SIDBlaster TicTac – Crib Sheet

1. Introduction

The SIDBlaster TicTac comprises premium "open-source" hardware for using a genuine „SID"-sound chip for C64 emulation, playback of SID tunes and music production as a little box on the USB port of a personal computer.

SIDBlaster TicTac is based upon "SIDBlaster-USB", and is 100% compatible with it.

The following improvements were made:
- · Good value universal current supply 9V or 12V
- · Original C64-audio wiring
- · Optional connection facility for two Paddles.
- · Switchable filter capacitors
- · Switchable capacitors for Paddle
- · Precisely fitting printed circuit board for assembly into a TicTac candy box
- · Audio-In
- · Professional 6,3mm mono audio jack sockets
- · Cozy blue power LED
- · (Rev.1.2:) red TX/RX-LED

2. Operating and safety information:

- The SID chip produces heat, leave the flap of the TicTac candy box open when using it
- Only connect the SIDBlaster with the USB cable if you really need it, unplug it if you don't need it.

3. Connection and initial operation

- connect your SIDBlaster to a free port of your Windows computer, USB hubs cause problems

- Connect the Audio-Out (at the front of the box) an amplifier or mixer console using an unsymmetrical (mono) cable. The second audio jack (at the back of the box) is an Audio-In.

- The SIDBlaster is recognized as an "USB Serial Converter" with the USB controller. It may be recognized as a COMx: device with ports (device manager). In this case, you can deactivate VCP in "Expanded". With older versions of Windows, installation of a driver by FTDI may be necessary, available at http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/D2XX.htm

4. Change of SID-Chip:

4.1 Voltage jumper

Plug the jumpers as indicated on the circuit board: for the old SID chip (6581) J1 must be open (12 V), for the new one (8580) it must be closed (9V). If you have the possibility, check the voltage at the SID chip socket with a multimeter.

4.2 Other jumpers

JP2 & JP3 (blue) are for switching the filter capacitors.

JP4 & JP5 (green) for the paddle capacitors

For the 6581, place all jumpers on the left side (1-2)

For the 8580, place all jumpers on the right side (2-3)

JP6 (white) (from Rev. 1.2 on) experimental, connects USB shield with mass; you may try it to counteract interfering noise.

5. Software

Download the hardsid.dll from

https://github.com/gh0stless/SIDBlaster-USB-Tic-Tac-Edition

Copy the suitable DLL (32bit or 64bit) in the program folder of the program you want to use (64bit is only needed for the 64bit version of Vice)

5.1 hardsid.dll

Is the "driver" of the SIDBlaster, so to say. It comprises a reprogrammed DLL of the Hardsid, thus, software programmed for the Hardsid becomes compatible for the SIDBlaster. The source code is available on request.

5.2 Vice64

The famous C64 emulator supports up to 3 SIDBlasters. In the simplest case, you now have a C64 with original sound. But you can also use the SIDBlaster with Vice64 as a MIDI expander, by activating the MIDI emulation, and load a synthesizer program like Station64.

5.3 Acid64

Best SIDBlaster support, if you have several devices you can even play stereo and 3SID tunes.

5.4 SidPlay2

Good SID player; suitable as a jukebox because of playlists

5.5 Goatracker

Tracker. Support still not perfect

5.6 AIASS

A Max/MSP-extension to make a SID synthesizer available in Max/MSP or Max4Live. A VST is also available.

5.7 Cloando's C64 Forever

- Also compatible. Just copy the hardsid.dll in the file of Vice. Then, enter"-sidenginemodel hardsid" in the option „custom parameters".

5.8 JSIDPlay2 4.0

6. Contact

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Information as of 08/17/20