Recorder Run 3.00

Audience: This help file assumes a certain familiarity with the operation of the Windows macro Recorder and the Windows Program Manager.

Here are the help topics available for Recorder Run:

For more information on Help, press F1.

Sections
    Using Recorder Run
    Using ItemBuilder
    Macro Keywords
    .REC pathname
    Questions and Answers
    Register

Quick Start: The key to a quick start is to load the Recorder with your favorite macro file and then choose "RecIcon..." from the About box of Recorder Run.   This button invokes RECICON.EXE   which will allow you to quickly build some Program Manager Icons (or Items) to get going right away.

Using Recorder Run

Recorder Run (RECRUN.EXE) is a Windows 3.0 application designed to allow users to set up Icons (or Items) in the Windows Program manager which 'kick-start' macros that have been recorded with the Windows Recorder (RECORDER.EXE).

The process of setting up Icons in the Program Manager has been automated with RECICON.EXE.   If you prefer not to diddle with command line arguments and so forth, you can skip the rest of this topic.   For those interested in knowing what's going on, read on:

To use Recorder Run manually is quite simple:
1. Create a macro with Recorder or load an existing macro file.
2. Determine which macro you would like to 'Kick Start' from Program Manager.
3. Identify a unique keyword in the macro's name field.
4. Set up a new Item in the Windows Program Manager as you normally would, with an entry in the command line field like this:

    RECRUN.EXE <.REC file path> <macro keyword>

5. Fill in any additional item properties before pressing "Ok", including the name and icon (customize the item as much as you want).
6. From the Program Manager, double click on the new Icon to start Recorder Run, which in turn, starts your Recorder macro.

Using RecIcon - **Program Manager Icon Builder**

RecIcon was created to simplify the process of setting up new Items (or Icons) in the Windows Program Manager that would be used to start Recorder macros via Recorder Run.

In order to use RecIcon, you must first load the Windows Macro Recorder (RECORDER.EXE) with a .REC file.   Leave it running on the desktop while you use RecIcon.

RecIcon shows you an identical list of Macros currently loaded into the Recorder.   To create a new Program Manager item for one of those macros, select it and then press the "Build..." button.   RecIcon will create a new Item (and group, if desired) for the given Macro).

Once the user has built one or more items in this manner, she or he can easily test the results by selecting the Program Manager Window and double clicking on the new Item.

Build Item Dialog Box

The **Build Item** dialog box in RecIcon is created when the user pushes the **Build...** button on the surface of the main window.   Pressing the "Ok" button will go ahead and create the new item in Program Manager.

Here is a description of what the different controls in the dialog do:

Command Line: This edit field shows the exact information which will end up in the new item's command line field in ProgMan's "File...Properties" dialog box.   It specifies a compete execution path and some other parameters for the <u>Recorder Run</u> application.   The user should keep from editing this field (unless you know exactly what you're doing).

Item name: This edit field shows the name which will appear under the Icon when it is created in the Program Manager.   The user can change this text at will.

The **Group** combo box holds a list of destination Groups (the things that look like folders) currently available in Program Manager.   Selecting one of these will specify which group the new item will appear in.   If you type a new name into the edit field of the combo-box, RecIcon will create a new Group in the Program Manager before it builds the item.

The **Set Default Group** button to the right of the combo box will cause RecIcon to 'remember' which group to show selected in the **Group** combo box by default.   As a user, you will probably want to put most of your Recorder Run icons in one group. Pushing this button will mean you spend less time diddling with options while you are building icons.

The small **Show Activity** check box in the **What is about to happen...** group box signifies whether or not you want to watch what's happening as RecIcon does it's stuff.   The first few times you'll want to see what's going on.   Once you become an expert, you'll probably leave this unchecked.   RecIcon always remembers the state of **Show Activity** so that you won't need to always fiddle with it from session to session.

Macro Keywords

The macro keyword is important to Recorder Run.   Before describing a Macro Keyword, let's first backtrack to the recording of a macro:

> Before recording a macro with RECORDER.EXE, the user fills in a profile of the Macro.   This profile includes such vital information as it's name and what hot-key will be used to start the macro.

A *Macro Keyword* is simply a portion (or substring) of the macro's name, as it appears in the Recorder's main window.

Recorder Run uses the Macro Keyword in it's search through the Recorder's Listbox, and looks for the *first* macro with the given keyword in it's name.   Therefore, the user should attempt to keep macro keywords unique (within a given .REC file).

> **Hinty Hint Hint:**   A *good choice* of Macro keyword is the accelerator description string which appears in the left column of the Recorder's listbox.   I.e. ctrl+F1.   These are always unique.

> **NOTE:** If you use the Item Builder, the Macro Keyword will be chosen for you automatically.

Recorder File Pathnames

The recorder file pathname is simply a MS-DOS pathname which directs RECORDER.EXE to the file containing your macro definitions.

Usually this pathname would end with a .REC extension, since this is the convention for RECORDER.EXE data files.

.REC files are generated by the Windows Macro Recorder.

Questions and Answers

Where should I install Recorder Run?
You can install Recorder Run in any directory.   Bear in mind that all three related files (RECRUN.EXE, RECICON.EXE and RECRUN.HLP) must all be located in the same directory.

What happens if I have two .REC files with the same name, but different pathnames?
Under certain conditions, Recorder Run can be confused if you have two .REC files with the same name in different directories.   The solution is to have unique names for each .REC file.   For instance, instead of :

C:\WINDOWS\DOG.REC and C:\WIN3APPS\DOG.REC
use:
C:\WINDOWS\COLLIE.REC and C:\WIN3APPS\BEAGLE.REC

Speed Hint: Keep all your RECRUN macros in one file, and ***don't*** use the full pathname for   .REC pathname.   Instead, save the file in your Windows directory.   The result is that RECRUN will only have to bring up RECORDER.EXE once.   Every time after that, it's just a quick *SendMessage,* and your macro will execute quicker.

How To Register

Simply fill out a check or Money Order in the amount of $20.00USD payable to:

electron Image Inc.
11435-75 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 0H8

Support the shareware concept.