Screenium

User Guide

Version 1.3.3

$\mathcal{W}$elcome to Screenium

This User Guide will provide you with the information required to get the most out of our screen capture application. We try to keep Screenium as easy and intuitive as possible, however, there are still some aspects to be learned and understood before you can work effectively by taking advantage of all of Screenium's features.

Installation, de-installation, update

First steps with Screenium

The Video side of things

The Audio side of things

Exportieren

1

Installation, de-installation, update

Installation

Double-click the installer file after the download has finished. This installation window will open:

Please drag and drop Screenium (the lens icon) in your Applications folder in any case. This is mandatory for Screenium to work properly. If instead you open the installer file every time and launch Screenium from there, you might encounter problems during operation that don't occur when properly installed.

You need Administrator privileges in order to install software. If you do, please enter your user name and system password.

Complete de-Installation of Screenium

In case you're hesitant to drop Screenium in your Applications folder - here's instructions on how to completely remove Screenium if necessary. After that, there will be no traces left of Screenium on your system, just as if it had never been installed.

Open Finder and delete:

1. Screenium in your Applications folder

2. The "com.synium.Screenium.plist" in your User Folder - Library -Preferences

3. Your Screenium folder in your User Folder - Videos

4. The installer file you downloaded from the internet.

Screenium uses the free SoundFlower driver to capture the audio played back over your Mac's speakers. If you installed SoundFlower as the "System Audio (Screenium)" driver as described in the Audio Setup section, you should see a Soundflower folder in your Applications folder which contains the de-installation script. If that folder is missing,

first download the SoundFlower installer from here:
Soundflower-1.5.1.dmg

1. Double-click the "Uninstall SoundFlower.scpt" file either in the Soundflower folder or in the Soundflower installer.
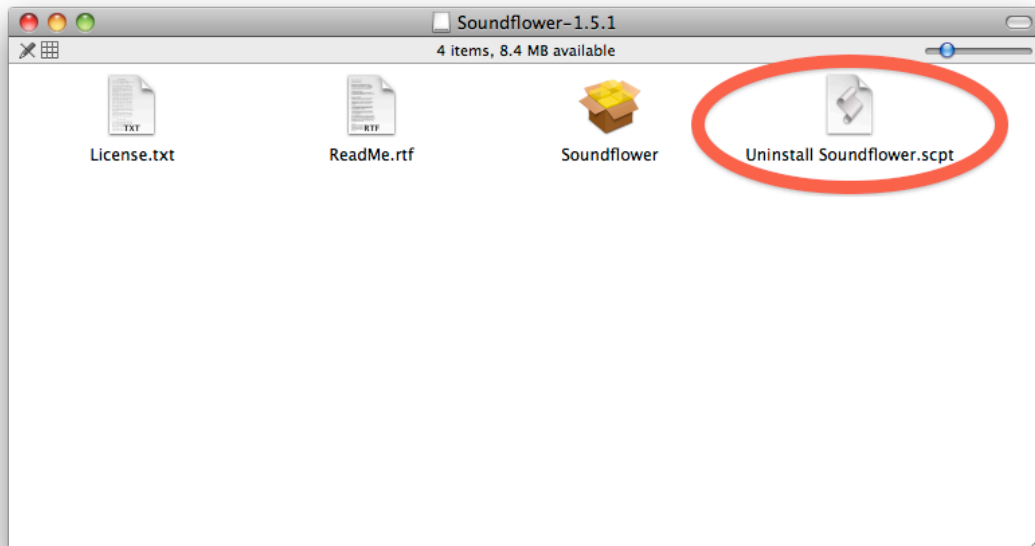
2. AppleScript Editor will open:

3. Click the Run button.

4. Enter your Administrator password
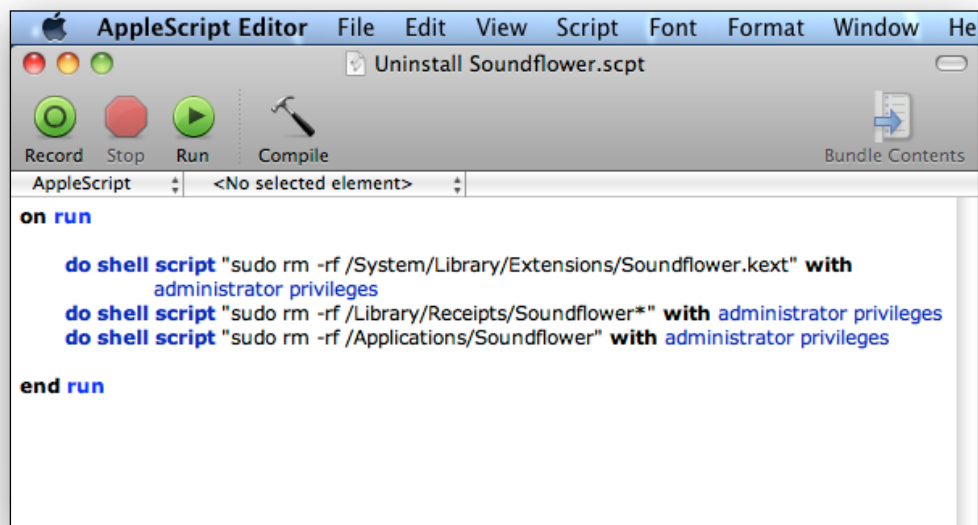
5. The SoundFlower / System Audio driver will be removed. Please reboot your Mac afterwards for the changes to take effect.

Registration

Screenium can be purchased from our online distribution partner. Simply click "Buy" on our website and follow the instructions given there. After checkout in the store, you'll receive an e-mail containing your Serial Number.

This number will unlock the 30 seconds per capture limitation of the demo version so you end up with the regular application without another download. As long as no Serial Number is entered, Screenium will pop up a window every time you launch it, querying you for a Serial Number. Please copy the entire number you received in that text field and confirm.

> Please enter the entire Serial Number, including "SCRE" and all the hyphens which looks similar to the following pattern:
>
> SCRE-1234-1234-1234-1234-1234
>
> or
>
> SYN-SCRE-1234-ABCD-1234-ABCD-1234-ABCD-123

Update Screenium

Screenium 1.3 introduces the automatic updater feature. For quite some time, Screenium has been checking for updates in the background, informing you when feature improvements or bug fixes were available. From now on, a single click will even start the download, installation and relaunch of Screenium.

Update troubleshooting

It shouldn't occur with the new auto-updater, but if you can't install an update with Screenium telling you you had insufficient privileges to install, please:

1. Delete Screenium from your Applications folder

2. Download the latest release from our website

3. Install Screenium by dragging the icon in your Applications folder

2

First steps with Screenium

The basic recording workflow

Screenium by itself is pretty straight forward to use. For your first recording, simply:

1. Launch Screenium

2. Click the "Fullscreen" button in Screenium

3. Do something (like opening Safari and browsing our website www.synium.de)

4. Press the key combination for stopping the record process: **ctrl + alt + c**

Done! You've just recorded your first video. Find the videos by clicking "Media Library" in the left hand column. Then double-click a video from the list. You should be seeing your entire screen and everything you did during the recording period in your video. All recordings from now on forward will be just variations of this basic workflow.

During recording, Screenium allows you to stop or pause recording via the Dock icon. Simply right-click the icon with your mouse:
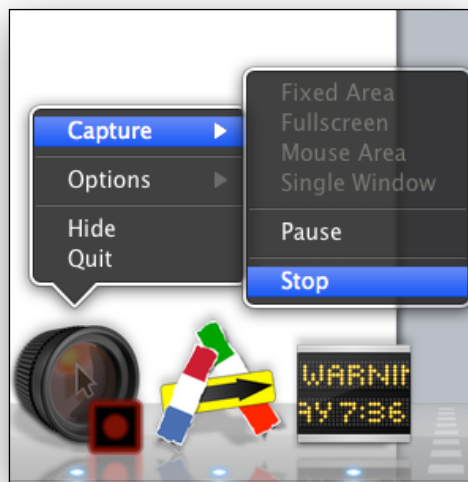
Watch your video clip

1. Click "Media Library" in Screenium's left hand column

2. Double-click the video you just recorded that was automatically added to your Library

3. Quicktime Player will open, allowing you to watch that video.

Capture modes

There is a lot more to capturing actual tutorials, so let's go on to the details. The first thing you'll notice are the four capture modes.

Fullscreen

We've already used the Fullscreen mode in the introduction. Simply click the Fullscreen button and the capture will start right away.

This is the mode that captures your entire screen. If you're going to edit your videos in a video editing software later, you could stick with the fullscreen mode entirely. You'll always capture everything that's

happening on your screen and everything else will be decided during editing.

Possible disadvantages are:

✓Editing takes a lot of time

✓Fullscreen recordings require more hard drive space

This is why we added three specialized capture modes. If you'd like to cut the editing process to mere cropping and arranging your clips in your video editor (like iMovie), please consider the alternative modes.

Fixed Area

Sequences captured in Fixed Area mode will show one defined area of your screen. A red frame is overlaid during recording so you'll see when you drag a window in or out of view.

1. Click the Fixed Area button

2. A selection is overlaid.

3. Use either your mouse or enter numbers in the Selection Settings window to resize and move the selection on your screen.

4. Click the Record button.

5. Do the things you wanted to demonstrate

6. Stop the recording either with **ctrl + alt + c** or by right-clicking Screenium's Dock icon.

> The larger the recorded area, the more hard drive space is required. CPU and hard disk transfer speed may limit either the available maximum resolution, the frame rate or the number of simultaneous audio tracks.

Mouse Area

Some situations will require focussing the viewers' attention on a certain area at a time but without the limitations of a Fixed Area recording. In Mouse Area mode, you select an area size. The actual location, however, will always follow your mouse pointer, trying to center the pointer.

This is ideally suited to explain several areas of an application's user interface in quick succession, demonstrate how to fill a certain form or give the grand tour through an application's menus. Plus, you can lock the moving area in place and then unlock it again by pressing **ctrl + alt + L**.

1. Click the Mouse Area button

2. Define the capture area's size and start position either by dragging and resizing the area with the mouse or by entering the values in the Selection Settings window

3. Click the Record button

4. Move the mouse to the areas you want to highlight

5. Stop the recording either with **ctrl + alt + C** or by right-clicking the Screenium icon in your Dock and selecting the Stop option in the Capture menu.

Single Window

Easily capture just an application's window. Even when you have to move that window, Screenium will follow it automatically. This mode is perfect if you'd like to demonstrate navigation in the Finder or using a website in Safari.

Simply click the Single Window button, then select a window and confirm Screenium's question if the selected window is the window you'd like to capture.

Please be aware that in order to provide compatibility with Mac OS X 10.4, Single Window mode will not be able to ignore other elements on your screen in every case - menus and windows that overlay the selected window will overlay the window exactly as you see them on your screen.

> Don't resize the window during capture in Single Window mode. If you enlarge the window while capturing, the enlarged window will appear truncated. If you make it smaller, parts of the background will be captured, too.

3

The Video side of things

Good practices for screencasts

In Screenium's main window, the left hand column gives you access to all sorts of capture options, as well as to the Media Library. Use them consciously, the resulting videos will be much easier on the eye and more easily understood that way.

Resolution

Always keep in mind who and which medium you produce your screencast for. In general, if you know that you will export your tutorials in 640x480 pixels resolution for streaming over the web, don't even think about capturing your 24" iMac in full resolution. All screen elements like the mouse pointer, text in menus and all sorts of sliders, buttons and even the Dock will appear tiny - too small to effectively show anything.

You may prefer to have as much screen real estate available as possible for Photoshop or Final Cut Pro tutorials but that will only give a rough overview in the low resolution export - you won't be able to actually see any details.

Scaling should always be set to 100%, if you need lower resolution, please set your Mac's display to a lower resolution in the first place.

Compression

Always capture the best quality available and if file size is an issue, export it in a compressed format later. Once the quality is lost, you can't regain it. If you compromise on quality during recording, chances are you'll have to re-record it at some point.

We recommend you choose either the "Lossless Video" or "Compressed Video" preset. We try our best to optimize the presets for the supported Macs. Compressing into h.264 or MPEG4 during recording will put additional workload on your CPU and blocks extra memory bandwidth. This will effectively draw resources from the actual capturing.

Hide Desktop

A lot of files on your Desktop, as well as colourful background images, distract your viewer from the essentials. Unless you decidedly want to show the opening of a file on your Desktop, hiding it with Screenium's "Hide Desktop Background" and "Hide Desktop Icons" options is recommended.

Camera Overlay

A camera feed from an iSight or Quicktime compatible webcam can be overlaid. If the camera feed helps make your point clearer, use it in the highest resolution available. Point it at a whiteboard to sketch something, for example. Or if you record a video conference, it's ideally suited to integrate a feed of yourself.

In situations where you don't need the camera, don't activate it. It might overlay something you wanted to show and to be honest, almost nobody looks pretty when they look confused when searching for something on the monitor.

Mouse visualization

Mouse visualisation is a fine way to overcome the smallness of your mouse pointer and it gives you added benefit of counting your clicks and making your viewers aware of you using the mouse wheel.

If you don't use it, you'll have to mention every click you make to make sure your viewers can follow your instructions. In some cases, though, visualisation can become distracting. Either switch it off then or configure it to be less obtrusive.

Changing the colour, reducing Duration and Strength and de-activating the filled mouse click can go a long way towards making the visualisation less distractive.

HotText

If you use HotText, set the font size as large as possible. HotText is perfect for indication of lesson starts, and if you use it at all, you'll want to make abundantly clear it's there. Don't hide it in a corner, centered is absolutely preferable.

You can use HotText excessively but the effect will wear down if you do. Plus, there's a limited number of available keyboard shortcuts to begin with and you'll have to memorize which shortcut activates which HotText. This will inevitably draw concentration away from your actual lecture.

How to..

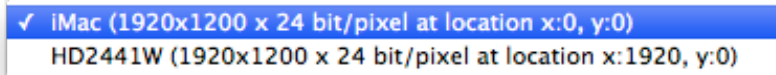## Hide Desktop Background / Desktop Icons

1. Click Video in the left hand column

2. Activate the "Hide Desktop Background" option

3. Desktop icons can only be hidden if the "Hide Desktop Background" option is already active.

4. Click the color picker field under "Fill Color"

5. A standard OS X Color Picker window will open. Select your preferred color.

6. Start recording, the background will be overlaid immediately. You'll see exactly what your viewers will see in the finished video.

Select internal or external displays

Screenium can capture from one display at a time - either internal or external. Displays are identified by both their position, as well as their name. So if you connect an external display to your iMac, you choose between "iMac" and your external display's name.

If you connected two displays of the same type, the two are identified by the same name but the coordinates will help you decide which one is which.

The display you set up to show the Dock and the Menu Bar (=Main Display) is assigned y=0 and x=0 coordinates. If you arranged your second display to be left of that Main Display, x coordinates will be negative, if it is set up to stand to the right of your Main Display, x will be positive.

| ✓ iMac (1920x1200 x 24 bit/pixel at location x:0, y:0) |
| HD2441W (1920x1200 x 24 bit/pixel at location x:1920, y:0) |

Example: external monitor on an iMac

1. Click Video in the left hand column

2. In case multiple displays are connected to your Mac, select the appropriate option from the Source dropdown menu

3. Choose a record mode and start recording.

Set position for your iSight overlay

Your iSight camera feed can be overlaid during recording. Three sizes are available and you can move the overlay to one of nine different positions.

1. Click Camera in the left hand column

2. Activate the Camera Capture

3. Select the appropriate size

4. A Preview is displayed in the bottom preview area

5. Drag and drop the preview to your preferred position

Now when you record, the overlay will be positioned in the selected area. If you capture an area that is smaller than the camera feed's resolution, the camera overlay is automatically scaled down.

Configure Mouse visualization

After clicking "Mouse" in the left hand column, you can configure different aspects of the Mouse Visualisation. Click in the bottom preview window to see the changes.
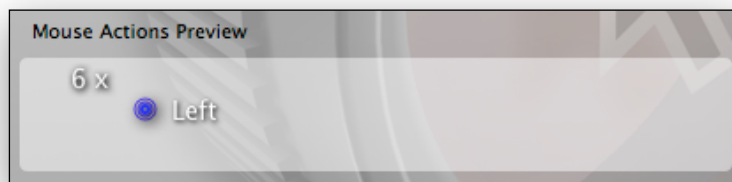

Click-visualisation color can be set independently for right-click and left-click. The actual visualisation can not be seen during recording, it is rendered into the video afterwards. So it is recommended you test your settings either in the preview or record a test piece to see its effects.

Configure HotTexts

HotTexts are highly adjustable text overlays you can trigger with keyboard shortcuts. Before being able to use them, you'll have to create and configure them first.

1. Click HotText in the left hand column

2. Click the "New HotText" button

3. Select a keyboard shortcut in the Hotkey column
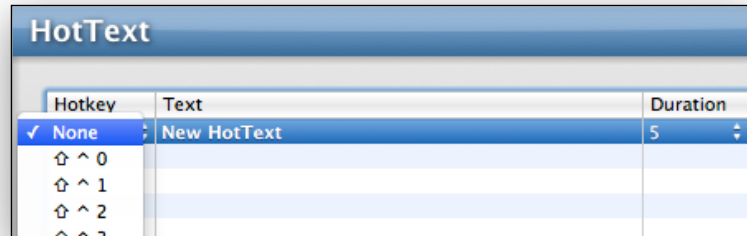
4. Double-click the "New HotText" entry in the Text column and enter the message you'd like to have displayed

5. Set the duration (measured in seconds)

6. If appropriate, click the "Font & Color" button to adjust these two parameters

7. Now drag the text displayed in the bottom preview area to the desired position on the screen

When you press the shortcuts during recording, HotTexts will be overlaid so you get the necessary feedback to make sure you activated the correct message.
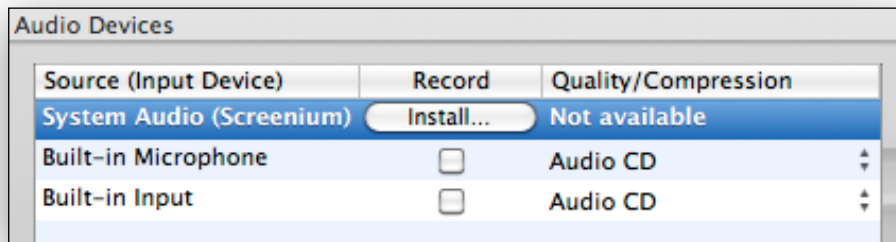
4

The Audio side of things

Audio Setup

Screenium can capture several audio tracks simultaneously. These tracks are stored separately in the resulting .mov file and can be edited with compatible video editors. All Core Audio compatible interfaces, microphones and internal inputs and outputs are supported and are listed in the Audio settings.

When you launch Screenium for the first time and don't have any additional Core Audio devices connected, in most cases you'll see:

Audio Devices		
Source (Input Device)	**Record**	**Quality/Compression**
System Audio (Screenium)	Install...	Not available
Built-in Microphone	☐	Audio CD
Built-in Input	☐	Audio CD

There are two exceptions to this rule - a Mac Pro will not have an internal microphone, neither will a mac mini. Activate a device for recording by checking the checkbox in the "Record" column.

Which Quality setting to choose

Quality/Compression is best set to "Audio CD". This setting produces larger files but it doesn't require a lot of CPU power to do real-time compression and it offers the best sonic quality. Compared to the overall file size, Video requires a lot more space anyways so choosing the best quality can't really hurt..

The low quality settings are designed for users who don't want to export or edit their videos but upload videos directly like they are stored in Screenium's Media Library. Anybody else should learn about the export features.

Record system sounds, audio from Safari and other applications

Screenium relies on the free SoundFlower ([Cycling 74](#), [Google SoundFlower project)](#) driver to capture everything you hear from your Mac's speakers. This basically includes audio from almost all applications, as well as system sounds, warning sounds, etc.

Some applications have their own audio settings (mostly multimedia software like Apple's Logic, Cubase, Final Cut, the VLC Player, some TV streaming applications, etc.). If you encounter problems with one of them, please refer to the Troubleshooting section in this guide.

In order to use System Audio, you'll have to install the SoundFlower driver by clicking the "Install…" button in the Audio Devices list. Simply follow the instructions given in the installation window. Once it is installed, simply check the checkbox in the Record column and start the recording.

Built-in Input

Your Built-in Input is a so-called Line-in. Basically, this means that no microphone or phono pre-amplifier is integrated. You'd connect HiFi equipment here - CD-Players, MP3-Players or the Line out jack (RCA) of your TV set. Sending music out of good headphone outs into the Line-in will work, too, albeit with added noise and lower volume.

Built-in Microphone

All portable Macs come with integrated iSights and microphones these days. The iMac, one of Apple's most successful models, features both iSight and microphone, too. Activate the internal microphone to record your voice along with the screencast. A high quality microphone close to your mouth will yield better results but you'll be surprised how well your Mac records straight out of the box.

Audio troubleshooting

Installing SoundFlower

Please make sure no previous version of SoundFlower is installed on your system. Just see in Screenium's Audio pane if the "Install" button is visible. If it isn't some version of SoundFlower is installed. If so, please see the instructions for complete de-installation in the first chapter. Screenium only supports versions of SoundFlower we had the chance to test extensively to make sure everything works according to plan.

After rebooting your Mac, launch Screenium and click the "Install…" button in Screenium's Audio settings for a new installation of SoundFlower.

Sound is muted during recording with System Audio

Along with the SoundFlower driver, a configuration application called SoundFlowerBed is installed. If sound is muted, chances are, SoundFlower is just not configured to send its audio out your Mac's speakers, yet.

1. Please open Finder and navigate to your Applications folder.

2. You'll find a SoundFlowerBed subfolder.

3. Launch the application from there

4. A flower icon will appear in your Menu Bar

5. click that icon
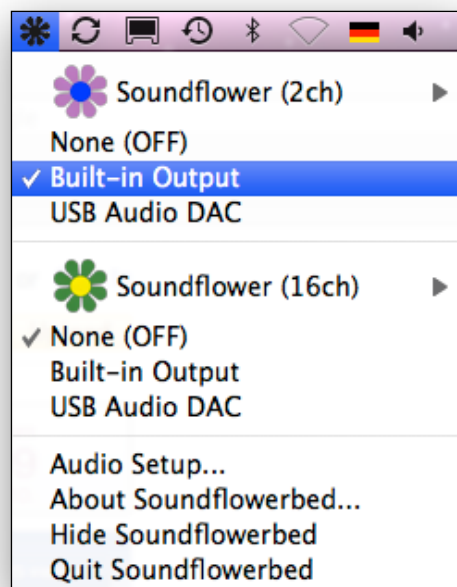
6. Select "Built-in Output" under the "Soundflower (2ch)" headline.

Capturing Audio from applications

Usually, activating the "System Audio(Screenium)" driver will capture everything you hear from your Mac's speakers. The SoundFlower driver we use is routed in front of your actual audio output to ensure that. Some applications, however, have their own Audio settings that can bypass this driver and send audio to the Mac's actual audio out directly.

As long as the application makes its settings accessible, that's easily rectified. Here's two examples that give you an idea of what to look for.

Recording audio from VLC

1. Check in Screenium's Audio settings that the "System Audio(Screenium)" driver is installed and activated.

2. In VLC, please select "Soundflower (2ch)" as the Audio output device:

3. Launch the SoundFlowerBed application from your Applications - Soundflower folder

4. Click the SoundFlower icon in the Menu Bar:
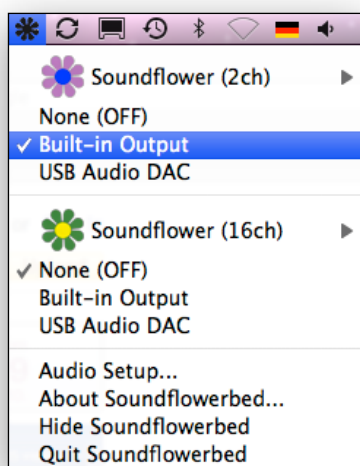
5. Select "Built-in Output" as SoundFlower's audio output device.

Now you should be able to hear audio during playback and to capture it along with the video from VLC.

Recording Audio from Skype

1. Check in Screenium's Audio settings that the "System Audio(Screenium)" driver is installed and activated.
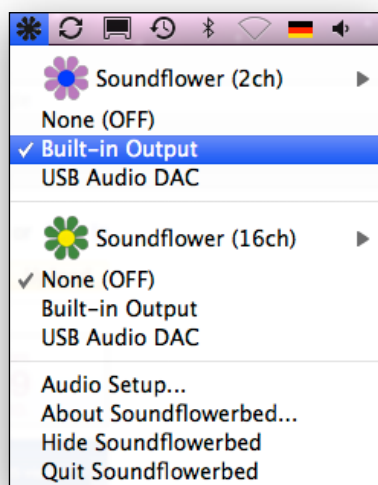
2. In Skype's Preferences, open the Audio tab:

3. Now select SoundFlower (2ch) as the Audio Output

DON'T set SoundFlower as the Audio **Input**. This would create a feedback loop.
Panic would ensue and the earth's core may or may not explode.
Seriously, though, you'll get either a high-pitched feedback noise or an unnerving echo. If you encounter this problem, please check if any application uses SoundFlower as the Input device.

4. Click the SoundFlower icon in the Menu Bar:

5. Select "Built-in Output" as SoundFlower's audio output device.