

INSTANT PLAYER version 1 (os x beta)

INSTANT PLAYER is a program which allows you to browse your soundfiles from the Finder. Start up INSTANT PLAYER, go back to the Finder, select a soundfile and press the option key. One can browse a large number of soundfiles by just holding down the option key and clicking on the sounds. This makes it great for looking through sound f/x or sample libraries. It will play the soundfile as soon as it opens it, so is also good as a browser helper application or as a drag and drop player.

REQUIREMENTS

This version of INSTANT PLAYER requires OS X to run. It possibly will run under OS 9 with Carbon, but I will probably only repair OS X bugs from now on.

INSTANT PLAYER will play the following soundfile types:

AIFF	8 bit linear	16 bit linear	24 bit linear	32 bit linear
AIFF-C	8 bit linear 24 bit linear	8 bit μ Law 32 bit linear	8 bit aLaw 32 bit float	16 bit linear 64 bit linear
WAVE	8 bit linear	16 bit linear	24 bit linear	32 bit linear
NeXT	8 bit linear 32 bit float	8 bit μ Law	8 bit aLaw	16 bit linear
Sound Designer II	8 bit linear	16 bit linear		
Sun (.au)	8 bit linear 32 bit float	8 bit μ Law	8 bit aLaw	16 bit linear
BICSF (Berkeley Ircam CARL)	8 bit linear	16 bit linear	32 bit float	
MP3				

PLAYBACK CONTROLS

When the soundfile is being played and INSTANT PLAYER is in the foreground, a play bar will appear on the right edge of the screen. A flickering cursor will move along this bar indicating the position in the soundfile. You can click on the play bar to jump to other locations in the soundfile. Command-comma will pause and resume the playback and command-period will stop the playback. If you are in the Finder, you will be able to start playback by selecting a file and pressing the hot key (option or control). To stop playback from the Finder, select a file or folder which is not a soundfile and press the hot key.

PREFERENCES

Command-p will bring up a preferences dialog. This will allow you to set various options. A small buffer size will make INSTANT PLAYER more responsive, a larger buffer will help it work on slower machines. You can disable Finder playback from this dialog or set the Finder playback key to either control or option. Option is recommended in MacOS 8.0 or later, as control conflicts with the Contextual Menu Manager. You can also set INSTANT PLAYER into a loop mode, which will loop the sound indefinitely. Soundfiles shorter than the buffer size will probably not loop well.

TRICKS

If you can click fast enough on the play bar you can pretend you are doing granular synthesis. If you love loops, make 4 or 5 copies of instant player, put them all into looping mode and drop some short soundfiles on them.

THANK YOU THANK YOU

INSTANT PLAYER was started after a series of email exchanges with Charlie Clouser. His idea and my desire for a simple fast player was the momentum for this project. Thanks to Vincent Carte for the valuable info on fonts, Chris Grigg, Douglas Repetto, Joel Fox, Sara Roberts and Kent Clelland for all the feedback and encouragement.

DISTRIBUTION

INSTANT PLAYER is freeware. You may include this in any freely available software distribution or online archive. If you want to distribute this with a commercial product, you must first obtain permission from the author.

Tom Erbe (4-6-05) 608 Carla Way, La Jolla, CA 92037

tomerbe@san.rr.com