

Stereo Playback from a Laptop in the CDA Mixing Suite

2023

A pdf version of this guide is available at:

www.concordia.ca/finearts/cda/suites/descriptions

Connect your laptop

- This guide explains how to use your laptop for stereo output to the speakers in the suite.
- Connect the 1/8" inch cable, provided for you in the suite, to your laptop's analog headphone output.
- This cable is already connected for you to Inputs 1 and 2 on the back of the AVID OMNI interface.

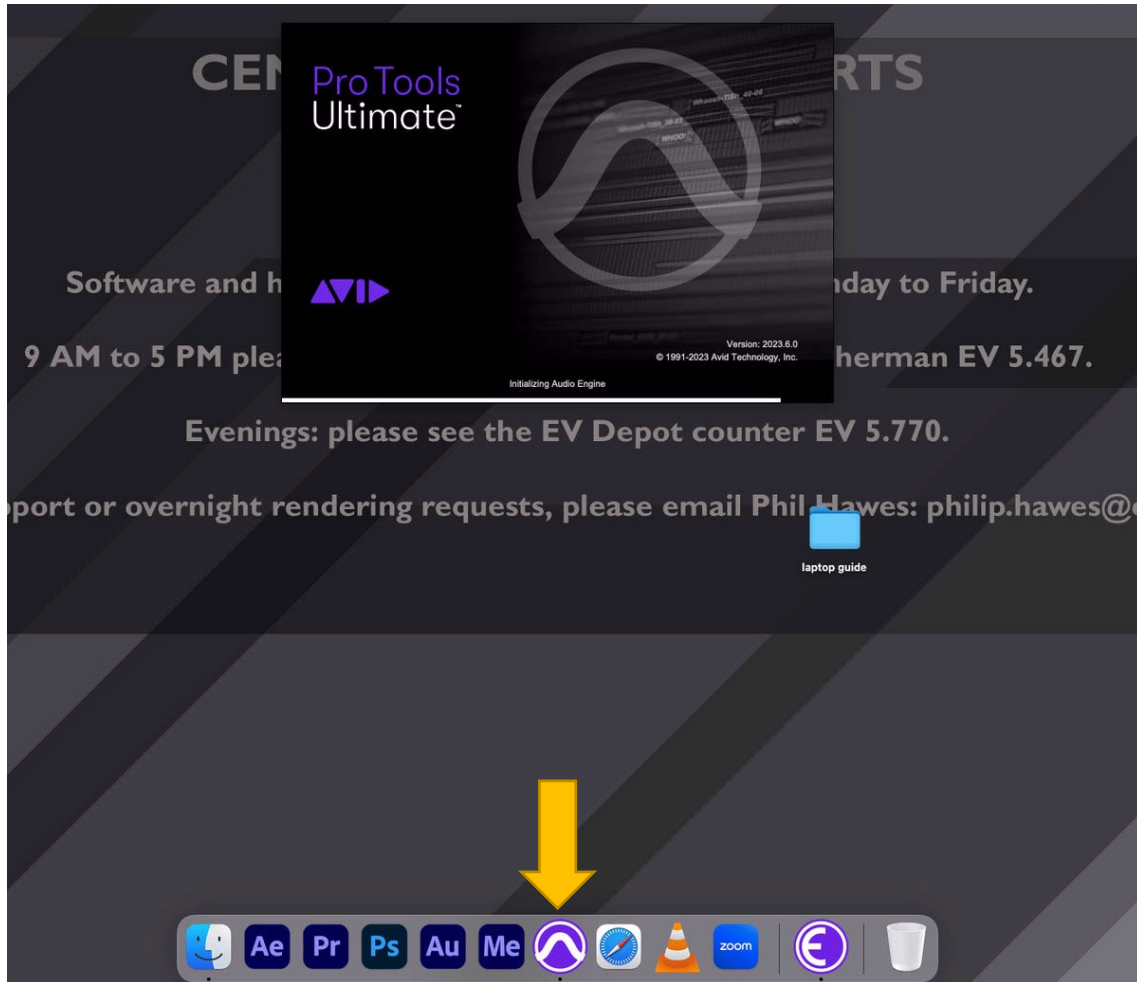
Set the Input to **Line** on the AVID OMNI interface.



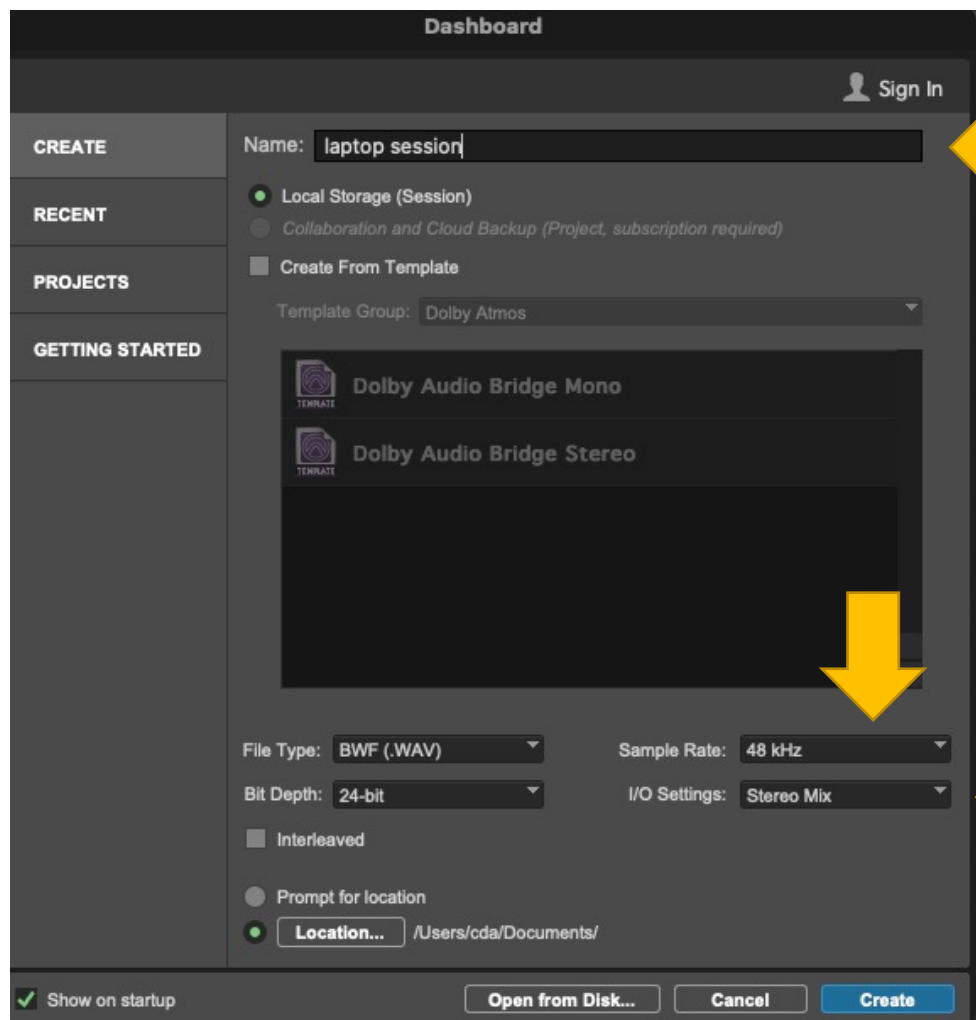
About this example:

- In this guide I will be using Pro Tools as an example of how to monitor your stereo input but you can use other software in the computer.
- If you will be using other software, then you will have to do the Hardware settings described on page 9 for Pro Tools in the AUDIO MIDI setup application. See Page 19 for details.

Launch Pro Tools



Create a new Stereo Mix Session

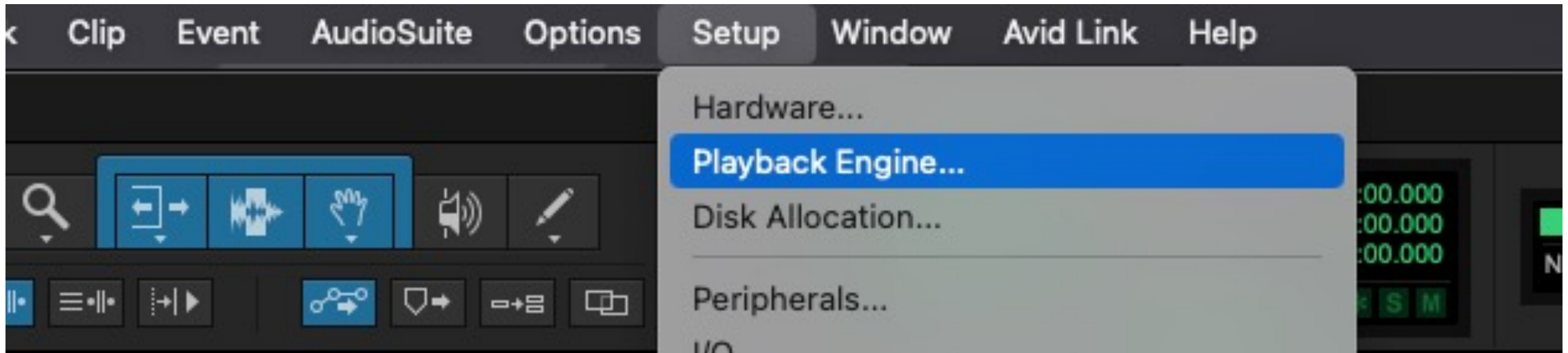


Name the session.

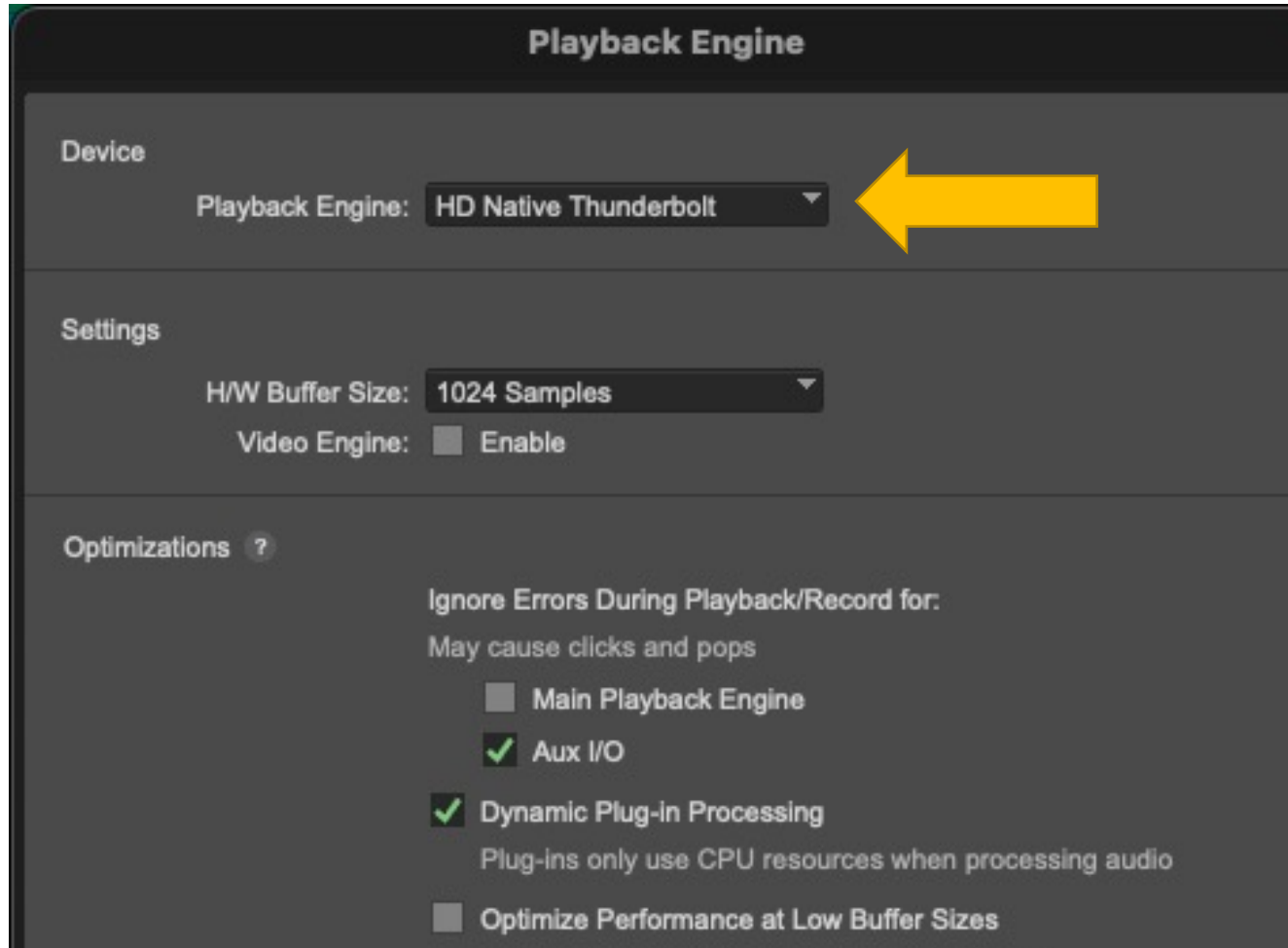
Ideally you will set the sample rate to the sample rate of your audio project on your laptop (but it can be different).

Set I/O Settings to "Stereo Mix"

In the new session, in the top menu, go to **Setup/Playback Engine**.

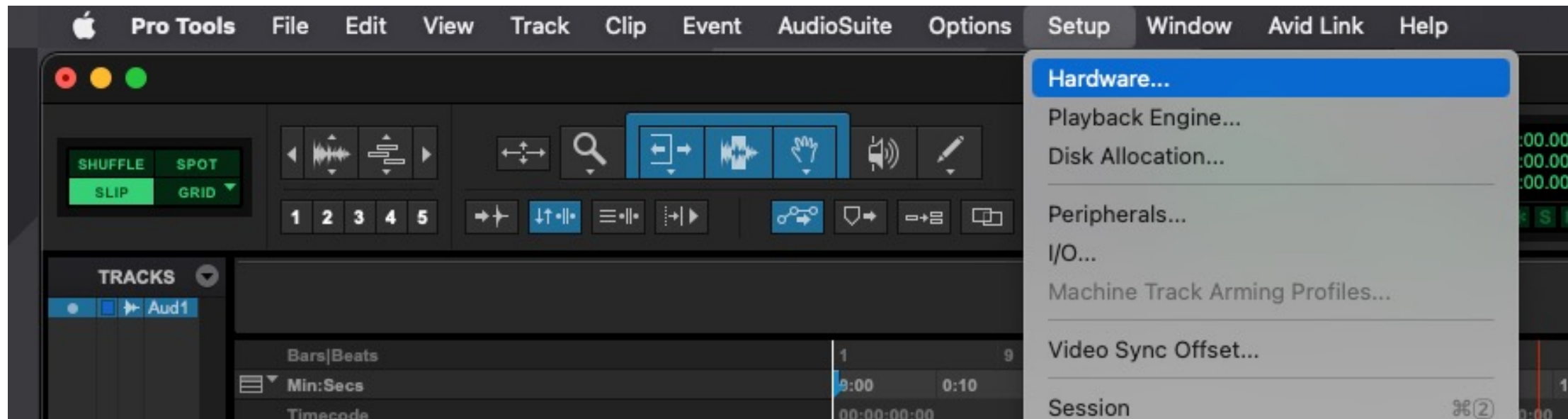


The Playback Engine should be: HD Native Thunderbolt

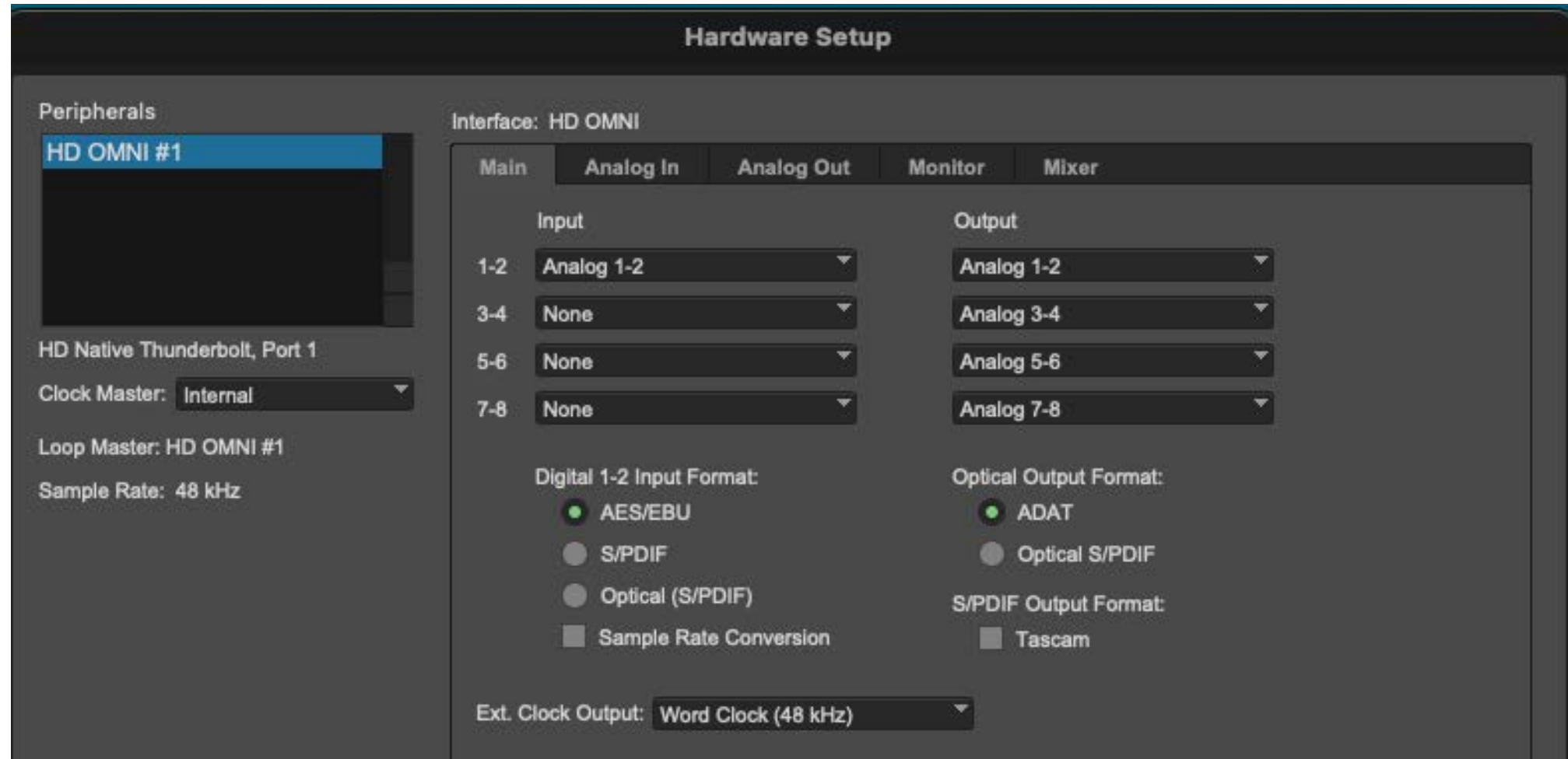


The HD Native Thunderbolt is the AVID OMNI interface.

Then go to Setup/Hardware:



The **Main** tab should look like this. It is the Inputs and Outputs that are most important.



The Analog In tab should look like this. Set the Limiter to “Soft Clip”.

The screenshot displays the 'Hardware Setup' window. On the left, under 'Peripherals', 'HD OMNI #1' is selected. Below this, 'HD Native Thunderbolt, Port 1' is listed, 'Clock Master' is set to 'Internal', 'Loop Master' is 'HD OMNI #1', and 'Sample Rate' is '48 kHz'. The main area is titled 'Interface: HD OMNI' and has tabs for 'Main', 'Analog In', 'Analog Out', 'Monitor', and 'Mixer'. The 'Analog In' tab is active, showing a 'Reference Level' section with four channels (Ch 1-4) and a 'Limiter' section with four dropdown menus. Ch 1 and 2 are set to +4 dBu and -10 dBV, with 'Soft Clip' limiters. Ch 3 and 4 are set to +4 dBu and -10 dBV, with 'None' limiters.

Channel	Reference Level	Input Level	Limiter
Ch 1	+4 dBu	-10 dBV	Soft Clip
Ch 2	+4 dBu	-10 dBV	Soft Clip
Ch 3	+4 dBu	-10 dBV	None
Ch 4	+4 dBu	-10 dBV	None

The Monitor tab should look like this:

Hardware Setup

Interface: HD OMNI

Peripherals

- HD OMNI #1


HD Native Thunderbolt, Port 1

Clock Master: Internal

Loop Master: HD OMNI #1

Sample Rate: 48 kHz

Main Analog In Analog Out **Monitor** Mixer



CR Path	Format	Fold-Down	Analog (DB-25)								AES/EBU (DB-25)								Dig	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2
MAIN	None	None																		
ALT	None	None																		

Engage Fold-Down for MAIN

Engage Fold-Down for ALT

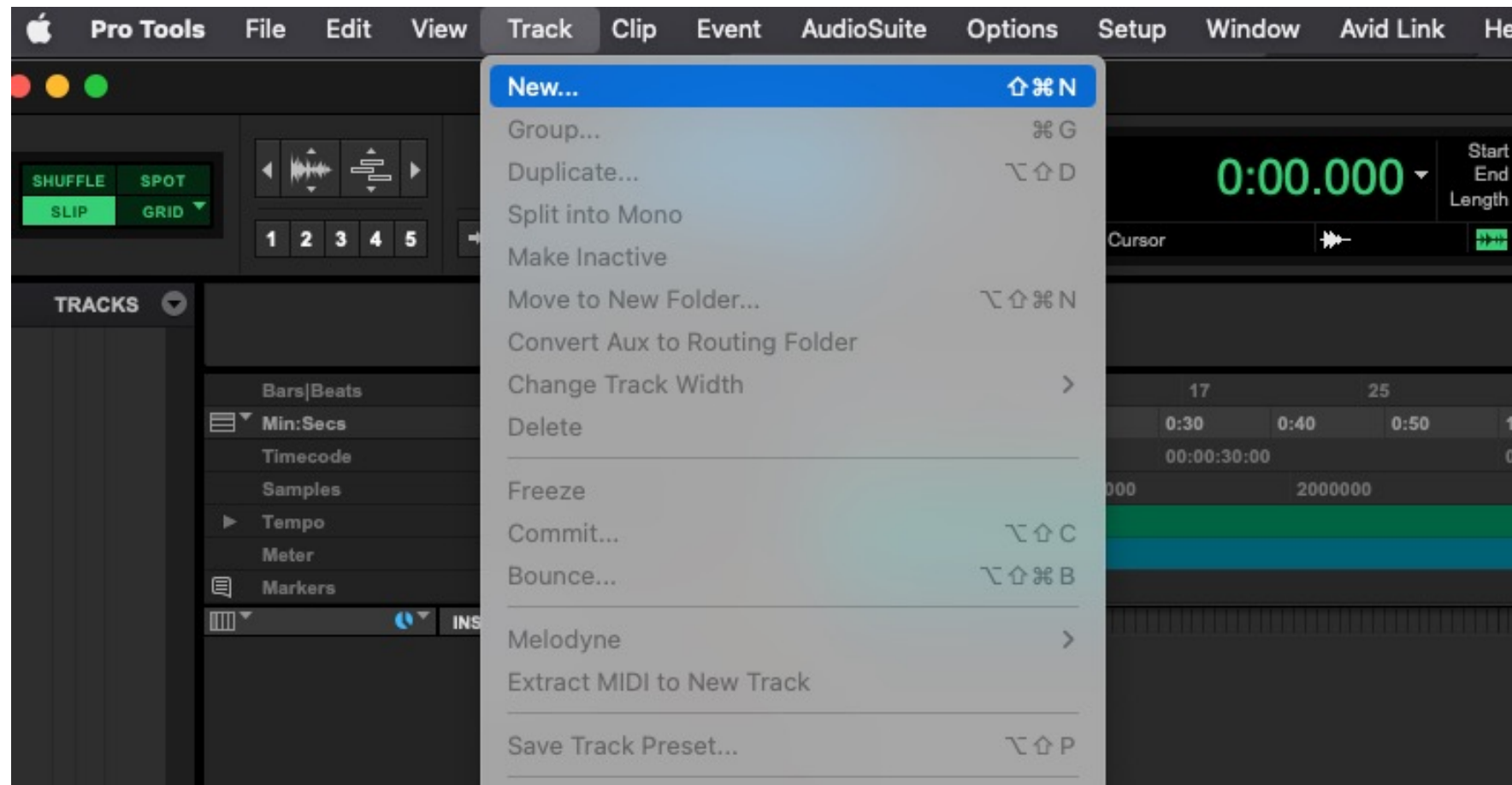
Control Room Fold-Down:

Do Not Fold Down Between CR Paths

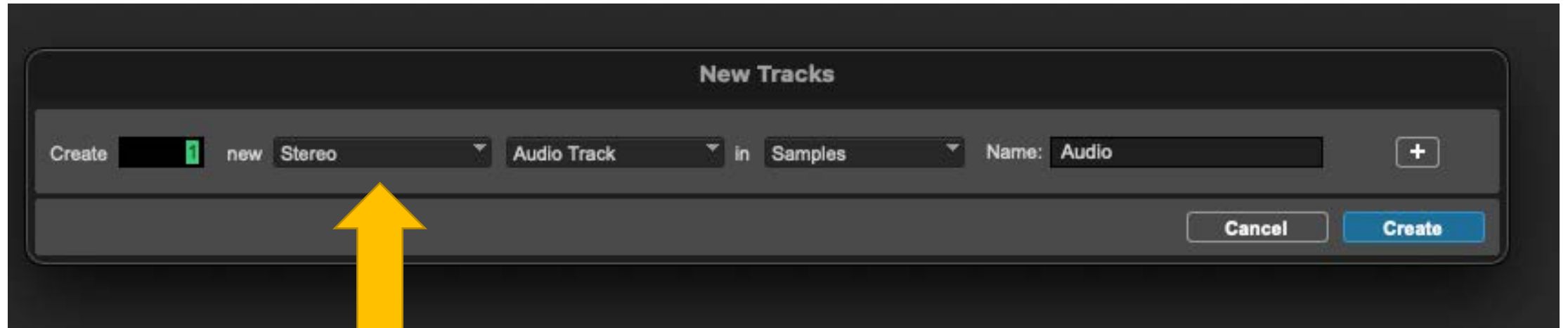
Headphone Fold-Down:

Do Not Fold Down (L/R Channels Only)

Go to Track/New, to make a new audio track.



Make a Stereo Audio Track

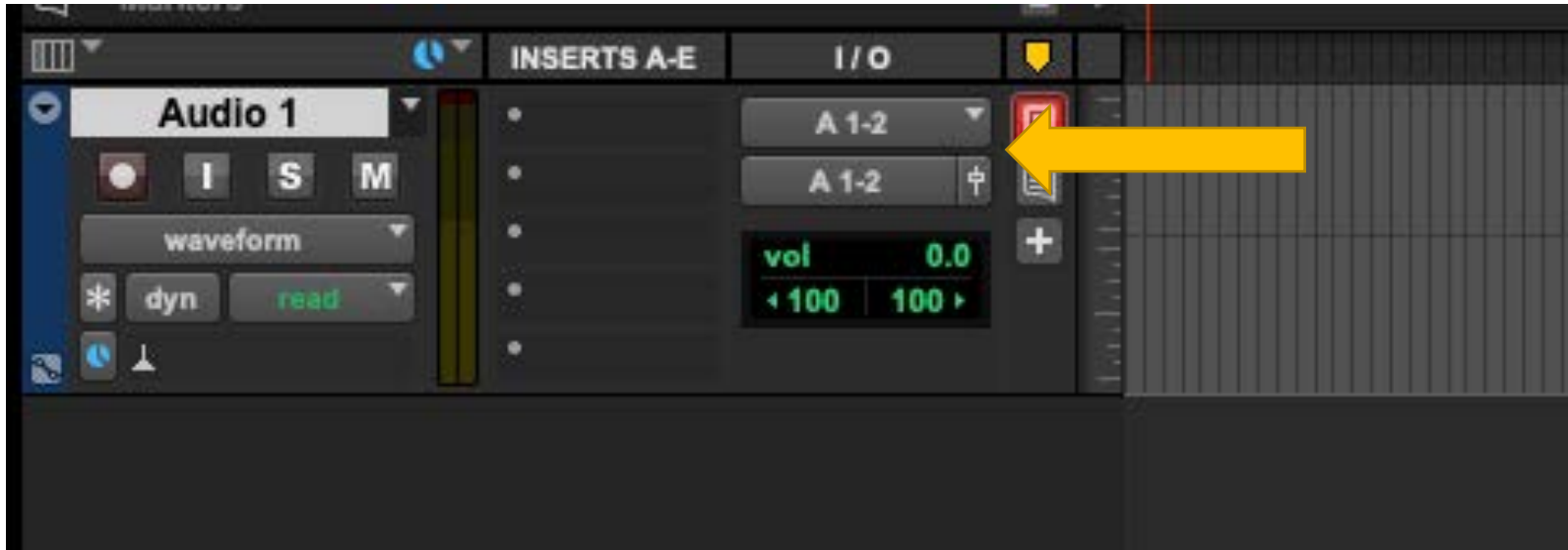


On the audio track make sure that it is displaying the I/O for the track.

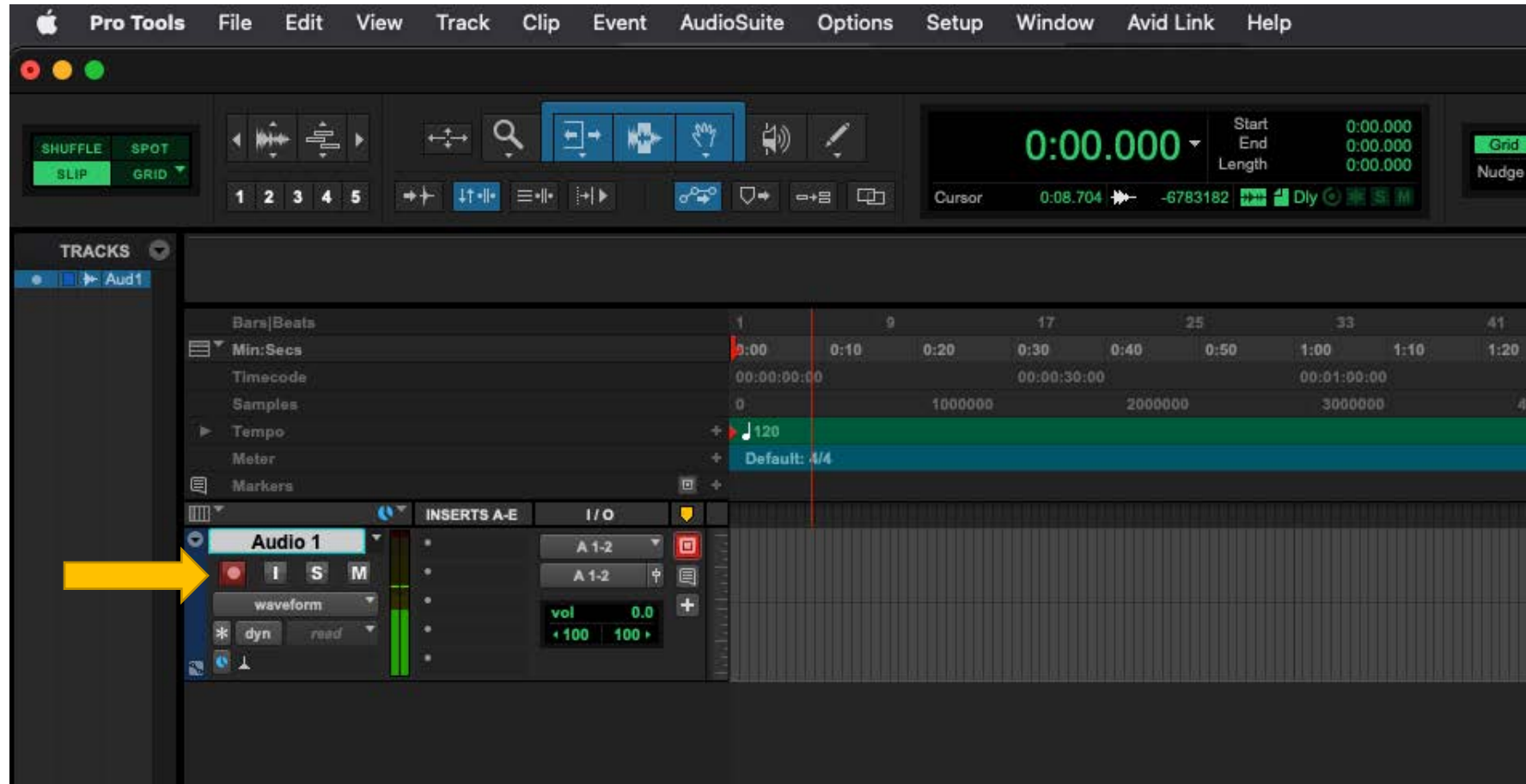
Click on this icon to get the track display options.



Set the inputs and outputs to A 1-2.



Press the Record Monitor button to hear the signal from your laptop.



Engage the AIR Remote



Moving the volume dial on the AIR remote will turn on the speakers.

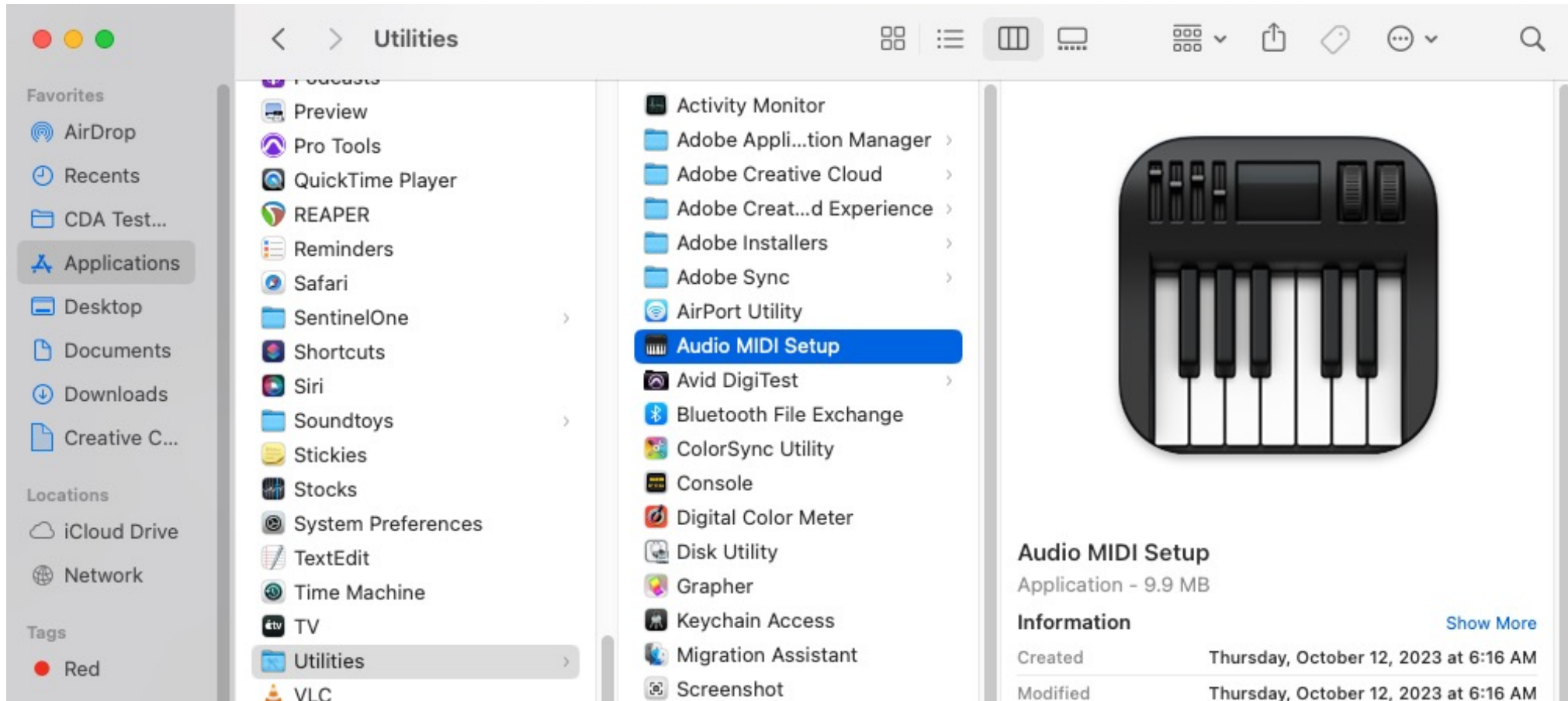
Switch on the L and R buttons to activate the Left and Right speakers.

Note that when monitoring stereo in the CDA Mixing Suite, only the Left and Right speakers are used. The subwoofer (SUB) is not used.

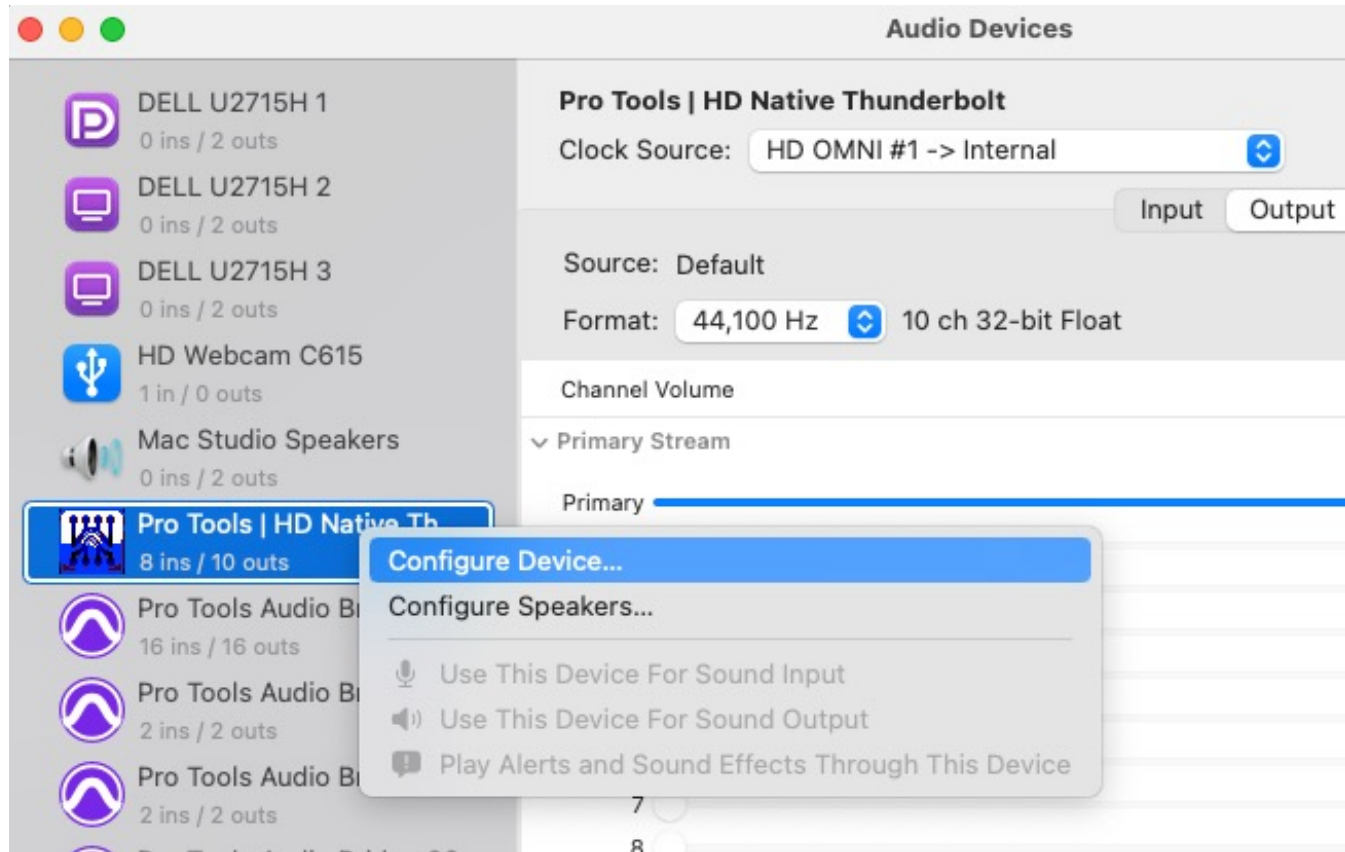
Using software other than Pro Tools

- If you are using another DAW to monitor your stereo input, you must make sure to select the HD Native Thunderbolt as the audio playback hardware in your software.
- Then check the following hardware settings in Audio MIDI setup.

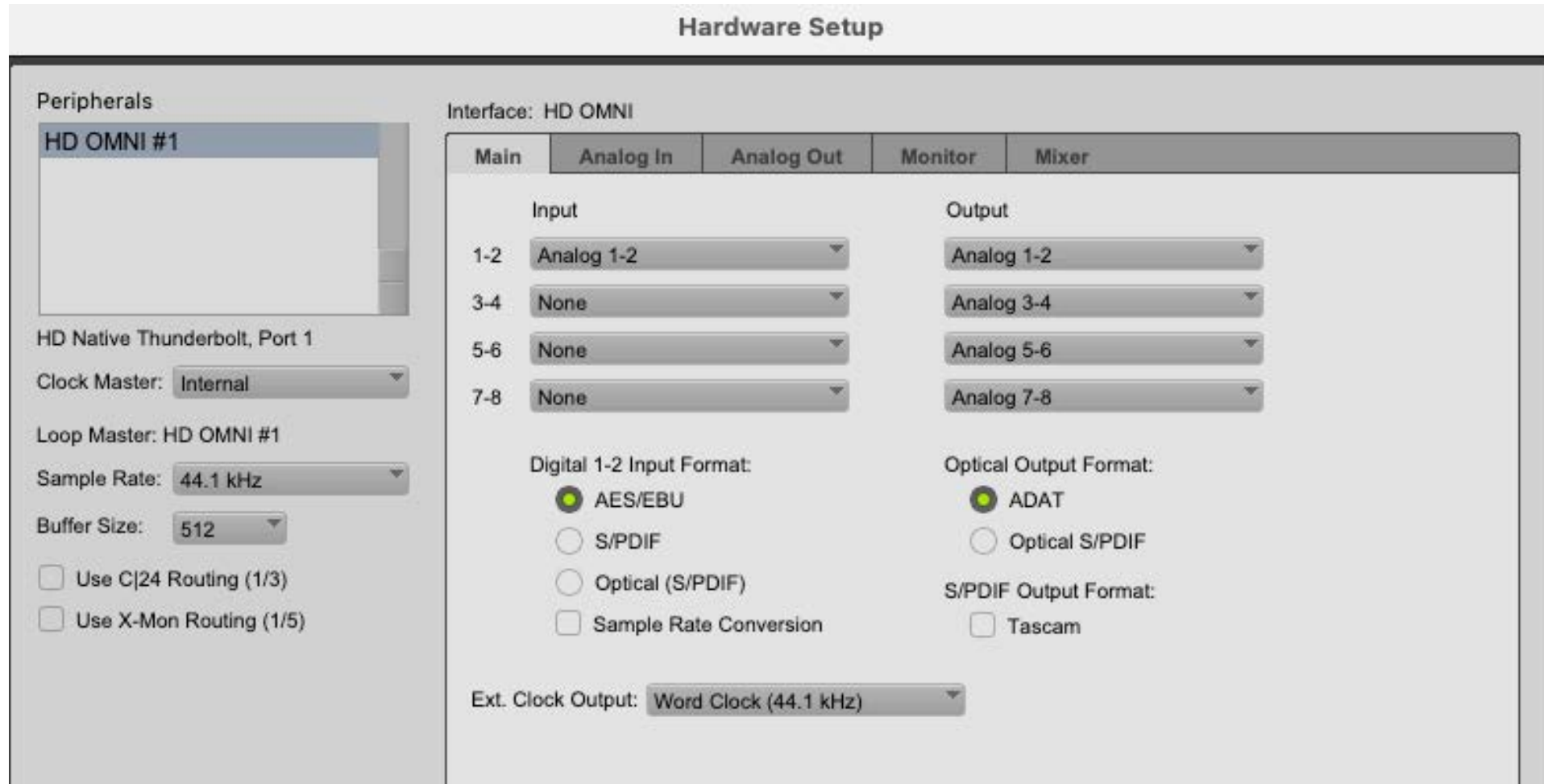
Go to Audio MIDI Setup in Applications/Utilities



In the list of Audio Devices, go to the HD Native Thunderbolt, right click and “Configure Device”



The **Main** tab should look like this (your Sample Rate may be different):



The Analog In tab should look like this:

Hardware Setup

Peripherals

HD OMNI #1

HD Native Thunderbolt, Port 1

Clock Master: Internal

Loop Master: HD OMNI #1

Sample Rate: 44.1 kHz

Buffer Size: 512

Use C|24 Routing (1/3)

Use X-Mon Routing (1/5)

Interface: HD OMNI

	Main	Analog In	Analog Out	Monitor	Mixer
Reference Level					
Ch 1	<input type="radio"/>	+4 dBu	<input checked="" type="radio"/> -10 dBV		Soft Clip
Ch 2	<input type="radio"/>	+4 dBu	<input checked="" type="radio"/> -10 dBV		Soft Clip
Ch 3	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	+4 dBu	<input type="radio"/> -10 dBV		None
Ch 4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	+4 dBu	<input type="radio"/> -10 dBV		None
Limiter					
					Soft Clip
					Soft Clip
					None
					None

The Monitor tab should look like this:

Hardware Setup

Peripherals

HD OMNI #1

HD Native Thunderbolt, Port 1

Clock Master: Internal

Loop Master: HD OMNI #1

Sample Rate: 44.1 kHz


Buffer Size: 512

Use C|24 Routing (1/3)

Use X-Mon Routing (1/5)

Interface: HD OMNI

Main Analog In Analog Out **Monitor** Mixer



CR Path	Format	Fold-Down	Analog (DB-25)								AES/EBU (DB-25)								Dig	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2
MAIN	None	None																		
ALT	None	None																		

Engage Fold-Down for MAIN

Engage Fold-Down for ALT

Control Room Fold-Down:

Do Not Fold Down Between CR Paths

Headphone Fold-Down:

Do Not Fold Down (L/R Channels Only)

Multi-Channel Playback

- If you require multi-channel playback from a laptop, this is also possible but beyond the scope of this guide.
- You must request a driver for the AVID OMNI interface from a CDA technician.
- This driver is only available to AVID account holders who own a license of Pro Tools.
- Please contact Phil Hawes: philip.hawes@concordia.ca