DM4800 Mixer Control – User Guide

📖 Overview

DM4800 Mixer Control is a desktop application that provides a modern, on-screen control surface for the Tascam DM-4800 mixing console.

It mirrors the mixer's channels, buses, and auxes on your computer, making it easier to adjust fader levels, pan/balance, muting, identify and control stereo pairs, and keep track of channel states in real time.

With its clean interface and MIDI integration, this app is designed to speed up your workflow and make the DM4800 more flexible in studio and live environments.

It supports sending and receiving MIDI CC commands to make changes on the mixer and to respond to mixer changes.

The application uses the MIT License. (See Appendix 1 for License

📷 Screenshots
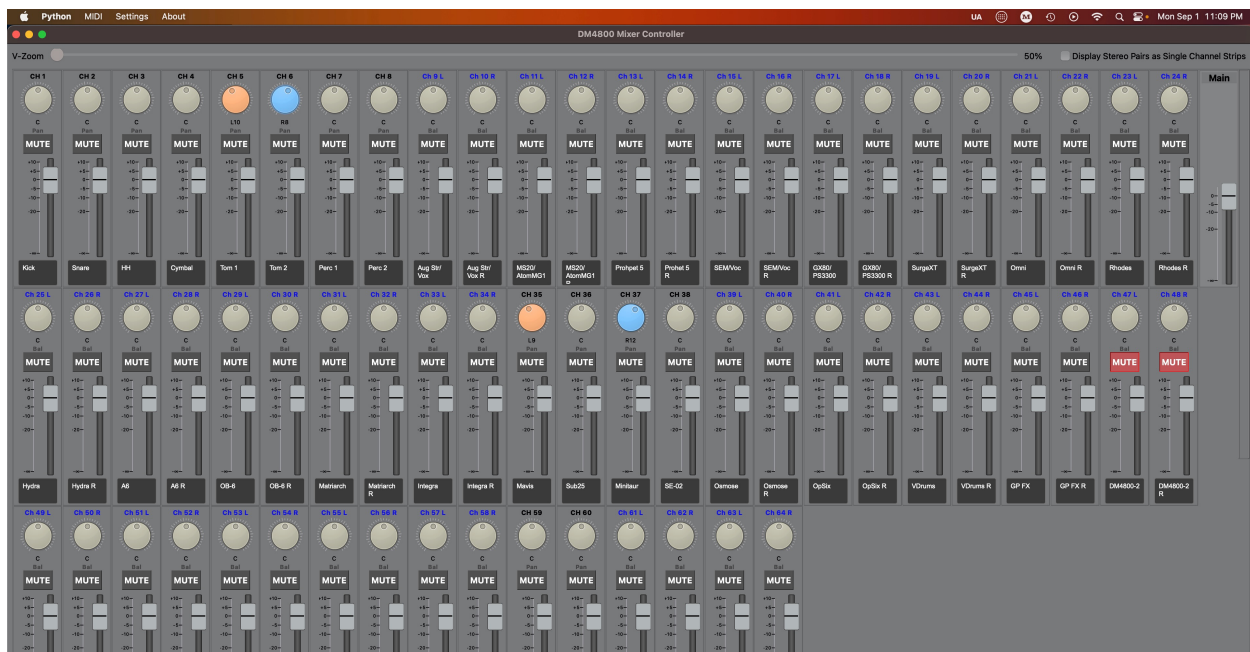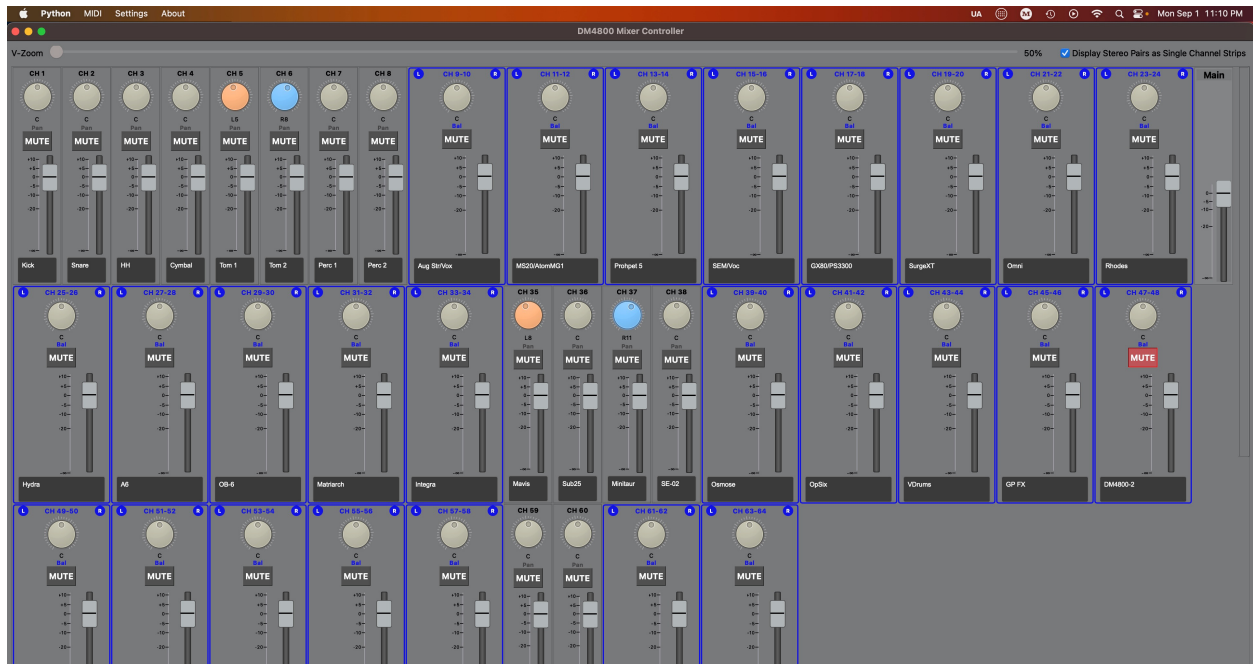
💻 System Requirements

Operating System:
macOS 10.13 (High Sierra) or later
Windows 10 or later

Python:
Python 3.8 or higher

Hardware:
Tascam DM-4800 connected via MIDI (DIN MIDI, USB MIDI, or external MIDI interface)

📦 Installation

1. Install Python

macOS:
Check if Python 3 is already installed:
```
python3 --version
```
If not, install via Homebrew:
```
brew install python
```

Windows:
Download and install from Python.org.
During installation, make sure to check "Add Python to PATH".
Verify installation:
```
python --version
```

2. Install Dependencies

Open a terminal (macOS) or PowerShell (Windows), navigate to the project folder, and run:
`pip install PyQt5 mido python-rtmidi`
These libraries provide the user interface (PyQt5) and MIDI communication (mido + python-rtmidi).

▶ Running the Application

The application depends on content in a couple of files that must be in the same directory as where you run the app from. They are noted with asterisks below. These files are:

`DM4800_CC_Values.csv *`	MIDI CC mapping values.
`scribblestrip.csv *`	Custom channel names for scribble strips. (Optional use)
`DM4800MonoStereo.csv *`	Mono/Stereo configuration data.
`License.txt *`	MIT License info file.
`dm4800_settings.json`	Saved settings (GUI state, ports, etc. - app creates this for you).
`DM4800_MIDI_Log.txt`	Log of recent MIDI messages. (App creates this for you)
`DM4800_license.txt`	License acceptance record. (App creates this for you)

<u>Connect the Tascam DM-4800 to your computer via MIDI</u> (USB or DIN MIDI ports).
• You can connect via a MIDI interface as well

<u>Enusre the MIDI CONFIG matches your DM4800</u>
Compare the values in the `DM4800_CC_Values.csv` file to your mixer settings located at ALT-->MIDI-->Ctrl Chg MIX tab
Be sure to check against all the targets in the POD 4 scroll section
Note: you will only have to do this one time when you first set up the app.

IMPORTANT:
<u>There is no way that I have found to query the DM4800 for the status of stereo pairings, current values of the faders, pan/bal, or mutes. Therefore we need to update this info manually:</u>

<u>Update the `DM4800MonoStereo.csv` file to match your DM4800 mono/stereo pairings</u>.
• The format should be evident when you look at the file so just stick to the format and the app will recognize it.
Note: If you make changes to stereo relationships on the DM4800 be sure to update this file and restart the app.

Optional: <u>Update the `scribblestrip.csv` file if you want to preload the scribble strips</u> under the channels, buses, and auxes.
• This is an optional feature in the app to give you scribble strips.
• You can edit these in the app and they will be saved to the file automatically.

Open a terminal (macOS) or PowerShell (Windows).
Navigate to the folder containing the application file.
Run:
`python DM4800v0.9.0.py` (or whatever that current .py file is called)
The mixer interface will appear, showing channel faders, stereo pairs, and the master fader.

Accept the license agreement (MIT License which is 2 short paragraphs)

Select the MIDI In and MIDI Out ports to use from the MIDI menu.

You should now be able to control the DM4800 and have the app update itself any time you adjust the Faders, Pan/Balance knobs, and Mutes on the DM4800.

🎚️ Using the Application

Element	Usage
Faders	Drag faders with the mouse to adjust channel levels. Changes are sent directly to the DM4800 via MIDI.
Mute	Toggle Mute on or off for the channel strip.
Pan/Balance	Adjust the Pan (Mono channels) or Balance (Stereo channel pairs) with the Pan or Bal knob.
Stereo Pairs	When *Display Stereo Pairs as Single Channel Strips* is checked, stereo-linked channels are displayed as unified fader strips for easier mixing.
GUI Colors	Use the Settings—>Colors… menu to adjust the colors of various UI elements.

🔧 Troubleshooting

App doesn't launch:
Ensure Python 3.8+ is installed.
Verify all dependencies are installed with `pip show PyQt5 mido python-rtmidi`.

No MIDI communication:
Check that the DM4800 is connected via MIDI.
Ensure the correct MIDI ports are enabled in your OS.

📫 Support

For questions, feature requests, or bug reports, please open an issue on the project's GitHub page. Contributions and feedback are welcome!

Appendix 1 - MIT License

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