

Pro Tools® Comparison Chart

	Pro Tools HD	Pro Tools	Pro Tools Express	Pro Tools First
Ideal for...	Pros who need maximum track counts, the highest performance, scalability, and surround sound for demanding music and post production	Pros who want to compose, record, edit, and mix music or sound for picture with a complete set of tools and advanced workflows	Aspiring music and audio pros on a limited budget who want the best sound quality possible and the essential features of Pro Tools	Singers, songwriters, and musicians who are new to audio recording, or musicians who have always wanted to try Pro Tools
Availability	Comes bundled as part of a Pro Tools HDX or Pro Tools HD Native system bundle (perpetual license); can be used with or without hardware	Access the software through a low-cost monthly or annual subscription, purchase and own the software (perpetual license), or purchase it as part of a Pro Tools Duet, Pro Tools Quartet, Pro Tools Mbox™, or Pro Tools Eleven® Rack bundle; can be used with or without hardware	Comes bundled at no charge with Pro Tools Mbox, Pro Tools Fast Track™ Solo, and Pro Tools Fast Track Duo interfaces only	Available for free for anyone to download and use
Supported Tracks	Pro Tools HD	Pro Tools	Pro Tools Express	Pro Tools First
Maximum simultaneous audio tracks @ 48/96/192 kHz	256/128/64 (up to 768/384/192) ²	64/32/1 (mono or stereo)	16/16/1 (mono or stereo)	16/16/1 (mono or stereo)
Maximum inputs (hardware dependent)	192	32	8	4
Audio recording (maximum simultaneous tracks)	256	32	4	4
Instrument	256	128	8	16
MIDI	512	512	16	16
Auxiliary	512	128	8	16
Busses	Unlimited	Unlimited	16	Unlimited
Video	64	1	1	n/a
General	Pro Tools HD	Pro Tools	Pro Tools Express	Pro Tools First
Maximum supported projects/sessions	Unlimited; projects stored on local or networked drives	Unlimited; projects stored on local or networked drives	Unlimited; projects stored on local or networked drives	Three; projects stored in the cloud; additional projects may be purchased from the Avid Store in the near future
Maximum sample rate supported (hardware dependent)	32-bit, 192 kHz	32-bit, 192 kHz	32-bit, 96 kHz	32-bit, 96 kHz
Maximum I/O (hardware dependent)	256	32	8	4
ASIO, Core Audio, and EUCON™ support (for third-party interface and control surface integration)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Supported plug-in formats (virtual instruments, effects, and sound processors)	AAX DSP (Pro Tools HDX only), AAX Native, AAX AudioSuite	AAX Native, AAX AudioSuite	AAX Native, AAX AudioSuite, RTAS, AudioSuite	AAX Native, AAX AudioSuite
Bundled software	Over 60 virtual instruments (thousands of sounds), effects, sound processing, and utility plug-ins	Over 60 virtual instruments (thousands of sounds), effects, sound processing, and utility plug-ins	Three virtual instruments (hundreds of sounds), plus over 25 effects, sound processing, and utility plug-ins	XPAND!™2 multitimbral music workstation (hundreds of sounds), plus over 20 effects, sound processing, and utility plug-ins
Composing, recording, sequencing, editing, and mixing tools	✓	✓	✓	✓
Loop record/track comping	✓	✓	✓	✓
MIDI Editor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sibelius Score Editor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elastic Time and Elastic Pitch	✓	✓	✓	✓
Automatic Delay Compensation	16k	16k	16k	16k
Beat Detective	Multitrack	Multitrack	n/a	n/a
QuickPunch™	✓	✓	✓	✓
AAF/OMF™/MXF file interchange	✓	✓	✓	✓
DigiBase™ Pro	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clip Gain	✓	✓	✓	✓
MP3 option	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export to iTunes	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export to SoundCloud	✓	✓	✓	✓
Offline bounce	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timecode Ruler	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full Import Session Data	✓	✓	✓	✓
Variable stereo pan depths	✓	✓	✓	✓
Field recorder workflows	✓	✓	✓	✓
Avid Video Engine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Surround mixing	(up to 7.1)			
Advanced metering with gain reduction	✓			
Satellite Link	✓			
Extended RAM/disk cache	✓			
TrackPunch / DestructivePunch	✓			
Input monitoring	✓			
VCA mixing	✓			
Solo bus AFU/PFL	✓			
Advanced audio editing (Scrub Trim, Replace Region, Fit to Marks, Matching Channels, Back and Play, Auto Fades, and more)	✓			
Advanced automation (Punch, Capture, Write on stop, Write to all enabled, Automatch, Preview, and more)	✓			
Advanced video editing (multiple video tracks, multiple video playlists, and video editing tools)	✓			
Pro Tools HD Series interfaces				
Pro Tools HD I/O	✓			
Pro Tools HD OMNI	✓			
Pro Tools HD MADI	✓			
Pro Tools PRE	✓			
Pro Tools SYNC HD	✓			
Pro Tools Duet and Pro Tools Quartet				
Pro Tools Mbox family (2nd and 3rd gen)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pro Tools Mbox	✓	✓	(Mbox and Mbox Mini 3rd gen only)	✓
Mbox Mini				
Pro Tools Mbox Pro	✓	✓		✓
Pro Tools Eleven Rack	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pro Tools Fast Track interfaces	✓	✓	Fast Track Solo and Duo only	✓
Third party	Any Core Audio- or ASIO-compatible interface	Any Core Audio- or ASIO-compatible interface	n/a	Any Core Audio- or ASIO-compatible interface
Console and control surface support	Pro Tools HD	Pro Tools	Pro Tools Express	Pro Tools First
Ci24™	✓	✓		
EUCON-enabled				
Artist Control				
Artist Mix				
Artist Transport				
MIC Pro	✓	✓		✓
Pro Tools S6				
S5 Fusion				
System 5				
System 5-MC				
ICON				
D-Command™ ES	✓			
D-Control™ ES	✓			
Third party	Any analog or digital surface that supports the HUI protocol	Any analog or digital surface that supports the HUI protocol	n/a	n/a

1 - Per Pro Tools | HDX or Pro Tools | HD Native card. 2 - With Pro Tools | HDX systems only.