

# Tune Studio

A mono audio tone melody editor software for Windows.  
Compose your own tone melody, save, playback and output to C/C++ header format.

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by Ricky Gai



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Nexuz Innovation, Malaysia.  
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## Introduction

### About this Book

This is a book about the hands-on information of the Tune Studio software for Microsoft Windows.

In the learning Arduino platform especially to the tone melody creation, you need a tone editor to allow you to compose own melody and play it on the physical 8Ω 2W speaker, active and passive buzzer.

You cannot just rely on downloaded third party notes or melodies because it may subject to copyright limitation upon product commercializing later.

Therefore, Tone Studio software is created to allow you to compose tone melody, save it, playback and output to C/C++ header format that can be used as part of Arduino sketch compilation.

Tone Studio is a proprietary software, it is not perfect but you can create, commercialize own composed tone melodies or musics at royalty free and it costs just a cup of coffee :o)

You may get Tone Studio from [Microsoft Store](#).

All the necessary help documentations and tutorial videos are available via Github at:  
<https://github.com/rickygai/tonestudio>

For any errors found, suggestions and questions, please do email to:  
[support@nexuzinnovation.com](mailto:support@nexuzinnovation.com)

### About the Author

#### **Ricky Gai**

The founder and technical director of Nexuz Innovation, a small R&D IT company established in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

He earned a distinction of Oxford Computer Engineering certification discipline in 1992 and mostly exposed to C/C++ programming in his career from the earlier days of MS-DOS until Microsoft Windows environment today.

Nonetheless, much time had been devoted to the electronics studies further before entering into the world of Arduino because the understanding of analog, digital electronics and PCB design are so important to build a stable circuitry beside software programming alone merely.

Thank you for supporting Tone Studio software, I hope you find something useful here.

## DISCLAIMER

Abbreviation	Descriptions
NEXUZ INNOVATION / AUTHOR	refers to the author, Ricky Gai.
READER / READER(S) / READER'S	refers to the person who read or experimented the information from the contents of this book.
COMPONENTS / EQUIPMENTS	refers to electronics components, tools, materials that used as part of the circuitry setup.
CONTENTS	Information described in this book, including software source code and hardware circuit designs.
SOFTWARE / PROGRAM / SKETCH	refers to software created by the author.
IP / INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY / COPYRIGHT / PERMISSION	refers to the copyrighted materials ( eg. Photo, Diagram, Source Code, Links ) that owned by other creators.

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## Prerequisite

### Tone Studio - Setup

#### Software & Hardware requirements

Below were the basic requirements to run the Tone Studio software.

**Software Requirements:**

- Microsoft Windows x86/x64  
min version: 10.0.17763.0  
max version: 10.0.19041.0
- Windows Store.
- .NET framework v4.7.2 or above.
- Tone Studio software.

**Hardware Requirements:**

- Intel PC i3, i5, i7 or above.
- 2-4 GB RAM.
- 1-2MB Harddisk space.
- Intel/Nvidia standard graphics card.
- Built-in motherboard sound card ( eg. Realtek ) or built-in internal PC speaker.
- Direct audio jack cable connected to sound card speakers.
- None direct audio jack connected speaker is not supported. eg. **USB speakers, Bluetooth speakers are not supported.**

## The Overview of Tone Studio control functions.

**Melody Panel**

- To save composed tone melody from the Notes listbox.

**Save as .m**

- Save notes with Frequency and Duration C/C++ header format.

**Save as .mex**

- Save notes with Chords string, Frequency and Duration C/C++ header format.

**Clear the Notes listbox**

**Arduino Compatible header**

- Generate "const PROGMEM" to the C/C++ header format.

**Operating Manual**

- The online Tone Studio operating manual you are reading now.

**Notes listbox**

- Collection of chords when you right click on ASPN chord button.
- Left click to select and adjust the Duration under the "Tone Property" panel.
- Right click to remove the selected note.

**Notes Melody files folder**

- Collection of folders where the composed notes melody files are saved.
- You can add folders by selecting the browse button or direct key into the combo box and hit ENTER key. If not duplicated, the folder path will be saved and reloaded on next startup.
- Left click to select folder path from the combo box, this will automatically list all available .m and .mex tone melody files.

**Message Box**

- To show information of Tone Studio internal working result such as the melody file save result.

**Duration Tracker**

- To adjust the tone duration in millisecond.
- To test the desired tone duration for note listbox and ASPN.

**ASPN table**

- 97 chords or notes based on ASPN or American Standard Pitch Notation.
- Left click to test the Chord.
- Right click to add to the notes listbox.
- You can preview with Duration adjustment first before adding to the notes listbox by first select chord button (when it turns green color) then adjust the duration, and right click to add the adjusted chord to the notes listbox.

**ASPN American Standard Pitch Notation**

C0	A#0	G#1	F#2	E3	D4	C5	A#5	G#6	F#7
C#0	B0	A1	G2	F3	D#4	C#5	B5	A6	G7
D0	C1	A#1	G#2	F#3	E4	D5	C6	A#6	G#7
D#0	C#1	B1	A2	G3	F4	D#5	C#6	B6	A#7
E0	D1	C2	A#2	G#3	F#4	E5	D6	C7	A#7
F0	D#1	C#2	B2	A3	G4	F5	D#6	C#7	B7
F#0	E1	D2	C3	A#3	G#4	F#5	E6	D7	C8
G0	F1	D#2	C#3	B3	A4	G5	F6	D#7	C#8
G#0	F#1	E2	D3	C4	A#4	G#5	F#6	E7	D#8
A0	G1	F2	D#3	C#4	B4	A5	G6	F7	D#9

Figure 1: The Overview of the Tone Studio control functions.

## Operating Guidelines

### How to play a tone ?

Diagrams
Descriptions & References

1. Melody Panel
2. Duration Panel
3. Chords Panel

The screenshot shows the Tone Studio software interface. At the top, three panels are labeled: 1. Melody Panel, 2. Duration Panel, and 3. Chords Panel. Red arrows point to each of these panels. The Melody Panel on the left contains a table with columns 'Note', 'Frequency', and 'Duration'. It lists notes from C5 to A#4. Below the table is a dropdown menu showing 'C:\ToneStudio\melody' and a search icon. The Duration Panel in the center shows a slider labeled 'Duration in MS' with the value '128'. The Chords Panel on the right is titled 'ASPN American Standard Pitch Notation' and displays a grid of 97 chords. The chord 'A7' is highlighted in green. At the bottom of the interface, there is a 'Messages' section and copyright information for Nexuz Innovation.

The Tone Studio software is built with three basic control panel interfaces.

**Melody Panel**  
This is where you compose the notes melody, save it, playbank and output to C/C++ header format.

**Duration Panel**  
The Tone Property panel allows you to adjust the duration of a note.

**Chords Panel**  
Contains of ASPN / American Standard Pitch Notation with its 97 chords or notes with predefined frequencies respectively.

**How to play a tone ?**

1. Firstly you navigate to the Chords Panel.
2. When the mouse over the chord button, it turns to green color, indicating that chord is selected.
3. Left click on it to produce a tone sound.

Figure 2: The three major control panels

## The ASPN chords or notes control panel

How to compose a tone melody ?

### 3. Chords Panel

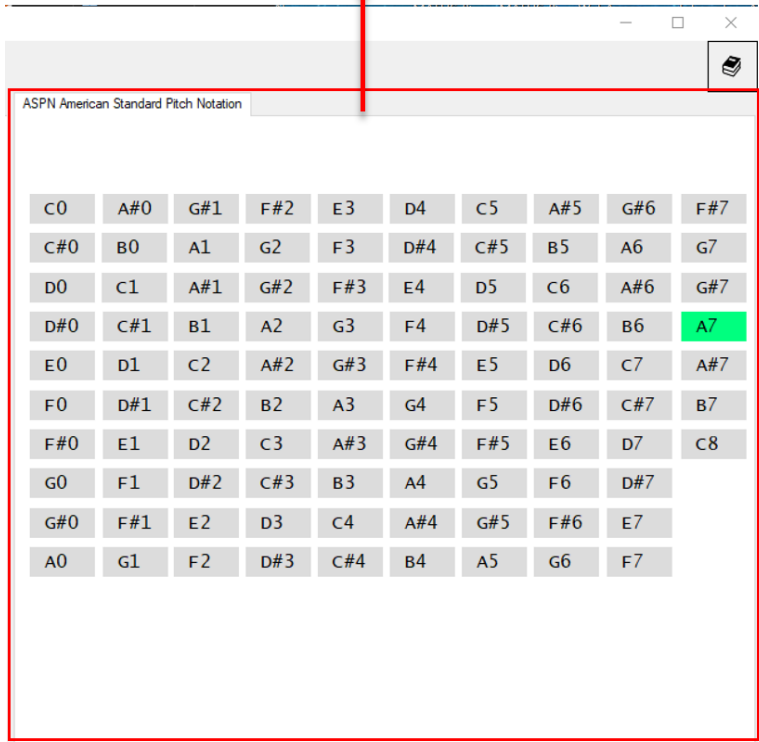


Figure 3: The Chords Panel

Before you can compose a tone melody, you have to select the closest chord pitch to simulate the melody desired.

- Goto the Chords Panel and left click the chord buttons to find the wanted chord.
- In this case, I am going to compose a theme music from the classics TV series "The Twilight Zone".
- So I found the chords that are matching as shown below:  
C5 C#5 D5 G6 F#6 G#4 A4 A#4
- Right click on the chord buttons above to add to the notes listbox as shown on Figure 4 below:

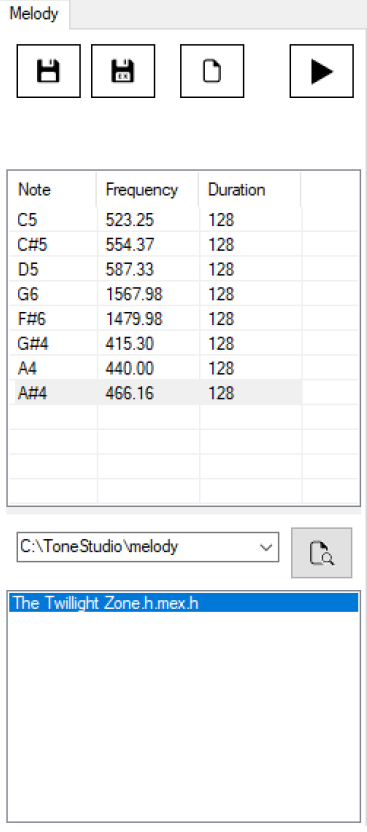
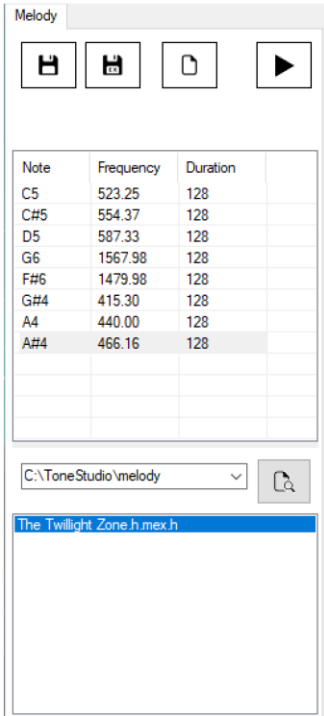
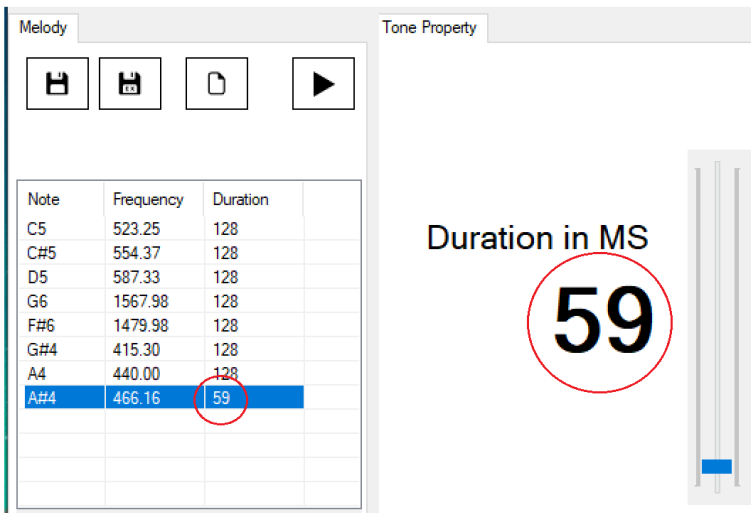



Figure 4: The Notes listbox




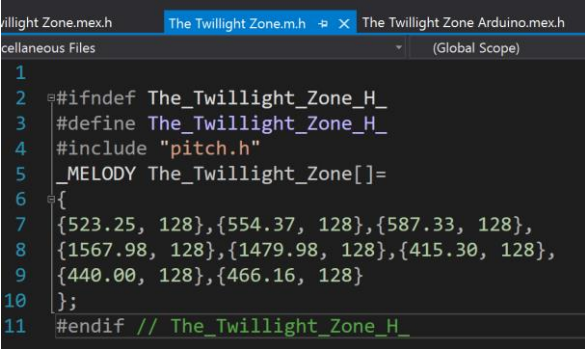

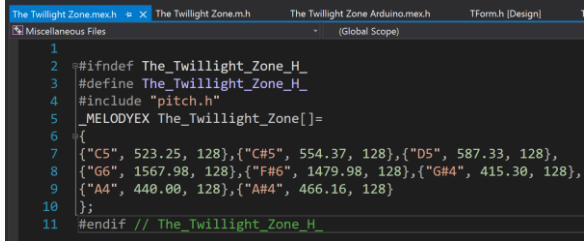

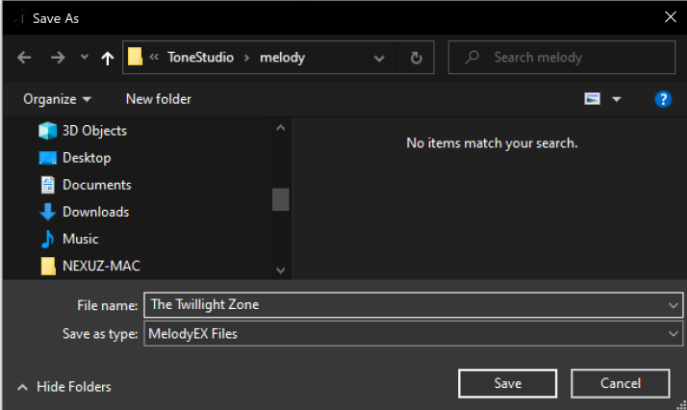
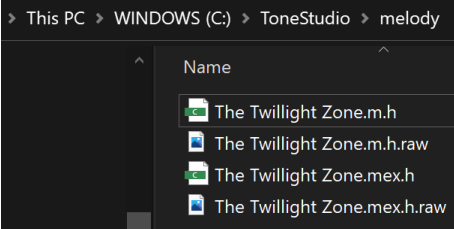
## The Melody control panel

### How to adjust the tone duration ?

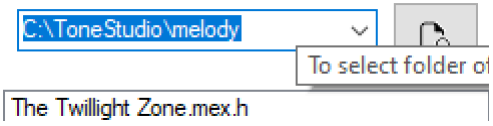
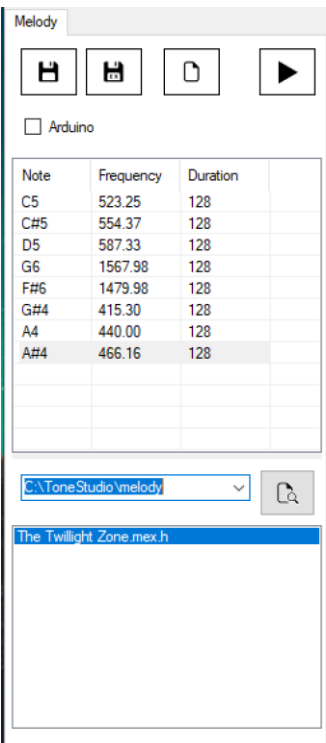
Diagrams		Descriptions & References
 <p>Figure 5: The Melody Panel</p>	<p>8. Now, you have all the required chords added and you can adjust the Duration of each individual chord if you want to.</p> <p>9. To adjust a tone duration, left click on one of the note at the notes listbox.</p> <p>10. Drag the Duration tracker at the "Tone Property" panel such as below</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Duration in MS <b>128</b></p> <p>Figure 7: The Duration Tracker.</p>	
 <p>Figure 6: Adjusting the note duration with Duration Traker.</p>	<p>11. You will notice the Duration under the notes listbox will change as shown on Figure 6.</p> <p>12. Now, you click on the  button to preview the melody.</p> <p>13. Once the melody is finalized and confirmed, you may save this composed melody which will be described on the next page.</p>	



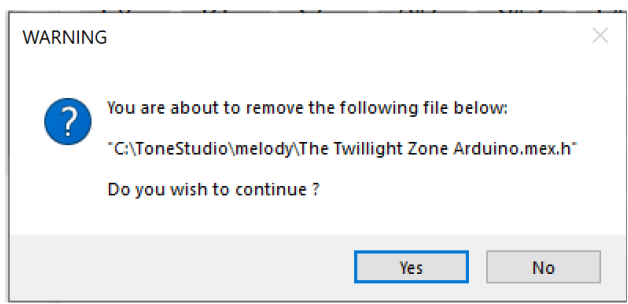
## How to save the composed melody ?

Diagrams	Descriptions & References
	<p>14. Tone Studio software allows to save the composed melody into C/C++ header format.</p> <p>15. There are two format file can be saved:</p>
<p>Figure 8: The Melody Panel</p> 	<p><b>.m extension</b></p>  <p>only Frequency and Duration data are saved.</p>
<p>Figure 9: The .m file extension format.</p> 	<p><b>.mex extension</b></p>  <p>Chord string, Frequency and Duration are saved.</p> <p>16. Figure 12 shown the way to save the filename format as "filename", the Tone Studio software will auto append ".mex.h" to the filename and the final filename will be:</p>
<p>Figure 10: The .mex file extension format.</p> 	<p>filename.<b>mex.h</b></p> <p>17. Here are the files saved under \melody folder:</p> 
<p>Figure 11: The filename save format.</p>	<p>18. The file with extension ".raw" is generated automatically so Tone Studio software can directly load the contents with reference to .mex.h filename into the notes listbox.</p> <p>19. Next, I will show you how to load the saved melody file ( where internally the Tone Studio is loading the .raw file ).</p>

## How to open the saved melody files ?

Diagrams	Descriptions & References
 <p>Figure 13: Selecting the default "melody" folder from the combo box.</p>  <p>Figure 14: Left click the file to load the saved melody notes to notes listbox.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. When the Tone Studio software is first time running, it will create a default folder and listed under the combo box as shown on Figure 14.</li> <li>21. Click on the combo box and select the listed folder path. In this case, it is "C:\ToneStudio\melody".</li> <li>22. This will auto list all available melody files found on that folder to the listbox as shown on Figure 14.</li> <li>23. To open the saved melody file, in this case where the melody files are:  The Twilight Zone.mex.h  The Twilight Zone Arduino.mex.h</li> <li>24. Left click on the "The Twilight Zone Arduino.mex.h", it will open and load the saved contents into the notes listbox as shown on Figure 15.</li> </ol>

## How to delete or remove unwanted melody files ?

Diagrams	Descriptions & References
 <p>Figure 15: Confirmation dialog to delete a melody file.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25. To remove unwanted melody file, right click on the target file listed on the melody file listbox.</li> <li>26. This will pop up the confirmation dialog to delete the file permanently such as Figure 16.</li> </ol>

## The Tone Property ( Duration ) control panel

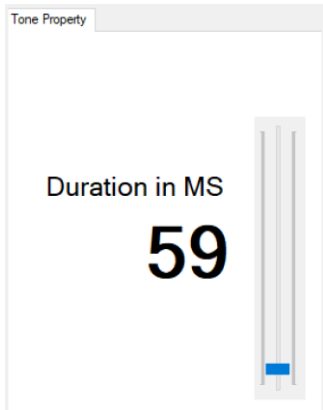
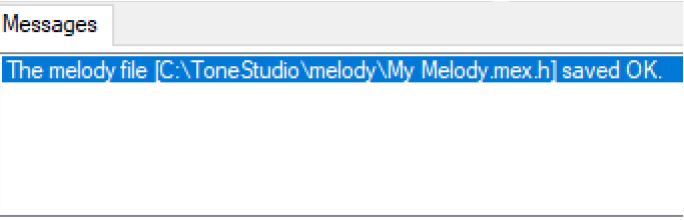
Diagrams	Descriptions & References
 <p>The screenshot shows a window titled 'Tone Property'. Inside, the text 'Duration in MS' is displayed above a large number '59'. To the right of the number is a vertical slider control with a blue bar at the bottom, indicating the current duration value.</p>	<p>27. As explained earlier, the tone duration tracker provides two functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adjusting the selected note from the notes listbox.</li><li>• Adjusting the selected chord button to preview before adding to the notes listbox for melody composing purpose.</li></ul>

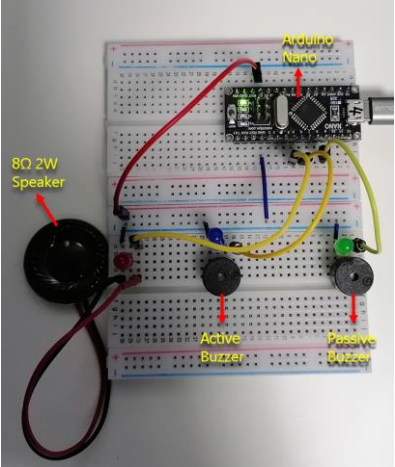
Figure 16: The Tone Property or Note Duration adjust panel.

## The Messages Display Panel

Diagrams	Descriptions & References
 <p>Figure 17: The Message Display Panel.</p>	<p>28. The messages display panel is to display the Tone Studio software internal process result as shown on the Figure ? where the new file "My Melody" is saved as "My Melody.mex.h" in this case.</p> <p>29. DONE.</p>

## Programming Guidelines

### How to compile Tone Studio generated melody header ?

Tone Studio C/C++ melody header demo source - tone.ino	Descriptions & References
<pre> #include "pitch.h" #include "The Twillight Zone.mex.h"  #define melody The_Twillight_Zone  const int max = sizeof( melody ) / sizeof( _MELODYEX ); int n {}; char buf[100]{};  void setup() { }  const int speaker = 5; const int active_buzzer = 6; const int passive_buzzer = 9; int pin {}; int cnt{}; int spk {-1};  void loop() {     unsigned int frequency {};     unsigned long duration {};      if( spk + 1 &lt; 3 )         spk++;     else         spk = 0;      switch( spk )     {         case 0: // 8 ohm speaker             pin = speaker;             break;          case 1: // active buzzer             pin = active_buzzer;             break;          case 2:             pin = passive_buzzer;     }      for( n=0; n&lt;max; n++ )     {         frequency = (unsigned int)melody[n].frequency;         duration = (unsigned long)melody[n].duration;          tone( pin, frequency );         delay( duration );         noTone( pin );     }      delay( 3000 ); } </pre>	<p>The Tone Studio software sample source code tone.ino is available at <a href="#">GitHub</a>.</p> <p>Here, we use Arduino IDE to compile with the melody header such as:</p> <p><b>The Twillight Zone.mex.h</b></p> <p>Source code on the left is the simplified version for easy understanding.</p> <p>The function is to playback the tone melody "The_Twillight_Zone" through out the Arduino Nano pin 5,6,9 from the flowing sequence repeatedly:</p> <p>8Ω 2W speaker -&gt; Active Buzzer -&gt; Passive Buzzer</p>  <p>Figure 18: The Tone Studio Arduino tone project.</p> <p>The file "pitch.h" contains the followings:</p> <pre> typedef struct {     float frequency;     int duration; } _MELODY;  typedef struct {     char chord[5];     float frequency;     int duration; } _MELODYEX; </pre> <p>To save memory without chord string, you may use _MELODY but for display or debug purpose, we use _MELODYEX to show the chord string.</p> <p>Thus, "The Twillight Zone.mex.h" was adopted in this section.</p>