TheLink Version 1.6
designed by Olivier Merlet

Presentation

TheLink is a Windows software dedicated for Behringer X-Touch Mini USB Midi Controller, "adding" midi remote control capabilities to X AIR Edit / M AIR Edit softwares in order to you to control digital mixers XR12, XR16, X18, XR18 from Behringer and MR12, MR18 from Midas, through the local network (Ethernet or Wifi), using your X-Touch Mini device.

It literally makes *the link* between X-Touch Mini, AIR Edit and your digital mixer.

Designed by Olivier Merlet, based on AutoIt from Jonathan Bennett (www.autoitscript.com)

Licensing

Unfortunately, due to the covid context, I'm not able to work for free anymore. ..
So TheLink comes now in a demo version, fully functional but with pop-up messages every 5 minutes asking for a donation.
There's no minimum amount, it all helps!
Once done, you will receive a license key which will stop pop-up messages appearing in future.
The license key is personnal but with a permanent validity and can be use on several computers.

Main Features

- Zero configuration tool: TheLink get all what it needs from AIR Edit and from your digital mixer, and auto detects your X-Touch Mini Controller.
- One app to be started, one app to be closed. To simplify your workflow, TheLink will start AIR Edit for you (when placed in the same folder), and when finished, closing AIR Edit will automatically close TheLink.
- Full access to all main commands in AIR Edit: Faders, Mutes, Solos, Gains, Pans, Gates, Comps, EQs, Buses, FXs, FX Taps (for delay and chorus), Mute Groups, DCAs Tabs
- Channels 1 to 16 + Aux + FX1 to FX4 split in 3 banks. Permanent access to the selected bus channel.
- OnScreen display showing the current parameters controlled by the encoders, the FX controlled by the Tap button, the bank and bus selected and the selected channel. The display is moveable, resizable and you can choose between 2 types (bar or panel) to match you monitor size.
- Bi-directional synchronization with AIR Edit: selections on X-Touch Mini are reflected on AIR Edit. Selections in AIR Edit are also reflected on X-Touch Mini. So you're never lost or confused.

Quickstart

- Download the zip file on your computer and decompress it.
- The *.exe* file you get is not an installer, it's directly the app.
- Use the 64 bit version as a priority to avoid any antivirus problems (see below).
- Copy the *.exe* file where you want on your computer, preferably where X-AIR edit or M-AIR edit is located (so TheLink will be able to start it automatically for you).
- Make sure your X-Touch Mini controller is connected to your computer, in Mackie Control mode and not used by any app.
- Make sure you can acces your digital mixer through your local network (Ethernet or Wifi)
- Double-click the app to launch TheLink. If X-AIR edit or M-AIR edit is in the same folder, TheLink will launch it for you. Otherwise, you have to start manually X-AIR edit or M-AIR edit before launching TheLink.
- Now, follow on with X-AIR edit or M-AIR edit to connect to your digital mixer. There's nothing else to do for TheLink, just enjoy!

An overlay template is provided in the zip file to let you know all buttons and encoders allocated functions on your X-Touch Mini.
If you want to get a physical overlay ready to be placed on your X-Touch Mini, you can order on at http://taktility.com/ . An Adobe Illustrator CS4 version for this overlay is provided as well, so you just have to place your order for a custom print and send them this file.

Antivirus

TheLink may be detected as a false positive by your antivirus, especially the 32 bit version.
If you're using default microsoft defender, you can allow this app on your computer by doing this:

- Click on the security alert notification or launch defender (windows security)
- Click on protection history
- Select the one regarding TheLink and on Actions, select allow

If you still have problems, please download and install autoit from this place:
https://www.autoitscript.com/site/autoit/downloads/
And use TheLink.a3x instead of the .exe file.

Getting into the details

Onscreen Display

Bar mode

Panel mode

When started, TheLink detect your monitor size to choose the best mode to use (Panel or Bar) and where to display it. But you can change this with those commands:

- Left click on the window to move
- Right click on the window to toggle between Bar or Panel mode
- Go to bottom right corner to resize

Allocated functions on X-Touch Mini

X-Touch Mini comes with:

- 8 encoders with led collars and switches,
- a first line of 8 illuminated buttons,
- a second line of 8 illuminated buttons,
- a fader
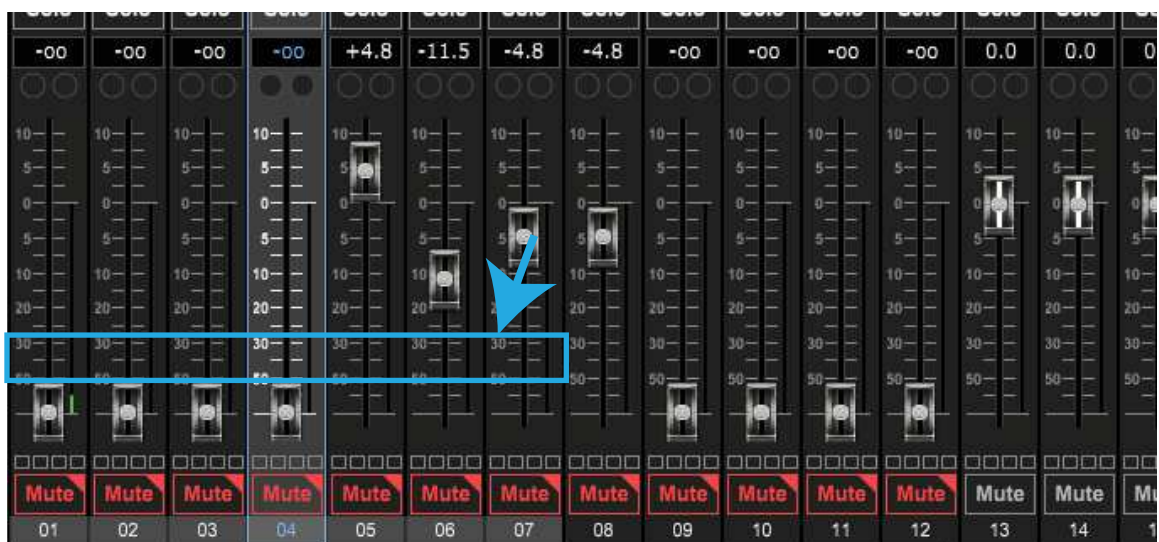- and 2 extra illuminated buttons on the right side.

• *Channel Selection*

The 21 channels (Channels 1 to 16 + Aux + FX1 to FX4) are split in 3 banks. You can navigate through those banks by using the 2 extra buttons on the right side. The way they are illuminated shows you which bank is currently selected:

Bank 1: both leds off
Bank 2: one led on, one off
Bank 3: both leds on

Additionally, a rectangle in gray on AIR Edit (at the bottom) shows you also the 7 channels you can select from the current bank.

Then, to select a channel, simply press a button on the first line of 8 buttons. The corresponding channel will be selected on AIR Edit, the corresponding led on X-Touch Mini will turn on and TheLink Display will tell you the name of the selected channel.

The 8th button always applies to the selected bus, no matter which bank is selected.

Synchronization is Bi-directional: If you select a channel directly on AIR Edit using the mouse or keyboard, it will be reflected also on TheLink and on your X-Touch Mini

- ***Mutes***
  By pressing buttons on the second line of 8 buttons, you can control mutes of channels, according the selected bank

- ***Encoders***
  o **Faders Mode** (default mode on startup)
    Faders Mode is activated by pressing the first encoder. In this mode, the 8 encoders will let you control channels faders, according the selected bank and the selected bus

  o **Gains Mode**
    Gains Mode is activated by pressing the second encoder. In this mode, the 8 encoders will let you control channels gains, according the selected bank

  o **Pans Mode**
    Pans Mode is activated by pressing the third encoder. In this mode, the 8 encoders will let you control channels pans, according the selected bank and the selected bus (if the selected bus is in stereo mode, then the encoders control the pans for this bus)

  o **Gate Mode**
    Gate Mode is activated by pressing the fourth encoder. In this mode, the encoders will let you control the Gate parameters for the selected channel (cf overlay for details).
    By the way, the corresponding tab on AIR-Edit is automatically selected

  o **Comp Mode**
    Comp Mode is activated by pressing the fifth encoder. In this mode, the encoders will let you control the Comp parameters for the selected channel (cf overlay for details).
    By the way, the corresponding tab on AIR-Edit is automatically selected

  o **EQ Mode**
    EQ Mode is activated by pressing the sixth encoder. In this mode, the encoders will let you control the EQ parameters and LowCut filter (with the 8th encoder, you can select the EQ band you want to control) for the selected channel (cf overlay for details).
    By the way, the corresponding tab on AIR-Edit is automatically selected

  o **DCAs Mode**
    DCAs Mode is activated by pressing the seventh encoder. This is a special mode, almost like an extra bank . You can't change the active bank while you're in this mode. Bank selection buttons are disabled and both blinking . In this mode, the first 4 encoders apply to the 4 DCAs faders and the first 4 mute buttons to the 4 DCAs as well. DCA's Solo can also be controlled.
    By the way, if necessary, the DCAs utility window on AIR-Edit is automatically opened and closed when leaving that mode

- ***Bus Selection***
  By pressing and holding Shift button B, you can select the bus that fader and pan modes will apply to. (Main Bus, Bus 1 to 6, Fx 1 to 4 - purple color on the overlay). Any change is reflected on AIR Edit. And any change on AIR Edit is reflected on your X-Touch mini as well.

- ***Mute Groups***
  By pressing and holding Shift button A, you can control Mute Groups, using the first 4 mute buttons

- ***FX Selection***
  By pressing and holding Shift button A, you can also select the FX the Tap function will apply to. By the way, it opens and closes the corresponding FX window on AIR Edit.

- ***Tap FX***
  By pressing the 8th encoder switch, you control the tap button on the selected FX (for FXs with tap button…)
  Alternate command: By pressing and holding Shift button A, you can control the tap function using the 8th button on the first line

- ***Buses (faders&mutes)***
  When Shift button B is pressed and hold, by pressing and holding Shift button A, you access another special mode, almost like an extra bank again. In this mode, the encoders apply to the 6 buses faders and the mute buttons to the 6 buses as well.
  New!!! *Main bus can be controlled also from this mode using encoders 1/8 et mute buttons 1/8.*
  New!!! *You can lock this mode by pressing the 8th button on the first line. Unlock by pressing again button A or B*
  If necessary, the Buses utility window on AIR-Edit is automatically opened and closed when leaving that mode.

- ***Main Fader***
  You can now choose what the main fader will apply to:
  When Shift button B is pressed and hold, by pressing and holding Shift button A and moving the main fader, select which channel you want the main fader to be mapped (Main Bus, Bus 1 to 6, Fx 1 to 4, DCA 1 to 4, auto). The selected mapping is shown on the onscreen display. "Auto" means the main fader will follow the bus selection. The fader must reach the current value of the bus level so that it starts to change.

- ***Solos***
  When selecting a channel, by holding the select button and pressing the corresponding mute button, you can enable or disable Solo for that channel.

Enjoy! And sorry for my English, I'm French… ;-)

Version history

- **1.6** *(08/2023)*
  Support for X AIR Edit and M AIR Edit version 1.8
  New features: Main Bus control and Lock feature in Buses Mode

- **1.5.1** *(06/2021)*
  Fix error when changing EQ mode (PEQ/GEQ/TEQ) for main channel or buses

- **1.5** *(05/2021)*
  Support for X AIR Edit and M AIR Edit version 1.7
  Licensing mechanism
  New features:
  - Main fader mapping. The main fader can apply to Main Bus, Bus 1 to 6, Fx 1 to 4, DCA 1 to 4.
  - Alternate command for Tap FX

- **1.3** *(12/2020)*
  Support for X AIR Edit and M AIR Edit version 1.6
  Added support for the "Resize" feature in AIR Edit - with some limitations:
  Both AIR Edit and TheLink have to be restarted for changes to take effect
  Be sure to keep the whole AIR Edit interface visible to avoid strange behaviour

- **1.1** *(05/2020)*
  First public release
  Support for X AIR Edit and M AIR Edit version 1.5