

Basic Configuration Advice for Music Applications using Windows®XP

Hardware #1 - switch off or disconnect all unnecessary peripheral equipment

For example - USB HDDs, printer / scanner, webcam, DSL Modem etc.

Hardware #2 - deactivate on-board WLAN device

Use the Windows® XP "Device Manager" to deactivate unnecessary onboard hardware - most importantly the WLAN device (if fitted).

*start > settings > control panel > system > hardware > device manager
expand the section for Network devices
right mouse click on the entry for WLAN device
choose "deactivate" (do not choose deinstall)*

Hardware #3 - establish DMA mode for all HDDs

Use the Windows® XP "Device Manager" to make sure that the HHDDs are operating in DMA mode.

*start > settings > control panel > system > hardware > device manager
expand the section for IDE ATA/ATAPI controller
right click on "primary IDE channel"
properties > advanced properties*

This will show the current data transfer modes for each device. For best performance these should show DMA (or UDMA) and then a number. Repeat for the "secondary IDE channel". If you do find that one or more drives have been switched into PIO mode and do not let you restore to DMA mode then it may be time to consult a PC specialist.

More information about this situation may be found at : <http://www.michna.com/kb/WxDMA.htm>

Basic Configuration Advice for Music Applications using Windows®XP

Operating System #1 - deactivate AntiVirus software

You will probably be able to stop the scan routine by clicking on the icon for the anti virus software in the system tray (bottom right, near system clock)

To stop the program completely you may need to open the anti virus program itself and change the settings manually.

Operating System #2 - stop unwanted background tasks and applications

For example MSN Messenger, WinAmp, Real Player, printer manager software etc. etc.

press "ctrl + alt + delete" to call up the task manager.

go to the tab "applications" - find the unwanted programs and close them

go to the tab "processes" - find the unwanted processes and stop them.

Warning ! only stop those tasks which you know are not critical to the operation of Windows®.

Operating System #3 - ensure that the soundcard is recognised by Windows® XP

Use the Windows® XP Control Panel to check this.

start > settings > control panel > sounds and audio devices > audio > playback device and recording device

Be sure that the soundcard is mentioned in the drop-down menu. You may select it as the preferred device, but this is not strictly necessary if the music software offers the choice of i/o hardware devices.

*** exception : ASIO driver for iAxe393 - this is identified as a USB controller in the Windows® Device Manager**

Basic Configuration Advice for Music Applications using Windows®XP

Software #1 - check that soundcard is correctly installed and connected before starting audio software.

On start-up, the audio software will scan for hardware i/o devices. Any devices added to the system after the software has started will not be recognised until the next time that the software is started again.

Software #2 - select the "ASIO driver" in the hardware settings menu of the audio software.

Most professional and commercial audio software packages for Windows® XP will provide support for ASIO. ASIO drivers ensure best performance under Windows® . MME and Direct Sound drivers will usually "work" and there are a few software packages which do not offer ASIO support. In these cases the system performance may be greatly impaired.

You will find some more advanced "tuning tips" at http://www.musicXP.net/tuning_tips.php and in "**Sound on Sound**" magazine Vol 21 issue 11 - refer to the tips on pages 156-161.