

StickViz

User Manual

HOTAS Streaming Overlay for OBS

Version 0.2.0

stickviz.com

BettersAI

Support: support@bettersai.com

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1. Installation

System Requirements

- Operating system: Windows 10 or later (64-bit)
- Streaming software: OBS Studio 28+ (or any Browser Source-capable app)
- Input devices: Any USB HOTAS, joystick, throttle, or rudder pedals
- Disk space: ~10 MB installed

Download

Download the latest installer from stickviz.com/docs/installation. The installer is under 3 MB and requires no additional dependencies or runtimes.

Install Steps

1. Run the downloaded `StickViz_0.2.0_x64-setup.exe` installer. No administrator privileges are required — it installs to your user folder.
2. Follow the on-screen prompts. The default installation location is fine for most users.
3. When the installer finishes, StickViz launches automatically and appears as a small icon in your Windows system tray (the notification area in the bottom-right corner of your taskbar, near the clock).

First Launch

1. Plug in your HOTAS devices via USB.
2. Right-click the StickViz tray icon and select `Open Dashboard`. Your default web browser opens to the dashboard.
3. In the dashboard, the `Devices` tab shows all connected devices. Your devices should appear within a few seconds of plugging them in.
4. To see the overlay, right-click the tray icon and select `Open Overlay Preview`. A browser tab opens showing how your overlay will look on stream.

System Tray Menu

Right-clicking the StickViz tray icon shows the following options:

- `Open Dashboard` — Opens the settings dashboard in your browser.
- `Open Overlay Preview` — Opens a browser tab showing the overlay with a dark background for positioning panels.
- `Copy Overlay URL` — Copies the overlay URL to your clipboard for pasting into OBS.
- `Quit StickViz` — Closes the application completely.

Uninstalling

Open Windows Settings > Apps > Installed apps, find StickViz in the list, and click `Uninstall`. All application files and saved settings are removed.

2. OBS Setup

StickViz serves a transparent overlay via a local URL on your computer. Adding it to OBS Studio takes about 30 seconds.

Step 1: Copy the Overlay URL

Right-click the StickViz tray icon in your taskbar and select Copy Overlay URL. The URL is copied to your clipboard. It looks like: `http://localhost:8847/overlay/?obs=1`

The `?obs=1` parameter tells StickViz to render with a transparent background instead of the dark preview background.

Step 2: Add a Browser Source in OBS

1. In OBS Studio, click the + button at the bottom of the Sources panel.
2. Select Browser from the source type list.
3. Name the source "StickViz" (or any name you prefer) and click OK.
4. In the URL field, paste the overlay URL you copied in Step 1.
5. Set Width to your stream width (e.g., 1920 for 1080p) and Height to your stream height (e.g., 1080 for 1080p).
6. Click OK to add the source.

Step 3: Position the Overlay

The overlay has a fully transparent background, so it composites directly over your game capture without any visible background. You can drag and resize the source in the OBS preview canvas to place it wherever you like.

Step 4: Match Your Stream Resolution

For the sharpest display and correct positioning, the overlay canvas resolution must match your OBS canvas resolution. Here is how to set it:

1. Open the StickViz Dashboard (right-click tray icon > Open Dashboard).
2. In the top bar, find the Stream resolution dropdown.
3. Select the resolution that matches your OBS canvas. Available options: 1920x1080 (1080p), 2560x1440 (1440p), 1280x720 (720p), 3840x2160 (4K).
4. To find your OBS canvas resolution, go to OBS > Settings > Video > Base (Canvas) Resolution.

If these resolutions do not match, overlay panels may appear in the wrong position or at the wrong scale.

Troubleshooting OBS Issues

- Overlay is blank: Make sure StickViz is running (check for the tray icon). If you just installed, give it a few seconds to start the server.
- Wrong content appears: Verify the URL in OBS matches the one from the tray menu. The default port is 8847.
- Overlay looks blurry: Double-check that the Browser Source width/height matches your canvas resolution and that the Stream resolution setting in the dashboard is correct.

- Overlay does not update: Right-click the Browser Source in OBS and select Refresh.

3. Dashboard Overview

The StickViz Dashboard is a web-based settings panel that opens in your default browser. It is your control center for managing devices, configuring how they appear in the overlay, selecting themes, and activating your Pro license.

Opening the Dashboard

Right-click the StickViz tray icon in your Windows taskbar (bottom-right, near the clock) and select Open Dashboard. Your default browser opens automatically to the dashboard page.

If you do not see the tray icon, it may be hidden in the overflow area. Click the small ^ arrow on the right side of your taskbar to find it.

Top Bar: OBS Overlay URL

The left side of the top bar displays the URL you need to paste into OBS as a Browser Source. Click the Copy button to copy it to your clipboard. The URL looks like `http://localhost:8847/overlay/?obs=1`. You only need this once when setting up OBS — after that, OBS remembers the URL.

Top Bar: Stream Resolution Dropdown

This dropdown sets the canvas size of the overlay to match your stream resolution. It is critical that this matches your OBS canvas resolution, otherwise the overlay panels may appear in the wrong position or at the wrong scale.

Available options: 1920x1080 (1080p), 2560x1440 (1440p), 1280x720 (720p), 3840x2160 (4K). Select the one that matches your OBS canvas resolution (found in OBS under Settings > Video > Base Canvas Resolution).

Top Bar: License Badge

Shows your current license status. It will say FREE VERSION (flashing) if you have not activated Pro, or PRO (solid green) if you have. Click the Activate Pro tab in the sidebar to upgrade.

Top Bar: Connection Status

A small dot on the right side of the top bar. Green means the dashboard is connected to the StickViz backend and receiving live data. If it turns red or says Disconnected, the StickViz app may have been closed. Restart StickViz from the Start Menu and refresh the dashboard page in your browser.

Devices Tab

This is the first tab you see when you open the dashboard. It shows a list of every USB HOTAS device currently connected to your computer.

Each device card shows:

- Device name: The name reported by the USB device (e.g., WinWing Orion Throttle Base + F-16EX).
- VID/PID: The USB Vendor ID and Product ID in hexadecimal. This is how StickViz identifies your device

regardless of which USB port you plug it into.

- **Configure button:** Click this to open the Configure panel for that specific device. This is how you customize axis labels, inversions, deadzones, and more.

If no devices appear, make sure your HOTAS is plugged in via USB and that Windows recognizes it (check Device Manager > Human Interface Devices). StickViz scans for new devices every 2 seconds.

Configure Tab

This tab is where you customize how a specific device appears in the overlay. You get here by clicking Configure on a device in the Devices tab. See Chapter 4 for a complete walkthrough of every option.

Profiles Tab

Displays a list of all saved device configurations (profiles). A profile is created automatically when you make changes in the Configure tab.

Each profile entry shows:

- **Device name:** The name of the device the profile belongs to.
- **Delete button:** Removes the saved profile. The device will revert to default auto-detected settings the next time it is plugged in.

Profiles are tied to a device by its USB VID/PID, so they automatically load whenever that device is connected — even if you plug it into a different USB port.

Themes Tab

Browse and activate the five built-in visual themes. Each theme is shown as a card with a color swatch and description. Click any unlocked card to apply that theme. The overlay updates within a few seconds — no restart needed.

- **Glass Cockpit (Free):** Frosted panels, blue accents, modern sans-serif. This is the default and only free theme.
- **Stealth (Pro):** Dark matte black, red accents, angular military aesthetic.
- **HUD Green (Pro):** Classic green-on-black heads-up display.
- **Minimal White (Pro):** Clean, light, understated thin lines.
- **Neon (Pro):** Cyberpunk hot pink and cyan, high contrast.

Pro themes show a gold PRO badge and are dimmed/locked on the free tier. They become clickable after you activate a Pro license.

Activate Pro Tab

This tab lets you activate your StickViz Pro license. If you have already purchased Pro from stickviz.com/buy:

1. Click the Activate Pro tab in the sidebar.
2. Type the email address you used during checkout into the email field.
3. Click the Activate button.
4. If the email matches a valid purchase, the badge in the top bar changes from FREE VERSION to PRO, and all Pro features unlock immediately.

If you see an error, double-check that you are using the exact email from checkout, and that you have an internet connection. Activation only requires internet once — after that, your license is cached locally and works offline.

You can deactivate your license at any time by clicking Deactivate License on this tab.

Overlay Preview and Drag-and-Drop Positioning

In addition to the dashboard, StickViz provides a visual overlay preview for positioning panels on screen.

1. Right-click the StickViz tray icon and select Open Overlay Preview.
2. A browser tab opens showing the overlay with a dark background (not transparent). This is for positioning only — in OBS, the background is transparent.
3. Drag any device panel by clicking and holding on it, then moving your mouse. Drop it wherever you want it positioned on screen.
4. Panel positions are saved automatically and persist between sessions. The next time you start StickViz, panels will be in the same positions.
5. The overlay preview respects the Stream resolution setting from the dashboard. Make sure it matches your OBS canvas resolution so panel positions align correctly.

You can also open the overlay preview while OBS is running to reposition panels live. Changes appear in OBS within a few seconds.

4. Configure Devices

The Configure panel gives you full control over how each device's inputs appear in the overlay. To open it, go to the Devices tab and click the Configure button on the device you want to customize. Every change you make takes effect instantly in the live preview at the bottom of the panel.

Axis Configuration

The top section of the Configure panel lists every axis detected on your device (e.g., X Axis, Y Axis, Slider, Rx, Ry, Rz). Each axis has several controls:

Rename an Axis

Each axis has a text field showing its current label. Click on the label text, clear it, and type a new name. For example, you might rename 'Y Axis' to 'Pitch' or 'Slider' to 'Left Throttle'. The new label appears in the overlay immediately. This is a Pro feature — on the free tier, axis labels use their auto-detected names.

Invert an Axis

Next to each axis label is an Invert checkbox. Check this box to flip the axis direction. This is useful when a device reports values opposite to what you expect — for example, if pulling your stick back shows as 'forward' in the overlay. The live preview updates immediately so you can verify the inversion is correct.

Set a Deadzone

Each axis has a Deadzone slider (0% to 50%). The deadzone defines a region around the center position where small movements are ignored. This is useful for axes that have a slight drift or jitter at center. Set the deadzone just high enough to eliminate the jitter. You can see the effect in the live preview — move your axis slightly and see if it registers.

Show or Hide an Axis

Each axis row has a visibility toggle (an eye icon or radio button). Click it to hide that axis from the overlay. The axis turns grayed out in the configure list to show it is hidden. Hidden axes are still read by StickViz — they just do not appear in the overlay display. This is useful for axes you do not want viewers to see, such as a minystick axis you never use or a redundant slider.

To show a hidden axis again, click the same toggle. It will reappear in the overlay immediately.

Reorder Axes

On the right side of each axis row, you will see up and down arrow buttons. Click the up arrow to move an axis higher in the list, or the down arrow to move it lower. The order in this list determines the order axes appear in the overlay panel — top-to-bottom in the configure list corresponds to left-to-right (or top-to-bottom) in the overlay. Use this to put your most important axes (like Pitch and Roll) first.

Button Configuration

Below the axes section is the button configuration area. Your device may have dozens of buttons — StickViz detects all of them automatically.

Master Show/Hide Toggle

At the top of the buttons section is a Show Buttons toggle. This is a master switch that controls whether the entire button grid is visible in the overlay for this device. If you do not want viewers to see button presses at all, turn this off. When it is off, the entire buttons section disappears from the overlay.

Rename Individual Buttons

Each button is listed with a number (e.g., Button 1, Button 2, etc.). Click on the label text field to change it to something meaningful, like 'Trigger', 'Pickle', 'TMS Up', or 'Countermeasures'. Custom labels appear in the overlay button pills. This is a Pro feature.

Panel Scale

Below the button configuration is a Scale slider that adjusts the size of this device's overlay panel from 50% to 200% of its default size. Drag the slider left to make the panel smaller or right to make it larger. This is useful when you have multiple devices and want to make the throttle panel smaller than the stick panel, for example.

The scale value is shown as a percentage next to the slider. The live preview at the bottom of the configure panel reflects the scale change immediately.

Live Preview

At the bottom of the Configure panel is a real-time preview of how your device will look in the overlay. As you make changes (rename, invert, deadzone, hide, reorder, scale), the preview updates instantly. Move your joystick, push your throttle, or press buttons to see the overlay respond in real time. This lets you verify all your settings before switching back to OBS.

Saving Changes

Changes are saved automatically when you make them. Your configuration is stored locally on your computer and tied to your device's USB VID/PID. This means your settings persist across restarts and even if you plug the device into a different USB port.

Reset to Defaults

At the very bottom of the Configure panel is a Reset to Defaults button. Clicking this erases all custom settings for the device — axis labels, inversions, deadzones, visibility, order, button labels, and panel scale — and reverts everything to the auto-detected defaults. This is useful if you have made many changes and want to start over.

Tips

- Start by renaming your most-used axes (Pitch, Roll, Throttle, Yaw) so the overlay labels make sense to viewers who do not know your hardware.
- Hide axes you never use to keep the overlay clean and focused on what matters.
- Use the up/down arrows to put the stick crosshair axes (Pitch, Roll) at the top of the list so they appear first in the overlay.
- If an axis seems to move in the wrong direction, try the Invert checkbox before adjusting your in-game bindings.
- Use the Overlay Preview (from the tray menu) to see how your configured panels look at full stream

resolution with the correct positioning.

5. Themes

StickViz includes 5 professional themes. Switch themes instantly from the Dashboard's Themes tab. The overlay updates within a few seconds — no restart required.

Available Themes

Glass Cockpit (Free)

Frosted glass panels with blue accents. Modern, clean, works with any sim. This is the default theme and the only one available on the free tier.

Stealth (Pro)

Dark matte black with red accents. Angular military aesthetic. Great for DCS World and Falcon BMS streams.

HUD Green (Pro)

Classic green-on-black heads-up display look. Monospace feel. Perfect for military sim immersion.

Minimal White (Pro)

Clean, light, understated. Thin lines and subtle styling. Best for streams with bright game visuals where you want the overlay to blend in.

Neon (Pro)

Cyberpunk hot pink and cyan. High contrast, high energy. Ideal for Star Citizen and Elite Dangerous streams.

Switching Themes

1. Open the Dashboard (right-click tray icon > Open Dashboard).
2. Click the Themes tab in the sidebar.
3. Click on any unlocked theme card to activate it.
4. The overlay updates within a few seconds. No restart needed.

Pro themes show a gold PRO badge and are dimmed on the free tier. They become clickable after you activate a Pro license in the Activate Pro tab.

Panel Transparency

Below the theme cards in the Themes tab is a Panel Transparency slider. This controls the opacity of all overlay panels, from 10% (nearly invisible) to 100% (fully opaque).

Drag the slider left to make panels more transparent so more of your game shows through, or drag it right to make them more solid and readable. The setting applies to all themes and all device panels.

The change takes effect in the overlay within a few seconds — both in the Overlay Preview and in OBS. Your chosen opacity is saved automatically and persists across restarts.

Tip: A value around 70-80% works well for most streams. It keeps the panels readable while letting your game show through behind them. Experiment with the Overlay Preview open to find the balance you like.

6. Pro Features & Activation

What You Get with Pro

- Unlimited devices: Connect as many HOTAS devices as you want simultaneously. The free tier is limited to one device.
- All 5 themes: Unlock Stealth, HUD Green, Minimal White, and Neon in addition to the free Glass Cockpit theme.
- Custom labels: Rename axes and buttons to match your in-game bindings and make the overlay meaningful to viewers.
- No watermark: The 'Powered by StickViz' watermark is removed from the overlay.
- All future updates: One-time purchase, lifetime access to every new theme, feature, and device profile.

Pricing

StickViz Pro is a one-time purchase of \$9.99 (launch price, normally \$14.99). No subscription, no recurring charges. Pay once, own it forever.

How to Purchase

1. Visit stickviz.com/buy in your web browser.
2. Click Buy Pro to start the Stripe checkout.
3. Complete payment with a credit card, debit card, or any payment method supported by Stripe.
4. After checkout, note the email address you used. You will need it to activate Pro in the StickViz app.

How to Activate

1. Open the StickViz Dashboard (right-click the tray icon > Open Dashboard).
2. Click the Activate Pro tab in the sidebar.
3. Enter the exact email address you used at checkout.
4. Click the Activate button.
5. Pro features unlock immediately. The license badge in the top bar changes from FREE VERSION to PRO. All themes unlock, device limit is removed, custom labels are enabled, and the watermark disappears.

Offline Use

Activation requires an internet connection the first time only. After that, your license is cached locally on your computer and StickViz Pro works fully offline indefinitely. No phone-home, no periodic checks, no expiration.

Deactivating Your License

If you need to deactivate your license (for example, to move it to a different computer), open the Activate Pro tab and click Deactivate License. The app reverts to free tier. You can re-activate on another machine using the same email.

Refund Policy

If StickViz Pro does not meet your expectations, you can request a full refund within 14 days of purchase. Email support@bettersai.com with your order details.

7. Troubleshooting

StickViz tray icon does not appear

- Check that StickViz is running. Open Task Manager (Ctrl+Shift+Esc) and look for stickviz.exe under Background processes. If it is not there, launch StickViz from the Start Menu.
- The icon may be hidden in the taskbar overflow area. Click the small ^ arrow on the right side of your taskbar to check.
- In Windows Settings > Personalization > Taskbar > Other system tray icons, make sure StickViz is set to On so it always appears.

Device not detected

- Unplug the USB cable, wait a few seconds, and plug it back in.
- Open Device Manager (right-click Start > Device Manager) and confirm the device appears under Human Interface Devices. If it shows a warning icon, the device driver may need reinstalling.
- StickViz polls for new devices every two seconds. After plugging in, wait a moment and check the Devices tab in the dashboard.
- Some devices with custom drivers (e.g., vJoy virtual devices) may not expose standard HID interfaces. StickViz requires a standard USB HID device.

Overlay is blank in OBS

- Confirm StickViz is running — look for the tray icon.
- Verify the URL in your OBS Browser Source matches the one shown when you right-click the tray icon and select Copy Overlay URL. The default is <http://localhost:8847/overlay/?obs=1>.
- Make sure the Browser Source Width and Height match your OBS canvas resolution, and that the Stream resolution setting in the dashboard matches as well.
- Try right-clicking the Browser Source in OBS and selecting Refresh.

Overlay panels are in the wrong position

- Make sure the Stream resolution in the dashboard matches your OBS canvas resolution. If they do not match, panel positions will not align.
- Open the Overlay Preview from the tray menu and drag panels to the correct positions. Positions save automatically.

Axes appear inverted

Some devices report axis values in the opposite direction from what you expect. Open the dashboard, navigate to the Configure panel for the device, and check the Invert checkbox next to the affected axis. The live preview updates immediately so you can verify.

Axes jitter at center position

If an axis shows small movements when you are not touching the control, use the Deadzone setting in the Configure panel. Increase the deadzone percentage until the jitter stops. Start with 5% and increase as needed.

High CPU usage

StickViz is designed to use less than 1% CPU on a modern system. If you notice higher usage:

- Check how many devices are connected. Each device adds a small amount of polling overhead.
- Close and reopen StickViz to reset the polling loop.
- Make sure you are running the latest version from stickviz.com.

Pro activation says 'Invalid'

- Double-check that the email address you entered matches exactly the one you used at checkout.
- Ensure you have an active internet connection during activation.
- If you just purchased, wait about 30 seconds for the payment to process and try again.
- If the problem persists, email support@bettersai.com with your order confirmation and the email you are entering.

Need more help?

Email support@bettersai.com with a description of your issue, your StickViz version, and any relevant screenshots. We typically respond within 24 hours.