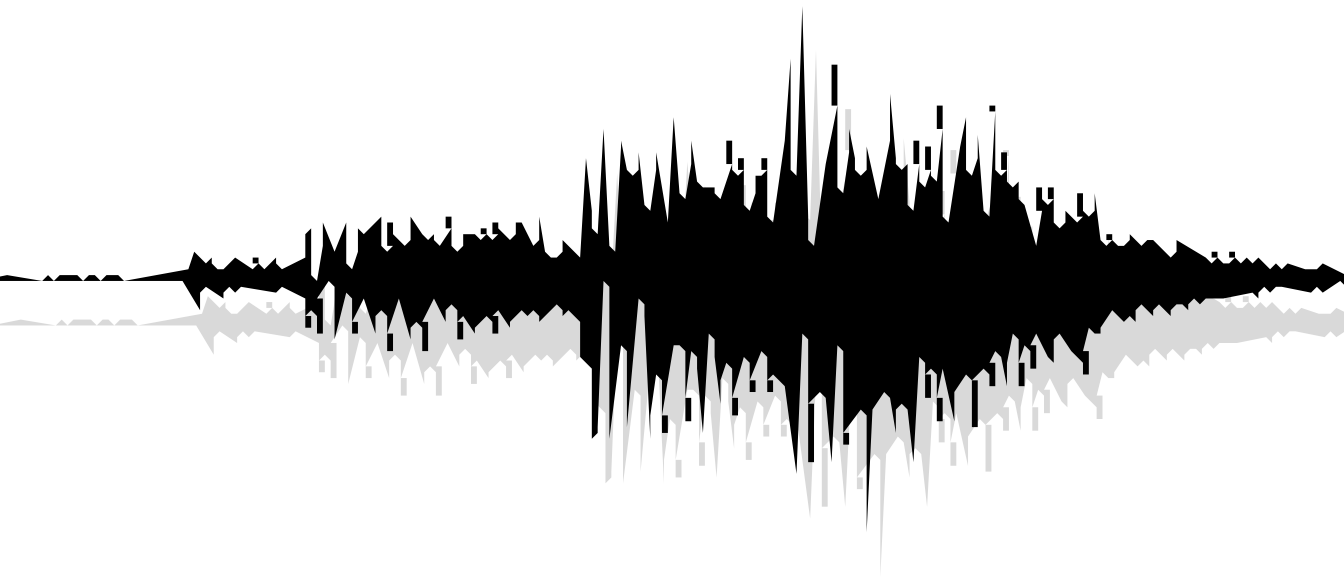


# Chapter 1

## Introducing Peak





# Chapter 1: Introducing Peak

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## Welcome!

BIAS Peak™ is an advanced audio application that provides superior tools for editing and processing digital audio on the Macintosh computer. Peak was specifically designed to meet the needs and demands of audio professionals. By combining high-quality direct-from-disk digital audio editing features with a lightning fast, completely nondestructive editing environment, Peak provides unsurpassed audio editing power, and makes a superb addition to multitrack audio applications programs such as BIAS Deck and Digidesign's Pro Tools®. Peak also offers advanced sampler support, and works directly with many popular MIDI sampling keyboards and rack-mount samplers.

## Peak Features:

- Direct-to-disk recording and playback at all sample rates supported by the sound hardware on your Macintosh, or supported through third-party audio hardware
- User-configured waveform display
- Support for commonly used audio document formats, including AIFF, Sound Designer II™, Red Book, QuickTime™, Wave, RealAudio™, Shockwave™, MPEG-3 (MP3), SUN .au, and System 7 Sound formats
- Completely nondestructive file-based editing with unlimited undo and redo
- Professional editing abilities, including user-definable fade curves, silence, and complete support for cut/copy/paste with multiple undo
- By using an application that supports Apple Events, such as Filemaker Pro™ or HyperCard™, you can catalog your Peak sound files and audition them from within the application
- Support for third-party digital audio hardware, such as the Digidesign™ or Mark of the Unicorn™ digital audio boards, through the Macintosh Sound Manager and ASIO
- Support for 8, 16, 24, and 32 bit audio files
- Support for playback and recording through Digidesign DAE™
- Support for third-party Adobe Premiere™, AudioSuite™, TDM™, and VST™ Plug-Ins, allowing you to add advanced signal processing features to Peak. Plug-Ins from companies such as BIAS, Waves™, Arboretum™, and Cycling '74™ can be used to empower Peak with digital filtering, noise reduction, reverb, equalization, and other effects in real time
- The ability to create audio CDs from a Peak Playlists using Adaptec Toast™, which is bundled with Peak
- SMPTE synchronization
- Sophisticated Tools for looping, including Loop Surfer, Loop Tuner, and Guess Tempo
- Sampler Support
- Playlist editing and mastering
- Customizable Toolbar
- QuickTime Movie window with scrubbing
- Real Audio 5.0 support

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## Who Is Peak Designed For?

Peak is designed for a wide variety of users, ranging from composers and multimedia producers to sound designers and remix editors. Peak's comprehensive recording, editing, looping, and processing capabilities make it a powerhouse tool for virtually any aspect of digital audio production. If you are interested in sound and possess imagination and creativity, Peak is for you.

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## What's New in Peak 2.5?

Version 2.5 of Peak software has several new features and enhancements, including:

- New user interface
- VST Plug-In Support for playback and recording
- Support for more third-party SCSI cards and Samplers
- Support for the CDDB™ online CD Data Base when using the Import CD Audio
- Dither
- Improved Guess Tempo
- Improved metering
- Single instance Repair Click
- Save A Copy As . . .
- New floppy-less, user-friendly registration and authorization
- ...and more!

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## Minimum System Requirements

### *To use Peak you will need:*

- Any PowerPC-equipped Macintosh or PowerPC-equipped PowerBook or G3/G4 Macintosh
- 64MB of RAM
- Sound Manager version 3.3 or later
- Macintosh System Software 7.6.1 or later (8.6 recommended)
- QuickTime version 3.0.2 or later
- QuickTime PowerPlug™ installed in the Extensions folder
- A hard drive with 18ms or faster average seek time
- A 13-inch or larger monitor (color is recommended)

The optimal system for use with Peak software is a Power Macintosh with AV (Audio Visual) features and 32MB or more of RAM available to run Peak. The Peak application runs in native mode on Power Macintosh and G4 computers. Peak can also take advantage of ASIO and DAE compatible sound cards in addition to sound cards with Apple Sound Manager drivers.

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## Maximizing Peak Performance

To get the best performance out of Peak and your Macintosh, do the following.

### *To maximize Peak performance:*

- Use a minimal number of System Extensions. Extensions can slow down your Macintosh by using precious processor cycles. In particular, turn off System Extensions such as menu bar clocks and screen savers that are in constant operation. To set up a dedicated set of extensions for Peak,

duplicate your Mac OS Base extensions set in the extensions manager and rename it (something like `Peak_set`), restart your computer with this extensions set and install Peak, enable the additional extensions required for Peak to run, and, restart your computer with this updated extensions set.

- Set your monitor to no more than thousands of colors (256 colors is recommended for older Macs).
- Turn File Sharing off, unless you need it.
- Disconnect your Macintosh from any networks and turn off AppleTalk, unless you need to be on a network.
- Use the Memory control panel to set the Macintosh's disk cache to at least 384k (usually the Mac's default setting is fine). Turn Virtual Memory *Off*.
- Allocate additional RAM to Peak if possible, using the Finder's Get Info command. (Select Peak in the Finder, choose Get info from the Finder's Special menu, and enter the desired amount in the Preferred Size field. Make sure you allocate more RAM than the amount indicated in the Minimum Size field!)
- Optimize your hard drive. (See Chapter 3 to learn about proper hard disk maintenance.)

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## About Your User's Guide

Peak is designed to be simple and intuitive. Your User's Guide is designed to help you set up and use Peak for digital recording and editing as quickly and easily as possible.

This User's Guide assumes that you are familiar with standard Macintosh operating techniques, including:

- Setting up, starting, and using your Macintosh
- Choosing commands from menus

- Double-clicking, selecting, Shift-selecting, and dragging with the mouse
- Opening, copying, saving and deleting files
- Opening, closing, scrolling, moving, re-sizing, and selecting Macintosh windows

If you don't know how to perform these tasks, please refer to your Macintosh User's Guide and spend a little time learning about your Macintosh before going any further. This will make using Peak much easier and more enjoyable.

The Chapters in your Peak User's Guide are arranged in the order in which you would typically perform tasks when embarking on an audio production project:

- Chapter 1 introduces you to Peak and explains some of the requirements for using Peak software
- Chapter 2 explains how to install Peak software and configure your Macintosh for recording and playback
- Chapter 3 introduces you to some basic concepts of digital audio and disk-based recording, as well as basic Peak operations
- Chapter 4 explains how to record and playback audio to and from hard disk in Peak using the Apple Sound Manager, ASIO, and DAE. It also explains how to import audio from compatible CD-ROM drives
- Chapter 5 introduces you to the concepts and techniques of nondestructive editing with Peak
- Chapter 6 explains how to create regions and sequence their playback using Playlists, as well as how to use Peak Playlists to burn audio CDs
- Chapter 7 explains how to use Peak's native DSP tools
- Chapter 8 explains how to use third-party Premiere, TDM, AudioSuite, and VST plug-ins to enhance Peak's audio production capabilities

- Chapter 9 explains how to use Peak's Batch File Processor as well as how to use Apple Events for file management
- Chapter 10 explains how to import samples directly from compatible samplers (to edit or process the audio using all of Peak's functions) and send the modified sample back to the sampler
- Chapter 11 describes each of the commands found in Peak's menus
- Appendix 1 lists the default Keyboard Shortcuts for Peak
- Appendix 2 provides a troubleshooting guide for commonly encountered problems
- Appendix 3 describes how to use Peak's RealAudio™, Shockwave™ Audio Encoder, and MP3 encoding to prepare audio for streaming over the internet
- A Glossary and an Index complete your Peak User's Guide



*Look for important tips and notes whenever you see this exclamation mark.*

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## About Peak LE

If you are using the *limited edition* of Peak, not all features will be available. Specifically, the following features are not available in Peak LE:

- 24 and 32 bit support
- Crossfades, DSP effects, and Gain Adjustment in Peak LE Playlists
- Loop Surfer™ and Loop Tuner
- Customizable Keyboard Shortcuts
- Customizable Toolbar
- Remove DC Offset
- Pitch Change
- DAE/TDM/AudioSuite support
- VST plug-in support
- SMPTE sync
- Import Dual Mono
- Meters Dialog
- QuickTime movies
- Batch File Processor
- Up to three Premiere plug-ins only with three second preview limit
- Export Regions
- Sampler Support
- Convolve
- Modulate
- Add
- Amplitude Fit
- Change Duration
- Crossfade Loop
- Dither
- Find Peak
- Mono To Stereo
- Stereo To Mono
- Phase Vocoder
- Rappify
- Repair Clicks
- Threshold
- Recording Notepad
- Recording Input Levels
- Specialized Apple Events for Playback from a database such as FileMaker Pro

**LE** Features that are not supported in Peak LE or Peak SE will show this icon in the manual. LE features will also appear grayed out in their menus.

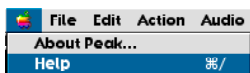
## About Peak SE

Peak SE is functionally the same as Peak LE but adds sampler support.

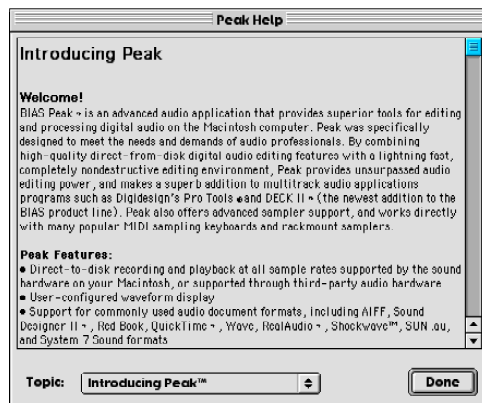
## Using Online Help

Peak provides two types of online help. The first type, Balloon Help, can be activated by selecting Show Balloons from the Macintosh's Balloon Help menu in the Finder. Balloon Help will show you the functions of each menu item as you move the mouse across different menu items. If you enable Speak Help under Peak's Preference menu, the Balloon Help for items in the Toolbar will be "spoken" by your computer using the Apple Speech Manager. Also, if you hold the mouse cursor over a Toolbar icon for 2 seconds, the Balloon Help for that icon's function will appear.

The second type of online help is available via the Apple menu's Help item. This help system gives you detailed information about how to use the Peak software.



Online Help is available in the Apple menu



Online Help

## Conclusion

Now that you know a little about Peak, proceed to the next chapter to learn how to install your software and get started using it.

