

# **Ed for Prophet-5**

and Commodore VIC-20

Jason Justian  
Beige Maze VIC Lab

December 2023

[beigemaze.com/ed](https://beigemaze.com/ed)



## Contents

<u>About Ed for Prophet-5</u>	4
<u>Software License</u>	5
<u>Terminology</u>	6
<u>Status Bar</u>	6
<u>Popup Windows</u>	7
<u>Basic Navigation</u>	7
<u>Help Page</u>	7
<u>Setup Page</u>	8
<u>Edit Pages</u>	9
<u>Undo</u>	9
<u>System Exclusive (Sysex) Data</u>	10
<u>Send from Your Prophet-5 to <i>Ed</i></u>	10
<u>Request a Program from Your Prophet-5</u>	10
<u>Send from <i>Ed</i> to Your Prophet-5</u>	11
<u>Send Factory Programs</u>	11
<u>Disk Operations</u>	12
<u>Save Library</u>	12
<u>Save Marked Voices</u>	12
<u>Load Library</u>	13
<u>Managing Your Library</u>	14
<u>Copy Voice</u>	14
<u>Swap Voices</u>	14
<u>Change Program Number</u>	15
<u>Change Group Numbers</u>	15
<u>Erase a Voice</u>	16
<u>Reset <i>Ed for Prophet-5</i></u>	16
<u>Library View</u>	17
<u>Hex View</u>	17
<u>Voice Generation</u>	18
<u>Custom Scale</u>	19
<u>Assigning the Custom Scale</u>	19

## About Ed for Prophet-5

The Sequential Prophet-5 and the Commodore VIC-20 were roughly contemporaneous products by two great companies. With the advent of the MIDI-capable Prophet-5 Rev. 4, *Ed for Prophet-5* aims to be the bridge between these two legends.

*Ed for Prophet-5* is a full-featured editor/librarian for Prophet-5. It takes advantage of the remarkable Jolly Cartridge platform with an on-board 8K of RAM expansion, allowing access to a 64-voice library at any one time.

*Ed* works with the VIC Lab MIDI interface to send and receive system exclusive (hereafter, "sysex") data to and from your Prophet-5. Voices can be edited directly in *Ed*, with the option of real-time transmission of parameter data to the instrument using NRPN parameters. *Ed's* editor has 100 levels of undo for editing operations.

*Ed* offers several library management features, including the ability to re-organize and renumber programs. *Ed* also provides a utility to generate random genetic hybrids of selected voices, with optional mutations. *Ed* also allows you to audition voices from the VIC-20 keyboard.

In short, *Ed* is the finest Prophet-5 editor/librarian ever developed for the Commodore VIC-20. I hope you enjoy using it as much as I enjoyed building it.

Be Excellent To Each Other,

Jason

## **Software License**

Copyright 2023, Jason Justian

Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy of this software and associated documentation files (the "Software"), to deal in the Software without restriction, including without limitation the rights to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell copies of the Software, and to permit persons to whom the Software is furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions:

The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the Software.

THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.

## Terminology

The following terminology will be useful throughout this manual.

A **voice** contains the parameters that describe a single Prophet-5 sound. A voice may or may not have a Prophet-5 program number associated with it.

A **program** is a voice that has a Prophet-5 program number associated with it. The Prophet-5 program number is comprised of a group (1-5), a bank (1-5), and a sound number (1-8).

The **library** is the set of voices in the VIC-20's memory at any one time. Since the *Ed for Prophet-5* cartridge has 8K of RAM on board, a library contains 64 voices.

## Status Bar

The bottom line of each page is the **status bar**. The status bar contains the current voice number, in green, from 01 to 64.

To the right of that is the program number, in red. If no program number is assigned to the voice, this will show ---. A reverse F following the program number indicates a Factory program.

Most operations will set a status message, which will be displayed in the status bar.

Rightmost in the status bar, an asterisk (\*) flashes to indicate incoming MIDI messages.

## Popup Windows

A popup window is often used to gather information or confirm an operation. Any popup window can be dismissed by pressing the **STOP** key.

## Basic Navigation

Most *Ed* pages allow some form of editing. A yellow diamond shows the setting or parameter that is currently selected, and the parameter value is in yellow.

To select a parameter, use the **CRSR** keys at the bottom right of the VIC-20 keyboard. To edit the value of a parameter, use the < and > keys. Pressing **RETURN** will increment a parameter.

Switches are circles, filled in when set. They can be switched on (>) or off (<), or toggled with **RETURN**.

The + and - keys select the next or previous voice in the library. Hold down the **Commodore** key to go back or forth 10 voices.

## Help Page

*Press **H** to display the Help Page*

The Help Page will show a summary of most *Ed* operations. When indicated, the **C=** in reverse text means that you hold down the **Commodore** key while pressing the key to access an alternate function.

## Setup Page

Press **SPACE** to display the Setup Page

The Setup Page lets you set up global settings that are not specific to any voice. These include:

**MIDI Channel:** This is the MIDI channel for any NRPN messages, program changes, and playing the custom scale.

**Send NRPN:** Enables transmission of NRPN messages when voice parameters are changed. Make sure that (1) NRPN is enabled on your Prophet-5, and (2) the MIDI channel matches the channel of your Prophet-5.

**Program Change:** Enables transmission of a program change message when the voice is changed. If the voice does not have a program number set, no message will be sent. Make sure that the MIDI channel matches the channel of your Prophet-5.

**Disk Device #:** Sets the device number of the drive used for saving and loading sysex data.

**Generation:** See Voice Generation (*p. 18*) for information about these settings.

**Custom Scale:** See Custom Scale (*p. 19*) for information about these settings.



## Edit Pages

*Press **F1**, **F3**, **F5**, or **F7** to display an Edit Page*

The Prophet-5 voice parameters are arranged on four edit pages. See Basic Navigation (p. 7) for information about selecting and changing parameters.

**F1 (Oscillators):** Contains the parameters for the two oscillators. This page also contains the voice name. To edit the voice name, select the name field and press **RETURN**. A cursor will appear at the end of the name. You may edit the name, and then press **RETURN**.

**F3 (Filter and Amplifier):** Contains the parameters for the filter and the amplifier, including the two envelope generators. *Make sure that your Prophet-5's operating system is up-to-date to access the Q Comp parameter!*

**F5 (Modulation):** Contains the parameters for modulation, including Poly-Mod, LFO, and Wheel-Mod.

**F7 (Unison and Other):** Contains the parameters that don't fall into the other categories, including unison settings, velocity and aftertouch routing.

### Undo

*Press **Commodore+Z** to undo the last edit of the current voice*

*Ed* remembers the last 100 edits (except edits to voice name). Undo reverses the most recent change *to the current voice* and places the cursor on the changed parameter. To undo a change in another voice, switch to that voice.

## **System Exclusive (Sysex) Data**

*Ed for Prophet-5* provides several ways to exchange voice data with your instrument.

### **Send from Your Prophet-5 to *Ed***

*Ed* will accept sysex dumps from your Prophet-5 on any page. When voice data is received, it will start loading data at the current library voice, and advance to the next voice for each subsequent voice message.

*Ed* has space for 64 voices, so you can dump a Program, Bank, or Group from your Prophet-5.

**Note:** Sysex data exchange does not observe the MIDI channel.

### **Request a Program from Your Prophet-5**

*Press **Q** to request a program  
from your Prophet-5*

Choose the program number in the popup window and press **RETURN**. If the request message is received, your Prophet-5 will respond by sending sysex for a single program.

The request will only be sent if the current voice is *not* assigned to a Prophet-5 program number.

## *Ed for Prophet-5*

### **Send from *Ed* to Your Prophet-5**

*Press **V** to send one or more voices  
to your Prophet-5*

For a program, the popup window allows four choices. For a voice without a program number assigned, the only option is to send the edit buffer.

**Program (P):** Sends sysex for the selected program. *This will overwrite the associated program on your Prophet-5.*

**Edit (E):** Sends sysex for the current voice as a voice edit buffer dump. This will not overwrite the program in your Prophet-5's memory, but will allow you to continue editing the voice on the instrument.

**Bank (B):** Sends sysex for all programs in the library that share the selected program's bank *and* group numbers. *This will overwrite the associated programs on your Prophet-5.*

**Group (G):** Sends sysex for all programs in the library that share the selected program's group number. *This will overwrite the associated programs on your Prophet-5.*

### **Send Factory Programs**

*Press **Commodore+V** to send Factory programs*

This works exactly as above, but will overwrite Factory programs instead of User programs.

## Disk Operations

*Ed for Prophet-5* can save and load sysex data to a 1541 or compatible drive, including SD2IEC. Select your drive's device number on the Setup Page (see *p. 8*).

### Save Library

*Press **S** to save the library*

In the popup window, you may enter a filename of up to eight characters. The .SYX extension will automatically be added to this filename. This is a standard sysex file that can be used in any other editor/librarian that accepts .SYX files.

All 64 voices will be saved, regardless of whether they have program numbers assigned.

**Note:** If you use another editor/librarian to send these files to your Prophet-5, the instrument will not accept voices without program numbers assigned.

### Save Marked Voices

*Press **Commodore+S** to save marked voices*

To mark a specific voice to be saved, press the \* key (asterisk). The S indicator will appear in the status bar. When you save with **Commodore+S**, only the marked voices will be saved.

Hold down **Commodore+\*** to clear all save marks.

## *Ed for Prophet-5*

### **Load Library**

*Press **L** to load the library*

*Press **Commodore+L** to load starting at the current voice*

In the popup window, you may enter a filename of up to eight characters. The .SYX extension will automatically be added to this filename. You may load files created by any editor/librarian that saves .SYX files, although you may need to rename the file.

If the file is found on the disk, *Ed* will load the file. It will load to the library starting at voice 01.

If you press the **STOP** key during the load, the load will stop, leaving the voices loaded so far in memory.

**Tip:** If you want to load the library starting at the current voice instead of voice 01, press **Commodore+L**.

**Note:** The Load and Save filename popups accept **A ~ Z**, **0 ~ 9**, **space**, and the following special characters:  
**! % ' ( ) + - . ; [ ] ^ \_**

*(The left-arrow (top left key on the VIC-20) is interpreted by most other systems as an underscore)*

## Managing Voices

*Ed for Prophet-5* has several ways to manage voices in the library, to make it easier to build the banks that you want to use.

### Copy Voice

*Press **C** to copy the current voice*

The popup window will ask for the number of the destination library voice. Note that this operation will overwrite the destination voice in the library!

The program number of the destination voice (if set) will not be changed.

### Swap Voices

*Press **Commodore+C** to swap the current voice  
with another voice*

The popup window will ask for the number of the other voice in the library. This operation will swap the parameter data of the current voice and the other voice.

The program numbers of both voices will remain in their original library locations. For example, if you swap voice 01 (program 111) and voice 02 (program 222), voice 01 will remain program 111 and voice 02 will remain program 222, even though the parameter data has been swapped.

## *Ed for Prophet-5*

### **Change Program Number**

*Press **P** to change the program  
number of a voice*

The popup window will ask for a program number, comprised of a group (1-5), a bank (1-5), and a sound number (1-8). Edit or enter a program number, and press **RETURN** to change the voice's program number.

To unset a program number for a voice, delete the entire program number in the popup window and press **RETURN**.

### **Change Group**

*Press **Commodore+P** to change the group  
number for all programs that share a  
group with the current voice*

The popup window will ask for a group number (1-5). When you enter a group number and press **RETURN**, *Ed* will change the group number to the specified group for every voice that shares a group with the current voice.

This operation is useful for re-positioning third-party sounds into the group of your choice.

## *Ed for Prophet-5*

### **Erase a Voice**

*Press **CLR** to erase the current voice*

The popup window will ask for confirmation. Press **Y** to confirm erasure. Anything else will cancel the operation. This will set all parameters in the voice to 0, turn off all switches, and set the voice name to "INIT".

### **Reset *Ed for Prophet-5***

*Press **Commodore+CONTROL+RESTORE**  
to reset Ed*

This operation will erase all 64 voices in the library, reset the options on the Setup Page, and reset the custom scale, as though the VIC-20 has been power-cycled.



## Library View

*Press **Commodore+Function Key** to  
display the Library View*

The Library View shows a high-level overview of your library's organization, sixteen voices at a time.

**Commodore+F1:** Voices 1-16

**Commodore+F3:** Voices 17-32

**Commodore+F5:** Voices 33-48

**Commodore+F7:** Voices 49-64

Each line shows the voice number, the program number (or ---), and the voice name or partial voice name. If the voice is marked to be saved (*p. 12*), a reverse S will appear next to the voice number.

Browsing the Library View with the **CRSR** keys changes the current voice. Press **RETURN** to go to the first edit page.

## Hex View

*Press **X** to display the Hex View*

Hex View shows the voice dump sysex message in hexadecimal format for the current voice.

If the voice does not have a program number assigned, the group and program bytes in the message header are replaced with ??.

## Voice Generation

*Press **G** to generate a voice*

*Ed for Prophet-5* is capable of generating interesting voices that are genetic hybrids of existing voices. A voice can be generated when the current voice does *not* have a Prophet-5 program number assigned to it.

The voice is generated as follows: For each parameter, randomly select a value for that parameter from one of the Seed Voices specified on the Setup Page.

Then, for a number of times specified in the Mutations setting (also on the Setup Page), randomize one value parameter.

When a voice is generated in this way, *Ed* automatically sends an edit buffer sysex message to your Prophet-5, so that you can audition the generated sound right away. *This does **not** overwrite the program in your Prophet-5.*

## **Custom Scale**

*Press 1-8 to play the custom scale*

*Ed for Prophet-5* allows you to map a custom scale to the numbers 1-8 on the VIC-20 keyboard. This doesn't necessarily need to be a scale, but can be whatever notes you need for auditioning your edits.

A MIDI note on message will be sent when the numeral key is pressed, and a note off message will be sent when the key is released. The MIDI channel is specified on the Setup Page.

### **Assigning the Custom Scale**

The scale is assigned on the Setup Page. Under the Custom Scale section, set a MIDI note for each numeral key 1-8. C 3 corresponds to middle C, MIDI note #60.

The velocity for custom scale note on messages is also set on the Setup Page. It defaults to a velocity of 100.