



XTA's AudioCore PC Control Software on your Mac...



Tied to the Mac OSX platform and need to control any XTA Electronics DP Series processor, or maybe you just need to update your DP Series or Series2 processor with the very latest firmware and algorithms?

Here's a very simple solution for Mac OSX computers and international support is *FREE ...*

You'll enjoy:

- Far better Audio quality ...**
- A better computer interface ...**
- Great data management ...**
- Fantastic real-time visual feedback ...**

MAC COMPUTERS RUNNING VIRTUAL PC 7 & OSX

For the control of XTA Software including:

AudioCore 8.xx

AudioCore 6 and previous versions.

XTA's unit-upload software.

XTA's SiDD PC.

Mac Software:

OSX: 10.3.9

Virtual PC version 7.0

PC software:

Microsoft XP Professional

AudioCore 6 (and any previous versions)

AudioCore 8

SiDD PC 2.11

XTA's Unit up-grade software

INTRODUCTION

Getting AudioCore 6 or 8 or SiDD PC and XTA's unit upgrade software running on your Mac isn't difficult ... in fact it's very, very easy...

Mac Versus PC

Performance on a fast 1.5 GHz Mac in XP window emulation mode will always be slower: Emulating a PC on a Mac is never going to be ideal. The performance may vary depending on your Mac's:

Processor speed

RAM speed, or RAM size

Mac Operating system (OSX, the preferred is Panther 10.3.9)

Ultimately your USB to RSxxx interface

MY SET-UP

These Tests Were Performed on:

Computer Apple Powerbook laptop 17"
Model PowerPC G4 Laptop
Processor 1.33 GHz
OS Panther 10.3.9
Memory 1.5 GB DDR SDRAM
USB x 2

Don't expect to run any XTA software in conjunction with SMART LIVE while processing any filters in Photoshop, and while surfing the Internet on a fast Mac laptop.

If you're in the Studio and want to control a couple of DP324's (SiDD's) or have the luxury of having XTA Loudspeaker Management controlling your studio monitors then you're in luck. :->

Larger systems consisting of several DP428' or DP226's or even DP224's should work fine but it's best to try it before you go on a major tour or do the all important and paying gig!

INSTALLING VIRTUAL PC 7.0

Follow the instructions to the word. You can customize what's installed too. I didn't install Outlook and explorer etc. Installing didn't require me to read the manual, I just dived straight in and it worked first time.

XP PROFESSIONAL

I recommend that you install the software supplied with Virtual PC V7 disc. I did and it worked fine (3 x disc's in total). Installation is easy. If you're having problems consult the supplied manual first before contacting me.

USB to RS232 converter

It is highly recommended that you use the XTA approved

USB - RS232 converter.

XTA Part number: USB-232

Contact: tech@xta.co.uk

USB to RS485 Converter

It is highly recommended that you use the XTA approved

USB - RS485 converter.

XTA part number: USB-485

Contact: tech@xta.co.uk

AFTER INSTALLATION OF VIRTUAL PC AND XP

If you've added Virtual PC in the Mac dock (recommended), you should now proceed to install any Windows software. Download any XTA software and load as you would normally. Download and un-zip using your Mac software. Minimise the virtual PC window and drag the un-zipped XTA software you have downloaded onto the Windows XP desktop. Double click on the file within XP and let it install itself.

Once any XTA software is loaded "click" the XP Start menu and select:

AudioCore 8 ... or

AudioCore 6 ... or

SiDD PC ... or

XTA's unit upload program

Once XP has opened, this is when I plug my XTA approved USB to RS22/485 converter in. Wait for XP to find it. This may take 20 - 60 seconds. Once it's found it will prompt you to locate the drivers. Insert the driver CD that comes with the converter. Installation is easy.

If the USB interface isn't found?, go to Add hardware, (Start – Settings – Control Panel – Add Hardware), and follow the instructions and browse for the CD ROM where they drivers reside or if you have copied them to the desktop browse to folder - select them it and OK it.

If you choose to use a third party USB - RS232/485 converter?, It will be difficult for me to support it without buying one and trying it. This document is all about providing a simple solution ... and not about creating extra work for me and anyone at XTA Electronics.

Please note: DO NOT INSTALL ANY MAC DRIVERS. The Mac OS will seize the USB port and deny it to Windows/XP.

AFTER DRIVER INSTALLATION

You should confirm that the drivers have been installed by checking in the device manager section within XP. (Start – Settings – Control Panel – System – hardware - Device Manger - Ports (COM & LPT). To view "devices by connection" (recommended) - select "view" from the top menu options and select "devices by connection. You can also select "devices by type". If "device by type" is selected ... search "Ports (COM & LPT)" for the attached "ATEN USB to Serial Bridge "(COMX). Your COM port may well be different to mine but it doesn't matter.

See my screen captures "Device_by_connection" and "View_by_device".

COMMUNICATION SET-UP

Three pages concern us when establishing communication.

1 - Virtual PC's PC Settings - PC - PC Settings

2 - XP device manager (Start – Settings – Control Panel – System – Hardware -Device Manger)

3 - XTA's Interface Sub-Menu page on any AudioCore capable device (DP428, DP226, DP224 etc) - Interface Sub-menu – Enter)

COMMUNICATION SET-UP

1-PC Settings page

Before opening AudioCore you will need to enable USB within XP. PC – PC Settings – After installing the USB drivers open up the "PC settings" page. You will notice there's a USB page. Enable USB and tick the box associated with your newly installed RS232 or RS485 converter.

2-XP's Device Manager (Start – Settings – Control Panel – System – Hardware - Device Manger)

See my screen captures " View_by_Connection" and "Port_settings"

Check on this page to confirm that the "ATEN Serial Bridge" (comX) is there. (Assuming you are using the XTA approved USB to RSxxx converter). Your third party USB-RSxxx converter should appear here. "View devices by connection" is the preferred view.

My set-up installed the XTA USB-RS232 drivers as COMS 3. Don't worry if your set-up installs it as a different coms number.

Double click on your coms USB - RSxxx converter in the view by connection page and check that the following settings are valid:

Bits per second:	38400 (try slower if problems)
Data bits:	8
Parity:	None
Stop bits:	1
Flow control:	None

3 - XTA's Interface Sub-Menu. (Menu – Next > - Interface Sub-menu – Enter)

The manual for your DPxxx processor will tell you how to navigate through this section.

Select External interface - then enter - Adjust parameters to suit your set-up and enter to go to the next screen. The first DP Series unit, in the chain, will require you to select it as the Mode-Master. ID 1. Master source (RS232 or RS485) and baud rates are adjustable; Midi relay and Midi channel etc are also adjusted on this page. Make sure to "Enter" to confirm" any changes before testing.

START UP PROCEDURE

Start Virtual PC/XP – This is where you select the program you wish to run. Select AudioCore 8 or 6 etc - then plug in your USB converter. If you are using a third party USB - RS232 or USB - RS485 converter it maybe different so just experiment to see what works for your system. Third party converters may require that you insert the USB device before you load AudioCore?

There will be a delay while your USB- RS232 interface is found by XP. Wait for 20 seconds or so until the converter is found. If you try selecting "Start" etc from XP and nothing happens then the USB converter is still being found/optimized by XP so wait for a few more seconds. Once XP is happy, normal computer operations will resume and you can proceed.

AUDIOCORE REMOTE CONTROL

Open AudioCore and select "remote" via the top menu options to select your RS232 or RS485 set-up options i.e. if you have installed a XTA USB232 you should select RS232. Select the Baud rate that applies (Try 38400 to start with). Select Baud 9600 if you have any connection problems. Contact me directly if there are any problems with communication between the Mac and any DP Series or Series 2 processors. I've had this working from 4800 to 115200 baud without any problems.

XTA AUDIOCORE OPERATIONS

Performance will vary...

A fast Mac will slow down considerably when running OSX and Windows XP together. If you are in doubt while you have plugged a USB converter in or you're experiencing delays when opening AudioCore or plugging or unplugging a USB converter ... just wait for a bit. Normal Mac computer operations should resume once the converter is found and XP... and then you to proceed. If you have a slower Mac than detailed in the document... just wait a bit longer! ... Sorry but we are dealing with 2 operating systems here...

AUDIOCORE...

What can I say? It's the most powerful Audio control software available... The attention to detail by xta is astounding... XTA's "state of the art" filter technology is second to none... period!

Contact XTA if you have any questions regarding their software. Don't ask about an AudioCore Mac software version ... because this will never happen ...

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

I've worked with Mac's and been involved Audio for years ... I'm happy to help out in any way possible ... but please be sensible with any emails you send. Thanks in advance....

Cheers

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