MXL 990 Virtual Preamp Installation

The MXL 990 USB will operate without MXL's Virtual Preamp software using the standard drivers included in your computer's operating system. However, the MXL 990 USB Virtual Preamp driver provides greater functionality by virtue of its dedicated Volume fader, which facilitates more precise control over gain structure. To achieve the best results from your new microphone, we recommend you install it. Please be certain to select the appropriate driver for your operating system.

Begin the installation by extracting the installer from the ZIP file you downloaded. Make certain you know the location where you saved the extracted file. We recommend you close all open applications prior to installing this software, along with any virus and spyware scanners, and that you carefully read the instructions on each of the following screens.

With the MXL 990 USB Virtual Preamp extracted, begin by double-clicking the installer icon. The first screen that appears is the setup screen below in Figure 2. When you are ready, click *Next*.

Figure #2

In order to install the software, you must accept the License Agreement (Figure 3). Click the radio button that corresponds to acceptance of terms and then click *Next*.

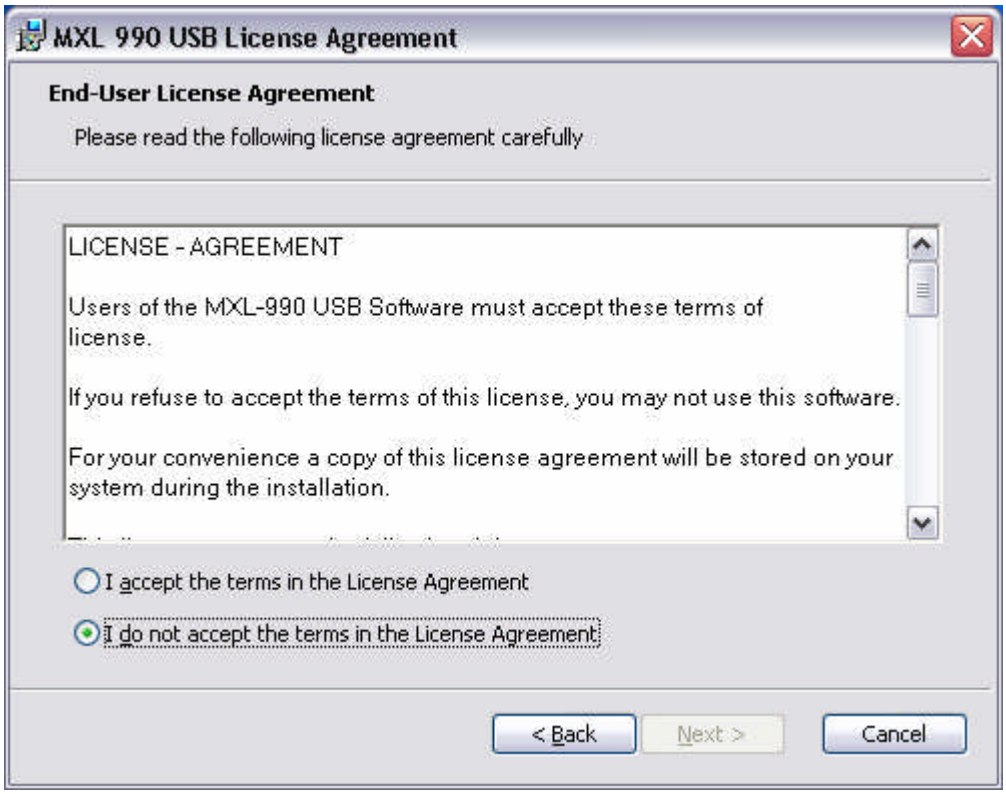

Figure #3

The system is now ready to install the software, as indicated in Figure 4. Please make certain that your 990 USB microphone is physically connected to an available USB port, then click *Install*.

Figure #4

The installation will begin and the following screens (Figures 5 and 6) will appear.

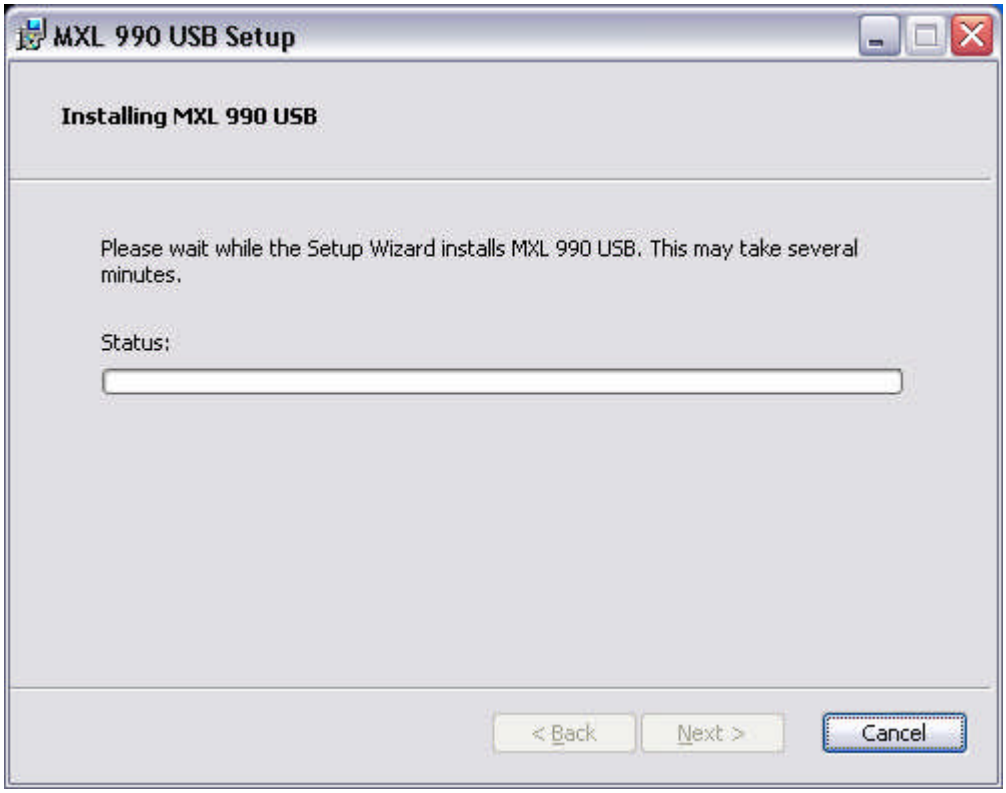

Figure #5

Figure #6

A Windows Logo testing window will appear (Figure 7). Click on *Continue Anyway*.

Figure #7

This Windows Logo testing dialog screen may appear a send time during the installation—depending upon your system. If it does appear, click on *Continue Anyway*.

Complete the software installation wizard (Figure 8) by clicking *Finish*.

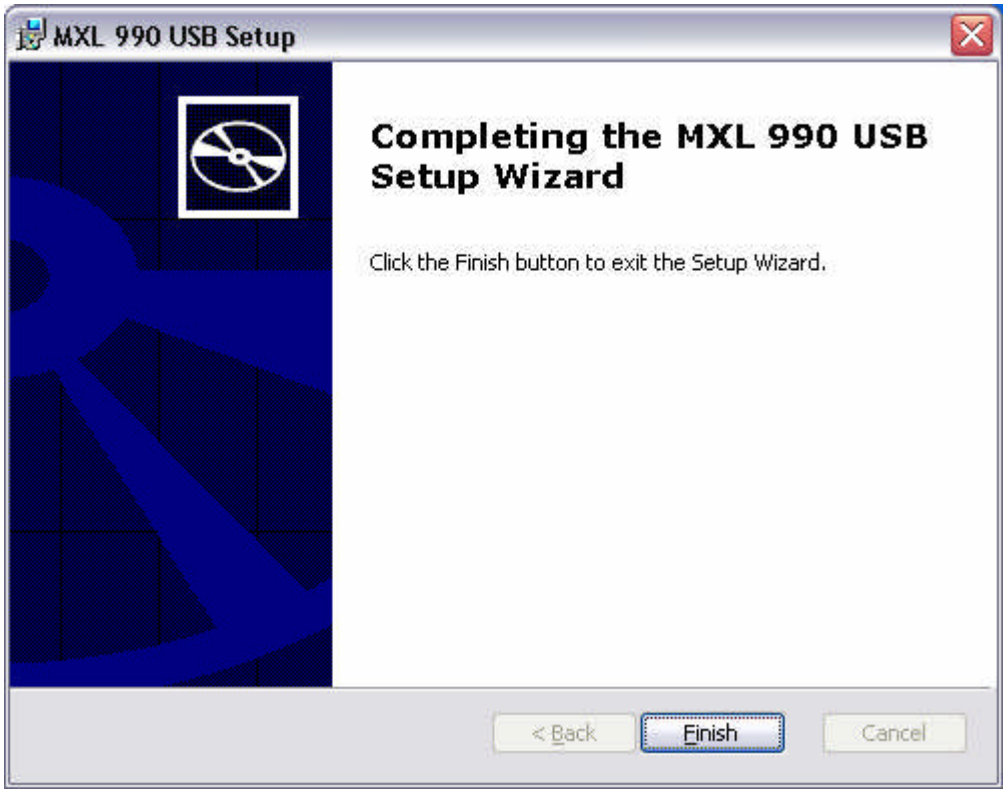

Figure #8

The system will now complete installation of the driver. *The Found New Hardware* wizard will open (Figure 9). Select *No, not at this time* and click *Next*.

Figure #9

In the subsequent dialog window that appears (Figure 10), select *Install the software automatically* and click *Next*.

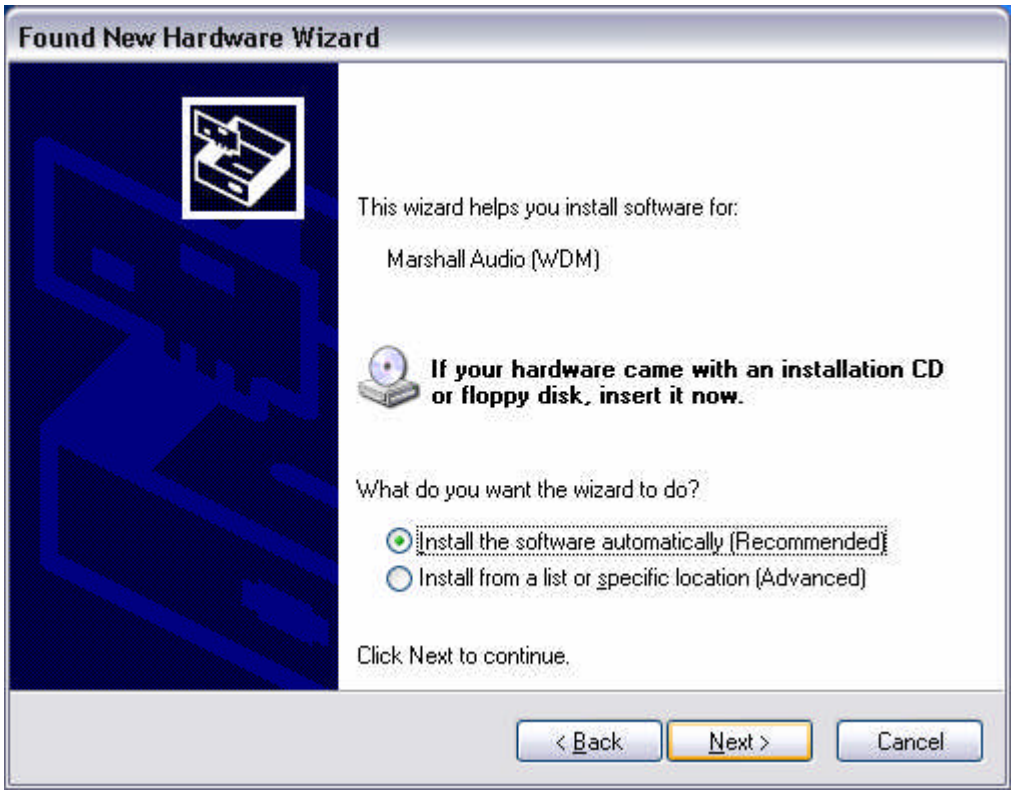

Figure #10

The hardware installer will install the drivers (Figure 11).

Figure #11

A Windows Logo testing dialog screen (Figure 12) may appear. If it does, click *Continue Anyway*. If a second such screen appears, click *Continue Anyway* once again.

Figure #12

When the hardware installer completes its task, click *Finish*. (Figure 13)

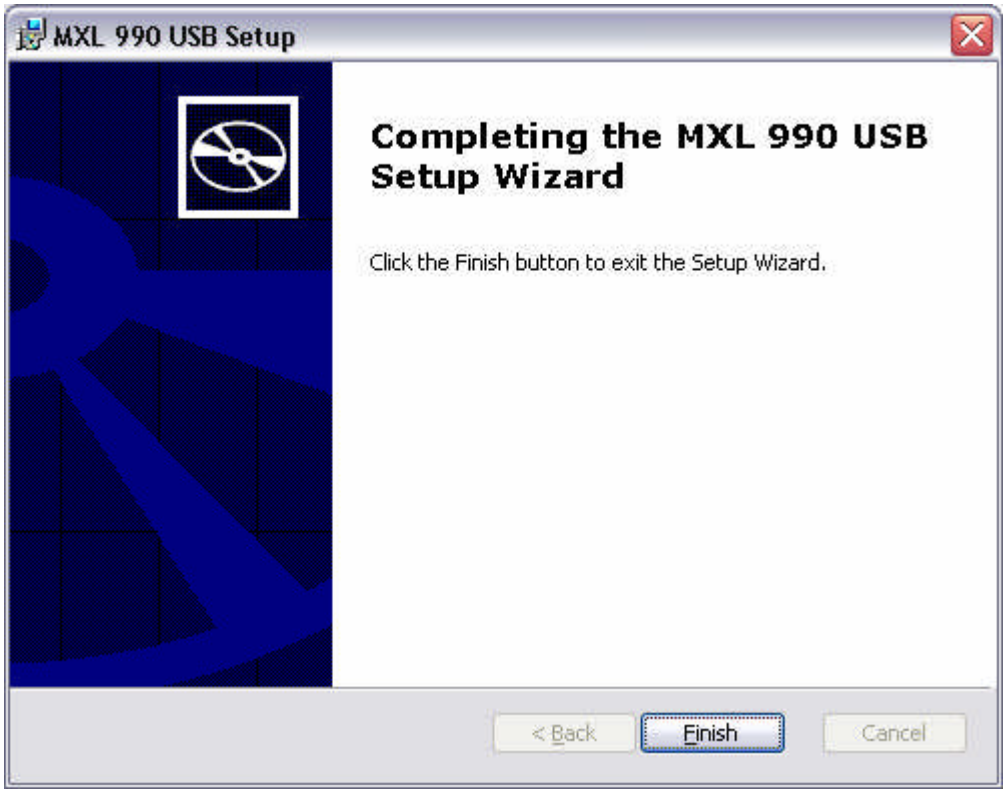

Figure #13

When the *Completing the Found New Hardware Wizard* screen appears (figure 14), click *Finish*.

Figure #14

In addition to the open Virtual Preamp applet in the lower right portion of your screen, you should also have a black and blue MXL 990 USB icon on the Windows desktop. Double-clicking this icon launches the Virtual Preamp software (Figure 15).

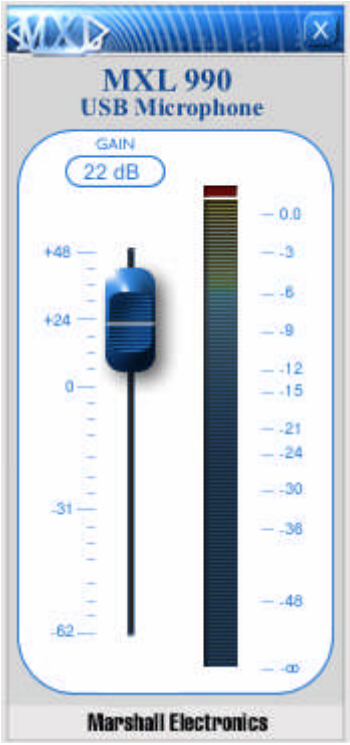

Figure #15

Clicking the X in the upper right corner of the Virtual Preamp does not close the applet—it merely minimizes it. By looking in the Windows Taskbar at the lower right of your screen, you'll notice its presence. To close the applet, right click on the icon and select *Exit*.

Please Note: Even though the Virtual Preamp opens, it will not be functional until you launch a recording application. We recommend you use the Windows Sound Recorder to test your setup. Please see the adjacent section **Testing your Setup**.

Testing Your Setup

To test your setup, we'll use Window's Sound Recorder. Sound Recorder can be found by navigating the following…

1. Press or click Start
2. Place your mouse cursor over All Programs, then Accessories, followed by Entertainment.
3. Click Sound Recorder to launch the application. It should look like Figure #16.

Figure #16

4. Select File – Properties. It should look like Figure #17.

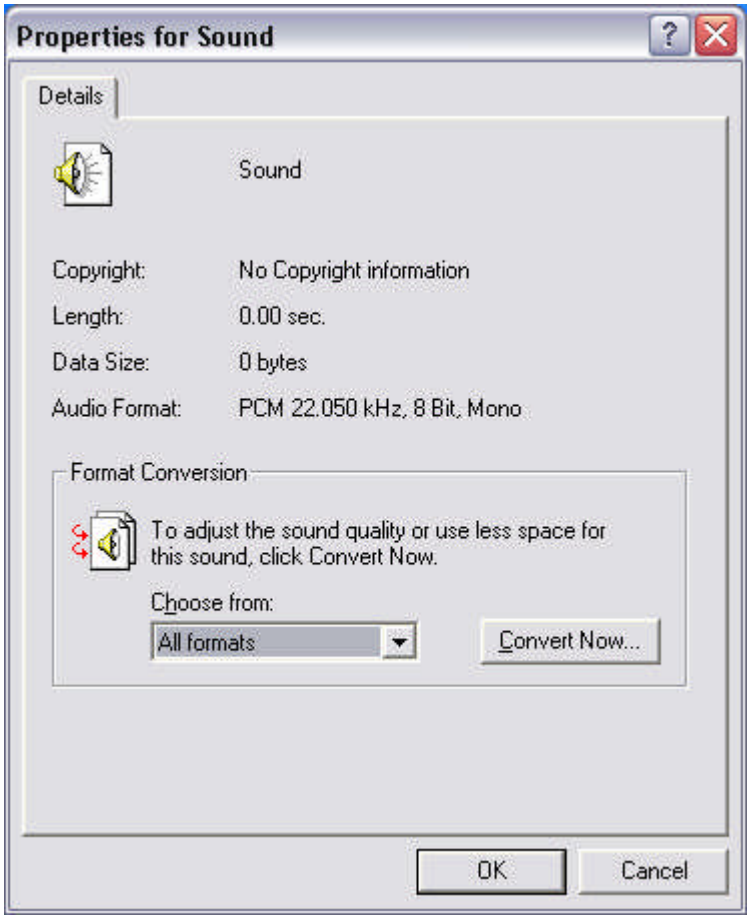

Figure #17

5. Click the Convert Now… button. It should look like Figure #18.

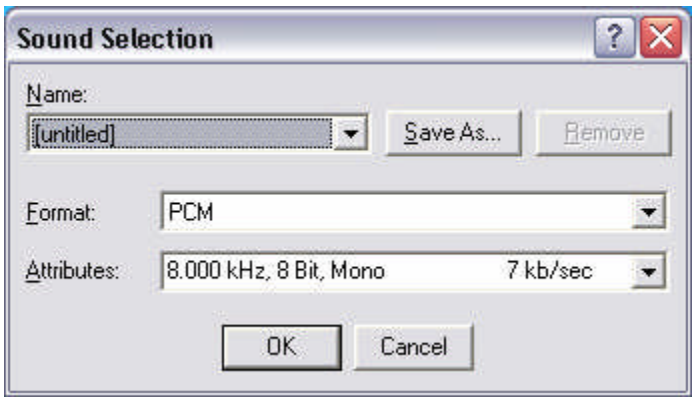

Figure #18

6. In the Attributes drop down Window, select 44.100 kHz, 16-Bit, Mono as shown in Figure #19.

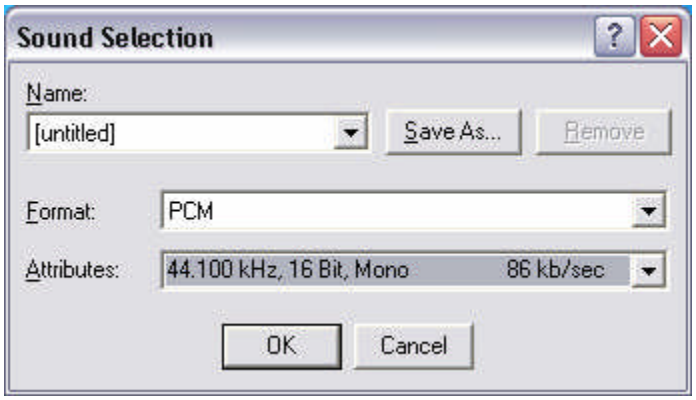

Figure #19

7. Click OK, then Click OK to close the Properties for Sound Window.
8. You are now ready to record!
9. With your mouse, click the RED record button to start recording. Speak (or sing) into your microphone (with the microphone's RED LED facing you).
10. Click the BLACK, rectangular button to end recording.
11. Press the ◄◄ button to reset to the beginning of the recording.
12. Press the ► button to start playback.

If You Don't Hear Anything…
If you followed the directions and have been unable to record a sound, please check Window's Audio Properties dialog window, shown in Figure #20, and ensure that **Sound recording** is set to **USB Audio CODEC** and **Sound playback** is set for your computer's sound card/audio chip. If you are uncertain of this setting, consult your computer's owner's manual.

To access the Audio Properties dialog window from within Sound Recorder:
1. Click Edit, then Audio Properties

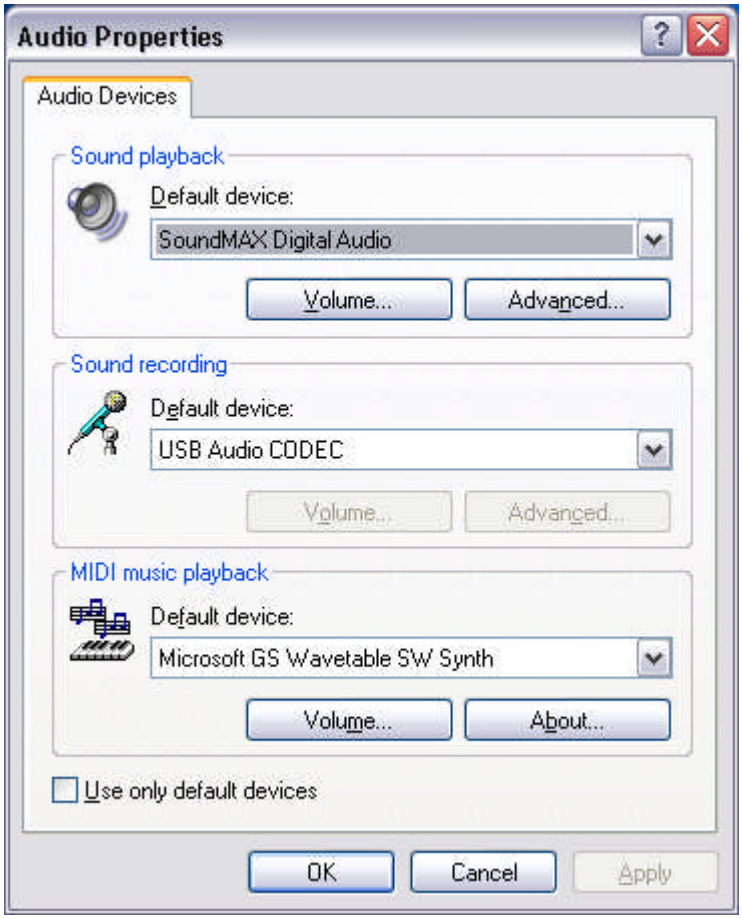

Figure #20

PLEASE NOTE: Each new recording made with this basic sound recording utility will require you to re-select the 44.1 kHz sample rate. Sound Recorder defaults to the 8 kHz Mono setting, which produces unwanted noise.

You are now ready to use the recording application of your choice.

PLEASE NOTE: Professional recording applications typically default to the highest sample rate allowed by your computer's sound card/audio chip. Usually, this is 44.1 kHz, which is the same sample rate used for conventional CDs.

Connecting the Microphone to Your Computer (Macintosh)
As is the case with a Windows PC, the MXL 990 USB microphone will operate with both USB 2.0 (high speed USB) and USB 1.1 data buses. All current Macs operate with USB 2.0. We recommend you connect your microphone directly to the computer's USB port as opposed to using a USB hub. USB hubs have been known to interfere with the performance of various USB devices.

PLEASE NOTE: Audio and video recording can be very taxing to a computer's resources. For this reason, you should close any and all running applications that are non essential.

Please take the following steps to get connected:

1. Make certain that any audio applications are closed.
2. Connect the remaining end of the USB cable to the computer's USB port.
3. To set the USB microphone as the default audio input for audio, click on the Apple icon in the upper left hand of the screen and select System Preferences as shown in Figure 21 below.

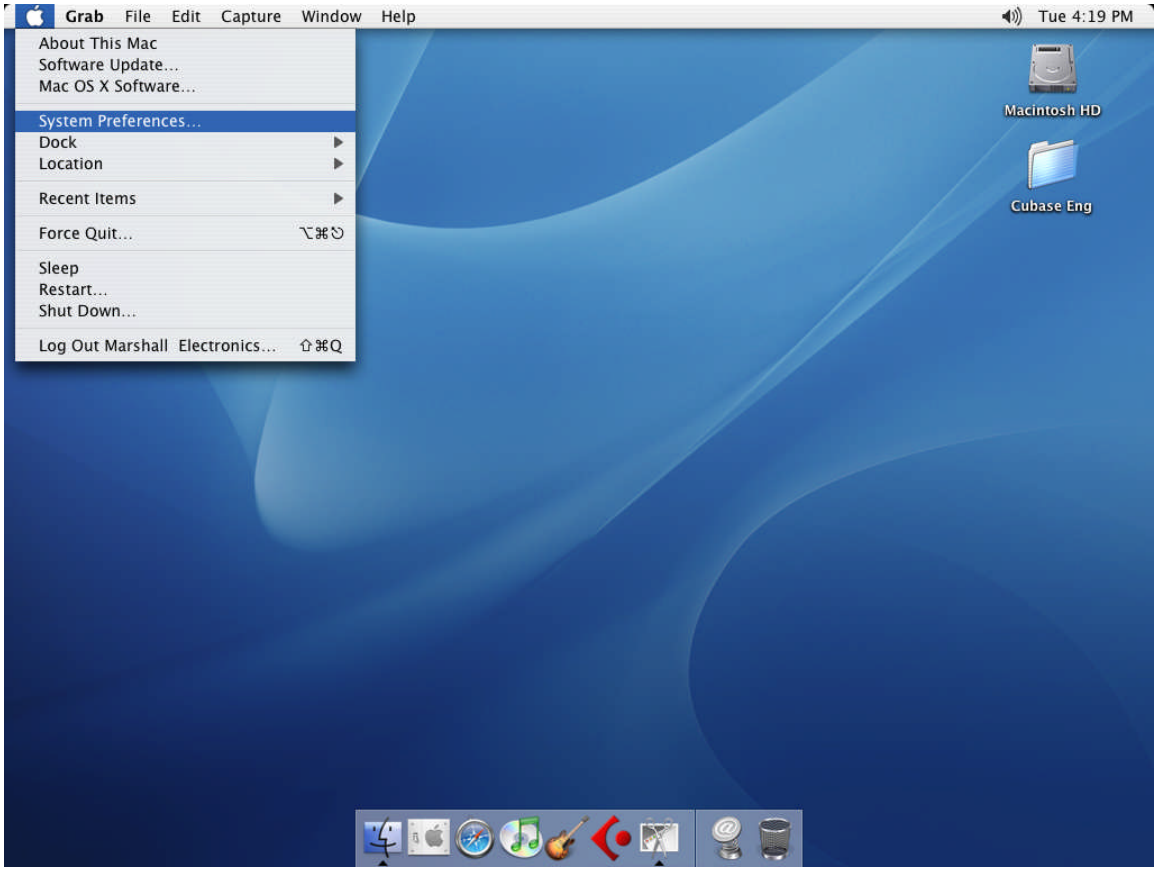

Figure #21

4. Next, click on the Sound icon in the Hardware group as shown in Figure 22 below.

Figure #22

5. After opening the Sound dialog screen, there will be three tabs at the top of the window, select the Input tab by clicking on it
6. Then select the USB Audio Codec as the device for sound input as shown in Figure 23 below.

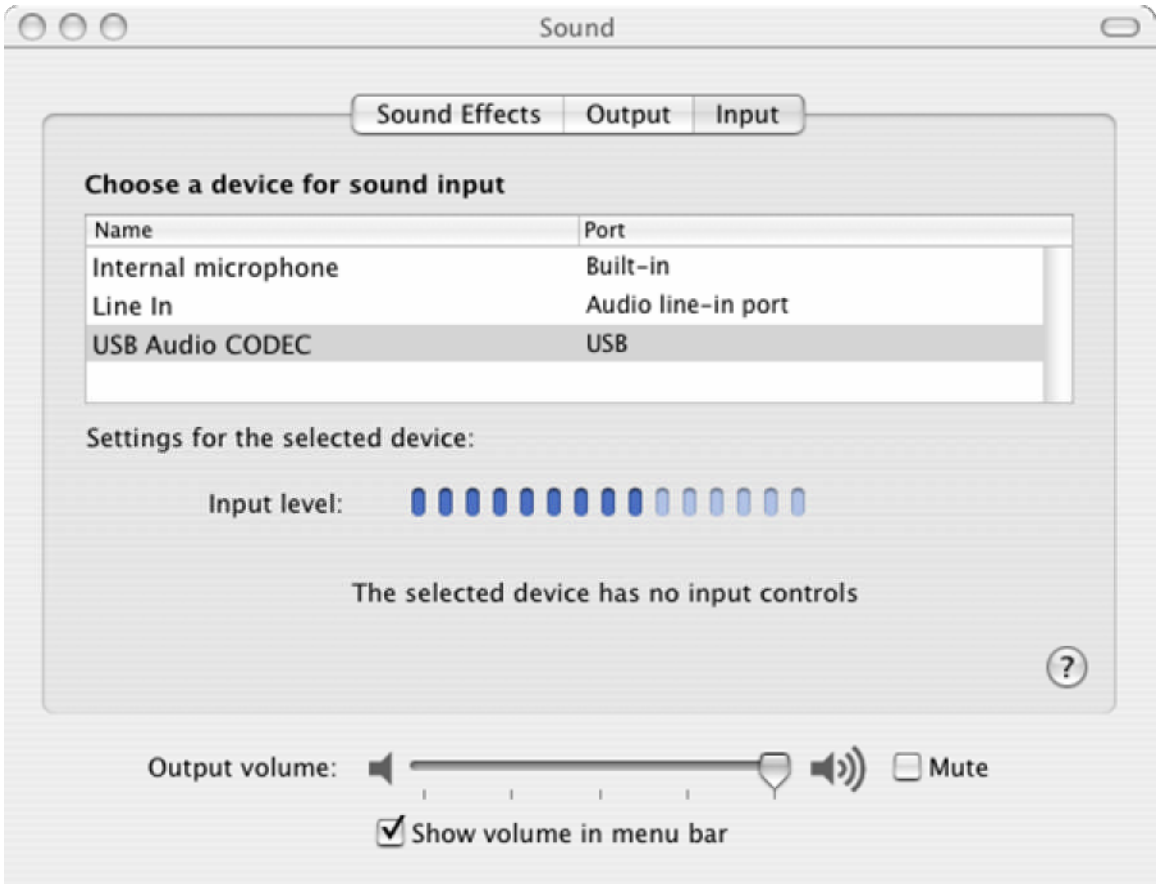

Figure #23

7. By watching the movements of the Input level meter in this window, you can now see that the MXL 990 USB microphone is working as you speak into it. This setting will be saved as the default input whenever the microphone is plugged in.

Setting the MXL 990 USB to record in Garage Band

1. Open Garage Band. This application will be found in either the Dock Bar or by opening the Apple Finder, clicking on Applications and/or opening Garage Band.
2. Garage Band opens with the default project "My Song". Refer to Garage Band's user manual to change the default project.
3. "My Song" opens with one software instrument track. To record through the USB microphone, click on Track on the top of the window bar and select New Track as shown in Figure 24 below.

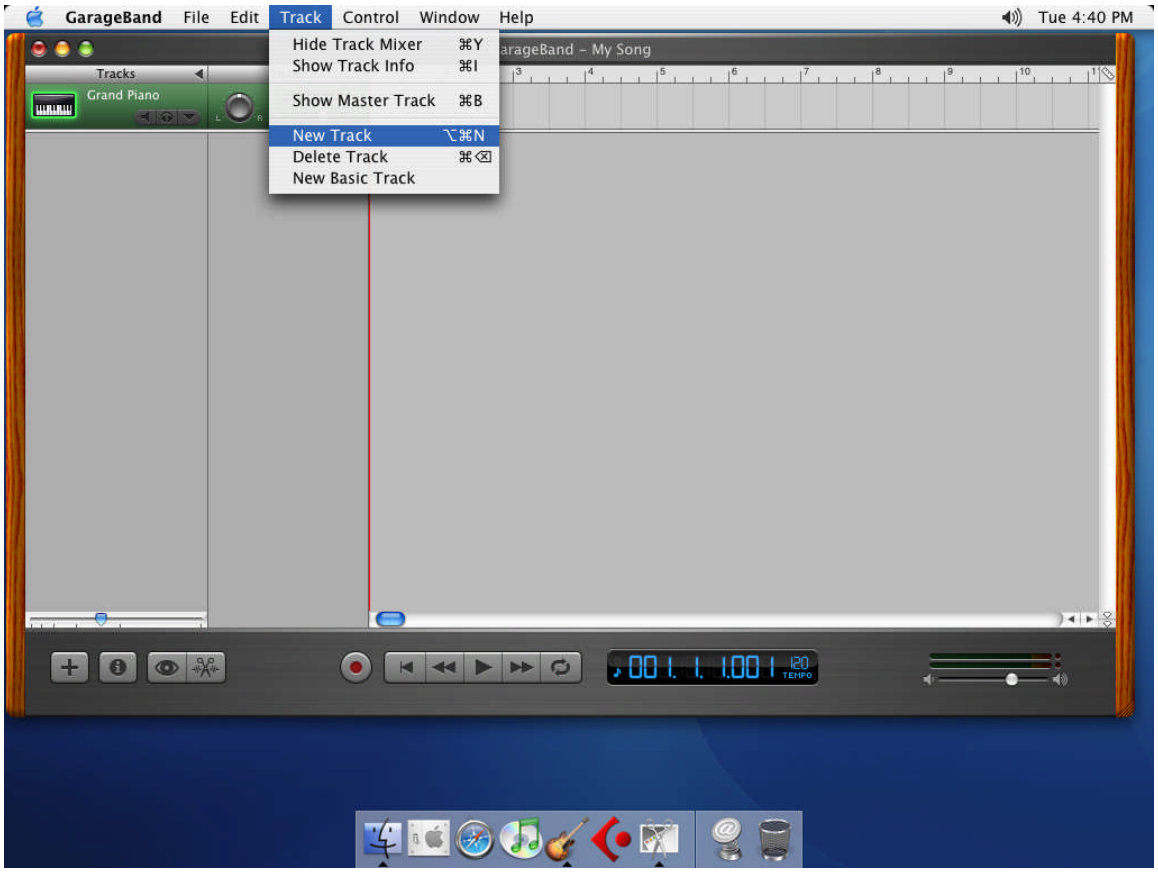

Figure #24

4. Select the tab in the window that opens that says Real Instrument. Then select the source you will be recording through the microphone, such as vocals or guitar, as shown in Figure 25 below.

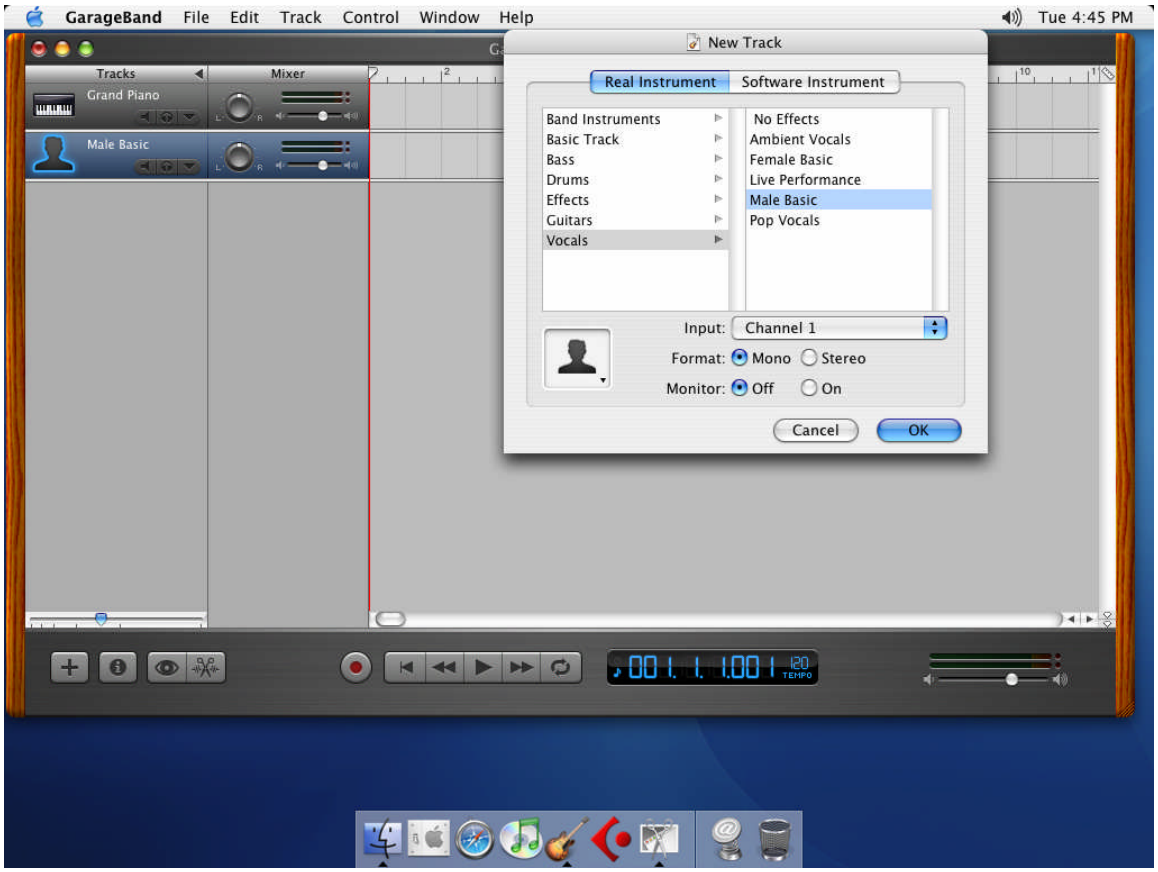

Figure #25

5. Click OK
6. To select an audio input source for Garage Band, click on Garage Band from the top menu bar and select Preferences as shown in Figure 26 below.

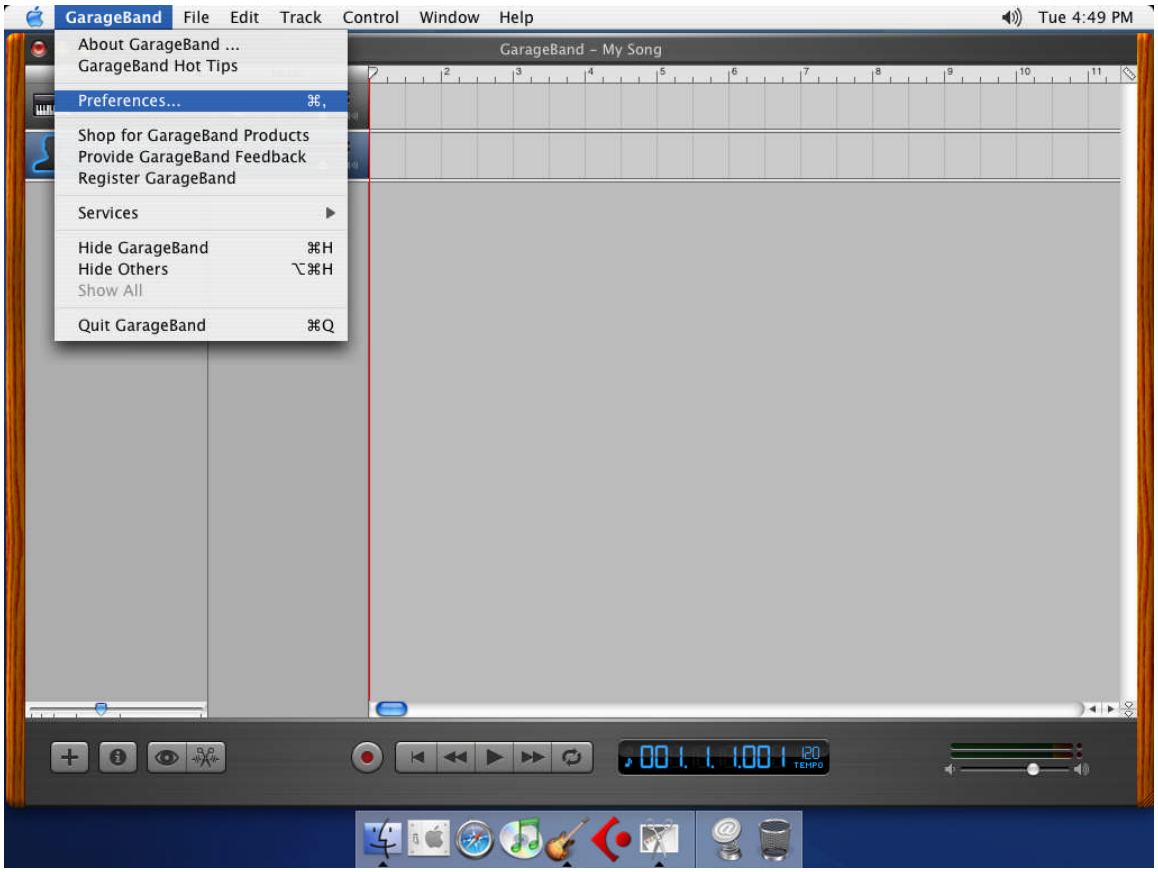

Figure #26

7. Then select the Audio/MIDI icon in the top row. From the drop down menu under Audio Input, select the USB Audio Codec as shown in Figure 27 below.

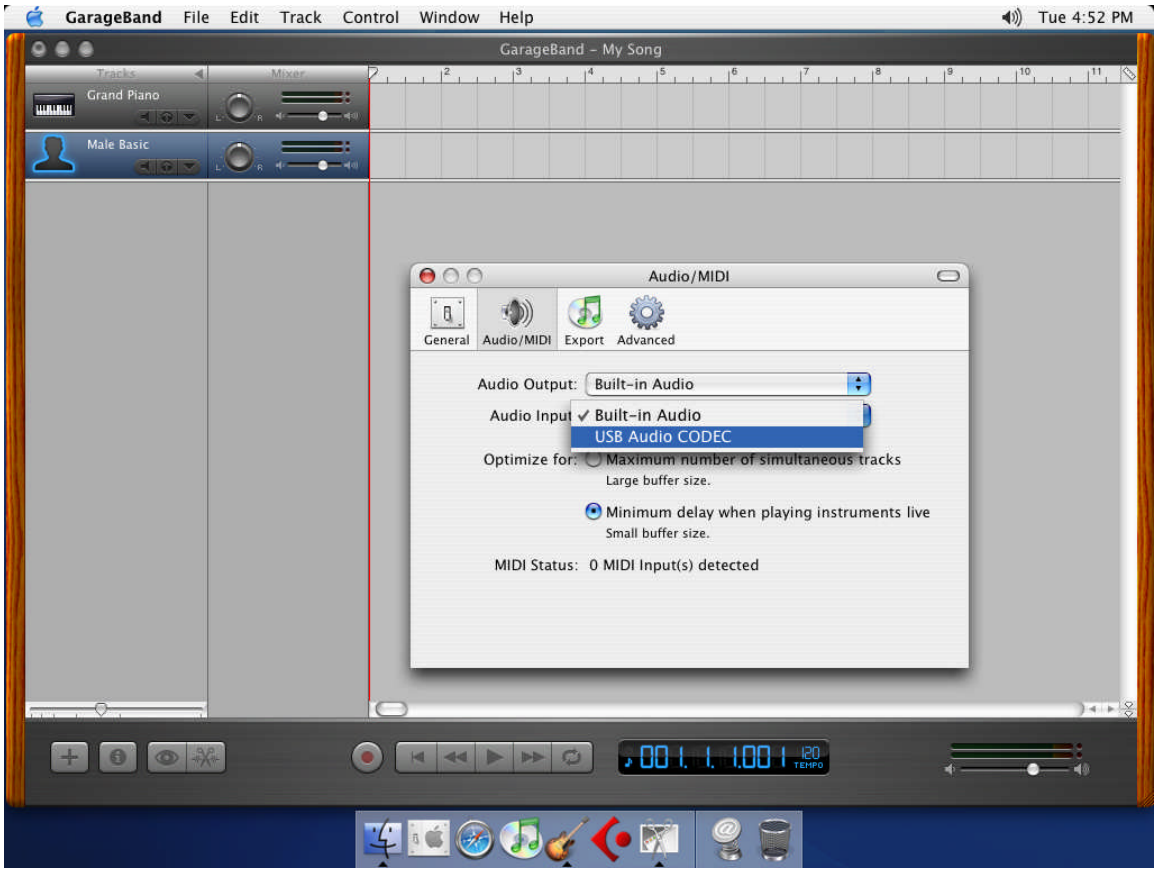

Figure #27

8. You will then be asked if you really want to change the driver. Select Yes. The computer will then say it is initializing the audio driver. Wait until this is done, then close the window.
9. At this point, you should see the meter move when you speak into the microphone. You can now click on the Record button and record your vocal or dialog using your microphone.

PLEASE NOTE: As long as the microphone is plugged in when Garage Band is started, the audio input source settings in Garage Band will be saved until you change them again, even if you close the program or start a new project.

For More Information

For additional information about your MXL 990 USB microphone, how to contact technical support, as well as information on other products manufactured by MXL, please visit us online at www.mxlmics.com.