

310P Contents

Preface	xv
Using the Exercise Media.....	xv
Prerequisites for This Course	xv
System Requirements.....	xvi
Becoming Avid Certified.....	xvi
Pro Tools Certification	xvi
User Certification.....	xvi
Operator Certification	xvii
Expert Certification	xvii
Conventions and Symbols Used in this Guide.....	xvii
Procedures and Lists.....	xvii
Menu and Key Commands	xviii
Icons	xviii
Sidebars.....	xix
Keyboard Commands.....	xix
Lesson 1. Pro Tools HD Hardware Configuration.....	1
Setting Up a Pro Tools HD System.....	2
Pro Tools HDX System Basics	2
Pro Tools 12 Systems Comparison.....	2
Pro Tools 12 Software Features	3
Components of Pro Tools HD Hardware Systems	4
Benefits of Pro Tools DSP-Accelerated Hardware Systems	7
System Compatibility Information.....	8
Pro Tools HD Hardware Connections.....	8
Working With Avid Peripherals.....	9
Pro Tools HDX Post System Configuration.....	9
SYNC HD and Tri-Level Sync	10
Avid PRE	12
Audio Interface Calibration.....	20
I/O Calibration Example	20
Some Notes about Calibration.....	20
Installing Additional Pro Tools Software Options.....	21
Plug-Ins and Virtual Instruments.....	22
Non-Administrator (Standard) Accounts	22
Implications of Non-Administrator (Standard) Accounts.....	22
Configuring a Non-Administrator (Standard) Account for Pro Tools Users	23
Pro Tools Session File Interchange.....	24
Session Compatibility Between Pro Tools HD and Pro Tools.....	24
Sharing Sessions Created on Different Pro Tools Software Versions	25
Review/Discussion Questions.....	26

Exercise 1. Pro Tools HD Hardware Configuration	28
Scenario	29
Create Your Own Customized Equipment List	30
Exercise 1 Answer Key	32
Lesson 2. Troubleshooting a Pro Tools System	35
Troubleshooting Operational Issues.....	36
Using the DigiTest Utility.....	36
Using Avid Knowledge Base	39
Deleting Pro Tools Settings Files.....	41
Deleting Settings Files on Mac Systems.....	41
Deleting Settings Files on Windows Systems	42
Deleting Database Files	44
Understanding Voice Allocation	45
Track Priority and Voice Assignment	46
Number of Voices.....	46
Dynamic Voice Assignment.....	47
Changing the Priority of Tracks	47
Playback Engine Advanced Options.....	49
Disk Playback Cache Size Settings.....	50
Monitoring DSP Resources (Pro Tools HDX Systems Only).....	52
Monitoring Native Resources (Recap).....	53
Advanced Session Interchange and I/O Mapping	54
Indication of Remapping in the Bus Page.....	55
Show Last Saved or Current Setup	56
Restore from Session	57
When to Restore Previous I/O Settings	57
Monitor and Audition Path Upmixing and Downmixing.....	58
Importing I/O Settings from Session Files.....	58
Organize Track I/O Menus Preference Setting	59
Audio and Video Pull Options.....	59
Choosing a Pull Up/Down Rate	61
Auto Match Pull Factors	61
Video Rate Pull Up/Down	63
Pull Up/Down and the Timecode Ruler	63
Audio and Video Pull Problems	63
Typical Example Workflow Scenarios Using Audio Pulls	63
Review/Discussion Questions.....	66
Exercise 2. Troubleshooting a Pro Tools System	68
Getting Started: Using Avid Knowledge Base.....	69
Correcting Pro Tools System Performance Problems.....	69
Opening, Playing, and Mixing the Pro Tools Session	70
Importing I/O Setup Pages	72
Converting Sessions Using Audio Pulls.....	72
Exercise 2 Answer Key	74

Knowledge Base	74
Configuring the Session.....	74
Lesson 3. Keyboard-Based Control of Pro Tools.....	75
Parts of the Keyboard.....	76
Modifier Keys.....	76
Modifier Key and Menus	77
Modifier Keys and Track Parameters/Displays.....	77
Focus Keys	81
Assigning Keyboard Focus.....	82
Active Window for Keyboard Focus	82
Commands Keyboard Focus Mode Shortcuts	84
Function Keys.....	89
Edit Mode Function Keys	90
Edit Tool Function Keys.....	90
Numeric Keypad Options	91
Classic Mode.....	91
Transport Mode (Default)	92
Shuttle Mode	92
Shuttle Lock Mode	93
Other Shortcut Operations	94
New Track Shortcuts.....	94
Workspace Browser Shortcuts	95
Window and Display Shortcuts	96
Save Command Shortcuts	97
Window Configurations	97
Playlist (Track Compositing) Shortcuts.....	98
Shortcuts for Sends and Inserts	99
Review/Discussion Questions.....	100
Exercise 3. Tactile Control of Pro Tools.....	102
Getting Started.....	103
Editing Shortcuts: Commands Keyboard Focus Mode.....	103
Editing Shortcuts: Menu Equivalents and Keyboard Modifiers	105
Mixing Shortcuts: Menu Equivalents, Modifiers, and Key Commands	106
Exercise 3 Answer Key	107
Lesson 4. Post Production Recording Techniques.....	111
Third-Party Support for Avid PRE Communication Protocol.....	112
Controlling PRE from Pro Tools.....	112
Stereo and Multi-Channel Operation	113
PRE Parameters	113
Foley Pre-Production and Planning.....	115
Foley Cueing in a Pro Tools Session	115
Recording Foley	117
Recording Foley with a Avid PRE via Aux Input Tracks	117
Recording Foley Using MIDI (Alternative).....	118

Sample-Based MIDI in Post-Production.....	120
Review/Discussion Questions.....	121
Exercise 4. Recording and Editing Foley.....	122
Getting Started.....	123
Recording and Editing Foley.....	124
Enabling PRE for Remote Control from Pro Tools.....	124
Recording Audio Foley into Pro Tools.....	125
Recording MIDI Foley into Pro Tools.....	126
Editing Foley.....	127
Lesson 5. Editing and Sound Design Workflows.....	129
Examples of Post Production Editing Workflows.....	130
Television Drama.....	130
Film.....	131
Advertising.....	133
Sound Library Searching and Management.....	134
Pro Tools Workspace Browser Recap.....	134
Soundminer.....	134
NetMix Pro.....	135
Sound Effects Creation and Design Using Plug-Ins.....	136
Core Plug-Ins Used for Post Production Sound Design.....	137
Sound Design Walkthrough.....	137
Preparing the Session.....	138
Creative Sound Design.....	139
Transport Fade-In Auditioning Option.....	146
Grouped Playlist Synchronization.....	147
Multitrack Editing Using Playlists.....	147
Adding Tracks During an Editing Session.....	148
Nudging and Trimming Shortcuts.....	149
Changing Nudge Increments.....	149
Nudging by Next Nudge Value.....	149
Nudging a Clip's Contents.....	150
Trimming with Nudge.....	150
Tandem Trimming.....	151
Nudging an Audio Selection.....	151
Review/Discussion Questions.....	152
Exercise 5. Sound Effects Design Using Plug-Ins.....	153
Getting Started.....	154
Importing Video and Audio.....	155
Creative Sound Design.....	157
Lesson 6. Understanding and Using Pro Tools Cloud Collaboration.....	159
Understanding Cloud Collaboration.....	160
Optimizing Sessions for Cloud Collaboration.....	160
Setting the Location for the Local Cache.....	161
Removing Files from the Local Cache.....	162

Restoring a Project from the Cloud	163
Recovering Cloud Storage after Collaborating	163
Real-Time Cloud Collaboration	166
Communicating with Remote Collaborators	166
Sharing Tracks for Collaboration	166
Monitoring Your Cloud Storage Usage	167
Modifying a Shared Project	168
Considerations for Posting Track Changes	171
Review/Discussion Questions.....	172
Exercise 6. Using Pro Tools Cloud Collaboration.....	173
Using Pro Tools Cloud Collaboration.....	174
Creating the Project and Inviting a Collaborator.....	174
Creating Shared Tracks.....	174
Downloading and Verifying the Results	176
Lesson 7. Pro Tools HD Mixing Concepts	177
Bit Depth, Dynamic Range, and Dither	178
Quantization and Quantization Errors	178
Bit Depth and Dynamic Range.....	179
Comparing Pro Tools HDX and Pro Tools HD Native Mix Engines	181
The Pro Tools Native Mixer	181
Original (Legacy) Pro Tools TDM/HD Mixer	181
The Pro Tools HDX Mixer	181
Avid Audio Engine	182
Avid Video Engine	183
Fixed-Point Versus Floating-Point Processing	184
Fixed-Point Processing	184
Floating-Point Processing.....	185
DSP-Based Mixers and DSP Usage	185
HDX Architecture	186
Mixer Creation.....	186
The Pro Tools HD Mixer.....	190
Double-Precision Processing	190
Mixer Headroom	190
Mixer Footroom	190
The Audio Signal Path Through HDX.....	191
Analog to Digital Conversion.....	191
Plug-In Processing in Pro Tools HDX.....	191
64-Bit Floating Point Mixer	192
Master Faders	192
Appropriate Use of Native Plug-ins.....	193
Voice Usage and Total Latency for Native Plug-Ins	193
Mixing Native and DSP Plug-Ins on an Audio Track.....	197
Review/Discussion Questions.....	198

Exercise 7. Mixer Experiments	200
Getting Started	201
Gain Staging and Mixing	201
Headroom in 32-Bit Float Files	206
Voice Usage with Native and DSP Plug-in Combinations.....	208
Lesson 8. Advanced Mixing Techniques	213
Common Mixing Preferences	214
Solo Modes.....	214
Configuring AFL/PFL Operation	215
AFL/PFL Muting Behavior	216
AFL/PFL Usage Example	216
Advanced Delay Compensation.....	218
Delay Compensation and Hardware Inserts.....	218
Compensation for Input/Output Delays After Record Pass (Pro Tools HD Hardware Systems Only)	220
Using Plug-In Preferences	222
Plug-In Menu Hierarchy	222
Plug-In Favorites.....	223
Mixing Techniques	224
Shortcuts for Sends and Inserts (Recap)	224
Mix Bus Techniques.....	225
Audio Sub-groups versus Mix/Edit Groups.....	225
Stem Mixing Recap	225
Master Faders versus VCA Masters	226
Clipping Considerations	226
Using VCA Masters to Adjust Source Tracks.....	229
VCA Master Automation	230
VCA Composite Volume Graphs	230
VCA Automation.....	230
Coalescing VCA Automation	231
Overriding VCA Master Automation on a Group Member Track.....	232
Using Latch Prime.....	232
Enabling Latch Prime	233
Priming Controls	233
Unpriming Controls.....	233
Understanding Static Automation (Recap).....	235
Static Automation versus Real-Time Automation	235
Families of Static Automation: Write Buttons versus Edit Commands	236
Applying Static Automation	236
Automation Window Write Buttons	236
Edit > Automation Submenu Commands	237
Review/Discussion Questions.....	240

Exercise 8. Advanced Mixing and Routing 243

- Getting Started 244
- Part 1: Organizing a Session for a Final Mix 244
 - Creating Auxiliary Track Stems 245
 - Create VCA Master Tracks..... 246
 - Rebalance the Mix Using VCAs..... 247
 - Coalesce VCA Master Trims 247
 - Enabling Delay Compensation 248
- Part 2: Skills Review 248
 - Correct Track Routing and Managing Plug-in Assignments 248
 - Aligning and Re-Syncing Audio Clips 248
 - Working with Plug-Ins and Automation 249
- Exercise 8 Skills Review Key 250
 - Correct Track Routing and Managing Plug-in Assignments 250
 - Aligning and Re-Syncing Audio Clips 250
 - Working with Plug-Ins and Automation 250

Lesson 9. Advanced Automation Workflows and Techniques 251

- Workflow 1: Using Write to All Enabled with Suspend 252
- Preview Mode 253
 - How Preview Mode Works 253
 - Basic Outline for Using Preview Mode..... 254
- Workflow 2: Using Preview with Write to All 254
- Workflow 3: Preview Using Cue Up and Punch 256
 - Usage Example of Preview Mode 256
 - Suspending Preview Mode 257
 - Preview and Trim Mode 257
- Using Capture Mode and Punch Capture 258
 - Basic Capture Operation 258
 - Punch Capture Operations 259
 - Capture/Punch Capture Workflow Examples..... 259
 - Punch Capture and Write To Commands 261
 - Capture and Trim Mode 261
 - Using Capture and Preview Modes Together 262
- Using Join and AutoJoin 263
 - Using the Join Function 263
 - Using the AutoJoin Function 264
 - Activating AutoJoin Mode..... 264
 - Using AutoJoin Mode 265
- Miscellaneous Automation Techniques..... 265
 - Resuming Recording of Mute Automation..... 265
 - Extending Automation 266
 - Using Glide Automation..... 267
- Writing Automation During Record 270
 - Workflow for Writing Automation During Record..... 270
- Automation Workflows 273

Review/Discussion Questions	275
Exercise 9. Advanced Mixing and Routing	277
Getting Started	278
Guidelines for Creating a Mix for the Opening Scene of <i>Agent MX Zero</i>	278
Creating a Mix to Picture	280
Part 2: Skills Review	281
Automating Static Plug-In Settings.....	281
Using Preview Isolate and Punch Preview	281
Morphing Plug-In Controls.....	281
Exercise 9 Skills Review Key	283
Automating Static Plug-In Settings.....	283
Using Preview Isolate and Punch Preview	283
Working with Plug-Ins and Automation	283
Lesson 10. Mixing and Output Using Satellite Link	285
Session Offset Options	286
Redefine Current Timecode Position.....	286
Redefine Current Feet+Frames Position	288
Using Session Offsets.....	288
Large-Scale Mixing Techniques Using Satellite Link.....	289
Why Synchronize Multiple Pro Tools Systems?	289
Pro Tools HD Satellite Link Mixing Scenario	290
Configuring the Satellite Link Network	292
Configuring Clock and Positional Reference Settings	292
Configuring an Administrator System.....	293
Configuring Satellite Systems.....	294
Adding Satellites to the Network.....	295
Putting Satellite Systems Online	296
Controlling Satellite Behavior	296
Linking Systems During Playback.....	297
Linking Play Selections.....	297
Solo Linking	298
Correcting Satellite Link Network Issues	299
Pro Tools Digital Dubber Workflow (Pro Tools HDX Only)	300
5.1 Workflow Example for Configuring “In-The-Box” Dubbing	301
Review/Discussion Questions.....	303
Exercise 10. Mixing Using Satellite Link	304
Overview	305
Audio Monitoring	305
Matching Clock and Positional Reference Settings.....	305
Configuring Pro Tools System 2 (Satellite System)	306
Enabling the Satellite System	306
Configuring Pro Tools System 1 (Administrator System)	306
Correcting a Session Offset on Pro Tools System 1.....	307
Adding Satellites to the Network.....	308

Mixing Using Satellite Link (Pro Tools Systems 1 and 2).....	309
Enabling a Video Satellite (Optional)	310
Appendix A. Pro Tools HD-Series Audio Interface Calibration.....	311
Calibrating an HD I/O or 192 I/O	311
Appendix B. Synchronization Concepts	313
Synchronization Requirements	313
Aspects of Synchronization.....	313
Synchronizing Pro Tools	313
Video Reference as a Clock Reference.....	313
Resolving Pro Tools Using Video Reference and LTC.....	314
About Positional References	315
SMPTE and ISO/EBU Timecode	315
SMPTE Timecode Methods.....	315
SMPTE Timecode Units.....	315
LTC (Longitudinal Timecode)	315
LTC Speed Usage	315
VITC (Vertical Interval Timecode)	316
LTC/VITC Auto-Switching	316
Bi-Phase/Tach Pulses.....	316
Timecode Frame Rates	317
Working with Film-Originated Material	318
Film Telecine to NTSC Using 3:2 Pulldown.....	318
Film Telecine to PAL Using 12:2 Pulldown	318
Film Speed Differs from SD Video Speed.....	319
Pull Up and Pull Down.....	319
When to Pull Up or Pull Down.....	319
Your Final Audio Destination Is Video	320
Index.....	323