

AUTODESK®
VISUAL EFFECTS AND FINISHING
2009 Extension 1

ATC® Learning Station Release Notes Supplement

Autodesk®

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Release Information



Topics in this chapter:

- [About These Release Notes](#) on page 1
- [Product Documentation](#) on page 1
- [Contacting Customer Support](#) on page 2

About These Release Notes

This document provides information about the documentation, licensing, and configuration procedures specific to the 2009 Extension 1 release of the Autodesk® Visual Effects and Finishing ATC® (Autodesk Training Center) Learning Station.

Product Documentation

Product documentation for the ATC Learning Station consists of this release notes supplement, and the documentation set for standard Visual Effects and Finishing products, such as Autodesk Flame® 2009 Extension 1, and Autodesk Smoke® 2009 Extension 1. For a complete list of the documents in the standard documentation set, see the latest Release Notes for your application, or visit <http://www.autodesk.com/me-documentation>.

NOTE This release notes supplement only covers items that are specific to the ATC Learning Station release. Refer to the standard documentation set for all other information, starting with the Release Notes for your release.

Related Documentation

Read this release notes supplement in conjunction with the following documentation.

Autodesk Visual Effects and Finishing 2009 Extension 1 Software Installation Guide Provides information on installing and licensing your application on the workstation.

Autodesk Flame 2009 Extension 1 User Guide Provides information on using Flame 2009 Extension 1.

Autodesk Smoke 2009 Extension 1 User Guide Provides information on using Smoke 2009 Extension 1.

Autodesk Inferno, Autodesk Flame, and Autodesk Flint 2009 Extension 1 Release Notes Includes late-breaking technical information for Flame 2009 Extension 1, and a list of related documentation. To obtain the latest Release Notes, go to <http://www.autodesk.com/flame-documentation>.

Autodesk Smoke, and Autodesk Backdraft Conform 2009 Extension 1 Release Notes Includes late-breaking technical information for Smoke 2009 Extension 1, and a list of related documentation. To obtain the latest Release Notes, go to <http://www.autodesk.com/smoke-documentation>.

Fixed and Known Bugs

You can consult a list of fixed and known bugs for this release and previous releases, on the Autodesk Web site at www.autodesk.com/me-documentation.

Contacting Customer Support

You can contact Autodesk Media and Entertainment Customer Support at www.autodesk.com/support.

Customer support is also available through your Autodesk reseller. To find a reseller near you, consult the reseller look-up database on the Autodesk Web site at www.autodesk.com/resellers.

Topics in this chapter:

- [About the Visual Effects and Finishing ATC Learning Station](#) on page 3

About the Visual Effects and Finishing ATC Learning Station

The Visual Effects and Finishing ATC Learning Station provides educational institutions with powerful tools for introducing students to the technology currently shaping the digital media industry.

Autodesk Visual Effects applications (Autodesk Inferno®, Autodesk Flame, and Autodesk Flint®) are resolution-independent, visual effects applications for video post-production that provide clip formatting, pre-processing, and visual effects tools.

Autodesk Finishing applications (Autodesk Smoke and Autodesk Backdraft® Conform) are resolution-independent, non-linear digital editing systems for video post-production that offer a level of efficiency previously unknown in traditional editing suites.

Features and Limitations

The ATC Learning Station consists of a “Learning Station” configuration (without AV I/O or a Stone® Direct storage array).

The ATC Learning Station applications feature virtually the same functionality as their standard versions.

The only limitations are the following hardware limitations on the Learning Station configuration:

- No AV I/O hardware is present, therefore, the workstation cannot perform video capture and output operations.
- Only two channels of analog audio can be output.
- No Stone Direct storage array is connected to the ATC Learning Station workstation, which instead stores media on its internal Stone drives (4X 146GB or 300 GB SAS drives). Real-time playback performance is not guaranteed for internal Stone configurations.

Installing and Using the ATC Learning Station

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Topics in this chapter:

- [Installation and Configuration Overview](#) on page 5
- [Installing the Learning Station License](#) on page 6
- [Internal Storage Configuration on the Learning Station](#) on page 7
- [Keyword Settings for Learning Stations](#) on page 7
- [Audio Settings for the Learning Station](#) on page 8
- [Getting Started On Training Media](#) on page 9

Installation and Configuration Overview

Your Visual Effects and Finishing ATC Learning Station workstation is shipped preconfigured with all required internal hardware, operating system, and basic software components already installed. Under normal circumstances, only the following configuration steps remain to be performed in order to begin using your workstation.

To configure an ATC Learning Station application:

- 1 Request and install your ATC Learning Station license. See [Installing the Learning Station License](#) on page 6.

- 2 Configure the internal storage. See [Internal Storage Configuration on the Learning Station](#) on page 7.
- 3 Configure relevant keywords in the *init.cfg* software initialization file of each Learning Station. See [Keyword Settings for Learning Stations](#) on page 7.
- 4 Launch the application and configure audio settings. See [Audio Settings for the Learning Station](#) on page 8.
- 5 Get started using training media. See [Getting Started On Training Media](#) on page 9.

Upgrading the Software

Between major releases, service packs might be released. It is always recommended that you upgrade to the latest release of your Visual Effects and Finishing application (unless advised otherwise in the Release Notes). Customers with active support contracts, including owners of educational systems, are notified when such service packs are released.

For detailed procedures on installing or upgrading your Visual Effects and Finishing application, see the *Autodesk Visual Effects and Finishing 2009 Extension 1 Software Installation Guide*.

Installing the Learning Station License

A special “EDU” license is required to run the ATC Learning Station version of your Visual Effects and Finishing application. The EDU license looks similar to the following example:

```
smokeEDU_x86_64_r_2009 discreet_1 2009.999
```

For detailed procedures on requesting and installing your licenses, see the *Autodesk Visual Effects and Finishing Software Installation Guide*.

NOTE The *Autodesk Visual Effects and Finishing Software Installation Guide* provides examples of licensing procedures using generic license strings. The procedures are identical for EDU licenses.

Internal Storage Configuration on the Learning Station

The Learning Station is shipped with four 300GB internal SAS drives to be used as the main media storage volume. No action is required on your part in order to enable or connect the drives in the workstation. You must, however, set up the Stone filesystem on the internal storage drives.

Managing Internal Storage

Use the `sw_config` utility to set up the Stone filesystem and manage the internal storage on the Learning Station. For information about this utility, see the *Autodesk Stone and Wire Filesystem and Networking Guide*.

You normally protect data on a Stone filesystem using software or hardware RAID. However, these features are not available for the Learning Station because of the internal storage configuration. Because disk failure may result in media loss, do the following to protect media while working on a Learning Station:

- Do not store critical or long-term projects on the Learning Station.
- Ensure media used in projects is backed up and can be recaptured, if necessary.
- Save projects and project archives to a network drive that is backed up on a regular basis.

Keyword Settings for Learning Stations

Specify the following keyword settings in the software initialization configuration file `init.cfg`.

Keyword Option	Setting
Video	Commented out
DVIRamp	Commented out
VideoPreviewDevice	Commented out
TabletDriver wacom	Enabled
VTR	Commented out

Keyword Option	Setting
AudioDevice AJA	Commented out
AudioDevice ALSA	Enabled. This specifies that the software should use the ALSA audio library for audio I/O.

For detailed procedures on setting keywords in the *init.cfg* software initialisation file, see the *Autodesk Visual Effects and Finishing Configuration File Reference Guide*.

Audio Settings for the Learning Station

Since the Learning Station does not have dedicated AV I/O hardware adapters, the application uses the workstation’s onboard audio hardware.

The Learning Station uses open source audio technology known as ALSA (Advanced Linux Sound Architecture).

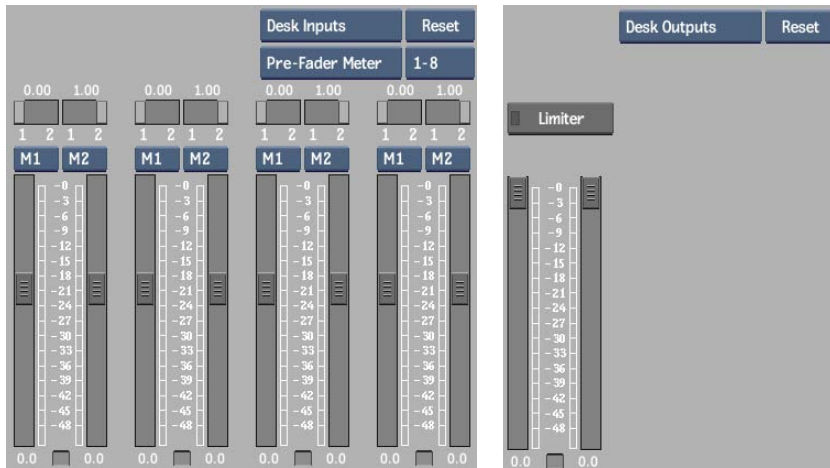
On Learning Stations, the Monitor Sync box and Audio Delays in the Audio Preferences menu are disabled (greyed out) since the Learning Station cannot connect to either a broadcast or high-resolution monitor.



AudioDesk Settings

While an unlimited number of tracks can be included in the Smoke timeline, the mixer input is limited to 32 tracks on the Learning Station. The Learning

Station can only output to two channels. Therefore, on the Learning Station interface, all input mixer channels are assigned to output M1 and M2.



Smoke Learning Station Inputs

Smoke Learning Station Outputs

Clip Input and Output

Both the Input Clip and Output Clip menus are accessible on the Learning Station, allowing you to view the menu controls for educational purposes. However, since the Learning Station cannot connect to an external I/O device, the menus are non-functional.

Getting Started On Training Media

Training media is provided with the ATC Learning Station. Use these archives along with the Smoke and Flame training workbooks.

To load the sample footage archive in your application:

- 1 Start your application.
- 2 In the Library menu, click Archive.
- 3 If necessary, select Clips from the Archive Type box.
- 4 Make sure that Device: File appears in the Archive Device box.

- 5 Click the File Path field to display the file browser.
- 6 Browse to */usr/discreet/archive/TrainingMedia/*.
- 7 In one of the subdirectories, select the archive file you would like to restore.
- 8 Make sure you have sufficient space on the framestore for the contents of the archive.
- 9 In the Archive menu, click Open.
- 10 Select the Backup set.
- 11 In the destination box, choose Project, if applicable.
- 12 Click Restore.
- 13 Once the application has finished reading the frames, click Close, and then click Exit Archive to return to the Clip Library menu.