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Programming the Creative Wave

What is Creative Multimedia Decks?

Creative Multimedia Decks is a collection of players that allows you to independently or concurrently control multimedia devices like your CD-ROM drive and MIDI device. It consists of Creative Remote and other players like Creative CD, Creative Wave, and Creative MIDI.

What is Creative Wave?

Creative Wave is the player in the Creative Multimedia Decks suite of players that lets you play wave files. It also has some advanced features which include:

- q ability to be controlled by the Creative Remote,
- q OLE Automation support,
- q Plug and Play support,
- q power management support,
- q a "touch-sensitive" display,
- q multiple display forms,
- q fine control of a track's playing position,
- q Introduction Mode, Repeat Playlist Mode, Repeat Track Mode and Shuffle Mode for playback,
- q playlist compilation of different wave files,
- q fast track selection, and
- q direct volume control for multiple sound cards.

Note: The terms "track" and "file" are used interchangeably throughout this document.

Using the Playlist dialog

[Compiling a playlist](#)

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Compiling a playlist

Creative Wave plays wave files (or tracks) from a playlist. You can compile tracks in the playlist using the Playlist dialog.

To compile the playlist:

1. Choose the Playlist button.
2. Perform the desired operations in Playlist dialog:
 - q Add tracks to the playlist
 - q Preview tracks
 - q Setting the directory, path and types of files to display in the File- list list box
 - q Remove tracks from the playlist
 - q Rearrange tracks in the playlist
 - q Assign artiste name to tracks in the playlist
 - q Enter notes for tracks in the playlist
 - q Name the playlist
3. Choose Done when you have satisfactorily compiled the playlist. If you wish to cancel all changes made to the playlist, choose Cancel.

Adding tracks to the playlist

To add tracks to the playlist:

1. Select the tracks to add to the playlist from the File-list list box.
2. Choose Add to add the tracks to the Playlist list box. or Add All to add all the tracks in the File-list list box to the Playlist list box.

Tips

You can also add track to the playlist in one of the following ways:

- Double-clicking the track in the File-list list box.
- Dragging selected tracks from the File-list list box and dropping them into the Playlist list box.
- Dragging selected tracks from Explorer or File Manager and drop them into Creative Wave. These tracks will be added to the playlist. This operation is done outside the Playlist dialog.

Previewing tracks

To preview tracks:

1. Select the tracks from the Playlist or File-list list box.
2. Choose Play to preview the tracks.

Setting the directory, path and types of files to display in the File-list list box

The File-list displays a list of files that you can add to the playlist.

To select the directory, path and types of files to display:

1. Choose the Directory button.
2. Select the directory, path and types of files.
3. Choose Done.

The File-list list box displays the selected files.

Removing tracks from the playlist

To remove tracks from the playlist:

1. Select the tracks from the Playlist list box.
2. Choose Remove to remove selected tracks, or Remove All to remove all tracks in the Playlist list box.

Tips

You can also remove a track from the playlist in one of the following ways:

- Double-clicking the track in the playlist list box.
- Pressing the <Ctrl+Shift+R> keys to remove the current track from the playlist. This operation is done outside the Playlist dialog.

Selecting tracks in the Playlist dialog

You can select multiple tracks for previewing, adding, or removing by holding down <Ctrl> or <Shift> while you choose them.

- q To randomly select multiple tracks, hold down <Ctrl> before you select the tracks.
- q To select a group of consecutive tracks, hold down <Shift> and select the first and last tracks in the list.

Rearrange tracks in the playlist

To rearrange a track in the playlist:

1. Click and hold down the left mouse button on the track in the Playlist list box and drag it to the new position.

The track will be inserted at that position in the Playlist list box.

Assigning artiste name to tracks

To assign an artiste name to a track:

1. Select the track.
2. For new artiste name, type in the artiste name in the Track Artiste combo box. For existing artiste name in the Track Artiste combo box, select the artiste name in the Artiste Name combo box.

Tips

You can also assign a single artiste name to multiple tracks in the playlist by selecting the tracks and assigning an artiste name to them.

Entering notes for tracks in the playlist

To enter notes for a track in the playlist:

1. Selects the track you want to enter notes to.
2. Type in the notes for that track in the Track Notes edit box.

Tips

You can also enter the same notes for multiple tracks by selecting the tracks and entering the notes in the Track Notes edit box.

Naming the playlist

Once you have compiled your playlist, you may want to give the playlist a title.

To give your playlist a title:

1. Choose Save As.
2. Type the title of the playlist in the edit box of the Save As Collection dialog.
3. Choose OK.

Tips

- If you choose Cancel, you will return to the Playlist dialog box without saving the title.

Playing tracks

Starting and stopping a track

Playing a particular track

To pause and resume playing

Changing to a different track

Moving forward and backward within a track

Playing tracks in random order

Playing the first few seconds of tracks

Playing tracks in the playlist repeatedly

Playing the current track repeatedly

Starting and stopping a track

To start a track, choose the Play button.

To stop a track, choose the Stop button.

Playing a particular track

To play a particular track:

1. Choose a button from the Fast Track Selector that corresponds to the track you want.
2. To choose a double-digit number, click on both digit buttons consecutively within two seconds.
If you want to select track 15, choose button 1 and then button 5.

To pause and resume playing

Choose the Pause button to pause, and then choose the Play button or Pause button again to resume playing.

Changing to a different track

To change to the next track in the playlist, choose the Skip Forward button.

To change to the previous track in the playlist, choose the Skip Backward button.

Moving forward and backward within a track

You can also move forward and backward within a track in one of the following ways:

- Choosing the [Fast Forward button](#) or [Rewind button](#).
- Moving the [Graphic Slider](#) to the position of the track you want.

If your player is already playing a track, Creative Wave will immediately go to the position you have chosen and start playing.

If your player is not playing a track, choose the [Play button](#) to start playing the track from the chosen position.

Playing tracks in random order

To play tracks in random order, select the Shuffle Mode Selector in the Touch Sensitive Display. The Shuffle Mode shuffles the playlist and randomly rearrange the playlist.

Note

If Creative Wave is already playing, selecting Shuffle Mode stops the current playback and starts playback from the first track of the reordered playlist.

Playing the first few seconds of tracks

To play only the first few seconds of all tracks in the playlist, select the Intro Mode Selector in the Touch Sensitive Display.

Playing tracks in the playlist repeatedly

To repeatedly play tracks in the playlist, set the Repeat Mode Selector to Repeat Playlist Mode.

Playing the current track repeatedly

To repeatedly play the current track, set the Repeat Mode Selector to Repeat Track Mode.

Selecting sound card and volume device

Creative Wave allows you to control multiple sound cards if you have more than one sound card installed in your system. It also allows you to control multiple volume devices of the selected sound card.

To select the sound card to control:

1. Click on the Graphic Volume Slider using your right mouse button or press <Ctrl+Shift+V>. A popup menu appears showing you the available sound cards.
2. Selects the sound card you want.

To select the volume device to control:

1. Click on the Graphic Volume Slider using your right mouse button or press <Ctrl+Shift+V>. A popup menu appears showing you the volume devices Creative Wave can control.
2. Select the volume device you want.

Adjusting the volume

You can adjust the volume of Creative Wave using the [Graphic Volume Slider](#) on the [Touch Sensitive Display](#).

To adjust the volume, click and drag the Graphic Volume Slider to a level you want.

Using Preferences dialog

The Preferences dialog allows you to set preferences for Creative Wave.

Related Topics:

[Balloon help](#)

[Show track time remaining](#)

[Minimize on play](#)

[Play on startup](#)

[Play on new playlist](#)

[Intro length](#)

[Save settings on exit](#)

Balloon help

Balloon help provides you with information about a control or button that you are currently pointing at. A message appears giving you a brief description of that control.

You can enable or disable the balloon help of your player by checking or unchecking respectively the "Balloon help" option in the check list box of the Preferences dialog.

Show track time remaining

In addition to displaying the track time played of a track, Creative Wave is also able to display the track time remaining of a track.

You can enable or disable this option by checking or unchecking respectively the "Show track time remaining" option in the check list box of the Preferences dialog.

Minimize on play

Creative Wave can automatically be minimized each time it starts playing.

You can enable or disable this option by checking or unchecking respectively the "Minimize on play" option in the check list box of the Preferences dialog.

Play on startup

Creative Wave can automatically start playing when it is launched.

You can enable or disable this option by checking or unchecking respectively the "Play on startup" option in the check list box of the Preferences dialog.

Play on new playlist

Creative Wave can automatically start playing when the Playlist dialog is closed and when there is a change in the playlist.

You can enable or disable this option by checking or unchecking respectively the "Play on new playlist" option in the check list box of the Preferences dialog.

Intro length

Creative Wave allows you to specify the amount of time in seconds between tracks when Creative Wave is in the intro mode.

You can set the intro length in the Preferences dialog.

Save settings on exit

If this option is set in the Preferences dialog, Creative Wave will save the changes made in the Preferences dialog when it exits.

Recording

Creative Wave allows you to record a wave file.

Related Topics:

[Defining the Recording settings](#)

[Recording a Wave File](#)

[Recording using the CD Sync and MIDI Sync options](#)

Defining the Recording settings

To define the settings for your recording:

1. Choose the Record Settings button.
The Record Settings dialog box appears.
2. Choose the wave format you want.
3. Choose the OK button.

Recording a Wave File

To record from an audio source:

1. Make sure that the audio source is selected for recording. For more information, please refer to the Creative Mixer Help.
1. Make sure that the recording format you want is set. You can set the recording format using the Record Settings dialog.
2. Press the Record button.
The Wave Recording - Filename dialog box appears.
3. Select the file into which you want to record or enter a new file to record to.
4. Choose Start. The dialog will exit and recording starts.
To stop recording, press the Stop button.

Recording using the CD Sync and MIDI Sync options

This section discusses the CD Sync and MIDI Sync options for recording.

Recording with CD Sync

This option is only available if you have a CD-ROM drive installed in your system and Creative CD is launched. When you select the CD Sync option for recording, Creative Wave will synchronize the start of the recording and playback of the current audio CD track in Creative CD.

Recording with MIDI Sync

Like the CD Sync option, when you select the MIDI Sync option for recording, Creative Wave will synchronize the start of the recording and playback of the current MIDI track in the Creative MIDI. Creative MIDI must be loaded for MIDI Sync to work.

To activate CD Sync and/or MIDI Sync, simply check their respective menu item in the player menu.

Command line processing

The following command line switches are supported by the application:

Switch	Description
/play or /p	Starts playback.
/play <track number> or /p <track number>	Plays specified track.
/stop or /s	Stops playback.
<track name>	Add specified track to the collection.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Press	To do this
<Ctrl+P>	Plays the current track.
<Ctrl+A>	Pauses the playing track.
<Ctrl+S>	Stops the playing track.
<Ctrl+B>	Plays the previous track.
<Ctrl+O>	Plays the next track.
<Ctrl+L>	Shows the Playlist dialog.
<Ctrl+F>	Sets preferences.
<Ctrl+M>	Shows mixer settings.
<Ctrl+D>	Switches the display mode.
<Ctrl+Shift+D>	Shows select display mode menu.
<Ctrl+Shift+R>	Removes current track from the playlist.
<Ctrl+Shift+V>	Shows select volume device menu.

If the application launches and quits immediately without giving any error messages

This is probably due to the application resource DLL file WAVRES32.DLL being missing from the application directory. Try locating the file and move it to the same directory as the application. If you cannot find the file in your system, you will need to reinstall the application.

If you have problems adjusting the volume

No effect when adjusting the loudness of the volume:

- Check that the sound card supports the device.
- Check that the audio cable is properly connected from the CD-ROM drive to the sound card.
- Check that the speakers are properly connected to the sound card.
- Try increasing the volume output to the speakers by turning the volume knob at the back of the sound card if your sound card has one.
- If you have more than one sound card, check that you are controlling the correct one.
- Launch the Mixer and check that the Mixer Mute Control is not in the mute state.

If you encounter error messages

OLE 2.0 initialization failed. Make sure that the OLE libraries are the correct version.

Unable to display About box. Ensure that CTRES32.DLL is present in your system.

Unable to load mixer. Try running the Creative Mixer application from its program group to verify if it is installed properly.

This file cannot be played on the specified MCI device. The file may be corrupt, or not in the correct format.

The device needed to play the file is already in use. Wait until it is free, and then try again.

Failed accessing file. Check that this file exists and is not in use (locked).

Failed accessing file. This file is already in use.

The file cannot be opened. Try closing other open files and then try again.

Failed to launch Multimedia Properties. Check if application is installed.

No recording device found. Cannot perform recording.

There is no driver installed on your system to perform recording.

Cannot create record file. Illegal pathname or insufficient disk space.

There is not enough memory available for recording. Quit one or more programs, and then try again.

Cannot write recorded data to disk. Please ensure that your disk media is ready.

Not enough disk space on drive for recording. Free up more disk space before performing recording.

The current recording format is not supported.

OLE 2.0 initialization failed. Make sure that the OLE libraries are the correct version.

Creative Wave supports OLE 2.0 Automation and requires the OLE libraries to run. Try running the application again. If it fails again, the OLE libraries in your system are not the correct version or missing. Try installing the application again.

Unable to display About box. Ensure that CTRES32.DLL is present in your system.

The file CTRES32.DLL is required to display Creative Wave's About box. Check that the file is in your system. If it is not, you may want to reinstall the program. Creative Wave can still run without this file.

Unable to load mixer. Try running the Creative Mixer application from its program group to verify if it is installed properly.

The mixer application has probably been deleted or moved to another directory. Locate the mixer application and run it to check that it is working.

This file cannot be played on the specified MCI device. The file may be corrupt, or not in the correct format.

Creative Wave can only play wave files (*.wav). If a wave file cannot be played, then it is probably corrupted. Remove it from the playlist.

The device needed to play the file is already in use. Wait until it is free, and then try again.

Another application is playing a wave file. Try quitting the other application, or wait until that application has stopped playing the wave file.

Failed accessing file. Check that this file exists and is not in use (locked).

The file has probably been deleted or moved to another directory. If the file cannot be located, remove the file from the playlist.

Failed accessing file. This file is already in use.

Check that the Wave file is not opened by another application like the Media Player.

The file cannot be opened. Try closing other open files and then try again.

There are too many files opened in Windows. Try closing some of the files first and then try opening the file again.

Failed to launch Multimedia Properties. Check if application is installed.

Make sure that CONTROL.EXE exists in the Windows directory and MMSYS.CPL exists in the Windows system directory. If they are not, you may want to reinstall your Windows. Creative Wave can still run without these files.

No recording device found. Cannot perform recording.

The sound card does not support recording.

There is no driver installed on your system to perform recording.

Check that the wave driver is installed.

Cannot create record file. Illegal pathname or insufficient disk space.

- Check that the path and filename are valid.
- Check that there is enough disk space to record the wave file. If your system is running low on disk space, you can free some of the disk space by deleting unwanted files.
- Check that your disk is not write protected.

There is not enough memory available for recording. Quit one or more programs, and then try again.

Check that your system has enough memory to record the wave file. If your system is running low of memory, you can free some memory by quitting some of the running applications.

Cannot write recorded data to disk. Please ensure that your disk media is ready.

- Check that your disk media is ready. For example check that the drive door is closed.
- Check that the disk is not write protected..

Not enough disk space on drive for recording. Free up more disk space before performing recording.

The disk you are performing your recording on is full. Choose another disk with free space or free up disk space on the recorded disk.

The current recording format is not supported.

The recording format you have chosen is not supported. Choose another recording format using the Record Settings dialog.

Programming the Creative Wave

You can create your own application to control the Creative Wave through OLE Automation. Below documents the Creative Wave application object that is exported by the application. The type library file CTAUTO.TLB is supplied with the application.

CreativeWave Object

The following table shows the properties that are exposed by the Creative Wave application:

Properties

Property name	Return type	Access	Description
Application	Application object	Read-only	Returns the application object.
FullName	String	Read-only	Returns the file specification for the application, including path.
Name	String	Read-only	Returns the name of the application.
Parent	Application object	Read-only	Returns the application object.
Visible	Bool	Read-write	Sets or returns whether the application is visible to the user.
TrackCount	Short	Read-only	Returns the number of tracks in the collection.
TrackNumber	Short	Read-only	Returns the current track's track number
TrackName	String	Read-only	Returns the current track's track name.
Collection	String	Read-only	Returns the current collection name
Artiste	String	Read-only	Returns the current track's artiste name
Playing	Bool	Read-only	Returns whether the application is currently playing.
Stopped	Bool	Read-only	Returns whether the application is currently stopped.
Paused	Bool	Read-only	Returns whether the application is currently paused.
Playlist	Bool	Read-only	Returns whether the application's Playlist dialog is currently shown.

The following table shows the methods that are exposed by the Creative Wave application:

Methods

Method name	Return type	Parameters	Description
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Quit	None	None	Exits the application.
Play	None	None	Starts playing.
PlayTrack	None	Track number of the track to play	Plays the specified track.
Stop	None	None	Stops playing.
Pause	None	None	Pauses/unpauses playback
SkipForward	None	None	Moves to the next track.
SkipBackward	None	None	Moves to the previous track.
ShowPlaylist	None	None	Shows the Playlist Dialog.
AddTrack	Bool	Full path name of the track to add.	Adds a track to the collection. Returns success or failure.
RemoveCurrentTrack	Bool	None	Removes the current track from the collection. Returns success or failure.

Glossary of Terms

Power Button

Menu Button

Minimize Button

Play Button

Stop Button

Pause Button

Skip Forward Button

Skip Backward Button

Fast Forward Button

Rewind Button

Playlist Button

Record Button

Record Settings Button

Fast Track Selector

Touch Sensitive Display
Graphic Volume Slider
Graphic Slider
Shuffle Mode Selector
Introduction Mode Selector
Repeat Mode Selector
Playback Status Indicator
Playlist Dialog Collection Combo Box
Playlist Dialog New Button
Playlist Dialog Save Button
Playlist Dialog Save As Button
Playlist Dialog Delete Button
Playlist Dialog Preview Buttons
Playlist Dialog Add Button
Playlist Dialog Add All Button
Playlist Dialog Remove Button
Playlist Dialog Remove All Button
Playlist Dialog Directory Button
Playlist Dialog Playlist List Box
Playlist Dialog File-list List Box
Playlist Dialog Track Name Edit Box
Playlist Dialog Track Artiste Combo Box
Playlist Dialog Track Notes Edit box
Playlist Dialog Done Button
Playlist Dialog Cancel Button
Playlist Dialog Help Button
Save As Collection Dialog Collection Name Edit Box
Save As Collection Dialog OK Button
Save As Collection Dialog Cancel Button
Save As Collection Dialog Help Button
Preferences Dialog OK Button
Preferences Dialog Cancel Button
Preferences Dialog Help Button
Preferences Dialog Intro Length Setting
Preferences Dialog Save Setting On Exit Check Box
Preferences Dialog Check List Box
Recording Settings OK Button

Recording Settings Cancel Button

Recording Settings Help Button

Channels

Sampling Rate

Sampling Size

Power Button

Quits Creative Wave.

Menu Button

Displays the Creative Wave menu that allows you to access standard Windows menu options as well as several other player options.

Minimize Button

Minimizes Creative Wave.

Play Button

Plays the current track.

Stop Button

Stops the playing track.

Pause Button

Pauses the playing track or plays the paused track.

Skip Forward Button

Moves the next track in the playlist. If currently at the last track of the playlist, moves to the first track of the playlist.

Skip Backward Button

Moves to the previous track of the playlist. If you are currently at the first track of the playlist, it moves to the last track of the playlist.

Fast Forward Button

Moves forward within the track. When the end of the track is reached, it moves to the next track and continues forwarding.

Rewind Button

Moves backwards within the track. When the beginning of the track is reached, it moves to the previous track and continues rewinding

Playlist Button

Activates the Playlist dialog box which allows you to compile a selection of tracks to play.

Record Button

Activates the Wave Recording dialog box which allows you select or name a file into which to record. When you have done that, recording will start.

Record Settings Button

Activates the Record Settings dialog box which allows you to select the format of the wave file to record.

Fast Track Selector

Allows you to choose a track that you want to play. To play a track that is a two digit number, choose the first track number followed by the second track number within two seconds.

Touch Sensitive Display

This display consists of several "touch sensitive" controls as well as indicators that shows the current playback status and track information. Left-click on the display or press <Ctrl-D> to switch between the different display modes. Right-click on the display or pressing <Ctrl-Shift-D> popups a menu that allows you to select another display mode.

Graphic Volume Slider

Shows and controls the volume level of Creative Wave. Move the slider level up to increase and move it down to decrease the volume. Right-mouse click on it popups a menu that allows you to select the sound card and device to control.

Graphic Slider

Indicates the percentage of the current track that has been played. It can also be used to control the position of the track to play.

Shuffle Mode Selector

Randomly changes the playing order of tracks in the playlist.

Introduction Mode Selector

Plays only the first few seconds of all tracks in the playlist.

Repeat Mode Selector

Use this selector to select one of these repeat modes:

- q No repeat.
- q Repeat whole playlist. This mode allows you to repeat the entire playlist tracks when the last track has played.
- q Repeat only current track. This mode allows you to repeatedly play the current track.

Playback Status Indicator

Indicates the state of Creative Wave. For example Play, Stop, Pause, Skip Forward, Skip Backward, etc.

Playlist Dialog Collection Combo Box

Shows the current collection and allows you to select another collection. Collection is the name of a saved playlist.

Playlist Dialog New Button

Creates a new collection.

Playlist Dialog Save Button

Saves the modified playlist into the current collection.

Playlist Dialog Save As Button

Saves the playlist into another collection.

Playlist Dialog Delete Button

Deletes the current collection

Playlist Dialog Preview Buttons

Previews the selected tracks in the Playlist or File-list list box.

Playlist Dialog Add Button

Includes the selected tracks in the File-list list box to the Playlist list box.

Playlist Dialog Add All Button

Includes all tracks in the File-list list box to the Playlist list box.

Playlist Dialog Remove Button

Removes the selected tracks from the Playlist list box.

Playlist Dialog Remove All Button

Removes all the tracks in the Playlist list box.

Playlist Dialog Directory Button

Selects the directory, path and type of the files to be displayed in the File-list list box.

Playlist Dialog Playlist List Box

Displays a list of tracks in the sequence in which Creative Wave will play.

Playlist Dialog File-list List Box

Displays the files in the current directory.

Playlist Dialog Track Name Edit Box

Displays the full pathname of the file selected in the Playlist or File-list list box.

Playlist Dialog Track Artiste Combo Box

Allows you to enter artiste names for tracks in the playlist.

Playlist Dialog Track Notes Edit box

Allows you to enter notes for tracks in the playlist.

Playlist Dialog Done Button

Confirms the compilation of tracks in the playlist and exits the dialog.

Playlist Dialog Cancel Button

Cancels changes made to the tracks in the Playlist list box. The playlist reverts to its last saved copy.

Playlist Dialog Help Button

Displays the on-line help facility.

Save As Collection Dialog Collection Name Edit Box

Type in the new collection name for the playlist here.

Save As Collection Dialog OK Button

Confirms the new collection name for the playlist.

Save As Collection Dialog Cancel Button

Cancels saving the playlist to another collection.

Save As Collection Dialog Help Button

Displays the on-line help facility.

Preferences Dialog OK Button

Confirms the changes in the dialog and applies the new settings.

Preferences Dialog Cancel Button

Cancels changes made in the dialog.

Preferences Dialog Help Button

Displays the on-line help facility.

Preferences Dialog Intro Length Setting

Specifies the amount of time in seconds you want between tracks when Creative Wave is in the intro mode.

Preferences Dialog Save Setting On Exit Check Box

Saves the changes made in this dialog when Creative Wave exits.

Preferences Dialog Check List Box

Allows you to enable or disable various player options.

Recording Settings OK Button

Confirms the selection of current recording settings and exits from the Recording Settings dialog box.

Recording Settings Cancel Button

Exits the Recording Settings dialog and cancels any changes made in the recording settings selection.

Recording Settings Help Button

Displays the on-line help facility.

Channels

An independent recording, storage, transmission, or reproduction path for sound within a system. Stereo uses two channels, left and right while Mono uses one channel, left or right only.

Sampling Rate

The frequency at which samples of sound are taken from the source. A higher sampling rate produces results close to the original but requires more memory.

Sampling Size

The size of each sample of sound taken from the source. The larger sampling size produces results close to the original but requires more memory.

