TASCAM TMCompanion Release Notes

Contents

Introduction

This document contains the Release Notes for the TASCAM Mixer Companion (TMCompanion) application, explaining features that are not covered in the Users Manual.

Features

TMCompanion is a Software Application for use on Microsoft Windows XP, Vista, 7, and Apple Mac OS X Operating Systems. The computer and the TASCAM DM-3200 or DM-4800 are connected via USB, providing the following functions.

• Copy Projects from the TASCAM DM to the Computer, Restore previously saved Projects to the TASCAM DM.
• Display level meters for Channel, Bus, Aux Sends and Main Stereo Bus.
• Display the Timecode and provide remote control of the TASCAM DM's Transport Control section.
• Update the TASCAM DM's firmware.
• Capture the TASCAM DM's local screen to a PNG (Portable Network Graphic) file on the computer.

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About TMCompanion V1.51 / V1.61 / V1.70

TMCompanion V1.70 is an update for use with Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard), Mac OS X 10.7 (Lion) and Mac OS X 10.8 (Mountain Lion).

TMCompanion V1.61 is the version specifically for Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) Only.

If you are using a version of Mac OS X prior to 10.5 (Leopard), or Windows XP, Windows Vista or Windows 7[*], please use TMCompanion V1.51.

  [*]Both 32-Bit Edition and 64-Bit Edition of the Windows Operating Systems are supported.

Supported OS list

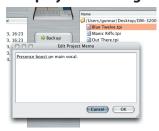| TMCompanion version	OS version
TMCompanion V1.70	Mac OS 10.8
	Mac OS 10.7
	Mac OS 10.6
TMCompanion V1.61	Mac OS 10.5
TMCompanion V1.51	Mac OS before 10.5
	Windows 7
	Windows Vista
	Windows XP

New Features

New Features in V1.70

TMC is now compatible with Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard), Mac OS X 10.7 (Lion), Mac OS X 10.8 (Mountain Lion).

New Features in V1.61

TMC is now fully compatible with Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard).

New Features in V1.51

Project Memo Display and Editing

The Project Memo field for any project, either remotely on the mixer, through the CF browser (left side of TMCompanion main window), or local TPI files through the right side host browser can be edited.

The first 16 characters are automatically underlined to show how much of the memo will be visible in the DM mixer's Project Manage screen.

This feature is available through the right click context menu for the project or TPI file, or through the File menu, or brought up using the short cut "Ctrl-E"(CMD-E for Mac users).

Improved Local Browsing

A new UP button is now visible in the icon bar. This moves you one directory layer up from the currently displayed folder.

The default shortcuts are now "Home" and "Desktop".

Windows Vista / Windows 7 Support

Support for TMC running on Windows Vista 32-Bit Edition and 64-Bit Edition, and Windows 7 32-Bit Edition and 64-Bit Edition OSes has been added.

New Features in V1.30

DM-4800 Support

TMCompanion now recognizes any number of connected DM-3200 and DM-4800 mixers, and allows their meter bridges to be displayed. This allows all channels, all busses and all aux sends, along with the stereo buss, to be metered.

Select Meter Bridge from the Windows menu.

Note that this window comes in three "fold-out" sections, accessed by the triangular controls on the left of the window.

The top control section of the window allows the meter settings to be made:

TYPE: the type can be either Regular (peak) or Average (more similar to VU meter response).

Meter Decay Rate Slider: The Decay rate of the meters can be set.

Peak Hold Time Slider: The Peak hold time can be set here or set to infinity with the check box.

The Clear Peaks button resets peak hold displays.

The pickoff points for the meters can then be set.

For channels 1 through 48 (DM-4800) or 1 through 32 (DM-3200), the choices are: Input, Pre Gate, Post Gate, Pre Insert and Post Fader. Consult the block diagram in the Owner's Manual if you are unsure of where these belong. For channels 49 through 64 (DM-4800) or 33 through 49 (DM-3200), these choices are restricted to Input or Post Fader. For the busses (and aux sends) the choices are: Pre Comp (compressor), Pre Fader and Post Fader.

New Features in V1.20

Multiple Mixer Support
TMCompanion version 1.20 supports multiple mixers. It is capable of recognizing more than one DM-3200 unit and controlling existing functions on any connected DM-3200 unit.
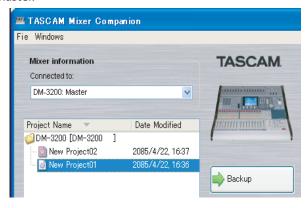
How to connect
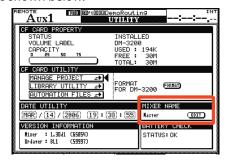Multiple DM-3200 units can be connected to the USB ports (or a USB hub) of a PC or a Mac.

Identification of multiple DM-3200 units
TMCompanion identifies multiple DM-3200 units by displaying the mixer names. The DM-3200 unit that is currently selected is indicated in the Mixer information panel of the main window.
The figure to the right shows what the main window looks like when the selected mixer name is DM-3200 Master.

The name of a DM-3200 unit can be set and edited in the MIXER NAME section of the DM-3200 UTILITY>SYSTEM screen as shown below.

Before launching TMCompanion, all the connected DM-3200 units must be turned on.

Change of Installation Method for Mac OS X
TMCompanion V1.20 uses a different installation method for Mac OS X.
Whereas the CD-ROM of previous versions included an installer, the CD-ROM of version 1.20 includes a disk image named TMCompanion.dmg. Double-clicking it will mount the volume and the TMCompanion application icon will appear.
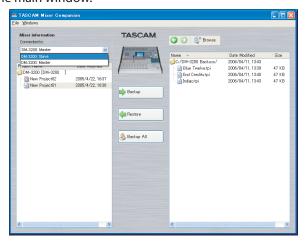
Steps for Installation
1. Insert the CD-ROM of TMCompanion version 1.20 in a Mac. The CD-ROM is called DM-3200.
2. Double-click the disk image, TMCompanion.dmg, in its root folder.
3. Click Agree on the LICENSE AGREEMENT AND LIMITED WARRANTY screen if you agree with the terms (if you disagree with the terms, click Disagree and the installation process will halt).
4. Drag the TMCompanion application icon from the mounted disk image to the Applications folder on your Mac.

Backing up and Restoring
TMCompanion version 1.20 can back up and restore data from multiple DM-3200 units.
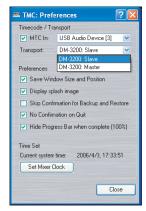Select a DM-3200 unit in the Mixer information panel of the main window.

Timecode/Transport Screen
TMCompanion version 1.20 allows you to select among multiple connected DM-3200 units to display Timecode and operate transport control.
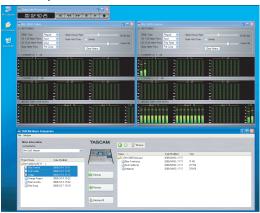Only one Timecode/Transport window can be displayed at a time. Select the unit to be displayed in the TMCompanion: Preferences window.

Meter Bridge

Meters of multiple DM-3200 units can now be displayed. The menu Windows: Meter Bridge now has a sub-menu showing the connected DM-3200 units. Select a unit from this menu to display its Meter Bridge window. Multiple Meter Bridge windows can be shown simultaneously.

Screenshot

You can now save screenshots of the LCD screens of multiple DM-3200 units. Select the DM-3200 unit whose screenshots you want to save in the Mixer information panel of the main window.

Preferences

The layout of the Preferences window has been changed in TMCompanion V1.20.

There are now three panels: Timecode / Transport, Preferences, and Time Set. A popup menu has been added to the Timecode / Transport section to select a target mixer for the Transport window.

New Features in V1.10

Renaming Projects and Project Backup Files

The Main Window now allows projects and project backup files (TPI) to be renamed. Once the project is highlighted, a right click menu (Windows) or slow double click (Mac) will allow you to rename it. A Rename selection under the file menu (Windows and Mac) is also available to rename files.

Deleting Projects and Project Backup Files

The Main Window now allows projects and project backup files (TPI) to be deleted. Multiple selection is possible using the computer's Shift key for contiguous selection or the CTRL key (Windows) or the Command key (Mac) for discontiguous selection. Use the right click menu (Windows) or the file menu (Windows and Mac) and select "Delete"

Local Browser Refresh

The local list (right hand side of the TMCompanion main window) now has a right click menu with a Refresh option in Windows. This is accessed with a CTRL click in the right hand side on Mac.

Maintenance Items

Maintenance in V1.61

- Transfer would stop before completing when restoring files to a DM-3200 or DM-4800 using TMCompanion on a Mac OS. This has been fixed.

- When restoring multiple files at once, files would be shown overlapping in the list on the left side of TMCompanion. This has been fixed.

Maintenance in V1.51

Minimum Mac OS X requirements

TMCompanion V1.51 now requires OS X 10.3.9 or later for PowerPC Macs.

Mac Universal Binary

TMCompanion V1.51 is now a native application when running on Intel Mac computers.

Browse button speed up

The Browse button was previously slow to open on some machines. It now opens instantaneously.

Firmware Update problems

Some machines had problems running Firmware Updates. These have been addressed.

Other Maintenance items

- TMCompanion would sometimes freeze during backup or restore of projects with many user libraries.

- Transfer would stop before completing when restoring files to a DM-3200 or DM-4800 using TMCompanion on a Mac OS. This has been fixed.

- When restoring multiple files at once, files would be shown overlapping in the list on the left side of TMCompanion. This has been fixed.

Maintenance in V1.30

Windows XP Service Pack 2
TMCompanion V1.30 now requires Windows XP Service Pack 2. It will not install if your computer only has SP1. Visit http://www.windowsupdate.com to get SP2

Mac Intel support
This version of TMCompanion runs on Intel based Macs using the automatic emulation of PPC applications. You may notice a slow start up of the application as it translates the code before running it. TMCompanion has also been tested on dual processor Macs.

Windows XP 64-Bit Edition support
TMCompanion V1.30 has been tested with the Windows XP 64-Bit Edition running on AMD processors.

Multiple Project Restores
If multiple project backup files are selected and restored in one operation, previous versions of TMCompanion would delete all the duplicate target projects from the mixer first, and then restore all of the projects. If this process was interrupted or cancelled, the user would notice that then the projects that hadn't been reached were already missing from the target mixer. In TMCompanion V1.30, each project is deleted just before it is going to be restored.

Maintenance in V1.20

Windows .NET
This version does not require the .NET runtime to be installed on your Windows XP machine. If you previously installed it as part of a prior release of TMCompanion, it may be safe to remove it (START->CONTROL PANEL-> ADD and REMOVE Programs) if no other applications on your computer require it.

Backup of projects from Cascaded Mixers
Issues that occurred when backing up or subsequently restoring projects from cascaded mixers have been fixed.

Project List update after sleep
If TMCompanion is launched on a machine where the DM is connected while the computer was put to sleep and woken again, the project list might not have refreshed correctly. This has been fixed.

Illegal operations on CF card label
The top line of the project list on the left hand side of TMCompanion's main window is the CF card's volume label. Some TMCompanion operations were selectable on this item even though they should be not allowed.

Selecting MTC IN in Preferences dialog
Previously, if the MTC IN tick box was unselected, the MTC IN pull down menu was grayed out and thus unable to be changed. This has been changed so that the pull down selection can be changed at any time.

Restoring previous version Meter Window Positions
TMCompanion V1.20 will not restore meter window positions that were saved in a previous version (Preferences -> "Save Window Size and Position"), this is because those window positions are now saved uniquely for each mixer that is detected, and is required when multiple mixers are used together.

Maintenance in V1.10

Locally renamed TPI files
When a TPI file was renamed and restored to the mixer in V1.00 it would restore to the old name. In V1.10 it will restore to a project with the same name as the TPI file.

Known Issues

Known Issues in TMCompanion V1.51 / V1.61 / V1.70

MTC IN Port

[MTC In Port] Preference. (For Mac OS X before 10.5) :
This list shows only Port3 (MTC) for the attached Mixers. The other USB MIDI ports do not contain any MIDI Timecode data.

[MTC In Port] Preference (For Windows, and Mac OS X 10.5 and above):
Please select the MTC USB Midi port for the selected DM-3200 or DM-4800 in order to show its MIDI Timecode data.
On Windows XP, this may be shown in the list as "USB Audio Device[3]" or "USB Audio Device[3](2)".
On Windows Vista and Windows 7, this may be shown in the list as "MIDIIN3 (TASCAM DM-3200)" or "MIDIIN3 (TASCAM DM-4800)".
On a Mac, this will be shown in the list as "TASCAM DM-3200 DM-3200MTC PORT" or "TASCAM DM-4800 DM48000MTC PORT".

Hyperthreaded CPUs
Windows XP running on Hyperthreaded processors cannot perform project transfers correctly in TMCompanion because of problems with Microsoft's built-in USB MIDI drivers. Please disable Hyperthreading in the BIOS settings of your computer.

USB Connection with TASCAM DM
When the computer that is connected to the TASCAM DM via USB goes into Stand By mode (Windows XP / Windows Vista) or Hibernate mode (Windows XP / Windows Vista / Windows 7) or Sleep mode (Windows Vista / Windows 7 / Mac OS X), all USB-MIDI connections to the DM will be closed and not automatically re-opened.
In this case, follow the following steps to restart communications.

Mac OS X:
Remove the USB cable and re-insert it, then restart any application that was using the DM's USB-MIDI ports.

Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7:
Restart any application that was using the DM's USB-MIDI ports.
To avoid this problem, change settings on the computer to not use Stand By or Sleep modes.

Stand By Mode
If TMCompanion fails to find your mixer after putting your computer into Stand By or Sleep mode, please remove the USB cable and re-connect it.

Mac IAC Driver
If an IAC bus is enabled, TMCompanion may not behave correctly. If you are having problems, please disable the IAC driver by starting the "Audio MIDI Settings" application under /Application/Utilities and selecting "IAC driver" to be disabled

Mixed DM-3200 and DM-4800 installations
TMCompanion does not prevent the user from restoring projects that were originally made on a DM-3200 to a DM-4800 or vice-versa; they occupy different directories on the CF card and so are always unique. There is no way to up-convert or down-convert a project using TMCompanion.

MTC IN checkbox
Under Mac OS X 10.4, the state of the "MTC IN" Checkbox in the preference page is not saved correctly, and will always be cleared when TMC is started, requiring manual setting each time (V1.51 only)

Notice regarding software that uses the LGPL

TMCompanion V1.70 uses the following software that is licensed by the LGPL.

• Qt LGPL edition
http://qt.nokia.com/downloads
Any customer who wishes to receive the source code may do so by accessing the following URL and filling out the registration form.
http://www.teac.co.jp/support/opensource/index.html
Please understand that we are unable to respond to questions about the source code contents and similar matters. The following is the original text of the **GNU Lesser General Public License**.

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Version 2.1, February 1999

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