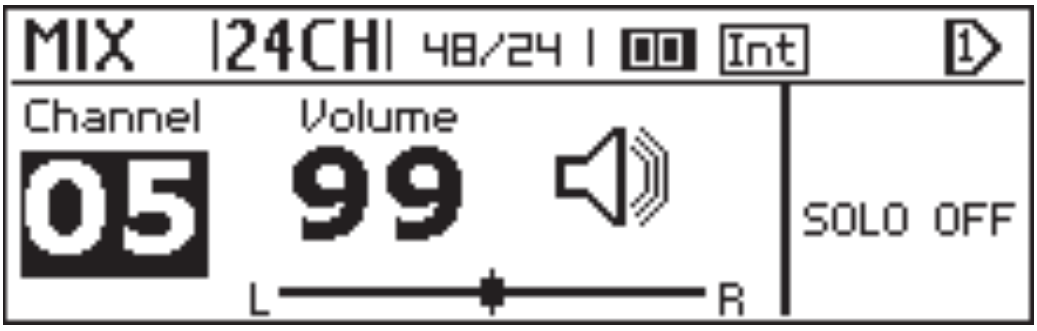
Using the Built-In Monitor Mixer

When recording, it is crucial to be able to conveniently monitor a temporary, "in the field" stereo mix of the recording in progress.

For this purpose, the uTrack 24 contains a built-in 24-input monitor mixer, allowing you to monitor a stereo mix of the incoming 24 channels of audio, and adjust various mix parameters while doing so. The adjustments you make affect your monitor mix only; they have no effect on the actual recording taking place. The built-in monitor mixer also works when the uTrack 24 is playing back multi-track audio.

The monitor mix can be monitored from both the front panel headphone output, as well as the rear panel main outputs; Both outputs have their own dedicated level controls.

Enter the monitor mixer page by pressing the front panel rotary encoder.



Metering

When you enter the monitor mixer screen, the front panel LEDs switch to 24-segment mode; The meter now acts as a single 24-segment level meter for the input level of the currently selected channel. This allows you to fine tune the signal level of the audio source feeding the selected input channel, with a higher level of resolution than 3 segments. When playing back audio, it acts as a 24-segment output level meter.

To exit the monitor mixer screen, simply press the front panel BACK button

Adjusting the Monitor Mixer

The monitor mixer page displays five different parameters:
Selected Channel / Channel Volume / Channel L-R panning / Channel Mute / Channel Solo

Selecting A Channel: When you first navigate to the mixer page, the channel number field is highlighted. Rotate the encoder to select which channel (1-24) you wish to adjust volume, panning, mute and solo for.

Adjusting Channel Volume: When you have arrived at the channel you wish to adjust, press the rotary encoder; the volume field will highlight and you can rotate the encoder to adjust the listening volume of the currently selected channel.

Adjusting Panning: Press the encoder again to highlight the L-R panner; Rotate the encoder to adjust the selected channel's pan position in the stereo field.

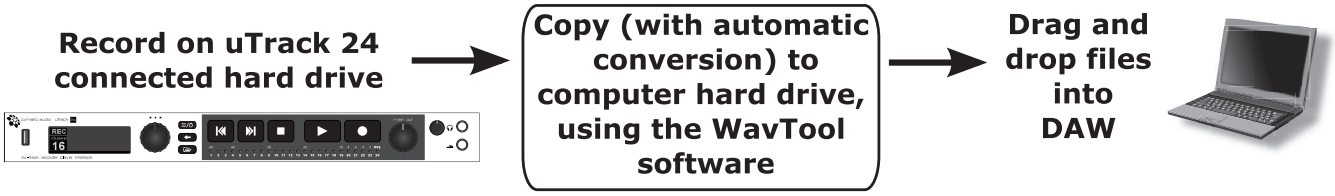
Muting: Press the encoder again to highlight channel muting; Rotate the encoder to mute/unmute the channel from the monitor mix. Note that the channel will always still be recorded; muting it simply removes it from the monitor mix.

Soloing: Press the encoder again to highlight channel solo; Rotate the encoder to solo the selected channel. This is very useful when fine-tuning a microphone position, allowing you to hear the individual channel's signal without the distraction of hearing the other channels in the monitor mix.

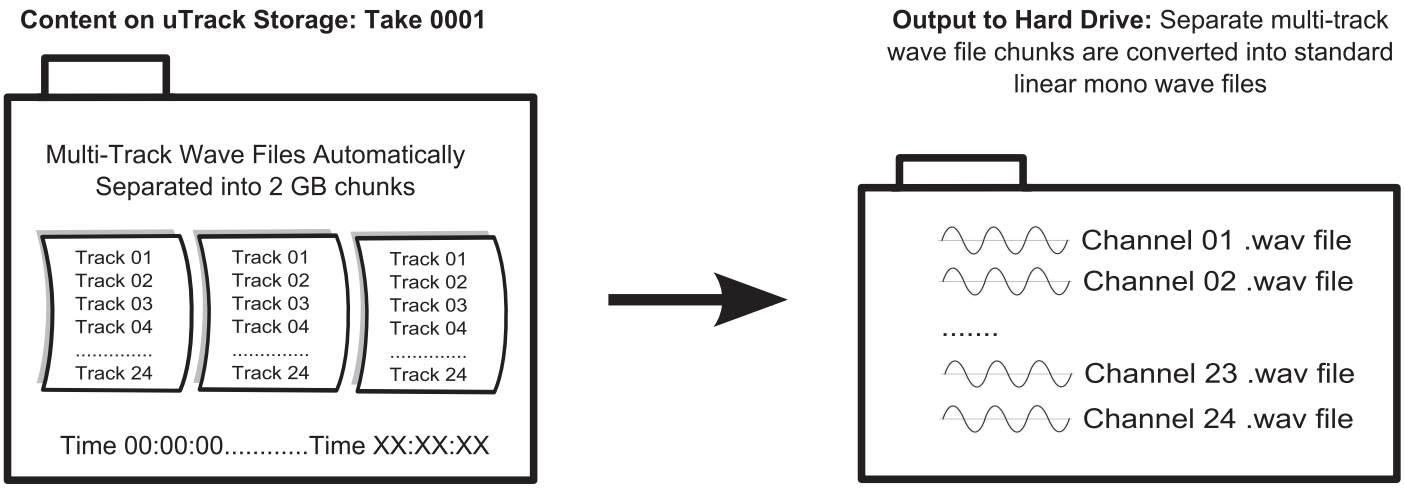
Alternatively, you can press and hold the rotary encoder, as a quick way to instantly solo the currently selected channel.

Soloing of a channel is temporary; it only lasts as long as the channel is selected. When a different channel is selected, the solo status of the previous channel is cleared.

Copying Audio Files from uTrack 24 Audio To your DAW



Conversion Process: uTrack Multi-track Wave Files to Standard Wave Files



In the process illustrated above, the WavTool software performs the following two functions:

1. Converts uTrack multi-track wave files into separate mono wave files
2. Automatically joins together separate, consecutive chunks into a single linear file, the length of the entire recording

Moving Audio from your DAW to the uTrack 24

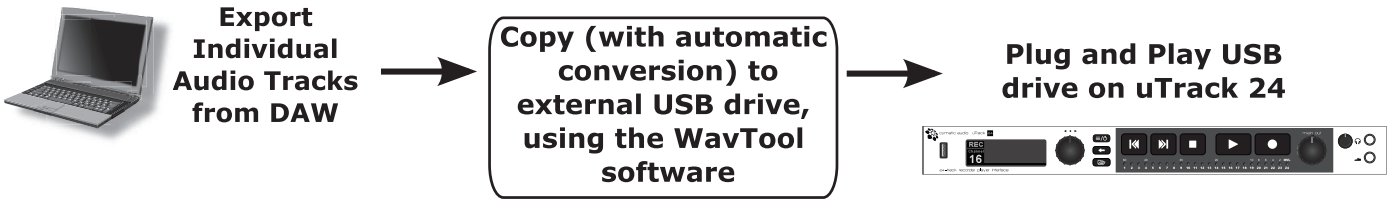
You can also use the WavTool software to prepare band backing tracks, as well as previously recorded band tracks for a virtual soundcheck.

As you copy the mono wave files over to the the hard drive that will be connected to the uTrack 24 for playback, the WavTool software:

-Combines the separate tracks into a polyphonic wave file that is ready to play back on your uTrack 24 hardware

-If any of the created polyphonic wave files are over 2 gigabytes in size, the software will automatically split them up into gapless chunks that the uTrack 24 hardware will seamlessly play back within each take.

DAW Audio to uTrack 24



Playing Back Audio on the uTrack 24

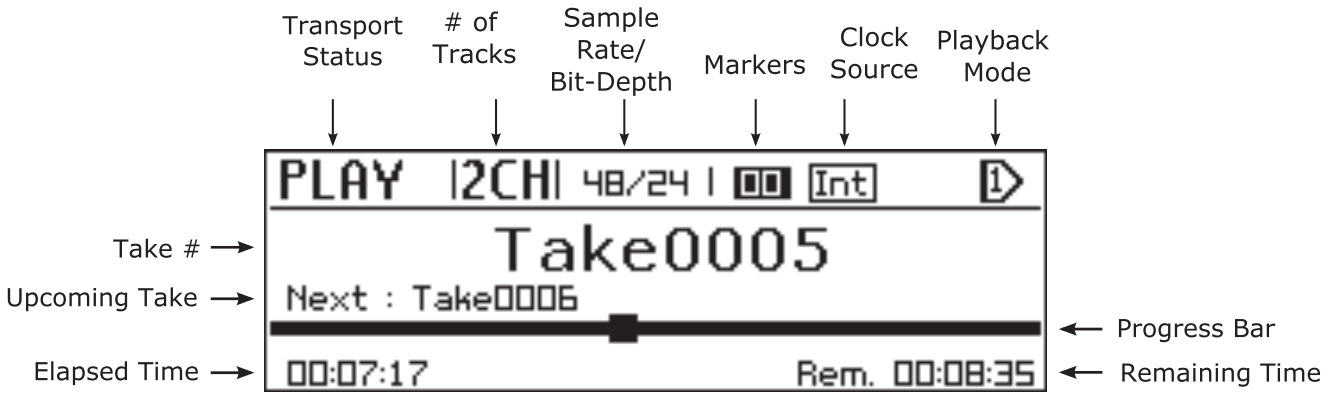
The uTrack 24 can play back up to 24 tracks of audio, with each channel feeding its own individual rear panel balanced output. This portable, reliable multi-channel playback is useful for situations such as:

Virtual Soundcheck: A virtual soundcheck is a concert soundcheck that uses pre-recorded audio as the playback source, as opposed to live musicians. With a virtual soundcheck, the FOH engineer can dial in the FOH sound on his/her own schedule, spending as long as needed without requiring the participation of the actual band members. It also makes an excellent "practice tool" for learning the craft of mixing live sound.

Live Musician Expansion: Pre-recorded tracks can be sent, from the individual outputs of the uTrack 24, into individual line-level inputs of the live sound mixer. These pre-recorded tracks can be mixed alongside the traditional live musicians, acting as expansion for the live music. By keeping the expansion tracks separate (as opposed to a pre-mixed 2-channel playback source), the live sound engineer can mix and process the individual pre-recorded tracks, just as they do with the individual mixer channels of the live musicians.

The Play Page

The uTrack 24's"Play" page is present any time the unit is stopped or playing, and is not recording.



Selecting Audio to Play Back

To select a set of audio tracks to play back, you may either:

1-Rotate the encoder to scroll among the different multi-track sessions available on the connected disk.

2-Press the BROWSER button on the uTrack 24 front panel. This will switch the front panel display to the browser window. Rotate the encoder to select the "Multi-track" folder, then push the encoder to select it.
You will now see a list of your different multi-track sessions. Rotate the encoder to select the desired multi-track session, the push the encoder to select it. The session will load into memory and is now ready to play back using the front panel transport controls.

Navigating Playback Within a Session

The uTrack 24 contains the ability to quickly navigate to different locations within the currently playing audio file. While the transport is currently playing:

-Press the skip forward and skip back buttons to skip to the next/previous saved marker

-Rotate the encoder to navigate to a different spot on the playback timeline, then press the encoder or push the play key to play back from the selected position

Using Playlists with the uTrack 24

The uTrack 24 also has a convenient "playlist mode" which can be used to play back pre-configured playlists of multi-track or stereo material. This feature is extremely useful when you need each song to flow into the next one automatically, in situations such as playing back break music (stereo files), or expanding live musicians (multi-track files).

To set up playlists on the uTrack 24, download the free Playlist Editor software from
http://www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads

Using the uTrack 24 as a Computer Audio Interface

The uTrack 24 can be connected to a personal computer or iOS device, via its rear panel USB port, and operate as a 24-input, 24-output computer audio interface.

OS X (10.8 or Higher)

In OS X, the uTrack 24 operates as a 24-bit, 24-input, 24-output, CoreAudio compliant audio interface, supporting sample rates up to 96kHz.

No driver installation is required; Simply connect the uTrack 24 to an available USB port on your OS X computer, and the uTrack 24 will be available for use in all CoreAudio compliant audio software.

Windows (Windows XP SP2 , Windows Vista, Windows 7 32-bit/64-bit)

In Windows, the uTrack 24 operates as a 24-bit, 24-input, 24-output, ASIO compliant audio interface, supporting sample rates up to 96kHz.

When using the uTrack 24 with Windows, installation of a custom driver is required; see the full uTrack 24 user's guide for details.

iOS (iOS 7 or higher, iPad 2 or newer)

The uTrack 24 can be used with an iPad 2 or newer, running iOS 7 or greater, acting as a 24-input, 24-output audio interface.

Since the iPad has no native USB ports, you must first connect an "iPad Camera Connection Kit" or "Lightning to USB Camera Adapter", both of which provide a USB port for the uTrack 24 to connect to.

No drivers need be installed. When the uTrack 24 is connected to the iPad, it will be available to compatible iOS audio software, as a 24x24 audio device. Note that you must use iOS software that can specifically access a larger number of channels than the default 2-in, 2-out channel count of the iPad's native sound circuitry.

Control Room Features

The uTrack 24 contains a "main out" audio output path, that is very useful when using it as a computer audio interface; it allows for monitoring your DAW mix over speakers and headphones, with no external mixer required!

When streaming from a DAW, channels 1-24 will output to the 24 physical outputs of the rear panel d-sub connectors. However, DAW outputs 1-2 (which most often contain the DAW's main stereo mix) are also output to both the 1/4" stereo main outs, as well as the front panel phones connector. Both the main outs, and the phones connector have their own dedicated volume controls, allowing you to quickly and easily adjust the listening level of both connected headphones, as well as powered studio monitors.

With the above control room features, you are free to use the uTrack 24 as a computer audio interface with no external mixer required., No extra equipment and cabling is needed.