TANTRUM
BEAT GENERATOR/COMPOSER
ZX SPECTRUM 16k/48k*
MANUAL

Contents

About the software.

Decade Bridge "TANTRUM" is a beat generator and composer software package for the 16k/48k ZX Spectrum home computer.
The tape comes with 3 programs that utilise the spectrum's crude BEEP function to create drum hit sounds and beats.

Side A – Audition, play the keys to hear the sounds. Erratic, creates randomly generated drum hits.

Side B – Sequencer, this is the main program featuring 8/16 and 32 step sequencers.

Fig 1.

TANTRUM can be bought through our online store here.

Loading the programs.

Loading the programs that come on the TANTRUM cassette tape follow the same process as other spectrum software.
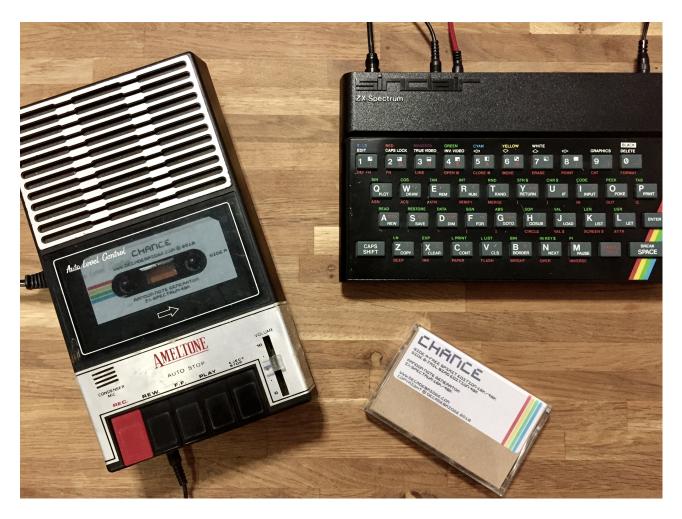
Type LOAD"" into the spectrum boot screen and press ENTER. Press play on your cassette tape deck. The programs will load automatically and take you to the start screen/main menu.

Side A - Audition and Erratic will both run on 48k and 16k Spectrums and have been tested on both.*

Side B - The Sequencers will run on the 48k system but not the 16k due to the size of the program.*

When using the program plug the jack output into an amplifier or your DAW sound card or other equipment (modular setup, effects, instrument amp etc) to get a better sound. The program can be run through the spectrum speaker only but will not provide a decent volume. The programs work well when in conjunction with other processes or feeding them into different audio manipulators.

Fig 2.

TANTRUM-Audition.

After loading the software audition will start automatically and you will be presented with auditions input screen. *Fig 3.*

Audition is a simple program that allows you to play back the sounds within TANTRUM via the Spectrum's keyboard. All letter keys can be used to trigger different drum sounds/hits. The main purpose of Audition is to allow the user to hear the sounds that are available to later input into the sequencer program. Beats can then be built in the include Beat Log booklet before transferring the sounds into the steps in sequencer.

Fig 3.

<u>TANTRUM-Erratic.</u>

Erratic will start automatically when the program has loaded.

Erratic is not related to Audition or Sequencer and is intended to be recorded and sampled into external gear. The audio generated can be used to create drum hits or loops that can be later used in conjunction with other audio material.

Erratic only requires a single value be input into the program to run. The user is prompted to type in a value for the speed parameter. This ranges from 1 to 1000. Experimentation with this value will be required to achieve a tempo that is desirable, this can be altered at any time during playback by holding down 'shift' + 'T' (>) on the spectrum keyboard.

The sounds created by Erratic are completely random and are excellent for recording a few minutes into your DAW then going in, chopping up, editing and piecing together drum kits or loops to be used in your productions.

TANTRUM's sequencing program is the main instrument within the software package. On loading sequencer you will be presented with the main menu. Here you can select from 1 of 3 options. For the purpose of this manual we will look at option 1, the 8 step sequencer. Options 2 and 3 follow exactly the same principles but in 16 and 32 step versions.

Having chosen your sounds within audition it's now time to input them into TANTRUM's sequencer program.
After choosing one of the options you will be presented with the input/sequence view window. The action bar at the bottom of the screen will prompt you as to what the program is waiting for. *Fig 5.*

Fig 5

This is where we type in the letter on the spectrum's keyboard that corresponds to the sound we want on the relative step. After which press 'ENTER' to insert the sound into the step.
If an invalid or no value is entered TANTRUM will print an error to the bottom of the screen in red, pause and then prompt you to re-enter the drum sound.

After a valid value has been entered the letter will then be printed to the screen below the step number that has been edited. TANTRUM will then move to the next step denoted by

the yellow box around the step number and the ACTION statement displayed at the bottom of the screen.

If all steps have been filled correctly TANTRUM will then ask for a speed at which to play back the loop. *Fig 6.*

Fig 6.

The value required ranges from 1 to 1000. Experimentation will be required to get a suitable tempo that you desire.

After inputting a speed value and pressing 'ENTER', TANTRUM will immediately begin to play back the drum beat. The position of the sequence will be displayed through the green box moving along the steps.

The speed value can be altered at any time by pressing and holding 'shift' + 'T' (>). This will stop the beat playing back and return you to the speed input step. *Fig 6.*

To return to the main menu hold down the 'shift' and 'A' keys (STOP) during beat playback. You will then be able re-select from 1 of the 3 options and begin building a new drum loop.

Any and all error messages for Audition, Erratic and Sequencer will be displayed at the bottom of the screen in red.

Beat examples.

Below are a few examples to try in TANTRUM's sequencer and get you started. Simply enter the letters into the corresponding steps, set TANTRUM's speed and listen to the results.

8 Step sequencer.

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	V	I	S	I	V	I	S	V
Speed	150				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	C	C	E	C	C	E	E	Q
Speed	225				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	Z	M	Z	M	A	M	Z	A
Speed	570				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	D	G	T	D	V	H	F	T
Speed	750				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

16 Step sequencer.

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	B	M	B	I	P	M	I	P
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	I	P	B	I	P	M	I	M
Speed	800				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	Q	E	M	Z	A	Z	M	Z
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	Z	M	Z	Q	A	Q	M	A
Speed	400				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	E	Q	I	E	Q	I	R	Q
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	E	I	R	Q	Q	R	I	E
Speed	725				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	X	X	T	W	X	W	T	W
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	X	X	W	T	T	W	T	W
Speed	600				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

32 Step sequencer

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	B	M	B	M	K	M	I	K
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	B	K	I	B	K	M	B	M
Step	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Key	B	M	I	B	K	K	I	M
Step	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Key	I	K	B	M	K	M	I	M
Speed	870				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	C	C	D	E	C	E	D	E
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	C	E	D	C	C	E	D	E
Step	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Key	C	C	D	C	C	E	D	C
Step	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Key	E	C	D	E	C	E	D	D
Speed	300				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	I	T	H	Y	I	T	Y	Y
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	H	T	I	I	I	R	R	Y
Step	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Key	T	I	R	H	Y	T	T	R
Step	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Key	I	Y	H	I	R	T	T	R
Speed	700				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Key	V	M	Q	M	J	M	Q	J
Step	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	R	M	V	M	M	Q	J	I
Step	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Key	V	M	V	V	R	I	J	R
Step	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Key	V	V	I	M	R	M	R	Q
Speed	500				(Shift+T to alter TANTRUM's speed setting)			

TANTRUM for the ZX spectrum 16k/48k is available now from the Decade Bridge online store here.

For more information or support contact support@decadebridge.com

We are currently working on more audio software for the ZX spectrum. For more information on spectrum software and other Decade Bridge products please contact info@decadebridge.com

www.decadebridge.com