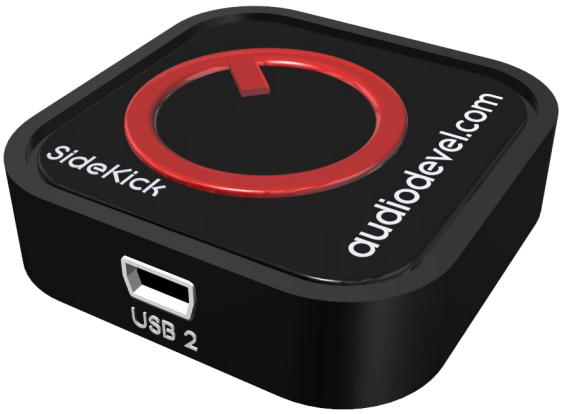
The SideKick

(Preliminary Draft)



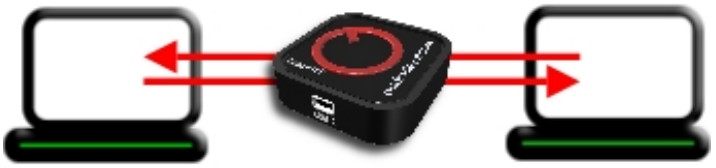
USB Audio & MIDI Bridge

The SideKick is a USB & MIDI audio bridge for PCs. It works with all common computers and operating systems.

When two PCs are connected over the SideKick, each PC sees the other as an audio interface, with

- 2 audio inputs,
- 2 audio outputs and
- 1 MIDI in- and output.

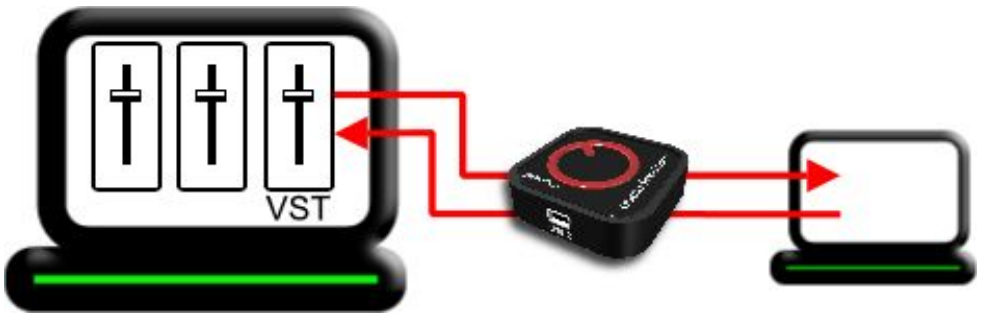
This allows to stream audio- and MIDI-data between these computers in both directions.



Distributed Processing Power for Audio Software

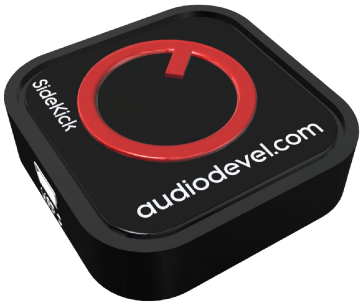
DAWs* (Digital Audio Workstations) are the most popular software for music production today. DAWs can be extended through plugins, giving them virtually unlimited features.

But the processing power of a PC is limited. Exceeding that limit will cause nasty audio drop-outs, the DAW starts to stutter - a frustratingly common situation. Buying a more powerful PC - that's a sorry option!



The SideKick offers a low-cost solution. It comes with its own **VST Plugin***, which allows for **distributed processing*** in conjunction with any VST compatible audio-software. This comes especially handy on the above situation.

Together with its VST Plugin, the SideKick can be used to stream audio and MIDI from any track within the DAW to another computer, process the data there in whatever manner, and send the result back to where it came from.



All without even touching the DAWs own audio interface and with a short and precisely known **latency***, which easily can be compensated for.

That enables the user to increase the processing power of its DAW, by simply adding another computer, e.g. the old one standing in the corner, catching dust. Or your mothers laptop.

Switzerland Army Knife

The SideKick comes at the price of a dinner, fits in any pocket and is sturdy and uncomplicated to use. There are numerous occasions where streaming digital audio or MIDI from one USB-enabled device to another is simply that practical option home-recorders, sound technicians or engineers do not want to miss.

*** Technical Terms:**

MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) allows to play and control modern digital instruments and audio gear. Besides its musical qualities, it can be used for a number of technical needs like e.g. remote control and synchronization of recording equipment.

VST Plugins are add-on pieces of software that extend the functionality of a larger VST compatible application. **VST** stands for “Virtual Studio Technology”, a software interface mainly used in audio editors and recording systems.

DAW stands for “Digital Audio Workstation”, most commonly a software for multi-track audio recording, editing and mixing.

Distributed Processing means to use multiple PCs for a single process. This allows to increase processing power on demand.

Latency is the unavoidable delay caused by streaming and processing audio. As long as a specific latency is known, it can easily be compensated for.