Version 1.1

Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen
User Guide

The Studio 18-in, 20-out interface
Focusrite

Table of Contents

Scarlett 18i20 Overview

Welcome to the user guide for your Scarlett 18i20.

Introduction

Welcome to the Scarlett 18i20 4th generation.

We've designed the Scarlett 18i20 for the studio that never stops creating. Get studio-quality sound wherever you are with the latest generation of Scarlett:

- Make the most of any mic or guitar with **+**69dB **of gain** on each input.
- Set your levels in seconds, and never lose a great take again with **Auto Gain** and **Clip Safe**.
- Re-engineered Air mode with Presence and Harmonic Drive.
- Remotely control your preamps using our Focusrite Control 2 software.
- Record straight out of the box with Easy Start and a complete suite of studio software included.
- Easily expand your setup with eight channels of ADAT.
- Create two completely independent headphone mixes from Focusrite Control 2.

This is Version 1.1 of the Scarlett 18i20 user guide.

What's in the Box?

The box for your Scarlett 18i20 includes:

- Scarlett 18i20
- USB-C to C cable
- USB-A (male) to C (female) adaptor
- Country-specific IEC cable
- Attachable 19" rack ears
- 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 18i20 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 18i20

Powering on your Scarlett

To power on your Scarlett 18i20 using mains power:

1. Connect the power supply to your Scarlett 18i20's power socket.
2. Connect the USB cable from your Scarlett 18i20 to your computer.
3. Switch the power switch to the on position.

Your Scarlett is now powered on and ready to use.

Caution
Always turn on your speakers last.

Your Scarlett 's speaker outputs have anti-thump technology; this reduces the chances of hearing pops through your speakers when you turn on your interface. However, it is best practice to turn your speakers on after you have turned on everything else in your recording set up.

If you don't turn on your speakers last, loud pops may damage your speakers, or worse, your hearing.

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.

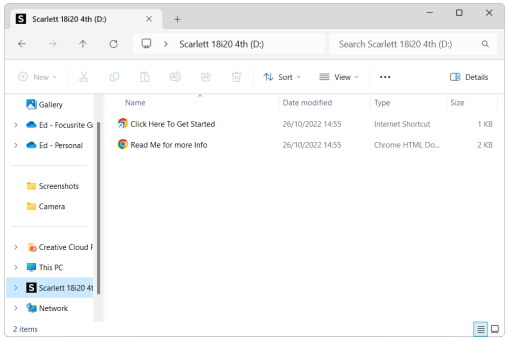
After you've opened Easy Start, follow the step-by-step guide, to install and use your Scarlett.

Windows

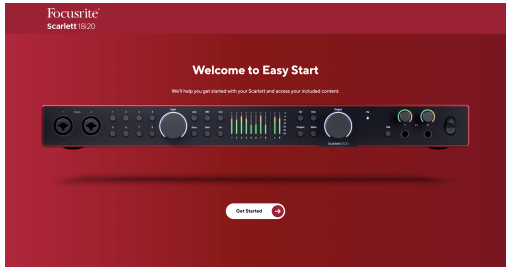
After you connect your Scarlett 18i20 to your computer, a device appears in File Explorer called Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen, this allows you to access Easy Start.

To access Easy Start:

1. Open File Explorer.
2. Click on Scarlett 18i20 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 18i20'. 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.

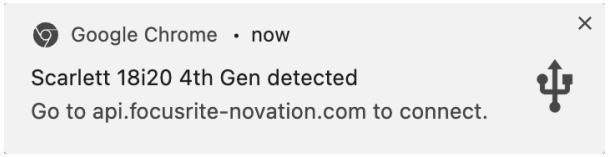
Your operating system should change the computer's default audio inputs and outputs to the Scarlett.

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 18i20 to your computer, a Scarlett icon appears on the desktop or, if you use Chrome, you'll see a pop-up:

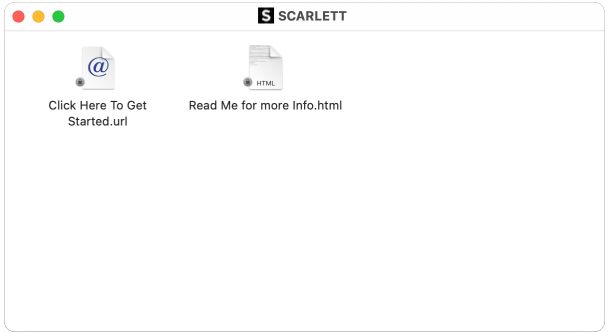
Scarlett Easy Start icon: Double click and start from step 1 below.



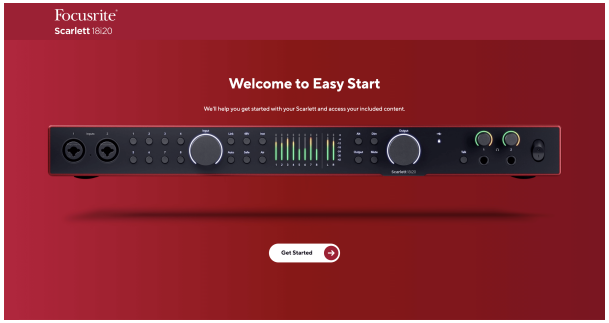
Chrome pop-up: Click and start from step 2 below.

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:



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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 18i20.

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 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 18i20, 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 18i20's firmware with new features and improvements, to make sure you are getting the most from your Scarlett. Focusrite Control 2 updates your Scarlett 18i20'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 Focusrite Control 2

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 Scarlett 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 18i20 's firmware, and unlocks your Scarlett 18i20'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.

The MIDI input and output are also disabled, while Easy Start mode is enabled.

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.

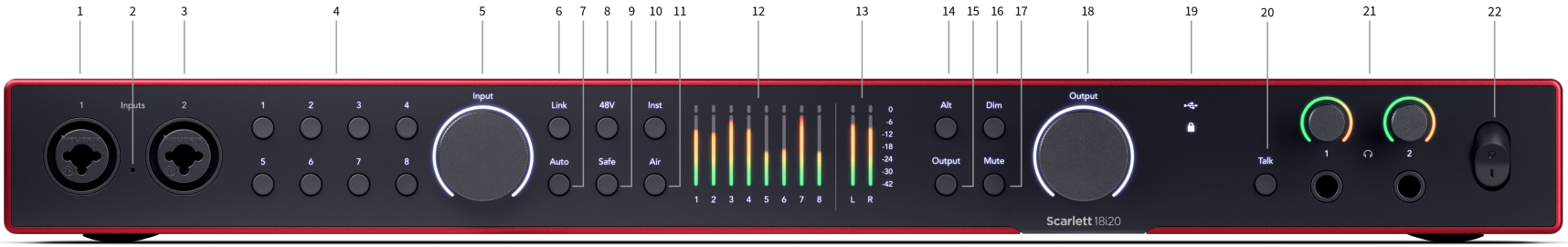
If your Scarlett 18i20 is still in Easy Start mode, or you have chosen not to install Focusrite Control 2 to disable Easy Start Mode:

1. Turn off your Scarlett 18i20.
2. Press and hold the **48V** button.
3. Keeping the **48V** button held, power on your Scarlett 18i20.
4. Wait for the front panel to light up, then release the **48V** button.
5. Restart (power off and power on) your Scarlett 18i20.

Your Scarlett powers on with Easy Start disabled.

Hardware Features

Front Panel



1. **Input 1** Neutrik® Combo XLR and 6.35mm (1/4") jack connector. Accepts XLR mic-level inputs, or unbalanced mono (TS) and balanced Mono (TRS) 1/4" jack cables at line or instrument-level.
2. Talkback mic - the talkback microphone location.
3. **Input 2** Neutrik® Combo XLR and 6.35mm (1/4") jack connector. Accepts XLR mic-level inputs, or unbalanced mono (TS) and balanced Mono (TRS) 1/4" jack cables at line or instrument-level.
4. Select **1**–**8** buttons - Press to select one of the eight preamps to control its preamp settings and input gain. The currently selected channel's number lights green.
5. **Input** gain control - The gain control sets the input level for the selected preamp.
6. **Link** button - Press to create a stereo pair of input channels. (See Link [13]).
7. **Auto** button - Press to start the Auto Gain feature (see Auto Gain [15]).
8. **48V** button - Press to turn on 48V phantom power at the XLR mic input to power condenser microphones.
   You can set **48V** independently per preamp channel.
9. **Safe** button - Press to turn on the Clip Safe feature for your input (see Safe [18]).
10. **Inst** button - Press to toggle the selected 6.35mm (1/4") input between Line or Instrument level.
11. **Air** button - Press to turn on AIR mode (see AIR [19]).
12. Meters **1**-**8** - eight meters show the signal levels of the eight analogue inputs or outputs. The meters align with the scale on the far right, from -42 to 0 dBFS. Press the **Output** button to change the meters from input to output.
    In input mode, if a meter lights red, it's hit 0dBFS, and you should turn the **Input** gain down for that channel to avoid clipping.
13. **L** and **R** meters - two meters to show the level being sent out of the monitor outputs.
14. **Alt** button - press the **Alt** button to route the signal going to the first monitor output pair (**1** and **2**) and the second monitor output pair (**3** and **4**). To use two pairs of monitors and switch between them, see Alt [20].
15. **Output** button - Changes meters **1**-**8** to show the Output metering for the channels selected in Focusrite Control 2.
16. **Dim** button - reduces the output level being sent to your outputs by 18dB.
17. **Mute** button - silences the signal being sent to your outputs.
18. Main Speaker **Output** Control and Output level meter - By default, control the level going to Outputs 1 and 2. The meter shows where your Output control is set. You can configure **Output** to control more outputs.
19. Status icons
    - USB LED - Lights green when your computer recognises your Scarlett, and white if it is disconnected from your computer (in standalone mode).
    - Sync Status - Lights green when your Scarlett 18i20 is synchronised with itself or an external digital device. It lights white when it can't lock. For more information, see the Sync Status [24] section.
20. **Talk** - hold **Talk** to activate talkback. When active, **Talk** lights green, and the talkback mic routes to various outputs, e.g. headphones to speak to your musicians.
21. Headphone level control and output sockets - Connect up to two sets of headphones to the output sockets and control the output with the corresponding level control.
22. Power switch - **O** is the off position, **I** is the on position.

Back Panel

1. Power input - A standard IEC power input.
2. **USB** - USB-C connector to connect your Scarlett to your computer.
3. **S/PDIF Out** and **In** - two coaxial RCA sockets for two-channel S/PDIF digital audio signals in and out. See Sync Status and using your Scarlett with ADAT and S/PDIF [24] for information on how to set up your Scarlett 18i20 with a S/PDIF device.
4. **Word Clock Out** - a BNC connector carrying a word clock signal to synchronise other digital audio equipment.
5. **Optical Out 1**/**2** and **In 1**/**2** - four TOSLINK connectors for eight channels of digital audio in ADAT format.
6. **MIDI Out** and **In** - standard 5-pin DIN sockets for external MIDI equipment. The Scarlett 18i20 acts as a MIDI interface, allowing MIDI data to/from your computer.
7. Line **Outputs 1**-**10** - Neutrik® 1/4" jack (TS or TRS) sockets to connect your Scarlett to line-level inputs on devices such as monitor speakers, amplifiers, mixers or external processors. Use 1/4" TRS jack cables for balanced connections where possible.
8. Line **Outputs A** (**1**/**2**) and **B** (**3**/**4**) - two pairs of Neutrik® 1/4" jack (TS or TRS) sockets designed to connect your Scarlett to two pairs of monitor speakers (pair A and pair B) so you can switch between sets using the front panel **Alt** button.
9. Inputs **1**-**8** - Neutrik® Combo XLR and 6.35mm (1/4") jack connectors. They accept XLR mic-level inputs, or unbalanced mono (TS) and balanced Mono (TRS) 1/4" jack cables at line level. Note **Inputs 1**/**2** are duplicated on the back, anything connected to front panel inputs **1** and **2** will take priority over the back panel inputs.

Your Scarlett 18i20's front panel in depth

This section covers all the features on your Scarlett 18i20's front panel, what they do, how you might use them, and how they work in Focusrite Control 2.

Setting Preamp Input Gain

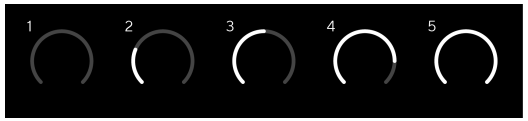
The preamp input gain controls how much signal you are sending into your computer and recording software.

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 adjust the preamp input gain on your Scarlett 18i20 you first need to select the preamp you would like to adjust. Press the corresponding select button (1-8). The **Input** gain control now controls the preamp you selected.

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



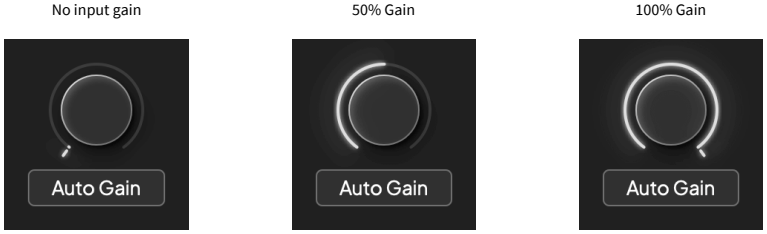
Software Gain Control

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).

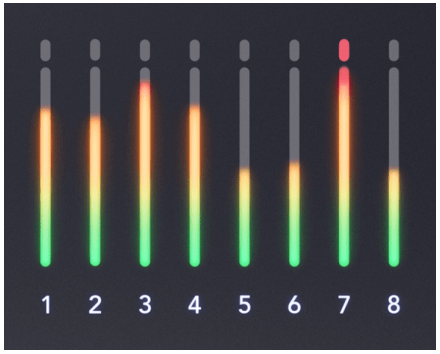
The following images show the preamp gain at minimum, medium and maximum gain.



Input Metering

The meters **1** -**8** show the input level of each of your Scarlett 18i20's input channels.

As you increase the preamp input gain for a channel, or as the source gets louder the meters will show more level coming into your computer.

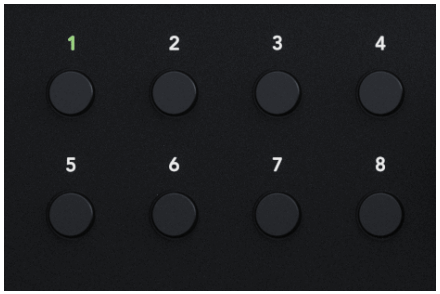


On the far right of the meters, there's a scale from -42dBFS to 0dBFS. When you're recording it's a good idea to have a signal level around -18dBFS with the loudest parts of the signal reaching -12dBFS.

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.

Select (1-8) Buttons

Many front panel controls on your Scarlett 18i20 are shared across the preamp inputs. The select buttons, labelled **1** to **8** move the preamp controls to different inputs.



At least one preamp is always selected, to change which preamp(s) the controls are affecting, press one of the buttons labelled **1** to **8**. 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 18i20 the last selected preamp before you turned it off remains the selected preamp.

Note
When you link two inputs, the **Select** button treats them as one. Pressing Select moves to the next input or linked pair.

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.

Note
You can only link adjacent preamps with the left channel set as odd-numbered input channels, e.g. you can link input channels 1 and 2, or 3 and 4, but not 2 and 3.

To link preamps:

1. Press the select button (**1**-**8**) to choose one side of the pair.
2. Press the **Link** button to link the preamps.

When you've made the preamp Link:

- Both preamp numbers light green when you select that pair.

- 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 of both preamps.
- Adjusting either gain control changes the gain level for both preamps and is shown on both Gain Halos.
- 48V is disabled for both preamps.

Unlinking Preamps

To unlink preamps

1. Press the select button (**1**-**8**) to choose one side of the pair.
2. Press the **Link** button to unlink the preamps.

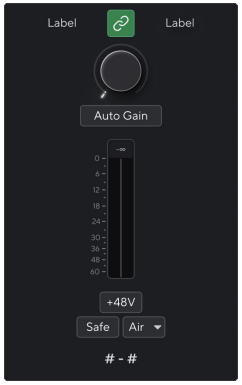
Linking Preamps in Focusrite Control 2

Linking Preamps

To link preamps from Focusrite Control 2, click the link icon at the top of the channel strip.

When you link two preamps, the link icon turns green, one set of preamp controls disappears, and the meters for each channel merge to form a stereo meter.

Two unlinked channels.



Linked channels with merged preamp controls.

Unlinking Preamps

To unlink preamps from Focusrite Control 2 and control them independently again, click the green link icon at the top of the channel strip.

When you unlink two preamps, the link icon returns to black/white, two sets of preamp controls appear, and the meters split again for each separate channel.

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. Select the correct input channel.
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 the selected XLR input and to any devices connected to the XLR input.

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 18i20 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 [57] 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:

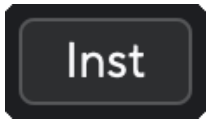
- Electric or electro-acoustic guitars directly and via effects pedals.
- Electric basses
- Acoustic instruments with pick-ups such as violins, double basses etc.

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

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

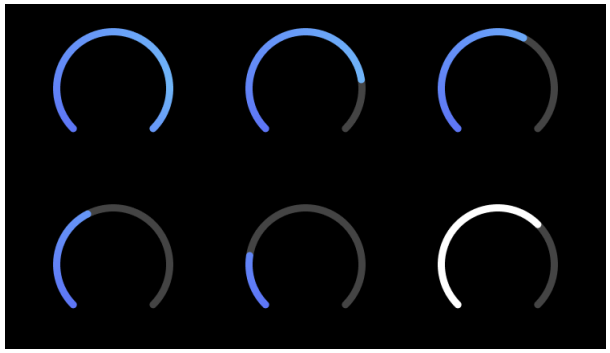
Note
When you switch between **Inst** and Line, the gain stays at the last level you set.

Auto Gain

Auto Gain allows you to send a signal into your Scarlett 18i20 (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 white **Auto** button on your Scarlett, or the corresponding software button. The **Auto** icon lights green for ten seconds. The corresponding input meter 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 Gain Halo lights green before the gain value is shown on the Gain Halo 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 [16], 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:

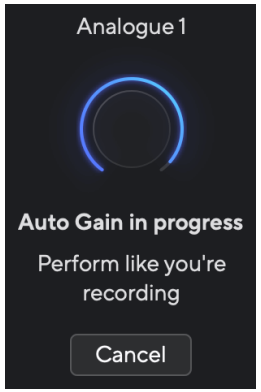
- The preamp's noise floor.
- Digital silence.
- Inter-channel crosstalk.
- Unwanted knocks or bumps on your microphones.

Auto Gain Software Control

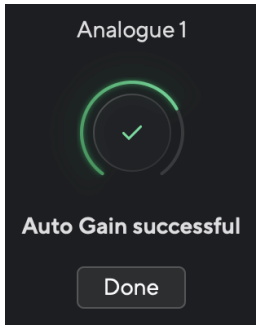
To use Auto Gain in Focusrite Control 2:

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.



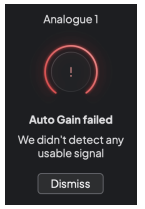
If the Auto Gain was successful, the Gain Halo lights green before the gain value is shown on the Gain Halo for a second. The gain is now set at a good level for your recording.



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 18i20 (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.

You can use Auto Gain on as many channels as you like on your Scarlett 18i20.

To use multichannel Auto Gain

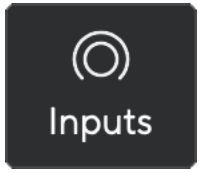
1. Hold the **Auto** button for one second.
   When you're in multichannel Auto Gain mode, all the **Select** buttons pulse green.
2. Press the **Select** buttons for the channels you want to run Auto Gain for.
3. When you're ready, press **Auto** again to start the Auto Gain process on the selected channels.

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.

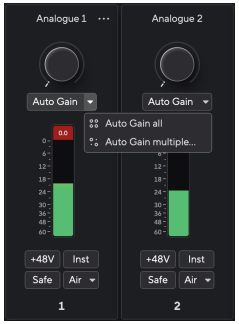
Multichannel Auto Gain in Focusrite Control 2

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

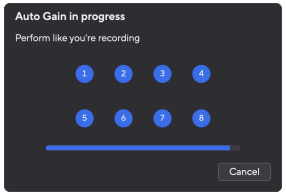
1. Open Focusrite Control 2 and go to the Inputs tab.



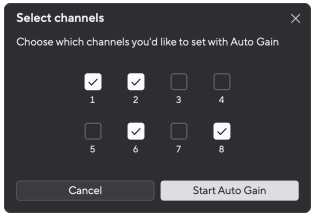
2. Click the dropdown arrow to the right of the usual Auto Gain button.



3. Choose Auto Gain all or Auto Gain multiple….
   - Auto Gain all starts running Auto Gain for all the channels on your Scarlett 18i20.

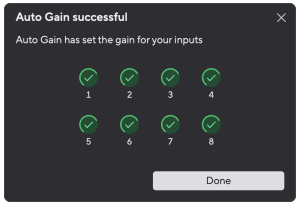


   - Auto Gain multiple allows you to choose the channels you want to run Auto Gain for.
4. If you clicked Auto Gain multiple, tick the channels you want to run Auto Gain for.

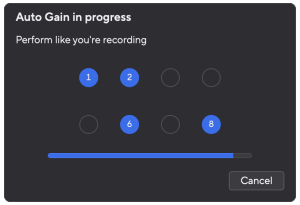


5. Click Start Auto Gain.

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



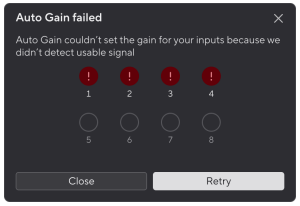
All Channels



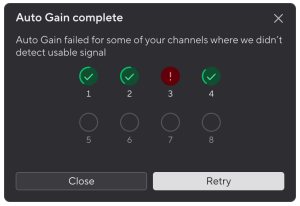
Multiple Channels

Multichannel Auto Gain failed

Multichannel Auto Gain might fail during the process for one, multiple, or all channels. If this happens, you'll see one of two messages:



If Auto Gain fails for all channels, you'll see the Auto Gain failed message.



If Auto Gain fails for one or some channels, you'll see the Auto Gain complete message, but with the option to Retry Auto Gain on all channels.

In both cases, 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 green.

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.

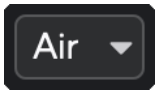
Air affects the mic, line, and instrument inputs.

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:

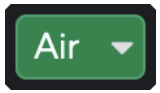
Mode	Description	AIR LED	Notes
Off	The preamp is clean	White	
Air Presence	An analogue circuit gives a presence boost to your sources.	Green	
Air Presence and Harmonic Drive	Adds harmonics, in addition to the analogue Air circuit.	Amber	Only available at up to 96kHz

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 18i20 hardware.



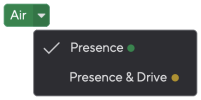
Air Off



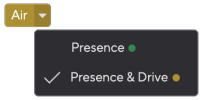
Air Presence selected

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.

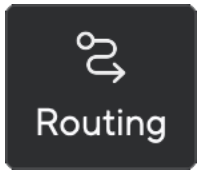
Speaker Switching (Alt)

The Scarlett 18i20's Alt (alternate) button gives you the ability to alternate between two sets of monitor speakers. This is useful for referencing your mixes on a different set of speakers.

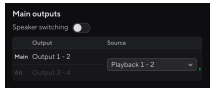
To set up the speakers for speaker switching:

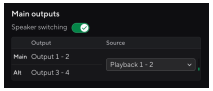
1. Connect your main speakers to monitor outputs 1-2.
2. Connect your alternative speakers to monitor outputs 3-4.

3. Go to Focusrite Control 2's Routing tab.



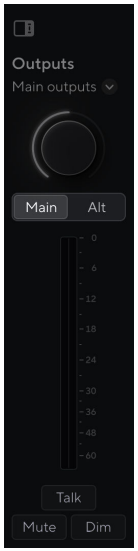
4. Click the toggle to enable **Speaker switching** above the list of outputs





5. Pick the **Source** for the outputs.
   If you're checking mixes, it's likely this should be Playback 1 - 2 as the source would be the output from your DAW.

After setting up your monitors, you can switch between your main monitors (Outputs 1-2) and the Alt monitors (Outputs 3-4) either by pressing the front panel Alt button or by clicking on the Alt button in Focusrite Control 2.



When Alt is active, the Source set for Main and Alt is sent to the Alt outputs instead of the Main outputs, and Alt lights green.

Note

When Speaker switching is on, the Output control has two volume settings, one for your Main speakers and on for your Alt speakers. Each control is independent.

When you change between Main and Alt, the level jumps to the last setting for that speaker setting, you can set the level using the Output control for each set of speakers to match their volume.

When you disable and re-enable Speaker switching, or restart your Focusrite Control 2, the Alt Output level resets to -48dBFS.

Dim Button

The **Dim** button reduces the output level being sent to your outputs by 18dB. When active, **Dim** lights green.

Dim off (white)

Dim on (green)

The **Dim** button is useful to help allow conversation or to try ideas in the room without stopping playback.

By default, Dim affects the Main monitor outputs 1 and 2, but in Focusrite Control 2 you can change this to control your Alt outputs.

Dim Software Control

To enable/disable Dim [21] in Focusrite Control 2 click the Dim button in the Outputs section on the right.

The Dim button works in the same way as the Dim button on the front panel of your Scarlett 18i20 and reduces the output level being sent to your outputs by 18dB. When active, **Dim** lights green.

Dim off.

Dim on.

Output Button

The Output button changes the meters **1-8** from the inputs they are metering to pre-fade meters for the corresponding outputs. Pre-fade means the meters aren't affected by the monitor dial in the same way the **L** and **R** meters are affected by the **Output** dial.

When active, **Output** lights green.

For example, rather than the meters showing the levels of analogue inputs 1-8, when Output is active the meters show the levels for analogue outputs 1-8.

Output off (white), metering the inputs.

Output on (green) metering the outputs.

Tip

To assign signals to the different outputs, see the section Using the Focusrite Control 2 Routing tab [50].

Mute Button

The **Mute** button silences the signal being sent to your outputs. When active, **Mute** lights green.

Mute off (white).

Mute on (green).

By default, Mute affects the Main monitor outputs 1 and 2, but in Focusrite Control 2 you can change this to control your Alt outputs.

Mute Software Control

To enable/disable Mute [21] in Focusrite Control 2 click the Mute button in the Outputs section on the right.

The Mute button works in the same way as the Mute button on the front panel of your Scarlett 18i20. When active, **Mute** lights green.

Mute off.

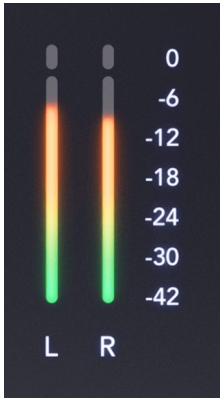
Mute on.

Output control and level meters

The **Output** control and Output level meters are related to the signals going to the Outputs on the back of your Scarlett 18i20. The meters show the level going to your selected Monitor Outputs, either 1-2 or 3-4 when Alt is on.

The halo around the **Monitor** control on your Scarlett 18i20 lights white to show where the monitor control is set.

The output level meters **L** and **R** are pre-fade meters (they aren't affected by the Output control's position) showing you the signal level coming from your computer going to **Outputs 1** and **2**.

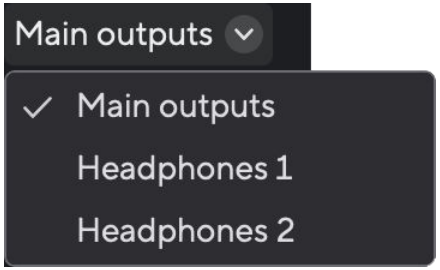


Focusrite Control 2 Output section

On the right-hand side of Focusrite Control 2 the **Output** section is a visual representation of the Output control and level meters.

Output control selection

At the top of the **Outputs** section, you can use the drop-down to change the outputs you're controlling.



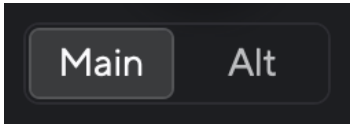
Output control dial

The dial in Focusrite Control 2 is a software representation of the **Output** control on your Scarlett 18i20's front panel. When you change the control on the hardware, the software updates, when you move the control on the front panel, the dial in Focusrite Control 2 updates.

Speaker Switching (Alt) software control

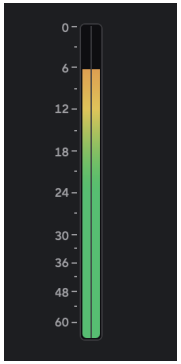
The **Output** section allows you to control the Alt, or speaker switching, function. Click Main or Alt to switch between your Main or Alt monitors.

For more information, see Speaker Switching (Alt) [20].



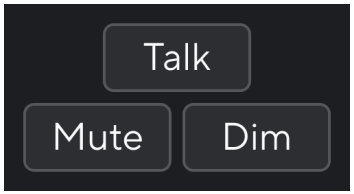
Output level meters

The output level meters mirror the front panel meters are pre-fade meters (they aren't affected by the Output control's position) showing you the signal level coming from your computer going to **Outputs 1** and **2** (or 3 and 4 if you enable Alt).



Mute, Dim and Talk

See the Mute [21], Dim [21] and Talk [28] sections.

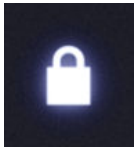


Sync Status and using your Scarlett with ADAT and S/PDIF

The Sync Status icon on the front panel lights green when your Scarlett 18i20 is 'locked' or 'synchronised' to a clock source.

The Sync Status indicator is most useful when you're trying to expand the channel count using your Scarlett 18i20 with other equipment connected to your Scarlett 18i20's digital inputs or outputs; the ADAT or S/PDIF IO.

Important
To pass audio, the Sync Status indicator must light green. You can do this by making your Scarlett 18i20clock leader (Internal clock) or clock follower (ADAT or S/PDIF clock) with a valid clock leader connected.



When you're using the digital inputs your Scarlett 18i20 and the other audio devices need to have their internal clocks synchronised, using clock signals, so their audio is recorded in time.

Tip
If your digital audio devices aren't synchronised correctly, you'll hear audible glitches, or the audio won't pass at all.

There are a few principles when you're trying to synchronise multiple digital audio devices:

- The clock signal can be embedded into the audio signal, down the same cables (e.g. S/PDIF, or ADAT).
- Clock signals are always one-way, you can't send and receive clock signals using one ADAT or S/PDIF cable.
- There are Clock Leaders and Clock Followers.
  Devices 'follow' other devices' clock signals. One device in your setup must be the clock leader, the other devices must be followers and receive the clock signal from the clock leader.
- Every device with digital I/O will have an internal clock and should have the option to be a clock leader or a clock follower.

Tip
In these examples, we've used Focusrite products to demonstrate ADAT and S/PDIF digital expansion. But remember, ADAT and S/PDIF are universal standards. So, any device with digital ADAT or S/PDIF outputs will work with your Scarlett's digital inputs.

Setup 1 - Scarlett 18i20 as a Clock Follower

This is the most basic setup and involves one expansion device, increasing the channel count of your Scarlett 18i20.

We've outlined the steps for an ADAT expansion device, but the same theory applies for S/PDIF expansion devices.

Equipment:

- An external ADAT preamp - such as a Clarett+ OctoPre.
- One TOSLINK cable (also referred to as an ADAT cable).

Setup:

1. Connected the TOSLINK cable from the ADAT preamp's ADAT **Out** port to the ADAT **In** port on the Scarlett 18i20.
2. Set the ADAT preamp clock to Internal and your chosen sample rate.
3. In Focusrite Control 2, set the Scarlett 18i20 clock to ADAT and match the sample rate to the ADAT preamp.
4. In your DAW, set your channels to inputs 13 - 20, these are the eight ADAT inputs.

Note
The Scarlett 18i20 has two ADAT In ports. With ADAT, when you go up a sample rate band, e.g. from 44.1kHz to 88.2kHz, the number of channels the cable can send halves. This means with the Scarlett 18i20 you can use two cables to get eight channels at 88.2 and 96kHz.

Setup 2 - Scarlett 18i20 as a Clock Leader

This is similar to Setup 1; however, it involves more cables. It's useful if you only use your expansion device occasionally, so you'd prefer to keep your Scarlett 18i20 as your clock leader.

We've outlined the steps for an ADAT expansion device, but the same theory applies for S/PDIF expansion devices.

Equipment:

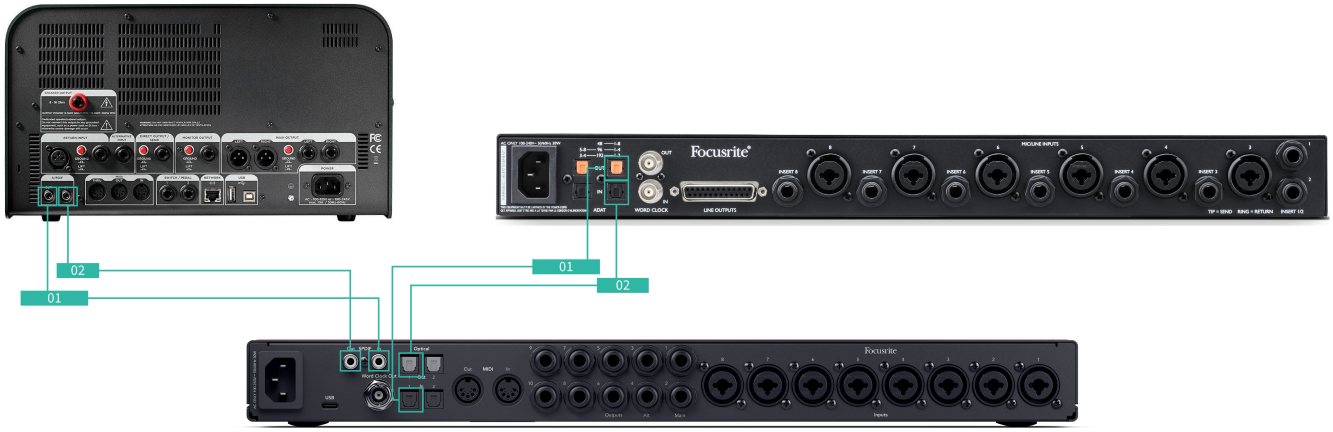
- An external ADAT preamp - such as a Clarett+ OctoPre.
- Two TOSLINK cables (also referred to as an ADAT cable).

Setup:

1. Connected the TOSLINK cable from the ADAT preamp's ADAT **Out** port to the ADAT **In** port on the Scarlett 18i20.
2. Connect a second TOSLINK cable from the Scarlett 18i20's ADAT **Out** to the ADAT preamp's ADAT **In**.
   This cable is just to send clock data, but if your ADAT preamp has outputs, you can also send signals back out of your computer to gain extra analogue outputs.
3. Set the ADAT preamp clock to ADAT and your chosen sample rate.
4. In Focusrite Control 2, set the Scarlett 18i20 clock to Internal and march the sample rate to the ADAT preamp.
5. In your DAW, set your channels to inputs 13 - 20, these are the eight ADAT inputs.

Note
The Scarlett 18i20 has two ADAT In ports. With ADAT, when you go up a sample rate band, e.g. from 44.1kHz to 88.2kHz, the number of channels the cable can send halves. This means with the Scarlett 18i20 you can use two cables to get eight channels at 88.2 and 96kHz.

Setup 3 - Using more than one expansion device



In this setup, we're using two expansion devices: an ADAT device and an S/PDIF device. For ADAT, you might use a preamp like an OctoPre or a mic preamp. For S/PDIF, you could connect another interface in standalone mode or a guitar amp modeller.

Using the Scarlett 18i20 as your clock leader is useful if you only use your expansion devices occasionally, so don't need to turn them on every time you use your Scarlett 18i20.

Equipment:

- An external ADAT preamp - such as a Clarett+ OctoPre.
- A S/PDIF device - such as a guitar amp.
- Two ADAT cables.
- Two S/PDIF cables.

Setup:

1. Connected the TOSLINK cable from the ADAT preamp's ADAT **Out** port to the ADAT **In** port on the Scarlett 18i20.
   Connect the S/PDIF cable from the S/PDIF device's S/PDIF **Out** to the S/PDIF **In** on the Scarlett 18i20.
2. Connect a second TOSLINK cable from the Scarlett 18i20's ADAT **Out** to the ADAT preamp's ADAT **In**.
   Connect a second S/PDIF cable from the Scarlett 18i20's S/PDIF **Out** to the S/PDIF device's S/PDIF **In**.
3. Set the S/PDIF preamp clock to S/PDIF and your chosen sample rate. Some S/PDIF devices don't allow you to change these settings, if this is the case, see ….
4. Set the Scarlett 18i20's clock to internal and match the sample rate.
5. Set the ADAT preamp to clock to ADAT and match the sample rate (it's getting its clock from the Scarlett 18i20 via the second ADAT cable).

Talkback Button

Press and hold **Talk** button to activate talkback. When active, **Talk** lights green, and the talkback microphone is routed to the outputs of your choice. By default, talkback routes to the two headphone outputs.

When you enable **Talk,** the rest of the outputs in the mix dim, by 25dB, to make it easier to hear the talkback microphone.

You can change the Talkback routing in Focusrite Control 2 to feed any combination of mixes.

By default, the **Talk** button is 'momentary' – talkback is only active while you hold the button. You can change the **Talkback** button between momentary or latching from Focusrite Control 2.

Talkback Software Control

The software talkback button can be either momentary or latching.

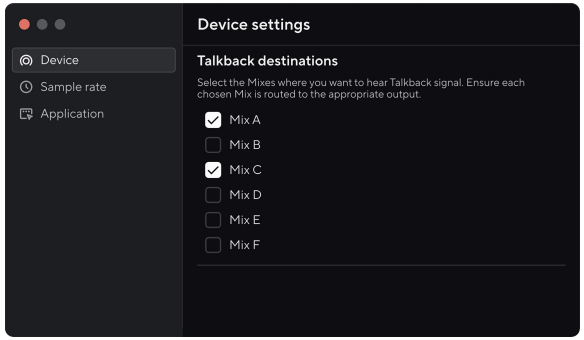
Click and hold the **Talk** button to activate momentary talkback. Click the **Talk** button for latching control.

Routing the Talkback input

Using Focusrite Control 2 you can pick which mix you're sending your talkback input to.

To change which mix your sending your talkback mic to:

1. Open the Focusrite Control 2 settings page from the ellipses ··· in the top right corner.
2. Go to the Device tab.
3. Click the tick box to enable the talkback mic for the mixes you want.



Headphone Outputs

Your Scarlett 18i20 has two headphones outputs. Both headphones outputs are completely independent of the other analogue outputs, so they can have their own dedicated mix.

The headphone outputs are 6.35mm (¼”) TRS jacks. Many headphones have a 3.5mm TRS jack, to connect them to your Scarlett 18i20 you must use a TRS 6.35mm to 3.5mm adaptor.

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

Around the headphone controls are halo meters. These fill up clockwise, from green to amber, to show the level going to your headphone outputs. The meters are pre-fade, meaning they are not affected by the headphone control setting.

The headphones output controls are encoders so you can control the level either from the dial, or in Focusrite Control 2.

Note
Some headphones and jack adaptors may have TS or TRRS connectors, often due to built-in microphones or volume controls. These might not work properly. If you encounter issues, use headphones and a jack adaptor with TRS connectors.

Headphone Output Routing

You can assign any sources to your headphones, either using a Mix for an independent combination of hardware inputs (direct monitoring) and software playback channels, or directly routing a source, for example Software Playback 1-2.

To set up your headphone routing:

1. Open Focusrite Control 2.
2. Go to the Routing tab.
3. Find your headphones output in the Output list.
4. Click the corresponding Source dropdown and choose the source or mix you want to send to your headphones

The mix you've created is now being sent to the headphones output you selected. You can control the overall level using the headphones control on the Scarlett or in software. You can control different parts of the mix using the Mix in Focusrite Control 2.

Your Scarlett 18i20's back panel in depth

This section covers all the features on your Scarlett 18i20's back panel, what they do, how you might use them and how they work in Focusrite Control 2.

USB Connection

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

Use the included USB-C cable to connect to a USB-C port on your computer, or use the USB-C to A adaptor to connect to a USB-A port on your computer.

S/PDIF IO

The S/PDIF ports give you two channels of digital I/O to connect to other audio equipment with S/PDIF I/O such as guitar amps, mic preamps or any device with an S/PDIF output.

Note
The S/PDIF ports are coaxial RCA, and we recommend you use 75Ω cables. However, shorter, normal RCA cables should work.

There are many ways to connect and clock your Scarlett 18i20 when you're using an external device connected via S/PDIF. For information on clocking and digital IO setups, please see the Sync Status Indicator [24] section.

The Sync Status Indicator on your Scarlett 18i20 should light green. When you send audio from the external device to your Scarlett 18i20 you should see the S/PDIF channels coming in on channels 11-12.

Word Clock Output

The Scarlett 18i20's Word Clock output is there so you can send clock signals to external devices connected via ADAT or S/PDIF. The main reason for using this output is if your external ADAT or S/PDIF devices don't have the relevant clocking options, but may have a Word Clock input.

The word clock output doesn't carry any audio, it sends only clock signals.

The Scarlett 18i20 only has a Word Clock output, so it cannot receive Word Clock. You must connect to the Word Clock input on any external device.

Optical Connections

The Optical connections on the back of your Scarlett 18i20 allow you to connect external devices digitally to expand the channel count of your Scarlett 18i20.

Note
You Scarlett 18i20 disables the optical inputs and outputs at quad-band sample rates (176.4/192 kHz.)

MIDI

The Scarlett 18i20 MIDI In and Out ports allow you to use your Scarlett as a USB MIDI interface. MIDI IN receives MIDI signals from keyboards or controllers; MIDI OUT sends MIDI information to Synths, Drum machines or MIDI-controllable equipment.

Important
When you first receive your Scarlett 18i20, MIDI is disabled because it is in Easy Start mode. To enable MIDI, install and open Focusrite Control 2.

The MIDI IO doesn't require any setup for you to use your Scarlett 18i20 as a USB MIDI interface. The Scarlett 18i20's MIDI ports appear in your MIDI-enabled software, and you can either send or receive MIDI data between your computer and MIDI hardware via the Scarlett's 5-pin DIN MIDI ports.

Note
The MIDI Out port on your Scarlett 18i20 **cannot** function as a MIDI Thru port.

Speaker Outputs

Outputs 1 and **2** are line-level outputs to connect your Scarlett 18i20 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 18i20'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.

Main and Alt

Your Scarlett 18i20 has two sets of monitor outputs, labelled Main, 1 and 2, and Alt, 3 and 4.

These are designed to let you use two sets of monitors and switch between them with a single button press, the Alt button.

Line Outputs

Line Outputs 5-10 have identical electrical characteristics to the Monitor line Outputs 1 to 2 but aren't controlled by the Output control.

You can set the signals available at these outputs using Focusrite Control 2, and use the outputs to drive additional speakers in a multichannel monitoring system, such as a subwoofer or to send signals to outboard effects processors.

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.

You can enable 48V phantom power on a per-channel basis.

Setting up your DAW (Recording Software) with your Scarlett 18i20

The Scarlett is compatible with any ASIO-supported DAW on Windows and any Core Audio-supported DAW on macOS. It is also compatible with non-ASIO applications but your channel count may be limited.

To help you get started, we've put together steps to set up your interface and start recording in the most common DAWs. If you need any more information, please see the user guide for your DAW.

If you don't already have a DAW installed on your computer to help get you started, the Scarlett comes with Ableton Live Lite and a version of Pro Tools. You can access these in Easy Start [5] , or from your Focusrite account.

Tip

What is a DAW?

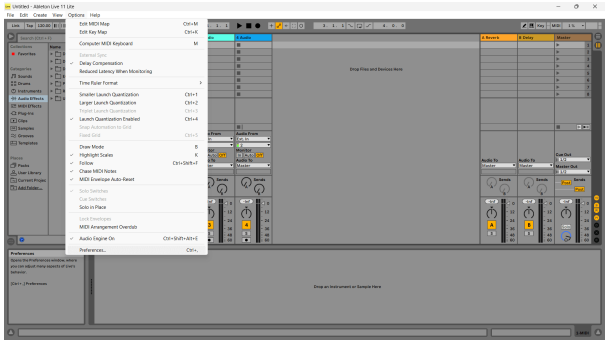
DAW stands for 'Digital Audio Workstation' and is the term given to any software you use to record arrange or make music.

Ableton Live

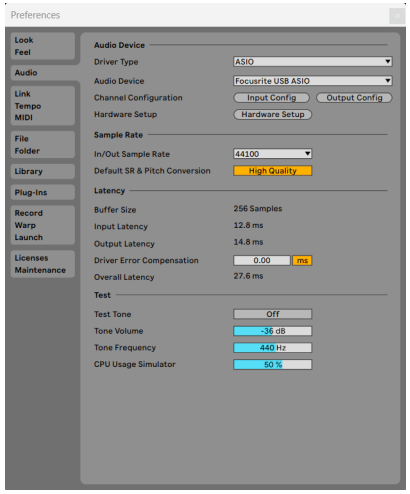
To get set up in Ableton Live follow these steps:

Windows

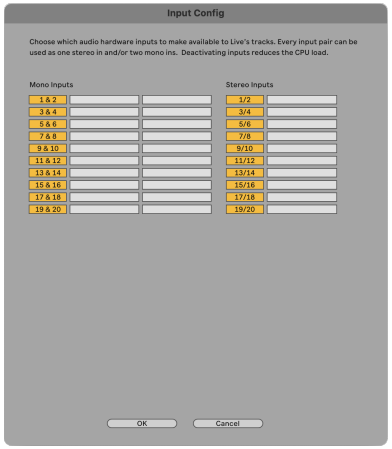
1. Open Ableton Live on your computer.
2. Click Options > Preferences....



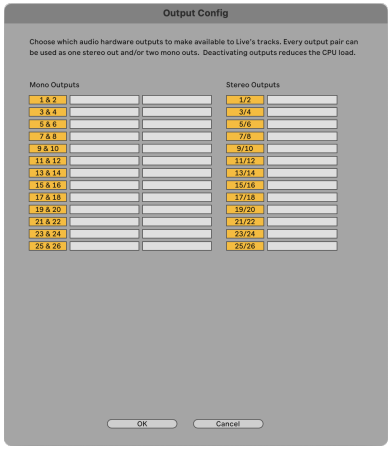
3. Go to the **Audio** tab on the left-hand side of the Preferences window.
4. Set the **Driver Type** to ASIO, and **Audio Device** to Focusrite USB ASIO.



5. Click Input Config.
   The next step is to make all the inputs on your device appear as input options in Ableton.
6. Click to highlight each set of **Mono** and **Stereo Inputs** to make sure they appear as selectable in Live.



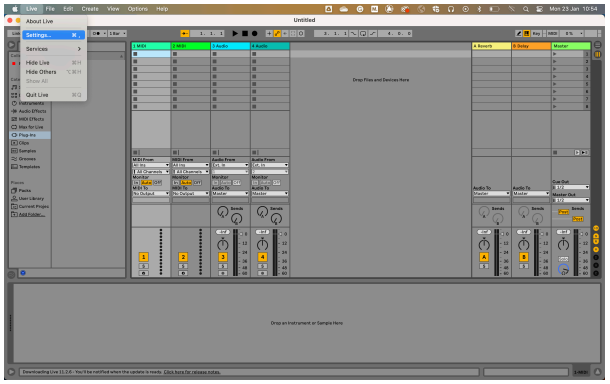
7. Click **OK**.
8. Do the same for the **Output Config**, if you are using multiple outputs from your Scarlett 18i20.



9. Close the Preferences Window.

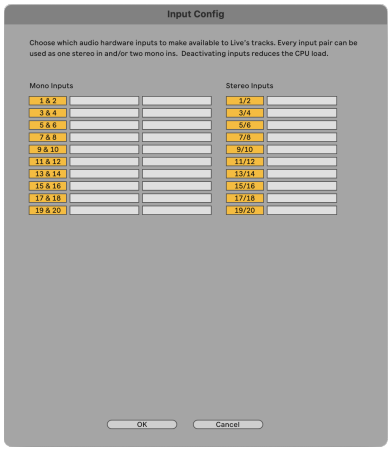
Mac

1. Open Ableton Live on your computer.
2. Click **Live** in the top menu bar.

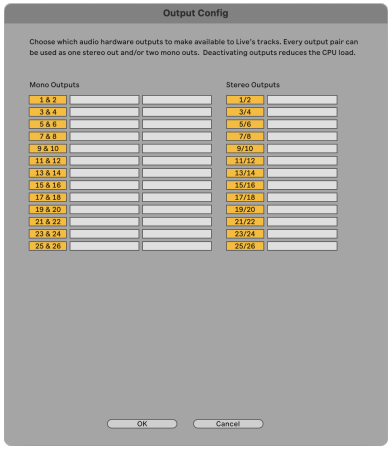


3. Click **Settings**.
4. Go to the **Audio** tab on the left-hand side of the Preferences window.
5. Set the **Audio Input Device** and **Audio Output Device** to Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen.

6. Click **Input Config**.
   The next step is to make all the inputs on your device appear as input options in Ableton.
7. Click to highlight each set of **Mono** and **Stereo Inputs** to make sure they appear as selectable in Live. You will see up to 20 channels.



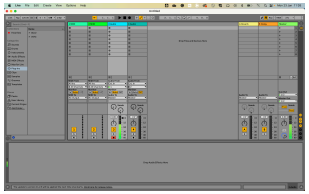
8. Click **OK**.
9. Do the same for the **Output Config**, if you are using multiple outputs from your Scarlett 18i20.

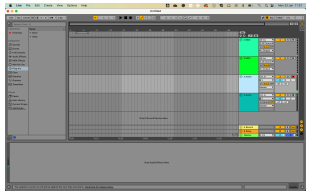


10. Close the Preferences Window.

Getting sound into Ableton

1. Click to highlight an **Audio** Track in Live's main window. Live had two views (Session and Arrangement), so depending on which view you are in, please see the following screenshots.



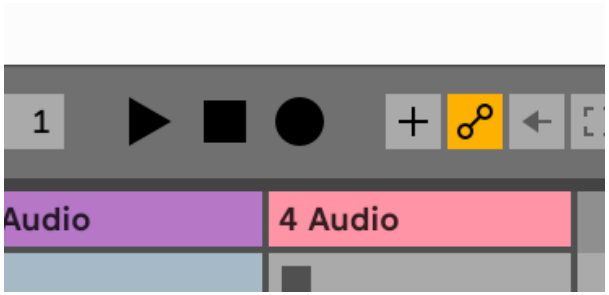


2. Set the **Audio From** to **Ext. In** and the input drop-down to the interface input you are using, e.g. **1**.

3. Set the **Monitor** to **Auto**.
This allows you to hear sound coming in from your Scarlett's input.

4. Click the record arm button beneath the track. It lights red when record arm is on. Send a signal to the input on your Scarlett and you should see the meter in Ableton move.

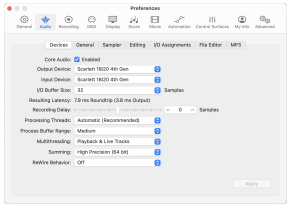
5. When you're ready to record, click the record ⊠ button in Ableton's transport bar.



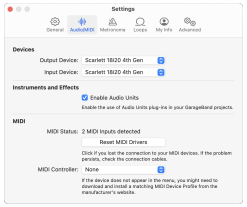
Logic and GarageBand

To get set up in Logic Pro and GarageBand follow these steps:

1. Open Logic Pro or GarageBand on your computer (you may be prompted to Choose a project, you can choose an Empty Project or use a template).
2. Select Audio in the **Choose a track type** window.
3. Set the **Audio Input** to Input 1.
   If you don't see any inputs, make sure the **Device:** is set to your Scarlett 18i20.
   a. Click the arrow to the right of the Device section.
   b. In the preferences window, set the **Output Device** and **Input Device** to Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen.

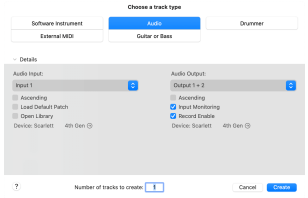


Logic Pro X

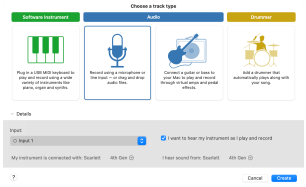


GarageBand

   c. Click **Apply** (Logic Pro only).
   d. Close the **Preferences or Settings** window.
4. Logic Pro: Tick **Input Monitoring** and **Record Enable** .
   GarageBand: Tick **I want to hear my instrument as I play and record**.
   This allows you to hear sound coming in from your Scarlett's input.
5. Click **Create.**



Logic Pro



GarageBand

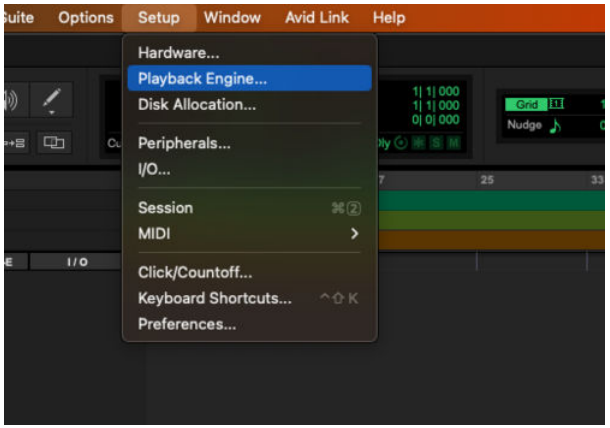
6. When you're ready to record, click the record button at the top of Logic/GarageBand.

Pro Tools

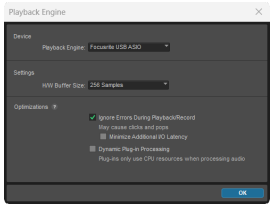
To get set up in Pro Tools, follow these steps:

Mac and Windows

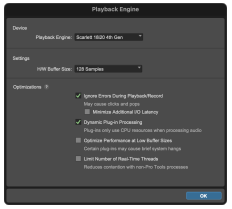
1. Open Pro Tools on your computer.
2. Click Setup > Playback Engine in the top menu bar.



3. Select Focusrite USB ASIO (Windows) or Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen in the **Playback Engine** dropdown.

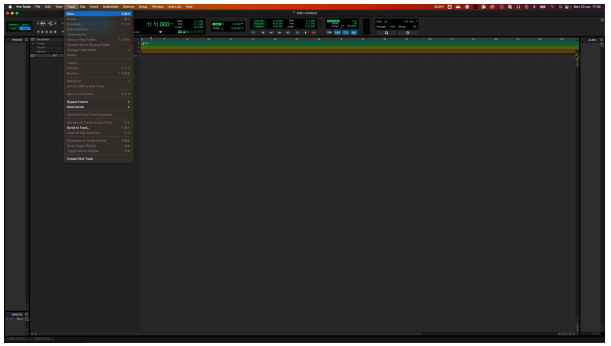


Windows

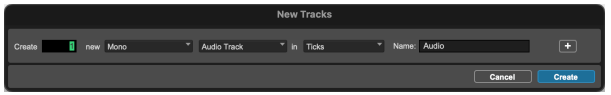


Mac

4. Click Track > New in the top menu bar.



5. Set the number of tracks you need and set the type to Audio Track.



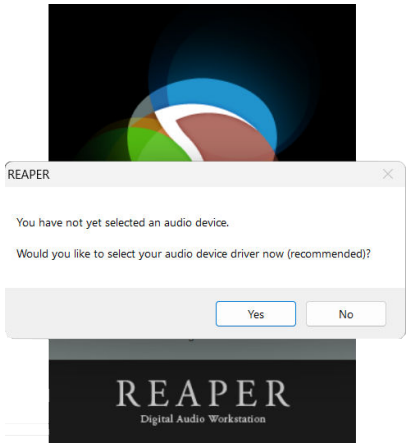
6. Click Create
7. Click the record arm and input enable buttons on the track.
   This allows you to hear sound coming in from your Scarlett's input.
8. Click the main Record Enable button at the top of the Pro Tools window, it turns red when enabled .
9. Click the Play button to begin recording.

Reaper

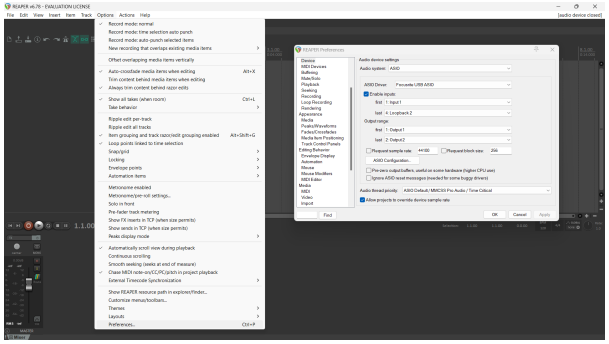
To get set up in Reaper, follow these steps:

Windows

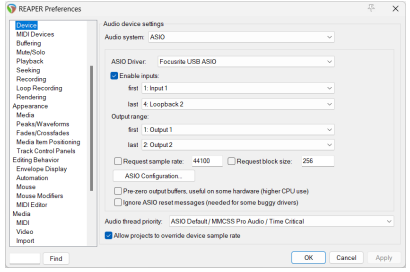
1. Open Reaper on your computer.
2. If you see a pop-up window, asking you to select your audio device driver, click **Yes**



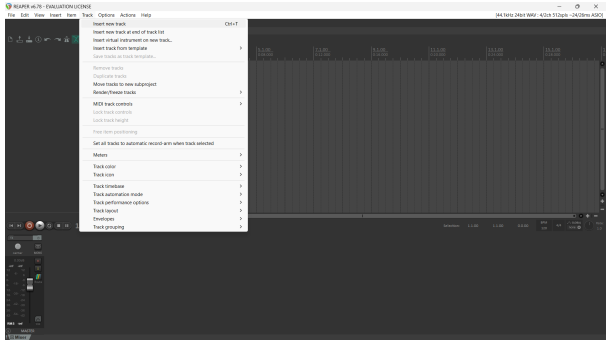
If you don't see the pop-up, go to **Options** (top menu) > **Preferences** > **Device**



3. In the **Audio device settings**.

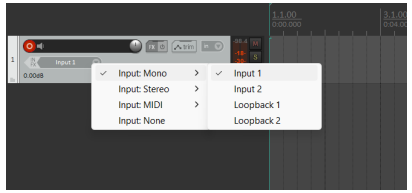


   a. Select ASIO in the **Audio system:** dropdown.
   b. Select Focusrite USB ASIO in the **ASIO Driver:** dropdown.
   c. Set the **first** and **last** input and output range to match the number of inputs you want to use.
4. Click **OK**.
5. Click **Track** (top menu) > **Insert New Track**.



6. Click the red record-armed button.

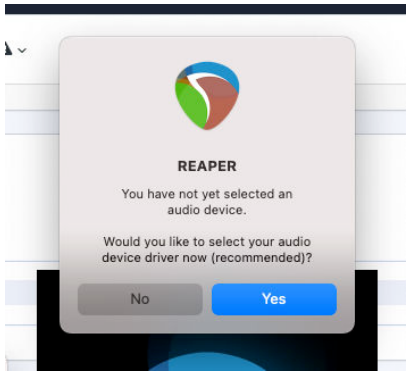
7. Click the **Input 1** box to select your input on your Scarlett 18i20.



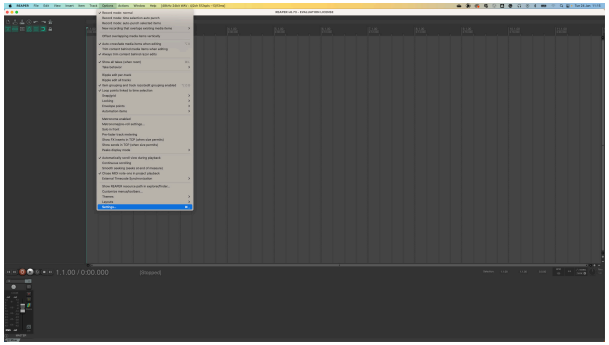
8. When you're ready to record, click the record button in the bottom section of Reaper.

Mac

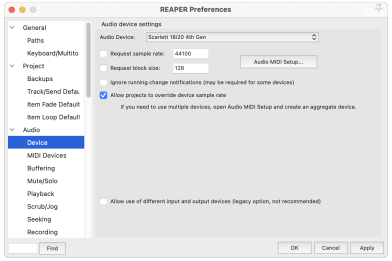
1. Open Reaper on your computer.
2. If you see a pop-up window, asking you to select your audio device driver, click **Yes**



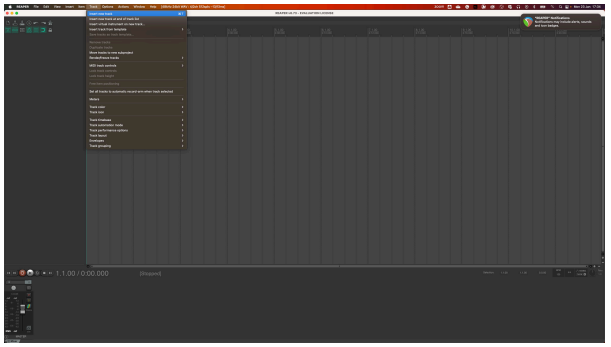
If you don't see the pop-up, go to **Options** (top menu) > **Settings** > **Device**



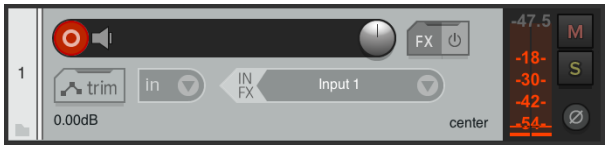
3. Choose Scarlett 18i20 in the **Audio Device** dropdown menu.



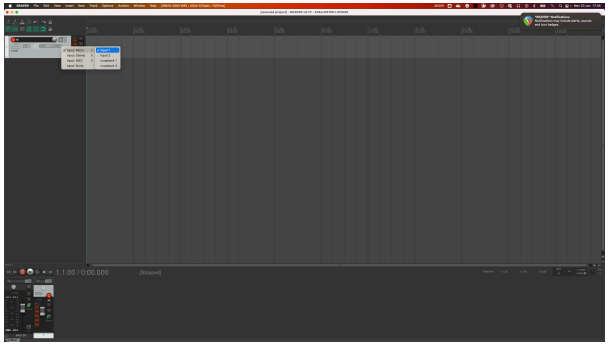
4. Click **OK**.
5. Click **Track** (top menu) > **Insert New Track**.



6. Click the red record-armed button.



7. Click the **Input 1** box to select your input on your Scarlett 18i20.

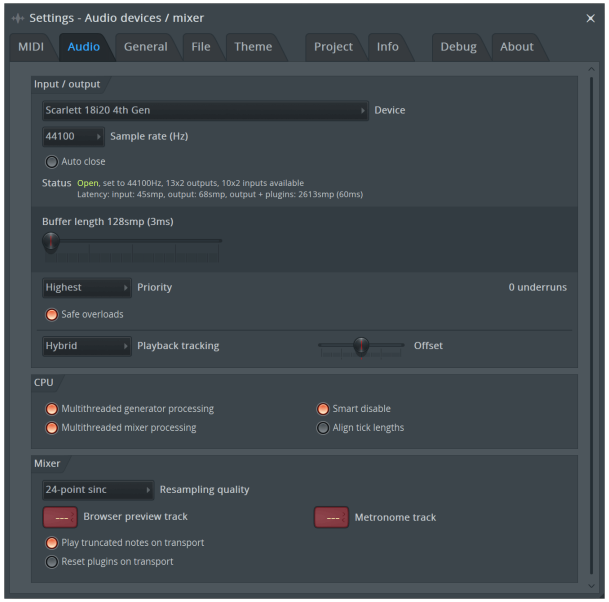


8. When you're ready to record, click the record button in the bottom section of Reaper.

FL Studio

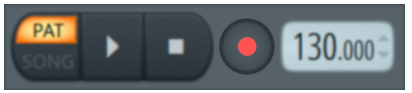
To get set up in FL Studio follow these steps:

1. Open FL Studio on your computer.
2. Go to **Options** > **Audio Settings**.
3. Set the Device to Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen (or Focusrite USB ASIO on Windows) in the **Input / output** section.



4. Close the Settings window.
5. In the **Mixer** click on the insert you want to record in to.
6. Set the external input drop-down from **(none)** to the interface input you are using, e.g. **Input 1** for input mono, or **Input 1 - Input 2** for both inputs 1 and 2 in stereo.

7. Click the main record button in the transport section.



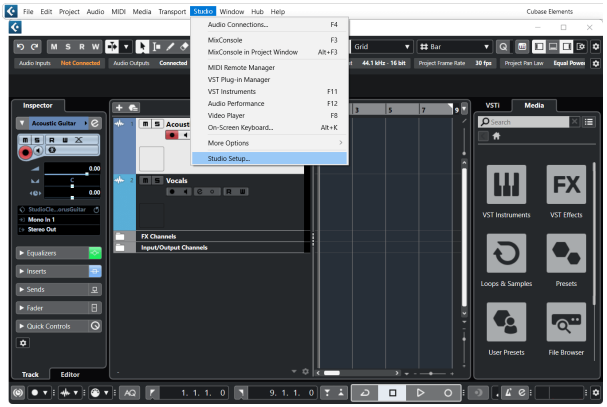
   - Choose an option in the **What would you like to record?** window.
     If you're not sure which option to choose, please see FL Studio's help files.

8. When you're ready to record, press the play button in the transport section.

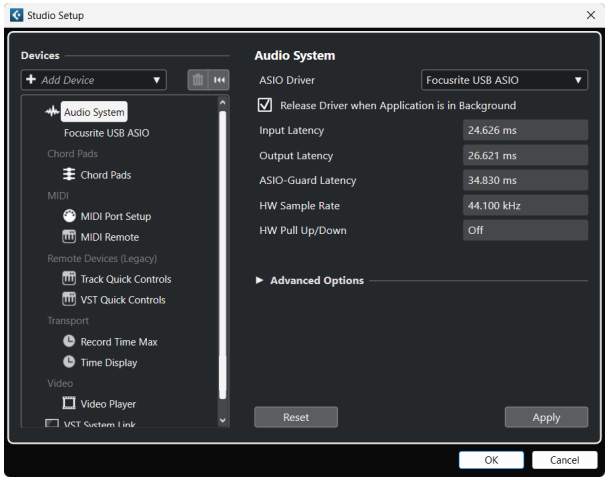
Cubase

Windows

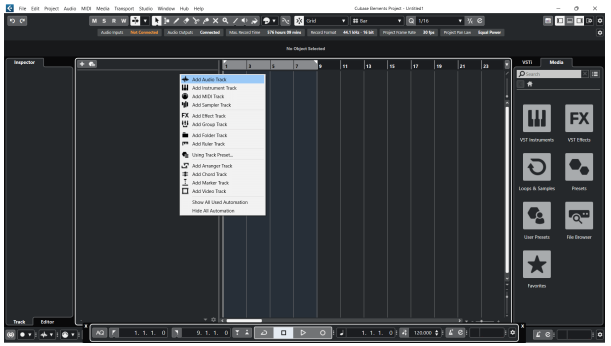
1. Open Cubase on your computer.
2. In the top menu bar click Studio > Studio Setup...



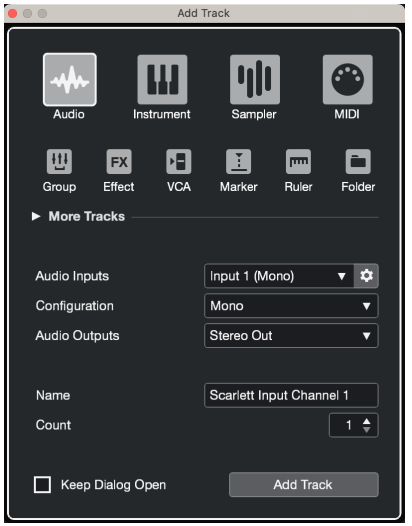
3. Click Audio System on the left-hand side.
4. Set the **ASIO Driver** to Focusrite USB ASIO.



5. Click OK.
6. Right-click in the MixConsole.
7. Click Add Audio Track.



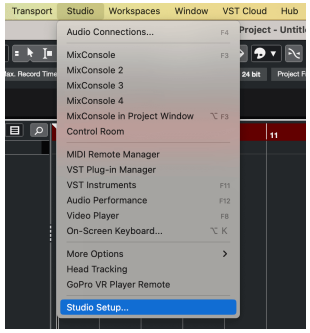
8. Configure the track type as Audio and set the **Audio Input** to the channel you're using on your interface.



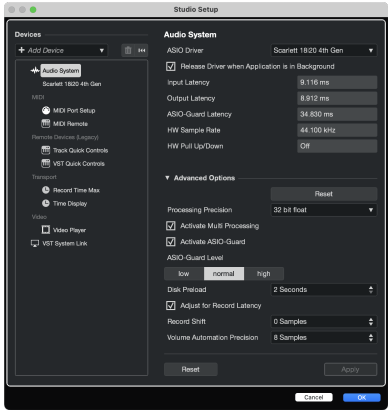
9. Click Add Track.
10. Click the Record Enable and Monitor buttons  (off) on the Cubase channel to enable the track for recording and so you can hear it using input monitoring  (on).
11. Click Transport Record  in Cubase's transport to start recording.

Mac

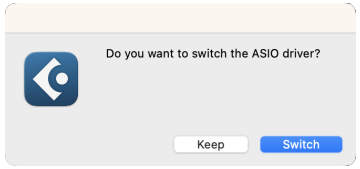
1. Open Cubase on your computer.
2. In the top menu bar click Studio > Studio Setup...



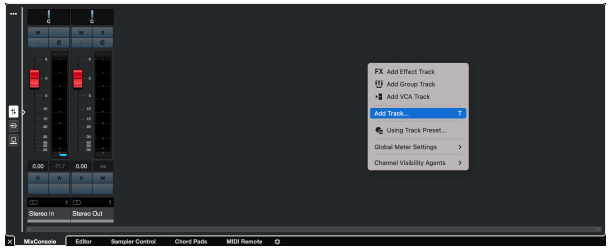
3. Change the **ASIO Driver** to Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen.



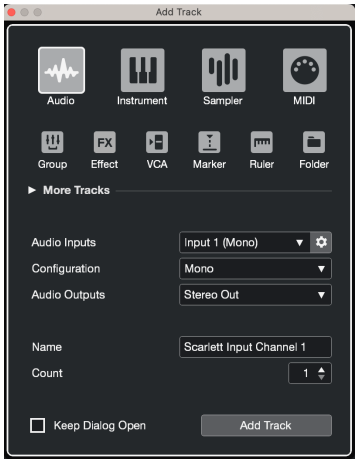
4. Click **Switch**.



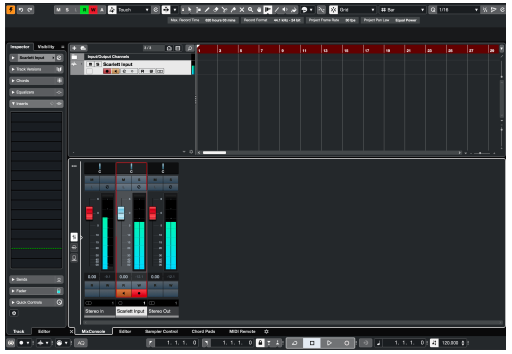
5. Click OK.
6. Right-click in the MixConsole.
7. Click Add Track.



8. Configure the track type as Audio and set the **Audio Input** to the channel you're using on your interface.



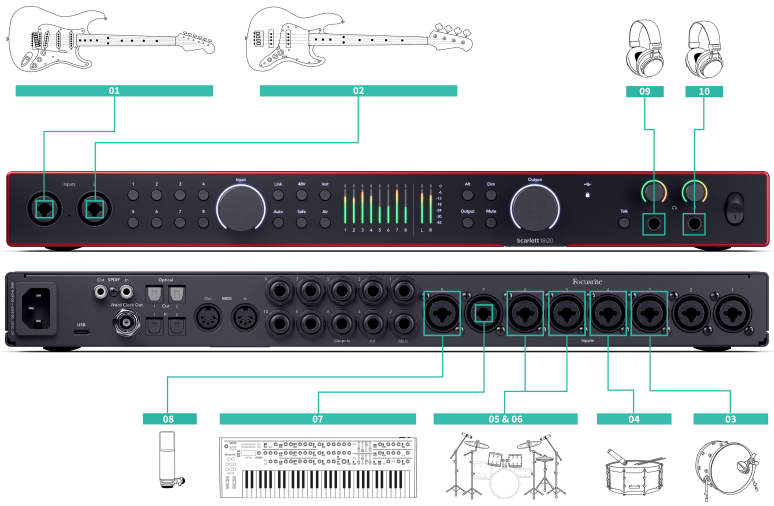
9. Click Add Track.
10. Click the Record Enable and Monitor buttons  (off) on the Cubase channel to enable the track for recording and so you can hear it using input monitoring  (on).
11. Click Transport Record  in Cubase's transport to start recording.



Using your Scarlett 18i20

This section covers some common use cases for the Scarlett 18i20. Often your use case is a variant of these and how you use your Scarlett 18i20 probably reuses some principles.

Recording a band with your Scarlett 18i20



Your Scarlett 18i20 has eight analogue inputs, allowing you to record full bands in a single performance.

Recording a band live captures the energy and connection musicians feel when they're rehearsing or performing. After recording the main tracks, you can re-record elements like vocals, guitar solos, or double-track instruments to make the final mix sound fuller.

The diagram shows the recording setup for a band with a guitarist, bassist, drummer, keyboard player, and singer. While band setups may vary, the principles remain the same.

This is a list of the Equipment you'll need to record the 'band' shown in the diagram above.

- Guitar - a 6.35 mm (¼”) TS jack cable.
- Bass guitar - a 6.35 mm (¼”) TS jack cable.
- Drum kit - four microphones and four XLR cables.
- Keyboard or synthesiser - a 6.35 mm (¼”) TRS jack cable.
- A microphone and XLR cable, for the singer.
- Some headphones.

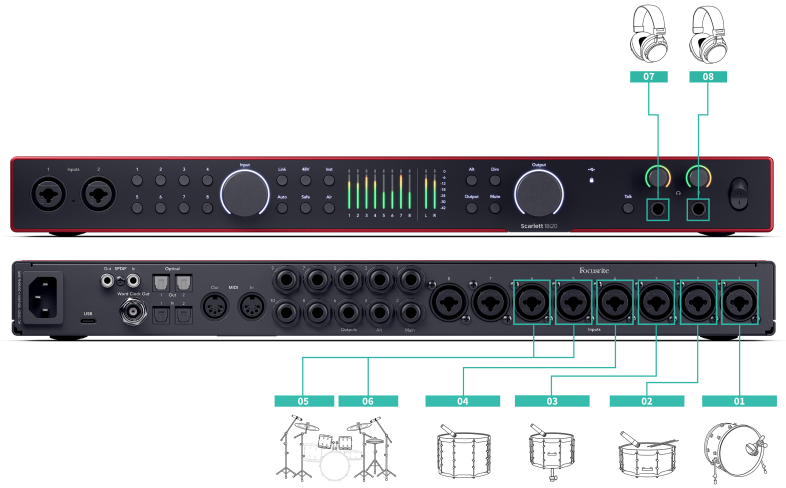
Setup

1. Guitar - We’ve connected a guitar to input 1 using the Inst input. You can also use a guitar amp with a microphone for a different sound.
2. Bass - We’ve connected a bass guitar to input 2 using the Inst input, similar to using a DI box for recording. You can also use a bass amp with a microphone or the DI out from the amp for a different sound.
3. Kick/Bass Drum - We've connected a microphone to input 3 for the kick drum. Recording the kick drum on its own channel allows you to apply compression and EQ without affecting the rest of the drum kit.
4. Snare Drum - Again, using a microphone just for the snare drum, connected to input 4. Recording the snare on its own channel allows you to apply compression and EQ without affecting the rest of the drum kit.
5. Overheads Left - When you're recording a drum kit with limited channels once you have the most important elements covered, kick and snare, you can use two microphones as overheads to capture the rest of the kit.
6. Overhead Right
7. Keyboard - In this case we have a keyboard connected to a line input on the back of the Scarlett 18i20, but if you don't have a keyboard player you could use this input for another instrument.
8. Vocal microphone - This microphone is for the vocalist. If the vocalist is in the same room as the band, use a dynamic microphone for better rejection of other instruments. If the vocalist is separated or recording later, use a condenser microphone for more detail.
9. Headphones - You can send a mix to headphones for a musician or yourself to monitor. If you don’t have enough headphone outputs, give a set to those who need it, like the singer or drummer, and use the line or secondary headphone output to send a mix to a headphone amplifier.
10. Secondary headphones.

Recording a drum kit

In this section, we'll cover how you might use the eight mic preamps on your Scarlett 18i20 to mic up a drum kit. We'll also go into a bit of detail in how to make the most of the inputs you have.

This diagram shows which drums you might want to record to each of your Scarlett 18i20's inputs:



1. Kick
2. Snare
3. Tom 1
4. Tom 2
5. Overhead Left
6. Overhead Right
7. Engineer's headphones
8. Drummer's headphones.

Note
Make sure your first Overhead mic is in an odd-numbered channel so you can link the channels. This makes sure the settings for both overheads are identical. For more information, see Linking Preamps [13].

You'll notice you have two spare channels. If you wanted more control over your drum kit in the mix you could mic up some more elements, you could even add a mic preamp via ADAT to get up to 16 mic inputs. Other elements of the kit you could mic include:

- A pair of room microphones if your room has a good sound.
- A mic on the hi-hats, if your drummer has a lot of intricate hi-hat work.
- A spot-mic on the drummer's cymbal(s).
- Extra tom mic(s) if your drummer has lots of toms.
- Two mics on the snare, e.g. top and bottom (but remember to invert the polarity of one mic!)
- Two mics on the kick.

Tip
When you're recording a drum kit, there are many ways to place your overhead microphones that suit different styles of music.

In most modern recording we'd use a stereo mic setup, but for a more vintage/retro/compact sound, you can use a single mono overhead microphone.

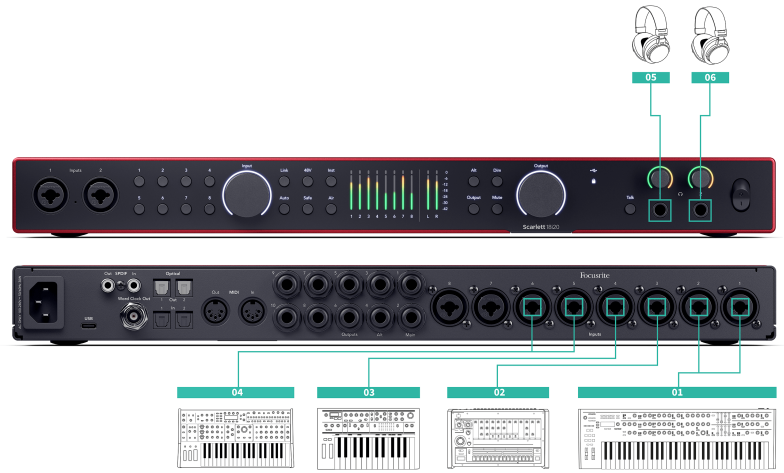
If you'd like to find out more, we recommend looking up the following drum overhead mic techniques:

- Spaced pair (A/B).
- XY pair.
- Near coincident pair.
- The Glyn Johns method.

Recording a hardware electronic music setup

Using your Scarlett 18i20's line inputs, you can make it the central hub for recording in an electronic music setup. Most electronic music gear—synthesisers, drum machines, groove boxes, mixers, and effects—use line outputs, so with 6.35mm (1/4”) TRS jack cables, you can record and perform with your entire setup simultaneously.

The following diagram shows an electronic music set up with some mono and stereo synths, and a drum machine. Your setup might look a little different, but the principles are the same.



1. A stereo synth connected using two 6.35mm (1/4") TRS jack cables.
2. A stereo drum machine connected using two 6.35mm (1/4") TRS jack cables.
3. A mono synth connected using two 6.35mm (1/4") TRS jack cables.
4. A second mono synth, connected using two 6.35mm (1/4") TRS jack cables.
5. Headphones for you to monitor your performance.
6. A second set of headphones if you need them, or you could use this second headphone output for recording, see the Tip below.

Tip

Your Scarlett 18i20 can work in standalone. For a completely DAW-less setup you can disconnect your computer and use the line outputs, or spare headphones output, to send a stereo output to a portable recorder, or mixing console for live performance. See Standalone Mode.

Recording an acoustic session

In this section, we're covering how you might record an acoustic session, a stripped-back performance or live session with acoustic instruments.

This diagram shows the sort of instruments you might want to record in this type of recording scenario and how you can make use of the inputs on your Scarlett 18i20.

1. Stereo mic setup - when you're recording a more intimate session to create a sense of space, you might want to begin with a stereo microphone setup, for example:
    - Stereo microphones on a singer-songwriter's guitar.
    - Stereo microphones on a piano.
    - Stereo microphones in front of the whole band.
2. Individual instrument microphone - You could use this to mic up a single instrument, voice, or amplifier.
3. Vocal microphones - a microphone for your main vocalist.
4. Line inputs - Use the line inputs for any other instruments that aren't strictly acoustic, such as a 'line output' of a bass amp, or line outputs of an electric keyboard.
5. Engineer's headphones - Use these headphones to monitor what you're recording.
6. Artist headphones - often if the band is performing live, you won't need to give them headphones. However, if anyone wants to play to a backing track, metronome, or needs monitoring, you could use the second headphone output for the artist.

Using your Scarlett 18i20's Loopback feature

The loopback feature on your Scarlett 18i20 allows you to send the sound produced by your computer and route it back into your Scarlett for recording or streaming, without using physical cables. This can be particularly useful in various scenarios, such as sampling, podcasting, live-streaming, or recording screen tutorials:

- Sampling: You can record sounds back into your software to use as samples in your music.
- Podcasting: You can use loopback to record online interviews or discussions, where you want to capture both your voice and the voices of remote participants.
- Live Streaming: It's useful for streaming content with accompanying audio from your computer, such as gameplay, presentations, or tutorials.
- Screen Recording: When creating video tutorials or screencasts, loopback allows you to include the sound produced by your computer along with your narration.

To use Loopback, with your Scarlett:

1. Open your DAW or recording software.
2. Create a new recording channel in your DAW and either mute, or set the output to 'none' for this channel. It's important to do this so you don't cause a feedback loop.
3. Set your recording input of the muted channel to the Loopback channels of your Scarlett 18i20, channels 9-10.
4. Start recording.

The channels in your recording software receive the output of your Scarlett. You can use other channels in your recording software to record anything connected to the inputs on your Scarlett alongside the Loopback feed.

You can also use Loopback to create a mix of any audio sources on your Scarlett, instruments connected to the preamps or audio from your computer. With Loopback, you can mix instruments and backing tracks for your online concerts or balance your microphone and game audio for your live stream. See Using the Focusrite Control 2 Mixer tab [47].

Important
When you're using Loopback, mute the channels in your recording software so you don't cause a feedback loop.

Using Focusrite Control 2 with your Scarlett 18i20

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

Using the Focusrite Control 2 Mixer tab

Your Scarlett 18i20 contains a mixer controllable from the Mixer page in Focusrite Control 2. You can use this mixer to combine and send input sources to the physical outputs of your Scarlett 18i20 using the Routing [50] tab.

The input sources to the mixer include:

- Physical Inputs
    - Analogue inputs (Instrument, microphone, or line inputs)
    - Digital inputs (ADAT or S/PDIF)
- Playback Inputs
    - Output Channels from your DAW software
    - Software playback from other computer software.

Once you've created a mix of inputs, you can send this to the physical outputs of your Scarlett 18i20 to create a custom mix for your speakers, or for an artist's headphone mix.

Mixes

At the top of Focusrite Control 2's Mixer you can see the different Mixes you have available listed as Mix A, Mix B, etc.

Each Mix allows you to combine inputs and send the mixes to outputs for different needs. For example, you may wish to use Mix A to listen to audio through speakers and use Mix B for a singer's headphone mix. The singer may want to hear more of their own vocals in their headphones, so you can increase the volume for Mix B only.

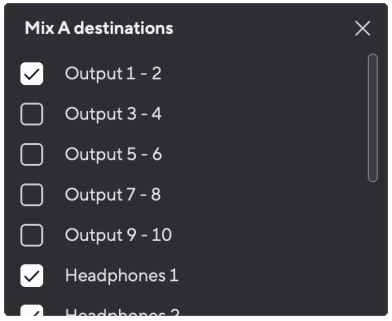
Tip

You **can** have multiple Mixes active at once in Focusrite Control 2.

Each Mix works independently, so, for example, you can route Mix A to your monitors and Mix B to headphones, without affecting each other. Note, a single Output can only receive one Mix at a time—if you assign a new Mix to an Output already in use, it will overwrite the previous routing.

Click on a Mix to select it. You can now route it to any Output(s) of your choice. To do this:

1. Click any existing Output, or the pencil icon right of **Routed to →**
2. Tick the **destinations** you want to send this Mix to.



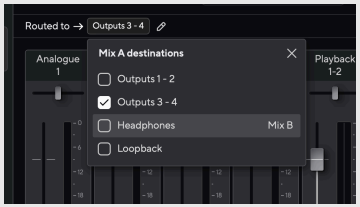
For example, you could send Mix A to Outputs 1-2, where you may have connected your monitors, and Headphones. You could then hear the same mix in your headphones and monitors.

3. Click to close the Mix destinations pop-up.

Above the mixer channels, you can see which Outputs your Mix is routed to. If you've not routed a Mix to an output, you'll see **No outputs assigned**.

Note

You can only feed each Output from one Mix. For example, you can't send Mix A and Mix B simultaneously to your headphones. When you're choosing Mix destinations, Focusrite Control 2 shows you if an output already has a feed from a different Mix. If you route the current Mix to an Output with a Mix already routed to it, it overwrites the routing to that Output.



Note

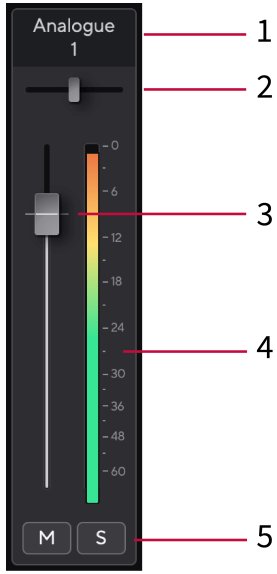
You can also change which outputs your mixes are going to in Focusrite Control 2's Routing tab, see Using the Focusrite Control 2 Routing tab [50] for more information.

Loopback Destination

If you would like to record the specific mix of inputs you have made, select **Loopback** as a Mix destination. See Loopback.

Using the Mixer Channels

Each mixer channel has several functions.



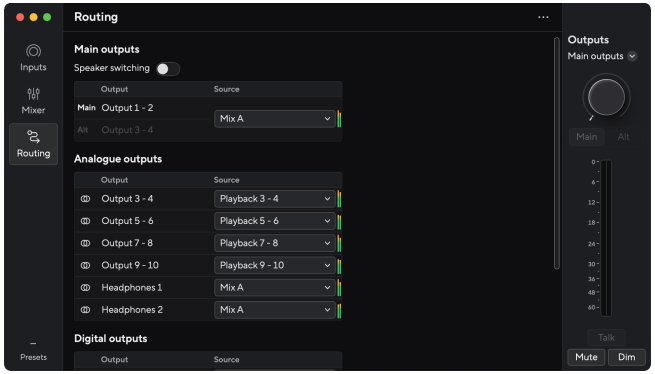
1. **Mix Channel Name**
   This shows the name of the mixer input.
2. **Pan**
   Moves a mono channel's position in the stereo image from left to right, or changes a stereo channel's balance from left to right. The default is centre. Alt, option ⌥ click, or double-click, to reset.
3. **Fader**
   The 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.

Using the Focusrite Control 2 Routing tab

The routing tab in Focusrite Control 2 lets you organise what inputs and mixes you're sending to the outputs of your Scarlett.

When you open the Routing tab, you'll see a list of **Sources** and **Outputs**:

- The **Output** list refers to each of the outputs on your Scarlett and is divided into Analogue outputs (line outputs, headphones) and the digital outputs (S/PDIF, ADAT, Loopback).
- The **Source** list is editable and lets you choose a source of audio to send to the corresponding output. Sources can either be inputs, DAW (software) playback channels or a combination of the two you've created as a mix in Focusrite Control 2's Using the Focusrite Control 2 Mixer tab [47].



The Routing tab in Focusrite Control 2.

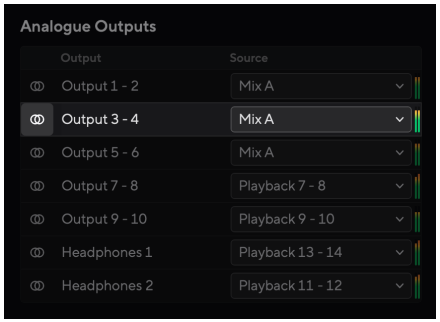
To assign a source to an output, find the output you'd like to use in the Output list and click the corresponding Source dropdown menu. Click a Source in the list to start sending that audio to the output. The meters to the right of the row show what you're sending to the output.

You can only feed each Output from one Mix. For example, you can't send Mix A and Mix B simultaneously to your headphones. When you're choosing Mix destinations, Focusrite Control 2 shows you if an output already has a feed from a different Mix. If you route the current Mix to an Output with a Mix already routed to it, it overwrites the routing to that Output.

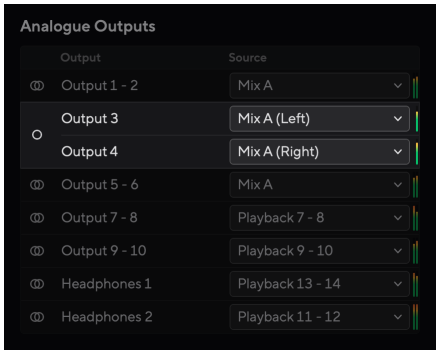
Making Outputs mono in Focusrite Control 2

In the Routing tab, you can split stereo outputs to make two mono outputs, so you can send them completely independent Sources. You might want to use this if you're sending mono channels to outboard equipment, or if you have a mono speaker for testing your mixes.

To make an output pair two mono channels, click on the stereo symbol in the box to the left of the stereo pair.



The single stereo output expands to two mono outputs, and each output has its own independent Source dropdown box.



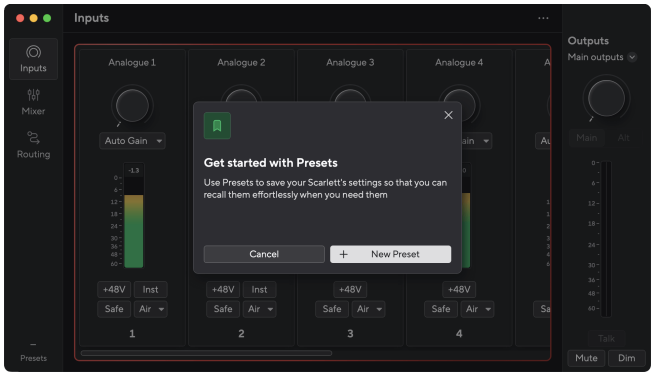
To revert to a stereo pair, click the mono symbol in the box to the left.

Loopback

If you would like to record the specific mix of inputs you have made, select **Loopback** as a Mix destination. See Loopback.

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:
  - Input Gain
  - +48V
  - Inst
  - Safe mode
  - Air mode.
- Mixer settings
  - Mix destination (Routed to →)
  - Pan and balance
  - Fader levels
  - Mute and Solo states.

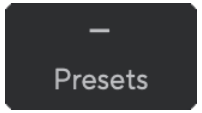
Note
Focusrite Control 2 saves presets to the computer you're using when you save it. However, your Scarlett keeps its settings for use with a different computer or in standalone mode.

Saving a Preset

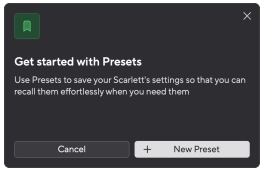
The first step of using Presets in Focusrite Control 2 is changing some settings. Once you've set up Focusrite Control 2 with some settings you want to recall in future, you can save a preset. There are two ways to save a preset: saving a New Preset or Overwrite an existing preset.

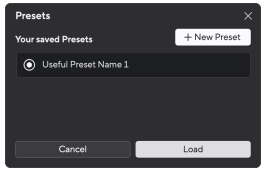
Saving a New Preset

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

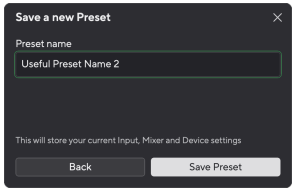


3. Click the New Preset button.



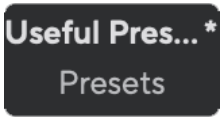


4. Type the name of your preset in the Preset Name field. Make sure the name is useful so you can find and reuse it later.



5. Click Save Preset.

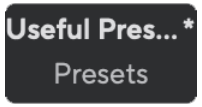
Once you've saved the preset, the name of the preset shows in the bottom left corner of Focusrite Control 2. If you change any setting while you're in that preset, the name shows an asterisk *.



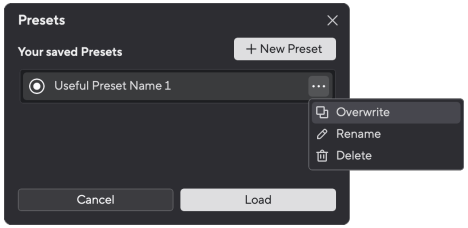
When the name shows an asterisk * you can either create a new preset using the steps above, or you can overwrite the preset with the new changes.

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.



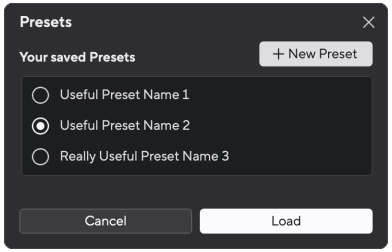
5. Before committing to overwriting a Preset, read the warning pop-up and click the Overwrite button to confirm overwriting the existing preset.

> **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.

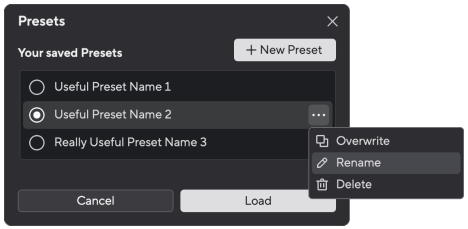


3. Click the Load button.

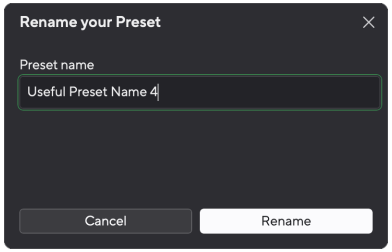
Renaming a Preset

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.

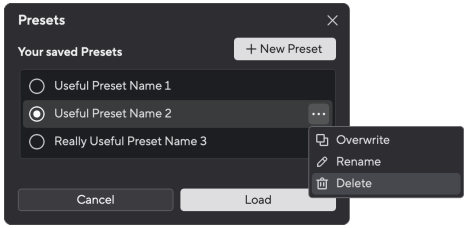


5. Click Rename Preset.

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.

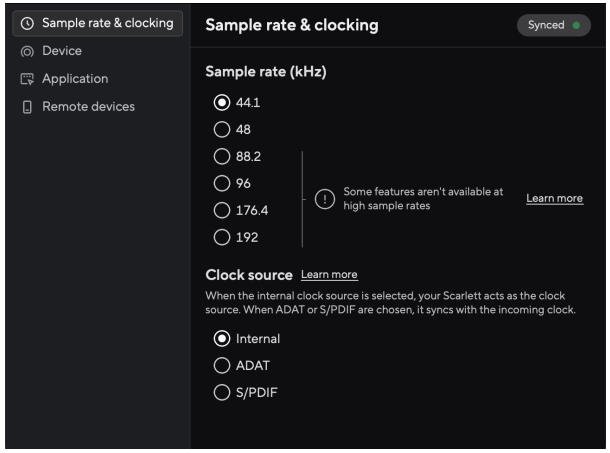
1. Click the Presets button in the bottom left of Focusrite Control 2.
2. Hover your mouse over an existing preset and click on the three dots ··· to the right of the name.
3. Click Delete.



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 three 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 Harmonic Drive
- Clip Safe

Device tab

Send Direct Monitor mix to Loopback

Your Direct Monitor Mix is a combination of your Scarlett's inputs and the software playback channels. You can set this mix in Focusrite Control 2 and record this mix via your Loopback channels. For more information, see Using your Scarlett 18i20's Loopback feature [46].

Talkback destinations

To use the Talk microphone, you need to tell your Scarlett where you want to send your talkback microphone. To do this:

1. Click the tick boxes next to the **Mixes** you want to send the talkback microphone to.

2. In the Routing tab, assign the Mixes as a **Source** to the outputs you want to send them to. For example, Send Mix A and Mix B to Headphones 1 and Headphones 2, so your artists can hear the talkback mic.
   For more information, see Using the Focusrite Control 2 Routing tab [50].

Device reset

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.

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 18i20

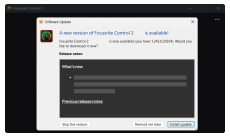
Updating Focusrite Control 2

We update Focusrite Control 2 occasionally with new features and improvements to make sure you are getting the most from your Scarlett 18i20.

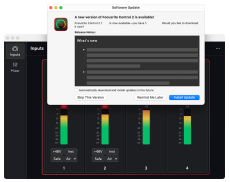
There are two ways to make sure you have the latest Focusrite Control 2 version:

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



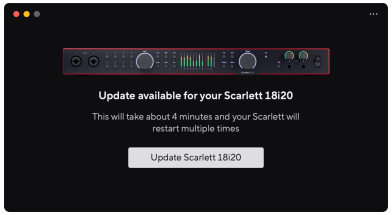
        b. To check you are using the latest version, click the ellipses ••• in Focusrite Control 2's top right corner and click Check for updates.
    3. Click Install Update (Windows) or Install and Relaunch (macOS) in the prompt that appears after you've downloaded the update.
    On macOS Focusrite Control 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 Scarlett automatically.

Updating your Scarlett 18i20

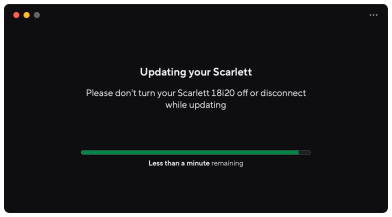
We occasionally update your Scarlett 18i20's firmware with new features and improvements, to make sure you are getting the most from your Scarlett. Focusrite Control 2 updates your Scarlett 18i20's firmware.

To update your Scarlett:

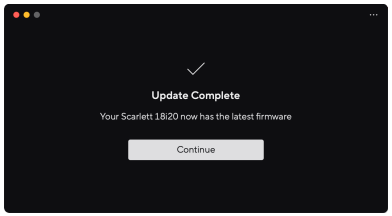
1. Open Focusrite Control 2.
   If there is an update available, Focusrite Control 2 tells you when you open it.



2. Click Update Scarlett 18i20.
   Focusrite Control 2 starts the update, do not disconnect your Scarlett 18i20 while the update is in progress.



3. Click Continue after the update has finished.



Your Scarlett 18i20 is now up-to-date, and you can continue to use it as normal.

Scarlett 18i20 Specifications

These specifications allow you to compare your Scarlett 18i20 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 18i20 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 @ 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 @ 8dB gain
Maximum Input Level (at minimum gain)	22dBu
Gain Range	69dB
Input Impedance	24kΩ

Instrument Inputs	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.05dB
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	113dB
THD+N	-80dB @ minimum gain
Maximum Input Level (at minimum gain)	12dBu
Gain Range	62dB
Input Impedance	1MΩ

Line Outputs (balanced)	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.02dB
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	122dB
THD+N	-112dB
Maximum Output Level	16dBu

Line Outputs (balanced)	
Output impedance	200Ω

Headphone Outputs	
Frequency Response	20Hz - 20kHz ± 0.1dB @ 33Ω / 300Ω
Dynamic Range (A-weighted)	112dB @ 33Ω
	116dB @ 300Ω
THD+N	-100dB @ 33Ω (Minimum)
	-110dB @ 300Ω (Minimum)
Maximum Output Level	5dBu into 33Ω
	11dBu into 300Ω
Maximum Output Power	57mW into 33Ω
	27mW into 300Ω
Output impedance	11Ω

Physical and Electrical Characteristics

Analogue Inputs	
Connectors	Eight back panel Neutrik® Combo XLR/6.35mm (1/4") TRS jack inputs
	Two front panel 6.35mm (1/4") jack inputs
Mic/Line switching	Automatic
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	Ten 6.35mm (1/4") balanced jack outputs: • Four speaker outputs (two Main, two ALT) • Six Line Outputs
Headphone Outputs	Two front panel stereo 6.35mm (1.4") TRS jack sockets
Main Output Level Control	Digitally controlled encoder
Headphones Level Control	Front panel analogue control

Other I/O	
USB	USB-C connector.

Other I/O	
ADAT	Eight channels at 44.1/49kHz Eight channels at 88.2/96kHz Disabled at 176.4/192kHz
S/PDIF	Two channels of coaxial S/PDIF. Up to 96kHz.
Word Clock	One BNC connector Output

Front Panel Indicators	
Channel Selection	White/Green LEDs for channels **1** and **2**
Select button	White/Green **Select** LED
48V	White/Green **48V** LED (depending on the selected channel)
Inst	White/Green **Inst** LED (depending on the selected channel)
Auto	White **Auto** LED to initiate Auto Gain
Clip Safe	White/Green **Safe** LED (depending on the selected channel)
Air Mode	White, green, amber **Air** LED (depending on the selected channel and selected Air mode)
Output Level Meter	Three-colour LED ring around **Output** control.
USB	USB LED

Weight and Dimensions	
Weight	3.3kg (7.29lbs)
Height	47 mm (1.83")
Width	442 mm (17.4")
Depth	260 mm (10.23")

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

Channel Order

Single-band - 44.1kHz and 48kHz

DAW Input	Input
1	Mic/Line/Inst 1
2	Mic/Line/Inst 2
3	Mic/Line 3
4	Mic/Line 4
5	Mic/Line 5
6	Mic/Line 6
7	Mic/Line 7
8	Mic/Line 8
9	Loopback 1
10	Loopback 2
11	S/PDIF L
12	S/PDIF R
13	ADAT 1
14	ADAT 2
15	ADAT 3
16	ADAT 4
17	ADAT 5
18	ADAT 6
19	ADAT 7
20	ADAT 8

Dual-band - 88.2kHz and 96kHz

DAW Input	Hardware Input	
	Optical: S/PDIF Mode	Optical: ADAT Mode
1	Mic/Line/Inst 1	Mic/Line/Inst 1
2	Mic/Line/Inst 2	Mic/Line/Inst 2
3	Mic/Line 3	Mic/Line 3
4	Mic/Line 4	Mic/Line 4
5	Mic/Line 5	Mic/Line 5
6	Mic/Line 6	Mic/Line 6
7	Mic/Line 7	Mic/Line 7
8	Mic/Line 8	Mic/Line 8
9	Loopback 1	Loopback 1
10	Loopback 2	Loopback 2
11	S/PDIF L	ADAT 1.1
12	S/PDIF R	ADAT 1.2
13	ADAT 1	ADAT 1.3
14	ADAT 2	ADAT 1.4
15	ADAT 3	ADAT 2.1
16	ADAT 4	ADAT 2.2
17		ADAT 2.3
18		ADAT 2.4

Quad-band - 176.4kHz and 192kHz

DAW Input	Hardware Input
1	Mic/Line/Inst 1
2	Mic/Line/Inst 2
3	Mic/Line 3
4	Mic/Line 4
5	Mic/Line 5
6	Mic/Line 6
7	Mic/Line 7
8	Mic/Line 8
9	Loopback 1
10	Loopback 2

Notices

Troubleshooting

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

Copyright & Legal Notices

Credits

Focusrite would like to thank the following Scarlett 4th Gen team members for their hard work in bringing you this product:

Aarron Beveridge, Adam Watson, Adrian Dyer, Adrien Fauconnet, Alex Middleton-Dalby, Alice Rizzo, Alistair Smith, Andy Normington, Andy Poole, Andy West, Arne Gödeke, Bailey Dayson, Bamber Haworth, Bash Ahmed, Ben Allim, Ben Bates, Ben Cochrane, Ben Dandy, Benjamin Dunn, Bran Searle, Callum Denton, Carey Chen, Cerys Williams, Chris Graves, Dan Clarke, Dan Stephens, Dan Weston, Daniel Hughley, Daniel Johnson, Danny Nugent, Dave Curtis, David Marston, Derek Orr, Ed Fry, Ed Reason, Eddie Judd, Ellen Dawes, Emma Davies, Flavia Ferreira, Greg Westall, Greg Zielinski, Guillem Allepuz, Hannah Williams, Harry Morley, Hasan Saeed, Ian Hadaway, Isaac Harding, Jack Cole, Jack Holyoak, Jake Wignall, James Hallowell, James Otter, Jason Cheung, Jed Fulwell, Jerome Noel, Jesse Mancia, Joe Crook, Joe Deller, Josh Wilkinson, Joe Munday, Joe Noel, Jon Jannaway, Julia Laeger, Kai Van Dongen, Keith Burton, Kiara Holm, Kieran Rigby, Krischa Tobias, Lars Henning, Laurence Clarke, Loz Jackson, Luke Piotrak, Luke Mason, Marc Smith, Mark Greenwood, Martin Dewhirst, Martin Haynes, Mary Browning, Massimo Bottaro, Matt Morton, Matt Richardson, Max Bailey, Michalis Fragkiadakis, Mick Gilbert, Mike Richardson, Nicholas Howlett, Nick Lyon, Nick Thomson, Oliver Tapley, Olly Stephenson, Paul Chana, Paul Shufflebotham, Pete Carss, Pierre Ruiz, Richard Carvalho, Richard Walters, Robert Blaauboer, Robert Mitsakov, Ross Chisholm, Sam Lewis, Samuel Price, Sandor Zsuga, Sebastian Heinz, Simon Burges, Stefan Archer, Stefan Elmes, Steve Bush, Stratis Sofianos, Taavi Bonny, Taren Gopinathan, Tom Carter, Tom Haines, Tony Pow, Valeria Cirillo, Will Hoult, Will Munn, Will Thomas, Vidur Dahiya, Wade Dawson, Zih-Syuan Yang.

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