

LiveSynth Pro™ by LiveUpdate



LiveSynth Pro is a professional SoundFont compatible software synthesizer for SONAR. With full SoundFont 2.0 compatibility, you are no longer limited to your sound card's built-in sounds or expensive hardware alternatives.

You can load any SoundFont sound-set into LiveSynth Pro. You can purchase SoundFont banks from companies like Sonic Implants, or create your own with SoundFont editing software such as Creative Labs' Vienna SoundFont Studio.

LiveSynth Pro will work with any Windows compatible sound card and, because LiveSynth Pro outputs sound through an audio track, any of SONAR's audio plug-ins, such as chorus, delay, or reverb, can be applied to LiveSynth Pro's output. If you are combining Audio and MIDI data, *no mixer is required*; simply choose **Edit-Bounce to Track(s)** to mix your MIDI and audio tracks down to a stereo audio track. Choosing **File-Export Audio** allows you to export your work in .wav or .mp3 format.

For the latest information about LiveSynth Pro, be sure to bookmark www.livesynth.com.

Quick Start

Play the Example Project Files...

If you have SONAR XL, a number of sample sequences and their associated SoundFonts have been included for your listening pleasure. For most installations, these examples can be found in C:\Program Files\Cakewalk\SONAR 1\Sample Content\SoundFonts\Sonic Implants. You can also find them in the \SoundFonts\Sonic Implants directory on your SONAR XL CD. If you have trouble making these example files play, please go to <http://www.livesynth.com/faq4.html>

Note: If you don't have SONAR XL, go to <http://www.livesynth.com> and click on the "Download" link to download a Sonic Implants/LiveSynth demo.

To Add LiveSynth Pro to a SONAR Session...

1. Choose **Insert-Audio Track** to add a new audio track.
2. Right-click in the FX box and choose **DX Instruments-LiveSynth Pro**.
3. The LiveSynth Pro control panel will open automatically.
4. Click Browse and select a SoundFont (.sf2) file.
You can find a selection of Sonic Implant SoundFonts in the "C:\Program Files\Cakewalk\SONAR 1\Sample Content\SoundFonts\Sonic Implants" directory or the "\SoundFonts\Sonic Implants" directory on your SONAR CD.
A good source for professional, ready to use SoundFonts is <http://www.sonicimplants.com>
5. Choose an unused bank by entering the number into the "Bank #" text box. LiveSynth Pro supports up to 128 simultaneously loaded SoundFont banks.
6. Click Load to load the selected SoundFont.
7. Click the  button to close the LiveSynth Pro window.

Note: Clicking the  button will cancel any changes you have made and close the LiveSynth Pro window.



What are SoundFonts?

created to fulfill the need for custom sounds in MIDI music. SoundFonts allow musicians to create their own sounds instead of being limited by the General MIDI sound-set. SoundFont technology allows you to improve the sound quality of your MIDI playback by replacing the default instrument sounds with new custom sounds.

To Assign MIDI Tracks to be played with LiveSynth Pro...

1. Select "LiveSynth Pro" in the "Out" drop-down list for the MIDI track you want LiveSynth Pro to play.
2. In the "Bnk" drop-down list, select the SoundFont bank you loaded.
3. Select an appropriate patch in the "Pch" drop-down list.

Loading and Unloading SoundFonts

To Load a SoundFont into LiveSynth Pro...

1. Double-click on the LiveSynth Pro plug-in.
2. Click the Browse button and select a SoundFont (.sf2) file.
3. Select an unused bank number from 0 to 127 and type it into the "Bank #:" box.
4. Click Load to load the selected SoundFont into the specified bank.

Note: The "Bank #:" will automatically increment when you load a new SoundFont.

To Unload a SoundFont from LiveSynth Pro...

1. Double-click on the LiveSynth Pro plug-in.
2. Select the bank(s) you wish to unload by clicking them in the "Currently loaded SoundFont bank(s)" list.
3. Click Unload.

Note: When you click on a SoundFont bank in the "Currently loaded SoundFont bank(s)" list, the full path to the SoundFont appears in the "Filename:" text box and the bank it is loaded in appears in the "Bank #:" box.

Saving, Loading, and Deleting Bank Presets

To Create and Save a Bank Preset...

1. Load the desired SoundFonts into LiveSynth Pro's banks.
2. Type a preset name into the "Presets:" text box.
3. Click the  button to save the bank settings as a preset.

To Load a Bank Preset...

Select the saved preset in the "Presets:" drop-down list.

To Delete a Bank Preset...

1. Select the bank you want to delete in the "Presets:" drop-down list.
2. Click the  button to delete the selected preset.

Soloing Tracks

Because LiveSynth Pro outputs its sound through an audio track, soloing a LiveSynth Pro MIDI track is a two-part process.

To Solo a LiveSynth Pro Track...

1. Click the  button on the audio track LiveSynth Pro has been added to.
2. Click the  button on the MIDI track you want to solo.

Attenuation Control

To Change LiveSynth Pro's Attenuation...

1. Open the LiveSynth Pro DXi control panel.
2. Change the value in the "Attenuation (dB):" text box to a new value between 0 and 96.
3. Click the "Apply" button.

Note: The larger the attenuation value the softer LiveSynth Pro plays. If you hear digital distortion, try setting the attenuation higher. If LiveSynth Pro is too soft, try setting the attenuation lower.

Polyphony Control

To Change LiveSynth Pro's Polyphony...

1. Open the LiveSynth Pro DXi control panel.
2. Change the value in the "Polyphony (voices):" text box to a new value between 1 and 128.
3. Click the "Apply" button.

Note: LiveSynth Pro defaults to 64-voice polyphony. If you experience audio distortion, dropout, or if the audio engine stops, try setting the polyphony lower. If samples are cut short or not played, try setting the polyphony higher.

Enabling/Disabling Internal Effects

To Enable Chorus or Reverb...

1. Open the LiveSynth Pro DXi control panel.
2. Check the boxes in the "Internal Effects" section of the control panel next to "Chorus" and/or "Reverb".

Note: Enabling Chorus and Reverb will make LiveSynth Pro DXi more processor intensive.

To Disable Chorus or Reverb...

1. Open the LiveSynth Pro DXi control panel.
2. Uncheck the boxes in the "Internal Effects" section of the control panel next to "Chorus" and/or "Reverb".

Note: Certain presets, such as "Chorus Bass" or "Wet Rhodes" for instance, will not sound as they are intended with chorus and reverb disabled.

Previewing Patches of Loaded SoundFont Banks

To View the Patches of a Loaded SoundFont Bank...

1. Open the LiveSynth Pro DXi control panel.
2. Click the "+" symbol to the left of the name of the bank you want to view.
3. The symbol will turn into a "-" and the patch names will be displayed below the bank name.

To Preview the Patches of a Loaded SoundFont Bank...

1. Open the LiveSynth Pro DXi control panel.
2. Follow the above directions to view the patch names of a SoundFont bank.
3. Double-click a patch name to preview it.
4. Right-clicking the patch name or clicking away from it will stop the preview; otherwise the preview will stop on its own after a certain amount of time.

Note: By default, the preview function will play MIDI note 60 at a velocity of 100 for 1000 ms (1 second). These variables can be modified in the "liveup.ini" file. For more information, look at the Advanced Options section below.

Advanced Options

By modifying the configuration file `liveup.ini`, you can control some of LiveSynth Pro's advanced options. For example, editing the `PresetPreviewNote`, `PresetPreviewTime`, and `PresetPreviewVelocity` variables under the "LiveSynthProDXi" section of the "liveup.ini" file can change the note, duration, and velocity of the note played when previewing a patch. It is unlikely that you will need to modify this file. You will find `liveup.ini` in your `C:\Windows` directory if you are using Windows 95/98/ME or your `C:\WINNT` directory if you are using Windows NT/2000.

For Additional Information...

If you have questions that aren't addressed in this documentation, or experience problems while using LiveSynth Pro, please visit the FAQ section of our web site at www.livesynth.com/faq1.html, or drop us a line at helpdesk@liveupdate.com.