cymatic audio

uTool

uTool
User Manual

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1 Introduction

uTool is a software tool from Cymatic Audio that offers a wide variety of functions for your uTrack24, uTrack-X32, and LP-16 hardware. uTool is available for both OS X and Windows.

1.1. Features

uTool offers two main functions:

- File conversion
- Playlist creation

File Conversion for uTrack24 and uTrack-X32 Content

The uTrack24/uTrack-X32 (hereby described as simply “uTrack”) record and playback multichannel wave files. The uTrack recording file length may often exceed the file size limitations of standard DAW’s (2 GB). To tackle this problem, every time the recording multichannel file reaches the critical size of 2GB, the uTrack will automatically create a new multichannel recording file ("Chunk") within the song, without losing any samples.

uTool offers file conversion utilities, allowing you to move files between your uTrack and DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) software on your computer.

The uTool software offers two important functions for the uTrack user:

Import uTrack Recordings into the Computer: uTool splits the multichannel wave file chunks in a recording into mono wave files. It joins together the respective mono wave files of the chunks to create individual standard mono wave files for each track.

Export uTrack Song to a drive: uTool joins together a group of mono wav files into multichannel wave file(s), for playback on the uTrack hardware.

Playlist Creation and Editing

uTool allows you to create and organize playlists of Song projects. These playlists, along with the songs can be exported to an external USB storage device. The USB storage device can then be used to play the playlists on your device.

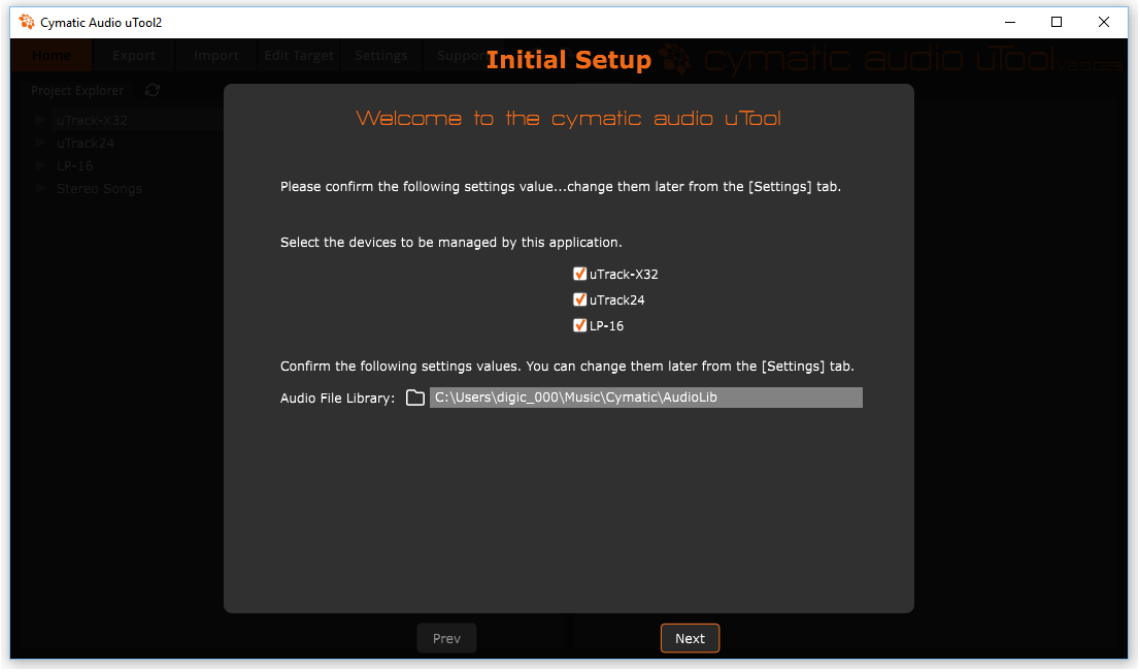
1.2. Installing uTool

- Visit the Cymatic Audio downloads page at http://www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads
- Download and save the OS X or Windows version of the uTool installer file to your local drive
- Start the setup process by double clicking the downloaded file.

1.3. Launching uTool for the First Time

Initial Setup:

When uTool is launched for the first time, a wizard screen appears for the initial setup. Select the device(s) you want to manage with the uTool and choose the fixed drives on your PC. All the settings in the Initial setup can be changed later from the Settings Tab. Refer to the topic Settings Tab for more information.



Migration from uTool version 1.x to version 2.x

uTool version 2 is significantly different from the version 1. Apart from the ease of usability many new features have been added. The project files store more information than in version 1. Hence at startup the uTool version 2 does a migration of the project files created in version 1. The older files are backed up for backward compatibility. On installing uTool version 2 on computers that already had version 1, a message appears on the screen explaining the migration.

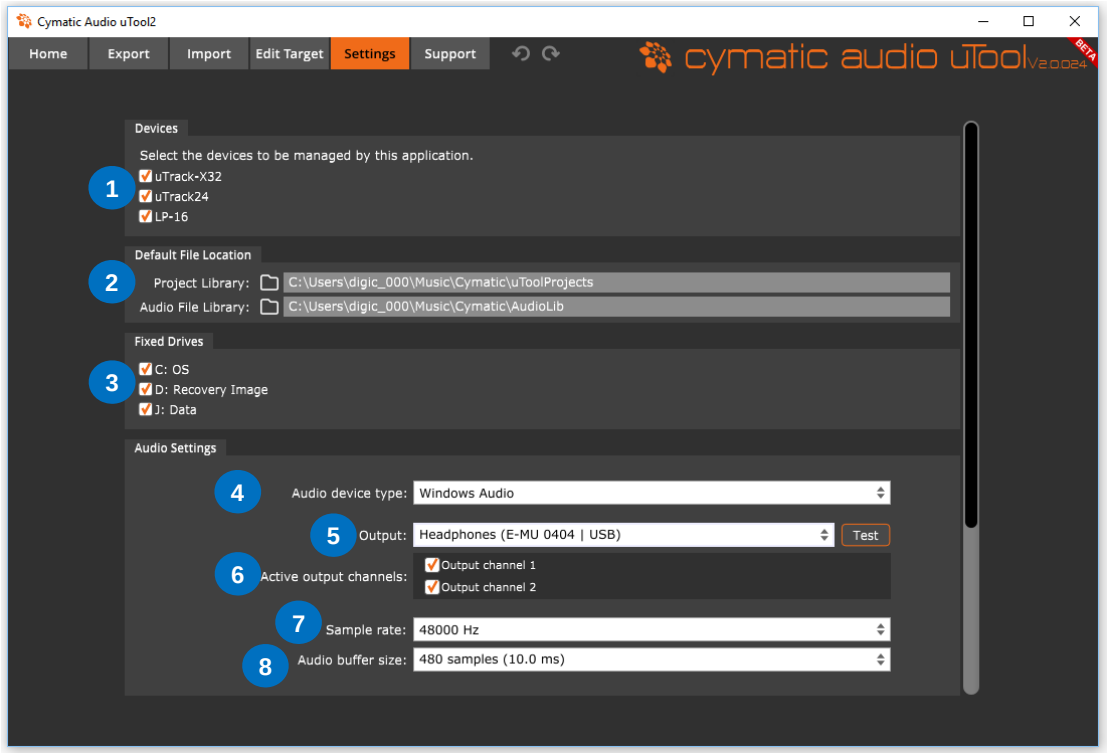
1.4. The uTool User Interface

uTool contains six separate tabs at the top of the screen that you can click to access a different aspect of the user interface. Next to the tabs is an undo and a redo button.



2 Settings Tab

uTool settings tab allows you to adjust various settings for the software, as follows:



1. **Devices:** Select the devices that need to be managed with uTool. More than one device can be chosen:
   - uTrack24
   - uTrack-X32
   - LP-16

   Upon selection, the user interface of uTool will be tailored appropriately for the devices you have chosen.

2. **Default File Locations**

   Project Library: Specifies the default path where uTool will save the song and playlist projects(.prj files). The project files contain the location of source wave files and other details for a given project.

   Audio File Library: When importing recordings for uTrack devices, the song folder with mono wave files is created inside the Audio File Library folder. When creating song projects from the Home tab in uTool, by default the content of this folder is shown for selection. It is recommended to have all your source wave files inside the Audio File Library folder.

⚠ *Note: It is highly recommended to have the project library path and the Audio file library path within the same folder. For example in the case shown in the picture above both the folders are inside "C:\Users\digic_000\Music\Cymatic\". It is recommended not to have the Audio File Library on a network drive. There might be performance issues when using network drives.*

3. **Fixed Drives (Windows Only): The drives that are not selected as fixed drives will be visible in the "Removable drive" option of the Import/Export tab.**



Note: It is recommended to remove any external hard drives before launching uTool *for the first time, so that the fixed drive list contains only internal drives. Any new disk that you later connect over USB will be considered as a removable drive*

4. **Audio Device Type (Windows Only):** Selects what type of audio output protocol you wish to use with your Windows computer. The three choices include:

   Windows Audio: This selects the standard Windows Audio protocol. Use this setting if you are planning to use the internal sound card on your computer.

   Direct Sound: This selects the alternate "Direct Sound" Audio protocol

   ASIO: This selects the professional "ASIO" audio protocol. Select this choice if you wish to monitor uTool audio output using a professional computer audio interface that you are using with its corresponding ASIO driver.

5. **Output:** Selects to which device the uTool stereo audio output is sent to.

6. **Active Output Channels:** This menu allows you to select a pair of stereo channels on the output device selected.



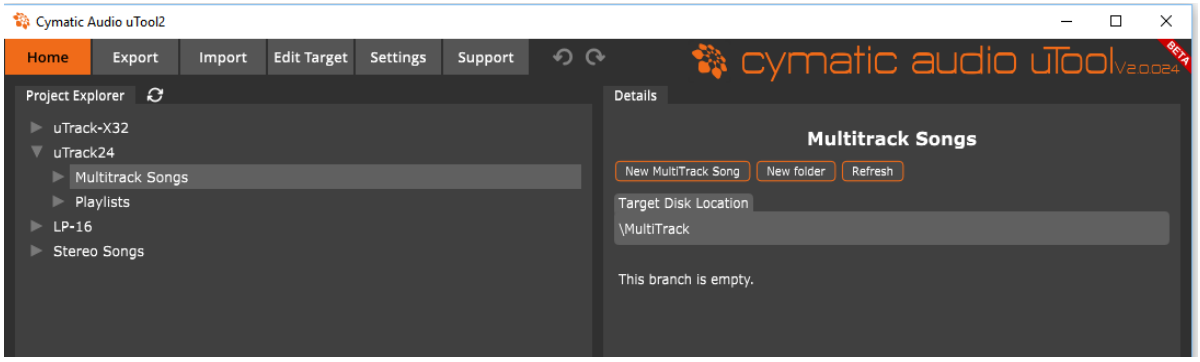
Note: When auditioning a multitrack song project, uTool only sends a stereo downmix to its active output channels.

7. **Sample Rate:** Selects the sample rate that the selected audio hardware will operate at. The available sample rates will differ based on what sample rates the chosen audio hardware offers.

8. **Audio Buffer Size:** Sets the buffer size of the selected audio device. Larger buffer sizes will reduce strain on the computer CPU.

3 HOME Tab

The Home tab allows you to create and modify song projects and playlists. The structure of the Home tab varies depending on the selected devices that need to be managed by uTool.



The home tab is organized into two parts. The left side panel is a project explorer. All the projects can be seen at a glance from the project explorer. The triangular buttons help to expand/collapse the contents within the project explorer items.

The right side panel shows the details about the item selected in the project explorer. The Details panel changes depending on what item is chosen on the Project Explorer.

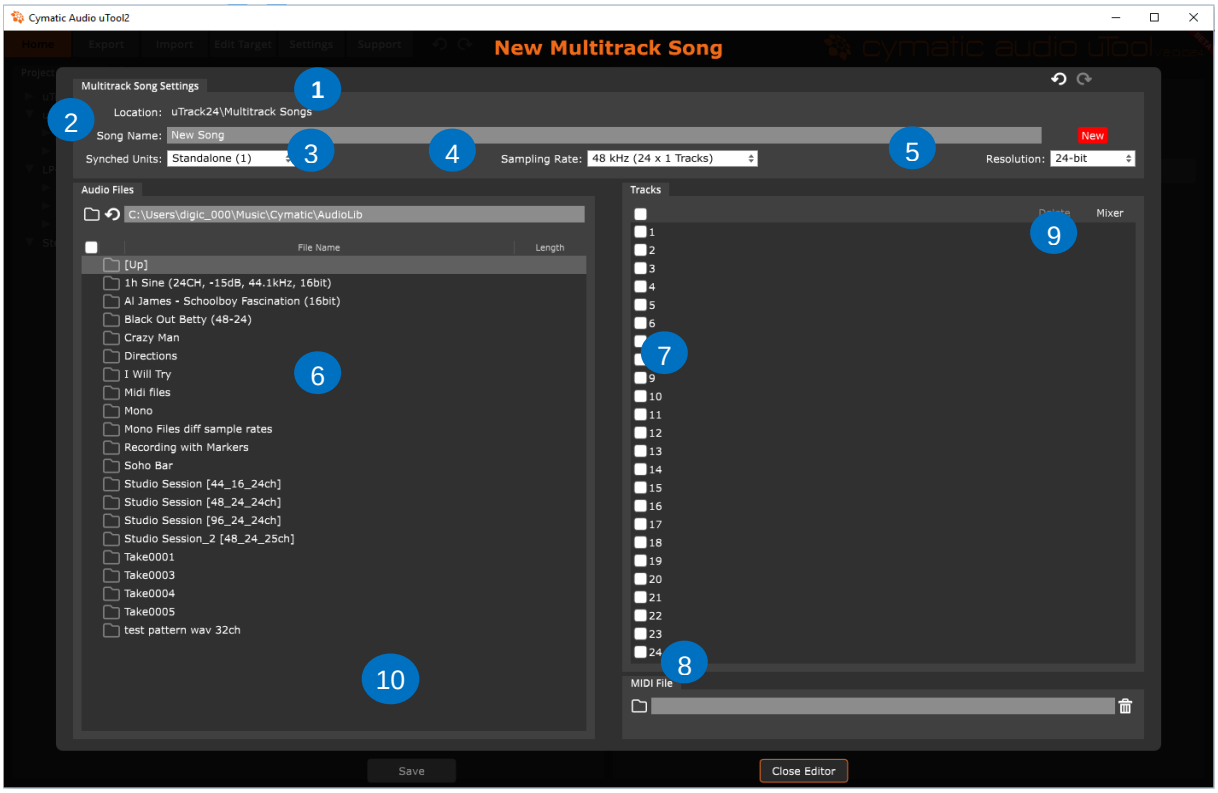
uTool version 2 allows the creation of folders for easy organization of songs and playlist. New folders can be created by right clicking items on the Project Explorer panel or from the Details panel.

3.1. Creating Multi-track Song Projects

To open the Multitrack Song creation page:

- In the Project Explorer panel, click on the Multitrack Songs item. Click on the New MultiTrack Song button in the Details panel.
- Alternatively you can right click on the Multitrack Songs item and choose New Multitrack Song.

The New Multitrack Song page has the following fields:



1. **Location**: Is the position of the song in the project explorer panel.

2. **Song Name:** This name will be displayed on the playback device.

3. **Synched Units:** When using uTrack24 as the target device, number of synchronized units can be chosen from this drop down menu. Depending on the number of synchronized units chosen (2, 3 or 4), the number of tracks available changes. Refer to the sync manual for uTrack24 for further details.

4. **Sampling Rate:** Select one of the available sample rate buttons at the top of the screen; this will determine the sample rate of the final song created. The available tracks will change depending on the sample rate chosen.

5. **Resolution:** Select the desired bit-depth for the song, either 16-bit or 24-bit.

6. **Audio Files (Source):** The audio files and folders of the default location are shown in this panel. It is possible to browse to any desired source location from within the Audio Files panel.

7. **Tracks Panel:** is visible on the right side of the Audio Files panel. The number of slots visible in the Tracks panel will change depending on the target device selected. The numbers in the column represent the audio outputs tracks on the device. Drag the mono wave files from the left panel into a slot on the right panel. Multiple channels can be selected using the checkbox button.



Note: Selecting stereo files, will occupy two tracks. The track names will be appended with Track 1 and Track 2 respectively. Multichannel wave files can also be dragged and dropped the track names will be appended depending on the number of channels present in the mulitchannel wave file.

8. **MIDI File**(only in LP16 and uTrack24): A MIDI file can be included into the song project. When the song is played back, the MIDI file will be played back on the 5-pin MIDI output in sync with the audio tracks.

   Use the folder icon in the MIDI File section to load the desired MIDI file into the song project. The loaded MIDI file's name will be displayed along with its duration.

9. **Onboard Audio Mixer:** To audition the multitrack song project, uTool provides an onboard software audio mixer. To view the mixer, double-click on the mixer button on the right hand side of the tracks panel.



- Change the fader, pan, mute and solo controls to make adjustments to the song's mix . You can audition the song by clicking on the play icon at the bottom of the screen.

- At any time you can click the Revert changes button to return the song's mix to its default state. Double clicking an individual fader button reverts the fader back to its default value.

- Click on the pre/post button in the upper right hand corner to set the level meters (which appear inline with the channel faders) to pre-fader or post-fader. When set to pre-fader, the meters are not affected by the channel's fader level. When set to post-fader, the meters are affected by the fader position, and can serve to show you if a fader adjustment you make will create a digital overload.

- The preset option allows you to create, change and load a mixer preset. Click on the field within the preset field to see all the available options.

Note: For uTrack- X32, the mixer is available only for monitoring on the Computer.

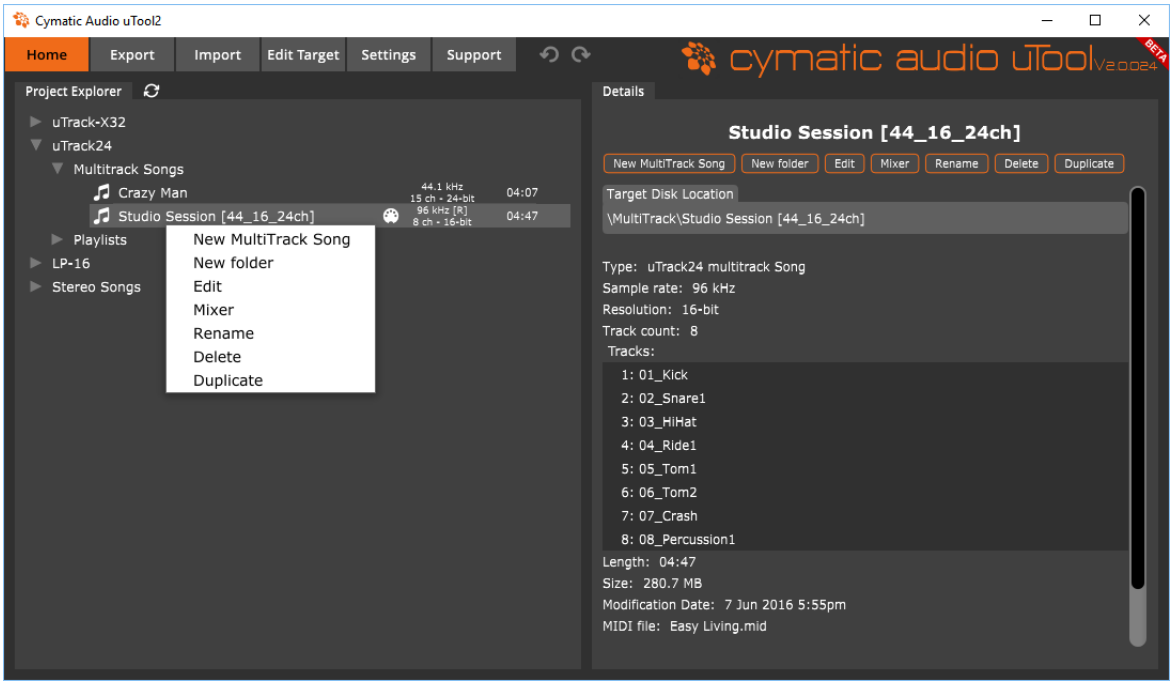
Note: The LP-16 implements a mono monitor mixer. Hence for LP-16 the pan settings are not exported to the song settings.

Note: For uTrack-24 the solo settings are not exported. uTrack24 provides only temporary solo functionality which can be activated from the Channel Focus Menu in the UI.

Note: uTrack-24 and LP-16 implement output faders for the individual outputs. The devices can use the monitor mixer fader values as the output fader values by setting the playback option "Output Post Fader" in the device settings menu.

10. **Save:** Click on Save to save the song project. If any of the tracks needs resampling or change of bit depth, you must check the "enable re-sampling & resolution change" button before being able to click on Save.

3.1.1. Song Details Panel



When a song item is selected on the project explorer, the songs information is displayed on the Details panel. Actions like editing the song project, renaming, deleting, duplicating etc are available in the Details panel. The same can be accessed by right clicking the song project in the Project Explorer panel.

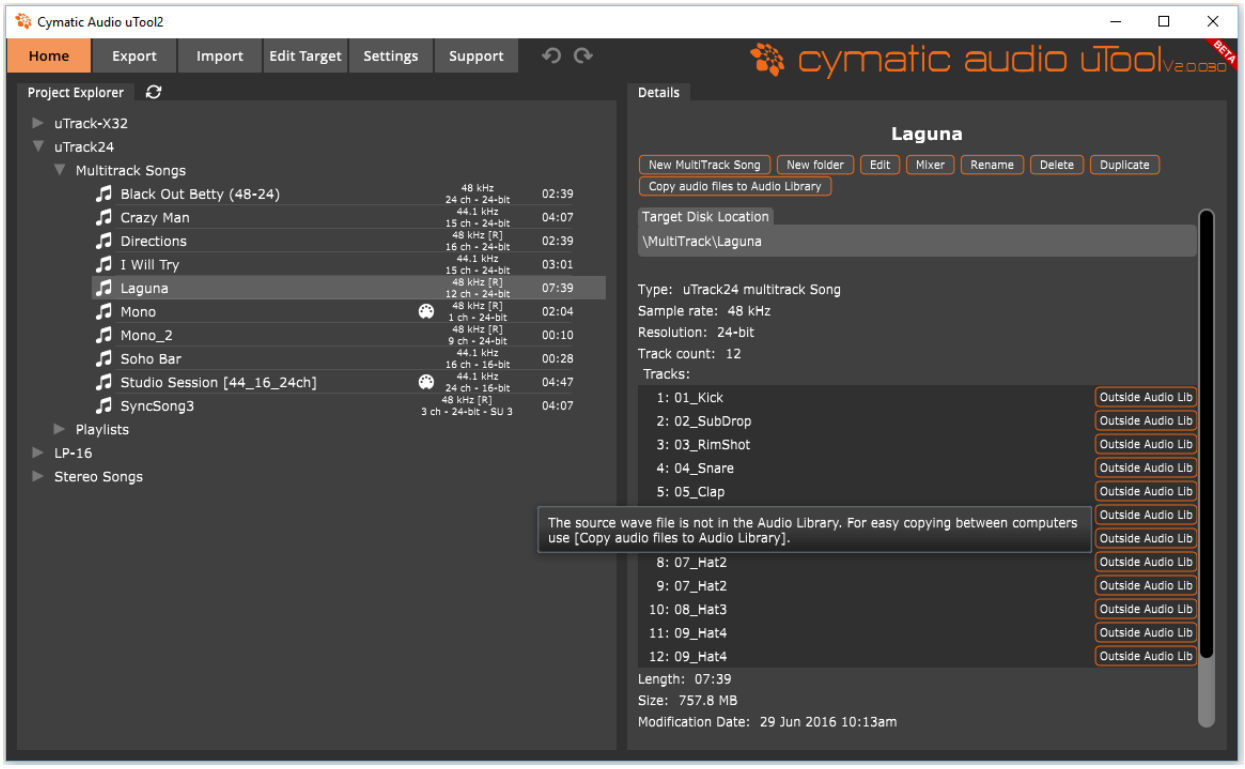
3.1.2. Moving projects between computers

With the uTool version 2.x, it is possible to move the project files and the source files from one computer to another computer with ease.

To transfer the projects and files, copy the Audio File library folder and the Project library folder from the source computer to the destination computer. Open uTool on the destination computer, set the default location for the Project Library and Audio File Library to the respective copied locations. uTool is now ready to be used on the destination computer.

When creating a song project, if the source files are not selected from inside the Audio File libarary path, this mechanism of transferring content from one computer to the other does not work.

When creating song projects in uTool, if the source files are located outside the Audio Library, uTool provides a way to copy the audio files into the Audio Library with a single button click.



In the Details panel of the song project, any track lying outside the Audio Lib is marked with an orange warning. It is possible to copy these files into the Audio Library folder by clicking on the “Copy audio files to Audio Library” button.

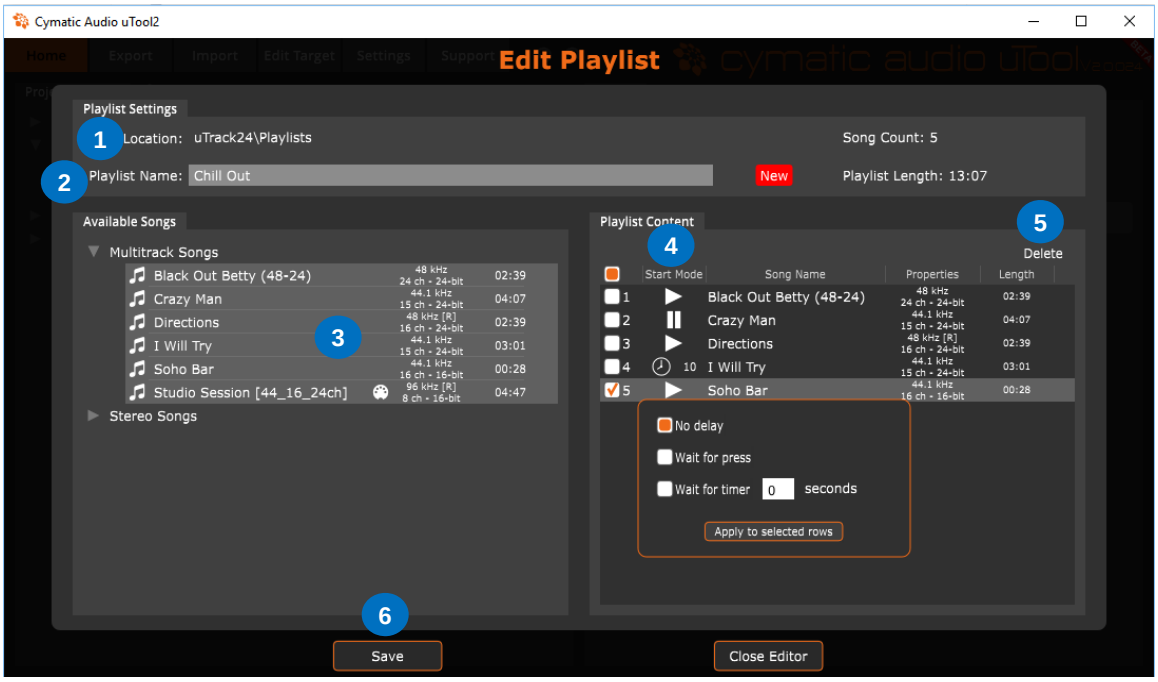
Note: The button ”Copy audio files to Audio Library” is also available in the details panel when a folder is selected, or available with right clicking a folder. Click the button to copy all the files(lying outside Audio Lib) in song projects,into the Audio Library. If all the files are within the Audio Library path, this button is not available.

3.2. Creating Playlists

Playlists are a pre-configured sequence of multitrack or stereo audio files. uTool allows for flexible customization of how each audio song transitions to the next.

To open the Edit Playlist Page:

- Click on the Playlists item on the Project Explorer.
- Click on the New Playlist from the Details panel or right click the Playlists item on the Project Explorer



The Edit Playlist page has the following fields:

1. Location is the position of the playlist in the project explorer panel.

2. Set a desired Playlist Name

3. Drag the desired songs from the Available Songs panel in left and drop them in the Playlist Content panel on the right. Multiple songs can be selected from the left panel by using the shift and ctrl keys. Click and drag an existing entry in the right panel to move its order within the playlist.

4. Click the song's Start Mode icon ( ) to bring up the start mode popup menu for that playlist entry. The start mode determines how the song starts after the previous entry has completed playback. The options for start mode are:

   - *No Delay*: The playlist entry will start playing immediately when the previous entry completes playback.

   - *Wait for Key Press:* The playlist entry will wait to start playback until you press the Play key on the hardware's transport.

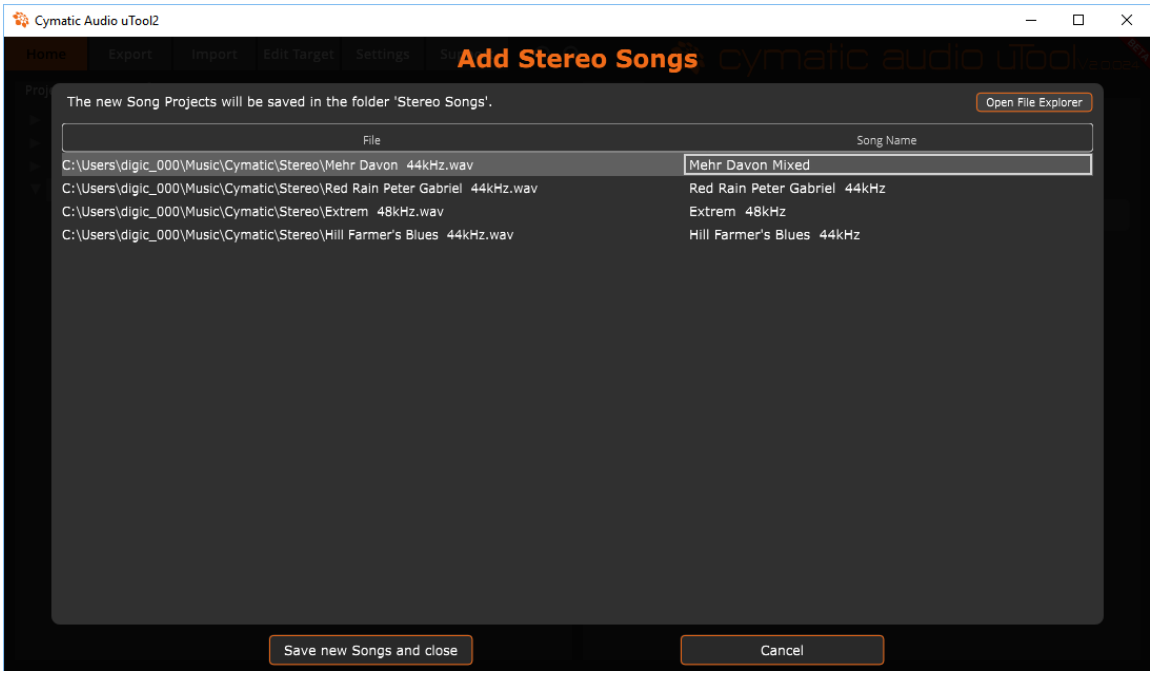
   - *Wait for Timer:* The playlist entry will wait for the specified time in seconds, before starting playback. Maximum value for wait time interval is 99 seconds.

5. Checkbox can be used to select the songs within a playlist. Remove Song button can be used to delete songs from the playlist

6. Click on the Save button to save the playlist. When you have added all the songs you wish to, click on the Save Playlist button on the bottom right; The screen will return to the main playlist interface. Once the Playlists are created, they are visible in the Export tab and can be selected for export to an external drive.

3.3. Adding Stereo Song projects:

In the Project Explorer panel, click on the Stereo Songs item. To open the Add Stereo Songs page, click on the Add Stereo Songs button in the Details panel. Alternatively you can right click on the Stereo Songs item and choose Add Stereo Songs.

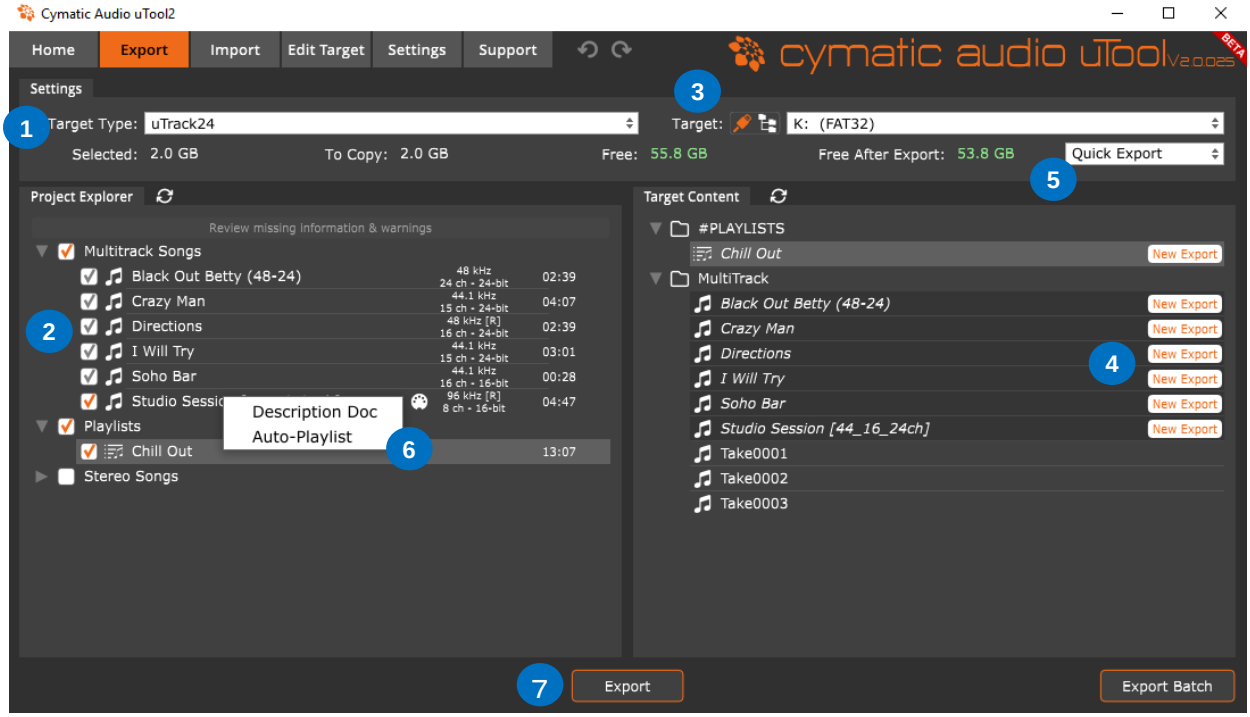


Stereo songs can be dragged and dropped into the page from anywhere in the computer. Open File Explorer button can be used to launch an explorer from within the page. Once the songs are listed in the page, it is possible to double click a Song Name to modify it.

Click on the “Save new Songs and close” button to save the newly added stereo songs.

4 Export Tab

The Export tab allows you to export multi-track songs, stereo song and playlists to an external drive to be used on your target device. Perform the following steps to export the content in your project explorer.



1. Make sure to choose the proper target device from the Target Type Setting.

2. From the Project Explorer Panel, select the specific songs or playlists by clicking on the checkbox button. Folders can also be selected which in turn selects all the songs within the folder. If a playlist is selected, the songs present in the playlist are automatically selected.

3. Insert your external drive in your PC. Choose the proper drive in the Target field. The current available free space and the space available after export is shown in the Settings panel of the Export tab.
If you wish to export the selected content to a non-removable drive, click on the directory icon, and choose a desired folder .

4. When a removable drive is selected, the Target Content panel column will display the list of songs already present on the selected drive. This makes it easy to see which new songs are to be exported.

5. Two options to export are available. Selecting Force Overwrite writes the selected content even if it already exists on the target. Quick Export only exports the songs if they were not already present on the drive.

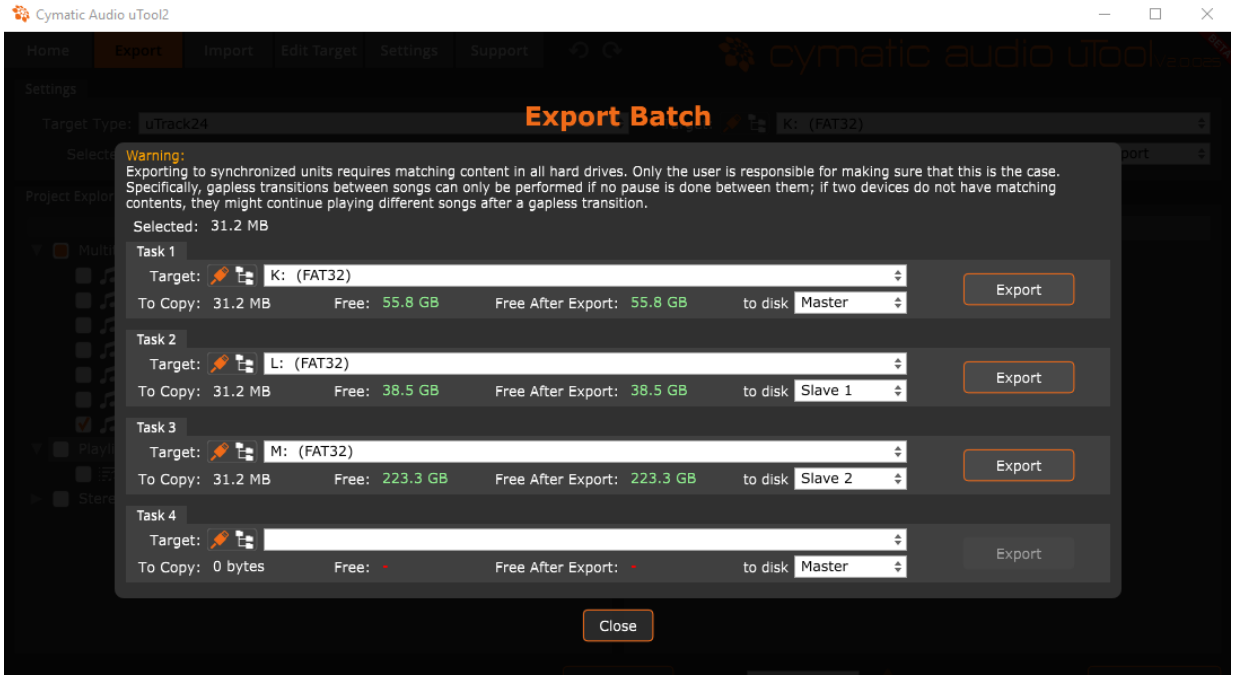
6. AutoPlaylist: uTrack24 offers an autoplaylist feature. For more details check the uTrack24 user's manual. Right click on a playlist to choose it as an automatically starting playlist on boot. For the feature to work Autoplay on boot should be switched ON in the uTrack24 device.

⚠ *Note: Version 2 exports the autoplaylist folder to the #PLAYLIST folder in the root directory. Be careful that this auto playlist will not run if you connect this target to a uTrack24 running a firmware version older than 3427.*

Description doc is another option available on the right clicking the playlist. Description doc gives the details of the playlist in a simple text format that can be printed out.

7. Click on the Export button to start the export process. During the export process a progress bar shows the status of completion. The export process copies the songs and playlists along with the complete folder structure, to the destination, making file conversions on the fly as necessary.

8. Batch Export: This option is useful for exporting content for synchronized uTrack24 units. When content for synchronized units is selected, the export to different drives can be started all together without having to keep checking the uTool after every drive export.



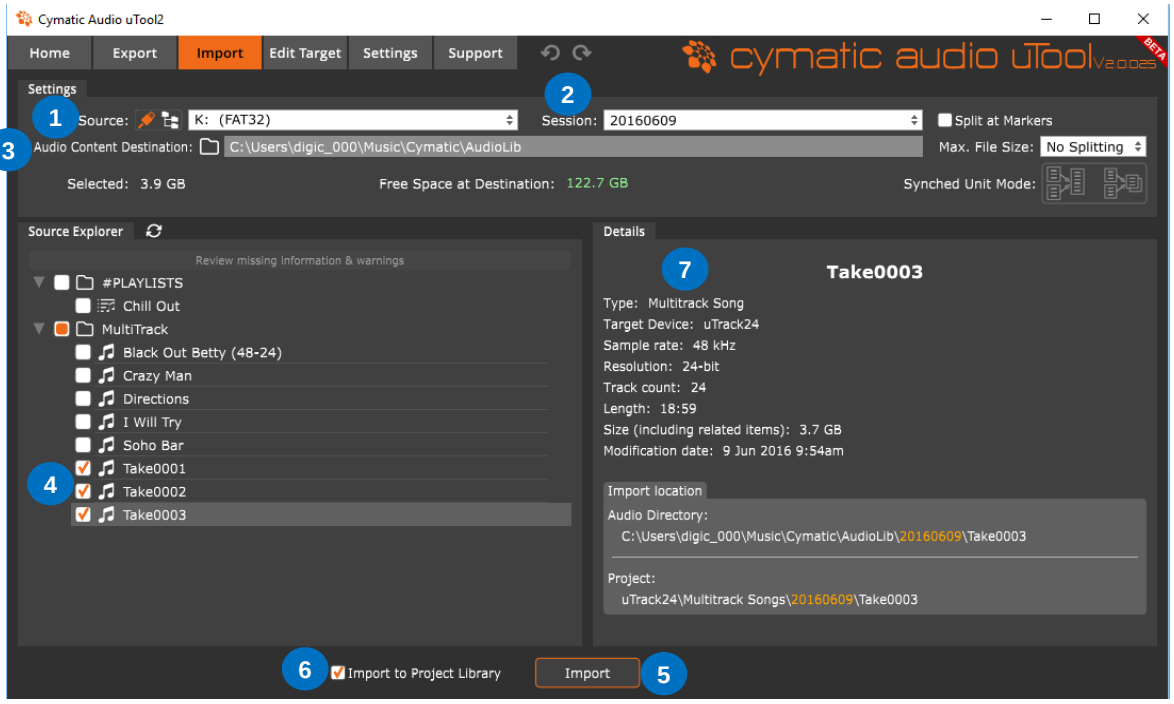
- Insert all the necessary drives(depends on number of synchronized units) to the computer.
- Select the target drive for each Task.
- In case of stacked mode content, select if this drive (to disk) will be connected to the Master or one of the Slaves. In case of redundant mode, the “to disk” option is not present, multiple drives can still be selected.
- Click on the Export button for each of the tasks

Once you have exported the songs and playlists to a removable USB drive, you can connect the USB drive to your uTrack or LP hardware for playback.

5 Import Tab

This tab is used to copy audio files to the computer. File conversion is done on the fly as necessary.

To import content follow these steps:



1. **Source:** Choose the source device in the Settings panel. The source is usually an external drive or a folder on the computer.

2. **Session:** The import will be done into a Session folder, which by default is the current date with the format YYYYMMDD. The session name can be modified if required. The Session folder is created inside the Audio file library folder. All the imported songs are placed inside the session folder.

Note: Content from synchronized units, must be imported into a single Session. For example if you want to import a recording "Take0001" from Master and Slave1; both the imports must be done into the same Session folder. uTool will warn you if a new session is chosen for import.

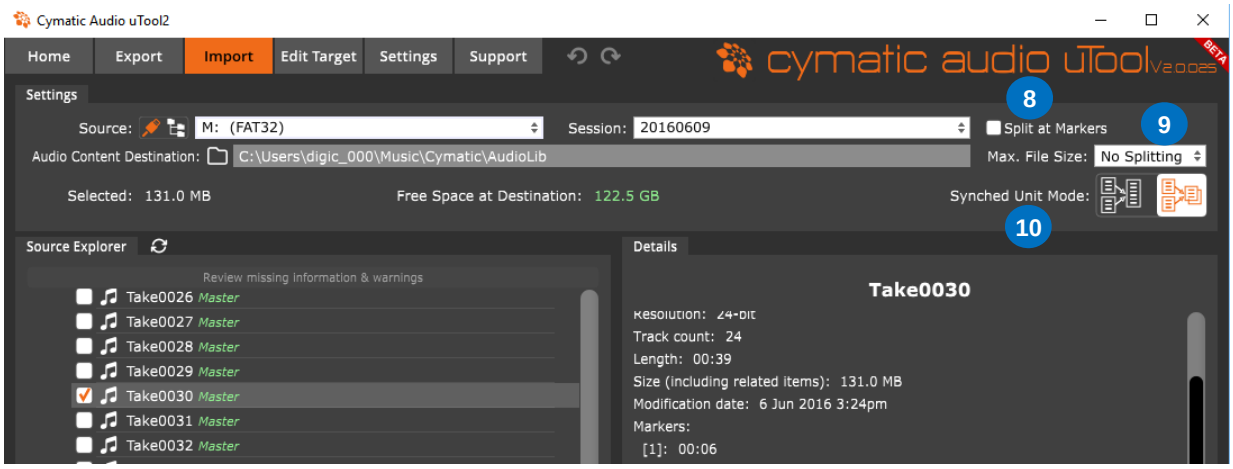
3. **Destination:** Default Location for importing the songs is the Audio File Library folder. If needed this can be changed using the Audio Content Destination.

4. **Source Explorer:** Select the songs and playlists from the Source Explorer panel. Tick the checkbox against all the items that need to be imported.

5. **Import Button:** Click on the Import button at the bottom of the screen. uTool converts the selected songs into separate mono wave files in the location specified. Each converted song is a folder with mono wave files in it. Playlists can also be imported.

6. **Import to Project Library** option allows to save the imported content as projects in the uTool. The song projects are then available from the Home tab to be modified and exported again when needed.

7. **Details Panel:** When a Source Explorer item is selected, all the details related to it are shown on the Details panel on the right. The information includes track count, sampling rate, length, import location etc.



8. **Split at Markers:** If the recordings have markers, the uTool can split the take at the marker position, thus creating a separate song at each marker.

9. **Maximum File Size:** You can also specify the maximum .wav file size for the mono files; if the imported .wav file exceeds the limit, sub-songs will be created during the conversion process. This function is useful if you know your DAW software does not do well with importing .wav files over a certain size.

10. **Synched Unit Mode:** This option is only valid for recordings that have been done with uTrack24 synchronized units. The recordings could be done for redundancy or to have an extended number of channels (stacked mode). uTool allows you to import the song based on the type of intended recording of the user.



Stacked Mode:

uTool creates a single folder with up to 96 audio tracks. The imported tracks are numbered as follows:

- MASTER: Take0030(#01 … #24)
- SLAVE #1: Take0030(#25 … #48) ….. (etc.)

Redundant Mode:

uTool creates a folder for each device which look like:

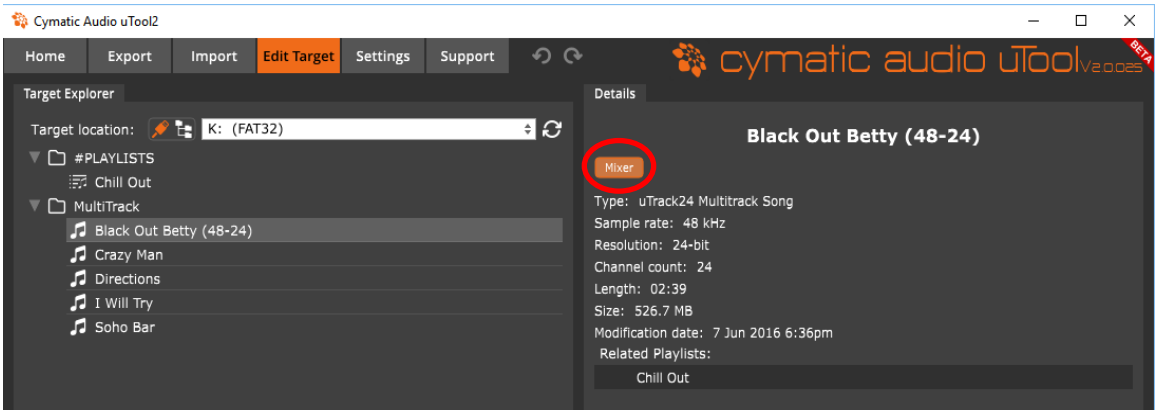
- MASTER: Take0030 (#01 … #24)
- SLAVE #1: Take0030_Slave1 (#01 … #24) (etc.)

Note: When importing content from synchronized units the Import button is not activated unless one of the two synched unit mode options is chosen.

Warning: Exporting to synchronized units requires matching content on all hard drives. If the content doesn't match, the units might play at different song positions or even play different songs after a gapless transition.

6 Edit Target Tab

Edit Target tab can be used to directly modify the exported content at the exported location. Edit Target tab allows you to modify a playlist or the mixer settings of songs.



In the Target Location, choose an external drive or a folder on your computer. The content of the chosen target is shown in the Target Explorer panel. Select a song from the Target Explorer and click on the Mixer button from the Details panel. Mixer settings can be changed and saved to the song.

Click on a playlist in the Target Explorer panel and then click on Edit button from the Details panel. The playlist name, song order and start mode of the songs can be changed and saved.

7 Support Tab

uTool support tab offers different tools to quickly and easily get help with your questions about the application.



1. User's Manual: Click on this link to navigate to a web page where you can download the .pdf user's manual for the uTool software. A copy of the user's manual can also be downloaded from http://www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads

2. Website: Click this box to go to Cymatic Audio's website, located at www.cymaticaudio.com

3. Support Forum: Click on this link to go to the user support forum for Cymatic Audio products, located at www.cymaticaudio.com/forum

4. Email Support: Click this button to check online if there are any driver or firmware updates available for your hardware. The downloads website is located at www.cymaticaudio.com/downloads

8 Legal Disclaimer

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cymatic audio

uTool

Cymatic Technologies B.V.
P.O. Box 208
6590 AE Gennep
The Netherlands

www.cymaticaudio.com

Support:
support@cymaticaudio.com

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User Manual
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