

The Digital Disk Jockey 1.0

A Windows 3.x Utility
brought to you by
Shady Tree Software

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Description

The Digital Disk Jockey is a MIDI jukebox program that will play .MID files in random sequence. Once all songs are played, you must load new songs to play again. The program requires that you be running Windows 3.0 with MultiMedia Extensions or Windows 3.1. You also must have a MIDI output device configured using the MIDI Mapper function of Control Panel.

Installation

There are two files needed to install The Digital Disk Jockey: DDJ.EXE and BWCC.DLL. The The Digital Disk Jockey program file, DDJ.EXE, can go anywhere. You can install DDJ.EXE as an icon in your Program Manager Startup group to have it automatically started when you start Windows. See your Microsoft Windows User's Guide for more information on the Startup Program Manager Group and on how to add icons into a group.

The file BWCC.DLL must be in the Windows SYSTEM directory or a directory that is in your path. BWCC.DLL is copyright by Borland International and is part of their Windows language compiler packages. It contains the code to handle the special dialogs and windows that are used by The Digital Disk Jockey. If you already have a file called BWCC.DLL, use the one with the latest file date and time and discard the older one.

When The Digital Disk Jockey is launched, it will display all the files with a .MID extension in the current directory. These are your song files. They are assumed to be in MIDI SMF Type 0 or Type 1 format. You can place the MIDI files in other directories, but then you must manually change directories using the Pick From list to be able to play them. The Digital Disk Jockey only plays songs from one directory at a time. This lets you organize your songs by theme or any other way you choose just by moving files around on your disk drive.

If you launch The Digital Disk Jockey minimized, it will automatically load and select all songs in the startup directory and begin playing. This lets The Digital Disk Jockey be started from the WIN.INI Load= line or the Startup Group of Program Manager and begin playing immediately without manual intervention. If you use the Startup group to launch The Digital Disk Jockey, you can use the File|Properties menu of Program Manager to select which directory the program loads the songs it plays from.

Controls

There are two listboxes and a series of buttons in the main window of the program that control the operation of the program. The following sections describe the function of each control.

Pick From

The Pick From list contains the list of songs from the current directory that you can choose. Click on the names of songs to highlight them and use the Queue button to put them into the Play List. Alternatively, click on the Queue All button to put all songs in the current directory into the Play List. Double-clicking on a drive or directory name will open that drive or directory and clear the current Play List. A new list of songs is loaded from the new directory and you must move them over into the play list to play them. Once songs are playing, clicking or double-clicking on the list will have no effect.

Play List

The Play List contains the songs that have been selected for playing. If you click and highlight songs from this list, you can click on the Remove button to not play them. Once songs are playing, clicking on the list will have no effect.

Queue

Clicking on the Queue button when songs are selected in the Pick From list will move them into the Play list. Once songs are playing, the button is disabled and clicking on it will have no effect.

Queue All

Clicking on the Queue All button will move all songs from the Pick From list to the Play List. Once songs are playing, the button is disabled and clicking on it will have no effect.

Remove

Once there are songs in the Play List and you have one or more selected, clicking on the Remove button will remove them from the Play List. Once songs are playing, the button is disabled and clicking on it will have no effect. If there are no songs in the Play List, the Remove button is disabled.

Remove All

Once there are songs in the Play List, clicking on the Remove All button will remove all songs from the Play List. Once songs are playing, the button is disabled and clicking on it will have no effect. If there are no songs in the Play List, the Remove All button is disabled.

Play

If there are songs in the Play List, the Play button will be enabled. Clicking on the Play button will begin playing the songs in random sequence. The file name of the song being played is shown above the column of buttons. Once songs are playing, the button is disabled and clicking on it will have no effect. If there are no songs in the Play List, the Play button is disabled.

Skip

Once songs are playing, the Skip button is enabled. Clicking on it will immediately stop playing the current song and begin a new song. If there are no songs playing, the button is disabled.

Stop

Clicking on the Stop button will immediately stop playing the current song and not play more songs. If there are no songs playing, the button is disabled.

About

Clicking on the About button will bring up a dialog displaying information and the copyright of The Digital Disk Jockey.

Messages

All messages produced by running The Digital Disk Jockey originate from various components of Windows. See your Windows User's Guide for help in determining what the message means.

Known Bugs And Limitations

The Digital Disk Jockey uses Windows internal functions to handle all the details of playing MIDI files. It makes no attempt to see if files with a .MID extension are valid or not. If you have non-MIDI files with the .MID extension, The Digital Disk Jockey will happily try to play them. Windows will probably issue many error messages as it tries to interpret the information.

The program depends on the MIDI Mapper to correctly play MIDI files. You must have MIDI Mapper properly configured to your MIDI hardware or you could hear garbage. Your MIDI files also must be set so that their voices and channels correspond to a Setup that is defined in MIDI Mapper. For Windows MIDI files, the most common Setups supplied for your MIDI controller should correspond to the MIDI Manufacturers Association General MIDI Mode specification. The patch assignments are defined in the Microsoft MultiMedia Developer's Kit Programmer's Workbook. If you have a null Setup that does no translation, your MIDI files must have mappings that are understood by your MIDI devices.

The Digital Disk Jockey will look for songs in only one directory at a time. All the songs you want play together need to be in the same directory. This was a design decision. Each song is read

and played one after the other. This means that The Digital Disk Jockey uses little memory when loaded. It also means that if you are playing songs from a floppy disk or other removeable media, you must have the disk with the songs in the drive until the all your songs have been played.

Design Notes and Acknowledgments

Like my other programs I have made available as shareware, I wrote The Digital Disk Jockey out of frustration with existing tools. After looking at the Windows JukeBox program that came with my Soundblaster Pro and then at other jukebox programs that were available to run under Windows, I couldn't find one that did what I wanted them to do. All of them required me to manually select a sequence of songs or to manually load a predefined sequence of songs. I wanted just to start a program and have songs start playing. They would play in a different order each time I started it. I also wanted the program to be launched from the Windows 3.1 Startup group or the by the Load= line in WIN.INI and begin playing all by itself. I thought about being able to load albums or predefined sequences of songs but decided that not doing it was the whole reason I wrote The Digital Disk Jockey. I hope you enjoy it.

Legal Talk, Shareware, Registration and Support

"The Digital Disk Jockey is supplied as is. Although every reasonable effort has been made to test and debug the program, the author disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, including, without limitation, the warranties of merchantability and of fitness for any purpose. The author assumes no liability for damages, direct or consequential, which may result from the use of or inability to use The Digital Disk Jockey."

The Digital Disk Jockey is a "shareware program" and is provided at no charge to you for evaluation. Feel free to share it with your friends, but please do not give it away altered or as part of another system. The Digital Disk Jockey is **not free!** If you use this program after a reasonable trial period, take the time to register it. You can do that by sending a \$10 check payable to Herb Chong to:

**Herb Chong
Shady Tree Software
25 Villa at the Woods
Peekskill, NY 10566.**

Include your name, address. If you wish, include any suggestions for improving The Digital Disk Jockey or for other Windows utility programs you might like to see be written. The \$10.00 registration fee will license one user for their exclusive use on any number of computers at once or for any number of people to use it on only one computer. If you need a corporate or site license for many copies, please write to negotiate a fee. You are encouraged to pass a copy of The Digital Disk Jockey along to your friends for evaluation.

The song files included with The Digital Disk Jockey are public domain. The songs themselves are not. I believe that you can distribute them freely so long as you do not use them for

commercial purposes.

If you are having problems with The Digital Disk Jockey, you can reach me the following ways:

RIME, ILink, and Smartnet Windows BBS message conferences: Herb Chong

Internet: Herb.Chong@Channel1.com

CompuServe: 70631,26

Prodigy: KJRF83A

I seldom sign onto Prodigy, so use one of the other methods. CompuServe will keep your message to me indefinitely while other ways of contacting me will delete the message after a certain length of time whether I have read it or not.