Entry Number:
Title: **Pro Audio Spectrum 16**
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Product Vendor: **MediaVision**
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Hardware Platform: **Intel Processor Family**
Reported in Software Version: **NEXTSTEP Release 3.1**
Keywords: **Sound, Pro Audio**

Usage Commentary:

The Pro Audio Spectrum 16 plays up to 44kHz stereo and records 8kHz mono under NEXTSTEP for Intel Processors Release 3.1. Several problems are known to exist in sound support; please see the list of problems below before selecting a system.

Setup and Installation:

The Pro Audio Spectrum 16 is configured entirely in software via NEXTSTEP's Configure application. Diagnostic utilities are provided with the board for use under DOS. Run **install.exe** under DOS to test out the various DMA channels and IRQ levels to determine which settings will work best on your computer.

A Pro Audio Spectrum 16 requires one DMA channel, an IRQ level and a port address. The DMA channel should be between 1 and 4, and the IRQ level should not be 5.

Known Problems:

· On some systems, when the IRQ is set to 5, sounds will repeat infinitely. The Quality Assurance group recommends changing the IRQ using Configure.Then reboot for the changes to take effect.

· On some systems when an Adaptec SCSI controller is present, the Pro Audio Spectrum 16 cannot play 44.1 kHz, CD-quality sounds. If the Adaptec controller controls the bus for long periods of time, the Pro Audio Spectrum16 board is locked out and freezes. This problem has also been discovered in other 32 bit operating systems and is a hardware problem.

· Systems with ISA buses and Adaptec 1542B SCSI controllers do not work reliably with the Pro Audio Spectrum 16 under NEXTSTEP Release 3.1. Sometimes no interrupts are generated. Other times the interrupts are generated, but seem to arrive at one half the expected frequency. We believe that this is partially related to the Adaptec interaction described above.

· No device can be configured to use DMA channel 0 under Release 3.1.

· Initial tests indicate that the Pro Audio Spectrum board will work on ISA machines if you select an 8-bit DMA channel. DMA Channels 1 through 4 should all be 8 bit. If you select a 16 bit DMA channel (5 through 7) a pattern of *audio - silence - audio - silence* results.

· Playing or recording large 8kHz mulaw sound files can panic or hang a machine under Release 3.1.

· Occasional dropouts (intermittent loss of audio) may occur during playback starting at 22Khz under heavy system load.

· Adaptive Transform Coding (ATC) sound compression (used by the **sndcompress** command line utility) is unsupported under NEXTSTEP Release 3.1. To use sounds stored under this format, use the **sndcompress** utility under Release 3.0 to convert them first.