

User's Guide



Advanced Remote Control USB

For RME audio interfaces
compatible with TotalMix FX

User's Guide Content

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Important Safety Instructions



To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock do not expose this device to rain or moisture. Prevent moisture and water from entering the device. Never leave a pot with liquid on top of the device. Do not use this product near water, i. e. swimming pool, bathtub or wet basement. Danger of condensation inside – don't turn on before the device has reached room temperature.



Avoid direct sun light and do not place it near other sources of heat, like radiators or stoves.



Unauthorized servicing/repair voids warranty. No user serviceable parts inside. Refer service to qualified service personnel.



Read the manual completely. It includes all information necessary to use and operate this device.

1. Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Advanced Remote Control USB, ARC USB. This wired remote has been designed for direct access to the most frequently used actions and commands of TotalMix FX, being an indispensable tool in the studio's daily applications. Its extremely flexible configuration through TotalMix FX will simplify workflow and greatly increase the usability of the RME interface in most real world situations.

2. Package Contents

- Advanced Remote Control USB
- USB cable 1.8 m (6 ft)
- Stickers to change the key labels

3. Supported Audio Interfaces

The Advanced Remote Control USB (ARC USB) communicates with TotalMix FX via USB. Therefore it is compatible to all RME audio interfaces that are detected and supported by TotalMix FX. This goes back to RME interfaces released 2001, like Multiface, Multiface II, Digiface, RPM, no matter if PCI, PCIe, CardBus, ExpressCard or FireWire.

NOT supported interfaces: DIGI32 Series, DIGI96 Series, DIGI9632/9652

Several later units have a dedicated connector for the ARC USB, therefore can use it even in stand-alone mode. These are currently the UFX+, UFX II, UFX III, UCX II, MADiface XT II and Fireface 802 FS.

4. Brief Description and Characteristics

- Solid metal case in a user-friendly desktop design
- Non-critical USB 1.1 connection allows to use long cables
- Full control over many TotalMix functions, like Volume, DIM, Speaker B etc.
- Special functionality for stand-alone mode operation when directly connected

5. Technical Specifications

- Power supply: by computer or interface, depending on connection
- Typical power consumption: 0.3 Watts
- Dimensions (WxHxD): 90 x 33 x 170 mm (3.5" x 1.3" x 6.7")
- Weight: 438 kg (0.97 lbs)
- Temperature range: +5° up to +50° Celsius (41° F up to 122°F)
- Relative humidity: < 75%, non condensing

6. Overview

The ARC USB is a USB 1.1 MIDI remote control. Thanks to operating as UAC 1 class device it is natively compatible to Windows and Mac OS X. As soon as it is present in the operating system TotalMix FX will detect it and communicate with it, without disturbing other remote controls. Therefore it is also not necessary to switch the ARC USB on or off within TotalMix FX. It will just work.

As soon as the ARC USB is connected to a computer any button press or wheel turning will cause the respective action performed by TotalMix FX – and therefore also by the RME audio interface.

Instead of being connected to a computer the ARC USB can also be connected directly to the interface (supported interfaces see list in chapter 3), having an internal USB 1.1 host with matching connector, to communicate with the ARC USB. This way of connecting is especially useful in stand-alone mode, where the ARC USB is also supported then (see also chapter 8).

The ARC USB is bus powered, but draws only little current. Also it uses USB 1.1 as bus standard, which is uncritical due to its lower frequency and speed demands. USB 2 cables with 5 meter to 10 meter length, and cheap USB 2 cable extensions that usually make a bus-powered interface fail will work perfectly for the ARC USB. Still at higher lengths RME recommends to use active USB 2 cables (also called extension or repeater cables), which are not expensive and work over lengths of more than 20 meters.

The ARC USB can control several interfaces simultaneously, which happens automatically as the *Key Commands* dialog in TotalMix FX is specific to the currently selected audio interface. *Just assign only the functions that are desired for each respective interface.* After that the ARC USB keys and the encoder wheel remote the respective interface where they have been assigned to, without the need to further switch or select anything in normal operation.

! *Note that identical assignments on multiple interfaces are not supported. This is mostly visualized by flickering/flashing buttons, or a jumping volume control.*

The **lower three keys** have a useful *diagnostic functionality*.

Talkback: is lit dim as soon as the ARC USB is running on 5 V USB bus power.

Speaker B: is lit dim as soon as a USB communication is possible.

DIM: is lit dim as soon as a communication with TotalMix FX is established.

Therefore in normal operation all three lower keys are lit dim constantly.

The ARC USB comes with a standard set of Key Commands that already cover most usage scenarios, printed as label directly at the keys:

Row 1 and 2: activating Snapshots 1 to 8.

Row 3: Mono, Volume Phones 1, Volume Phones 2, External Input

Lower keys: Talkback, Speaker B, Dim.

A set of stickers with most available TotalMix FX commands is included. These can be used to label all keys reflecting the current user configuration.

7. Configuration of the Advanced Remote Control USB

The Advanced Remote Control is configured in the Options menu via the *ARC & Key Commands* dialog of TotalMix FX, tab *ARC USB Settings*. As the ARC does not have any memory, all configuration and storage is done via TotalMix FX. All settings of the ARC USB are stored within a Workspace, and are therefore identical in all Snapshots of that current Workspace.

More than 40 different commands can be assigned to the 15 keys. The behaviour of each individual button can be changed between *Push*, *Push-Or*, *Push-Off*, *Push-Off on or*, *Toggle*, *Enable* and *Disable*, *Encoder* and *Push Encoder*, depending on the base function.

Current list of available functions:

No Function
Toggle Totalmix Windows
Global Mute
Global Solo
Mute Group 1 to 4
Solo Group 1 to 4
Fader Group 1 to 4
Link Main AB
Speaker B Select
DIM (Main Out)
Recall Volume (Main Out)
Mute (Main Out)
Mute FX (Main Out)
Mono (Main Out)
Talkback
External Input
Reverb
Echo
Cue Phones 1 to 4
Cue Main Out
Mute Phones 1 to 4
Snapshot 1 to 8
Layout Preset 1 to 6
Instrument x
Phantom x
Volume Main
Volume Phones 1 to 4
Volume Main 0.1 dB
Mic Gain 1, Mic Gain 2, Mic Gain 1+2
Inst. Gain 3, Inst. Gain 4, Inst. Gain 3+4
Mic/Inst. Gain 9, Mic/Inst. Gain 10,
Mic/Inst. Gain 9+10
Mic/Inst. Gain 11, Mic/Inst. Gain 12,
Mic/Inst. Gain 11+12

Some commands are not available at certain interfaces, or slightly changed due to different functionality. Fireface UFX, UFX+, UFX II, UFX III and UCX II have additional commands for DUREC: Record/Play Stop, Record Start, Play Start/Pause, Play - Next File, Play - Previous File.

ARC & Key Command Settings: Digiface USB (1)

ARC and Function Keys ARC USB Settings

Keys

Key	Function	Action
1	Snapshot 1	Load
2	Snapshot 2	Load
3	Snapshot 3	Load
4	Snapshot 4	Load
5	Snapshot 5	Load
6	Snapshot 6	Load
7	Snapshot 7	Load
8	Snapshot 8	Load
9	Mono (Main Out)	Toggle
10	Volume Phones 1	Encoder
11	Volume Phones 2	Encoder
12	External Input	Toggle
13	Talkback	Push
14	Speaker B Select	Toggle
15	DIM (Main Out)	Toggle

Foot Switch

fs No Function

Default Encoder Function

Volume Main (Default)

Usage of PC connected ARC USB

Disable when device is offline ☐ SysEx only

Save... Load... OK Abbrechen

Several functions can be activated at the same time. Example: Button **1** is set to **Cue Phones 1**. That means the phones submix is heard via the Main output (the studio monitors). To be able to also change the volume of the phones submix itself, set button **2** to **Volume Phones 1**. Activating both will allow you to listen to the phones submix via the main output, and also to change its volume (the fader in the third row) by turning the encoder knob.

A standard **footswitch** (with switch, sustain pedals with pot are not supported) can be connected to the 1/4" TS jack on the right side. In Key Commands Settings the same options are available for the footswitch as for the 15 keys. Both momentary switches (normally open and closed) as well as stationary switches can be used. For the latter simply select *Push* instead of the default *Toggle* from the dropdown menu beside the switch function setting.

Default Encoder Function

Available options: Volume Main (Default), Volume Phones 1 – 4, No function, Volume Main (0.5 dB), Volume Main (0.1 dB). The option Volume Main (Device) is only available for audio interfaces equipped with ARC USB connector. The ARC USB's encoder can work in various ways, and even changes its behaviour when holding the shift-key pressed. See this table:

Mode	Shift ARC IF	Shift ARC PC*	Steps
Volume Main (Device)	No	Yes	0.5 dB, acceleration*
Volume Main (Default)	Yes	Yes	0.5/1.0/1.5/2.0/2.5/3.0
Volume Main (0.5 dB)	Yes	Yes	0.5 dB
Volume Main (0.1 dB)	Yes (0.5 dB)	Yes (0.5 dB)	0.1 dB

The table shows that if the ARC USB is connected directly to the interface, for technical reasons the shift key does not work in 'Volume Main (Device)' mode. Shift causes a change to 0.1 dB steps (fine mode), except in Volume Main (0.1 dB) mode, there it changes to 0.5 dB.

* Devices with USB ARC connector (Remote): In this mode with the ARC USB connected to the PC, for technical reasons the steps are the same as in Default mode.

All Off

Disables all functions. There is no undo, so when accidentally hitting this button click Cancel instead of Ok to get the former settings back.

Default

Loads a default state with useful settings, matching the key labels on the ARC USB.

Usage of PC connected ARC USB

Default is Shared. The ARC USB works with all present devices simultaneously. See below for using multiple devices.

Ignore PC connected ARC USB: This option deactivates the PC connected ARC USB for the current device.

Disable when device is offline: Deactivates the ARC USB control when the audio interface is offline. This setting allows to have several *Offline Devices* set up in TotalMix FX without them causing ARC USB related conflicts.

SysEx only

ARC USBs that have been updated to firmware 7 via this Mac Firmware Update Tool

https://www.rme-audio.de/downloads/fut_arcusb_mac_v7.zip

Can be set to only communicate via SysEx messages. This can solve issues in various ways, mainly on the Mac platform. See the included readme on how to perform the update.

Note on using multiple devices (aka audio interfaces)

The *ARC & Key Command Settings* are set and stored individually per device. Calling up the ARC & Key Command dialog refers to the currently selected interface in TotalMix FX, with the name of the interface shown in the dialog's title bar (see screenshot in this chapter).

To avoid communication conflicts assign only the functions that are desired for each respective interface. After that the ARC USB keys and the encoder wheel remote the respective interface where they have been assigned to, without the need to further switch or select anything in normal operation.

! *Note that identical assignments on multiple interfaces – online and offline - are not supported. This is mostly visualized by flickering/flashing buttons, or a jumping volume control.*

8. ARC USB in Stand-Alone Mode (Direct Connection)

In stand-alone mode (NO USB connection!) of Fireface UFX+, UFX II, UFX III, UCX II, MADI-face XT II and Fireface 802 FS the operating elements of the ARC USB are fixed to specific functions:

Big Wheel

Default: Main Out volume

With Phones 1 active: Phones 1 volume*

With Phones 2 active: Phones 2 volume (if present)*

* Fireface 802 FS: The maximum volume is determined by the position of the potentiometer on the front panel.

Keys

Row 1: Setup 1-4

Row 2: Setup 5-6, Play - Next File (DUREC), Play - Previous File (DUREC)

Row 3: Mono, Volume Phones 1, Volume Phones 2 (if present), DIM (Recall 2s)

The three lower keys control Direct USB Recording (DUREC) on UFX+, UFX II and UFX III: Record Start, Play Start/Pause, Record/Play Stop (not with UCX II – only DUREC or ARC USB can be used as there is only one connection port).

To stop a recording the Stop button (DIM) has to be pushed two times (safety feature). With UFX+, UFX II and UFX III DIM is available via the EXT INP key.

In the display's menu (except Fireface 802 FS) the way of operating the ARC USB can be configured for stand-alone mode. Those options are found under *SETUP/REV*, *Options*, *Hardware/Diagnosis*:

Standalone ARC Volume

Deactivates all keys. Only the encoder wheel works, with a fixed assignment to Main Volume.

This option is a safety function in case the ARC USB is connected directly to the interface, but operated online (with computer). When the system goes offline (computer removed, sleep state...) the functions on the keys change, because online mode changes to stand-alone mode. Operating the keys then could activate unintended functionality or changes.

Standalone ARC 1 s op

Each key has to be pressed for one second to activate the programmed functionality. This safety function prevents unintentional changes. It can be stored within the Setups, activating this mode automatically when such a Setup is loaded. When loading a Setup where this function had not been active this mode is automatically deactivated.

Standalone ARC normal

Normal operation of the ARC USB.

Since the Fireface 802 FS has no display the option *Stand-alone ARC 1 s* is permanently active when loading Snapshots.

There is also the Recall function, available by pushing the DIM key (or EXT INP) for two seconds. The Recall value is set at the unit, Setup - Options - Control Room, Recall Volume.

The included stickers also offer the stand-alone layout.

Check the device's manual for up-to-date information on device specific features or changes.

9. Warranty

Each individual Advanced Remote Control USB undergoes comprehensive quality control and a complete test before shipping. The usage of high grade components should guarantee a long and trouble-free operation of the unit.

If you suspect that your product is faulty, please contact your local retailer.

Audio AG grants a limited manufacturer warranty of 6 months from the day of invoice showing the date of sale. The length of the warranty period is different per country. Please contact your local distributor for extended warranty information and service. Note that each country may have regional specific warranty implications.

In any case warranty does not cover damage caused by improper installation or maltreatment - replacement or repair in such cases can only be carried out at the owner's expense.

No warranty service is provided when the product is not returned to the local distributor in the region where the product was originally shipped.

Audio AG will not accept claims for damages of any kind, especially consequential damage. Liability is limited to the value of the Advanced Remote Control USB. The general terms of business drawn up by Audio AG apply at all times.

10. Appendix

RME news, driver updates and further product information are available on our website:

<http://www.rme-audio.com>

Worldwide distribution: Audio AG, Am Pfanderling 60, D-85778 Haimhausen, Tel.: (49) 08133 / 918170

Support via e-mail: support@rme-audio.com

List of international supporters: <https://www.rme-audio.de/support.html>

RME user forum: <https://forum.rme-audio.de>

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Current TotalMix FX version: 1.99

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11. Declaration of Conformity

CE

This device has been tested and found to comply with the limits of the European Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to electromagnetic compatibility according to RL2014/30/EU, and European Low Voltage Directive RL2014/35/EU.

FCC

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Warning: Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Responsible Party in USA:

Synthax United States, 6600 NW 16th Street, Suite 10, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33313
T.:754.206.4220

Trade Name: RME, Model Number: ARC USB

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

RoHS

This product has been soldered lead-free and fulfils the requirements of the RoHS directive.

Note on Disposal

According to the guide line RL2012/19/EU (WEEE – Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment), valid for all european countries, this product has to be recycled at the end of its lifetime.

In case a disposal of electronic waste is not possible, the recycling can also be done by Audio AG.

For this the device has to be sent **free to the door** to:

Audio AG
Am Pfanderling 60
D-85778 Haimhausen
Germany



Shipments not prepaid will be rejected and returned on the original sender's costs.