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S5000/S6000

STEREO DIGITAL SAMPLER
Software Version 1.10a Addendum

WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not
expose this appliance to rain or moisture.

Operator's Manual

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Version 1.10a of the S5000 and S6000 Operating System fixes many known and serious problems as listed below.

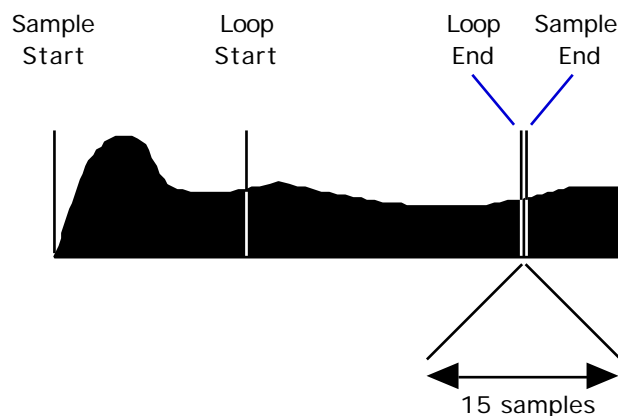
GENERAL

- Support for ISO9660 and Joliet encoded CD-ROM format.
- General improvement of voice handling/MIDI timing. Note-on times are now appreciably faster and overall timing is now considerably better. There is also less likelihood for erroneous voice stealing.
- General overall improvements to disk system, especially SAVE.
- General improvements to overall stability and reliability.
- General improvements to sound library compatibility (in particular with S1000 material).

BUGS FIXED IN V1.10a

- Digital output has incorrect status bits
- Upper and lower case should be recognised as the same letter when saving.
- Pressing CLOSE FOLDER on a folder that is already closed causes crash in Load page.
- Loops are not imported correctly from 3rd Party PC/Mac sample editors such as SoundForge, D-SoundPro, etc..

NOTE: When trimming the end point of a looped sample, 15 sample points are required between the loop end and the sample end.



The S5/6000 takes this requirement into consideration when setting either the loop end or sample end but 3rd party wave editors do not. Please do not trim the sample end too close to the loop end when using such wave editors.



BUGS FIXED (cont.)

- After disk format, previous disk contents still shown.
- Velocity switching problems - this is not due to problems with velocity switching as such but due to other parameters (such as filter envelope depth) not being read correctly thereby giving the impression that velocity switching isn't working properly.
- Disk is corrupted after root directory limit is reached.
- Attempt to audition from 8bit sample in LOAD causes disk lock.
- Cannot recover RAM space after delete or purge.
- Cannot delete folder - prompts you that it contains files even when it doesn't.
- Disk info.is incorrect after editing by PC.
- Stereo samples are randomly phase incoherent.
- Loop is missing when Audition from HD is used.
- Quick operation of Audition sample sometimes causes the sampler to crash.
- If memory holds many samples, entering Loop page causes screen corruption and further operation will cause lock up sometimes.
- Output selection in zones page incorrect with S1000 PRG.
- Can not select FDBACK MONITOR in FX Delay/Echo page.
- When saving OS into Flash, particular procedure stores a corrupt OS causing polyphony to be reduced dramatically.
- Incorrect limitation of files number in a folder.

We are aware that some issues remain unresolved in this release but please be assured that these will be addressed in subsequent upgrades as soon as possible.



IMPROVEMENTS TO SAVE

- The SAVE function has been modified quite extensively to prevent multiple saves of same data which previously could quite easily occur. This speeds up save times quite considerably in certain cases (i.e. when, for example, saving 10 programs that each use the same 5 samples, previously, these 5 samples would have been saved 10 times each - they are now only saved once).

We are aware, however, that save times are still slow in other circumstances and this is being worked on for the next release.

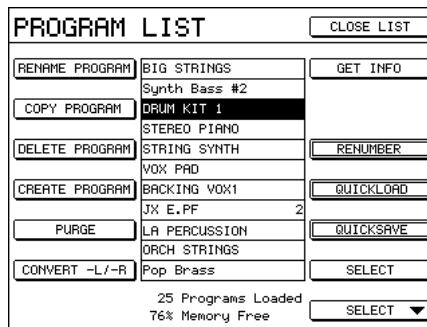
- SCSI error problems that could, under certain circumstances, have caused disk corruption are now resolved.
- F8-F9 Labels disappear in SAVE page after Audition - now fixed.
- After aborting a save, cannot create folder - now fixed.
- SAVE screens now work correctly as described in the Operator's Manual (i.e SKIP, YES TO ALL, etc.).

[NOTE: There have generally been huge improvements to SAVE that fix nearly all reported problems. As stated, however, save times still need to be improved.]

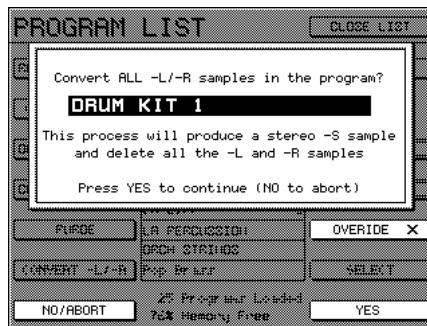


NEW FEATURE - CONVERT -L/-R

It is now possible to convert old Akai series -L/-R stereo samples into interleaved .WAV samples. This is done in EDIT PROGRAM > PROGRAM LIST which now shows this screen:



The new function is on F7. Pressing it will pop up this display:



To continue, press YES (or NO to cancel).

The process will examine the program and convert all -L/-R samples to a single stereo file. It will remove the original samples from the program (but not from memory) and will also make the appropriate adjustments to the keygroup zones to which they are assigned (i.e. instead of two mono zones panned hard left and right, you will end up with one stereo zone panned centrally).

If the process was successful, you will be returned to the PROGRAM LIST screen.

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However, the process is looking for identically matching pairs. Because it is not possible to have separate start and end times of loop points in an interleaved stereo sample, both samples have to have identical settings. This is normally the case with stereo samples as any difference in loop length or position will result in the stereo imaging being inaccurate. Sample start times must also be identical. If the process finds a stereo pair of samples that do not match, you will receive the following prompt:



You should press OK and identify those samples that do not match and make the necessary adjustments.

Alternatively, you can try again but this time switch OVERIDE to ON (i.e. checked). This will run the process but will automatically copy the parameters from the left channel to the right channel. Please note, however, that this may upset the loop on the right channel which may cause clicks or other loop related glitches. In this case, you are advised to re-loop the new -S stereo sample created by the process.

CONVERT -L/-R is also included in EDIT SAMPLE > SAMPLE LIST and this offers the same facilities as above except that you are only working on one pair of samples at a time. To select the samples to convert, simply place the cursor on either the -L or -R leg of the sample in the list. Now press CONVERT -L/-R - the prompts you will receive are the same as those shown above. A -S stereo interleaved sample will be created and added to the bottom of the list.

You will note, however, that any programs that used the original -L/-R samples will need to be manually updated to contain the -S stereo version created by the process. As such, the CONVERT function is best used at the program level rather than at the individual sample level.



USER INTERFACE IMPROVEMENT

When assigning samples to keygroups, you do not now have to start from the very first sample in memory every time for every zone. It now has the same logic as previous Akai samplers in that the next sample is automatically selected when you go to the next keygroup.

Assigning programs to parts is also improved in the same way.

This makes assigning operation considerably easier and faster especially when there are many samples or programs in memory.



NOTES REGARDING CONNECTING SAMPLER TO A MAC/PC

Whilst it is theoretically possible to connect your sampler to a Mac/PC via SCSI, Akai does not recommend this due to the potential risk of disk corruption and/or system crashes.

There are two main problems:

SCSI BUS CRASH

It seems that most SCSI boards for Macs and PCs do not treat SCSI bus arbitration correctly (i.e. multiple initiators in a system is not handled correctly). As a result, SCSI bus crashes can occur when a hard disk is accessed by a sampler and a Mac/PC at the same time. Depending on what the two devices were doing at the time, this SCSI bus crash can corrupt a hard disk easily.

WORK AROUNDS

- Set the sampler's own SCSI ID to a unique number before connecting it to the SCSI chain. This is done in UTILITIES/SYSTEM SETUP/SYSTEM SCSI ID (F5).
- Be very particular when powering the system up and ensure that each device is fully powered up before switching on the next item.

It is suggested to power up the hard drive(s) first in turn, waiting for each one to spin up correctly then turn on the sampler and wait until it too has powered up fully - now switch on the Mac/PC. This will help prevent the possibility of contention on the SCSI bus whilst each device does its disk scanning during power up.

- Do not operate from the PC and the sampler at the same time.
- PCs do 'write caching' when accessing the hard disk so you should consider increasing the caching delay time.
- Inhibit the PC's 'Auto Scanning' function. This can cause a SCSI bus crash when operating from the sampler as it may cause the PC to randomly scan the SCSI bus whilst the sampler is also using it.
- When sharing a CD-ROM drive, disable the 'Auto insertion' option in device manager property page.

Please note, however, that even if you observe the above recommendations, 100% reliability cannot be guaranteed.

And.....



MAKING CHANGES TO A SHARED DISK WITH TWO INITIATORS

There are known problems when using a single disk shared by two SCSI initiators (an 'initiator' being a device with a CPU trying to access the same SCSI peripheral). This is not unique to sharing an S5/6000 with a Mac/PC but can occur on any SCSI system that has two initiators.

When a disk is seen by a SCSI initiator, the disk's directory is loaded into its RAM disk cache. Of course, if any changes are made to the disk by that initiator, it knows about these changes and can automatically update its RAM cache. However, a problem occurs when another initiator makes any changes to that disk - the RAM cache on the other initiator is not automatically updated and the only way for it to know about the changes is for it to do a complete re-scan of the disk to get the updated file directory. Some examples are....

- A. When you delete or rename some items on the disk on the sampler, the Mac/PC won't recognise these changes - it will still show the deleted or renamed items.
- B. If you move some items from one folder to another on the Mac desktop or in Windows Explorer, these changes will not automatically be seen by the sampler - they will still be seen to exist in the original folder on the sampler.
- C. If you edit a sample using a Mac/PC wave editor and save that sample back to the disk, the sampler will not automatically recognise the changes. For example, if you chop a 1Mb sample in half on a Mac/PC wave editor, the sampler will not know - as far as it's concerned, it's still a 1Mb sample because that's the information it has from the disk's file directory.

Disk corruption can occur if you try to access items on a disk after changes have been made to it on the other initiator - for example, trying to open a .WAV file that is still showing on the Mac/PC but which has been deleted on the sampler.

The sampler, however, *can* see the changes made by the Mac/PC by using the UPDATE function in the DISK LIST page. Pressing UPDATE will cause all disks to be re-scanned and all disk directories to be updated.

**IF YOU MAKE ANY CHANGES TO AN S5/6000 DISK ON A
MAC/PC, YOU MUST ALWAYS USE THE 'UPDATE'
FUNCTION ON THE SAMPLER BEFORE ATTEMPTING
TO USE THAT DISK.**

However, more seriously, the PC cannot see the changes made by the sampler under any circumstances. The disk drive's contents are cached into the PC's RAM and "REFRESH" in Explorer's VIEW menu only updates the contents of the RAM - unlike the sampler, it does not do a complete re-scan of the disks.

On the Mac, there is no equivalent of Explorer's REFRESH so any changes you may make to the disk on the sampler cannot be detected by the Mac. Even closing all folders right back down to the disk icon on the desktop and then re-opening them will not cause the disk to be re-scanned.



WORK AROUNDs

- On a PC, when using a removable disk/cartridge, after making *any* changes on the sampler, eject the media and re-insert it in the drive - this operation will cause the PC to re-scan the disk and the disk directory will be updated to include those changes made by the sampler.
- The same should be done if any changes are made on the sampler when the disk is also being used by a Mac. However, when using removable media, you will not be able to eject the disk manually on the drive itself as the Mac locks all removable disks and they must be ejected from the Mac. To do this, drag the disk icon on the desktop into the wastebasket to eject it. Now re-insert it - this will cause the Mac to re-scan the media and therefore get the latest disk directory.
- When using a fixed hard disk drive, there is no way to re-scan the disk except by re-booting the Mac/PC. There may be free/share/payware utilities that allow you to cause the disks to be re-scanned that may solve this problem, however.



FILENAMES ON THE MAC

When an S5/6000 disk is used on a Mac, there is a problem with filenames.

In the case where you have many files (samples, programs and/or multis) and they all share the same first 8 characters, these will not be recognised correctly by the Mac.

For example, in one folder, if you have 5 samples called.....

NEW SAMPLE 1.WAV
NEW SAMPLE 2.WAV
NEW SAMPLE 3.WAV
NEW SAMPLE 4.WAV
NEW SAMPLE 5.WAV

When you open that folder on the Mac, you will very quickly see 5 files called NEW SAMPLE 1 and then four of them will quickly disappear from view leaving you with just one - NEW SAMPLE 1.WAV. The files are still there but because the Mac cannot have files with the same name in one folder, four of them are not shown.

Our engineers are trying to get to the bottom of this strange problem with the Mac's PC EXCHANGE and it is due to be fixed in a forthcoming release. In the meantime....

WORK AROUND

Ensure that the first 8 characters of anything you know will end up on your Mac have unique characters. For example, instead of BIG STRINGS C1, BIG STRINGS C2, BIG STRINGS C3, etc., where the first 8 characters - BIG STRI - are identical, call them C1 BIG STRINGS, C2 BIG STRINGS, etc.. With a unique identifier in the first 8 characters, they will show up properly on the Mac.

Of course, filenames such as KICK 1, KICK 2, SNARE 1, SNARE 2, SNARE 3, etc., will be ok on the Mac - the problem is just with multiple files where the first 8 characters are identical.



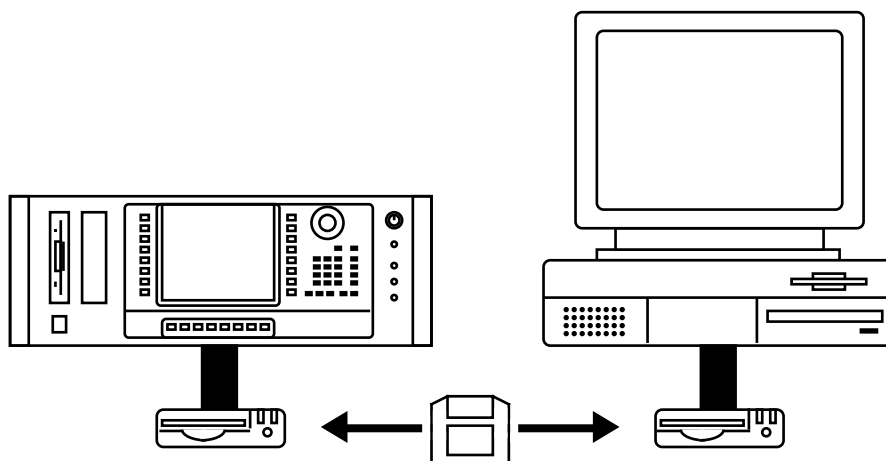
OTHER KNOWN PROBLEMS

- Whether or not your sampler is directly connected to a Mac/PC or not, when changing removable media, ALWAYS use the sampler's UPDATE function. Failure to do so will result in unreliable operation, even disk corruption in the worst case.
- If your sampler is connected to a Mac/PC, disable any 'auto-save' programs or utilities you may have on your Mac/PC. These may write to the sampler's disk thus causing a change to that disk which the sampler won't know about. Most auto-save functions are found within the applications themselves as a feature of the application. However, there are utilities available that can be set to periodically save anything that is open. Either way, it is suggested you disable these.
- There are known problems of unreliability with the Zip Plus that allows simultaneous SCSI and parallel connections. Whilst it functions well as a SCSI drive or as a drive connected to your PC's parallel port, there are reports that disk corruption can occur when connected to both simultaneously. This problem is not unique to the S5/6000 but appears to be a general problem of the device.
- MacOS8.5.x is required to mount MS-DOS drives larger than 1.5Gb on the Mac desktop.

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For the reasons stated above, Akai Electric Co., Ltd. strongly recommends that for safety, you use separate systems with compatible removable disk drives as follows:



Don't forget - when taking the cartridge back to sampler, always use the UPDATE function in DISK LIST to refresh the sampler's disk cache for reliable operation.

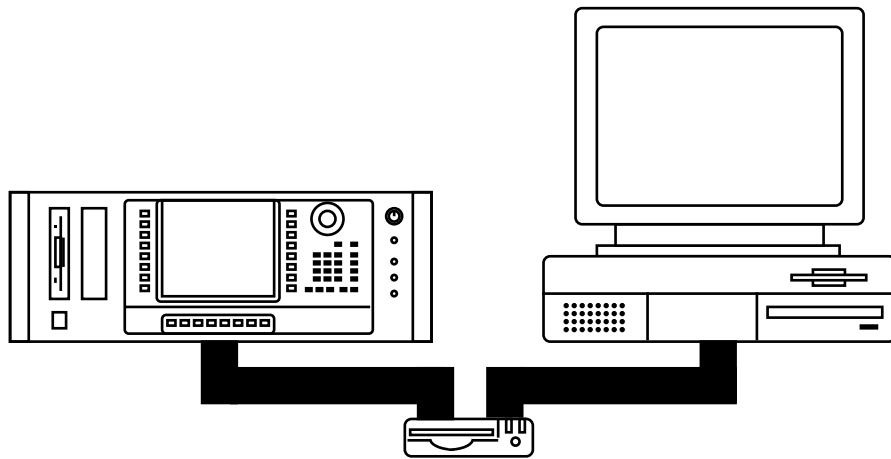
If the above is not possible, then it is recommended that you disconnect the drive from one device and then connect it to the other.

Please note, however, that SCSI devices are not 'hot swappable' - that is, you cannot disconnect and re-connect SCSI cables whilst the equipment is switched on. Doing so may seriously damage your equipment.. Akai Electric Co., cannot be held responsible for such damage.

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Whilst it is theoretically possible to connect your sampler to a Mac/PC and share the disk drive as follows....



great care must be taken! You may experience nothing more than the occasional, inconvenient SCSI crash. On the other hand, as described, you can potentially damage your drive and lose data irretrievably. As a result, this configuration is not recommended.

Should you choose to connect your sampler to your Mac/PC via SCSI, please be aware that you do so at your own risk and Akai Electric Co., Ltd, cannot be held liable for any problems you may have on your PC/Mac and/or S5000/6000 or for any damage to equipment or loss of data that may result if an S6000, S5000 is connected directly to a Mac/PC.

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