

Import of acoustic data from spreadsheet

SP Net info 34

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Keying in records in the libraries can be a both time-consuming and tedious job. Further – as we all know – entering data manually comes with the risk of typos. Depending on the number and origin of records it might be easier and more safe to prepare the data in a spreadsheet and create the library in SoundPLAN via import.

The import menu is found under File > Import in the relevant library. The imported file must be in .xls/.xlsx or .txt format. Further older SoundPLAN libraries can be imported.

If you try to import directly from Excel and run into troubles (“xx is not a valid floating point value”) it will most likely be due to a comma-dot-problem; in that case please exchange dot with comma or vice versa in the value cells of the spreadsheet.

Fig 1 shows an example of the import window for creating the emission library. First define start and stop row in the source file. Links between the columns in the source file and relevant position in the library can be created column by column: hit ‘Define Link’ and pick two matching sets of data from the drop-down lists. The ‘Apply’ button creates the link which will be documented in the lower left part of the window.

Further it is possible to assign a fixed value or text to a position in the record. This could be relevant if the source file does not include the value/text. E. g. you can fix the frequency weighting to be A-weighting or the Reference to be Unit: put a check mark at ‘fix’, type in<dB(A)> or <unit> in the box to the right and finally select Weighting or Reference respectively in the box to the right of the arrow. When all links are created, complete the import by hitting ‘Start import’.

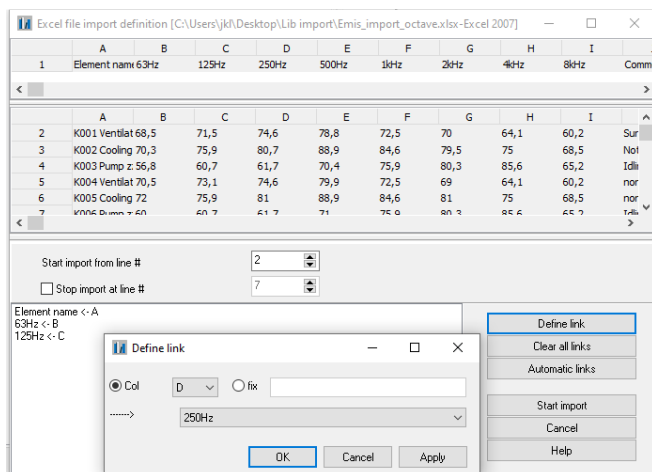


Fig 1 Manual linking

The import tool is prepared to recognize specific column headers in the source file. If these headers are present, a single click on ‘Auto Link’ will create all links! The specific headers can be read from the roll down menu, see Fig 2.

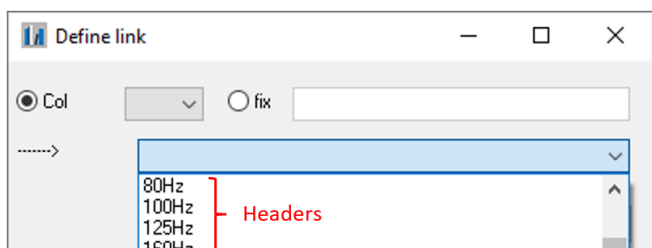


Fig 2 The headers making auto link possible

Together with this Net Info you have downloaded spreadsheets with headers that SoundPLAN will recognize. Use these sheets as 'templates': replace our data with yours but keep the headers. This can save a lot of keystrokes and time.

All cells in the spreadsheet do not need to host values/text. If you don't work with e. g. groups or characteristic values, just leave the cells empty. Fig 3 shows such an example.

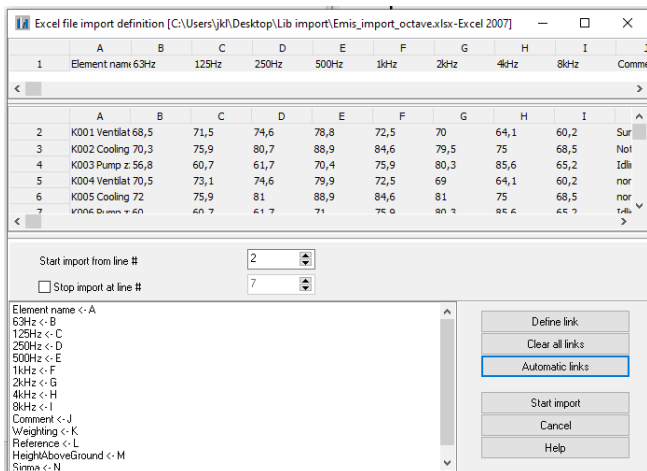


Fig 3 Use of Auto Link

If your library already contains records, the imported records will be added at the end of the already existing list. If the import tool finds duplicates among record names, you will be asked if the existing record should be overwritten or you will key in a new name for the record just about to be imported.