

# THE ULTIMATE EDITING OF SYNTHS AND KEYBOARDS

In the old days it was very easy for us visually impaired to have full control of all the important parameters on the synths and keyboards. All functions had its own buttons, knobs, wheels, faders, and drawbars. The only tool you sometimes needed was a light indicator to detect some of the diodes.



Today's machines mostly deal with software modes, menus, and relatively complicated external computer editors.

They also use nice graphical interfaces, which makes it even more complicated for visually impaired users to get a properly working, intuitive and accessible interface. In the proguide2 project we have therefore been working with this problem, in order to give the visually impaired users at least some solutions with an acceptable degree of accessibility.

After having preceded an analysis of almost 100 different software alternatives on the market, we decided to promote the Yamaha Studio manager and editing software for the very popular synth rack module Motif XS. The rack is packed with a fantastic amount of good sounds, and features. It is small and light to carry around. It is also affordable for a lot of musicians.

With the help of this software you can adjust all the important parameters on the device, and make them visible on the Braille display and through speech. It means that you can adjust the sound sets which interest you, for an optimal result in your work. With the help of the accessibility to this software, you can as a user define all types of sound sets, so that it is easy to operate it when you work with your sequencer software. The studio manager and editor appear as a plugin, which you reach from the main software. By the help of the software, you can also make layers of different sounds on the same channel. You can also edit and define parameters for all physical parameters of the sound. You can in



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addition more easily do proper editing of effects on the sounds. It has previously been very tricky to do. The solution makes it also possible for you to manage your own favorite banks of sounds.

We think that this is a significant step for the end users, to have a nice alternative for their daily work. We also hope that this will open the eyes of many developers, so that they better understand the need for accessibility for all types of users.



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