Kiwa Digital Ltd.

Pro Tools MIDI | User Guide

This guide provides information to help you get started and understand VoiceQ integration with AVID Pro Tools.

Updated: October 2023

INTRODUCTION

Overview

This guide describes the configurations and procedures used within VoiceQ and Digital Audio Workstations and are intended for use by Audio Engineers to understand the operation and configuration of both systems. During the recording process VoiceQ takes over the role of playing back the movie file from Pro Tools. You can leave the movie file loaded in your Pro Tools session, but the track should be disabled, to avoid competing with the VoiceQ Application. VoiceQ superimposes the scrolling text on the movie and outputs it via the second HDMI/SD/DVI port of your Apple Mac video card (or the external USB-C port on laptops). VoiceQ uses the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) and the Memory on the video card to process the video, which reduces the load on the CPU of your computer. VoiceQ will chase and scrub with Pro Tools while you work in Pro Tools. VoiceQ also has an option to cue Pro Tools when you select a line in VoiceQ. This will locate the Pro Tools session to the record location for the selected line with an adjustable pre-roll value.

Recent improvements specific to VoiceQ Pro

- GENMTC Support for accurate sync VoiceQ listens for ‘Start, Continue, Play & Stop commands’
- Latency Compensate – Is now redundant with GENMTC active. We have left it in as a feature for hardware that may have trouble performing under load.
- Postroll – Users can set post-roll in VoiceQ Preferences Mute Sound when Recording – mutes VoiceQ audio when recording Recording starts before a set time (See Preferences) Recording Icon added to VoiceQ Transport Actual recording of audio and management of playlists still takes place in Pro Tools using your normal process.

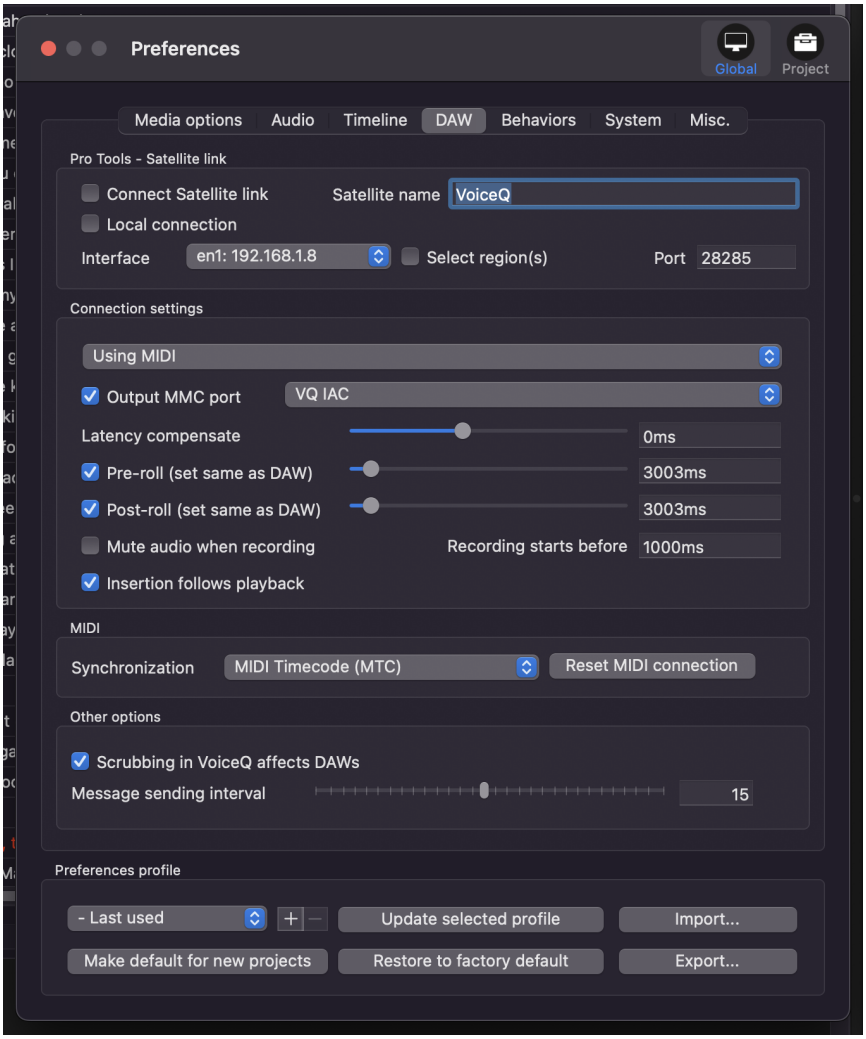
Note: In a single computer configuration VoiceQ will work with many other recording applications including Logic Pro and others.

Requirements

- VoiceQ Pro
- Pro Tools Studio, Ultimate or Pro Tools HD
- Ilok license manager

DAW Preferences (VoiceQ)

The preferences have been slightly altered to allow easier user access to options for MIDI.



- **Connect Satellite link** – Allows users to activate the AVID Satellite link between VoiceQ Pro and AVID Pro Tools.
- **Satellite name** – Allows users to select the name of the AVID Satellite protocol.
- **Local connection** – Allows users to choose to have AVID Satellite running on a local device. Deselect this checkbox if you wish to connect to another device on macOS or Windows.
- **Interface** – This is where users can find their router connection to connect to other devices. *Note: If using the local connection, the network chosen will match your current network connection.*

- **Select regions(s)** – Allows users to select a region in Pro Tools. The option is great for selecting loop recording. If deselected, the selection will choose the start position only.
- **Option selection (MIDI/Rewire)** – Allows users to select either MIDI or ReWire connections. Note: ReWire will not be visible if not active or installed.
- **Output MMC port checkbox** – Outputs MIDI/ReWire data and ignores any chase data sent from Reaper. This option is used if Reaper engineers need to make changes on the fly and not affect VoiceQ playback.
- **MIDI device selection** – This dropdown lists all available external connections
- **Latency compensate** – If playback is incorrect between VoiceQ and the set DAW. Users can adjust the latency using the slider.
- **Pre-roll** – Users can now set pre-roll in Reaper and leave this option unchecked. This option is available if users wish to view the pre-roll when not connected to a DAW.
- **Post-roll** – Sets the time the DAW records after the line is completed
- **Mute audio when recording** – Mutes VoiceQ audio
- **Recording Starts before** – Sets the time the DAW records before the line begins.
- **Insertion follows playback** - Playhead follows from DAW in VoiceQ
- **Synchronization** - The user can select either to output ‘MIDI Timecode (MTC)’ or ‘Song Position Pointer (SPP)’
- **Scrubbing** - Scrubbing allows users to choose the send interval using MIDI. *Note: Higher values can cause degraded performance on specific devices.*

SETTING UP

Setting up VoiceQ

VoiceQ can be configured and used to suit every process, project member and role within your post-production team.

Standalone Configuration

This setup will suit ADR Assistants, Administrators, Translators and Adaptors, Engineers and ADR and Language Directors. Standalone mode is defined as VoiceQ being operated on a single Apple Mac machine without interaction with ProTools or any other external device or machine. Users can record directly into VoiceQ without the requirement of third-party recording software.

Output monitor

Media window is output to a separate monitor for VO talent.

VoiceQ Computer

Users can record directly into VoiceQ using the take monitor without requiring a DAW.

Typically, VoiceQ will be used in standalone mode for the purpose of creating a synchronized VoiceQ Project ready for recording in a studio. VoiceQ requires no additional hardware, which allows all preparation work to be completed outside the Recording Studio if required. Once the VoiceQ Project has been created, synchronized and checked it can then be loaded onto the Studio Machine.

Having the ability to complete all script preparation and synchronization tasks outside the Studio contributes towards cost savings.

Single Computer Configuration (MIDI)

A single computer configuration is when VoiceQ is on the same machine as Avid Pro Tools and other DAW that supports MIDI connection.

Output monitor

Media window is output to a separate monitor for VO talent.

VoiceQ/DAW Computer

DAW sends/receives MTC and MMC via macOS built-in MIDI IAC to VoiceQ Pro.

Note: In a single computer configuration VoiceQ will work with many other recording applications including Logic Pro, Soundtrack and others. Check our website for the correct set-up instructions and screenshots for these applications.

Dual Computer Configuration (MIDI)

A dual computer configuration is when VoiceQ is on a separate machine from that of the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) eg. AVID Pro Tools. The VoiceQ and Pro Tools machines will communicate with MTC and MMC via a MIDI interface device. Both machines can be synchronized using MIDI Interfaces or via MIDI over a Local Area Network (LAN). This is the preferred configuration when a separate operator will be using VoiceQ in a recording session.

This is the preferred configuration when using VoiceQ in a recording session, as it provides superior picture playback and access to VoiceQ without disturbing the engineer. It also provides the added advantage of reducing the system load on the Pro Tools machine.

Dual Computer Configuration - MIDI over LAN

Using separate computers for DAW (Pro Tools) and VoiceQ with MIDI information sent via the Local Area Network (LAN).

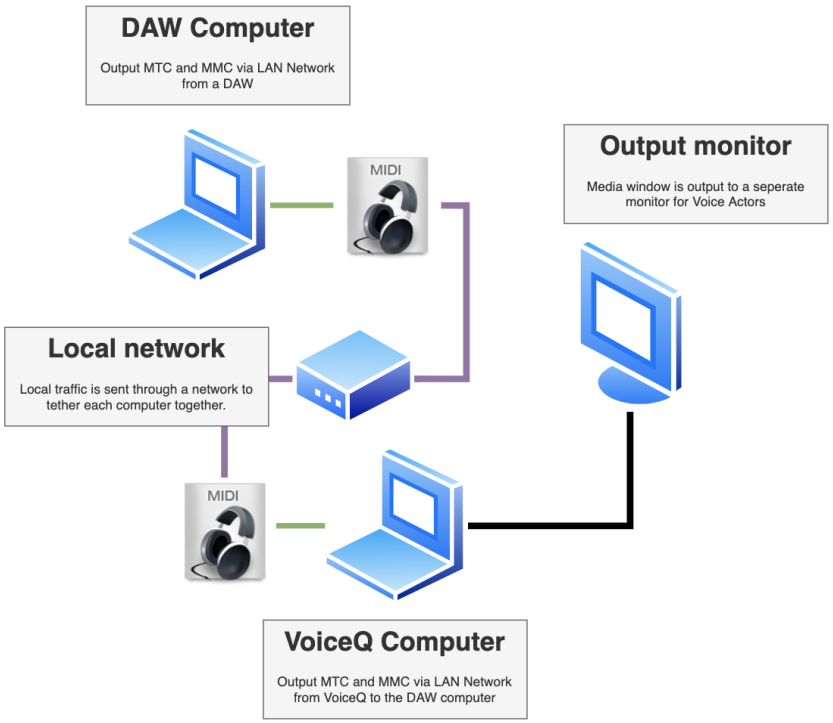


Image – Dual Computer Configuration (via LAN)

With a Dual Computer Configuration we can use Apple's MIDI network feature to send MIDI via the Local Area Network. This setup does not require any additional MIDI hardware.

Dual Computer Configuration - MIDI via hardware

This configuration uses separate computers for Pro Tools and VoiceQ with MIDI information sent via MIDI hardware interfaces. This configuration requires a MIDI hardware interface on both computers, which are connected via a MIDI cable. Many AVID hardware boxes like the M-Box, Digi 001-003, Command 8, and Control 24 feature MIDI output ports.

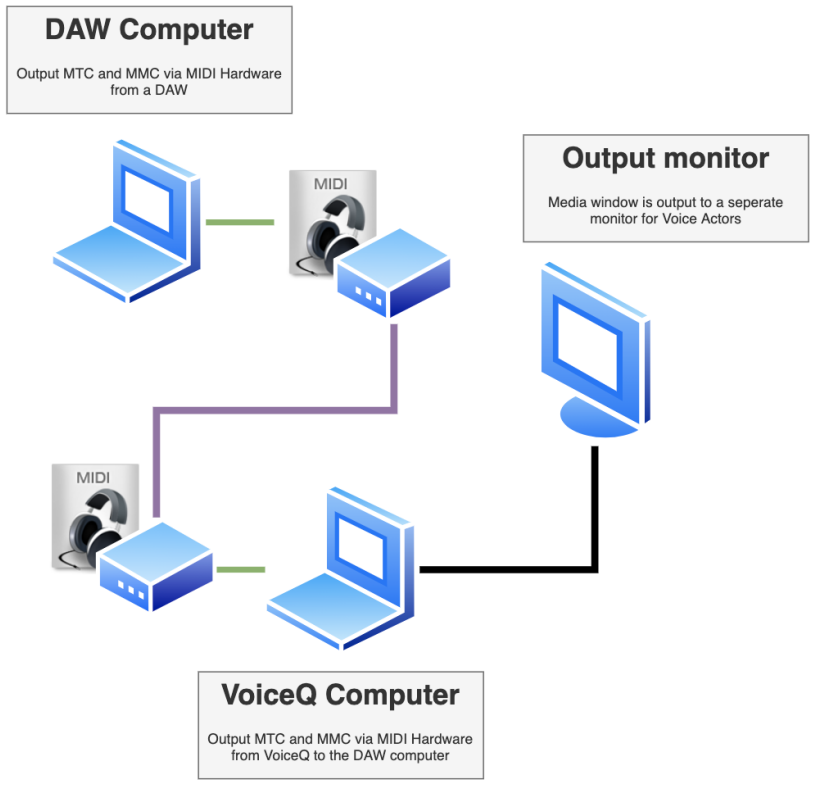


Image - Dual Computer Configuration (via MIDI Hardware)

The VoiceQ computer can use any standard USB MIDI interface, with VoiceQ automatically recognizing and chasing incoming MIDI timecodes when it is set to online/chase mode.

SETTING UP MIDI LOCALLY IN VOICEQ PRO WITH PRO TOOLS

Accessing MIDI Settings

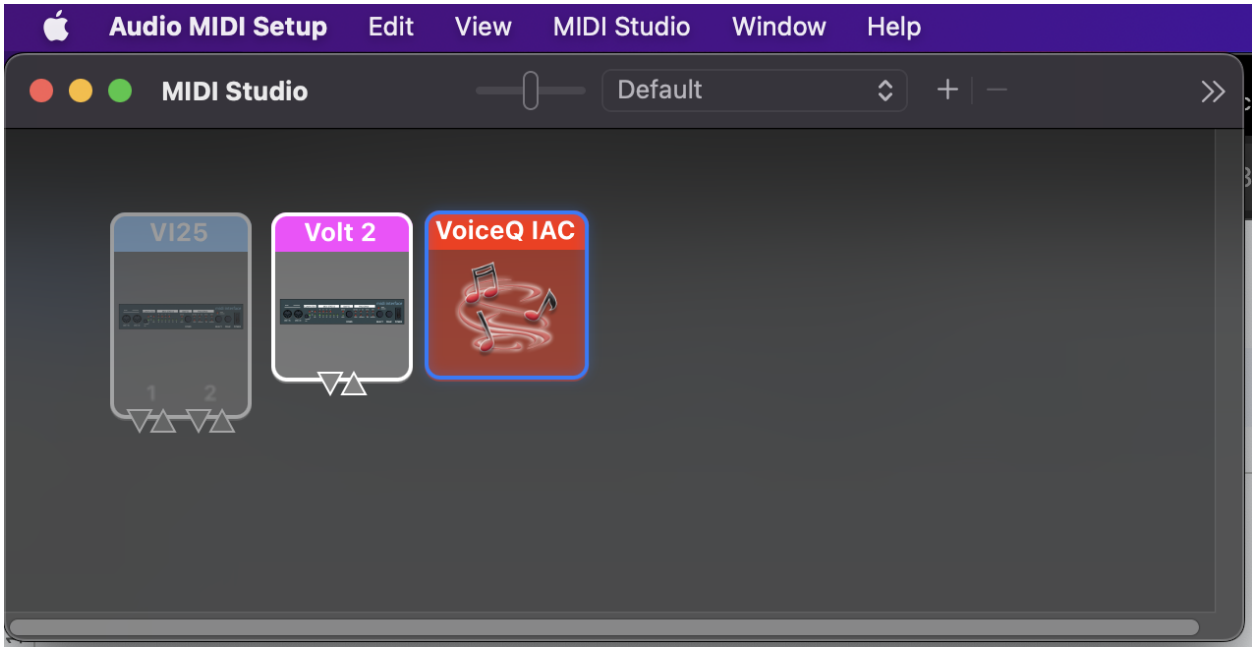
Open your Pro Tools Studio session: To start setting up MIDI locally, launch Pro Tools Studio on your computer.

Configuring MIDI Settings

Navigate to the MIDI settings: In order to establish a local MIDI connection, you'll first need to access the MIDI settings. This option is usually found in the Preferences or Settings menu within Pro Tools. Here's how you do it:

1. Navigate to the "Pro Tools" menu.
2. Choose "Preferences" or "Settings."
3. Locate "MIDI" or "MIDI Settings" in the menu.

Alternatively you can access this via ‘Applications/Utilities/Audio MIDI Setup’

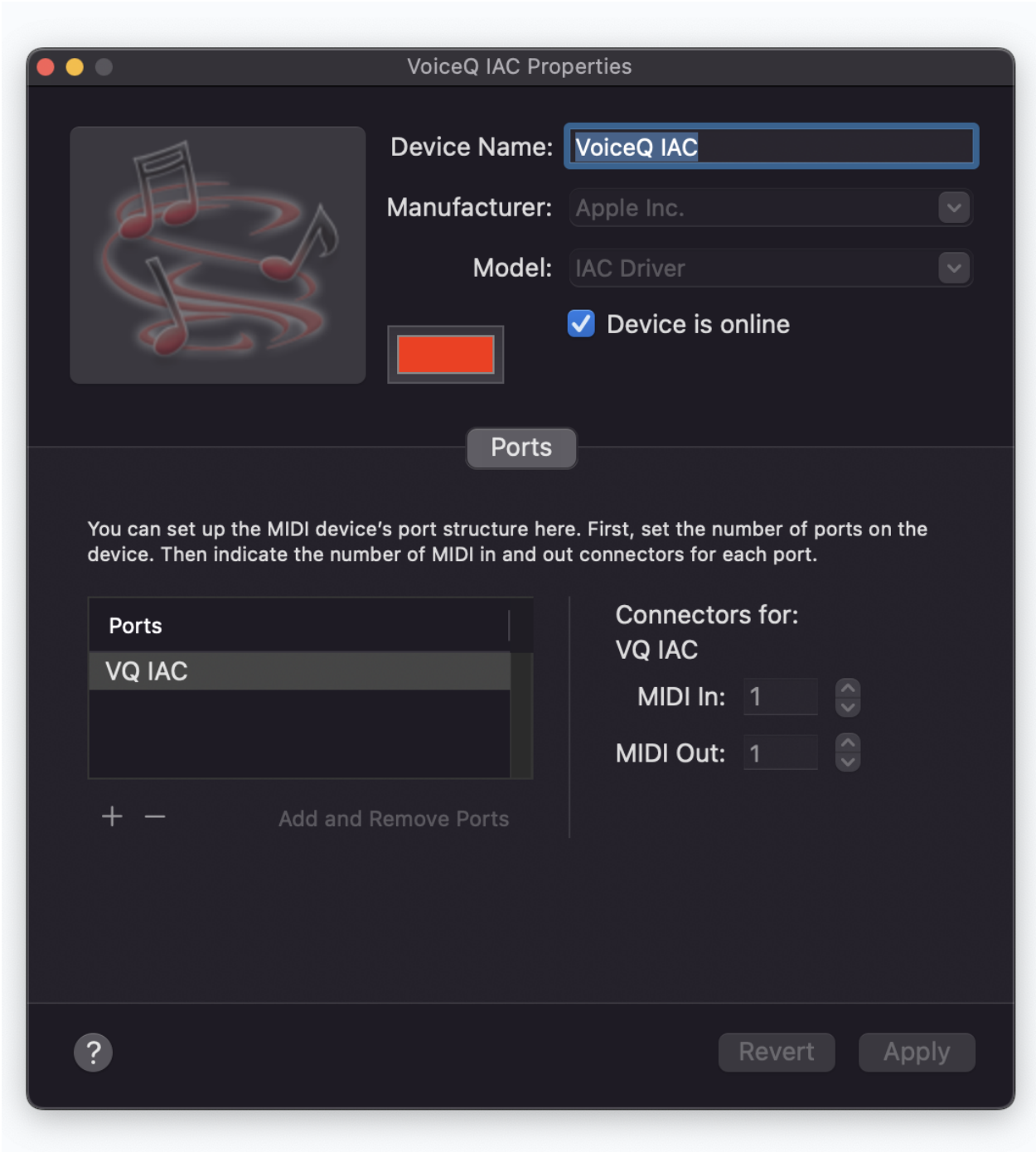


Selecting the IAC Driver

Locate and select the IAC Driver: Once you're in the MIDI settings, keep an eye out for the option labeled "IAC Driver." This driver is crucial for establishing the MIDI connection.

Enabling Devices Online

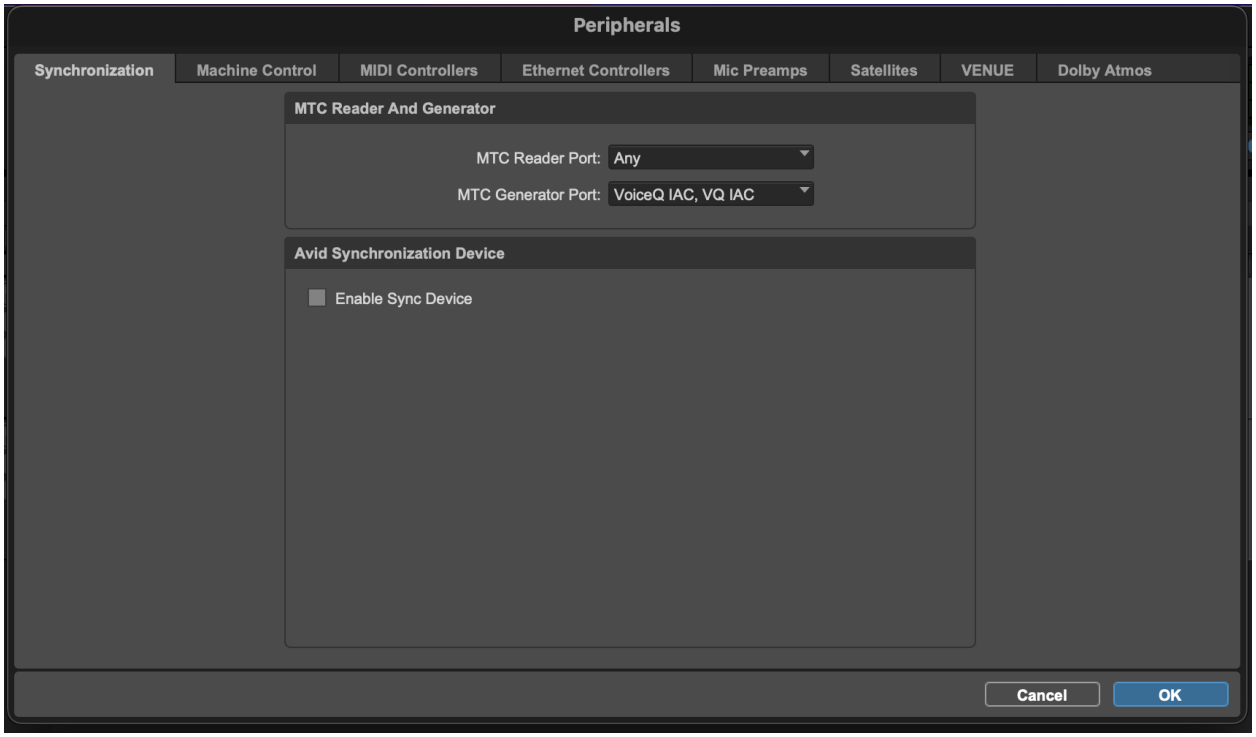
Activating the IAC Driver: Enable the IAC driver by putting a checkmark in the box that says "Devices Online". This action activates the IAC driver, allowing it to communicate with other MIDI-enabled software.



Setting Up Synchronization

Access the Machine Control Settings: Navigate to the 'Setup' menu and then select 'Peripherals' under the Synchronization tab.

Setting MTC Reader and Generator Ports: Within the MIDI settings, assign both the MTC reader port and the MTC generator port to the IAC driver using the provided drop-down menus. This ensures proper communication between devices.

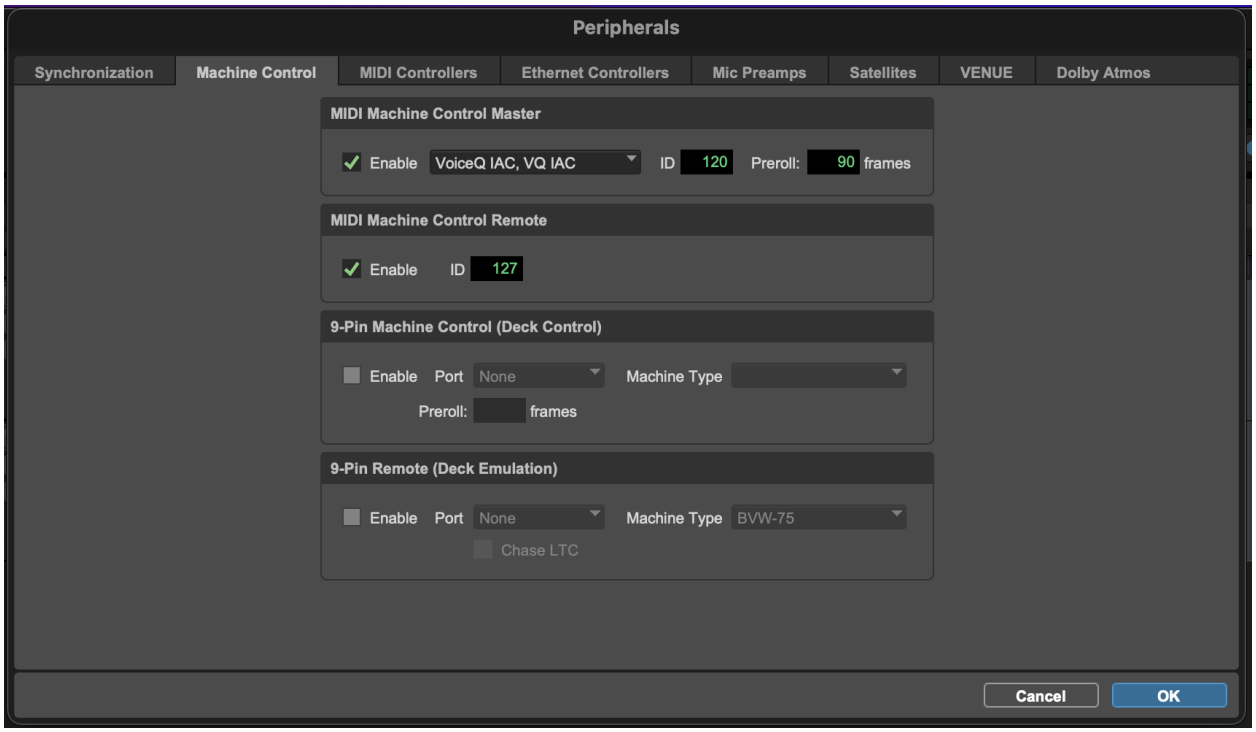


Activating MIDI Machine Control Remote

Enable MIDI Machine Control Remote: Locate the setting for MIDI machine control remote and ensure it is activated. This enables Pro Tools to communicate effectively with external MIDI devices. Assign ID 120 as the primary control.

Assigning ID (127) for MIDI Machine Control

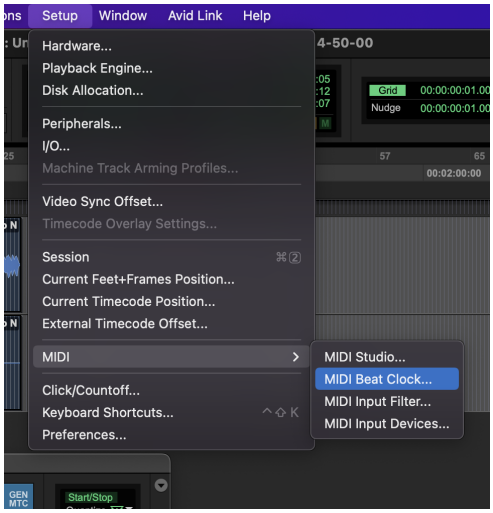
Setting the ID for MIDI Machine Control: Assign an ID number between 127 to uniquely identify the MIDI machine control in your setup. This step is crucial for seamless communication and prevents conflicts with other devices.



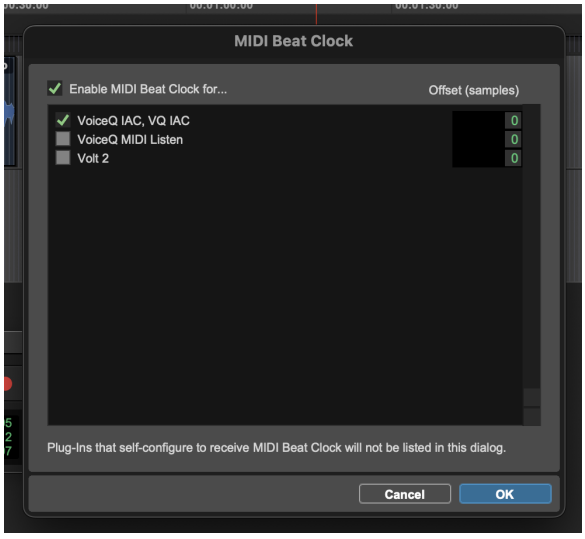
Close the Peripherals Window: Once all necessary configurations are made, close the Peripherals window to proceed.

Navigating to the MIDI BEATCLOCK

Select MIDI Beat Clock and Choose MIDI Beat Clock: Within the MIDI tab, select the option for MIDI Beat Clock. This setting is crucial for synchronizing MIDI devices accurately.



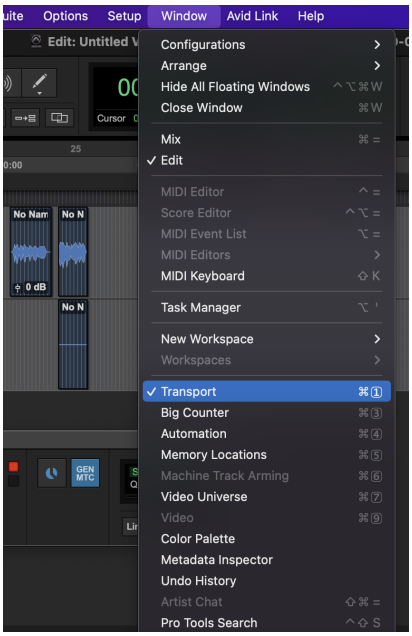
Assigning the VQI AC Driver: When the Beat Clock window opens, choose the IAC driver from the available options. This ensures that Beat Clock synchronization is established with the correct driver.



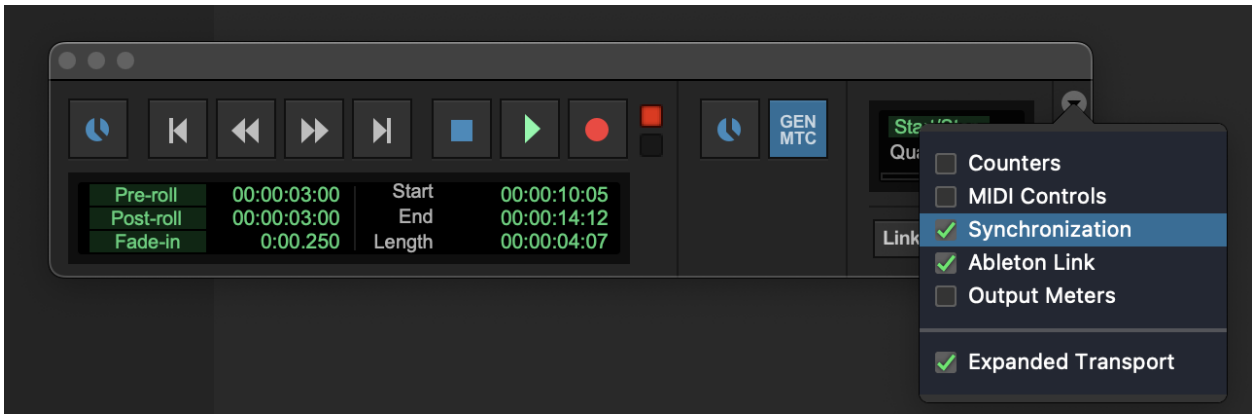
Confirm and Save: Click 'OK' to confirm the MIDI settings. This finalizes the setup process and applies the selected configurations.

Synchronization in the transport with GENMTC

Accessing the synchronization options: Select Window then select Transport to bring up the main transport menu.



Synchronization settings: If the transport options aren't visible select the dropdown menu and select synchronization.

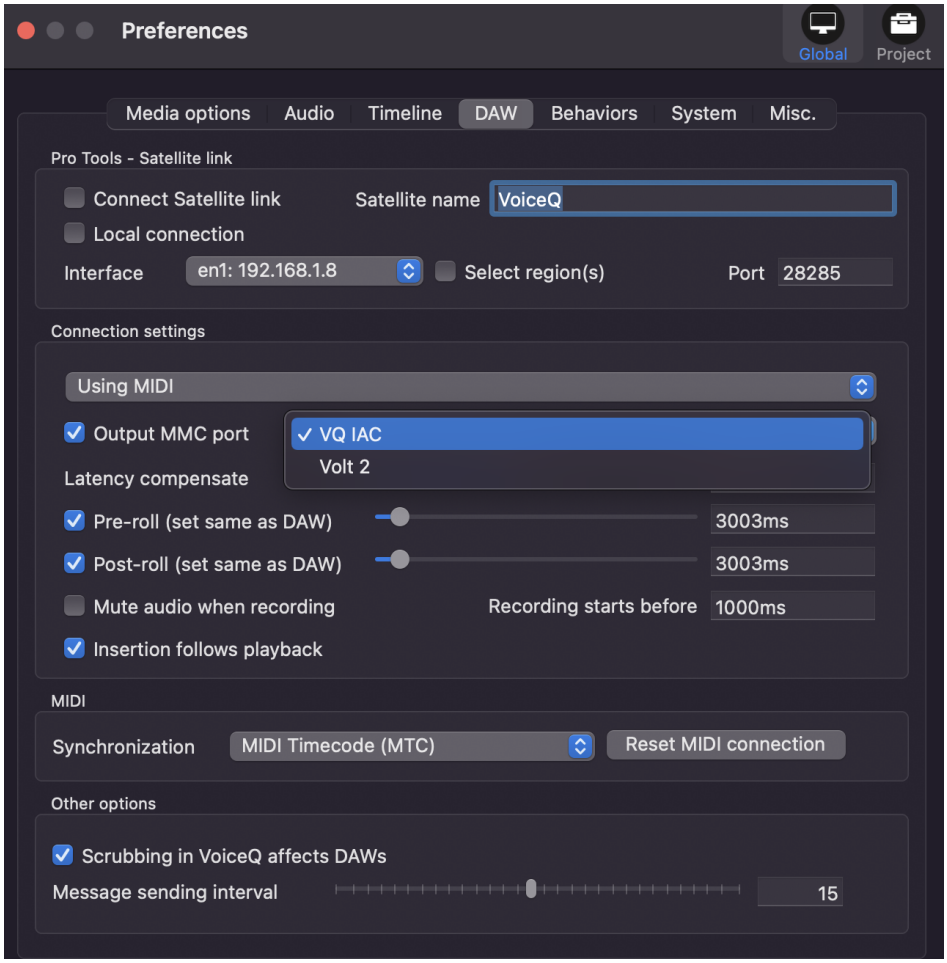


Selecting GENMTC: In the Transport window or Synchronisation options via the transport, you need to select 'GEN MTC'. Once activated both PT and VQ will be in Sync. Without this option the sync will only scrub the timeline and not allow stop and play functions.

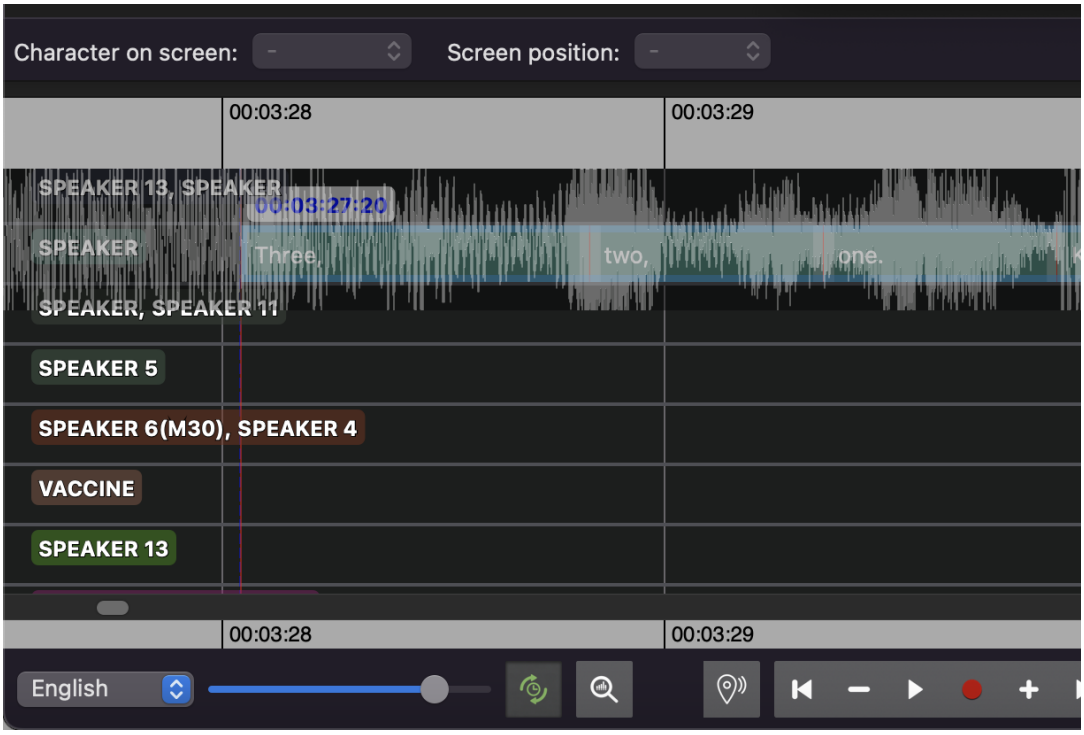
Settings in VoiceQ Pro

Launch VoiceQ Pro: With the MIDI connection set up, launch VoiceQ Pro on your system.

Locate VoiceQ Preferences: Within VoiceQ Pro, go to the global tab and locate 'VoiceQ Preferences'.



Setting Output MMC Port and Configure the Output MMC Port: Find the option labeled 'Output MMC Port' and set it to the VQI AC driver you created earlier. This ensures seamless communication between VoiceQ Pro and Pro Tools.



Select the sync button (shown selected above) to complete the setup and test the connection.

Congratulations! You have successfully set up VoiceQ Pro with Pro Tools via the Network MIDI connection. Now, you have full control of VoiceQ Pro using Pro Tools.

Note: Software interfaces and options may change over time. For the most up-to-date instructions, consult the user manuals or official resources provided by the respective software developers.

I receive a MIDI error in VoiceQ upon playback. How do I fix this?

This can be caused by two variables:

1. Check the MIDI beat clock is set to the correct port in ProTools. The Beat Clock controls Playback and often is the cause of this issue. Navigate to 'Setup>MIDI>MIDI Beat Clock...'
2. In the Transport window or Synchronisation options via the transport, you need to select 'GEN MTC'. Once activated both PT and VQ will be in Sync.

SETTING UP MIDI OVER NETWORK IN VOICEQ PRO WITH PRO TOOLS

Accessing MIDI Settings

Open your Pro Tools Studio session: To start setting up MIDI over network, launch Pro Tools Studio on your computer.

Configuring MIDI Settings

Navigate to the MIDI settings: In order to establish a network MIDI connection, you'll first need to access the MIDI settings. This option is usually found in the Preferences or Settings menu within Pro Tools. Here's how you do it:

4. Navigate to the "Pro Tools" menu.
5. Choose "Preferences" or "Settings."
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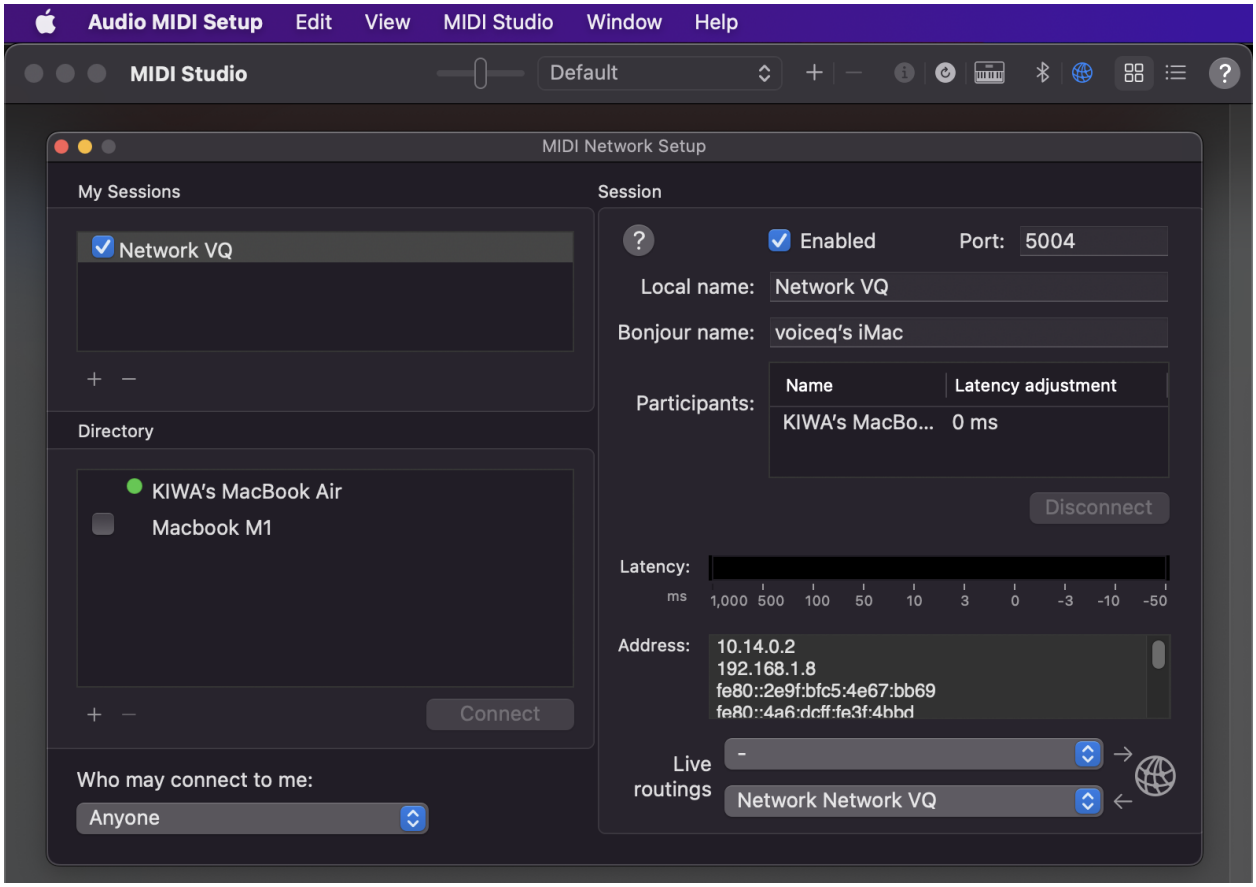


Selecting the Network Driver

Locate and select the Network device: Once you're in the MIDI settings, keep an eye out for the option labeled "Network device." This driver is crucial for establishing the MIDI connection.

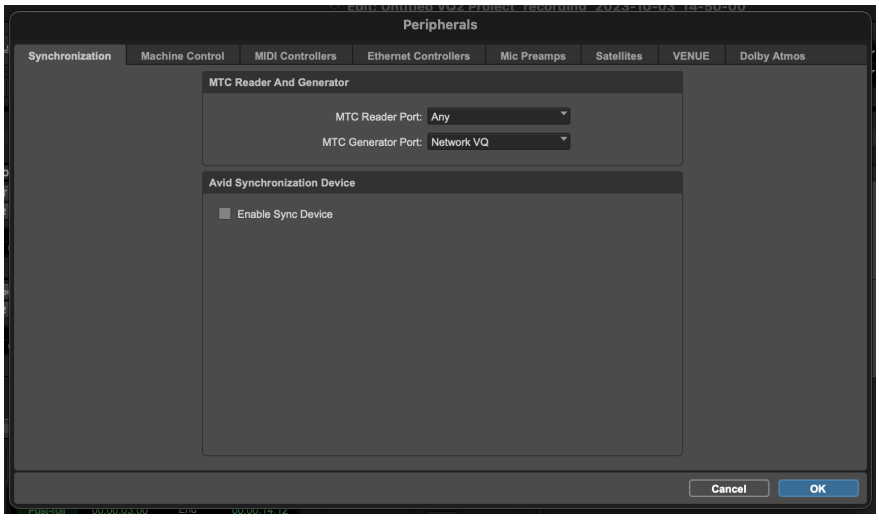
Enabling Devices Online

Activating the Network device: Enable the Network device by putting a checkmark in the box that says "Devices Online". This action activates the Network device, allowing it to communicate with other MIDI-enabled software.

Setting Up Synchronization

Access the Machine Control Settings: Navigate to the 'Setup' menu and then select 'Peripherals' under the Synchronization tab.

Setting MTC Reader and Generator Ports: Within the MIDI settings, assign both the MTC reader port and the MTC generator port to the Network device using the provided drop-down menus. This ensures proper communication between devices.



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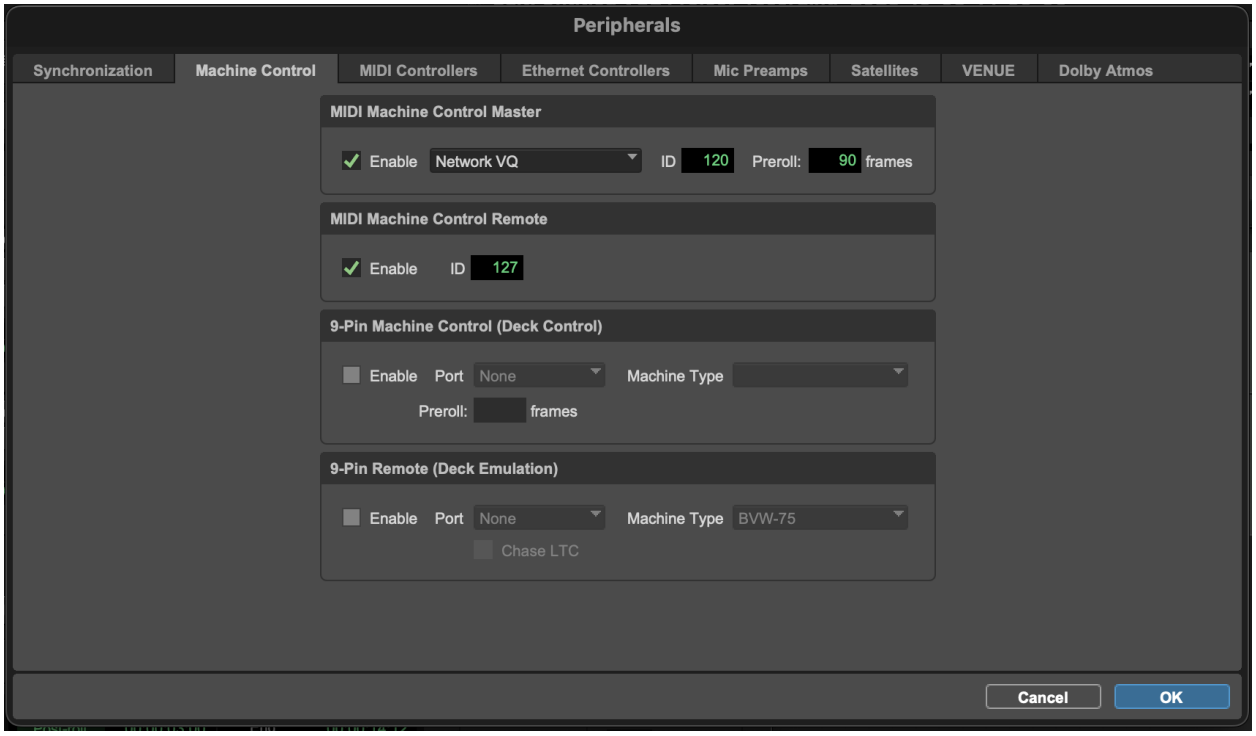

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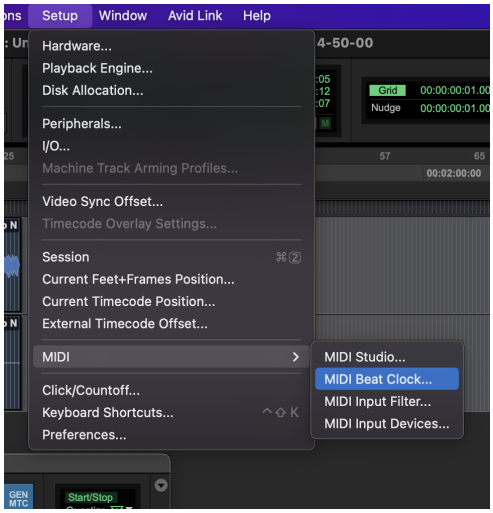
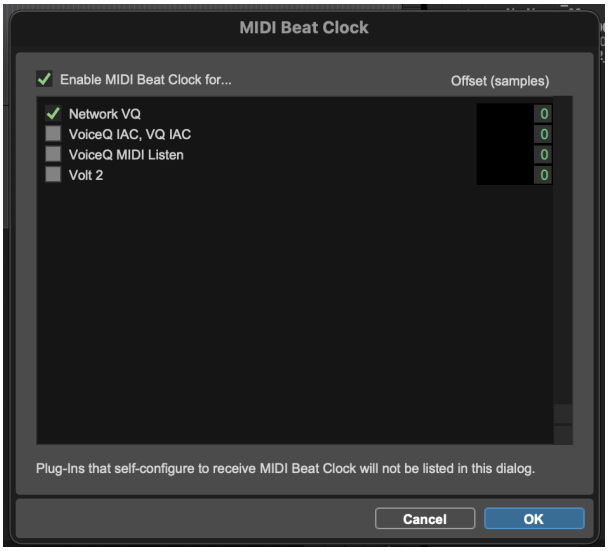


Assigning the VQI AC Driver: When the Beat Clock window opens, choose the Network device from the available options. This ensures that Beat Clock synchronization is established with the correct driver.



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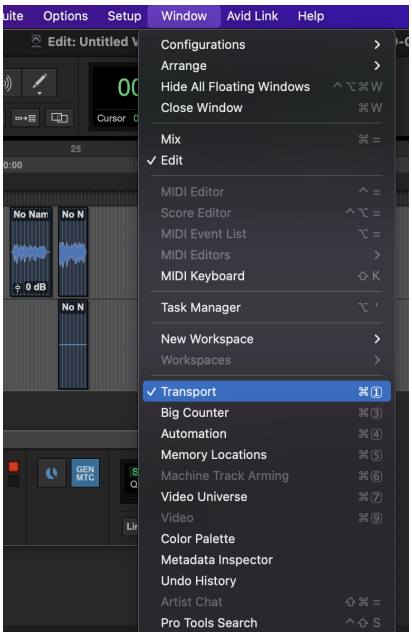

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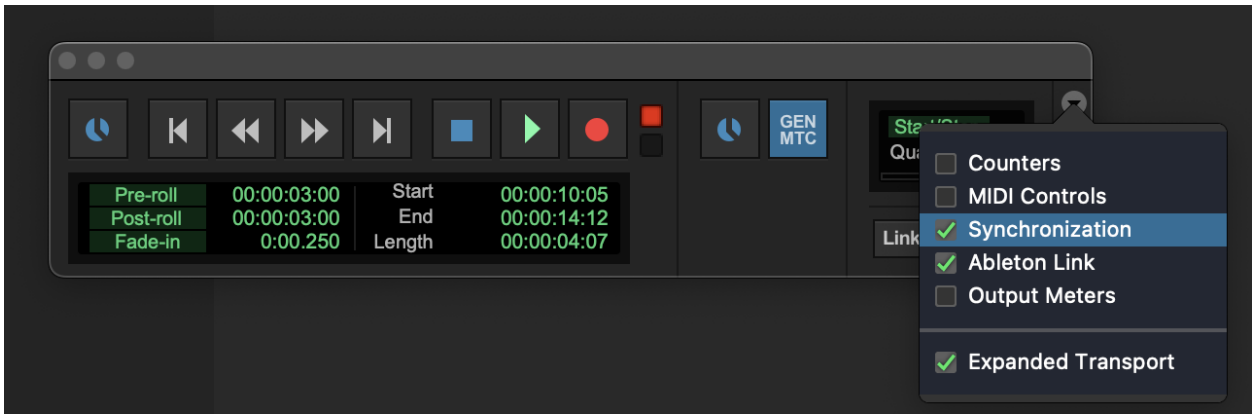

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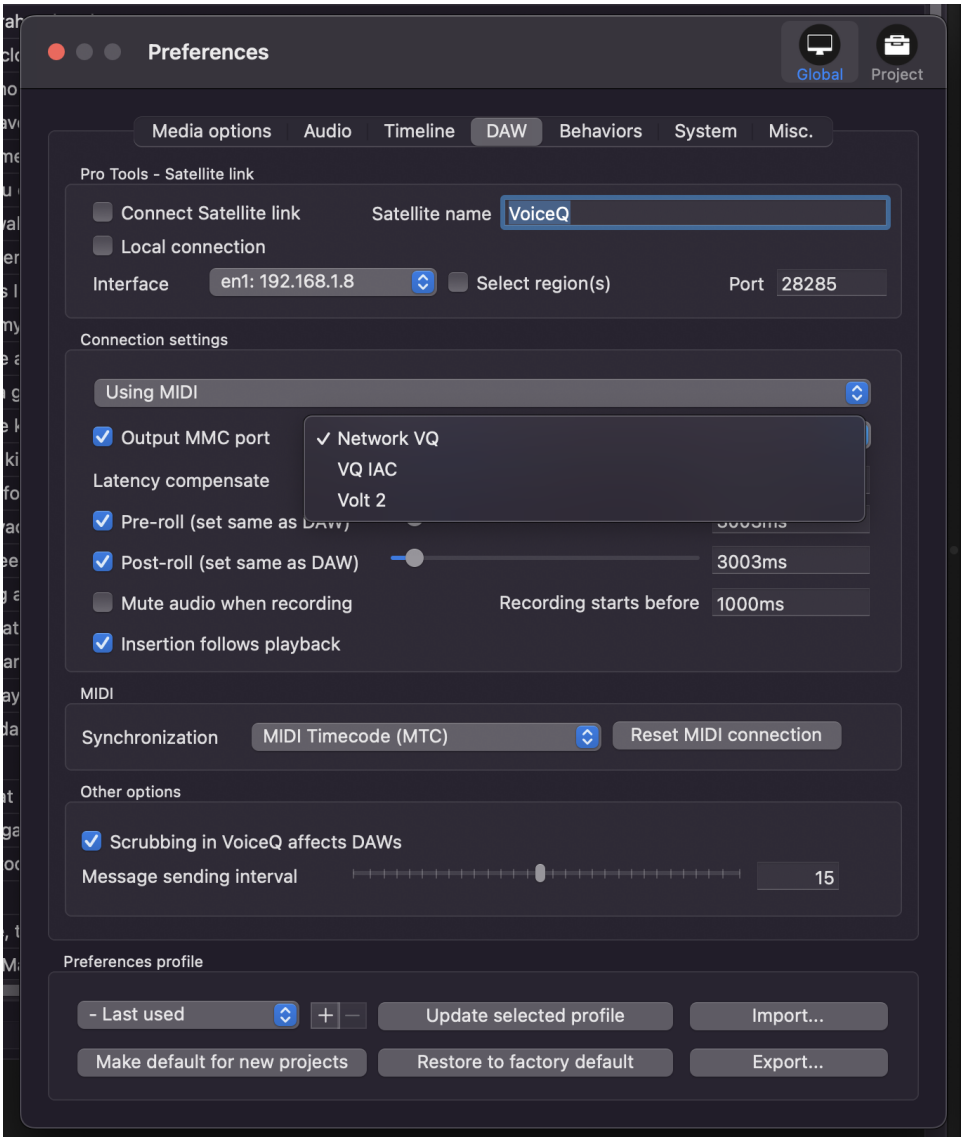
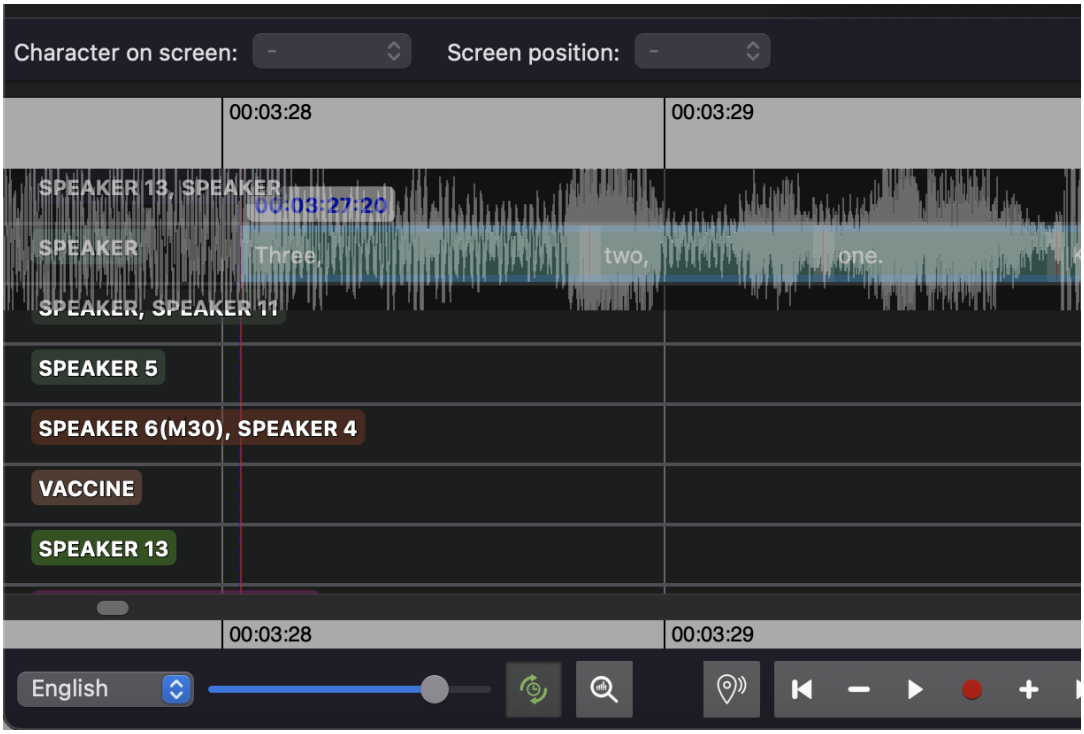


Setting Output MMC Port and Configure the Output MMC Port: Find the option labeled 'Output MMC Port' and set it to the VQI AC driver you created earlier. This ensures seamless communication between VoiceQ Pro and Pro Tools.



Select the sync button (shown selected above) to complete the setup and test the connection.

Congratulations! You have successfully set up VoiceQ Pro with Pro Tools via the Network MIDI connection. Now, you have full control of VoiceQ Pro using Pro Tools.

Note: Software interfaces and options may change over time. For the most up-to-date instructions, consult the user manuals or official resources provided by the respective software developers.

NETWORK TROUBLESHOOTING

Whitelisting when using a firewall

If you are trying to establish a network connection between VoiceQ and Pro Tools AVID Satellite on macOS, and there is an active firewall or security service blocking the connection, you may need to whitelist the necessary ports and protocols to allow the connection.

Whitelisting is a process that allows specific traffic to pass through a firewall or security service while blocking all other traffic. This approach can be helpful if you know the specific ports and protocols your applications require for communication and want to ensure that only those ports and protocols are allowed.

To bypass the firewall or security service and allow a network connection between VoiceQ and Pro Tools AVID Satellite, follow these steps:

Identify the necessary ports and protocols

1. The first step is determining which ports and protocols are required for VoiceQ and Pro Tools AVID Satellite to communicate. You can find this information in the documentation for your applications or by contacting their support teams.

For example, VoiceQ may require port 7777 to be open for incoming and outgoing traffic, while Pro Tools AVID Satellite may require ports 51100-51103 to be open for incoming and outgoing traffic.

Configure the firewall or security service.

2. Once you have identified the necessary ports and protocols, you can configure the firewall or security service to allow traffic on those ports and protocols. This process will vary depending on the specific firewall or security service you are using, but the general steps are as follows:
    1. Open the firewall or security service configuration interface
    2. Locate the section for configuring incoming and outgoing traffic rules
    3. Create a new rule for the required ports and protocols
    4. Set the rule to allow traffic on those ports and protocols
    5. Save the new rule and exit the configuration interface

SETTING UP MIDI VIA HARDWARE IN VOICEQ PRO WITH PRO TOOLS

Accessing MIDI Settings

Open your Pro Tools Studio session: To start setting up MIDI via Hardware, launch Pro Tools Studio on your computer.

Configuring MIDI Settings

Navigate to the MIDI settings: In order to establish a Hardware MIDI connection, you'll first need to access the MIDI settings. This option is usually found in the Preferences or Settings menu within Pro Tools. Here's how you do it:

7. Navigate to the "Pro Tools" menu.
8. Choose "Preferences" or "Settings."
9. Locate "MIDI" or "MIDI Settings" in the menu.

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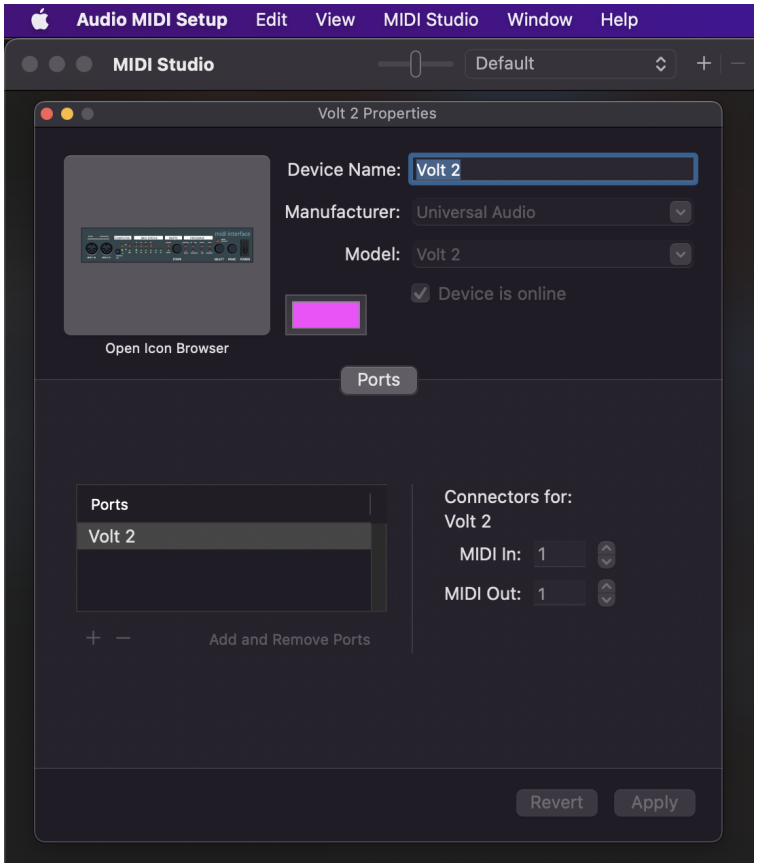


Selecting the Hardware Driver

Locate and select the Hardware device: Once you're in the MIDI settings, keep an eye out for the option labeled "Hardware device." This driver is crucial for establishing the MIDI connection.

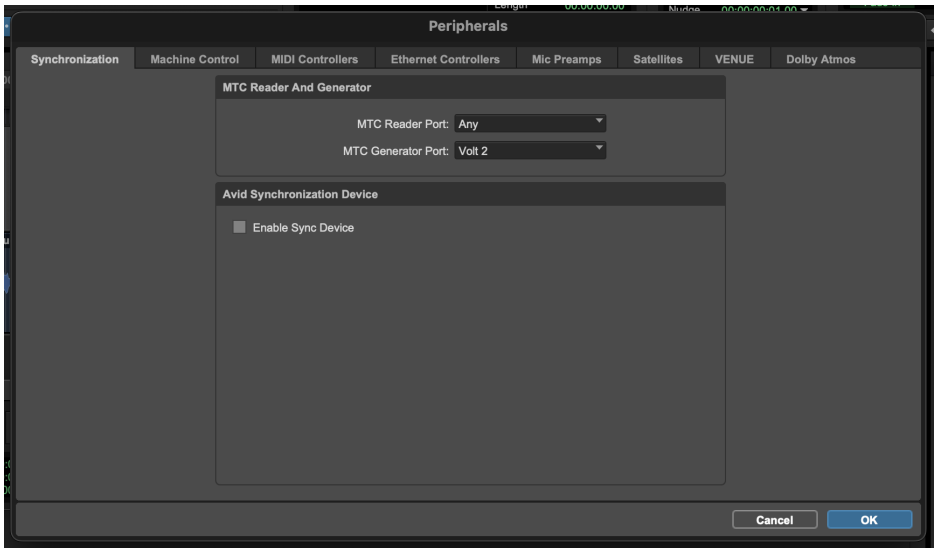
Enabling Devices Online

Activating the Hardware device: Enable the Hardware device by putting a checkmark in the box that says "Devices Online". This action activates the Hardware device, allowing it to communicate with other MIDI-enabled software.

Setting Up Synchronization

Access the Machine Control Settings: Navigate to the 'Setup' menu and then select 'Peripherals' under the Synchronization tab.

Setting MTC Reader and Generator Ports: Within the MIDI settings, assign both the MTC reader port and the MTC generator port to the Hardware device using the provided drop-down menus. This ensures proper communication between devices.



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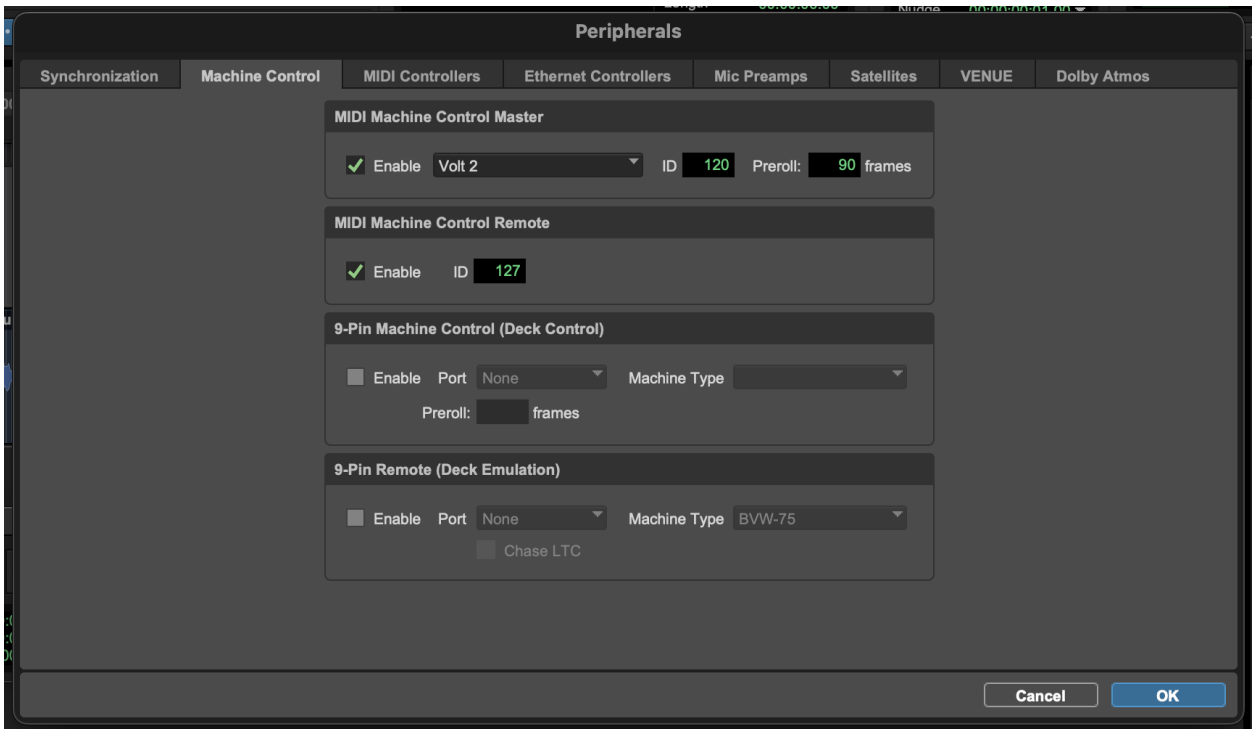

Close the Peripherals Window: Once all necessary configurations are made, close the Peripherals window to proceed.

Navigating to the MIDI BEATCLOCK

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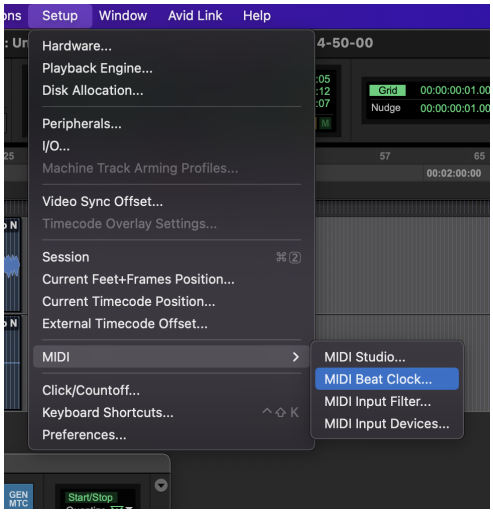
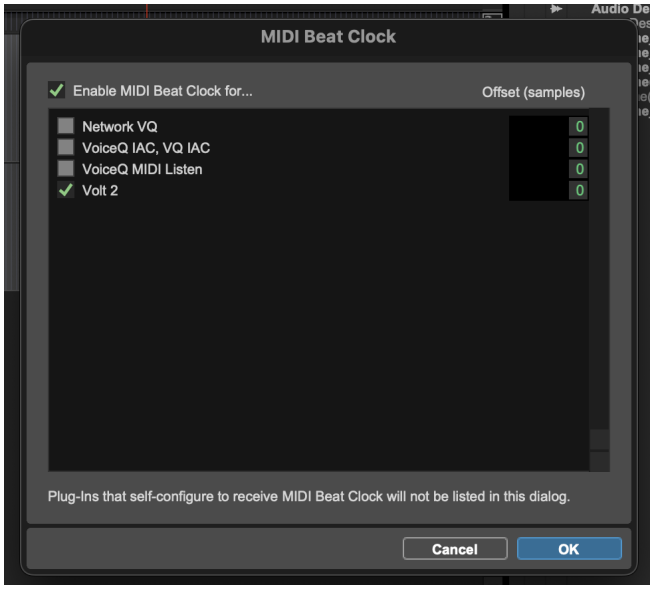


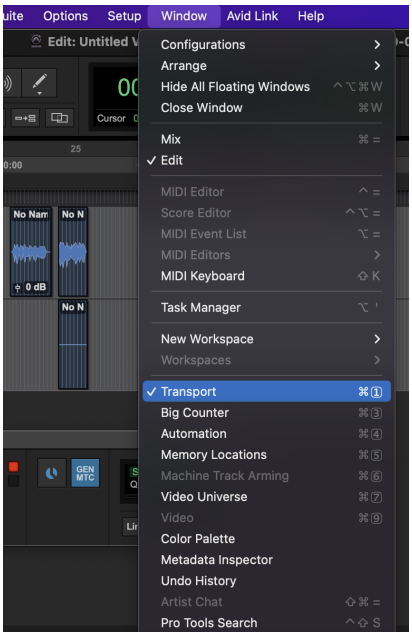
Assigning the VQI AC Driver: When the Beat Clock window opens, choose the Hardware device from the available options. This ensures that Beat Clock synchronization is established with the correct driver.



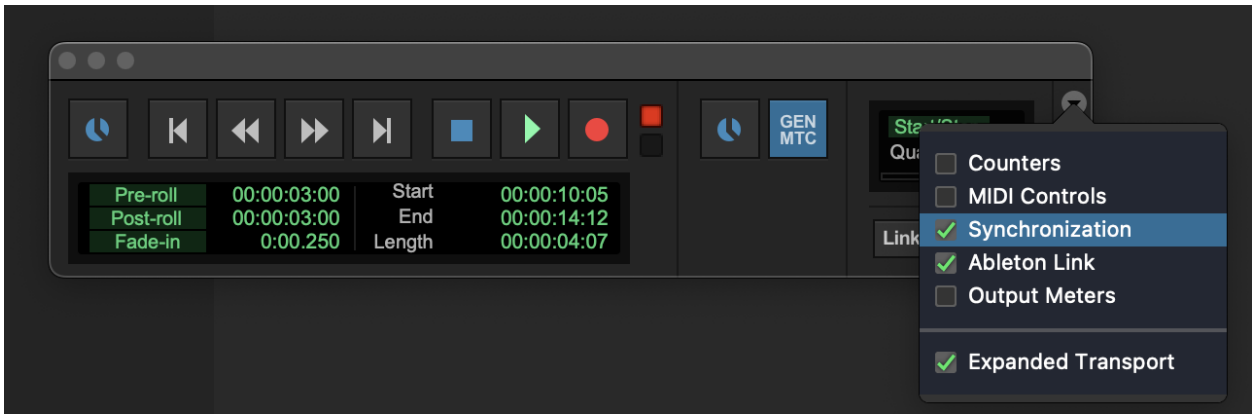
Confirm and Save: Click 'OK' to confirm the MIDI settings. This finalizes the setup process and applies the selected configurations.

Synchronization in the transport with GENMTC

Accessing the synchronization options: Select Window then select Transport to bring up the main transport menu.



Synchronization settings: If the transport options aren't visible select the dropdown menu and select synchronization.

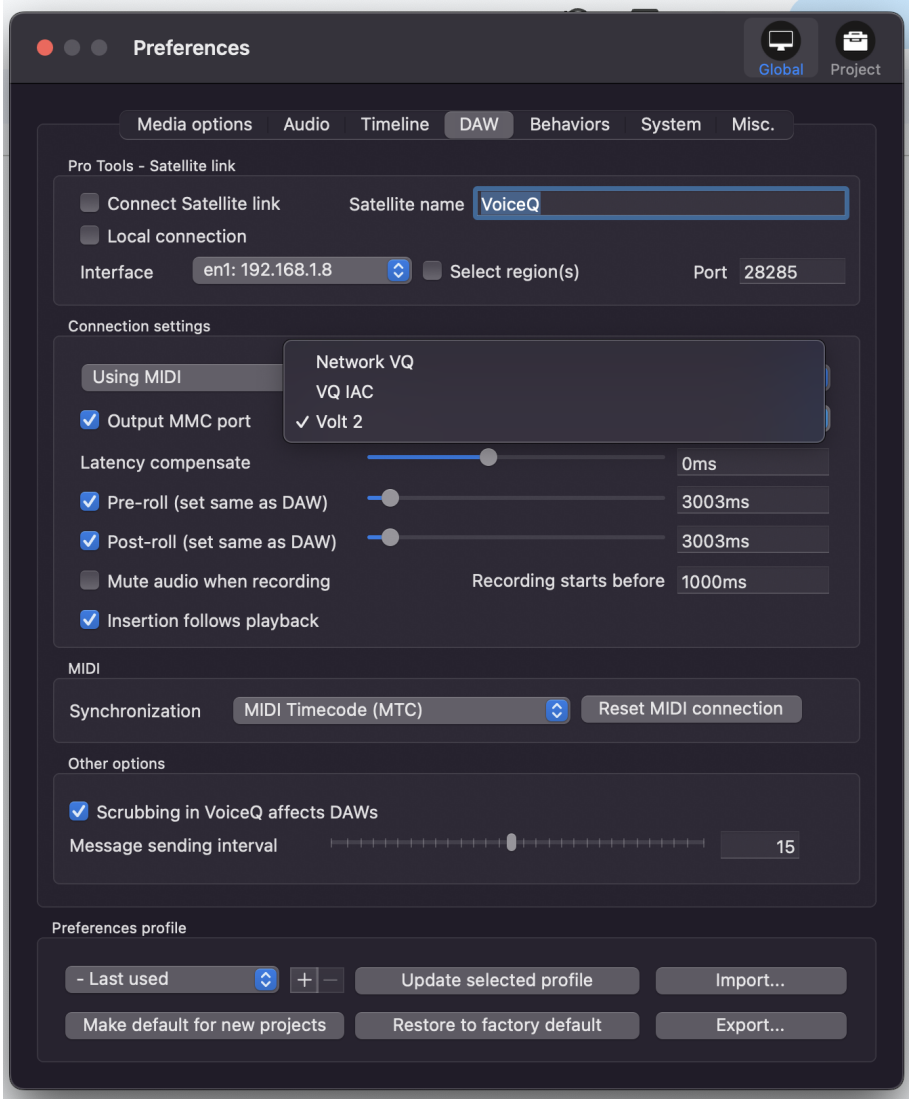


Selecting GENMTC: In the Transport window or Synchronisation options via the transport, you need to select 'GEN MTC'. Once activated both PT and VQ will be in Sync. Without this option the sync will only scrub the timeline and not allow stop and play functions.

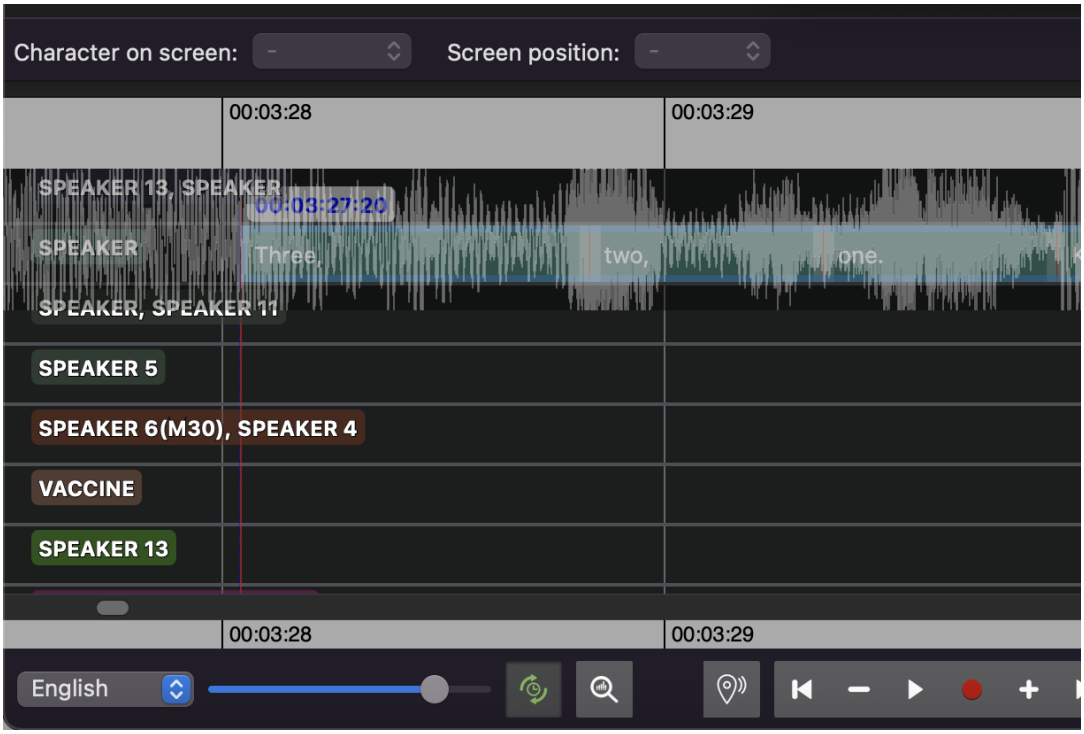
Settings in VoiceQ Pro

Launch VoiceQ Pro: With the MIDI connection set up, launch VoiceQ Pro on your system.

Locate VoiceQ Preferences: Within VoiceQ Pro, go to the global tab and locate 'VoiceQ Preferences'.



Setting Output MMC Port and Configure the Output MMC Port: Find the option labeled 'Output MMC Port' and set it to the VQI AC driver you created earlier. This ensures seamless communication between VoiceQ Pro and Pro Tools.



Select the sync button (shown selected above) to complete the setup and test the connection.

Congratulations! You have successfully set up VoiceQ Pro with Pro Tools via the Network MIDI connection. Now, you have full control of VoiceQ Pro using Pro Tools.

Note: Software interfaces and options may change over time. For the most up-to-date instructions, consult the user manuals or official resources provided by the respective software developers.

FEATURES

Pro Tools provides a comprehensive set of functionalities for recording and playback, specifically tailored to meet the requirements of skilled audio engineers and musicians. When combined with VoiceQ's features and functions, users can establish a personalized recording workflow that optimizes the strengths of both applications.

Shortcuts

The following has been tested and working:

- Time selection
- Playback
- Loop playback
- Recording
- Scrubbing
- Frame by frame nudge
- Go to end
- Got to start

Please note: Selecting the record button from VoiceQ is not available.

Playback

Playback can be initiated from both VoiceQ and Pro Tools. The shortcut is the same in both applications assigned to the 'spacebar'.

Loop playback

Here is a step-by-step guide on how to loop playback with Pro Tools:

1. In VoiceQ, press' control + click the play button to activate loop mode.
2. Select the line(s) in the VoiceQ script view or select a region in Pro Tools.
3. In the Pro Tools transport menu, right-click on the play button and select Loop from the menu.

Recording

Here is a step-by-step guide on how to record in Pro Tools:

1. Select the line(s) in the VoiceQ script view or select a region in Pro Tools.
2. Connect your audio source to an input on your audio interface or sound card. Ensure that your audio interface is connected correctly to your computer and recognized by Pro Tools.
3. Create a new track in Pro Tools by going to the Track menu and selecting "New".
4. Choose "Audio Track" from the list of options.
5. In the new track dialogue box, select the input corresponding to the audio source you want to record. You can adjust settings like the track name, input/output routing, and recording format.
6. Arm the track for recording by clicking the "Record" button on the track header. This will activate the track for recording and allow you to see the input level meter.
7. Set your recording levels by monitoring the input level meter. You should aim to record at a high enough level to capture the sound without clipping or distorting the signal.
8. Press the "Play" button to start playback and then the "Record" button to begin recording. You can also use the keyboard shortcut "Command+Spacebar" (Mac) or "Ctrl+Spacebar" (Windows) to start and stop recording.
9. Once you have finished recording, press the "Stop" button to stop recording. The recorded audio will be stored in the clip list of the track.
10. You can edit the recorded audio by selecting it in the clip list and using the editing tools in the Edit window. You can also use the "Trim", "Fade", "Normalize", and other editing options to refine the audio.