

I modified the original MQ11 VZ-1 Template for much better handling and functionality. The basics were done (patch and bank-structure etc.), but there were many bugs and annoying issues in detail, especially in the patch editor.

What i did:

- Added a more sophisticated „matrix“ for module/line/mode selection with graphical visualization of the signal flow, with ON/Off and SOLO buttons for modules, better module selection and more
- fixed a lot of controls that were inverted (i.e. the master level was max. at 0 and min at 127, and many more)
- fixed the range and resolution for a lot of parameters that use the 0..99 range instead of 0..127 (using maps) - now the editor values are the same as shown on the VZ-display
- automatic setting of note-ranges for the Key Follow parameters - they should not overlap, because in some cases the VZ rejects such sysex-data.
- changed the overall design, arranged all parameters in a more logical way, replaced envelope-knobs with numeric controls, added a visualization for LFO wave forms.. and a lot more
- added horizontal sliders for setting the envelope end steps
- added initialization macros for more reliable switching of play-modes
- added a „Voice Init“ button - be careful, it sets all values to defaults
- added dedicated buttons for activating the current play mode in the respective editor panels (normal, operation, multi - if this does not happen automatically, which it normally should do)
- changed a lot of parameter names, which were strange or simply wrong (i.e Pos X-Fade instead of „effect“ and many more)
- added a script to automatically set the modules pitch range and direction depending on the setting of „Fix Pitch“
- changed the overall layout and some parameter names in the Operation and Multi panels (see screenshots below)

Everything seems to work so far.

The VZ-synths are not able to receive dump request messages.

There fore you have to send the sysex data manually from the VZ before working with banks and patches etc., and sysex transfers must be enable in the VZ (menu 3 - this has to be done every time the VZ is powered on, because it will be turned off after powering off).

You have to send individual dumps for VOICE and OPMEM, the combined dump VC+OP does not work for some reason.

A single patch is transferred by activating a patch memory on the VZ, or by pressing „compare/recall“ twice to send the patch edit buffer.

The current multi is sent by pressing „multi“.

You should know, that the VZ-1 does not receive sysex data while a menu is active, it has to be set to „play“ (for all the 3 main play modes Op, Multi and Normal).

Sometimes the VZ shows „Buffer Full“, but seems to work nevertheless. Maybe this can be avoided by setting higher delay times between midi transfers.

In rare cases i had the problem, that script driven parameters did not react anymore (+/- pitch, pitch range narrow), in this case a complete restart of Midi Quest helped.

Installation:

first you have to install the instrument form the original VZ1 *.sqz file - then place all the files from MQVZNEW.zip here:

on Mac:

/Users/„username“/Library/Application Support/Sound Quest/MidiQuestPro/Instruments/
overwriting the existing files.

on Windows:

C:\Users\“username”\AppData\Roaming\Sound Quest\MidiQuestPro\v11\Instruments

(it's hidden by default, i used the tool „everything“ to locate it)

„Casio VZ-1.ini“ has to be at /instruments/ while all the other stuff goes to /instruments/VZ1/.

I created the whole thing on a Mac and did not do much testing in Windows, but it seems to work there too.

If the editor opens a too small sized window to show the complete panel, take a look at Casio VZ-1.ini (see path above) - there should be the entry:

PluginWidth=1300

PluginHeight=600

Don't try to change the order of the Set-entries in the studio (multi, patch etc..), this caused the whole software to crash every time after starting - i did this by accident, and i could only fix it by restoring the file

„/Users/„username“/Documents/Sound Quest/MidiQuestPro/MQ11.SQ9“
from a backup.

I'll leave the byte#21 in the *.sqt files set to zero, that means, that the panels will be user editable. But I don't recommend doing this, unless you know exactly what you are doing. You can completely destroy everything with a few wrong clicks. MQ panel editing is not very intuitive and really sometimes quirky. If you input wrong syntax in a script, it can happen, that the whole software crashes instantly - without a warning (like a DAW that crashes after playing a wrong note, or a word processor that quits after typing a wrong letter...:-))

It took me some nights to find out, what works and what not. I don't know if i wrote good code, but the result works for me - at least better than before.

So - be careful.

Fortunately all the complicated basic stuff was already done by the Soundquest team, so i did not have to work from scratch, that would have been nearly impossible for me.

I hope someone will find my overworked version of the VZ-editor useful.

It seems to be the only complete working solution for this Casio synths at the moment, everything else seems to be not working, buggy or incomplete.

Sound Diver was a great software, and i still have it, but the VZ-1 SD-module has some weird bugs and is not user editable at all. An SD adaption can not be written for the VZ because the universal module does not support the Casio VZs checksum.

Maybe this could be possible in „ctrlr“, i don't know, but at the moment there is no ctrlr layout for the Casio VZ-1.

Some recommended Preferences that i'm using, the first one is really important for the VZ-1:

/patch/Smart Controller -1 (off) - absolutely necessary, because the VZ-1 always sends some CC#messages after receiving sysex - this will cause trouble, if the editor is reacting to it

/patch/Knob Mouse Editing Std Mouse Editing - recommended

/patch/Std Mouse Editing - Up Down Drag - recommended

/patch/Store Bitmaps - ON

/patch/Show selected Control - ON

/bank/Update Patch on Activate - ON

/bank/Audition - Enable and set to SysX / patch Change Only

/studio/AutoSense - OFF, does not work for Casio VZ

/studio/Receive manual bulk dumps... ON

/studio/Auto Define Patches and Banks - ON

/studio/New Set Elements - Auto Load of Temporary and Single Elements - ON

/midi/Thru - OFF

(depends on your setup - but try to avoid midi loops)

If you find errors or bugs, you can report it (Casio VZ CZ Yahoo group) and i will try to fix it - if possible.

