

Presets Transfer Guide

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Introduction

First of all, thank you for getting this Preset pack!

We, Fred's Lab and the Preset Pack authors / sound-designers, hope you will have some good fun and fresh inspiration playing with these new sounds.

Please follow this step-by-step guide to install your new presets on **Manatee**.

I- What You Will Need

- Your **Manatee** synthesizer
- A compliant MIDI interface (or USB-to-MIDI adapter)
- A computer (macOS, Windows or Linux based)
- A SysEx-compatible software application, e.g., sysex-drop, MIDI-OX, Sysex Librarian, SendSX, or similar.
Please refer to the links at the end of this guide.

The preset archive you downloaded, which contains the individual SysEx (.syx) files

== Firmware Requirement ==

Before installing the presets, ensure that your synthesizer is running firmware version 1.06 or higher. If your machine has an older firmware version, you must update it first.

Please use the Online Updater tool available on Fred's Lab website to keep your **Manatee** up to date and running the latest operating system.

Please visit the following link to get the latest **Manatee** firmware:

<https://fredslab.net/en/manatee-module.php>

II- Installation Steps

a. First connect your Manatee to your computer.

Use a standard MIDI DIN cable to connect the MIDI OUT of your computer's interface to the MIDI IN of your **Manatee** synthesizer. No other connection is required. Ensure your synthesizer is powered on and ready.

b. Open Your SysEx Software

- Launch your preferred SysEx compatible application on your computer.
- Select the correct MIDI device that matches both your MIDI interface and the MIDI OUT port connected to your **Manatee**.

c. Load and Send a Single Preset File

- Open one of the .syx files from the preset pack.
- Send the SysEx file to your synthesizer using the software's send function.
- The preset will be loaded into the synthesizer edit buffer (temporary memory), allowing you to preview the sound without performing any changes to the machine internal memory.

d. Manually Save the Preset

Once the preset is in the edit buffer, it is not yet permanently stored.

Use the **Manatee** SAVE function (press the SAVE button) to manually save the preset to a free slot in any of the user banks (A to D) or overwrite an existing preset you do not want to keep for further use.

e. Repeat for Additional Presets

Repeat steps **c** and **d** for each additional preset file you wish to store on the machine.

III- Sysex Software Links

Below are some suggested applications for sending SysEx files:

- sysex-drop (multi-os): <https://github.com/sourcebox/sysex-drop/releases/>
- Sysex Librarian (macOS): <https://www.snoize.com/SysexLibrarian/>
- MIDI-OX (Windows): <http://www.midiox.com/>
- SendSX (Windows): <https://www.bome.com/products/sendsx>

These are just recommendations; we have no affiliation with them.

If you find them useful and wish to support free software, please consider donating to the projects developers.

IV- Troubleshooting Tips

If your **Manatee** does not respond to the SysEx messages, check for these potential issues:

a. SysEx Reception Enabled

- Go to the synth setup menu by pressing ALT + SETUP (MULTI).
- Press the right arrow (navigation controls) 8 times to access the general SysEx configuration.
- Ensure the SysEx Device ID is set to 0 and the RX flag is set to ON.

b. Correct MIDI Interface

Most MIDI interfaces have an LED indicator showing MIDI traffic. Check if the LED blinks properly when sending a SysEx file or MIDI notes.

c. Check Cables

If the synthesizer still does not receive the SysEx file, try swapping the MIDI cable with another one.

A damaged cable may not preserve data integrity, causing transfer issues.

d. Swap the MIDI Interface

Some MIDI interfaces do not correctly implement SysEx transfers.

They may ignore SysEx messages completely, send them partially, or introduce errors in the data stream. Unfortunately, if this happens, the best solution is to try a different MIDI interface.

e. Adjust Driver Buffer Size

Some MIDI interfaces only transfer SysEx messages reliably when the driver buffer size is set to a specific value. Most SysEx transfer tools offer this as a system option.

A good starting value is 256 bytes, but one can also try with multiples of 3 bytes (e.g., 384 bytes) due to the underlying USB transfer protocol.

Enjoy your new presets and happy music-making!

The Fred's Lab Team