AJJA SONIC · VERSION 1.0.0

Patchbay Buddy Manual

Any input to any output: audio from any of the Mac's audio devices to any other, patched with cables on the screen.

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1 Getting started

What it does

Patchbay Buddy is an application that takes the audio coming in from one or more audio devices and sends it out of another: an iPad or a synth on USB out of your audio interface's spare outputs, for example. You patch it by dragging cables from inputs to outputs. It runs beside your DAW and leaves the DAW's audio setup alone, and there is nothing to set up in Audio MIDI Setup.

What you need

- A Mac (Apple silicon or Intel) running macOS 10.13 or later.
- At least one audio device with inputs and one with outputs. They can be the same device.

Install

Open the Patchbay Buddy disk image (the .dmg file you downloaded) and double-click **Install Patchbay Buddy.pkg**. It installs two parts:

- **Patchbay Buddy**, in the Applications folder
- **Manual and uninstaller**, in /Library/Application Support/Ajja Sonic/Patchbay Buddy

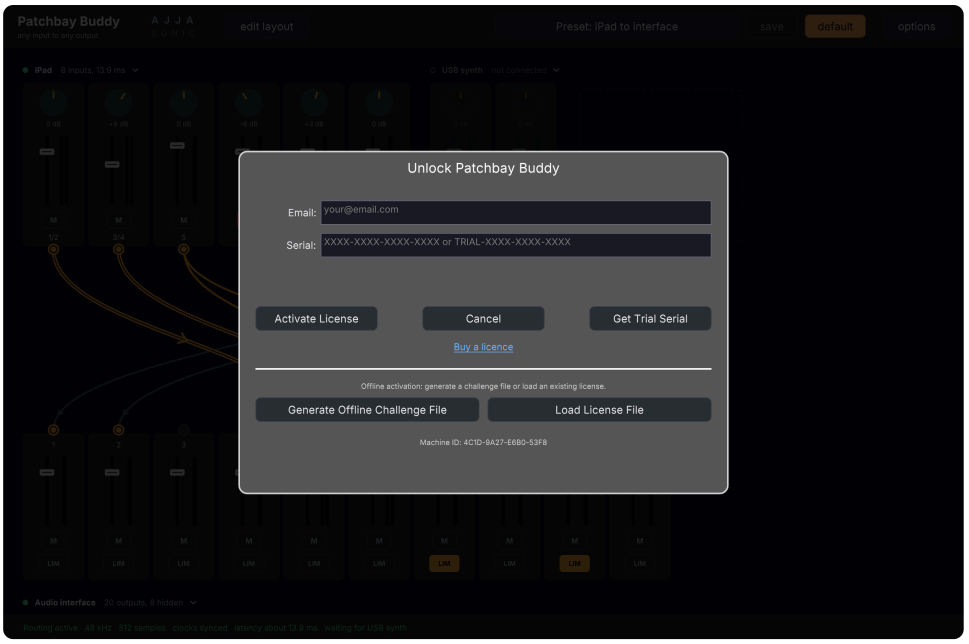
Allow audio input

The first time it opens, macOS asks whether Patchbay Buddy may use the microphone. That is how macOS asks about every audio input, not only microphones. Click **OK** (**Allow** on newer systems): without it, no audio comes in.

If you clicked the other button, open System Settings > Privacy & Security > Microphone, switch Patchbay Buddy on, and open the app again.

Activate

The first time you open Patchbay Buddy, it asks for your licence. Until it is activated it passes no audio.



The unlock window. The machine ID at the bottom can be selected and copied, for support.

1. Enter the email address and serial from your purchase.
2. Click **Activate License**. The computer needs to be online for this.

To try Patchbay Buddy first, click **Get Trial Serial**, then enter the trial serial you receive in the same way. **Buy a licence** opens the shop.

No internet on the studio computer? Click **Generate Offline Challenge File**, take that file to a computer that is online and upload it on the activation page at ajjasonic.com. You get a licence file back: bring it over and click **Load License File**.

Offline is fine. Once activated, Patchbay Buddy checks in with the licence server at most once a day, when the computer is online. Being offline never stops it from working. It stops only if a trial reaches its end, or if the server says the licence was refunded, revoked or deactivated; the unlock window then says why.

Moving to another computer: click **options** (top right) and choose **Deactivate this machine…** first. Then activate on the new one.

Where Patchbay Buddy keeps its files

Your licence and Patchbay Buddy's own files are in ~/Library/Application Support/Ajja Sonic/Patchbay Buddy: the licence, the layout it was closed with, and your presets (Presets). A preset is a small text file ending in .pbpreset; copy it to another Mac's Presets folder to use it there.

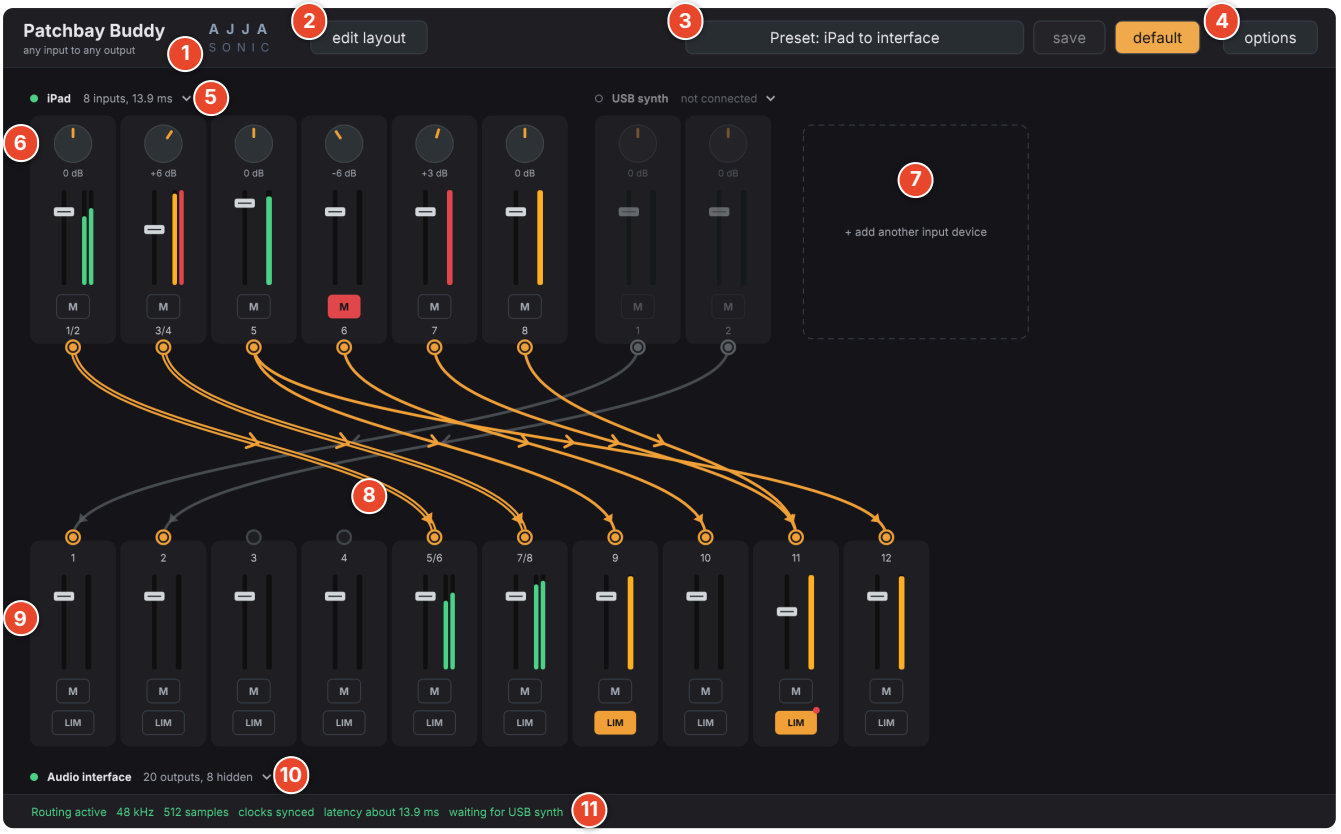
Uninstall

Open **Uninstall Patchbay Buddy**, from the disk image or from /Library/Application Support/Ajja Sonic/Patchbay Buddy. It quits Patchbay Buddy, removes the application and the manual, and asks for your Mac's password. It also asks whether to remove your licence, settings and presets too; they are kept unless you choose to remove them.

To use your licence on another computer, deactivate this one first (**options** > **Deactivate this machine…**). Uninstalling doesn't free the activation.

2 The window

Inputs run along the top, outputs along the bottom, and the cables hang between them. Each cable has arrows that show which way the signal goes. Drag an edge or a corner to resize the window; when it is too narrow for a row, that row scrolls sideways on its own.



1. **The title** and Ajja Sonic's mark: click for the version
2. **edit layout**: hide channels and make stereo pairs (6)
3. **The preset**, **save** and **default** (7)
4. **options**: your licence, and About (9)
5. **An input device**: its name is a menu (3)
6. **Input strips**: gain, volume and meter, mute, and the jack (5)
7. **add another input device** (3)
8. **The cables** (4)
9. **Output strips**: the jack, volume and meter, mute, limiter (5)
10. **The output device**: its name is a menu (3)
11. **The status line**: what is running, and the latency (8)

3 Devices

Patchbay Buddy works with several input devices side by side and one output device.

1. Click **add another input device** (in an empty window: the tile in the top row) and pick the device the audio comes from.
2. Click the line under the output row and pick the device the audio goes to.

That is all: it starts by itself, and the status line turns green and says **Routing active**. From then on it starts whenever it is opened and the devices are there.

A device's menu

Click a device's name:

Show all channels	Brings back the channels you have hidden.
Hide channels without cables	Leaves only what is in use.
Pair all as stereo, Split all pairs	1/2, 3/4 and so on, or back to single channels (6).
Use another device here	Inputs: swaps the device and keeps the cables. The output menu lists the output devices directly.
Remove	Inputs: takes the device and its cables out of the layout.

A device that isn't connected

A device the layout expects but that isn't plugged in stays where it is, greyed, with its cables, and the status line says it is waiting for it. Plug it in and it joins in. The audio stops for a moment whenever a device joins or leaves.

Sample rate and clocks

The output device is the clock. The input devices are set to its sample rate, and Patchbay Buddy keeps them in time with it, so two devices with clocks of their own don't drift apart or click. The output device's sample rate and buffer size are never changed, and other programs go on using all the devices as before.

> **Into your DAW.** Send the audio to outputs of your interface that you don't otherwise use, and bring them back in: with the interface's own loopback, if its mixer has one, or with cables from those outputs to free inputs. The audio then arrives in the DAW on ordinary inputs of the interface.

4 Cables

The small rings under the inputs and above the outputs are the jacks.

Connect

Drag from an input's jack to an output's jack, or the other way round. One input can feed many outputs, and many inputs can go to one output: they are added together there. Nothing clicks: a cable fades in and out over 5 ms.

Select and remove

- Click a cable to select it. `Shift`-click adds another.
- Drag a box across the empty space to select every cable it touches. `Shift` adds to what is selected.
- `Cmd` `A` selects all cables, `Esc` none.

- `Delete` removes the selected cables. So does a double-click on a cable, or a right-click and **Remove cable**. **Remove all cables** is in the same menu.



Dragging a box over cables selects them.

Copy and move

- **Copy:** hold `Option` and drag from a jack to another jack in the same row. The second jack gets the same cables as the first.
- **Move:** hold `Cmd` and do the same. The cables leave the first jack and go to the second, like pulling a plug and putting it in elsewhere.

If some of the jack's cables are selected, only those are copied or moved.

5 Channel strips

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES
Gain knob (inputs)	-24 to +24 dB in half-dB steps, before the meter. Drag up and down; hold `Shift` for fine steps.
Volume fader	From silence at the bottom to +6 dB at the top. While the mouse is on it, the channel's number shows its value.
Meter	The peak level, beside the fader: inputs after the gain knob, outputs as they are sent. Amber within 3 dB of full scale, red at full scale.
M	Mute.
LIM (outputs)	A limiter that holds the output just under full scale, for when several inputs add up to more than the output can take. A red dot shows when it is working. An output with its limiter on is 1.5 ms later than the others.

Double-click a knob or a fader to put it back to 0 dB. Levels and mutes fade over 5 ms, like the cables.

6 Stereo pairs and the layout

Stereo pairs

Any two channels of a device can be one strip, with one set of controls and two meters. Its cable is drawn double.

1. Click a channel beside its controls (on its number, say). It gets an outline.
2. `Shift`-click the second channel.
3. Right-click and choose **Make stereo pair**.



Two channels selected, ready for a right-click.

The same menu has **Split pair** and **Hide**. How pairs connect:

- pair to pair: left to left, right to right
- pair to a single channel: both sides are added together
- a single channel to a pair: it feeds both sides

Edit layout

Click **edit layout**. Every strip shows two switches in place of its controls:

- **shown** / **hidden**: whether the channel is in the window. An interface with many channels becomes a short row of the ones you use.
- **single** / **stereo**: pairs the channel with its neighbour, or splits the pair.

Click **edit layout** again when you are done.



Edit layout. Outputs 13 and up are hidden.

> **Hidden channels still pass audio.** Hiding only tidies the window: a hidden channel's cables stay connected. The device's name says how many are hidden.

7 Presets

A preset holds everything in the window: the devices, each channel's settings, the pairs, what is hidden, and the cables.

- Click the **preset** button for the list of presets, and for **Save as…**, **Delete**, **New empty layout** and **Remove all cables**.
- **save** lights up when the preset has been changed; click it to save over it.
- **default** makes the current preset the one Patchbay Buddy opens with. It is lit while that preset is loaded; click it again to have no default.

Without a default, Patchbay Buddy opens with the layout it was closed with, saved or not.

A preset remembers its devices. Loading one whose devices aren't all connected is fine: the missing ones wait, greyed, until they are plugged in.

8 Latency

The status line shows the sample rate, the buffer size and the latency from input to output; each input device's name shows its own figure. It is what the devices report about themselves plus one buffer. An output with **LIM** on adds 1.5 ms.

The buffer size is the output device's own setting. To make the latency shorter, set a smaller buffer for that device where you usually do: in its control panel or in your DAW.

9 The options menu

Authorize this machine…	Opens the unlock window (1).
Deactivate this machine…	Frees this computer's activation, to use the licence on another.
About Patchbay Buddy	The version. A click on the title does the same.

10 Mouse and keys

DO THIS	TO
Drag jack to jack	Connect
`Option`-drag jack to jack, same row	Copy the jack's cables
`Cmd`-drag jack to jack, same row	Move the jack's cables
Click a cable	Select it (`Shift`: add)
Drag over empty space	Select cables with a box (`Shift`: add)
`Cmd` `A`	Select all cables
`Delete`	Remove the selected cables
Double-click a cable	Remove it
Right-click a cable	Remove cable, Remove all cables
`Esc`	Select nothing
Click a strip beside its controls	Select the strip (`Shift`: add)
Right-click a strip	Make stereo pair, Split pair, Hide
Double-click a knob or fader	Back to 0 dB
`Shift`-drag a gain knob	Fine steps
Scroll over a row	Move that row sideways

11 Troubleshooting

No sound

Read the status line. Green and **Routing active** means audio is running: then check that the input's meter moves, that there is a cable to the output you are listening to, and that neither strip is muted or pulled down. If the unlock window is waiting for your licence, no audio passes.

The input meters don't move

Patchbay Buddy may not be allowed to use audio input: System Settings > Privacy & Security > Microphone, switch it on, and open the app again. Otherwise the device isn't sending: check it in Audio MIDI Setup.

The status line says it is waiting for a device

That device isn't connected, or macOS doesn't see it. If you no longer use it, click its name and remove it or choose another in its place.

A device shows fewer channels than it should

Patchbay Buddy shows the channels macOS sees. Open Audio MIDI Setup and look at the device there; some devices need multichannel audio switched on at their end.

The audio stops for a moment

That happens when a device is plugged in or taken away, or when the output device's sample rate is changed: Patchbay Buddy starts again with what is there.

Distortion

A red meter is at full scale. Turn the input's gain down, or, when several inputs meet in one output, pull the faders down or switch on that output's **LIM**.

The unlock window keeps coming back

The licence on this computer isn't valid any more: it says why. A licence is tied to its computer; after replacing parts of the computer, or on a new one, activate again (deactivate the old one first if you still can, or write to us).

Support

Email plugins@ajjasonic.com or visit www.ajjasonic.com.

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