

Questions/Problems?

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MIDITEMP

Vieware Pro-Controller



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User Manual

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Thank you for purchasing a Miditemp® - Product!

Our customers' requests have always been the driving force behind our cutting-edge MIDITEMP products – and you are now the owner of the latest product in our range - the Viewarte Pro-Controller (VWPC)!

With the VWPC, you can display notes, texts or lyrics on any connected screen. The screen you use is up to you, depending on the application for which it's to be used.

If you connect a midifile player, a karaoke player, etc., you can also display the file lyrics via the VGA or Video inputs.

Important

For this mode of operation (lyrics) there is one limitation, however – you can't use just **ANY** screen, if your host unit (Midifile-player/Keyboard or whatever) sends video-signals (50Hz). Then it **has** to be a screen that supports video-signals (PAL) – 50Hz!! If you're not sure, just ask your specialist dealer! Using VGA: When your host unit can be set to NTSC-Mode, you of course can use ANY screen. If not (the same as with the video-inputs here), then please use a screen that supports 50Hz signals (PAL)

Almost unlimited applications and usage options!

In principle, VWPC can be used in any possible configuration – *and* you can also use it even if you DON'T use any midi-applications whatsoever!

Teleprompter - just place a large screen at the front of the stage, perhaps mounted inside a case like a monitor (wedge) – then all the performers (in the theatre, too) can read their lines!

No midi? OK, then just connect 2 footswitches to the VWPC (up/down) – or use a standard USB-numberpad to first select a patch, then use footswitches to move up and down in the patch numbers bank... easy!

Dance bands - here's an example - the keyboarder uses a monitor connected to his keyboard for lyrics, but the sax player wants to have notes – no problem - VWPC can be controlled by standard program changes / bank select commands from a midifile / midi-controller / keyboard!

Big bands - Here you can cascade several VWPC units. The first VWPC ("The BOSS") in the chain uses e.g. a USB number pad to select patches. These selections are sent via midi-out, go to midi-in of the next VWPC unit. Here you connect the midi-thru to the midi-in of the next unit and so on. The master (BOSS) now controls all the units and they all work in parallel – and this enables the defining of sections. If you need more than one screen per section, simply use a standard DVI split-box to distribute the signal of a VWPC to several screens. Since each VWPC has its own SD card, data for each instrument/group needs to be on the same number, but only at the start. If you leave enough space between your songs, every VWPC, including the master unit, can be controlled individually by footswitch, without affecting the other units. However, all units must have the same midi channel.

Music schools: Increase the size of the notes - for classroom work – also suitable for **visually impaired** musicians/speakers, etc., enlarge your notes and use a large screen then.

Connectors

On one side of the unit you have an

AC connector – 9 Volt DC/500mA and a

USB connector for connecting to a USB number pad. (**! Not for a USB-Stick!**)

The next three connectors are all **inputs** for displaying lyrics that originate from a midifile, karaoke file, keyboard, midifile player, etc.

VGA-In – Video-In (RCA-Cinch) – S-Video-connector

Output - connect your monitor to the DVI-I connector.

Your monitor only works with VGA? No problem! You can convert using a standard DVI<>VGA cable or a DVI<>VGA adaptor, which are obtainable in any multimedia-store.

On the other side you have a:

2x footswitch connectors - connect 2 switches here (momentary) for calling up and moving patches up and down.

The second connector can also be used for dual switches. To use this option you need a stereo 6.3-inch jack, or a Y-1x TRS 6.3" stereo male <> 2x TRS 6.3" mono female.

MIDI-In - you can call up your data using midi program-changes. Here we use standard bank select commands –

CC:0 / 0 – PG 1-128 (0-127) = 001-128 (000-127)

CC:0 / 1 – PG 1-128 (0-127) = 129-256 (128-255) etc.

(There are different methods of counting – some systems start at 0, we use 1)

Of course you are able to use a different controller instead CC.0for bank-select.

MIDI-Out - here program-changes are sent out to the next VWPC. These are generated by using the USB number pad or are forwarded from incoming signals from the midi-in connector. In case you need both of these options, you can change the global settings to "midi-soft thru" (explained later)

MIDI-Thru - incoming program change signals are forwarded without being changed.

SD Card - insert a standard SD card here for file storage.*(contacts facing downward... and NO undue force please...☺)*

Starting up:

After unpacking the unit, proceed as follows:

Connect your peripherals:

- Screen (DVI connector)
- possible - Keyboard/Midi/Video (VGA/Video/S-Video)
- possible - Footswitch
- possible – USB numberpad
- possible - Midi-connections
- Insert your SD card (contacts facing downwards and gently, gently! ☺)

Now power on your screen and connect the AC adapter (9VDC)

Now you should have the first file from your SD card already on-screen (000)
– easy, eh?

If you **can't** see anything on your screen -

Check the screen input selection - it might have several signal input options.

Check your SD card... is it inserted correctly? Does it contain data?

Is your data inside a folder named BANK0?

Check your cabling – all present and correct?

!!important!

Please power on your units after cabling is finished and the SD card is inserted – this will avoid potential SYNC problems and short circuits.

Delivery includes:

- ViewarePro – Controller
- Owner's manual
- AC-Adaptor, 9VDC / 500mA + —) — -

Operation

OK, everything's connected and the first SD card file (000) is displayed on your screen as 001....let's go! ☺

USB number pad - Enter your file number as sorted on your card, press 'Enter' and - hey presto! Following the order of midi program-changes/bank-select, files are recalled the same way here. One bank uses 128 patches (songs)

You're using more than 128 files? No problem, just select e.g. 431, and file no. 430 from your card will be displayed on your screen. When you have a second unit conneted via midi-out ("The Boss"), then midi-programchange/bank-select is transmitted automatically to the next unit, i.e. as CC0:3 / PG:47.

The patch number and bank you select is also displayed in the left lower corner of your screen. If you select a patch that's not on your SD card, a white screen will be displayed. For example – you have 25 files on your SD card, and you recall No. 26. Just select an existing number, then that file will be displayed.

Use the Forward Slash key (/) to change between SD card and Lyrics operation modes.

While beeing in the SD-card mode:

Press once: VGA

Press again: Video (RCA-Cinch)

Press again: S-Video

Press again: SD-Card operation is active again.

Keep-cool – changing operation mode needs a bit time – technical actualities.

More on Operation

Footswitch - You can use 2 single footswitches (momentary) at the two 6.3-inch, TRS jack, mono connectors. One connector handles UP (forward) and the other one DOWN (backward). You also can use a dual-switch at the second connector. (see “Connectors”).

Footswitch functions are **not** sent to the midi-output port as default!

Lyrics - as we said earlier, you possibly can't just use any screen on the market here! Unfortunately not all existing TFT panels are able to handle the video-signals (PAL / 50hz) incoming from the VGA, Video or S-Video connectors. A multi-sync panel, a TV unit with a VGA connector or similar unit is ideal here, when you use video-signals via the VGA/Video inputs.

Before buying a screen, please consult with your specialist dealer to avoid any unpleasant surprises later. And also check, what signal is sent out by your Keyboard/Midifileplayer or else you use!

When you're using the VGA connector, please set the host unit (keyboard/midifile player or similar) to NTSC operation. Now you can use ANY screen you like ☺

You can use midi or a USB numberpad to change your VWPC's operation mode from picture mode to lyrics-mode!(Please see *USB and MIDI*).

Important Information

Copyright

Please be aware that you must observe copyrights when using notes or texts that are copyright-protected. MIDITEMP will not accept liability for any copyright infringement problems caused by your usage of song data!

Updates

We will, if necessary, be releasing updates in the future. You can download them from our website, www.miditemp.com. Then just copy the update file onto an empty SD card, insert the card into your VWPC and power on - after roughly 15 seconds, the update is finished!

Important!

NEVER turn the unit's power supply while updating - the OS will be badly damaged! ☹

Tips & Tricks

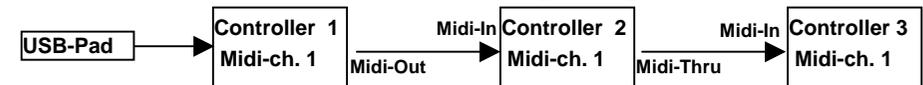
Using several VWPCs in cascade operation

You can work with several units on stage in cascade operation mode. If you only want one master controller, the first unit is the “Boss”. When you use a USB number pad or midi, all subsequent units are switched in parallel. All units *must* have the same midi-channel.

Each user can operate his own controller independently by footswitch.

Here's an example – your singer has to switch his text forwards to the next page for verse II, then back again for the chorus on the first page. But your sax player, on the other hand, has to switch through his pages four times to see all his notes – so leave enough space between songs on the SD card to ensure that when the next song is called up, all performers will have Page 1 of that song displayed. We'll explain soon how to get “empty” numbers in between the data... ☺

USB pad as the central controller (same song sorting on all SD-cards!)



MIDI as the central controller (same song sorting on all SD-cards!):

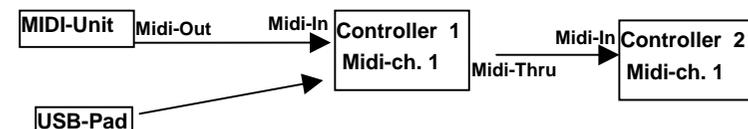


MIDI as the central controller (different song sorting on the SD-cards!):



Here you send PG-changes to each unit using different midi channels when using a midifile player, etc.

USB + Midi as central controllers (same song sorting on all SD-cards!):



More Tips & Tricks

The last example "USB + Midi as central controllers", is a little more complicated.

Midi data from the midi input is forwarded to midi thru, but your USB number pad commands are sent to midi out – and the next unit only has one midi input connector. But don't worry - we have a solution for this too. ☺

On our website (www.miditemp.com) you find a downloadable flash tool that changes the midi setting. After updating the VWPC with this flash-tool, you now have an activated "Soft-Thru" function, so incoming midi data now goes to midi thru **and** midi out.

Now you can use midi & USB to control the other units. And of course you can also set the VWPC back to the standard-settings – just re-flash it with the factory settings flash tool – and everything's as it was.

Flashes

As already mentioned, you can easily update/reprogram (flash) the operation of your VWPC for apps **you** need. You'll find these 'flash tools' on our website. Just copy the file you need to an SD card, insert the card into the slot of the VWPC, turn on the power, wait for roughly 15 seconds and you're ready to go!

Midi-Settings

You can of course choose your own midi channel and your own controller number to change the operation mode – you don't have to use our examples, channel 1 and controller No. 50! Just create a TXT file on your computer and save it as **VWCFG.TXT**. This file just contains one small entry

C12V35

This simply means:

Channel 12 Controller 35.....this also is the factory setting for the VWPC!

Now your VWPC works on midi channel 12 and the operation mode is changed to use midi controller No. 35.... ☺

Sorting your data on an SD card

The files you use are created on a PC as PNG/JPG and then copied to the SD card. The files *must*, however, be in a definite sequence – and they need to be numbered. The sequence of numbers you use must always remain valid – otherwise midi programme changes will recall the wrong data. So a song always has to be at the same number – always! ☺

Remember the golden rule – CARE FOR THE NUMBER OF YOUR FILES!

Still more Tips&Tricks

Sorting your data on an SD card: You simply create a folder called **BANK0** and copy your files (PNG / JPG) into it. Sorting of the files in this folder on the SD-Card starts with 000, in operation you start with 1 – don't get confused about that, please! Numbering on SD-Card and numbering in application is shifted here!

Example:

Card No.	000 DIRECTORY.PNG	= Patch No.1
Card No.	001 LaLaLa_PT1.PNG	= Patch No.2
Card No.	002 LaLaLa_PT2.PNG	= Patch No.3
Card No.	003 Dobeedoo_PT1.PNG	= Patch No.4
Card No.	004 Dobeedoo_PT2.PNG	= Patch No.5
Card No.	005 Empty.JPG	= Patch No.6
Card No.	006 LastTango.PNG	= Patch No.7
	etc. etc.	

Normally you use one folder on your SD-Card, called **BANK0**

Alternated you also can work with 128 files per folder...the you name the different folders as: BANK1 / BANK2 / BANK3 etc.....no BANK0 then, please! It makes sense, if you want to work with more than 999 files!

You can also create different folders on your card, e.g. for several applications. Since each folder has its own name, but VWPC only recognises ONE of these as valid... so, what to do? The answer's easy:

Example:

Bank0
Bank_1
Bank_2
Bank_3

The VWPC will only accept the folders **without** the underline as the valid one...problem solved! You also may put all your files into one folder, of course!

Empty patches!

Your files are assorted numerically or alphabetically on your SD card – but since "empty" numbers don't exist on a computer-based system, we invented another little trick to beat this too...

Create a file (JPG/PNG) with the content "Empty". Make a copy of this file and assign the number to the file where you want the empty file to be positioned (*see example 005 above*). Integrate this file into your data-folder for the VWPC – that's it. You could use a picture of your mother in law here.....or the latest invoice from your local inland revenue... it's up to you! ☺

What? Even MORE Tips&Tricks!

Screens

So, you know now that you can use **any** make or size of TFT screen (e.g. PC monitor) at all when you use the VWPC with internal data (JPG/PNG) ...there are no limitations at all here.
However, if you want to use the Lyrics option as well, please care for the limitations, described earlier.

Contents list

If you're like me, you'll sometimes forget the patch number of a song or file (and I'm the author, for Pete's sake – I should remember things like that!). Don't worry, friends – here's yet another solution from my brilliant mind!
Just create a simple text file (or an XLS-file) on your PC and write your own directory into it, and save it as PNG/JPG file.
It makes sense to place these files on top of your own files, so you can reserve Nos.1-3 for your directories...for each bank of 128 files.
Then you can look at your directory lightning-fast – just press “1” – “Enter” and look for your requested file number.

How to create my files?

Either you scan your notes, or you save your textfile you e.g. created in MS-Word as PNG or JPG file.
Basically please use the size 1024x768, please!
Every connected screen, what size ever, will scale this file to it's optimum size.

If you want the data endwise, you create your files in landscape-format and use the screen on edge later!

In case you want to use coloured texts, then please use 4bit/16colours.
High colour mode will not be accepted by your VWPC.
You may scan your notes / texts as PDF file – then you simply use a batch converter to convert these PDF-files into JPG / PNG!

How to create a picture out of a text-file:

There are several softwares on the market, you can use for that. We used „Universal Document Creator“ – a nice and cheap software.
UDC is installed as printer, so you „print“ your text-file as PNG, 1024x768.
Or you keep the original size first and later „cut“ it by using an image editing software.

AND... Even MORE Tips&Tricks!

Fit your scans / pictures

Just use a standard image editing software to re-size your files.

Please use maximum quality when scanning notes – especially notes that are under “bad” condition. You later still can minimize the files as much you need/like. To maximize small files will not really work fine, although you need a professional software to do so in a good quality, what is not really needed here! We, for example, tested “ULEAD Photo-Impact“ – worked fine so far.
The less dpi you use, the faster the map scroll will work – use the smallest value you can use!

Factory settings:

VWPC is set on midi-channel **12**, the controller to change the operation mode is **CC:35**, using value **0/1/2/3** as default!

“Hats off” and our undying gratitude to

two gentlemanly geniuses who have created a great and eminently useable product from the bare bones of our concept –
Mr. Marek Hybal and **Mr. Denis Havrila!** Thanks guys! Great job!