

REELS 3.0

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CosmicWare

Description

For tape collectors everywhere, REELS provides a complete tape collection management and analysis system. It assists you in keeping track of your tapes and the songs therein contained. Extensive searching capabilities allow you to locate that hard-to-find tape in your collection. Statistics on nearly every characteristic make trend tracking a breeze. REELS also prints (or files) your list in either "simple" or "complex" form, and prints analog and DAT J-Cards.

Legal/Shareware

This version of this program is SHAREWARE. This means that you may try out REELS 3.0 for 30 days to see if it suits your needs. If, at the end of this trial period, you do not wish to keep using REELS 3.0, you **must** delete all copies that you have. To continue use of REELS 3.0 after 30 days, you **must** register a copy. The registration fee is \$25.00 U.S. To register, use the file "order.txt" found in this ZIP file.

This Shareware version is fully functional (no "nagware" - I hate it just as much as you do). Registering entitles you to receive a copy of the latest version of REELS, technical support, a file converter to change your pre-3.0 *.fbs files to the new *.rls format, and significant discounts on future CosmicWare products. I have worked long and hard on REELS, so if you do find it usefull please register a copy.

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Use of this program signifies that you have read, understood, and agreed to the above terms.

Well, now that that's over with, onward!

Included files:

reels.exe	executable file
reels.ini	REELS initialization file
reels.wri	this file
sample.rls	a small demo file
order.txt	order form for registering REELS 3.0

System Requirements:

REELS 3.0 **requires** Microsoft Windows **3.1**, a 286 or better CPU, a hard drive, and at least 2 meg of RAM. Printing requires a printer properly configured for Windows.

Installing REELS 3.0:

Copy reels.exe, reels.wri, and sample.rls to whatever directory you want. The reels.ini file should be copied to your windows directory. Reels looks in your WinDir for the ini file, if it doesn't find it there it will create one. (See also Command Line Usage).

Command Line Usage:

REELS [path[filename]]

If the file you wish to open resides in the same directory as REELS.EXE then no [path] is necessary. Files can be added to any Program Manager Group, enabling you to start REELS with the file preloaded (see your Windows documentation for directions on adding files to Groups). Note that the ability to open a file from the command line (or from a Group) requires you to associate REELS's files with the executable file from File Manager (refer to your Windows documentation).

Upgrading an old version of REELS:

To upgrade from an old version of REELS, merely copy the new executable (REELS.EXE) to the same directory that your current version is in. If you are a registered user of REELS, see the file ORDER.TXT for upgrade information. The cost for upgrading is only postage and handling (\$4.00).

What's new in this version:

- At long last, REELS will generate a hardcopy of your tapelist. Two different file types can be created, "simple" or "complex". The "simple" version looks something like this:

```
02/13/70  1,2  Filmore East, New York, NY          SBD  A+
```

The "complex" version looks something like this:

```
02/13/70  Filmore East, New York, NY    SBD  A+
```

```
1: China Cat, I Know You Rider, Me & My Uncle, Direwolf, Smokesatck Lightning  
   Monkey & The Engineer, Black Peter, Little Sadie, Wake Up Little Suzie, Black Peter  
   Uncle John's Band, Katie Mae, New Speedway Boogie
```

```
2: Dark Star, Cryptical Envelopment, Drums, The Other One, Cryptical Envelopment  
   Lovelight, Bid You Goodnight
```

```
{* any comments you may have entered *}
```

- REELS can print this list or save it to an ASCII file, suitable for storage or uploading. Additionally, support has been added to print an Analog or DAT J-Card.

- Third Set support has been added, as well as an increase in number of songs per set from 13 to 20.

- Unavailable menu selections are now grayed to show their status.

- The "Read From List " feature has been removed and added to the CONVERT utility (available to Registered Users only).

Limitations:

REELS has a theoretical maximum size of 2000 shows (**not** tapes! If you have more than 2000 shows, contact me and I can provide you with a special version). Additionally, performance can be degraded if you have more than 400 shows (again, contact me for a special version. This limitation is an effort to conserve memory while providing a reasonable initial tapelist size). Each show entry can have up to 20 songs per set (1,2,&3) as well as a 255 character comment. The following table indicates the maximum character size for each data field entry:

<u>Data Field:</u>	<u>Max Size:</u>
Artist	45
Date	
Month	2
Day	2
Year	2
Source	3
Quality	2
Gen	8
Facility	50
City	50
State	2
Songs	35
Comment	255

Menu Commands:

File

New: removes the current file from memory, resets all counters, etc. to zero. Use this command to start a new collection.

Open: Open a file. If the current file has been changed, you will be prompted to save it.

Save: Save the current file. If no filename is listed, you will be prompted for a filename.

Save As: Save the current file under a different name.

View

Simple List: Pops up a window displaying your list in "simple" format (see below for details).

Complex List: Pops up a window displaying your list in "complex" format (see below for details).

Analog J-Card: Pops up a window displaying the selected set's J-card. You must have already selected a show and set (see below for details).

DAT J-Card: Pops up a window displaying the selected set's J-card. You must have already selected a show and set (see below for details).

Exit: Exit the program. If an open file has been changed, you will be prompted as to whether you want to save it (or cancel exiting).

Show

New (Ins): by either using the menu command or hitting the <Ins> key, allows a new show to be added to the list. Fields in the dialog box that pops up may be cycled through by using the Tab key. In order for a show to be added to the list, there MUST be a number in one of the three date fields. If you enter a date that already exists, no changes to the list will be made (use the Edit command to change a particular show's data). Once you hit <return>, the show will be added to the list.

Edit (F9): by either using the menu command or hitting the <F9> key, allows an existing show to be edited. Note that a show must already have been selected for editing by single clicking on it in the program's main window.

Delete (Del): by either using the menu command or hitting the key, allows an existing

show to be deleted. You have the option of cancelling a delete. Note that a show must already have been selected for deletion by single clicking on it in the program's main window.

Display (F5): by either using the menu command or hitting the <F5> key, allows a selected show to be viewed.

Notes on Data Entry:

Enter data as you wish, but remember that it must be consistent for search functions to work properly. All dates should be input as xx xx xx to insure proper operation. Any and all fields (except for date) can be left blank. If no data is entered for date, the show will **not** be inserted into the list. Note that you can enter any one of the three date fields and the show **will** be inserted into the list.

Search: all searches are CASE-INSENSITIVE

By Artist: searches for the prompted artist. Partial string searching is enabled (see below).

By Date

Month: searches for the prompted two number month.

Day: searches for the prompted two number day.

Year: searches for the prompted two number year.

By Source: searches for the prompted 3 letter source.

By Quality: searches for the prompted 3 letter quality.

By Generation: searches for the prompted generation.

By Facility: searches for the prompted facility name.

By City: searches for the prompted city name.

By State: searches for the prompted 2 letter state abbreviation.

By Song: searches for the prompted song name.

By Comment: searches for the prompted comment. Partial string searching is enabled.

Find...: searches for the prompted date. At this time, all dates must be input in this form: xx/xx/xx.

Multi...: searches any combination of the following information: Artist, Month, Day, Year, Facility, City, State, Source, Quality, Gen, Song, and Comment. Note that this function makes use of **partial string searching** (see below) for the Facility, City and State field. Any fields left blank will be excluded from the search routine. This search function is rather slow, so unless you really need to search your list for more than 1 criterium, using the other search methods is recommended.

Notes on searching:

This version incorporates **partial string searching** for data fields Artist, Facility, City, Song, and Comment. This means that if you want to find all shows that contain the string "dark" in any song, all you have to do is type "dark" (no quotes) in the input box. The same holds true for Facility and City.

After you input the search criteria, a dialog box pops up with a list of dates that match the criteria. To view one of the dates listed, merely double-click on that entry. A dialog with the show will pop up.

Stats

Go!: This menu command pops up a dialog box with the following information:

- Number of shows
- Number of first sets
- Number of second sets
- Number of third sets
- Number of different songs
- Average number of songs per show
- Average number of songs per first set
- Average number of songs per second set
- Average number of songs per third set
- Number of different venues
- Number of different cities
- Number of different states

Additionally, 9 list boxes are displayed. These list boxes display:

- All different artists
- All different songs
- All different venues
- All different cities
- All different states
- All different dates
- All different sources
- All different qualities
- All different generations

Narrow: Pops up a dialog prompting for start year, end year, and artist. Click OK to see the results.

Double clicking on any list box (except date) entry pops up a dialog with a listing of all dates wherein that entry is present. Single clicking on a date list box entry will highlight the respective venue, city, and state (facility highlights city and state; city highlights state). Double clicking on a date list box entry pops up a dialog with the show. NOTE- while this dialog box is identical to the one initiated for search functions, it DOES NOT have the capability to display an individual show.

Finally, a button marked "Narrow..." allows you to restrict the analysis to a single year or range of years and/or artist. When pressed, you will be prompted for the first and last year and artist to include. By default, years 1900 through 1999 are chosen. If the first year is later than the second year, the system reverts to the default year. If the first and last year are the same, only that year is included.

Notes on Stats:

All averages (i.e. songs/set and songs/show) do **not** include shows that have no songs. This is an attempt to more accurately reflect the true averages if for some reason you have neglected to type in the songs for a particular show. Note that REELS has no way of knowing if you have entered all of the songs for a particular set or show; as a result incomplete data will reduce averages relative to the "true" (what was actually played) value. At all times REELS reflects the statistical breakdown of **your** collection. One of the more useful features of the Stats screen is it's ability to insure consistency among all the shows in your list. For example, you may notice that you have songs listed as "Playing In The Band" and

"Playin' In The Band". To correct the error, double click on the entry you wish to correct. A dialog pops up listing all dates with that error. Write down all listed dates, then exit the stats screen. Then, from the mainwindow, you can select each of these dates and edit the incorrect data.

Options:

View by Artist: restricts the listing in the main window to the prompted artist. Type "All" for all.

Save Changes on Exit: Saves changes to window size, location, and current artist to the INI file on exit.

Help

About: pops up a dialog with author information.

Other Windows:

Simple and Complex Lists:

These windows display, respectively, the Simple and Complex hardcopies of your collection. You can't edit the text, but you can change attributes such as page margins, font, and included artist. You can open as many View windows as your system memory permits. These windows have the following menu:

File

Print: Prints the list as it is shown in the window. If the selected margin/font size is too big for your printer you are prompted to change them.

Print Setup: Sets up the current printer.

Save to File: Saves the currently displayed list to the file you specify.

Exit: Exits the view window.

Options

Fonts: Change the current font.

Page Setup: Change the page margins.

Single Artist: Displays the prompted artist only.

Save Changes on Exit: Saves font and page margins to the INI file on program exit.

Analog and DAT J-Cards:

These windows display analog and DAT versions of a j-card for the selected show (just click on a date in the main window). You can't edit the text, but you can change attributes such as font, user info, and noise reduction. These windows have the following menu:

File

Print: Prints the displayed j-card. The general rule is, if it looks OK on screen it'll look OK on paper. Adjust font size to get all the text in.

Print Setup: Sets up the current printer.

Exit: Exits the view window.

Options

Noise Reduction: (available only for analog j-cards) Specify what NR is used on the tape. This information will be printed in the lower left corner of the j-card.

User Info: Specify some additional information on the j-card (like name, who you got it from, etc.). Up to 40 characters are allowed. This information will be printed on the "back" of the j-card.

Font: Change the current font.

Save Chages on Exit: Saves font and page margins to the INI file on program exit.

Miscellaneous:

This version of REELS incorporates full keyboard compatibility. All data entry fields can be tabbed through. To select a show in the mainwindow with your keyboard, use the "hot key" <ctrl>-<space>. You can then use your arrow keys to scroll through the list.

To view a show that is listed in the mainwindow, merely double click on that entry. A dialog with the show will pop up.

The data files that REELS generates are readable only by REELS. Their extension is *.rls.

The entire program was written with Borland® Pascal with Objects 7.0™. All song titles used in this document as well as the included sample file are the property of their respective owners.

Let me know what you think of this program! Future versions will attempt to incorporate suggestions you, the user, suggest!

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Revision History:

REELS v1.0 - original application, April 28, 1992.

REELS v1.0a - updated to be compatible with Windows 3.1. May 1, 1992.

Reels v1.1 - added statistical (ahem) analysis of tapelist. May 5, 1992.

Reels v1.2 - allows restricting statistical analysis to a single year or range of years. May 7, 1992.

Reels v1.2a - adds a date listbox to the stats screen. May 9, 1992.

Reels v1.2b - fixed problem with searching. June 13, 1992.

Reels v1.2c - added venue/city/state co-selection in the stats dialog box, fixed problem with selecting the same venue/city/state in the stats box. June 14, 1992.

Reels v1.3 - added MultiSearch search function. June 25, 1992.

Reels v1.3a - added opening a file from the command line and full keyboard compatibility (i.e. ability to view a show without the mouse from the mainwindow).

Reels v2.0 - added ability to generate a text file of your list in 2 formats. July 15, 1992.

Reels v2.1 - added ability to read in a text file, minor bug fixes. August 6, 1992

Reels v2.2 - algorithm improvements, cosmetic changes (no major functionality changes).
August 23, 1992

Reels 3.0 - massive overhaul, increased sets, songs, stats, added print functions for lists and j-cards.
January 3, 1993.

January 3, 1993.