

Twelve Steps to NoteWorthy Composer MIDI Music Goodness!

The following step-by-step instructions describe in detail the installation and configuration of Kode54's and MudLord's freeware "BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver" for Windows for use with "NoteWorthy Composer". Note that these instructions can also be used with almost *any* Windows MIDI sequencer or Windows MIDI music player program, as the installation and configuration of the BASSMIDI Driver is *almost identical*.

More information about the freeware BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver (and all of its features) can be found at

<http://www.cmo.com/snor/weeds/SoundFonts/XMPlay/XMPlay.htm#bassmididriver>. Refer to the "BASSMIDI Driver MIDI Implementation Chart" at http://www.cmo.com/snor/weeds/SoundFonts/XMPlay/BASSMIDI_Driver_MIDI_Implementation_Chart.htm for a complete list of MIDI controllers, functions, and System Exclusive messages that the BASSMIDI Driver supports.

1. First, you will need to download a quality SoundFont file to use with the BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver:

[ShamelessPlugMode=ON]

Made for composers and musicians, by a composer and musician...

My own custom freeware SoundFont "¥Weeds¥ General MIDI SoundFont v3.0" (54.9 megabytes) sounds great with the BASSMIDI Driver. More information about this SoundFont can be found at my web page at <http://www.richnagel.net/#soundfonts>, and you can download it directly from <http://www.un4seen.com/download.php?extra/WeedsGM3.zip>.

After downloading and unzipping the ZIP archive "WeedsGM3.zip", run the included "WeedsGM3.sfArk.exe" installation program to extract the SoundFont ("WeedsGM3.sf2") and documentation ("WeedsGM3.txt" and "WeedsGM3.License.txt"). Note that the "WeedsGM3.sfArk.exe" installation program is nothing but a simple self-extracting "sfArk" archive, and using the sfArk utility to package the files resulted in much better compression of the included SoundFont and files than when using other archive compression utilities (such as "ACE", "RAR", "ZIP", etc...).

[ShamelessPlugMode=OFF]

Other available alternative freeware SoundFonts include (* = Useful for emulating various MIDI modules and sound cards):

"General MIDI" AWE32 ROM Dump SoundFont, by E-mu Systems (1.1 megabytes) *
<http://www.emu.com/support/files/storage/sflib10c.zip>

"GS Sound Set (GM.DLS)" Sound Canvas SoundFont, by Roland (3.5 megabytes) *
http://soundfonts.homemusician.net/collections_soundfonts/roland_gs_soundset.html

"Gravis Ultrasound Classic Patch Set v1.6b" Gravis Ultrasound SoundFont, by Arek Rak (5.9 megabytes) *
<http://www.rarek.ceron.pl/gus.htm>

"8MBGM E-mu Rev B" SoundFont, by E-mu Systems (7.6 megabytes)
<http://www.emu.com/support/files/storage/APSSf2.exe>

"Roland SC-55 v1.1 (GM.DLS)" Sound Canvas SoundFont, by DJ Tony (9.9 megabytes) *
<http://www.mediafire.com/?nundyjctnm>

"Chorium Revision A" SoundFont, by Open World (28.9 megabytes)
<http://www.un4seen.com/download.php?extra/ChoriumRevA.rar>

"General User GS" SoundFont, by Chris Collins (31.3 megabytes)

<http://www.schristiancollins.com/generaluser.php>

"OPL-3 FM 128M" Sound Blaster 16 FM Synthesis SoundFont, by Zandro Reveille (135 megabytes) *

http://rapidshare.com/files/216640144/OPL-3_FM_128M.sfpack

"Fluid R3 GM" SoundFont, by Frank Wen (148.4 megabytes)

http://soundfonts.homemusician.net/collections_soundfonts/fluid_release_3.html

"Arachno SoundFont v1.0" SoundFont, by Maxime Abbey (155.4 megabytes)

<ftp://downloads.arachnosoft.com/gqeqhzbs/arachnosoft/files/soundfonts/arachno-soundfont-10.zip>

"SGM v2.01" SoundFont, by David Shan (247.4 megabytes)

<http://www.geocities.jp/shansoundfont>

[In my (not so) humble opinion...]

There are many more alternative freeware SoundFonts of varying quality that can be downloaded from the Internet and used with BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver... but several of them are really not worth the time or effort. Their relatively unbalanced and low-quality sound simply does not justify their *extremely large* filesizes.

A small list of these SoundFonts include:

"Airfont 380" SoundFont, by Milton Paredes (276 megabytes)

"Titanic 200 SoundFont v1.2" SoundFont, by Luke Sena (280 megabytes)

"Crisis General MIDI v3.0" SoundFont, by Christophe Maricourt (1.6 gigabytes)

Again, this list is *simply my (not so) humble opinion...*

2. Download the latest version of the "BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver" from <http://mudlord.emuxhaven.net/crap/audio/bassmididrv.exe>. Optionally (after complete installation of the BASSMIDI Driver), refer to the "Optional BASS and BASSMIDI Audio Library Updates" section below.
3. If you have previously installed an older version of the BASSMIDI Driver, uninstall it first (look in your Windows Start Menu for "BASSMIDI System Synth -> Uninstall"), and then reboot your computer. Note that rebooting your computer is probably not required, but it is always a good idea to do so when uninstalling Windows drivers.

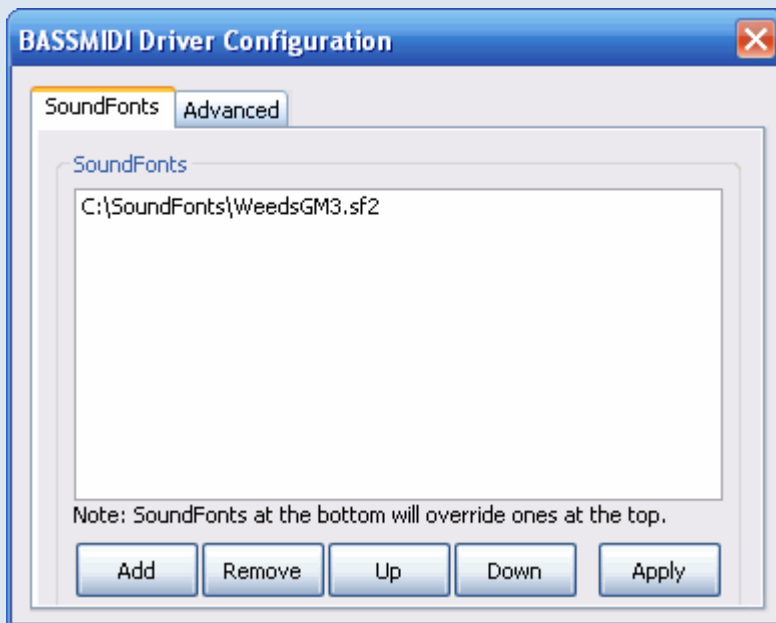


4. Run the "BASSMIDIDrv.exe" installation program that you previously downloaded to install the BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver. Again, reboot your computer. As in step

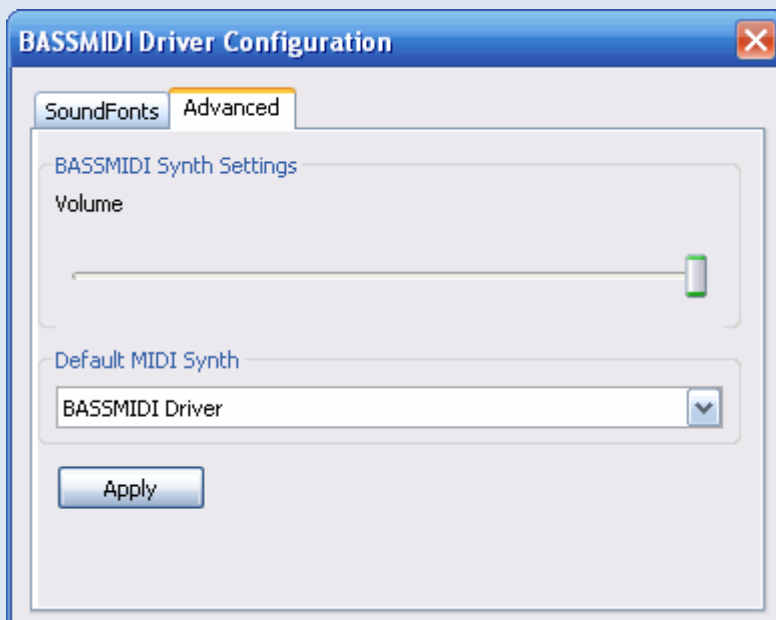
3 above it is probably not required, but it is always a good idea to do so when installing new Windows drivers.



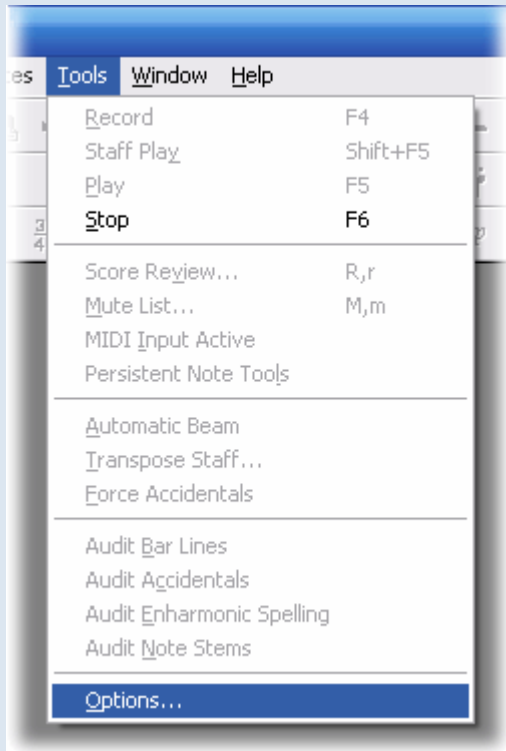
5. Run the BASSMIDI Driver Configuration Utility (look in your Windows Start Menu for "*BASSMIDI System Synth -> Configure Driver*").
6. Click the "Add" button within the "SoundFonts" section of the BASSMIDI Driver Configuration Utility, and browse around your hard drive to the directory where you installed or unzipped the SoundFont. Next, click to select the SoundFont, click the "Open" button within the Windows "Open" dialog box, and then click the "Apply" button directly below the lower-right of the "SoundFonts" list box.



7. Click the "Advanced" tab at the top of the BASSMIDI Driver Configuration Utility. Then select the "BASSMIDI Driver" from the "Default MIDI Synth" dropdown box, and click the "Apply" button directly below the dropdown box. If you have any problems with this step, refer to the "Additional Configuration Note" sections below.



8. After closing the BASSMIDI Driver Configuration Utility, start NoteWorthy Composer.
9. Click "*Tools -> Options*" in NoteWorthy Composer's top menu bar, and then click the "*MIDI*" tab.



10. Select the "*BASSMIDI Driver*" from the "*Available Play Devices*" dialog box, and then click the "*--->*" button to add the driver to the "*Devices Used By Playback*" dialog box. Note that you will probably wish to remove any other MIDI playback devices listed within the "*Devices Used By Playback*" dialog box when using the BASSMIDI Driver.



11. Click the "*OK*" button.
12. **Congratulations, you're all finished!**

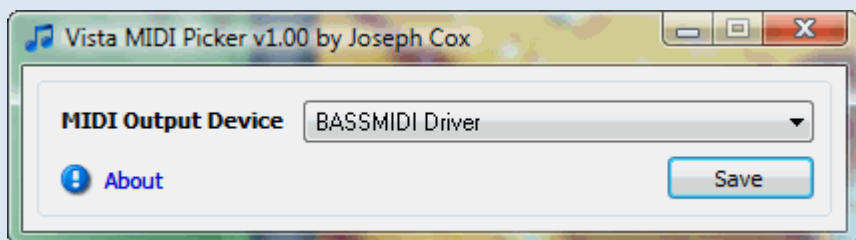
Additional Configuration Note for Windows XP

If you have any problems selecting the "BASSMIDI Driver" as the default Windows MIDI music playback device from within the BASSMIDI Driver Configuration Utility, you may have to manually change the active MIDI device from within the Windows XP "*Sounds and Audio Devices Properties*" control panel applet (click "*Start -> Control Panel -> Sounds and Audio Devices -> Audio -> MIDI Music Playback Default Device*").

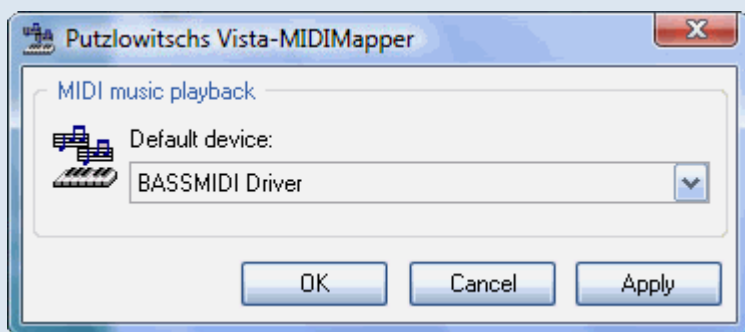


Additional Configuration Note for Windows Vista and Windows 7

If you have any problems selecting the "BASSMIDI Driver" as the default Windows MIDI music playback device from within the BASSMIDI Driver Configuration Utility, the utility "*Windows Vista MIDI Picker*" will probably be of help. You can download the utility from <http://software.bootblock.co.uk/?id=vistamidpicker>.



Another alternative is the "*Putzlowitschs Vista MIDI Mapper*" control panel applet. You can download the newest version of the applet from <http://akkordwechsel.de/15-windows-vista-und-der-midi-mapper>, and an English description (*of an older version*) can be found at <http://www.brainmaster.com/kb/entry/334>.



Optional BASS and BASSMIDI Audio Library Updates

BASS ("*BASS.dll*") and BASSMIDI ("*BASSMIDI.dll*") Audio Library updates can be downloaded from <http://www.un4seen.com/download.php?bass24> and <http://www.un4seen.com/download.php?bassmidi24>

(located at the BASS Audio Library web site at <http://www.un4seen.com/bass.html> and <http://www.un4seen.com/bass.html#addons>).

Note that installing these updates is entirely optional, and is not required for the proper operation and usage of the BASSMIDI SoundFont Compatible MIDI Synthesizer Driver. Nevertheless, since the BASSMIDI Driver uses the BASS and BASSMIDI Audio Libraries for its SoundFont synthesis engine, you may wish to go ahead and install these updates.

To install these BASS and BASSMIDI Audio Library updates:

1. Unzip the "BASS24.zip" and "BASSMIDI24.zip" files that you previously downloaded to a temporary directory on your hard drive.
2. Rename the existing files "BASS.dll" and "BASSMIDI.dll" located in the "C:\Windows\System32" (or "C:\Windows\SysWow64") directory on your hard drive to the new backup file names "BASS.bak" and "BASSMIDI.bak".
3. Copy the new updated "BASS.dll" and "BASSMIDI.dll" files that you previously downloaded and unzipped from the "BASS24.zip" and "BASSMIDI24.zip" files to the "C:\Windows\System32" (or "C:\Windows\SysWow64") directory on your hard drive.
4. Reboot your computer.
5. After your computer reboots and Windows restarts, you can optionally delete the old "BASS.bak" and "BASSMIDI.bak" backup files located in the "C:\Windows\System32" (or "C:\Windows\SysWow64") directory on your hard drive.

In Conclusion

Although all of this may seem complicated at first (*or like a daunting task*), it is **by far easier** than setting up the other commonly known alternatives for non-hardware (*software synthesized*) MIDI music playback with NoteWorthy Composer (such as the "*Timidity++*" software synthesizer, or the various other "*VSTi*" options that are available, in conjunction with a "*virtual MIDI patch cable*" utility)... **and the overall sound is considerably better to boot, with extremely low latency as well!**

Rich ¥Weeds¥ Nagel
richnagel@centurylink.net
<http://www.richnagel.net>

May 13, 2011
(Rev. 1.9)