

What the press think about

FSoft MUSIC MAKER

**ELECTRONIC
SOUNDMAKER
& C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R.M.U.S.I.C**

The first main section of the program, **The Sound**, enables you to load up sixteen presets, or to create and modify sounds of your own. The display shows the familiar ADSR pattern, which will of course be different for every preset sound selected from the main menu.

Control of all aspects of the *Music Maker* package is through sensibly chosen function and control keys, and you can return to the main menu at any time should you get lost.

A further display shows the pitch envelope, which can be edited to produce vibrato and glissando effects.

All the preset sounds can be played from the

QWERTY keyboard, and some impressive three-note chords can be built up using sounds like "Delayed Random", "Star Wars" and "Percussive". The keyboard is 25 notes long, and the full range can be extended to four octaves with the use of "octave shift" keys.

Having defined and saved the sound you want, the next move is to go into **The Player** and start to record tunes. The excellent colour graphics of **The Player** represent a music stave with treble and bass clefs and a status page. Any notes played on the keyboard appear on the scrolling stave. There's a metronome click available should you want to time your performance precisely, and of course the clock rate can be adjusted.

A novel feature is the availability of keyboard split, so that two sounds can be assigned to different parts of the QWERTY keyboard and played simultaneously.

The Sequencer and **Rhythm Generator** are very similar to each other; both are step time, monophonic, and up to 1024 pulses long. You can store three sequences, and while playing them back you can accompany them on the keyboard if you haven't used up all the voices.

The final important aspect of *Music Maker*

is **The Editor**, which allows you to display note numbers, pitch, envelope and note length for each sequence. The cursor keys are used to select and alter the faulty notes.

There are several useful notes at the back of the manual dealing with methods of fitting simple audio output and input circuits and a volume control to the Beeb. A wise move, as most users would agree, since the built-in speaker is nothing special.

Music Maker is an interesting and user-friendly package which will please most Beeb owners. It's a good investment for those who are perhaps not dedicated enough to shell out £200 for the Acorn Music 500 system, but who want to get all they can out of the unadorned BBC B. ■

Here's value for musical money

OF the packages on the market which turn the BBC Micro into a musical instrument, many are inferior to FSoft's *Music Maker*, and none that I know of can compete with it in value for money.

For £9 you get a smart program that gives you many of the facilities found on expensive synthesisers and you don't have to be Mozart or Mike Oldfield to get bags of fun out of it.

Competition in the field of music software is certainly hotting up. *Music Maker* is on the crest of a new wave of increasingly powerful and well-designed packages which don't cost the earth.

**THE
MICRO
USER**



Music Maker is supplied with two keystrips and a particularly well written manual that I found easy to follow. The whole package is well thought out and a pleasure to use and enables the creation of some pretty impressive sounds and effects.

A&B

Attractive package at a low price

The package comes with an extensive 46-page manual that gives a good introduction to the basics of sound synthesis. It also explains how to use the system so that even the most inexperienced user can get the best from the package.

Although *Music Maker* offers some advanced features, it is both easy for the novice to use and suitable for the more advanced musician too. It should thus have considerable potential in education, particularly as it is a quality product offered at a low price.


CLEVER SOUNDING OFF

'*Music Maker*', FSoft, BBC B, £9 (cassette), £12 (disc)

For anyone still struggling to understand exactly what the Beeb's 14 envelope parameters actually do, this program gives as clear an idea as anything I've seen.

Congratulations to the author, Geraint Wiggins, for two clever and practical programs, a clear and informative instruction booklet – and a quite brilliant example piece for the Sequencer, to demonstrate just what is possible.

ACORN USER

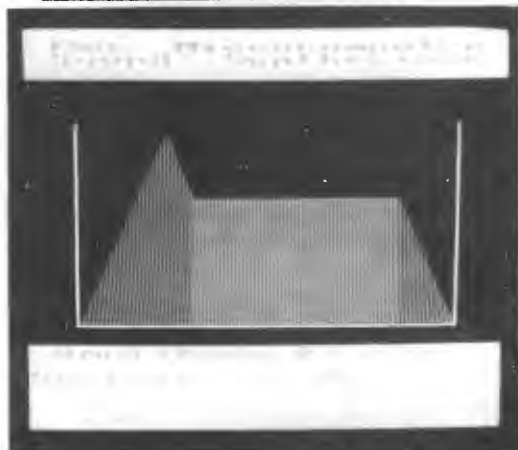

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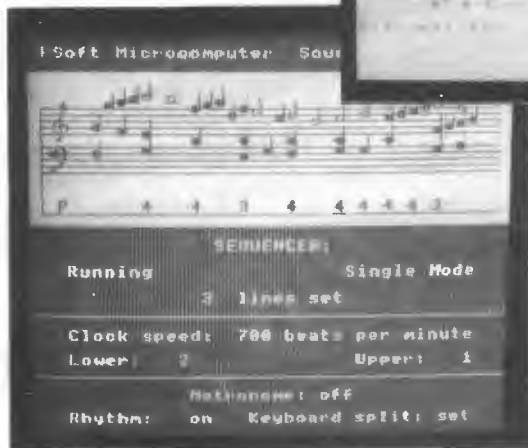
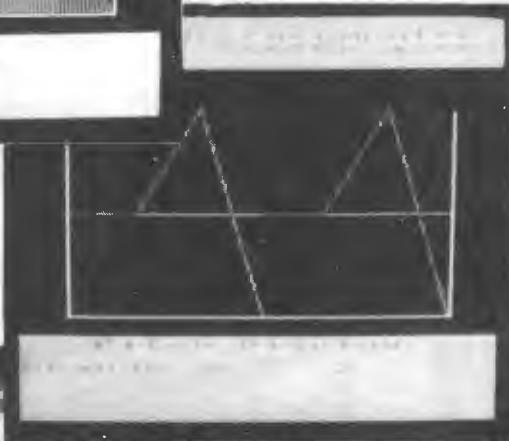
Thinking about making music with your BBC micro?



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
MASTER SERIES MICROCOMPUTER



MONOCHROME
PHOTOS OF
FULL COLOUR
DISPLAY.



FS01

MUSIC MAKER is FSoft's fantastic music package for the BBC micro. This powerful, versatile and advanced music system is easy to use, yet equally suited to beginners and professional musicians. Whatever your interest in music, FSoft MUSIC MAKER will be interesting and fun.

FSoft MUSIC MAKER is really two systems in one, comprising THE SOUND and THE PLAYER. THE SOUND is a musical synthesiser which deals with the design and manipulation of sounds. By means of two full-colour graphical displays, the amplitude and pitch envelopes of sounds are set and altered. A three-note polyphonic musical keyboard incorporated within the keys of the computer allows you to play the sounds as music, but for performing versatility, you can progress to THE PLAYER, which is a sequencer with an amazing number of facilities and playing aids. Sounds created by THE SOUND are played on a splittable keyboard together with a real-time sequencer, rhythm unit, metronome and on-screen real-time musical display.

Despite its complexity, FSoft MUSIC MAKER really is very easy to use. It's supplied complete with detailed instructions and function key labels. It has proved itself in fields as diverse as rock music, education and broadcast television, and is fully compatible with the BBC Model B (OS 1.2 or greater), B+ 64K and 128K and the BBC Master series.

FSoft MUSIC MAKER costs only £9 on cassette and £12 on dual format 40/80 track disc. Why pay more for a tuneful micro?

- ★ 46-page manual.
- ★ Function key label inserts.
- ★ Sample sound File.
- ★ Sample sequence and rhythm file.
- ★ MUSIC MAKER REQUIRES NO EXTRA HARDWARE.

Think about

FSoft

MUSIC MAKER



PO BOX 352 BRIGHTON BN1 3AY. Prestel Mailbox 273736042