

SOUND BLASTER DIGEST

Number 7  
June 1991 Edition.

A newsletter for Sound Blaster Enthusiasts.

Edited and Published by Brad Barclay.

Made possible by the contributions of Sound Blaster users.

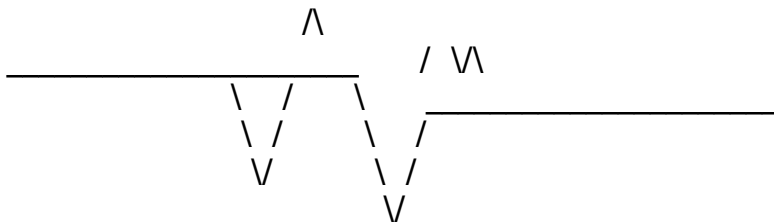


TABLE OF CONTENTS:

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Title: -----	Page: -----
From the Desk of the Editor.....	1
Letters.....	2
Subscriptions.....	2
Handy Music Chart.....	3
SB Pro Preview.....	4
Readers Survey.....	6
Writing for the SBD.....	6
Software Reviews.....	7
Included Files.....	7
SBD in the BBS World.....	8
Wrapping it Up.....	9

Forms:

SBD Advertisement Order Form.....	10
SBD BBS Registration Form.....	11
SBD Subscription Form.....	12

The SOUND BLASTER DIGEST (SBD) is a monthly publication catering to the needs of all Sound Blaster users. June 1991 Edition.

Editor: Brad Barclay  
Assistant Editor: Karen O'Hearn

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

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Welcome to SBD #7! It's really great to see that we're still growing strong after all these months! And even though we're the same old magazine, with the same old editor, and the same old purpose, you'll notice a lot of changes in this month's SBD:

- 1) The problem with the mysterious '81st Column' has been fixed.
- 2) Better spell and grammar checking.
- 3) The articles should fill the pages much better now.
- 4) The forms have been fixed YET AGAIN.
- 5) Your chance to vote on the best SB software!
- 6) And finally, a new assistant editor!

These changes are intended to make the SBD a better publication on the whole. But more is needed to improve the SBD. Once again, we're down on articles for the SBD. I am in no way a Sound Blaster expert, but instead someone who enjoys the card enough to attempt to learn whatever he can about it. I write all the articles I can, but there is only so much I can do. I need you, the reader to help contribute to this fine magazine. And it isn't monetary support I request. If you buy a game with Sound Blaster support, or download some new utility that you happen to like, then write a short article reviewing it. If you have something to say about the Sound Blaster which you feel would be helpful and informative to others, write it down and send it to me. Anything that is sent will be considered for publication, and most probably will. So far only one article has been turned down, as it was a review that had already been published!

But enough of the talk: on with the show!

LETTERS:

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Many thanks to those who wrote in this month:

- Michael Avila of Sterling Heights, MI, USA
- David Brookhart of Glen Ellyn, IL, USA
- Chris Dodd of Sandwich, IL, USA
- Stephen Dorman of Cortaro, AZ, USA
- Guillemot Int. Software, La Gacilly, FRANCE
- Tim Ingram of London, ON, CANADA
- Ron N. Jones of Bellevue, WA, USA
- Steven Luper of Columbus, OH, USA
- Johnny Ow of Kerman, CA, USA
- Michael Patten of Tuscaloosa, AL, USA

...and to all of those people who phoned, sent E-Mail, or paged me for a chat on THE MUSICAL CHAIR.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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Enjoy the SBD, but having a hard time finding it on your

local BBS? Then consider a SOUND BLASTER DIGEST subscription!  
A mere \$25 (\$30 Overseas, see form for full payment details) a  
year gets you 12 diskettes (your choice of 5.25" or 3.5" format),  
one each month, containing the newest SOUND BLASTER DIGEST, the  
files included with it, the ZIP file for distribution to your  
favourite BBS, free SOUND BLASTER support, plus special bonus  
files which are not available to anyone else!

HANDY MUSIC CHART:

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Concept and original version by Michael Avila,  
 Additional information provided by Brad Barclay.

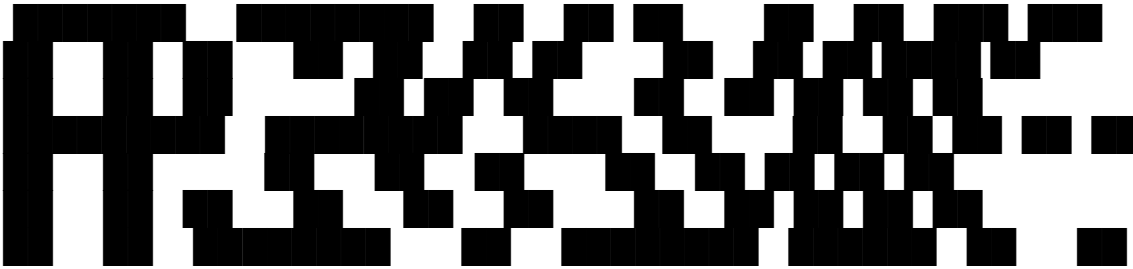
Type	Create	Play/Use	Convert to	Mode
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ROL	Visual Composer Admuse	Much Music Jukebox Playrol  Intune Sputrol Pop-Tunes Playrol	MF2ROL	FM
MOD		TrakBlaster		DAC
CMF	Fm Composer	Playcmf Much Music Sputcmf	ROL2CMF	FM
SND	Voyetra Jr.	Voyetra Jr.	MIDI	FM
ORG	FM Organ C/MS Organ	FM Organ C/MS Organ	MIDI	FM C/MS
NOT	Musician I	Musician I		FM
BNK	Bank Manager	Bank Manager		FM
INS	Ad Lib Instrument Generator			FM
SBI		FM Composer	INS2SBI ADI2SBI	FM
CMF	C/MS Composer	Player Pop Music C/MS Sing Along		C/MS

VOC      VREC          VPLAY          VOC-HDR          DAC  
Blaster Master VOUT  
Voice Kit      Voice Kit  
                Blaster Master  
                Sputter

STM      ScreamTracker ScreamTracker MOD2STM          DAC

New Zealand Soundblaster Users Call:

T H E



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SPECIAL TO THE SBD: SOUND BLASTER PRO PREVIEW  
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Written by Brad Barclay.  
Many thanks to Derek Ziglar for providing information.

The following information is taken from data provided by Derek Ziglar, an SBD reader from Atlanta, Georgia. Many thanks, Derek!

The Sound Blaster music systems card is undoubtedly the most supported sound systems card in the history of the PC and compatibles. Creative Labs design team took great effort in getting out a superior product, and they did.

And now, Creative Labs has done it yet again. The all new SOUND BLASTER PRO, to be distributed starting this summer, is a major improvement on the old card, at least according to the statistics. In a future edition of THE SOUND BLASTER DIGEST, we



will attempt to actually review the card, and let you know what we think about it. But for now, to wet your appetites, we shall provide what we can on what we have.

Here is a list of features in the new SB PRO:

- 2 8-bit DAC's (Digital-to-Analog converters), for stereo or mono recording. Same ADPCM decompression as in the old SB card, and with sampling rates of up to 44.1Khz.
- 22 voice stereo FM with default power-on Adlib-compatible mono mode.
- Stereo Digital/Analog Mixer
- Midi Interface (with optional MIDI kit)
- CD-ROM interface, with internal connector.
- PC Internal speaker input pins.
- 1/8" stereo-out female jack.
- 1/8" mono microphone input.
- 1/8" stereo input.
- Joystick interface.
- Volume control.
- Output Power Amplifier (4W per channel)
- DMA transfer for all functions.
- Fully downward compatible with the original SOUND BLASTER.
- Comes with FM Intelligent Organ, SB Voice Editor, SBTALKER and DR. SBAITSO, CD Music Player, MIDI Sequencer Sp Jr. and MMPlay Presentation.
- Conforms with Level 1 Multimedia standard.

Well, that's about what I can tell you about the new SB PRO. Hopefully in the coming months I will be able to provide an actual review on the hardware itself. When this becomes

possible, the SBD will report on both the SOUND BLASTER, and the new SB PRO to continue to cater to ALL Sound Blaster users.

READER'S SURVEY:

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Starting this month, and continuing until the end of this year, the SBD will be holding our first annual READER'S SURVEY. This is your chance to do two things: first, to let us know what you think of the SBD, and secondly, to make your vote on the best Sound Blaster software of the year.

Simply follow the instructions on the form, insert it in the pre-addressed envelope, place sufficient postage on the envelope, and drop in your local mailbox!

Votes for the best software are in two categories: COMMERCIAL and SHAREWARE/PUBLIC DOMAIN. Please write ONE name in each blank. The software must have some sort of SOUND BLASTER support to be considered valid, and must have been released before January 1st 1992.

So get your survey in now! Only one survey per person, please! The results will be printed sometime early in 1992.

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WRITING FOR THE SBD:

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How would you like to become a reporter for the SOUND BLASTER DIGEST? It's easy! Simply write an article on whatever you wish: it can be on programming the Sound Blaster, reviews on new hardware and software, instructions for using special functions, or anything else you'd like! Then mail it to the editor (the address is at the end of this file), along with your name and your address. We will publish it if possible!

If you mail your article on a diskette, you will get your diskette back with the edition of the SBD in which your article appears, free!

Either way, you get your name published as the author of the article, and people around the world will read it! We reserve the right to edit any part of any article sent, if we chose to publish it. So get writing today!

SOFTWARE REVIEWS:

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Have you written a piece of software that you'd like reviewed for the SBD? If so, send a registered copy of your software to the address at the end of this file, along with any necessary instructions for it's use, and we'll be sure to publish a review on it! Reviews in the SBD are great advertising, as people around the world will read it! It also helps us continue our tradition of being the best Sound Blaster publication in the world! The software must have some sort of Sound Blaster support to be considered for a review. So if you'd like a review, send in your software today!

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INCLUDED FILES:

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This month's included files consist of the following files:

SURVEY.TXT --> The SBD's first annual READER'S SURVEY and mailing envelope.

CROCROCK.CMF --> CROCODILE ROCK by Elton John.  
Transcribed by Brad Barclay and  
Karen O'Hearn.

If you have written any sort of small program or song which you'd like to include in this section, send it to us at the address below. If we use it, you'll be sent the edition of the SBD in which it appears! No files larger than 24 Kb, please.

SBD IN THE BBS WORLD:

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Okay, here's this month's list of BBS's around the world that support the Sound Blaster card. If you'd like your BBS added to this growing list, fill in the BBS Registration form at the end of this document.

SYSTEM NAME	PHONE NUMBER	CITY/PROVINCE/STATE	SYSOP'S NAME
=====	=====	=====	=====
=====	=====	=====	=====
Arkon BBS	(416)593-7460	Toronto, Ontario.	Jacky Lee
Beltway Bandits	(703)764-9297	-- Unknown --	-- Unknown --
Computer Connection	(08)326-2388	Christies Bch, Austr.	Vicki Crawford
Data Dimention	(404)921-1186	Atlanta Georgia	Ricky Lacy
Dead End BBS	(703)821-7544	-- Unknown --	-- Unknown --
Electronic Age	(703)620-0851	-- Unknown --	-- Unknown --
Friends & Family	(214)960-3189	Dallas, Texas	Jim Neargarder
Gollum's Corner	(404)992-1309	Marietta, GA	Sean Neese
House of Ichthys	(305)360-2991	Deerfield Beach, FL	Leonzo E. Miller
Jim's Dream	(202)581-1422	-- Unknown --	Jim Walls
Lynzie's Motherboard	(808)989-3875	California	-- Unknown --
Musical Chair	(416)724-6014	Toronto, Ontario	Jeff Woods
Musical Chair Demo	(416)724-6018	Toronto, Ontario	Jeff Woods
Nat. PC and MIDI...	(708)593-8703	Chicago, IL	Duane Antor
Open Access BBS	+47 61 97304	Reinsvoll, Norway	Erik Leirdal
Point of Know Return	(602)867-0488	Phoenix Arizona	Dan Sarber
<< Prism BBS	(914)344-0350	Middletown, NY	Janis Kracht
Punkin Duster BBS	(714)522-3980	Buena Park, CA	Dave Ludwig
Radio Station BBS	(519)471-3245	London, Ontario	Tim Ingram
Running Board	(301)229-5342	-- Unknown --	-- Unknown --
Satellite TV BBS	(713)623-4899	Bellaire, TX	Jim Dolan
Snarf's Music Studio	(708)290-9993	Arlington Hgts., IL	Colin Crisanti
Stages Remote Access	(416)468-2046	Niagra, Ontario	Mathew Gordon
Star-Link Network BBS	(718)972-6099	Brooklyn, NY	Michael Keylin
Super SONIC BBS	(416)225-8942	Willowdale, Ontario	Brian Bourne
Sword Quest	(309)383-4795	Metamora, IL	Mike Fandel
The Doghouse BBS	(713)422-3146	Baytown, TX	Ray Cramer
The Double AAce	(214)606-0703	Grand Praire, Texas	Mike Hutchkins
The HUB	(703)685-0019	-- Unknown --	-- Unknown --
The Oasis	(815)498-3077	Sandwich, IL	Chris Dodd
The Picture Express	(512)666-4842	San Antonio, TX	David Steward
Trolls & Tribulations	(703)263-0827	-- Unknown --	-- Unknown --
VCR-BBS	(513)253-0543	Dayton, OH	Calvin Yu

VGER Control

(714)371-4789 Corona, CA

Bob Altenburger

WRAPPING IT UP:

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Well, that's it for another edition of THE SOUND BLASTER DIGEST. If you have any questions or comments that you would like to make, please feel free to address them to the address below. Or call us anytime between 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

This month, I'd like to thank Michael Avilia for the file matrix concept, Derek Ziglar for providing the information on the new SB Pro card, Jeff Woods for his input, and as always, Karen O'Hearn for being there when I needed her most.

In the next few months: more detailed information on the new SB Pro card, what to do if something isn't working properly, a new standardized ratings system for software reviews, and much much more!

Please direct any questions or comments about the SBD or the Sound Blaster card to:

SOUND BLASTER DIGEST  
c/o Brad Barclay  
36 Sutter ave.  
Brampton, Ontario  
CANADA  
L6Z 1G7

Or phone between 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time:

(416)846-5599