

# **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>	<u>4</u>
<u>Software License</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Terminology</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Status Bar</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Popup Windows</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Basic Navigation</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Help Screen</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Setup Screen</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Edit Screens</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Undo</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>System Exclusive (Sysex) Data</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Transfer from Your Prophet-5 to Ed</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Request a Program from Your Prophet-5</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Transfer from Ed to Your Prophet-5</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Disk Operations</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Save Library</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Save Voice</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Load Library</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Managing Your Library</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Copy Voice</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Swap Voices</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Change Program Number</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Change Group Numbers</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Erase a Voice</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Reset Ed for Prophet-5</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Library View</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Hex View</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Sequencer</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Recording and Editing</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Playback</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Voice Generation</u>	<u>20</u>

## 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 the 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 features a step sequencer, with up to 64 steps.

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 screen shows 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 ---.

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

Many operations involve a popup window which opens in the center of the screen. This is used to gather information or confirm the operation. Any popup window can be dismissed by pressing the left-arrow key at the upper-left of the VIC-20's keyboard.

## Basic Navigation

Most *Ed* screens allow some form of editing. A yellow diamond indicates the setting or parameter that is currently selected.

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 are highlighted in yellow when selected. 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 **C=** to go back or forth 10 voices.

## Help Screen

*Press **H** to display the Help Screen*

The Help Screen will show a summary of most *Ed* operations, with the keys for accessing those operations. When indicated, the **C=** in reverse text means that you hold down the Commodore key while pressing the key.

## Setup Screen

*Press **SPACE** to display the Setup Screen*

The Setup Screen 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 recording and playback of the sequencer.

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

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

**Sequencer Steps:** See Sequencer (*p. 18*) for information about these settings.

**Generation:** See Voice Generation (*p. 20*) for information about these settings.



## Edit Screens

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

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

**F1 (Oscillators):** Contains the parameters for the two oscillators. The page also contains the voice name. To edit the voice name, select the voice, 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 parameters that don't fall into the other categories, including unison settings, velocity and aftertouch routing.

## Undo

*Press **Commodore+Z** to undo the last parameter edit*

*Ed* keeps track of up to 100 levels of undo. These levels are discarded when the voice is changed.

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

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

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

*Ed* will accept sysex dumps from the Prophet-5 on any screen. 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 the Prophet-5.

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

**Note:** Sysex data will not be received during sequence recording.

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

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

Choose the program number in the popup window and press RETURN. If the request message is received, the 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*

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

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

For a program, the popup window allows four choices:

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

**Edit (E):** Sends sysex for the current voice as a voice edit buffer dump. This will not overwrite the program in the 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 the Prophet-5.

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

For a voice without a program number assigned, the Program, Bank, and Group options will not appear. For these voices, you may send only an edit buffer.

## Disk Operations

*Ed for Prophet-5* can save and load sysex data to a 1541 or compatible drive, including SD2IEC. See Setup Screen (p. 8) for information on setting the device number.

### 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 the Prophet-5, the instrument will not accept voices without program numbers assigned.

### Save One Voice

*Press **Commodore+S** to save 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.

The current voice will be saved.

## **Load Library**

*Press **L** to load the library,  
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 with the current voice**. This allows you to merge voices from multiple files into your library.

**Tip:** You can immediately select voice 01 by going to the first Library View (**Commodore+F1**). You can do this prior to loading if you want to load voices to the start of the library.

## 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 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 all voice names 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 Screen, and reset the sequencer, as though the VIC-20 has been power-cycled.



## Library View

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

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.

You may use the **+**, **-**, **<**, and **>** keys to select a voice. This will change the current voice. To go to the first edit screen for the selected voice, press **RETURN**.

## 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 **??**.

## Sequencer

*Ed for Prophet-5* has a single voice step sequencer with up to 64 steps, which can be used to audition sounds during editing away from the keyboard.

*Ed* starts with a simple default 8-step sequence in memory. To try it out, press the **RUN** key.

The sequencer step display is in the upper-right corner, showing the step number, note number (or rest), and transport mode (play/record).

## Recording and Editing

*Press **Commodore+RUN** to start recording*

*Press **STOP** to stop recording*

While in Record Mode, you may do the following things:

**Add a Note:** Play a note on your Prophet-5. The step display will show the note number and the associated step. *Ed* will also record the velocity at which the keyboard was played.

**Add a Rest:** Press the **R** key to add a rest. The step display will advance to the next step.

**Delete the Last Note:** Press the **DEL** key to delete the last note or rest recorded.

**Clear the Sequence:** Press **Commodore+DEL** to clear the sequence and return to step 01.

## **Playback**

*Press **RUN/STOP** to start or stop playback*

Playback will start at step 01, and will play recorded notes and velocities.

Playback will be performed at the tempo set on the Setup Screen.

The sequencer will reset back to step 01 when it reaches the last recorded note, or the step specified on the Setup Screen, whichever occurs first.

Note messages will be sent on the MIDI channel specified on the Setup Screen.

## 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 Screen.

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

Once a voice is generated, you may quickly audition it by pressing **V** followed by **E** to send the voice to the Prophet-5's edit buffer.