

-|-| - - - - - M I D I P A T C H - - - - - |-|-
-|-| - - - - - B R O W S E R - - - - - |-|-
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Program version 0.7

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**1. Terms of
use**-----

Licensing agreement:

Currently, this program is being distributed as so called cardware, i.e. send me a postcard of your own choice, put down upon it a few lines of appreciation and I'll grant you the legal right to use this software as of this version i.e. future versions may not be covered by above statement.

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Please feel free do distribute this software at will.
You may *NOT EVER* charge any money for it though, not even to cover material, handling or transportation expenses of any kind.
The following files, must be contained in the archive MPBnn.???
(where nn is the program version number and ??? the archive extension):

| | |
|--------------|---|
| FILE_ID.DIZ | - BBS info file. |
| MPB.EXE | - The program executable. |
| MPB.INI | - Configuration file. |
| MPB.WRI | - Documentation. |
| MIDITHRU.DLL | - Midi thru support dll. |
| BWCC.DLL | - Borland Windows Custom Controls dll (v2.0). |
| REVISION.TXT | - Program revision history. |
| *.INS | - Various instrument configuration files. |

2. Specification and features-----

Specification:

MPB is for you who want to use your entire MIDI system as one integrated synth to play (live) on/with, try out sounds and such, in any easy manner. I have found most sequencer programs to be less than adequate in this area so I created a dedicated program for it. It does all the program and bank changing automatically, and it fully supports patch caching with multiple instrument banks as well as GS bank switching.

Hardware requirements:

i386, i486, iPentium or later compatible processor.
Midi output device.
Midi input device (optional).

Software requirements:

Ms Windows v3.1 or later.

3.

Installation-----

As usual, add it to a program manager group, but make sure that the working directory is specified to be the same as the files are in.

MPB.EXE, MPB.INI, MIDITHRU.DLL, BWCC.DLL are needed to run. If you already have BWCC.DLL (v2.0 or later) you won't need another copy.

MPB scans the available midi output devices and checks MPB.INI for any saved settings for a device with the particular Manufacturer and Product Id's as found on your system.

If not found, it adds your device to the list and uses a default config: General Midi instrument map, 16 chs, ch 10 as drums and no bank switching.

See sections 5 and 6 for details on how to customize your settings.

! Fast-start note for Gravis Ultrasound users only:

It's already in the list but you'll have to edit the file, 'ULTRA206.INS' to make sure the initial "Include=whatever" statement point to your ULTRASND.INI

file and you'll be able to use all instrument banks you've got...
You may want to edit ULTRASND.INI and add "*BankName=Whatever*" after every "*PatchDir=Whatever*" statement and you'll get bank names listed nicely.

4. Main

window-----

There's a straightforward hierarchy: *Device->Channel->Bank->Instrument*
Play around a little and you'll see how it works.
When selecting an instrument in a Melodic bank it is 'activated'.
When selecting a Drum bank all it's instruments/drums are 'activated' and can be played on the their assigned keys.

The '*Midi thru*' button pops up a midi thru window, see section 5.
Note! If midi thru is disabled, it is first enabled again; if the current midi in device can't be opened you must close any program that's using it before you can use it with MPB; or you can select another midi in device from the config window (if you have more than one i.e.).

The '*Config*' button brings up the config window, see section 6.

The '*About*' button brings up the about windows.

The '*Quit*' button closes all windows and exits.

5. Midi thru

window-----

Features a nifty graph of wich keys are currently pressed down.

With the transpose item you set midi thru transpose from -48 to 48 (+-4 octaves) A setting of 0 turns it off.

With the key force item you can set an override key force for midi thru data. Range is 0 to 127. -1 turns it off.

The rightmost (unlabeled) scroll bar is a midi channel volume control.

These parameters are saved in MPB.INI and can be edited manually.
In MPB.INI there's also a field called '*pbrange=n*' wich sets the Pitch bend range to use in mpb, where *n* is the maximum number of semitones in either direction, the general midi spec. sais 2, but I think 1 is a much more useful value so it's the default in mpb but you may edit this if you think otherwise.

6. Configuration

window-----

First choose wich device to configure. All devices have 16 channels.

Select wich channel of the selected device to configure.

All channels can have one of the following states:

- Off - Channel not available on device (autodetected,can be forced).
- Melodic - Normal melodic instrument channel.

Drums - Drum channel.
as well as one of the following banking types:
none - No banking available.
cached - Windows bank caching API (autodetected).
GS - Roland GS (Ctrl-0 + Ctrl-32 + PrgChg).
Also every channel is assigned an instrument description file (see section 7)
containing the names of all instruments of all banks on that *Device-
>Channel*.

Apart from devices the following stuff can be configured:
Midi thru can be set to Off or On
You must also choose which midi input device number shall be used as input.
Note! If you choose an input device already in use when starting MPB,
midi thru will be set to Off (and saved).

7. INStrument files-----

Every midi channel on every midi out device are assigned an INS file.
The INS file lists the names of all instruments in all banks for that device and
channel.

It is divided into blocks for every bank.
Every block begins with:

[Melodic Bank *n*]

for melodic (instrument) banks, or

[Drum bank *n*]

for drum (percussive) banks, where *n* is the bank number.
Note! Banks with numbers > 127 are currently ignored.

Following appears a list of numbers ranging from 0 to 127 followed by = and
the name to be assigned to that instrument in the current bank block. There
is no limit on the length of the name.

If you don't want to assign a name to an instrument but still want to be able
to use it you must nevertheless add the number to the list but you can leave
out the rest (otherwise it won't show up in the instrument scroll).

If an instrument number appears more than once, the last instance is used.
Similarly you may declare the same bank in several blocks; each new block
for the same bank number will not clear the previous settings, rather it will
overwrite the old with any new assignments.

All lines, not being a block identifier, [*whatever*] or a number will be ignored
with the following exceptions:

BankName=*whatever*
Sets the name of the current bank/block.

Include=*path\filename.ext*
Virtually inserts the file *filename* into the current file at the current
position (can do multiple levels).
Note! "Include=" terminates the current block and any instruments declared
after, but before the start of a new block won't be recognized.
Also "Include=" may be stated before the first block.

Complicated? Here's an ex. of a very strange file:

[Melodic Bank 6]
67=HEY!
100=This Will be overridden
24
100=Trumpet 4

[Melodic Bank 3]
; Nothing here but a comment!

[Melodic Bank 6]
BankName=My humble instruments
55=Enigma

Now, Bank no 6 will be called "My humble instruments"; instrument no 67 will be called "HEY!", no 100 "Trumpet 4", no 24 will be unnamed and no 55, "Enigma". The instruments will appear in the order encountered above. No other instruments will show up in the instruments scroll for that bank.

The following INS files are originally included (feel free to add more):

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| MT32 | Roland MT32, LAPC-1 and compatibles. |
| ULTRA206 instruments. | Gravis Ultrasound, configured for the v2.06 disks Starts with a "Include=C:\ULTRASND\ULTRASND.INI" which you should edit to match your system. Then follows a definition of melodic bank 0 and drum bank 0 wich overwrites the ones read from ULTRASND.INI. It contains the true names of the patches (not always the GM name) and so mirrors the occasional deviations from GM. You may want to edit your ULTRASND.INI and add a "BankName=whatever" statement after each "PatchDir=whatever" in order to have a custom bank name displayed along the bank number. I encourage others also to use this scheme of naming banks in ULTRASND.INI in that it might become a de facto standard. |
| GM | General Midi. |
| GS | Fractional Roland GS setup. Bank 0 (GM) + fractions of bank 8 (variation 8). Remeber to specify GS bank type when assigning this to a channel. |
| PROTEUS | Proteus factory settings. |
| NONAMED | Bank 0 of instruments and drums 0..127 with no names. |

8. Troubleshooting-----

Please report any bugs that you may find.
Suggestions of improvements are always welcome.