

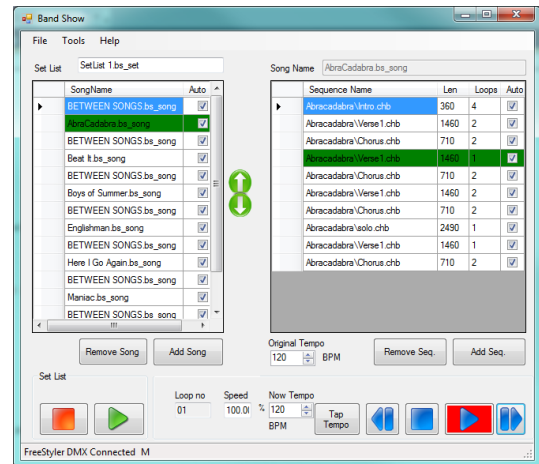
Don't you just hate manuals?

Software that isn't intuitive to use is just poorly written, right?

That is at least my starting point when I try new software for the first time. But when given a window with 10 menu items, and 10 buttons and no indications of what to do, I like some kind of description. So for the impatient - here is the

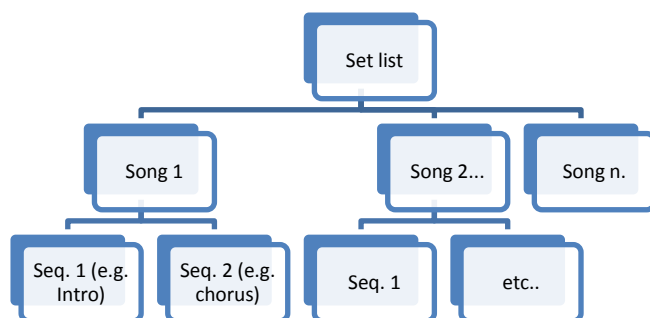
Short starting guide.

1. Click "Add Seq." button and select a *Freestyler sequence file*. (*.chb)
2. In the "Loops" column, enter the number of repeats you want.
3. Check "Auto" if you want the program to automatically jump to the next sequence
4. Repeat "Add Seq." for as many sequences you want to add.
5. Save your work as a "Song". Select File/Save Song File..."
6. PLAY the song by clicking on the blue Play Button.
7. Save several songs and create a Set list (Add Song).
8. Play the entire set list, with auto advancement by clicking the green Play button.



The software idea

I'm playing in a cover band. That means that (apart from not affording light technicians) our light show has a musical structure. This software supports such musical structure and is based upon the following structure:



- A Concert consists of one or more SET LISTS.
- A Set list consists of one or more SONGS
- Each song has a TEMPO
- Each song consists of one or more SEQUENCES (e.g. "Verse", "Introduction", "Solo")
 - A sequence be repeated and occur many times in a song. However – there is just ONE scene playing at a time.

This means that if you use Freestyler to run several sequences (or "scenes") at the same time, or do not use tempo-based sequences, then I guess this software is not for you. Sorry...

What does this software add that isn't already in Freestyler?

I really appreciate Freestyler DMX and all its capabilities. However – being in a band where we must control the light from stage, it has some shortages. This software adds the following:

- ✦ Always plays a sequence from the start – even if it is looped.
- ✦ Control of number of loops played.
- ✦ Support for song structure and “Set lists” as used by most bands.
- ✦ Tempo based changes of the playing speed.
- ✦ Simple user interface with (hopefully) clear overview for the busy musician on stage ;-)

The Main Window

The screenshot shows the Band Show software interface. It is divided into two main sections: the **Set Area** on the left and the **Song Area** on the right. The **Set Area** contains a list of songs with columns for SongName and Auto. The **Song Area** contains a list of sequences with columns for Sequence Name, Len, Loops, and Auto. Below these lists are controls for tempo, speed, and playback. Annotations provide detailed explanations of the interface elements.

Set Area

Song Area

Imported Freestyler DMX seq. files. (*.chb) These are located in the freestyler installation folder in the “chases” subfolder.

The length of the sequence in 100th seconds. When elapsed, *Band Show* will automatically jump to the next sequence, or restart if “Loops” > 1.

Number of times a seq. is repeated. If ZERO it will repeat endlessly.

If checked, *Band Show* will jump to the next sequence. Otherwise it waits for a press on FF (Fast Forward).

Add and remove sequences to the Song.

Loop being played at the moment

Speed adjustment (based upon change between original and now tempo)

Tap beats to calculate *Now tempo*. This then changes Speed based upon the difference between *Original tempo* and *Now Tempo*

FF: Jump to the next Sequence in a song

PLAY: Start playing a song.

STOP: Stops playing a song

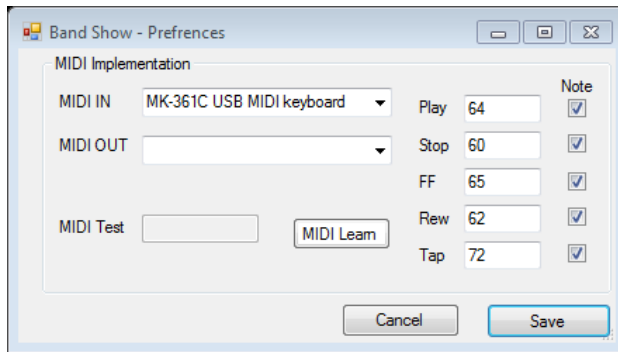
REW: Jump to the previous Sequence in a song

Add and remove songs to the Set List.

Stop playing a SET

Start playing a SET

Preferences



The preferences dialog box is found under the “Tools” menu.

Here you configure your MIDI preferences:

- MIDI IN is your Midi input device.
- Play, Stop, FF, Rew, Tap is the corresponding Midi Notes for these buttons.
- Note Checkbox must be checked to handle Midi Notes. If not checked it will use Program Change Messages (NOT YET IMPLEMENTED)
- MIDI Learn – will show the Midi Note or Prg Change in the MIDI test field. Note that you will have to enter the values yourself in the Play etc.
- Save – Save your settings. (Duh!)
- Cancel – Quit without saving.

Keyboard shortcuts

There are some keyboard shortcuts - or hotkeys – that can be used. Note that these are only in use when you are in playing mode, i.e. you have pressed *play song* or *play set*.

- ✓ Up Arrow – Play
- ✓ Down Arrow – Stop
- ✓ Right Arrow – Fast Forward (FF)
- ✓ Left Arrow – Rewind (REW)
- ✓ SPACE – Tap Tempo

If you are not in playing mode, these keys will work as normal.