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Using Cool Edit Pro

Installing Cool Edit Pro

Included with the Core2 is a special version of Syntrillium Software's Cool Edit Pro, a powerful multitrack audio recording and editing application. To install this software:

1. Insert the Lexicon Studio Core2 CD.
2. Press **Start**, and select **Run...** from the menu.
3. Select **Browse...** Click on the box labeled **Look In:** at the top of the window that appears. This will cause a list of your disk drives to appear.
4. Select your CD-ROM drive.
5. Locate a folder called **Syntrillium** and double click to open it.
6. Locate the file called **SETUP**, select it and run it.

The SETUP program will copy all of the necessary files to your hard drive. It will also add a program called **Cool Edit Pro - Core2** to the **Program** listings available from the **Start** button menu.

Cool Edit Pro comes with very thorough on-line manual/help. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with the items under the **Quick Reference** heading in the program's **Help** menu.

Assigning Core2 I/O in Cool Edit Pro

Core2 inputs and outputs are assigned to tracks in two different ways, depending on the view (stereo waveform or multitrack) in which you are working.

In the stereo waveform view, select **Options/Settings/Devices**. In the window that appears, you can define **Waveform Playback** and **Waveform Record** devices. Simply highlight the Core2 inputs and outputs you want to use in the appropriate fields. These settings will apply for all files that you play or record when in the stereo waveform view.

In the multitrack view, inputs and outputs are assigned for each individual track. Before making assignments, you must set up **Preferred Multitrack Devices**. To do this,

1. Click on either of the small numeral 1's at the far left of the track display to open the **Playback Device** window.
2. Click on the **Device List** button to access a list of **Preferred Multitrack Devices**.
3. In each **Playback** field, assign a stereo Core2 output stream.
4. In each **Record** field, assign a stereo Core2 input stream.
5. Click **OK** on each window to back out to the Multitrack screen.

As these device settings are saved as **Preferences** in Cool Edit Pro, they will be used for all subsequent sessions until you change them.

To make the playback and record device assignments for a specific track,

1. Click anywhere in the gray area at the far left of the track display to open the **Track Info** window.
2. Click on the arrows in the **Playback Device** and **Record Device** fields to select the desired inputs and outputs.

Optimizing Multitrack Performance in Cool Edit Pro

Because background mixing requires significant computer processing power, you may experience audio dropouts in multitrack playback during large sessions — particularly if background mixing is incomplete when playback is initiated. Although there are several things you can do to improve this, if you have a slower machine, you may still have to wait for a time before hitting **Play** when working with very large sessions.

Careful adjustment of **Playback Buffer Size** and **Background Mixing Priority Level** (in **Options/Settings/Multitrack**) with reference to the **Mix Gauge** can improve efficiency. The **Background Mix Priority** must be high enough to keep the mix ahead of playback, but not high enough to slow down your computer's performance. Generally, you should keep this setting as low as possible while still keeping the **Mix Gauge** relatively filled. Raising the **Buffer Size** consumes more computer memory, and can adversely affect computer performance.

Adjust these settings by small amounts, using decimal increments/decrements as follows. When dropouts occur toward the end of background mixing (the **Mix Gauge** indicates mixing is more than three-quarters through), try reducing the **Playback Buffer Size** and raising the **Background Mixing Priority Level** (higher values *reduce* the priority level). If dropouts occur when the **Mix Gauge** is near empty, *increase* **Playback Buffer Size** and *lower* **Background Mixing Priority Level**.

The optimal settings for these controls will vary from session to session, with the number of tracks and the number of output devices.

Cool Edit Pro will take more time to perform background mixing when you have tracks assigned to multiple sets of Core2 outputs. In these cases, Cool Edit Pro creates a separate mix for each output device (each Core2 channel pair). If your system's performance is affected, you can temporarily assign all tracks to a single channel-pair while monitoring to speed things up. If you do this, we recommend checking **32-bit Pre-mixes** mode in the **Settings/Multitrack** screen. When monitoring to multiple output devices, **16-bit Pre-mixes** is the recommended mode.

Note that the 16-bit and 32-bit modes are playback settings only — the data on your disk stays at the resolution at which it was recorded.

