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REAPER

Quick Start Guide

For more information, see the PDF User Guide, the REAPER Power book, or visit forum.cockos.com

Setup

Audio	Click on audio info at right side of menu bar, or Options ► Preferences [Ctrl+P] ► Audio ► Device
VST plug-ins	Options ► Preferences [Ctrl+P] ►Plug-ins ► VST
Configure MIDI devices	Options ► Prefs [Ctrl+P] ►Audio ► MIDI Devices
Control surface	Options ► Preferences [Ctrl+P] ► Control Surfaces

General

Set edit cursor	Click timeline
Define loop selection	Click and drag timeline, [Esc] clears
Define time selection	Click and drag empty track area, [Esc] clears
Link loop/time sel	Options ► Loop points linked to time sel
Toggle loop playback	[R] or use Transport Bar
Set time sel to item	[Shift]+double-click on item
Move time selection	[Shift] drag with mouse, [Shift+Ctrl] ignores snap
Snap to grid	Magnet button on toolbar, right-click for settings

Recording and Playback

Create / save file	File ► New Project [Ctrl+N] / Save [Ctrl+S]
Insert track(s)	Insert ► Track [Ctrl+T] or double-click below last track
Name tracks	Double-click track name area
Insert click source	Select track, Insert ► Click Source
Insert synth track	Insert ► Virtual instrument on new track
Arm for recording	Click on track(s) record arm button
Assign track input(s)	Right-click track(s) record arm button
Monitor track input	Right-click track(s) record arm button
Record start/stop	[Ctrl+R]/[Space], or use transport bar
Play/stop project	[Space], or use transport bar
Pause project	[Enter], or use transport bar
Record new take(s)	Record on track with existing take, [Ctrl+L] for lanes
Overdub time/items	Options ► Record mode
Tape style recording	Options ► Trim content behind items when recording

Render Audio to File

Render project to file	File ► Render [Ctrl+Alt+R] ► Master Mix
Render selected tracks	File ► Render [Ctrl+Alt+R] ► Stems
Consolidate media for export	File ► Consolidate/export tracks
Render items with FX	Right-click item ► Apply track FX as new take
Render items for use by another application	[Ctrl+Alt]+drag item to render new item, [Shift+Ctrl+Alt]+drag to export existing file

Tracks

Show/hide mixer	View ► Mixer, or [Ctrl+M]
Insert FX, envelopes	Track control buttons, right-click for options
Create sends	Drag/drop from track I/O button to destination track
Create submix	Insert track above submix tracks, click folder button
Save/load track template	Track ► Save/insert track template

Extended Mixer

Show extended mixer (sends, FX inserts, more)	Drag top edge of mixer upwards
Customize mixer view	Right-click empty mixer space, or MASTER label

Navigation

Go project start	[W] or [Home] or use transport bar
Go project end	[End] or use transport bar
Go next/prev track	[Ctrl+Alt+Down] / [Ctrl+Alt+Up]
Zoom in horizontal	[-] minus key or mousewheel
Zoom out horizontal	[+] plus key or mousewheel
Zoom in vertical	[PageUp] or [Ctrl]+mousewheel
Zoom out vertical	[PageDown] or [Ctrl]+mousewheel
Zoom to time sel	[Ctrl+PageUp]
Zoom to project	[Ctrl+PageDown] or double-click scroll bar
Scroll horizontal	[Alt]+mousewheel
Scroll vertical	[Ctrl+Alt]+mousewheel

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Item Editing

Import media item	View ► Media Explorer, or Insert ► Media File, or drag+drop into REAPER
Marquee select items	Right-drag
Move Item	Drag item, or cut+paste, [Shift] ignores snap
Copy Item	[Ctrl]+drag item, or copy+paste, [Shift] ignores snap
Edit item position, loop, fades, pitch, etc	Right-click item ►Item properties, or [F2]
Edit item start/end	Drag item left or right edge
Loop item	Drag item right edge further right
Edit item fadein/out	Drag item fade handle
Change fade shape	Right-click fade, [Shift]+right-click for crossfades
Crossfade items	Enable auto-crossfades (toolbar) and drag items, or select items and time ► [X]
Move crossfade	[Shift]+drag crossfade edge
Split items	Select item and place edit cursor ► [S]
Move splits	Drag shared edge between items
Delete part of Item	Select item and time ► [Ctrl+Delete]
Edit item volume	Drag down from top edge of item
Glue items (as new file)	Select items, right-click ►Glue selected items
Timestretch item	[Alt]+drag item edge
Slip item contents	[Alt]+drag item
Tape style editing	Options ► Trim content behind items when editing

Takes and Comping

Display takes in lanes	[Ctrl+L]
Split at edit cursor	Select item, then right-click, Split Items [S]
Select take	Click take
Next/previous take	[T], [Shift+T]
Crop to active take	[Alt+Shift+T]
Explode takes	Right-click item ► Take ► Explode...
Select next/prev take	[T] / [Shift+T]
Play all takes	[F2] ► Play all takes
Add FX to take	Right-click item ► Take ► Show FX chain
Create take envelope	Right-click item ► Take ►Take envelope
Free Item Positioning	Right-click track number ► Enable free item pos

MIDI Devices and Editing

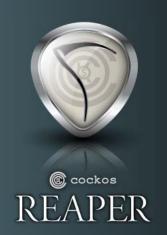|	
Assign MIDI controls to REAPER actions	Actions ► Show action list [?]
MIDI panic	Actions ► Send all notes off [F3]
Reset MIDI hardware	Actions ►Reset all MIDI devices
Add MIDI track control	Right-click track number ► Show MIDI control
Open MIDI editor	Double-click MIDI item
Open in-line editor	Select MIDI item ►[E]
Explode pitch/channel	Right-click MIDI item ► Item processing ► Explode

Track and Item FX

Change FX order	Drag and drop up/down FX chain
Float individual FX	Double click FX name in FX chain
Save/load FX chain	FX chain window ► FX ► Save/load FX Chain
Adjust wet/dry FX mix	Wet/dry control, top right of FX window (Wet %)
Bypass one FX	Uncheck box in FX chain or FX window
Bypass track FX	Click track FX bypass button (next to FX button)
Bypass all FX	[Ctrl]+click any track FX bypass button
FX parameter envelopes, MIDI learn, track knobs	Move FX knob, click Param button

Automation Envelopes

Create track envelopes	Track env button, or [V] for volume, [P] for pan
Create/delete env points	[Shift]+click / [Alt]+click envelope
Edit env segments	Drag segment
Edit segment curvature	[Alt]+drag segment
Freehand draw envelope	[Ctrl]+drag in envelope lape
Set automation mode	Track env button

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Actions

Open Actions list	Actions ► Show Action list [?]
Search for action	Enter search words in Action list filter box
Assign or change action keyboard/MIDI shortcut	Select action, edit Shortcuts for Selected Action
Assign actions to menus or toolbar buttons	Options ► Customize menus/toolbars

Tempo and Time Signature

Set project tempo	Edit BPM field in transport
Tap tempo	Click BPM button on transport
Set project time signature	Click current tempo/time signature display on transport
Show project tempo/ time signature map	View ► Master Track [Ctrl+Shift+M], click Env button, click Tempo Map Visible
Create timeline tempo/ time signature changes	Right-click timeline ► Insert time signature marker
Create tempo map from recorded material	Make time selection, right-click timeline ► Create measure from time selection

Markers and Regions

Create marker at cursor	[M], or [Shift+M] for named marker
Create region	Select time, [Shift+R]
Name marker or region	[Shift]+double-click marker or region number
Go to marker	[Marker Number], or [Ctrl+J]
Move/copy region	Drag / [Ctrl]+drag
Delete marker or region	[Alt]+click marker or region number

General Advice

Right-click everything to find out what it does
Use the Actions list
See REAPER tips by right-clicking the area just above the transport
forum.cockos.com is a valuable resource
Have fun!