



PT Freezer Helper

User Manual

Version 1.0 | macOS

1. Overview

PT Freezer Helper is a macOS utility designed to streamline the track archiving workflow in Avid Pro Tools® . It connects directly to Pro Tools® via the PTSL (Pro Tools® Scripting Language) API and lets you inspect, sort, filter, and send batch-freeze or unfreeze tracks commands to the opened session.

1.1 Key Features

- Live connection to Pro Tools® via gRPC/PTSL
- Import the full track list from the open Pro Tools® session in one click
- Filter tracks by type, frozen state, and more
- Batch freeze or unfreeze any combination of tracks
- Delete tracks from the list without affecting the Pro Tools® session
- Undo / Redo for all list operations
- Save and reload session track data as a plain-text file
- Trial and permanent license system

1.2 System Requirements

Operating System	macOS 13 or later (Apple Silicon)
Pro Tools®	Pro Tools® 2023.x or later with PTSL enabled
Python	Python 3.9 or later (installed automatically on first launch)
Architecture	Apple Silicon (M1 / M2 / M3 / M4)

2. Installation

2.1 Installing PT Freezer Helper


- Download PT Freezer Helper from www.diegetixsound.com
- Double-click the downloaded .dmg file
- Drag PT Freezer Helper into your Applications folder
- Launch the app from the Applications folder or Launchpad

2.2 First-Launch Setup

On the very first launch, PT Freezer Helper automatically installs its Python dependencies. A setup panel will appear:

"Setting up Python environment... This only happens once and takes about 30 seconds."

The setup runs silently in the background. Once complete, the panel dismisses and the application loads normally. This step requires an internet connection to download the required packages.

 Subsequent launches skip this step entirely. The Python environment is stored in `~/Library/Application Support/PTFreezerHelper/`.

2.3 Enabling PTSL in Pro Tools®

PT Freezer Helper communicates with Pro Tools® via PTSL (Pro Tools® Scripting Language). PTSL must be enabled in Pro Tools® before the connection will work:

 PT Freezer Helper checks the connection every 5 seconds. The green "Pro Tools® : Connected" indicator at the bottom of the window confirms a live connection.

3. Interface

3.1 Header Bar

The header bar runs across the top of the window and contains the main controls.

Logo & Title	Diegetix Sound logo and "PT Freezer Helper" application name.
Session Badge	Displays the name of the currently loaded Pro Tools® session. Truncates with ellipsis if the name is long.
Track Count Badge	Shows the total number of tracks currently loaded in the list (e.g. "32 tracks").
Import Tracks	Connects to Pro Tools® and imports the full track list from the open session. Replaces any existing list.
Process Selected	Executes the Freeze or Unfreeze action for all checked tracks that have an action assigned. Disabled (grey) until at least one eligible track is checked.

3.2 Toolbar

The toolbar sits below the header and provides search and selection controls.

Search Box	Filters the track list in real time. Searches across track number, name, type, and status (Live, Frozen, Inactive, Muted).
Check All	Checks all tracks currently visible in the table (respects active filters).
Uncheck All	Unchecks all tracks in the list.
View Selected	Hides all unchecked tracks, showing only checked tracks.
View All	Clears all Show and Hide filters and displays all tracks.
Undo	Reverts the last list operation (action change, deletion, process). Shortcut: Cmd+Z.
Redo	Re-applies an undone operation. Shortcut: Cmd+Shift+Z.

3.3 Left Panel

The left panel provides session information, statistics, and filtering controls.

Session

Displays metadata about the loaded session:

- Name — session file name
- Sample Rate — e.g. SR_44100 or SR_48000
- Bit Depth — e.g. Bit16 or Bit24
- TC Start — session start timecode
- TC Format — timecode format (e.g. STCR_Fps24)

Statistics

Shows a live count of frozen and unfrozen tracks from the current list. Updates automatically after any operation.

Delete Selected

Removes all checked tracks from the list. This does not affect the actual Pro Tools® session — it only removes tracks from the PT Freezer Helper display. The operation is fully undoable with Cmd+Z.

A counter below the button shows how many tracks are currently selected.

Show Tracks

Controls which track types are visible. When no boxes are checked, all track types are shown. Checking one or more boxes shows only those types:

- Audio Tracks — all audio tracks regardless of clip content
- Audio Tracks with Clips — audio tracks that contain at least one clip

- Aux Tracks
- Instrument Tracks
- Master Tracks
- Routing Folders
- Frozen Tracks — tracks currently frozen in Pro Tools®

Hide Tracks

These track types are hidden by default. Uncheck to reveal them:

- Basic Folders
- MIDI Tracks
- VCA Tracks
- Video Tracks
- Inactive Tracks

3.4 Track Table

The track table is the main work area. Each row represents one track from the Pro Tools® session.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No.	Type	Track Name	Status	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Audio	Dialogue.L	Live	Freeze
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Aux	Bus 1-2	Frozen	Unfreeze
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	Instr	Kontakt 1	Live	Do Nothing
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Folder	FX Group	—	—

Column Descriptions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Checkbox)	Selects the track for bulk operations. Shift-click to select a range. Disabled for track types that cannot be frozen (Folder, VCA, MIDI).
No.	Track index number from the Pro Tools® session.
Type	Coloured pill showing the track type: Audio (blue), Aux (green), Master (purple), Instr (orange), R.Folder (olive), Folder (yellow), VCA (grey), MIDI (green), Video (brown).
Track Name	The track name as it appears in Pro Tools® . Hover to see the full name if truncated.
Status	Live (green) — track is active and unfrozen. Frozen (blue) — track is currently frozen. Muted (orange badge) — track is muted. Inactive (grey badge) — track is inactive in Pro Tools® .
Action	Dropdown to assign a freeze action: Do Nothing, Freeze, or Unfreeze. Option-click to apply an action to all checked tracks at once.

3.5 Status Bar

The status bar runs along the bottom of the window.

• Ready	Green when the application is ready. Shows the result of the last operation.
• Pro Tools® : Connected	Green when a live PTSL connection to Pro Tools® is active. Grey while connecting, red if disconnected.
N selected	Track selection counter (bottom right). Shows how many tracks are currently checked.

4. Workflows

4.1 Importing Tracks from Pro Tools®

- Make sure Pro Tools® is open with a session loaded
- Confirm the "Pro Tools® : Connected" indicator is green
- Click Import Tracks in the header
- The full track list loads into the table, grouped by Pro Tools® order
- Session metadata appears in the left panel


Importing replaces the current list. Save a TXT file first if you want to keep the current state.

4.2 Freezing Tracks

- Import tracks from Pro Tools®
- Use the Show/Hide filters or search box to find the tracks you want to freeze
- Check the tracks you want to freeze
- Set the Action dropdown to "Freeze" for each track, or Option-click one Action dropdown to apply Freeze to all checked tracks at once
- Click Process Selected
- PT Freezer Helper sends the freeze commands to Pro Tools® . The Status column updates to "Frozen" for each successful track

4.3 Unfreezing Tracks

- Same workflow as freezing, but set the Action to "Unfreeze".

 The Status column shows the current frozen state. Frozen tracks default to the "Unfreeze" action and Live tracks default to "Freeze" to save time.

4.4 Filtering and Selecting Tracks

PT Freezer Helper provides multiple ways to narrow down the track list:

By Type

Use the Show Tracks checkboxes in the left panel. For example, check "Audio Tracks" and "Instrument Tracks" to see only those types.

By Status

Check "Frozen Tracks" under Show Tracks to see only currently frozen tracks.

By Search

Type in the search box to filter by track number, name, type, or status. The list updates instantly as you type.

Range Selection

Click a checkbox to select a track. Then Shift-click another checkbox to select all tracks in between.

4.5 Deleting Tracks from the List

You can remove tracks from the PT Freezer Helper list without affecting the Pro Tools® session. This is useful for focusing on a subset of tracks.

- Check the tracks you want to remove
- Click Delete Selected in the left panel
- The selected tracks are removed from the list
- Press Cmd+Z to restore them if needed

4.6 Undo and Redo

PT Freezer Helper maintains a full undo history for all list operations:

- Action changes (Freeze / Unfreeze / Do Nothing)
- Track deletions
- Process Selected results

Undo	Cmd+Z or click the Undo button in the toolbar
Redo	Cmd+Shift+Z or click the Redo button in the toolbar

Undo does not reverse the actual freeze/unfreeze operation in Pro Tools® — only the state display in PT Freezer Helper. To re-freeze a track in Pro Tools®, set the action back to Freeze and click Process Selected again.

4.7 Saving and Loading TXT Files

PT Freezer Helper can save the current track list to a plain-text file and reload it later — useful for archiving session states or working without Pro Tools® connected.

Saving

Go to File > Save TXT File (Cmd+S)

A save dialog appears with a suggested filename: [Session Name]_[Date]_[Time].txt

Choose a location and click Save

Loading

Go to File > Open TXT File (Cmd+O)

Select a previously saved .txt file

The track list loads with the correct track names, types, and frozen status

TXT files capture the track state at the time of saving. They do not update automatically when the Pro Tools® session changes.

5. Menu Reference

PT Freezer Helper Menu

About PT Freezer Helper	Opens the About panel with version, platform, and contact information.
Enter License Key...	Opens the license activation screen to enter a permanent license key.
Hide PT Freezer Helper	Hides the application window (Cmd+H).
Hide Others	Hides all other application windows (Cmd+Option+H).
Quit PT Freezer Helper	Quits the application (Cmd+Q).

File Menu

Open TXT File...	Loads a previously saved track list from a .txt file (Cmd+O).
Save TXT File...	Saves the current track list to a .txt file with session name and timestamp (Cmd+S).
Process Selected	Executes freeze/unfreeze actions on checked tracks (Cmd+P).

Edit Menu

Undo	Undoes the last list operation (Cmd+Z).
Redo	Redoes the last undone operation (Cmd+Shift+Z).
Select All	Checks all visible tracks (Cmd+A).
Deselect All	Unchecks all tracks (Cmd+D).
Focus Search	Moves focus to the search box (Cmd+F).

Window Menu

Always on Top	Toggles the PT Freezer Helper window above all other windows. Useful when working alongside Pro Tools®.
Minimise	Minimises the window to the Dock (Cmd+M).

Help Menu

PT Freezer Helper Help	Opens the user manual PDF.
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6. Track Types and Status Reference

6.1 Track Type Pills

Label	Colour	Pro Tools® Track Type
Audio	Blue	Standard audio track
Aux	Green	Auxiliary input track
Master	Purple	Master fader track
Instr	Orange	Instrument (MIDI+audio) track
R.Folder	Olive	Routing folder track
Folder	Yellow	Basic folder (organisational only)
VCA	Blue-grey	VCA master track
MIDI	Green	MIDI track
Video	Brown	Video track

6.2 Track Status

Status	Meaning
Live	Track is active and not frozen. Eligible for the Freeze action.
Frozen	Track is currently frozen in Pro Tools® . Eligible for the Unfreeze action.
Muted	Track is muted in Pro Tools® . Can still be frozen or unfrozen.
Inactive	Track is inactive in Pro Tools® . Cannot be frozen or unfrozen. Checkbox is disabled.

6.3 Freeze Eligibility

Not all track types can be frozen. The Action dropdown and checkbox are disabled for track types that do not support freezing:

Track Type	Can Freeze?	Action Available?
Audio	Yes	Freeze / Unfreeze / Do Nothing
Aux	Yes	Freeze / Unfreeze / Do Nothing
Master	Yes	Freeze / Unfreeze / Do Nothing
Instrument	Yes	Freeze / Unfreeze / Do Nothing
Routing Folder	Yes	Freeze / Unfreeze / Do Nothing
Basic Folder	No	—
VCA	No	—
MIDI	No	—
Video	No	—

7. License

7.1 Trial Mode

PT Freezer Helper includes a 14-day free trial. During the trial, a banner appears at the top of the window:

"Trial: X days remaining — Click to activate"

Click the banner to open the activation screen. You can dismiss it and continue using the trial by clicking "Continue with trial".

The trial is tied to your machine. Reinstalling the application does not reset the trial period.

7.2 Activating a License

- Click the trial banner, or go to PT Freezer Helper > Enter License Key...
- Enter your license key in the format: PTFH-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX
- Click Activate

The banner disappears and the license is stored permanently on your machine

7.3 Purchasing a License

Licenses are available from www.diegetixsound.com. Each license is for a single machine.

8. Troubleshooting

8.1 Pro Tools® : Not Connected

If the status bar shows "Pro Tools® : Not connected" or stays grey:

- Confirm Pro Tools® is open with a session loaded
- Verify that PTSL is enabled in Pro Tools® > Setup > Preferences > Processing
- Restart Pro Tools® and wait 10 seconds for the connection to re-establish
- Check that no firewall or security software is blocking localhost port 8765

8.2 First-Launch Setup Fails

If the first-launch spinner appears but the app fails to load:

- Ensure your Mac has an **active internet connection** during first launch
- Confirm Python 3.9 or later is installed (`/usr/bin/python3 --version` in Terminal)
- If Python is missing, install Xcode Command Line Tools: `xcode-select --install`
- Delete `~/Library/Application Support/PTFreezerHelper/` and relaunch to retry the setup

8.3 Import Tracks Returns No Tracks

If Import Tracks completes but the list is empty:

- Make sure a session is open in Pro Tools®
- Check that the session has at least one visible, active track
- Try switching to Pro Tools® and back, then import again

8.4 Freeze / Unfreeze Has No Effect

If Process Selected completes but tracks remain in the same state:

- Verify the track name in PT Freezer Helper matches exactly the track name in Pro Tools®
- Re-import the tracks to refresh the list
- Check the Pro Tools® session for any modal dialogs that may be blocking operations

8.5 Application Crashes on Launch

If PT Freezer Helper crashes immediately on launch:

- Delete ~/Library/Application Support/PTFreezerHelper/ and relaunch
- Check macOS Security & Privacy settings — the app must be allowed to run
- Contact diegetixsound@gmail.com with a description of the issue

9. Keyboard Shortcuts

Shortcut	Action
Cmd+O	Open TXT File
Cmd+S	Save TXT File
Cmd+P	Process Selected
Cmd+Z	Undo
Cmd+Shift+Z	Redo
Cmd+A	Select All (Check All)
Cmd+D	Deselect All (Uncheck All)
Cmd+F	Focus Search Box
Cmd+H	Hide PT Freezer Helper
Cmd+Q	Quit PT Freezer Helper
Cmd+M	Minimise Window
Shift+click	Range-select checkboxes
Option+click	Apply action to all checked tracks



10. Contact & Support

Website	www.diegetixsound.com
Support	diegetixsound@gmail.com
Developer	Frederic Dubois
Company	Diegetix Sound LLC
Platform	macOS — Apple Silicon

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