

Chapter 4

4

Audio Installation

Audio Rack Introduction

The Audio Rack³² enables you to take advantage of your computer's audio capabilities with all of the controls conveniently in one compact space. You can play audio CDs, wave files (in .wav and .aud formats), and MIDI files (in .mid and .rmi formats). With the multisource Audio Mixer, you can then record your creations as wave files and edit them with the Audio Recorder.

The AudioRack32 has six main parts:

- ⌘ Command Center- customizes the appearance of the AudioRack32.
- ⌘ Audio Mixer - Controls the volume and balance of the AudioRack32 devices.
- ⌘ Digital Audio Player- plays and records files in the .wav format.
- ⌘ MIDI Player - enables you to play MIDI files.
- ⌘ Compact Disk Player - enables you to play audio CDs on a CD-ROM.

In addition, the AudioRack32 has a miniature mode enabling you to control the AudioRack32 while using minimal screen space.

The Audio Recorder is a separate application from the AudioRack32. It can be used to add effects and edit files recorded with the Digital Audio Player or by the Audio Recorder itself. The Audio Recorder can be launched from the AudioRack32's Digital audio Player or on its own.



The Command Center

Introduction

The command center controls the parts of the AudioRack32 that are displayed. You can display or hide any part of the AudioRack32 you choose, customizing its appearance to suit your needs or desires. It also displays information on the status of the different audio components.

The command center controls

Power - closes the AudioRack32 window.

Stealth- enables the miniature mode, minimizing the AudioRack32 display .

Dat - displays or hides the Digital audio player.

Help - accesses On-line help

CD - displays or hides the compact disk player.

Mixer - displays or hides the audio Mixer.

MIDI - displays or hides the MIDI Player.

The Miniature Mode

Introduction

The miniature mode is designed to give you full control of the AudioRack32 while using a minimum of space, You are able to effectively use the AudioRack32 and still have enough room on your desktop to run other applications. In the miniature mode, you can play, pause, stop, and control the master volume of the audioRack32.

The Audio Mixer

Introduction

The Audio Mixer has two modes : playback mode and record mode. You can use these two modes to fully control the audio sources you are listening to or recording, how loud each of those sources are and how they are balanced. Each audio source has its own module with mute, balance and volume controls.

In addition, the audio mixer provides special effect controls for chorus, reverb, treble, bass, and 3-D effects.

The audio mixer controls

The two playback and record toggle buttons are used to switch between playback mode and record mode.

The effects toggle button switches the display to the effects panel where you can use the buttons to enable and disable effects and the sliders to control the amount of the effect.

There are a number of audio source modules displayed on the audio Mixer. The exact number displayed depends on the capabilities of your hardware. Each module has three controls.

- a slider to adjust the balance
- a slider to adjust the volume
- a button for muting

The Digital Audio Player

Introduction

The digital audio player enables you to play, record, and compress sound as .wave files. In addition, you can play audio files. The wave files use PCM, which is the Windows' audio file format. The .aud format uses ESPCM compression to produce an audio file. Files are written directly to your hard disk as you record, enabling you to record very large files. Your only limitation is the amount of free space on your hard disk. The voice activation feature is useful for recording any kind of intermittent audio. The digital audio player provides a choice of linear PCM (8 or 16 bit) recording. Note that you have additional options using the audio Recorder, which is invoked by the EDIT button.

The MIDI Player

Introduction

The MIDI Player enables you to play MIDI files with the .MID or .RMI file extensions. These MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) files can be produced by sequencer programs and then played back using the MIDI Player. You can also mix MIDI files with other audio sources. Or you can compile MIDI files in a playlist and play them back in any order you choose.

The MIDI player display

By clicking on the image of the floppy drive, you can display the length and name of the current MIDI file in the playlist. Click the display to return to the image of the floppy drive.

The MIDI Player has an indicator to show when you are listening to ESFM. When the EXFM light to the left of the playlist button is lit, the MIDI Player is using ESFM synthesis. ESFM performs superior-quality music synthesis compared to that of traditional FM, producing richer timbre and greater depth of instrument voices. FM synthesis is a lower quality technology compared with Wave table synthesis. This card supports Wave table synthesis therefore ESFM is not supported on this card.

The Compact Disk Player

Introduction

If you have a CD-ROM drive, you can play audio CDs. Check your hardware manual about setting up CD audio hardware and drivers. The compact disk player uses intellignet CD playlist management : The compact disk player maintains a record of each CD you play. It remembers the last playlist you used with each CD and loads that playlist automatically whenever you insert that CD.

The Audio Recorder

The audio recorder enables you to record, compress, store, and play back voice, music, and other sound. It provides settings for sound attributes such as mono/stereo, compression level, and sampling rate. You can use it to embed sound objects in documents created in applications that support object linking and embedding (OLE).

The audio recorder's edit, record, and playback capabilities are compatible with the Windows Sound Recorder and other recorders that record and play back in the PCM format, like the Digital Audio Player. The Audio Recorder can record and play back .wav and .aud files. The Audio Recorder allows a choice of compression from low, medium, and high ESPCM and ADPCM.

Release Notes

This information is provided for convenience only. Information here is subject to change without prior notice. View the installation CD for any updated information in Readme text files. The AudioRack also provides detailed online help (click the Help button on the Command Center)

Disable Eject Button On the CD Player

Under the Windows directory in the file "ajddrive.ini", there is a string "disableEjectButton=0" under the [cdplayer] section. If you would like to disable EJECT button on the CD player, you can change the value from 0 to 1. You need to close AudioRack and launch it again to let the new settings take effect.

Using AudioRack CD player as Default CD Player

During installation, you will be asked if you want to use AudioRack CD player as the default CD player. Normally Windows 95 CD player is the default and will automatically run when an audio CD is inserted into the CD-ROM. If you answer "Yes", the installation program will overwrite the value of the key[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT]\audioCD\shell\play\command in the registry. You may switch back to Windows95 CD player by resetting this key value.

Configuring Playback Mixer

The onboard PCI audio device offers eight inputs for the playback mixer, including "Line", "Wave", "CD", "Synth", "Aux A", "Aux B", "Mic" and "Mono In". AudioRack can only display six of them at a time. You may configure the settings by modifying the file "auddrive.ini" in the Windows directory. Under the section [MixerRak], you can enable or disable the display of each input by setting its corresponding binary value to 1 (enable) or 0 (disable).

Install Software Wavetable (Windows 95/98)

Insert the Software Driver into your computer, run **Setup.exe** in the root directory. This will bring up the main menu. Click Install Software Wave Table. Select Install **ESS** Software Wavetable and click next.

When Setup has finished installing all the necessary files on your computer, it will prompt you to restart your computer.

Select **yes, I want to restart my computer now** and then click **finish** to restart your computer and complete setup.

Date : / /

Technical Fault Report

Motherboard : _____ Checked by _____
Serial No : _____ _____

Hardware Configuration Used

CPU	
RAM	
Video Card	
I/O Controller	
Hard Drive	
Other Card	

Diagnostic Software Used

--

Fault Description

--

Date : / /

Technical Fault Report

Motherboard : _____ Checked by _____
Serial No : _____

Hardware Configuration Used

CPU	
RAM	
Video Card	
I/O Controller	
Hard Drive	
Other Card	

Diagnostic Software Used

--

Fault Description

--