Introduction to HotBar

This is the help file that comes with HotBar Version 1.20.   The purpose of this help file is to help you understand the purpose behind HotBar and how to use it. Any questions, comments, or bug reports which you may have should be directed to the creator of this program, Michael Righi.

Here are some common questions concerning the usage of HotBar Version 1.00a.

What Is HotBar?
How Do I Use The Menu?
How Can I Register?
Are There Any Known Bugs?

How To Contact Michael Righi

Michael Righi, creator of Hotbar, can be contacted in any of the following ways.

Email: michaelr@cryogen.com
Web: http://www.nb.net/~michaelr/hotbar
UIN: 1428173
Snail Mail:
    Michael Righi
    224 Rainprint Square
    Murrysville PA
            15668
    United States

What Is HotBar?

HotBar is a small, unobtrusive application strictly for Windows 95 which serves as a conveniency tool for accessing commonly opened files.   HotBar acts similarly to the taskbar found in Windows 95, but rather then containing icons of currently running applications HotBar contains the icons of your favorite files and/or applications.   When one of these icons is clicked, that file is launched with the associated application.   HotBar conviently hides on the edge of the screen and can be made invisible while other programs are in use.   When you would like to access a file through HotBar simply move your mouse to the edge of your screen and HotBar will appear.   You can hide HotBar on either the top, bottom, left, or right hand side of your monitor.   This can be changed under the Misc. Options on the Menu.
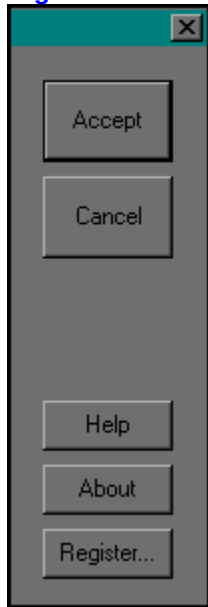

For the latest information concerning HotBar goto http://www.nb.net/~michaelr/hotbar

HotBar Menu

The HotBar Menu can be accessed by clicking on the Menu buttom. ⬜ Menu

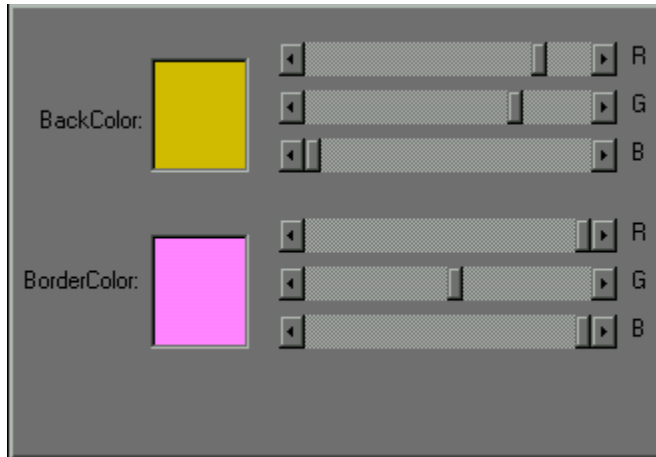After clicking on the button, a menu will appear.

Top of Menu

Colors	Applications	Misc.

Right Side of Menu

Accept

Cancel

Help

About

Register...

Color Options
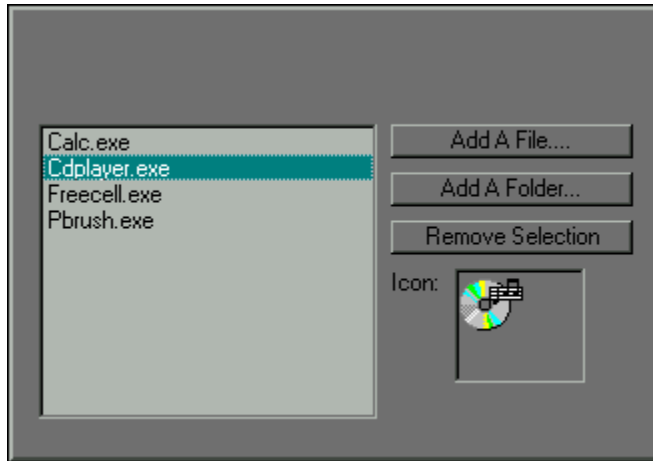
The Color Options menu is available from under the [Menu] window.

Under the color options menu you can change the color of both HotBar's background color, and HotBar's border color.   In order to change these colors simply slide the scrollbars to a desired level.
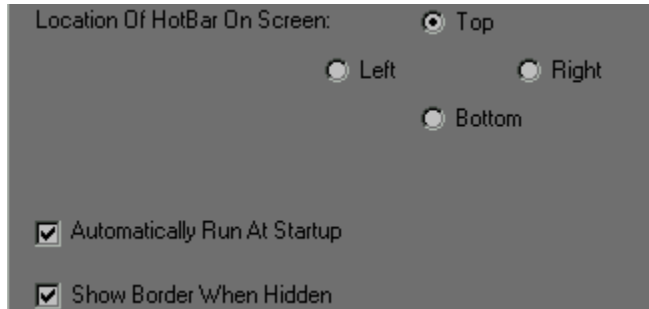
Applications Screen

The Applications Screen is available from under the Menu window.

Under the Applications Screen there is a list box, and three buttons. The first two buttons add files and folders while the third button deletes an entry.   Before deleting an entry you must first select a file in the list box to the left.

Misc. Options

The Misc. Options menu is available from under the **Menu** window.

As shown in the clickable image above, there are a few options under the Misc. screen. The first option is the location of HotBar on your screen.   HotBar will function the same no matter where you chose to placed HotBar on your monitor.   In order to access HotBar in a new screen location simply move your mouse to that position.   For example if you have place HotBar on the left hand side of your screen then simply move your mouse to the far left hand side of your monitor and HotBar will appear.

The next option under the Misc. screen is whether or not HotBar will automatically run whenever Windows is started.   If the box labeled, **Automatically Run At Startup**, is checked then HotBar will run at startup otherwise you will have to manually start HotBar by double clicking on HotBar's icon.

The final option under the Misc. screen is whether or not to display HotBar's border when HotBar is hidden.   The border is the thin line which appears along the side of your screen and its color can be changed under the Color Option screen. This option only affects the cosmetics of HotBar and will not change the way it functions.   If you choose not to display the border, then when HotBar is hidden HotBar will be **entirely** hidden from your screen.

Known Bugs

As of the release date the <u>creator</u> of HotBar is aware of 2 minor bugs in the program.   If you have found any other bugs in HotBar then please report them to the <u>programmer</u>.

Bug #1. If a file does not execute with either the command **Open** or **Play** then HotBar cannot execute this file.   Hopefully in the next version of HotBar this will not be a problem, but until a work-a-round is developed you can correct this problem yourself with the following method.

Bug Fix:

> **1** In My Computer or Windows Explorer, click the View menu, and then click Options.
> **2** Click the File Types tab.
> **3** In the list of file types, click the file type you want to correct.
> **4** Click on the Edit button.
> **5** Click on the button that says, "New..."
> **6** In the box that says "Action" type **Open**.
> **7** Click the "Browse" button and locate the application that runs the file type.
> **8** Click the "Ok" button.
>
> The above method should fix this problem.   If you continue to have problems launching a specific file type, then <u>contact the creator</u>

Bug #2. If a file can be opened with both commands, **Open** and **Play** then the file **MAY** be launched twice.   Depending on the application opening these files this may or may not be a problem.

Registration

Registration can be done by filling out the registration form in HotBar.   This form can be accessed by clicking on the **Register...** button on the Menu.

Registration Form

On the Registration form all information must be entered accurately.   All information is required except for your email address which is optional.   Once you have entered in all of your personal information make sure your printer is on and click on the button labeled, **Print Order Form**.   This order form should then be enclosed with $15 US dollars and sent to:

Michael Righi
224 Rainprint Sq.
Murrysville, PA
**   15668**
United States

Please allow 4-6 weeks delivery time for your purchase.   All personal information used in registering will be kept private and will not be sold or given out to other companies.

If your computer does not have a printer but you would still like to register HotBar then simply write out neatly on a piece of paper the following information.

- Your full first and last name.
- Your entire address including zip code and country name.
- Optionally, your email address.
- The version of HotBar you currently own.

UIN: Universal Internet Number.   This can be used to see whether or not a user is currently logged on to the Internet.   ICQ's Mirablis software is needed which can be found at http://www.mirabilis.com.

Close: This will close the Menu and discard any changes made to HotBar's configurations.

Accept: This will save any changes made to HotBar's configurations and close the menu.

Cancel: This will close the Menu and discard any changes made to HotBar's configurations.

About: This will display the About menu which gives some information about HotBar.

Register: This will display the Registration screen.

Add A File: This will display a file browser in order to add a file or application to HotBar.

Add A Folder: This will display a screen in which you can select and add a folder to HotBar.

Remove Selection: Clicking this button will remove the currently selected file.

List Of Files: Clicking on the name of a file listed here will display its icon in the box.

Top Position: This will hide HotBar along the top of your screen.

Bottom Position: This will hide HotBar along the bottom of your screen.

Left Position: This will hide HotBar along the left of your screen.

Right Position: This will hide HotBar along the right of your screen.

Run At Startup: When selected HotBar will run automatically everytime Windows is started.

Show Border: When selected HotBar's border will be shown when HotBar is hidden, otherwise no border will be visible.

BackColor (Red): This bar changes the level of Red for HotBar's backcolor.

BackColor (Green): This bar changes the level of Green for HotBar's backcolor.

BackColor (Blue): This bar changes the level of Blue for HotBar's backcolor.

Border Color (Red): This bar changes the level of Red for HotBar's border color.

Border Color (Green): This bar changes the level of Green for HotBar's border color.

Border Color (Blue): This bar changes the level of Blue for HotBar's border color.

Help: Clicking this button will display HotBar's help file.