

MIDI Control

ARRI Companion App

WORKFLOW GUIDELINE

Date: 23th October 2025

1 Version History

Version	Author	Change Note
2025-10-15	ARRI DWS	First Version
-	-	-

2 Disclaimer

This document is intended for ARRI Companion App users who wish to configure and control the application via MIDI. It describes setup procedures, configuration steps, and best practices. Functionality, naming, and user interface may change with future software updates.

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4 Introduction

MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) is a widely adopted communication protocol primarily used in the music industry to connect hardware devices such as keyboards, drum pads, or controllers. The ARRI Companion App supports MIDI to allow external control of camera operations, offering users an extended and customizable workflow.

Please note: To get the MIDI controls, you need the Premium License for the ARRI Companion App.

In case you have further questions, please refer to our [ARRI Companion App FAQ](#).

5 Supported Controllers

MIDI control in the ARRI Companion App works with a variety of devices. While most controllers are compatible, some require specific configuration software. Examples include:

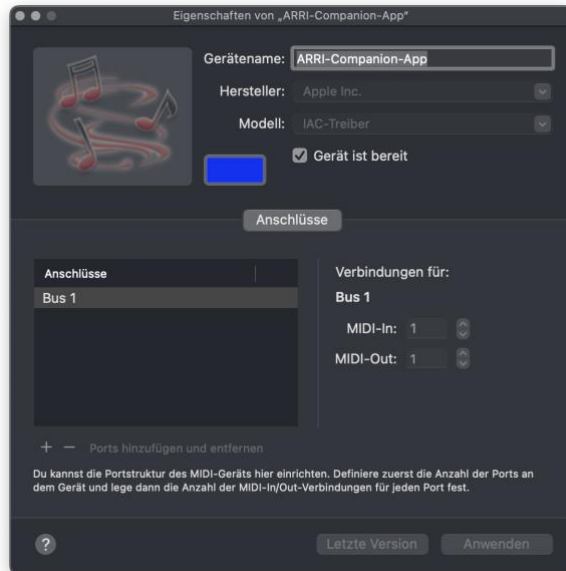
Manufacturer	Product	Website	Note
Arturia	BeatStep	https://www.arturia.com/	used for development
MIDI Fighter	MIDI Fighter	https://www.midifighter.com/	
Monogram	Monogram Creative Console	https://monogramcc.com/	
Loupedeck	Loupedeck CT	https://loupedeck.com/	with MIDI plugin
Elgato	Stream Deck	https://www.elgato.com/	with Stream Deck Midi Plugin
Tangent	Element	https://www.tangentwave.co.uk/	

6 Setting Up MIDI on macOS

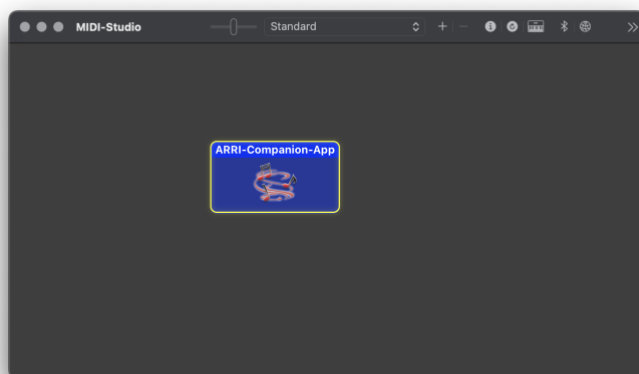
To use a MIDI controller with the Companion App on macOS, connect the controller via USB and configure the IAC Driver in the macOS utility 'Audio MIDI Setup'. This enables internal MIDI routing between applications.

6.1 Steps in macOS

- Open the "Audio-MIDI-Setup" application



- Choose 'Window → Show MIDI Studio'
- Double-click the IAC Driver icon
- Activate 'Device is online' checkbox
- You can add a custom name for the device e.g. "ARRI-Companion-App"
- Close the dialog and ensure the IAC device appears as available



7 Controller Configuration

The Controllers must be configured to send Control Change (CC) messages, not Note messages. The combination of MIDI Channel and CC number uniquely identifies a control element. The ARRI Companion App works with CC values. The pair of MIDI Channel and CC value will be used to identify the control and maps it into a function in the ARRI Companion App. The CC value (which is in the range of 0-127) defines the state of the control.

7.1 Button Configuration / Modes

Buttons should send values > 64 for 'ON' and < 64 for 'OFF'. Two modes are supported:

- Gate: Sends 'ON' when pressed and 'OFF' when released
- Toggle: Alternates between 'ON' and 'OFF' with each press

7.2 Knob Configuration

Knobs must be set to 'Relative' mode, so turning right sends values > 64 and left sends values < 64.

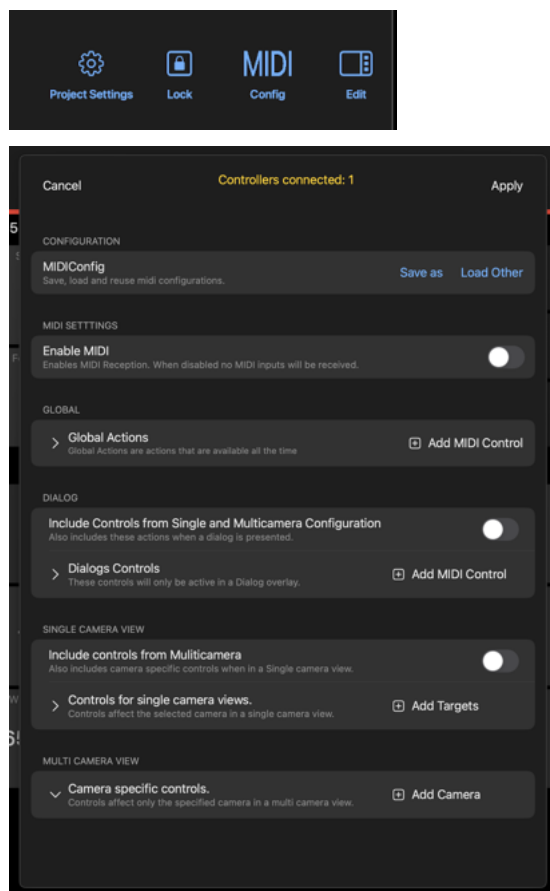
Please note: Avoid 'Absolute' mode, as it is not supported by the ARRI Companion App.

8 Configuration in the ARRI Companion App

The MIDI menu in the Companion App allows mapping of physical MIDI controls to on-screen functions. To access it, click the 'MIDI' button in the top-right corner of the application window.

8.1 Enabling MIDI

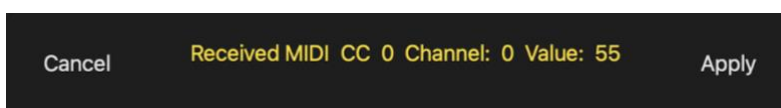
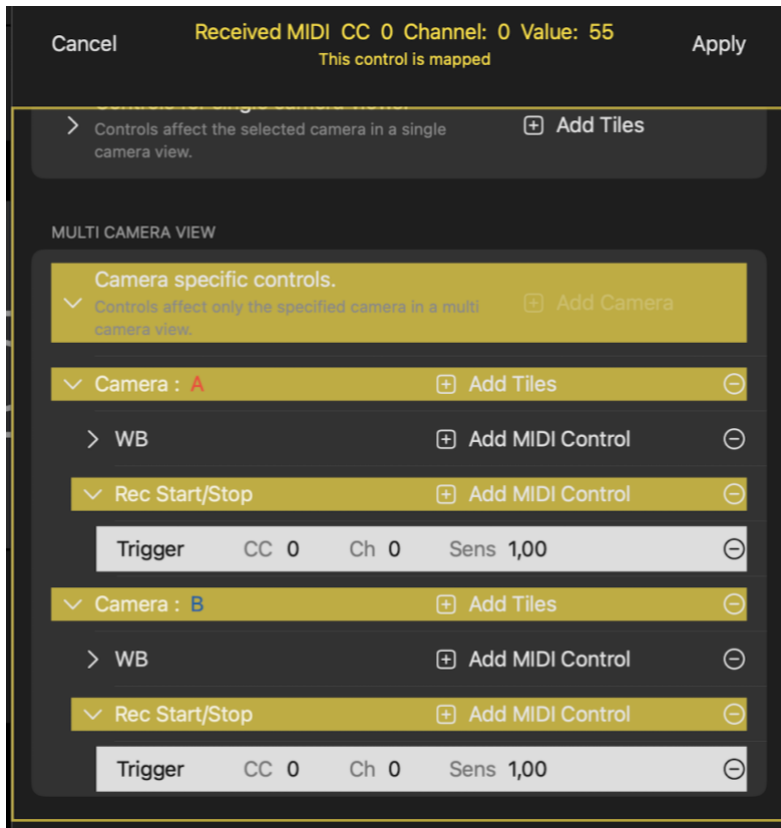
Ensure the 'Enable MIDI' toggle is set to 'ON'. Without enabling, no MIDI messages will be recognized.



8.2 Mapping Controls

Select a function (e.g., 'Lock' in Global Actions) and click the corresponding row to activate learning mode. When the row turns blue, press the desired button or turn the knob on your MIDI controller. The app will automatically map the input e.g. if you are sure your controller is recognized, you can start hitting buttons and knobs, which you have previously configured on the controller. You should see a message(s) saying:

“Received MIDI CC <Num> Channel: <Num> Value:<Num>”



Please note: If a warning message “No controllers connected” at the top of the sheet appears, please check the connection of your controller to the device.

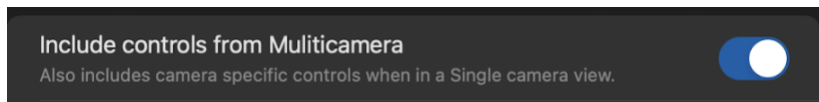
8.3 Configuration Sections

There are four main sections for configuration:

- Global Actions (always active)
- Dialog Actions (active within pop-up dialogs)
- Single Camera View
- Multi Camera View

Each section can include or inherit actions from others using the 'Include controls from...' toggle. This function can be used to include controls from the

- 'Multicam' configuration only
- 'Single' and 'Multicam' configuration



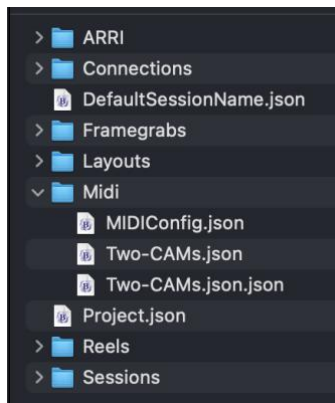
8.4 Configuration File Management

MIDI configurations are stored in JSON files within the project's MIDI folder and can be manually accessed from there. The structure contains sections for Global, Dialog, Single, and Multi Camera configurations, each defining associated CC and Channel values.

Users can load, save, and share these setups between projects. The default configuration file name is 'MIDIConfig' in the 'Midi' folder.

The project folder for ARRI Companion App on macOS is in:

/Users/[Username]/Library/Containers/Companion/Data/Documents/Projects/[Project Name Folder]



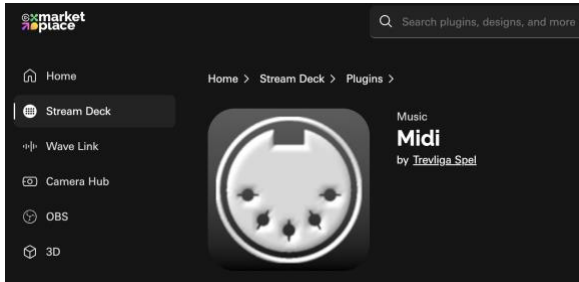
9 Best practice

This chapter will show you some “Best practice” and examples for MIDI control.

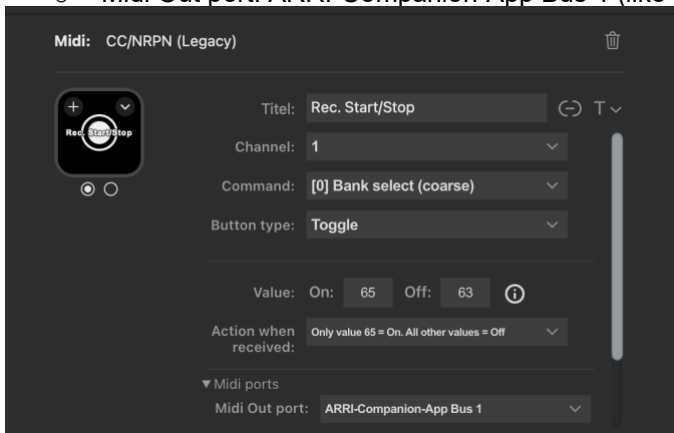
9.1 Mapping MIDI controls for Rec. Start/Stop | Elgato Stream Deck

The Elgato Stream Deck can be integrated using the free ['MIDI Plugin by Trevliga Spel'](#). This allows Stream Deck buttons to send MIDI CC commands directly to the Companion App.

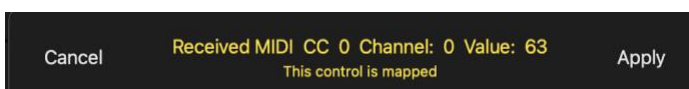
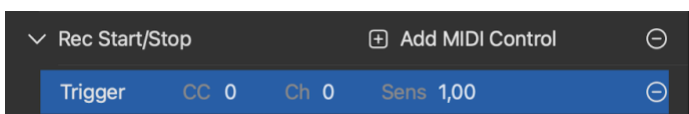
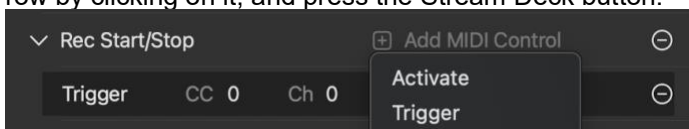
- Connect your Stream Deck to your Mac.
- Open 'Audio MIDI Setup' on macOS and ensure the IAC Driver is active (see above)
- Open the Stream Deck software and install the ['MIDI plugin' by Trevliga Spel](#) from the Elgato Marketplace.



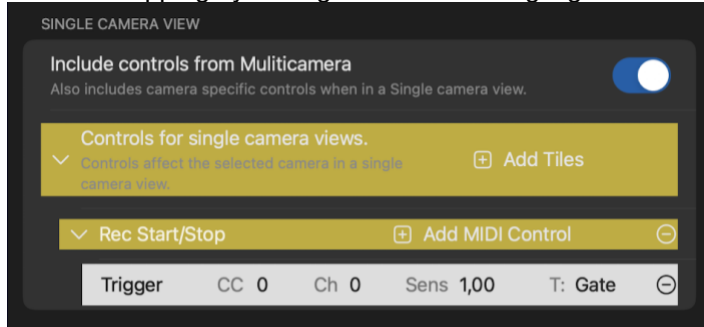
- Assign a 'CC/NRPN (Legacy)' command to a Stream Deck button and set CC/Channel values e.g.
 - Titel: Rec. Start/Stop
 - Channel: 1
 - Value On: 65
 - Value Off: 63
 - Command: [0]Bank select (coarse) (default)
 - Button Type: Toggle
 - Midi Out port: ARRI-Companion-App Bus 1 (like set in macOS 'Audio-MIDI-Setup')



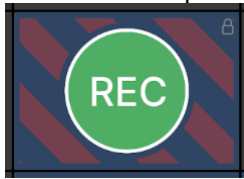
- In the Companion App, open the MIDI menu and enable MIDI.
- In the 'Single Camera View' please select a function (e.g., Rec Start/Stop), activate the blue learning row by clicking on it, and press the Stream Deck button.



- Confirm mapping by testing if the function highlights when the button is pressed.



- In the 'Tile' view the corresponding function, in this case the "Rec." Tile should be highlighted blue. By pressing the "Rec. Start/Stop" button on the Stream Deck the camera should start recording. By another button press, the recording should stop.



-> press button ->



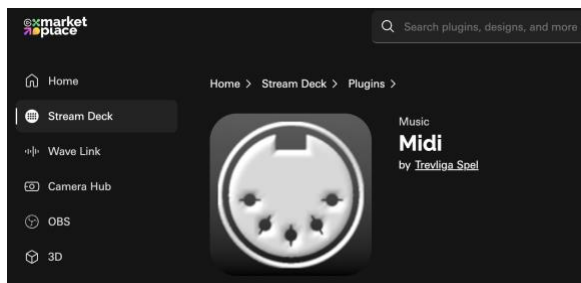
-> press button ->



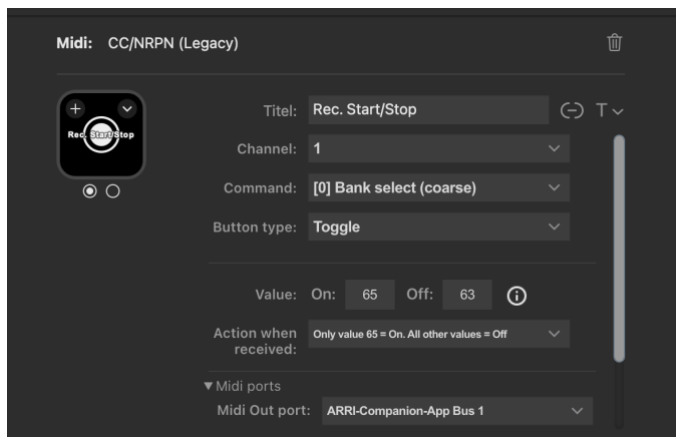
9.2 Mapping MIDI controls for Rec. Start/Stop with "Multicamera" functionality | Elgato Stream Deck

The Elgato Stream Deck can be integrated using the free ['MIDI Plugin by Trevliga Spel'](#). This allows Stream Deck buttons to send MIDI CC commands directly to the Companion App.

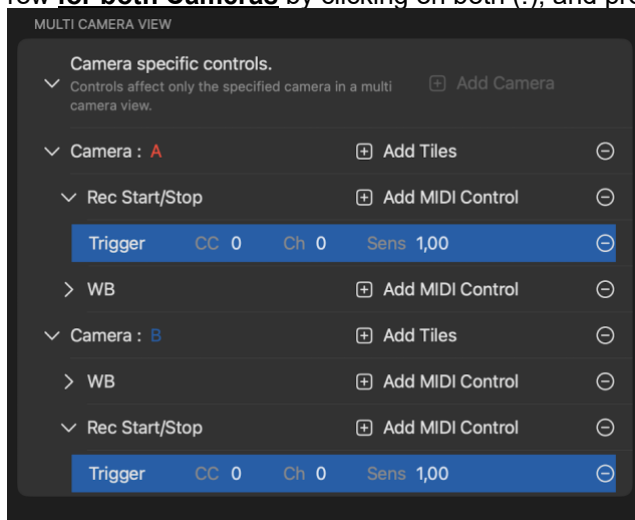
- Connect your Stream Deck to your Mac.
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- Open the Stream Deck software and install the ['MIDI plugin' by Trevliga Spel](#) from the Elgato Marketplace.



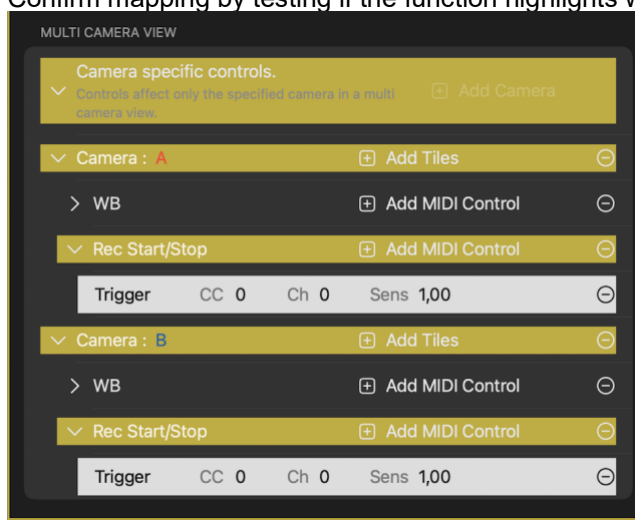
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 - Value Off: 63
 - Command: [0]Bank select (coarse) (default)
 - Button Type: Toggle
 - Midi Out port: ARRI-Companion-App Bus 1 (like set in macOS 'Audio-MIDI-Setup')



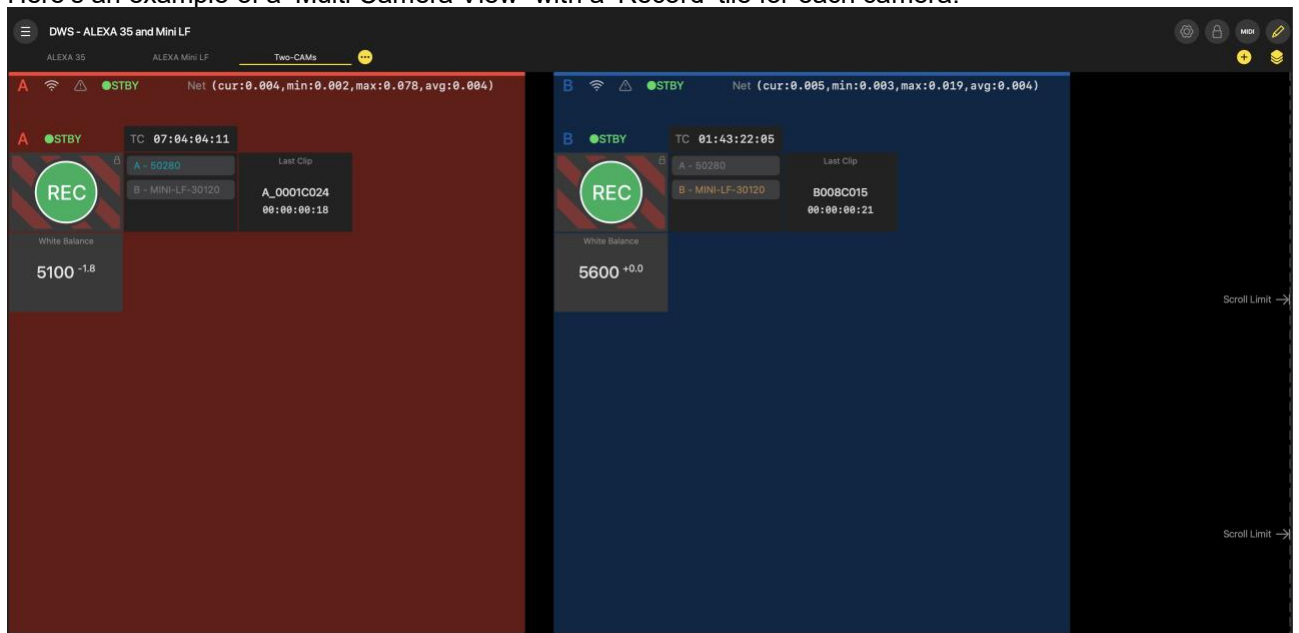
- In the Companion App, open the MIDI menu and enable MIDI.
- In the 'Multi Camera View' please select a function (e.g., Rec Start/Stop), activate the blue learning row **for both Cameras** by clicking on both (!), and press the Stream Deck button.



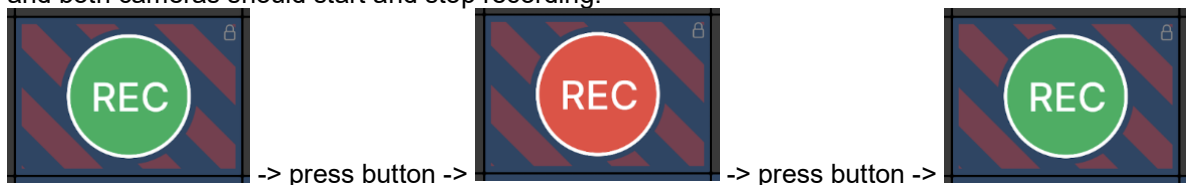
- Confirm mapping by testing if the function highlights when the button is pressed.



- For simultaneous recording, please set up a mixed/multi camera view with two cameras in one 'Tile View' e.g. A Camera = ALEXA 35 and B Camera = ALEXA Mini LF. You can edit the views by pressing the 'Edit Button' in the right-upper corner. 🛠️
- Next press the "Add Tile" button ➕ and select the "Record" button and drag and drop it two times into each 'Camera Control View' (Camera A & Camera B).
- Here's an example of a 'Multi Camera View' with a 'Record' tile for each camera.



- If everything is set up correctly, you can press the 'Rec. Start/Stop' MIDI button on your MIDI device and both cameras should start and stop recording.



10 Downloads

- [Companion App on Apple App Store](#)
- [ARRI Companion App – Official Website](#)
- [ARRI Companion App – FAQ](#)
- Sample Project for ARRI Companion App [DWS - ALEXA 35 and Mini LF.zip]

11 Contact

In case you have questions or recommendations, please contact the Digital Workflow Solutions group within ARRI via email: digitalworkflow@arri.de or companionapp@arri.de