

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

Revised: 8/28/96 Security: Everyone

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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

SimpleText version 1.1.1 or later

Launch SimpleText
Select Open from the File menu
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.

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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

Launch MoviePlayer
Select either Open or Import
Choose a Standard MIDI File
Click on Convert. A dialog appears asking the name of the converted file.
Name the file
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

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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