

# AJA KONA Card Quick Start Guide

## Overview

The AJA KONA series of I/O cards facilitates the highest quality 8K/UHD2/4K/UHD/2K/HD/SD video and audio I/O for computers running macOS, Windows, or Linux Operating Systems. For information on the KONA line of I/O products, please refer to the AJA Desktop I/O family page on our website: <https://www.aja.com/family/kona>

## Download Software Package:

AJA Desktop Software is distributed as a unified package which includes all the software, firmware, plugins, and utility programs for AJA's KONA, Io, and T-TAP Pro products. There are three OS specific packages available, one for macOS, one for Windows, and one for Linux.

To download AJA software, detailed installation and configuration instructions, and manuals for all products, go to the AJA website and download the package for your particular card: <https://www.aja.com/support/downloads>

*NOTE: For Apple silicon (M-series processors) AJA Desktop Software v18 implements a new installation procedure – see [www.aja.com/support/item/10171](https://www.aja.com/support/item/10171) for more information*

## System Requirements

AJA Video recommends that your system meet minimum hardware and software requirements to achieve a satisfactory level of performance.

Please consult the release notes for the latest software packages for additional information on OS versions and installation procedures.

- OS:
  - macOS 13.x (Ventura) or later
  - Linux Ubuntu 20.04 LTS and Ubuntu 22.04 LTS
  - Windows 10 or later with all updates
  - Rocky Linux 8.5 and 9.3
- CPU:
  - 2.5 GHz quad core i7 minimum, for HD. 3.5 GHz eight core minimum, (faster processors and more cores recommended), for UHD/4K work, especially with HFR.
  - 16GB RAM minimum, 32GB or more recommended, especially for UHD/4K or High Frame Rate applications.
- GPU:
  - A reasonably fast and powerful graphics card, with plenty of on-board memory. We recommend modern GPUs from NVIDIA and AMD. The GPU you select may be specific to your application and/or host CPU.
- Media:
  - Storage with adequate bandwidth to sustain the capture and playback of the material you expect to be working with. AJA Desktop software package includes AJA System Test for testing storage performance with demanding media files.

*NOTE: 8K workflows require much greater resources from your host*

## Hardware Installation Assistance

Visit the AJA website for information on the installation and configuration of KONA cards in your hardware systems: <https://www.aja.com/page/system-configuration>

## Software Compatibility

AJA Desktop Software ships with support for Adobe, Apple and Avid software applications, as well as applications from OBS, vMix, Telestream and many more.

Please see our compatibility chart here: <https://www.aja.com/compatibility/kona>

*(See other side for additional information)*

For additional information please visit: [www.aja.com/support](https://www.aja.com/support)

P/N 108402-00 RevG

# Installation Step-by-Step

- 1 Uninstall any previous version of AJA Desktop Software for KONA, Io or T-TAP Pro from the host machine where your KONA card will be installed/ connected, and if prompted, restart the computer. Note that for macOS installs on M-Series equipped systems you will need to run the uninstaller that is provided in the v18.0 or later package, not the uninstaller that is currently on your machine. Refer to the macOS Installation Guide at [www.aja.com/support/item/10171](http://www.aja.com/support/item/10171) for more information.
- 2 Next, power down your computer and remove the power cable.
- 3 Install your AJA KONA card in the correct slot for your Windows, Mac or Linux workstation. Alternatively, you may install your KONA card in a Thunderbolt external chassis connected to your host machine.  
  
In either case, disconnect power and make sure to use anti-static best practices to avoid accidental damage to your card. Note that some KONA cards require a separate ATX power connection; refer to the manual specific for your card for more information.
- 4 Once the card is installed, reconnect the power and restart your computer.
- 5 Download the latest AJA Desktop Software package (macOS, Windows or Linux) onto the host machine where your KONA card is installed /connected.
- 6 Install the latest AJA Desktop Software package. Note that certain installation procedures may be required for macOS, refer to the release notes in your downloaded package for complete instructions.
- 7 Launch AJA Control Panel.
- 8 If prompted, update the KONA firmware.
- 9 When prompted, restart your computer.
- 10 Once logged into your host machine, re-launch AJA Control Panel so you can monitor connections and outputs and set preferences for how the hardware will behave.
- 11 If you intend to use the KONA card only, begin cabling your sources / destinations directly using the connector on the back of the card.  
  
Where applicable, for additional connectivity you may want to connect the breakout cable, if one ships with the card you purchased. Alternatively, connect the appropriate (optional) breakout box, if available, for your KONA card model.
- 12 Verify via the AJA Control Panel interface that you are set up correctly for the connected sources / destinations.  
  
If available, use your KONA card output(s) to feed a monitor to help verify your setup.
- 13 Optionally launch the free AJA Control Room software package to test capture and playback. You can use AJA Control Room to capture the material you wish to utilize within your chosen editing and/or creative application.  
  
You can also use AJA Control Room to output the results of your work coming from editorial, color, or visual effects applications.

*(See other side for additional information)*