

AVoption|XL

This Read Me documents compatibility details and known issues for using AVoption|XL with Pro Tools TDM 5.1.3 or 5.3.1 systems on Macintosh OS9 or Windows XP Pro.

Compatibility

Video Captured to the Pro Tools Timeline with either AVoption or AVoption|XL May Be Incompatible with Earlier Versions of Pro Tools

Video captured with Pro Tools 5.1U or later (including Pro Tools 5.1.3) will not play correctly in Pro Tools 5.1.1 or earlier. The exception is video captured with Pro Tools 5.2, which will play fine in all Pro Tools releases with a lower version number.

Video Media Captured with AVoption|XL Cannot Be Used on Avid Meridien Systems

Video media captured in Pro Tools with AVoption|XL and used in a sequence on any Avid Meridien workstation (such as Symphony or Media Composer v7-10.5) results in "Wrong Media" messages when attempting to mix down the video.

AVoption & AVoption|XL and System Performance

AVoption and AVoption|XL place a high demand on the PCI bus. If you are experiencing -6042 errors, you should take advantage of the following tips designed to reduce PCI bus overhead:

- If using an ATI Graphics Accelerator card, disable any of its system extensions.
- Disable display of Desktop pictures.
- Arrange Pro Tools windows so that no portion of the Desktop is visible.
- On AVoption systems, if using a VGA monitor connected to the ABVB VGA output, restrict its use for displaying the Movie window only.
- For Power Macintosh G4 computers with AGP video capabilities, consider adding a Digidesign-qualified AGP graphics card if your computer does not already have one. This card effectively removes all display data from the PCI bus, allowing for much better PCI bandwidth performance and track count. For details, visit the Digidesign Web site (www.digidesign.com).

Opening Pro Tools Sessions Containing Avid Video without AVoption or AVoption|XL

If you open and save a session that includes Avid video files on a system that does not have either AVoption or AVoption|XL installed and authorized, the references to the video clips will be lost from the timeline. Please quit Pro Tools without saving the session, and then install and authorize AVoption or AVoption|XL before continuing. To work on the audio, without video, work on a copy of the session, or import the audio tracks into a new session.

Known Issues

The following sections document known issues you may encounter in using AVoption|XL, along with workarounds if they exist.

Locking Video after Moving An Entire Clip

To lock video after moving an entire clip, you must deselect and reselect the entire clip in Slip mode.

Locking Video Regions

If you lock a video region in the timeline, when you reopen the session the video region will no longer be locked.

New Error Message for Video Buffer Underruns

If you are running sessions with very high data rates from unsupported storage configurations (such as unsupported drives and SCSI cards), Pro Tools may drop frames of video playback, though it would be very hard for the user to detect. To avoid working with picture that is out of sync, whenever a video buffer underrun occurs, Pro Tools will stop playing and an error message will be displayed.

Error with MIDI Countoff Enabled

If you display MIDI counters in the Transport window and enable 2-bar MIDI Countoff mode, you may experience a video buffer underrun error. To avoid this, do not enable the MIDI countoff when working with Avid NTSC or PAL video clips in the timeline. 24P media is unaffected.

Losing Video Sync Points

If you set a sync point for a video clip in the timeline, then move that clip, the sync point disappears from the timeline. There is no workaround at the time of this writing.

Error when Aborting a Capture

In some instances, aborting a video capture may result in a dialog stating that the resulting file is not an OMF file. This is not a serious error. Deletion of the aborted video file is the normal behavior and normally this error message should not occur. Simply dismiss the error message and continue. You may need to manually delete any audio files that were recorded during the same record pass.

Pro Tools Doesn't Always Loop Play

At some time code locations, Pro Tools will not let you loop play because it says you are not on frame boundaries; even though the cursors were set with frame locations in the Transport window, and by definition, these should be frame boundaries.

The workaround is to use Grid mode with the grid set to one frame and use the cursor to make your selection, rather than manually entering time code locations.

Movie Playback During Shuttle

While shuttling, movie playback will appear to stutter. This is because Shuttle mode is accomplished using single frame play; this behavior does not indicate a problem with your media or system.

Error Message Posted when Trying to Record Video to the Video Track

This problem occurs when the Edit window is set to Continuous Scroll or Stationary Play Head is enabled. When a video capture is initiated, an erroneous "Pro Tools could not lock to external time code" message is returned. The workaround is to disable continuous scroll or stationary play head.

Mixed Video Clips

Pro Tools does not support playback of different "families" of video clips in the same session: If you attempt to import a sequence that contains video clips from 2 or more of these families—Single-field, Dual-field, Uncompressed, or Multi-cam—Pro Tools may crash.