

STREAM DECK PLUGIN · RØDECASTER DUO & PRO II

Your desk, on the Stream Deck.

Faders, mutes, cue, pads, record and monitor, driven directly over the RØDEcaster's own control protocol. Two way, live, and built for shows rather than demos.



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The integration RØDE never shipped.

Mix Companion puts a RØDECaster Duo or Pro II on your Stream Deck. Not a macro layer sitting on top of something else. It speaks the desk's own control protocol over USB, which is why it can reach parts of the mixer nothing else can.

What you need

A desk	RØDECaster Duo or RØDECaster Pro II, connected by USB
Stream Deck	Any model. A Stream Deck + adds dials, which is where the fader control lives
Stream Deck app	Version 7.1 or later
macOS	12 or later, Apple Silicon or Intel. Signed and notarised, so it installs cleanly

Why this had to be built the hard way

RØDE's own Stream Deck integration covers the RØDECaster Video only. The Duo and Pro II get nothing at all.

Both desks expose MIDI, which looks like the obvious route until you try it. On current firmware the desk **ignores every MIDI message in both directions**. Two minutes of capture across physical pad presses and bank changes produced nothing inbound, and every message sent was discarded.

So Mix Companion implements the desk's real control protocol instead. That is a much larger job, and it is the reason the feature list reads the way it does.

IT SHARES THE DESK, IT DOES NOT TAKE IT OVER

The connection is opened non exclusively, so RØDE Central and the RØDECaster app keep working normally alongside it. Your desk stays yours.

Two way, and it never argues with your hands.

Most control surfaces are one way. You press a button, something happens, and the button has no idea what the hardware did next. This one watches the desk continuously.

The desk leads

Move a physical fader, press a mute, turn the monitor knob, fire a pad, change pad bank, start a recording, or change a setting in the RØDE app. The Stream Deck follows, typically inside a quarter of a second. Keys show what is actually true, not what you last told them.

A hand on the fader always wins

When a dial is driving a channel's level, the key reads **DIAL**. The moment you touch that channel's physical fader, control returns to your hand and the key reads **FADER**. There is no mode to exit and no button to press. Verified repeatedly on both a Duo and a Pro II.

It respects what you switched off

If you have disabled a send in the RØDE app using the chain icon, that is a routing decision. Mix Companion reads it, works around it, and never re-enables it. Not when driving a level, not when tidying up after itself, not even when you explicitly ask it to repair something.

WHERE IT REFUSES TO GUESS

The channel map is worked out live from your desk every session rather than shipped in a file. If any part of that read looks incomplete, level control switches itself off for the session and says so, and the desk keeps every fader. A wrong map would drive a channel nobody asked for, so it declines instead.

Eighteen actions.

Everything below is a real key or dial you drag onto your Stream Deck. Mix and match across as many pages and profiles as you like.

Channel strip



Channel Volume

Rotate for level, push to mute, hold to hand the strip back to its fader. The LCD shows dB, percentage and who is in control.

SD+ DIAL



Channel Mute

Mute or unmute any strip. The mute LED on the desk follows.

KEY



Volume Up

Step a channel up, or hold to ramp smoothly.

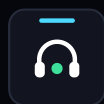
KEY



Volume Down

Step a channel down, or hold to ramp smoothly.

KEY



Cue

Cue a channel into your headphones. The Duo has no solo bus, so this is its equivalent.

KEY



Restore Faders

Hold one second to hand every fader back to the desk. The repair key, explained on page 05.

KEY

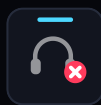
Monitoring



Monitor

Speaker level on a dial, push to mute.

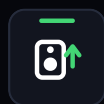
SD+ DIAL



Headphones Off

Silence every headphone output at once. Tap again to restore.

KEY



Monitor Up

Speakers up, hold to ramp.

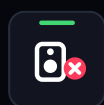
KEY



Monitor Down

Speakers down, hold to ramp.

KEY



Monitor Mute

Mute or unmute the room speakers. The dial's push, on a plain key.

KEY

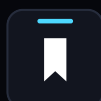
Recording



Record

Record, pause and stop, with live elapsed time on the key. It pulses while rolling.

KEY



Drop Marker

Drop a chapter marker into the running recording, so the edit is easier later.

KEY

Pads, effects and the desk itself.

SMART pads



Smart Pad

Fire a pad. Pin it to a bank and slot, or let it follow whichever bank the desk is showing.

KEY



Pad Bank

Page the desk between its pad banks. On a dial, rotate to scroll and push to mute the pads strip.

KEY OR DIAL

Voice and desk settings



Voice FX

Reverb, echo, distortion, pitch, robot and disguise, per slot.

KEY



Desk Dial

Screen brightness, button brightness, ducker depth or Bluetooth send level, all on one dial.

SD+ DIAL

The one for when it goes wrong



Panic Mute

Kills every output at once. Releasing it restores exactly what was muted before, so a mic you had deliberately muted stays muted.

KEY

Name the strips whatever you like

The desk does not send channel names, so Mix Companion works them out from what each strip is carrying. If you would rather a key said **Guest Mic** than **Mic 3**, rename it once and it applies everywhere: every key, every dial, every picker.

NOTHING HERE IS A MACRO

Every action addresses a real property on the desk and reads its real state back. That is why a key can show you elapsed recording time, or the actual monitor percentage, rather than an assumption.

The one feature that ships switched off.

Everything else works the moment you install it. Channel level is opt in, and the reason is worth two minutes of your time.

Why it asks permission

The RØDECaster exposes no channel level property at all. The only way to move a level is to borrow that strip from its physical fader for as long as you are driving it. That is not a design choice, it is the only route the hardware offers.

While a strip is borrowed it is handed straight back when you touch the fader, hold the dial, or quit Stream Deck. But if the software is killed outright in that moment, that fader is left disconnected, and **the desk remembers it across a power cycle**.

What protects you

- **It is off until you ask.** The dial and volume keys read LOCKED until you tick the box in their settings. One switch, for the whole plugin.
- **A helper outlives the plugin.** While a strip is borrowed, a small companion process runs alongside. If the plugin dies for any reason at all, it hands your fader back on its own and then exits.
- **It repairs on start up.** Whatever happened, the next launch checks the desk and puts back anything left outstanding.
- **Restore Faders.** One key, held for a second, gives everything back on demand.
- **And by hand.** The RØDE app's chain icons toggle the very same setting, so a fader can always be restored without this plugin installed at all.

TESTED BY BREAKING IT ON PURPOSE

On a Pro II and on a Duo: a strip was taken, then the plugin and Stream Deck were both killed outright with no chance to tidy up. The fader came back on its own, with nothing else running, every time.

Running in about two minutes.

1 Install it

Double click the plugin file. Stream Deck installs it, and the actions appear under Mix Companion for RØDECaster.

2 Plug the desk in

Connect the RØDECaster by USB and switch it on. The plugin finds it on its own, and waits patiently if it is not there yet.

3 Drag on some keys

Start with Channel Mute, Cue and Record. Pick the strip from the list, which is read live from your desk, so it always matches your current setup.

4 Try the desk, not the keys

Press a mute on the RØDECaster itself and watch the Stream Deck follow. That is the part most integrations cannot do.

5 Then turn on level control

Add a Channel Volume dial, open its settings and tick the box. Add a Restore Faders key at the same time while you are in there.

Worth knowing

The desk's meter	It is post fader, so it follows your physical fader and not the Stream Deck. With a strip on DIAL the desk can show a channel hot while the plugin holds it down. Trust your ears.
Per channel meters	Not possible. The hardware exposes bus level audio over USB only.
Recording	Needs a valid recording destination set on the desk. If it points at media that is not inserted, Record will decline and say so rather than pretend.
Two desks	Swap between a Duo and a Pro II freely. The layout is re-read every time, including pad counts and effect slots.

Where this came from.

Mix Companion is an independently created, interoperable program. The protocol was learned by observing traffic between hardware and software on the developer's own machine, for the purpose of making the two work together.

What it is not

- It ships no RØDE code, no RØDE assets, and no modified copy of any RØDE software.
- It is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or supported by RØDE.
- RØDECaster and RØDE are trademarks of their owner, used here only to describe what this works with.

How it was tested

Every claim in this document was checked against real hardware rather than assumed. Both a RØDECaster Duo and a Pro II, with the desk's own reported state read back after each action to confirm what actually changed. The failure cases were tested by causing them deliberately, including killing the software mid show and power cycling the desk.

Alongside that the plugin carries an automated test suite of over three hundred tests, including its protocol encoder proven byte for byte against an independent implementation.

FEEDBACK

Anything that made your desk behave in a way you did not expect is the most useful thing you can send. The plugin keeps a log, and it records what it did and what the desk answered.

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