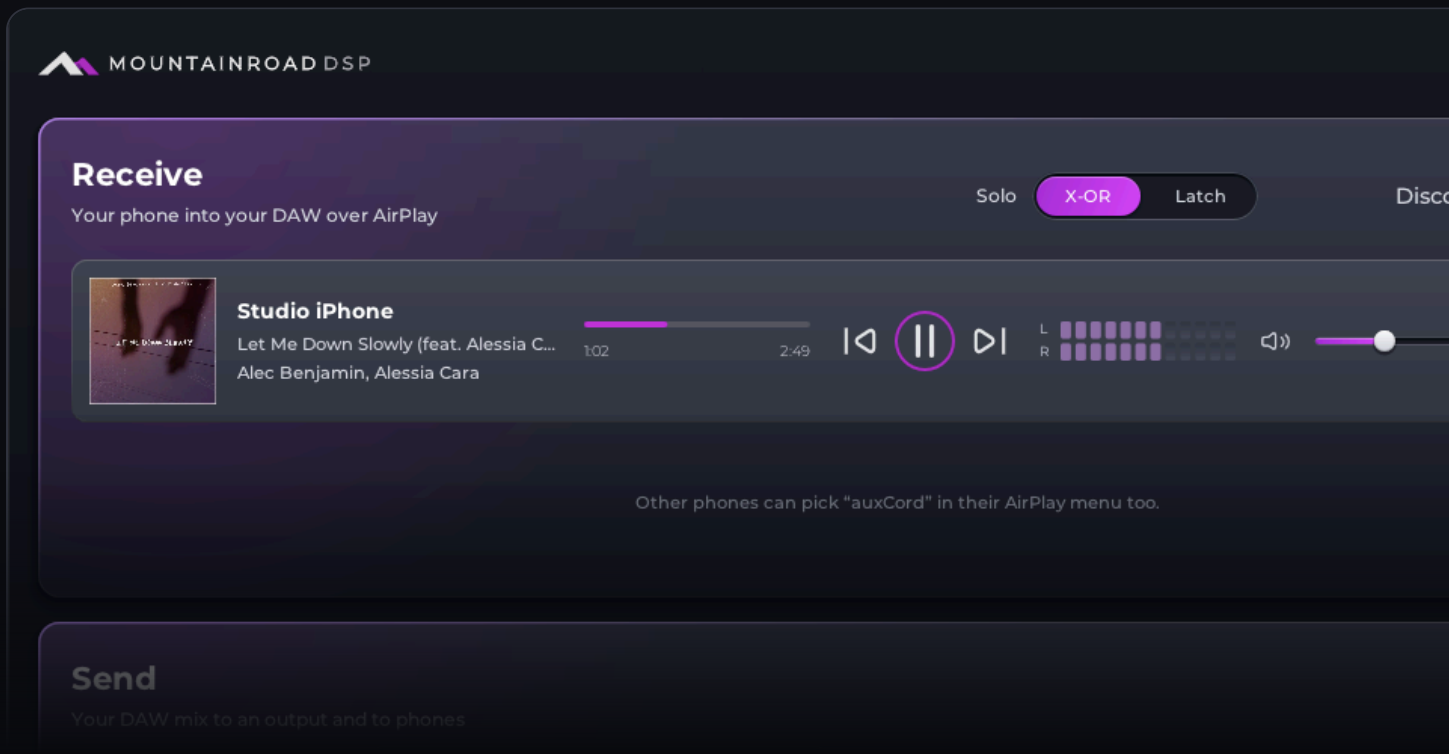
MOUNTAINROAD DSP

auxCord

User manual

Your phone's audio in your DAW.
Your mix on your phone.



AirPlay from iPhone, iPad and Mac · auxCord Listen app for iOS and Android · AAX, AU, VST3 · macOS, Windows

Version 3.0

Welcome

auxCord is a plugin that streams audio between your phone and your DAW, both ways, no interface, no cables.

Two directions

Receive: your phone into your DAW. auxCord appears on your network as an AirPlay speaker. Pick it on an iPhone, iPad or Mac and whatever the device plays arrives on the track auxCord sits on, ready to hear and to record.

Send: your mix on your phone. The audio on auxCord's track goes to an output of your choice, such as Bluetooth earbuds, and to phones running the free auxCord Listen app for iOS and Android.

What you need

Mac	macOS 10.13 or later, Apple silicon or Intel. AAX, AU and VST3.
Windows	Windows 10 (version 1809) or later, 64-bit. AAX and VST3.
To play into the DAW	An iPhone, iPad or Mac. Nothing to install on it.
To hear the mix	auxCord Listen on an iPhone or an Android phone. Free on the App Store and on Google Play.
Network	Phone and computer on the same local network. No internet is needed for the audio.

In this manual

1	Install and activate	3
2	Quick start	4
3	The window	5
4	Receive	6
5	Send	7
6	Studio Connect	8
7	Notes	9
8	Settings	10
9	Your licence	11
10	If something does not work	12
11	Your DAW and help	13

About the delay

AirPlay buffers about 2 seconds of audio, so what arrives in the DAW lags the phone by about 2 seconds. That is fine for references, voice memos and a client's playlist. It is not a way to play an instrument through the DAW.

1 Install and activate

One installer per platform. Activation happens in your browser, with no key to type.

Install

1. Download the installer from mountainroaddsp.com/downloads. You need a free account.
2. **Quit your DAW**, then run the installer.
3. Open your DAW. If auxCord is not listed, rescan your plugins.

The installer places every format for all users of the computer. There is no standalone application.

> **Coming from auxCord 2?** 3.0 is a free upgrade. The installer replaces 2.6, and a session made with 2.6 opens with 3.0 in the same slot. For your licence, see page 11.

Which format

Pro Tools	AAX
Logic Pro, GarageBand	AU (Audio Unit)
Most other DAWs	VST3

Activate, or start the trial

1. Load auxCord on a track and click **Activate** in its header.
2. Your browser opens. Sign in to your Mountainroad DSP account, or create one.
3. Choose your licence, or start the **14-day trial**. The plugin window updates by itself.

The trial has every feature. The header shows the days left, with a **Buy** button.

> **Not activated, or trial ended?** Devices still connect and their meters move, so you can check that your network works, but their audio stays silent until auxCord is activated.

A computer without internet

1. In auxCord, click **Activate**, then **Offline...**, and **Save device file...**
2. On a computer that is online, go to mountainroaddsp.com/activate/offline, sign in, upload the device file and download the licence file.
3. Bring the licence file back and choose **Load file...** in the same window. A licence file never needs the internet again.

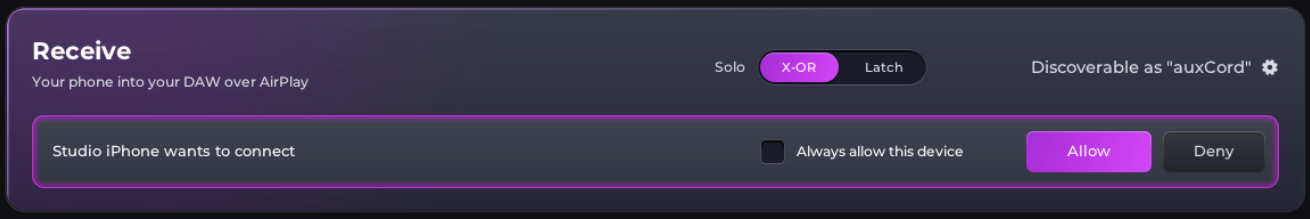
2 Quick start

Four steps in each direction. The rest of this manual is detail.

Your phone into your DAW

iPhone, iPad or Mac

1. **Load auxCord on a track** in your DAW, mono or stereo. auxCord is only visible to phones while the plugin is loaded.
2. **Activate it**, or start the trial.
3. **On the phone, choose auxCord as the AirPlay speaker.** On an iPhone, open Control Center, tap the audio output button on the music controls and pick “auxCord”. On a Mac, choose auxCord as the sound output.
4. **Click Allow** when auxCord asks, and press play. The audio arrives on the track about 2 seconds later, ready to record.



A new device asks first. Device names, titles and artwork in this manual are illustrative.

Your mix on your phone

iPhone or Android, with auxCord Listen

1. **Put auxCord on the track or bus you want to share**, for example the master bus.
2. **Switch on “auxCord app”** in the Send card.
3. **On the phone, open auxCord Listen** and pick your studio from the list. The phone must be on the same Wi-Fi.
4. **Click Allow** on the phone’s tile in auxCord. The phone now plays your mix.

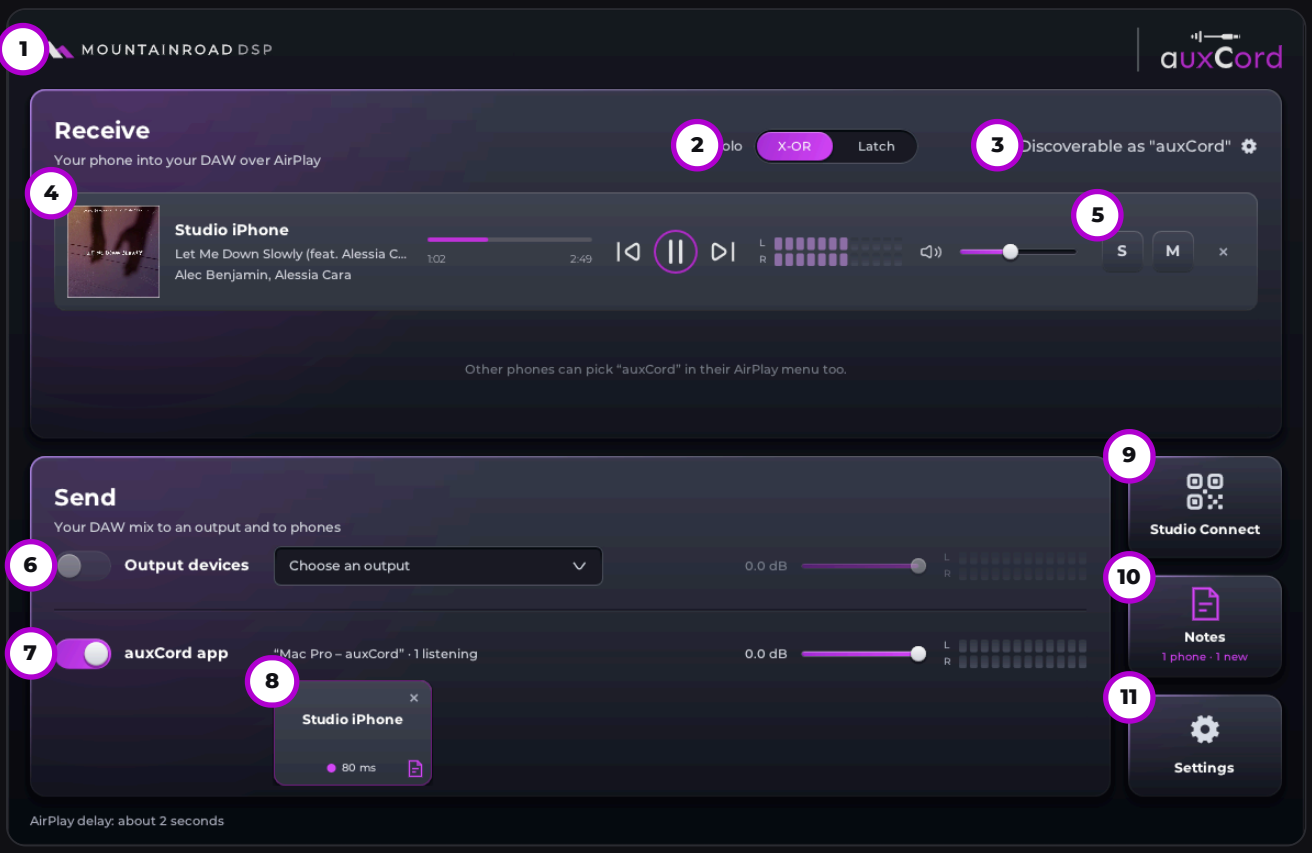
The phone cannot see auxCord? In almost every case the phone is on a different network than the computer, often a guest Wi-Fi. See Studio Connect on page 8 and the checklist on page 12.

Where to go next

Record what the phone plays	Receive, page 6
Let the client hear the mix on earbuds	Send, page 7
Guests are on another Wi-Fi	Studio Connect, page 8
Read what listeners wrote	Notes, page 9

3 The window

Receive on top, Send below, three tiles on the right. The window can be resized.

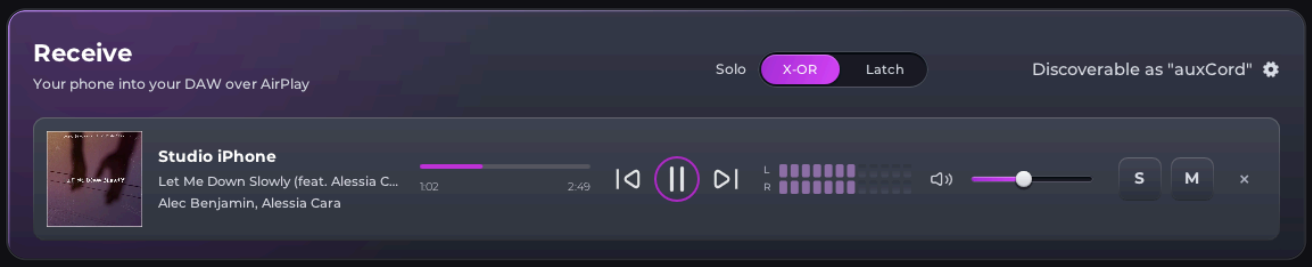


1. **Logos.** Either logo opens About: version, licence, log file location. When the licence needs attention, a button appears next to the Mountainroad logo.
2. **Solo mode.** X-OR plays one soloed device at a time, Latch several at once.
3. **Discoverable as.** The name phones see in their AirPlay menu. Click it to change it.
4. **Device row.** One per connected device: artwork, title, transport, meters and volume.
5. **S, M and ×.** Solo, mute, and hold × to disconnect the device.
6. **Output devices.** Sends the track's audio to a second output of your computer.
7. **auxCord app.** Sends the track's audio to phones running auxCord Listen. One volume for all phones.
8. **Phone tile.** One per listening phone, with its connection health, its notes and × to remove it.
9. **Studio Connect.** A QR code that puts guests on the right Wi-Fi.
10. **Notes.** Messages from phones, your replies, and your own notes.
11. **Settings.** Names, access and recording permission.

The line at the bottom left is where auxCord shows short messages. The window re-flows as you resize it: in narrow windows the progress bars go first, then the meters, so every row stays usable.

4 Receive

Your phone into your DAW over AirPlay. Several devices can play at once, each in its own row.



Allow, Deny, Always allow

A new device asks before it is heard. A strip at the top of Receive shows its name with **Allow** and **Deny**. If several devices ask, the strip takes them one at a time and says how many more are waiting.

Tick **Always allow this device** before clicking Allow and the device skips the question from then on, in every session on this computer. Settings shows how many devices are remembered and has a **Forget** button.

Working alone? Untick **Restrict access** in Settings.

The device row

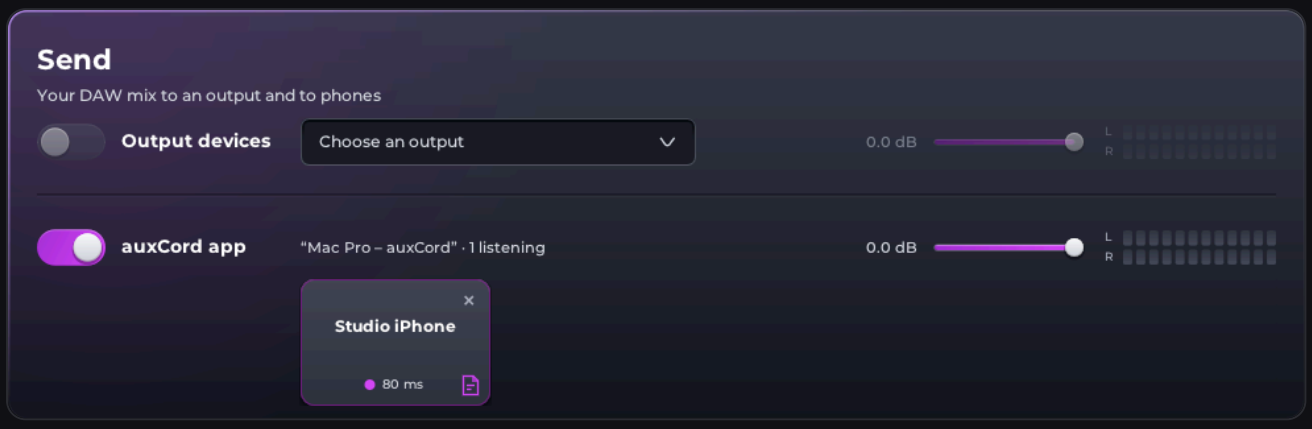
Title and artwork	What the device is playing, with a progress bar. Long titles scroll once when they change, and again while you point at them.
Transport	Previous, play or pause, next. They control the player on the device.
Meters	Level per channel. Amber from −6 dBFS, red from −1 dBFS.
Volume	This is the device's own AirPlay volume, and it follows the device's volume buttons. Hold Cmd (Mac) or Ctrl (Windows) while dragging for fine steps.
S and M	Solo and mute. Drag across several rows to set them together. A muted device is dimmed but its meters keep moving.
Solo mode	At the top of Receive. **X-OR:** soloing a device un-solos the others. **Latch:** several can be soloed together. The names are the ones Pro Tools uses.
×	**Hold** × to disconnect the device. A short click does nothing, on purpose. The device may connect again and ask again.

Recording

auxCord's output is ordinary audio on its track. To record it, route the track to a bus and record that bus on a second track.

5 Send

Your DAW mix to an output and to phones. Send takes the audio of the track or bus auxCord sits on.



Output devices

Choose an output in the menu, for example Bluetooth earbuds or a USB device, and auxCord plays the track's audio there, independent of your DAW's main output. The toggle switches the lane off without losing your choice.

- An AirPlay speaker shows in the menu once you have picked it in the Mac's sound menu.
- An iPhone is never an output device. Phones listen through the auxCord app lane below.

> Bluetooth adds a few hundred milliseconds of delay. It is for a quick listen on the client's earbuds, not a mastering reference.

auxCord app

Phones with auxCord Listen

Switch the lane on and phones on the same Wi-Fi find your studio in auxCord Listen. A phone that wants to listen appears as a tile with **Allow**, **Deny** and **Always**. Once allowed, it plays the mix.

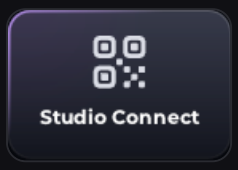
The tile	The phone's name, and a dot for its connection: amber means the phone is struggling to keep up, usually weak Wi-Fi.
× and note icon	Hold × to remove the phone. The note icon appears when the phone has written to you.
Red dot	The phone is recording a take. Only possible if you allow it in Settings.
Fader	One volume for every phone. The meter shows the level after it.

Listening is made for listening, not for playing an instrument through it. Bluetooth headphones on the phone add their own delay; wired headphones or the phone's speaker are closest to the studio.

6 Studio Connect

A QR code that puts your guests on the right Wi-Fi, without anyone spelling a password.

Why it exists



“My phone can’t see auxCord” almost always means the phone is on another network than the computer: the DAW is wired, the phone is on a guest Wi-Fi.

Phones only find auxCord on the network the computer is on. Studio Connect makes joining that network a matter of pointing the phone’s camera at a code. You type the network’s name and password once; after that, the tile at the right of the window shows the code whenever you need it.

Set it up once

1. Click the **Studio Connect** tile, then **Set up…**
2. Type the name and password of the Wi-Fi that is on the same network as this computer, and save. Tick **Open network** if it has no password.
3. Click **Show QR code** whenever a guest arrives. The guest scans it with the phone’s camera and joins.

Which network to type

The setup window explains three cases

The studio Wi-Fi is on the same network as this computer	Type its name and password. That is all.
This computer has a second connection to share	Share it as a Wi-Fi network (Internet Sharing on a Mac, Mobile hotspot on Windows), then type the same name and password.
This computer is wired only	A small access point or travel router on the studio switch gives it Wi-Fi. Type that network’s name and password.

Keep the code private

The code contains your Wi-Fi password. That is why auxCord only draws it in its own window, which closes when you click Done, after 60 seconds, or when a device connects. Keep it out of screen shares, videos and screenshots.

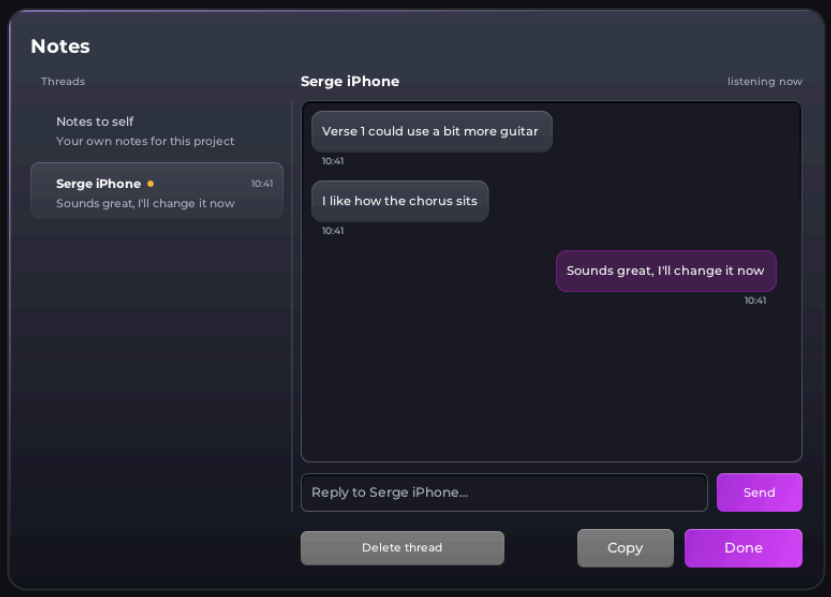
- The name and password are saved on this computer, not in the session. A session you send to another studio does not carry them.
- auxCord does not switch sharing on for you and cannot see whether the network is running. If guests cannot join, check that the hotspot or router is on. Hidden networks are not supported.

7 Notes

What your listeners tell you while they listen, kept with the project.

From phones

Listeners can write to you from auxCord Listen: “second chorus is better”. Their messages arrive in the **Notes** tile, which shows how many phones have written and how many messages are new. A phone’s tile in Send also gets a note icon; click it to open that phone’s thread.



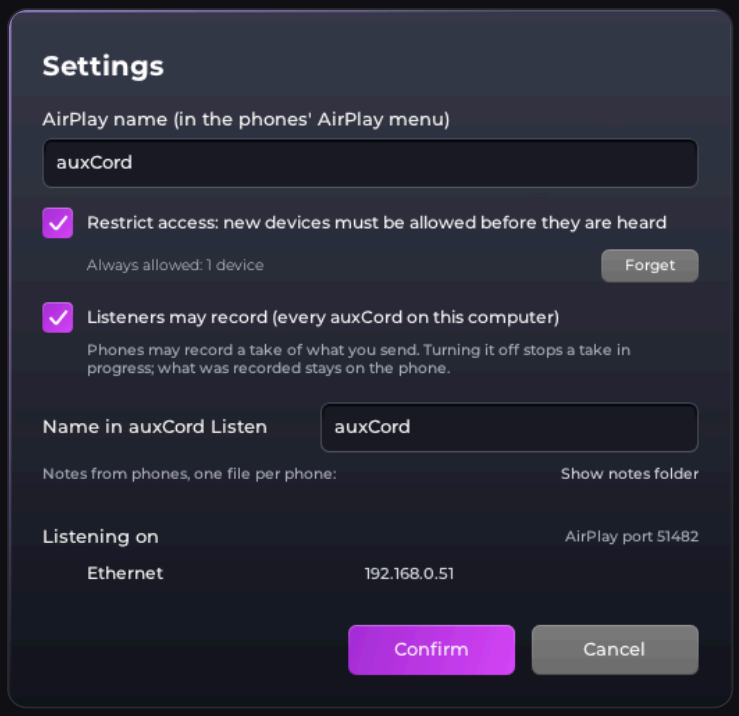
The Notes window: threads on the left, the selected thread on the right. The phone’s messages sit on the left, your replies on the right.

In the Notes window

Reply	Each phone has its own thread. Write a reply and click **Send**; it shows on the phone.
Notes to self	Your own thread, always first in the list, also when no phone is connected. It is kept with the project.
Copy	Puts the whole thread on the clipboard, for your session notes.
Delete a message	Point at a message and **hold** the × beside it. The message is deleted on the phone too. A listener can delete messages the same way.
Delete thread	Deletes every message in the thread. Click it, then click again to confirm.
After the session	Threads stay after the phone leaves. They are text files on this computer: **Show notes folder** in Settings opens them.

8 Settings

Open Settings with its tile, or click the name at the top of Receive. Changes apply on Confirm.



What each one does

AirPlay name	What phones see in their AirPlay menu. Give each room its own name if you run several.
Restrict access	On: new devices must be allowed before they are heard. **Forget** clears the always-allowed list.
Listeners may record	Off unless you tick it. On: phones may record a take of what you send. Turning it off stops a take in progress; what was recorded stays on the phone. It applies to every auxCord on this computer.
Name in auxCord Listen	What phones see in the app.
Show notes folder	Opens the folder with the notes from phones.
Listening on	The computer's network connections and addresses. Information only, useful when a phone cannot find auxCord.

About

Click either logo. About shows the version and build, your licence, where the log file is, and the licences of the third-party software in auxCord.

9 Your licence

One purchase, two computers, no key to type. Everything about it lives in your account.

How it works

Computers	One licence runs on 2 computers at once. It is perpetual.
Where it lives	In your account at mountainroaddsp.com/account, under the email you bought with.
Licence checks	auxCord checks its licence online from time to time. If it cannot reach the licence server it keeps working for 90 days, and tells you from day 14 with a **Licence check needed** button. One successful check, or offline activation, settles it. A computer activated with a licence file (page 3) never checks.

Move to another computer

1. Free the old computer. In your account, click **Free this seat** next to it. Or, in auxCord 3.0.1 or later on that computer, open the About box (click a logo), choose **Manage licence...**, then **Deactivate this computer**, and click it a second time to confirm.
2. On the new computer, click **Activate** and use your licence.

A computer that was activated offline can only be freed in your account.

Questions

I own auxCord 2. How do I get 3.0?

3.0 is a free upgrade. Go to mountainroaddsp.com/account, choose **Returning from 2.x** and enter the email you bought auxCord 2 with. Open the link we send you and choose a password. Your licence shows in your account. If it does not, write to us.

I did not receive an email after buying

Your licence is in your account either way. Check your spam folder, and that the payment went through. Still nothing? Write to support@mountainroaddsp.com.

auxCord does not work for me. Can I get a refund?

Yes, see the Refund & Returns policy at mountainroaddsp.com/refunds. Write to us first: the fix is often quick.

Where auxCord keeps its files

Per computer, shared by all your DAWs

Mac	~/Music/Audio Music Apps/Mountainroad DSP/auxCord
Windows	%APPDATA%\Mountainroad DSP\auxCord

10 If something does not work

The common problems, most likely cause first.

auxCord does not show up on my phone

- Phone and computer must be on the same network. On a separate guest Wi-Fi, auxCord will not show up. Studio Connect (page 8) puts guests on the right one.
- auxCord must be loaded on a track. It is only visible while the plugin is open in your DAW.
- Open Settings and look at **Listening on**. “No network connection” means the computer itself is not on a network.
- Restart the phone, then try again.
- On Windows, let your DAW through the firewall (below).

My phone is connected, but I hear nothing

- **The device is waiting.** Click Allow in the strip at the top of Receive.
- **auxCord is not activated, or the trial has ended.** The meters move but the audio is silent. Click Activate in the header.
- **The device is muted, or another one is soloed.** Check S and M on its row.
- **On macOS 15 or later:** allow your DAW under System Settings › Privacy & Security › Local Network. Each DAW needs this once. Earlier versions of macOS do not have this setting.
- In Pro Tools or Logic Pro, see page 13.

The studio is not in auxCord Listen

- The **auxCord app** lane in Send must be switched on.
- The phone must be on the same Wi-Fi as the computer, as above.
- Waiting to be let in? The engineer has to click Allow on the phone’s tile.

Can I play into auxCord from an Android phone?

Android phones have no AirPlay support built in, so not out of the box. Third-party AirPlay apps may work, but they are not supported. Hearing the mix on Android works with auxCord Listen.

Windows firewall

Allow your DAW (Windows 11)

1. Open **Windows Security** from the Start menu.
2. Click **Firewall & network protection**, then **Allow an app through firewall**.
3. Click **Change settings** if it is shown.
4. Select your DAW. Not in the list? Click **Allow another app...**, find your DAW and click **Add**.
5. Tick **Private** and **Public**, then click **OK**.

11 Your DAW and help

A few things that depend on the host, and how to reach us.

auxCord is not in my DAW

- Fully quit your DAW, then install auxCord. Some DAWs only scan plugins when they start; others have a plugin manager with a rescan.
- Check the format: AAX for Pro Tools, AU for Logic Pro and GarageBand, VST3 for most others.
- Still missing? Download the installer again.

Pro Tools

A device connects but there is no sound

Update to auxCord 3.0.1 or later. With **Dynamic Plug-In Processing** on, Pro Tools stopped running auxCord 3.0.0. Can't update right now? Untick the option in **Setup › Playback Engine**.

Logic Pro

The meters move but there is no sound

1. Create a stereo audio track and open auxCord on it. Set its input to Bus 1 and its output to Bus 2.
2. Create a second audio track. Set its input to Bus 2 and its output to Stereo Out.
3. Set the second track to input monitoring or record, and start playing on your device.
4. Record on the second track.

Good to know

- **REAPER:** Pause freezes all plugins, so the phone's audio stops until Play or Stop. Use Stop to keep it playing.
- **Closing the DAW** pauses the music on connected devices. The phone may still show auxCord as its output; pick its own speaker again.

Getting help

Answers, and the latest version of this manual: mountainroaddsp.com/support

Or write to support@mountainroaddsp.com. From 3.0.1, **Report a problem…** in the About box saves a report file to attach. It also helps to include:

- your operating system and your DAW, with their versions,
- the auxCord version from the About box (click a logo),
- what you see or hear, and the log file named in the About box if you can.



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Manual for auxCord 3.0, November 2026.