

SynthFont – the MIDI file SoundFont player.

© Kenneth Rundt, 2002 - 2008

Version 1.113 released in April 2008

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Official Web page at: <http://www.synthfont.com>

New in Version 1.113

Bug fixes:

- Short release times often became too short
- Tr# - Arrange tracks - button not enabled again after playing
- Some serious bugs fixed in the Pianoroll editor
- Continuous Controller "CTRL Coarse" not required to be defined for CC data
- Deleting a midi track did not remove it from the list in Pianoroll
- Pianoroll CC edit of "Bank Select (Fine)" possible but not "Bank Select (Course)"
- User Banks were mostly ignored when playing
- After a Midi Channel switch between slots 1..16 and 17..32, the "Chnl" popup menu was not updated
- Improved Legato (CC # 68)
- Midi channel number will be as added to new tracks automatically if not manually assigned

New features:

- In the Open button's drop-down menu list of Arrangements you can select to sort Arrangements by name or by time

Known issues:

- The VST instrument Garritan Personal Orchestra does not work
- When rendering large numbers of midi files to audio files, the committed RAM memory grows all the time. After a few hundred files you may need to restart SynthFont.

Viena was not updated now

VSTSynthFont was not updated now

Background

SynthFont can be described as a MIDI file player and SoundFont emulator, emulating SoundFont compatible soundcards like Creative's SoundBlaster Live! Series. To use SoundFonts with SynthFont you need only to have a basic soundcard installed on your system.

History

SynthFont started off in the year 2000 as a small exercise in learning to understand the structure of SoundFonts. The goal was to learn how to create good quality SoundFonts and to develop a SoundFont editing tool with features not available in Vienna. In the end I didn't create too many SoundFonts, but continued to develop SynthFont into this package.

Goal

The goal now is to create a free SoundFont tool with a number of distinct properties. The final version of this tool will hopefully help you create good quality SoundFonts with ease. The basic concept is that you have a SoundFont editor that also can play back a MIDI file at the same time. This concept still remains to be demonstrated, as the current version will not let you edit the SoundFont. Anyway, I still decided to release this intermediate version (BETA 0.1) to the public at this stage to get some feedback, and possibly some help as well.

A new feature I have added to the long wish-list is the possibility to use this tool as a VST instrument as well.

Design concepts

The code is written in Borland Delphi (i.e. Pascal) and at this moment not really optimized for speed. The Delphi environment is a RAD (Rapid Application Development) tool that makes it very easy to add new features. The Pascal language compiler produces code that is not that much slower than any C++ compiler's code. Although SoundFont is not supposed to be Open Code (not just yet anyhow) I am prepared to include code from anyone interested to share. For example, the current long pass filter seems to be very slow. If anyone has a good, fast and reliable filter to share (in almost any language) then please contact me.

You can assign a different SoundFont to each *MIDI channel* (not track) in the MIDI file. This is the current implementation and could be changes so that each *track* actually has a separate SoundFont, meaning that two or more tracks sending notes to the same MIDI channels could do it through different SoundFonts. I would like to hear your comments on this.

Note that you also can change the preset separately without changing it in the MIDI file. This is how you create an arrangement, which is saved in a separate file, having the extension 'sfarr'.

License

This is a freeware version of SynthFont.

If you want to support my work you can either donate a sum of money or help me develop a new feature.

You are free to distribute the unmodified setup file, but note the following:

1. If you want to add it to your own web site I would prefer if you contacted me at first.
2. Copyright must be honored: Kenneth Rundt, 2008,
<http://www.synthfont.com>.
3. I would expect you to refer to www.synthfont.com as the home-site of SynthFont.

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