

USING a PC to Copy Organ Files

By Bil Curry

I just used "Copy Disk" to copy an LX disk in an XP computer to make a back-up copy of an LX disk. Put the disk you want to copy in the A drive, go to "My Computer" and click on File. There you will see "Copy Disk". Click on that and follow the instructions to make a back-up to another floppy disk.

MORE INFO:

I noticed that when I saved the songs or presets from an LX organ on my Windows (95 or 98) they would play OK when I copied them to another disk and played them in the organ - EXCEPT that the name on the screen would get corrupted. I never got an answer as to why that happened. I'd just go in and correct the names.

Then I noticed that the LX files would not save to a Windows 2000 operating system so I tried copying to Windows XP and saving to another disk. Result: XP totally corrupts the LX song files. There is just something with our older LX disks and XP that doesn't jive; however:

The newer SU organs do just fine with XP. The programmers changed the way the file extensions work so you DO NOT have to have a special format to use the disks. Just buy PC formatted disks from the store go directly from the box to the organ. They save to the computer and from there to a new disk without a hitch (unless the disk has some bad sectors. I don't think the organs or XP can handle that.)

The Majesty (and all LX organs) were designed during the early "Windows" days and Microsoft Windows has change. The LX series disks have a special format that is *almost* the same as a PC formatted disk with added "stuff". This is what the programmers decided to do inorder to get the songs and presets numbered on the screen.

NOTE: The older NTs (MX-2, Heritage, Holiday) are not even close to a PC format. We keep an old 286 DOS computer here at Lowrey just to store some files for those organs. Remember NTs designed from 1988 to 1990 which was **before** Microsoft release their first version of Windows (before General MIDI too).

If you have an old computer with Windows 95 or 98 on it, dedicate that computer for storing Majesty files. If not, use Copy Disk and make back-ups or whenever you make presets. I often save my presets to 2 or more disks before erasing them on the organ. Now you have one (or more) to keep in a safe place (away from magnets). Use the Copy Song feature in the organ to save your recordings to other disks as well.

Bil

By Van Cotton

I have been "investigating" ways of copying the disks that come with my new Premire, and found that taking the Lowrey disk a doing a "copy disk" doesn't work well most of the time. It has got a lot to do with the Operating System of the Organ, which is a UNIX variant, and Windows, and the way the two systems handle long file names. Because the Organ O/S is the most sensitive to naming it seems to work much better if you use UNIX naming conventions. This includes NO SPACES instead us an UNDER_SCORE. Where Windows doesn't care, to UNIX upper case and lower case are two entirely different animals. An "A" and an "a" are not the same to UNIX. When working with file names for your organ, use all lower case, even though you will notice they will show up on information screen as being in Upper Case. I don't know if that is a feature or a bug, but if you name your files in uppercase, setups or music your

organ won't recognize the disk. Let me know if that helps, and if anybody can add something I would appreciate it.

Van

By LoveLowrey

One last item on the recorder fiasco. I made the following test for copying LX Song files on to a hard drive and back to another floppy. PC Config = Intel Pent., Dual Core 2.8 GHz OS = XP Home Rls 5.1.2600 Tool = Hex Editor and Checksums Copied several songs from the Lowrey Song disks that came with an LX400 on to my hard drive. Also copied several songs from a floppy containing songs created on the LX400. Copied all the songs on the hard drive back to a floppy that had never seen an LX organ (preformatted, used, abused and erased). Compared original floppy disks to files on the hard drive and they had equal bytes and check sums. Compared "copy to" floppy to files on the hard drive and they also had equal bytes and check sums.

The File Names on the songs remained intact. I selected songs with various file names containing blanks as well as valid DOS strings. Cannot explain why some files become corrupt when copied back to a new floppy or why the source disk became damaged. Lots or great discussion on this topic and I have now put this issue to bed.

LoveLowrey

Added Notes:

Remember that the "Floppy you Copy to" (rhymes) must be formatted in an LX organ.

Only the SU/SE series can use "out of the box" formatted disks.

Bil

I have tried several other methods, and think the "Aux Out" to (computer) "Line In" seems to work the best. My Premier has a Right and Left Line Out that uses the 1/4-inch monaural jacks. From Radio Shack (it is only a mile from my house) I purchased two one-quarter inch mono to 1/8 inch mono. My next piece is a Radio Shack cable about 12 foot long that goes from two 1/8 inch mono jacks to a single 1/8 inch stereo, which plugs into my computers sound card. The next part is the frustrating part, and that is getting the sound levels just right. If you input is too high it overdrive the soundcard and clip the signal. You can use just Microsoft Volume Control to set the sound level, but you have to do it just by trial and error. Record a bit, listen to it, and then make adjustments. I use a little software package called SuperMP3 Recorder, which has built in graphical "VU" meters. Even with that it, still take a bit of work to get everything just right, especially if you are working alone. My computer is about 10 feet from my organ, and I have made the trip no less than a million times. By the way, the SuperMP3Recorder lets you choose MP3 or .WAV formats. When setting levels you have to take in consideration the expression pedal, mash it and it throws all you settings off. My method to this madness is to set my "Master Volume Control" on the Premier to about half-way, then go full-throttle on the pedal, start either a recorded part, or a rhythm going, walk into the computer room, and make the level adjustments in there. Of course, it is a lot easier if you have somebody to help you. By the way, while in this mode you can hear your organ through your computer speakers. I often start the recorder, go to the organ, take my time, and play my pieces, three of four of them if I feel like it. The MP3Recorder makes my entire work one BIG file, but does have a waveform editor built-in that

allows you to break out the individual songs. It also allows you to check for "clipping," AND that nearly perfect piece that has that one little mistake (I've got big fingers and will catch a key next to the one I am wanting to play every once in a while), you can actually edit out that little mistake with a little practice.

Van

The next part is the frustrating part, and that is getting the sound levels just right. If you input is too high it overdrive the soundcard and clip the signal. I noticed the in last 4 files I sent in the base was overpowering. I am resetting my registrations & saving in A-E banks for recording with less base. I wish there was a way to keep a low output on base sounds but if you use the preset rhythm sounds the base gets loud again.

John

I always advised people to use the organ's factory presets and rhythm presets only as starting out points. All too often, regardless of make, the factory sets aren't as good as they might be. I know it's hard to please everyone because I've had to program them myself for one or two manufacturers. One man's 'heavy bass' is another's 'good solid bass'. Same thing - different viewpoint!

Anyway, use the rhythm presets, lower the bass level, alter whatever else you want and save that as a user preset - every time - rather than just using the preset 'out of the box'. Once you've done this, don't EVER change from user presets to factory presets in mid-tune. Boy, will that bass level jump up! If it's the overall sound that's bass-heavy, a little EQ can go a long way, if used correctly. It depends on what package you're using to do your recordings. I'd recommend Wavelab Lite, or something similar, that can use what are called 'plug-in effects'. Most come with an EQ plug in that's something like a souped-up tone control. A good one will let you lower the levels at 60Hz and 120Hz without making the overall sound thin. Hope this may help Andy G: Important tip, no make this a RULE, because I just broke it and wasted half an hour! Should know better after all this time! When you record your item to your PC, keep the original, untouched copy in a folder marked 'originals' or something similar. When you start to work on the audio and use effects etc, ALWAYS work with a copy. That way, if it all goes pear-shaped (as it just did for me) you can simply make another copy of the original and start over without any stress.

Luckily, all I had to do this time was play the tape back into the PC to get back to square one! Related tip, add any extra reverb as a FINAL touch. I did it too early and then wanted to just fade in the start of a line, to take the electronic edge off a tibia sound. Couldn't do it, as it would have affected the reverb too, so that's where starting over came in....

Andy G