AJA KONA Card Quick Start Guide

Overview

The AJA KONA series facilitates the highest quality 8K/UHD2/4K/UltraHD/2K/HD/SD video and audio I/O for computers running macOS, Windows, or Linux Operating Systems. For information on the KONA line of I/O products, please refer to the AJA Desktop I/O section of our website: https://www.aja.com/family/kona

Download Software Package:

AJA software is distributed as a unified package which includes all the software, firmware, plugins and utility programs for AJA's KONA, Io, and T-TAP products. Three packages are available, one for Mac, one for Windows and one for Linux.

To download AJA software, detailed installation and configuration instructions, and manuals for all products, go to the AJA website and download the package for your particular card: https://www.aja.com/support/downloads.

System Requirements

AJA Video recommends that your system meet minimum hardware and software requirements to achieve a satisfactory level of performance.

Please consult the release notes for the latest software packages for additional information on OS versions and installation procedures.

OS: • macOS 13.x (Ventura) or later • Win 10 or later with all updates • Linux Ubuntu 20.04 LTS and Ubuntu 22.04 LTS • Rocky Linux versions 8.5 and 9.3

CPU: • 2.5 GHz quad core i7 minimum, for HD • 3.5 GHz eight core minimum, (faster processors and more cores recommended), for UltraHD/4K work, especially with HFR • 16GB RAM minimum, 32GB or more recommended, especially for UltraHD/4K or High Frame Rate applications

GPU: • A reasonably fast and powerful graphics card, with plenty of on-board memory. We recommend modern GPUs from NVIDIA and AMD. The GPU you select may be specific to your application and/or host CPU.

Media: • Storage with adequate bandwidth to sustain the capture and playback of the material you expect to be working with. AJA Application downloads include free tools for testing storage performance with demanding media files.

NOTE: 8K workflows require much greater resources from your host

Hardware Installation Assistance

Visit the AJA website for information on the installation and configuration of KONA cards in your hardware systems: https://www.aja.com/support/resources.

Software Compatibility

AJA Desktop Software ships with support for Adobe, Apple and Avid NLEs, as well as applications from OBS, vMix, Telestream and many more.

Please see our compatibility chart here: https://www.aja.com/compatibility/kona.

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

Installation Step-by-Step

1. Uninstall any previous version of AJA Desktop software for KONA, Io or T-TAP from the host machine where your KONA card will be installed / connected and if prompted, restart the computer.

2. Next, power down your computer and remove the power cable.

3. Install your AJA KONA card in the correct slot for your model of PC or Mac workstation. Alternatively, you may install your KONA card in a Thunderbolt chassis connected to your host machine.* In either case, disconnect power and make sure to use anti-static best practices to avoid accidental damage to your card. Note that some KONA cards require a separate ATX power connection, refer to the manual specific for your card for more information.

4. Once the card is installed, reconnect power and restart your computer.

5. Download the latest AJA Desktop Software Package (Mac, Windows or Linux) onto the host machine where your KONA card is installed / connected.**

6. Install the latest AJA Desktop software package. Note that certain installation procedures may be required for macOS, refer to the release notes in your downloaded package for complete instructions.

7. Launch AJA Control Panel.

8. If prompted, update the KONA firmware.

9. When prompted, restart your computer.

10. Once logged into your host machine, re-launch AJA Control Panel so you can monitor connections and outputs and set preferences for how the hardware will behave.

11. If you intend to use the KONA card only, begin cabling your sources / destinations directly using the connector on the back of the card. Where applicable, for additional connectivity you may want to connect the break-out-cable, if one ships with the card you purchased. Alternatively, connect the appropriate (optional) break out box or card, if available, for your model of KONA card.

12. Verify via the AJA Control Panel Interface that you are set up correctly for the connected sources / destinations. If available, use your KONA card output(s) to feed a monitor to help verify your setup.

13. Optionally launch the free AJA Control Room software to test capture and playback. You can use AJA Control Room to capture the material you wish to edit within your Adobe, Apple, or Avid editing software. You can also use AJA Control Room to output the results of your work coming from NLEs, Color, or Visual effects packages.

14. Where supported, optionally launch a 3rd party software tool such as Apple, Adobe, or Avid NLEs, OBS, vMix, Telestream Wirecast or a host of other applications for various uses across ingest, playback, editorial, dailies, color, visual effects, and much more.

*NOTE: 8K Workflows are not possible via Thunderbolt 3
**If you are using KONA IP with ST 2110, please ensure you install the optional AJA NMOS component

(See other side of Card for KONA Card Overview and Resources)