

Peak Tutorial: Recording with Peak

This tutorial will guide you through the process of recording into Peak. Once you have finished your recording, you can edit out parts you don't like, use plug-ins like SoundSoap LE to remove noise or like Sqweez and Freq-4 to sweeten the sound, and when you're done either create a CD or send the file(s) directly to iTunes. (Those activities are covered in other tutorials. SoundSoap LE, Sqweez and Freq-4 are only available in Peak Pro)

You'll follow four main steps to record from an audio device into Peak.

1. Connect your audio device* to your Mac.
2. Configure Peak for recording.
3. Record.
4. Save the recorded file to disk.

Note that your connections and settings will differ slightly if you are using a third party audio card (rather than your Mac's built-in audio hardware). For more information about recording with Peak, see the Peak Pro 6 Users Guide.



** The audio device can be anything that makes a sound and has a line output, such as a tape deck, Turntable, mixer, other computer, iPod, etc.*

Connecting your audio source to a Mac

In most cases, taking the line output of the audio source directly into your Mac's audio input would work just fine. If you get an unacceptably quiet audio signal, you may need to use a preamp to maximize the signal level. A pre-amp is a device that amplifies an audio signal before it arrives at its destination (in this case, the Mac).

Your Mac's audio input is probably a "mini-plug" (1/8") jack. If the audio source you are using has outputs that are 1/4" or RCA, you'll need to use an adapter or a special cable to connect the two. For example, if your stereo uses

two mono RCA outputs, you'll use a cable with two (mono) RCA jacks at one end and one (stereo) 1/8" jack at the other end. To determine whether an 1/8" plug is mono or stereo, look at its metal tip. A stereo plug has two rings of (usually black) plastic on the metal, while a mono plug has only one plastic ring.



Most Macintosh computers have a built-in audio input – if your model of Macintosh does not, you will need to use some kind of 3rd party audio interface, such as a PCI card, or FireWire or USB audio device.

Recording via a Third Party Audio Interface

If you're recording via a third party audio interface with Core Audio support, such as a USB or FireWire interface the connections described previously may vary slightly.

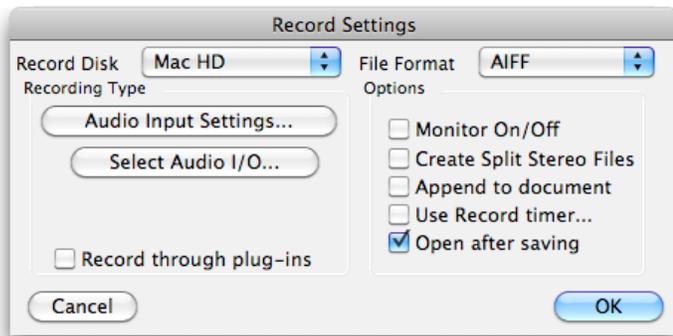
To use Peak with a third party Core Audio interface, first confirm that it is showing up in Peak. Not all audio interfaces require a driver – if your interface did not include a driver, but is Core Audio compatible, it should already be accessible from within Peak's "Select Audio I/O..." dialog (as well as the Audio MIDI Setup utility).

If your third party Core Audio interface requires a driver, it will need to be installed before using it with Peak. If the driver has been installed properly, the audio device you plan to use should be available as an option in Peak's "Select Audio I/O..." dialog.

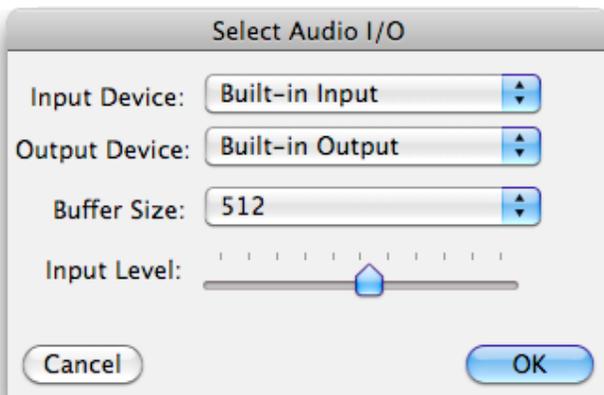
Recording into Peak

To record audio into Peak:

1. If speakers are connected to the Mac, lower their volume.
2. Connect the audio source's output to the Mac's audio input.
3. If speakers are connected, their volume can be raised now, but not too high yet.
4. Launch Peak.
5. Go to the Audio Menu and choose Record Settings.

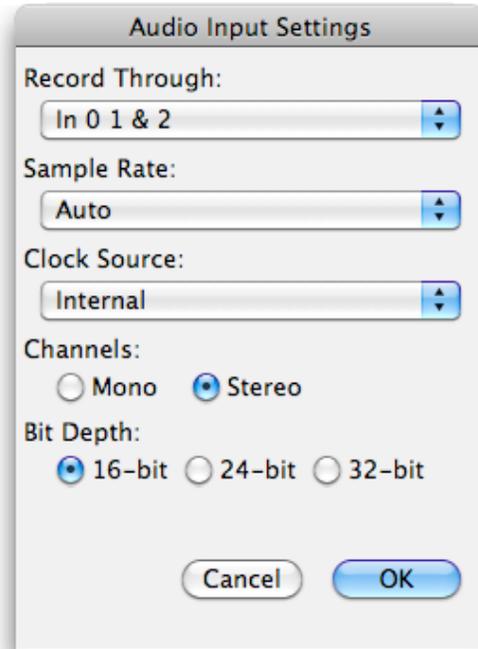


6. Choose "Select Audio I/O...", whenever possible make sure the audio device you wish to use for input is selected as both the Input Device and Output Device. Click the OK button.



7. In the Record Settings dialog, click Audio Input Settings.

8. The default settings shown: inputs 1 & 2, a sample rate of Auto (44.1 KHz), stereo and 16 bit are available and these settings are the same quality as a CD.



For more information about sample rates, sample sizes (bit depth), and mono vs. stereo audio files, see the Glossary in your Peak manual.

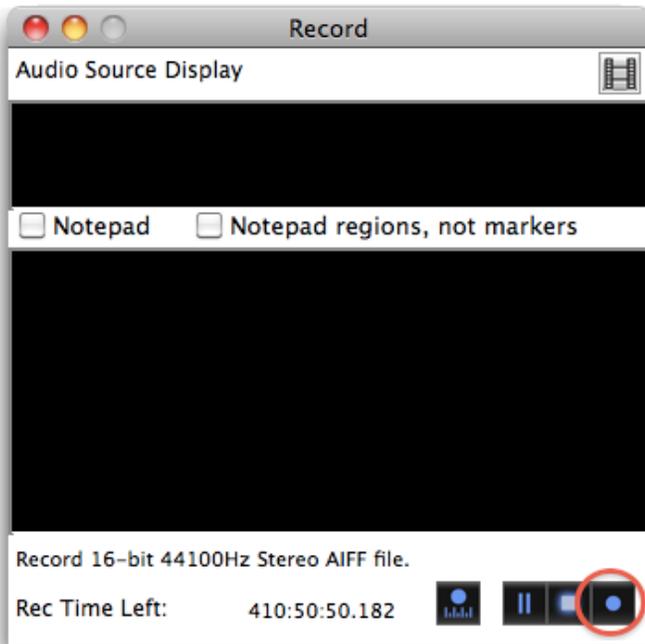
9. In the Record Settings dialog, click the OK button.
10. Go to the Audio menu and choose Record, or press Command-R. The Record window opens – you're not recording quite yet, just checking levels.



When adjusting input level, it's best to base your setting on the loudest part of the program material – when playing this loudest section, the meters should never go into the red – try to leave about 6 dB "headroom" to avoid digital distortion, or "clipping". For more information on setting recording levels, please refer to your Peak User's Guide.

11. Start playback of your audio device. If connections are correct, you should see activity in Peak's VU (level) meters. If no lights appear in the level meters, check your connections, and/or check the Input Volume setting in System Preferences/Sound.

12. Stop playback on your audio source device.
13. In Peak, click the Record Button in the Record Dialog.



14. Start playback of your audio device from the beginning (or the desired position).
15. When you've finished recording, click the Stop button in the Record Dialog (or press the Pause button if you need to flip an LP or tape and record the other side – don't forget to press the Pause button again to start recording the second side)
16. When the Save dialog appears, name your recording and choose a directory to save it in, and click the Save button.

You're finished! Now you can edit the saved audio document as desired, clean up unwanted noise, burn a CD or send the recording to iTunes.

For more information on cleaning up audio with SoundSoap, burning CDs, and more, please see the tutorial section on the BIAS website.

<http://www.bias-inc.com>

Click the Downloads link, and then the Documentation link, and then choose "Peak" to see all the available Peak tutorials.

