bonafide systems

presents

MINI RECORDER

MIDI SOFTWARE
FOR THE COLECO ADAM™

LIMITED WARRANTY

BONAFIDE SYSTEMS warrants the MIDI-MITE interface and digital data packs to be free of any defects in materials and workmanship for ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. This warranty is limited to the original purchaser of the product. This warranty is invalid if the damage or defect is caused by accident or misuse of any kind.

If within ninety (90) days from the date of purchase the interface or digital data packs are found defective, BONAFIDE SYSTEMS will repair or replace them. The purchaser is responsible for returning the product and must provide a dated proof of purchase.

If after ninety (90) days the original digital data pack becomes defective, the purchaser can get a replacement copy from BONAFIDE SYSTEMS for $5.00 plus $2.50 shipping and handling. You must return the original data pack (or the remnants of it) to BONAFIDE SYSTEMS.

In no event shall BONAFIDE SYSTEMS be liable to the purchaser or any third party for incidental or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, loss of or damage to data, other programs, or storage media, loss of use, loss of business, or damage to your computer or musical instruments.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you experience any difficulty in using this program, or if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call us between 6pm and 10pm PST, at (209) 658-8530 or contact Chris Braymen via Compuserve, 70057,2035. Our address is Bonafide Systems 45280 S. Oakview Dr. Oakhurst, CA 93644. Please note that we will not be able to offer you this support unless you complete and mail the enclosed registration card.

PRODUCT REGISTRATION

To register this product please fill out and return the enclosed registration card. We must have your registration on file before we can offer any technical support. Registration will also help us keep you informed of any updates to the software and other information.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

VT PLAYER, MINI RECORDER, and their respective manuals are Copyright 1990 by BONAFIDE SYSTEMS. All rights reserved. Copying of these programs is limited to making back-ups for your own use. These programs and documentation are the result of several years of research and development. Please don't steal them by making copies for others or accepting copies from others. Thank you.

```
Bonafide Systems
Mini Recorder
Serial #MR1064
```

Coleco, ADAM, Smart Basic, EOS and Super Action Controllers are trademarks of Coleco Industries. CompuServe is a trademark of CompuServe Incorporated. CP/M is a trademark of Digital Research. VideoTunes is a trademark of FutureVision. Bonafide Systems is not affiliated with Coleco, CompuServe, Digital Research or FutureVision in any way.
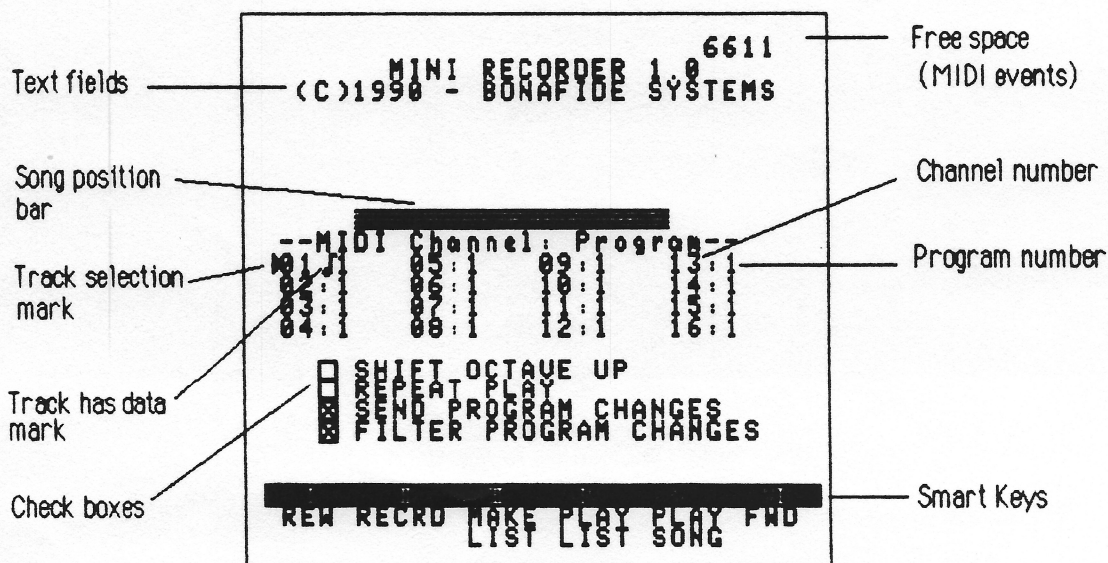
MINI RECORDER INSTRUCTION MANUAL

MINI RECORDER is a program that will allow you to record and playback standard MIDI files (format 0). This means you can play songs that were created on other computers and other computers can use the songs you record with this program. MINI RECORDER lets you send program changes, redirect channels, turn channels on and off, and shift the octave of your song. Since this is a simple player and recorder, no provision is made for editing the musical data.

HOW TO LOAD MINI RECORDER

Before loading MINI RECORDER make sure your MIDI interface is installed per instructions in the MIDI-MITE manual. We strongly advise you to make a backup of MINI RECORDER before you run it. Always use the backup and keep the original in a safe place. When you have done this, place your MINI RECORDER tape or disk in any drive and pull reset.

While MINI RECORDER is loading you will see the boot screen displaying the name of the program. This will be followed by the MINI RECORDER operations screen. If you get an error reading "MIDI INTERFACE NOT DETECTED" your interface is not connected correctly. Refer to the installation manual to install the interface. The operations screen should look like this:

TEXT FIELDS

There are 4 text fields at the top of the screen that you may fill with whatever information you would like to keep there. Each field is 30 characters long. To enter text into a text field, use the arrow keys to hilite the text field you wish to write in, then press Return. Enter your text and press Return when you are done. You may use the Backspace key to edit your text as you are entering it. Pressing Escape at any time will abort.

FREE SPACE

The number in the upper right corner of the screen tells you how many "MIDI EVENTS" are free in the computer's memory. A musical note consists of two MIDI events, a NOTE ON and a NOTE OFF. MINI RECORDER can therefore hold more than 3000 notes!

SONG POSITION BAR

Just below the text area you will see something that resembles a musical staff. The red note sitting on the staff shows your approximate position in the song. At the beginning of a song the note will be at the far left of the staff. At the end of the song the note will be at the far right.

CHECK BOXES

Each check box tells you whether the option to its right is "ON" or "OFF." If the check box has an "X" in it the corresponding option is "ON". If the check box is empty, the option is "OFF." To toggle a check box "ON" or "OFF", use the arrow keys to hilite the check box you wish to toggle, then press Return.

SHIFT OCTAVE UP

When this option is "ON" all notes are played one octave higher than they are written.

REPEAT PLAY

When this option is "ON" the song or list of songs being played will repeat until you press STOP.

SEND PROGRAM CHANGES

When this option is "ON" the program numbers in the "track information groups" are sent to the synthesizer before the song starts playing. This is a good way to pick the sounds you want your synthesizer to play on each channel.

FILTER PROGRAM CHANGES

MIDI song files may have program change numbers imbedded in them. These program numbers may or may not be appropriate for your synthesizer. When loading a song file, the first program number from each channel always goes into the "track information group" where you can change it if you want. The remaining program numbers will be filtered out if this option is "ON". If this option is "OFF" the program numbers will be loaded into memory and will have their intended effect.

TRACK INFORMATION GROUPS

Format 0 MIDI files are just long streams of multi-channel MIDI data. When MINI RECORDER loads a file it splits the different channels into separate "tracks" so you can have individual control over them. The information about each track is contained in a "track information group." The 16 "track information groups" appear in the middle of the screen and are organized as follows:

Track 1	Track 5	Track 9	Track 13
Track 2	Track 6	Track 10	Track 14
Track 3	Track 7	Track 11	Track 15
Track 4	Track 8	Track 12	Track 16

Each "track information group" is made up of 4 indicators: a "track selection mark", a "channel number", a "track has data mark", and a "program number."

Track Selection Mark

The track selection mark is a red, right pointing triangle that appears in the first column of a "track information group" when that track has been selected for playback. When loading a song, MINI RECORDER automatically selects for playback all tracks that contain MIDI data. You can toggle any tracks "ON" or "OFF" by using the arrow keys to hilite the corresponding "track selection mark", then pressing Return.

Channel Number

Each track has a channel number associated with it. Initially, the channel number is the same as the track number. Later, if you want track 1 to play on channel 8 instead of channel 1 you can change the channel associated with track 1 to 8. To change a channel number, use the arrow keys to hilite the channel number you wish to change, then press Return. Type in the new channel number and press Return when you are done. Pressing Escape at any time aborts. Your synthesizer manual will specify the channels your synthesizer responds to.

Track Has Data Mark

The "track has data" mark is a green note that appears between the channel number and the program number when the track contains MIDI data. If the track does not contain MIDI data a colon ":" appears in its place. You can not change the "track has data" mark. It's just there to remind you which tracks you're working with.

Program Number

Most synthesizers are capable of producing a wide variety of sounds. These sounds can be selected by sending MIDI program changes. The "program number" in a "track information group" lets you select a program change to send to your synthesizer at the beginning of a song. This lets you choose a different sound for each channel you are using. Note that you may not get the results you expect if you have two or more tracks sending different program changes on the same channel! To change one of the program numbers, use the arrow keys to hilite the number you wish to change, then press Return. Type in the new program number and press Return when you are done. Pressing Escape at any time aborts. Your synthesizer manual will explain what numbers correspond to what sounds. Some synthesizer manufacturers number their sounds from 0 to 127. If such is the case with your synthesizer, adding a 1 to your synthesizer sound number will give you the corresponding MINI RECORDER sounds. Program change numbers will have no effect if SEND PROGRAM CHANGES is off.

At the moment you can see that track 1 has data in it and is selected for playback on channel 1 with a program number of 1. Make sure track 1's channel is set to a channel your synthesizer will respond to. Now you can hear the default song by pressing the Smart Key V, "PLAY SONG". Not too exciting eh? Well, read on...

PLAYING SONGS ON YOUR MIDI INSTRUMENT

There are several songs stored on your MINI RECORDER tape. To play one of them, press the Store/Get button on your computer keyboard. The Smart Keys will change to "STORE"(V) and "GET"(VI). Press GET(VI). The Smart Keys will now display your currently loaded drives. If you get a message that says "No Drive Is Loaded", press Escape, check to make sure a drive is loaded, then try again.

Select the drive your songs are stored on. When you see the list of songs, select one by using the arrow keys to hilite the name, then press GET(VI). The song will be loaded and you will be returned to the operations screen. Loading large files can take some time so be patient.

When the song is finished loading, its comments will appear at the top of your screen. Green notes indicate tracks with MIDI data and red marks indicate tracks selected for playback. Make sure the channels are set to something your synthesizer will respond to, then press PLAY SONG(V). You should hear music coming from your MIDI synthesizer. Notice that the red note on the staff is moving toward the right as you progress through the song. Your Smart Key options at this time read "PAUSE"(V) and "STOP"(VI). Pressing PAUSE(V) will pause the music until you press Smart Key V "RESUME." Pressing STOP(VI) will abort the playback.

RECORDING MUSIC

To record music using MINI RECORDER, press the Shift key and Smart Key II, "RECRD". Pressing both keys simultaneously is required to prevent you from accidentally hitting RECRD(II) and erasing the currently loaded song. After pressing <Shift> RECRD(II), play something on your synthesizer. MINI RECORDER will record everything you play including program changes, pedal data, pitch bend data, and more. When you are done recording, press STOP(VI). You should see a green "track has data mark" in the "track information group" corresponding to the channel your synthesizer sent the data on. If you don't see a green note make sure you have the MIDI cables plugged in correctly. Also, unplug your Super Action Controllers if you have them. Super Action Controllers may interfere with recording music.

SAVING SONGS

When MINI RECORDER saves your song it saves your current program numbers along with the file. It also saves each track's MIDI data with the channel specified in the "track information group." This powerful feature is designed to allow you to save your song files in the channel configuration that suits you best. However, you should be careful when saving a file in which you have changed the channels. If you save a file with two or more tracks set to the same channel, their MIDI data will be merged so the next time you load the song you will be unable to separate them. To save a file press the Store/Get button on your computer keyboard. The Smart Keys will change to "STORE"(V) and "GET"(VI). Press STORE(V) and select the drive you wish to store to. Then type in the name of the file and press Return. If the name you typed in is already in use by another file you will be asked if you want to replace the existing file. If you want to replace it press YES(V), otherwise press NO(VI) or Escape.

PLAYING LISTS OF SONGS

MINI RECORDER allows you to select and play back a list of songs. All the songs must reside on the same disk or tape. To select a list press Smart Key III, "MAKE LIST", then choose the drive your songs are stored on. You will see a list of all the files on your tape or disk. Hilite the file you wish to place first in your list and press Smart Key V "MARK". A red mark will appear next to the file indicating the file has been selected for list play. If you decide you don't want the file in your list press MARK(V) again and the mark will disappear. Continue selecting files in the order you wish them played back until you are done, then press Smart Key VI "DONE".

To play the list you have selected press Smart Key IV "PLAY LIST". The files will be loaded and played in the order you specified. While playing a list, Smart Key IV "NEXT" will quit the current song and move to the next one on the list. Pressing PAUSE(V) pauses the music until you press RESUME(V), and STOP(VI) aborts the list play altogether. Your list will stay in memory until the next time you view the files list.

REWIND and FAST FORWARD

Smart Key I "REW" and Smart Key VI "FWD" allow you change your current position in the song. REW(I) moves you a little toward the beginning of the song while FWD(VI) moves you a little toward the end of the song. Pressing <Shift> REW(I) moves you all the way to the beginning of the song and <Shift> FWD(VI) moves you all the way to the end.

DELETING A FILE
To delete a file, press the Store/Get Key and select the drive that contains your files. Hilite the file you wish to delete and press the Delete key. MINI RECORDER will ask if you really want to delete the file. Press Smart Key V "YES" unless you've changed your mind, in which case you may either press Smart Key VI "NO" or Escape.

LIMITATIONS
Being a simple recorder and player, MINI RECORDER has some limitations:

*No provision has been made for editing of musical data

*While the length of a song is limited only by available memory, problems may arise if your music has a silence or a single note that is more than four or five minutes long

*In order to make available as much space as possible for the song data, MINI RECORDER is limited to viewing 78 files in the files menu.

WHERE TO FIND MIDI FILES
MINI RECORDER is able to play Standard Midi Files (format 0) created by any other computer. This lets you tap into the wealth of pre-recorded songs available on CompuServe and other information services. Whatever information service you belong to, look for a music or MIDI forum. There you will find song files that others have uploaded for your enjoyment. Some of these files will be in MIDI Files Format 1 instead of format 0. You will need to convert these files to format 0 before you can use them with MINI RECORDER. A program to convert format 1 files to format 0 files is available as "Freeware" from Bonafide Sytems, ADAM dealers, or on Compuserve.

ERROR MESSAGES

Most of MINI RECORDER'S error messages appear just above the Smart Keys and are accompanied by a "warning buzz." They remain on the screen until the user dismisses them by pressing a key. The following is a comprehensive list of possible error messages and their causes:

Can not access directory	The tape or disk you are trying to access does not have a valid EOS directory on it. It is probably a CP/M disk or something.
Error creating file	MINI RECORDER encountered a problem while attempting to create a file. The directory may not be valid, try saving to a different disk or data pack.
Error: data out of bounds!	The numerical data you entered is not within the range MINI RECORDER expects.
Error deleting file	You are probably trying to delete a locked file. You will need to unlock the file from SmartBASIC before you can delete it.
Error opening file	The file you are trying to open does not exist on the tape or disk. This may happen if you change media while selecting a file to load.
Error reading file	The file you are trying to load is corrupt. The information in the header about the file may be incorrect, the file's data may have been truncated, or there is a bad block in the file.
Error writing file	An error occured while writing the file. The disk or data pack may have a bad block. Try saving to a new disk.
Memory full!	While loading a file or recording, you have exceeded the number of MIDI events available. Any additional events will be discarded.
MIDI interface not detected!	MINI RECORDER requires a MIDI interface to operate. If you boot the program without a MIDI interface properly installed you will get this message and the program will halt.
No more room on tape or disk	The tape or disk is too full to store the file you are trying to store. Try storing on a new tape or disk.
Not a MIDI format 0 file!	You are trying to load a file that is not a standard MIDI format 0 file. A program is available for converting MIDI format 1 files to format 0 files. You may download it from Compuserve or get it directly from Bonafide System