How it works

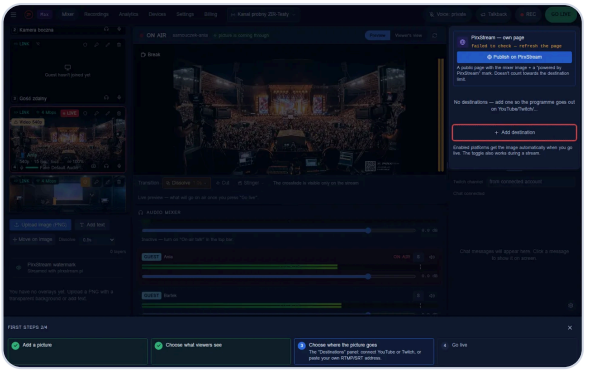
A guide for whoever runs the broadcast in the PirxStream mixer. Every topic starts with one sentence. That is enough to know where to click. The rest explains what happens then.

The same guide is in the mixer: menu ☰ → “How it works”.

01

First steps

> Add a picture, click its tile, choose a platform and go on air. The guide at the bottom of the mixer ticks the steps off by itself.



“Sources” panel → “Add source”. A browser camera, a guest’s phone via a link, OBS or an encoder.

Click the source tile. The picture jumps to the large “On Air” preview: that is what viewers see.

“Destinations” panel: connect YouTube or Twitch, or paste your own server address.

The green “GO LIVE” button in the top bar (on a phone “STREAM”). “END” takes the broadcast off the platforms.

A new account has a guide with these four steps at the bottom of the mixer. A step is ticked when you actually do it, not when you click the guide. The mixer highlights the spot to click.

The guide disappears after your first broadcast. You get it back from menu ☰ → “How it works” → “Show first steps”.

02

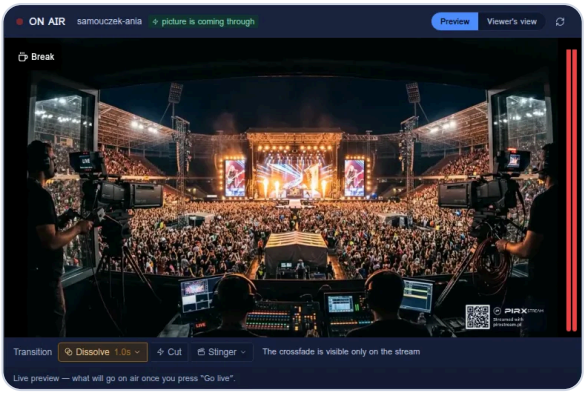
Cuts and dissolves

> Clicking a tile sends the picture on air. Dissolves and stingers show only on the stream; the mixer preview jumps straight away.

The tiles in the “Sources” panel are previews. The tile you click goes on air, and the large “On Air” picture shows what viewers get.

Below the on-air picture is the “Transition” bar. “Cut” changes the picture at once, “Dissolve” smoothly over the set time, and “Stinger” through a short animation.

Dissolves and stingers are put together by the server in the picture that goes to viewers. The mixer preview changes at once, and that is normal. The note “The crossfade is visible only on the stream” is there to remind you. To see the transition, open the broadcast on the platform.



03

Safety net (backup camera)

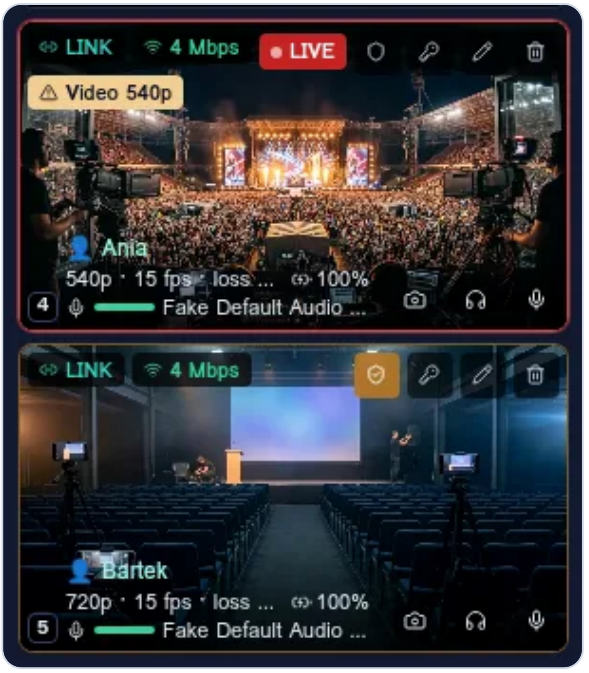
> The shield on a tile picks the backup camera. When the source on air stops sending, the picture switches to it by itself and comes back when the source recovers.

Every tile has a small shield in the corner. Clicking it makes that source the backup camera: the shield gets an amber background. A second click removes it.

When the source on air stops sending, because a guest’s phone lost signal or a camera froze, the picture switches to the backup camera. The mixer then shows “Safety net on air”. When the source sends again for a few seconds, the picture comes back by itself.

Without a backup camera viewers see a slate at that moment and stay on it until the source returns or you click another tile.

For the backup camera pick a source that does not move and has a reliable connection, for example a wide shot of the room from a tripod. A guest’s phone is not a good choice.



04

Guest audio: on air or talkback



> The headphones button on a guest's card moves them between on air and talkback. On talkback only you hear them, and their channel in the "Audio" panel says OFF AIR.

A guest joins on air: viewers hear them. The headphones button on their card moves them to talkback. Then you talk privately and nothing reaches viewers. A second click puts them back on air.

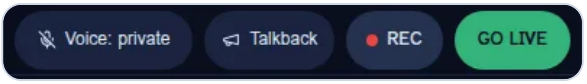
In the "Audio" panel a guest on talkback has the label OFF AIR and the note "On talkback: only you can hear this guest, nothing goes on air." Is the guest talking while their meter stands still? Check that label first.

A guest can ask for talkback themselves. The button on their card then signals it, and a click switches them.

The slider on a guest's channel sets how loud they are on air. Every guest joins at the same level. If someone is too quiet, check that their slider has not been turned down.

05

Your voice: talkback and talking on air



> The “Voice: private” button in the top bar: guests hear you, viewers do not. A click lets your voice on air and the bar turns red.

“Voice: private” is talkback. You talk to guests, viewers do not hear you. On a phone this button is just the microphone icon next to “REC”.

A click turns on talking on air (Pro plan and above). The top bar turns red with “VOICE ON AIR”: viewers hear everything you say. Wear headphones, because with speakers an open microphone can feed back.

The “Talkback” button in the bar (on a phone in menu ☰) lets you talk to all guests at once. On a computer you can also talk to one guest by holding their key. The “?” key shows the list of keys.

Muting the “YOUR MIC” channel in the “Audio” panel takes you off air, but guests still hear you.

06

A guest on a phone: link, orientation, battery

> A guest joins with the link from the “Guest room”. The broadcast is landscape, so the guest holds the phone sideways with auto-rotate on. Below their name you see picture quality and battery.

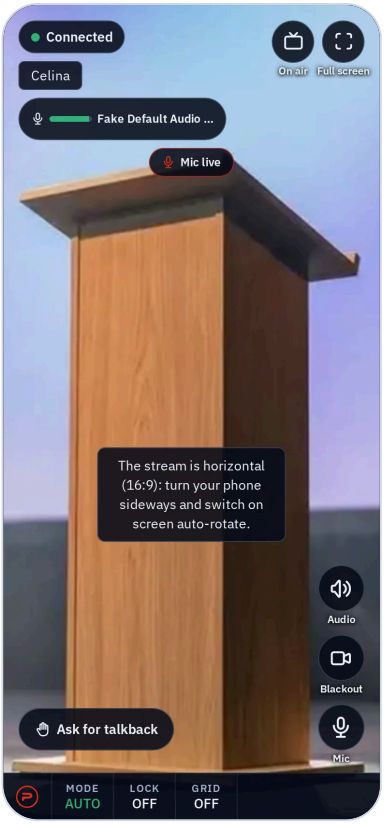
The “Guest room” in the “Sources” panel gives one link or QR code for many people. Everyone who joins gets their own card in the mixer. In “With my approval (recommended)” mode a guest waits in the waiting room until you click “Let in”.

In a landscape broadcast a guest holding the phone upright sees a request on their screen to turn the phone sideways and switch on auto-rotate. Without auto-rotate the picture stays upright even though the phone is turned. Tell them before going on air.

You choose the shape of the picture viewers get: menu ☰ → “Output image”, landscape (16:9) or portrait (9:16, e.g. for Shorts). The switch only works before going on air — during a broadcast it is locked, because changing the shape means restarting the stream. The guest gets a request that matches your choice; in portrait they are asked to hold the phone upright.

The line below a guest’s name shows resolution, frames per second, lost packets and battery. A yellow warning in the tile corner appears when the battery drops below 15% or the picture falls below 720p (usually weak signal).

On an iPhone the browser does not report the battery, so instead of a number you see “not available on this device”. That is not an error.



07

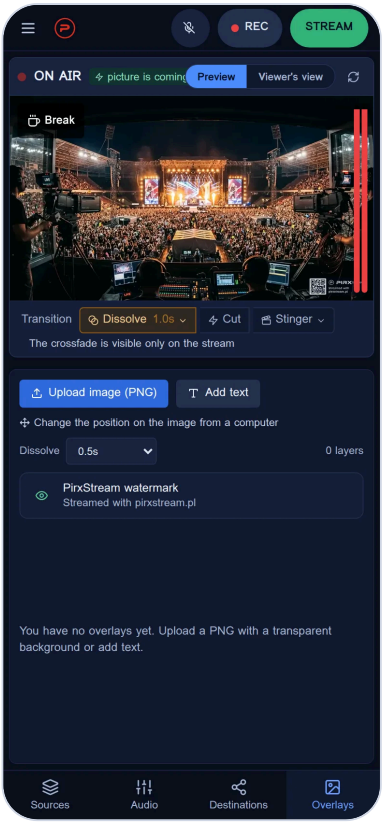
Overlays: logo, captions, graphics

> The “Overlays” panel: upload a PNG with a transparent background or add a caption and switch it on. You move it on the picture from a computer; on a phone you only switch it on and off.

“Upload image (PNG)” adds a graphic, such as a logo or a sponsor board. “Add text” creates a text bar, e.g. the speaker’s name and role. The eye icon shows the overlay to viewers and hides it.

On a computer, “Move on image” lets you drag the overlay across the on-air picture and change its size. “Done” saves the position.

On a phone there is no moving, because a finger on the picture easily changes the position by accident during a broadcast. The panel then says “Change the position on the image from a computer”. Switching on, off and opacity work as usual.



08

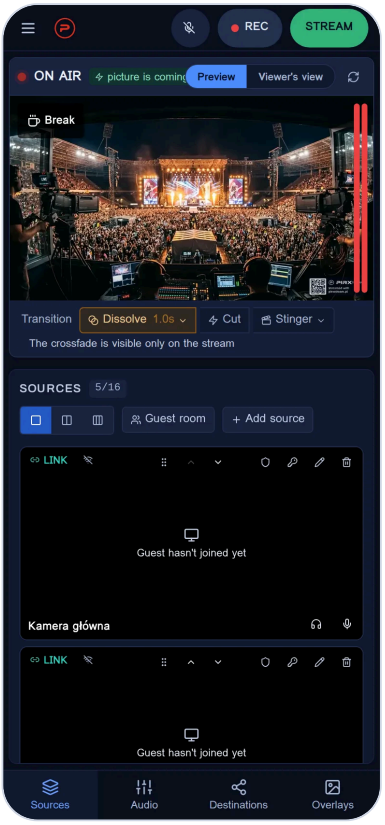
The mixer on a phone

> On a phone the panels are tabs at the bottom of the screen, and the less used things are in menu ☰. Hover hints do not pop up here, so important states are written out.

At the bottom of the screen are the tabs “Sources”, “Audio”, “Overlays” and “Destinations”. The on-air picture is always at the top.

Menu ☰ holds: talkback to all guests, output orientation, problem report, this guide and “Rest mode”. Rest mode gives a black screen for a break: the camera keeps sending and the phone rests.

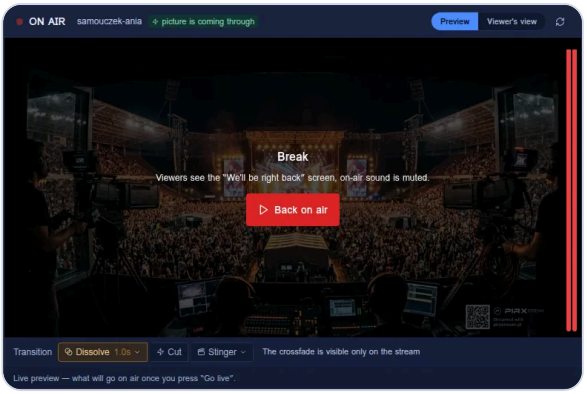
The operator’s phone receives previews of all sources at once, so it needs a good connection. On weak Wi-Fi previews may briefly go black. The broadcast carries on, because the picture for viewers is put together by the server, not your phone.



09

When something goes wrong

> “Break” in the corner of the on-air picture gives viewers a “Be right back” slate and mutes the audio, while the broadcast continues. Report a problem in one sentence: menu ☰ → “Report a problem”.



The “Break” button appears in the top-left corner of the on-air picture while the broadcast runs. Viewers see the “Be right back” slate, on-air audio is muted, and the broadcast and recording continue. “Back on air” removes the slate.

The slate can also appear by itself when the source on air stopped sending and there is no backup camera. Click another tile or set a safety net (see above).

“Report a problem” in menu ☰ sends us one sentence of yours, and we attach the rest (browser, broadcast, recent errors) ourselves. Every report that helps improve PirxStream earns another month of free use.