

AJA Thunderbolt Devices Quick Start Guide

Overview:

AJA Io 4K Plus, Io X3 and T-TAP Pro facilitate high quality video and audio I/O with Thunderbolt™ equipped host computers running macOS or Windows Operating Systems. Up to date installation and configuration instructions for AJA Thunderbolt devices can be found on the AJA website:

<https://www.aja.com/family/mobile-io>

Download Software Package:

AJA Desktop Software is distributed as a unified package which includes all the software, firmware, plugins, and utility programs for AJA's Io 4K Plus, Io X3 and T-TAP Pro products. Mac and Windows downloads can be found here: <https://www.aja.com/support/downloads>

The following applications are installed:

- AJA Control Panel - For setup and control of Thunderbolt™ devices, including firmware updates.
- AJA Control Room - High quality capture, monitoring, playback and output.
- AJA System Test - determine if it will be possible to sustain frame rates for chosen format(s).
- AJA Multi-Channel Config - Sets up video I/O for use with Telestream Wirecast.

System Requirements:

AJA specifies minimum and recommended requirements to achieve a satisfactory level of performance. For challenging workflows, e.g. UHD/4K and/or HFR (High Frame Rate), increased host-system capabilities may be required. Since these requirements can change over time, check the Release Notes for the version of AJA Desktop Software you are using with your Thunderbolt™ device.

Host Computer Guide:

Apple Silicon, Apple Intel and PC Models that have been tested with AJA Thunderbolt™ devices using AJA Control Room:

Laptop systems – <https://www.aja.com/products/thunderbolt-laptop>

Desktop and Mini systems – <https://www.aja.com/products/thunderbolt-desktop>

Software Compatibility:

AJA Desktop Software ships with support for Adobe applications, Apple FCP, Avid Media Composer, Avid ProTools, OBS Studio and Telestream Wirecast.

Many more applications are supported by 3rd party software and systems vendors.

The AJA Software compatibility chart is available here: <https://www.aja.com/compatibility/io>

(See other side of Card for Step by Step Installation Instructions)

Installation Step-by-Step

- 1 Uninstall any previous version of AJA Desktop Software from the host machine where your Io or T-TAP Pro device will be connected. If prompted, restart the computer.
- 2 Download the latest AJA Desktop Software Package (macOS, or Windows) onto the host machine where your AJA device will be connected. Unzip and leave ready for installation.
- 3 Use a certified, high-quality Thunderbolt 3 cable to connect your AJA device to the host computer. The cable should have a Thunderbolt logo and the number 3 on it. Passive cables can be up to 1.6 feet (0.5m) maximum. Active cables up to 6.5 feet (2m) can also be used.
- 4 Next, connect video and audio cabling from sources/to destinations directly using the SDI and/or HDMI connectors on the back of the AJA device.
- 5 Apply power to your AJA device.
- 6 Review the Release Notes for steps to follow for security dialogs on macOS.
- 7 Install the latest AJA Desktop Software Package (that you previously downloaded).
 - This will add AJA tools to your system (see above) as well as drivers and firmware.
- 8 Launch AJA Control Panel.
- 9 If prompted, update the AJA device firmware.
- 10 When prompted/complete, shut down the host computer with the AJA device attached and then power back on.
- 11 After powering the system back on, re-launch AJA Control Panel so you can check connections, and set preferences for how the hardware will behave.
- 12 Use your Io or T-TAP Pro output(s) to feed a monitor to help verify your setup.
- 13 Optional; Generate test patterns using AJA Control Panel.
- 14 Optional; Launch AJA Control Room application to test capture and/or playback.
 - With Io devices you can use AJA Control Room to capture the material you wish to edit within your Adobe, Apple or Avid editing package, or which you may wish to stream using OBS Studio or Wirecast.
 - With both Io devices and T-TAP Pro devices, you can use AJA Control Room to output the results of your work coming from NLEs, Color or Visual effects packages.
- 15 Optional; Launch a 3rd party software tool such as Apple, Adobe or Avid NLEs, OBS Studio, Telestream Wirecast, or a host of other applications for various uses across ingest, playback, streaming, editorial, dailies, color, visual effects and much more

(See other side for Overview and Resources)