

## Re: Help needed in rec.audio.pro

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2005-06/0107.html>

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George Jones IV wrote:

>> *Rosegarden -> Qsynth -> Jack -> Ardour. Or just Rosegarden by itself if  
>> you don't want to use soundfonts and record it to wav.*

>

>

> *Why not just have it all in one app like Cubase, ProTools, Sonar, Logic,  
> Digital Performer, and even the cheapie apps like Magix Studio, PowerTracks  
> Pro, Cakewalk Home Studio, etc.. They're all modular and can use 3rd party  
> fx and synths without having to go outside of the application itself. With  
> Rewire you can add even more to your environment (like Reason, FL Studio,  
> Rebirth or other combinations like rewiring Cubase SX3 to ProTools)*

From what I understand of what Rewire is it allows you to tie programs together no? Sort of like a patch panel inside the computer. Rewire output of program X into track Y...etc... This is what Jack does. This is what the -> above represents. (actually since jack is doing the connecting it should be removed from the sequence in my 'diagram').

<http://qjackctl.sourceforge.net/image/qjackctlConnectionsForm1.png>

<http://qjackctl.sourceforge.net/image/qjackctlConnectionsForm2.png>

<http://qjackctl.sourceforge.net/image/qjackctlPatchbayForm1.png>

Rewire may be prettier, but the object is getting the job done...

But Jack may be a bit different...more integral to the entire setup.

Using Jack you also use connections to reach the sound card inputs and outputs themselves. So for instance you would connect snd\_in1 to Track1.Right and snd\_in2 to Track1.Left and then you could also connect it to additional tracks and to additional inputs in other programs or effects. That is but the simplest of things you can do...I haven't reached an endpoint ever. The level of configurability is quite high with this system...as I assume it is with ReWire.

Linux also has LADSPA and some VST's work as well. It ends up being a very similar situation to what you are talking about. However, with LADSPA effects you can run a program called JackRack and run a line through it from some output and then into multiple inputs of various

programs....including your multi-track HD recorder.

The reason not to have it all in one place is that it is always better to be modular. If you can have a system in place to allow the interconnection of audio applications you don't NEED them all to be the same thing. You can take the best for your needs and discard what you don't like. With large monolithic applications you don't have that option.

- > *How about 300-400ms using a shitty Audigy or SBLive under Linux (with ALSA),*
- > *but being able to get 20ms with the same card under 2000 or XP using*
- > *Creative's drivers (7-11ms if I use the KX Project drivers)*

I have that card (sblive! 5.1). Latency is not humanly noticeable. If the above is from experience then something was screwed up.

- >
- > *Even though a card is supported, basic fuctionality may be all that's*
- > *enabled.*

That is true in some cases, but there are many high quality cards that are fully supported. So if you are building a Linux DAW you get a card that is and not one that isn't. That seems pretty easy.

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- >
- >> *and many pro-level audio cards still are not supported under Linux,*
- >>
- >> *Nothing made by digidesign...what else?*
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- >
- > *Nothing by Creamware, STAudio, The new Emu series, and AudioTrak's Maya*
- > *series for starters.*

Emu support seems to exist now. I was recently talking on the list about that set of cards and there has been some luck getting them to work. I don't know at what level.

The maya is talked about here:

[http://sourceforge.net/mailarchive/message.php?msg\\_id=7005818](http://sourceforge.net/mailarchive/message.php?msg_id=7005818)

Unfortunately finding anything on the maya in google with regard to linux is proving difficult due to some program called maya turning up in all the searches. Did find a recent request for help in an audio list regarding one of these things:

<http://lalist.stanford.edu/lau/2005/04/0236.html>

Which indicates that they are at least partially supported or nearing it. If this guy's experience is typical or unfixable then it probably isn't a good card to use in Linux.

At least one creamware device seems to be supported:

<http://www.qbik.ch/usb/devices/showdev.php?id=2542>

Good name...

From STAudio's Website FAQ on the first card I looked at:

10. Does the card work under Linux?

Yes – we recommend to use the ALSA driver (which you can download on [www.alsa-project.org](http://www.alsa-project.org)) to use the card under Linux with the ALSA CVS versions for the ICE1712 (Envy24) chipset.

I was clued into looking at the site because I saw another mention Hoontech/STAudio as supported in Linux by name.

If you were really serious about finding out if your particular card is supported then talking on the linux-audio list would be your best bet. I am not a developer or an expert on what soundcards work, but with some google I found the above.

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>
>>>not to mention control surfaces, USB and FireWire audio interfaces, and
>>>whatnot.
>>
>>What about them?
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>
> They have no support under Linux, that's what.
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If you are talking about mixers and such, Ardour can communicate to midi based panels at least and both get level information from them and send level information to them so they change. I don't know much about this topic and not sure what you are talking about.

The USB audio interfaces seem

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> to have some form of support, but since a lot of the interfaces have
> additional functionality that's not supported, they're still unuseable.
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Actually a great deal of USB audio interfaces are FULLY supported. I think most, if not all of M-Audio's stuff, the tascam, and others. I have always questioned the viability of a USB sound device but was thinking I might get one actually.