



SHOWSYNC · USER GUIDE

Your show files, mirrored in real time.

ShowSync keeps a live, one-way copy of your show folder on a second Mac — so if your main Mac ever fails mid-event, an up-to-date backup is already waiting. This guide covers setup, pairing, syncing, and licensing.

Platform macOS 13 or later

Needs Two Macs, one network

By Remember Live

WHAT SHOWSYNC DOES

ShowSync runs quietly in the menu bar and mirrors a folder from one Mac (the **Main**) to another (the **Backup**) over your local network. It is built for live production, where a second copy of your cues, sets, recordings, or project files can save a show.

One-way, by design

Files only ever travel from Main to Backup. The Backup receives and never sends back, so your working copy is never overwritten by the mirror.

Additive and safe

Transfers are delta-based (only changes move) and additive. A write-test runs before each sync, with a safe-folder fallback if the destination drive isn't ready.

Calm and quiet

It sits in the menu bar using almost no resources, works on events rather than constant polling, and shows honest status at a glance.

Encrypted on the wire

Every transfer runs over SSH (AES-encrypted) with key-based trust and a human-confirmed pairing step — no passwords stored.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Two Macs** running **macOS 13 (Ventura) or later** — one acts as Main, one as Backup.
- Both Macs on the **same local network** (wired is recommended for shows).
- On the Backup Mac, **Remote Login** must be enabled (System Settings → General → Sharing → Remote Login). ShowSync will prompt you if it's off.
- An **internet connection at first run** to start a trial or activate a license. After activation, ShowSync verifies your license *offline* — no internet needed at show time.

GOOD TO KNOW

A single license covers **two machines**. The Backup edition (receive-only) is always free, so you only need a license on the Mac that sends.

QUICK START

If you just want to get running, this is the short path. Each step is expanded later in the guide.

- 1 Install ShowSync on both Macs.** It appears in the menu bar — click the icon to open it.
- 2 On the Backup Mac, turn on Remote Login** and set its role to Backup (Settings → Connection → Role → **Switch to Backup**).
- 3 On the Main Mac, start a trial or activate a license** (Settings → License). Until then, the Main Mac runs in free Backup-only mode.
- 4 Pair the two Macs.** On the Main Mac, choose the Backup under Discovery and click **Pair Automatically**. Confirm the matching code on the Backup.
- 5 Choose your source folder** on the Main Mac (**Choose...**).
- 6 Click **Sync Now****. Your files mirror to **~/Sync** on the Backup.

MAIN & BACKUP ROLES

Every Mac running ShowSync is either a **Main** or a **Backup**.

ROLE	WHAT IT DOES	MENU-BAR ICON
Main	Sends files — the source machine, the one you work on. This is the licensed role.	Up arrow in a circle
Backup	Receives files into ~/Sync . Receive-only, and always free.	Down arrow in a circle

To change a Mac's role, open **Settings** → **Connection** → **Role** and click **Switch to Backup** or **Switch to Main**. You'll be asked to confirm — *"The app will restart in the new role."*

NOTE

The **Switch to Main** option only appears when the Mac has an active trial or license. Without one, the Mac stays in free Backup-only mode (see **Backup-only mode**).

PREPARE THE BACKUP MAC

The Backup Mac receives files, so it needs Remote Login enabled and its role set to Backup.

- 1 Enable Remote Login.** Open System Settings → General → Sharing → turn on **Remote Login**. If ShowSync needs it and it's off, you'll see *"Remote Login Required — ShowSync needs Remote Login enabled on this Mac to receive files."* with a button to open System Settings.
- 2 Set the role to Backup.** Settings → Connection → Role → **Switch to Backup**. The app restarts as a Backup.
- 3 Confirm it's listening.** The Backup popover shows **Network Discovery**, **This Mac's IP**, and **Backup User**. When files arrive you'll see **Receiving...**.

WHERE FILES CAN LAND

Incoming files are written to **~/Sync** by default. You can change this to another folder **in your home directory** or on an **external drive** — but not Documents, Desktop, or Downloads, which macOS protects from network writes.

PAIRING THE TWO MACS

Pairing establishes a trusted, encrypted connection between Main and Backup. It only has to be done once per pair.

Automatic pairing (recommended)

- 1 On the Main Mac, open **Settings** → **Connection**. Leave Discovery on **Automatic**.
- 2 Your Backup Mac appears in the discovery list. Select it, then click **Pair Automatically**.
- 3 ShowSync shows **Pairing...**, then a request appears on the **Backup** Mac titled "**Pairing Request**".
- 4 On the Backup, check the **verification code** matches the one under "*This Mac's Verification Code*" on the Main, then click **Trust**.
- 5 The Main shows **Paired with [name]** and the Secure Connection indicator turns to ● **Connected**.

ALWAYS CHECK THE CODE

The verification code is your security check. Only click **Trust** when the code on the Backup matches the code shown on the Main's Settings screen — that confirms you're pairing with the right machine.

Manual setup

If the Backup doesn't appear automatically, switch Discovery to **Manual** and click **Set Up Manually**. You'll be asked to enter the Backup's **username** and **IP address** (both shown on the Backup Mac's popover), then **Set Up Secure Connection**.

If you ever need to unpair

In Settings, **Forget This Backup** (on the Main) or **Forget Paired Main** (on the Backup) clears the pairing. You'll be asked to confirm. To re-pair, run automatic pairing again.

CHOOSING FOLDERS

On the Main — the source

Under **Settings** → **Connection** → **Source**, click **Choose...** and pick the folder you want mirrored (your show folder, project, recordings, etc.). Until a source is set, ShowSync shows *"Choose a source folder."*

On the Backup — the destination

Files arrive in **~/Sync** by default. The destination is shown under **Destination**; use **Change** and **Confirm Destination** if you need a different location.

WHERE THE BACKUP CAN SAVE

macOS protects **Documents, Desktop, and Downloads**, so the Backup can't write there. Choose a folder **inside your home directory** (the default **~/Sync** works out of the box) or on an **external drive**. If you pick a protected folder, ShowSync tells you: *"This Folder Can't Receive Files Over the Network — Documents, Desktop, and Downloads are protected by macOS. Please choose another folder, like a folder in your home directory or an external drive."*

SYNCING FILES

Open the Main Mac's popover and click **Sync Now**. ShowSync copies any new or changed files to the Backup. Because transfers are delta-based, the first sync moves everything and later syncs are near-instant.

While a sync runs you'll see progress like **Syncing... 64% · 2.1 of 3.3 GB**, and you can stop it with **Cancel Sync**. When it finishes, **Last sync** updates with the time, file count, and size.

CHECK BEFORE YOU SEND

Turn on **Check files before sync** (Settings → Behaviour) to preview what would change. The Sync button then reads **Check Files** — a dry run that reports differences without copying.

AUTO SYNC & PUSH SYNC

Two options in **Settings** → **Behaviour** keep the Backup current without you clicking each time:

Auto Sync

Mirrors on a schedule. Pick from preset intervals — **30 seconds, 5, 10, 15, or 30 minutes, or 1 hour** — or set a **custom interval** of 1–360 minutes and click **Apply**.

A **Auto** badge appears in the popover when it's on.

Push Sync

Mirrors automatically whenever files in the source folder change. ShowSync watches the folder and, once changes settle (go quiet), runs a sync — so it doesn't fire mid-copy. You choose how long to wait for things to settle: a **debounce** of **5, 10, or 30 seconds, or 1 minute**, or a **custom delay** of 5–300 seconds. Ideal during an active show when files are being added continuously.

TIP

You can also trigger a sync from anywhere with the global shortcut **⌘ ^ ⌘ S** (toggle it under Settings → Behaviour → Options).

VERSION HISTORY

When enabled (Settings → Behaviour), ShowSync keeps previous copies of files on the Backup, so an overwrite never loses the older version.

Before each sync, ShowSync works out which files are about to be replaced and saves the existing Backup copy alongside the new one, with a timestamped name like **report~sync-v~2026-06-16_14-30-05.pdf**. The new version then takes the original's place, and the older copy stays in the same folder as a dated twin.

You choose how many versions to keep per file — **3, 5, 10, 15, or 20** (default 3). Once the limit is reached, ShowSync removes the oldest copies after each sync. There's no time limit — only the count matters.

What it covers

Version History applies to files that are **changed or overwritten**. Because ShowSync is additive — it never deletes files on the Backup to match the Main — files you delete on the Main are **not** removed or versioned on the Backup; they simply remain. This keeps your Backup safe: a deletion on the Main can never wipe files from the mirror.

NOTE

Versioning runs within each sync and never delays or blocks a backup.

VERIFYING A BACKUP

To confirm the Backup is a faithful copy, click **Verify** on the Main (or **Verify Backup** on the Backup). ShowSync checks the source against the Backup and reports one of:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ● Verified — all files match | Deep verify: every file's contents match, byte for byte. |
| ● Verified — sizes & dates match | Fast verify: every file is present with the expected size and date. |
| ● N files differ | Re-sync is recommended to bring the Backup up to date. |
| ● Verify failed | Couldn't reach the Backup — check the connection and network. |

Fast vs Deep verify

You can choose how thorough Verify is, under **Settings** → **Behaviour** → **Verify**:

Deep (default)

Checks every file's **contents** with a checksum — a true byte-for-byte comparison. The most thorough check; it catches a file that's the right size but has changed or become corrupted. Best before a critical show. On very large files it takes longer, because every byte is read on both Macs.

Fast

Checks each file's **size and modification date** only — not its contents. Near-instant even on very large files. Ideal for a quick "is everything there and the right size?" check when you're working with large media and don't need a full content comparison.

WHICH SHOULD I USE?

Leave it on **Deep** for normal show files — it's thorough and fast enough when files aren't huge. Switch to **Fast** when you have very large files (multi-gigabyte media) and just want to confirm they're all present quickly. The result wording tells you which check ran, so you always know what was confirmed.

ALREADY PROTECTED DURING TRANSFER

Every sync already verifies file integrity as it transfers (and re-sends anything that doesn't arrive cleanly), so a successfully synced file is checked at the moment it's copied. Deep verify additionally re-confirms the contents later — useful for catching changes or drive issues that happen *after* a sync.

READING THE STATUS

The menu-bar icon colour tells you the state at a glance:

● Amber	Syncing or receiving.
● Green	Success — last operation completed.
● Orange	Warning — something needs attention.
● Red	Error — see the popover for detail.

The popover also shows connection details (Backup IP, user, folder, this Mac's IP), the last sync summary, and the Secure Connection indicator (● Connected / ● Not

Connected).

TRIAL & LICENSE

The full Main (sending) capability is unlocked by a 14-day free trial or a purchased license. Open **Settings** → **License**.

Starting a free trial

Click **Start free trial** to begin a 14-day trial on this Mac, or paste a key you've been given into **Enter license key** and click **Activate**. After activating, you'll see *"Activated — relaunch to enable Main mode."* — quit and reopen ShowSync to switch into Main.

What the status line means

No license	"No license — start a trial or enter a key." The Mac runs in free Backup-only mode.
Trial	"Trial — N days remaining." Full Main capability is unlocked.
Licensed	A purchased license is active. Full capability, no expiry.
Trial expired	The trial has ended; the Mac returns to free Backup-only mode until a license is activated.

Two machines per license

One license activates ShowSync on up to **two Macs**. If you try to activate a third, you'll see *"Already active on the maximum 2 Macs."*

OFFLINE AT SHOW TIME

Activation needs the internet once. After that, ShowSync verifies your license offline — so it keeps working on isolated show networks with no internet access.

BACKUP-ONLY MODE

When a Mac has no active trial or license, ShowSync runs in **Backup-only mode**: it can still receive files (so a free machine is always useful as a Backup), but the Main sending features are hidden. You'll see the note *"Backup-only — activate a license to enable Main mode."*

Start a trial or activate a license, relaunch, and the full Main capability returns. Your saved role and settings are never lost while in Backup-only mode.

SETTINGS REFERENCE

Settings are grouped into five sections, opened from the gear icon in the popover.

SECTION	WHAT'S INSIDE
Connection	Role (Main/Backup), Discovery (Automatic/Manual), Source folder, Destination, Pairing, Network Interface.
Identity & Trust	This Mac's identity and verification, change Backup name, Secure Connection status, Forget This Backup / Forget Paired Main.
Behaviour	Auto Sync & interval, Push Sync, Version History, Verify mode (Fast / Deep), Check files before sync, Launch at Login, global shortcut, where ShowSync appears (Menu Bar / Menu Bar & Dock).
License	Trial & activation, license status, days remaining.
About	Version, credits, and Check for Updates.

Reset to Defaults (with a confirmation) returns settings to their original state. It does not delete your files.

UPDATES

Under **Settings** → **About**, click [Check for Updates](#). ShowSync checks for a newer version and reports one of:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ● You're up to date | You have the latest version. |
| ● Version X available | A newer version exists — click Download to get it. |
| ● Couldn't check | ShowSync couldn't reach the update service — try again later. |
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NETWORK & SECURITY

For best performance and security, run ShowSync on a **dedicated, hardwired network**. All transfers are encrypted (AES, over SSH) with key-based trust and a human-confirmed pairing step — no passwords are stored.

ShowSync uses **ShowNetwork**, Remember Live's interface-binding technology, to keep show traffic on the network interface you choose — so your sync stays on your dedicated show network. Pick the interface under **Settings** → **Connection** → **Network Interface**.

Why wired

A dedicated cabled network gives you the fastest, most reliable transfers — often close to full gigabit speed — and keeps show traffic isolated from other devices.

One-way trust

Trust flows in one direction (Main → Backup). The Backup can only receive, never reach back into the Main.

TROUBLESHOOTING

The Backup doesn't appear when pairing

Confirm both Macs are on the same network and the Backup has **Remote Login** enabled. If it still doesn't show, switch Discovery to **Manual** and enter the Backup's username and IP (both on the Backup's popover).

"Backup not reachable on selected network"

The Backup can't be reached on the chosen network interface. Check cabling/Wi-Fi, and confirm the Network Interface in Settings → Connection matches the network the Backup is on.

Sync won't start

ShowSync tells you why inline — common reasons: *"Choose a source folder," "No Backup selected," "No Backup user set," "Connection not yet set up,"* or *"Backup not reachable on selected network."* Resolve the stated item and try again.

"Remote Login Required" on the Backup

Open System Settings → General → Sharing and turn on Remote Login, then return to ShowSync.

"Already active on the maximum 2 Macs"

Your license already covers two machines. To move it to a different Mac, deactivate it on one of the current machines first, or contact Remember Live.

"Couldn't reach the licensing server"

Activation needs internet once. Connect to the internet to activate or start a trial; afterwards ShowSync works offline.

"This Folder Can't Receive Files Over the Network"

You chose a destination macOS protects (Documents, Desktop, or Downloads). Pick a folder **inside your home directory** (such as the default **~/Sync**) or on an **external drive** instead.

The Main Mac only shows Backup features

It's in Backup-only mode — start a trial or activate a license in Settings → License, then relaunch.

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