

Contents

	Foreword	xii
	Acknowledgments	xiii
	Introduction	xv
PART I	Making a Home Demo	
CHAPTER 1	Getting Comfortable with Your Pro Tools System	3
	Display (Monitor) Resolution	4
	Get a Trackball	4
	Keyboard Shortcuts	4
	Cheat Sheets	5
	Function Key Labels	5
	Dealing with the Dock (Mac OS X Only)	7
	A Word about Audio Drives	7
	Main Startup Drive	7
	Internal Audio Drives	8
	FireWire Drives	8
	USB Drives	8
	Formatting Your Hard Drives for Pro Tools	8
	Formatting Drives in Windows XP	9
	Formatting Drives with Mac OS X	10
	Plug and Play?	11
	Partitioning	11
CHAPTER 2	Starting a New Session from Scratch	13
	Trashing the Preferences	14
	Trashing the Prefs in OS X	14
	Trashing the Prefs in Windows XP	15
	Making the Preference Folder More Accessible	15
	Start Your Engines	16
	The New Session Dialog	16
	Choosing the Audio File Type	17
	Choosing a Sample Rate and Bit Depth	17

VI The Musician's Guide to Pro Tools

	The Edit Window	18
	The Transport Window	20
	Creating New Tracks	20
	Relabeling the Inputs and Outputs	22
	Labeling the Function Keys	25
	Saving Your Sessions	25
CHAPTER 3	Tracking and Overdubbing	29
	Laying Down the Drum Track	30
	Basic Zooming with the Commands Focus Feature	32
	Commands Focus	33
	Setting the Zoom Presets	33
	Using Monitor Modes During Overdubbing	34
	Pre-roll and Post-roll	36
	Latency Issues	38
	Overdubbing on the Rhythm Track	39
	Destructive and Nondestructive Recording	40
	Destructive Record Mode	40
	Nondestructive Record Mode	41
	The Selector, the Grabber, and the Trimmer	42
CHAPTER 4	Basic Editing Techniques	45
	Auto-Punching on the Rhythm Track	46
	Trimming the New Region	48
	Mangling the Session	51
	Let's Mangle	52
	Repairing the Session	52
	Crossfading Basics	55
	What Causes the Pops and Clicks?	57
	The Link Edit and Timeline Selection Command	58
	Recording the Lead Track	61
	Introducing the Playlist	61
	Playlists vs. Additional Tracks	62
	Comping the LEAD Tracks	62
	Consolidating Your Regions	63
	Cleaning Up the Session	64
	Removing Unused Regions from the Session	65
	Deleting Unused Regions from the Hard Drive	66
CHAPTER 5	The Pro Tools Virtual Mixer	69
	Having Fun with Plug-ins and Aux Sends	71
	What Are Plug-ins?	71
	What Are Busses and Aux Sends?	72
	What Are Aux Returns?	72

Setting Up Aux Returns with D-Verb	74
Using Multimono D-Verb	77
Setting Up an Aux Return for Digital Delay	80
The Leslie Effect	81
Creating Effects with Automation	82
The Auto Panner	82
The Tremolo Effect	84
The Wah-Wah Effect	85
Pasting Automation	86
The Backwards Lead	87
Finishing Your Mix	87
Submixing	88
Gain Structure	90
Recording a 24-Bit Mix	90
Bouncing to Disk	91
Good Work...Now Do It Again!	93
Place Each Song in a Separate Session	93
Backing Up Your Work	93

PART II **The Doormats Session**

CHAPTER 6	Fixing the Drums	97
	Copy the Session Disc to Your Hard Drive	99
	Open the Love Bites Session	99
	Setting Preferences	99
	Preparing the Basic Tracks	100
	Using Markers	101
	Using Memory Locations	102
	Setting Up for Drum Editing	103
	Introducing the Mix Window	104
	Preparing the Edit Window	104
	Grouping Tracks	105
	Locking a Region	106
	Setting Zoom Presets	107
	Trimming the Drum Entrance	108
	Introducing the Smart Tool	109
	Aligning the Drums to the Click	109
	Separating the Intro Drums	111
	Nudging and Trimming the Regions	112
	Fixing a Rushed Fill	116
	Fixing a Dragged Snare Hit	122
	Introducing Batch Crossfades	123
	Fixing the Tom Track	124
	Consolidating the Drum Tracks	126
	Cleaning-Up Auto-Created Regions	127

viii The Musician's Guide to Pro Tools

	Riding the Tom Track	127
	Using the Trim Plug-in	132
CHAPTER 7	Bass and Guitar Fixes	135
	Fixing the Bass Track	136
	Crossfading with the Smart Tool	137
	Using The Separation Grabber	140
	Flying In a Missing Part	141
	Using The AudioSuite Gain Plug-in	142
	Pitch Shifting a Note	144
	Using the Pencil Tool	145
	Consolidating the Bass Track	146
	Guitar Fixes	147
	Squeak Removal	149
	Finishing Touches	151
	Flying In the Drum Fill	151
	Taking Out the Third Verse	153
	Great Job—Now Do it Again!	155
CHAPTER 8	Audio Quality Issues	157
	A/D Conversion	158
	Jitter	159
	Clocking: LE vs. HD	159
	Pro Tools LE	159
	Pro Tools HD	160
	Using a Master Clock	160
CHAPTER 9	Using a Click in Pro Tools	161
	Using the Click Plug-in	162
	What Is Grid Mode?	163
	Setting Up for Grid Mode	165
	Viewing MIDI Controls in the Transport Window	166
	Generating a Click Using Reason Adapted	168
	Installing Reason Adapted	168
	Introducing Redrum	169
	Saving the Reason Adapted File and Bouncing the Loop	170
	Drawing MIDI Notes on an Instrument Track	172
	Adding Tempo and Meter Changes	176
	Creating the Shaker Track	179
	Working with the Velocity View	180
	Using Pro Tools with a Drum Machine	181
	Configuring AMS in Mac OS X	183
	Conclusion	185

PART III	The Honeywagon Session	
CHAPTER 10	Working with Loops	189
	Using Time Compression/Expansion	190
	Importing Audio Files with the Workspace Window	190
	Setting Up the Session for Grid Mode	191
	Time Shift vs. the TC/E Plug-in	195
	Fine-Tuning Your Loops	196
	Altering the Beat	198
	Checking Your Work	200
	Setting Up the Song Structure	201
	Adding a Two-Beat Rest	202
	Using the Extend Selection to	
	End of Session Command	203
	Moving On to the Chorus Loop	206
	Things to Consider When Importing Tracks	208
	Beefing Up the Drums	210
	Using the Import Audio to Track Command	211
	Flying In the Kick Sample	211
	Flying In the Snare Sample	215
	Submixing the Drums	219
	Fine-Tuning Volume Levels in the Mix Window	220
	Adding the Shaker Track	224
CHAPTER 11	Bring on the Band	225
	Setting Up a Cue Mix	226
	Using the Tracks List Pop-Up Menu	227
	Assigning the Sends	228
	Pre- and Post-Fader Sends	229
	Doubling the Acoustic Guitar	235
	Setting Up the Edit Window	235
	Searching for Repeated Sections	236
	Fine-Tuning the Edits	240
	Editing the Shaker Track	244
	Adding a D-Verb Channel	245
	Using the Xpand! Plug-In	246
	Importing MIDI Files	247
	Editing MIDI Notes	247
	Exporting MIDI Files	253
CHAPTER 12	Working with Vocals	255
	Setting Up for Vocal Comping	257
	Comping with the One-Click Method	258

X The Musician's Guide to Pro Tools

	Tweaking Vocal Tracks in Pro Tools	262
	Checking the Vocal Edits	262
	Stretching a Note	263
	Making Tracks Inactive	265
	Fixing Vocal Tracks with Auto-Tune	266
	Smoothing Vocal Resonances with EQ	276
	Dealing with Vocal Sibilance	280
	Piling On the Plug-ins	282
CHAPTER 13	Advanced Mixing Techniques	285
	Listening for Phase Problems	286
	What Causes Phase Cancellation?	287
	Fixing Phase Issues with Virtual Guitar Amps	289
	Using the Delay Compensation Feature (Pro Tools HD Only)	292
	Compressing Time Manually	293
	Creating a Stereo Ping-Pong Delay	296
	Calculating Delay Times	296
	Deleting Unused Tracks and Regions	299
	Adding Another Stereo D-Verb	300
	Using Relative Grid Mode	300
	Preparing for Mixdown	302
	Cleaning Up the Edit Window	302
	Organizing Your Tracks by Type	303
	Creating a Stereo Master	305
	Labeling Your Effects Sends	306
	Hiding Nonessential Tracks	306
	Accessing Other Essential Pro Tools Windows	306
	What Does a Compressor Do?	307
	Getting a Static Balance	312
	Clearing Up the Mud	313
	Smoothing Out the Drums	314
	Automation Tips	315
	Dynamic Automation	315
	Performance Tips	318
	Creating a Stereo Mix	319
	Exporting Your Mix	320
	Deleting Expired Plug-in Demos	321
	Conclusion	321

PART IV	Appendixes	
APPENDIX A	Changing the Monitor/Display Resolution	325
APPENDIX B	Cheat Sheets and Function Key Labels	327
	Chapters 1-5: Mac and Windows Cheat Sheets	329
	Macintosh	329
	Windows	329
	Chapters 6-13: Macintosh Cheat Sheet	331
	Chapters 6-13: Windows Cheat Sheet	333
	Function Key Labels: Full-Size Keyboard	335
	Function Key Labels: Mac Laptop	337
APPENDIX C	Preventing and Troubleshooting Problems	339
	Routine Maintenance	341
	Repair Disk Permissions (Macintosh)	341
	Rebuild the Directory	341
	Defragment Hard Drives	343
	Format Your Audio Drives Periodically	343
	Check S.M.A.R.T. Status	344
	Clear System and User Caches (Mac)	344
	Avoid Internet Pollution (Windows)	344
	When Pro Tools Starts Acting Up	345
	Streamline Your Session	347
	Split Your Session Across Two Hard Drives	348
	When Pro Tools Crashes	349
	Force Quitting Pro Tools (Mac)	349
	Force Quitting Pro Tools (Windows)	350
	Repair Session Corruption	351
	Reinstall the Pro Tools Software	351
	Troubleshoot Your Operating System	351
	Remove Third-Party RAM	352
	Remove Third-Party PCI Cards	352
	Reset Parameter RAM (Mac OS)	352
	Reinstall the System Software	352
	Replace the Internal Hard Drive	353
APPENDIX D	About the Session Disc	355
	Index	357