GS-Panel – Short documentation

GS-Panel is an easy-to-use control panel for Roland GS compatible devices. It also supports the Roland GM devices RAP-10, SCDB-10 and SCB-7. The main purpose of GS-Panel is to let you easily change the reverb macro, level and time and the master volume and pan. GS-Panel is designed for Windows 95.

Features include:
- Support for all GS compatible devices plus the Roland GM devices:
    * Roland SC-55, SC-55mkII, SC-88, SC-7 etc.
    * PC sound cards Roland SCC-1 and RAP-10.
    * PC daughterboards SCDB-10 and SCDB-15.
    * All GS compatible synths/modules etc.
- Comes ready with an MPU-401 driver that allows multiple simultaneous programs to use the same port. This allows you to adjust the reverb and volume settings while listening to a MIDI song in for example Cakewalk or the Media Player.
- Saves standard SysEx(.syx) files for importing the reverb settings to Cubase, Cakewalk etc.
- GS Reset button that either sends a standard GS Reset message or a custom SysEx file.
- Full Windows 95 support. GS-Panel lives in the system tray(the little box at the far right on the task bar) and pops up when you click on its icon.
- Uses very little memory.

Installation (important – read this)
Copy the GS-Panel distribution file to a directory and unzip it. This will create some additional files, including GSPANEL.EXE which is the program itself.
For GS-Panel to work correctly you will have to have an MPU-401 driver that can handle multiple simultaneous programs accessing the same port. The standard Windows 95 MPU-401 driver cannot. Therefore the distribution of GS-Panel contains a new, better MPU-401 driver. Follow these steps to install the updated driver(assuming you are using the standard Win95 MPU-401 driver, if you have a daughterboard and do not use an MPU-401 driver, see below):

- Open the control panel.
- Double-click on the system icon.
- Click on the "Device Manager" tab.
- Find the old MPU-401 device under the section "Sound, video and game controllers" and select it.
- Click on "Properties".
- Click on the "Driver" tab.
- Select "Change driver...".
- Choose "Have disk..."
- Now click on the "Browse..." button and find the folder where you unzipped GS-Panel. Select "OK".
- Select "OK" again.
- And again...
- And again...
- Select the correct port address and IRQ. The default values for these are 330 and 9/2.
- Click on "OK".

- Select "Yes" when prompted to restart the computer.
- Done.

If you have a daughterboard(SCDB-10 or SCDB-15) and do not use an MPU-401 driver you will have to install the MPU-401 driver supplied with GS-Panel. This could be tricky, but if you follow these instructions there should not be any problems. This **does** work with SB16 cards, even though it doensn't have a genuine MPU-401 port.

First you must disable the MPU-401 port that is in use by the card that is hosting the daughtercard, or else there will be a conflict with the new MPU-401 driver:

- Open the control panel.
- Double click on the "System" icon.
- Click on the "Device Manager" tab.
- Find the soundcard that is hosting your Roland daugherboard(for example Soundblaster 16) under the section "Sound, video and game controllers". Select it.
- Click on "Properties".
- Cick on the "Resources" tab.
- Make sure that "Use automatic settings" is **not** checked.
- Now we select a Basic Configuration that **not** uses port 0330-0331(which we need for the MPU-401 driver we are about to install). On a Soundblaster 16 or AWE card you should change the configuration to "Basic configuration 2".
- Click on "OK".
- Select "Yes".
- Click on "Close".

Now we will install the new MPU-401 driver:

- Open the control panel.
- Double click on the "Add New Hardware" icon.
- Click "Next".
- Select "No" and then click Next.
- Select "Sound, video and game controllers" and then click Next.
- Click on "Have Disk..."
- Select Browse and find the folder where you unzipped GS-Panel. Click on OK.
- Select "OK" again.
- And again...
- Click on Finish
- Select the correct port address and IRQ. The default values for these are 330 and 9/2.
- Select "OK".
- Select "Yes" when prompted to restart the computer.
- Done.

If you have any problems installing the new driver, please let me know and I'll help you out. It's really important to install the new driver, because if you don't you will not be able to use GS-Panel when some other program is accessing your MIDI device.

Now make a shortcut to GS-Panel by dragging GSPANEL.EXE with the RIGHT mouse button to the desktop. Start GSPANEL.EXE. When prompted for a MIDI device, select "MPU-401 Out", which uses the updated driver.

How do I get the latest version?

Currently you can get the latest version of GS-Panel from the GS-Panel homepage at **http://www.lysator.liu.se/~korsvall/GSPanel**. It is also available by FTP at **ftp.winsite.com** in the directory **/pub/pc/win95/sounds** or **/pub/pc/win95/uploads**. If you live in Canada you can get it from MusicNet BBS at **1-514-928-1605,** or the Clubhouse BBS at **416-754-2556**. If you know a BBS that can be host for GS-Panel, please let me know and I'll make sure you always have the latest version.

Legal stuff

GS-Panel is totally free with the exception that I want you to send me a postcard or email. By doing so, you encourage me to continue writing useful programs.

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