QuickTime 2.x: Converting MIDI & Karaoke Files (8/96)

Article Created: 20 June 1995
Article Reviewed/Updated: 28 August 1996

TOPIC ---

This article describes how to convert a Standard MIDI file (SMF) or karaoke file
to QuickTime format.

DISCUSSION --

If you want to convert Standard MIDI files to QuickTime format, you need to have
QuickTime 2.0 or greater installed on your Macintosh computer. If you want to
convert karaoke files, you need to have QuickTime 2.5 or greater installed. You
should also have the QuickTime Musical Instruments extension installed. You
cannot convert MIDI files to QuickTime movies using QuickTime for Windows at
this time.

Conversion Procedure For MIDI Files
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SimpleText version 1.1.1 or later
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1) Launch SimpleText
2) Select Open from the File menu
3) Choose a Standard MIDI file -- The Open button changes to Convert

An additional dialog box appears for the placement of the QuickTime file, which
features an "Options" button providing you the ability to change MIDI instrument
settings during the transition from the Standard MIDI format to the QuickTime
format.

If the file is not a Macintosh Standard MIDI file, when you try to open the MIDI
file, SimpleText reads it as a text file. Also, the Open button will not change
to Convert.

To force SimpleText to convert the file to a QuickTime MIDI file, you need to
change the file Type. The TYPE must be: Midi (the Creator should be either ttxt
or Moov)

In order to change the Type of any Macintosh file, you must use a utility
application, such as ResEdit that allows you to change the Type and Creator of

files.

MoviePlayer 2.x
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1) Launch MoviePlayer
2) Select either Open or Import
3) Choose a Standard MIDI File
4) Click on Convert. A dialog appears asking the name of the converted file.
5) Name the file
6) Click Save

The file is converted to a QuickTime movie.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR QUICKTIME 2.0:
If the MIDI file has a (.) in the filename, it triggers QuickTime to open the
file as a Text Track instead of a MIDI Track. To correct this problem, rename
the file so it doesn't contain a (.) in the filename. QuickTime 2.5 can convert
MIDI files without renaming them.

Converting Karaoke Files
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One of the new features in QuickTime 2.5 is the ability to convert and use
karaoke file. These files usually have a .kar file extension. You follow the
same procedure for converting MIDI files, however there is an additional option
for changing the way the text is displayed on the screen. The default screen
option is to display the text on a black background with white letters in 12
point Geneva. The text is not anti-aliased.

Changing Text Options

Step 1

After selecting the karaoke file you want to convert, select options in the open
dialog.

A new dialog appears with a section for changing the text options in karaoke
files.

Step 2

Click the Text Options button.

A new dialog appears with a list of fonts installed on your Macintosh computer.
Options for making the text anti-aliased, and changing the background and text
colors.

NOTE:

Opening the Text Options can take up to several seconds if you have a lot of
fonts installed on your computer.

Step 3

Make any changes to the text you want and Click OK.

The standard Open File dialog appears requesting the name of the file you are
saving.

Article Change History:
28 Aug 1996 - Added information on karaoke formated files.
27 Jun 1995 - Added additional information on converting MIDI files.

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Keywords: supt,ksts,cnfg

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19960829 07:41:38.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 17988