

SynthFont – the MIDI file SoundFont player.

© Kenneth Rundt, 2002 - 2008

Version 1.102 released in January 2008

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

New in Version 1.102

Bug fixes:

- Buffer overflow when using any of the 16 VST channels buses caused noise and other undesired effects
- Fixed problems when adding VST effects or instruments to the lists in Setup
- Removed the continuous controller Soft Pedal implementation
- In real time Midi Input mode most continuous controllers were "silent"
- Fixed some flaws related to midi looping (do not wait for VST instruments to finish, save original start point)
- Cleaned up the code

New in Version 1.101

Bug fixes:

- VST instruments could not be added to the list (caused exception)
- The default Play button was not always "Play To Speakers"
- Fixed a few other minor inconsistencies

New in Version 1.100

Bug fixes:

- Piano hold without "un-hold" could make the tune run forever
- Sometimes an extra silence would be added to the beginning of rendered audio files
- Kontakt 2 VST instrument did not work. Some other VST effects could not be loaded
- Pianoroll scroll option was not saved
- Some Pianoroll editing bugs fixed
- An important render function was compiled without optimization, causing the render process to run with high CPU usage
- The Pianoroll position was not updated in sync when playing
- Better memory management
- Volume and BPM automation values were not updated when going forwards or backwards
- The VST instrument instance numbers in the arrangement file were not always correctly set when opening the file
- Muting VST instruments could leave notes hanging
- Fixed some other bugs reported by EurekaLog

New features:

- You can now render files in a folder in Explorer to audio files without creating a playlist
- Support for creating Windows Media Audio (WMA) files
- You can select to skip files that have been already converted (so you can continue from where you stopped)

- You can now select pitch shifting method (normal or anti-aliasing) on a per track basis
- Implementation of the Continuous Controller "Soft Pedal" (#67)

User interface:

- There are now three Play buttons in the main toolbar for playing to speakers, to file(s), or to both
- In the Files pane there is a new radiobutton group for selecting the source file(s) for playing
- New keyboards in the Pianoroll, Preset Layers and Instrument Splits and as stand alone
- Tracks list heading has two new buttons: Tr# and Chnl. Press Tr# to show a dialog for changing the order of the tracks, Press Chnl to change the Midi channel. This function used to be in the mixer before but has now been removed from there.
- The Alt. View button has been removed from the main toolbar. Instead there are two alternative view items available in the View/Layouts menu
- In the View menu there is a choice for color scheme: SynthFont Green (default) or Windows Standard
- The Midi Channel selection has been removed from the mixer and is now found in the Chnl button in the tracks list header
- The Pan Spread function has also been removed from the mixer and is now found in a button in the toolbar ABOVE the tracks list header
- In the View menu is an item "Karaoke Lyrics". This is a first attempt to display Karaoke lyrics while playing.
- In the Play List you can now select and delete several files at the same time.
- Warning when trying to delete a track with Tempo setting (a METATAG)

Known issues:

- When rendering large numbers of midi files to audio files, the committed RAM memory grows all the time. After a few hundred files you may need to restart SynthFont.

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VSTSynthFont was not updated now

Background

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

History

SynthFont started off in the year 2000 as a small exercise in learning to understand the structure of SoundFonts. The goal was to learn how to create good quality SoundFonts and to develop a SoundFont editing tool with features not available in

Vienna. In the end I didn't create too many SoundFonts, but continued to develop SynthFont into this package.

Goal

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

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

Design concepts

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

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

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

License

This is a freeware version of SynthFont.

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

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

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

3. I would expect you to refer to www.synthfont.com as the home-site of SynthFont.

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