

HOW GET STARTED WITH ARDOUR

QUICK INTRO STEP BY STEP

LINUX COMPUTER

- 1) Log into your account.
- 2) From the main menu, select PlanetCCRMA > Jack > Qjackctl
- 3) Jack will open. Start jack by clicking the green button “Start” (you must start Jack **before** opening Ardour)
- 4) From the main menu, select Sound & Video > Ardour
- 5) From the Ardour opening window, choose “Open Session” tab, or create a new one;
- 6) Remember to SAVE your work often (control+S). Note that Ardour has no “Save As” feature. See concept of "snapshot" below for a save-as replacement.

For a more detailed Ardour tutorial, see <http://www.out-of-order.ca/tutorials/ardour/>

ARDOUR – GETTING AROUND

Ctrl+S	SAVE!
D	Duplicate selected region
Spacebar	Play/Stop
P	Place the cursor on a desired time position (anywhere on the screen) and hit P. The Playhead will jump to that position.
1 (main keyboard)	Cycle through modes “Slide Edit”, “Splice Edit”, “Lock Edit” (press repeatedly and watch upper-left corner). Often I leave it on “Slide Edit”.
2 (main keyboard)	Cycle through modes “No Grid”, “Grid”, “Magnetic” (press repeatedly and watch drop-down menu just underneath the clock). Often I use “No Grid”.
4 (main keyboard)	Cycle through different tools: Select/Move Objects; Select/Move Ranges; Zoom; Draw Gain Automation; Stretch/Shrink Regions; Listen to Specific Regions (press repeatedly and watch how the cursor changes; also the buttons on the upper left corner change)
Home	Move playhead to beginning of session
Delete	Delete selected regions from session

+ (main keyboard)	Zoom IN
- (main keyboard)	Zoom OUT
Right-Click on the empty space of a track's "header"	Change size "height" of track
Ctrl+Shift+Click on the empty space of a track's "header"	Select ALL tracks (and then be able to change size of all at once!)
Ctrl-Shift-Solo	Holding control+shift while muting or soloing a track will cause all tracks to mute/un-mute or solo/un-solo.
Alt+M	Shows/Hides the Mixer window
Ctrl+drag	Ctrl and drag a region will make a copy of it and place it in any new location you choose.
Shift- RightClick	Delete an automation point. (also deletes other "events" in Ardour in general)

Main concepts:

REGION LIST: black space to the right of the screen. That's your “bag” of available sounds. The default session opens with just one sound in the bag: a sine wave. Right click on the black space and select “Import to Region List” to bring your sounds into the Ardour Region List. Then, to actually add the files to one or more tracks, drag the file name from the Region List into the desired tracks.

Tip: use “copy files to session” if you want to have all your files inside the same folder as the Ardour session.

REGION: that's just the name of the box you see in the main window representing a sound file, or a portion of a sound file. The default 154 session opens with just one region on Track 1: “My_Sine_Wave”. Click on that region once to select it. Hit D on the keyboard: you have just duplicated the same region. Click and drag them around. See what happens if you click and drag near the bottom corner of a region.

FADE-IN / FADE-OUT: All regions allow you to add fade in and fade out at their beginning and end respectively. With the cursor displaying the little hand with a finger (see shortcut 4 below), move the hand near the upper-right or upper-left corner of a region. You should see a small box appear. Drag the box and watch the fade (in or out) being drawn on the region.

PLAYHEAD: The Big Red Line indicating where playback will start when you press spacebar. You can drag this line to different time positions. You can also place the cursor approximately where you want to start playing, and hit P. The playhead will jump to that position.

TRACKS: The default 154 session comes with 8 mono tracks for you to put your sounds. Each track has a few useful buttons such as Mute (m), Solo (s) and Automation (a). If you click on “a” and choose “fader”, you will see an appended track just below the main track: that is the control of volume for the main track. You can click and add points on this appended track and draw a line: this line will control the gain (volume) of the track above it. In order for Ardour to actually PLAY the curve you have just made, you have to select “Play” instead of “Manual” on this track.

SNAPSHOT: if you want to do something similar to a Save As, that is, if you want to save the current state of your work before changing things around into another direction (and feeling safe that you can come back to that previous state if you don't like the changes), use the Snapshot function (menu SESSION). Give good names to your snapshots, and retrieve them whenever you want by clicking on the “Snapshot” tab next to your Region List.

From the online forum, about SPLIT:

Edit groups only serve to "highlight" all the tracks in a group when you select one of the tracks. This facilitates multitrack cut/copy/paste operations. It does not allow splitting regions across the group.

However there are still (at least) four fast ways to accomplish a multi-track "split".

#1

Ese a "rubber band select" (i.e. click and drag a box around the regions you want to split), then point at one of the selected regions and press the "s" key.

#2

Use the "e" key to place the edit cursor where you want to do the split. Set the snap to "edit cursor". Then point the mouse at a region and press "s". The split will happen at the edit cursor no matter where you click in the region. (you can also do this with location markers instead of the edit head)

#3

Use "r" to select the range tool (or click the range tool button). Click and drag across the range that you would like to split. Now select the track you want to have the range selected on (if you have edit groups turned on, this will select all the tracks in the edit groups). Now right-click in the region and choose "Separate range to track". This will split any regions inside the range at the start and end point of the range.

#4

If you want to split the regions of ALL tracks simultaneously, you can make a pair of range markers in the range timeline, then right click one of them and select "Separate regions in range".

There has been discussion on IRC about how selecting a track should select all the regions in the track. If this were implemented then it would allow edit groups to facilitate splitting regions.