

Audio Drivers

Computers need instructions on how to work with the peripherals you connect, like printers, webcams, or audio interfaces. The list of instructions is called a ‘driver’. You install the driver, and then your computer can recognize and talk to the peripheral. Without the driver correctly installed, your computer may not ‘see’ the peripheral.

The most common audio drivers (as of 2010) are **ASIO** (mostly Windows), **CoreAudio** (only Mac), and **DAE** (ProTools). These drivers create a connection between the computer’s OS, the music software, and the audio interface.

You have to keep the drivers updated as you update your computer’s OS and your audio programs and hardware. Updating is usually easy to do, but it’s important to pay attention to version numbers, OS versions, and firmware versions (firmware is a small program that gets loaded into an audio interface).