

Roland U220 Librarian Program

LIB220 Rev 2.05

INTRODUCTION

This program is designed to serve as a System Exclusive (SYX) file librarian for the Roland U-220 Sound Module. It can perform the following operations:

- Read and write SYX files for the U220.
- Display and edit U220 SYX files.
- Send SYX information to a U220.
- Create lists of Timbres and Patches from a SYX file.

This program will only run under Microsoft Windows (Version 3.1) and requires a mouse and a graphic display system.

REGISTRATION

This is a shareware program. As such, you are permitted to use and evaluate it for a period of 14 days. At the end of that time, you must either pay to register the program, or stop using it. Details concerning registration are provided at the end of this document.

INSTALLATION

The program must be unpacked for installation. Three files are required:

- LIB220N.EXE - the executable file.
- LIB220.CFG - configuration file.
- U220.SYX - a base U220 file.

These files should be in the same subdirectory. If you already have a subdirectory of SYX files, use that one. This file (LIB220.WRI) is not necessary for program operation.

To install the program in Windows, use the File item in the program manager menu. Select New and Program Item. Select a Description (like 'Librarian') and enter the path to the EXE file. If you wish, you can select 'Change Icon' to install the Icon contained in this file (it's the third one).

OPERATION

To execute the program, select it to run from the Program Manager. The program will load the U220.SYX file, and display the Setup Control Panel.

THE SETUP CONTROL PANEL

The first task to perform is to select the MIDI device driver which is connected to your U220. To do this, click on the MIDI Device Out drop box, and select the appropriate driver. After you have done this once, the configuration file will be updated to retain your selection.

If you are using a MIDI controller to test your work, and you don't have other MIDI software loaded, you should also select a MIDI Device In. If your keyboard doesn't control your synthesizer, select the appropriate driver in this box. You can reset this to 'None' if other software won't load concurrently. Most MIDI software allows, or can allow, pass through of incoming MIDI messages. This selection is NOT retained in the configuration file.

Some synthesizer parameters can be modified here (like master frequency and effects controls). To change the settings on a connected U220, click on the SEND button. The SEND ALL button will transmit the entire SYX file to the synthesizer. Patch Parts and Effects can be edited by selecting either the Parts or Effects icons. Timbres are edited by selecting the Timbre icon.

The FILES menu item at the top of the screen provides access to SYX files and other miscellaneous functions. The List Timbres and List Patches functions create list files containing information from the SYX file (names and numbers). The list files are named PATCH.LST and TIMBRE.LST, and are stored in the currently active directory. They can be printed for reference.

Using ALT-F4 or the Exit item on the menu will cause your current SYX file to be updated with any changes you have made. The configuration file will be changed to record your current patch, timbre and work SYX file. If you do not wish to modify the SYX file, use the FILES menu item Save As to assign the output to another file.

TIMBRE EDIT

Here you can edit or create timbres. For most work, this is where you will start, since timbres are the basic building blocks of the Roland system.

Most of these controls are also easily understood. Here too, changes are transmitted to the synthesizer as they are made. The SEND button also performs this function. This combination of actions allows testing timbres from your keyboard.

This screen contains a graphic display of one of three basic timbre characteristics: Envelope, Vibrato, or Auto Bend. The GRAPH button within each of these groups causes its graph to be shown; changing a parameter which effects the graph also causes it to be displayed.

The Current Patch/Flat Patch button near the top is used to select the patch within which the current Timbre is tested. The flat patch is set to number 64 (it can be changed in the configuration file), and that patch should be nominally flat (no reverb, chorus, range limits, etc.). This button displays a label which toggles to indicate which patch you will get if you press it.

You can close this (and any other) screens by pressing the down arrow (minimize) in the upper right corner of the window.

PATCH EFFECTS EDIT

This screen provides access to the patch effects (Chorus and Reverb), and special controller assignments. Also here are the Rx Volume and Rx Hold boxes, which enable controllers for these functions. Here too, you can select the patch you wish to modify or view, and change its name.

Graphics included on this screen characterize the chorus and reverb settings. They are updated as you change parameters they represent.

The Post Reverb check box (in the chorus group) selects the insertion point for chorus effects: if it's checked, chorus will be inserted after reverb, otherwise before reverb.

Patch effects changes (except controller assignments) are transmitted to the synthesizer as soon as they are made. The SEND button also performs this function.

PATCH PARTS EDIT

This screen allows access to all of the parameters associated with patch parts (including the percussion part). The top line displays a drop box selector to select the patch desired. Each part also contains a drop box selector to select the timbre (or percussion set) desired. The send key has two effects: 1) it transmits the patch to the U220, and 2) it causes the patch you're editing to become the currently selected patch in the synthesizer. This allows you to test the patch from your keyboard. The right mouse button also functions as a SEND. To use it this way, be sure that the cursor isn't on a scroll bar, button, or drop box.

Most of the controls on this panel are self-explanatory. Some are not:

The RX check boxes under the Level and Pan scroll bars are used to enable reception of Level and Pan controls from a controller.

The unlabeled check boxes under the V.Thrs (velocity threshold) scroll bars indicate Below if checked.

CONFIGURATION FILE FORMAT

The configuration file (LIB220.CFG) is a text file containing information which is saved between executions of LIB220. Each line contains a two-letter identifier followed by an equal sign and a value. The configuration file supplied has the following format:

IO=none (Midi Output Device Driver Name)
WF=u220.syx (Current SYX file)
PN=3 (Currently Active Patch)
TN=2 (Currently Active Timbre)
TP=64 (Current Timbre 'Flat Patch')

The program rewrites this file when it terminates, but it can be edited to reflect your preferences.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY AND LIMITATIONS

I use the U220 for sequencing, not performance. This program is limited in ways which reflect this bias. Currently, it will not allow maps to be edited, won't allow editing of the Percussion assignments or instruments, and doesn't address a few of the after sense parameters. Some of these will be added in future versions (like editing percussion instruments), some will be added only if users express an interest in them (like the mapping functions).

In addition to these limitations, LIB220 will allow you to do things that the U220 cannot handle. More than 30 voices can be reserved, and the upper pitch range of an instrument may be set below its lower pitch range. Validity checks may also be added in future revisions; for now, avoid setting illogical or disallowed conditions.

CHANGES IN REVISION 2.02.

This revision was designed for Windows 3.1 and its Multimedia conventions. All MIDI functions are now allocated to the installed driver. In addition, the interface has been recoded as a MDI, with the dialog boxes as children. This allows easier movement among them.

CHANGES IN REVISION 2.03.

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There were two changes in this revision: 1) Include 'None' as a MIDI output selection and 2) prevent the saving of the path name in the configuration file. The first of these was done to allow users with special hardware configurations to use the program. The second prevented a bug.

CHANGES IN REVISION 2.04

The PASCAL compiler options were set explicitly to prevent use of the numeric co-processor and range checking.

CHANGES IN REVISION 2.05

There were two changes in this revision: 1) A bug in the Timbre window which always showed the Acoustic Piano 1 as the selected tone was fixed, and 2) an option to quit without updating the current SYX file was added.

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When you register, you will receive a disk with your registered copy of U220 Librarian. This will enable all of the features of the program. You will also receive notices of updates and technical support. If you require technical support, have comments or suggestions, send your correspondence to the address below.

Registration just costs \$29.

To register, send the order form (or a reproduction) with the check or money order.

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