

Subject: : AmigaOS4

Topic: : MIDI keyboard

Re: MIDI keyboard

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@mr2

There are a few options. If you plan to use the keyboard to play SoftSyn, Timi or Phonolith sounds (i.e. work with software instruments available for OS4), all you need is a fully class-compliant USB MIDI control keyboard. Plugging this in one of your Sam's USB ports, the camd.library will make the keyboard's MIDI IN/OUT ports available in the system. You'll then select the keyboard's MIDI IN port (referred to as a "cluster" in the CAMD terminology) for input, and the software instrument's cluster as output. Done.

If, on the other hand, you plan to use the keyboard to control a real MIDI instrument, you will either a) have to buy a class-compliant MIDI interface to connect the instrument to, or b) use the keyboard along with a modern USB-capable MIDI instrument that, again, is fully class-compliant and does not need dedicated driver software. Option a) is generally safer, as modern MIDI gear tends to be rather complex and often requires a driver. Option a) will also make your setup more extensible, allowing for older MIDI instruments to be plugged. I recommend the M-Audio MIDISPORT 2x2 or 4x4 MIDI interface - both work very well under OS4.

As for the size of the keyboard, 61 keys only make good sense if you or your son can play the piano, i.e. if the idea is to use your setup mainly as a traditional keyboard instrument. If, on the other hand, the plan is to use the keyboard merely to enter MIDI notes/data into a sequencer, a 61key-er is a complete waste of space and money.