
Updates

Always ensure that you are running the latest driver software and IF-FW/DMmkII firmware by visiting TASCAM's web site at <http://www.tascam.com>.

How to Update to V1.10

■ Mac

Download the dmg file containing the installer and double click the dmg file to mount and open the contents.

Double click on IFFWDMmkII_Installer.pkg and follow the instructions given. You will need to supply your computer's Administrator password in order to install the drivers. A License file and a ReadMe file are also displayed.

■ Windows

Download the IFFWDMmkII installer exe file and double click it to launch. Installation steps are identical to those for V1.00 described in the Users Manual.

■ Firmware

V1.10 of the firmware is released along with the V1.10 drivers. This version fixes a known problem with loss of audio connection that previously required a hardware power cycle to recover from. The V1.10 drivers must be installed before the firmware can be updated.

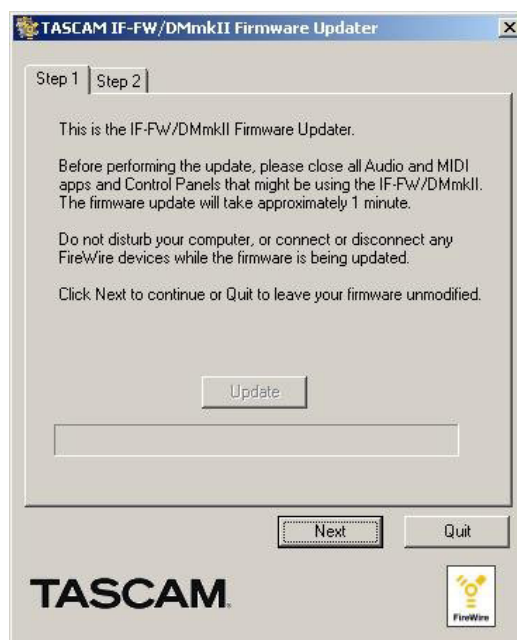
The DM-3200/4800 and IF-FW/DMmkII must be installed and turned on, and the FireWire cable connected between the computer and mixer before performing the firmware update.

Mac

After installing the drivers, download and double click on the Firmware Updater dmg file and follow the instructions given to update the firmware.

Windows

Download and run the V1.10 Firmware Updater program, and follow the on screen instructions.



New Features

This section describes the new features for each revision of the IF-FW/DMmkII drivers.

New Features in V1.10

■ Windows Driver

Compatibility

This driver is now compatible with:

Windows XP 32 bit with Service Pack 3

Windows XP 64 bit with Service Pack 2

Windows Vista 32 bit with Service Pack 1

Windows Vista 64 bit with Service Pack 1

Release Notes

Performance Mode

The Control Panel has a new pull down selection called "Performance Mode", this has 4 settings:

1. "Normal"
2. "Safe Mode Level 1"
3. "Safe Mode Level 2"
4. "Safe Mode Level 3".

Each level has different amounts of extra latency, which can prevent audio drop outs due to CPU load spikes.

DPC Spike Checker for Windows

"DPC Spikes" are delays or latencies in your system that interfere with correct operation of the IF-FW/DMmkII drivers. Some Graphic interfaces and LAN/Wireless interfaces are known to introduce large DPC spikes. These may only occur once in a few minutes, but they will cause drop-outs or other audio problems.

To see if your system has unusual DPC spikes, a DPC Spike checker tool is now included in the installation.

This application only runs on 32 bit versions of Windows XP or Windows Vista.

Start this app (Start->All Programs->TASCAM->IFFWDMmkII->DPC Spike Checker) and let it run while you use your computer normally for audio work. After a few minutes, check to see if it has registered any spikes. It will recommend a setting for the Performance Mode pull down in the IF-FW/DMmkII Control Panel.

NOTE

The DPC Spike Checker Tool will report invalid DPC latency numbers if it is still running when the system is put into Standby or Hibernate modes. Please quit and restart the tool in this case.



Be sure to search for updated drivers for Graphic and Network devices if large spikes are detected, or be prepared to replace those interfaces in your computer if the additional latency required is not acceptable for your work.

■ Mac OS X Driver

Compatibility

This driver is now compatible with OS X 10.5.2

Maintenance Items

This section describes the Maintenance items for each revision of the IF-FW/DMmkII drivers.

Maintenance Items in V1.10

■ Firmware

This version fixes a known problem with loss of audio connection that previously required a hardware power cycle to recover from.

■ Windows Driver

Latency

In V1.00, there was sometimes a different latency between channels 1-16 and channels 17-32, and the overall latency could change slightly when the mixer and computer were re-locked together.

V1.10 has the same fixed latency for all channels.

Control Panel

The Windows Control Panel has been improved since V1.00.

- If a WDM or ASIO client is currently using the IF-FW/DMmkII, the Buffer Size, Performance Mode and WDM Channel Mapping settings are locked out and their control is grayed out. To change these values, first close all audio apps.

TASCAM IF-FW/DMmkII

2 Firmware: 1.10, Windows driver: 1.10, Mac OSX driver: 1.10

- WDM Input Channel Remapping has been removed in V1.10
- The Control Panel now remembers where it was on the screen, and will open in the same position as the previous time, instead of always opening in the center of the screen.
- V1.10 now prevents the user from setting a buffer size smaller than the minimum buffer size, as those settings would always produce audio drop-outs or noise.

■ Mac OS X Driver

Latency

In V1.00, there was sometimes a different latency between channels 1-16 and channels 17-32. V1.10 has the same fixed latency for all channels.

G5 compatibility

On Power PC G5 machines, sometimes noise was present on the audio inputs and outputs. This has been fixed.

FireWire

When the FireWire cable is removed and the FireWire connection is broken, sometimes the mixer had to be powered off and on in order to regain connectivity. This has been fixed.

Large Memory Systems

Problems with large memory systems have been fixed.

Stability

Overall stability has been improved.

Control Panel

The Control Panel now remembers where it was on the screen, and will open in the same position as the previous time, instead of always opening in the center of the screen.

Known Issues

This section describes the Known Issues for the latest IF-FW/DMmkII drivers.

Known Issues in V1.10

■ Windows Driver

Control Panel

When closing an application that was using the WDM audio interface, the control panel can sometimes remain in its locked state, where the buffer size and performance mode cannot be changed. In this case, disconnecting the FireWire cable and reconnecting it is required to regain control.

DAW Performance

Performance with Sonar on Windows varies greatly. V1.10 works well with both 32 bit and 64 bit versions of Cubase. A higher performance CPU may be required for higher channel count and 96 kHz operation under Sonar. TASCAM will continue to improve the performance of the driver to enable higher channel count and FS combinations on all DAW platforms.

Service Pack 2

Upgrading to Windows XP Service Pack 2 can cause FireWire 800 ports to be reset to FireWire 100 speeds, preventing the IF-FW/DMmkII from locking and passing audio correctly. See <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/885222> for a solution.

Service Pack 3

Upgrading to Windows XP Service Pack 3 can also cause FireWire 800 ports to be reset to FireWire 100 speeds, preventing the IF-FW/DMmkII from locking and passing audio correctly. See <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/955408> for a solution.

Boot Camp

Beta versions of Apple's Boot Camp (a set of drivers that allow Windows OSes to be installed on some Apple Mac hardware) have FireWire chipset drivers that are not compatible with the IF-FW/DMmkII Windows drivers. Boot Camp from OS X Leopard works for some models of Mac hardware, but TASCAM customer support does not provide support for these configurations.

Direct WDM

The "Direct Input" and "Direct Output" WDM configuration modes have been removed in V1.10.

Sonar users should select the ASIO IF-FW/DMmkII interface instead to access the full channel count capability of the IF-FW/DMmkII.

WASAPI

WASAPI for Windows Vista is not fully supported in this version.

Release Notes

■ Mac Driver

Cubase

When using Cubase 4 on Mac OS X, changing the sample rate from the mixer can cause the input signal to Cubase to become muted. If this occurs, please close and restart Cubase to restore the input signal.

■ Windows and Mac

VST System Link

"VST System Link" functionality in Cubase 4 and other apps may cause unexpected channel assignments in your DAW. Please check these settings if audio is not appearing in expected channels.

■ Incompatible FireWire Chipsets

Symptoms of an incompatible FireWire chipset include the "Audio Dropouts" number in the Control Panel increasing without bound even at system idle, unrecognized card even when plugged in, device not locking, or dropouts. Some chipsets have interactions with the motherboard configuration. Some chipsets will work better at reduced channel count or FS.

Miscellaneous

■ Windows Vista 64

TASCAM Customer support will not provide direct support for Windows Vista 64 because DAW stability on this platform varies greatly due to software and motherboard configurations. We recommend purchasing a Vista64 machine that is preconfigured and supported for DAW use from an audio system integrator.

■ Windows Vista

Hints for configuring Windows Vista for DAW use:

- Turn off Aero, select "best performance" for the User Interface.
- Select Performance mode instead of power saving mode.
- Disable unneeded peripherals at the BIOS level.
- Disable fan speed, battery and temperature monitoring add-ons.
- Background vs Applications prioritization. Only select "Background" if you are running on a single core or

hyper-threaded CPU. "Applications" is the best setting for multi-core CPUs.

- Double check that your hard drives are using DMA modes for transfers and not PIO.
- If you have an AGP video card, investigate and tune the PCI bus latencies to give your FireWire card the most bus time. Many video cards default to having an unreasonable priority. This is not an issue with PCI-Express video cards.