

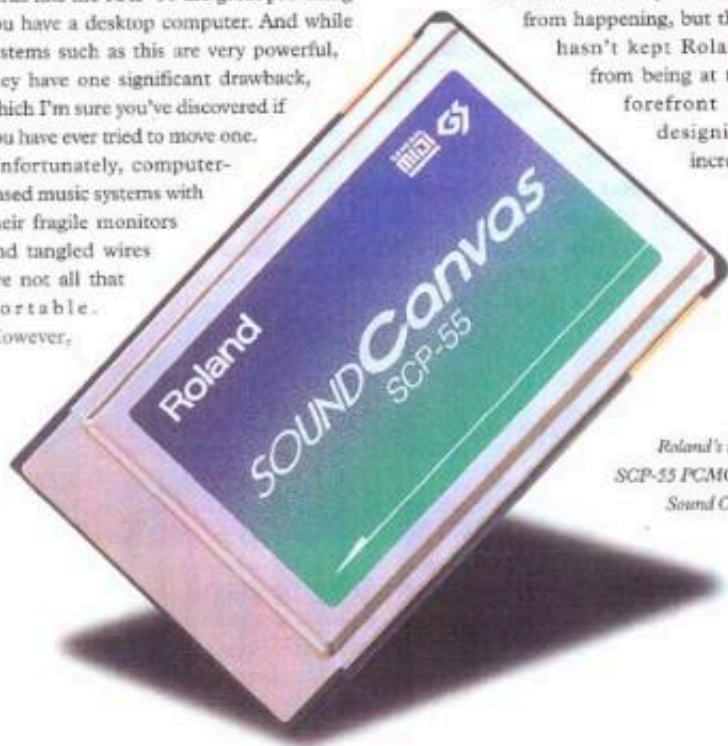
# Roland's New SCP-55: A "Small" Step Into The Future

by Kurt Heiden

Sound cards for computers come in many different shapes and sizes. By far the most common are those such as the Roland Audio Production Card (RAP-10) that fit into desktop computers. Sound cards like the RAP-10 are great providing you have a desktop computer. And while systems such as this are very powerful, they have one significant drawback, which I'm sure you've discovered if you have ever tried to move one. Unfortunately, computer-based music systems with their fragile monitors and tangled wires are not all that portable. However,

computer-based music systems have just taken a giant leap—towards portability.

Years of computer evolution have finally given us the notebook computer. In fact, people are purchasing notebook computers in such growing numbers that sales of notebook PCs could eventually outpace even that of desktop systems! Of course, that scenario is a few years away from happening, but that hasn't kept Roland from being at the forefront of designing incred-



Roland's new  
SCP-55 PCMCIA  
Sound Card

ible sounds for these tiny computers. Roland engineers knew there had to be a way to fit the awesome capabilities of a synthesizer into a compact format suitable for light and portable notebooks.

Roland's Desk Top Media Production (DTMP) division has been known for many "firsts" in the industry. The MPU-401 took the computer world by storm in 1984 as the first standard for computer/MIDI interfaces. Three years later, the MT-32 and LAPC-1 sound card became the most sought-after sound add-on products available for a computer. This was primarily due to their use of LA synthesis, the same technology that powered the classic D-50 synthesizer. In 1993 the RAP-10 broke new ground by being the only sound card that could simultaneously apply reverb and chorus DSP effects to both digital audio and MIDI. Today, Roland is again breaking new ground and leading the industry with the introduction of the SCP-55, the world's first wavetable sound card designed specifically for notebook computers!

**The incredible expanding notebook.** Notebook computers have been using PCMCIA cards for a few years now. PCMCIA stands for Personal Computer Memory Card International Association. This is a committee that determines the details of how these cards must interface with their notebook computer counterparts. There is a move underway to change the description of these cards from PCMCIA Card to "PC-CARD." However, use of that name hasn't completely caught on yet. Most PCMCIA Cards are either modems, network adapters, SCSI interfaces or CD-ROM adapters. Only recently have sound cards been made available in this credit card sized format.

Unfortunately for most notebook computer users, current PCMCIA Card technology is insufficient for their needs. The only type of MIDI synthesis available on PCMCIA Cards until now has been FM synthesis with its limited sonic quality. In fact, some of these cards don't even have a synthesizer, instead using only lower-quality digital audio for their output. Roland has taken sound cards into the future with the first wavetable PCMCIA sound card ever released. Made possible through Roland's R&D experience and RS-PCM Articulated-Wave technology the SCP-55 has arrived.



With a notebook computer, a pair of speakers and a multimedia program the SCP-55 transforms your computer into a presentation and musical powerhouse—one that you can carry around with you!

It has been said many times that great things come in small packages. Roland has again validated this statement with the SCP-55. This breakthrough device is a full-featured General MIDI/GS Sound Canvas synthesizer with two tracks of CD-quality digital audio recording and playback. And Roland didn't just stop there. This is also the first Sound Canvas ever made that can fit in your shirt pocket!

For years the Sound Canvas family has provided "all-in-one" solutions that fit neatly into your audio rack. Synthesizers like the SC-55mkII incorporate many musical elements that musicians need into a single

drive recording. When combined with a program like Band-in-a-Box and a PC-200mkII keyboard you might want to consider giving your roadies some time off!

**Multimedia applications.** Creating a portable music studio is one, but not the only advantage of the SCP-55. In fact, the SCP-55 is just as much at home in a board-



The SCP-55 plugs directly into the PCMCIA slot of a notebook computer.



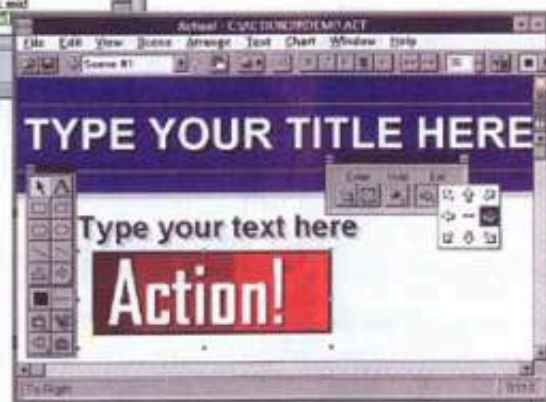
EasyJuke 2 Software (above) and Macromedia's Action! 3.0 (right) provide music and presentation options for the SCP-55 and a notebook computer.

instrument. Previous consolidation put reverb, chorus, delay and hundreds of instrument sounds into a half-rack unit. Now imagine having an audio "rack" on a card that fits in your notebook computer! All you need is right there in your notebook carrying case. If your notebook PC is an IBM-compatible 486/33 (or higher), runs Windows 3.1 and has at least 4 Mbytes of RAM (8 Mbytes recommended) with the SCP-55 you are ready to go. This card gives you 354 professional sounds, nine drum kits, eight reverb types, eight chorus types, 16-part multitimbral capability and 28-voice polyphony. Oh yes, sounds can be fully edited. In addition, the optional MCB-3 MIDI Connector Box provides you with 16-bit, 44.1kHz, stereo direct-to-disk hard

room presenting business proposals with incredible impact. To facilitate this Roland includes Macromedia's Action! 3.0 free with the SCP-55 in some packages. Action! allows you to go from an idea to a full blown presentation with sound, music, ani-

highly acclaimed software allows non-musicians to make music in seconds. All you do to make music is point a mouse and click. You can even save your creation in Standard MIDI File (SMF) format for use in Action! 3.0 or your favorite MIDI sequencer. The SCP-55 comes with 68 SMF songs and Easy Juke 2, the Roland MIDI file player and jukebox. Easy Juke 2 allows you to load dozens of MIDI files and save them as "albums" for easy loading later.

If you have an IBM compatible notebook computer and have been waiting for a way to take your music on the road, make an impressive presentation or even if you're just getting into music, the SCP-55 is the ultimate sound card. All the power and performance that you expect from the Sound Canvas synthesizer along with two tracks of digital audio is now available in a compact, pocket sized, PCMCIA Card for your notebook computer. This breakthrough in notebook sound cards is one incredible Sound Canvas that you must see, hear and hold to believe!



matation and more in just minutes! The SCP-55 and Action! 3.0 provide you with unheard of presentation quality and a surprisingly short learning curve. A \$199.00 value, Action! is an incredible addition to the SCP-55 package.

Those who don't currently own a PC-200mkII or other MIDI keyboard will be pleased to know that you can still make great music with the SCP-55. In addition to Action! 3.0, you get DoReMiX. This

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