Sonic Gallery for Windows

Shareware, Installation and Technical Notes

This Software package is being marketed as Shareware, the "Try before you buy" method of software marketing. If you enjoy this software package and continue to use it beyond the 30 day trial period you may purchase the complete up to date Registered version of Sonic Gallery, including over 8 Mb of sound files, directly from SoftSmith Entertainment. Complete details and a printout order form are located in the text file ORDERFRM.TXT included with this software package. For credit card orders please read the credit card section in ORDERFRM.TXT before calling the 800 number for orders. Also, if you are a member of CompuServe online service, you may order the registered version online and we will ship you the complete version within 48 hours. To order online GO SWREG and use product I.D. # 4838 . The registration price for Sonic Gallery is US $29.00 plus $4.00 S+H (Thats pretty cheap!) so come on, register today!

There are two components to this software package:

1. SONIC BROWSER

2. The Included Sound Files (Wave and MIDI formats)

To install Sonic Gallery select Run from Windows Program manager File Menu and type   A:\ Setup (or B:\Setup depending on what drive the installation disk is on). Follow the instructions on screen to install the program & sound files and create a program group on your desktop. After installation you will have a program group called Sonic Gallery containing the icons for Sonic Browser, Order form, and Sonic Help. To start any of these simply double click on the appropriate icon. No additional setup should be required if your Windows setup is functional and includes the sound and MIDI drivers for your sound card and pointing device drivers. Make sure your Windows MIDI mapper is setup for Extended MIDI tracks. The installation program will install all files to the directory you specified (usually C:\SONIC21) so de-installation requires only deletion of that directory.

Note: *When installing the program it may copy a file named VBRUN300.DLL into your Windows System directory if this file is not already present. We recommend that when removing Sonic Gallery you delete only the program directory and do not remove this file as many other programs use this particular file.*

SONIC BROWSER

This is an audio browser that allows you to manipulate sounds like any other files on your system. After starting Sonic Browser by double clicking on its Icon in Program Manager, just click on any of the filenames shown in the File box to hear the sound. Whatever type of sound file, you will hear it thru your sound card. The browser recognizes all the popular Windows soundfile types including waveform (wav), General MIDI (mid) and RIFF MIDI (rmi), and displays only sound files so you know whats on your disks. The Help menu allows you to get online help any time while using Sonic Browser, or search Help quickly for information on a specific topic. The File menu has Copy and Delete functions so that after listening to a file you can remove it or copy onto another disk or into a different directory. Also, there is a Search For... command from the Files menu that allows you to conduct a disk search for a filename or filetype. The Options menu contains choices for displaying only one type of file (wav, mid, or rmi) or all sound files. There is

another option for Windows Media Player to open with a selected file to paste a sound into any OLE supported application or document. For more help on OLE and pasting objects see Help in Media Player. The View menu allows you to select from two different ways of looking at the soundfiles on your system. You can select to show all of the sounds on a drive or disk, or to only show one directory at a time. No matter which options you choose, you can always double click on a file to hear it. or push the Player button to open Media Player and edit or paste a file.

Sound Files

The included sound files are a sampler of the Sonic Gallery, and include over 80 files in the popular Windows formats. These files will be installed in the \Sounds sub-directory off the main program directory (usually C:\Sonic21 depending on how you installed), and will always be the first directory shown when starting Sonic Browser. The files with the extension *.wav are waveform sound effects usually just a few seconds long, and range from humorous and silly to scary and spooky. These can be pasted into presentations, documents or set to Windows events for a custom sound to your desktop. The music tracks have the extension *.mid or *.rmi, and are MIDI type files which can contain complete songs of several minutes but occupy very little room on your disk. The MIDI tracks are an assortment of musical styles from standards and classical to contemporary rock and jazz sounds. These can be used for background music in presentations or to set a mood in a document, whatever your imagination can create you can add music tracks. The sound files included in the sampler take about 1.2 Mb of disk space, the complete Sonic Gallery sound files occupy about 8.5 Mb of space.

Sonic Gallery Technical Notes

This section contains notes in the form of frequently asked questions on running and using Sonic Gallery for Windows.

Please refer to the Help section in Sonic Browser for more complete information.

1. What computer does Sonic Gallery require?

Sonic Gallery for Windows requires a 386 cpu or higher, at least 2Mb of memory(4Mb recommended), Windows 3.1 or higher, and a VGA display or better. Also, a Windows compatible sound card is required. Mouse or other pointing device is recommended.

2. Is my sound card supported?

If Windows supports it, then yes. Sonic Gallery for Windows uses the standard multimedia programming interface which is not specific to any type or make of sound card. If your card is supported under Windows and installed correctly then in theory you should have no problems with it. Any problems you do have should be a result of incorrect installation or problems with the sound card manufacturer's drivers. The MCISEQ sequencer device is used for General MIDI music, the MCI waveaudio device is used for sound effects.

Please note some sound cards allow you to map the MIDI source as tracks 1 - 10 (Extended) or 12 - 16 (Base). If you are experiencing troubles with the MIDI sound files check the MIDI mapper accessory in Windows Control Panel and verify that you are using the Extended MIDI (tracks 1 -

10) as most of the music supports only Extended tracks. Volume control for the sound files is not provided from within the Browser and requires that you use a Mixer application that the card manufacturers provide with the card.

3. What is the warning message concerning MIDI setup I saw the first time I ran Sonic Browser?

This is usually a warning to verify your MIDI mapper setup to ensure correct playback of the music tracks. If your Windows setup seems to be playing the music properly then you may want to check the box on this warning that states "Do not display this message again". If you are experiencing trouble with sound or music refer to the notes above or refer to your Windows manual or to the documentation included with your sound card for more information.

4. Are there more sound files and features included in the registered version?

Yes, the full set of sound files and feature selection is only available in the registered version of Sonic Gallery, and the shareware version includes only a small portion of the Gallery. Check the About . . screen for information on the version of the game that you have. This is found in the Help menu in any of our games, and will specify the version number and shareware or registered notice. For more information on Registering, see the file ORDERFRM.TXT.