

# User Manual: Audio Project Sanitizer 2.8

## 1. Introduction: What Does This Program Do?

This program is a tool designed to save you hours of work preparing audio files (also known as *stems*) for a mixing session. It automates the most common and tedious tasks:

- Cleans up unnecessary system files (e.g., hidden macOS files).
- Analyzes your tracks to identify if they are **mono**, **stereo**, or "**dual mono**" (a stereo file with two identical channels).
- Automatically converts inefficient files (like "dual mono") to true mono.
- Finds and merges separate Left (L) and Right (R) tracks into a single stereo file.
- Allows you to **visually organize** all your tracks into categories (Drums, Bass, Vocals, etc.).
- Finally, it renames and sorts all the files into clean folders, ready to be imported into your DAW (Pro Tools, Logic, Reaper, Cubase, etc.).

**In short: it turns a messy folder of files into a professionally organized mixing project.**

## 2. Before You Begin: An Essential Prerequisite

- **Create a Backup:** The program moves and renames your original files. Although it has a safety folder ( `-- OBSOLETE FILES` ), it is **highly recommended** that you work on a **copy** of your original track folder.

## 3. Step-by-Step Instructions

The program will guide you through a wizard-like process. Simply follow the on-screen prompts.

### Step 1: Launch and Select the Folder

When you run the program, the first thing you'll see is a window asking you to select the folder containing all the audio tracks you want to process. Navigate to your folder and click "Select Folder".

### Step 2: Clean Up Hidden Files (Optional)

The program will look for temporary or system files often created by macOS (those starting with a dot, like `._MyTrack.wav` ).

- A prompt will appear: "**Do you want to delete MacOS TEMP files?**"
- **Recommended Action:** Click "Yes". These files contain no audio and only create clutter.

### Step 3: Identify Audio Type (Optional)

This is one of the most powerful steps. The program will analyze each `.wav` file to understand its true nature.

- A prompt will appear: **"Do you want to identify the audio type (mono/stereo) of the files?"**
- **Recommended Action:** Click **"Yes"**.
- The program will add a label to the end of each filename:
  - `Kick.wav` → `Kick (mono).wav`
  - `Keyboard.wav` → `Keyboard (stereo).wav`
  - `Bass.wav` → `Bass (dualmono).wav` (if it detects a false stereo file).

If it finds a stereo file where one channel is completely silent, it will automatically convert it to mono and notify you.

#### Step 4: Convert 'Dual Mono' Files

If any `(dualmono)` files were found, the program will offer to fix them.

- First, it will show you a list of the "dual mono" files it found.
- Then it will ask: **"Do you want to convert dualmono files to mono?"**
- **Recommended Action:** Click **"Yes"**. The program will create a true (and more efficient) mono file and move the original `(dualmono)` file to a new folder named `"-- OBSOLETE FILES"`.

#### Step 5: Merge L/R Files into Stereo

The program is smart enough to look for tracks that are Left and Right pairs.

- First, it will show you a list of the pairs it has found (e.g., `Guitar_L.wav` and `Guitar_R.wav`).
- Then it will ask: **"Do you want to join the L/R files into a stereo file?"**
- **Recommended Action:** Click **"Yes"**. The program will create a single stereo file (e.g., `Guitar (stereo).wav`) and move the original L and R files to the `"-- OBSOLETE FILES"` folder.

#### Step 6: The Sorting and Categorization Interface

Now for the interactive part. A window titled **"Reorder Your Tracks"** will appear.

In this window, you will see two types of items:

1. **Categories (colored bars):** `01- DRUMS`, `02- PERCUSSION`, `03- BASS`, etc.
2. **Audio Files:** All your tracks, now processed and labeled.

Your task is simple:

- Click and drag each audio file and drop it under the category it belongs to.
- The order in which you place the files under each category is important. For example, within `01- DRUMS` , you can order the tracks as Kick, Snare, Hi-Hat, etc. This order will be preserved in the final filenames.

**VERY IMPORTANT WARNING:** The window title says "**DON'T CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE CATEGORIES**". Do **NOT** attempt to drag the colored category bars. You should only move the audio files.

#### Step 7: Finalize the Process

Once you have organized all your files under their proper categories and in the desired order, click the "OK" button at the bottom of the window.

The program will then:

1. Create subfolders with the category names (e.g., `01- DRUMS` , `03- BASS` ).
2. Move each file into its corresponding folder.
3. **Rename each file with a numeric prefix** to maintain the order you established.

#### 4. The Final Result

Your original folder, which was once a mess, will now have a professional structure like this:

```
MyMixingProject/
├── 01- DRUMS/
│   ├── 01 - Kick (mono).wav
│   ├── 02 - Snare (mono).wav
│   └── 03 - HiHat (mono).wav
├── 03- BASS/
│   └── 01 - Bass DI (mono).wav
├── 04- GUITARS/
│   └── 01 - Rhythm Guitar (stereo).wav
├── -- OBSOLETE FILES/
│   ├── Bass (dualmono).wav
│   ├── Rhythm Guitar_L.wav
│   └── Rhythm Guitar_R.wav
└── ... (any other unprocessed files, if they exist)
```

Your tracks are now ready to be imported into your DAW!

#### 5. Acknowledgment and Donation

Upon completion, the program will display a thank you message from the creator, Doc Shadrach, with an option to make a donation. If you found this tool helpful, please consider supporting his work.