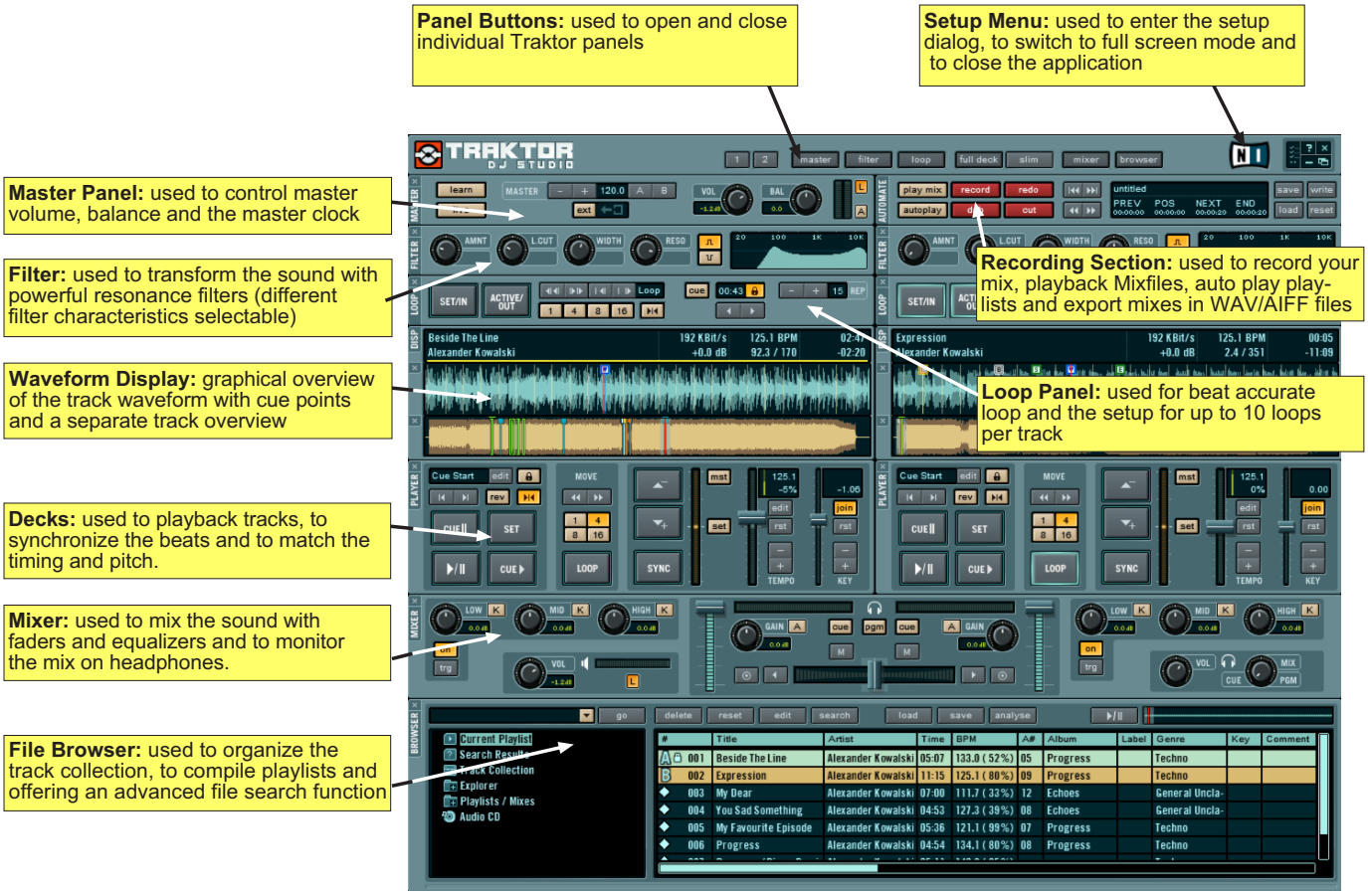
TRAKTOR DJ Studio 2.5 – Quick Reference

Welcome...

...to **TRAKTOR DJ Studio 2.5**, the latest generation of the DJ mixing application for computers from Native Instruments.
We have added exiciting new features and improved the look and feel of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio**. No other hard or software offers such manipulation potential, power and flexibility – the perfect tool for every up-to-date DJ.
This Quick Reference gives an introduction to the powerful new features of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio 2.5**. A detailed description of the basic working methods and an comprehensive explanation of all available features is given in the printed manual which comes with the program.

The basic features of the TRAKTOR Panel



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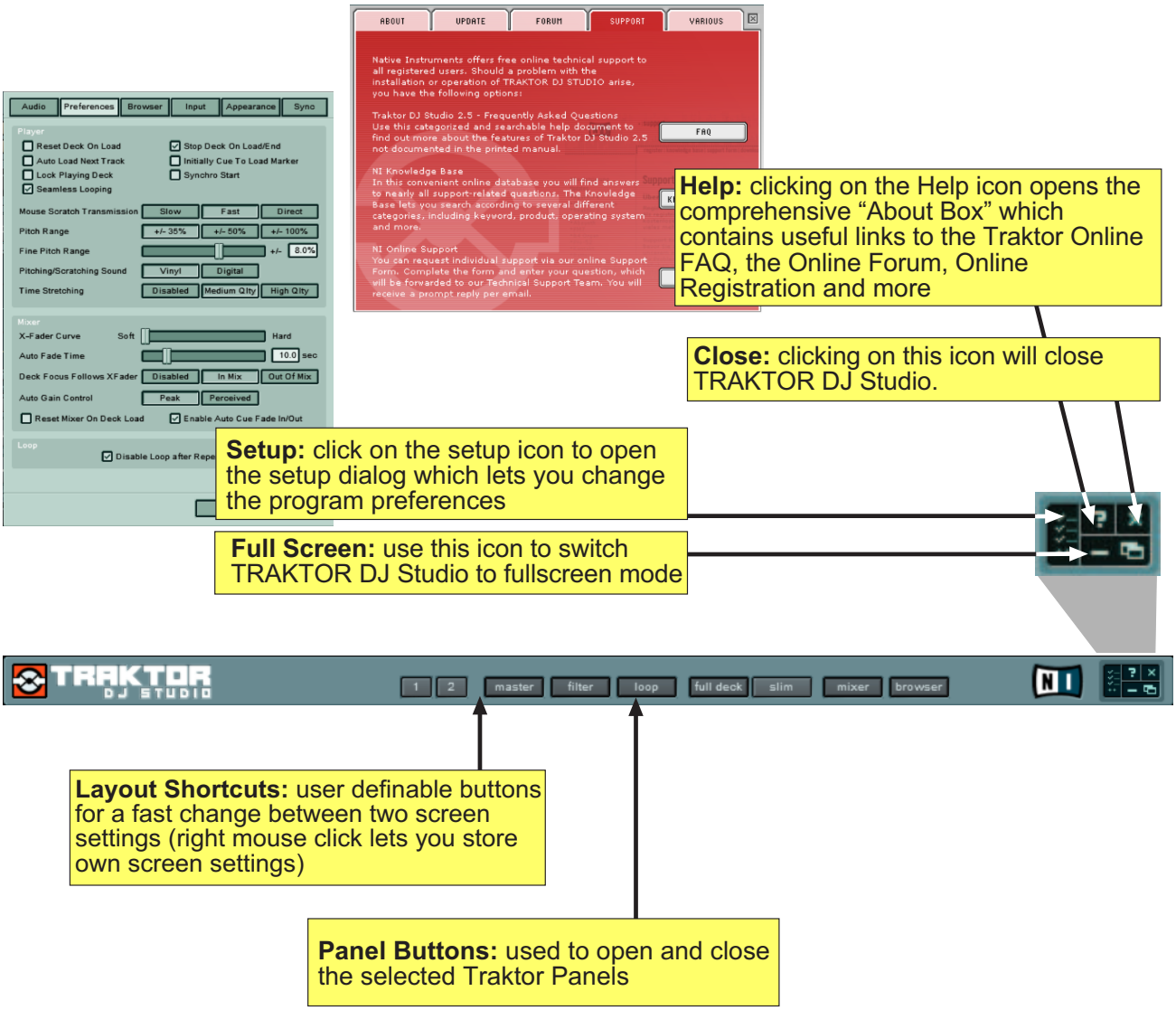
The Head Panel

This section enables you to adapt the appearance of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** to your needs by opening and closing individual panels. Two independant screen settings can be saved.
The Head panel is visible all time and gives access to the Setup dialog for the program settings and the „About box“ which contains lots of useful support weblinks.



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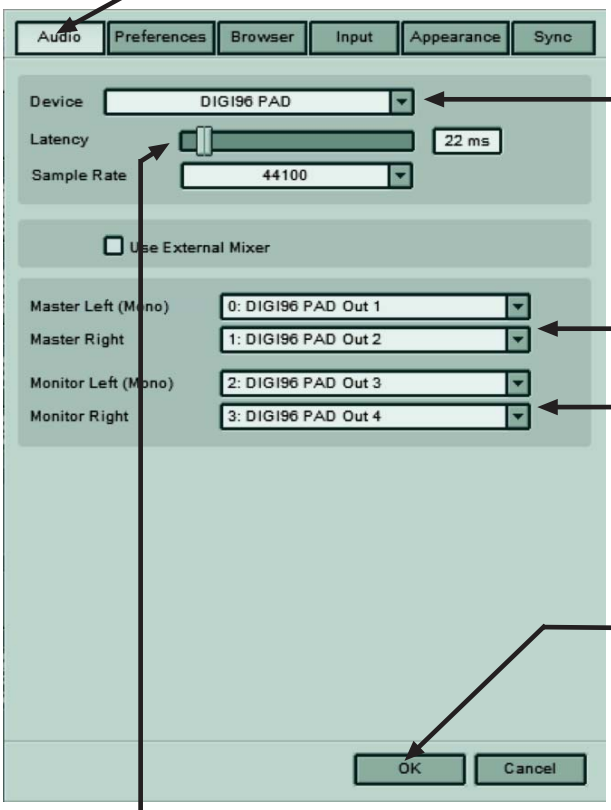
The Audio Setup

To setup the audio connection of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** you first have to select an installed sound or audio card. We recommend the use of a low latency audio card which supports a better audio quality and a more flexible monitoring function.
Click on the Setup icon in the upper right corner of the Traktor interface to open the Setup dialog. After that select the „Audio“ tab.

1. Open Setup Dialog: click on the Setup icon in the upper right corner of the TRAKTOR user interface.

2. Select Audio Tab: click on the top of the setup dialog



3. Select Audio Device: choose the sound or audiocard you want to use for your TRAKTOR session

4. Select Master Output Channels: TRAKTOR will send the master output signal to the selected channels of your audiocard

5. Select Monitor Output Channels: TRAKTOR will send the monitor (headphone) output signal to the selected channels of your audiocard

6. Confirm your settings: click on the OK button to confirm your settings

Latency: if you recognize any audio problems during playback come back to this setup box and increase the latency (or choose another audiocard). Try out all available drivers listed in the device pull down menu and increase latency if you encounter audio dropouts

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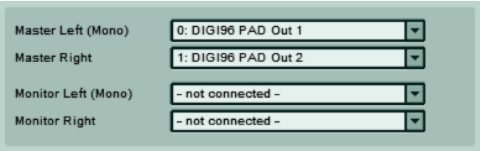
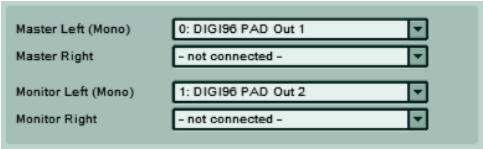
The right settings for your audio and soundcard

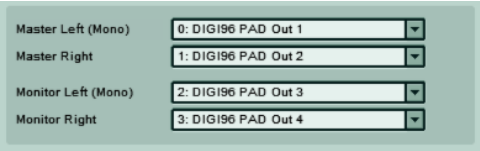
Please proceed the correct settings as described below:



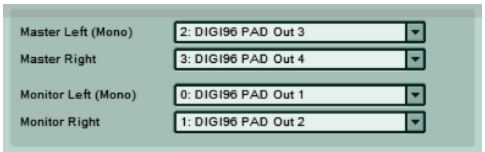
If you are running TRAKTOR with your onboard soundcard or a simple stereo soundcard we recommend to leave the monitor channel with the option **-not connected-**



Optionally you can connect the left Master Left channel and the Monitor Left channel to hear both signals separately over your headphones (only in mono). With a standard dual headphone adapter (see picture aside) you can connect your mono master output with an additional amplifier.



If you have a multichannel audiocard you should assign the master channel of **TRAKTOR** to the audiocard outputs that are used for amplifier connection. The monitor outputs should be connected to the headphone outputs of the audio card. We recommend to use an optional headphone amplifier.



Many multichannel audiocards provide a separate headphone output that is identical to the outputs 1 and 2. In this case it is necessary to assign the **TRAKTOR** Monitor outputs to the outputs 1 and 2 of your audio card and the Master outputs to output 3 and 4 (which is the connection to your amplification system).

Click the OK button to close the Setup menu. To test your new audio connection load a music track from the List window in one of the decks by drag and drop.

Click the Play button to start the playback. The waveform should now start moving while an audio signal is hearable over your amplification system. .
If you observe sound disturbances you should go back to the audio settings and increase the latency value or buffer size of your audio card.

The output meter in the Mater panel shows you the level of the master output. If you shouldn´t hear any sound please verify first if the output meter is showing any signal presence.

The LOAD button in the Automate panel allows you to load stored mixes. We have prepared a short demo mix called **demo.nmx** to show you the various mixing techniques of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio**.

Press the Play Mix button after loading the demo file and enjoy the mix.

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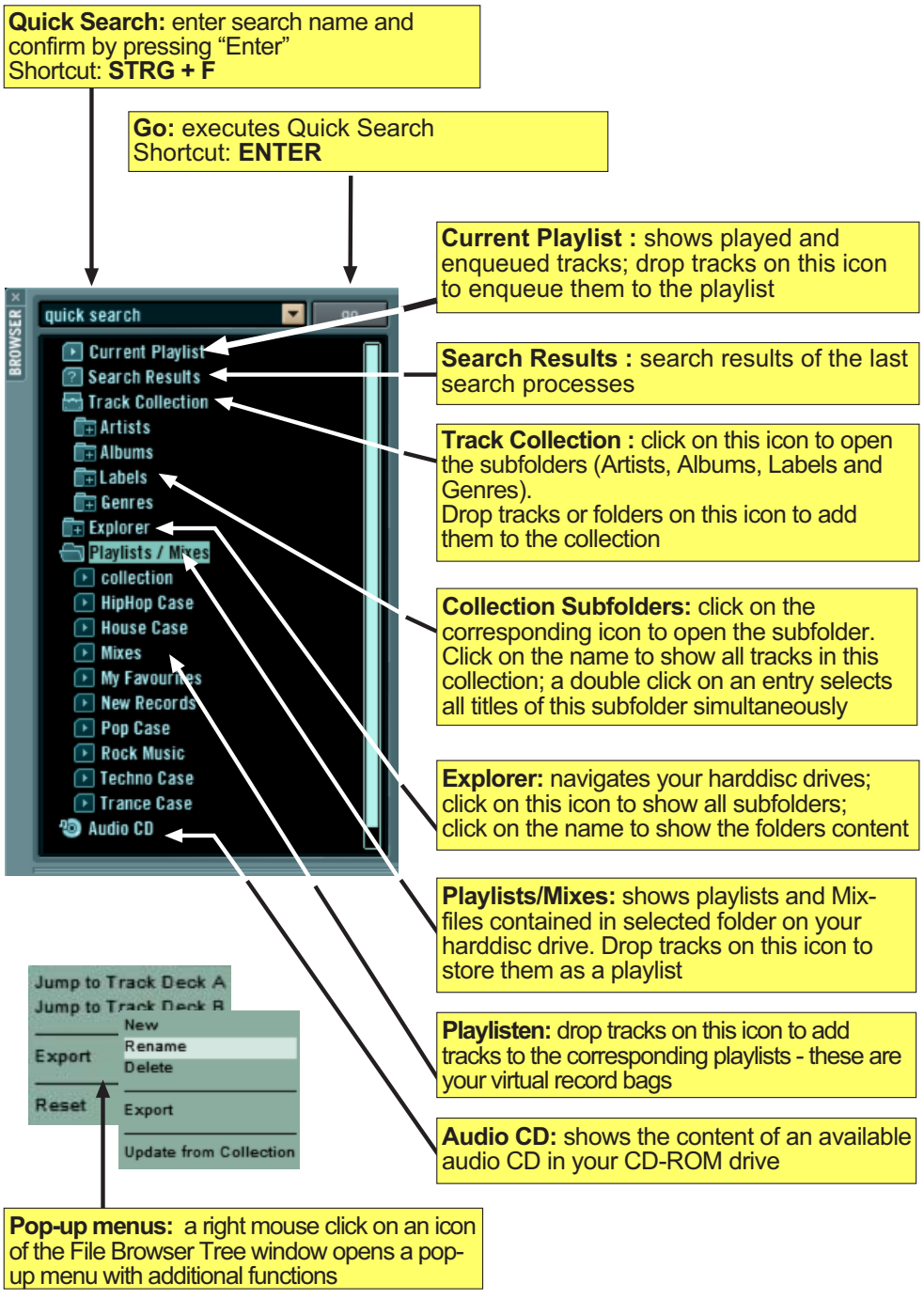
The File Browser Tree Window

The Tree window gives you fast access to all the music files stored on your computer hard disc. The first time **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** is started you should import all music files into the Track collection by dragging your music folders from the Explorer icon to the Track Collection icon. Once you have done this you have access to your music listed by artist, album, label and genre. The Quick Search Function is a very fast option for finding music titles on your system.



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The File Browser List Window

The List window shows you the selected playlist – this is your virtual record bag. Icons are giving status information about tracks in your DJ set.The new track analyzing function generates a separate graphical overview and stores volume and tempo information of the selected audio track.

Delete: deletes selected tracks from the playlist or track collection

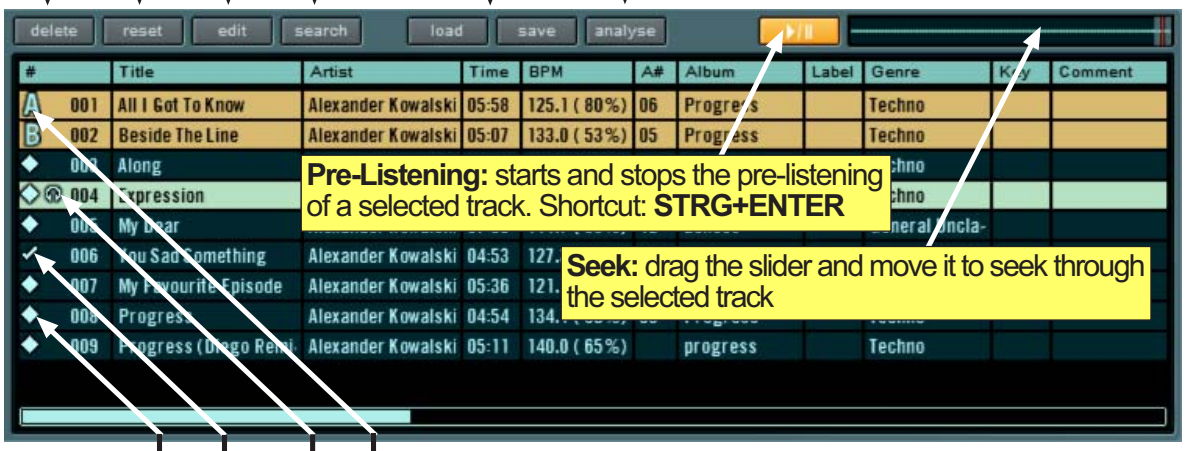
Reset: resets the playlist icons or clears the current playlist

Edit: opens an input dialog to change numerous attributes for the selected track

Search: opens an advanced search window

Load/Save Playlist: use these buttons to load and save current playlists or track collections

Analyse: this new function analyses the selected track and stores its attributes auto-matically



Pre-Listening: starts and stops the pre-listening of a selected track. Shortcut: **STRG+ENTER**

Seek: drag the slider and move it to seek through the selected track

Icon A and B: identifies tracks currently loaded into the decks A or B

Headphone Icon: identifies the track currently monitored/pre-listened

Already Played Icon: identifies already played tracks

Diamond Track Icon: identifies tracks already loaded into the playlist, but not played yet

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The Waveform Display

The **Waveform Display** is a completely new way of controlling your mix. It shows marker, breaks and rhythmic grids several seconds ahead of time. The Track Overview gives you an basic view of the complete track inclusive all markers. The Text Display is providing important information of the played track.

Loop Marker: shows start and end point of a stored or active loop (green lines)

Cue Point: shows location of (up to 10) stored and current cue points (blue line)

Beat Marker: used to define a beat grid based on the current BPM value (light grey line with B)

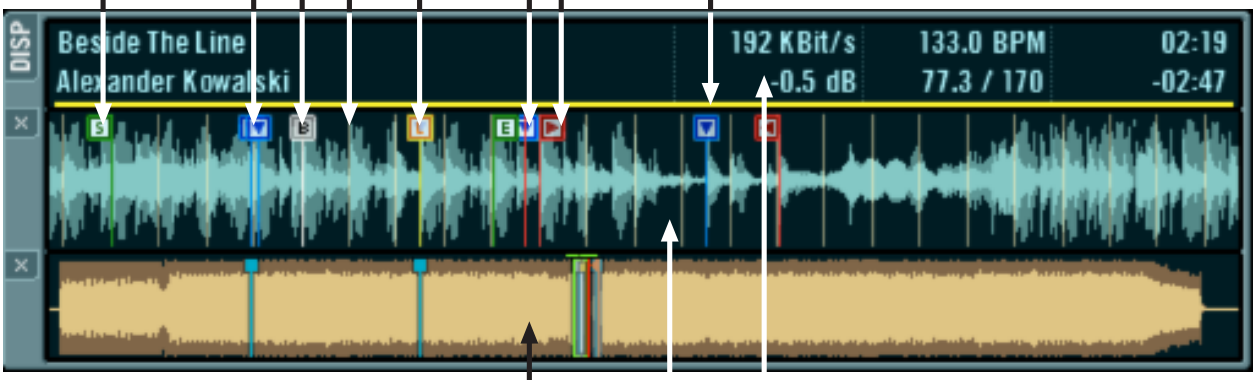
Beat Grid: grid is generated by the beat marker calculated from current BPM value (ligth grey lines)

Load Marker: marker that is used when loading or pre-listening a track (only when "Initially Cue to Load Marker" in setup menu is activated

Playback Position: red line that shows the current playback position. When a track is paused a cue point is set at either this or the next beat´s positon

Fade Points: special cue points allowing playback of the opposite deck. The two red lines mark the fade in and the fade out of the track

Deck Select: click on the text display to assign the focus on this deck. A yellow line marks the current selected deck.



Text Display: gives you detailled information about the loaded track (e.g. title name, BPM, elapsed and remaining time etc.). Some information is available after the track has been analysed only

Waveform Display: displays a selection of the waveform with colored shades of beats and frequencies

Track Display: basic overview of the current track with all markers. Available after the track has been analysed only

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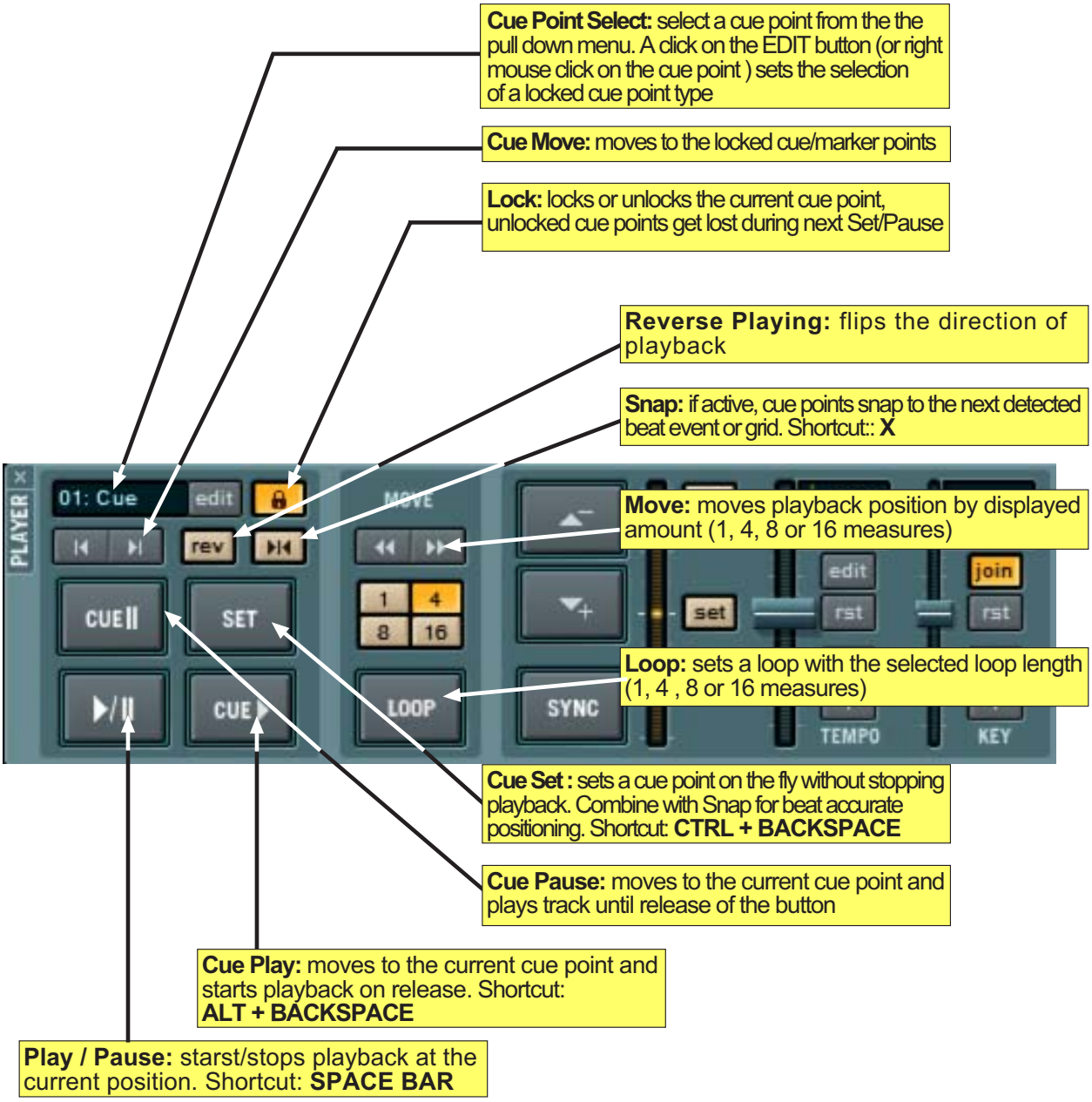
Playback & Cue

The **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** decks are combining classic functions as known from DJ hardware with revolutionary new features like selectable Cue Points, beat grids and loop functions to give you extensive control over the mix.



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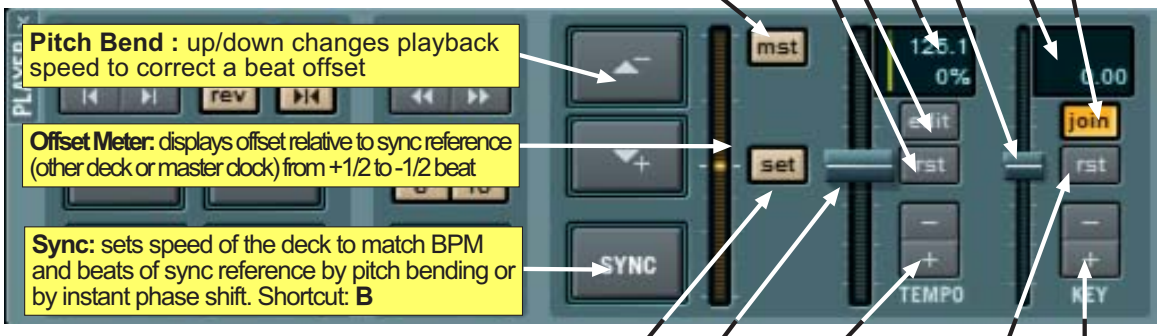
Tempo, Pitch & Sync

TRAKTOR DJ Studio is equipped with fantastic syncing functions. Making beat accurate transitions and crossfades with pitch manipulation has never been easier. Automatic beat detection and accurate tempo synchronisation are handy tools for the perfect mix.



Join: links the tempo and the pitch key fader; if Join is inactive, tempo and pitch can be set independantly

Pitch Display: displays the pitch settings in semitones and cents

Pitch Key Fader: increases or decreases the pitch in a range of +/- 12 semitones.

Tempo Display: displays the current BPM value and tempo changes. Tap on BPM value to improve the tempo

Tempo Edit: opens the editor to apply fine tuning to the tempo setting

Tempo Restore: resets the original track tempo. Shortcut: **ALT + B**

Master Tempo: switches sync reference from other deck to master clock

Pitch Bend : up/down changes playback speed to correct a beat offset

Offset Meter: displays offset relative to sync reference (other deck or master clock) from +1/2 to -1/2 beat

Sync: sets speed of the deck to match BPM and beats of sync reference by pitch bending or by instant phase shift. Shortcut: **B**

Set: calibrates offset meter; when pressed the current offset is defined to be new zero offset

Tempo Fader: increase or decreases the tempo of the track

Tempo +/- : increases/decreases the BPM by +/- 0,5 or +/- 0,01 (right click). Shortcut: **C / V**

Pitch Restore: resets the original track pitch

Pitch Key +/- : increases/decreases the pitch by +/- 1 semitone or by +/- 1 cent (right click)

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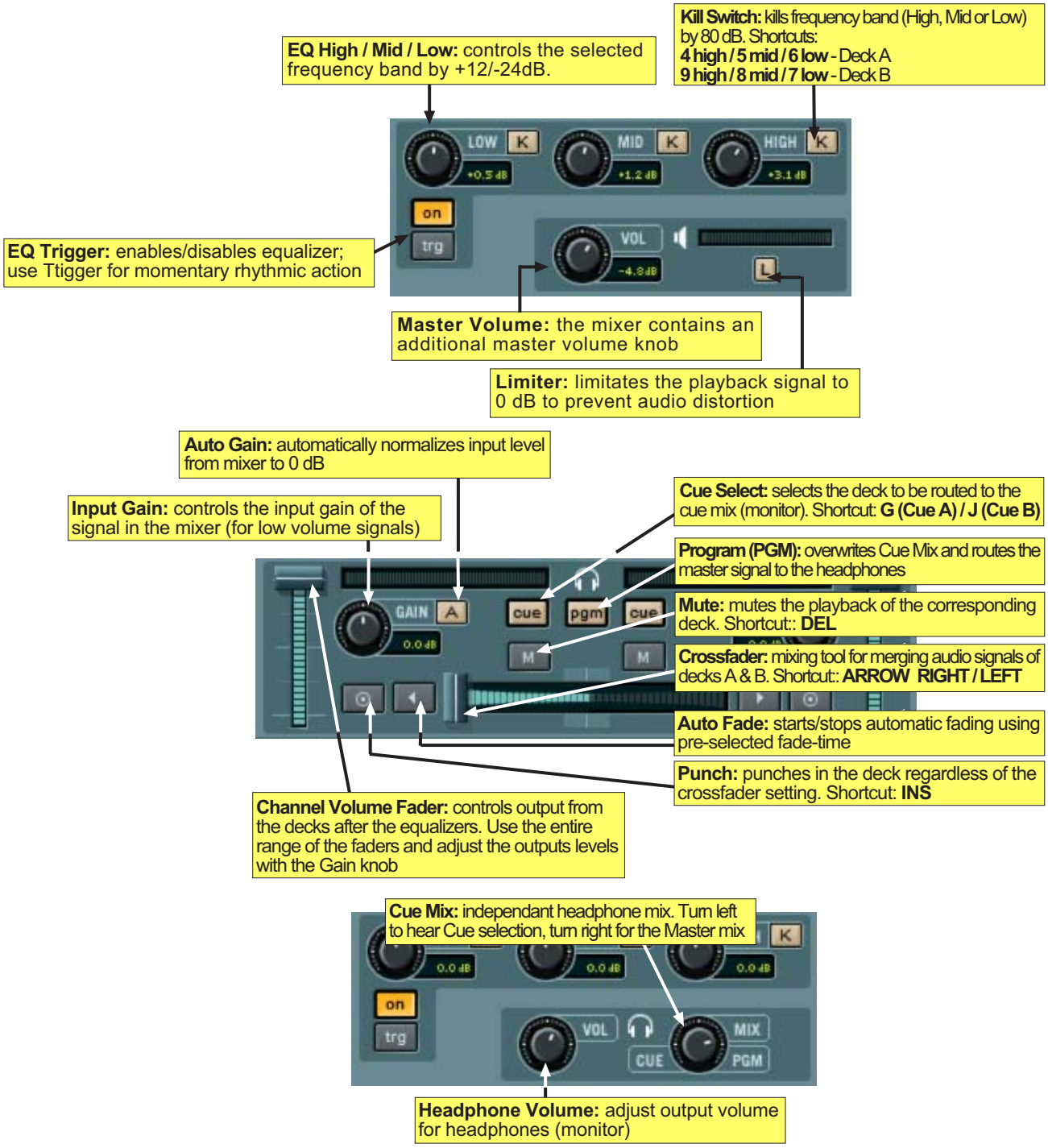
The DJ Mixer Panel

The mixer panel resembles closely the traditional hardware interface of common DJ mixer sets, and every DJ will soon feel at home here. But don´t forget - **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** comes with features way ahead of the capacities offered by traditional hardware mixers.



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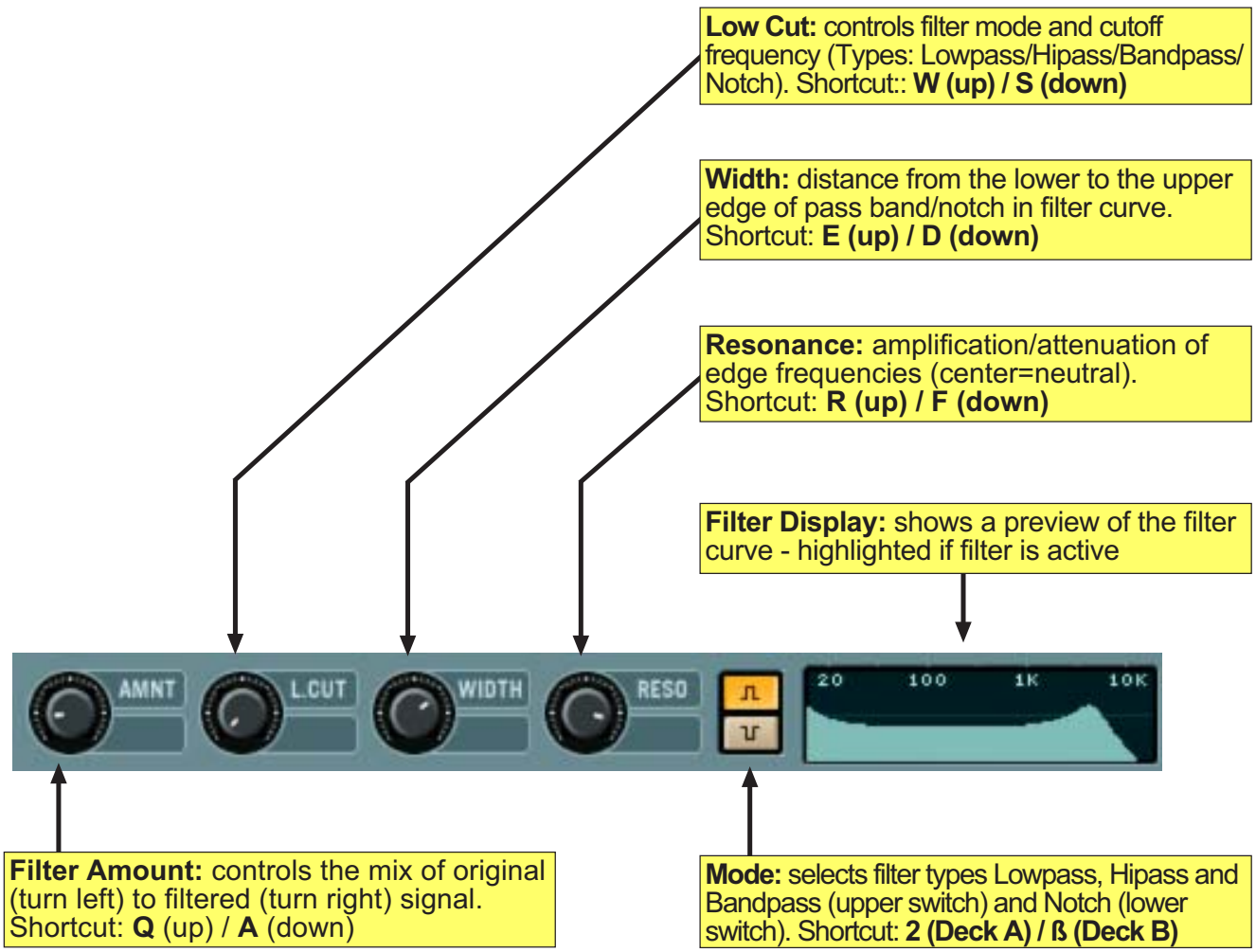
The Filter Panel

The **Filter Panel** provides real synthesizer functions for each desk. A filter with different characteristics and resonance can be used for changing the timbre of a track – perfect for the typical filter house effects that makes the rave go.



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The Loop Panel

The loop system is used to repeat individual parts of a track transforming your performance into a unique mix and adding that special „thingy“ to it. A loop can be set intuitive and beat accurate. **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** is capable to make unhearable loop transitions. Up to 10 different loops can be stored for each track.

Set/In: sets a complete loop based on the selected loop length, otherwise only a loop start is set. Overwrites previous loop if unlocked. Click again to leave loop.
Shortcut:: **L**

Active/Out: sets loop end (after confirmation of Set/In); activates upcoming loop without setting new boundaries; leaves current loop

Move Loop: moves current loop left /right by the selected amount.
Shortcut: **; (left) / ‘ (right)**

Resize: shrinks / expands current loop by the selected amount - perfect for spacy FX sounds

Amount Display: displays the amount of Move and Resize; right mouse click selects new amount

Loop Length: pre-selection of loop lenght measured in beats; right mouse click selects new amount. Shortcut: **U / I / O / P**

Snap: if active, all loop boundaries are snapped to next detected beat event

Loop Cue: cues to loop selected in display

Select: steps through all stored loops of a track; if Loop Cue is active also cues to loop

Loop Lock: locks (stores) and unlocks current loop; locked loops are stored in the Track Collection

Loop Repeat: sets number of repeats for a loop until it ends

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The Automate Panel

For the first time you can record audio mixes as an automation file (Mixfile), overdub selected parameters and after all export the final mix as a Wave or AIFF file to burn a CD.

Play Mix: starts playback of recorded mixes; during overdubs switches to overwrite mode

Autoplay: starts playback of the current play-list automatically by using automatic fades

Record: starts recording directly after the last stop; during playback Record switches to overdub mode; recording can be seamlessly interrupted, interruption creates a file used by the Redo function

Dub: indicates the overdubbing of single controls; disable Dub to reset offset of overdubbed controls

Redo: interrupts and restarts recording at the previous Redo position created by the last recording interruption

Cut: cuts the mix at the current position and discards the first part of it

Skip in Mix: skips to previous/next mix transition use Skip + SHIFT to skip to mix start/end

Seek Mix: seeks through the mix; Seek + SHIFT speeds the movement

Mix Display: displays time and size of the recorded mix as well as the positions of the next/previous transitions

Save/Load: saves current mix to your hard disc; loads mix into Automate panel

Write: fast export of the current Mixfile to hard disc as Wave or AIFF file

Reset: cleares the memory before starting a new recording

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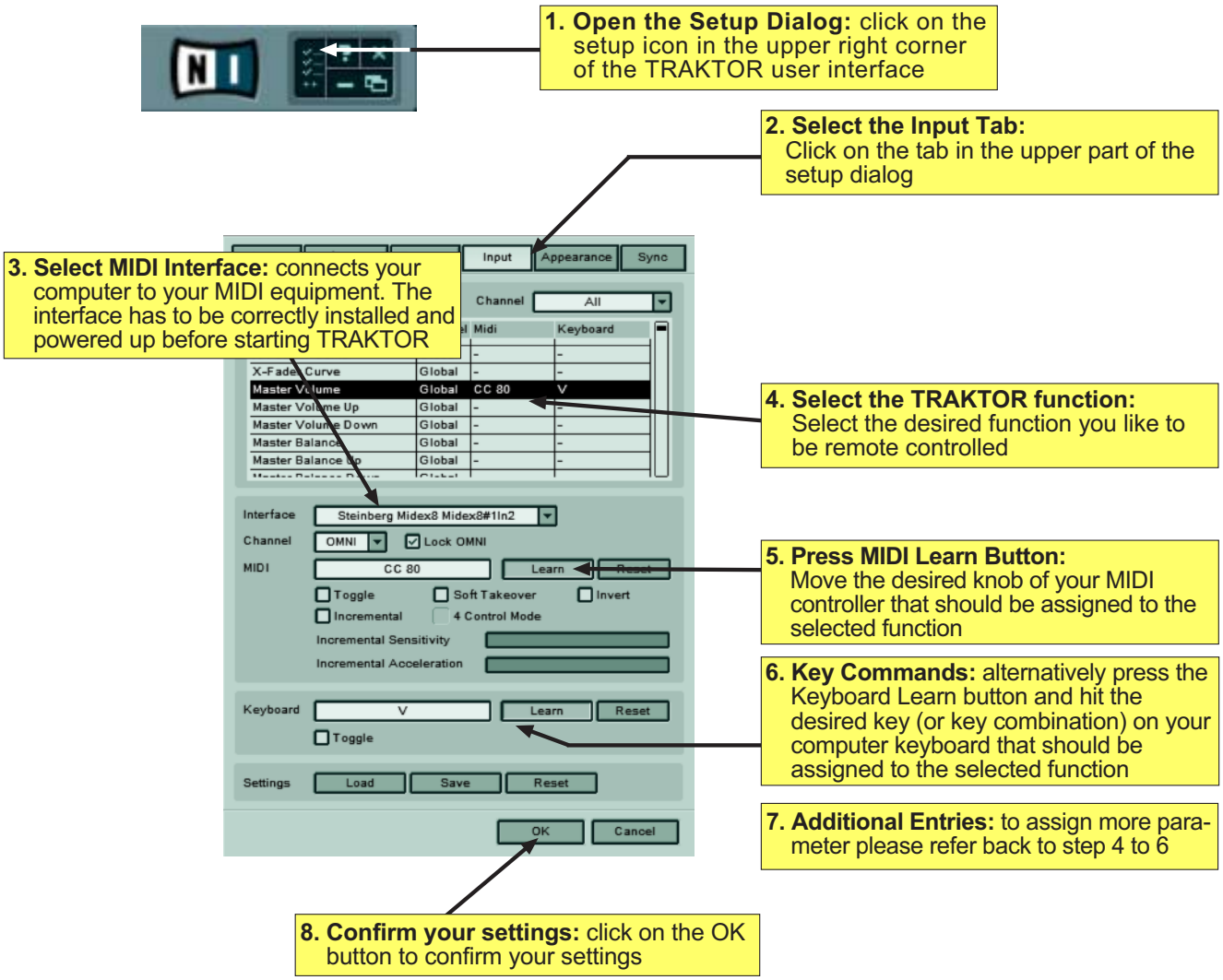
Remote of TRAKTOR DJ Studio

More than 400 parameters of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** can be controlled via keyboard shortcuts, MIDI controller or a MIDI keyboard.



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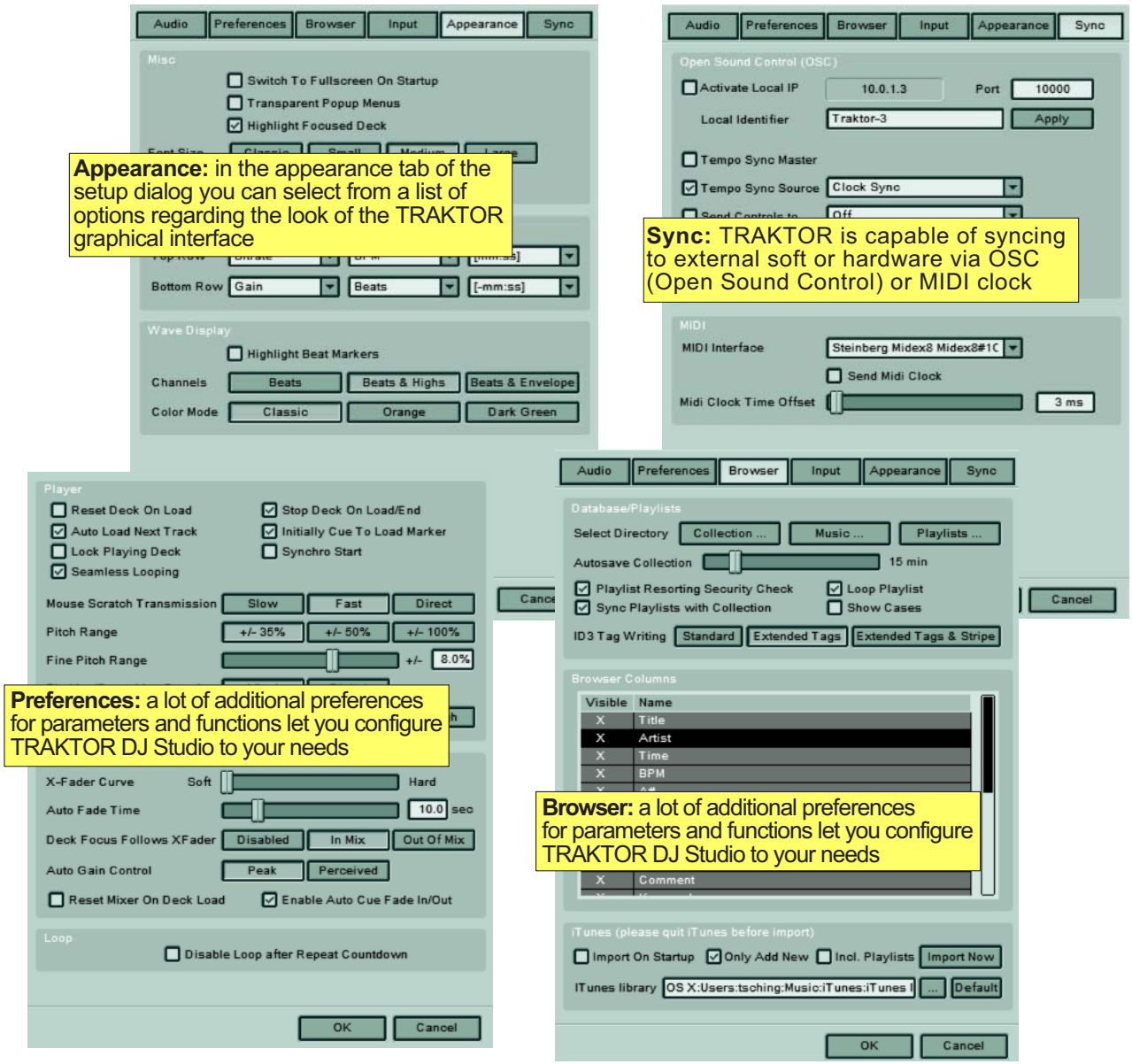
Preferences and Appearance

Change the face of **TRAKTOR DJ Studio** by selecting one of your favorite user interfaces.
The Sync function let you synchronize the TRAKTOR engine via MIDI clock or OSC (Open Sound Control) to external hard or software.



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And now...

...have fun with your first DJ mix!

Your Native Instruments Team