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Macintosh IIVx: New System Enabler Aids MIDI Transfers (9/94)

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TOPIC -----

System Enabler 001 version 1.0.1 corrects problems that a Macintosh IIVx may have with large transfers of MIDI data.

DISCUSSION -----

Initially, the Macintosh IIVx encountered difficulty in receiving large System Exclusive (SysEx) transfers from other MIDI devices. This situation occurred due to interrupts being held inactive for periods longer than the MIDI protocol could handle without losing data.

This situation would not affect most SysEx transfers to the Macintosh IIVx, since a transfer could last for approximately 2.5 minutes without interruption. Since most MIDI devices can transfer all of their data in approximately 20-30 seconds, most MIDI devices would not encounter any difficulty. Samplers would be the most obvious exception. Because they transfer megabytes of data it would be possible to exceed the 2.5 minute time frame.

The issue has been addressed with the release of the enclosed System Enabler 001, version 1.0.1. This System Enabler for the Macintosh IIVx supersedes the earlier System Enabler 001, version 1.0.

System Enabler 001 version 1.0.1 easily allows a time frame of 5 minutes for a SysEx transfer. This is enough time for transfer 2MB of data from a MIDI device to the Macintosh IIVx. These are minimum specifications.

Standard 1MHz MIDI interfaces do not have any difficulty working with the Macintosh IIVx and the 1.0.1 version of the enabler. The use of faster MIDI interface boxes may cause the difficulty described above to reappear with the Macintosh IIVx even when used with the 1.0.1 version of the enabler.

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