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Copyright

Synth Manager - SyMa - Release 1.0

System Requirements

System Requirements (Runtime Kit):

IBM PC with hard disk (any model, but 386 or 386/SX or 486 with at least 2 Mb is recommended).
MS-Windows 3.0
Mouse configured for MS-Windows

Roland MPU-401 (or MPU-IPC-T) or any compatible MIDI-card.

Supported Synthesizer(s), now: TX81Z or MT-260.

System Requirements (Development Kit):

above plus one of:

Borland C++ (including Windows kit)and optionally Microsoft SDK.

What is SyMa?

SyMa is a patch manager for MIDI based synthesizers.

SyMa can help you by:
- simplifying dialogue with your synthesizer
- keeping track of varying set-ups for synthesizer

SyMa is implemented as a MS-Windows 3.x application allowing modular and standardized user interfaces and larger program and data sizes.

SyMa has been developed in Object Oriented Technology (at least as far it was possible under MS-Windows). The used language is C++. SyMa Development Kit contains some general purpose C++ classes for control of dialogues.

How is SyMa distributed?

SyMa *runtime version* is distributed as a ShareWare product, i.e. it is allowed to free copy to other users as long no modifications in the packages are implemented.

One of the used distribution channels is USENET via the group comp.binaries.ibm.pc.

Users may evaluate the product under maximally 4 weeks. After this period, if the product is used a registration fee must be sent to the author, see fees below.

The idea of shareware requires the users to be honest and loyal. By sending the registration fee you pay for you personal licence and also support the authors in developping new and improved products - for your benefit! I will not send you to jail if you do not pay, but after putting lot of working hours (it means almost 10,000 lines of code), I will appreciate your contribution, and so will your conscience...

Development kit containing complete source code (for BorlandC++) is licenced without any evaluation period.

All the software is distributed as-is without any warranty. The ShareWare idea allows the user to verify correctness of the product withot any costs.

Fees for private use:

- **Evaluation runtime package**, when ordered from the author (on 3.5" HD/DD or 5.25" HD):

100 SEK or $*15 (USD)* (**outside Scandinavia**) *60 SEK* (**in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Island)**

Just send me:
- the fee on cheque
- your name and address,
- requested diskette type (3.5"HD/DD, 5.25"HD
- or pay via PostGiro 436 78 78-8 (Sweden)
- or ask me to send via Postförskott (in Sweden), I add the Postförskott fee.

(The fee is aimed to cover the costs for cashing the cheque, diskette, distribution (P&P). The run time version is also distributed via the USENET group *comp.binaries.ibm.pc* and thus may be found in many BBS systems).

- Registration fee, runtime package (if you are using SyMa)**:**

300 SEK or *50 USD*

Just send me:
- the fee on cheque (or via PostGiro)
- your name and address

- Obtaining the development package (only by the registered users):

Just send me:
- cheque/PostGiro *200 SEK (scandinavian users*).
- cheque *250 SEK* or *40 USD (other users)*
- your name and address,
- requested diskette type (3.5"HD/DD, 5.25"HD)

(I cannot promise *future* updates due to my professional engagements in large computer projects - they can be unpredictable...)

I do not accept any Credit Cards (I am **not** a company). Fees are to be transferred as **Cheques payable in Sweden** to:

Roman Zielinski

Tors väg 5, 2tr
S-145 71 Norsborg
Sweden

Swedish PostGiro account 436 78 78-8 can also be used.
Please let me know if you like/do not like SyMa! Or if you are interested in versions for another synthesizers... Registered users will get any reasonable support (*gentleman agreement*).

What is MIDI?

MIDI means Musical Instrument Digital Interface. It is a standard protocol for communication between keyboards, synthesizers, sequencers, computers etc.

MIDI systems are interconnected by a 5 pin DIN-cable. On the cable systems send messages. A message is a information unit telling the receiver what to do. For example a message sent by keyboard to the synthesizer may say:

- type of the message (e.g. "note on", "modulation wheel", "system specific message"
- who is receiver (channel)
- additional data (e.g. note to be played, how fast the key has been pressed...)

MIDI allows up to 16 parallel conversations to go on, each one uses a MIDI channel.

It does not mean that only 16 systems may be connected. More than one system may receive data from the same channel. Many synthesizers are also multitimbral, i.e. they can independent process MIDI messages from different channels, and thus act as independent instruments.

When transmitting MIDI data about played music note on/off, program change, etc, instruments use of standardised messages, thus you can connect arbitrary MIDI keyboard to arbitrary MIDI synth and they work!

But when controlling voices of synthesizer and other set-up data, MIDI systems use so called System Messages. Contents of each is defined by manufacturer and can only be understood by a specific system.

Things in Windows

Icons

Symbols representing programs and files.

Menus

Line containing predefined directives and commands. The line is located under the window title line.

Dialogues

Conversation units between windows and the user. Dialogues are presented as overlaid windows in which the user has to enter required data, or into which the system may present data.

Mouse

Pointing device. Left button is the standard button. ***SyMa uses the right button to present some diagrams, e.g. in the voice editor dialogues.***

Radio Buttons

Selection items in dialogues used to select one of the presented values. Radio buttons are presented as rings. The active one has a dot inside.

Check Buttons

Check buttons are presented as squares. If you check it, the square will contain a cross, meaning that the option is active.

Edit Boxes

Edit boxes are used to allow free entry of text and editing.

List Boxes

List Boxes present you a set of predefined options in form of a drop down or non-drop down list. Double click for selection.

Navigating in SyMa via Menus

SyMa release 1.0 has the following structure of menus and dialogues:

<TO BE SPECIFIED>

Examine the real SyMa application to see what is where! (sorry).

Configuration Dialogue

Configuration Dialogue is used to define:

- **home directory** where by default all SyMa files (like voice data) can be found
- **printer device** or file to which output ordered by the menu selection: File,Print is written. E.g. use LPT1 for printing on printer connected to your PC. Or specify arbitrary file name, in this case printout is appended to end of the file. If file does not exist it will be created.
- **MIDI channel** used to communicate with your synthesizer (must be set to same value as on your synthesizer).
- **MPU-address** (must be same as strapped on the MPU-card, hex 330 is a factory set default)
- **MPU track** used to communicate with synthesizers when not using System Messages, is significant only if other software also sends data via MPU to synthesizers.

TX81Z Voice Editor Dialogue

TX81Z have a rich amount of voice parameters, each one affecting the resulting voice. Unfortunately they are so many that 2 dialogue pages are needed to contain them all!

Page 1 Dialogue

This page contains mainly parameters for setting algorithms (i.e. how the 4 operators affect each other), frequency and envelope gate parameters for the 4 operators.

Page 2 Dialogue

This page contains mainly parameters for setting LFO (low frequency generator) and how voice operators are affected by wheels, breath, key velocity, key height, etc

Diagram Dialogue

This page gives a graphic overview presentation of the current settings. Today you cannot modify anything.

(can be invoked from menu or by the right mouse button, return by exiting dialogue or by clicking the right button).

TX81Z Performance Editor Dialogue

TX81Z have a rich amount of performance parameters, each one affecting the resulting orchestration. Unfortunately they are so many that 2 dialogue pages are needed to contain them all!

Performance editor uses multitimbral facilities of TX81Z to define how the 8 instruments are to be used.

E.g. Performance Editor allow you to connect parts of your keyboard to varying instruments!

Page 1 Dialogue

This page contains the most important performance parameters.

Page 2 Dialogue

Page 2 contains parameters to define which notes are to be received by instruments of the performance, and if they are to be transposed in some way.

TX81Z Effect Editor Dialogue

Delay and Pan Dialogue

When selecting the Effect Editor you enter this page. Effect 1 (delay) and 2 (pan) can be adjusted

Chord Dialogue

By pressing the key CHORD in the Effect Editor's Delay-Pan page you enter the chord dialogue. On the note system you can see the current chord settings.

It is not yet implemented to *modify* chord settings, you must do it directly on TX81Z via front panel and optionally by pressing the wanted keys on a keyboard; note editor is planned for a future release, if I will get some time... Mean time you can just see your chords.

TX81Z System Set-up Dialogue

Dialogue is used to change tuning ,of the instrument and also for setting TX81Z's channels used for receiving anmd sending MIDI data to/from TX81Z.

Note if you change the receiving/sending channels you must also change channel in the Configuration Dialogue to be able to communicate from SyMa to TX81Z!

When using controls like wheel, breath, you can also select channel on which the data are to be received.

Memory protection can also be switched off to allow sending of voice/performance banks or effect set-ups to synth.

Read TX81Z manual for more details on parameters in the System Set-up Menu.

TX81Z Micro Tune Table Dialogue

Not implemented yet...

TX81Z Program Change Table Dialogue

Not implemented yet...

MT-260 Performance and Voice Administration

Dialogue

When selecting synth type MT-260 you will get a single dialogue page allowing you to define behaviour of the simple Casio home (toy?) keyboard. Similar Casio keyboards should also work. I hope so, but I had just tested MT-260.

The About Dialogue

Its about me...

The Help Dialogue

You found it, so you know what it's about...