

MCS MusicRack controls the multimedia hardware in your PC. A subset of the "MCS Stereo" product, it functions like a regular stereo system, making it powerful and easy to use.

All MCS MusicRack components are accessed from within one window. MCS MusicRack consists of Mixing Console, CD Player, Digital Recorder and MIDI Player components and a button bar that allows you turn the components on or off and terminate the application.

### **Additional Topics:**

MCS MusicRack component descriptions
MCS MusicRack component controls
MCS MusicRack dialog descriptions

MCS MusicRack menu options

**Troubleshooting** 

Special MCS Stereo upgrade offer

### MCS MusicRack Dialog Descriptions

Many of the functions provided by MCS MusicRack require additional information from you to complete the requested task. This information is usually entered into dialogs. To learn more about any of the specific components' dialogs, select one of the topics listed below.

#### By Component:

CD Player dialog descriptions

Digital Recorder dialog descriptions

MIDI Player dialog descriptions

#### By Title:

Adjust Amplification Parameters

Adjust Echo Parameters

Adjust Insert Parameters

**Adjust Rate Parameters** 

Edit Sample

External Media Describe Selection

External Media Program Playlist

File Open

File Save

Internal Media Describe Selection

Internal Media Program Playlist

Internal Media TitleTrax Search

Invalid MCS TitleTrax Data Path

Merge Playlist

Open Playlist

Recording Settings

Save Playlist

Select Path

#### **Related Topics:**

MCS MusicRack component descriptions

MCS MusicRack component controls

MCS MusicRack menu options

# **MCS MusicRack Component Controls**

Many of the functions provided by MCS MusicRack are accessed through on-screen controls. To learn more about any of the specific components' controls, select one of the topics listed below.

Mixing Console control descriptions

CD Player control descriptions

Digital Recorder control descriptions

MIDI Player control descriptions

# **MCS MusicRack Component Descriptions**

MCS MusicRack features four musical components and a button bar that allows easy component access.

Additional Topics:

Component Selection button bar

Mixing Console

CD Player

**Digital Recorder** 

MIDI Player

# MCS MusicRack Menu Options

MCS MusicRack provides several menu options that make it easy to control the application through both keyboard and mouse input. Many of the menu options are also available in the form of on-screen controls on the four MusicRack components.

#### Additional Topics:

- "File" menu
- "Options" menu
- <u>"Help" menu</u>
- "Upgrade!" menu

### Special "MCS Stereo" Upgrade Offer

Congratulations on your new sound card / multimedia hardware purchase! The included "MCS MusicRack" software will get you started in realizing your new hardware's potential. We've paid special attention to making sure that MCS MusicRack makes it as easy as possible to operate your new hardware.

Animotion Development Corporation, the makers of MCS MusicRack, has a special offer for all MCS MusicRack users. Once you've become comfortable with the capabilities of your new hardware and MCS MusicRack, you can purchase our advanced "MCS Stereo" product at **HALF** the suggested retail price! For **only \$39.95** (US funds), you get lots of <u>cool</u>, <u>new features</u> that let you get the most out of your multimedia hardware. All this for **HALF** the suggested retail price of \$79.95!

Max out your hardware investment!

Get the "MCS Stereo" upgrade for just \$39.95!

# To order, call (800) 536-4175

Toll-free number available in continental United States only. International orders should be placed by calling 011 1 205 591-5715. Orders or requests for additional information may also be faxed to (205) 591-5716. Upgrade purchase price does not include shipping costs.

### Cool, new features you get when you Upgrade to MCS Stereo

- More sophisticated audio editing capabilities, including Chorus, Flange, Mix, Pan and Fade special effects.
- "Block" audio editing capabilities, including "Block Zoom", "Block Save" and "Block Edit Selection" spin buttons
- An **integrated dBase-compatible database engine** that allows you to fully **organize and print your entire music library contents**, including WAVE and MIDI files, CDs, albums, cassettes and more!
- The "Enhanced" Environment, featuring "audiophile" versions of the four MusicRack components with Repeat, Shuffle, Fast Scan, Level Meters with Peak Hold capabilities, Bass, Treble & Balance controls and much more!

### MCS MusicRack Troubleshooting

Many of the problems handled by Animotion Technical Services are caused by incorrect driver installation or misunderstandings of expected application behavior. For your convenience, we've compiled a list of some of the most common questions and problems customers have with MCS MusicRack. For additional information, please select from the categories listed below.

#### **Driver checklist**

CD Player questions and answers
Digital Recorder questions and answers
MIDI Player questions and answers
Mixing Console questions and answers

**Contacting Animotion Technical Support** 

### MCS MusicRack Technical Support

If you have reviewed the "MCS MusicRack Troubleshooting" help topic and have been unable to find a solution for your problem, please contact Animotion Technical Support by calling (205) 591-5715. Technical Support services are provided Monday through Friday, 9AM - 5PM Central Time. If you have access to CompuServe, you may reach us by entering "GO ANIMOTION" at any "!" prompt. You may also call our 24-hour Tech Support BBS at (205) 591-5795.

If possible, please contact us regarding the problem through the services provided by our Tech Support BBS and CompuServe sections. Thanks!

Related Topics:

Troubleshooting

**Driver checklist** 

<u>CD Player questions and answers</u>
<u>Digital Recorder questions and answers</u>
<u>MIDI Player questions and answers</u>
<u>Mixing Console questions and answers</u>

#### **Driver Checklist**

If you are having problems with MCS MusicRack and/or other multimedia applications, and you are certain that your multimedia hardware has the required capabilities, please review the following "Driver Checklist". To check these items, launch the "Drivers" applet in the Windows Control Panel.

- **New multimedia hardware drivers installed?** Have you installed the Windows drivers that came with your multimedia hardware? If not, consult your hardware documentation on installing the drivers.
- **Drivers of previously-used hardware installed?** Did you have some other multimedia products, or the "PC Speaker" driver, installed previously? If so, please remove those drivers.
- Generic "Multimedia" drivers installed? Regardless of the specific sound card and / or CD-ROM drive you have installed, you should also have the following drivers in your "installed drivers" list: "Timer", "MIDI Mapper", "[MCI] Midi Sequencer" and "[MCI] Sound". Some applications (but not MCS MusicRack) also require "[MCI] CD Audio".
- **Hardware settings correct?** Confirm that the port, interrupt and DMA settings of your hardware match the selected settings for your drivers. To do so, select each of the drivers and press the "Setup" button if it is enabled. Also, make sure that any DOS drivers that are loaded in your CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT files are using the same parameters.

#### Related Topics:

Contacting Animotion Technical Support

#### Troubleshooting

CD Player questions and answers

Digital Recorder questions and answers

MIDI Player questions and answers

Mixing Console questions and answers

### **Component Selection Button Bar**

When you launch MCS MusicRack, the Component Selection Button Bar is displayed. It is used to "launch" all desired components or close the MCS MusicRack application.

The <u>Component buttons</u> are used to display the individual stereo components. They are stacked in the order they are selected.

Related Topics:

MCS MusicRack menu options

# **Component Buttons**

These buttons are used to select the desired MCS MusicRack components. Click the desired button to activate that component. The components will be stacked in the order they are selected.

### **Power Button**

Closes the MCS MusicRack application.

Related Topic:

File menu "Exit" command

### **The Mixing Console**

The Mixing Console allows you to control the volume of all available inputs in your PC.

The appearance of the Mixing Console depends on the multimedia hardware installed in your PC. Slider controls will be shown for each of the available inputs in your PC.

The Mixing Console component will be inaccessible if your sound board does not have audio mixing capabilities or if the drivers for your card aren't installed. If your sound card wasn't among the available choices in the installation program, contact <u>Animotion Technical Support</u> regarding new drivers made available since the last product release.

Additional Topics:

Mixing Console control descriptions
Mixing Console menu options

Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

### **Mixing Console Controls**

The Mixing Console controls allow you to control the volume levels of all available inputs in your PC. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Power button
Component volume sliders
Default button
Input selection control
LINE / MIC selection control
Master volume slider
MONITOR selection control
MONO / STEREO selection control

Related Topics:

Mixing Console menu options

Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

### **LINE / MIC Selection Control**

Used to specify the type of device connected to the associated input. Select "L" (or "Line") if you have connected an audio component such as a cassette deck, record player or home CD player. Select "M" (or "Microphone") if you have connected a microphone.

Since "line level" devices and "MIC level" devices use different voltage levels, incorrectly setting this control may result in very loud, distorted audio or virtually no audio at all.

### **MONO / STEREO Selection Control**

Used to specify the type of device connected to the associated input. Select "M" (or "Mono") for monaural inputs or "S" (or "Stereo") for stereophonic inputs.

Incorrectly setting this control may result in audio being heard in only one channel, or a stereo input being treated as a monaural device.

### **MONITOR Selection Control**

Used to turn the "audio monitoring" on or off for specific input sources, allowing you to temporarily mute an audio source.

### **Power Button**

This button turns off (or "hides") the Mixing Console. Click this button and the Mixing Console will no longer be displayed.

Related Topic:

Mixing Console "Show / Hide" menu options

### **Default Button**

Returns all slider settings to their original positions when the system was installed on your PC.

# **Component Volume Controls**

Used to set the desired volume for each of the available sources.

Related Topic:

<u>Master volume control</u>

### **Master Volume Control**

Used to control the overall volume level of the available sources. It behaves like a multiplier of percentages. For example, if your component volume is set at 50% and the master is set at 50%, you will be getting 25% of the actual volume level that is possible from that component.

Related Topic:

Component volume controls

# **Mixing Console Questions & Answers**

**Q:** When I adjust the "CD" slider volume, the volume level for my CD-ROM output isn't adjusted.

**A:** Typically, the "CD" input refers to the on-board direct connector on your sound card. If you have connected the CD-ROM audio output to the line (or auxiliary) input of your sound card, you should try adjusting the "AUX" slider instead of the "CD". Optionally, you may modify the "LINECONFIG" settings of the Mixing Console so that the "CD" slider will control the line input volume instead of the internal connector. For more information, refer to the "LINECONFIG" description in the Mixing Console section of your manual.

#### Related Topics:

Mixing Console control descriptions
Mixing Console menu options

### Troubleshooting:

Driver checklist Troubleshooting

### **Slide Control**

Slide controls are used to adjust volume, magnification, and other levels. The position of the slider shows the current setting. The CD slide control on the Mixing Console can be used to adjust the volume on the CD player. Note that the volume on the CD player cannot be increased beyond the setting of the master slide control on the Mixing Console.

### The CD Player

The CD Player can be used with your CD-ROM drive and compact discs. With it, you can listen to your favorite <u>audio</u> compact discs. The controls on this component are very much like the controls on a CD player from a home stereo system.

The CD Player component will be inaccessible if you do not have a CD-ROM drive and appropriate drivers installed in your PC.

#### Additional Topics:

CD Player control descriptions

CD Player dialog descriptions

CD Player menu options

### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

Questions & answers

**Troubleshooting** 

# **CD Player Dialogs**

The CD Player dialogs allow you to perform basic operations such as selecting, storing and retrieving playlists, and describing CD selections.

Describe Selection
Merge Playlist
Open Playlist
Program Playlist
Save Playlist

### Related Topics:

CD Player control descriptions
CD Player menu options

### Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

### **CD Audio and Data Contents**

Standard Compact Discs contain music (audio) information. CD-ROMs contain computer data that may represent text, graphics, audio or video. CD-ROMs may also contain standard CD audio tracks in addition to their data track.

#### **Volume Controls**

The Increase/Decrease Volume Buttons are used to control the volume on the CD player. Click on the Increase Volume Button to make the output from the CD player louder. Click on the Decrease Volume Button to lower the volume.

Related Topic:

Mixing Console component volume control

### **CD Player Controls**

The CD Player controls allow you to control all of the standard operations of playing a CD. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Default button

**Drive tray** 

Eject button

LED display

Pause button

Play button

Power button

Program button

Scan buttons

Skip buttons

Stop button

Volume buttons

### **Related Topics:**

CD Player dialog descriptions

CD Player menu options

### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

Questions & answers

**Troubleshooting** 

### **CD Player Questions & Answers**

**Q:** The CD Player component is disabled, but I can play CDs in other Windows applications. What is wrong?

A: Check your configuration parameters in CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT and make sure that the settings are consistent. Many CD-ROM multimedia applications store audio on the CD in a WAV format, instead of an actual CD audio track, so what you are hearing may not be CD audio. An easy way to confirm that the problem is not in MCS MusicRack is to try to play the same CD with the Windows Media Player. To do so, make sure that the "[MCI] CD Audio" driver is listed in the "Installed Drivers" applet from the Windows Control Panel. If you cannot play the CD with Media Player, contact your drive manufacturer for technical support. If Media Player is able to play the CD, contact Animotion Technical Support for MCS MusicRack assistance.

**Q:** I adjust the volume on the CD Player, but I can't hear a change in the volume level. What is the problem?

**A:** The Master Volume level on the Mixing Console may be set to a low level. Also, you may have the audio output of the CD-ROM drive plugged into an auxiliary input on the sound card. If this is the case, refer to the CD Player description in this manual. Under "Volume Control", an explanation is provided on how to control what input the CD Player's volume controls operate.

Q: I insert a CD, but the "Play" button isn't enabled. Am I doing something wrong?

**A:** Some CDs contain only data. Make sure the CD that is currently in the CD drive contains audio tracks.

**Q:** When I'm using MCS MusicRack, the CD-ROM drive appears to be constantly accessed, even when I'm not playing a CD. Is there a way to fix this?

**A:** In most cases, the source of this problem is actually your CD-ROM MSCDEX drivers, not MCS MusicRack. Contact your drive manufacturer to see if updated drivers are available. In the meantime, you can minimize the access by adjusting the "POLLINGTIME" entry in the "CD Player" section of MCSINIT.INI. This entry adjusts the frequency at which your CD-ROM drive is checked, in tenths of a second. Thus, "POLLINGTIME=10" will cause the CD-ROM access to be reduced to once per second.

#### Related Topics:

CD Player control descriptions

CD Player dialog descriptions

CD Player menu options

#### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

Troubleshooting

### **Power Button**

Turns off (or "hides") the CD Player. Clicking this button causes the CD Player to no longer be displayed.

Related Topic:

CD Player "Show / Hide" menu options

### **Default Button**

Resets the CD Player functions to their original settings when MCS MusicRack was initially installed on your PC.

### **LED Display**

The Display area of the CD Player shows the following information:

#### **Selection:**

Shows the number of the track (selection) that is currently playing in the playlist. Each song on a CD has a track number. These numbers are assigned sequentially.

#### **Elapsed Time:**

This area shows the elapsed time for the current track.

#### Play:

This indicator is illuminated when the <u>Play button</u> is pressed.

#### Pause:

This indicator is illuminated when the <u>Pause button</u> is pressed.

### **Play Button**

Begins playing the current selection. This button is disabled if there are no items in the playlist.

If the <u>LED display</u> indicates that the CD is playing, but you cannot hear any sound, check the following:

- 1. Increase the volume on the CD Player with the Increase/Decrease Volume controls.
- 2. Make sure the Master Volume Control on the Mixing Console is not set to it's lowest position.
- 3. Ensure that your <u>speakers</u> are properly connected. If the speakers have a volume control, ensure that their volume is not turned to their lowest position.
- 4. Check the CD Player's line settings for volume control. Refer to the <u>volume buttons</u> description for more information.

Related Topics:

Pause button

Stop button

# **Speakers**

In order to hear any sound from your CD player, you must have a set of speakers (or headphones) connected to the sound board of your PC. The audio cannot be heard through the internal speaker in your PC.

### **Pause Button**

Temporarily stops the playback of the current selection. Click this button again to resume playing the selection. It will begin playing at the same point you left off.

Related Topics:

LED display

Play button

Stop button

## **Scan Buttons**

Advances or reviews the current selection. If the buttons are held down, scanning will continue until they are released.

Related Topic: Skip buttons

# **Stop Button**

Stops playing the current selection. You will no longer hear output from the CD Player and the LED Display will show the total number of selections in the playlist. Additionally, the time indicator will reflect the total time for the entire playlist.

Related Topics:

<u>Pause button</u>

<u>Play button</u>

# **Skip Buttons**

Jumps to the next or previous selection in the playlist. If the CD was already playing, the new selection will be started. Each time you press the button, the player will advance one selection.

Related Topic: Scan buttons

# **Eject Button**

Ejects the CD from the CD-ROM Drive. This button will only be activated if you specified that your CD-ROM Drive has software-based eject capabilities. If your CD-ROM drive has the capability, the entry "HASEJECT=1" must appear in the "SYSTEM" section of the MCSINIT.INI file.

Related Topic: <u>Drive tray</u>

# **Drive Tray**

The CD Player drive tray opens when a CD is not in your PC's CD-ROM Drive. Once you insert a CD into the Drive, you will notice the drive tray close on the CD Player.

Related Topic: <u>Eject button</u>

# **Program Button**

Displays the "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog box, allowing you to enter descriptions of a new CD into the database or to customize <u>playlists</u> for the current CD.

## The Digital Recorder

The Digital Recorder can be used to play, record and manipulate sound files. Audio can be recorded from any of the available input sources at a wide range of audio qualities. The Digital Recorder fully supports the capabilities of your installed sound card.

When you record or edit audio with the Digital Recorder, the resulting data is stored in the industry standard WAVE format, as specified by the Microsoft Multimedia Extensions for Windows specification. This means that digital samples created with the Digital Recorder can be used in any Windows or DOS application that supports the WAVE file format, including leading word processors, charting programs and presentation programs.

The Digital Recorder component will be inaccessible if your sound board doesn't have digital sample recording or playback capabilities.

#### Additional Topics:

<u>Digital Recorder control descriptions</u> <u>Digital Recorder dialog descriptions</u> <u>Digital Recorder menu options</u>

#### Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

# **Digital Recorder Dialogs**

The Digital Recorder dialogs allow you to perform basic operations such as selecting, storing and retrieving playlists, and opening, closing and describing WAVE files.

**Describe Selection** 

Edit Sample

File Open

File Save

Merge Playlist

Open Playlist

Program Playlist

**Recording Settings** 

Save Playlist

TitleTrax Search

#### Related Topics:

<u>Digital Recorder control descriptions</u>

**Digital Recorder menu options** 

#### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

Questions & answers

<u>Troubleshooting</u>

# **Digital Recorder Controls**

The Digital Recorder controls allow you to control all of the standard operations of playing, recording and editing WAV files. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Default button

Edit button

LED display

Pause button

Play button

Power button

Program button

Record button

Scan buttons

Settings button

Skip buttons

Stop button

Volume buttons

### Related Topics:

<u>Digital Recorder dialog descriptions</u>

Digital Recorder menu options

#### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

Questions & answers

**Troubleshooting** 

## **Digital Recorder Questions & Answers**

- **Q:** I'm trying to record from the Microphone with the Digital Recorder and it is not recording. What's wrong?
- **A:** If your sound board has multiple input jacks, the Microphone may be plugged into the wrong jack. Refer to your sound board's manual for more information. Also, make sure the MIC input is selected as the recording source in the Mixing Console (if the Mixing Console is available with your configuration).
- **Q:** I'm recording from the CD Player and the sound quality is poor. What can I do to improve the quality?
- **A:** Check the sampling rate and make sure you are using the highest available rate. Be aware, however, that recording at higher sampling rates requires substantial disk space. Next, make sure the volume level of the CD is not too high. Digitally sampling audio is much less forgiving of high volume levels than analog recording.
- **Q:** I'm recording from the CD Player at full CD-quality sampling. When I play the resulting WAV file back, it sounds as though gaps of audio are missing. What is wrong?
- **A:** Keep in mind the substantial amount of data being created when sampling at higher rates. If you have a slower machine, such as a 386-SX based system, your system may not be able to "keep up" with the sampling. Most manufacturers recommend a 486/33 system or higher for CD-quality sampling. If you have this type of system, you may want to defragment your hard drive. Also, do not record on a partition that is created by "on-the-fly" compression products. Due to the extremely random nature of digital sampling, these type of compression products degrade your system performance without much results.
- **Q:** When I play back a Digital Recording that I made from a CD, it is not as loud as it originally sounded when I was recording. Why is there a difference?
- **A:** When recording, some sound boards make the audio sound louder because you are hearing the audio from the CD as well as the Digital Recorder. Then, when you play it back, only one copy of the input is playing from the Digital Recorder. Therefore, it does not sound as loud. You may always adjust the audio level in the "Edit Sample" dialog box with the "Amplify" function.
- **Q:** I recorded at a high volume level and the resulting sound is distorted. What did I do wrong?
- **A:** Unlike analog recording (such as with a cassette recorder), digital recording has an absolute maximum recording level of 100 percent. The resulting distortion when analog levels go above 100 percent is called "clipping". Try recording at a lower level to avoid the distortion.
- **Q:** I would like to record WAV files on a different drive, but MCS MusicRack always temporarily stores the file in my MUSICRCK subdirectory. Can I change this?

**A:** You can change the path that files are recorded in by modifying the "TEMPFILEPATH" entry in the "[SYSTEM]" section of the MCSINIT.INI file.

**Q:** When I edit audio, MCS MusicRack appears to hang after modifying the file.

**A:** Change the "ALWAYSCOLLECT" entry in the "[EDITSAMPLE]" section of MCSINIT.INI to "ALWAYSCOLLECT=1". This parameter forces the audio editor to always defragment memory segments when an operation is performed that would cause data to be removed from or inserted into the file. If this modification corrects the problem, you should be aware that the system can still hang if you manually select a small portion of the file and try to play it. This problem is caused by the existence of bugs in some sound card drivers that causes playback to "hang" when a small segment of audio is played.

### Related Topics:

<u>Digital Recorder control descriptions</u> <u>Digital Recorder dialog descriptions</u> <u>Digital Recorder menu options</u>

#### Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

## **Power Button**

Turns off (or "hides") the Digital Recorder. Clicking this button causes the Digital Recorder component to no longer be displayed.

Related Topic:

<u>Digital Recorder "Show / Hide" menu options</u>

## **Default Button**

Resets the Digital Recorder functions to their original settings when MCS MusicRack was initially installed on your PC.

### **Volume Buttons**

Adjusts the audio output levels of the Digital Recorder. Click the up arrow button to increase the output, or the down arrow button to decrease the output. Optionally, you may hold either of the buttons down to repeatedly adjust the audio every tenth of a second until the button is released.

Related Topic:

Mixing Console component volume control

# **Settings Button**

Displays the " $\underline{\text{Recording Settings}}$ " dialog box, which allows you to control the recording parameters for creating new audio samples.

Related Topic:

Record button

# **Edit Button**

Displays the " $\underline{\sf Edit\ Sample}$ " dialog box, which allows you to edit audio samples.

### **LED Display**

The Display areas of the Digital Recorder show the following information:

#### **Elapsed Time:**

The elapsed time for the current sound or playlist.

#### **Output Level:**

Indicates the current left and right recording levels. The accuracy of the display depends on the performance of your system's CPU and video hardware.

It is possible to improve the display's accuracy during playback by adjusting the "METERLAGTIME" entry in the "MCSINIT.INI" file. However, this entry has no effect on the accuracy of the display when recording.

If you wish to change the value, you will find the entry under the "DIGITAL RECORDER" section of the file. The entry specifies an amount of time to "seek ahead" into the file being played, which is used to offset the delays between reading the value and changing the display. The value is multiplied by 6 milliseconds; thus, a value of 1 specifies 6 ms, 2 specifies 12 ms, and so on.

Since this value is only read when MCS MusicRack is initially launched, you must shut the application down and relaunch it to make the new setting take effect.

#### **Record Indicator:**

Illuminated when the Digital Recorder Record button is pressed.

#### **Play Indicator:**

The Play indicator is illuminated when the Digital Recorder Play button is pressed.

#### **Pause Indicator:**

The Pause indicator is illuminated when the Digital Recorder Pause button is pressed.

## **Play Button**

Begins playing the current selection. This button is disabled if there are no items in the playlist.

If the <u>LED display</u> indicates that a WAVE file is playing but you cannot hear any sound, check the following:

- 1. Increase the volume on the Digital Recorder with the <u>Increase/Decrease volume</u> buttons.
- 2. Make sure the <u>Master volume control</u> on the Mixing Console is not set to it's lowest position.
- 3. Ensure that your speakers are properly connected. If the speakers have a volume control, ensure that their volume is not turned to their lowest position.

Related Topic:

Pause button

Stop button

### **Pause Button**

Temporarily stops the playback of the current selection. Click this button again to resume playing the selection at the same point you left off.

Related Topic:

LED display

Play button

Stop button

## **Scan Buttons**

Advances or reviews the current selection. If the buttons are held down, scanning will continue until they are released.

Related Topic: Skip buttons

# **Skip Buttons**

Jumps to the next or previous selection in the <u>playlist</u>. If the current selection was already playing, the new selection will be started. Each time you press one of the buttons, the selection will be shifted one track.

Related Topic: Scan buttons

# **Stop Button**

Stops playing the current selection. You will no longer hear output from the Digital Recorder. Additionally, the <u>LED Display</u> will reflect the total number and time of the selections in the <u>playlist</u>.

Related Topics:

<u>Pause button</u>

<u>Play button</u>

### **Record Button**

Initiates digital recording (or "sampling") using the current recording settings. The "Record" indicator in the <u>LED display</u> will be illuminated while recording. When you are finished recording the desired audio, press the <u>Stop</u> button.

Related Topics:

Recording Level display
"Recording Settings" dialog

# **Recording Level Display**

Indicates the current left and right recording levels. The accuracy of the display depends on the performance of your system's CPU and video hardware.

It is possible to improve the display's accuracy during playback by adjusting the "METERLAGTIME" entry in the "MCSINIT.INI" file. However, this entry has no effect on the accuracy of the display when recording.

If you wish to change the value, you will find the entry under the "DIGITAL RECORDER" section of the file. The entry specifies an amount of time to "seek ahead" into the file being played, which is used to offset the delays between reading the value and changing the display. The value is multiplied by 6 milliseconds; thus, a value of 1 specifies 6 ms, 2 specifies 12 ms, and so on.

Since this value is only read when MCS MusicRack is initially launched, you must shut the application down and relaunch it to make the new setting take effect.

Related Topics: LED display

# **Program Button**

Displays the "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to enter descriptions for WAVE files into the database or to open, save or modify <u>playlists</u>.

# The MIDI Player

The MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) Player is used to play files that were created with a special digital performance language. MIDI data transmits messages over multiple channels. Each channel is equivalent to a different instrument.

These files can be created with certain advanced electronic keyboards and may be obtained from a variety of sources. Some MIDI files are also included with Microsoft Windows Version 3.1.

The MIDI Player component will be inaccessible if your sound board doesn't have MIDI playback capabilities.

#### Additional Topics:

MIDI Player control descriptions
MIDI Player dialog descriptions
MIDI Player menu options

#### Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

# **MIDI Player Dialogs**

The MIDI Player dialogs allow you to perform basic operations such as selecting, storing and retrieving playlists, and opening, closing and describing MIDI files.

Describe Selection
File Open
Merge Playlist
Open Playlist
Program Playlist
Recording Settings
Save Playlist
TitleTrax Search

### Related Topics:

MIDI Player control descriptions
MIDI Player menu options

Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

# **MIDI Player Controls**

The MIDI Player controls allow you to control all of the standard operations of playing MID files. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Default button

LED display

Pause button

Play button

Power button

Program button

Scan buttons

Settings button

Skip buttons

Stop button

Volume buttons

#### Related Topics:

MIDI Player dialog descriptions

MIDI Player menu options

### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

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**Troubleshooting** 

# **MIDI Player Questions & Answers**

- **Q:** When I try to play certain MIDI files, it appears to be playing, but I don't hear any sound. What is wrong?
- A: Although the MIDI format is a universal standard, a file's creation source may affect the playback on your sound card. Window's "Basic" and "Extended" MIDI specifications are subsets of a specification called "General MIDI". If the MIDI file was created on a General MIDI-compatible synthesizer, your sound card may not be able to produce the sounds using the Basic or Extended MIDI maps. If you experience this problem, launch the Control Panel "MIDI Mapper" applet and select your sound card manufacturer's "ALL SYNTH" (or "ALL FM") setup, if available. Do not select "ALL MIDI" or other setups that reference MIDI unless you want the MIDI information to be sent to an external device connected to your sound card's MIDI Out port. If there isn't such a choice available, you may create a new setup by following these instructions:
- Confirm that "Setups" is selected in the "Show" group and select the "New..." option.
- Enter "All Synth" in the "Name" edit field and "Supports most MIDI files" in the "Description" edit field. These are only suggested names and descriptions; you may enter whatever you like.
- The "MIDI Setup: All Synth" dialog will be displayed. In the third column from the left, "Port Name", select an entry that refers to "FM" or "SYNTH". Do NOT select "None" or "MIDI Out" options. Repeat this step for channels 2 through 10 and 13 through 16. Do NOT change the "None" selections for channels 11 and 12. Finally, set source channel 16 to destination channel 10.
- Press the "OK" button. When asked if you wish to save the new setup, select "Yes".
- **Q:** My multimedia system is properly installed and all the settings are correct. Why is the sound from my MIDI Player different than I expected?
- **A:** If you have **not** altered the MIDI mapping (with the "MIDI Mapper" applet), you may want to contact your sound card manufacturer to make sure you have the latest drivers. As with most state-of-the-art technology, it takes a period of time for new industry standards to be adopted. Therefore, your sound board may not have included the latest version of the drivers available from the manufacturer.
- **Q:** I'd like to experiment with MIDI mapping. What's the safest approach?
- **A:** In a typical MIDI file, there are up to 16 discrete channels of information. This information generally describes the notes being played, their duration, and their intensity. It does not, however, describe the type of instrument that should be reproducing those notes. The mapping controls the type of instrument used to reproduce the sounds described by the MIDI information. Your system should be set to the industry standard defaults, called "General MIDI". Changing these defaults can produce unpredictable results, such as drums playing the parts that should be played by a piano, or vice versa. If you want to experiment with the mapping, create a new map. Leave the original mapping intact, so that you may restore the settings when you are done. Otherwise, you may need to re-install your sound board drivers.

## Related Topics:

MIDI Player control descriptions
MIDI Player dialog descriptions
MIDI Player menu options

# Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

## **Power Button**

Turns off (or "hides") the MIDI Player.

Related Topic:

MIDI Player "Show / Hide" menu options

## **Default Button**

Resets the MIDI Player functions to their original settings when MCS MusicRack will initially installed on your PC.

### **Volume Buttons**

Adjusts the audio output levels of the MIDI Player. Click the up arrow button to increase the output, or the down arrow button to decrease the output. Optionally, you can hold either of the buttons down to repeatedly adjust the audio every tenth of a second until the button is released.

Related Topic:

Mixing Console component volume control

# **LED Display**

The Display area of the MIDI Player shows a variety of information:

#### **Selection:**

Shows the number of the selection that is currently playing.

#### **Elapsed Time:**

Shows the elapsed time for the current selection.

### **Play Indicator:**

This indicator is illuminated when the MIDI Player Play button is pressed.

#### **Pause Indicator:**

This indicator is illuminated when the <u>Pause</u> button is pressed.

## **Play Button**

Begins playing the current selection. This button is disabled if there are no items in the playlist.

If the <u>LED display</u> indicates that a MIDI file is playing but you cannot hear any sound, check the following:

- 1. Increase the volume on the MIDI Player with the <u>Increase/Decrease volume</u> buttons.
- 2. Make sure the <u>Master volume control</u> on the Mixing Console is not set to it's lowest position.
- 3. Ensure that your speakers are properly connected. If the speakers have a volume control, ensure that their volume is not turned to their lowest position.
- 4. Make sure the proper drivers are selected in the Windows "MIDI Mapper" applet. For more information, refer to the Windows documentation.

Related Topics:

Pause button

Stop button

#### **Pause Button**

Temporarily stops the playback of the current selection. Click this button again to resume playing the selection. It will begin playing at the same point you left off.

Related Topics:

LED display

Play button

Stop button

#### **Scan Buttons**

Advances or reviews the current selection. If the buttons are held down, scanning will continue until they are released.

Related Topic: Skip buttons

#### **Stop Button**

Stops playing the current selection. You will no longer hear output from the MIDI Player and the <u>LED Display</u> will show the total number of selections in the playlist. Additionally, the time indicator will reflect the total time of the entire playlist.

Related Topics:

<u>Pause button</u>

<u>Play button</u>

# **Skip Buttons**

Jumps to the next or previous selection in the playlist. Each time you press this button, the player will advance one track.

Related Topic:

Scan buttons

### **Settings Button**

Displays the "MIDI Mapper" dialog box, which allows you to control MIDI communications with internal and external MIDI devices. Refer to the Windows 3.1 documentation for more information.

### **Program Button**

Displays the "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog box, allowing you to enter descriptions of a new MIDI file into the database or to customize <u>playlists</u> that can contain any desired combination of selections.

#### File Menu

The File Menu provides access to MCS MusicRack file-oriented functions. For additional information, select one of the specific functions listed below.

"Mixing Console" sub-menu
"CD Player" sub-menu
"Digital Recorder" sub-menu
"MIDI Player" sub-menu

"Exit" menu option

# File "Exit " Menu Option

Closes the MCS MusicRack application.

Related Topics:

<u>File menu</u>

MCS MusicRack Menu options

### File "Mixing Console" sub-menu

The "Mixing Console" sub-menu provides the "**Show**" or "**Hide**" menu option which allows you to show (or hide) the  $\underline{\text{Mixing Console}}$  component. Only one of the two options will be shown at any given time, based on the Mixing Console being currently visible.

Related Topics:

<u>File menu</u>

MCS MusicRack Menu options

Mixing Console control descriptions

Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

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#### File "CD Player" sub-menu

The "CD Player" sub-menu provides access to operations and dialogs relating to the control of the <u>CD Player</u> component. This sub-menu will be disabled if you do not have a CD-ROM drive installed in your system or if your CD-ROM drivers are improperly configured.

"Open Playlist" menu option
"Program" menu option
"Save Playlist" menu option
"Show / Hide" menu option

#### Related Topics:

<u>File menu</u> <u>MCS MusicRack Menu options</u>

<u>CD Player control descriptions</u> <u>CD Player dialog descriptions</u>

#### Troubleshooting:

<u>Driver checklist</u> <u>Questions & answers</u> <u>Troubleshooting</u>

### CD Player "Show / Hide" Menu Option

Toggles between "Show" and "Hide", depending on the state of the CD Player. When it is displayed, the "Hide" option causes the CD Player to be closed (or "hidden"). The CD Player button in the Component Selection Button Bar will pop out. When it isn't displayed, the "Show" option causes it to be launched (or "shown"). The CD Player button in the Component Selection Button Bar will be pressed in.

#### Related Topics:

File menu
File "CD Player" sub-menu
MCS MusicRack Menu options

### CD Player "Open Playlist" Menu Option

Displays the " $\underline{\text{Open Playlist}}$ " dialog, allowing you to select from previously created custom playlists of selections for the current CD.

Related Topics:

### **CD Player "Save Playlist" Menu Option**

Displays the "<u>Save Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you save the current list of selections for the current CD.

Related Topics:

### CD Player "Program" Menu Option

Displays the "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to customize listening selections and add descriptions to the TitleTrax database for the current CD.

Related Topics:

#### File "Digital Recorder" sub-menu

The "Digital Recorder" sub-menu provides access to operations and dialogs relating to the control of the <u>Digital Recorder</u> component. This sub-menu will be disabled if you do not have a sound card installed in your system or if your sound card's WAVE drivers are improperly configured.

- "Automatic Advance" menu option
- "Close" menu option
- "Open" menu option
- "Open Playlist" menu option
- "Most Recently Opened File" menu option
- "Program" menu option
- "Save As" menu option
- "Save Playlist" menu option
- "Settings" menu option
- "Show / Hide" menu option

#### Related Topics:

File menu

MCS MusicRack Menu options

<u>Digital Recorder control descriptions</u>

Digital Recorder dialog descriptions

#### Troubleshooting:

**Driver checklist** 

Questions & answers

**Troubleshooting** 

#### Digital Recorder "Show / Hide" Menu Option

Toggles between "Show" and "Hide", depending on the state of the Digital Recorder. When it is displayed, the "Hide" option causes the Digital Recorder to be closed (or "hidden"). The Digital Recorder button in the Component Selection Button Bar will pop out. When it isn't displayed, the "Show" option causes it to be launched (or "shown"). The Digital Recorder button in the Component Selection Button Bar will be pressed in.

#### Related Topics:

### **Digital Recorder "Open" Menu Option**

Displays the "File Open" dialog, allowing you to select a WAVE file to be opened from all available drives.

Related Topics:

### **Digital Recorder "Save As" Menu Option**

Displays the "<u>File Save</u>" dialog, allowing you to specify the name and description of an unsaved recording to be saved to disk. This option is only enabled when there is an unsaved recording in the playlist. Also, it only applies to that recording, regardless of the current selection in the playlist.

#### Related Topics:

### **Digital Recorder "Close" Menu Option**

Closes the currently-selected WAVE file. If the current selection is an unsaved recording, you will be prompted to save the file.

#### Related Topics:

### Digital Recorder "Open Playlist" Menu Option

Displays the "<u>Open Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to select from previously created custom playlists of selections for Digital Recorder files.

Related Topics:

### Digital Recorder "Save Playlist" Menu Option

Displays the "<u>Save Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you save the current list of selections for Digital Recorder files.

Related Topics:

### Digital Recorder "Program" Menu Option

Displays the "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to customize listening selections and add descriptions to the TitleTrax database for Digital Recorder files.

Related Topics:

### **Digital Recorder "Settings" Menu Option**

Displays the "<u>Recording Settings</u>" dialog, allowing you to control the recording parameters for creating new audio samples.

Related Topics:

### Digital Recorder "Automatic Advance" Menu Option

Controls the playback operation of the Digital Recorder component. If this option is turned off, the Digital Recorder will stop after each selection. Otherwise, it will automatically proceed to the next selection.

#### Related Topics:

### Digital Recorder "Most Recently Loaded File" Menu Option

This menu option displays the four most recently loaded WAV files in the Digital Recorder component. The menu option displays the order followed by the complete path and filename, i.e., "1 C:\STEREO\SAMPLE.WAV".

#### Related Topics:

#### File "MIDI Player" sub-menu

The "MIDI Player" sub-menu provides access to operations and dialogs relating to the control of the <u>MIDI Player</u> component. This sub-menu will be disabled if you do not have a sound card or MIDI I/O device installed in your system or if your MIDI drivers are improperly configured.

- "Close" menu option
- "Open" menu option
- "Open Playlist" menu option
- "Most Recently Opened File" menu option
- "Program" menu option
- "Save Playlist" menu option
- "Settings" menu option
- "Show / Hide" menu option

#### Related Topics:

File menu

MCS MusicRack Menu options

MIDI Player control descriptions

MIDI Player dialog descriptions

#### Troubleshooting:

Driver checklist

Questions & answers

**Troubleshooting** 

### MIDI Player "Show / Hide" Menu Option

Toggles between "Show" and "Hide", depending on the state of the MIDI Player. When it is displayed, the "Hide" option causes the MIDI Player to be closed (or "hidden"). The MIDI Player button in the Component Selection Button Bar will pop out. When it isn't displayed, the "Show" option causes it to be launched (or "shown"). The MIDI Player button in the Component Selection Button Bar will be pressed in.

#### Related Topics:

# MIDI Player "Open" Menu Option

Displays the " $\underline{\text{File Open}}$ " dialog, allowing you to select a MIDI file to be opened from all available drives.

Related Topics:

# MIDI Player "Close" Menu Option

Closes the currently-selected MIDI file.

Related Topics:

### MIDI Player "Open Playlist" Menu Option

Displays the " $\underline{\text{Open Playlist}}$ " dialog, allowing you to select from previously created custom playlists of selections for MIDI Player files.

Related Topics:

### MIDI Player "Save Playlist" Menu Option

Displays the "<u>Save Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you save the current list of selections for MIDI Player files.

Related Topics:

### MIDI Player "Program" Menu Option

Displays the "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to customize listening selections and add descriptions to the TitleTrax database for MIDI Player files.

Related Topics:

### MIDI Player "Settings" Menu Option

Displays the "MIDI Mapper" dialog. This dialog (or "applet") is also available in the Windows Control Panel. If you are unable to view this dialog, or it isn't displayed in the Windows Control Panel, confirm that the "MIDI Mapper" driver is listed in "Installed Drivers" in the "Drivers" Control Panel applet. Refer to the Windows 3.1 documentation for information on this dialog.

#### Related Topics:

### MIDI Player "Most Recently Loaded File" Menu Option

This menu option displays the four most recently loaded MIDI files in the MIDI Player component. The menu option displays the order followed by the complete path and filename, i.e., "1 C:\STEREO\SAMPLE.MID".

#### Related Topics:

#### **Options Menu**

The Options Menu provides access to MCS MusicRack global options. Currently, a single global option is available, "Save Settings on Exit", which allows you to save the hardware volume settings.

Keep in mind that this setting controls the "Mixer" driver that may have been installed on your system by the MCS MusicRack installation program, not the MCS MusicRack application itself. Thus, "on Exit" refers to exiting Windows, not MusicRack. When the settings are saved, the hardware will be reinitialized to the same setting the next time you launch Windows.

The "Save Settings on Exit" option will currently have no effect if the MusicRack "Mixer" driver isn't installed.

Related Topics:

Menu options

<u>File menu</u> <u>Help menu</u> <u>Upgrade! menu</u>

#### **Help Menu**

The Help Menu provides access to the MCS MusicRack on-line help and tutorial, Windows help, and the software version and copyright information.

"About MCS..." menu option

"Index" menu option

"Keyboard" menu option

"Tutorial" menu option

"Using Help" menu option

#### Related Topics:

MCS MusicRack Menu options

<u>File menu</u> <u>Options menu</u>

<u>Upgrade! menu</u>

# Help "Index" Menu Option

Displays the main MCS MusicRack "contents" screen, allowing you to select from specific topics.

Related Topics:

Help menu

# Help "Keyboard" Menu Option

Displays information on the various keyboard shortcuts that are available in the MCS MusicRack application.

Related Topics:

Help menu

# Help "Tutorial" Menu Option

Launches the MCS MusicRack interactive tutorial.

Related Topics:

<u>Help menu</u>

## Help "Using Help" Menu Option

Displays the Windows "Using Help" topic that describes Windows help system operations and functions.

Related Topics:

Help menu

# Help "About MCS..." Menu Option

Displays version and copyright information for MCS MusicRack.

Related Topics:

<u>Help menu</u>

## **Upgrade! Menu**

The Upgrade! Menu provides information on a  $\underline{\text{special "MCS Stereo" upgrade offer}}$  from Animotion Development, makers of MCS MusicRack.

Related Topics:

MCS MusicRack Menu options

File menu Help menu Options menu

## "Edit Sample" Dialog

This dialog box is displayed when you click the " $\underline{\text{Edit}}$ " button on the  $\underline{\text{Digital Recorder}}$ . It can be used to view and edit audio samples.

You can also manipulate the audio in various ways, either with Cut-and-Paste operations (like a word processor), or with advanced special effects.

**Additional Topics:** 

<u>Control descriptions</u> <u>Related dialog descriptions</u>

# **Edit Sample Dialog-Related Dialogs**

The Edit Sample-related dialogs allow you to specify additional information and adjust parameters used by the Edit Sample dialog.

File Open
File Save
Adjust Amplification Parameters
Adjust Echo Parameters
Adjust Insert Parameters
Adjust Rate Parameters

**Additional Topics:** 

Control descriptions

Edit Sample dialog description

### "Edit Sample" Dialog Controls

The "Edit Sample" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

File Operations: Special Effects: Open File "Amplify"
Save File "Echo" "Reverse"

Clipboard Operations: "Insert" Cut Selection "Rate"

Copy SelectionErase SelectionOther Controls:Paste Clipboard DataPause

<u>Play</u>

Wave Display Descriptions: Playlist Selections combo box

Magnification Toggle Stop

Magnification Slider

Wave Display Undo Functions:

Wave Display Scroll Bar Disable Undo

**Undo Last Operation** 

**Related Topics:** 

Edit Sample dialog description Related dialog descriptions

# **Undo Last Operation**

Undoes the last operation performed on the audio sample. This feature only applies to the last operation.

Related Topics:
<a href="Disable Undo">Disable Undo</a>

#### **Disable Undo**

The "Disable Undo" option is available in several of the <u>Edit Sample Dialog-related dialogs</u>. Disabling the "Undo" feature means that changes in the sample cannot be undone. This is useful when working with large samples, as a duplicate copy of the sample must be maintained to offer the "Undo" feature. You may have insufficient disk space or memory to store both the original file and the temporary copy. Even if you have sufficient space, the copying process can be lengthy for large samples. You can always quickly reload the file by reselecting it from the "<u>Playlist Selections</u>" combo box.

Although the "Disable Undo" option is implemented with a check box that is available in several dialogs, it is considered a "global" function. If you disable the undo option in any of the dialogs, the Undo feature is disabled for all Edit Sample special effects.

Related Topics:
<u>Undo Last Operation</u>

### **Save File**

Displays the "<u>File Save</u>" dialog box. When saving a file under a different name, the original file remains in the playlist. Unless the file being saved is an unsaved recording, the new file is added to the playlist.

# **Open File**

Displays the "File Open" dialog box. Up to 99 files may be opened simultaneously.

### **Cut Selection**

Removes the selected portion of the sample and places it in the clipboard.

Related Topics:

<u>Paste Selection</u>

<u>Copy Selection</u>

# **Copy Selection**

Places a copy of the selected portion of the sample in the clipboard.

Related Topics:

<u>Paste Button</u>

<u>Cut Button</u>

## **Paste Clipboard Data**

Inserts the audio from the clipboard into the current file at the cursor's current position. Note that if a stereo sample is pasted into a monaural sample, only it's left channel will be pasted. Likewise, a monaural sample will be duplicated for both channels of the stereo sample.

Related Topics:

<u>Cut Selection</u>

<u>Copy Selection</u>

### **Erase Selection**

Discards the selected portion of the sample. It does not copy the selection portion to the clipboard.

Related Topic: Cut Selection

# **Magnification Toggle**

Toggles between the last two magnification levels as adjusted by the <u>Magnification Slider</u>.

## **Magnification Slider**

Adjusts the portion of the sample that is visible in the display area. If the  $\underline{\text{slider}}$  is at it's leftmost position (lowest magnification), the entire sample will be displayed. If it is at it's rightmost position (highest magnification), each screen element (pixel) in the graph is equal to one audio sample or 1/255th of the sample's length, whichever is greater.

## **Wave Display Scroll Bar**

Manipulates the portion of the wave that is shown in the <u>Wave Display</u>, allowing you to "page" left and right through the sample. Click the right arrow to "page" to the right, or the left arrow to "page" to the left.

#### **Slider Controls**

Used to adjust volume, magnifications and other levels. The position of the slider shows the current setting. Click on the control and hold down the left mouse button. Then move the control to the desired position and release the mouse button.

### **Wave Display**

Displays a visual representation of the current sample. The portion that is displayed is determined by the <u>Magnification Slider</u> and the <u>Wave Display Scroll Bar</u>. If the sample is a stereo recording, you will see a display for each channel.

Each channel of a stereo sample may be edited separately. Hold the <Ctrl> key down while clicking and dragging the left mouse button across the sample. The channel that you are dragging across will be highlighted, while the other channel remains unhighlighted. Once a segment has been highlighted (either a single channel or both channels), you can add to the highlighted portion by holding down the shift key and continuing to click and drag the left mouse button. Note that only the special effects can be performed on a single channel. You cannot perform cut-and-paste operations on a single channel.

Related Topics:

<u>Magnify Button</u>

# "Amplify" Effect

Displays the "<u>Adjust Amplification Parameters</u>" dialog box. Used to adjust the volume level for the selected portion of the sample.

## "Adjust Amplification Parameters" Dialog

Used to indicate an amount to increase (or reduce) the volume level for the selected segment of the sample. You can enter the amplification level by moving the slider or manually entering the level in the "Level" Edit Box. Alternately, you may select one of the quick level settings by clicking one of the radio buttons to the right of the slider. The level represents the desired amplification percentage.

If desired, you can turn the "Undo" feature off by clicking the "Disable Undo" button.

### "Echo" Effect

Displays the " $\underline{\text{Adjust Echo Parameters}}$ " dialog box. Used to create echo effects in the selected portion of the sample.

### "Adjust Echo Parameters" Dialog

Used to enter the parameters for the application of the echo effect on the selected portion of the sample.

To create echoes, you must enter the number of echoes desired, the initial and final volume levels, and the decay rate. You can enter the initial and final volume levels by adjusting the associated sliders or by manually entering the values in the associated Edit Boxes. The "Spin" buttons (the up and down arrows) may be also used to adjust the values in the Edit Boxes.

Each of the "echoes" are actually duplicates of the sample mixed with the original sample at different volume levels. The first and last echoes are mixed at the volume levels specified by the Initial and Final entries, while the intermediate echoes are mixed at levels determined by dividing the difference between the Initial and Final volume levels by the number of echoes requested.

The decay specifies the period of time to skip forward in the sample before mixing the subsequent copies. For example, if you specify 100 milliseconds, the first echo will be placed 100 milliseconds into the original sample, the second will be placed 200 milliseconds into the original sample, and so forth.

If desired, you can turn the "Undo" feature off by clicking the "Disable Undo" button.

## "Reverse" Effect

Reverses the selected portion of the sample so that the audio plays backward.

# "Insert" Effect

Displays the "<u>Adjust Insert Parameters</u>" dialog box. Used to insert the desired amount of silence into the sample. The silence will be inserted at the current cursor position.

## "Adjust Insert Parameters" Dialog

Used to specify the number of milliseconds of silence to be inserted into the sample. The minimum number of milliseconds is 1 and the maximum is dependent upon the available memory on your PC. You can enter the number by manually typing it in the Edit Box or using the "Spin" buttons (the up and down arrows in the right side of the Edit Box).

If desired, you can turn the "Undo" feature off by clicking the "Disable Undo" button.

### "Rate" Effect

Displays the " $\underline{\text{Adjust Rate Parameters}}$ " dialog box. Used to change the sampling rate of the current sample.

### "Adjust Rate Parameters" Dialog

Used to indicate a new sampling rate (recording frequency). You can select from any of the three standard sampling rates. Changing a sample to a lower rate reduces the file size but also reduces it's fidelity. However, increasing the rate will not improve the sound quality. You should only increase the sampling rate when you want to cut and paste portions of two samples that were recorded at different sampling rates.

# **Stop Playback**

Stops playing the current sample.

# **Pause Playback**

Temporarily stops playing the current sample. Clicking the button again causes the playing of the sample to be resumed.

# **Play Sample**

Plays the current sample (or selected portion of the current sample).

### **Keyboard Shortcuts**

Typically, you will use the mouse to control the components. However, there are some keyboard shortcuts that you should be aware of. These shortcuts are standard Microsoft Windows keyboard conventions, and should work in most Windows applications.

#### Pressing a Button:

If a button has a particular letter underlined, you can "press" that button by keying <ALT> and the underlined letter. If the focus (current position) is on a button, press the <SpaceBar> or <ENTER> to "press" the button.

### Moving the Focus:

To move the focus (or current position) forward on a component or dialog box, press the <TAB> key. To move the focus backward, press <Shift><TAB>.

#### Moving Within Entry Fields:

Press the <Home> key to move the cursor to the beginning of an entry field. Press the <End> key to move the cursor to the end of the an entry field.

#### Using Drop List Fields:

First use the <TAB> and <Shift><TAB> keys to move the focus (current position) to the Drop List Field. Press the Down Arrow key to display the Drop List (list of selections). Use the Up Arrow and Down Arrow keys to move the selection indicator Press <ENTER> to select the highlighted entry in the drop list. The drop list will be dismissed and the selected entry will be shown in the field.

#### Closing a Dialog Box

Press <ESC> to close an open Dialog Box.

## **Playlist**

A playlist is a customized sequence of file (or CD audio) selections. You can create playlists with any desired combination of these selections. A playlist can contain as many as 99 different items.

### **OK Button**

Closes the dialog and accepts the selections and / or information that was entered.

### **Cancel Button**

Closes the dialog, ignoring any selections and  $\slash\hspace{-0.6em}$  or information that was entered..

## **Help Button**

Displays the online help topic for the currently displayed dialog.

### "File Name" Edit Field / List Box

Used to enter the desired file name. You may also select a file from the File Name list box (below the File Name edit field). Use the scroll bar to page through the list of available files. By default, the initial search criteria for files in the list box is shown in the display area.

Related Topics:

<u>Description edit field / list box</u> <u>List Files of Type combo box</u>

## "Description" Edit Field / List Box

When you select a file, the associated description (if the file has been described) will be shown in this field. The Description list box displays the descriptions associated with each file name shown in the "File Name" edit field / list box.

### Related Topics:

<u>List Files of Type combo box</u> <u>Directories edit field / list box</u> <u>File Name edit field / list box</u>

### "Directories" Edit Field / List Box

Used to enter the directory in which the desired file is located. You can also select a directory from the "Directory" List Box. The directories displayed in this area are dictated by the drive specified in the "<u>Drives</u>" combo box.

Related Topic:

Drives combo box

## "List Files of Type" Combo Box

Used to specify the type of files that are being displayed in the "File Name" list box. If there is only a single type of file that is supported, the combo box will be disabled.

Related Topics:

<u>Description edit field / list box</u> <u>File Name edit field / list box</u>

### "Drives" Combo Box

Used to specify the drive to search for matching files. Use the "drop down" button at the right side of the combo box to display a list of available drives.

Related Topics:

Directories edit field / list box

## "File Open" Dialog

This dialog box is displayed by selecting the "Open" menu option. It is used to open a desired file.

Related Topics:

**Control descriptions** 

File Save dialog description
Open Playlist dialog description
Program Playlist dialog description
Save Playlist dialog description

## "File Open" Dialog Controls

The "File Open" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
File Name edit field / list box
Description edit field / list box
Directories edit field / list box
Drives combo box
Help button
List Files of Type combo box
OK button

## "File Save" Dialog

The File Save Dialog Box is used to save a new (or modified) WAVE file. Enter the desired path and filename and click the OK Button to save the file.

Related Topics:

**Control descriptions** 

File Open dialog description
Open Playlist dialog description
Program Playlist dialog description
Save Playlist dialog description

## "File Save" Dialog Controls

The "File Save" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
File Name edit field / list box
Description edit field / list box
Directories edit field / list box
Drives combo box
Help button
List Files of Type combo box
OK Button

### Internal Media "Program Playlist" Dialog

This dialog box is displayed when you click the "Program" button on the <u>MIDI Player</u> or the <u>Digital Recorder</u> components. It is used to create customized <u>playlists</u>.

Instead of opening a single file at a time, you may open multiple files, creating what is called a "playlist". Specifically, all of the components allow up to 99 items in a single playlist.

Note that the functionality of this dialog is similar to the <u>External Media "Program Playlist"</u> dialog for the <u>CD Player</u>. However, since there are some differences, each version is described separately.

Related Topics:

Control descriptions

File Open dialog description
File Save dialog description
Open Playlist dialog description
Merge Playlist dialog description
Save Playlist dialog description

### **Internal Media "Program Playlist" Dialog Controls**

The Internal Media "Program Playlist" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Add button

Cancel button

Describe button

Description edit field / list box

DeSelect All button

Directories edit field / list box

<u>Drives combo box</u>

File Name edit field / list box

Help button

<u>List Files of Type combo box</u>

Merge button

OK button

Open button

Playlist list box

Remove button

Save button

Search button

Select All button

# "Playlist" List Box

Used to display and modify a customized <u>playlist</u>.

## "Select All" Button

Selects (or deselects) all available items in the associated list box. If you select all the items, they will be highlighted. If you deselect them, the highlighting will be turned off.

## "Add" Button

Adds the selected items in the associated list box to the "Playlist" list box.

### "Describe" Button

Displays the "Describe Selection" dialog, allowing you to enter descriptions for selected items. Depending on the type of media you are describing, the <a href="Internal Media" Describe Selection" dialog will be displayed.">Internal Media "Describe Selection"</a> dialog will be displayed.

# "Remove" Button

Removes all selected items from the "Playlist" list box.

# "Open" Button

Displays the "<u>Open Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to select from a list of existing <u>playlists</u> to be opened.

## "Merge" Button

Displays the "<u>Merge Playlist</u>" dialog, allowing you to select from a list of existing <u>playlists</u> to be combined with the current playlist. The playlist is merged beginning at the last selected item in the "<u>Playlist</u>" list box.

## "Save" Button

Displays the " $\underline{\text{Save Playlist}}$ " dialog, allowing you to save a  $\underline{\text{playlist}}$  you have created for future retrieval.

### "Search" Button

Displays the <u>Internal Media "TitleTrax Search"</u> dialog, allowing you to search through the database to find a particular selection or group of selections. The system will display all selections in the database that match the specified search criteria.

## **Internal Media "Describe Selection" Dialog**

This dialog is displayed when you click one of the "Describe" buttons in the <u>Digital Recorder</u> or <u>MIDI Player</u> "Program Playlist" dialogs. It is used to enter the description and any associated comments for a file.

Related Topics:

Control descriptions

Internal Media "TitleTrax Search" dialog

## **Internal Media "Describe Selection" Dialog Controls**

The Internal Media "Describe Selection" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Comments edit field
Cancel button
Help button
Next button
OK button
Previous button

Selection Artist edit field Selection Title edit field

## **External Media "Describe Selection" Dialog**

This dialog is displayed when you click one of the "<u>Describe</u>" buttons on the CD Player "<u>Program Playlist</u>" dialog box. It is used to enter descriptions of the CD and it's audio selections.

Related Topic:

**Control descriptions** 

### **External Media "Describe Selection" Dialog Controls**

The External Media "Describe Selection" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Comments edit field

Compilation Artist edit field

Compilation Title edit field

Compilation Tracks edit field

Compilation Year edit field

Cancel button

Help button

Next button

OK button

**Previous button** 

Selection Artist edit field

Selection Side edit field

Selection Time edit field

Selection Title edit field

Selection Track edit field

Selection Year edit field

### **Next Button**

Displays the next highlighted selection in the  $\underline{\text{playlist}}$  that you are describing.

## **Previous Button**

Displays the previous highlighted selection in the  $\underline{\text{playlist}}$  that you are describing.

### "Comments" Edit Box

The "Comments" edit box allows you to enter a comment for the current selection. You may enter text until you have filled the edit box. Due to the proportional spacing of most typefaces, there is not a specific length for the comments.

## "Selection Artist" Edit Field

The "Selection Artist" edit field allows you to enter the name of the selection's composer or singer. You may enter up to 60 characters in this field.

## "Selection Title" Edit Field

The "Selection Title" edit field allows you to enter the name of a selection's title. You may enter up to 60 characters in this field.

## "Selection Side" Edit Field

The "Selection Side" edit field allows you to enter the side (or "volume number") of a multidisc compilation. You may enter 1 character in this field.

## "Selection Time" Edit Field

The "Selection Time" edit field allows you to enter the playing time of the selection. You may enter up to 4 numbers and a colon, i.e., 99:99, in this field.

## "Selection Track" Edit Field

The "Selection Track" edit field allows you to enter the track number of the selection. You may enter up to 2 numbers, i.e., 01-99, in this field.

## "Selection Year" Edit Field

The "Selection Year" edit field allows you to enter the year that the selection was composed or released. You may enter up to 4 numbers, i.e., 1999, in this field.

# "Compilation Artist" Edit Field

The "Compilation Artist" edit field allows you to enter the name of the compilation's composer or singer. You may enter up to 60 characters in this field.

# "Compilation Title" Edit Field

The "Compilation Title" edit field allows you to enter the name of the compilation's title. You may enter up to 128 characters in this field.

# "Compilation Tracks" Edit Field

The "Compilation Tracks" edit field allows you to enter the total number of tracks (or selections) available on the compilation. You may enter up to 2 numbers, i.e., 01-99, in this field.

# "Compilation Year" Edit Field

The "Compilation Year" edit field allows you to enter the year that the selection was composed or released. You may enter up to 4 numbers, i.e., 1999, in this field.

## "Save Playlist" Dialog

This dialog box is displayed when you click the "Save" button on the "Program Playlist" dialog or select "Save Playlist" from the "File" menu. It is used to enter the desired description for a playlist to be saved.

Related Topics:

Control descriptions

Open Playlist dialog Merge Playlist dialog Program Playlist dialog

## "Save Playlist" Dialog Controls

The "Save Playlist" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button

Delete button

Help button

OK button

Playlist Description edit field

Playlist Descriptions list box

## "Delete" Button

Deletes (upon confirmation) all currently selected playlists in the "<u>Playlist Description</u>" list box.

# "Playlist Description" Edit Field

Allows you to enter a new <u>playlist</u> title or modify an existing playlist title. You may enter up to 60 characters in this field.

# "Playlist Descriptions" List Box

Allows you to select from existing <u>playlists</u> to open, overwrite or delete.

## "Open Playlist" Dialog

This dialog box is displayed when you click the "Open" button on the "Program Playlist" dialog or select "Open Playlist" from the "File" menu. It is used to select an existing playlist to be opened.

Related Topics:

**Control descriptions** 

Merge Playlist dialog Program Playlist dialog Save Playlist dialog

## "Open Playlist" Dialog Controls

The "Open Playlist" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
Delete button
Help button
OK button
Playlist Descriptions list box

## "Merge Playlist" Dialog

This dialog box is displayed when you click the "Merge" button on the "Program Playlist" dialog. It is used to merge an existing playlist into the current playlist.

Related Topics:

**Control descriptions** 

Open Playlist dialog Program Playlist dialog Save Playlist dialog

# "Merge Playlist" Dialog Controls

The "Merge Playlist" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
Delete button
Help button
OK button
Playlist Descriptions list box

#### Internal Media "TitleTrax Search" Dialog

This dialog is displayed when you click the "Search" button on the Digital Recorder/MIDI Player "Program Playlist" dialog (this option is not available for the CD Player). It is used to search through your database for WAVE or MIDI files that match specific criteria. Keep in mind that the search is performed through the database, not the actual drive where your files are stored.

Related Topics:

Control descriptions

## Internal Media "TitleTrax Search" Dialog Controls

The Internal Media "TitleTrax Search" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Abort Search button

Cancel button

Help button

Match Case check box

Match Whole Word Only check box

OK button

Playlist Additions list box

Search button

Selection Artist edit field

Selection Name edit field

Selection Path edit field

Selection Time edit field

Selection Title edit field

#### "Selection Path" Edit Field

The "Selection Path" edit field allows you to enter the MS-DOS path to search for. You may enter up to 128 alphanumeric characters, i.e., "C:\STEREO\WAVE", in this field.

#### "Selection Name" Edit Field

The "Selection Name" edit field allows you to enter the MS-DOS filename to search for. You may enter up to 12 alphanumeric characters, i.e., "FILENAME.EXT", in this field.

# "Playlist Additions" List Box

Displays the results of the current search. If the " $\underline{OK}$ " button is pressed, the list box's contents will be transferred to the associated <u>playlist</u>.

## "Match Whole Word Only" Check Box

Controls whether or not spacing is considered to be part of the "match" criteria. When enabled, a search for "RAIN" wouldn't consider "TRAIN", "GRAIN" or "RAINY" to be a match. In order for a match to be found, it would have to be surrounded by spaces or punctuation, i.e., "\_RAIN." or "\_RAIN\_". When disabled, all three examples would match the search criteria.

#### "Match Case" Check Box

Controls whether a search is performed on a case-sensitive (or insensitive) basis. When enabled, a search for "RAIN" wouldn't produce a match with "rain" or "Rain". When disabled, all three items would be considered the same.

#### "Search" Button

Initiates a search based on the specified criteria. As matching items are found, they are added to the "<u>Playlist Additions</u>" list box. You may cancel the search at any time by pressing the "<u>Abort Search</u>" button.

## "Abort Search" Button

Aborts the search that is currently in progress. Aborting the current search causes all search results to be removed from the "Playlist Additions" list box.

#### "Recording Settings" Dialog

This dialog is displayed when you click the "<u>Settings</u>" button on the <u>Digital Recorder</u> or select the "Settings" menu option. It is used to control the recording parameters for the Digital Recorder, including its input source and sampling quality. The appearance of this dialog varies, depending on the installed sound card.

Understanding the basics of digital sampling is very important for obtaining the best results. Each of the "Recording Settings" options are explained in detail to aid your understanding of these concepts. For more information, refer to the "Sampling Frequencies Quality/Storage Comparison" chart that outlines the various sampling frequencies' quality and storage requirements:

Related Topics:
Control descriptions

## "Recording Settings" Dialog Controls

The "Recording Settings" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
Help button
Input Selection buttons
OK button
Recording Mode check boxes
Sample Size (Bits) check boxes
Sampling Rate check boxes

Related Topic:

Sampling Frequencies Quality/Storage Comparison chart

#### "Sample Size (Bits)" Check Boxes

Used to indicate whether you want to record 8 or 16 bit sample sizes. The sample size is one of the controlling factors of the sound quality of a sample. When audio is sampled, a numerical value is stored every n/th of a second (controlled by the sampling frequency). When the 8-bit sample size is selected, the value can be any of 256 discrete possibilities. However, the 16-bit sample size provides 65,536 discrete possibilities, providing a more accurate representation of the analog signal's amplitude. Click the desired settings button to make your choice. If the "16-bit" button is disabled ("grayed out"), your sound card isn't capable of recording 16-bit samples in the currently selected recording mode and sampling rate.

## "Recording Mode" Check Boxes

Used to indicate whether you want to record a stereo or monaural sample. Generally, the "Mono" setting should be used whenever recording speech, as it requires half the storage of a stereo sample. If the "Stereo" button is disabled ("grayed out"), your sound card isn't capable of recording stereo samples in the currently selected sampling frequency and sample size.

## "Sampling Rate" Check Boxes

Used to select the desired sampling rate. Lower sampling rates produce smaller files but have poor fidelity. Higher sampling rates produce better sounding samples, but produce larger files. Generally, the 11 KHz sampling rate is adequate for speech reproduction, while 22 KHz is best for music reproduction. 44 KHz sampling rates should only be used when CD-quality audio is absolutely required, as their storage requirements are substantial.

## "Input Selection" Buttons

Used to select the desired recording source(s) for the Digital Recorder. The number of possible inputs will vary according to the sound card that is installed. If the sound card has only one input, the "Input Selection" group will not be shown. Also, some sound cards allow multiple input sources to be selected simultaneously, while others allow only one selection at a time. Refer to your sound card's documentation on sampling capabilities for more information.

#### "Sampling Frequencies Quality / Storage Comparison" Chart

This chart compares the relative audio quality and associated storage requirements of the sample rates, recording modes and sample sizes that are supported by the Windows Multimedia Extensions. Audio qualities and associated storage requirements will vary slightly between manufacturers' products.

The actual audio quality depends not only on the quality of components used in your sound card, but also external forces, such as RF interference from other cards you have installed in your system, the quality of the original audio source, and the potential information degradation associated with audio compression algorithms.

Storage requirements are generally consistent. However, some manufacturers have implemented a hardware/software combination that "fools" the Windows Multimedia Extensions into believing 16-bit sample sizes are being utilized, while the hardware is actually sampling at a 12-bit sample size. The perceived quality of a 12-bit and 16-bit sample are very similar, yet the 12-bit sample requires 25% less storage space than the 16-bit sample. Other manufacturers have implemented audio compression algorithms in hardware, software or a combination of the two that results in smaller storage requirements, often at a loss of audio fidelity.

The information in this chart is based on standard WAV format files with no additional compression algorithms being utilized and the actual sample size matching the stated values.

Sample Frequency	Audio Range/	8-Bit	16-Bit	
	<b>Audio Quality</b>	File Size	File Size	
11 KHz	5.5 KHz	670 KB/Min. Mono	1.33 MB/Min. Mono	
	(AM Radio)	1.33 MB/Min. Stereo	2.65 MB/Min. Stereo	
22 KHz	11 KHz	1.33 MB/Min. Mono	2.65 MB/Min. Mono	
	(FM Radio)	2.65 MB/Min. Stereo	5.3 MB/Min. Stereo	
44 KHz	22 KHz	2.65 MB/Min. Mono	5.3 MB/Min. Mono	
	(Compact Disc)	5.3 MB/Min. Stereo	10.59 MB/Min. Stereo	

Related Topics:

Recording Settings dialog box

# **External Media "Program Playlist" Dialog**

This dialog is displayed when you click the " $\underline{Program}$ " button on the  $\underline{CD\ Player}$ . It is used to enter selections into the database or to create customized  $\underline{playlists}$ .

Note that the functionality of this dialog is similar to the <u>Internal Media "Program Playlist"</u> dialog for the <u>Digital Recorder</u> and the <u>MIDI Player</u>. However, since there are some differences, each version is described separately.

Related Topics:

**Control descriptions** 

## **External Media "Program Playlist" Dialog Controls**

The External Media "Program Playlist" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Add button

Cancel button

Describe button

**Deselect All button** 

Help button

Merge button

OK button

Open button

Playlist list box

Remove button

Save button

Select All button

Selections list box

## "Selections" List Box

Used to display all available  $\underline{\text{audio tracks}}$  on the currently inserted CD.

#### **Playlist Selections Combo Box**

Allows you to choose from available selections in the current playlist. The combo box displays the track number, playing time, file name and description of the selections. If you have never entered the WAVE file descriptions into the database (using the "Program Playlist" dialog box), the description portion will be blank. Once entered, the descriptions are automatically loaded in future sessions.

You can use the drop down button on the right side of the combo box to display and select from all the selections in the current playlist.

#### "Invalid MCS TitleTrax Data Path" Dialog

This dialog is displayed when the MCS TitleTrax database engine cannot find your database files or they appear to be corrupted.

If this dialog is displayed and you haven't moved the database files to a different subdirectory (or drive), you may wish to select "Cancel" and verify the integrity of your drive. Otherwise, you may specify the new path to the database files.

Related Topics:

Control descriptions

# "Invalid MCS TitleTrax Data Path" Dialog Controls

The "Invalid MCS TitleTrax Data Path" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
Create button
Help button
Select Path button

Related Topic:
<a href="Dialog Description">Dialog Description</a>

#### **Create Button**

Creates new database files. THIS WILL REPLACE ANY EXISTING FILES! Any previously entered descriptions of compact discs or files will be lost.

#### **Select Path Button**

Displays the "Select Path" dialog, allowing you to specify an alternate path to search for the database files.

## "Select Path" Dialog

This dialog is displayed when the "Select Path" button on the "<u>Invalid Data Path</u>" dialog box is selected. It allows you to intuitively select a new drive and/or directory to store the MCS TitleTrax database files.

Related Topics:

**Control descriptions** 

## "Select Path" Dialog Controls

The "Select Path" dialog controls allow you to control the operations of the dialog. Select from the following list to learn more about specific operations.

Cancel button
Directories edit field / list box
Drives combo box
Help button
OK button