

Starting Pro Tools and Making Sound

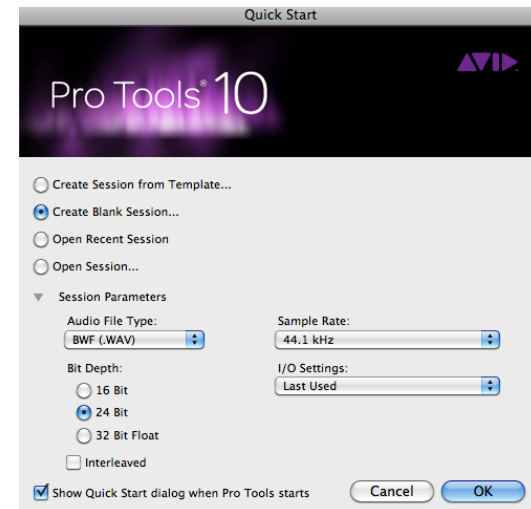
1. Click on the Pro Tools icon on the Dock. A shortcut has been placed there for you.



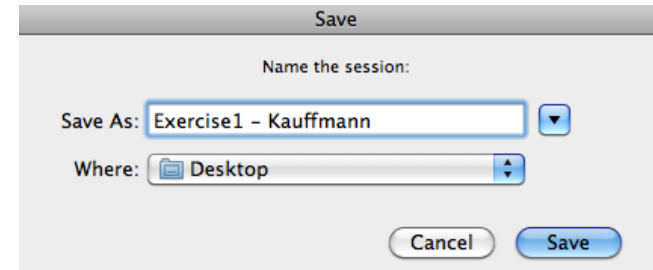
2. In the **Quick Start dialog box**, select **CREATE BLANK SESSION**.
3. At the bottom of the **Quick Start dialog box**, set the session parameters as follows:

- a. **Audio File Type:** BWF (.WAV)
- b. **Bit Depth:** 24 Bit
- c. **Sample Rate:** 44.1 kHz
- d. **I/O Settings:** Last Used/Stereo Mix

Click **OK**.



4. In the next dialog box, name your session ***Exercise2-YourLastName*** and make sure the “where” (which is the session destination) to **desktop** and press **Save**.



5. At this point it is important to understand the Pro Tools Session folder structure. Hide Pro Tools by clicking on **Pro Tools > Hide Pro Tools**. Navigate to the **Desktop**, find, and open the session folder you created. It should include the following:

Audio Files Folder: This is where all of your audio will reside - imported or recorded.

Clip Groups Folder: Unless you export clip groups (to be explained), this folder will remain empty and will disappear when you close your session.

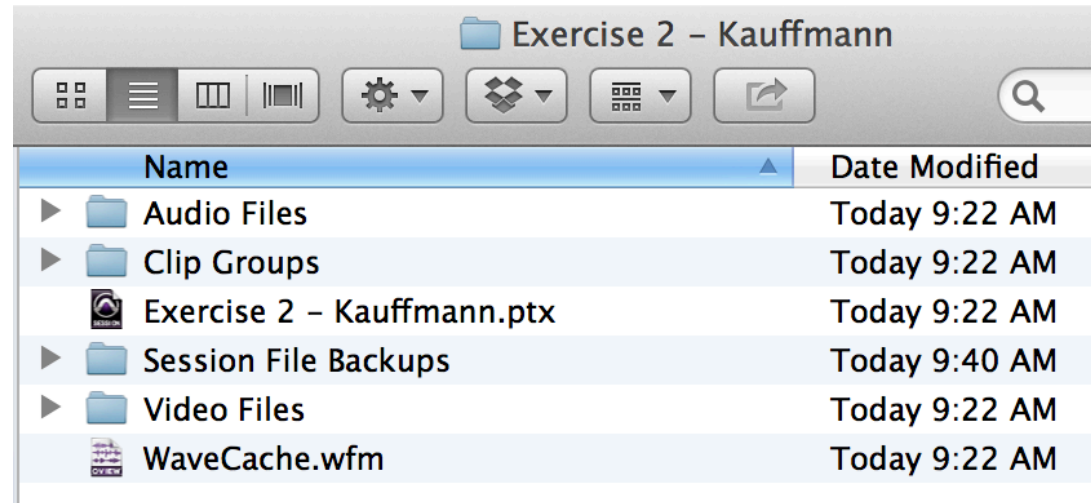
Pro Tools Session File: This file holds a “map” of all your tracks, settings, edit information, etc.

Session File Backups Folder: Pro Tools automatically saves your session file every 5 minutes and places copies of them into this folder. This is great if Pro Tools crashes.

Video Files: This folder is used when you digitize a video into Pro Tools. While you will not be doing that here, you will be importing videos, and I recommend

Video Files: This folder is used when you digitize a video into Pro Tools. While you will not be doing that here, you will be importing videos, and I recommend you copy those video files into this folder for maximum portability.

WaveCache File: This file stores all the waveform display data for any audio in the session. It will also disappear if no audio is used in the session.



DON'T FREAK OUT - A number of these files/folders will disappear when you close your session if they have not been used. However, if you do not find a Session Folder with a Session File and Session Backups Folder, let me know.

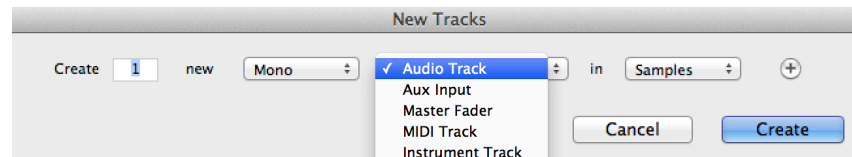
Creating Tracks, Inserting Instruments and Making Sound

At this point, you have a blank session – no tracks or sounds. You need to create them.

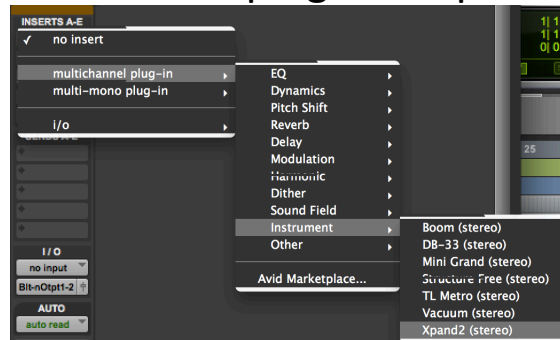
7. Go to **Track > Create Click Track**. This will create a metronome to keep your music in time. **THIS SHOULD BECOME A HABIT WHENEVER YOU START A SESSION!**

8. Go to **Track > New**

9. In the **New Tracks** dialogue box, change **Audio Track** to **Instrument Track** and **Create 1 track** and click **Create**.



10. Click on the **Insert** section of a track in the **Track** or **Edit Window**, and choose **Xpand2** from the **Instrument** section of the plug-in drop down window. This will be your sound source.



11. Click on the Record Enable button on the track you created to prepare it to record. You should now hear sound if you press a key on your keyboard.



12. To record sound, click on Record and Play on the Transport. This will begin the recording process.



13. Once you have recorded something, no matter if it is any good. Save your session and transfer your entire **Session Folder** to the **Audio Production Share Drive's Drop Box** folder.
14. If you have more time, add additional tracks and instruments and play around.