# Stereo Playback from a Laptop in the CDA Mixing Suite

2024

A pdf version of this guide is available at:

www.concordia.ca/finearts/cda/suites/descriptions

# About this guide

This guide describes how to monitor a stereo analog signal from your laptop in the CDA VS10 mixing suite.

You can use this method to work on a stereo audio project directly from your laptop.

The HD OMNI audio interface in VS10 will receive a stereo analog signal from your laptop. On the VS10 computer, you can use the audio software of your choice to monitor that input by placing a stereo track in record monitor. In this guide I show how to monitor with Ableton Live and Pro Tools.

# Connect your laptop

Connect the stereo 1/8" inch cable, provided for you in the suite, to your laptop's analog headphone output.

This cable is already connected to Inputs 3 and 4 on the back of the AVID OMNI audio interface.

Do not change this connection!

# Play sound from your laptop

In the audio software on your laptop, the audio output settings should be the laptop's headphone output.

Play a track in your software and look for the green LED input lights on the front of the OMNI interface to indicate an audio input on channels 3 and 4.
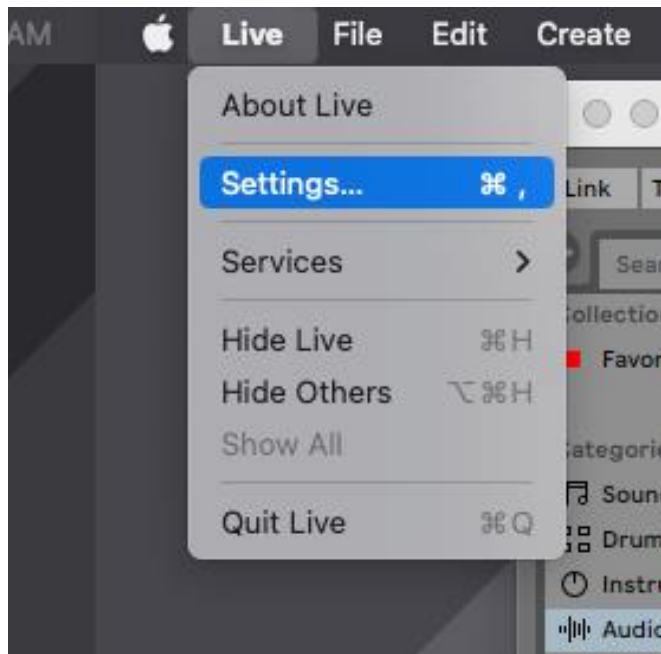
Switch to IN
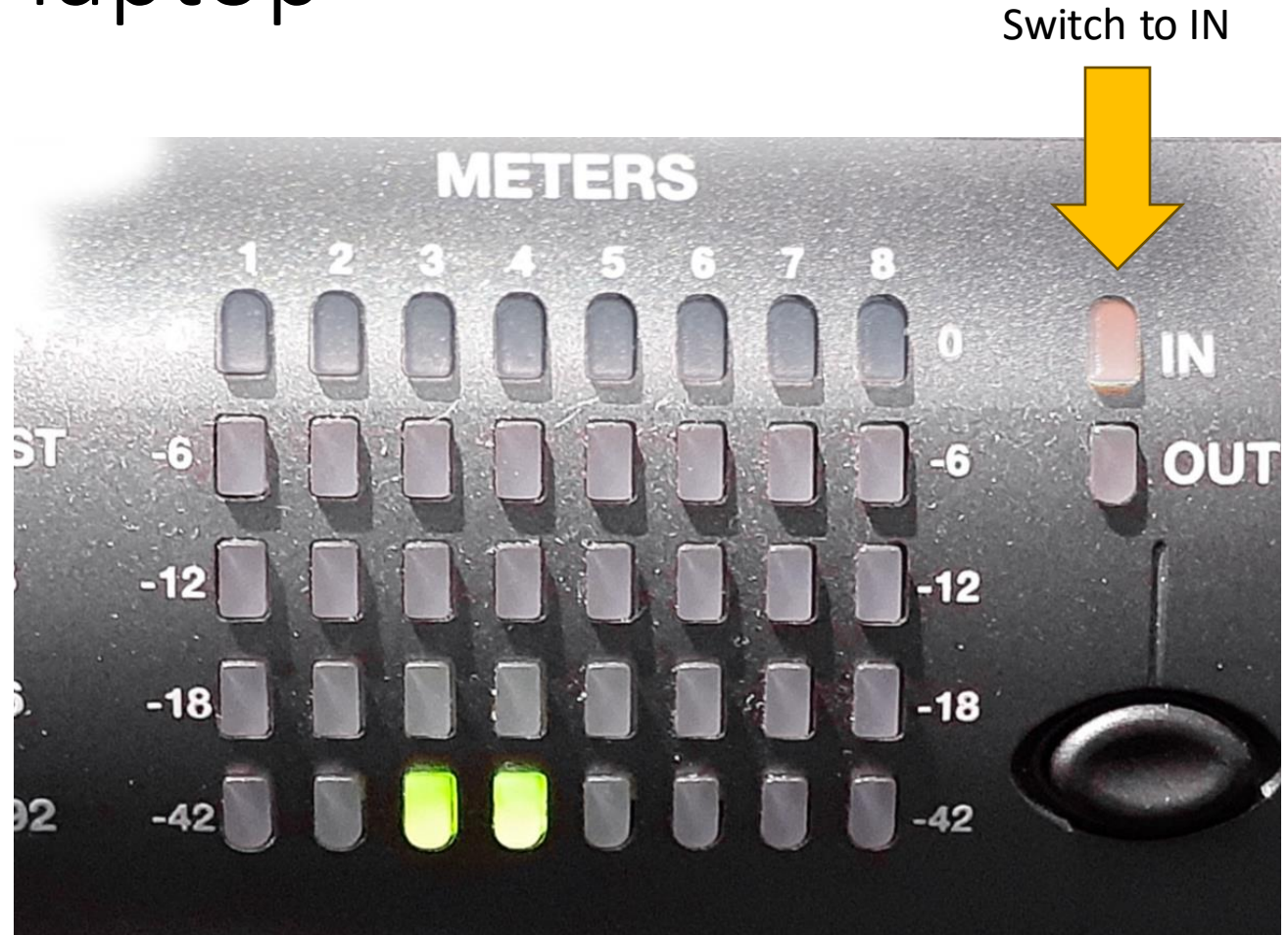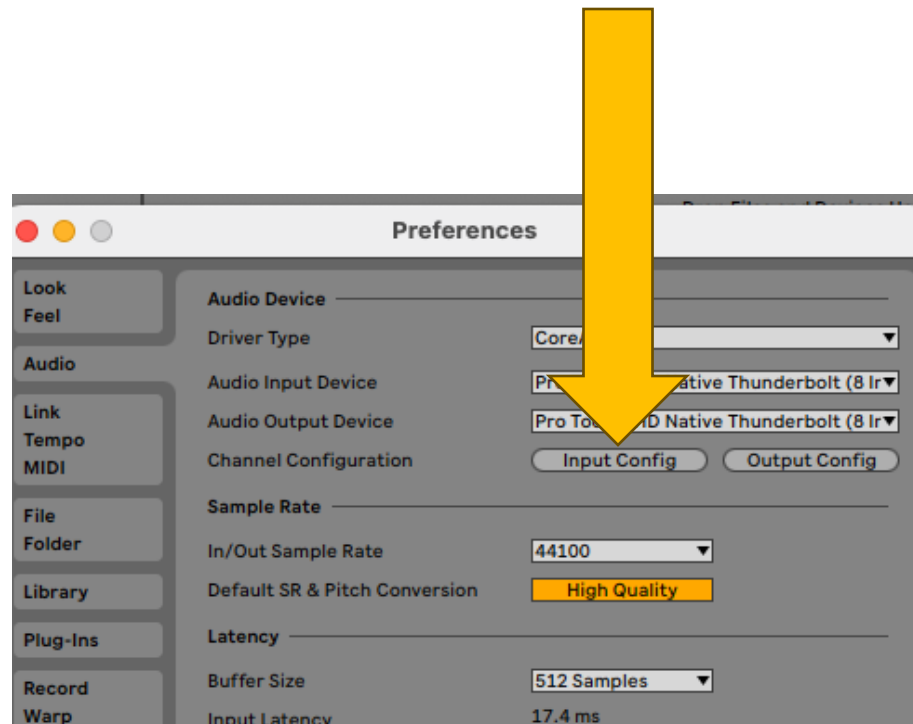
# Option One

## Using Ableton Live to Monitor the Input

# Using Ableton Live to Monitor the Input

Launch Ableton Live and go to "Settings" which takes you to the Preferences! In Audio Preferences, select the "Pro Tools HD Native Thunderbolt" as the Audio Input and Output Device.
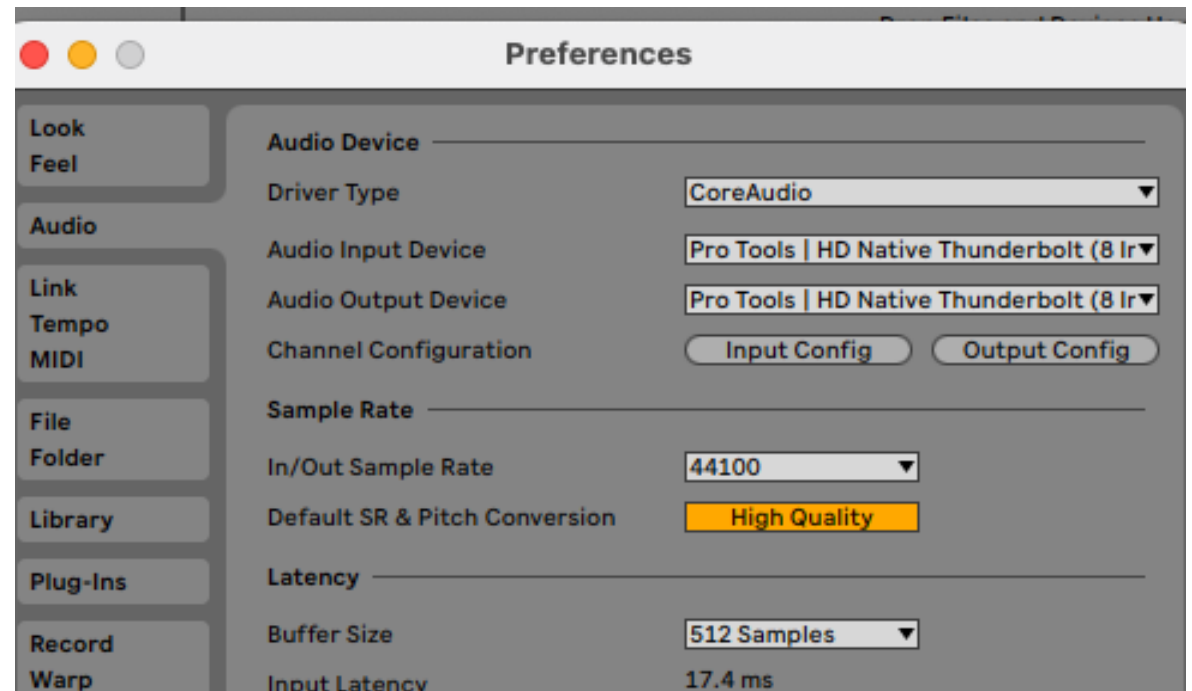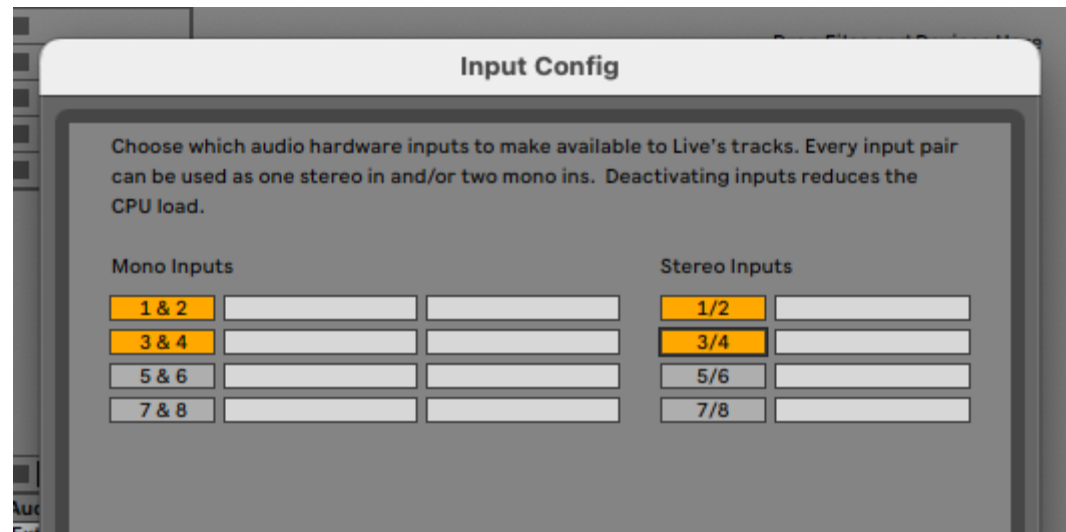
# Using Ableton Live to Monitor the Input

In Audio Preferences, click on the **Input Config** button.

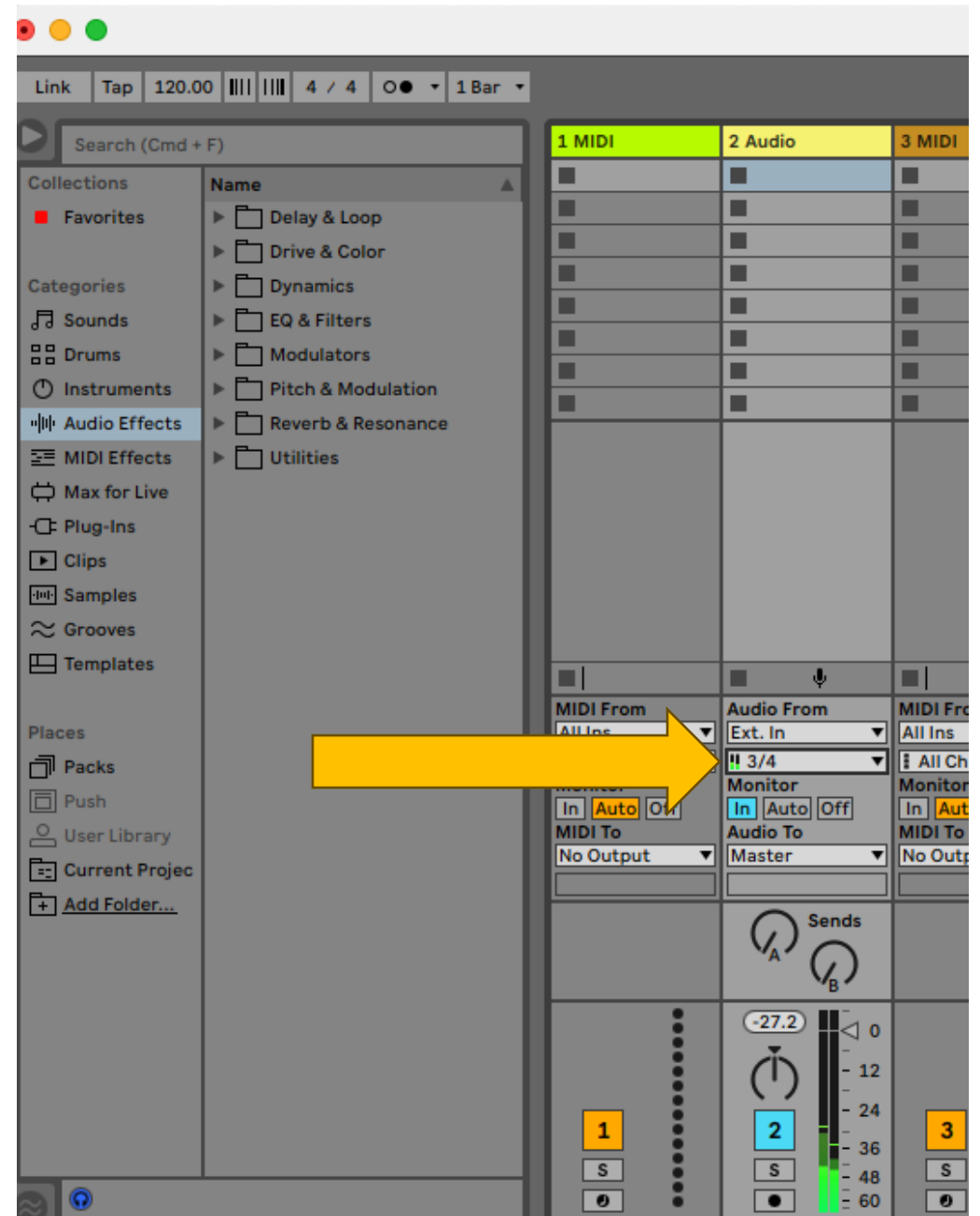In the Input Config, enable inputs 3/4 in both the Mono and Stereo Inputs.

# Using Ableton Live to Monitor the Input

Then select channels 3 and 4 as the **Ext. In** (input) on an audio track. Make sure it is an audio type track, not an instrument track.

And press the **Monitor In** button right below the input to hear the input.

That's it!

# Engage the AIR Remote



Moving the volume dial on the AIR remote will turn on the speakers.

Switch on the L and R buttons to activate the Left and Right speakers.

Note that when monitoring stereo in the CDA Mixing Suite, only the Left and Right speakers are used. The subwoofer (SUB) is not used.

# Not hearing an Input in Ableton?

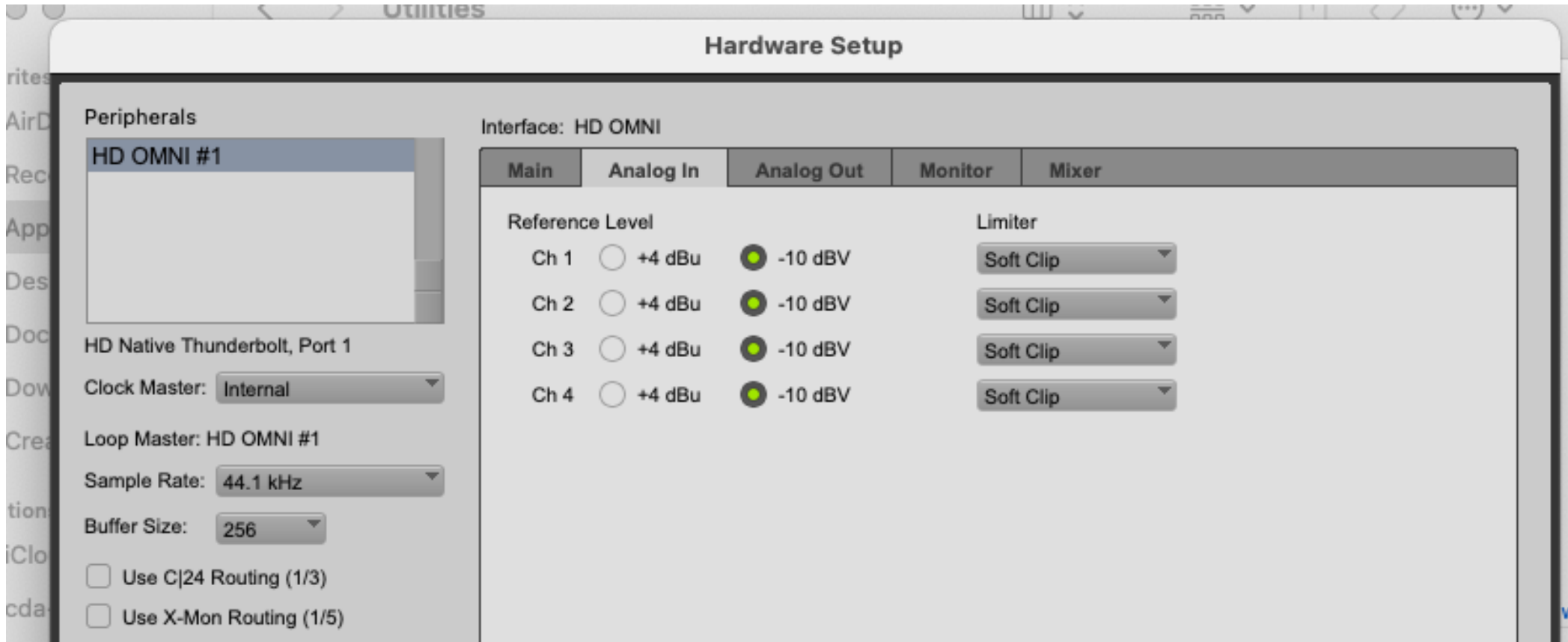Then check the following hardware settings in **Audio MIDI Setup** in Applications/Utilities
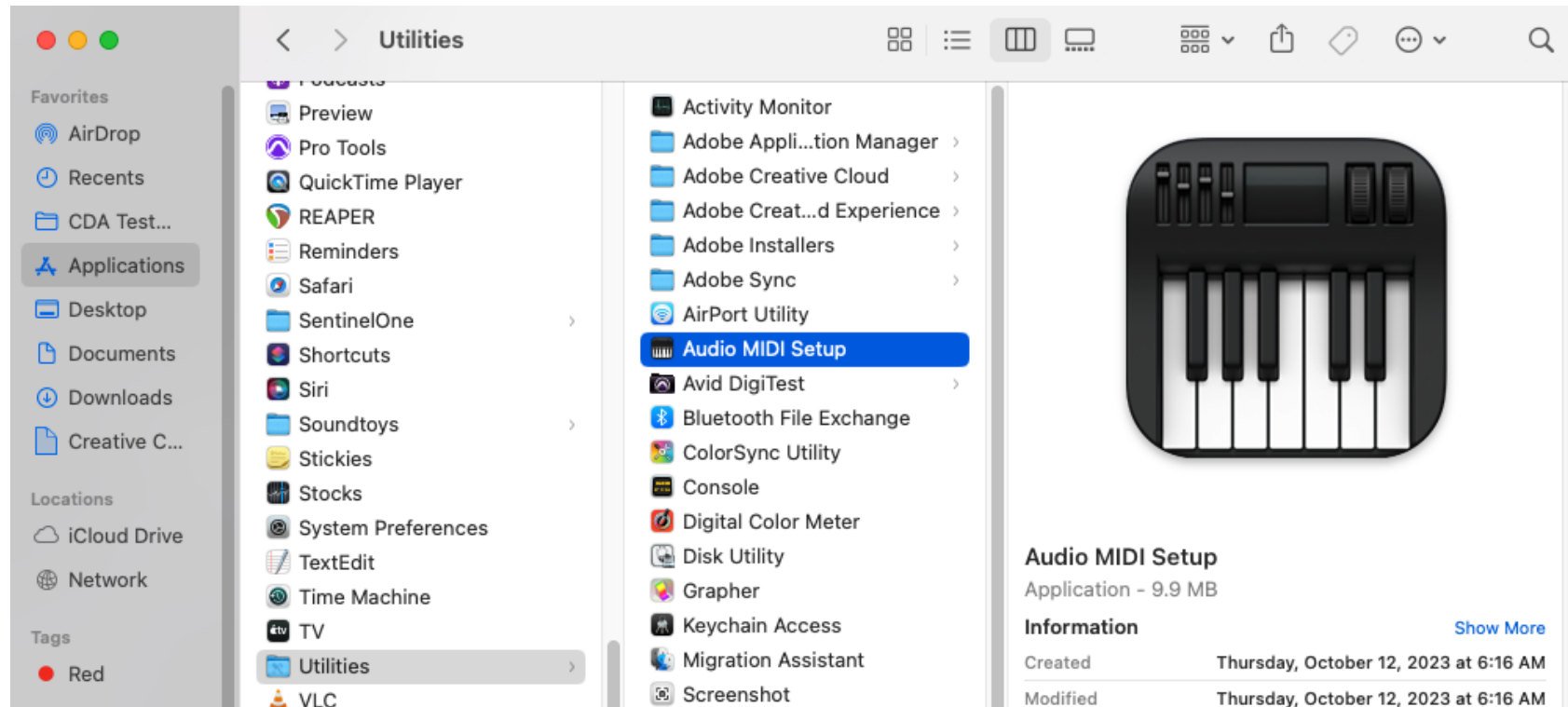
# In the list of Audio Devices, go to the HD Native Thunderbolt, right click and "Configure Device"
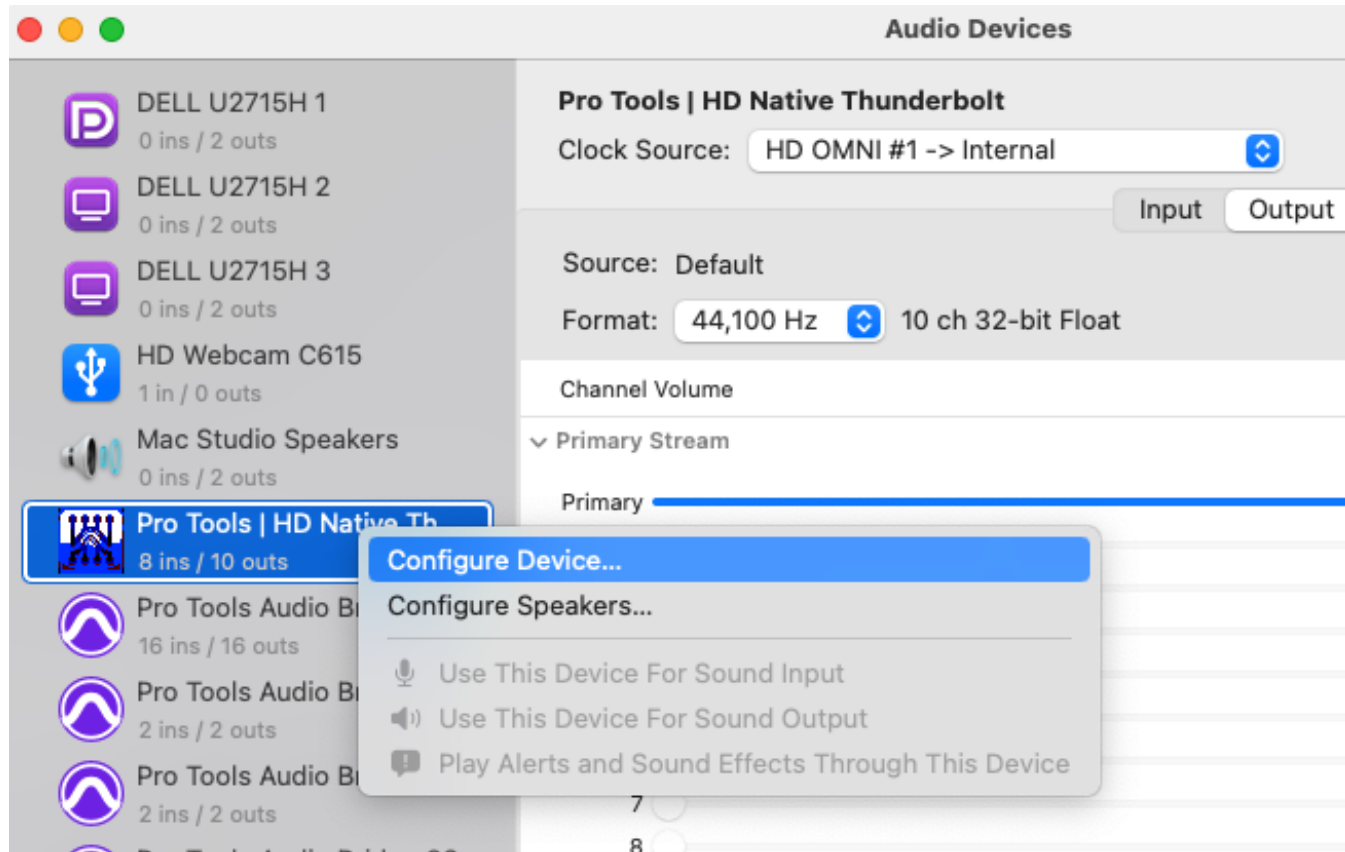
# The **Main** tab should look like this (your Sample Rate may be different):

# The **Analog In** tab should look like this:

# The **Monitor** tab should look like this:
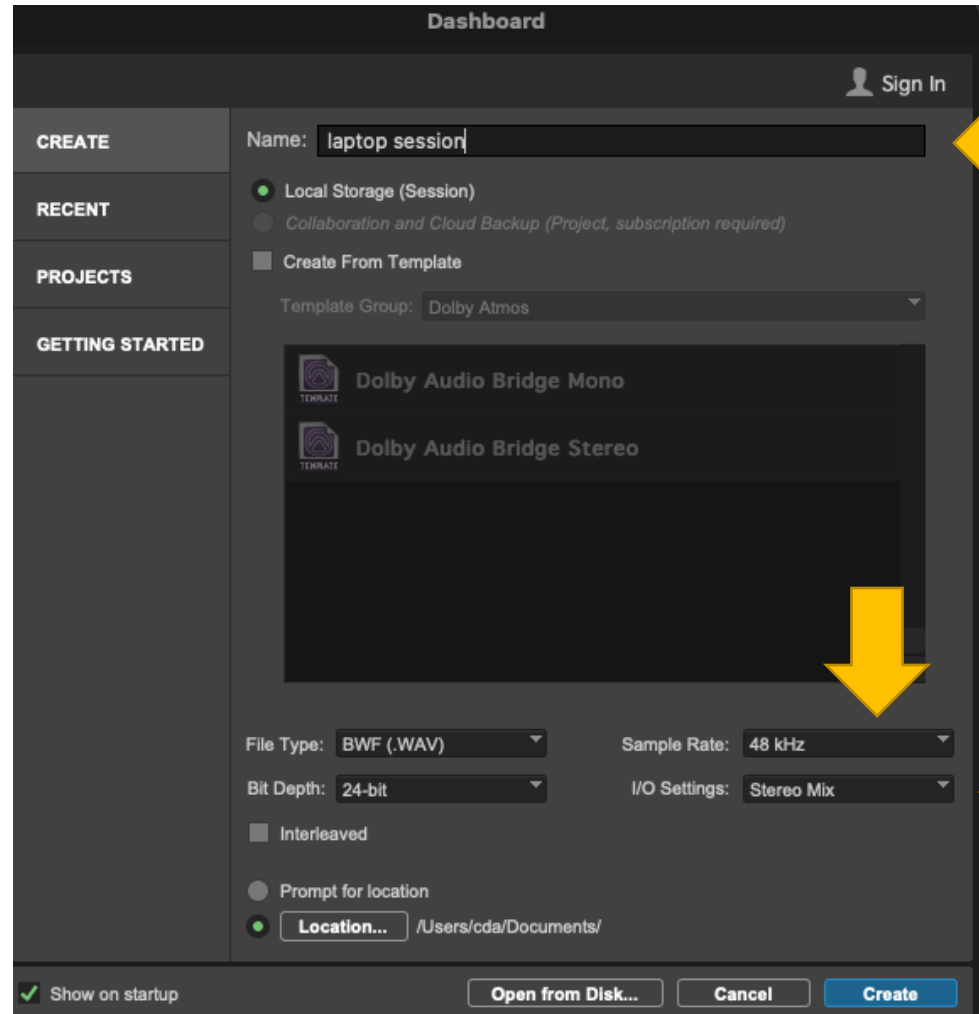
# Option Two

Using Pro Tools to Monitor the Input

# Using Pro Tools to monitor the input
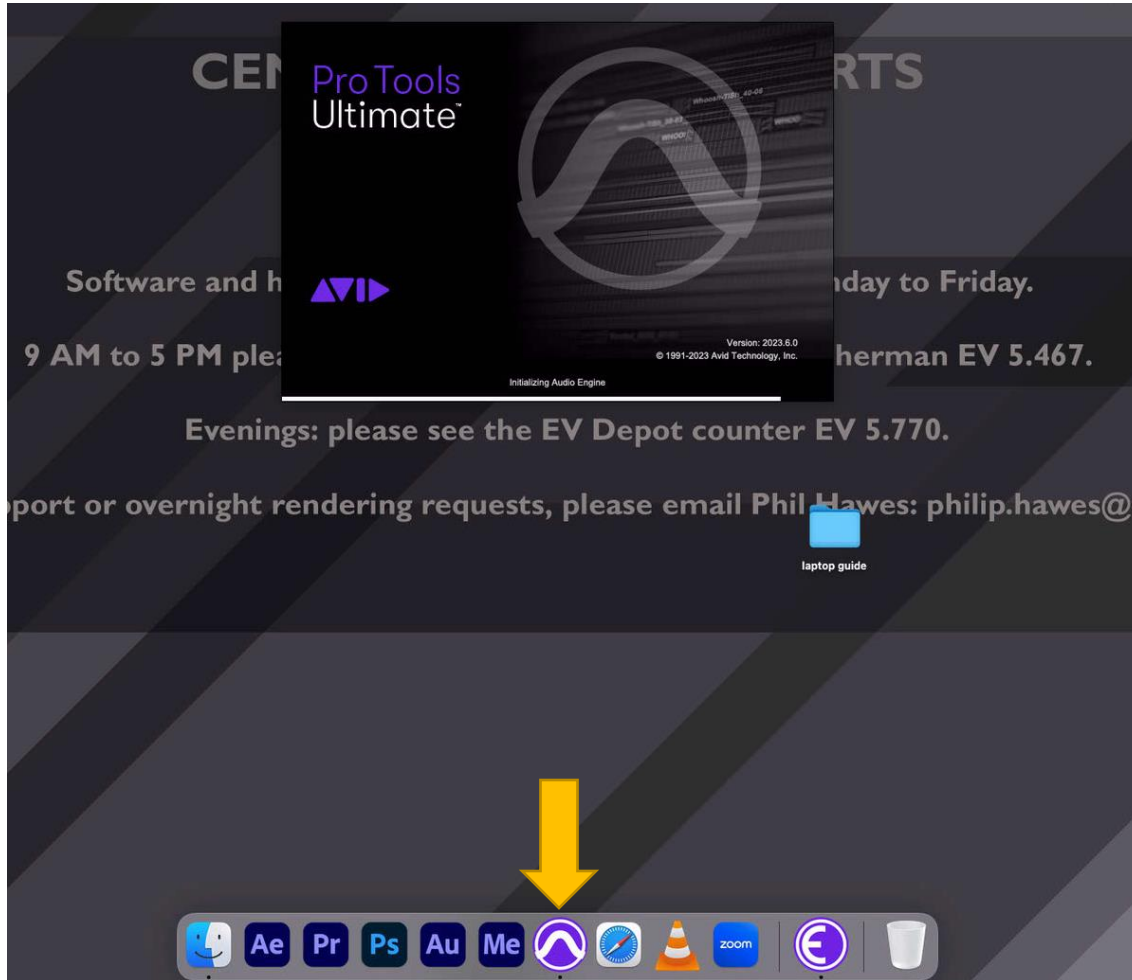


Launch Pro Tools.
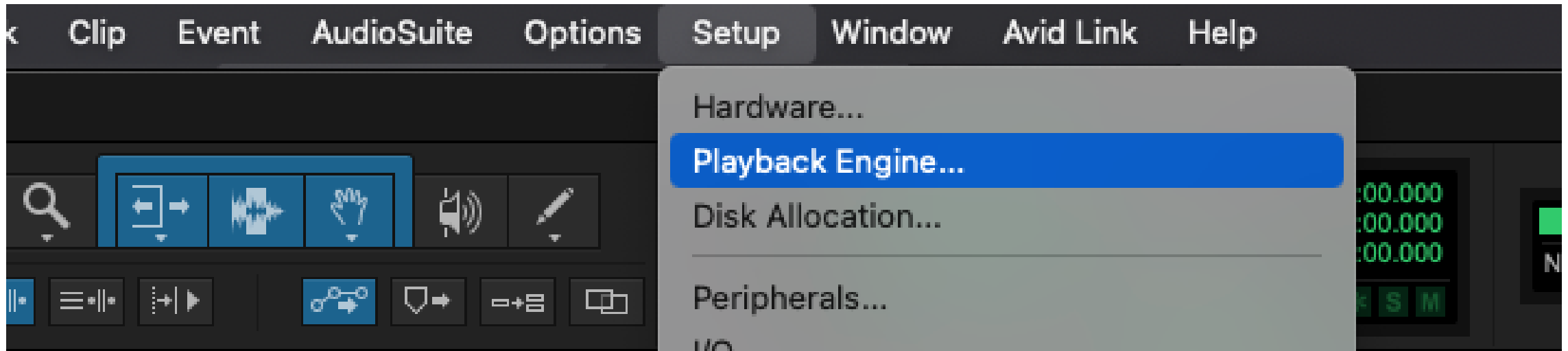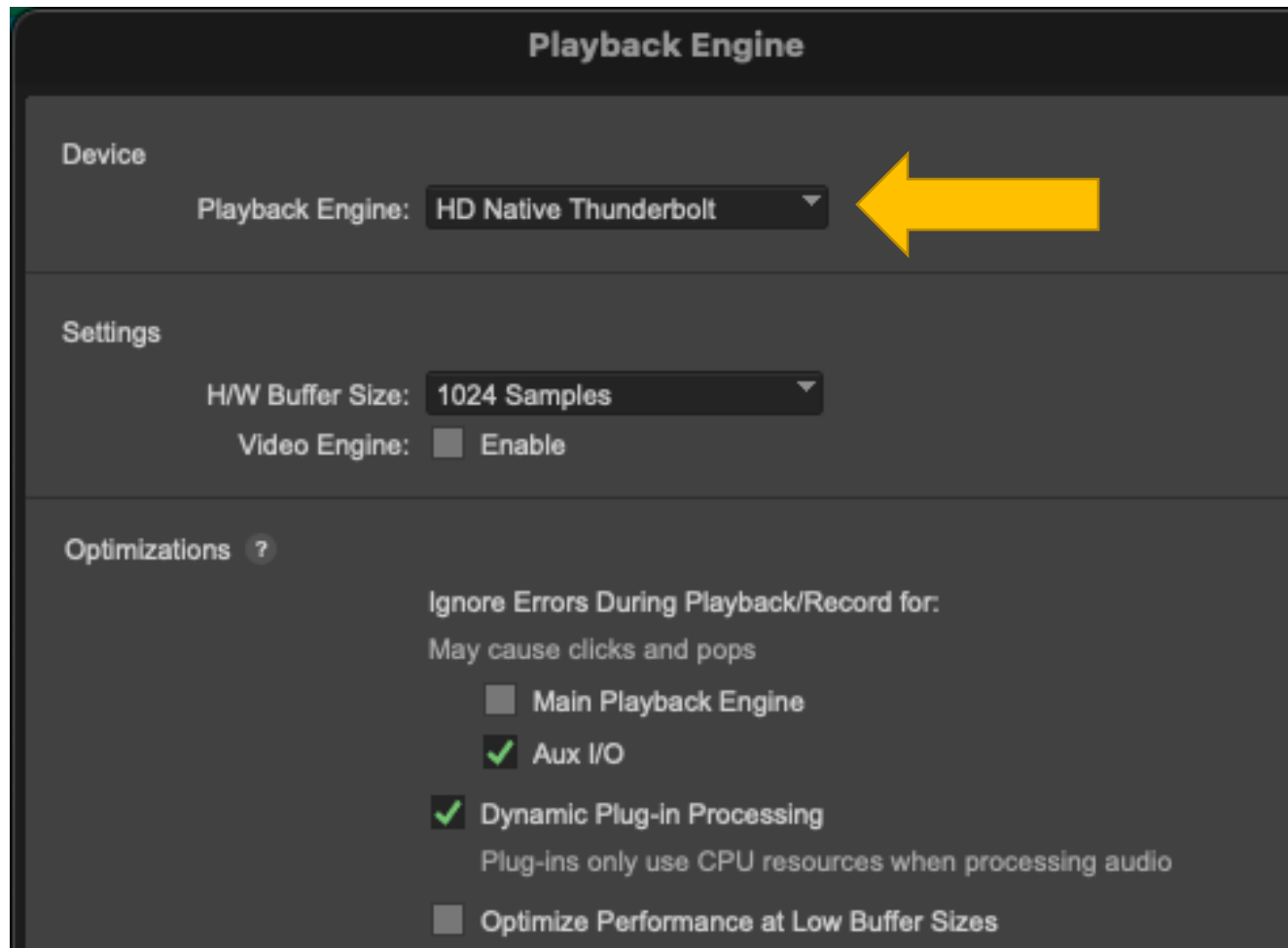
# Create a new Stereo Mix Session



Name the session.

Ideally you will set the sample rate to the sample rate of your audio project on your laptop (but it can be different).

Set I/O Settings to "Stereo Mix"

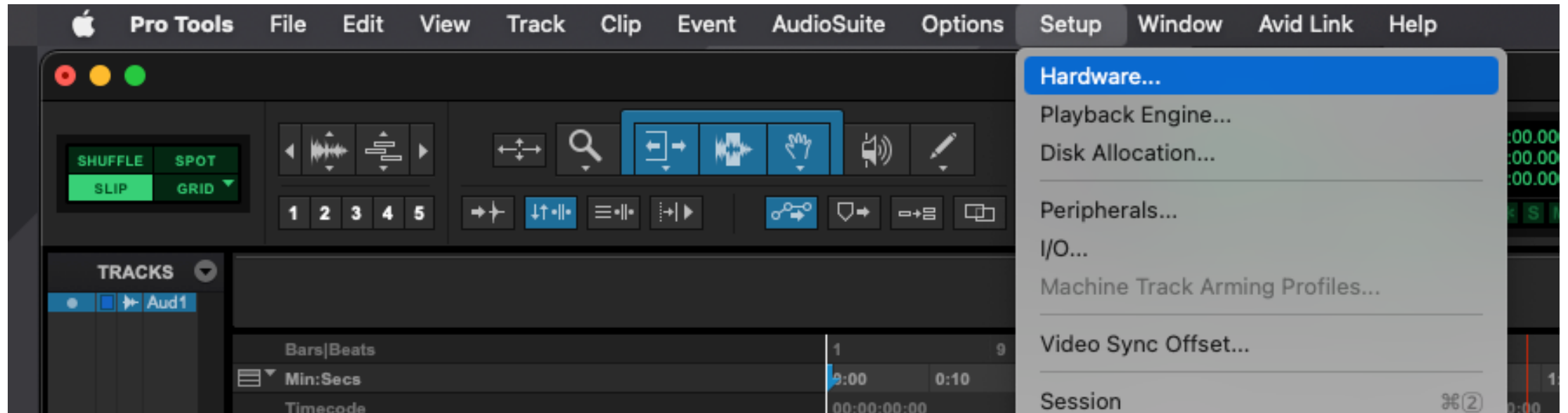In the new session, in the top menu, go to **Setup/Playback Engine.**

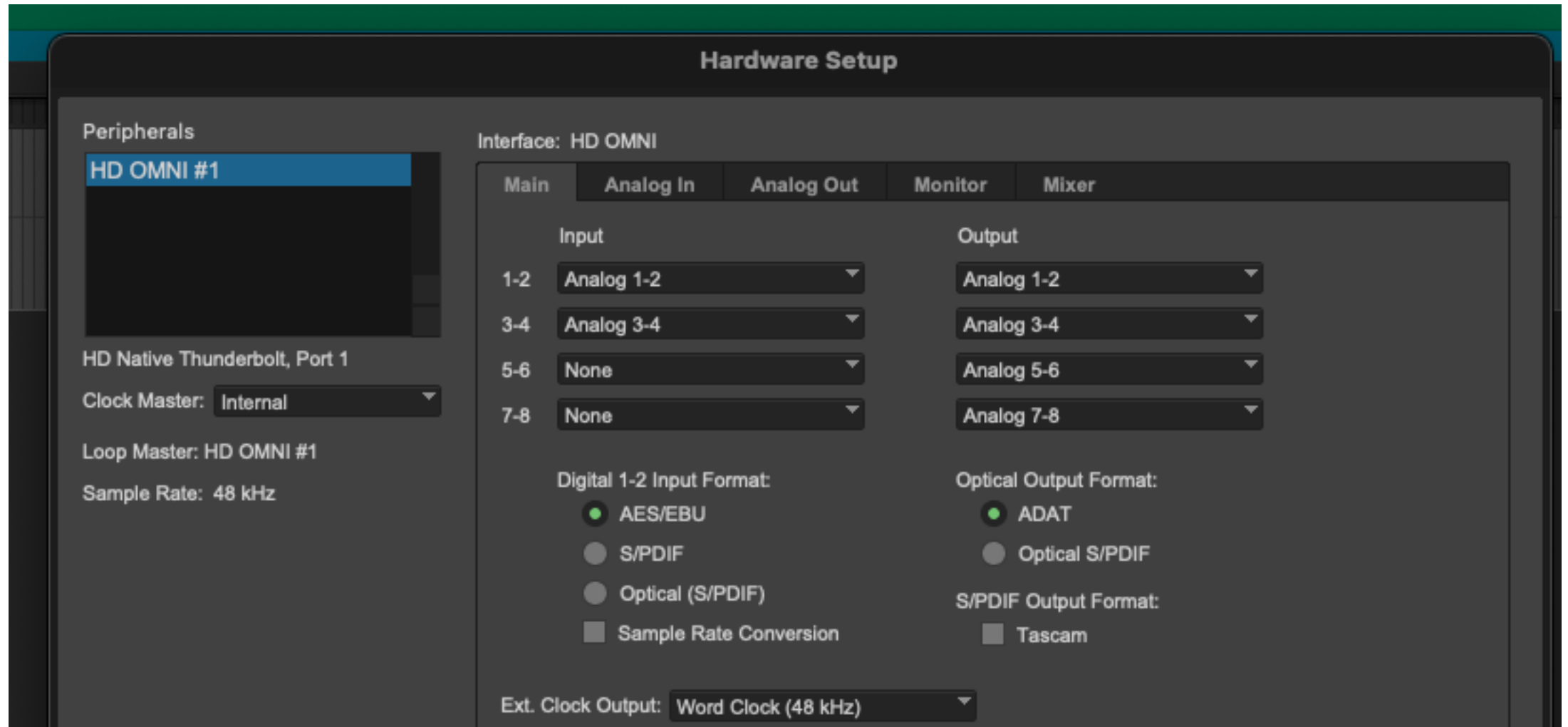# The Playback Engine should be: **HD Native Thunderbolt**



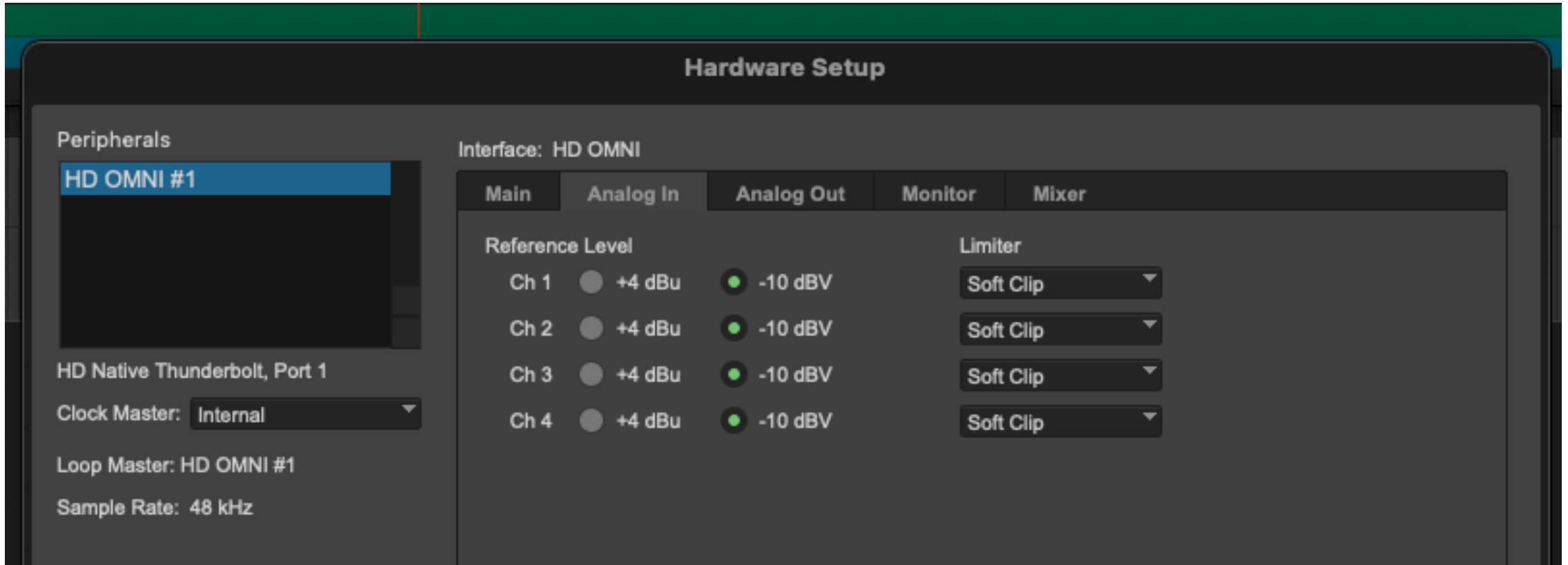The HD Native Thunderbolt is the AVID OMNI interface.

# Then go to Setup/Hardware:

# The **Main** tab should look like this. It is the Inputs and Outputs that are most important.

# The **Analog In** tab should look like this:

# The **Monitor** tab should look like this:

# Go to **Track/New**, to make a new audio track.
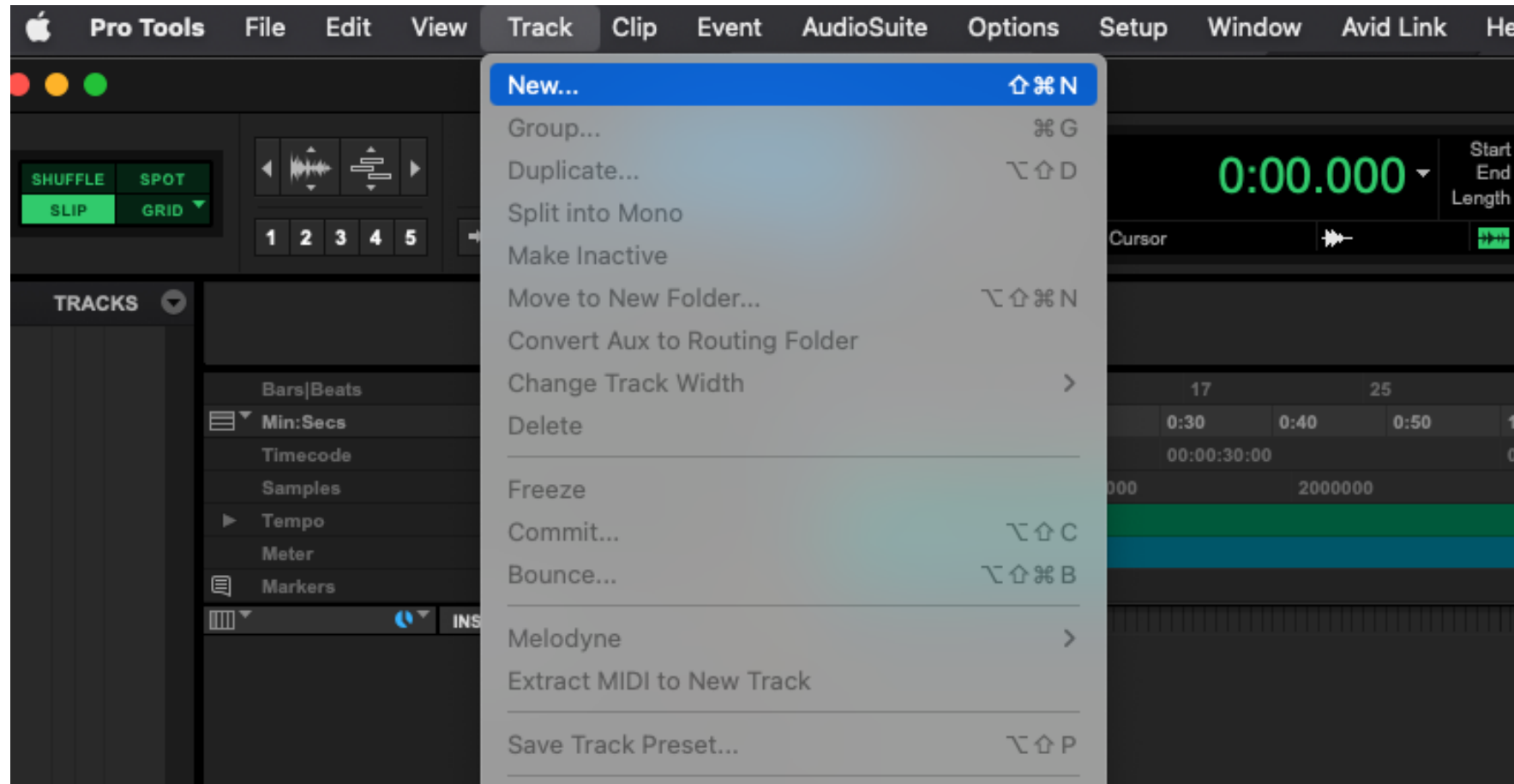
# Make a Stereo Audio Track.
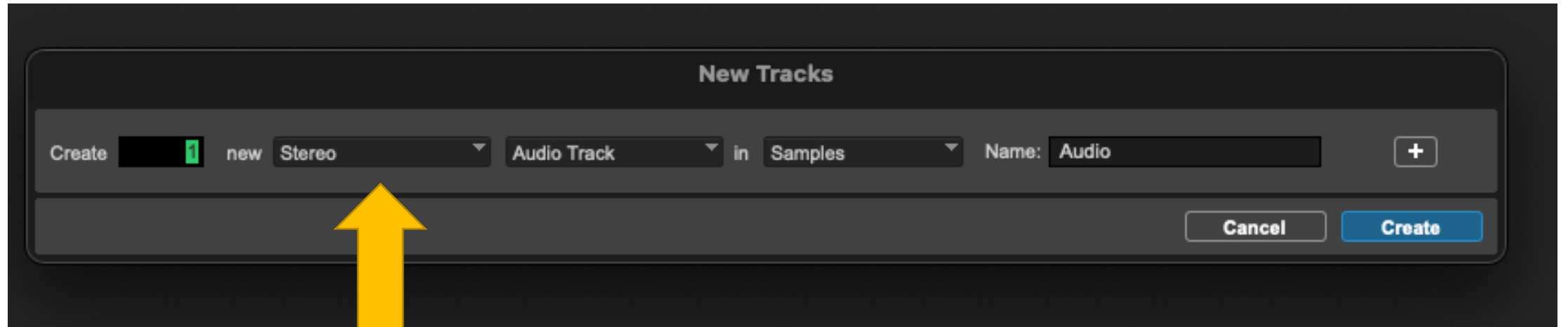
# On the audio track make sure that it is displaying the **I/O options** for the track.
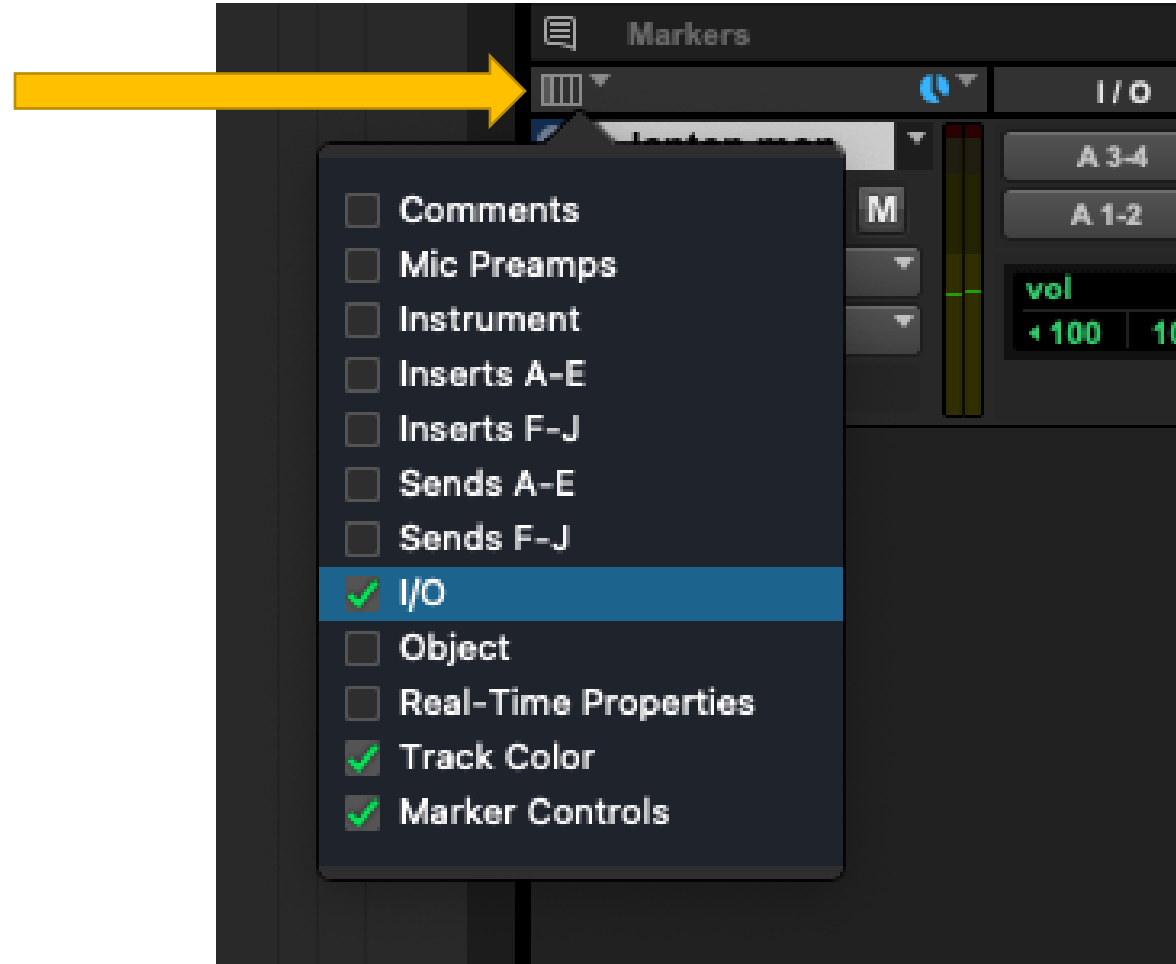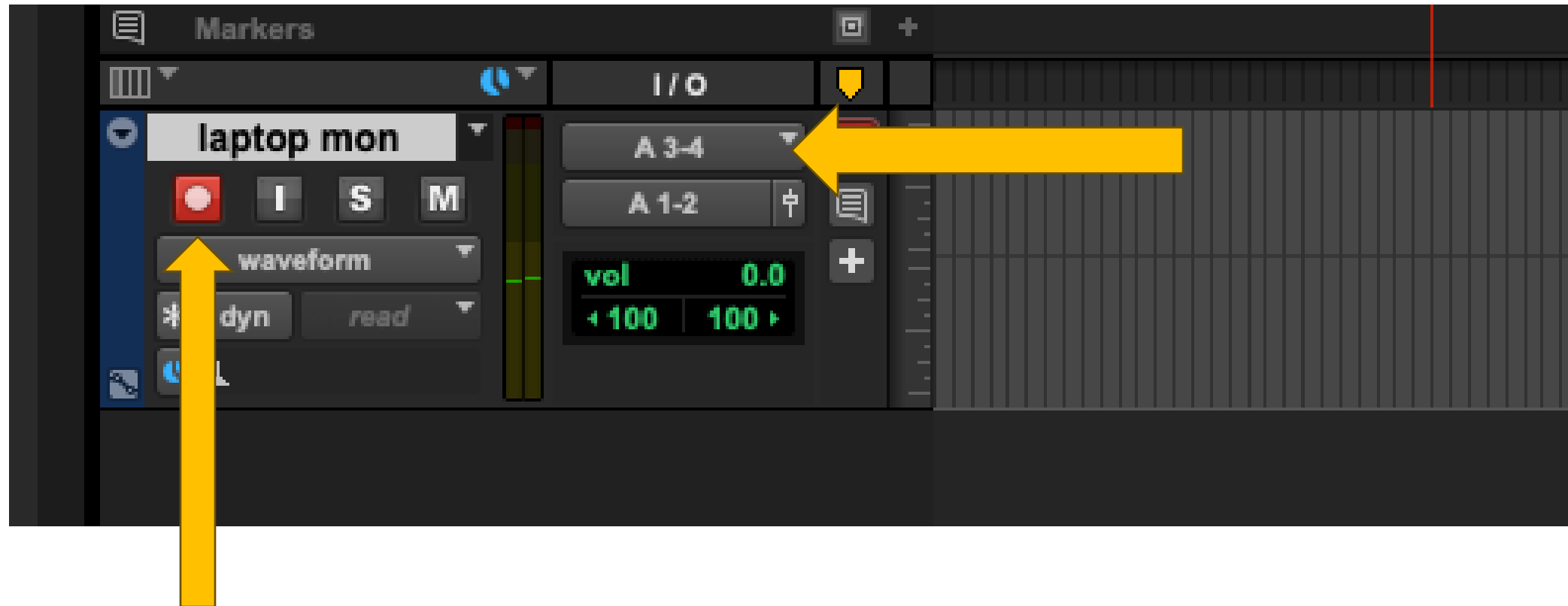
Click on this icon to get the track display options.

# Set the track inputs to A 3-4. Outputs to A 1-2.



Then press the monitor record button. You should hear the audio from your laptop.

# Engage the AIR Remote



Moving the volume dial on the AIR remote will turn on the speakers.

Switch on the L and R buttons to activate the Left and Right speakers.

Note that when monitoring stereo in the CDA Mixing Suite, only the Left and Right speakers are used. The subwoofer (SUB) is not used.

# Multi-Channel Playback

If you require multi-channel playback from a laptop, this is also possible but beyond the scope of this guide.

Request a driver for the AVID OMNI interface from a CDA technician. You must have a laptop with an compatible operating system.

Please contact Phil Hawes: philip.hawes@concordia.ca