

Co-designed by TASCAM and Frontier Design Group, the FW-1884 is a professional DAW control surface and Audio/MIDI interface that uses the FireWire high-speed data transfer protocol. With an 18-channel audio interface, 8 mic preamps, 4x4 MIDI interface and flexible editing and mixing controls, the FW-1884 is the ultimate front end for DAW recording workstations.

With the addition of HUI emulation on the FW-1884, many users have asked how well it works with Pro Tools® software. There are three versions of Pro Tools software, and some are more compatible than others.

## Pro Tools Free

This software is available as a free download from Digidesign. It records and plays back up to eight tracks of audio and 48 tracks of MIDI, and has many of the plug-in and editing power of the more high-end versions of Pro Tools. It uses Apple Sound Manager on Mac OS 9 and Windows 98 WAVE drivers. As of the time of this writing, Digidesign hasn't announced a Mac OS X version of the product.

The FW-1884 functions in HUI emulation mode with Pro Tools Free. Just add a "HUI" in the "Peripherals" window and you'll have full transport, editing and mixing control. Select Sound Manager (Mac OS 9) or WAVE (Windows) as your audio system to get 2-channel input and output. And you can use the four-port MIDI interface for MIDI playback.

## Pro Tools LE

Pro Tools LE is a version of Pro Tools that comes with Digidesign's low-cost audio interfaces like the M-Box and Digi 001. This software plays up to 32 tracks of audio, with better plug-in support and editing features.

Since this software requires one of Digidesign's interfaces to function, you can't use the FW-1884 as your only audio interface. However, you could use the FW-1884's mic preamps, line inputs and ADAT inputs,

submixed internally to a stereo signal, and record this digitally into Pro Tools using the FW-1884's S/PDIF output.

HUI emulation still works great in this mode – all of the transport, editing and mixing commands you expect work very well in Pro Tools LE. And the four MIDI inputs and outputs are accessible from Pro Tools tracks.

## Pro Tools TDM/ Pro Tools HD

The professional version of Pro Tools is called Pro Tools TDM. Currently at version 6.1, this is the version that ships with their Mix and HD-series hardware. It offers 128 tracks of playback at 192kHz, TDM plug-ins and many other features.

Like Pro Tools LE, this software requires the user to use Digidesign hardware to function. Therefore, the FW-1884 can't function as the audio interface for the Pro Tools system. You can still use the FW-1884's mic preamps, line inputs and ADAT inputs, submixed internally to a stereo signal, and record this digitally into Pro Tools using the FW-1884's S/PDIF output. At 48kHz you can submix 18 channels to two channels into Pro Tools,

at 96kHz you can submix 14 channels. This comes in handy during mixdown, since you can submix out-board processors and synth modules and bring them you're your session without using up mix processing in your TDM system. You can even clock the FW-1884 from your Pro Tools synchronizer to ensure perfect sample lock.

You still get full HUI control surface functionality with the Fw-1884, from editing and transport controls to mixing and automation control. The FW-1884 also adds four MIDI inputs and outputs to use with your Pro Tools system.

	Pro Tools Free	Pro Tools LE	Pro Tools TDM
Audio	Two-channel in & out	–	–
MIDI	Four inputs & outputs	Four inputs & outputs	Four inputs & outputs
Transport Control	✓	✓	✓
Mixing Controls	✓	✓	✓
Editing Controls	✓	✓	✓

## What is HUI Emulation?

The HUI® is a product made by Mackie Designs as a control surface for Pro Tools. It has faders, knobs, transport controls and editing keys designed for use with Pro Tools. Since the HUI initially shipped, many other software companies have added HUI support to their software so that users could use it for editing and mixing control. Since the HUI is now so universally supported by sequencers and Digital Audio Workstation software, many control surfaces, including the FW-1884, have added HUI emulation modes.

Most currently available sequencers and DAWs have written drivers for the FW-1884. However, for software like Pro Tools that doesn't have an FW-1884 driver, there's HUI emulation. It acts as a software interpreter, so that when you move fader 1 on the FW-1884, the volume for channel 1 is raised in your software. HUI emulation doesn't have anything to do with audio or MIDI, there are different drivers for that which are installed when you set up the FW-1884.