The*Drums Professional Version 2.10
For Microsoft Windows-95

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What is The*Drums Professional?

The*Drums Profession is <u>not</u> free, but rather is freely distributed as shareware. To use this software beyond a brief trial period, you are expected to pay a small registration fee to its developers.

The*Drums Professional is a powerful, pattern-based MIDI editor/sequencer primarily designed for easy composition of drum parts.

The*Drums Pro runs exclusively on the Windows-3.1 & Windows-95 personal computer operating systems. Versions 2 and above are for Windows-95 only; Versions 1.xx are for Windows-3.1 and will of course run on Windows-95 as well.

<u>Major features of The*Drums Professional include:</u>

  - unlimited files stored to your computer's disk (for storage of patterns & songs)
  - grid-based pattern composing environment -- just *point & click* to compose patterns in real-time
  - up to 100 patterns per file
  - graphical song construction from your patterns using a simple *drag & drop* technique
  - up to 300 measures per song
  - runs in ALL Windows modes (including enhanced mode)
  - powerful editing commands
  - real-time recording
  - user settable tempo & meter
  - drum kit voices fully configurable, with drum kit conversion capabilities
  - unique librarian function to manage your patterns
  - full online help
  - exports to standard MIDI files
  - imports from standard MIDI files
  - up to 300 free sample patterns covering many musical styles

Unlike most things that you purchase, software is often easy to duplicate and pass along. This creates the unique opportunity for the "shareware" method of distribution. Shareware is <u>not</u> a type of product, but rather a method of distribution; in fact shareware is a very efficient means of software distribution. Unless explicitly placed into the public domain by its authors/owners, software is never free -- just like developing any other product it takes time, money, and extraordinary effort to create a software product that people can use and enjoy. Please don't abuse the trust inherent in the shareware system or contribute to software piracy.

Think about why you acquired this product and why you continue to use this product ....
Part of the answer is because this is a good product. A software product does not come into being by magic, it takes hard work, time, and money. Furthermore, a software product does not magically become good, this is a result of dedication, harder work, and again -- money. We hope that you will agree that The*Drums Pro is a

good software product! Also please know that through the years, there have been several enhancements & upgrades, as is clearly illustrated by this latest version specially developed for Windows-95. Thanks to all of our past registered users for keeping the product alive by contributing!

Just like you, we work for a living to feed ourselves. If people don't contribute to our shareware, then we need to find some other line of business to feed ourselves (we cannot develop good products if we are hungry) and we will find other fun projects & activities to do. In either case, if our software is not paid for by its users, then you the consumer eventually looses out because we then will abandon it altogether.

We also know that sometimes we do not always have the money to spend on items that we want or need, even though our intentions are good. So if you acquire The*Drums Pro and begin using it regularly but cannot pay for it, then feel free to forward your registration fee when your personal finances permit.

We sincerely hope that you do not abuse our trust. Thanks for listening!

Registration

If you use The*Drums Professional beyond a brief evaluation period of two weeks, please register the program.

We have established a very small fee for registration of The*Drums Professional version 2.xx -- only $30 (US)! And to upgrade from any version of The*Drums to Version 2 we request only $15 (US).

The*Drums Professional is not a free program, but is being distributed under the Shareware concept. This allows you to obtain and evaluate the program at little or no cost to determine whether it is suitable for your needs, and then buy it if you like it and intend to use it. You must register the program if you are going to use it on an on-going basis.

The version of The*Drums Professional you have will not become fully featured until you are provided with a registration key from MediaTech Innovations. Without the registration key, it will not export/import any Standard Midi Files and you will also be presented with occaisional registration reminders.

Note: corporate & group registrations are available -- please inquire for rates.

What do you get for your small registration fee?

  - piece of mind that you have done the right thing :-)
  - a registration key that will unlock certain features of the software and stop the reminders
  - automatic notification of all new updates as well as new products
  - access to all new updates as well as new products at a discount

Additional details on registration are found in the Registration topic of the on-line help file. You can view this topic now, by clicking on the help icon below.

Required Equipment

The following equipment is required to use The*Drums Professional:

- IBM compatible PC running Microsoft Windows-95 (we'll assume you have a fast enough
  CPU and sufficient memory though a minimum of 8 megabytes of RAM is recommended)
- 1 to 2 megabytes of free hard-disk space
- a mouse
- VGA or SVGA video monitor
- Any MIDI device supported by Windows-95 is supported by The*Drums Pro.
  As long as your sound card and/or MIDI interface has a Windows-95 driver,
  then it will work with this software.

Getting Started

In order to gain any meaningful use out of The*Drums Pro, you should have a sound card and/or MIDI equipment with a PC MIDI interface and you must have the driver(s) for your sound card(s) and/or MIDI interface(s) properly installed. Please refer to the documentation that came with these devices for information on driver installation, or contact the manufacturer.

The*Drums Pro will *connect* to your sound card(s) and/or MIDI interface(s) by simply selecting the driver name that you want to use. The complete details of how this is done are contained in the on-line help file. You can read it now if you like, by clicking on the help icon below.

Premature cut-off of sounds

If some of your percussion sounds are getting cut-off, particularly cymbal sounds, there is nothing wrong with The*Drums Pro or your installation. Its the case that your sound card or synthesizer, etc. requires variable event durations which are not a capability of The*Drums Pro, but is quite elegantly handled by Rhythm Brainz & Rhythm Brainz PLUS.

Every synthesizer, sound module, drum machine, and sound card operates differently. With respect to drum & percussion voices -- some ignore MIDI Note-Off messages and some do not. If you are experiencing voices being cut-off, then its likely you will need to use Rhythm Brainz or Rhythm Brainz PLUS instead of The*Drums Pro. This is because the Rhythm Brainz products offer variable duration events and The*Drums Pro does not. Rhythm Brainz & Rhythm Brainz PLUS offer all of the features of The*Drums Pro, plus much more .... if you like The*Drums Pro, then you'll love Rhythm Brainz & Rhythm Brainz PLUS!

To make the file size of The*Drums Pro small enough to quickly download (an important consideration for shareware), we have made a great effort to develop efficient and comapct software. Often times this limits the complexity and features that can be implemented. The*Drums Pro has a simple yet powerful MIDI pattern engine that operates much like a typical drum machine. Since we distribute Rhythm Brainz & Rhythm Brainz PLUS commercially on a diskette, we are able to make the code a bit more complex and hence the program file sizes are larger. Aside from the many additional features in Rhythm Brainz & Rhythm Brainz PLUS, it has a

much more robust MIDI pattern engine capable of variable duration events. The*Drums Pro engine acts like a drum machine and tells the sound engine to play an event then immediately mutes that event and lets it decay naturally as is typical with most drum percussion instruments. The reason The*Drums Pro immediately sends a MIDI Note-Off message is to avoid the problem of "stuck sounds" which is much worse and more annoying than prematurely muted sounds. The engine for our Rhythm Brainz products does however have the capability to vary the time between when a voice is triggered and muted; therefore you can more precisely control the duration of open hi-hat hits, cymbal crashes, etc. (provided your sound engine accommodates this level of control .... remember, they all work differently).

Just in case you'reinterested, here's some tech talk .....
There are two type of instrument programs used in electronic sound engines: pitched & voiced. Pitched programs are voices like pianos, flutes, etc. where different MIDI note values play the same sound but at a different pitch. Voiced programs play a different sound for each different MIDI note value (e.g., different MIDI note values triggers a snare drum sound, or cymbal, etc.). When a pitched voice is sounded (by a MIDI Note-On message) it continues to play until it is muted by a subsequent MIDI Note-Off message. For most percussive sounds MIDI Note-Off messages are not necessary because these sounds have a natural decay and so some sound engines ignore MIDI Note-Off messages on drum & percussion programs.
Since some sound engines ignore MIDI Note-Off message for all percussive sounds, and some do not, particularly for sounds such as cymbals, etc., The*Drums Pro may or may not cut-off some of the sounds before you'd like. Once again, because the Rhythm Brainz products let you set the duration of each event, this problem does not occur.

MediaTech Innovations Products

This program "The*Drums Professional" is shareware. Commercial products are also available from MediaTech Innovations -- click on the "?" icon below for more information.

In addition to The*Drums Pro, two significantly commercial versions of pattern-based composing tools are available from MediaTech Innovations called **Rhythm Brainz Rhythm Brainz PLUS**. The Rhythm Brainz products are more than just enhanced versions of The*Drums Professional, they are entirely different software which include full printed documentation.

If you are interested in the specific details about the differences between The*Drums Pro and the Rhythm Brainz products, then please open the file RBVSTD.DOC (which should have been installed into your The*Drums Pro disk folder as well as having a quick access icon installed into the The*Drums Pro program group; it is a text file just like this one), or click on the icon below.

Rbvstd.doc

Additional details on the Rhythm Brainz products, as well as other products from MediaTech Innovations, may be found in the help file. You can view this information now, by clicking on the help icon below.

<u>Legal Disclaimer</u>

The*Drums Professional is a copyrighted program. It may not be changed or modified in any way except by the author. The*Drums Professional may be freely distributed so long as all files are included and no money is charged. A small copying fee not exceeding $10 US may be charged.

All warranties are disclaimed, including damage to hardware and/or software from use of this program. In no event will Fabio Marzocca or MediaTech Innovations be liable to you for any damages, including lost profits, lost savings or other incidental or consequential damages arising out of your use or inability to use the program, or any other claim by any other party. In any event, the extent of liability is limited to the amount of money received for registration of the program from either Fabio Marzocca or MediaTech Innovations.

Every effort has been made to ensure that The*Drums Professional is as clean and free of bugs as possible. However, no program can ever be guaranteed to be free of all defects.

Fabio Marzocca & MediaTech Innovations
May 1996