

Monitoring Tricks With Your Soundcard And DC SEVEN

Every once in a while, we describe some unique and unexpected function with programs such as DC7. We use the word "unexpected" because it describes a capability that is not generally known or documented with the program. It's a good idea to keep these tips around even if you don't need them right now - you may one day!

This time we're going to tell you how to use DC7 to force your stubborn soundcard to monitor AND how to use a DC7 trick to record on one soundcard and monitor on another. First, though, let's make sure we understand what Monitoring is. Simply, monitoring is the ability for you to hear what you are recording. Imagine for a minute that you were recording some audio into a tape recorder. If you were recording from a record, you'd likely want the ability to hear the audio as it was being recorded. If nothing else, this would let you know you were recording the right thing. But now consider the case of recording to the same recorder by talking into a microphone; would you now want to be able to hear the audio as you talked into the mic? No, you wouldn't. You'd likely get feedback and a bad recording.

Most soundcards have the ability to turn monitoring on or off at will for this very reason. But some soundcards have no ability to monitor at all. This is typical of some laptops and with USB soundcards. They may simply have no ability to monitor and if you are in this situation you may have thought you simply had to do without hearing what you are recording. But here's a unique way to do it with DC7:

1. Bring up the Multifilter and remove all filters from the signal path.
2. Enable Log Output by pushing the button. This causes the Multifilter to write the output audio to a file. You can choose the file location with the browse button. Now click on Live Preview. The audio will come into the input of the soundcard and will be recorded to a file and ALSO will be sent to the output of the soundcard. You are now hearing what you are recording. You've tricked your soundcard into monitoring after all.

Now a couple more tips to make this even better - notice that you can choose the Output soundcard in the little record window. You can actually choose a different soundcard here so that you are recording on one card and monitoring on another!

For those of you who have flat preamps, you can drag into the signal path the new Virtual Preamp and set it to Flat mode. You'll now not only record your audio like you normally do, but you'll actually hear it with the RIAA EQ applied while it is recording! A cool trick.