

# Audessence AM PRO-1

## Quick Start Guide



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For GUI / Controller software 3.0.4.13

Audessence Ltd, 64 Kimberley Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 4EP, United Kingdom

Tel (UK) 0330 6600 108 :: (Int'l) +44 330 6600 108 :: Email: [info@audessence.com](mailto:info@audessence.com)

## Quick-start Guide

### Method of controlling the AM PRO-1

AM Pro-1 is set up and controlled from any Windows PC running the supplied Graphical User Interface (GUI) application ('AM Pro-1 Controller'). System Requirements: Windows PC running at least Windows 2000-SP4, any version of XP, Vista or 7. RS232 serial port and / or USB port required (RS232 works over longer distances).

The GUI has two modes: Easy Mode and Expert Mode. The currently selected mode is always displayed in the titlebar of the GUI. It is possible to start in Easy Mode and then transfer a setting to Expert Mode later if needed. However, if you start in Expert Mode then you CAN'T change to Easy Mode without starting all over again!

Most users should choose Easy Mode initially, and indeed this is the mode that the controller will start up in when the AM PRO-1 is 'fresh out of the box'. Easy Mode gives access to the factory presets and also has a highly simplified, time-saving set of controls for further tweaking of the audio processing for the most pleasing results. The GUI screens are straightforward and uncluttered.

Output controls that could cause the broadcast signal to be in violation if set incorrectly (e.g. Output Level and Lowpass Filter frequency) are not available in Easy Mode.

An Administrator can start the unit in Easy Mode, swap to Expert Mode temporarily so that the Output parameters can be set-up (but without 'UNLOCKING' full access to Expert Mode), and then return the unit to Easy mode such that a non-expert can tweak the audio processing at any convenient future time. By keeping the Administrator Password safe, the Administrator can rest assured that critical and legally sensitive parameters are safely locked.

### Software Installation.

Software installs directly from CD - **without** connecting the AM Pro-1 unit first! Once the software is installed, then connect USB or COM port to AM PRO-1 unit afterwards. If you do not follow this advice, Windows will attempt to take over the installation, this will probably slow things down tremendously and in all probability will fail to install correctly. Installer programme should auto-run from CD, or if necessary run 'Setup.exe' manually.

Installer shell auto-detects which components are required for your system and installs everything automatically. You can change default location (directory), decide whether or not to install Start Menu and Desktop Shortcut items, etc., from the Installer shell.

Default connection at PC end is COM1. Go to 'Connections' menu in the GUI to change COM port, or re-scan for available ports and then select USB. USB will run as a virtual COM port and will normally be the highest COM port number in the list. All required COM and USB drivers are on the CD, they will install automatically without the need for any connection to the audio processor, and will then be loaded automatically when the connection to the processor is made.

## Log-in and Security

Note that although you will be able to see menus and controls without logging-in, it will not be possible to change anything until logged-in. Log-in is found in Menus mode under \Security\Login. [NB: the right-hand of two big buttons at the top toggles the main screen between Menus Mode and Presets Mode]. When you first connect you will be taken directly to the Login screen.

Default login password in Easy Mode is AAAA. **Sessions TIME-OUT after 30 minutes of inactivity!** If controls aren't working you may need to log-in again.

There is an additional 'Administrator' password required to access the unit in Expert Mode. This is secured by scrambling the unit's Electronic Serial Number (ESN), so if the Administrator password ever gets lost do not worry, contact Audessence for assistance. The Admin password is found on each unit's Test Sheet.

## Input - Analogue or Digital?

Decide whether you are going to be using Analogue inputs or AES (digital) input. Navigate to \Setup\Input menu and select the input you wish to use. At this time you can also select whether to sum a stereo input to mono, and set up other Input options such as highpass filtering and phase rotation. If unsure about the more advanced Input options, just select the input to Analogue or Digital as required and leave everything else as pre-set at the factory.

**NB: If you select AES (Digital) input then at the same time you *MUST* select whether the Base Rate is 96kHz (supports professional input rates of 32, 48, 96kHz) or 88.2kHz (supports consumer input rates of 44.1 and 88.2 kHz).**

## Outputs setup

You may need to adjust the output level from the processor from its factory default of +8dBu in order to modulate the AM transmitter correctly. If you are running in Easy Mode then you do not have access to the Output Menu. However, you can change mode to Expert as a temporary measure to set up the Output. If you want to continue using Easy Mode after setting up the output controls, **DO NOT 'UNLOCK'** whilst in Expert Mode; and when done setting the Output options, return to Easy Mode before exiting the GUI programme.

The \Setup\Output menu includes separate level controls for Analogue and Digital outputs. You can of course use both outputs simultaneously (e.g. using the second output for feeding a backup transmitter, or monitoring), and the Output Levels can be set independently. Also in the \Setup\Output menu is the Lowpass Filter selection which must **ONLY** be set according to the regulatory requirements of the nation in which the transmitter operates, and the setup for the Tilt Corrector. Tilt Corrector is an advanced feature which is covered in depth later in the manual. ***It is well worth checking this. If your transmitter has any 'tilt', it WILL be costing you loudness!***

When setting up the Output level for the first time, double check the **POLARITY** of transmitter modulation. Make sure that enhancing the positive peaks (clipper menu) actually enhances **positive** modulation rather than **negative** modulation!

**Saving Changes - Important!**

By default, all changes to controls that you make are temporary, ie loaded only into RAM - but not into the AM PRO-1s internal non-volatile memory, (which is used to load the settings at power-on). There is a 'Save' menu in the Menu tree, allowing manual saving of changes to non-volatile memory at any time.

Changes are also saved when you exit the GUI. If there any any unsaved changes, pressing 'Disconnect' will generate a dialog box which asks if you want to save or not.

**Getting Started with a Factory Preset**

Having set up Input and Output options, select a Factory Preset from one of the nine factory presets. See manual page 15. Then, if necessary (and it may well *NOT* be necessary!), use the Easy Mode controls to tweak the sound. All Easy-Mode controls display HELP-TEXT in a window pane towards the Right of the GUI screen when you hover the cursor (mouse pointer) over the control, so Easy Mode is very straightforward to drive.

**Please don't forget audio quality**

In audio processing, quite often less processing means better audio. It doesn't very often seem that way at first listen, but most audio professionals agree heartily on this point. For some interesting discussion on the rights and wrongs of heavy 'compression' of audio, see the following thoughtful discussions:

<http://www.digido.com/>

<http://www.turnmeup.org>

<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/music/a59597/experts-music-is-getting-too-loud.html>

**Enjoy**

We wish you every success with your new digital audio processor, which can easily match or even exceed the sound quality and 'punch' of much more expensive alternatives.

**Grounding**

This equipment must be earthed by a permanent ground cable attached to the rear panel M4 fastener provided for that purpose and labelled 'GND'

**Problems?**

Please do not hesitate to email [tech@audessence.com](mailto:tech@audessence.com) anytime for fast tech support.