



DB RECORDS · STUDIO TOOLS

dB Take HUD

Reference Guide

A giant, glanceable take counter for tracking sessions. It reads your record-armed tracks straight from Pro Tools, shows the current **session prefix** and **take number**, and turns the take **red** the moment you hit record. The same display runs on your Mac and on any iPad or iPhone in the booth.

MACOS MASTER

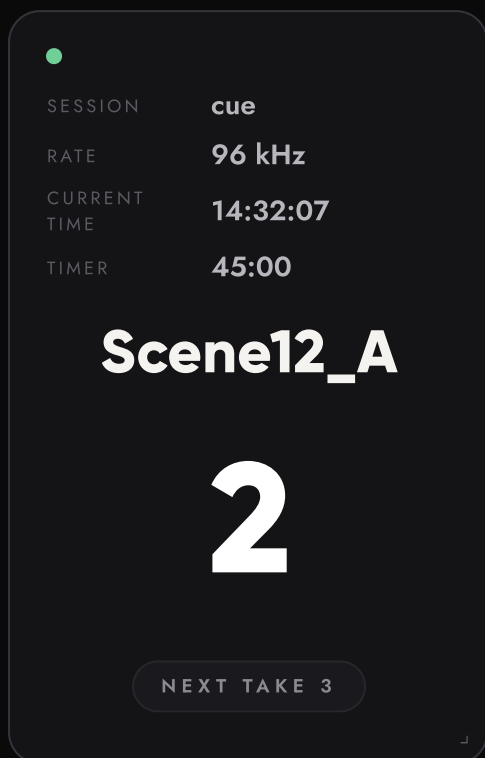
IPAD & IPHONE SCREEN

PTSL · GRPC · BONJOUR

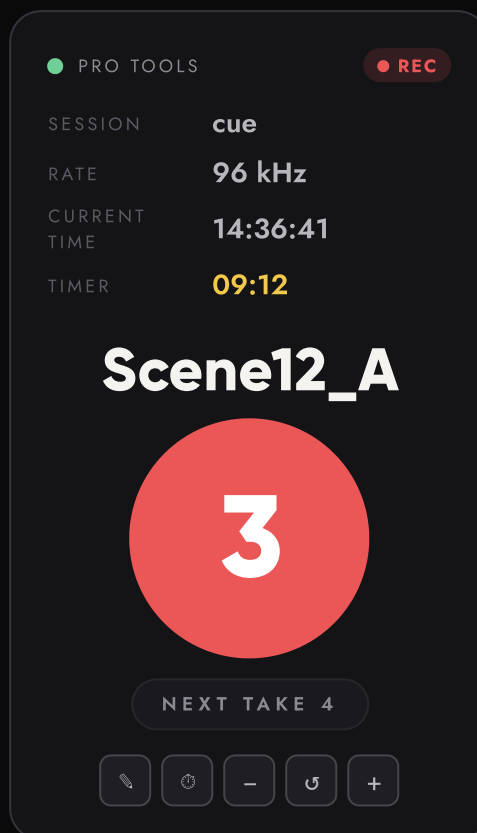
01 The HUD at a glance

Compact mode floats above Pro Tools and never steals keyboard focus. This page names each part of the card.

NOT RECORDING



RECORDING · HOVER



Status dot

Green = connected to Pro Tools, **amber** = connecting, **grey** = offline. At rest only the dot shows — the label fades in on hover.

Session · Rate · Current time · Timer

The loaded session name plus three optional rows — live **sample rate**, a **current time** clock, and a **session timer** counting down. Toggle them under **Show** in the menu bar.

Prefix

The common name across your armed tracks (e.g. **Scene12_A**), detected automatically.

Take number + NEXT TAKE

The current take, centered. The dim **NEXT TAKE** pill under it shows the take your next pass will create. While recording, the number sits inside a **filled red circle**.

Hover controls & grip

 batch-renames the armed tracks;  sets the session timer;    override & reset the take. Drag the corner grip to resize. All fade in only on mouse-over.

How the take number is found

When you record, Pro Tools auto-names each clip with a **_01 / _02** suffix. The HUD reads the session's clip list and shows the **highest** suffix on your armed track(s) — that's the current take. The **prefix** is the longest common name shared by the armed tracks, cleaned of trailing separators. No clips yet → **Take 1**. You can always override manually with  / .

02 Menu bar & setup

Connect to Pro Tools

- 1 Open a session in **Pro Tools Studio / Ultimate** (Scripting is only in those editions).
- 2 Enable **Scripting** in Pro Tools preferences so the PTSL server starts (localhost:31416).
- 3 **Record-arm** a track. The status dot goes **green** and the prefix/take populate within ~½ second.

The HUD floats above everything and never steals keyboard focus — you can type in Pro Tools dialogs while it's on screen.

Menu-bar icon

Click the red dB mark near the clock:

- **Status / Server** — live connection & booth client count
- **Hide / Show HUD**  · **Pause / Resume Polling** 
- **Enter / Exit Full Screen**  · **Customize Full Screen**
- **Scale** — 50 / 100 / 150 / 200 %
- **Appearance** — System / Light / Dark (the booth screens follow)
- **Show** — toggle the **Sample Rate, Current Time & Timer** rows
- **Start / Stop iPad Server**
- **License** — status line + **Enter / Deactivate License...**
- **Check for Updates...** — updates also install automatically
- **Quit** 

Sizing & full screen

Resize freely

Drag the corner grip for any size, use  /  to step, or pick a 50–200 % preset from the Scale menu. Drag anywhere on the card to move it.

Full screen covers everything

Fills the display and hides the menu bar for a clean booth view. Right-click the HUD to enter or exit at any time.

Controls hide themselves

In full screen, the status label, controls and buttons fade out a few seconds after the pointer stops. Move the mouse to bring them back.

Customize the layout

Toggle **Customize Full Screen** (menu or right-click) and drag the session, info, prefix and take elements wherever you want them on the big screen.

Reading the colors

● White take

Auto-detected from Pro Tools clips.

● Amber take + MANUAL

You overrode the number by hand.

● Red circle

Pro Tools is recording right now.

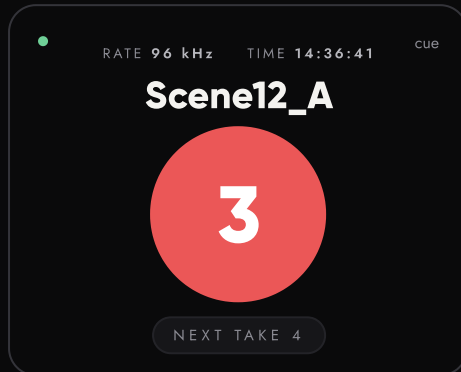
● Green dot

Connected and reading the session.

03 dB HUD Screen — the booth display (iPad & iPhone)

The iPad or iPhone mirrors the Mac HUD for the performer, with the same layout. The Mac is the master; the device only displays. There is nothing to configure and no IP address to enter.

IPAD — RECORDING



How it connects

- 1 On the Mac, leave **iPad Server** on (menu bar shows "Server: on").
- 2 Put the device on the **same Wi-Fi** and open **dB HUD Screen**.
- 3 First launch asks for **Local Network** access — tap **Allow**.
- 4 It auto-discovers the Mac over Bonjour and mirrors the take instantly.

Uses Apple's **Network.framework** + Bonjour (`_protocolshud._tcp`). The Mac pushes a tiny JSON packet on every change (play / record / stop, take, prefix, sample rate, theme).

Auto-reconnect

If Wi-Fi blips, the Mac restarts, or the app returns from the background, it re-discovers and reconnects on its own.

Screen stays awake

The display won't sleep while the app is open — set it and leave it in the booth.

Tap to configure

Tap the screen to toggle a small settings bar with the RATE / TIME switches; tap again to dismiss it.

Follows the Mac's theme

Booth screens default to dark; setting the Mac's **Appearance** to Light flips them to the light palette too.

Session timer mirrors too

Set the countdown on the Mac and the booth shows the same numbers, with the same amber and red warnings. The device counts down on its own clock, so nothing drifts.

04 Keyboard shortcuts

When the HUD is the active app, these work from anywhere. They're also in the menu-bar menu.



Hide / Show the HUD



Pause / Resume Pro Tools polling



Enter / Exit Full Screen



Larger — step up a size preset



Smaller — step down a size preset



Quit dB Take HUD

On-screen controls (hover the HUD)



Rename the armed tracks — Replace the shared name, or Add prefix (see below)



Session timer — a preset, **Custom...** for any length, or Start / Pause / Reset

+

Increment take manually (override)

—

Decrement take manually



Reset to the take Pro Tools reports



Corner grip — drag for continuous resize (position & size are remembered)

R-click

Context menu — Enter / Exit Full Screen · Customize Full Screen

Good to know

- The HUD is a **menu-bar accessory** — it never steals keyboard focus, so the shortcuts above act on it only while it's frontmost. You can always use the **menu-bar icon** instead.
- **Drag anywhere** on the card to move it; its position is remembered.
- A manual override is replaced automatically the moment Pro Tools records a genuinely new take.

05 Renaming & timer lengths

Renaming armed tracks

Two modes. **Replace** swaps the name your armed tracks share and keeps each one's tail (mic or position). **Add prefix** puts your text in front of the full existing names. Both are verbatim: **the separator is whatever you type** — the HUD never adds one. The field is prefilled with the current prefix, separator included.

nowa_

piosenka_MAIN → nowa_MAIN ·
piosenka_WIDE → nowa_WIDE

nowa

→ nowaMAIN — no separator typed, none added

nowa

→ nowa MAIN — a trailing space is a separator too

New-

→ New-MAIN — you can change the separator, not just the name

Changed in 1.0.14: earlier versions reused the old name's separator, so typing **nowa** produced **nowa_MAIN** and typing **nowa_** produced **nowa__MAIN**. If the tracks share no name, Replace says so — use **Add prefix** instead.

Timer lengths

Presets cover 15 / 30 / 45 min, 1 h, 1 h 30 and 2 h. **Custom...** takes any length up to 24 hours, in the forms a session is usually booked in:

45

45 minutes — a bare number is minutes

1:30

1 hour 30 — hours:minutes

2h

2 hours — **1h30** and **45 min** work too

↵

Enter starts the countdown; picking a preset starts it immediately

v1.0.14

CURRENT RELEASE

Since the first studio release, the 1.0.x series added a session timer, licensing, automatic updates, a customizable full screen and a visual refresh shared across the Mac and the booth screens.

● Session timer

Count down a booked session from the HUD — a preset or any **custom** length ("45", "1:30", "2h"). Amber for the last 10 minutes, red for the last one, then **END OF TIME**. Mirrors to the booth.

● Rename uses your separator

Replace no longer reuses the old name's separator: type **nowa_** for **nowa_MAIN**, or **nowa** for **nowaMAIN**. Nothing is added behind your back. See section 04.

● Licensing & free trial

14-day trial, then a license key unlocks the app. Activation is fully **offline**; no internet connection is needed.

● Automatic updates

The app updates itself (Sparkle) — or use **Check for Updates...** in the menu bar.

● Full-screen customize

Drag elements into your own layout; on-screen chrome auto-hides when the pointer settles.

● Rate · Current time + themes

Optional sample-rate and clock rows, plus Light / Dark appearance — mirrored to the booth screens.

● Booth screen facelift

iPad & iPhone use the same layout as the Mac HUD: the NEXT TAKE pill and the dot-only header.

● Batch rename & grip resize

Rename all armed tracks from the HUD (⌘) and resize continuously with the corner grip.

Compatibility

macOS

Universal — Apple Silicon & Intel. macOS 12 Monterey or newer.

Pro Tools

Studio or Ultimate with Scripting (PTSL) enabled. Built against SDK 2026.

iPad & iPhone

iOS / iPadOS 17+. Same Wi-Fi network as the Mac.

Signing & download

Developer ID signed & notarized — no Gatekeeper warnings. Latest installer always at **dbapps.co**.

On the roadmap

- Optional global hotkeys (toggle full screen from anywhere)
- Multi-server picker for setups with more than one Mac

07 Troubleshooting

HUD shows "WAITING FOR PT" / grey dot

- Open a **session** in Pro Tools — PTSL doesn't start at the empty dashboard.
- Confirm **Scripting** is enabled in Pro Tools preferences.
- Requires Pro Tools **Studio or Ultimate** (not Artist / Intro).
- It reconnects automatically once Pro Tools is ready — no relaunch needed.

iPad stuck on "Searching..."

- Same **Wi-Fi network** as the Mac, and **iPad Server** on in the menu bar.
- iPad: **Settings** ▶ **Privacy & Security** ▶ **Local Network** — allow dB HUD Screen.
- Re-open the app after granting permission.

Take number looks wrong

- The take = highest **_01 / _02** clip suffix on the armed track. Rename a clip and it follows.
- Use  /  to override;  resets to what Pro Tools reports.
- An **amber** number + **MANUAL** badge means a manual value is in effect.

Trial expired / entering a license

- The menu bar shows your status: **Trial — N days left**, **Licensed**, or **Trial expired**.
- Pick **Enter License...** from the menu and paste the key from your purchase e-mail (or open the `.dbhudlicense` file).
Activation is **offline** — no network needed.
- Moving to a new Mac? **Deactivate License...** on the old one, then activate on the new one with the same key.

Need help or a new feature? The HUD is a dB Records studio tool — get the latest installer and licenses at dbapps.co; connection details (PTSL command set, Bonjour service type, JSON payload) are documented in the project repository.