*** Important Information ***

Pro Tools and Multiple Control Surfaces

When using more than one control surface with Pro Tools (HD, LE, or M-Powered) there are a few important considerations. Please review the following information which is believed to be correct at the time of writing. Consult your Pro Tools or Digidesign hardware manual for further details and possible exceptions to these notes.

General Rules

Pro Tools treats all third-party (non-Digidesign) MIDI controllers, regardless of manufacturer, as Mackie HUI devices. Pro Tools also treats multiple MIDI control surfaces of all types, such as the TranzPort,, AlphaTrack, Mackie Control, HUI, Digi-002, etc., as consecutive, or serial devices. This means that if you have more than one device configured in the "MIDI Controller" setup panel, the first will control tracks 1 – 8, the second becomes an 'expander' and controls tracks 9-16, etc. If your move one controller by a track or bank, all controllers will move with it. Because no controller can be pushed below track 1, only the first controller will ever be able to access tracks 1 – 8. However, controllers can be pushed beyond the upper-most track so that the first controller CAN access all tracks including the last track.

Ethernet control surfaces, such as the ProControl, Control/24, etc., follow similar rules except that an Ethernet controller can be configured in parallel with a MIDI controller. Because they use different types of connection Pro Tools seems to treat them as completely independent devices. Therefore you could have a ProControl and a TranzPort for example, both working on the same system, each with full track access.

So what do you do if you want to use an AlphaTrack and a TranzPort, or another pair of MIDI controllers together? There is an easy workaround to this problem that may be suitable for most users.

Simply add 8 "dummy" tracks at the beginning of your project. By using MIDI or Aux tracks to do this it shouldn't add any significant load on your overall CPU usage. These tracks act as a place to 'park' the first controller so that either controller can access any of your 'real' project tracks.

Generally speaking, Digidesign's Ethernet based controllers can be used in parallel with other MIDI controllers without any of these issues. You may find that some changes made with an Ethernet controller are not immediately recognized by a MIDI controller, or visa-versa.

Specific Controllers

The **Command/8**, designed by Digidesign, is a MIDI controller that uses a USB connection to interface to your computer. As stated in the setup procedures of its own installation manual, the Command/8 is NOT compatible with ANY other third party MIDI controller. This is unfortunate and means that a TranzPort, for instance, can not be used simultaneously with the Command/8, even as serial devices. They can, however, be used one at a time. By assigning only one at a time in your "MIDI Controllers" setup panel you can switch between them according to your project needs. Fortunately Pro Tools does allow you to switch controllers on the fly, without closing your project, which reduces the hassle somewhat.

The **Digi-002**, by Digidesign, is also a MIDI control surface (not the Digi-002R). However for some reason, if you have a Digi-002 in your system, Pro Tools does not display it in the MIDI Controllers list. This creates a bit of confusion when adding a second controller like the TranzPort because you must to enter it into the first position. Even though the TranzPort appears in the list as the first and only MIDI controller, it is in fact the second. As a result you will not be able to access the first 8 tracks with the TranzPort as per the rules above.

In this case you can either add the 8 dummy tracks as described above, or temporarily disable the Digi-002's control surface when you want to use the other control surface. To do this you will need to remove the file digi002.dll from the c/Program Files/Common Files/Digidesign/DAE/Controllers folder. Dragging this file to the desktop before starting Pro Tools will allow the TranzPort to appear as the only controller, and it can be easily replaced when you want to reactivate the Digi-002 controller functions. This will have no affect on the audio functionality of the Digi-002.

Although we have not tested the newer **Digi-003** product, we believe at this time that is will follow the same rules as the Digi-002.