Junior

COMPUTER MUSIC PLAYER

User Manual
Version 2.3

Junior Version 2.3 User Manual Table Of Contents

About This Manual

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1.0.0 Thank you! ::

Thank you for purchasing the Junior Computer Music Player. You are about to enjoy the ultrafidelity sound of Amarra. Designed to work with your Apple™ MacIntosh Computer and with iTunes, Junior provides a seamless integration for high resolution music playback.

> The Amarra Team
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> www.amarraaudio.com
> support@sonicstudio.com

This document details the installation of Amarra and its associated software.

The Junior 2.3 installer will install the following items on to your Macintosh Computer:

- Junior Computer Music Player
- Amarra Documentation
- FLAC Component

2.0.0 Minimum System Requirements ::
Computer:
- Intel based Mac with 10.6.x or 10.7.x
- NOTE: PPC (G5) Macs are no longer supported. New licensing method is not recognized. Use 2.1.1.
- RAM: 3 GB RAM minimum, 4 GB or more preferred
- Amarra
- iTunes

Supported Audio Hardware Interfaces:
- Most Core Audio Interface will work with Junior. This includes USB, FireWire, and optical connections on the Macintosh. Please visit the Hardware section of www.amarraaudio.com for more information.

Peripheral FireWire Adaptors supported:
- OHCI compliant PCCard, PCI card, ExpressCard or PCIe card

Software:
- Mac OS X 10.6.x or 10.7.x and above recommended
  - Junior.
- iTunes

We recommend a fresh install of the operating system on a clean disc. This can prevent problems later on.

We also highly recommend that your computer be used exclusively for music playback. Email, web browsers, screen sharing and other applications can all affect performance.

3.0.0 Installing Junior ::

The Junior installer will install the following items on to your Macintosh Computer:
- Junior 2.3 Computer Music Player
- Amarra FLAC components
- Junior Documentation

Double-click on the Junior Installer that you downloaded. This screen appears:
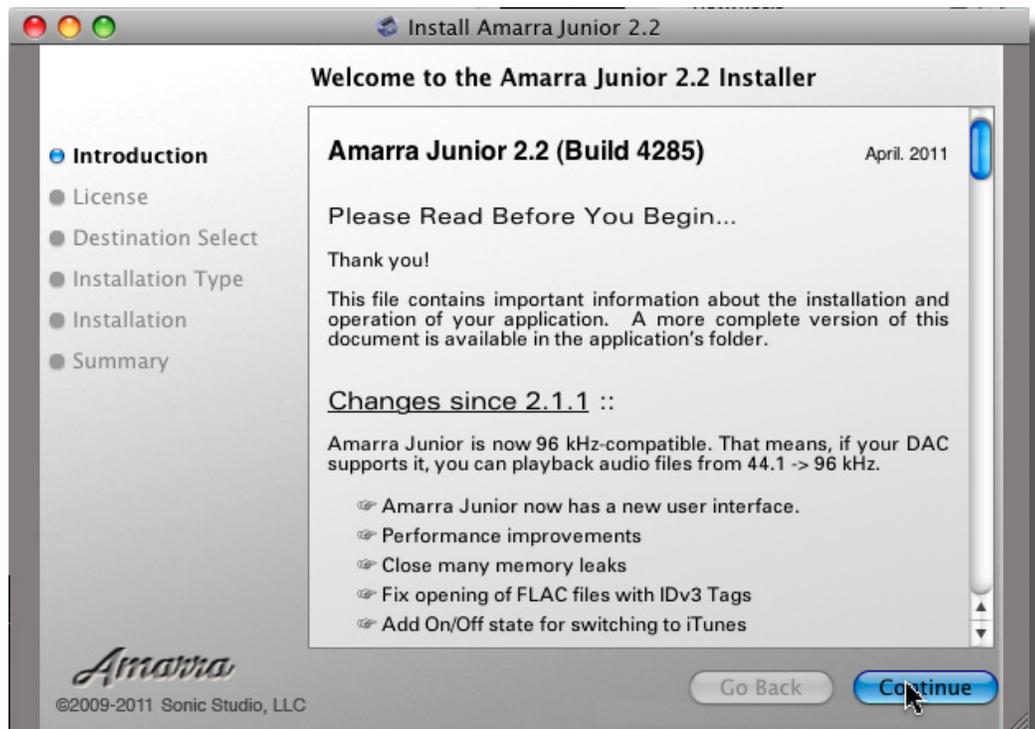
• Select Continue.
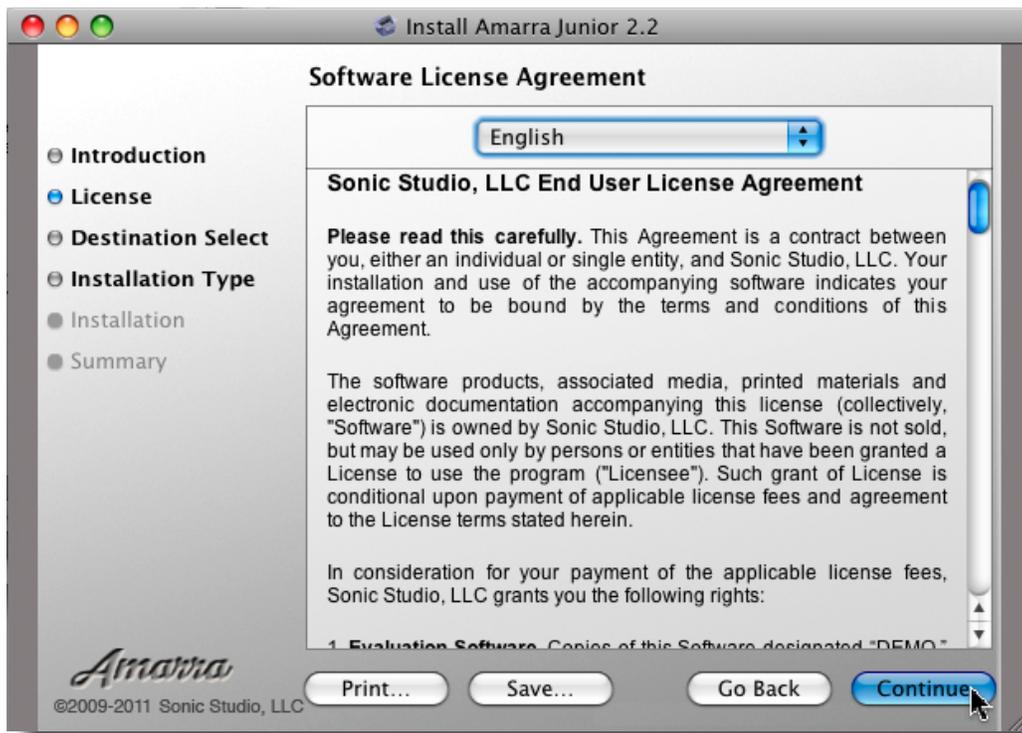
End User License Agreement.
Please take a moment to read this important document,
then select Continue.
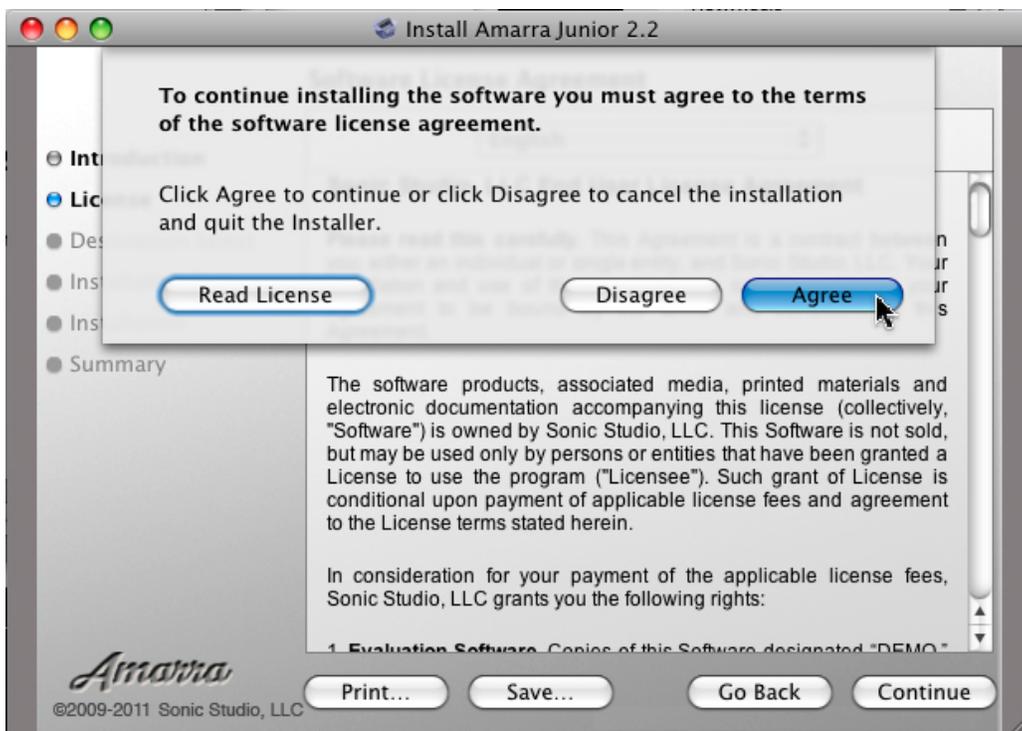
Select Agree to continue installing Junior.

Select Install to complete the Junior installation process.
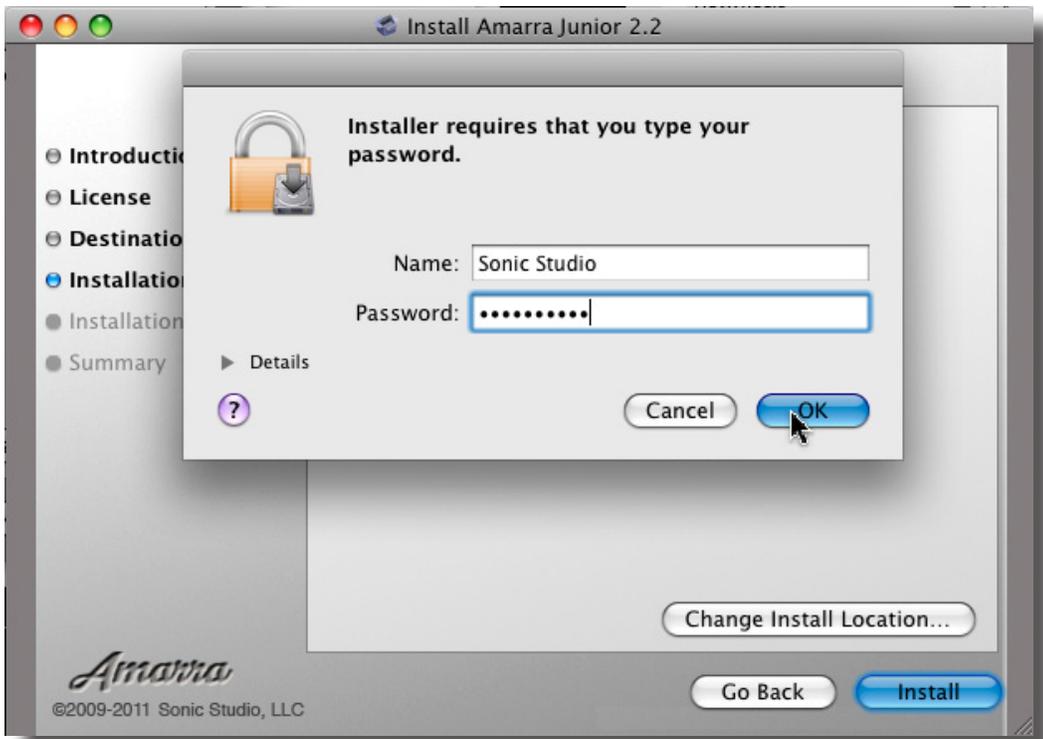
Enter your password and click on OK.
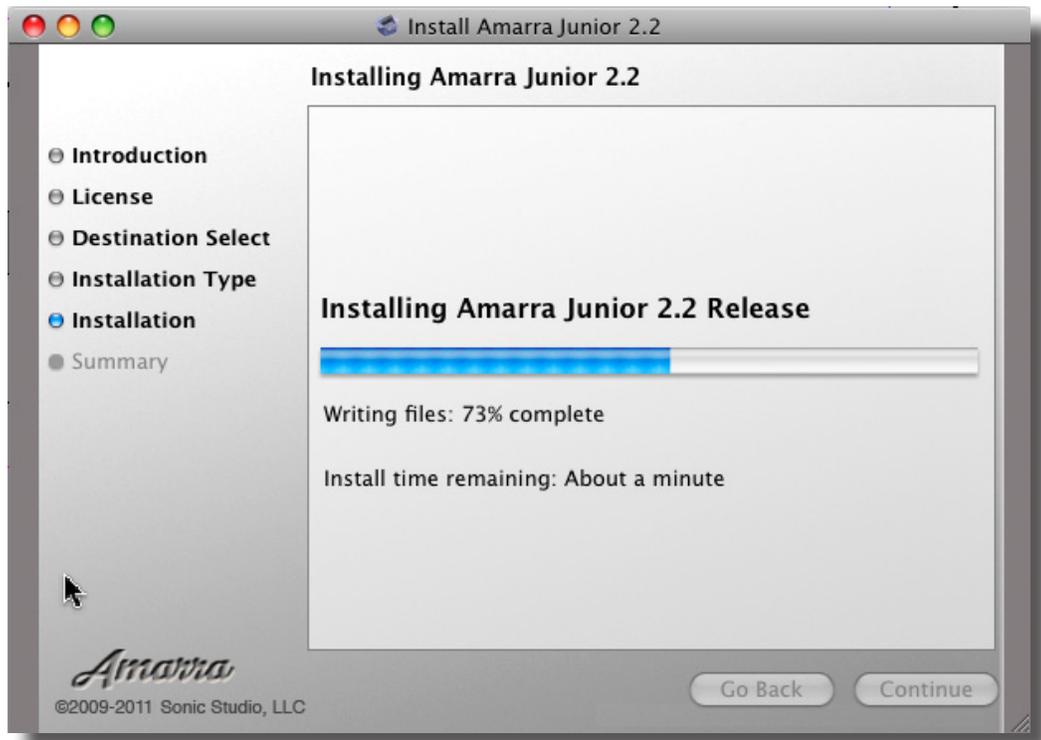
Amarra and all of its components are installed.

• Junior application is installed into the Applications folder.
  It is installed here: ~/Applications/Junior 2.3
• Junior installs the FLAC components required for FLAC file playback
  They are installed here: ~/Library/Components/
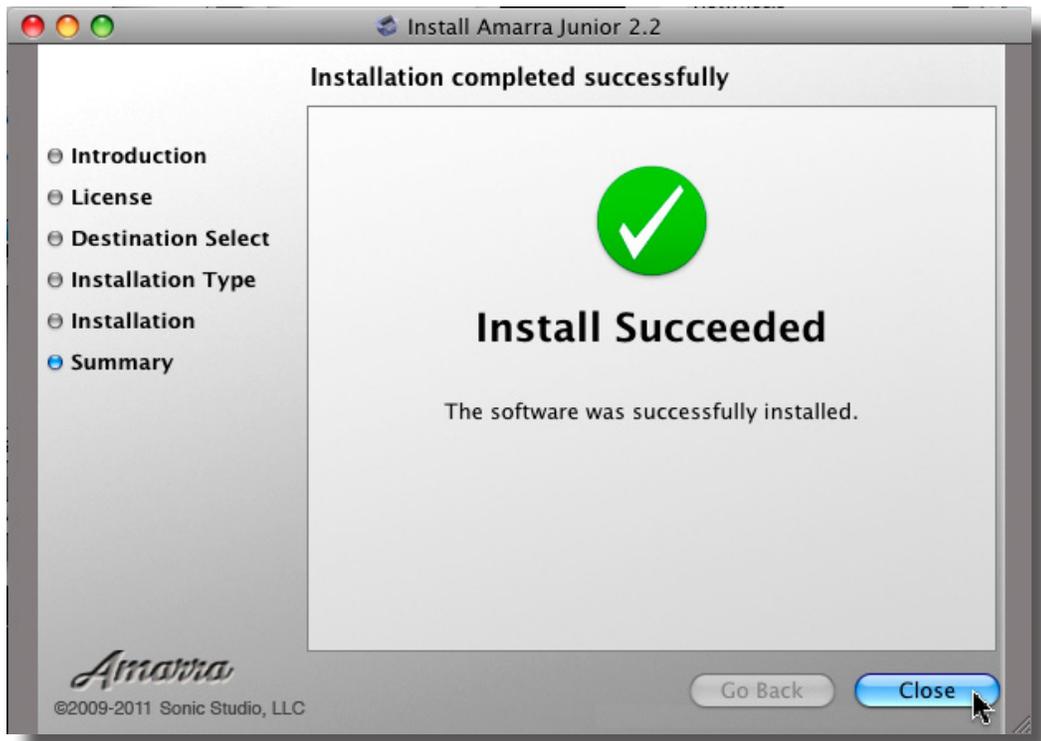
Success!

Select the Close button to quit the Junior installer.

3.1 Uninstalling Junior

To uninstall Junior and remove all files please run the "Uninstall Junior.app" located in the Extras Folder. This will remove the application, iTunes plug-in, and FLAC component. You may be prompted for your password.
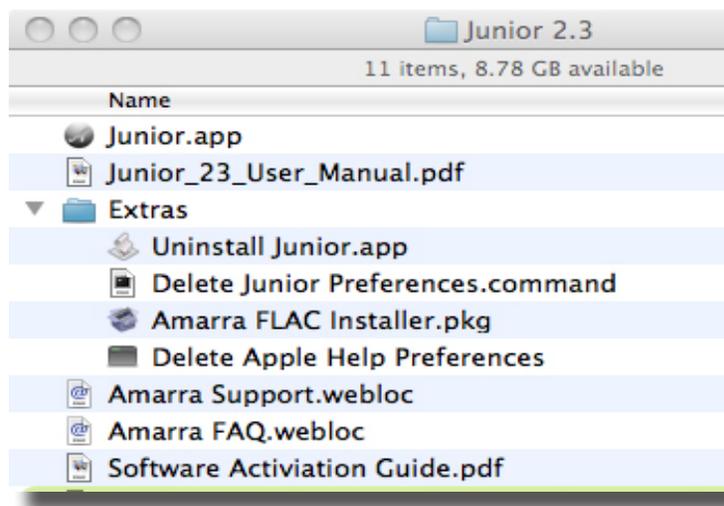
4.0.0 Authorization Of Junior ::

Junior is licensed for use via a simple Internet Authorization process. Please follow the steps below to Authorize your Amarra software. Also see Section 8 of this document for answers to questions regarding our authorization process.

1) When you launch Junior the first time, you will be presented with the Authorization dialog box, Figure 1, below.

Figure 1: Authorization dialog box.

Evaluate button: Allows Junior to run in Evaluation Mode for a specific time. Your email address is required.
Activate button: Securely sends your Activation Code, email address and unique password to authorize Junior.
Send Password button: Sends the password you define to the email you provided.
Buy button: Takes you to an online store to purchase Junior or upgrade.
OK button: Cancels and closes the Authorization window.

2) Enter information into the provided fields..

A) Copy and Paste your Activation code into the Activation Code area.
B) Add your email address and create your own unique password in the appropriate fields. (Figure 2)
C) Click on the Activate button to activate Junior.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
If you purchase Junior after April 15, 2011, your new Activation Code is delivered to you via email.
If you purchased Junior before April 15, 2011, use your **Junior** product Serial Number as your Activation Code.

Figure 2: Sample Authorization dialog box with all fields filled out.
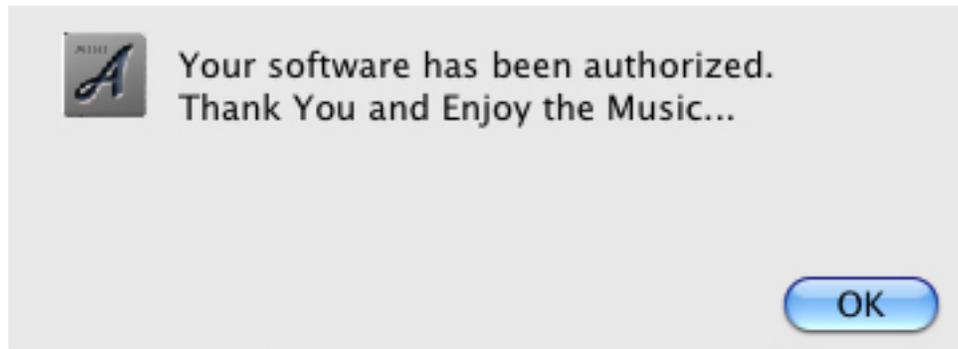
Success! Your Junior Software has been authorized.

NOTE: Note: When you reactivate a new release of Amarra, or move Amarra to another computer you will be asked for a new password. The window below will appear, type in a new password and click 'OK'.

Be sure to store your password in a safe place for future reference.

Enter a new password to reactivate your copy of Amarra.

4.1.0 Authorizing Junior After Evaluation Period Expires ::

After the Evaluation period has expired, it's easy to receive an Activation Code that enables you to continue to enjoy the ultrafidelity sound of Amarra forever. Simply select the Buy button and you will be directed to an online store to purchase an Amarra product of your choice.

Your Activation Code will be sent to you via email. Once you receive your Activation Code, follow the steps outlined above to authorize your copy of Junior.

Information About The Junior Authorization Process ::

Activation is a set of simple and quick steps taken after your purchase of Junior. It entitles you to use Junior on your computer. If you've purchased products online or installed many of the Adobe products you have already used a similar activation system. When your application is authorized it contacts a central server across the internet to 'activate' your software and tie it to the provided activation code (which is generally provided by email).

This anti-piracy system helps protect your investment in Amarra and enables us to continue its development at a competitive price. The license protection and monitoring system is managed by software_DNA from softWORKZ Innovation Inc. This system does not collect any details about you or your computer during license activation and re-activation.

Unlike other activation systems, the software_DNA system for Amarra does not tie your license permanently to your computer hardware. Instead, your license is tied to your activation code and password that you define. As a result, you will have no problem re-activating your software after reformatting your hard drive, after upgrading hardware components in your computer, or when you move your software to a new computer. However, activation and re-activation does require an Internet connection. This Internet connection can be on a different computer from where your application is installed.

5.0.0 Launching and Using Junior ::

Open the Applications folder on your Mac, locate the Junior folder.
This folder contains the Junior application as well as documentation and an Extras folder
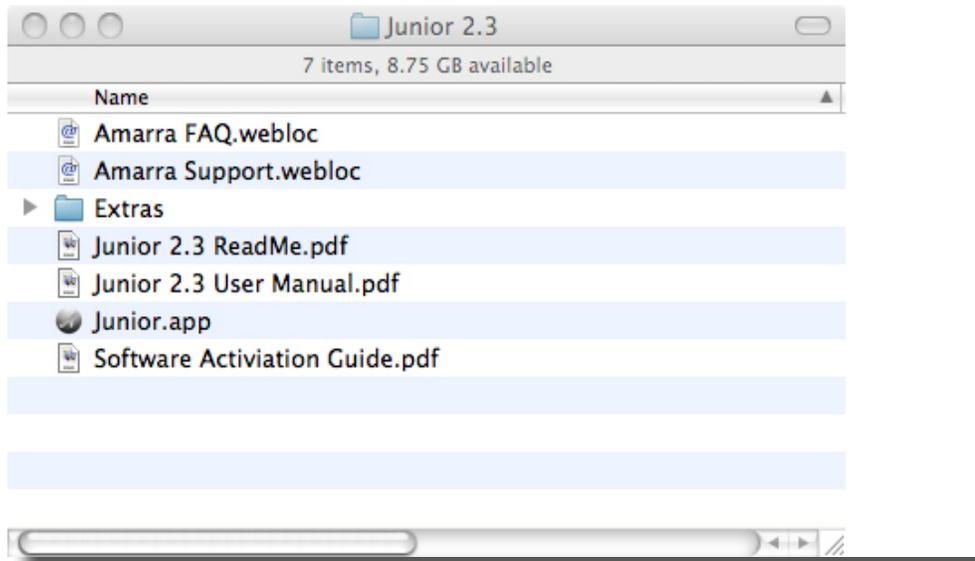
Junior Application folder

NOTE: Launch Junior first, not iTunes. Double clicking on the Junior icon launches Junior and iTunes.

HINT: Install a shortcut for Junior on your Dock.:
  • Locate the Junior.app icon.
  • Click once and hold the icon then drag to the dock.
  • The Dock for your system will appear.
  • Place (drop) the Junior icon and release on the dock.
  • You can move its location within the Dock later.

NOTE: When you launch iTunes, Junior will automatically launch. Likewise, when iTunes quits Junior will be shutdown.
In iTunes under Visualizer Plugin there is an Options menu command which can be used to disable the auto launch / quit feature.

Access Junior Preferences from the Junior Menu
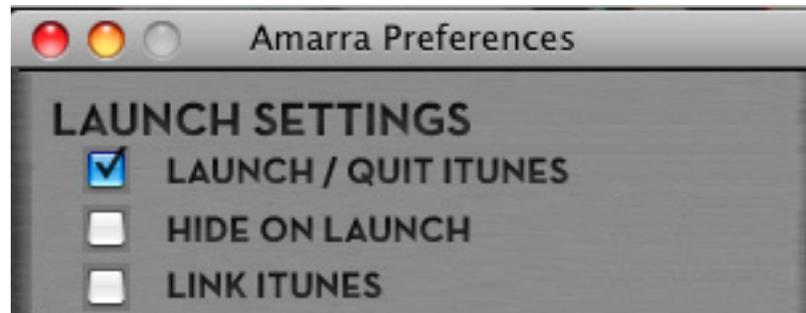
Junior Preferences Window showing
the LAUNCH/QUIT ITUNES checkbox.

5.1.0 Junior Application Menus ::

5.1.1 The Junior Menu:

The Junior Menu: About Junior: Opens the modal About window. Click anywhere in the window to close it.

Preferences [Cmd+,]: Opens the Preference window for Junior. See Section 6.6.0 for more information.

Services: This menu proves access to any Services that are available to Junior.

Hide Junior : Hides all Junior windows. To reveal the windows, click on the Dock icon or tap the +tab key to cycle through running applications to select Junior.

Hide Others [option+,+h]: Hides all windows other than Junior.

Show All: Reveals all windows.

Quit Junior [,+q]: Quits Junior.

5.1.2 The File Menu:
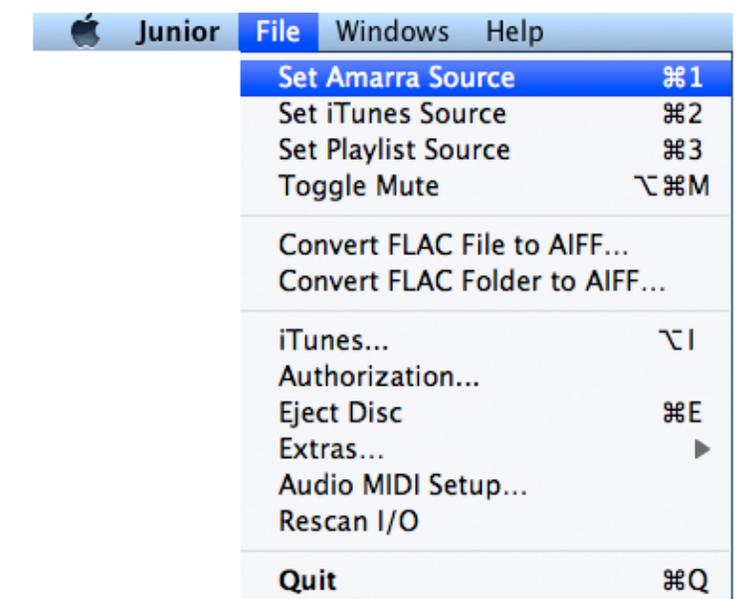
Convert FLAC File to AIFF... : Navigate to a FLAC file in the Finder and convert them to AIFF format.

Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF... : Navigate to a folder containing FLAC files and convert the folder's content to AIFF.

Authorization... : Opens the Amarra Authorization window. See section 4 of this document for more information.

Extras:

Audio MIDI Set Up: Opens the Audio MIDI Set Up Window. This is useful for verifying connection to your DAC.

Rescan I/O: Forces Junior to query Core Audio for current interface status.

Set Amarra [Cmd+1]: Sets the source for playback as Amarra.

Seti Tunes [Cmd+2]: Sets the source for playback as iTunes.

Toggle Mute: Mutes and unmutes the main volume control.

Cut: Cuts the currently selected string or item to the Clipboard.

Copy: Copies the currently selected string or item to the Clipboard.

Paste: Pastes the currently selected string or item from the Clipboard.

(for use with Authorization)

Enable Debugging: This is useful for providing Sonic Studio technicians important information regarding Junior should any issues arise.

Send Crash Report: Send important information to Sonic Studio technicians.

System Console Log: Opens Apple's Console app. This is useful for providing Sonic Studio technicians important information regarding Amarra should any issues arise.

NOTE: Toggling between Cmd+1 and Cmd+ 2 is a good way to compare the sound quality between Amarra and iTunes.

Toggle Mute: Mutes and unmutes the main volume control.

5.1.3 The Windows Menu:

Amarra [opt+a]: Opens the main Amarra window.

iTunes [opt+i]: Opens the main iTunes window.

5.1.4 The Help Menu:
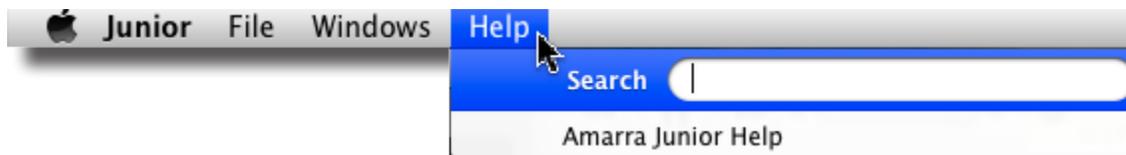
Amarra Help: Opens the Amarra User Manual/Help document.

6.0.0 Junior Interface Module ::

The Junior's control interface module features are explained below:

1. Time Display		2. iTunes Lock
The Time Display shows the current time in the track.		This keeps Junior locked to iTunes (when moved)
3. Volume Control/Sample Rate display The Volume Slider controls the volume. Sample Rate of soundfile is displayed (96 kHz max.)	4. Amarra/iTunes Indicator Indicates playback status: Blue = Amarra is playing Grey = iTunes is playing Orange = iTunes is playing a protected file.	5. Amarra EQ Amarra EQ enabled based on iTunes EQ Preset for the Track. Loaded preset is displayed.

TIP: Use the Arrow keys to adjust the volume. Use the Option-Arrow key for fine adjustment.

TIP: Use the Volume control on your Apple Remote or on iTunes to control the volume.

TIP: Want to hear that wonderful instrumental section again? Stop Junior, double-click in the seconds area of the Time Display section and use the down arrow to back up 1 second per key stroke. Hit the spacebar to start play at the new time selection.

6.1.0 Using Junior and iTunes

Junior runs alongside Apple's iTunes program. This allows you to manage and access all your music through the main iTunes Music Library or through custom iTunes Playlists.

As shown below, Junior occupies the area to the left of your iTunes window:
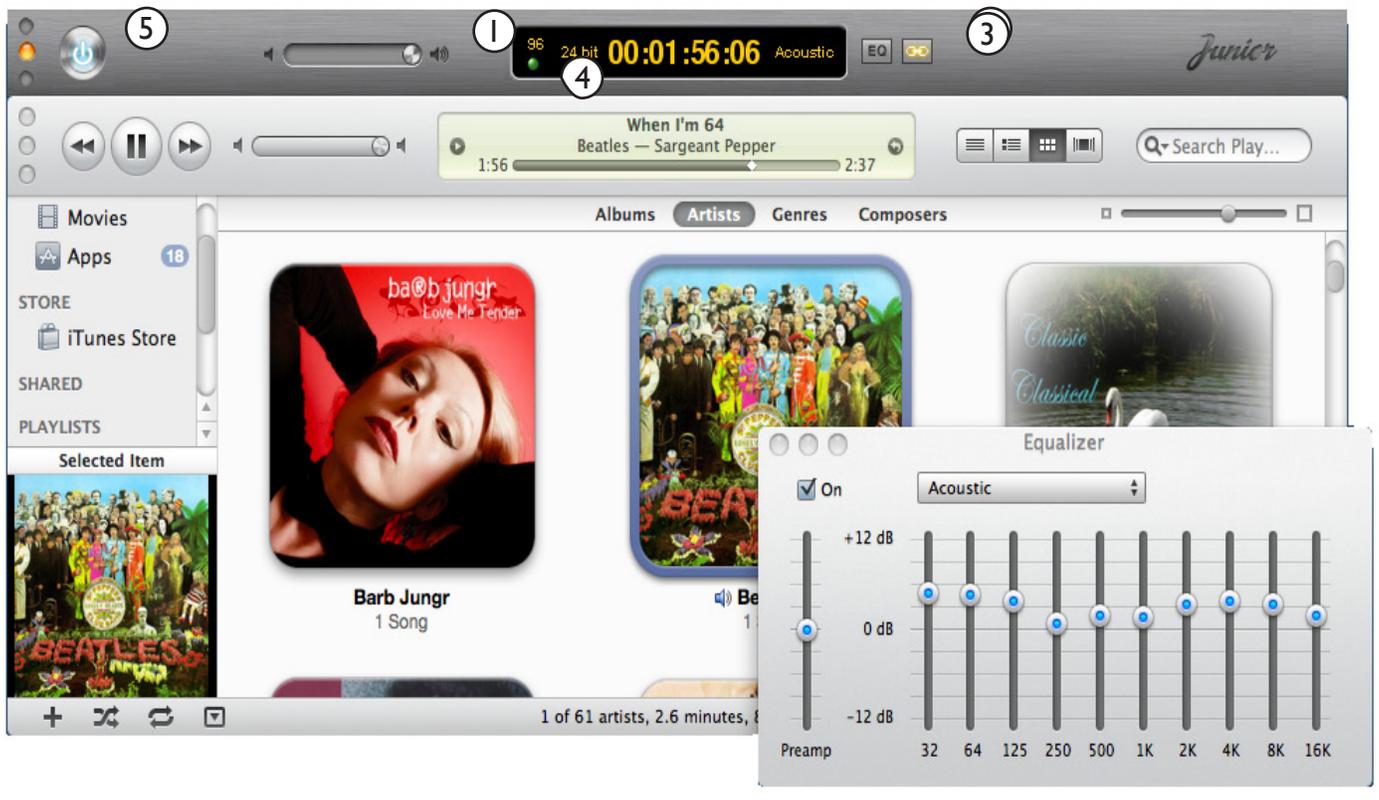
Junior and iTunes side by side.

You can use iTunes like you always have, select the songs or a playlist and play. Junior follows what you do in iTunes and takes over playback of:

- Full resolution uncompressed 44.1 - 96 kHz (16 or 24 bit) AIFF or WAV files
- Most compressed MP3 files
- ALAC, FLAC or AAC files
- Redbook CDs at 44.1 kHz sample rates

NOTE: Junior can not play Protected AAC files. Instead, Junior uses iTunes for playback those files.

Junior will use the EQ settings from iTunes for your Tracks and set the superior-sounding Amarra EQ to match. The small indicator to the right of the Time Display will turn Blue when the EQ is engaged.
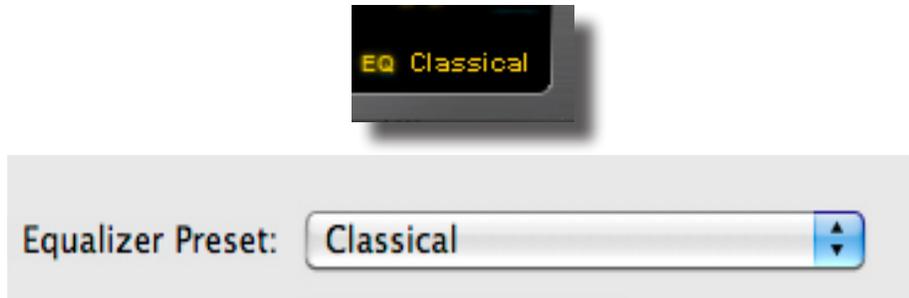
The EQ engaged based on setting from iTunes Track Information
(iTunes EQ is accessible using Get Info in iTunes on the selected Track).

6.2.0 FLAC Conversion and Playback

In addition to playing back native FLAC natively, Junior supports conversion routines for FLAC. Using the FLAC conversion routines under the FILE menu it is possible to convert FLAC files or entire folders of FLAC files to AIFF files and to add them to iTunes automatically. Converting FLAC files to AIFF files allows iTunes to find and add metadata for album artwork, artist and song titles as an example.

6.2.1 Convert FLAC File to AIFF

This command launches the built-in FLAC to AIFF conversion routine.
You will be prompted to locate the files to convert and to specify a destination folder to store the converted files. You will also be asked whether you would like to add the files to iTunes after they are converted.

6.2.3 Convert FLAC Folder to AIFF

This command launches the built-in FLAC to AIFF conversion routine. You will be prompted to locate a folder to convert and to specify a destination folder to store the converted files. You will also be asked whether you would like to add the files to iTunes after they are converted.

6.3.0   Junior Preferences

This section presents an overview of the Preferences.

LAUNCH SETTINGS
LAUNCH / QUIT ITUNES:: Forces iTunes to launch or quit in sync with Amarra Junior.
HIDE ON LAUNCH :: Forces Amarra Junior to hide its windows after startup.
LINK ITUNES WINDOW :: Forces iTunes to remain 'attached' to Amarra's main window, regardless of the main window's location.
LINK ITUNES EQ PRESETS :: Forces Amarra to follow the EQ settings in iTunes.
PLAYLIST FOLLOWS ITUNES :: Forces Amarra's Playlist to follow track selections in iTunes. (MINI and Amarra only)

PLAYBACK SETTINGS:
BYPASS COMPRESSED FILES :: Forces Amarra to skip over lossy encoded music files like MP3 and AAC.
   Useful for PPC Macs.
TRACKS TO LOAD :: Sets the number of consecutive tracks that Amarra pulls from iTunes when auto-populating a Playlist. (MINI and Amarra only)
MEMORY AMOUNT :: Set the amount of Random Access Memory that Amarra uses to temporarily store audio in Cache Mode. (MINI and Amarra only)

DITHER SETTINGS
AUTO-DITHER :: Automatically enables redithering when Amarra's gain is not set to unity or 0. (MINI and Amarra only)
TYPE ::
         TPDF: Sets Amarra's redithering function to Sonic Studio's proprietary Shaped TPDF (Triangular Probability Density Function) dither type.
         MBIT+: Sets Amarra's redithering function to iZotope's proprietary MBIT+ dither type.
         Shape: When Type is MBIT+, sets the amount of spectral shaping, from none to extreme.
         Wordlength: Sets the number of bits for Amarra's output. This setting should match your DAC‚Äôs word length specification. If set to less than 24 bits, Auto-dither should be enabled for best quality.

PROCESSING SETTINGS
FULL SONIC-EQ :: Changes the Equalizer from iTunes‚Äìstyle generic curves to fully adjustable, minimal phase Sonic EQ. (Amarra only)
Pure Gain :: Forces Amarra to change gain in 1 bit steps for less gain interpolation and higher quality.
Hard Limit :: Changes the way Amarra reproduces consecutive over samples. Recommended for music with limited dynamic range.
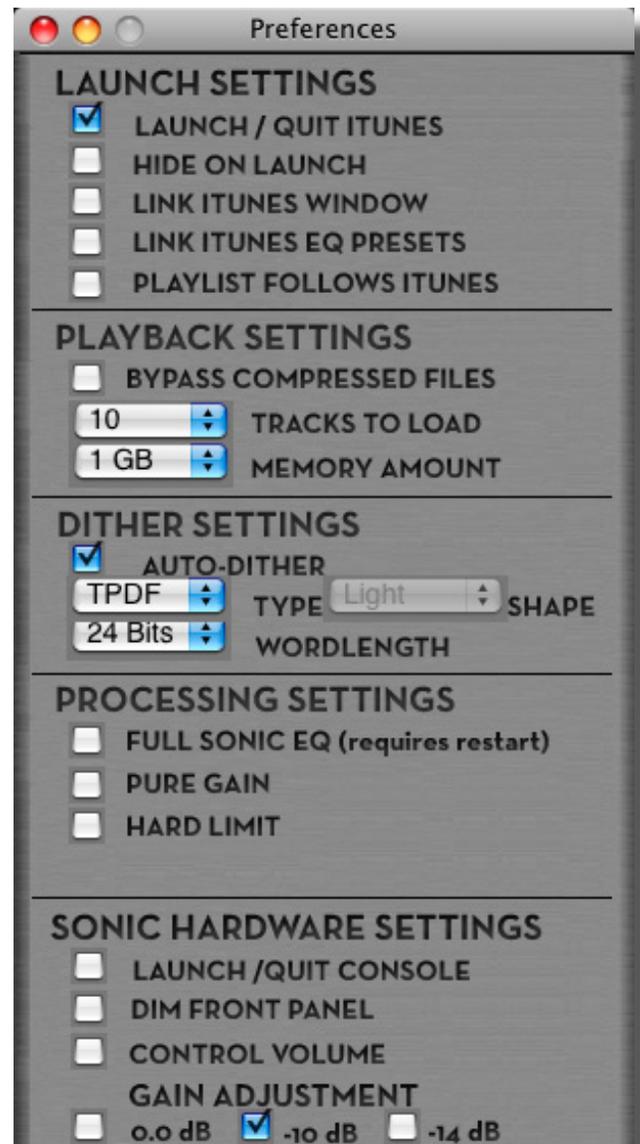
SONIC HARDWARE SETTINGS ::
   Requires Sonic Studio Hardware.
Launch/Quit Console: Forces Sonic Console to launch or quit in sync with Amarra.
Dim Front Panel: Dims the front panel display.
Control Volume: Interlocks Amarra‚Äôs gain control with the hardware gain control so either can be used.
Gain Adjustment: Set the system gain to match professional (0 dB) or consumer electronic (-10 or -14 dB) standard levels. (MINI and Amarra only)

7.0 Registering Your Junior Software ::

In order to receive warranty service, you must register your product with Sonic Studio. This may be done at any time with proof-of-purchase.

We strongly recommend that you register with Sonic Studio as soon as you purchase your software. This will ensure the best possible support and keep your advised of new Junior releases.

NOTE: We value your privacy. Your contact information will not be shared with any third party.

1. Your product will be registered with us.
   Registration is used as proof of ownership if your product is ever lost or stolen.
2. Sonic Studio updates Junior software on a regular basis.
   This allows us to keep you informed of updates as they become available.

Please register your Junior software using our automated registration Web page at:

http://www.sonicstudio.com/register

Alternatively, our mail address is:

Amarra Software registration
Sonic Studio, LLC
330 Sir Frances Drake Blvd Suite A
San Anselmo, CA USA
94960-2552
Phone: +1-415-480-1601
Fax 1-775-330-8923

If you encounter issues using Junior please refer to the troubleshooting information below for assistance. If none of these steps address your problem please contact your dealer or Sonic Studio support for more help.

8.0 Upgrades to MINI and Amarra ::

The policy for upgrading from Junior to MINI or Amarra is the difference in price. Please contact

Sonic Studio or your local Amarra representative for ordering information.

9.0 Troubleshooting Guide ::

See below for answers to common issues. Please also visit our website for the FAQ and support pages as they contact important information that can assist you.

Issue: Amarra Authorization Answers.

I have entered my code and password correctly with a new password to do a re-activation, why is the application not being re-activated?

Verify that you have an Internet Connection. Your new password must be a new and never-used password. Verify that you have not previously used this password with this activation code.

How often will my application connect to the activation server via the Internet?

Your application uses the Internet when it is first installed, when it is re-activated (such as after a disk reformat and reinstall, or if the software is moved to a new computer). The application may also do a quick check with the server when you run the application.

software_DNA includes an anti-fraud system that disables activation codes in cases of credit-card chargeback or refund. Unless you are using offline activation (see below), your application will need to connect to the Internet at least once a month to verify the license status. When an activation code is revoked, the software remains in trial mode until a new, valid activation code is provided.

Will my application work if I don't have an Internet connection?

Yes, there is an offline activation method available. If no Internet connection is found during activation, or the activation server is not reachable, the software will ask you to do offline activation. The software will provide step- by-step instructions, where a file is written to disk that you move to a computer that does have Internet access (or email access). You can move this file via LAN, floppy disk, CD-R or USB key. You can use your Internet browser (on a machine that does have Internet access) to visit a special page to upload this file and receive another file in return. If you do not have any working browsers then the file can be emailed to our tech support (note there may be a delay in the return of the file depending on the time of day and week).

During activation what information is passed to the server?

No personal information or information about your computer configuration are transferred.

There is a one-way hash* of some machine configuration data, your chosen password, and the optional email address sent to the server. Your application may have an optional registration page and if you choose to fill that out, that information is also transferred during the first activation. If you do not provide the optional information (email address and registration information) then no personal information will be transferred. We suggest you do not use one of your important personal passwords for the activation password, or a password that personally identifies you.

*One-way Hash: Codes that identify parts of the computer are put through a special function (called a 'one way hash') that turns the codes into one code number that is unique to your computer but cannot be deciphered (or reverse engineered) to determine what those components are. Only this hash value is sent to the activation server and not the details on the computer parts.

Can I move Amarra to another computer?

Yes, this can be done easily. It is simply a matter of deactivating the application on one computer, reinstalling the application on the new machine, and reactivating the software. If you have remembered your password this will be a fast and easy process.

What is the email address for and is it mandatory?

The email address on the activation and reactivation dialogs is mandatory. It can be used to retrieve a lost password. When you provide the email address it will not be used for marketing purposes or sold / provided to any third party. If you do provide an email address we recommend it be one that will be active for some time.

What if I have forgotten my password and did not provide an email address (or my email address is no longer valid)?

During a reactivation the previously provided password is required. If the password has been lost and cannot be recovered (because an email address was not provided, or the email address is no longer valid) you will need to contact our support via email or by phone. We will be happy to reset your password.

Will changes to my computer cause my application to stop working?

There are no changes that will cause a permanent disabling of the software. Major changes (disk reformat being one such major change) will mean that you need to reactivate the software. If you have your password this will be a fast and easy process.

What happens if Sonic Studio or softWORKZ suspends service or goes out of business?

Both companies have been in business for several years, and are healthy and stable and will be around for many years to come!

Regardless, your activated application will continue working without the Activation server, although new activations or re-activations will not be possible. Both companies are committed to ensure that a patch will be made available ASAP to resolve this. Either a version with a replaced activation system or a version with no activation will be provided.

I wish to do an online activation but my firewall is set up to block such requests. What are the firewall settings?

The following is the information that you need to setup your firewall:
    Main server IP address: reg1.softworkz.com
    Backup server IP: reg2.softworkz.com
    Backup server IP: reg3.softworkz.com
    Port: 80 (Standard HTTP)
    Domain: softworkz.com

Why is an activation system required at this time?

Software companies around the world have come to realize that activation- type copy-protection systems provide a reasonable solution to the problem of piracy while at the same time respecting customers by not burdening them with a hard-to-use licensing system. Reducing piracy means that the software vendor can use steady revenues to further improve the product and guarantee business continuation. It is unfortunate that piracy exists because we know the majority of our customers follow the license terms but it is a fact of life in this digital age. We trust that this new system will be virtually transparent for the majority of customers.

Issue:
Junior does not run without authorization.
Junior has not been authorized. A valid Amarra license can not be found.

Solution:
    • Authorize your software using with an Authorization Code.
    • License your product
    • Please refer the Licensing section of this document for more information.

Issue:

Junior fails to operate or run.

Solution:

> • Junior requires a license to operate

Issue:

How to set up a remote volume or hard drive

> Amarra does not support streaming of remote songs.
> Amarra requires that all volumes/drive be mounted on the computer as a shared volume.

Solution:

> • Mount the remote volume with Read/Write Access on your local Macintosh - Use the Network (Cmd-K) to locate and mount the remote volume
> • In iTunes use the Add to Library command to add the songs from the Mounted Volume
> • Mount the remote volume with Read/Write Access on your local Macintosh

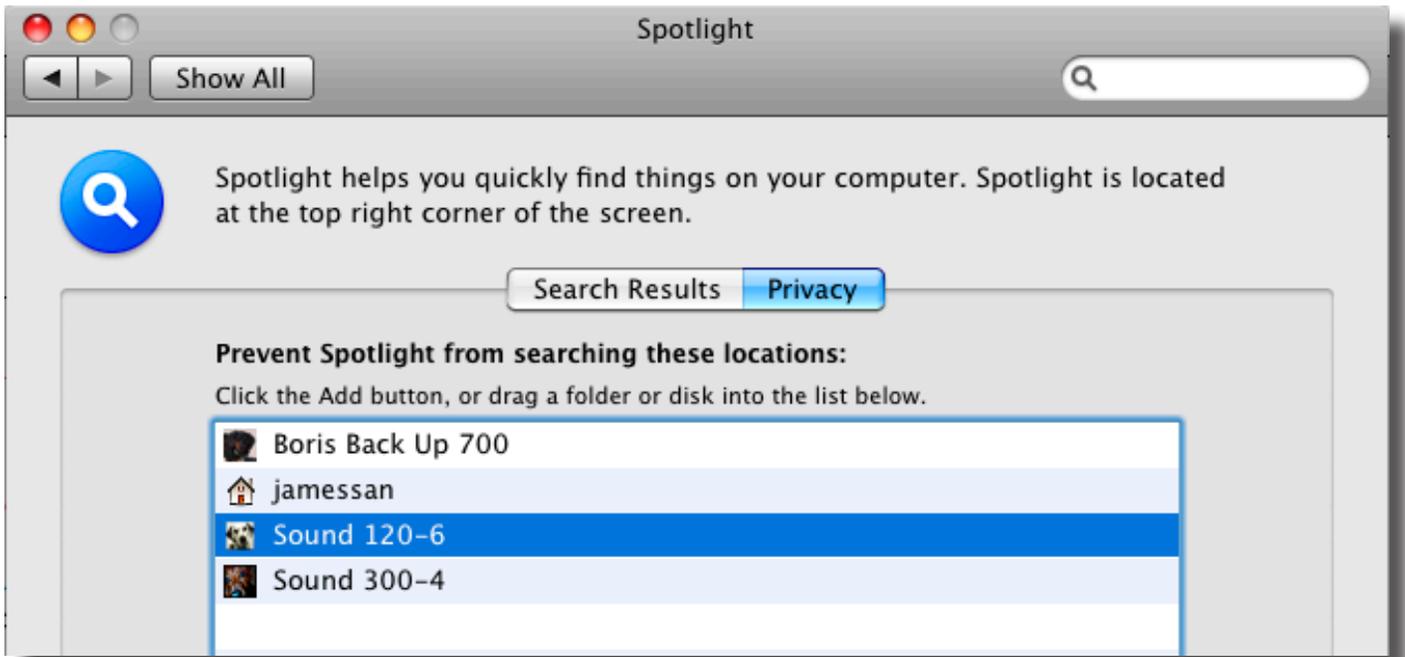**Issue:**

> Audio Clicking or Ticking Sound.

Solution:

> Disable Spotlight (add volumes to the Spotlight Privacy Preference)

Open System Preferences and locate the Spotlight Preference pane:

Select the Privacy Tab and add all your media drives:

Solution:

> Disable Network Shared Access.
> Open System Preferences and locate the Sharing Preference.

Disable Web Sharing, Remote Login and Remote Management.

> NOTE: For Sonic Studio Remote Support Services, the Remote Management preference may be required.

Solution:

- Disconnect multiple FireWire devices
- Reduce daisy-chained connections
- Use a FireWire hub

Solution:

- Shut down other applications such as email and browsers.

Solution:

- Increase the amount of RAM in your computer.

Solution:

- Check that all drives are HFS formatted.
  Amarra does not support FAT32 drives.

Solution:

• Change the Sample Rate manually using Audio Midi Setup to a different value.
     Then switch the Sample Rate back.

Issue:

Songs do not change or sound correctly.

Solution:

   • Disable the Crossfade Songs preference in iTunes
   • Disable the Sound Enhancer preference in iTunes
   • Disable the Sound Check preference in iTunes
   • Disable Sleep and other Energy Preferences.

Issue:

Amarra does not play audio.

Solution:

   • Files may not play if the Permissions are not set to Read / Write.
     Check the permissions and ensure Read/Write and access privileges.

Solution:

   • Files may not play if the path is too long or contains non-ascii characters.
     Try moving the files to another location.

NOTE: Sound files with names that contain ":" or other foreign characters may not play properly. Changing the name of the soundfile can fix this.

Issue:

   Sample Rate Does Not Change With Soundfile.

   Does your device support the sample rates for your music?
   Junior will only support 44100 Hz files.
   Otherwise, iTunes will be used (and sample rate conversion may occur).

10.0 Support ::

We are committed to your successful use of Junior and offer support for Junior through your local dealer or via email through Sonic Studio. Please ask your local dealer for assistance. They have a great deal of knowledge about Junior and are an excellent resource.

11. Amarra Team Contact Info ::

Please email support with questions.

support@sonicstudio.com

You can always find the latest information and updates for Junior on our website:

http://www.amarraaudio.com