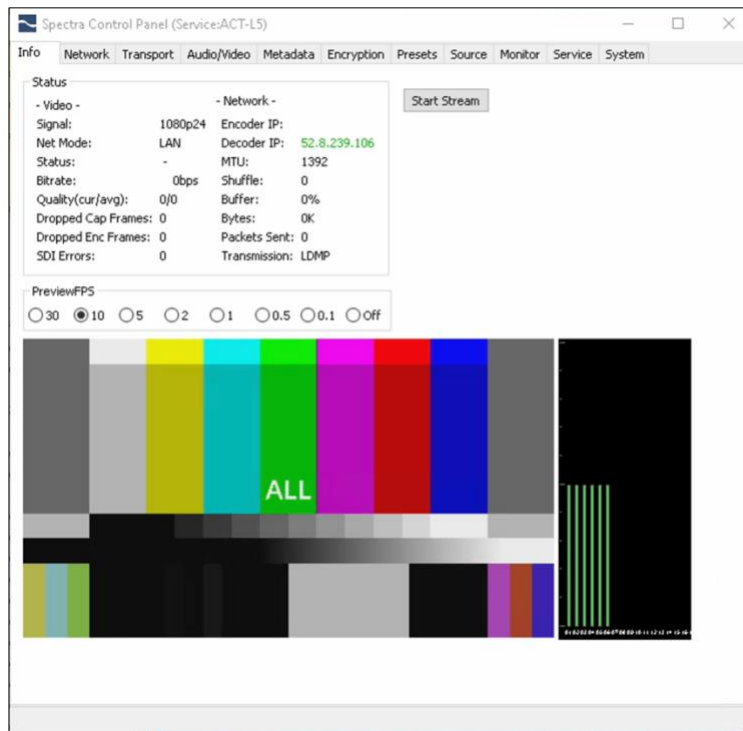




Setup Guide for Avid Pro Tools® (Windows)



Note: This document reflects the current feature-set which may change without notice (February 2024). We will attempt to keep all users up to date on any changes.

Document version

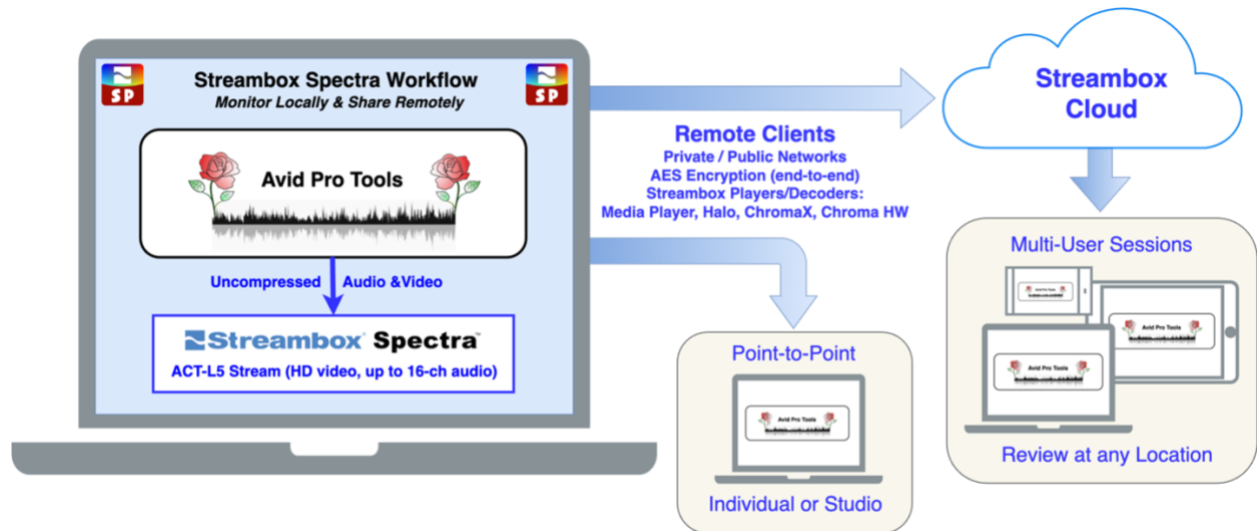
- 1.1 Feb 26, 2024 – Windows beta version 1.97 P2P and check for updates issue fixed
- 1.0 Feb 17, 2024 – Windows beta version 1.95 initial release

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Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)

.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
INSTALLING BETA VERSION FOR WINDOWS	4
INSTALLING STREAMBOX SPECTRA.....	4
INSTALLING ASIO DRIVERS	4
OPTIONAL SWITCH SPECTRA TO USER SPACE MODE FOR PASSTHROUGH TO LOCAL AUDIO DEVICE.....	4
PRO TOOLS SETUP.....	5
CONFIGURING AUDIO OUTPUT	6
<i>Playback Engine setup</i>	6
<i>I/O Setup</i>	6
<i>Channels Assignment</i>	7
CONFIGURING SPECTRA.....	8
A/V SETTINGS (AUDIO/VIDEO TAB)	8
CONFIGURING AWS CDI OUTPUT	8
SOURCE AUDIO MONITORING (MONITOR TAB).....	9
ENABLING USER SPACE MODE FOR SOURCE AUDIO MONITORING.	9
AUDIO ONLY MODE.....	10
USING SPECTRA WITH PRO TOOLS AND DOLBY ATMOS® RENDERER (DAR).....	11
TROUBLESHOOTING.....	11
STREAMBOX PLAYBACK CLIENTS AND OTHER RESOURCES	12
THIRD PARTY RESOURCES.....	12
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	12
PRIVACY NOTICE.....	12

Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)



Introduction

Spectra for Pro Tools (Windows) is a software solution designed to aid audio professionals in their remote work. Spectra simplifies remote audio and video reviews, eliminating the need for complex hardware and software setups. With Spectra, you can operate from a Cloud Instance or your PC, without the need for any external audio hardware or an additional video encoder.

Spectra for Avid Pro Tools works with the Dolby Atmos Renderer, allowing the streaming of up to 16 channels of uncompressed, low latency audio and HD video.

We also introducing Audio Only encoding Mode for Spectra to facilitate low latency audio workflow for remote reviews for Sound Postproduction.

For the recipients of your streams, Streambox provides free Streambox Media Players from the Apple Store, as well as Streambox Iris software, which can be used to connect with Blackmagic Design hardware. Dedicated hardware appliances like Halo, ChromaX, and Chroma are also available for those who require a more comprehensive studio setup.

With Spectra, remote reviews are made easy. You can use Point-to-Point workflows and our Cloud services for multi-user sessions, providing flexibility and ease of use for all users on both sides of the workflow.

Installing Beta version for Windows

If you have previous version of “Streambox Spectra” or “Spectra ASIO”¹ installed, we recommend uninstalling it first from “Add and Remove Programs” of Windows System Settings.

Installing Streambox Spectra

For Windows systems download, unzip and run **spectra.exe**

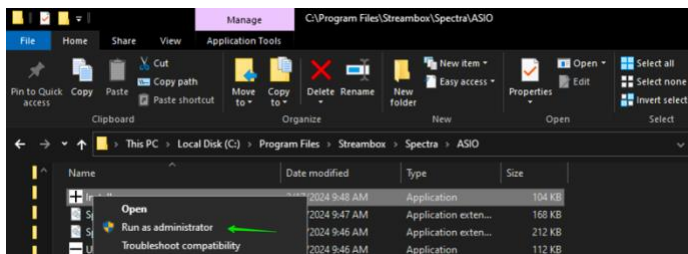
https://streambox-spectra.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/1.97.0.0/win/streambox_spectra_win_1.97.0.0.zip

For Windows systems with support for **AWS CDI** download, unzip and run **spectra_cdi.exe**

https://streambox-spectra.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/1.97.0.0/win/cdi/streambox_spectra_cdi_win_1.97.0.0.zip

Installing ASIO drivers

Open **C:\Program Files\Streambox\Spectra\ASIO** folder. Right click on Install file and Select “Run as Administrator”. If the Install reports error, you might have Pro Tools or other applications with ASIO support opened that is preventing installation or ASIO drivers.



Optional Switch Spectra to User Space Mode for Passthrough to local Audio device

See [Enabling User Space mode for Source Audio Monitoring](#)

¹ ASIO is a trademark and software of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH

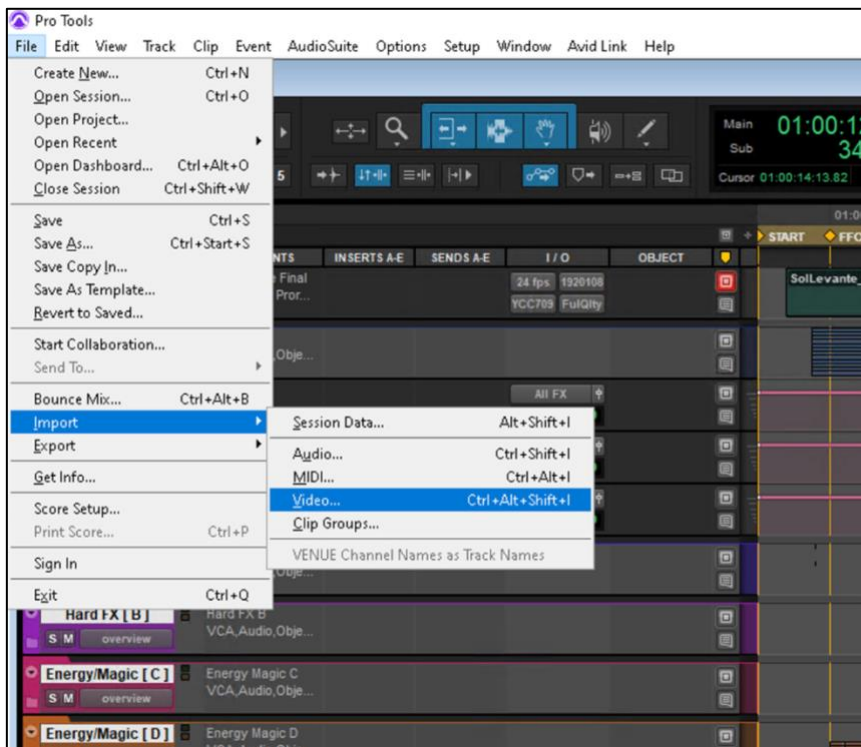
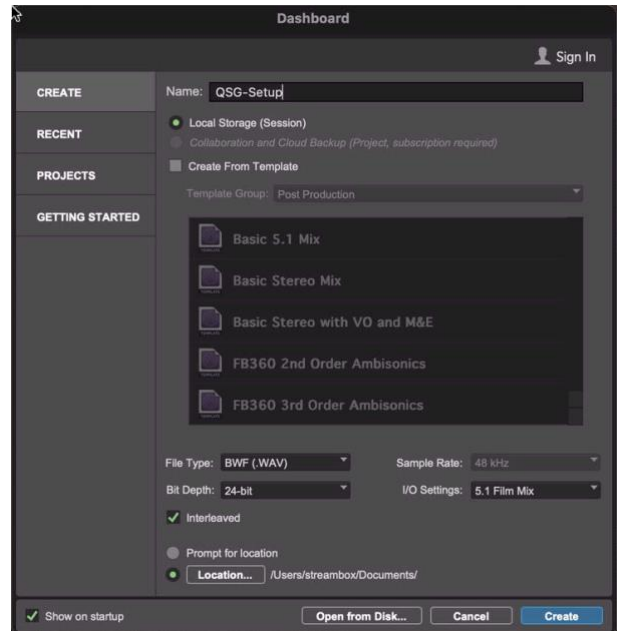
Pro Tools Setup

When Streambox Spectra is installed on a Windows device, it will install the appropriate plugin for Avid Pro Tools (if Pro Tools was installed after Spectra, you will need to reinstall Spectra).

ASIO² Driver Installer will create a new Audio Device that supports up to 16 channels of audio.

Note: It is assumed that the user has a moderate familiarity with Pro Tools.

- Start Pro Tools and create a new Session from its Dashboard.³ In the example here we will setup a 5.1 audio I/O Session.
- Next you will want to import your video content. Open the File/Import/Video... selection (red outline, image below).
Note: If you don't see the 'Video...' option, you likely don't have the full paid version of Pro Tools (which is required for Spectra for Video playback).
- Remember to check 'Import audio from file' in the 'Video Import Options' dialog.



² ASIO is a trademark and software of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH

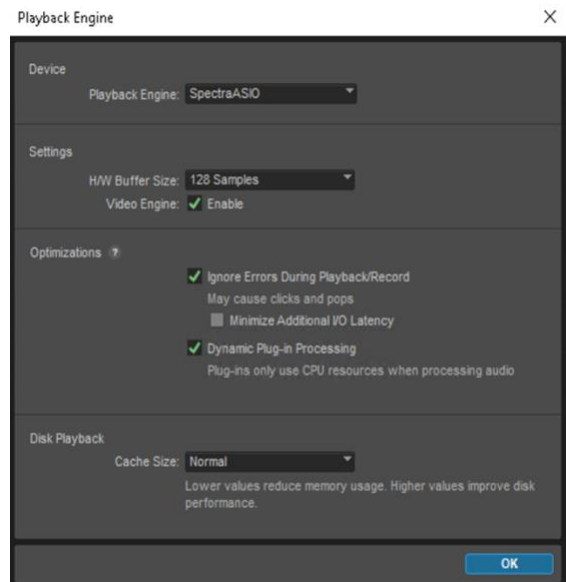
³ Note: the use of Session here refers to a Pro Tools Session and not a Streambox Session

Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)

Configuring Audio Output

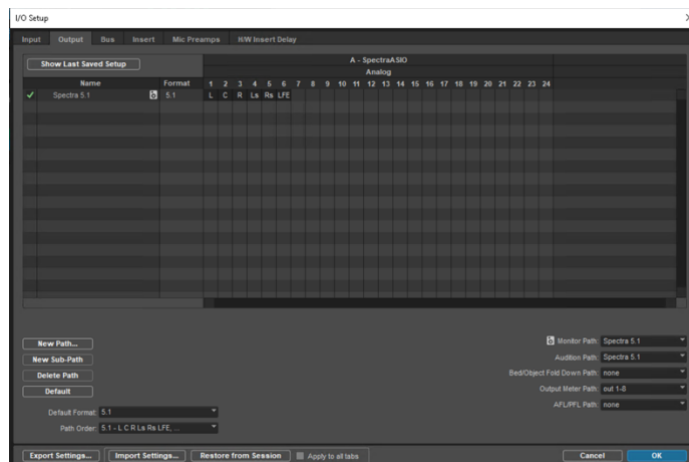
Playback Engine setup

- From the Setup menu, select '**Playback Engine...**'
- Here Playback Engine can be set to 'Spectra ASIO'
- 'HW Buffer Size' should be 128-1024 Range **For "AudioOnly" mode value below 1024 will not show Audio Levels Preview in this Beta version. Please select 1024 to show audio levels Preview in Spectra**
- Check 'View Engine'.



I/O Setup

From the Setup menu, select '**I/O...**'. Make sure the audio mapping is correct. Click 'OK'.

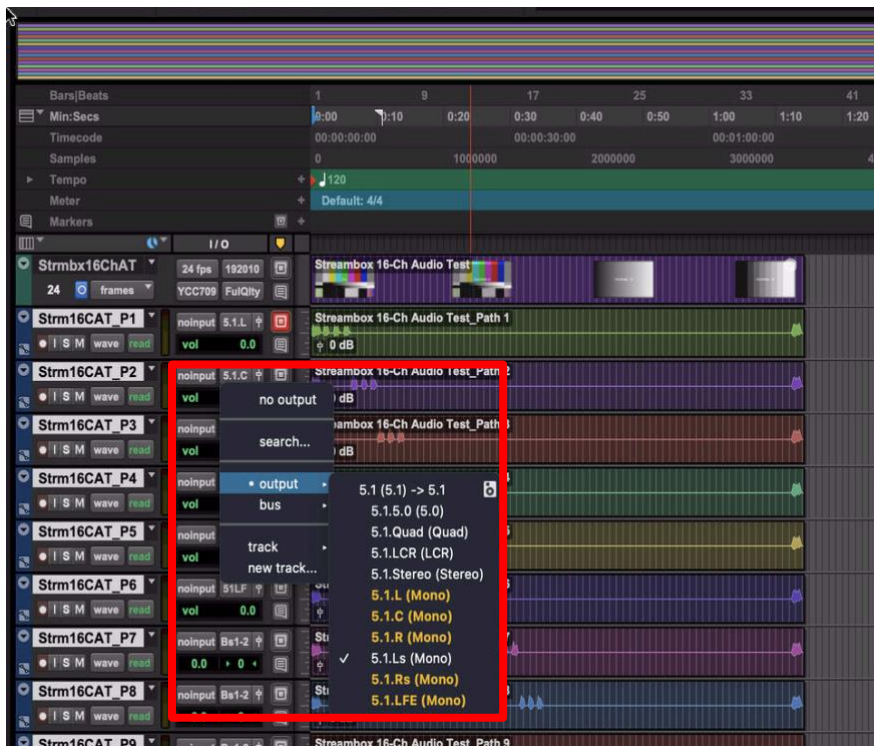


Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)

Channels Assignment

Below is the standard Pro Tools layout with the imported video. In this case, a video with 16-channels of audio was imported.

There are many approaches, but a 16-channel master can be reconfigured for 5.1 audio by setting the I/O output assignments for each channel (see red outline, image below).



If you now start playback, you should see the video on Spectra's Info page. If the video is not displayed, check to see that the source selected on Spectra's source page (red outline, lower image) is Spectra (green arrow). Always click 'Apply' with any changes.

Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)



Configuring Spectra

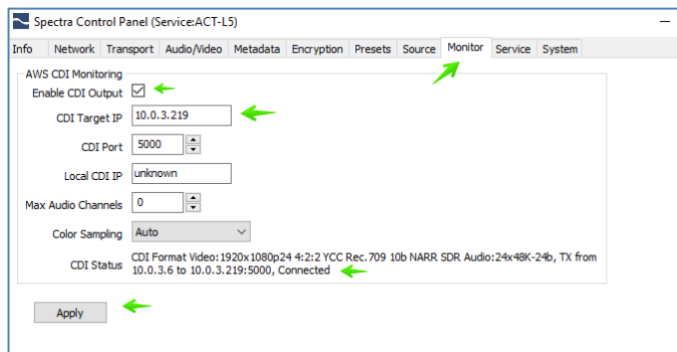
Below are some Spectra settings that are applicable to Pro Tools monitoring. Please refer to the full Setup Guide for more details: Go to <https://www.streambox.com/resources> and select the 'Spectra' category. Use this link for startup Spectra Guide: [Click to View](#)

A/V Settings (Audio/Video tab)



The Audio/Video page is where you set the properties for the video stream. For more detail refer to guides found at <https://www.streambox.com/resources> and select the 'Spectra' category. Use this link for startup Spectra Guide: [Click to View](#)

Configuring AWS CDI output



To enable AWS CDI output, Switch to monitoring tab, and Enter CDI Target IP to send CDI signal to. Enable CDI output Check box and Click Apply. CDI status should display connected once CDI receiver accepted the signal from Spectra

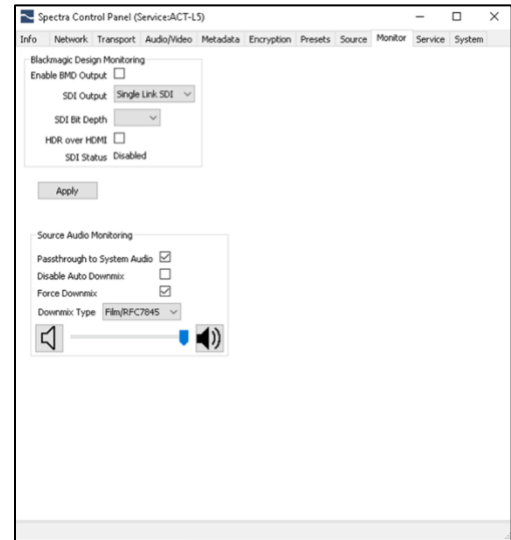
Some example of CDI receivers are [AWS MediaConnect](#) or [Streambox Bridge](#).

Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)

Source Audio Monitoring (Monitor tab)

Selecting 'Passthrough to System Audio' allows the user to hear audio on the local device, e.g. Your Speakers. If the local device only supports stereo and the audio format is 7.1 or less, an automatic downmix will be provided. You can override this feature here.

Note: Currently we require 48Khz capable audio device for monitoring. 44.1KHz only devices can cause delay with Monitoring audio. Windows Remote Desktop Audio is such device.



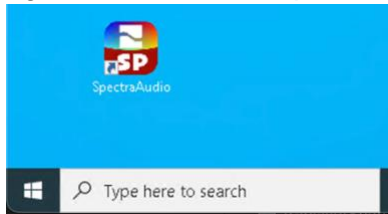
Enabling User Space mode for Source Audio Monitoring.

You can skip this section if sound is playing back when "Passthrough to system Audio" is enabled.

Some Windows installations will block local audio playback from Services/Local system account. To switch Spectra to User Space mode:

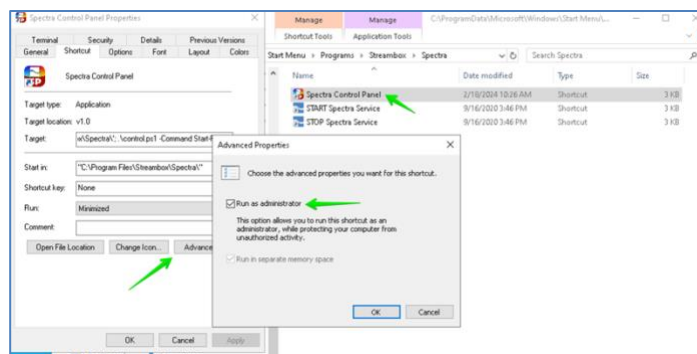
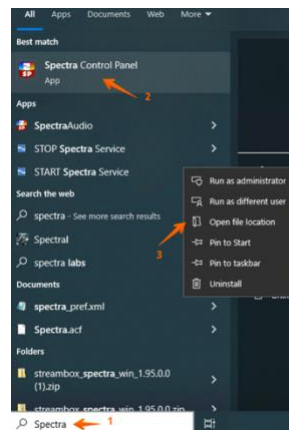
Navigate to C:\Program Files\Streambox\Spectra and

right click on [DisableSpectraAsService.ps1](#) file and select "Run with PowerShell". This will switch



Spectra Encoders to User Space and install [SpectraAudio Shortcut](#) on Desktop. Please use this shortcut to Start Spectra. SpectraAudio will start Spectra as Administrator in order to communication with Pro Tools plugin. You can also enable the main Spectra Shortcut to Run as Admin:

Search "Spectra" in start menu, right click "Spectra Control Panel" and Open File Location, Right Click on "Spectra Control Panel" select Properties, then advanced and check "Run as Administrator", OK and Apply. See Screenshots below.



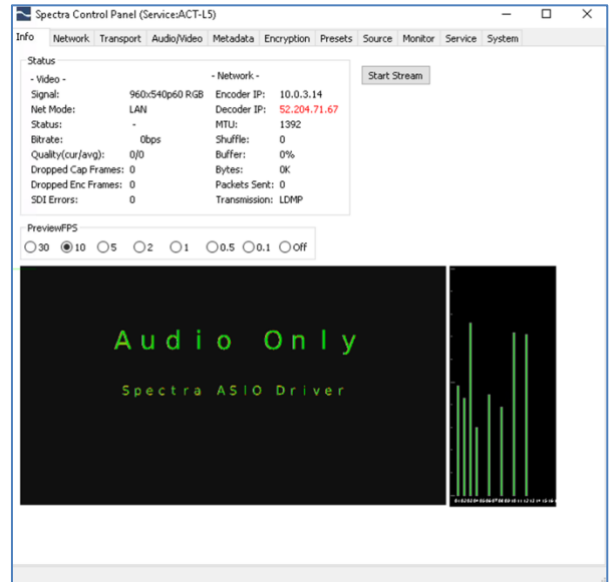
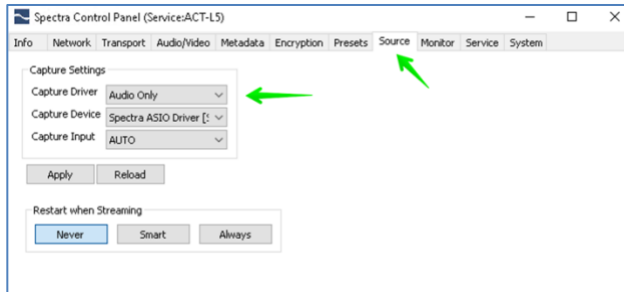
To revert Spectra to Service mode, use [EnableSpectraAsService.ps1](#) script.

Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)

Audio Only Mode

We are introducing “Audio Only” mode for Audio workflows without need for video or where video is not available.

Open “Source Tab” in Spectra Panel and Select “Audio Only” Capture driver.



Current Beta Limitations:

Only ASIO driver input is supported in Windows.

Current AWS CDI build does not have “Audio only” enabled.

Using Spectra with Pro Tools and Dolby Atmos® Renderer (DAR)

Follow Dolby instructions for Pro Tools/DAR setup.

<https://professional.dolby.com/product/dolby-atmos-content-creation/dolby-atmos-renderer/>

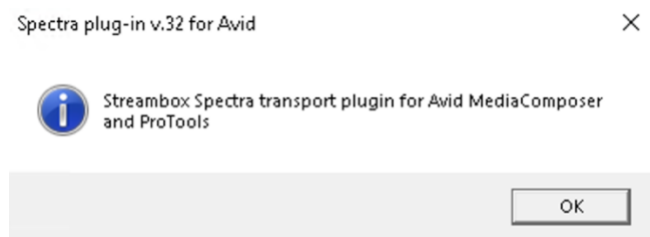
This section is not Updated for Windows beta release.

Please note that build-in DAR is compatible and supported.

Troubleshooting

No signal issue:

Pro Tools is using Open I/O framework for video output. Sometimes multiple devices can be installed. Since Pro Tools doesn't provide means to select specific I/O plugins it can create conditions where different Open I/O plugins are activated. Some plugins can be identified via Setup > 'Video Hardware Control Panel...'.



Note: If some other plugin is Activated, instead of Spectra, you might need to disable that specific plugin. To disable a specific Plugin, rename its extension from .acf to .acf.DISABLED.

Plugins are stored in: C:\Program Files\Avid\AVX2_Plug-ins

No Audio Monitoring sound:

Windows Sound Subsystem might be blocked from playing sound from System Services.

Follow [Enabling User Space mode for Source Audio Monitoring](#) instructions.

Enable Log Files for Support:

Navigate to <C:\Program Files\Streambox\Spectra>, right Click on "EnableSpectraLogs.ps1" and select "Run PowerShell"

Then Start Spectra and Pro Tools. This will start generating logs in

<C:\ProgramData\Streambox\SpectraUI\log> folder for Plugin, Spectra Encoder and ASIO drivers.

Streambox Spectra for Windows (Avid Pro Tools® setup)

You can email the logs to beta@streambox.com with the problem Description.
To disable logs run [DisableSpectraLogs.ps1](#)

Streambox Playback Clients and other resources

Streambox Media Player (Free, [macOS](#), [iPad/iOS OS](#), [Apple TV](#), [Windows](#))

[Apple AppStore](#)

Streambox Media Player beta (Free, TestFlight)

[Manual for Multichannel Audio Playback](#)

[Streambox Cloud Session Guide](#)

[Streambox Spectra User Guide](#)

[Streambox Iris](#) [Streambox Halo](#)

Third Party resources

[Netflix Open Content project for Dolby Atmos Renderer](#)

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[Streambox Knowledge Base](#)

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