

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is Hercules DJ Console Mk2 Mac for Mac only or for Mac and PC?

Hercules DJ Console Mk2 Mac hardware is compatible with Mac OS 10.4, Windows XP and Windows Vista. The included drivers are for Mac OS 10.4 or for Windows XP, but you can download drivers for Vista 32-bit on Hercules website

2. What are the differences between Hercules DJ Console Mk2 for Mac and DJ Console Mk2 for PC?

The difference is the CD package, with different software package included with the same hardware:

- Traktor 3 LE in Hercules DJ Console Mk2 for Mac,
- VirtualDJ 3 DJC Edition in Hercules DJ Console Mk2 for PC.

3. What are the differences between DJ Console Mk2 Mac and DJ Control MP3?

DJ Control MP3 is a USB DJ Controller

- with no sound card (you play the sound on your computer sound card)
- with no internal mixer (no audio in/out, no headphones output for pre-listening, no talk-over function)
- with no Mac software (the bundled software is VirtualDJ 3 DJC Edition, for Windows XP).

If you have a full version of Traktor 3 DJ Studio, you can control it with DJ Control MP3, but you cannot control Traktor 3 LE since Traktor 3 LE needs a DJ Console MK2 Mac.

4. Is there a specific requirement for the USB bus to support DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

DJ Console Mk2 Mac needs a full-powered bus, so

- it works on USB direct plug on the central unit
- it doesn't work on the USB plug on Mac keyboards (not enough power).

If you lack electrical power in your USB bus, you can connect the DJ Console Mk2 Mac to your computer via a USB hub which has its own separate power adapter.

5. Why is there an optional electric power supply?

You don't need it on Mac as Mac computers deliver enough electric power on their USB ports.

This electric power supply is only for the case the computer USB port has not enough power supply. If you were in this situation, please refer to DJ Console MK2 PC FAQ.

6. Can DJ Console Mk2 Mac also function as a sound card?

Yes, DJ Console Mk2 Mac also includes an external sound card with high-level specifications:

- CoreAudio compatible
- 4 channel (2 stereo) inputs (4 RCA plugs) / 4 channel (2 stereo) outputs (4 RCA + 2 1/8" minijack plugs).
- 1/4 inch (6.35mm) stereo headphone output with preamplifier and volume control
- 1/4 inch (6.35mm) mono microphone input with preamplifier and volume control.

7. Can DJ Console Mk2 Mac be used to mix with other software?

DJ Console Mk2 Mac sends MIDI commands, so Mac software applications (DJing and music) that support MIDI commands can also support DJ Console Mk2 Mac, including:

- Traktor 2.5 DJ Studio, Traktor 3 DJ Studio
http://www.nativeinstruments.de/index.php?id=traktor3_us TKS presets files can be downloaded on <http://ts.hercules.com/>
- MegaSeg <http://www.megaseg.com/controllers.html>
- UltraMixer 2 <http://www.ultramixer.com>
- FutureDecks Pro <http://www.xyl.io.com/site/index.php>

8. What does Mk2 means?

Mk2 stands for Make 2, which means second version.

9. Is the bundled Traktor 3 LE software the same as that included with the first DJ Console?

No, Traktor 3 LE software, included with the Mk2 is a Light Edition software based on Traktor 3 DJ Studio (instead of Traktor 2.5 DJC Edition with DJ Console MK1 Mac, based on Traktor 2.5 DJ Studio). Traktor 3 LE is based on Traktor 3 DJ Studio, which gives a better response time on Intel based Mac than with Traktor 2.5 DJC Edition.

10. Is Traktor 3 LE a demo version of Traktor 3 DJ Studio?

No, Traktor 3 LE has no limitation in time, it is not a demo version of Traktor DJ Studio. A comparison chart of Traktor 3 LE with Traktor 3 DJ Studio is on Native Instruments website:

http://www.native-instruments.de/index.php?id=tds3comparison_us

The main differences are:

- number of decks controlled: 2 decks in Traktor 3 LE, 4 decks in Traktor 3 DJ Studio,
- more effects, loop and cue options in Traktor 3 DJ Studio than in Traktor 3 LE,
- Traktor 3 DJ Studio includes a recording function to record a mix,
- Traktor 3 LE cannot work if DJ Console MK2 Mac is not connected

11. As Traktor 3 DJ Studio has 4 decks, can I mix in this software with 2 DJ Console MK2?

Remember this 4-deck option is not part of Traktor 3 LE, it requires upgrading to Traktor 3 DJ Studio. Yes, as DJ Console MK2 Mac has 2 decks, you can control 4 decks in Traktor 3 DJ Studio with 2 DJ Console MK2 Mac (or PC) and also with a combination of 1 DJ Console MK2 Mac + 1 DJ Control MP3.

12. Can I mix a CD-Audio track in Traktor 3 LE?

No, it is another difference of Traktor 3 LE with Traktor 3 DJ Studio:

- Traktor 3 LE cannot mix CD audio,
- Traktor 3 DJ Studio can mix CD Audio.

To import your CD-Audio track in Traktor 3 LE, you must save your CD audio tracks in MP3 files, and then you mix these files in Traktor 3 LE. You can import your CD audio into MP3 files with iTunes: run iTunes, click on "iTunes" menu, enter in "Preferences", go to "Advanced" and enter in "Importing" panel: there, you can choose the options:

- On CD insert: "Ask to import CD"
- Import using: "MP3 encoder"
- Setting: "Higher quality 192 Kbps"

to import your CD audio tracks into MP3 files via iTunes; you can mix such MP3 files in Traktor 3 LE. Other import formats are possible, MP3 format avoids any DRM tagging and DRM incompatibility with DJ software, and MP3 format is compatible with all DJ software, on both PC and Mac.

13. What is the price of Traktor 3 DJ Studio?

Traktor 3 DJ Studio full price is €199, but DJ Console MK2 Mac owners can upgrade for €99 after registering their Traktor 3 LE bundle on Native Instruments website:

http://www.native-instruments.com/index.php?prid=927&id=shopdetail_us&lcd=1

14. How can I set and use CUE POINTS in Traktor 3 LE with DJ Console MK2 Mac?

- **Set a cue point when the audio file is not in playback:** move in the audio file (with the jog-wheel) to the position where you want to insert a Cue point, push on DJ Console MK2 Mac Play/Pause button => you start the playback and place a cue point at the same time,
- **Set a cue point in an audio file in playback:** push on DJ Console MK2 Mac button 2, and, keeping it down, push on Cue button at the moment you want to insert a Cue point => you place a cue point (if you want to pause the music without setting a cue point, you can do it by pressing on DJ Console MK2 Mac button 3 and keep it pressed down during the pause time)
- **Go to a cue point:** push on DJ Console MK2 Mac Cue button => you instantly reach the previously set Cue point, and start playback.

15. How can I use the effect functions?

Traktor 3 LE effect functions are limited to 1 master effect simultaneously played on both decks. The available effects are Filter T2, Delay, Flanger and Reverb.

- Select the effect by pushing down DJ Console MK2 Mac button 1, keep it pressed down and push on the DJ Console MK2 Mac Previous/Next track buttons,
- Switch on/off the effect: push down DJ Console MK2 Mac button 1, keep it pressed down and push on the DJ Console triangle button just below button 1.
- Change the intensity of the effect: push down DJ Console MK2 Mac button 1, keep it pressed down and turn deck A pitch, which changes the effect Amount setting (to change the other settings of the effect: keep button 1 pressed down and turn pitch B knob, jog-wheel A and jog-wheel B).

16. How can I mix external analog audio sources with DJ Console MK2 Mac sound?

You have 2 solutions

- either mix the sources outside DJ Console Mk2 Mac, in an analog mixer,

- or mix the audio sources inside DJ Console MK2 Mac.

a) External mixing: mix audio sources outside DJ Console Mk2 Mac

DJs mixing with 2 analog audio sources have an analog DJ mixer, so if you connect 2 analog audio sources, you can connect DJ Console Mk2 Mac's 2 separate outputs to your DJ mixer inputs so that:

- You alternately mix computer audio on the DJ Console Mk2 Mac and analog audio from your external sources,
- You export the audio mixing to your external DJ mixer instead of doing it in your software.

b) Internal mixing: mix audio source(s) inside DJ Console MK2 Mac

a) Connect your stereo external source 1 in DJ Console MK2 Mac input 1-2, and your stereo external source 2 in DJ Console MK2 Input 3-4, and set the phono line switch of each stereo source in the adapted audio mode ("Phono" for a turntable whose audio output includes a ground cable (then fix the ground cable to DJ Console MK2 Mac Ground screw), "Line" for any other audio source)

b) assign in the software the audio sources on Traktor 3 LE virtual decks: click on "Preferences" button, go in "Audio Setup", and in "Input Routing",

- assign on Channel A left the input "1 Hercules DJ Console MK2 Aggregate In 1",
- assign on Channel A right the input "2 Hercules DJ Console MK2 Aggregate In 2",
- assign on Channel B left the input "3 Hercules DJ Console MK2 Aggregate In 3",
- assign on Channel B right the input "4 Hercules DJ Console MK2 Aggregate In 4".

c) during the mix, when you want to switch from computer source to analogue input, change the option Set CH (=Set Channel) between Deck (= computer audio file) and External (= external audio source). When you use an external audio source, you can set a different gain than the MP3 channel gain for Channel A or B by pushing down button 2 and, keeping the button 2 pressed down, turn the pitch rotary encoder of the selected deck on DJ Console MK2.

17. Can I mix any digital audio file, such as Apple iTunes files?

You can mix the main audio formats (MP3, AAC, CD-Audio), but you cannot mix iTunes files with DRM (Digital Rights Management = anti-copy protection) encoding. If you want to buy online music files, check they have no DRM: audio files in MP3 format have no DRM.

18. Where can I buy online music adapted to DJing?

You can buy mixable music from Beatport (<http://www.beatport.com>), a website with music tailored for DJing, and you can also browse in Beatport from inside Traktor 3 LE.

19. Can I scratch with DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

Yes, you can scratch on DJ Console Mk2 Mac in Traktor 3 LE with both jog wheels.

20. What is the use of the mini-stick/mushroom on DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

This mini-stick lets you navigate through software menus. For example, in Traktor 3 LE

- move in the library with the mini-stick,
- press the left button below the mini-stick to load a file on deck A,
- press the right button below the mini-stick to load a file on deck B.

21. Can I save the DJ mixes I create with DJ Console Mk2 Mac in an audio file?

To record your mixes inside Traktor, you must upgrade your software to Traktor 3 DJ Studio.

You can record your mix outside Traktor 3 LE, with your own recording software, if you connect one of the line outputs of DJ Console MK2 Mac (typically the jack 1-2 1/8" output) to the line input of your Mac computer, and record on this line input with another software. This external audio loop process can also be used to broadcast your mix on the internet.

22. How can I broadcast my mix on the internet?

If you are connected to an internet streaming service, the simplest solution to stream your mix is

- to loop a DJ Console Mk2 Mac output 1-2 to your computer stereo line input
- and broadcast this line in on the internet

Your 2nd output 1-2 (dual RCA or jack 1/8") lets you play the mix on the speakers simultaneously.

23. Which microphones and headphones are recommended?

DJ Console Mk2 Mac has powerful preamplifiers, so even high impedance (up to 600 Ohms) microphones and headphones can work on DJ Console Mk2 Mac; however, it consumes more electricity than with low impedance microphones and headphones, so we recommend the use of low impedance headphones and microphones, such as 32 or 64 Ohms, for the lowest power consumption.

24. How can I use my headphones with Hercules DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

You can use your headphones in 2 ways:

- Live monitoring: listen to the music played for the audience on the front speakers over your headphones. Set the headphone selector switch to **Mix**.
- Music previewing: use your headphones to listen to the track you are currently preparing, while playing another track for your audience. Set the headphone selector switch on the Mk2's front face to **Deck A** or **Deck B**, depending on which track you want to monitor.

25. Can I connect any analogue source to DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

a) Phono in

The DJ Console Mk2 Mac's phono inputs are designed for DJ turntables: as the level depends on the cartridge, you need DJ or club cartridges.

We recommend cartridges with a strong output level, such as the Shure M44-7 (output level is 9.5mV), Ortofon Concord Q.Bert (11 mV), Ortofon OM Q.Bert (11mV). Lower-level cartridges are useable, up to a 6mV output level.

Magnetic cartridges may also be used, but their level (4-5mV) is a bit low for the DJ Console Mk2 Mac. Moving Coil cartridges normally require a specific amplifier, and are generally not made for DJing.

b) Line in

The DJ Console Mk2 Mac's line inputs are for consumer audio devices (-10dBu), so you can connect CD players and MP3 players, but you cannot connect devices with a professional output level (+4dBv). You must switch professional devices to the consumer level output.

If your audio source output signal is too strong and saturates DJ Console Mk2 Mac input, place between this source and DJ Console Mk2 Mac input an attenuator as

- a multimedia hub (as <http://www.trust.com/products/product.aspx?artnr=12304>
<http://www.maplin.co.uk/Module.aspx?ModuleNo=34878&doy=26m2&C=SEO&U=strat15>)
- or a headphone volume knob (as NGS Vox 320, Koss VC20 or Shure EA-650
<http://www.ngs.eu/html/publicauk/detalleproducto.asp?id=27&ids=6>
<http://www.koss.com/koss/kossweb.nsf/p?openform&pc^ac^VC20>
http://www.shure.com/PersonalAudio/Products/Accessories/CasesAdapters/us_pa_pa235_level_a_tenuator)

Reducing the output level of the audio source with such attenuators will not reduce the volume you hear since, as saturation starts when volume stops increasing, so reducing the output level up to the limit below saturation doesn't change the volume you hear.

c) Microphone

You need a microphone with a 6.35mm (1/4") jack plug, so any microphone with this kind plug is useable. For microphones with a 3.5mm (1/8" minijack) plug, an adapter to plug in the larger 6.35mm jack plug is included.

26. Which DJ turntables are compatible with DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

Any DJ turntable is compatible, since the DJ Console Mk2 Mac has 2 stereo inputs supporting both:

- Phono-level turntables (such as Technics 1200-Mk2, Numark TT200, Gemini iTT...) and
- Line-level turntables.

We have successfully tested both kinds of turntables on the DJ Console Mk2 Mac.

With phono-level turntables, you must:

- 1) Connect your turntable's ground output to the ground screw on the DJ Console Mk2 Mac,
- 2) Switch the phono/line selector to phono on the back of the DJ Console Mk2 Mac.

27. Why doesn't DJ Console Mk2 Mac have a 1U rack format?

DJ Console Mk2 Mac is designed with portability in mind, and the majority of our customers do not have a 1U chassis on which to attach a DJ Console Mk2 Mac. DJ Console Mk2 Mac is intended for mobile use (that is why it is USB powered), and its 23.5cm (9¼ inches) width is much more portable than the 1U format (48cm/19 inches) width.

28. Can I play timecoded vinyl /CD records on the DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

Yes, you can, but not with Traktor software since Traktor Scratch (the only software based on Traktor using timecoded discs) need Traktor proprietary audio USB interface. You must use another software with timecoded vinyl to use DJ Console Mk2 Mac audio interface with timecoded discs.

29. How can I connect DJ Console Mk2 Mac to an external mixer?

When you connect DJ Console Mk2 Mac to an external mixer, we assume you no longer mix inside DJ Console Mk2 Mac but rather on your external mixer. You will then use DJ Console Mk2 Mac to control your MP3 file playback (audio position with jog wheel, Play/Pause, Pitch...), but you no longer use DJ Console Mk2 Mac's cross fader, EQ and volume controls since you perform these functions on your

external mixer. In the same way, you monitor in headphones plugged to your external mixer instead of monitoring on DJ Console Mk2 Mac.

a) Connections

The simplest way is to connect:

- Outputs 1/2 on your DJ Console Mk2 Mac to input 1 on your external mixer
- Outputs 3/4 on your DJ Console Mk2 Mac to input 2 on your external mixer.

b) Settings in Traktor 3 LE

In Traktor 3 LE, click on “Preferences” button, enter in “Audio Setup”, and in “Output Routing” set the “Mixer Mode” on “External”: you can then assign “Output Channel A” on DJ Console Mk2 Mac outputs 1 for left and 2 for right, and assign “Output Channel B” on DJ Console Mk2 Mac outputs 3 for left and 4 for right.

d) Settings on your mixer

- With a professional-quality external mixer, we recommend you set the mixer level to +4dB.
- If your external mixer is a model which does not support +4dB, adjust the gain to a reduced level on the mixer inputs to avoid saturation: don't reduce the output volume in DJ Console MK2 Mac control panel, you would reduce only the signal level without reducing a potential background noise.

30. Can I connect a professional amplifier to the DJ Console Mk2 Mac's audio outputs?

The DJ Console Mk2 Mac has a +4dBu unbalanced output: you can connect its outputs to a professional amplifier (which requires a +4dBu source), or to speakers (designed for -10dBv sources).

31. What is the solution if my amplifier saturates when playing back DJ Console Mk2 Mac?

The DJ Console Mk2 Mac +4dBu output level is compatible with most DJ mixers, amplifiers and multimedia speakers, but some mixers and some hi-fi amplifiers saturate at this level when they are designed to support an input signal level of -10dBv.

The solution consists in:

- 1) set the output level in DJ Console Mk2 Mac control panel at its maximum (it is a software level, reducing this level would decrease the music without reducing the noise)
- 2) if the receiving gear is a mixer, set on this mixer the gain on the line input from 25 to 30%
- 3) if the receiving gear is an amplifier, place between DJ Console Mk2 Mac output and the amplifier input an attenuator as
 - a. a multimedia hub (as <http://www.trust.com/products/product.aspx?artnr=12304>
<http://www.maplin.co.uk/Module.aspx?ModuleNo=34878&doy=26m2&C=SEO&U=strat15>)
 - b. or a headphone volume knob (as NGS Vox 320, Koss VC20 or Shure EA-650
<http://www.ngs.eu/html/publicauk/detalleproducto.asp?id=27&ids=6>
<http://www.koss.com/koss/kossweb.nsf/p?openform&pc^ac^VC20>
http://www.shure.com/PersonalAudio/Products/Accessories/CasesAdapters/us_pa_pa235_level_attenuator)

Reducing the output level of the DJ Console Mk2 Mac with such attenuators will not reduce the volume you hear since, as volume stops increasing as soon as saturation starts, reducing the level up to the limit below saturation doesn't change the volume you hear.

32. Where can I get more info?

By contacting Hercules tech support (online, or on phone)

<http://ts.hercules.com/eng/index.php>

On Forums:

Traktor 3 forum

http://www.native-instruments.com/forum_us/forumdisplay.php?f=122

100% DJ Console <http://www.100pcdiconsole.fr/>

Audiofanzine

http://fr.audiofanzine.com/produits/index.idproduit,73060,mao.hercules_dj_console_mk2.html