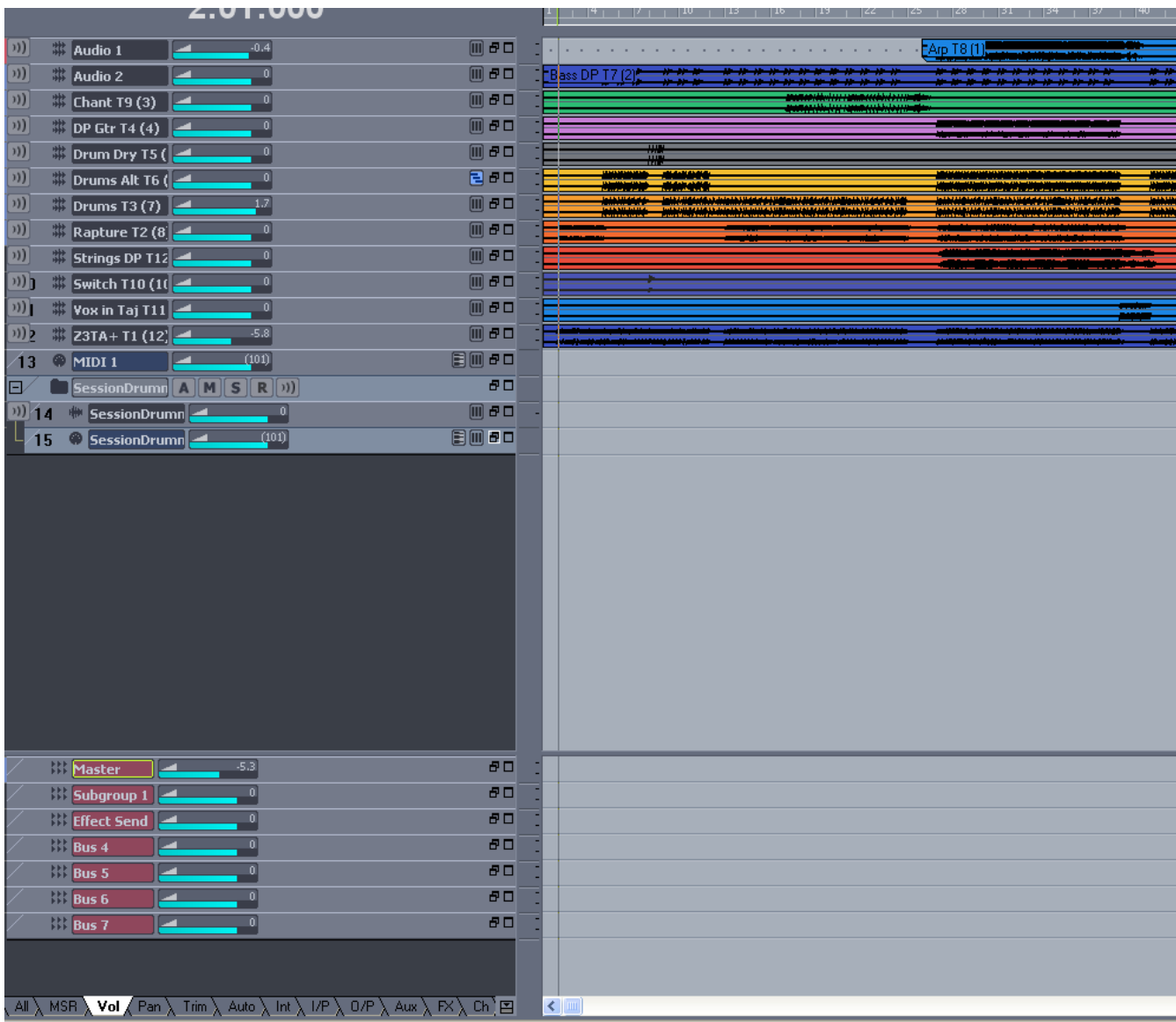


## Using Widget Tabs More Effectively

This article will focus on how you can improve your workflow by customizing and using Widget Tabs in a more effective way. It follows on from last Month's Tip "Time to let go of the Mouse" by offering alternate ways to control elements of your mix without using the Mouse.

### What have I done?

In the following Screenshot you will see at the bottom left hand side a whole bunch of Tabs which if you select them, will change what you will see in the Track and Bus Pane. So for example, if you click "Vol" you will see the just the Volume Widget Sections, select "Pan" and you will see just the Pan Widget Sections and so on. I have deliberately set up my Widget Tabs so that each Tab will display one Widget Section only. So how does generating a truckload of Tabs make things more efficient?



Well now I can use the keys on my QWERTY Keyboard to quickly navigate the Track Pane and because I can do this quickly I can afford the luxury of having more tracks displayed at a time.

### **How to operate the Widget Sections with your QWERTY Keyboard**

Use the following Key Commands to navigate and operate the Widget Sections. Use the Arrow Keys and not the Numeric Keys to navigate;

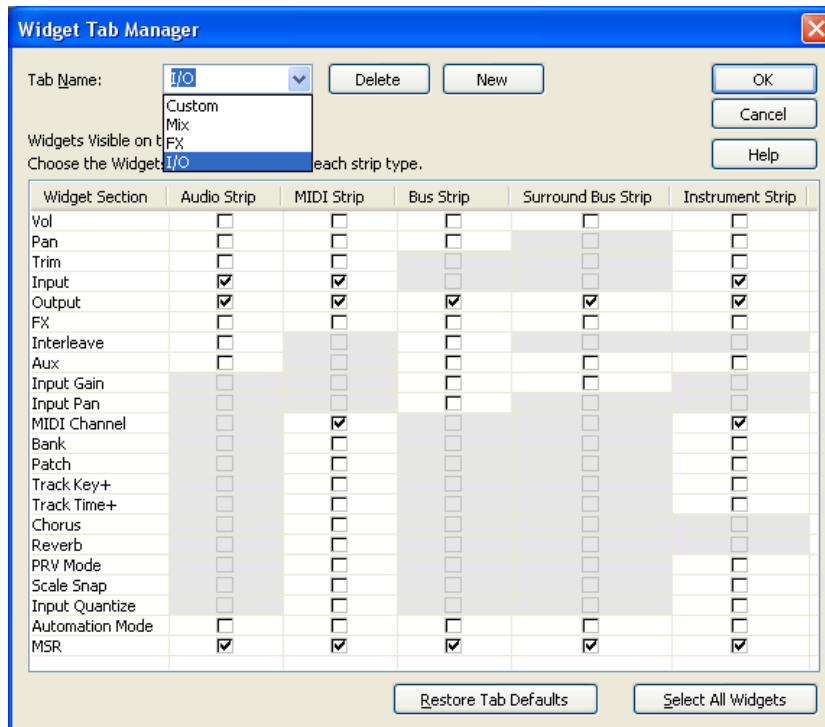
- Shift Right to move to the next Widget Tab.
- Shift Left to move to the previous Widget Tab.
- Shift Up to select the Track Pane.
- Shift Down to select the Bus Pane.
- Up Key to select the Previous Track.
- Down Key to select the Next Track.
- Right Key to select the next Widget Section.
- Left Key to select the previous Widget Section.
- + Key on the Numeric Keyboard to increase a value such as Volume or Pan in a Widget Section.
- - Key on the Numeric Keypad to decrease a Value such as Volume or Pan in a Widget Section.
- Enter Key to toggle on or off a value such as Mute in a Widget Section.

Basically, you are operating the Arrow Keys with a finger over the Shift Key. This minimal amount of effort allows you to quickly get about your Track Pane and Widget Sections. You can compare how much more efficient it is to work this way by doing the same operation with the ALL Widget Tab. Unfortunately, you do have to use the Mouse to select Inputs, Outputs and operate the FX Bin and select Auxiliaries.

### **Setting up your Widget Tabs**

OK, I admit, customizing Widget Tabs is a tedious process so if you don't like the idea of clicking endless Tick Boxes to achieve this level of functionality there is an XML File that you can download. I shall tell you how to install it a little later on. But for now, here is how you create custom Widget Tabs.

1. You will most likely have the default set of Widget Tabs (Custom, Mix, FX, I/O) displayed at the bottom of your Bus Pane. Right Click on one of them and select Widget Tab Manager from the resulting pop-up menu.



2. Select all 4 default Widget Tabs in turn and delete them with the Delete Button. Click the New Button and a new Widget Tab is created with every button ticked. Decide on what Widget Section you wish this Widget Tab to focus on and un-tick every box not related to that Widget Section. The objective here is to create a Widget Tab for every Widget Section.
3. I guess now would be a good time to tell you how you can download and install the ready-made version...

### **Download the Ready-Made Version**

1. Click here to download the XML File that contains all the Widget Tab settings
2. Locate the downloaded file and copy it
3. On the Run Prompt, type: %appdata%\cakewalk
4. Open up the SONAR Folder. You should see the existing twwidgets.xml File there
5. Paste the file you downloaded into that folder. This will overwrite the existing Widget Tab settings so that when you re-start SONAR you will see the new set of Widget Tabs below the Bus Pane.

This tip combined with the previous tip “Time to let go of your Mouse” could completely transform the way you interact with SONAR. Users who can operate software with Keys are generally regarded as “Power Users” so start memorizing your favorite Key Bindings and get used to not using your Mouse by using these simple tips. Are you ready to step up?