



MULTIMEDIA CHANGER 1.0

WARNING: *Once you put this program in your Startup program group, it might be there permanently! Some users have experienced a level of enthusiasm that can lead to "MIDI-itus fever" (symptoms include the obsessive desire to find new music and improved sound equipment). Even the author of this dangerous program is not immune -- the development cost him an expensive sound system and many long nights downloading MIDI songs. On the plus side, he had great music running in the background during the second half of the project!*

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Introduction

The Multimedia Changer (MC) allows you to keep up to 100 MIDI or WAVE songs per file in an easy-to-use "CD-Changer" format. You can organize each file in up to ten collections of up to ten songs. You can give each song and collection your own title (no more filenames). You can also use multiple files for unlimited numbers of songs.

The real fun starts when you select one or more songs and have them continuously played in sequential or random order. Other options make it easy to run MC in the background while you work (or play) with other Windows applications.

It's like having your own jukebox or a 10-disc CD-Changer on your computer!

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Quick Start


Included is a sample collection of a few MIDI and WAVE files. Simply press the **PLAY** button at the bottom of the screen. Kick back and listen to some tunes while you read more of this section.

Notice that the **MC** plays only the selected songs (those highlighted in **green**). Songs may appear in any one of these ways:



6 (Empty)

Untitled or invalid file name



7 My Song

Titled with a valid file name, but not selected to play



8 Your Song

Selected, but already played in the current pass



9 Our Song

Selected to play

You can select or unselect any song (even while music is playing) by clicking once with the left mouse button. You cannot, however, change the current song in this fashion -- you must press the **SKIP** or **STOP** buttons first.

To change a song's information, double-click the song and fill-in the dialog with your own title and browse for the filename (if the song was "(Empty)", a single click works).

Flip through the scroll bar at the top-right of the window to see the other collections. Double-click the title to change it (if the title is "(Untitled)", a single click works).

That should be enough to get going. Check out other help topics as you need them; but don't be afraid to plow through the program unaided -- the interface is simple, and besides -- **MC** isn't exactly a "mission-critical" application. **Enjoy!**

See Also

[Menu Options](#)

[Keyboard Shortcuts](#)

[Introduction](#)

Adding New Tracks

This is simple -- just click on any song labeled "(Empty)". A dialog will appear that allows you to enter a title and filename ... super-simple. You can use the Browse button to more easily find a file. When you're done, click **OK**. Viola! your new song is added.

See Also

[Changing Tracks](#)

[Keyboard Shortcuts](#)

Play Options



Options

In Order

Tells **MC** to play the selected songs in sequential order. When you click **PLAY**, **MC** starts with the first song of the first collection and proceeds in order until the last selected song.

Random

Tells **MC** to play the selected songs in random order. This feature is similar to "shuffle" play modes on newer CD players. In this mode, **MC** picks the next song from the list of selected and unplayed songs.

Track

Tells **MC** that you are only going to play a single song. In this mode, clicking a song will highlight it and the other songs will dim (but remain selected). When you press **PLAY**, the song you clicked will be played only.

Loop

When this option is checked, all selected songs will be played over-and-over again. This is great for multiple songs, but can get old with just one song!

Controls

PLAY

Play the selected songs in the fashion defined by the options above. After clicked, the options listed above (except for **Loop**) will disappear and be replaced by status information for the entire time songs are playing.

SKIP

Skip the currently-playing track and proceed to the next as defined by the options above.

STOP

Stops all playing. The play options listed above will re-appear.

See Also

[Keyboard Shortcuts](#)

Adding Collections

This is easy -- just flip through the scroll bar at the top-right of the window. Find a collection titled "*(Untitled)*" and click on the title itself. A small dialog will ask you for a collection title. Type one in and click **OK**. Poof! your new title will appear.

If at any time you want to change a collection title, just double-click the title and change the text in the dialog that will appear. Simple!

See Also

[Adding New Tracks](#)

Changing Tracks

Just double-click on a song and you will see a dialog that allows you to specify a title and filename for the song. You can use the **B**rowse button to find a song filename. If you want to clear-out the song information, click the **C**lear button.

When you're done, click **OK**. The new information will appear; and if the song is valid, **MC** will automatically select it for you.

See Also

[Adding New Tracks](#)

[Keyboard Shortcuts](#)

Menu Options

File

New

Clear out windows (prompts to save current first)

Open

Load another file (prompts to save current first)

Save

Save current file (prompts for filename if a new file)

Save As

Save to a specified file name (prompts on overwrites)

Exit

Leave **MC** (remembers window position, last file & options)

Edit

Track

Select track to modify from the current (visible) collection

Collection Title

Change the current (visible) collection title

Options

Auto-Play on Load

Tells **MC** to start playing the last file the next time it loads

Minimize on Play

Tells **MC** to minimize the window each time it plays

Help

Contents

Pulls up this help file

License

Pulls up license information (*READ, READ, READ!*)

Register ...

Pulls up a quick order form to make registration easy

About ...

Pulls up information about **MC**

Keyboard Shortcuts

Tracks

0 ... 9

Press the number for the corresponding track to select/unselect (same as click)

[ALT]+0 ... [ALT]+9

Change corresponding track information (same as double-click)

Controls

[ALT]+P

Play the selected songs

[ALT]+K

Skip current track and move to the next

[ALT]+S

Stop all playing

[ALT]+I

Set play mode to "in-order"

[ALT]+R

Set play mode to "random"

[ALT]+T

Set play mode to "single track"

[ALT]+L

Toggle play loop mode

Reviewer Information

Multimedia Changer (MC) is a small program for Windows 3.1 and requires a sound card or MIDI device that works with Windows Multimedia features (most sound cards do). The program allows you to easily create collections of MIDI (music) or WAVE (sampled) files in an easy and fun "CD-Changer" format.

Distinguishing features include:

- Keep up to ten collections of up to 10 songs per file; unlimited number of files
- Make your own titles for songs and collections (no more filenames)
- Select and play single or multiple songs in sequential or random (shuffled) order
- Skip tracks during play
- Auto-repeat songs for continuous music
- Transparent "auto-memory" feature remembers the selected songs for each file and pulls up the last file automatically
- Auto-play option to start playing the last selected songs of the last file used
- Auto-minimize option hides the MC during play

The real fun starts when you select one or more songs and have them continuously played in sequential or random order. MC makes it easy to play music in the background while you work (or play) with other Windows applications.

It's like having your own jukebox or a 10-disc CD-Changer on your computer!

*Note: We enjoy attention in publications, but we do ask that if you mention our address that you also note to potential users that if they want an evaluation disk sent directly from us, they need to send \$4 for handling and specify the diskette size. We have in the past been swamped with requests for "freebies" that we could not easily fulfill. **Thank You!***

See Also

[Contacting Serious Shareware](#)

User License Information

This program is Shareware. You are granted a "try-before-you-buy" license for up to 30 days. After that point, you *must* register or discontinue use.

Registration for the MC is only \$20 (+s&h) and includes:

- An unlimited personal-use license and disk of the most current version
- The next update of the program (when released)
- A small instruction booklet
- PLUS a bonus pack of several fun MIDI files to pick through and use!

There are three simple ways to order your registration:

Direct from Serious Shareware

By Phone through PsL using a Major Credit-Card

On-Line with CompuServe

It's Easy!
Order your Registration Today!

Order Direct from Serious Shareware



We do most of our business through the mail, and it's real easy.

1. In the **MC** program, select **Register** from the **Help** menu
2. Fill-out our quick and easy order-form and print it
3. Mail us a copy and include payment for the total amount (make checks payable to Serious Shareware)

NOTE: If your printer cannot print the form (or you have no printer), fill out the form anyway to compute the proper total according to where you live (e.g. international vs. domestic) and write down the information you typed-in, including: product quantity, tax amount (if applicable), shipping amount, total amount, your name and address, your diskette size and payment method.

Serious Shareware
P.O. Box 5523
Arlington, TX 76005-5523

Thank You!

Order by Phone through PsL



(\$30 price; includes all s&h fees)

If you wish to use your MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover card, you can order directly from Public (software) Library. Refer to item number **10833** for ordering:

- Call Toll-Free at **1-800-242-4PSL** (from overseas: 713-524-6394)
- FAX to 1-713-524-6398
- CompuServe to PsL at CIS# 71355,470.

Please specify which diskette size you require. PsL notifies us through CompuServe, and we ship within 48 hours of order notification.

NOTE! These numbers are for placing orders ONLY! PsL CANNOT provide user support!

Serious Shareware *cannot* be reached at the above numbers. To contact Serious Shareware for information about dealer pricing, volume discounts, site licensing, the status of shipment of the product, the latest version number or for technical information, or to discuss returns, contact Serious Shareware directly. When corresponding with us by mail, you may include your phone number if you wish to be contacted by phone. If we have time and it is appropriate, we will call you up.

Thank You!

Order On-Line with CompuServe



(\$30 price; includes s&h)

You can order **MC** on-line via CompuServe by using their **Registration Database**. CompuServe will charge your on-line account for the amount of the registration. To register **MC** use item number **864**. Please specify the diskette size that you require when ordering.

CompuServe will automatically add the amount (\$30) to your next bill and we ship within 48 hours of registration receipt.

Thank You!

Troubleshooting

This section contains some commonly-asked questions and lists some possible solutions. If you are having problems, try some of these suggestions before you give up.

"I don't hear any sound"

Check your sound card options (volume, etc). The MC uses standard Windows Multimedia system calls; so if it doesn't work, your system is *probably* not set-up correctly. If you have any doubt, try the Windows MPLAYER program -- if it doesn't work either, you've got problems. Contact your sound-card manufacturer.

"I get a Device in Use error when I try to play"

Another Windows application is using the multimedia device. Find it and stop it before you try to play MC.

"I hear music, but it doesn't sound that good"

Well, this part is tricky. Some sound boards just can't product good quality sound. If yours does, then the MIDI file itself may not be 100% Windows MPC-compliant. While this won't prevent the song from playing, the instruments may be different enough to make a dreadful noise! If you acquire PD or Shareware MIDI files, make sure they were recorded with your device in mind. If you get really daring, you *could* try to adjust the Windows "MIDI Mapper" (check you Windows manual in the Control Panel section).

"The music plays, but it sounds jumpy"

Your system may be overloaded. Also, music will sound bad in DOS windows or screens. Sorry, but life can be rough sometimes!

"MC says it can't find my song file"

Well, if MC allowed you to enter it the first time, it existed at one point. Maybe you moved the file and forgot about it -- or accidentally erased it. If it has moved, just **Browse** for it again. Also, if you hand-entered a music file without a path, MC may not be able to find it later. The sample files included do not have a path specified (because we don't know where you will put the program and it's files).

"I tried to give a copy to a friend, and it won't play any of my songs on their machine"

The MC remembers the directory and the filename for each song. When you copy an "MC" file to another machine, the song files in question need to reside in the same drive and directory as in your machine. However -- if you keep all your song files in the same directory as MC, it will be able to find the files on another machine (as long as they are in the MC directory of that machine, too).

"I get this window that pops-up once in-a-while to nag me"

Well, this message appears after you have run the program more than 30 times. It appears after each play-loop in **Random** or **In Order** modes. We apologize for the inconvenience, but this particular program can so easily be put in the startup group, put on "auto-play" and forgotten about. We don't mean to nag, but by the time you see these messages your 30-day trial period is probably up, anyway. If you like the program enough to be annoyed by the message, why not register? <grin>

"I gave a copy to a friend, and they get a nag message even though they haven't had it for 30 days"

The usage counter is in the file itself; so if you've used it twenty times before giving a copy to your friend, their copy of MC will think they've had it for a while, too. Why don't you *both* register? <grin>

See Also

[What the Heck is Shareware, Anyway?](#)

[Contacting Serious Shareware](#)

What the Heck is Shareware, Anyway?

"Shareware" refers to software that, while it is copyrighted material, the author grants users the legal ability to make and freely-distribute copies. What's the catch? The author usually expects that after a specified evaluation period, you will do one of two things:

- "Register" your copy by sending in the amount specified by the author
- Or, stop using the program

This system gives you the chance that no retail package could -- you can take a copy, put it on *your* machine and try it out for a while ... *before* you pay for it. Even if a commercial package has a "money-back" guarantee, *you* had to put your chips on the table before you even knew exactly what you were getting.

As a consumer myself, I have a *pile* of programs that I paid good money for; only to have them turn out to be junk. I am a careful shopper -- I read reviews, ask questions and scour the box before I open my wallet. But you never can tell when you're buying a "pig in a poke".

That's why I starting writing Shareware. I produce quality programs and distribute them with the hope that you will find them useful. If you have ever been on the "retail-treadmill" yourself, you should cast your "consumer vote" by finding software that makes it easy for you to buy. Shareware has a lot to offer -- the better you support it, the better the programs will get!

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you find this program to be fun and of enough quality to be worthy of your purchase.

David Balmer, Jr.
Serious Shareware

See Also

[User License Information](#)

[Contacting Serious Shareware](#)

Contacting Serious Shareware

If you have any questions, or would like to register, you can contact us in one of the following ways:

By Mail

Serious Shareware
P.O. Box 5523
Arlington, TX 76005-5523

Via America Online

Our screen name & mail address is: SeriousSW

Via CompuServe

David M. Balmer, Jr. CIS# 70404,3014

Via Internet (Many on-line services also support the Net)

SeriousSW@aol.com

We look forward to hearing from you!