

Using Automation in Reaper

Recording, Engineering, and Mixing

Automation is used to make Reaper automatically adjust parameters while your song is playing. For example, you can make certain parts of a track louder or softer, or you can automate the pan to make a track move back and forth between speakers. You can also automate effect parameters, which can lead to some very interesting special effects.

Using “Draw” Automation:

1. Click on the “En” button and choose which parameters you want to automate by clicking on the check boxes.
2. To add a new automation point, press the shift key and click the mouse where you want the new point to be located.
3. You might need to add two or three points in order to adjust a small part of the track.
4. Adjust the automation points using the mouse.

Using “Write” Automation:

1. Press the “En” button and select “Write” from the drop-down menu.
2. Make sure that all parameters that you do NOT want to change have the “Arm” box unchecked! (Otherwise you will overwrite all existing automation points.)
3. There should be at most one “Arm” box checked; this is the parameter you will be adjusting while your song is playing.
4. Start your song. Adjust the parameter the way you want it to sound when the song plays back. When you’re done, press “Stop” but DON’T listen to your work yet!!
5. BEFORE you listen to your work, make sure to press the “En” button again and select “Trim/Read” from the drop-down menu in order to avoid overwriting your automation points.
6. It’s also a good idea to press “Disarm All” so you don’t accidentally overwrite anything later.