Mac setup instructions for the SignaLink™ USB

NOTE: *The SignaLink USB Installation & Operation manual contains detailed information that will be helpful to you regardless of the Operating System that you are running. Be sure to refer to it for non-OS specific information such as general SignaLink installation, radio setup, communication program setup, troubleshooting, etc.*

Tigertronics does not currently have step-by-step setup instructions available for the Mac. However, the required setup steps are fairly simple, so with this document as your guide, you should not find it too difficult to complete. You will need to know how to adjust your Mac's system sound properties. If you don't know how to do this then please refer to your Mac's Help documentation, or feel free to contact our Technical Support Department by phone and we will do our best to help you.

The following steps are needed to configure the Mac OS and should be done in place of the õConfiguring Windowsö instructions that are contained in the SignaLink USB manual:

- Installation of the SignaLink's sound card driver
- Setting the default sound card in the Mac OS
- Setting the input/output sound card in the communication program
- Setting the software volume controls for the SignaLink's sound card

These steps are covered in more detail below and ***must*** be done in the order shown or the SignaLink will not work properly.

1. The driver for the SignaLink USB will be installed automatically when you first plug the SignaLink into your Mac's USB port. This takes less than a minute on most systems. Note that depending on your Mac's speed, OS version, and configuration, you may not see a "New Hardware Ready" type message when this is complete. This does ***not*** indicate a problem.

2. Once the SignaLink's driver has been installed, you will need to open your Mac's system sound settings and set the system "default" playback sound card to the Mac's built-in sound card (***not*** the SignaLink's sound card!). This will insure that any sounds made by the Mac OS or non-Ham programs go to the Mac's speakers, not the radio.

3. In your communication program's "Setup" or "Options" menu, you will need to set the "Input" and "Output" (Receive / Transmit, Playback / Capture) sound card to the SignaLink's "USB Audio Codec" sound card. This will insure that your communication program's Transmit/Receive Audio goes to the radio, not the Mac's speakers. If you haven't already decided on a communication program, the three most popular multimode programs for the Mac are Cocoa Modem, FLdigi and Multimode. FLdigi is free and would be good to start with. You'll find download links to these programs on the [SignaLink Software page](#) of our website.

4. Once you have the Mac OS and the communication program properly configured, you'll then need to adjust the software volume control for the SignaLink's sound card so that the SignaLink will transmit. Note that if this control is too low, then the SignaLink's PTT LED will not turn on.

   Your Mac has only one software volume control for the SignaLink's "USB Audio Codec" sound card. To adjust this properly, you'll need to put your communication program in Transmit and then adjust the software volume control up/down slowly until you find the point at which the SignaLink's PTT LED turns ON. Once you identify this point, you'll need to set the level about 20% higher to insure reliable

PTT activity. Be sure that you are adjusting the software volume control for the SignaLink's "USB Audio Codec" sound card (NOT the Mac's!), or the SignaLink will not go into Transmit.

Once all of the above steps have been completed, you can check the functionality of the SignaLink USB by doing the following:

Receive Test

- The SignaLink and radio should be powered ON, and your communication program should be running. If you haven't already done so, see the õRadio Setupö section of the SignaLink USB manual and configure your radio accordingly.

- Set the SignaLink's RX knob to 50%. You should see audio / noise in the program's waterfall / spectrum display. Turn the SignaLink's RX knob all the way OFF (counter-clockwise) and you should see the waterfall go dark. Turn the RX knob to 100% (clockwise) and the waterfall should become brighter. When you are done testing with the RX knob, a setting of around 50% is usually adequate for most installations.

- If the SignaLink's RX knob does not appear to function properly, then please go through the above setup steps again carefully. If the problem persists, then please see the Troubleshooting section of the SignaLink manual.

Transmit Test

- Be sure that your antenna's SWR is good ***BEFORE*** transmitting with the SignaLink!

- If you haven't already done so, see the Radio Setup section of the SignaLink USB manual and configure your radio accordingly. Most radios will not switch into transmit or put out any power if they are not properly configured.

- Set the SignaLink's TX knob all the way OFF (fully counter-clockwise).

- Put your communication program in Transmit. You should see SignaLink's PTT LED turn ON and your radio switch to Transmit. While monitoring your RF output, slowly turn the SignaLink's TX knob up and you should see the RF power increase. Turn the TX knob down and the RF power level should decrease. Please refer to the SignaLink manual for details on setting the RF power level.

- Put the communication program back in Receive when you are done.

- If the SignaLink's TX knob does not appear to function properly, then please go through the above setup steps again carefully. If the problem persists, then please see the Troubleshooting section of the SignaLink manual.