iCON ICOA-AIO6

iCON AIO6 USB Audio Interface and MIDI Controller

User Manual

Model: ICOA-AIO6

1. Introduction

The iCON AIO6 is a versatile and compact desktop recording interface designed for home and project studios. It integrates a comprehensive four-channel control surface with a high-fidelity 24-bit/192kHz audio interface, all housed within a robust aluminum and metal enclosure. This device is engineered to streamline your recording workflow by combining audio input/output capabilities with intuitive DAW control.

Key features include two Mic/Instrument preamps, two line inputs, four line outputs, S/P DIF and MIDI connectivity, and dual headphone outputs. The control surface offers dedicated faders, buttons, and encoders for precise control over your digital audio workstation, supporting Mackie Control and HUI protocols for broad compatibility.

Figure 1: The iCON AIO6 USB Audio Interface and MIDI Controller, showcasing its compact design and array of controls.

2. Setup and Installation

Before operating your AIO6, ensure proper physical connections and software installation.

2.1 Physical Connections

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the provided 12V DC power adapter to the "12V DC" input on the rear panel of the AIO6. Plug the adapter into a suitable power outlet.
2. **USB Connection:** Connect the AIO6 to your computer using a standard USB cable. The AIO6 is compatible with Windows operating systems.
3. **Audio Inputs:**
   - **Mic/Instrument Inputs (Top Panel):** Use XLR or 1/4-inch TRS/TS cables to connect microphones or instruments (e.g., guitar, bass) to the two dedicated inputs on the top panel. These inputs feature preamps and phantom power (+48V) for condenser microphones.
   - **Line Inputs (Rear Panel):** Connect electronic instruments (e.g., synthesizers, drum machines, DJ gear) to the two 1/4-inch TRS line inputs on the rear panel.
4. **Audio Outputs:**
   - **Line Outputs (Rear Panel):** Connect your studio monitors or external effects processors to the four 1/4-inch TRS line outputs.
   - **Headphone Outputs (Side Panels):** Connect headphones to the 1/4-inch stereo headphone jacks located on either side of the unit.

5. **S/P DIF and MIDI Connections:**
    - **S/P DIF I/O:** Use RCA cables to connect to compatible digital audio devices.
    - **MIDI I/O:** Use standard 5-pin DIN MIDI cables to connect to MIDI keyboards, controllers, or other MIDI-enabled devices.

Figure 2: Rear panel connections of the AIO6, including power, USB, MIDI, S/P DIF, and line inputs/outputs.

2.2 Software Installation

For optimal performance, install the latest drivers and software for your AIO6.

1. **Driver Installation:** Visit the iCON official website to download the latest drivers for your operating system (Windows). Follow the on-screen instructions for installation. It is recommended to install drivers before connecting the AIO6 to your computer for the first time.
2. **Bundled Software:** The AIO6 comes bundled with Cubase LE. Install this software using the provided instructions or download it from the manufacturer's website.
3. **iMap Software:** The included iMap software allows for quick and easy MIDI mapping of the AIO6's controls to any MIDI application. Install iMap from the provided media or download it from the iCON website.

3. Operating the AIO6

The AIO6 combines a powerful audio interface with a comprehensive control surface for your DAW.

3.1 Control Surface Overview

Figure 3: Front panel of the AIO6, highlighting the control surface elements.

- **Channel Strips:** The AIO6 features four channel strips, each equipped with:
    - **Volume Fader:** Controls the track volume in your DAW.
    - **Mute Button:** Mutes the corresponding track.
    - **Solo Button:** Solos the corresponding track.
    - **Rec Arm Button:** Arms the track for recording.
    - **Rotary Encoder:** Used to control parameters such as pan position or send levels, with track and bank shift functionality to navigate additional software channels.
- **Master Channel:** An additional fader and encoder are provided for controlling the master channel of your DAW.
- **Transport Controls:** A six-button transport section (Rewind, Loop, Fast-forward, Stop, Play, Rec) allows for intuitive control over your recording session.
- **Jog Wheel:** A large jog wheel facilitates quick navigation within your project, scrubbing through audio, or fine-tuning parameters.
- **Navigation Buttons:** Dedicated buttons for navigation, zoom, markers, and other functions enhance workflow efficiency.
- **User Mode Buttons:** Recall custom user mappings on the fly, allowing for personalized control setups.

3.2 Audio Interface Functionality

The integrated 24-bit/192kHz audio interface provides high-quality audio capture and playback.

- **Input Monitoring:** Monitor your input signals directly through the AIO6's headphone outputs with low latency.
- **Output Routing:** Route audio from your DAW to the four line outputs for mixing on studio monitors or sending to external effects.
- **Dual Headphone Outputs:** Ideal for collaborative recording sessions, allowing two users to monitor audio simultaneously.

3.3 DAW Integration and Mapping

The AIO6 is designed for seamless integration with popular Digital Audio Workstations.

- **Mackie Control & HUI Protocols:** The AIO6 supports Mackie Control for DAWs like Cubase, Nuendo, Samplitude, Logic Pro, and Ableton Live, and HUI protocol for Pro Tools. This provides automatic mapping for many common functions.
- **Custom MIDI Mapping (iMap):** For advanced users or specific applications, the iMap software allows you to custom-map every control on the AIO6 to any MIDI application. Refer to the iMap software manual for detailed instructions on creating and saving custom mappings.

4. Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your AIO6.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid using abrasive cleaners, solvents, or waxes, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Dust Protection:** When not in use, cover the AIO6 to protect it from dust accumulation, which can affect faders and buttons.
- **Software Updates:** Regularly check the iCON official website for driver and firmware updates. Keeping your software up-to-date can improve performance, add new features, and resolve compatibility issues.
- **Storage:** Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

5. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your AIO6, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps.

- **No Power:**
  - Ensure the 12V DC power adapter is securely connected to both the AIO6 and a working power outlet.
  - Check the power switch on the rear panel of the AIO6 is in the 'ON' position.
- **No Audio Input/Output:**
  - Verify all audio cables are correctly and securely connected to the AIO6 and your audio sources/monitors.
  - Check the input gain levels on the AIO6 and the volume levels on your DAW and monitors.
  - Ensure the correct audio device (AIO6) is selected as the input/output device in your computer's sound settings and your DAW's preferences.
  - Reinstall the latest AIO6 drivers from the iCON website.
- **Control Surface Not Responding:**
  - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the AIO6 and your computer.
  - Verify that the AIO6 is recognized by your DAW and that the correct control surface protocol (Mackie Control/HUI) is selected in your DAW's preferences.
  - Restart your computer and the AIO6.
  - If using custom mappings, check the iMap software for correct configuration.
- **Driver Issues (Windows):**
  - If experiencing intermittent functionality or recognition issues, try uninstalling and then reinstalling the AIO6 drivers.
  - Ensure your Windows operating system is up to date.

If problems persist, contact iCON technical support for further assistance.

6. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	ICOA-AIO6
Item Weight	4 pounds (1.81 kg)
Product Dimensions	15 x 7 x 2 inches (38.1 x 17.78 x 5.08 cm)
Brand	iCON
Hardware Interface	USB
Connectivity Technology	USB
Number of Channels	4 (control surface), 6 inputs / 6 outputs (audio interface)
Material Type	Aluminum, Metal
Operating System Compatibility	Windows (drivers available)
Audio Resolution	24-bit/192kHz
Included Software	Cubase LE, iMap

7. Warranty and Support

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, or service, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official iCON Pro Audio website.
You can find more information and contact support via the iCON Store on Amazon.