Miladin's Mini MIDAS Mod Player
Help Contents

To access context sensitive help, press <F1> at any time!

Miladin's Mini MIDAS Mod Player
Introduction

Mi3 Player is freeware Win32 program for playing music modules. Module playing support is provided through MIDAS Sound System V0.6 by Sahara Surfers. I did some changes to original Midas DLL and recompiled it. That's why it is named "midas06m.dll" rather than "midas06.dll".
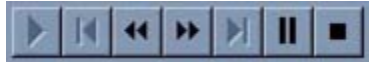
Mi3 player cool features:

▪ Reads XM (Fast Tracker II), S3M (Scream Tracker 3) and MOD (Protracker) modules

▪ Playlist support with integrated playlist editor

▪ Drag&drop support, both in playlist editor and in main window

▪ Wide range of output options: stereo, mono or surround output in 8 or 16 bit quality; mixing rate from 8000 Hz up to 44100 Hz

▪ Adjustable mixing buffer length lets you customize how Mi3 Player performs when other programs are taking most of processor time

▪ Stereo VU meters provided in both "analog" and "digital" form

▪ Context sensitive help - just press <F1>

▪ Almost all commands are available from keyboard

▪ Cool, compact and intuitive interface

▪ And last, but not least, it's   FREE!!!

Miladin's Mini MIDAS Mod Player
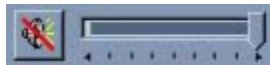**Main Window**

Here are the basic elements of main window:

Title panels show you the title and file name of currently playing module. You can open and start playing modules or playlists by dragging them directly to these panels.

Use these buttons to control module and playlist playback.

Using these controls you can adjust playback volume and mute/unmute sound.

Use these buttons to access Playlist Editor, Module Information, open or close VU Meters and set Options.

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Options Dialog

Options dialog lets you change just about everything about this program.

First time you start the program you're presented with this dialog and only two possible ways further: "Cancel" and "OK" button. If you click on "OK", options will be saved into registry. If you click on "Cancel", no changes will be made to your registry whatsoever and default options will be used, but next time you start Mi3 Player, same dialog will appear.

When you want to change options later on, you can go with "OK" and keep the changes only for the lasting of current session, or click on "Save options" and make them permanent. This allows you to try out different settings before you make them permanent.

Here is the explanation of options you can choose from:

▪ **Playback**

"Mixing frequency" affects quality of sound. With higher frequency you'll get better sound, but will also suffer bigger performance hit. Don't worry about it! On Pentium 100, 44KHz mixing takes average of 2% processor time.

"Mixing buffer size" decides on how much of module should be mixed in advance. This parameter is in milliseconds. If you select bigger buffer, Mi3 Player will play smoother in the background when other CPU intensive tasks are working, but that asks for more memory. Again, default value of 500 ms works just fine, and total memory usage for Mi3 Player rarely exceeds 4 MB and is mostly closer to 2 MB. You can hear how this option works if you select 2000 ms buffer and then click on pause or mute during playback.

"Output mode" and "Output channels" should be clear. Select surround/stereo/mono and 16/8 bit output.

"Loop when playing single module" option lets you decide whether module will restart or stop at the end when you're playing single module. If you're playing playlist, modules will never loop, but playlist always loop.

▪ **Appearance**

"Start with open VU meter" lets you decide whether VU meters will be displayed or not when you start Mi3 player. If you want to start with VU meters open, you can choose between analog or digital version.

"Save window position" will save main application window current position. Next time you start Player, it will appear in that exact position.

▪ **File Types**

These options decide if Mi3 Player will start when you double-click on module in your explorer. There are two very important things you should know about these options. First, these options are ALWAYS saved, even if you just click on "OK", not on "Save options" button. Second, checked boxes do NOT represent current state of file type association. They show you what files will be associated with Mi3 Player after you click on OK. So, if you don't want my program to change your preferences, uncheck all check boxes. Otherwise, mark file types by checking corresponding check boxes.

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Playlist Editor

Playlist is a sequence of modules that will be played one after another, very much like on audio tape or CD. To add files to playlist, click on "Start explorer" button and then drag module files from explorer to playlist window. You can then change order in which modules will be played, delete files from playlist, shuffle files in playlist, etc. You can also save playlist that you made or open existing playlist.

When you're done, you can click on "OK" button and start playing that playlist or click on "Cancel" and leave editor without playing that playlist. If you open playlist editor during playlist playback, you'll be able to edit that list.

Playlist files must have an extension "MPL". This is how program tells them apart from other files. Other than that, playlists are just plain text files that you can edit with any text editor. They should contain full path and filename of every module that will be played.

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Info Window

Info window gives you information about loaded module. You can find out module name, drive path and filename of loaded module, how many instruments, channels and patterns are there in module and what is it's initial tempo.

Most important of all, you can see all the instrument names. They are displayed in DOS character set, in hope that they will look exactly as module author intended them to.

Instruments that are actually used are marked by "+" sign before instrument name.

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VU Meters

VU meters present maximum signal peak values.

"Digital" version shows this info in a form similar to that present on many new audio equipment. Green color represent low signal, yellow means medium to strong, while red stands for really strong signal. "Analog" version is similar to VU meters present on older audio equipment and represents signal peak by angle from zero position.

VU meters relay on Win32 system mixer device that is implemented in sound card driver. Program requests signal peak information on wave-out line of your sound card. At the time I made VU meters, I thought that all drivers implement this option. Apparently, this is not true. So, VU meters might not work for you! In this case, you'll get error message every time you try to open VU meters.

VU meters are quite CPU intensive, but when they are not displayed, they are totally inactive so Mi3 Player spends much less CPU time.

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Keyboard Commands

In addition to usual mouse navigation, you can control Mi3 player via Keyboard:

Playing

S	Start/Stop
P	Pause/Resume
▪>	Fast Forward
<▪	Rewind
E	Play List Editor
CTRL + ▪>	Next Song
CTRL + <▪	Previous Song

Volume

+ / -	Volume Up/Down
M	Mute

VU Meters

V	Show/Hide
D	Digital
A	Analog

Misc

I	Instruments & Info
O	Options
F1	Context Sensitive Help
? / H	About & Help Contents
CTRL + O	Open
SHIFT + ESC	Exit

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Revision History

Version 1.0 (12-Mar-1997)

New Features

▪ playlist editor now accepts directories and picks up all modules from inside that dir and, optionally, subdirs

▪ added possibility to shuffle playlist

▪ added surround sound (doesn't work with XM?)

▪ you can now open module by simply dragging it to title part of the main window

▪ "STOP" completely stops playback and unloads module thus releasing sound card for other programs and freeing some memory

▪ "+" in instruments display indicates instruments that are actually used

▪ Documentation is now in a form of real Windows Help file

▪ Context sensitive help available at all times by pressing <F1>

▪ A few minor cosmetic changes were made

Bug fixes

▪ fixed problem with rewinding a song and "no loop" option (well, almost)

▪ fixed info screen: all characters are now displayed correctly, even extended DOS characters

Version 0.9 (20-Feb-1997)

▪ first public release

Miladin's Mini MIDAS Mod Player
Distribution Sites

Mi3 Player will progress! How fast and in what direction depends on quantity and quality of feedback I get. Also, if MIDAS library brings some new features in future releases, I'll put them in my player.

Latest version can always be found on two sites:

- **http://www.open.hr/~pavlicic/**
  My home page!

- **http://www.maz-sound.com/**
  MAZ Sound Tools pages - greatest sound related site on the Internet!

Miladin's Mini MIDAS Mod Player
About Mi3 Player

▪ **Mi3 Player was written by Miladin Pavličić.**
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▪ MIDAS Sound System is Copyright 1996, 1997 Housemarque Inc. and written by Sahara Surfers.
   Contact address for technical info: pekangas@sci.fi
   Contact address for licensing info: midas@housemarque.fi

▪ Big thanks goes to Mario Magdić and MAZ for beta-testing and suggestions.

▪ I also thank everyone who sent me feedback and suggestions on version 0.9 of Mi3 Player.

Miladin's Mini MIDAS Mod Player
Mi3 Player Known problems

As far as I know, there are no bugs (yeah, right!).

Here is a list of known problems:

▪ VU meters depend on your sound card driver. If that driver does not implement "peak meter" control in mixer device part, then you'll get no VU meters.

▪ if you're running windows in 256 colors you'll see palette changes when switching between Mi3 Player and other applications. Sorry, but Mi3 Player is just not designed for less than HiColor displays. Textured window title bar and other pictures eat up lots of colors.

▪ Surround sound is only set on start of module playback. If module changes panning position, surround effect will stop to function. XM modules reset panning all the time, so surround options has no effect on them.

▪ There's no way to always stop song from looping, so rewind may work a bit strange from time to time. When playing playlists, for example, you can not rewind song as it will result in next song being loaded.