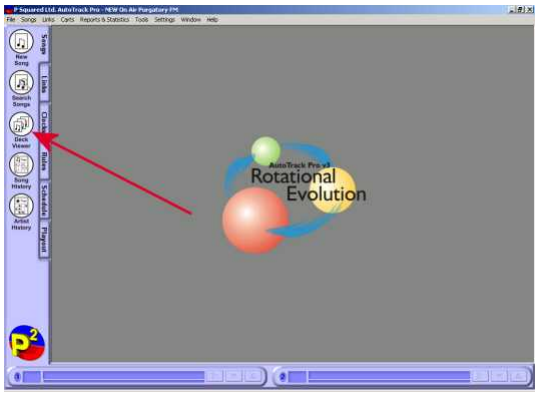
Autotrack Pro – Quick Guide to Song Testing

AutoTrack Pro works on the simple principle that each Song has a Song Record Card and belongs to a Song Category. The Song Categories work a bit like a deck of cards with the top Song Record Card in each deck being the next Song to be scheduled from that Song Category as long as doing so will not break any Rules. Once scheduled, the Song Record Card is placed at the back of the Song Category Deck and the other entire Song Record Cards shuffle up by one place. In this way, each Song Category Deck rotates at it's own pace with all Songs within the Song Category eventually making their way to the top and therefore being scheduled. However, sometimes songs can get 'stuck' at the top of the scheduling deck, this is usually due to the song failing on station rules and show rules which you have set up. If a song isn't scheduled it will in most cases stay at the top of the deck.

There are ways of checking if any of your songs are stuck. This is known as song testing.

Deck Viewer

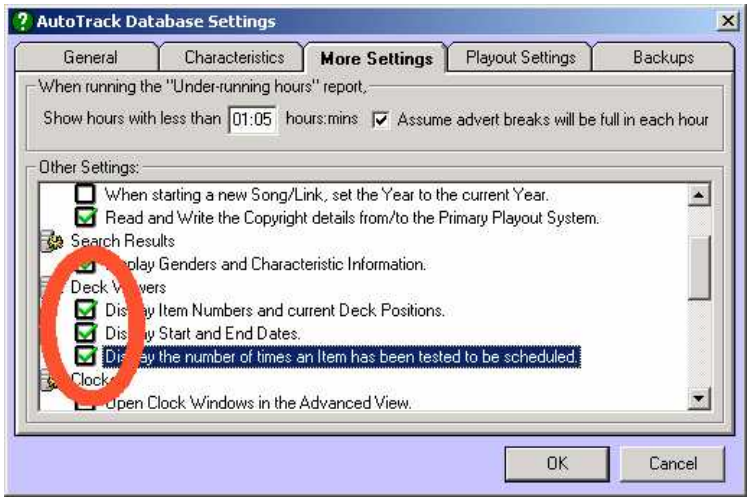
You will need to open up your deck viewer, this is located on your songs tab on the main Autotrack Pro window. See the diagram below:



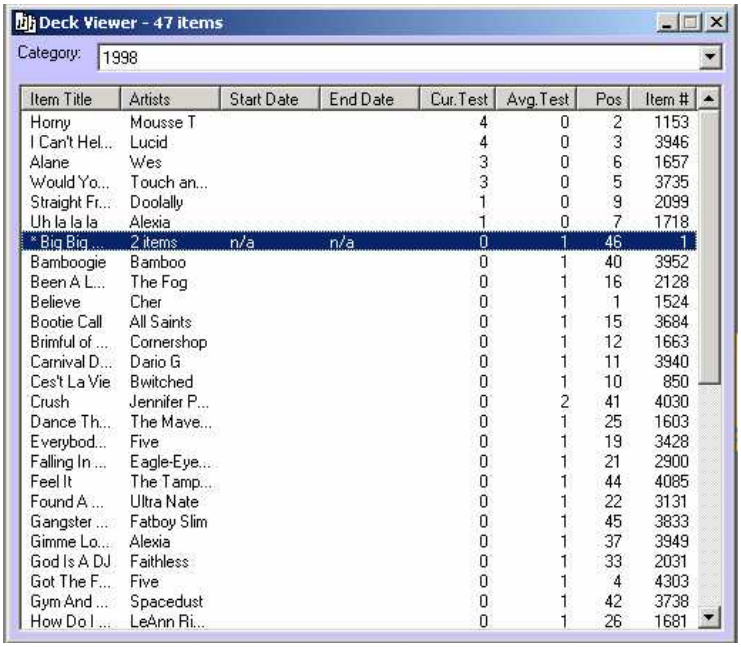
This will bring up a deck viewer, like the diagram below,

This Deck Viewer doesn't give very much information other than song name and artist. If this is the only information that is displayed on your Deck Viewer you need to go into your *Database Settings* on your *Settings* menu which is located at the top of Autotrack Pro, then click on the *More Settings* tab.

In these settings under Deck Viewer you need to have all of these options ticked. See the diagram below.



This will then make you Deck Viewer look much more like the diagram below:

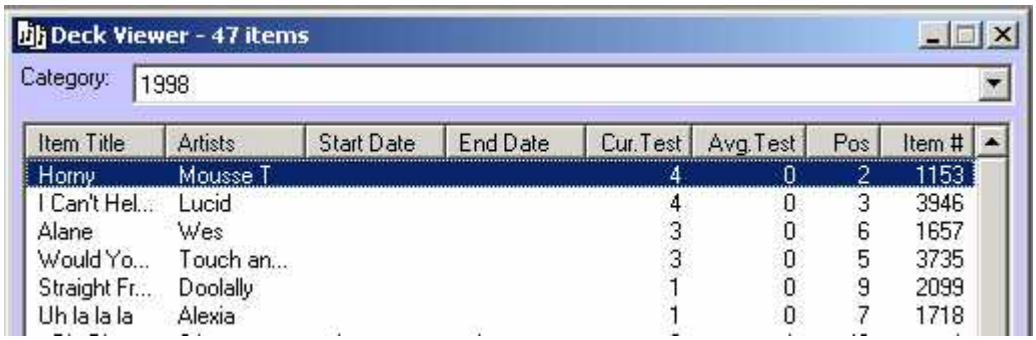


Current Test (Cur. Test)

The Current Test number represents the amount of times since a Song was last scheduled, that it has been considered to be scheduled again but then rejected because of a Station or a Show Rule. For the majority of Songs this number will be low because they are scheduled, go to the back of the Song Category Deck and then are not considered for scheduling again until they get near the top of the Deck.
You will see however, that Songs that have a higher Cur Test number also have a low number in the Pos column (this refers to the Position the song is in the deck – see Position column below)

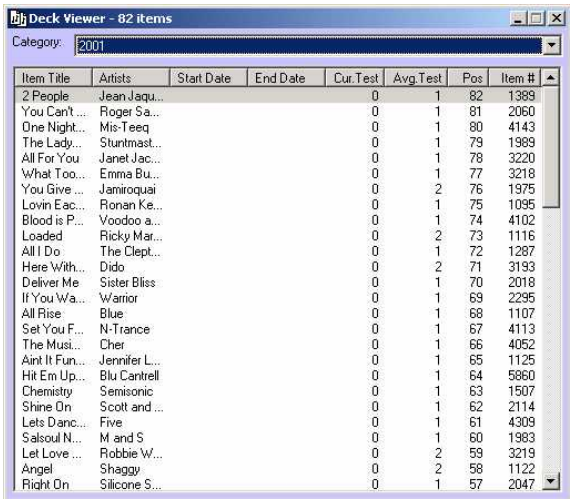
In this example, we can see that Horny by Mousse T has been tested 4 times since it was last scheduled and failed each time. We can also see that this song is currently in position number 2 in this Song Category Deck (i.e. the 2nd one down from the top). This mean that Mousse T is failing the Station Rules and Show Rules that we have set up.

It could also be if there are a lot of songs from that artist in the database and it is failing on the artist separation rule.
It is usually best to check back once you have rescheduled and see if the current test number has continued to rise.



Average Test (Avg. Test)

The Average Test number represents the average amount of times the Song has been considered over the last 50 times that it has successfully been scheduled.



Item Title	Artists	Start Date	End Date	Cur.Test	Avg.Test	Pos	Item #
2 People	Jean Jaqu...			0	1	82	1389
You Can't ...	Roger Sa...			0	1	81	2060
One Night...	Mis-Teeq			0	1	80	4143
The Lady...	Stuntmast...			0	1	79	1989
All For You	Janet Jac...			0	1	78	3220
What Too...	Emma Bu...			0	1	77	3218
You Give ...	Jamiroquai			0	2	76	1975
Lovin Eac...	Ronan Ke...			0	1	75	1095
Blood is P...	Voodoo a...			0	1	74	4102
Loaded	Ricky Mar...			0	2	73	1116
All I Do	The Clept...			0	1	72	1287
Here With...	Dido			0	2	71	3193
Deliver Me	Sister Bliss			0	1	70	2018
If You Wa...	Warrior			0	1	69	2295
All Rise	Blue			0	1	68	1107
Set You F...	N-Trance			0	1	67	4113
The Musi...	Cher			0	1	66	4052
Aint It Fun...	Jennifer L...			0	1	65	1125
Hit Em Up...	Blu Cantrell			0	1	64	5860
Chemistry	Semisonic			0	1	63	1507
Shine On	Scott and ...			0	1	62	2114
Lets Danc...	Five			0	1	61	4309
Salsoul N...	M and S			0	1	60	1983
Let Love ...	Robbie W...			0	2	59	3219
Angel	Shaggy			0	2	58	1122
Right On	Silicone S...			0	1	57	2047

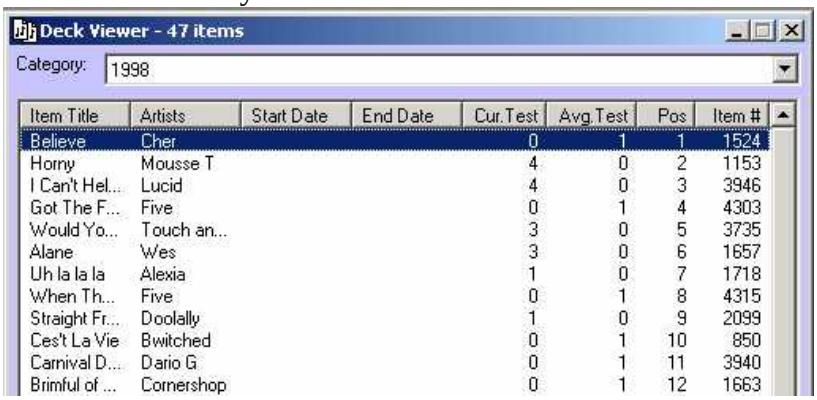
In the above example, the majority of the Songs have an Average Test value of ‘1’ which means that they have (on average) been rejected once for the last 50 times they have been scheduled. If the average test number was ‘0’ it means that that song had on average been rejected no times for the last 50 times it was scheduled.

If a song had never been scheduled though, it would also have a current test value of 0. As it technically has never been refused due to the fact it had never been tested, it would remain at 0 until it had been scheduled for the first time.

Position (Pos)

The Position column shows the Songs current position in the Song Category Deck with the lower positions representing a higher position in the Deck.

If we click on the Pos column header it reorganises the Songs by their position in the Song Category Deck. We can see that Cher and Believe is currently at the top of the deck. This will be the next song that is scheduled from the 1998 collection, as long as it doesn’t break any show or station rules.



Item Title	Artists	Start Date	End Date	Cur.Test	Avg.Test	Pos	Item #
Believe	Cher			0	1	1	1524
Horny	Mousse T			4	0	2	1153
I Can't Hel...	Lucid			4	0	3	3946
Got The F...	Five			0	1	4	4303
Would Yo...	Touch an...			3	0	5	3735
Alane	Wes			3	0	6	1657
Uh la la la	Alexia			1	0	7	1718
When Th...	Five			0	1	8	4315
Straight Fr...	Doolally			1	0	9	2099
Ces't La Vie	Bwitched			0	1	10	850
Carnival D...	Dario G			0	1	11	3940
Brimful of ...	Cornershop			0	1	12	1663