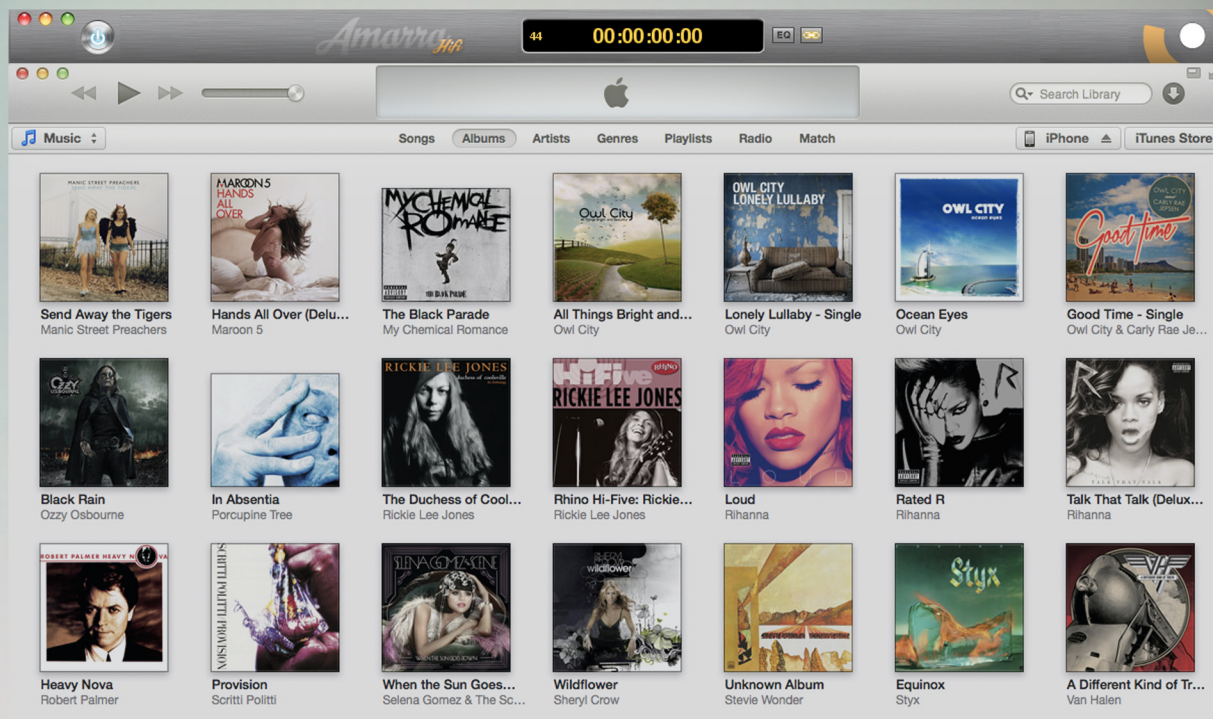# Amarra Hifi™

The purist music player

User Manual
Software Version 2.6

It's Like Hearing Music For The First Time™

Amarra Hifi V2.6 User Manual Table of Contents

About This Manual

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1.0 Welcome to the World of Amarra Hifi

Congratulations and welcome to the Amarra family. By now you should have successfully downloaded, installed and activated Amarra Hifi and are ready to listen to your music! We have a few short notes to pass along to make your listening experience better.

• If you haven't Installed and Activated Amarra Hifi yet, please do the following:
- Double-click on the Amarra Hifi Installer Package to launch the installer
- Follow on screen instructions for installation
- Enter system admin password when prompted
- Once the installation completes, launch Amarra Hifi by double-clicking on the application file found in your Applications->Amarra Hifi folder in Finder.
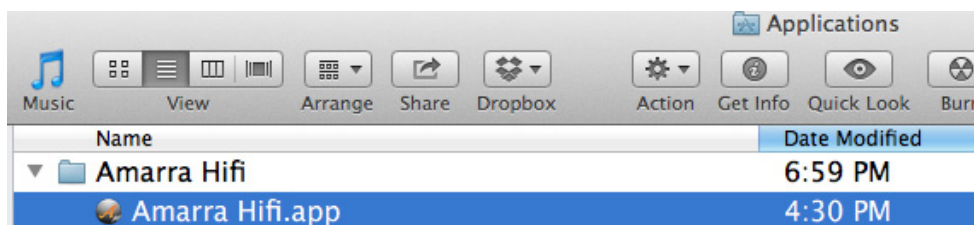
• If you have any issues Activating Amarra Hifi, please refer to the Amarra Activation Guide located in your Applications->Amarra Hifi folder in Finder. If problems persist, please contact us at support@sonicstudio.com

• Google Translate now provides for translating full documents into local languages. Please visit http://translate.google.com/ , select the desired language to translate to and click on 'translate a document'. It's not a perfect tool, but it may help those who prefer languages other than English

• Always launch Amarra Hifi first and let it launch iTunes to ensure proper operation

•DO NOT adjust the sample rate in Audio Midi Setup or set your DAC's sample rate manually to match the sample rate of the file. Amarra Hifi will automatically set both Audio Midi Setup and your DAC correctly to match the native sample rate of the file being played back.

• If Amarra Hifi quits unexpectedly for any reason, please delete your Amarra Hifi Preferences prior to re-launching Amarra Hifi. See Appendix B for information on Amarra Hifi Preferences.

•A significant amount of additional information can be found at our support portal and on our FAQ. Please visit our support page at http://www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarrasupport.html to access these resources.

• Holding the Mouse over any button will display a Help Tip displaying what the button does.

It's time to Enjoy the Music!!

2.0 Getting Started

This section reviews the initial steps needed to ensure proper operation of Amarra Hifi.

2.1 Connecting to your output device

Ensure you have correctly set up the device you are sending your music to (built in audio, external DAC) by selecting the desired device in Audio Midi Setup and setting it to be the device for sound output (and sound input if available). You can access Audio Midi Setup in the Applications->Utilities folder in Finder.

As an alternative, you can set the output device using the Sound item on the System Preferences window.

NOTE: The table below reflects the sample rates supported by Amarra Hifi for the various interfaces connecting your Mac to your DAC/Output device. Remember that Amarra Hifi does not do any realtime up or downsampling, we believe this to be an audiophile no-no that results in non-bit-perfect, potentially inconsistent output. Ensure your DAC supports the desired sample rates natively and you should be all set.

Amarra Hifi/Device (DAC) Sample Rate Support								
Interface connection between Mac and Device - listed in order of preference*	44.1 Khz	48 kHz	88.2 kHz	96 kHz	176.4 kHz	192 khz	352.8 kHz*****	384 kHz*****
Firewire/USB	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y**	Y**	N	N
Optical Built-in Audio (Mac)****	Y	Y	M***	Y	N	N	N	N
Wireless	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

*Interfaces are listed in recommended order for best sound

** If your device supports 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz and 384kHz input via the Firewire or USB Interface on your device. If your device accepts hi resolution input (176.4k or above) only on it's S/PDIF or Toslink interface, you will need a FW or USB->S/PDIF or Toslink Converter

*** Some earlier Macs do not support 88.2 khz. Use Audio Midi Setup to verify sample rate support for Built In Audio on your Mac.

****Optical Built-in Audio (Mac) or Toslink is limited to a maximum output sample rate of 96kHz out of the Macintosh computer

***** Requires the full version of Amarra, Amarra Hifi supports 44k-192k files

Amarra Hifi/Device Sample Rate Support

Once you've correctly set the device for sound output, you are ready to launch Amarra Hifi.

2.2 Launching Amarra Hifi the First Time

Once the Installation process completes, navigate to your Applications->Amarra Hifi folder and double-click on the Amarra Hifi.app to launch Amarra Hifi. Amarra Hifi should find your sound output device automatically.

2.3 Launching Amarra Hifi Going Forward

To launch Amarra Hifi moving forward, click on the Amarra Hifi icon in your dock or navigate to your Applications->Amarra Hifi folder in Finder and double-click on 'Amarra Hifi.app'.

As long as your device is set as the device for sound output prior to launching Amarra Hifi, Hifi should automatically find the device.

3.0 The Amarra Hifi User Interface

Below is an image of the Amarra Hifi User Interface
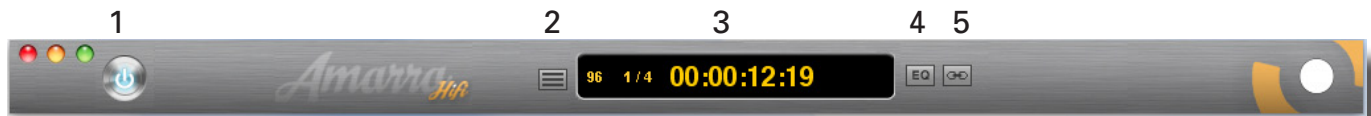
Amarra Hifi User Interface

1) Hifi On/Off Button

Blue for Amarra Playback
Yellow for iTunes Playback

2) Tracks Menu

•Displays the list of currently preloaded Tracks

3) Amarra Hifi UI Window
•Displays Sample Rate of current Track
•Displays current and total Tracks if PRELOAD TRACKS is used
•Displays position of Playhead via counter
•Displays current EQ setting

4) EQ Button

•Displays a list of EQ Presets and off.
•Use Option-click to Bypass EQ

5) LINK Button

•Links the Amarra Hifi UI to the iTunes window. Move your iTunes window and Hifi will follow.

NOTE: If you move your Hifi window, iTunes does not follow. This is useful if you need to temporarily separate the windows.

NOTE: Use the iTunes Transport Buttons and Volume Slider to move tracks or adjust volume in Hifi. You can also use the volume control on your external device to control volume (recommended). If you do this, leave the iTunes volume at full volume
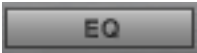
4.0 Basic Music Playback from your iTunes library

Playing music using Amarra Hifi is a very simple process. Once you launch Hifi, you should see both the Hifi and iTunes windows on the screen. Hifi runs alongside Apple's iTunes program. This allows you to manage and access all your music through the main iTunes Music Library.

You can use iTunes like you always have, select the songs / Playlists and play. Hifi will automatically play back any track it can and seamlessly switches to iTunes for playing back of protected files or other files that Hifi may not be able to play back in your current configuration.

NOTE: If you don't see the Amarra Hifi window, it is likely behind your iTunes window. Make your iTunes window smaller (or exit Full Screen Mode) and you should find the Amarra Hifi window on screen. Use the 'link' button on the Amarra Hifi UI or choose Link Amarra Hifi window to iTunes in Amarra Hifi Preferences to link the Amarra Hifi and iTunes windows together.

NOTE: Hifi plays uncompressed files (AIFF, WAV, BWF) and most compressed files including MP3, AAC, and Apple Lossless (ALAC). Hifi does not play some variable bit rate or low bit rate MP3 files. FLAC files will need to be converted to a format that is supported by iTunes for Amarra Hifi to play those tracks back.
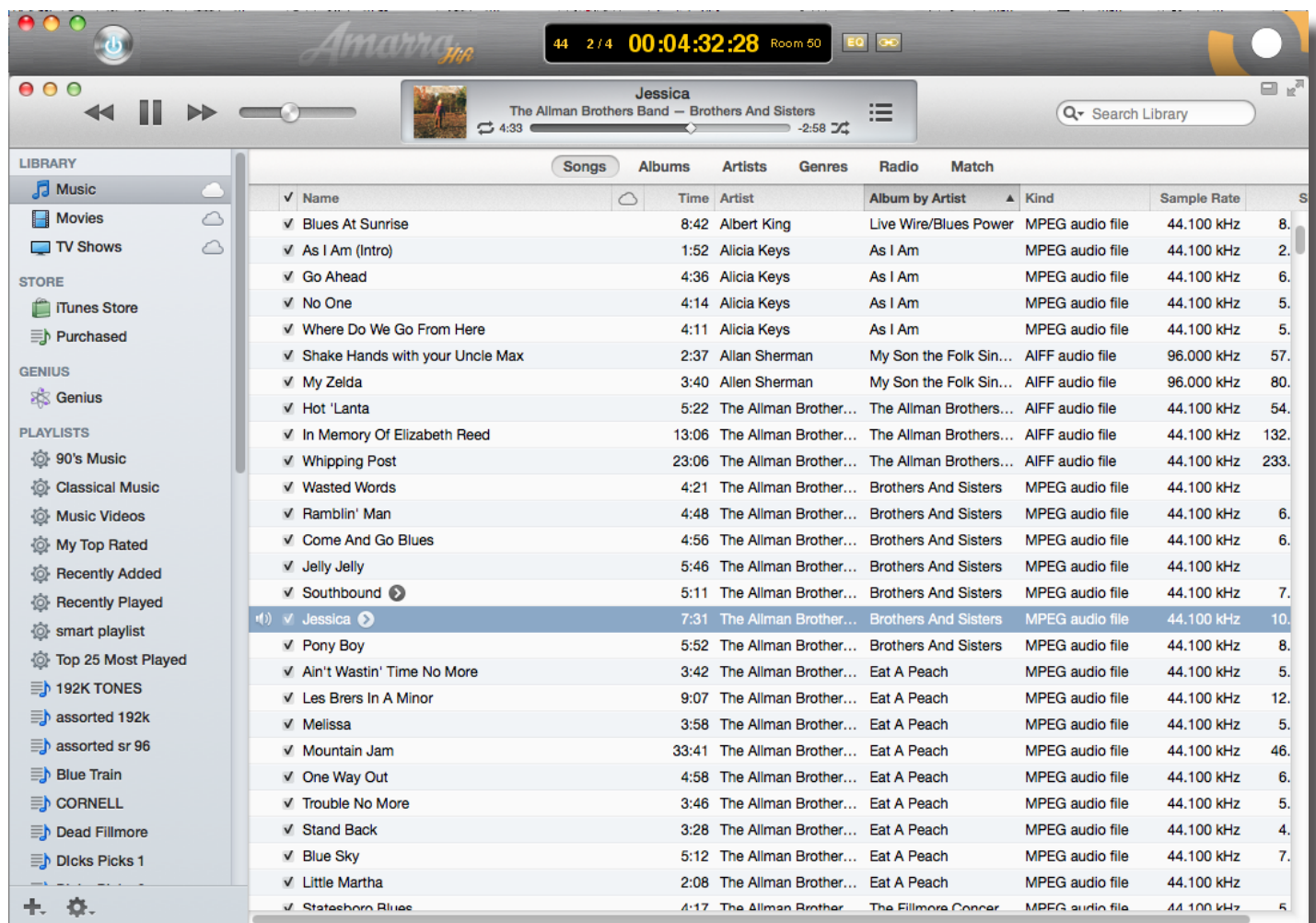
You can verify that Amarra Hifi is playing back your music by seeing the On/Off button turn

blue on the Amarra Hifi UI. If the button has turned yellow, it means that Amarra Hifi has passed control to iTunes for playback of the current track. Amarra Hifi will automatically take over playback on the next track that it can play back natively.

•Use the iTunes Transport buttons to Play/Pause and move to the next track, beginning of current track or previous track or randomly choose tracks in iTunes.

•Use the iTunes Playhead slider to move to a different location in the current track.

•You can also change the current position of the playback head by modifying the Time Display in the Amarra Hifi UI.

•Click on Pause, then double-click on the Time element you want to modify. Type in a new value and hit Return
Or
•Pause, click on a time element and drag your mouse left/right or up/down to change the time. Click Return to save the new setting.

NOTE: KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS - Use the following key commands in place of menu commands.

Cmd+5, 6   Previous Track/Next Track
Cmd + 8,9   Down/Up Volume
Cmd + ,   Opens Preferences Window
Cmd + H   Hide Amarra Hifi
Cmd + Option + H   Hide Others
Cmd + Q   Quit Amarra Hifi

File Menu
Cmd + 1   Toggle Amarra/iTunes for Playback
Option + C   Clears Tracks
Cmd + Option + M   Mute
Cmd + E   Eject Disk

Windows Menu
Option + A   Opens Amarra Window
Option + I   Opens iTunes Window

5.0 Playing FLAC Files

Amarra Hifi requires you to convert your FLAC files to a format supported by iTunes and locate those files in your iTunes library for playback. Amarra Hifi has built-in FLAC file or folder to AIFF conversion utility to allow easy integration with your iTunes Library.

NOTE: Converting FLAC Folders and Files to AIFF using Amarra Hifi is a non-destructive process. Your original FLAC files will remain intact and you will also have new AIFF files. We recommend copying your FLAC files off to your backup drive for retrieval in case of emergency. Use your AIFF files for day-to-day playback. This setup will provide better sound quality during playback and minimize the amount of space needed for backups.
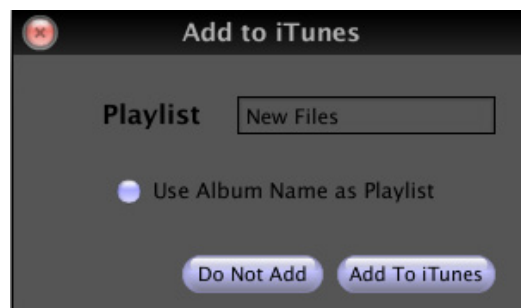
5.1 Moving FLAC Files into your iTunes Library
iTunes does not natively support Flac Files. Your files will need to be converted to a format supported by iTunes in order to be loaded into your iTunes library. Under the Amarra Hifi->FILE Menu there are two commands available for this function. You can convert a FLAC File to AIFF or convert an entire Folder of FLAC Files to AIFF, such as an album from a high resolution music download site.

5.1.1 Converting FLAC Folder to AIFF Format
Converting a FLAC Folder to AIFF is an easy 3-step process
• Click on Amarra Hifi->File->Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF. In the resulting Finder window, navigate to and select the source folder containing FLAC files and click Open.
• In the next window, specify the destination folder for the AIFF files. You can create a temporary folder for this or choose an existing folder for your new AIFF files. Click Open when done.
• Lastly, you will have the opportunity to automatically add these files to iTunes and create a playlist using the dialog below.

This will copy (and organize if your iTunes Preferences are set) to your iTunes library.

5.1.2 Converting FLAC Files to AIFF Format
Converting a FLAC FILE to AIFF is an easy 3-step process
• Click on Amarra Hifi->File->Convert FLAC FILE to AIFF. In the resulting Finder window, navigate to and select one or more FLAC files to convert and click Open
• In the next window, specify the destination folder for the new AIFF files.
• Lastly, you will have the opportunity to, again, add these files to iTunes and create a playlist.

6.0 Gapless Playback

Gapless playback is perfect for contiguous performances such as symphonic recordings or live performances. Gapless playback is now available via the PRELOAD TRACKS Preference in the Amarra Hifi Preferences window.

NOTE: Uncompressed files are required for Gapless Playback. Use AIFF, WAV, or BWF files

6.1 Enabling Gapless Playback

To enable Gapless Playback, ensure you select the Amarra Hifi Preference setting for PRELOAD TRACKS and set the COUNT parameter to the desired number of tracks (or a full album) in the gapless performance.

Once you've selected PRELOAD TRACKS and a COUNT of tracks, simply choose a track in iTunes and the number of tracks in the COUNT field will be loaded together, based on current sort order, and played back gaplessly.

NOTE: The current sort order of your iTunes library is critical for gapless playback to work, especially when attempting to Preload and play a full album. Please ensure your iTunes library is sorted in the correct order when in Songs or List View prior to attempting to Preload Tracks. If Album is chosen for Count, ensure your iTunes library is sorted by Album

NOTE: Please unsure that you have disabled SHUFFLE mode in iTunes when using PRELOAD TRACKS in Amarra Hifi

7.0 Registering Your Amarra Hifi Software

In order to receive warranty service, you must register your product with Sonic Studio. This may be done at any time with proof-of-purchase. We strongly recommend that you register with Sonic Studio as soon as you purchase your unit.

Why?
1. Your product will be registered with us.
   Registration is used as proof of ownership if your product is ever lost or stolen.

2. Sonic Studio updates Amarra Hifi software on a regular basis.
   This allows us to keep you informed of updates as they become available.

We strongly encourage you to create a License Control Panel Account. Please read the Amarra Activation Guide for information on this important feature.

Please register your Amarra Hifi software using our automated registration Web page at: http://www.sonicstudio.com and click on Support => Register

Alternatively, our mail address is:
Sonic Studio LLC
Amarra Software Registration
1340 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA USA 94103

Please include your Name, Email address and Product serial number in your registration.

If you encounter issues using Amarra Hifi please refer to our Amarra Support Portal at http://www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarrasupportportal.html. If none of these steps address your problem please contact your dealer or Sonic Studio support for more help.

8.0 Contacting Sonic Studio

Thanks for using Amarra Hifi. We really appreciate your patronage and are always interested in your experiences with Amarra Hifi.

For information on problems, resources please visit our FAQ page

http://www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarrafaq.html

For bug reports and support issues, visit:

http://www.sonicstudio.com/amarra/amarrasupport.html

or email us:

support@sonicstudio.com

To suggest new features for our products, e–mail us at support@sonicstudio.com

APPENDIX A - Amarra Hifi Pulldown Menus

The following section describes the Amarra Hifi Pulldown Menu Items

Amarra Hifi Menu Bar

A.1 Amarra Hifi Pulldown Menu

About Amarra Hifi: Opens the modal About window. This is useful for verifying the version number of Amarra Hifi that you are running. Click anywhere in the window to close it.

Preferences: Opens the Preference window for Amarra Hifi.

Services: This menu proves access to any Services that are available to Amarra Hifi.

Hide Amarra: Hides all Amarra Hifi windows. To reveal the windows, click on the Dock icon or use [cmd+tab] keyboard shortcut to cycle through running applications to select Amarra Hifi.

Hide Others: Hides all windows other than Amarra Hifi.

Show All: Reveals all windows.

Quit Amarra: Quits Amarra Hifi.

A.2 File Pulldown Menu
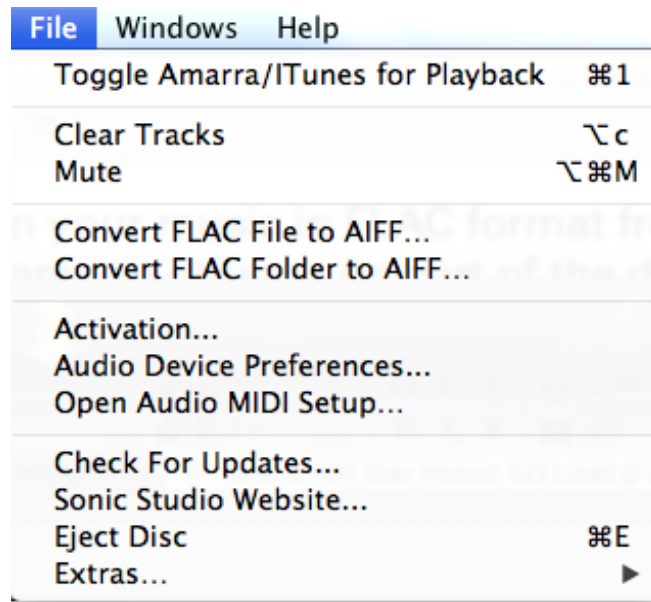
Toggle Amarra/iTunes for Playback [cmd+1]: Toggles between Amarra and iTunes as the source for playback.

Clear Tracks: Clears preloaded tracks

Mute: Mutes Amarra Hifi

Convert FLAC File to AIFF... : Convert FLAC Files to AIFF Format - see chapter 6 for details

Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF... : Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF Format - see chapter 6 for details

Activation...: Opens the Activation Window, refer to the Amarra Activation Guide for more information about Activating Amarra.

Audio Device Preferences: Opens the Audio Device Preferences window to manage your DAC.

Audio Midi Setup...: Open the Audio Midi Setup window for setting up your DAC

Check for Updates...: Manually checks for availability of new versions of Amarra. Setting the Amarra Preferences - Check for Updates on Launch will automate this

Sonic Studio Store...: Links back to the Sonic Studio Website

Eject Disk...: Ejects CD from tray.
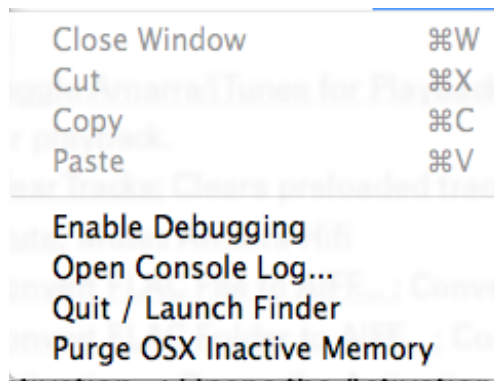
Close Window: NA

Cut: NA

Copy: NA

Paste: NA

Enable Debugging: Allows Amarra to log information on its operation to the Console Log.

Open Console Log: Opens the Console Application to view this log (in Utilites Folder).

Quit / Launch Finder: Quits or launches the Finder application

Purge OSX Inactive Memory: Releases Inactive memory that OS has not released

A.3 Windows Menu

Amarra [opt+a]: Toggles the Amarra Window on and off

iTunes [opt+i]: Toggles the main iTunes Window on and off

APPENDIX B - The Amarra Hifi Preferences Window

This section describes all of the functions available via the Amarra Hifi Preferences window.

NOTE: Deleting Amarra Hifi Preferences - if Hifi quits unexpectedly or if you are seeing any unusual behavior, try deleting your Amarra Hifi Preferences to see if this clears the issue
- *Quit Amarra Hifi and iTunes*
- *Navigate to your Applications->Amarra Hifi->Extras folder in Finder*
- *Double-click on 'Delete Amarra Hifi Preferences.command'*
- *Re-launch Amarra when the process completes. Amarra Hifi will launch iTunes*

NOTE: By de-selecting the Amarra Hifi Preference item 'Launch Amarra Hifi with iTunes', you will stop iTunes from automatically launching when you launch Hifi. You will be prompted to launch iTunes when Hifi launches.

LAUNCH AMARRA HIFI WITH ITUNES:
Forces iTunes to launch or quit with Amarra Hifi.
HIDE AMARRA HIFI ON LAUNCH
Amarra Hifi will hide on launch.
LINK AMARRA HIFI TO ITUNES WINDOW :
Forces Amarra Hifi to remain 'attached' to iTunes's main window
LINK AMARRA EQ TO ITUNES EQ :
Forces Amarra Hifi to follow the EQ settings in iTunes.
CHECK FOR UPDATES ON LAUNCH :
Checks for new release of Amarra Hifi on launch
PRELOAD TRACKS :
Enables loading of multiple tracks in Amarra Mode. This allows gapless playback of Tracks.
COUNT :
Number of tracks to load for gapless playback

NOTE: Disable SHUFFLE MODE in iTunes when using PRELOAD TRACKS.

FOLLOW AUDIO MIDI SETUP
Automatically follow Audio Midi Setup (AMSU) Settings when changed. Amarra Hifi will use the same output device as specified in AMSU. Use Audio Device Preferences to set your Output Audio Device to a different Audio Device, independently of AMSU.
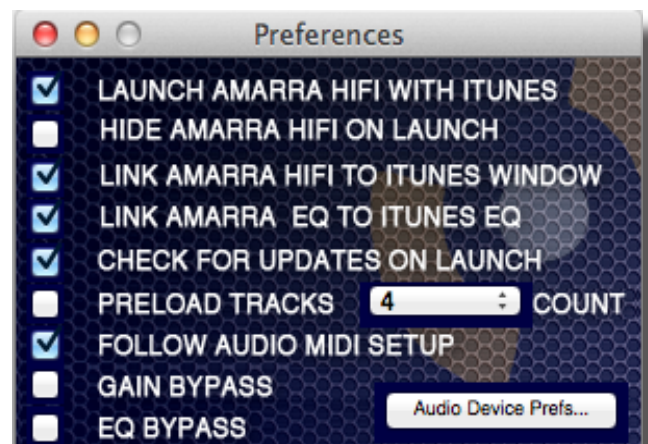
GAIN BYPASS:
Bypasses any gain adjustments in place. You can still mute volume when Gain Bypass is enabled by sliding the iTunes volume slider all the way to the left.

EQ BYPASS :
Bypasses any EQ settings in place

AUDIO DEVICE PREFERENCES:
Accesses the Audio Device Preferences window

APPENDIX C - Your Amarra Hifi Folder

This section describes the files installed in your Applications->Amarra Hifi folder in Finder as part of the Amarra Hifi installation process.

Amarra Hifi.app: The Amarra Hifi application

Manuals:
•Amarra Activatation Guide.pdf - refer to this manual for Installation and Activation instructions
•Amarra Hifi 2.5 User Manual.pdf - refer to this manual for detailed information about operating Amarra Hifi

Extras Folder:
• Amarra QuickSupport.app - remote login application used for remote support sessions
• AmarraLicenseManager.app - license manager used during installation
•Uninstall Amarra Hifi.app - use this utility to uninstall Amarra Hifi and remove Amarra Hifi related files from your disk.
•Delete Amarra Hifi Preferences.command - use this utility to reset Amarra to a factory default setting

▼ 📁 Amarra Hifi
   ▼ 📁 Extras
      🖼 Amarra QuickSupport.app
      🔦 AmarraLicenseManager.app
      🔦 Uninstall Amarra Hifi.app
      📄 Delete Amarra Hifi Preferences.command
   🌐 Amarra Hifi.app
   📄 Amarra HIFI 2.6 Read Me.pdf
   📄 Amarra Activation Guide.pdf
   📄 Amarra HIFI 2.6 User Manual.pdf