Scarlett 2i2
Anniversary Edition

Focusrite®

Scarlett 2i2 4th Gen User Guide

Version 7.0

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Introduction to the Scarlett 2i2 Anniversary Edition

To celebrate four decades of Focusrite innovation, we're taking the world's most popular audio interface back to its roots: The **Scarlett 2i2 Anniversary Edition** packs the latest 4th Gen features into an iconic ISA-blue chassis that recalls the renowned channel strips that first bore the Focusrite name.

Inside, you'll find Focusrite's 4th Gen Scarlett mic preamps, delivering ultra-clear capture with a huge 69dB gain range and two Air modes for added presence and harmonic richness. Workflow features like Auto Gain and Clip Safe make setup faster and more forgiving, while Dynamic Gain Halos give you instant visual feedback to keep your levels in check. Whether you're plugging in guitars, synths, or microphones, the Scarlett 2i2 is ready for any session.

With studio-grade converters and a powerful custom headphone amp with direct monitoring, the Scarlett 2i2 Anniversary Edition is easily-controlled via Focusrite Control 2 featuring a fresh, ISA-inspired look for desktop and mobile.

This is Version 7.0 of the Scarlett 2i2 user guide.

What's in the box?

- Focusrite Scarlett 2i2
- USB-C to A cable
- Getting Started information (printed inside the box lid)
- Important safety information sheet

System Requirements

The easiest way to check your computer's operating system (OS) is compatible with your Scarlett 2i2 is to use our Help Centre's compatibility articles:

Focusrite Help Centre: Compatibility

As new OS versions become available, you can check for further compatibility information by searching our Help Centre at:

support.focusrite.com

Software System Requirements

To check we support Focusrite Control 2 on your operating system (OS) please use our Help Centre's compatibility articles:

Focusrite Help Centre: Compatibility

As new Focusrite Control 2 or OS versions become available, you can check compatibility information by searching our Help Centre at:

support.focusrite.com

Getting started with your Scarlett 2i2

Powering On your Scarlett 2i2

To power on your Scarlett 2i2, connect a USB cable from your computer to the **USB** port on the back panel.

For a few seconds, the Scarlett goes through its start-up procedure, then the USB icon lights green.

Important

If your Scarlett powers on but isn't recognised by your computer, the USB icon lights white. If this happens:

- Make sure you have installed Focusrite Control 2 on your computer
- Check your Scarlett's USB cable is connected to the correct port (**USB**) on the back of the Scarlett.
- Test a different USB port on your computer.
- Test a different USB cable.

If the USB icon flashes red, your Scarlett is not getting enough power.

To power on your Scarlett 2i2 without a computer, see Standalone Mode.

Easy Start

Easy Start gives you a step-by-step guide to setting up your Scarlett and creates personalised tutorials based on how you plan to use your Scarlett. This online tool also guides you through your Scarlett's registration process and accessing the software bundle.

On both Windows and Mac computers, when you connect your Scarlett to your computer, it first appears as a Mass Storage Device, like a USB drive. Open the drive and double click 'Click Here To Get Started.url'. Click 'Get Started' to open Easy Start in your web browser.

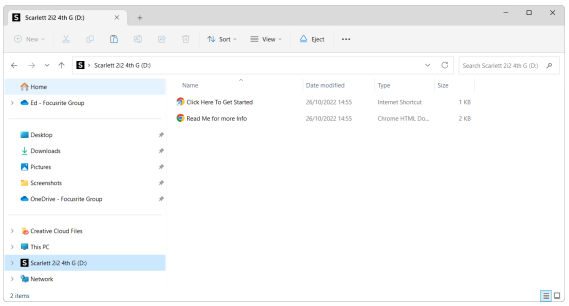
After you've opened Easy Start, follow the step-by-step guide, to install and use your Scarlett.

Windows

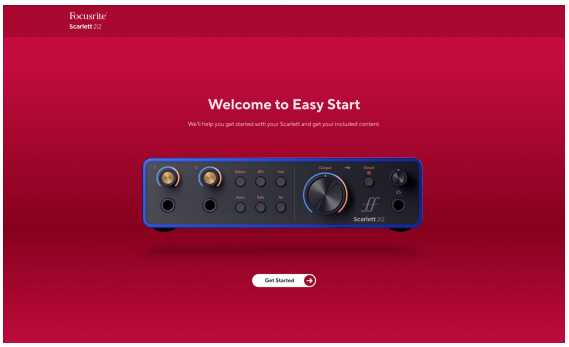
After you connect your Scarlett 2i2 to your computer, a device appears in File Explorer called Scarlett 2i2 4th Gen, this allows you to access Easy Start.

To access Easy Start:

1. Open File Explorer.
2. Click on Scarlett 2i2 4th Gen (D:). The letter may be different.



3. Double-click Click Here to Get Started. This redirects you to the Focusrite website, where we recommend you register your device:



4. Click Get Started, and we'll take you through a step-by-step setup guide based on how you want to use your Scarlett.

During Easy Start, you'll install Focusrite Control 2. After you install and open Focusrite Control 2, click 'Update Scarlett 2i2'. Do not disconnect your Scarlett while Focusrite Control 2 updates it. After the Focusrite Control 2 update is complete, the Scarlett no longer appears as a Mass Storage Device on your computer.

Your operating system should change the computer's default audio inputs and outputs to the Scarlett.

To verify this, right-click the speaker icon on the Windows taskbar, and make sure Scarlett is your Sound output.

Mac

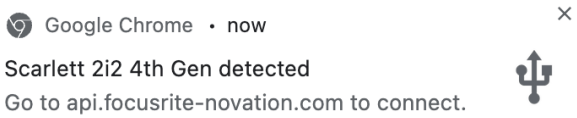
After you connect your Scarlett 2i2 to your computer, a Scarlett icon appears on the desktop or, if you use Chrome, you'll see a pop-up:

Scarlett Easy Start icon:

Double click and start from step 1 below.

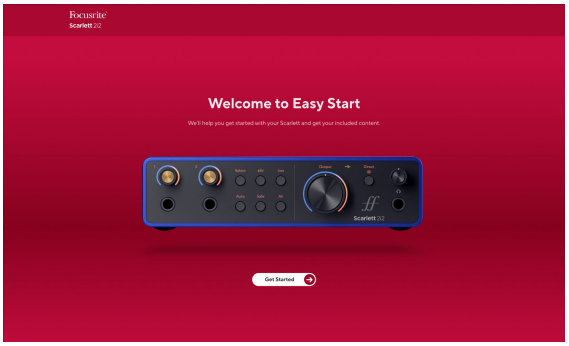
Chrome pop-up:

Click and start from step 2 below.



To access Easy Start:

1. Double-click on the icon to open the Finder window shown below:
2. Double-click Click Here to Get Started. This redirects you to the Focusrite website, where we recommend you register your device:



3. Click Get Started, and we'll take you through a step-by-step setup guide based on how you want to use your Scarlett.

During Easy Start, you'll install Focusrite Control 2. After you install and open Focusrite Control 2, click 'Update Scarlett 2i2'. Do not disconnect your Scarlett while Focusrite Control 2 updates it. After the Focusrite Control 2 update is complete, the Scarlett no longer appears as a Mass Storage Device on your computer.

Your operating system should change the computer's default audio inputs and outputs to the Scarlett.

To verify this, go to System Settings > Sound, and ensure the input and output are set to Scarlett 2i2.

All Users

The second file - 'More Info and FAQs' - is also available during the setup process. This file has some more information about Easy Start, which you may find helpful if you have any issues with the setup.

Once registered, you have immediate access to the following resources:

- Focusrite Control 2 (Mac and Windows versions available) - see note below.
- Multi-language User Guides - also always available from userguides.focusrite.com and downloads.focusrite.com.
- Licence codes and links for the optional bundled software in your Focusrite account. To find out what bundled software is included with Scarlett 2i2, please visit our website: focusrite.com/scarlett.

What is Focusrite Control 2?

Focusrite Control 2 is the software application you use to control your Scarlett interface.

The Focusrite Control 2 icon

We occasionally update your Scarlett 2i2's firmware with new features and improvements, to make sure you are getting the most from your Scarlett. Focusrite Control 2 updates your Scarlett 2i2's firmware.

Focusrite Control 2 allows you to control various features of your Scarlett from your computer.

Note

Focusrite Control 2 is compatible with most major screen reader software, allowing you to control the features on your Scarlett with your computer's keyboard.

Installing Scarlett 2i2

You can install Focusrite Control 2 on Windows and Mac. To download and install Focusrite Control 2:

1. Go to the Focusrite downloads website: focusrite.com/downloads
2. Find your Scarlett on the Downloads website.
3. Download Focusrite Control 2 for your operating system (Windows or Mac).
4. Open the Downloads folder on your computer and double-click the Focusrite Control 2 installer.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions to install Focusrite Control 2.

6. If it’s not already, connect your Scarlett interface to your computer with the USB cable.
7. Open Focusrite Control 2 and it detects your automatically.

Note

On Windows, installing Focusrite Control 2 also installs the driver. You can download Focusrite Control 2 at any time, even without registering from downloads.focusrite.com. On macOS, you don't need a driver, you only need to install Focusrite Control 2.

Manual Registration

If you decide to register your Scarlett at a later date, you can at: customer.focusrite.com/register

You need to enter the Serial Number manually: you can find this number on the interface's base (the white number below) or the barcode label on the giftbox.

Important
Make sure you download and install Focusrite Control 2. Opening Focusrite Control 2 disables Easy Start, updates your Scarlett 2i2's firmware, and unlocks your Scarlett 2i2's full feature set.

In Easy Start mode, the interface functions at up to 48 kHz sample rate; once you install Focusrite Control 2, you can work at sample rates up to 192 kHz.

If you don't install Focusrite Control 2 immediately, you can download it at any time from: downloads.focusrite.com

Manually disabling Easy Start

After you've been through Easy Start, installed and opened Focusrite Control 2, your Scarlett is no longer in Easy Start mode.

If your Scarlett 2i2 is still in Easy Start mode, or you have chosen not to install Focusrite Control 2 to disable Easy Start Mode:

1. Turn off your Scarlett 2i2.
2. Press and hold the **48V** button.
3. Keeping the **48V** button held, power on your Scarlett 2i2.
4. Wait for the front panel to light up, then release the **48V** button.
5. Restart (power off and power on) your Scarlett 2i2.

Your Scarlett powers on with Easy Start disabled.

Scarlett 2i2 Hardware Features

Front Panel

1. Input **1** Gain Control and Gain Halo - The Gain control sets the input level and the Gain Halo shows you the input and preamp gain levels for either the jack or XLR Mic input 1.
2. Input **1** Neutrik® 6.35mm (1/4”) jack socket - Accepts both unbalanced mono (TS) and balanced Mono (TRS) jack cables at line or instrument-level. Connecting a cable here disables the corresponding XLR input.
3. Input **2** Gain Control and Gain Halo - The Gain control sets the input level and the Gain Halo shows you the input and preamp gain levels for either the jack or XLR Mic input 2.
4. Input **2** Neutrik® 6.35mm (1/4”) jack socket - Accepts both unbalanced mono (TS) and balanced Mono (TRS) jack cables at line or instrument-level. Connecting a cable here disables the corresponding XLR input.
5. **Select** button - Press to move the selection to the next preamp. The other buttons change to control the input you select. The currently selected channel's number lights amber.
6. **48V** button - Press to turn on 48V phantom power at the XLR mic input to power condenser microphones.
   When **48V** is on, the Scarlett 2i2 applies 48V phantom power to both inputs.
7. **Inst** button - Press to toggle the selected 6.35mm (1/4") input between Line or Instrument level.
8. **Auto** button - Press to start the Auto Gain feature (see Auto Gain [20]).
9. **Safe** button - Press to turn on the Clip Safe feature for your input (see Safe [26]).
10. **Air** button - Press to turn on AIR mode (see AIR [27]).
11. Main Speaker **Output** Control and Output Level meter - Control the level going to Outputs R and L, the meter shows you the level being sent out.
12. USB LED - Lights amber when your computer recognises your Scarlett, and white if it is disconnected from your computer (in standalone mode).
13. **Direct** Monitor Button - Press to toggle between three settings, Off (white), On Mono (**Direct** amber), and On Stereo (Direct amber).
14. Headphone Level Control - Control the level sent to your headphones.
15. Headphone Output Socket - Connect your headphones here using a TRS 6.35mm (1/4") jack connector.

Back Panel

1. - Kensington Lock, use a lock to secure your Scarlett and deter theft.
2. **5V DC** - an optional USB-C connector to supply power to your Scarlett 2i2 if your computer can't supply 1.5A USB-C power to your Scarlett 2i2
3. **USB** - USB-C connector to connect your Scarlett 2i2 to your computer.
   With most computers, you can transfer data and power the Scarlett using only this USB port.
4. Speaker **Outputs R** and **L** - 6.35mm (1/4") jack (TS or TRS) sockets to connect your Scarlett to speakers or an amplifier. We recommend you use 6.35mm (1/4") TRS jack cables for balanced connections.
5. **Inputs 2** and **1 -** 3-pin - 3-pin Neutrik® XLR connectors to connect your microphones. Connecting something to the corresponding line-level input disables the XLR input.

Tip

The Scarlett 2i2 has XLR inputs at the back for microphones and 6.35mm (1/4") jack inputs on the front for instruments or line-level devices.

Using the front panel jack input(s) disables the XLR mic input. If you're not getting sound from your XLR input(s), ensure nothing is connected to the front panel jack inputs.

Your Scarlett 2i2's front panel in depth

This section covers all the features on your Scarlett 2i2 's front panel, what they do, how you might use them, and how they work in Focusrite Control 2.

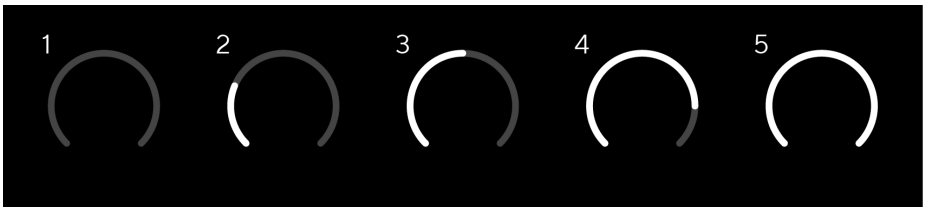
Setting your Scarlett 2i2's preamp input gain

The preamp input gain controls how much signal you are sending into your computer and recording software.

It's essential to set a good level for the preamp input gain so you get the best quality recording. If the preamp input gain is too low, your signal will be too quiet and when you try to boost its level later you may hear noise in the recording; if the preamp input gain is too high you might 'clip' the input and hear harsh distortion in your recording.

To increase the input gain, turn the gain control clockwise. As you move the gain control, the Gain Halo gradually lights clockwise to show you the gain level. This diagram shows the gain at various levels:

1. No input gain
2. 25% input gain
3. 50% input gain
4. 75% input gain
5. 100% input gain



When you adjust your input gain while you send a signal into your preamp, the ring lights the same way as above but a colour, blue, amber, or red, shows how much level is going into your computer. Shortly after you stop adjusting the gain the meters revert to input meters (see Input Metering).

1. Gain at 40%, signal good.
2. Gain at 40%, signal pre-clip.
3. Gain at 40%, signal clipping.

1. blue shows your signal level is good.
2. Amber shows your signal is pre-clip, any higher and you are likely to clip the input
3. Red shows your signal has clipped, you should reduce the gain.

Software Gain Control

You can also control the preamp gain remotely using Focusrite Control 2.

To adjust the preamp gain in Focusrite Control 2:

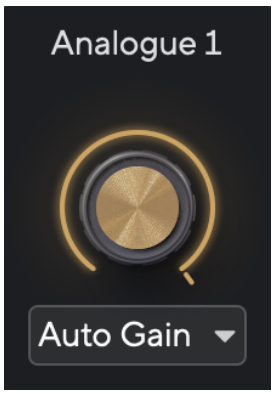
1. Click the virtual knob for the channel you'd like to adjust or use the tab key to select the preamp gain control.
2. Move your mouse up and down or use the arrow keys to increase or decrease the gain (in ±1dB increments).

The following images show the preamp gain at minimum, medium and maximum gain.

No input gain

50% Gain

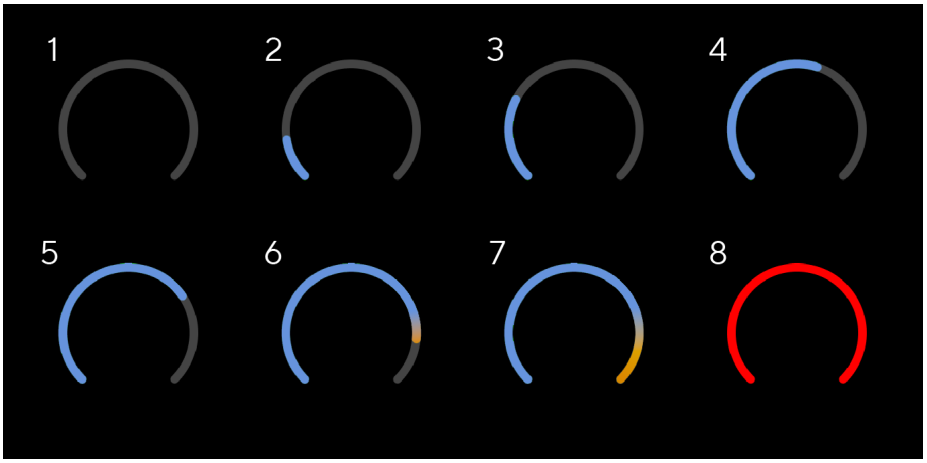
100% Gain



Input Metering

When you're not moving the input gain control the input metering uses the entire Gain Halo. As the incoming signal gets louder (for example with a higher input gain setting) the Gain Halo lights from blue through to amber before the entire Gain Halo flashes red to show you the input has clipped.

This diagram shows the meters at different levels to show the input signal level:



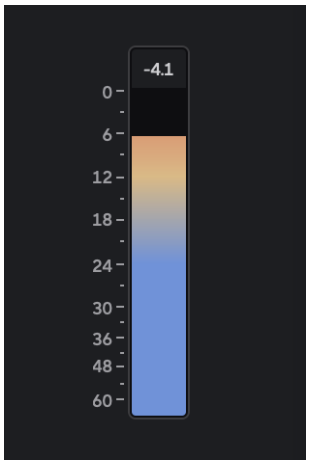
1. No input signal
2. -42 dBFS
3. -36 dBFS
4. -24 dBFS
5. -18 dBFS
6. -12 dBFS
7. -6 dBFS
8. 0 dBFS, clipping - turn down the input gain to avoid distortion and clipping.

Tip
If your signal clips the clip indicator at the top of the meter lights red. If this happens, select that channel and reduce the gain.

Software Metering

In the same way as the input meters on your Scarlett 2i2's front panel, you can see the incoming signal on the meters in Focusrite Control 2 to set the correct preamp gain.

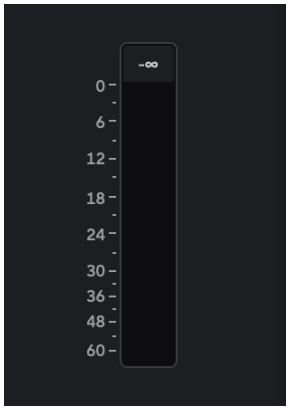
As the signal gets louder, the meter in Focusrite Control 2 lights from blue to amber (pre-clip).



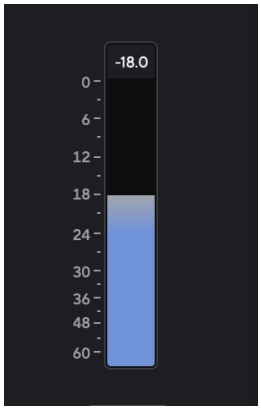
The indicator above the meter shows you the peak level (in -dBFS), the highest level on this track since you started monitoring the input. When you hover over the Peak level meter, you can click to Reset the value.

Tip
When you're recording, it's a good idea to aim for a -12dBFS peak level. This ensures you have enough headroom when you've recorded all your tracks.

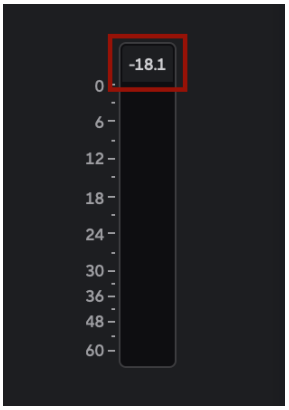
Waiting for an input signal.



-18dB input signal.



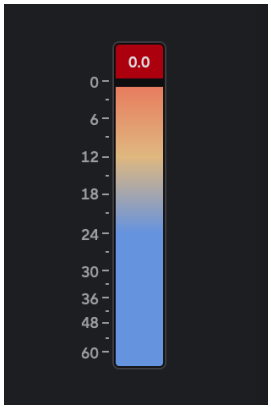
Click to Reset the Peak Level meter.

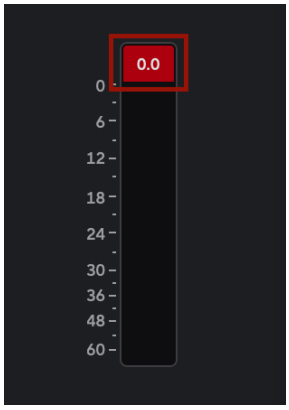


When you overload the preamp, with too much input signal, or by adding too much gain, the Peak Level Meter lights red. Hover over the Peak Level Meter and click to Reset the value.

The Input has clipped.

Click to Reset the Peak Meter.


0.0
0
6
12
18
24
30
36
48
60


0.0
0
6
12
18
24
30
36
48
60

Select Button

Many front panel controls on your Scarlett 2i2 are shared across the preamp inputs. The **Select** button moves the preamp controls to different inputs.

At least one preamp is always selected, to change which preamp(s) the controls are affecting, press the **Select** button. When you do this, the newly selected preamp's number lights green and the preamp setting lights change to match the new preamp.

When you turn on your Scarlett 2i2 the last selected preamp before you turned it off remains the selected preamp.

Linking Preamps

Linking preamps allows you to control two preamps simultaneously using one set of preamp controls. You can match gain controls for two preamps and enable other preamp controls. This is useful for stereo recording, for example, a microphone pair, stereo synthesiser, or keyboard.

Important
Linking preamp channels does not link Mixer channels. To link channels in the Mixer tab see Linking Mixer channels in Focusrite Control 2.

To link preamps:

- Press and hold the **Select** button for one second.

When you've made the Preamp Link :

- Both preamp numbers light green and the Gain Halos light temporarily to their preamp level.

- The preamp gain level is set to the lowest value of the newly linked pair.
- The preamp settings are inherited from the currently selected preamp, e.g. preamp 1 is selected, therefore Preamp 2 inherits, **Air**, **Safe** and **Inst** settings from Preamp 1.
- Changing any preamp setting changes the state for both preamps.
- Adjusting either gain control changes the gain level for both preamps and is shown on both Gain Halos.
- 48V disables for both preamps.

Unlinking Preamps

To unlink preamps, hold the **Select** button for one second. When you unlink a pair:

- The first preamp of the previously linked pair becomes selected and lights green.
- Gain levels and preamp settings stay the same, but you can now change them independently.

Linking Preamps in Focusrite Control 2

Linking Preamps

To link preamps from Focusrite Control 2, click the ellipses icon at the top of the channel strip and click Link with analogue X.

When you link two preamps, the link icon appears at the top of both channel strips.

Unlinking Preamps

To unlink preamps from Focusrite Control 2 and control them independently again, click the ellipses at the top of the channel strip and click Split channels.

When you unlink preamps:

- The first preamp of the previously linked pair becomes selected and lights green.
- Gain levels and preamp settings stay the same, but you can now change them independently.

48V Button (Phantom Power)

48V, also commonly referred to as 'Phantom Power', sends 48 Volts from your interface's XLR connector to devices needing power to work. The most common use is sending power to condenser microphones, but you may also need **48V** for inline mic preamps, active dynamic microphones and active DI boxes.

To turn on 48V:

1. Connect your microphone, or another powered device, to an XLR input on your interface using an XLR cable. **48V** is not sent to the 6.35mm (1/4") jack inputs.
2. Turn down that preamp's gain control to avoid any unwanted pops and clicks.
3. Press the **48V** button (or the corresponding software button)

The **48V** icon lights green to show it is enabled.

48V phantom power is now being sent to both XLR inputs on your Scarlett 2i2 and to any devices connected to the XLR inputs.

48V (Phantom Power) Software Control

To enable 48V (Phantom Power) from Focusrite Control 2 click the +48V button for the input you want to enable it on. This is the same as pressing the 48V button on the Scarlett 2i2 hardware.

+48V Phantom Power off

+48V Phantom Power on

Important

If you accidentally send **48V** phantom power to the wrong input, most modern microphones of other types, e.g., dynamic or ribbon, will not be damaged, but some older microphones may be. If you're unsure, please check your microphone's user guide to ensure it is safe to use with **48V** phantom power.

Inst (Instrument) Button and Line Level Inputs

Inst, or instrument, changes the impedance and input level of the 6.35mm (1/4") jack inputs on your Scarlett so the inputs sound their best for either an instrument or line-level source. We list the input impedance values in the Specifications [45] section. If you don't turn on Inst and connect an electric guitar, the resulting sound can be muddy and quiet compared to with **Inst** on.

The **Inst** (Instrument) button only affects the 6.35mm (1/4") line input for the selected channel, either input 1 or input 2. It changes it from an input suitable for line-level devices to an input better suited for instrument-level devices.

To enable, or disable, instrument mode for the 6.35mm (1/4") jack input, select the channel and press the **Inst** button once. Green shows **Inst** is enabled, and white shows **Inst** is disabled. When you enable Inst and connect a jack to your Scarlett, the minimum gain for the input is changed to +7dB.

Note
When the **Inst** light is white, the 6.35mm jack input is at line level.

When **Inst** is enabled (green) you can connect instrument-level devices to the 1/4" inputs such as, but not limited to:

- Electric or electro-acoustic guitars directly and via effects pedals.
- Electric basses
- Acoustic instruments with pick-ups such as violins, double basses etc.

When **Inst** is disabled (white) you can connect line-level devices to the 6.35mm (1/4") inputs such as, but not limited to:

- Synthesisers
- Keyboards
- Drum Machines
- External Microphone Preamps

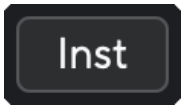
Note
The XLR and 6.35mm (1/4") jack inputs 1 and 2 on the front panel of your Scarlett 2i2 take priority over the corresponding mic/line inputs on the back panel.

If you have no signal from something connected to rear inputs 1 and 2, check if you have something connected to front inputs 1 and 2.

If you activate 48V for inputs 1 or 2 then plug a 6.35mm (1/4”) jack into the line-level or instrument input on the front panel, your Scarlett 2i2 automatically disables 48V for the corresponding rear microphone input.

Instrument/Line Software Control

To change inputs 1 or 2 between instrument and line from Focusrite Control 2 click the **Inst** button once.



Line

Instrument

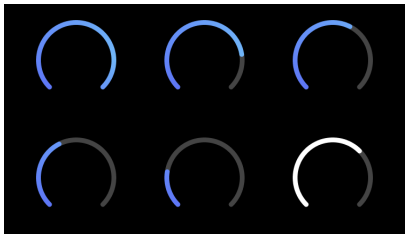
Note
When you switch between **Inst** and Line, the gain stays at the last level you set.

Auto Gain

Auto Gain allows you to send a signal into your Scarlett 2i2 (for example singing or playing your instrument) for 10 seconds and let the Scarlett set a good level for your preamps. If you find the levels aren't right, you can adjust the gain controls manually to fine-tune the levels before recording.

To use Auto Gain:

1. Press the **Select** button to move your preamp controls to the correct preamp.
2. Press the **Auto** button on your Scarlett 2i2, or the corresponding software button.
   The **Auto** icon lights for ten seconds. The corresponding Gain Halo turns into a ten-second countdown timer.



3. Speak or sing into the microphone, or play your instrument during the Auto Gain countdown. Perform as you would while you're recording to make sure Auto Gain sets a good level.

If the Auto Gain was successful, the meter lights green before the gain value is shown for a second. The gain is now set at a good level for your recording.

If Auto Gain fails, the Gain Halo lights red. Please see the section, The Gain Halo turned Red [21], for more information.

Note
Scarlett's Auto Gain makes sure your levels are set right not only using the input signal but also factors in:

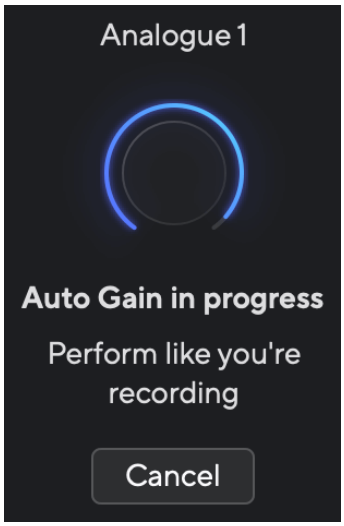
- The preamp's noise floor.
- Digital silence.
- Inter-channel crosstalk.
- Unwanted knocks or bumps on your microphones.

Auto Gain Software Control

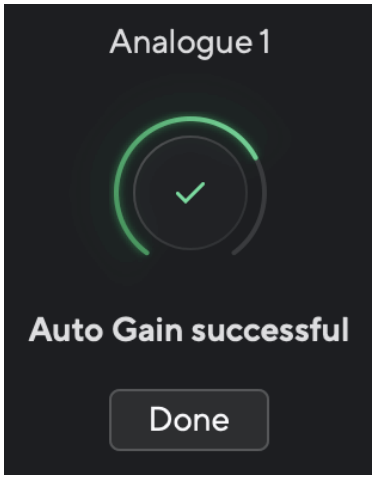
To use Auto Gain in Focusrite Control 2:

1. Click the Auto Gain button in Focusrite Control 2.

2. Speak or sing into the microphone, or play your instrument during the Auto Gain countdown. Perform as you would while you're recording to make sure Auto Gain sets a good level.
   The Auto Gain process starts and the software Gain halo turns into a countdown timer.



If the Auto Gain was successful, the meter lights green before the gain value is shown for a second. The gain is now set at a good level for your recording.

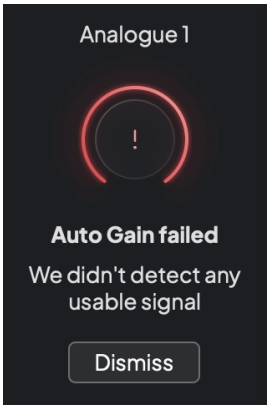


Auto Gain failed and the gain halo turned red

If the input signal is unsuitable for Auto Gain (for example there's no signal detected), after ten seconds, Auto Gain stops and the Gain Halo lights red for a second. The gain returns to the value you set before starting Auto Gain.

Hardware Gain Halo

Focusrite Control 2 Auto Gain unsuccessful



Before running Auto Gain again, make sure your input has something connected to it correctly, if you're using a condenser microphone, 48V is on, and you are making sound while Auto Gain runs.

Note
To cancel Auto Gain, press the Auto Gain button again at any time during the process. The gain returns to the value you set before starting Auto Gain.

Multichannel Auto Gain

Auto Gain allows you to send a signal into your Scarlett 2i2 (for example singing or playing your instrument) for 10 seconds and let the Scarlett set a good level for your preamps. If you find the levels aren't right, you can adjust the gain controls manually to fine-tune the levels before recording.

Multichannel Auto Gain starts the Auto Gain process for all the preamp channels on your interface.
This is particularly useful for quickly setting levels for situations where you are using multiple channels simultaneously, for example:

- Setting levels for yourself if you're playing guitar and singing simultaneously.
- Setting levels for a drummer when you have multiple microphones on the drum kit.
- Setting levels for a band recording 'live' together.

To start the multichannel Auto Gain process:

1. Hold the **Auto** button for two seconds.
   The **Auto** icon fades between off and Green for ten seconds, and the Gain Halos for all channels turn into ten-second countdown timers.
2. Speak or sing into the microphone, or play your instrument during the Auto Gain countdown.
   Perform as you would while you're recording to make sure Auto Gain sets a good level.

If the Auto Gain was successful, the Gain Halos light green before the gain value is shown on the Gain Halos for a second. The gain is now set at a good level for your recording.

Note
To cancel Auto Gain, press the Auto Gain button again at any time during the process. The gain returns to the value you set before starting Auto Gain.

Multichannel Auto Gain in Focusrite Control 2

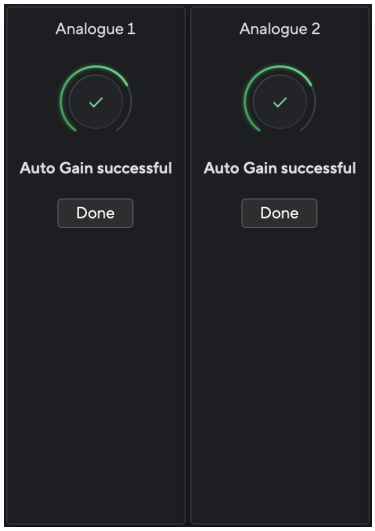
You can also run multichannel Auto Gain from within Focusrite Control 2. To do this:

1. Open Focusrite Control 2 and go to the Inputs tab.

2. Click the dropdown arrow to the right of the usual Auto Gain button.

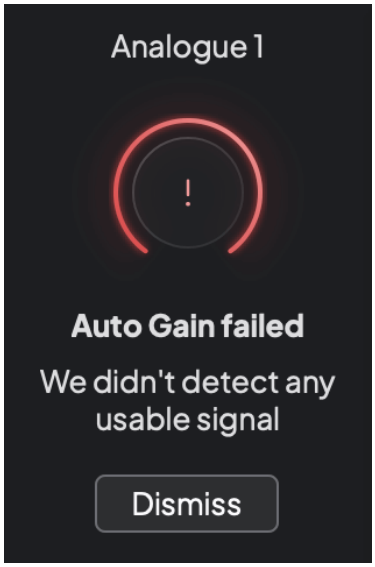
3. Choose Auto Gain both.
    - Auto Gain both starts running Auto Gain for all the channels on your Scarlett 2i2.

Once Auto Gain has finished, Focusrite Control 2 shows the channels that have been set and their new gain levels:



Multichannel Auto Gain failed

Multichannel Auto Gain might fail during the process for one, multiple, or all channels.



You can either:

- Click Retry and all Auto Gain runs again for **all** the channels you ran Auto Gain for, even the successful channels.
- Click close and run Auto Gain for any failed channels.
- Click close and manually adjust the gain for any failed channels.

Clip Safe Button

The **Safe** button applies Clip Safe, which automatically adjusts your preamp gain if you're at risk of clipping.

Clipping happens when your gain is set too high for the sound being recorded and your input overloads the preamp. A clipping symptom is preamp distortion, which is often unpleasant and can ruin a recording. Clip Safe helps you avoid this so if your input gets near to clipping, Clip Safe reduces the preamp gain, so you won't have to re-record your take.

Note
Clip Safe is only available at up to 96kHz, you cannot use it at quad-band (176.4kHz and 192 kHz) sample rates. The Safe LED lights red to show when it's unavailable.

To enable Clip **Safe**:

1. Press the **Select** button to move your preamp controls to the correct preamp.
2. Press the **Safe** button on the interface or the corresponding software button.

When you enable Safe, the **Safe** icon lights amber.

When you have two inputs selected using Preamp Link, **Safe** is applied to both preamps.

Tip
When you enable Clip Safe, your Scarlett continuously monitors your input signals, up to 96,000 times a second, and through a combination of analogue preamp adjustment and DSP, Clip Safe significantly reduces the risk of clipping.

Clip Safe Focusrite Control 2

To enable Clip Safe from Focusrite Control 2, click the Safe button:

Safe off

Safe on

Air Modes

Air lets you change your Scarlett's preamp sound with two different modes; Air Presence or Air Presence and Harmonic Drive.

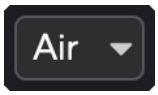
Air affects the mic, line, and instrument inputs.

To enable Air, select your input, press the Air button once for Air Presence, again for Air Presence and Harmonic Drive and again to turn off. The Air LED changes colour to show which mode you have selected:

Mode	Description	Notes
Off	The preamp is clean	
Air Presence	An analogue circuit gives a presence boost to your sources.	
Air Presence and Harmonic Drive	Adds harmonics, in addition to the analogue Air circuit.	Only available at up to 96kHz

Air Software Control

To enable AIR from Focusrite Control 2 click the Air button. This is the same as pressing the Air button on the Scarlett 2i2 hardware.

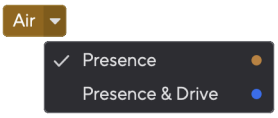


Air Off

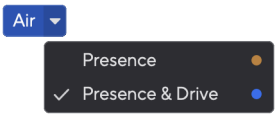
Air Presence selected

Air Presence and Drive selected

When you click Focusrite Control 2's Air button, the last selected Air mode becomes activated. To change the selected Air mode (Presence or Presence and Drive) click the arrow to show the dropdown menu.



Air Presence selected



Air Presence and Drive selected

Note

Air Presence & Drive is only available at up to 96kHz, you cannot use it at quad-band (176.4kHz and 192 kHz) sample rates.

Output Control and Level Meter

The **Output** control and Output level meter are related to the signals going to Outputs 1 and 2 on the back of your Scarlett 2i2, the outputs you'd most often connect to monitor speakers.

The **Output** control sets the level at the outputs from nothing (fully anti-clockwise) to full-scale output (fully clockwise).

The Output Level meter around the Output level control is a pre-fade meter (it is not affected by the control's position) showing you the signal level coming from your computer.

Note

On some occasions you may still hear sound from your monitors when the **Output** control is fully anti-clockwise, you can adjust your monitor levels to resolve this:

1. Turn down your interface's **Output** control and your monitors' level control.
2. Turn the **Output** control to maximum (or just below maximum).
3. Play sound from your system.
4. Turn up your monitors' level controls until the level is the loudest you need.

You should no longer hear sound when the **Output** control is at its minimum. You also have more control over the level with the full range of the **Output** control. By setting it at just below the maximum, you also have a little extra volume if you need it, or want to listen to sounds at a louder-than-normal level.

Direct Monitor Button

Direct Monitor allows you to hear the signals coming into your interface's inputs without them going through your computer. This means you hear the inputs without any latency and without effects.

You might want to use Direct Monitoring for two reasons:

1. You're experiencing latency or a delay between making a sound and hearing it back from your software. By muting your software inputs and turning on Direct Monitor, you no longer hear latency.
2. You want to hear the clean unaffected signal going into your Scarlett, instead of listening to the software output, which may have effects and plugins changing the way your source sounds.

When Direct Monitor is off, the icon lights white. The Scarlett 2i2 has two different Direct Monitor settings, mono, and stereo, to enable Direct Monitor:

- Press the button once for **mono** direct monitoring, signals present at input 1 and input 2 will both be in the centre of the stereo image. This is useful for recording two mono sources, for example, a guitar and a voice.

- Press the button for a second time for **stereo** direct monitoring, input 1 is panned left, input 2 is panned right. This is useful for recording a stereo device, for example, a stereo microphone pair, a stereo synthesiser, or a keyboard.

Note
If you're hearing your signal twice or getting a doubling or slightly phased sound, it's likely you've got Direct Monitor switched on, and you're hearing the sound back from software. You can either:

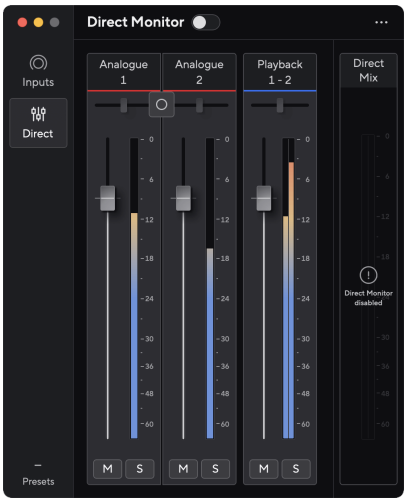
- Mute the track you're recording to in your DAW software.
- Turn off Direct Monitor and only listen to the sound coming from your DAW software.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/FrdQtKePij4

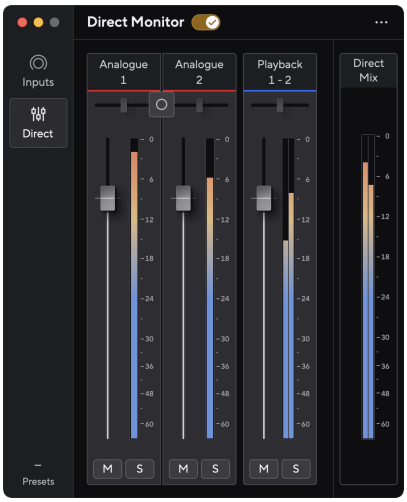
Direct Monitor Adjustment

From Focusrite Control 2 you can enable and adjust the Direct Monitor mix to balance your inputs with the Playback channels from your software.

To enable Direct Monitor click on the Direct tab in Focusrite Control 2 and click the Direct Monitor software switch at the top of the tab. The switch lights green and Direct lights green on your Scarlett 2i2's front panel.



Direct Monitor Off



Direct Monitor on

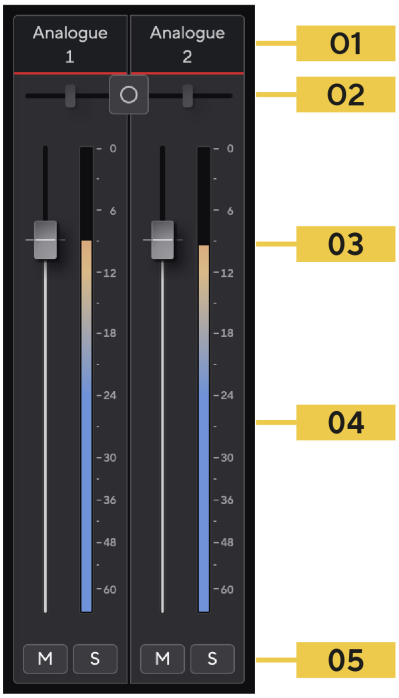
To adjust your Direct Monitor mix:

1. Open Focusrite Control 2.
2. Click on the Direct tab.

3. Use the Mixer Channels, (faders, Mute and Solo buttons) to adjust the levels for Analogue 1, Analogue 2 and Playback 1-2.
   The final meter under **Direct Monitor** shows the combined level going to your monitor and headphone outputs.

Using the Mixer Channels

Each mixer channel has several functions.



1. **Mix Channel Name**
   This shows the name of the mixer input. To edit the name, click the text box and type. You can use your keyboard's tab key to quickly move between channels.
2. **Stereo/Mono Switch** and **Pan**
   The Direct Monitor Mode button between the channels changes the direct monitor mode between mono and stereo.
   The Pan indicators on either side show where that channel is panned in the direct monitor mix. The pan is not editable and has two states depending on the Direct Monitor you select, centre (mono) hard-left and hard-right (stereo).
3. **Fader**
   The Fader adjusts the level going to your Mix destination. Alt, option ⌥ or double-click to reset.
   The faders have no effect on the sources you are currently recording.
4. **Meter**
   This shows you the channel's level, in dBFS. Green shows a good level, and amber means the level is very high.
   You'll see two meters for stereo channels, one for each left and right side.
   The meter shows the level post-fader, the fader setting will affect the meter.
5. **Mute and Solo**
   Mute - Click the Mute button M to silence the channel in the Mix. The Mute button lights blue M when enabled. You can Mute multiple channels simultaneously.
   Solo - Click the Solo button S to solo the track by silencing all other channels in the Mix. The Solo button lights yellow S when enabled. Enabling Solo on multiple channels silences any channels without Solo enabled, i.e. you will hear all the Solo'd channels.
   If you enable both Mute and Solo, the last clicked option takes priority.

Headphone Output

The headphone output is a 6.35mm (¼”) TRS jack. Many headphones have a 3.5mm TRS jack, to connect them to your Scarlett 2i2 you must use a TRS 6.35mm to 3.5mm adaptor.

The control above the headphone output controls the level going to your headphones.

Some higher impedance headphones may be quiet using them with a Scarlett 2i2, we recommend using headphones with an impedance up to 300Ω.

Note
Some headphones and jack adaptors may have TS or TRRS connectors, for example, if they have a microphone or volume control built into the cable. It's unlikely these headphones will work properly. If you're having issues, use headphones and a jack adaptor with TRS jack connectors.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/GycUxWKbiV4

Your Scarlett 2i2's back panel in depth

This section covers all the features on your Scarlett 2i2's back panel, what they do, how you might use them and how they work in Focusrite Control 2.

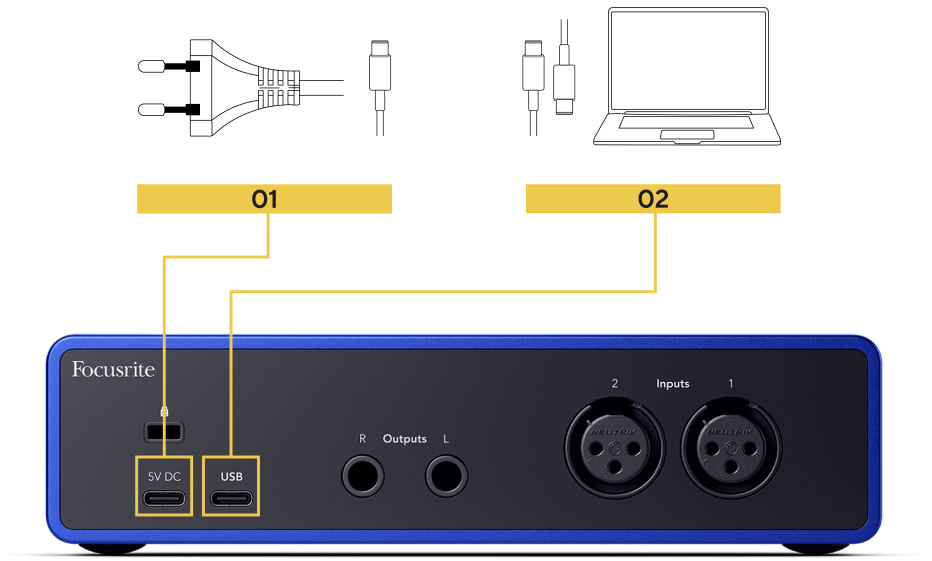
USB Connections

5V DC Port

With most computers, you won't need to use the **5V DC** port. However, if your computer's USB ports can't provide 900mA, we've included a **5V DC** port, so your Scarlett can be powered from the mains using a USB PSU.

The Scarlett 2i2 consumes a large amount of power. In some high-power situations, such as playing headphones at a high volume, some computers' USB ports may not be able to provide enough power and your Scarlett 2i2 may disconnect or the USB icon flashes red.

If you experience this behaviour, we recommend you use a mains PSU to power your Scarlett via the **5V DC** port.



USB Port

The USB Type-C port labelled **USB** is to connect your Scarlett 2i2 to your computer.

The connection to your computer provides USB power, two-way audio communication, and a connection to Focusrite Control 2.

The USB Icon Flashes Red
If the USB icon flashes red, this means your Scarlett 2i2 isn't getting enough power.

To resolve this issue:

- Make sure you are using the original USB cable provided with your Scarlett.
- Test a different USB port on your computer, make sure you're connecting directly to your computer and not via a USB hub.
- If needed use the second **5V DC** port on the back of the Scarlett 2i2. Connect a second USB cable from a separate USB PSU. Make sure you don't connect the power adaptor while you're playing audio.

Speaker Outputs

Outputs 1 and **2** are line-level outputs to connect your Scarlett 2i2 to an amplifier or active monitors. The outputs are balanced 1/4" TRS jack outputs, you can use them with either unbalanced TS or balanced TRS jack cables and connect to speakers with 1/4" jack, RCA or XLR inputs.

Your Scarlett 2i2's front panel **Output** dial controls the level sent to **Outputs 1** and **2**.

Note
It is possible to use unbalanced connections, like TS 6.35mm jacks or jack to RCA cables– but we wouldn't recommend it. Using unbalanced connections, may mean you hear interference through your monitors.

If you hear a static, crackling or any other noise in your monitors, even when sounds not playing, make sure you're using balanced connections where you can.

Microphone Inputs

The 3-pin XLR **Input** connectors are designed to accept at microphone level signals.

You can control your microphone level using the corresponding input gain control on the front panel. 48V phantom power is also available if you are using a condenser mic, you can enable phantom power using the front panel 48V button.

Tip
The Scarlett 2i2 has XLR inputs at the back for microphones and 6.35mm (1/4") jack inputs on the front for instruments or line-level devices.

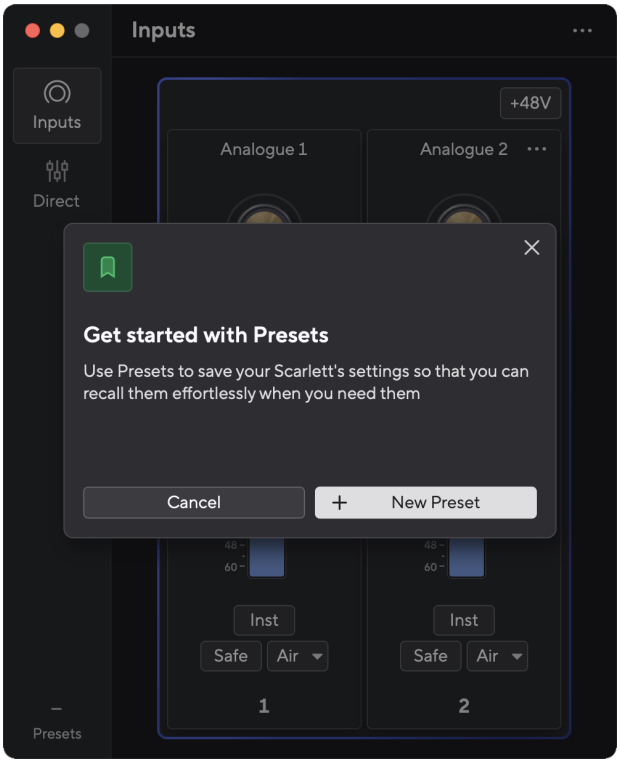
Using the front panel jack input(s) disables the XLR mic input. If you're not getting sound from your XLR input(s), ensure nothing is connected to the front panel jack inputs.

Using Focusrite Control 2 with your Scarlett 2i2

Focusrite Control 2 is the software you need to use to manage your interface. Focusrite Control 2 manages your routing, monitoring, mixer settings, and firmware updates.

Using Presets in Focusrite Control 2

Presets give you a way to quickly restore settings for your Scarlett. You can change the settings to suit a particular session or set up and save this as a nameable preset. Next time you need to recall those settings, you can Load the preset.



Presets contain the following settings:

- Input settings per channel:
    - Channel name
    - Input Gain
    - +48V
    - Inst
    - Safe mode
    - Air mode
    - Channel linking.
- Mixer settings
    - Mix destination (Routed to →)
    - Pan and balance
    - Fader levels
    - Mute and Solo states
    - Mixer channel linking.
- Device Settings
    - Send Direct Monitor mix to Loopback

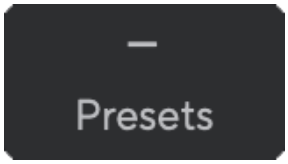
Note
Focusrite Control 2 saves presets to the computer you're using when you save it. However, your Scarlett 2i2 keeps its settings for use with a different computer or in standalone mode.

Saving a Preset

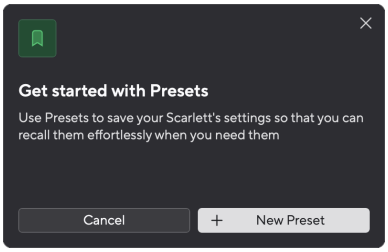
The first step of using Presets in Focusrite Control 2 is changing some settings. Once you've set up Focusrite Control 2 with some settings you want to recall in future, you can save a preset. There are two ways to save a preset: saving a New Preset or Overwrite an existing preset.

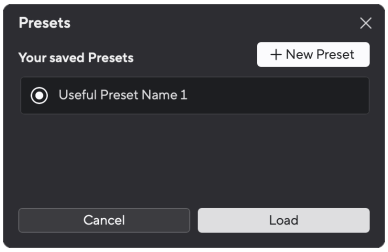
Saving a New Preset

1. Tweak the settings for your in Focusrite Control 2.
2. Click the Presets button in the bottom left of Focusrite Control 2.

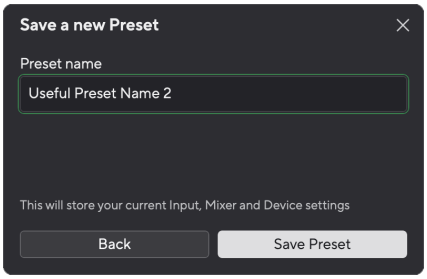


3. Click the New Preset button.



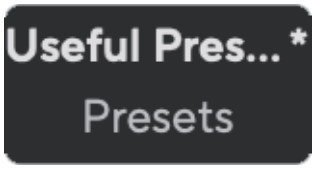


4. Type the name of your preset in the Preset Name field. Make sure the name is useful so you can find and reuse it later.



5. Click Save Preset.

Once you've saved the preset, the name of the preset shows in the bottom left corner of Focusrite Control 2. If you change any setting while you're in that preset, the name shows an asterisk *.

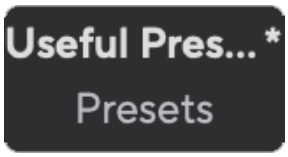


When the name shows an asterisk * you can either create a new preset using the steps above, or you can overwrite the preset with the new changes.

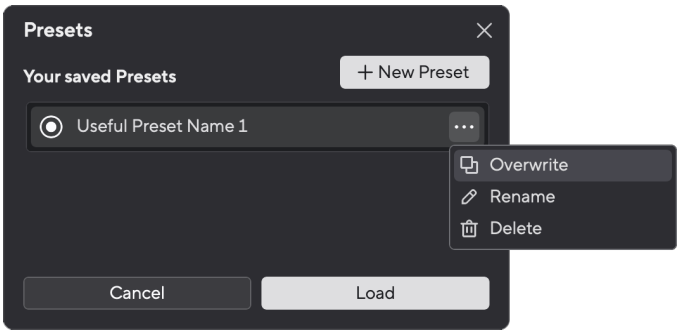
Overwriting a Preset

1. Tweak the settings of an existing preset so an asterisk * appears next to the Preset name.

2. Click the Presets button in the bottom left of Focusrite Control 2.



3. Hover your mouse over an existing preset and click on the three dots ··· to the right of the name.
4. Click Overwrite.



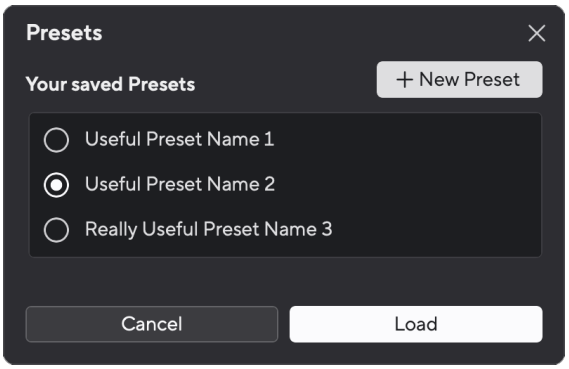
5. Before committing to overwriting a Preset, read the warning pop-up and click the Overwrite button to confirm overwriting the existing preset.

Caution
Overwriting a preset replaces the stored preset's settings with your current settings. You can't undo this change.

Loading a Preset

Loading a preset recalls a set of settings you've saved previously.

1. Click the Presets button in the bottom left of Focusrite Control 2.
2. Click the preset you want to load.



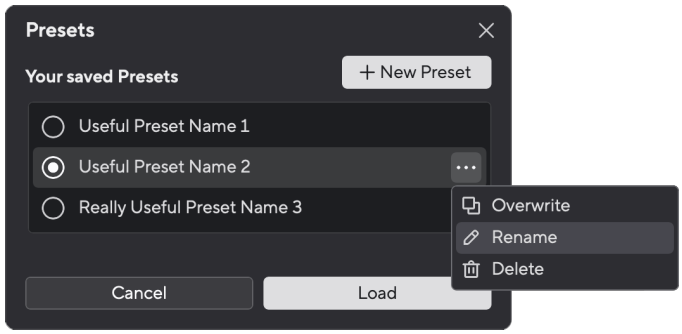
3. Click the Load button.

Renaming a Preset

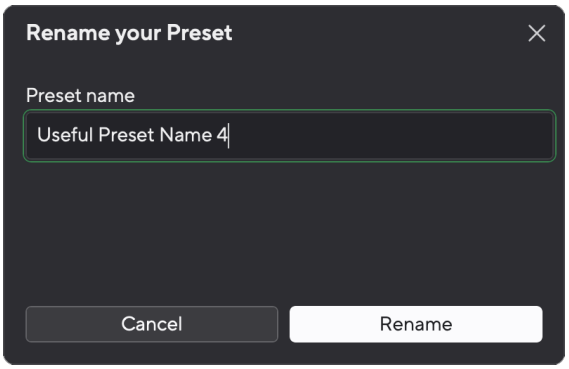
Renaming allows you to change the name of a preset without changing any of its settings.

1. Click the Presets button in the bottom left of Focusrite Control 2.
2. Hover your mouse over an existing preset and click on the three dots ··· to the right of the name.

3. Click Rename.



4. Type the new name for the Preset in the Preset Name field.

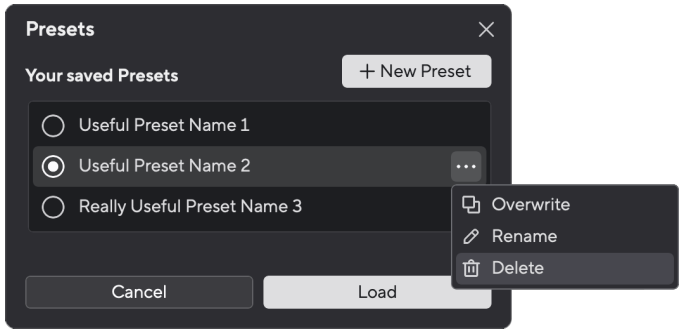


5. Click Rename Preset.

Deleting a Preset

Caution
Deleting a Preset removes the preset from Focusrite Control 2. You cannot get it back and you can't undo this action. Deleting a Preset won't change your interface's settings.

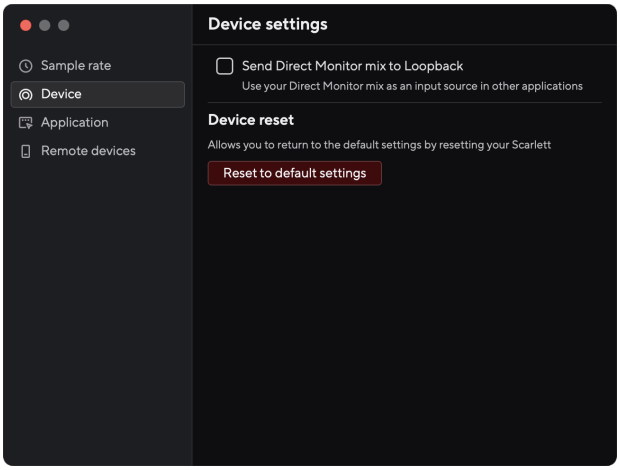
1. Click the Presets button in the bottom left of Focusrite Control 2.
2. Hover your mouse over an existing preset and click on the three dots ··· to the right of the name.
3. Click Delete.



4. Before committing to deleting a Preset, read the warning pop-up and click the Delete button to confirm deleting the preset.

Focusrite Control 2 Preferences

Click the ellipsis ··· in Focusrite Control 2's top right corner and click Preferences to open the Preferences page.



In the Preferences page, you have the tabs:

- Sample rate
- Device
- Application
- Remote Devices

Sample rate & clocking tab

Sample Rate (kHz)

Sample rate refers to the samples per second your computer is recording. The higher the value, the higher the quality; however, the higher the value, the more hard drive space your recordings take up.

Note

Some features, listed below, are not available at quad-band sample rates (176.4 and 192kHz).

- Air Presence & Drive (Air Presence still works)
- Clip Safe

Device tab

Remember 48V settings

A tick box to allow your Scarlett 2i2 to remember the status of 48V after you turn off and on your device.

Device reset

Device reset returns your Scarlett to its default, factory, settings. A reset erases all the current input, mixer, and sample rate settings.

To do a device reset:

1. Click Reset to default settings.
2. Read the “Are you sure?” pop-up to make sure you want to Reset your Scarlett.
3. Click Reset.

Note
When you do a device reset, your presets are not deleted. So after you've factory reset your device, you reload any previous settings you've saved as a Preset.

Application tab

Share usage data with Focusrite

Use this tick box to opt into usage analytics to help us make Focusrite Control 2 better. Please see our Privacy Policy for more information.

Remote Devices - Installing the Focusrite Control 2 mobile app

To accompany Focusrite Control 2 we've created the Focusrite Control 2 mobile app.

The mobile app lets you connect mobile devices on the same Wi-Fi network as your computer to control and view Focusrite Control 2.

The remote devices tab lets you manage any phones or tablets you've previously connected to Focusrite Control 2.

The Focusrite Control 2 mobile app runs on Android and iOS, and you can download it from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store by clinking on this link or scanning the QR code on your mobile device:

fc2.focusrite.com/mobile/download

Note

The Focusrite Control 2 mobile app can only control the Focusrite Control 2 when it's running on your computer.

It's not possible to use the mobile app to control your Scarlett directly.

Updating Focusrite Control 2 and your Scarlett 2i2

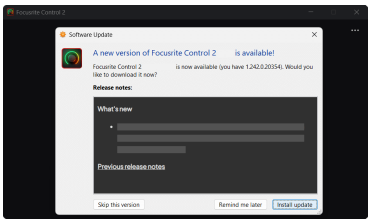
Updating Focusrite Control 2

We update Focusrite Control 2 occasionally with new features and improvements to make sure you are getting the most from your Scarlett 2i2.

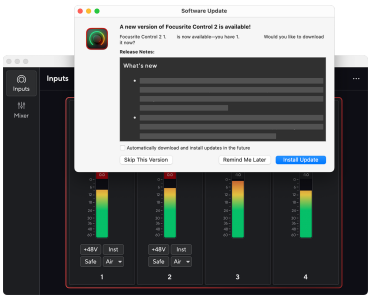
There are two ways to make sure you have the latest Focusrite Control 2 version:

1. Use the updater in Focusrite Control 2:
    1. Open Focusrite Control 2.
    2. There are two options in the Focusrite Control 2.
        a. If an update is available, a dialogue window automatically appears. Click Install Update to start the update.

Windows



macOS



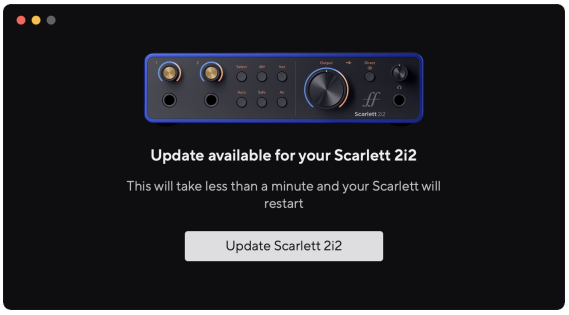
        b. To check you are using the latest version, click the ellipses ••• in Focusrite Control 2's top right corner and click Check for updates.
    3. Click Install Update (Windows) or Install and Relaunch (macOS) in the prompt that appears after you've downloaded the update.
    On macOS Focusrite Control 2 restarts, and it's now up -to-date. For Windows, please see the next steps.
    4. Click Yes when asked, "**Do you want to allow this app to make changes to your device?**".
    5. Follow the instructions in the Focusrite Control 2 Installation window.
    6. Click Finish at the end of the installation. Focusrite Control 2 reopens, and it is now up-to-date.
2. Install Focusrite Control 2 from our Downloads page:
    1. Go to the Focusrite downloads website:
    focusrite.com/downloads
    2. Find your Scarlett on the Downloads website.
    3. Download Focusrite Control 2 for your operating system (Windows or Mac).
    4. Open the Downloads folder on your computer and double-click the Focusrite Control 2 installer.
    5. Follow the on-screen instructions to install Focusrite Control 2.
    6. If it's not already, connect your Scarlett interface to your computer with the USB cable.
    7. Open Focusrite Control 2 and it detects your automatically.

Updating your Scarlett 2i2

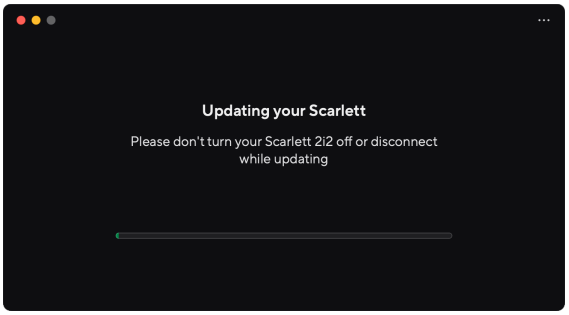
We occasionally update your Scarlett 2i2's firmware with new features and improvements, to make sure you are getting the most from your Scarlett. Focusrite Control 2 updates your Scarlett 2i2's firmware.

To update your Scarlett:

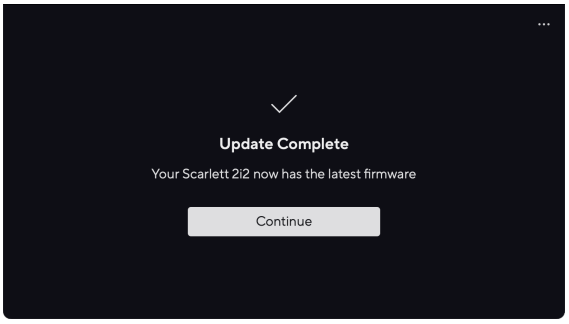
1. Open Focusrite Control 2.
   If there is an update available, Focusrite Control 2 tells you when you open it.



2. Click Update Scarlett 2i2.
   Focusrite Control 2 starts the update, do not disconnect your Scarlett 2i2 while the update is in progress.



3. Click Continue after the update has finished.



Your Scarlett 2i2 is now up-to-date, and you can continue to use it as normal.

Scarlett 2i2 Specifications

These specifications allow you to compare your Scarlett 2i2 with other devices and make sure they'll work together. If you're not familiar with these specifications, don't worry you don't need to know this information to use your Scarlett 2i2 with most devices

Performance Specifications

Where possible, we measure all performance figures following AES17.

Supported Sample Rates	44.1 kHz, 48 kHz, 88.2 kHz, 96 kHz, 176.4 kHz, 192 kHz
Bit Depth	24-bit

Microphone inputs	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.06dB
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	116dB
THD+N	-100dB (-1dBFS @ 8dB Gain)
Noise EIN (A-Weighted)	-127dBu
Maximum Input Level (at minimum gain)	+16dBu
Gain Range	69dB
Input Impedance	3kΩ

Line Inputs	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.05dB
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	115.5dB
THD+N	-100dB (-1dBFS @ 8dB Gain)
Maximum Input Level (at minimum gain)	+22dBu
Gain Range	69dB
Input Impedance	60kΩ

Instrument Inputs	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.15dB
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	113dB
THD+N	-80dB (-1dBFS @ 8dB Gain)
Maximum Input Level (at minimum gain)	+12dBu
Gain Range	62dB
Input Impedance	1MΩ

Line Outputs	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.02dB
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	120dB
THD+N	-109dB
Maximum Output Level	+16dBu
Output impedance	100Ω

Headphone Output	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.1dB @ 33Ω/300Ω
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	112dB @ 33Ω 115dB @ 300Ω
THD+N	-99dB @ 33Ω (Minimum) -108dB @ 300Ω (Minimum)
Maximum Output Level	+2.5dBu into 33Ω +10dBu into 300Ω
Maximum Output Power	32mW into 33Ω 22mW into 300Ω
Output impedance	50Ω

Physical and Electrical Characteristics

Analogue Inputs	
Connectors	Two rear panel Neutrik® XLR connectors
	Two front panel Neutrik® 6.35mm (1/4”) jack sockets
Mic/Line switching	Automatic
	Connecting a 6.35mm jack to the front panel disables microphone input.
Phantom Power (48v)	Front panel **48V** (phantom power) button or switch in software
Line/Instrument switching	Front panel **Inst** button or switch in software
Auto Gain	Front panel **Auto** button or switch in software
Clip Safe	Front panel **Safe** button.
AIR function	Front panel **Air** button or switch in software

Analogue Outputs	
Balanced Outputs	Two rear-panel Neutrik®6.35mm (1.4") TRS jack sockets
Headphone Output	Front panel stereo 6.35mm (1.4") TRS jack socket
Main Output Level Control	Front panel analogue control with pre-fade output level meter
Headphones Level Control	Front panel analogue control

Other I/O	
USB	One USB 2.0 Type-C connector for data and power -
	900mA
	One USB Type-C power connector - **5V DC**
	4.5W

Weight and Dimensions	
Weight	595g (1.31lbs)
Height	47.5mm (1.87")
Width	180mm (7.09")
Depth	117mm (4.60")

Environmental	
Operating Temperature	40°C / 104°F Maximum ambient operating temperature

Scarlett 2i2 channel order

Scarlett 2i2 input channels

Input	Channel
1	Input 1 (Mic/Line/Inst)
2	Input 2 (Mic/Line/Inst)
3	Loopback 1
4	Loopback 2

Scarlett 2i2 output channels

Output	Channel
1	Output Left (Headphones Left)
2	Output Right (Headphones Right)

Note
Outputs 1 and 2 share the same feed as the Headphone Output. Whatever signal is present at the line outputs, you will also hear from the headphone output.

Managing Windows playback and recording channels

Some Windows applications, such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, OBS Studio, or web browsers, do not support the ASIO driver type used by professional audio software. Instead, they rely on a different style of driver that accesses the channels exposed by Windows in the Sound Settings.

By default, when you connect a Focusrite interface to a Windows computer a single Playback device and a single Recording device appear in non-ASIO applications.

To avoid confusion, using the Focusrite driver, you can **choose which channels Windows should show or hide** to these apps. This won't affect how the interface works in your DAW (like Ableton Live or Cubase), which uses the ASIO driver directly.

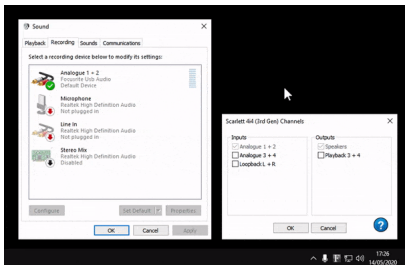
Note
The Focusrite driver is installed with Focusrite Control 2 which you can download at any time from:

downloads.focusrite.com

To show the full channel set to non-ASIO applications on Windows:

1. Click the Focusrite Notifier icon in the Windows taskbar. This opens the show/hide window.

2. Choose the channels you want to show to non-ASIO apps.
   For example if you want to use line inputs 3/4 into streaming software, tick Analogue 3 + 4.



3. Click OK.
4. Open your non-ASIO app, you can now see each pair of input channels.

This Does Not Affect ASIO Apps

ASIO-compatible software (most DAWs like Logic Pro, Ableton Live, Cubase, FL Studio, etc.) uses its own driver and will still show **all channels**, even if they're hidden in Windows Sound Settings.

This means you can hide channels from Zoom or OBS without affecting your DAW setup.

Notices

Troubleshooting

For all troubleshooting queries, please visit the Focusrite Help Centre at support.focusrite.com.

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