

HitTrax MIDI Files Tutorial

Tutorial: How to embed scrolling (karaoke) lyrics in a MIDI File Sonar/Cakewalk
By: John Ialuna
Website: HitTrax MIDI Files - www.hittrax.com.au and www.midi.com.au

Requirements for this tutorial are

- PC with a MIDI sound module connected or GM sound card
- Sequencing program: Sonar, any version or Cakewalk Audio Vs8 or later
- MIDI File with an accurate melody line preferably on MIDI channel 4. Note - if your MIDI File does not have a melody line, see my separate tutorial 'Adding a melody line to a MIDI File' below.
- A Text file of the lyrics

This is a very simple process and should only take a few minutes with each song provided the melody line and lyrics are accurate. I will refer to the sequencing program as Sonar but the same applies to Cakewalk.

- Open Sonar
- Load a MIDI File with melody line included
- Select the MIDI channel that has the melody line. This should be MIDI channel 4, otherwise copy/move the track on MIDI channel 4 to a spare channel then copy/move the melody line to MIDI channel 4.
- Hold the 'Alt' key and press the '7' to open the score page
- Hold the 'Alt' key and press the '8' to open the lyrics page
- Copy and paste the lyrics into the lyrics page then press the 'Hyphenate' button
- The lyrics should line up with the melody line notes.
- Select the score section and play the song and check for accuracy. HINT - Click your mouse on the bar line when a section is OK as Sonar will always return to the start of the song if stopped when in this mode. By clicking on the bar line, a green flag will appear and Sonar will return to this point when stopped.
- Add a hyphen in between words if there are inaccuracies
- When complete, go: File>Save As and select MIDI Format 0 then save the MIDI File.

Add a melody line to a MIDI file even if you have basic programming knowledge:

The following instruction applies if the MIDI File does not have a melody guide. The embedded lyrics require something to track to, otherwise the lyrics will not roll in line with the song. You can add this tracking data yourself, as there is no musical accuracy required. Of course, if you have the ability, go ahead and add the right notes!

- Load the MIDI File into Sonar or Cakewalk
- Move any track that is on MIDI channel 4 to a new and unoccupied MIDI track
- Setup bar 1 of the now vacant MIDI channel 4 according to GM spec
- Change the instrument of MIDI channel 4 to something like a Tenor Saxophone
- When recording the melody line, simply play the same note to the beat and rhythm of the melody line - even though it will sound off key. Just make sure the notes are hit and released at the right time so it accurately follows the

original vocal line. NOTE - Of course, you can also play the actual notes of the melody guide if you have the ability to do so.

- After recording and confirming the melody track is correct, set all velocities of the melody guide track (MIDI channel 4) to '0' and change the volume (controller 7) to 0.
- Save as a format 0 (merged) MIDI File then refer to the tutorial above to enter the lyrics

Good luck and feel free to contact me if you need any assistance through [HitTrax LIVE CHAT](#)