

USB/Cubase LE 4 Startup Guide

This USB/Cubase LE 4 Startup Guide explains how to install Cubase LE 4 on a computer, make connections and settings for this unit, and perform recording.

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Cubase LE 4 installation

Connections and preparation

Use Cubase LE 4 to record

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Use Cubase LE 4 to record

Windows Vista / XP

To connect this unit to a computer running Windows Vista (or Windows XP) and to enable audio input/output, proceed as follows. The installation description uses Windows Vista as an example.

1 Insert the supplied "Cubase LE 4" DVD-ROM into the DVD drive of the computer, and perform the installation steps.

When you insert the DVD-ROM, a screen asking what you want to do appears. Select "Open folder to view files". When the contents of the DVD-ROM are shown, open the "Cubase LE 4 for Windows" folder by double-clicking on it, and then double-click the executable "Setup" ("Setup.exe") file to start the installation process.



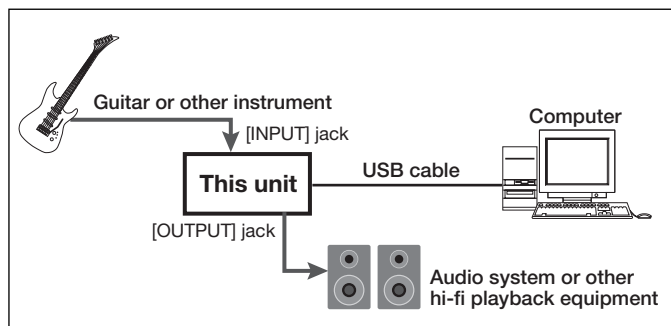
HINT

If nothing happens when you insert the DVD-ROM, open the Start menu and select "Computer" ("My Computer" in Windows XP). Then double-click the "Cubase LE 4" DVD-ROM icon to display the contents of the DVD-ROM.

NOTE

When the installation of Cubase LE 4 is complete, a screen asking about installation of activation (software license authentication) management software appears. Install this software, because it is required for registering Cubase LE 4.

2 Connect this unit to the computer using a USB cable.



NOTE

Use a high-quality USB cable and keep the connection as short as possible. If an electric power is supplied to this unit via a USB cable is more than 2 meters in length, the low voltage warning indication may appear.

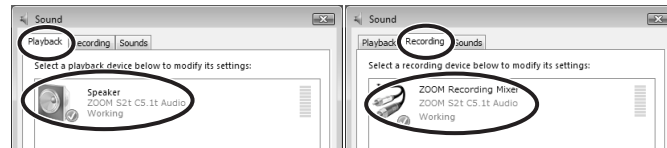
HINT

No special steps are necessary for canceling the USB connection. Simply disconnect the USB cable from the computer.

When you connect this unit for the first time to a computer running Windows Vista, a message saying "New Hardware Found" will appear. Before proceeding, wait a while until this message disappears.

3 Bring up the "Sound" window from the Control Panel and make the input device setting for the computer.

To bring up the "Sound" window, select "Control Panel" from the Start menu and click "Hardware and Sound", then click "Sound".

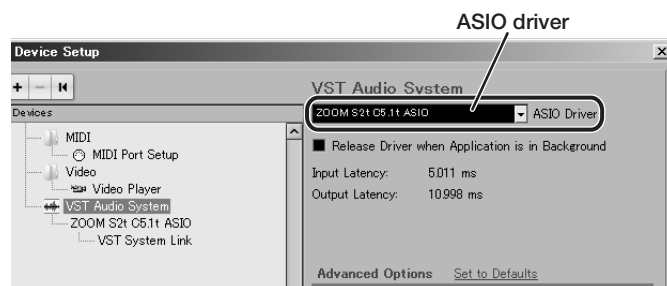


In the "Sound" window, verify that "ZOOM S2t C5.1t Audio" is listed under the Play and Record devices and that the device is checked. (To switch between Play and Record, click the tabs at the top of the window.)

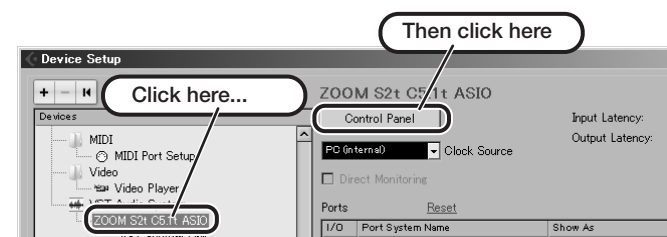
If the device is not checked, right-click on the icon for the device and click "Set as Default Device" so that a check mark appears.

4 Start Cubase LE 4. Then access the "Devices" menu, select "Device Setup..." and click "VST Audio System".

To start Cubase LE 4, double-click the Cubase LE 4 shortcut icon that was created on the desktop. After startup, select "ZOOM S2t C5.1t ASIO" as the ASIO driver in the right section of the Device Setup window. When you change the ASIO driver selection, a confirmation message appears. Click the "Switch" button.



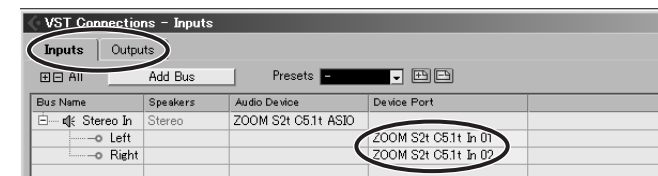
The device indication in the left section of the window now shows "ZOOM ASIO Driver" as the ASIO driver. Click on this indication to select it, and then click the "Control Panel" button in the right section of the Device Setup window.



The window that appears lets you set the latency for the ASIO driver. The latency should be set to a value that is as low as possible without causing sound dropouts during recording and playback.

When the setting is complete, click the OK buttons in the respective windows to return to the startup condition of Cubase LE 4.

5 From the "Devices" menu of Cubase LE 4, select "VST Connections" and select the device containing the string "ZOOM S2t C5.1t In (Out)" as input port and output port.



Use the tabs at top left to switch between input and output, and verify that "ZOOM S2t C5.1t In (Out)" is selected as device port. If another device is selected, click the device port field and change the selection.

6 Access the "File" menu and select "New Project".

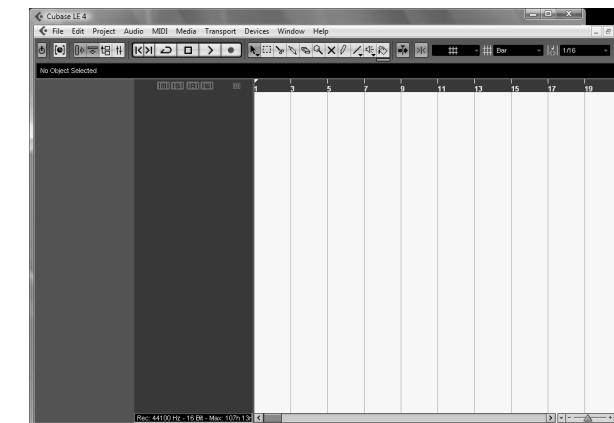
The new project window appears. Here you can select a project template.

7 Make sure that the "Empty" template is selected, and click the OK button.

A window for selecting the project file save location appears.

8 After specifying a suitable project file save location (such as the desktop), click the OK button.

A new project is created, and the project window for controlling most of the Cubase LE 4 operations appears.



Project window

9 To create a new audio track, access the "Project" menu and select "Add track". In the submenu that appears, select "Audio".

The "Add Audio Track" for specifying the number of audio tracks and the stereo/mono setting appears.

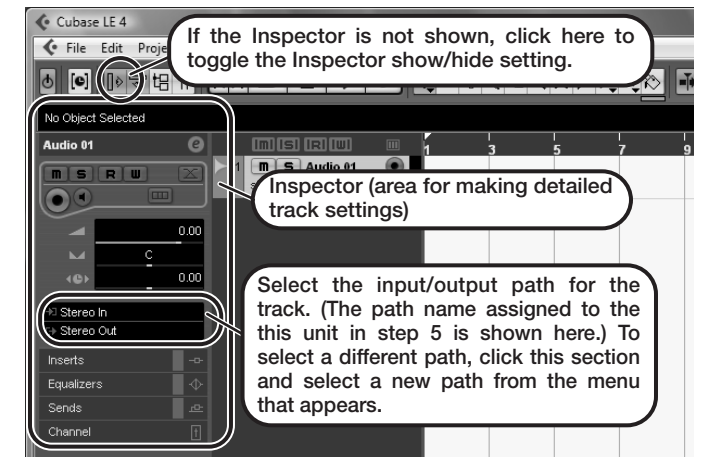


In this example, set the number of tracks to "1" and select stereo, then click the OK button.

A new stereo audio track is added to the project window.



10 Make the following settings for the newly created audio track.

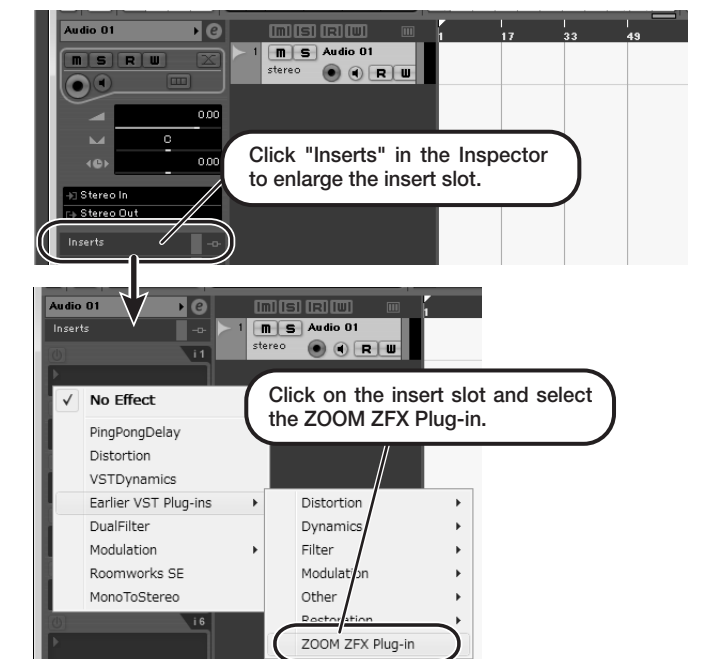


HINT

The Inspector shows information about the currently selected track. If nothing is shown, click on the track to select it.

11 Connect the guitar or other instrument to the [INPUT] jack of this unit.

12 To use the ZOOM ZFX Plug-in for recording, select it for insertion as follows.



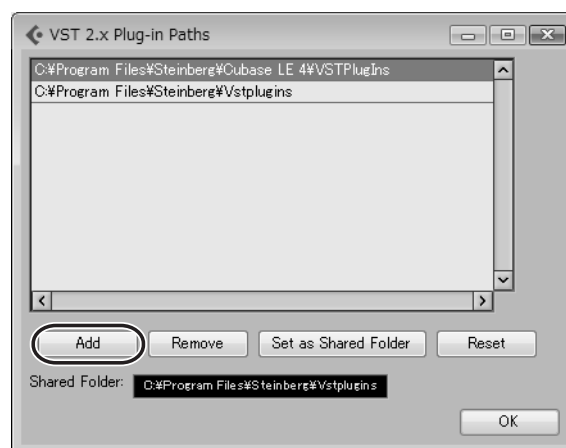
If the ZFX Plug-in is not shown

If the ZFX Plug-in does not appear in the list of insert effects, perform the following steps to specify the folder where it is located.

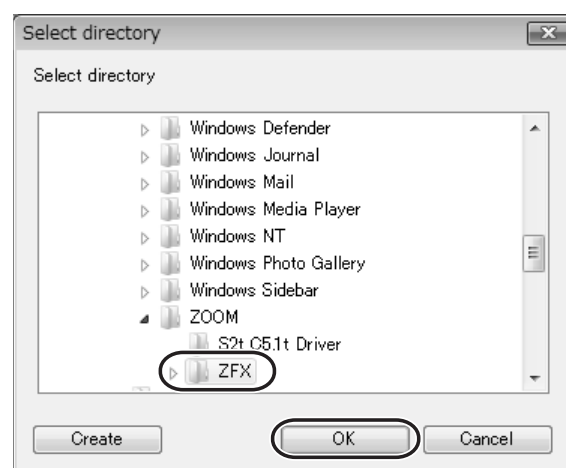
- (1) From the "Devices" menu of Cubase LE 4, select "Plug-in Information" to open the window.
- (2) In the "Plug-in Information" window, click the "VST 2x Plug-in Paths" button.



- (3) Click the "Add" button.



- (4) In the tree display that appears, select the folder where the ZOOM ZFX Plug-in is located (C:\Program Files\ZOOM\ZFX) and click the [OK] button.



- (5) Restart Cubase LE 4 to enable the change.

HINT

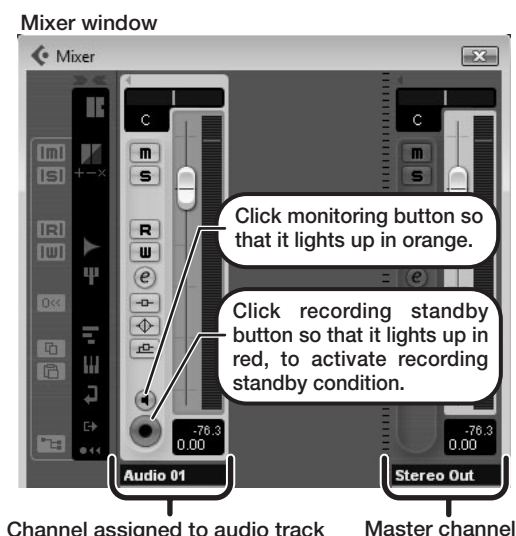
The plug-in effect is inserted in the track output (after recording), not in the track input (before recording). Therefore you can try out various effects without altering the recorded data.

- (13) Access the "Devices" menu of Cubase LE 4 and select "Mixer".

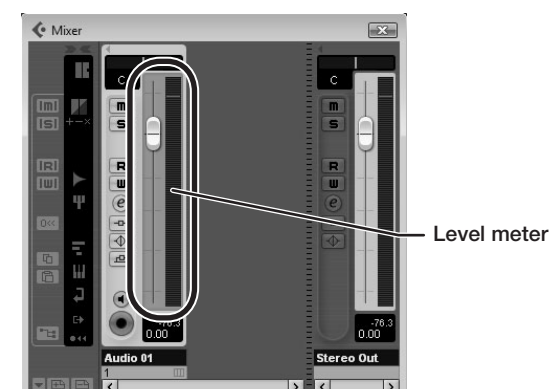
The mixer window appears.

This window shows the channel assigned to the created track, and the master channel.

Perform the following steps here.



- (14) While playing your instrument, adjust the output level of this unit to achieve a suitable recording level for Cubase LE 4.



The recording level for Cubase LE 4 can be checked with the level meter for the channel that is assigned to the recording standby track. Set the level as high as possible without causing the meter to reach the end of the scale.

To adjust the level, do not use the fader of Cubase LE 4. Instead change the recording level and gain settings at this unit.

NOTE

The level meter as in the above illustration shows the signal level after processing in this unit. When you pluck a guitar string the meter may register with a slight delay, but this is not a defect.

- (15) Click on the monitoring button to turn it off and use the [DIRECT MONITOR] knob of this unit to adjust the monitoring volume.

This will allow adjustment with less latency than when going through Cubase LE 4.

NOTE

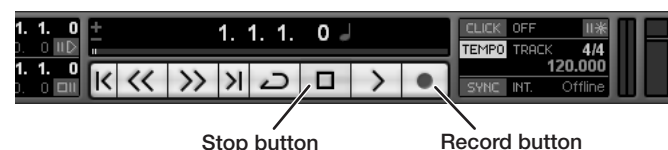
Contrary to the above recommendation, when a plug-in effect is inserted, the monitoring button should be lit in orange and the [DIRECT MONITOR] knob of this unit should be turned down. If the knob is turned up, the sound will have a flanger-like quality.

- (16) Verify that the transport panel is being shown.



If the transport panel is not shown, access the "Transport" menu and select "Transport Panel".

- (17) To start recording, click the Record button in the transport panel.



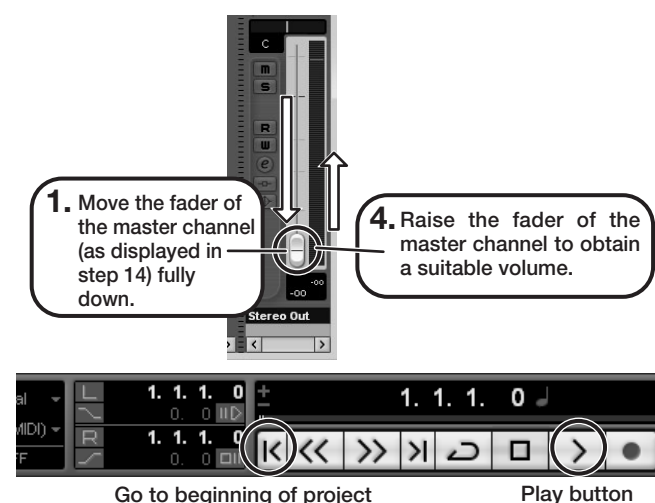
Recording starts.

As you play your instrument, the waveform appears in real time in the project window.

To stop recording, click the Stop button in the transport panel.

- (18) Check the recorded content.

To play the recording, perform the following steps.



HINT

If no sound is heard when you click the Play button after recording, check the VST connection settings (step 5) once more.

NOTE

To continue using Cubase LE 4, a process called activation (license authentication and product registration) is necessary. When you start Cubase LE 4, a screen offering to register the product will appear. Select "Register Now". A web site for registration will open in your Internet browser. Follow the instructions on that page to register and activate the product.

For optimum enjoyment

While using Cubase LE 4, other applications may slow down drastically or a message such as "Cannot synchronize with USB audio interface" may appear. If this happens frequently, consider taking the following steps to optimize the operation conditions for Cubase LE 4.

- (1) Shut down other applications besides Cubase LE 4.
In particular, check for resident software and other utilities.
- (2) Reduce plug-ins (effects, instruments) used by Cubase LE 4.
When there is a high number of plug-ins, the computer's processing power may not be able to keep up. Reducing the number of tracks for simultaneous playback can also be helpful.

If applications still run very slowly or the computer itself does not function properly, disconnect this unit from the computer and shut down Cubase LE 4. Then reconnect the USB cable and start Cubase LE 4 again.