AMERICAN AUDIO

Versa Mix

User Guide
and Reference Manual

VERSA MIX

Introduction

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing the American Audio® Versa Mix. Versa Mix is a powerful program and we'd like to think that it can set new standards in DJ software with a high level of user-friendliness and at same time providing features expected by professional DJ's.

With Versa Mix, mixing music on your computer has never been so easy, fun, and powerful: Scratch, equalizer, sound effects, loops, master tempo, skins and many more... Versa Mix supports the most popular sound formats, including mp3, wav and wma. Please read and understand this manual completely before attempting to operate your new software.
Please visit americanaudio.us to view helpful video clips!

Customer Support:

American Audio® provides a toll free customer support line, to provide set up help and answer any question should you encounter problems during your initial set up or operation. You may also visit us on the web at www.AmericanAudio.us for any comments or suggestions. Service Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Voice: (800) 322-6337
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E-mail: support@americanaudio.us

WhyVersa Mix

- top performance; all files start in less than 10ms (just like on professional CD-Players)
- real time BPM counting, beat-matching and batch BPM counting
- scratch (like on real turntables)
- Auto synchronization with 1 click
- wave display
- supports up to 8 sound cards with "on the fly" switch and monitoring
- skinned interface (fully customizable)
- easy to use on multiple display environments (all windows are independent)
- media base management with ID3 tag
- sequencer
- loops
- ...

System Requirements

Minimal Requirements:
- Processor: PENTIUM III 500Mhz or equivalent
- RAM: 256 MB
- Sound card: DirectX compatible sound card
- Operating system: Windows 98/ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP

Recommendations:
- For some skins, you will need a minimum resolution of 1024*768 with 32 bits color depth
- We also recommend a good processor (500Mhz or better)
- Versa Mix works the same on any operating system mentioned above, but Windows 2000 and XP are generally more reliable. Then for professionals, we advise the use of one of these two operating systems
- You should have the latest version of DirectX installed
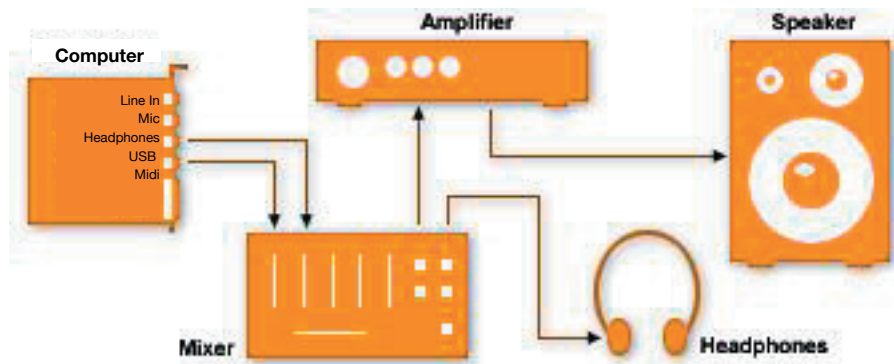
VERSA MIX

Installation

- Run the distribution file
- The installation will display the software licensing contract; read it, accept or refuse the terms
- Choose the directory whereVersa Mix will be installed
- Finish the installation
- LaunchVersa Mix by clicking the desktop shortcut, thru the Windows "Start" menu or by executingVersa Mix.exe
- Select the wayVersa Mix will manage your audio card(s) from "File / Options / System"
- Install USB Sound Card

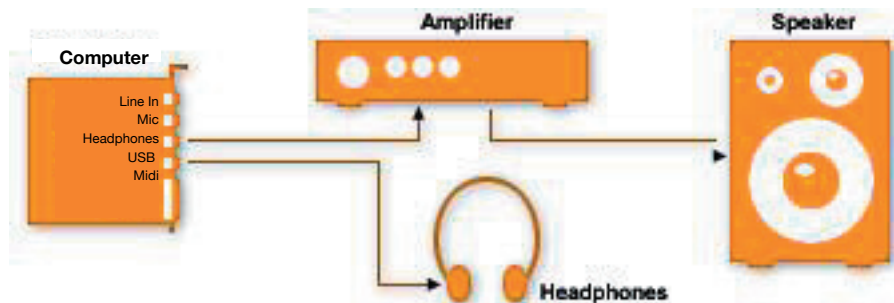## There are 2 ways to connect audio cards with Versa Mix:
1. *With* a mixer and one Multi-channel audio card

Switch the out port on channel 1 to audio output 1 (front) and channel 2 to audio output 2 (back).

2. *Without* a mixer and one Multi-channel audio card

Connect the amplifier to sound card output 1 (front) and your head phones to sound card output 2 (rear).

VERSA MIX

Creating a Mix

Add a file - There are many ways to add music (or other media files) in Versa Mix

1. Add single file:
- Press the open button on the mixer channel
- Go to "edit / add" menu. (Shortcuts: CTRL+I for music file)
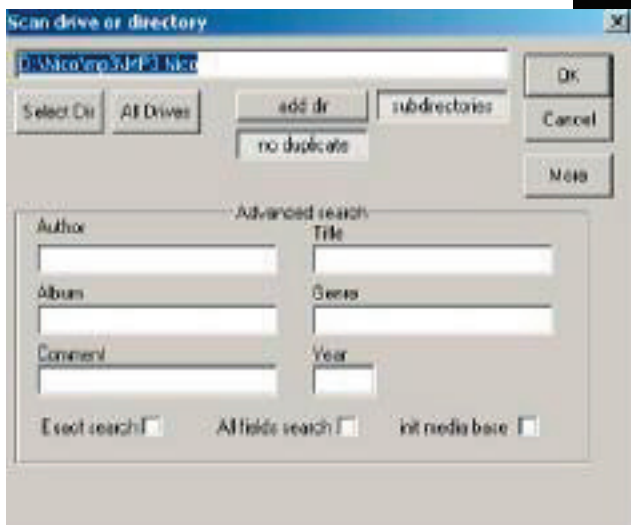- Right click on media base and go to the "add" menu item

2. Add multiple files:
- Options
- Scan (This will most likely take a minute or two, and it might even seem like your computer has frozen.)

Drag and drop selected media from a windows folder directly to the Media Base view.

To add BPM:
Go to Media, then Analyze, then highlight the song you wish to add the BPM to.

Use the scan command. **(ALT+ENTER)**

Load music in the mixer channel

If you have used the open button on the mixer the media is loaded directly into the channel.

If not, you have to load the media yourself and by a simple *drag and drop* operation simply drag the selected file from the media base to a mixer channel.

VERSA MIX

Mixing

After loading the 2 music tracks that you want to mix in the Mixer channels, Mixing will require 7 operations:

1. Find the BPM for the two music tracks
2. Switch the audio port or enable headphones monitor
3. Locate position in each music track where you want to start
4. Adjust the speed of both tracks so they have the same BPM (beat matching)
5. Start music
6. Cross fade the volume of each music track to keep a constant volume level
7. Use the pitch bend controls to keep the beats of the two songs in sync

1. Find the BPM for the two music tracks

There are 5 ways in Versa Mix to find the BPM:

1. Auto BPM at load (recommended) (go to "Options / Settings")
2. Automatic scan media (see "Media / Beat Counting Auto")
3. Automatic real time BPM counter button on toolbar
4. Manual interval calculation (see "Media / Beat Counting Manual")
5. Manual tap in method calculation (see "Media / Beat Counting Manual")

To execute beat counting, right click on the mixer channel and Select menu "Beat counting"->"Auto" or "Manual". The automatic beat counting works better with dance / house / techno music (drum beat well marked).

2. Switch the audio port or enable headphones monitor

For the next operation you can use your headphones so you listen the next song in advance without affecting the main output.

There are 2 ways:

1. Select second audio port and after you find your cue point, you will then switch back to the main audio out for live playback.
2. Enable headphones monitor in the mixer channel.

To find out how to configure your audio ports and monitor see "File / Options / System"

3. Locate position in each music track where you want to start

Versa Mix provides 2 ways you can locate positions in the music files:
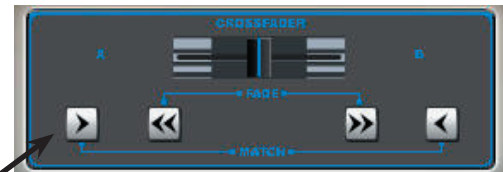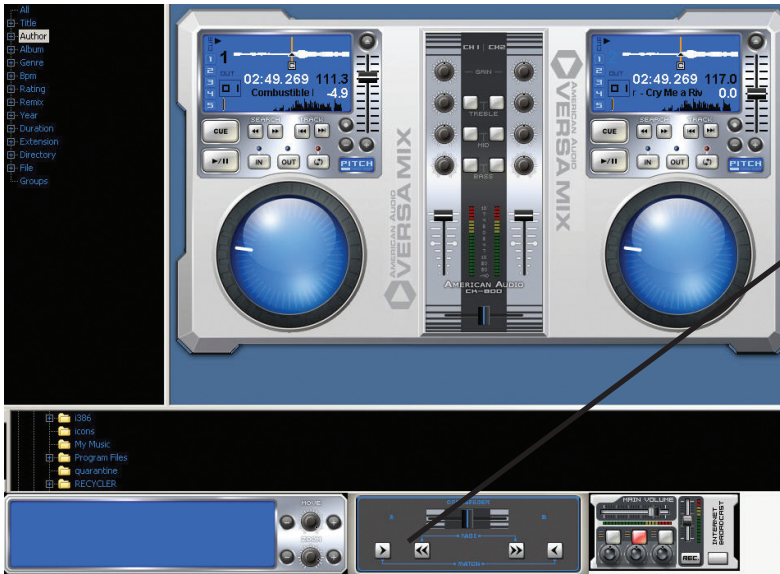- Cue point
- Locations

With the Jog you can move thru the music to find the exact start position (for example the first bass beat) and set it as a Cue point with the Cue button.

4. Adjust the speed of both tracks so they have the same BPM (beat-matching)

There are many ways to do beat matching with Versa Mix.

a. You can do it manually by changing the speed of the song. You can switch from "speed" to "master tempo" by pressing on the PITCH button:

b. The easiest way is to use the "A=B" (B=A) function is in the cross-fader bar.

If you want to beat-match the song in channel B, with the song in channel A, just click on the B=A button and Versa Mix will automatically adjust the speed of the song in channel B.

When both songs are playing, A=B (or B=A) button also synchronizes the song in B (A) channel.

Beat-matching can only be done if you have identified the BPM (using manual or auto) for both channels for the media files to match properly

c.Drag and drop with the mouse and "SHIFT" key

- The two music tracks to be beat-matched are in mixer channels 1 and 2
- Left-click and hold on the channel mixer to begin a drag and drop and press the SHIFT key
- Move the mouse cursor to channel 2 while still holding down the SHIFT key
- Release the mouse in channel 2
- Versa Mix has updated the pitch of the music track in channel 1 so the BPM of both tracks have been matched

ATTENTION!
If you do not hold the SHIFT key pressed,Versa Mix will simply move the track from channel 2 to channel 1. To be sure you don't do this by mistake you should activate the security option on the toolbar.

5. Start music

After finding the start position, you are ready to start the new music. You can use the Play / Pause button in the channel mixer or use keyboard shortcuts.

6. Cross fade the volume

You can use the cross fader control to update the both tracks' volume levels at the same time or use their individual volume sliders.

7. Use the pitch bend controls to keep the beats of the two songs in sync

You can use the pitch bend slider to temporarily adjust the speed. There are also programmable shortcut keys (F1 ... F8). These keyboard shortcuts can be very useful for keeping the beats in sync.

Recording a Mix

Record your mix using the main volume record function. This function allows you to record your mix directly to wav. Then you can burn it on a CD or convert to mp3 format.

The Active Channel

The active channel is the channel in the mixer with the highlighted number.
To change the active channel press the TAB key or click in the number.

VERSA MIX

Shortcuts Relative to Active Channel

TAB	Change the active channel
SPACE	Frame loop the active media
BACKSPACE	Cue the active media
ENTER	Play/pause the active media
ESC	Cut
UP/DOWN	Up/down pitch
LEFT/RIGHT	Change cross fader volume
SHIFT + x	Go to the location x
CTRL + x	Save the location x

Default Shortcuts

This is a list of the fixed Versa Mix keyboard shortcuts. These shortcuts cannot be changed.

CTRL + I	Add Music
CTRL + G	Volume general
CTRL + N	New File
CTRL + O	Open File
CTRL + S	Save File
CTRL + A	Select All
CTRL + F	Find
CTRL + SHIFT + F	Find next
CTRL + H	Update skin
CTRL + L	Locations
CTRL + SPACE	Play/Stop Sequencer Mix
ALT + ENTER	Scan
ALT + KeyPad+	Add media into Sequencer
SHIFT + ESC	Reset
CTRL + KeyPad+	Next song
CTRL + KeyPad -	Previous song
CTRL + ENTER	Play media
CTRL + BACK	Stop media
CTRL + SHIFT + O	Options settings
CTRL + SHIFT + D	Options system

VERSA MIX

Custom Shortcuts

This is the list of default custom Versa Mix Shortcuts. In Versa Mix you can attach a shortcut to any Mixer Channel function. To change the keyboard shortcuts go to "File / Options / Keyboard".

KeyPad1	start/stop media selected in mixer 1
KeyPad2	start/stop media selected in mixer 2
KeyPad1 + Alt	restart media selected in mixer 1
KeyPad2 + Alt	restart media selected in mixer 2
KeyPad0	start/stop play list
F1	pitch bend -3% channel A
F2	pitch bend -1% channel A
F3	pitch bend +1% channel A
F4	pitch bend +3% channel A
F5	pitch bend -3% channel B
F6	pitch bend -1% channel B
F7	pitch bend +1% channel B
F8	pitch bend +3% channel B
F9	Cue channel A
F10	Play/Pause channel A
F11	Cue channel B
F12	Play/Pause channel B