

here is that I think it would be nice to be able to receive the set of both sequences and programs simultaneously. You can send a set, so why not be able to receive a set? Also, keep in mind that ESQLIB will only receive from the internal memory of the ESQ-1. So if you want to receive sounds from your cartridge you must first load them into your ESQ-1's internal memory. One more thing - make sure when you're receiving one program from the ESQ-1 that you correctly position the cursor, in the ESQ-1, under the desired program or that beautiful electric piano that you thought you saved might turn into the infamous F-111 jumbo jet!

The editing portion of ESQLIB is divided into editing either set or program banks. Editing sets is used to create or change set files. In other words, this is where you establish which sequences and programs go to the ESQ-1 in simultaneous fashion and in which order they are sent. To send the set simply go to Send Set menu and press the space bar. Simple! Inserting and deleting of existing sets is also simple and proves to be a significant time saver. Editing banks is used to create new bank files or change the patches in an already existing bank. This part of ESQLIB seems to work fine but could use some serious re-thinking on the author's part. The edit screen is divided into two parts: the program bank file window and the clipboard window. In addition there is a copy buffer window. In editing you must copy, swap, or paste a patch one at a time to the copy buffer window. Gruelling! The audition feature is nice in that it sends a patch directly to the ESQ-1's write page so you can hear the sound. Finally, there is a list routine that displays or prints the contents of the currently highlighted program file. Beware monochrome monitor users! This feature does not work using a standard monochrome monitor.

The clipboard window is a temporary work area which contains copies of up to 120 programs. You can move information back and forth between the program bank window

and the clipboard window but it must go to the copy buffer window first. Tedious! Also, the Get routine from the clipboards screen is a bit cumbersome in that you end up loading a sound into the clipboard window without actually seeing it happen. Consequently, a lot of toggling back and forth is needed to verify that it loaded. The author would do well to study Turtle Beach's ESQ Manager for use of split screen editing where the entire edit bank procedure is accomplished on 1 screen.

Finally, included in the program is a DOS shell feature which allows the user to temporarily suspend ESQLIB and return to DOS. It is from this DOS shell that program files can be printed out. It's too bad that you need to exit to DOS to this. Also, it would sure be nice to be able to view the patch ingredients on the screen first. Oh well!

CONCLUSIONS: ESQLIB can hold its own with any librarian program that I have seen for the ESQ-1/IBM combination. Its strength lies in the Send/Edit Set feature. This part of the program alone is worth the amount asked. Its weakness lies in the edit bank features and the fact that it is designed to work best with a color monitor. Most of us musicians would rather spend our hard earned dollars on new gear than a fancy monitor.

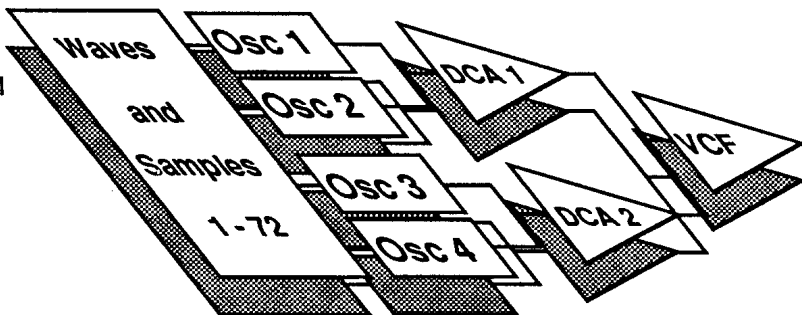
At \$69 ESQLIB just might be hard to pass up.

Note: Just before press time, Musser sent me the latest version of ESQLIB. It promises to be much faster. However, the last routine still doesn't run on monochrome monitors.

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