

OctaMED

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	<i>TITLE :</i> OctaMED		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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Chapter 1

OctaMED

1.1 Help Contents (revision 2.0)

Welcome to the all-new OctaMED Soundstudio help system!

*

If you're new to this help system, please click inside this box
*

Quick Guide

Menus

Windows

Player commands

Keyboard shortcuts

Appendices

Features Guide

Writing a song

Instruments

Playback

Loading, saving, printing

Controlling OctaMED

MIDI

ARexx

Memory, display options, information

1.2 OctaMED Menus

Select a menu for information on each of its items.

Project
 Display
 Song
 Block
 Track
 Instr
 Edit
 MIDI
 Settings

1.3 OctaMED Windows

Select a window for more information on it.

(All main windows can be opened through the main menu strip, so windows are categorised by menu.)

Project menu

New?
 Save Options
 PowerPacker Settings
 XPK Settings
 Save Timer
 Print Options
 OctaMED Command Shell

Block menu

Block Properties
 Block List
 Highlight Options
 Expand/Shrink Block

Instr menu

Instrument List
 Instrument Type
 Instrument Properties
 Instrument Load

Display menu

Tracker editor
 Notation editor
 Print Notation
 Assign Tracks
 Staff Setup Window
 Signatures
 Tools
 Notation Display Setup
 Main Control
 Information
 Tempo
 Tempo Operations
 Synthetic Sound Editor
 Synthsound Volume
 Synthsound Stretch
 SynthEd Script
 Sample Editor
 Toccata Capture

Edit menu

Transpose
 Replace Notes
 Spread Notes
 Note Echo

MIDI menu

Input Channel
 SMF Load Options
 MIDI Controllers

Settings menu

Mouse Options

Adjust Y	Keyboard Options
Add Workspace	Programmable Keys
Change Volume	Keyboard Shortcuts
Change Pitch	Mixing Settings
Mix	FastMemPlay
Filter/Boost	Aura Sampler Options
Echo	Miscellaneous Options
Noise	Palette
Chord Creation	Font
SampleEd Disp Settings	
Sample List Editor	
MIDI Message Editor	
Input Map Editor	
ARexx Trigger Setup	

Song menu

- Song Selector
- Playing Sequence
- Section List
- Song Options
- Relative Track Volumes
- Song Annotation

1.4 Player Commands

Select a player command category.

- Normal commands
- MIDI commands
- Mix mode commands

NOTES

- * For full details on player commands, see Appendix A in the printed manual.
- * In the topics, Level 1 or 2 means the 1st or 2nd command level digit.

1.5 Keyboard Shortcuts

These topics list the standard keyboard shortcuts provided with the Soundstudio. To add more, use the Keyboard Shortcuts window.

- Editing Shortcuts
- Cursor Movement Shortcuts
- Other Shortcuts

1.6 Quick Guide Appendices

Select an appendix.

- OctaMED ARexx commands
 - File formats
 - The settings file
- Synthetic sound commands
 - Hexadecimal values
 - Raw-key codes

1.7 Writing a Song

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

- * Tracker editor
 - Tracker editor control
 - Marking a range
 - Rearranging blocks/tracks
 - Transposing and changing
- The programmable keys
- Other editing features
- Player commands
- Real-time recording
- * Notation editor
 - Display
 - Editing
- * Blocks
 - Block management
 - Block names and dimensions
- * Overall song
 - Song arrangement
 - Multi-modules

1.8 Instruments

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

- Instrument management
- * Samples
 - Digitizing
 - Loops
- Stereo
- 16-bit
- * Sample editor
 - Waveform display
 - Zooming in and out
 - Marking a range
- Rearrangement and removal
- Adding effects
- Copy buffer tools
- * Synthetic sounds
 - Creation
 - Range affectors
- Multiple waveforms
- Scripts (formerly Programs)

ALSO SEE

Playback: Instruments

(+ Digitizing is also called sampling, recording or capturing.)

1.9 Playback

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

* Playback control

Songs
Instruments

* Playing modes

Playing modes

ALSO SEE

Instruments

1.10 Loading, Saving, Printing

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

Working with files

* Loading and saving

Songs
Instruments
Settings

* Printing

Printing a song

1.11 Controlling OctaMED

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

Starting and finishing

* User interface

Menus
Windows
Gadgets in windows

* Control methods

Using the mouse
Using the keyboard

1.12 Using MIDI with OctaMED

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

- Writing a MIDI song

 - MIDI features

 - MIDI settings

NOTE

This system, of course, provides help on OctaMED. So in these pages, you'll find plenty on how to use MIDI with OctaMED, but very little on what MIDI is all about (apart from some very basic information).

There are several good books on MIDI about. Especially watch out for the prolific author R. A. Penfold.

1.13 Using ARexx with OctaMED

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

- ARexx tutorial

- ARexx features

NOTE

For more details on using ARexx with OctaMED, please read the programmer's own documentation, OctaMED_ARexx.doc.

General information on ARexx itself is outside the scope of the OctaMED documentation. There are several good books on ARexx around. You could also try to get hold of the shareware ARexxGuide by Robin Evans.

1.14 Memory, Display Options, Information

Select a topic for information and 'how-to' guides.

- * Memory

 - Memory types (Chip/Fast)

 - Freeing memory

- * Display options

 - Display options

- * Information

 - Program information

1.15 Help for newcomers to the Soundstudio help pages

Welcome to the OctaMED Soundstudio help system! These pages use the 'AmigaGuide' viewer. Please click here, if necessary, to learn how to use AmigaGuide before continuing with this introduction.

The Soundstudio help is split into two sections.

Quick Guide: A brief description of menus and their items, windows and their gadgets, player commands, default keyboard shortcuts and one or two appendices.

Features Guide: A much fuller description of OctaMED's facilities, grouped according to feature rather than appearance in a menu or window.

If you want to know what a particular menu item or window does, use the Quick Guide. If you need information on a particular feature or a broad aspect of OctaMED, try the Features Guide.

There are many 'links' between the two guides - that is, many buttons to click to transfer you between the two systems. Most of them appear down the right-hand side of the display, complimenting the main text with 'More', 'How?', 'Where?' and so on. In this way, OctaMED tries to deal with any questions you have as you read the information.

A good way to find all information on a particular window gadget is to find it in the Quick Guide, then click on the 'More' button that invariably appears beside it. This takes you to the relevant part of the Features Guide. If a whole window is covered in the Features Guide, a More button will appear to the right of the window's PURPOSE heading in the Quick Guide.

You'll soon notice that most pages in each guide stick to a particular format. In the case of the Quick Guide's window pages, different symbols are used to convey different meaning. For example, * means a broad section, > means a gadget name, + means a comment, - means an option, and so on.

Honestly - the whole thing is much easier in practice! Spend some time experimenting with the guide, and you'll soon be rewarded.

1.16 Help on AmigaGuide

AmigaGuide documents are split up into subject areas known as 'topics'. To display a particular topic, click on any text which is surrounded by a box.

It is unlikely that the whole of a topic will be able to fit on the screen at the same time. The amount of the topic which is currently on the screen is shown by the white rectangular 'scroll bar' on the far right of the screen. You can reveal more of the topic either by dragging this scroll bar or by clicking the up and down arrows below the scroll bar (try it now!).

Above the topic's text are six 'buttons' which do various things when clicked. These functions are:

Contents - Selects the contents page.

(Index - Unused by any documents on this disk)

Help - Selects these help pages.

Retrace - Selects the topic previously chosen. Repeated clicking of this button 'retraces' the topics you have chosen so far.

Browse - These two buttons select the previous and next topic in the document you are reading respectively.

When any of these buttons appear checkered, they cannot be selected. (This checkering is known as 'ghosting'.) If you've just loaded the help system, you'll notice that all buttons in this window are currently ghosted except for 'Browse >'.

As with any other window, close the help system window by clicking its close gadget (the small gadget on the far upper left of the window).

Using the keyboard

This section describes the keyboard equivalents to the mouse operations described above. It is likely that you'll wish to mix mouse and keyboard use when using a document, for maximum speed.

In this list: <up>, <down>, <left> and <right> refer to respective arrow keys; and (for example) "Shift - <up>" means hold down the Shift key and press the up arrow key.

Return Selects the topic highlighted in blue.

(Shift)-Tab Cycles through each topic box currently on the screen, highlighting them in blue.

<up>/<down> Scrolls the topic upwards or downwards.

Shift+<up> Moves the topic a page upwards.

Shift+<down> Moves the topic a page downwards.

Alt+<up> Moves the topic to the very top.

Alt+<down> Moves the topic to the very bottom.

Space bar Scroll forwards

Backspace Scroll backwards

Holding down any of these keys repeats the function continuously.

Alternatively, the various numeric keypad keys (A600 excluded) - Home, End,

Pg Up, Pg Dn, the arrows - can be used to move around a topic.

Each of the six buttons at the top of the screen have an underlined letter or symbol. Press this key as an alternative to clicking the button. For example, to select 'Retrace' press the R key; Browse >, the > key.
