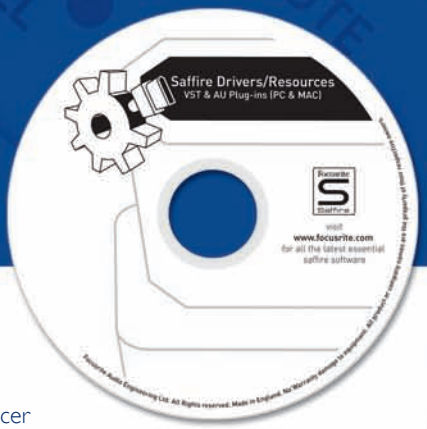
Focusrite Saffire: Getting Started Guide



STEP 1: SEQUENCER INSTALLATION

1. If you don't already have a sequencer installed in your computer, then insert the Cubase LE CDROM (the sequencer provided with Saffire).
2. Upon inserting the CDROM, the Cubase LE installer should start automatically.
3. The installer will guide you through the installation process.
4. When the installation process is complete, exit the installer.

NOTE FOR PC USERS: TO EXIT THE INSTALLER, CLICK ON THE 'MAN EXITING THE DOOR' IN THE BOTTOM LEFT.

STEP 2: DRIVER AND SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

Windows XP

DO NOT CONNECT THE SAFFIRE UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE INSTALLER.

1. Run the Installer from the Saffire resources disc.
2. During the installation process you will see the following message: **"The software you are installing has not passed the Windows Logo testing to verify its compatibility with Windows XP."** Select 'Continue Anyway' to proceed.
3. You will now be instructed to connect your Saffire to your PC using the 6 pin Firewire (IEEE 1394) cable. You can use either port 1 or 2. **NOTE: Please use the firewire provided as other cables may not be compatible.** If the computer/laptop only has a (smaller) 4-pin Firewire port then a different Firewire cable will be required; note that in this case, the external power supply will also be required, as 4-pin Firewire ports cannot supply power. The 4-pin Firewire cable is not included.
4. Once connected, the Saffire drivers and plugins will be installed automatically. Please be patient during this process.
5. Upon opening your sequencer you will need to authorise your Saffire Plugins*.
6. Once installation is complete, you may exit the installer.
7. You are now ready to run Saffire control.
8. The first time you run Saffire it may prompt you to update firmware. Ensure you have an internet connection and follow the on screen instructions.

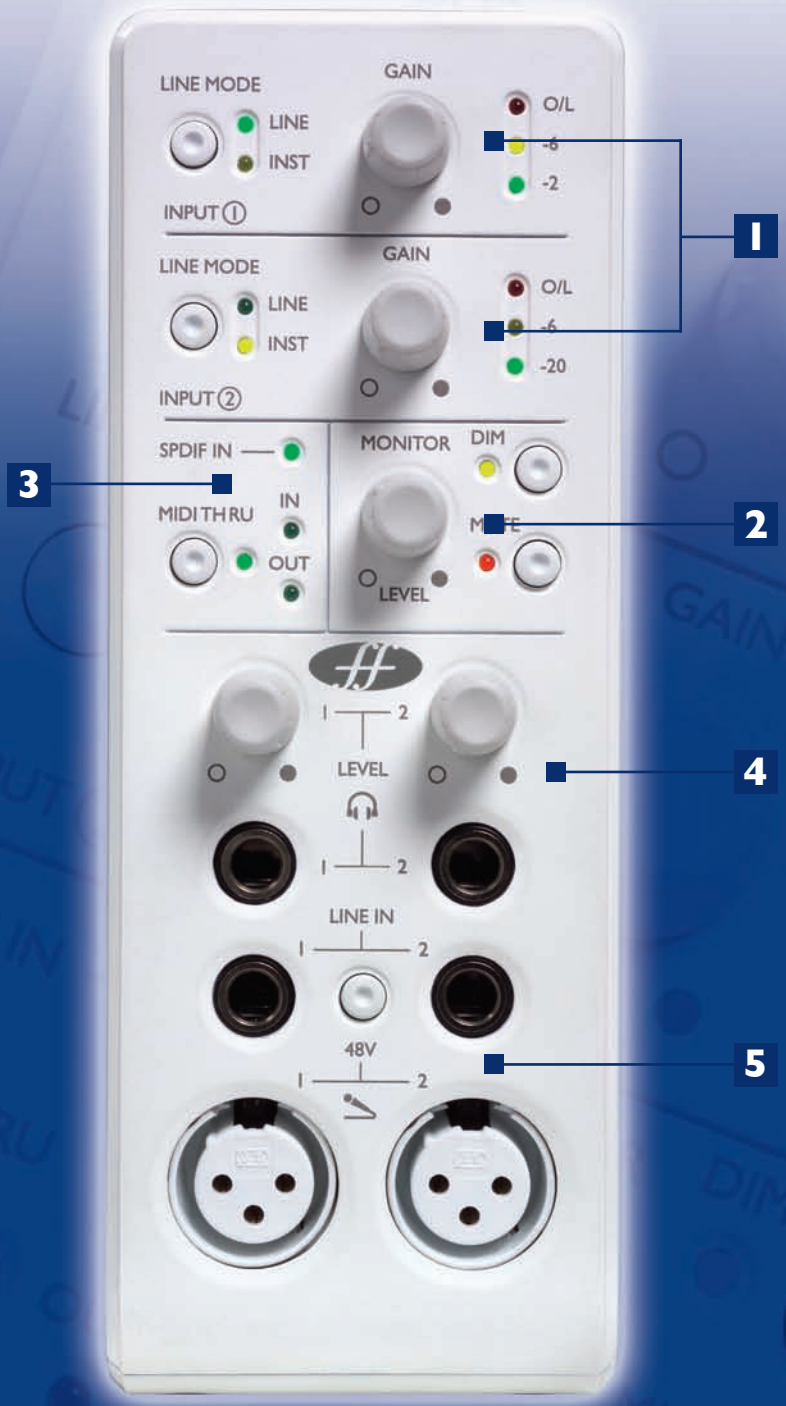
Mac OS X Installation

1. Connect your Saffire to your Mac using the 6 pin Firewire (IEEE 1394) cable. NOTE: Some early Powerbooks may still require the Saffire PSU to be used. (If the screen goes dark, then you require the PSU. This is a fault with the Powerbook itself.)
2. Insert the Saffire Resources disc and click on the 'CLICK ME FIRST' icon.
3. Now simply follow the on-screen instructions
4. During the installation you will need to authorise your Saffire Plugins*. We recommend you use SAFARI as your internet browser.
5. Once installation is complete, you may exit the installer.
6. If for some reason you are unable to complete the authorisation process you can try again by running the authoriser, installed in Applications/Saffire.
7. You're now ready to run SaffireControl.
8. The first time you run Saffire it may prompt you to update firmware. Ensure you have an internet connection and follow the on screen instructions.

** The PACE Authoriser will guide you through this process. We highly recommend using the internet authorisation option, as it ensures your plugins are authorised immediately.*

Once the drivers/software have been installed, Saffire is ready to use. However, it must be selected as the audio interface within whatever sequencer/recording platform is in use, so consult the relevant software manual for instructions on how to do this. If using Cubase then simply go to the Device Setup option within the Devices Menu and select Saffire as the VST Multitrack (audio interface).

Front panel facilities and controls



1 Input select and gain adjust

The top two sections allow the gain of the two analogue inputs to be adjusted using the corresponding dials. The level of the respective input is indicated by the triple LED dBFS meter next to it, a healthy level having a permanently illuminated green LED with occasional yellow LED flickering but no red O/L LED, which signifies that digital clipping is occurring. The Line input button allows either a line-level or Instrument source (connected to the front panel 1/4 "TRS jack input) to be chosen, as indicated by the corresponding LED.

2 Monitor level controls

The dial in this section provides a control over the level of one or more monitor signal(s) dependent upon the settings of the Saffire Conreol software (this defaults to a level control for outputs 1 and 2), with buttons to dim (reduce the level by 12dB) or mute as required. This dial can also be used to control the level of additional stereo outputs simultaneously by activating the hardware control button (H) in the relevant stereo output section of the SaffireControl software (see diagram opposite).

3 Digital and MIDI display and control

When an SPDIF (digital) signal is connected to the SPDIF RCA (phono) input on the rear panel, the SPDIF In LED in this section will illuminate. Similarly, the MIDI In and Out LEDs will light when a MIDI signal is received and transmitted respectively. When the MIDI Thru button is active, indicated by the corresponding LED, the MIDI data received at the MIDI Input will be sent directly to the MIDI Output, without needing to launch any sequencing software.

4 Headphones outputs and level controls

This section features two stereo 1/4" TRS jack connectors for the independent headphones mixes. Not only can the level of each headphones signal be independently controlled (using the corresponding dial), but the balance of each signal can be set using the custom mix facility within the accompanying SaffireControl software.

5 Microphone and line inputs

Front panel inputs are supplied for both microphone and line-level sources. Plugging in a source to one of the Line Inputs will deactivate the corresponding Mic Input, so ensure that nothing is connected to the Line Input if wishing to record through the Mic Inputs. If phantom power is required, simply press the 48V button above the Mic Inputs, which supplies phantom power to both inputs. If you are using a condenser microphone then this switch will need to be engaged. If you are unsure whether your microphone requires phantom power, refer to its user guide as phantom power will damage some microphones, most notably ribbon microphones.

Recording and monitoring a source using Saffire

This guide aims to give you a few simple instructions and tips on how to get audio in and out of your computer using Saffire and the accompanying software SaffireControl. For more detailed instructions, consult the relevant sections of the Saffire User Guide and help files at www.focusrite.com.

Once the drivers have been installed, the sequencer/ recording software is up and running and the Saffire has been correctly set up as the selected audio interface, audio can be recorded.

1. First, open up the SaffireControl application and then connect 1/4 "TRS jack outputs 1 and 2 on the rear of the hardware to your amp or speakers (depending on whether they are active or not). Alternatively, just plug some headphones into the Headphones 1 socket on the front panel.

2. To record a mono source like a vocalist or guitar player, simply plug a microphone into the left hand XLR socket on the front of the Saffire hardware and press the 48V (phantom power) button if required.

Phantom power is only necessary if using a condenser microphone; almost all dynamic microphones will be unaffected, but ribbon microphones will be damaged..

3. Now get the artist to play or sing and set the level of the input using the gain adjustment knob on the front panel. Rotate the dial clockwise to increase the level, making sure that the O/L LED (top red LED) never illuminates as this indicates that the level is exceeding the maximum level of the digital converter (clipping point).

For an even easier indication of level, observe the level of the meter in the top left of the SaffireControl window (as shown in the diagram).

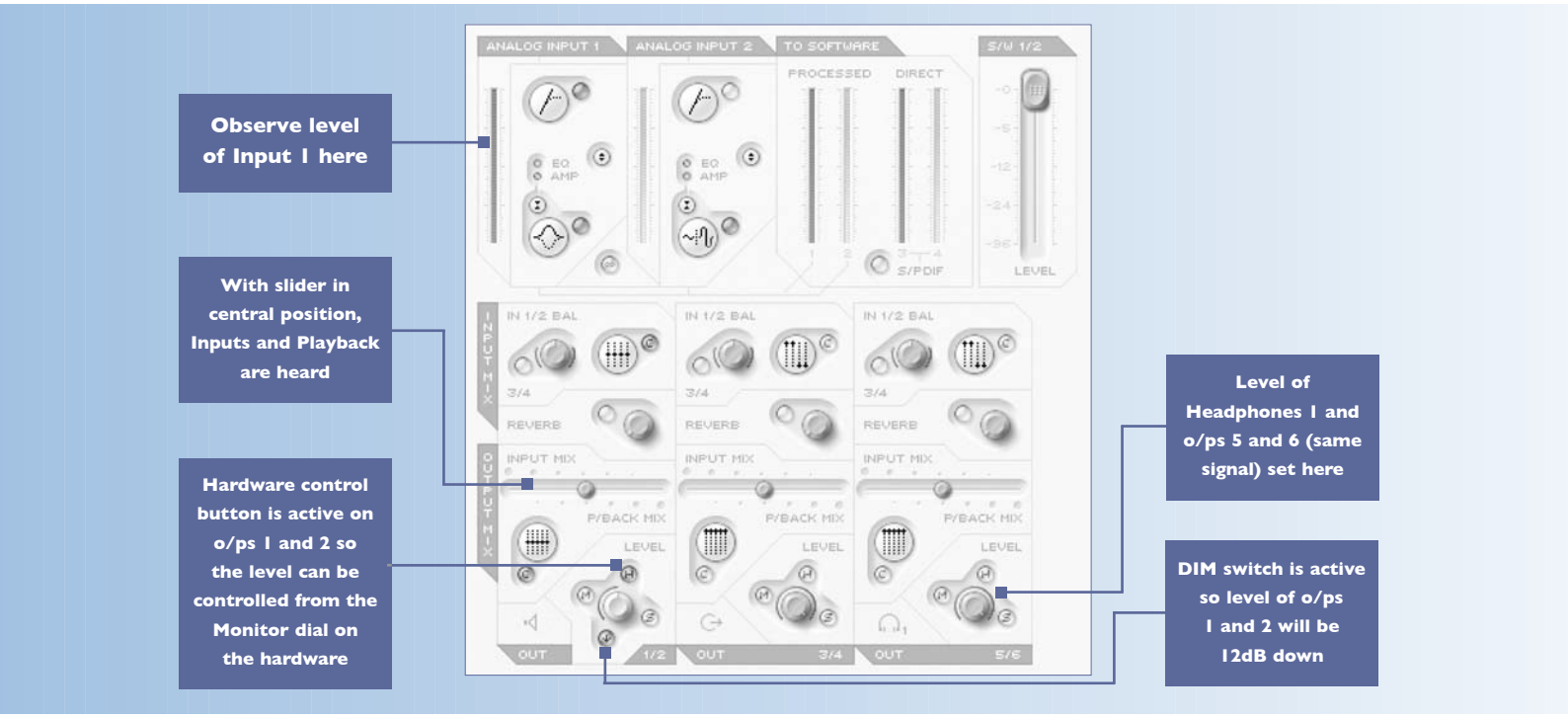
4. Switch to tracking (recording) mode by pressing the TRACK button in the bottom right of the full SaffireControl window (not shown in the diagram).

SaffireControl boots up in S/CARD (soundcard) mode, which is a preset where only the (playback) tracks from the sequencer are heard (explained later).

5. You will now hear the input source routed to your monitors and/or headphones.

The recorded source should be heard on both headphones and monitors as the INPUT MIX-P/BACK MIX sliders will all be in a central position (as shown in the diagram). This means that equal amounts of the (playback) tracks from the sequencer and the incoming audio will be sent to each stereo output pair. If you wish only to monitor the audio being recorded then move this slider to the extreme left position.

6. Adjust the level of the monitors, if connected, by using the Monitor dial on the front of the hardware (providing the Hardware (H) button is illuminated in the o/ps 1 and 2 section (see diagram below)). The headphones level can also be adjusted using the headphones gain dial on the front panel (above the headphones output).



SOUNDCARD (S/CARD) MODE

SaffireControl boots up in Soundcard (S/CARD) mode, which is the mode to use if wanting to send outputs 1-8 from a sequencer straight out of analogue outputs 1-8 of the Saffire for mixing/monitoring purposes. Pressing the TRACK (tracking/recording) button on the bottom right of the SaffireControl window changes the software to recording mode, where both inputs and outputs are heard. To return to S/CARD mode, simply press the S/CARD button in the bottom right of the SaffireControl window. This bypasses the complex monitoring and foldback options of SaffireControl and simply makes Saffire behave like a 10-output (1-8 analogue, 9-10 digital) soundcard. Pressing the S/CARD and TRACK buttons within SaffireControl and seeing/listening to the results is a good way to get to grips with the software and learn how various SaffireControl settings affect the function of the hardware.