MUSIC
5000
SYNTHESISER

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Music 500 Upgrade Pack

The Hybrid Music 5000 Synthesiser is the successor to the Music 500, and
has the following major improvements:

* an integrated 'front-end' of easy-to-use music and sound editors,
  including staff notation editor, synthesiser panel and mixing desk
* powerful ROM model of AMPLE
* easily-accessed predefined waveforms, envelopes and instrument sounds
* additional sound words and special effects including echo
* full, clear, and accurate User Guide
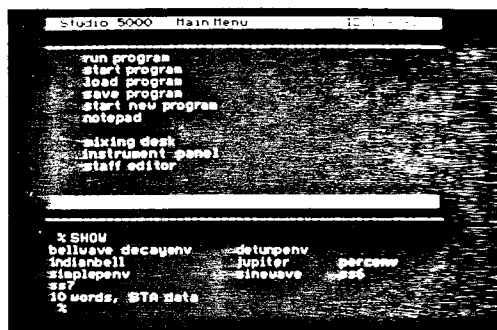* extensibility to support future hardware units such as keyboard and MIDI

All these improvements are available to Music 500 owners as the 'Music 500
Upgrade Pack' which contains a ROM, disc, and two manuals including a
function key strip. Fitting needs no modifications to the Music 500 unit.

The new software is very friendly and easy to use, and the feel of it is
very different to AMPLE Model BCE (the Music 500 software). You can
create a complete piece including score, instruments, and a final 'mix',
using editing screens and only a handful of typed commands (also supplied
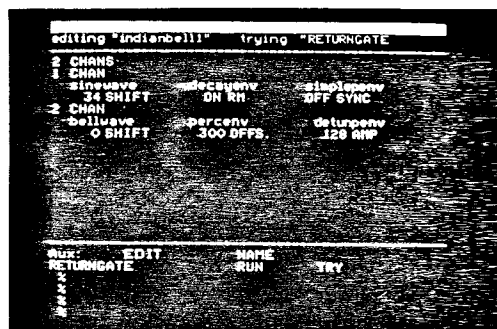on function keys) with no programming-style entry of data unless desired.

All facilities of the old system have been retained and many have been
improved (except for waveform and envelope editing which though not
included is catered for as a future expansion). Music and sound words are
fully covered in the User Guide, and advanced programming words are
covered by a separate planned AMPLE Programmer's Guide. Programs are not
directly compatible between the systems, but conversion of music is quite
straight-forward. The Upgrade Pack is essential for use of further units
such as keyboards, since AMPLE BCE does not support extensions.

The heart of the new software is the AMPLE Nucleus ROM, which provides the
basic programming and music notation words, and the operating system
facilities which support RAM-based extensions for specific applications.
Studio 5000 is the extension for the Music 5000 - an integrated set of
modules for easy sound design and music entry, both in textual and
traditional staff form, stored as standard AMPLE words.

Main menu - easy cursor selection of major functions including program run, stop, load and save, Mixing Desk, Notepad and Staff Editor selection of editors. Users can create their own menus, providing just display and action definitions to be managed by the system. Example programs are called from similar menus. The menu and each editor have a % prompt at which AMPLE and OS commands are entered, if required.
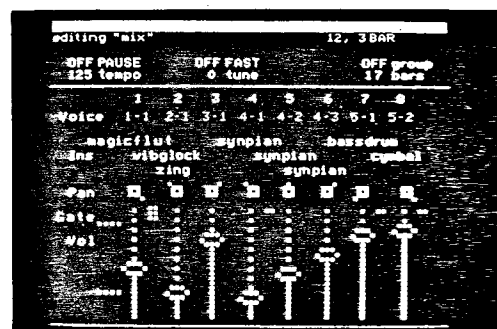
Notepad - an integrated text and panel editor for AMPLE scores and instruments. Text mode has word-processor style editing without line numbers, with immediate play of the score on a key. Panel mode provides a versatile 'synthesiser' panel, with instrument parameters adjusted in-place with the editing cursor, and drop-down menus for waveforms and envelopes. Any instrument of a piece can be edited while playing.

Staff Editor - offers traditional music notation notes, rests etc., plus chords, accents, dots and double-dots, single and multiple ties, triplets, duplets, percussion, and many more. Instructions for articulation, effects, dynamics, tempo changes etc. can be added above the staff. The editor makes entry of sheet music very easy and fast and features conversion to and from AMPLE music notation.

Mixing Desk - real-time interactive graphic mixing desk with instrument selection, volume faders, stereo pan knobs and gate indicators for each voice, and overall tempo, tune, pause and fast controls. Instruments are selected from a drop-down menu. The effect of adjustments is heard instantly, and mixes can be saved and recalled by command or on cue at any point in a piece. Includes advanced features such as voice and parameter submixes and 'unmixes'.

Special effects - multiple echoes, articulation control, pitch bends and slides and automatic stereo panning.

Waveforms - 14 predefined waveforms include basic synthesiser, natural instrument and special effects shapes, extendable by modulation.

Envelopes - 34 predefined amplitude and pitch envelopes, selectable from drop-down menus or directly by name. Include vibrato, natural delayed vibrato, bends, slides, swoops, synthesiser ADSR, decay, percussive, organ, slow attack, repeating, echo etc.

Instruments - selected from drop-down menu, or directly by name. 14 predefined instruments, including abstract, simulated natural, synthesiser, percussion and special effect. New instruments are created using a full set of sound commands and predefined waveforms and envelopes.

Documentation
User Guide (162 pages) including:
  Tutorial section (8 chapters) carefully written for the beginner to computer music, covering Using AMPLE, Mixing pieces, Staff Music, Making Instruments and Building pieces

  Reference section (8 chapters) with dictionaries of AMPLE music words, sound instructions, commands etc. and including glossary of terms, key controls reference, and index

 Installation Guide (4 pages) covering software installation, disc usage, OS commands, and including function key strip

Example programs - 13 carefully-presented example pieces demonstrating various aspects of the package

Software format - supplied on ROM and 40-track disc with a program to convert to dual 80-track.

Other equipment required - BBC Microcomputer Model B, Acorn-compatible disc drive, Amplifier system with suitable audio lead

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Particular improvements over AMPLE Model BCE are as follows:

General - automatic creation of up to 10 players, simplified setting up of voices, particularly in groups, e.g. 3 VOICES Elecorgan, automatic alignment and voice selection for sound changes in music , display of literal text for titles etc., automatic management of user menus, extended timebase control including stepping by single beats

AMPLE music notation - dynamic level (instantaneous and gradual changes), tempo in beats per minute, transpose, slur, accent, hit (unpitched note for percussion), backslash symbol for moving back in time (opposite of /), chord arpeggiation, single chord rest symbol. Extra effects such as articulation (staccato/tenuto/legato), echo, autopanning and pitch slides.

Commands - up to 125 user words, up to approx 15K of user memory (minimal installation with DFS) depending on modules in use, entry of control

codes, abbreviation of words by dot, display of named word definition, find of all uses of a word, rename word, alphabetic show of word names

Modules - software extensions analogous to sideways ROMs, supplied as files and loaded by start-up and on menu selection. Modules supplied include the Music 5000 drivers, Studio 5000 editors, predefined waveforms, envelopes, instruments and effects.

Sound instructions - phase initialisation and pitch disabling for percussive sounds, separate pan, volume, transpose and detune settings for individual channels and whole voices. Preset waveforms and envelopes directly selected by name with no numbering or initial setup required. (Waveform and envelope editing is not possible, but can be provided as a future additional module.) Predefined instruments directly selected by name which can be edited out, changed and then recreated as user words.

The Music 500 Synthesiser hardware is incompatible with BBC Microcomputers B+, B+ 128K and Master 128 (the "new models"), and the Upgrade Pack does not remedy this. Hybrid Technology does not guarantee the Music 500 unit to work with the new models due to serious differences between the 1MHz buses of the original Model B and the new models. The Upgrade Pack, being software, does not alter the Music 500 unit itself. No hardware upgrade for the Music 500 unit is available. As such, whilst the Upgrade Pack is compatible with the new models, due to the differences described correct operation of the Music 500 unit with the Upgrade Pack on new models cannot be guaranteed, and the Upgrade Pack does not remove the problem of incompatibility. The Music 5000 is fully compatible with new models.

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Introductory Price - £60.00 + VAT including post and packing to UK addresses. Please enquire for postage elsewhere.

Ordering - cheque or money order with order only. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

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