

Source-Talkback Getting Started Guide



Introduction

Source-Talkback is a plug-in pair designed to enable talkback functionality without requiring external hardware, using a single keyboard stroke for toggle and latch. Simply place the Talkback plug-ins on your aux track before your talkback input, and on your Master fader. Hold down the '\ ' key for toggle, or shift+\ for latch. Talkback allows for an engineer to talk to talent either over Source-Connect and/or in a local booth while not getting feedback through the monitoring speakers. Source-Talkback is also compatible with any remote connection method, for example ISDN, regardless of where you get your signal from.

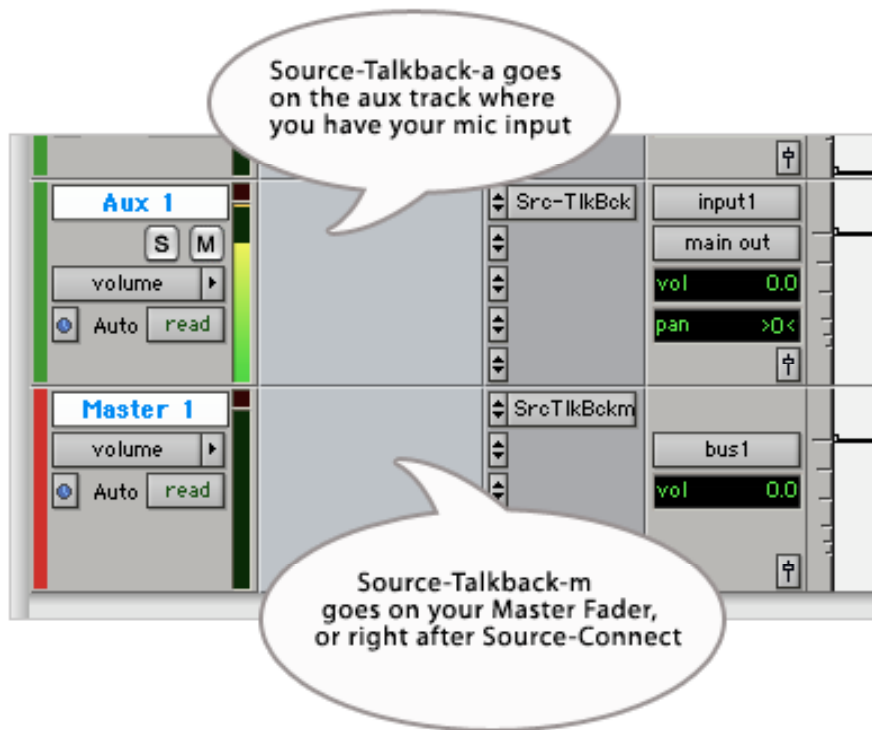
Source-Talkback features system-wide recognition, so you don't need to have either of the plug-in windows open, or even to have Pro Tools be the front-most application. Read on for details usage instructions, and how to place Source-Talkback into your Pro Tools session.

Why do I need Source-Talkback?

When working with talent at your studio or remotely via Source-Connect (or any other method of connecting to another studio) whether it is across the hallway or across the world – you probably want to listen to the connection over your speakers rather than over headphones. This means that your connected partners will hear themselves back in your microphone, making it difficult for them to speak. If you are in your studio, you may have hardware at your disposal that provides talkback functionality: some analog mixers or control surfaces such as the D-Control come with built-in talkback functions. However if you are on the road or using a smaller setup like a Pro Tools LE or M-Powered, you may not have built-in talkback. The Source-Talkback plug-ins solves this problem for you, more efficiently and more conveniently than spending more money on an additional hardware piece to lug around just for a single, simple feature.

Getting Started

1. If you haven't already, buy a full license or request a full-featured demonstration license, from source-elements.com. Transfer the license from your iLok.com account to your physical iLok dongle.
2. Download Source-Talkback from the Support page on source-elements.com and run the installer. Make sure Pro Tools isn't running, or you won't see the plug-in. Launch Pro Tools.
3. You'll need to create a separate auxiliary track for your talkback, if you don't already do this in your sessions. Select your mic input and make sure the volume is up (Pro Tools aux tracks default to -inf volume).
4. Insert the 'Source-Talkback-a' plug-in on your Aux track from the RTAS->Other menu
5. Create a new Master Fader track. Insert the 'Source-Talkback-m' plug-in here.
6. If you wish, change the Talkback Dim level on the Master fader plug-in.



Talkback usage

Source-Talkback takes two key commands and has one menu. It also accepts a mouse click on the 'Talkback' button in the plug-in window to toggle the 'latch' state.

Key command: '\'

The 'forward slash' key, usually found above the right-hand shift or return key on a standard keyboard.

Holding down this key enables the talkback volume, so your connected partner can hear you, and your master fader level is dimmed so they get as little feedback as possible from your speakers.

Key command: shift+'\' :

The shift key plus the forward slash key.

Hitting this key command once toggles and 'latches' the talkback - this means that you only need to hit the key command once, and Talkback will stay open until closed.

Closing Talkback:

If latched open, you can close Talkback either by another shift+\ key press, or a single '\ ' key press.

Menu: Talkback Dim

Depending on your needs, you may wish to modify the dim menu from the default -15db. The recommended values are -10db, -15db and -20db.

Visibility

Once one of the Source-Talkback plug-ins is visible in Pro Tools click on the red target in the upper right corner of the plug-in to deselect it from target mode. This will allow the plug-in to remain on the screen even when another plug-in is brought forward.

ListenBack:

Sometimes the musician in a local booth doesn't have a microphone nearby or at all. In this situation you can also set up one more aux input fed by a microphone in the musician room. Place Source-Talkback-a on this track. This aux is output to the engineer's monitor speakers and is switched on and off by toggling or latching Source-Talkback. This way you don't have a continuous feed from the microphone in the musician's room.

You can use as many Source-Talkback plug-ins as you need at the same time. Thus Talkback and ListenBack functionality can be simultaneous.

System-wide recognition

Source-Talkback will listen for the key commands regardless of whether you have either plug-in visible, and even if Pro Tools is a background application.

We recommend leaving at least one Talkback plug-in visible so you can see your status. It doesn't matter which, and we have designed them in two different sizes so you can choose which fits best on your screen.

Known issues:

If your cursor has selected a text field anywhere within Pro Tools, you will see a series of '\' whenever you use Source-Talkback. To avoid this, use the 'ESC' key. It will return your cursor focus back to Pro Tools, which doesn't recognize the forward slash key.