

Cubasis - Answers To Common Questions

This document tries to answer some of the most asked questions about Cubasis, divided into three sections. general troubleshooting, Score specific questions, PC related questions and finally some tips on memory management.

General Troubleshooting

Cubasis for Windows and missing fonts on the screen

Cubasis needs the following fonts to be installed: Arial, Small Fonts, Courier New and Times New Roman. Please be aware that Cubasis requires that TrueType Fonts are enabled in the Control Panel's Font Manager. Launch the Control Panel and open the Font Manager. Click on the TrueType Button and another dialog appears where you can activate the option "Use TrueType Fonts". When this is not activated Cubasis may say '..... Font not found!'.

Cubasis for Windows and Windows for Workgroups

- Please make sure that you are working with the latest versions of driver files for display, printer, MIDI interface etc.
- The Windows MPU device driver included with Windows 3.1 is more reliable than the one that comes with WfW 3.11.
- Windows for Workgroups 3.11 may cause problems when using 32-Bit drive and file access. If you are having problems, try 16-Bit drive and file access.

Windows for Workgroups and Serial Port Interfaces

If you use a serial port interface (like the Key MIDIator), we recommend that you use the "serial port driver" included with Windows 3.1 rather than the one included with 3.11 (Windows for Workgroups). The one included with 3.11 is not as reliable as the one included with 3.1. What you need to do is to copy a file called "VCOMM.386" from a 3.1 version of Windows to the SYSTEM directory in your WINDOWS directory, to replace the one already installed. If in doubt, contact an expert.

Cubasis for Windows and MROS

If you find the timing of the MIDI playback is not as tight as you expect, please make sure the following lines exist in WIN.INI:

```
[MROS]  
Timer(ms)=2
```

Score questions

Question: What is the difference between the quantize option in the "Staff Settings" Dialog and the quantize functions in the options menu?

Answer: Quantize in the Staff Settings is display quantize. This doesn't change the MIDI data, as the other functions do. Please remember, that scores can never show exact MIDI positions or note length. Display quantize is necessary to get readable scores; in the "lowest resolution" (note- and rest quantize on 64T) there may otherwise occur a lot of rests, tied notes, very short notes etc., especially if you enter the scores with realtime recorded material.

Q: Inserting a 16th note on the "1" of the first bar produces a quarter note?!

A: In a fresh track, rest quantize is switched to 4th to avoid too many rests. In the Staff Settings dialog, switch it to the smallest rest value you want to be displayed (16th for this example).

Q: Sometimes I change the length of a note, but can't see any result in the score display.

A: Maybe, the display quantize for notes is too big (if it, for example is set to 16th, you will never see a 32nd note!). Another option is Clean Length - Cubasis tries to optimize the display by avoiding rests and quantizing the note off of chords - if you want to see the length

of notes as exact as possible, you should switch off this option in Staff Settings (the default value is On). The last optimizing option is Auto Quant - this tries to find the best note-on quantize. Switch it off, if you need complete control over the start positions of notes.

Q: How to transpose a note with the mouse, without moving it time-wise?

A: Grab the note, hold down [Shift]: mouse movement will then be restricted to the direction you move the mouse first (this is true for all graphic objects in Cubasis, e.g. Parts, notes in Key edit etc.)

Common PC related questions

Q: I just installed and started Cubasis but I haven't got a MIDI Out and/or MIDI In signal. What's wrong?

A: Open the Control Panel and double click the Drivers icon. Install the MIDI interface device driver that came with your MIDI interface card / device.

If your MIDI interface is a card that has to be plugged in inside your PC, make yourself familiar with the setting of Interrupt request levels (IRQ) and Base Addresses (see your MIDI interface manual).

Another driver that needs to be in there is the Timer which is normally already installed by Windows. If not, refer to your Windows manual.

Q: When I start Cubasis it takes a long time until the Arrange window comes up.

Q: The program is too slow to work with.

A: This may have different reasons. First of all: Cubasis runs slightly faster in Standard Mode (type win /s when starting Windows 3.1). If you want to - or have to - use Enhanced Mode (386 Mode) your computer should be fast enough with sufficient amounts of RAM installed (minimum: 386-DX, 33 MHz, 4MB RAM) to take advantage of the 386 mode.

Cubasis needs real RAM memory (not virtual memory!) for it's MIDI data because of its real time abilities. The rule for using Cubasis in 386 Mode are: make sure you have more RAM in general, make sensible settings for SmartDrive, make sure you have plenty of free disk space.

A faster Hard disk and a faster Hard disk interface also makes your machine run faster. Try to avoid to run Windows in Enhanced Mode on a slow computer (eg. 386-SX, 16 Mhz, 4 MB) with a hard disk that's almost full. Refer to your Windows manual about the concept of SmartDrive, Virtual Memory and Swap files.

Q: Sometimes after I load Cubasis I can't start any more programs. Windows reports that there is insufficient memory to run the application. But if I look in the Program Manager About box, it says that I have plenty of memory and system resources.

A: There are two main reasons why this happens.

1. The first situation is uncommon, and is related to the available free system resources. When called on to load a program, the Windows loader checks to see if there's at least ten percent system resources free. If not, it stops the load sequence on the spot.
2. The second cause involves available memory below 1MB. But isn't the 1MB limit an artefact of MS-DOS? That's true, but Windows hasn't yet completely broken away from its MS-DOS past. Relic or not, you still have to compete for space below 1MB, even in these days when a computer can have 32MB of RAM. As with other parts of Windows, memory below 1MB is precious, and should be used sparingly.

Freeing up memory

Freeing up memory for Windows applications

- Free memory before starting Windows. For this purpose you might remove memory resident programs from your AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files, if they aren't needed by any application.
- Close all applications you don't actually use.
- Run MS-DOS based applications in full screen mode instead of inside a window (386

enhanced mode only).

- Minimize Windows applications to an icon. Many applications use less memory when they are iconized.
- Delete or save the contents of the clipboard.
- If you are using a background bitmap for your desktop set it to "none". You may use a patterned wallpaper instead.

Freeing up memory for MS-DOS applications run from Windows:

- If you need to run an MS-DOS application, change the PIF options for the application with the PIF editor.
- If you are trying to run several MS-DOS based applications simultaneously, use the PIF editor to change the multitasking options, background and foreground priorities (386 enhanced mode only).
- If you are running Windows in 386 enhanced mode, set the PIF files for the MS-DOS based applications to a definition that they won't be executed when they are in the background.
- If possible use a permanent swap file instead of a temporary swap file.

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