



AutoRadioBox: User Manual

Table Of Contents :

1. Introduction
2. System Requirements
3. Getting Started
 - 3.1 Installation
 - 3.2 Licensing & Activation
4. Configuring Your Library
 - 4.1 The Weekday Root Folders
 - 4.2 Creating Time Slots (Sub-Folders)
 - 4.3 Special Date Overrides
5. Automation Logic
 - 5.1 The "Next Up" Handover
 - 5.2 Refreshing the Grid
6. Announcements: Shouts & Jingles
 - 6.1 Definitions
 - 6.2 The "Special" Folder Architecture
 - 6.3 Scheduling Logic
 - 6.4 Randomization
 - 6.5 Configuration (Settings Tab)
7. Troubleshooting
8. Legal & Copyright

1. Introduction

Welcome to **AutoRadioBox**, the world's most resilient audio management engine designed specifically for commercial venues, cafes, and restaurants. Unlike traditional streaming services, AutoRadioBox is a "Local-First" application. This means your music stays on your hardware, ensuring 100% uptime even if your internet connection fails.

2. System Requirements

AutoRadioBox is a cross-platform application optimized for high-performance audio delivery.

- **macOS:** 10.15 or higher (Optimized for Apple Silicon / M-series chips).
 - **Windows:** Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit).
 - **Storage:** Variable (based on your local music library).
 - **Internet:** Required only for initial license activation and optional remote syncing.
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3. Getting Started

3.1 Installation

1. **Download:** Open the `.dmg` (Mac) or `.exe` (Windows) installer.
2. **Install:** Drag the app to your Applications folder (Mac) or follow the Setup Wizard (Windows).
3. **Launch:** Open AutoRadioBox. On the first launch, you will be directed to the **License** tab.

3.2 Licensing & Activation

To unlock the playback engine:

1. Navigate to the **License** tab.
 2. Enter your registered email address and your license key (provided via email after purchase).
 3. Click **Activate License**. Your machine will link to our secure global server, and the engine will unlock.
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4. Configuring Your Library

The "Naming-is-Scheduling" System

AutoRadioBox eliminates complex scheduling software by using your folder names to determine when music plays. If you can rename a folder, you can program your station.

4.1 The Weekday Root Folders

At the top level of your Music Root, you must have the seven days of the week named exactly:

- 01-Monday, 02-Tuesday, 03-Wednesday, 04-Thursday, 05-Friday, 06-Saturday, 07-Sunday.

4.2 Creating Time Slots (Sub-Folders)

Inside each weekday folder, you create "Time Slots" by naming sub-folders based on the 24-hour clock.

- **Hourly Slots (HH):** Name a folder 09 for music to start at 09:00, or 21 for 21:00.
- **Precise Slots (HHMM):** For specific start times, use four digits. Name a folder 1633 for music to trigger exactly at 16:33.
- **Playback Logic:** When the clock hits your folder name, the app instantly switches to that folder and shuffles all songs inside it.

4.3 Special Date Overrides

To schedule music for a specific day of the month (regardless of which weekday it is), create a folder at the Root Level named with the day's number:

- **Example:** Create a folder named 10. On the 10th of every month, the app will ignore the "Monday" or "Tuesday" folder and play from the 10 folder instead.
- **Inside the Date Folder:** You must still use the HH or HHMM sub-folder system (e.g., 10/08 for 8:00 AM on the 10th).

5. Automation Logic

5.1 The "Next Up" Handover

AutoRadioBox is designed for 24/7 playback. The engine constantly monitors the system clock:

1. **The Trigger:** As soon as the time matches a folder name (e.g., it becomes 14:00 and you have a folder named 14), the engine prepares the new playlist.
2. **The Transition:** If a song is currently playing, the engine will use your Crossfade setting to smoothly transition from the old folder's music into the new folder's music.

3. **Empty Slots:** If there is no folder for the current time, the app will continue playing from the *previous* available time slot until a new one is reached.
4. **Visual Indicator:** Date overrides will appear in the **Green Grid** on your dashboard.

5.2 Refreshing the Grid

If you add new music or rename folders while the app is running, click the "Refresh & Play" button on the dashboard. The app will re-scan your folders and update the visual schedule grid immediately.

5. Scheduling & Automation

5.1 Setting Hours

Navigate to the **Settings** tab to define your venue's operating hours.

- **Start/Stop Time:** Set the exact hour and minute the music should begin and end for each day.
- **Auto-Start:** When enabled, the music will automatically trigger as soon as the scheduled time is reached.

5.2 Crossfades

Professional environments require smooth transitions. Use the **Crossfade Slider** in Settings to set a transition between 0 and 15 seconds. This ensures no "dead air" between tracks.

6. Announcements: Shouts & Jingles

AutoRadioBox features a professional "Duck & Mix" engine that allows you to overlay advertisements, station IDs, or brand messages without stopping the music.

6.1 Definitions

- **Shouts:** Short audio clips that play over the music. The engine automatically "dips" (lowers) the music volume to your set percentage, plays the shout, and then fades the music back up.
- **Jingles:** Full-volume tracks that play between songs. The engine will wait for the current song to finish, play the jingle, and then start the next track.

6.2 The "Special" Folder Architecture

To automate these, you must create two folders at the Root Level of your music library: **Shout** and **Jingle**. Inside these, you define the schedule using a two-tier folder system: **[Start Day] / [Minute Interval]**.

6.3 Scheduling Logic: Date / Interval

The folders are named using the following logic: Day of the Month (when to start the campaign) and Interval (how often it repeats).

The Folder Structure:

Shout / [Day] / [Interval]

Jingle / [Day] / [Interval]

Examples:

- **Shout / 01 / 15:** Starting from the 1st of the month, play a shout every 15 minutes
- **Jingle / 05 / 20:** Starting from the 5th of the month, play a jingle every 20 minutes
- **Shout / 20 / 10:** This campaign will remain silent until the 20th of the month, then it will play every 10 minutes until the end of the month.

6.4 Randomization

If you place multiple files inside an interval folder (e.g., `Shout/01/15/ad1.mp3`, `ad2.mp3`), AutoRadioBox will randomly select one of those files each time the interval is reached. This prevents your announcements from sounding repetitive to customers and staff.

6.5 Configuration (Settings Tab)

In the Settings tab, you can fine-tune how these behave:

- **Shout Volume:** Set the playback volume of the announcement.
- **Music Dip Volume:** Set how quiet the background music becomes while a Shout is playing (e.g., 30%).
- **Enable/Disable:** Use the toggles to turn off all Shouts or Jingles instantly without deleting your folders.

7. Troubleshooting

- **Music is "Stuck":** Ensure your music files are in a standard format (MP3, WAV, or AAC) and that the file path does not contain restricted characters.
 - **GUI is Blank:** This usually indicates a build error. Re-install the application from your original installer.
 - **License Error:** Ensure your computer is connected to the internet. If you have moved to a new computer, you must first deactivate the old license.
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8. Legal & Copyright

AutoRadioBox is a software engine only. We do not provide or license music content.

- **User Responsibility:** It is the sole responsibility of the venue owner to ensure they possess the necessary public performance licenses (e.g., Sokoj, ASCAP, BMI) for the music they play.
 - **Indemnification:** Use of this software constitutes agreement that AutoRadioBox is not liable for any copyright infringements occurring at your venue.
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