

Focusrite Scarlett 18i20

Focusrite Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen USB Audio Interface User Manual

Model: Scarlett 18i20

INTRODUCTION

The Focusrite Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen is a versatile USB audio interface designed for multitrack recording, music production, and podcasting. It offers high-fidelity, studio-quality recording capabilities and a comprehensive software suite to support your creative process. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your device.

SETUP

1. Unboxing and Initial Inspection

Carefully remove all components from the packaging. Ensure the Scarlett 18i20 unit, USB cable, and power supply are present. Inspect the device for any visible damage.

2. Connecting to Your Computer

Connect the Scarlett 18i20 to your computer using the provided USB cable. The interface is compatible with both Mac and Windows operating systems. Ensure a stable USB connection for optimal performance.

The Scarlett 18i20 requires external power. Connect the included power supply to the device and a power outlet. The unit will power on automatically.

3. Software Installation

Before using your Scarlett 18i20, download and install the necessary drivers and the Focusrite Control 2 application from the official Focusrite website. This software is crucial for managing inputs, outputs, routing, and other advanced features of your interface.

The Focusrite Control 2 app allows for remote adjustment of levels and settings, providing flexibility in your studio setup.

4. Physical Connections Overview



Figure 1: Front Panel Overview. This image displays the front panel of the Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen audio interface, highlighting the input jacks, gain knobs, and monitoring controls.



Figure 2: Rear Panel Overview. This image shows the rear panel of the Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen, detailing the various output jacks, MIDI I/O, ADAT, S/PDIF, and USB connection port.

OPERATION

Inputs and Outputs

The Scarlett 18i20 features 18 inputs and 20 outputs, providing extensive connectivity for your studio. This includes eight mic preamps, Hi-Z inputs for instruments, line inputs, ADAT, S/PDIF, MIDI I/O, and Word Clock for synchronization.

The front panel offers convenient access to primary inputs, while the rear panel accommodates a wider array of connections for a comprehensive studio setup.

Preamps and Audio Quality

The 4th Generation preamps deliver 69dB of gain, ensuring clear and powerful signal capture. The device is equipped with 24-bit, 192kHz converters, derived from Focusrite's flagship RedNet range, offering a 122dB dynamic range for detailed and accurate recordings.

Air Mode

Engage the "Air" mode to add presence and harmonic drive to your sound. This feature emulates the character of classic studio consoles, enhancing vocals and instruments with a rich, polished quality.



Video 1: Scarlett 4th Gen Overview. This video provides an overview of the Scarlett 4th Gen series, highlighting features like Air Mode, Auto Gain, and Clip Safe, and showcasing the range of interfaces available.

Professional Workflow Tools

- **Auto Gain:** This feature automatically sets optimal input levels, simplifying the setup process and ensuring your recordings are not too quiet or too loud.
- **Clip Safe:** Designed to prevent clipping, Clip Safe continuously monitors your input signals and automatically adjusts the gain in real-time if levels approach distortion, helping you avoid ruined takes.

Monitoring

The 18i20 includes two independent, high-powered headphone outputs for flexible monitoring. A built-in mic for talkback allows for easy communication within the studio environment. Direct monitoring capabilities ensure a low-latency listening experience during recording.

Focusrite Control 2 App

The Focusrite Control 2 application provides comprehensive control over your interface. Use it to quickly configure routings, set up monitor mixes, save presets, and manage levels directly from your computer or remotely from a mobile device.



Essential workflow tools

Set up without the stress; Auto Gain helps set levels fast and Clip Safe keeps every take out of the red. You'll never lose a take again.

Figure 3: Studio Setup with Scarlett 18i20. This image shows the Scarlett 18i20 integrated into a studio environment, connected to a computer and monitors, demonstrating its role as a central audio hub.

Included Software

The Scarlett 18i20 comes bundled with a suite of software to kickstart your production: Pro Tools Intro+ for Focusrite, Ableton Live Lite, six months of FL Studio Producer Edition, and the Hitmaker Expansion. The Hitmaker Expansion includes essential effects, powerful software instruments, and user-friendly mastering tools.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Scarlett 18i20, follow these general maintenance guidelines:

- Keep the unit clean by wiping it with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- Protect the unit from dust, moisture, and extreme temperatures.
- Ensure proper ventilation around the device to prevent overheating.
- Handle all cables and connectors with care to prevent damage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Scarlett 18i20, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Verify that the power adapter is securely connected to both the interface and a working power outlet.
- **No Sound/Input Signal:**
 - Check all audio cable connections.
 - Ensure the correct input is selected in your DAW and the Focusrite Control 2 app.
 - Confirm that phantom power (48V) is enabled for condenser microphones.
 - Adjust gain knobs to appropriate levels; utilize Auto Gain if available.
- **Software Issues:**
 - Ensure you have the latest drivers and Focusrite Control 2 software installed.
 - Restart your computer and the Scarlett 18i20.
- **Clipping/Distortion:** Reduce input gain using the physical knobs or the Focusrite Control 2 app. The Clip Safe feature should help prevent this automatically.

For further assistance, refer to the comprehensive support resources on the official Focusrite website.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Focusrite
Model	Scarlett 18i20 4th Gen
Compatible Devices	Microphone, Instrument, Personal Computer, Headphones, Studio Monitors
Supported Software	All audio recording software (including Pro Tools Intro+, Ableton Live Lite, FL Studio Producer Edition)
Connectivity Technology	USB
Number of Channels	18 Inputs, 20 Outputs
Mic Preamps	8 (4th Generation, 69dB gain)
Dynamic Range	122dB (RedNet converters)
Special Features	Hi-Z inputs, Air Mode, Auto Gain, Clip Safe, MIDI I/O, ADAT, S/PDIF, Word Clock, Dual Headphone Outputs, Talkback Mic

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed information regarding warranty coverage, product registration, and technical support, please visit the official Focusrite website. You can find FAQs, driver downloads, and contact information for customer service there. Official Focusrite Website: www.focusrite.com

