



ESI-Win

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1. Forward

ESI-Win is a program that is used for moving samples and banks back and forth between the ESI series of samplers and a Windows based computer. ESI-Win can also be used to create CD images of banks for later burning and use on the ESI series of samplers.

ESI-Win can do many things that other software can not. For instance Wave Surgeon, Sound Forge, or ReCycle can be used to transfer samples just as fine but none of them can transfer entire banks like ESI-Win.

If you are still unsure of what ESI-Win is, or if it is right for you, please visit the SimplyData company web page for a more in depth explanation of what the program can and cannot do. The web page for SimplyData is located at <http://www.simplydata.co.uk>.

This document covers the Windows 9x series of operating systems. Later operating systems such as Windows 2000 and Windows XP should work quite similarly, however most issues that have arisen under these higher operating systems can be easily fixed by installing new ASPI drivers available from Adaptec. Please refer to the reference section for their web address. This will fix most of the problems of the program not running and the ESI sampler not being seen by these operating systems.

2. Hardware Hookup

This chapter explains how to connect your ESI series sampler and your Windows based computer via SCSI cables. It will also briefly cover the installation of the Windows driver for the sampler.

Although hooking up the ESI series of samplers may seem like a simple task to some, it can sometimes become more complicated than expected. Hardware hookups are rather straight forward if you have experience but everyone needs to start somewhere.

Before you start

Before you hook up your sampler for the first time please download the file titled “EmuInf” from the SimplyData web page located at <http://www.simplydata.co.uk>. The first time that your computer sees the ESI sampler it will want to add the new hardware to its list of devices that it understands. The “README.TXT” file contained in this downloaded file explains the procedure that will need to be carried out after your computer sees the sampler for the first time.

Cabling

First you need to make sure that you have the proper cables to hook up the SCSI card in your computer and the ESI sampler. If you do not have a SCSI card or are unsure, call your computer dealer or manufacturer and ask. If you do not have one yet they are relatively inexpensive and can be put in at any local computer center. The cable you will need will come from the SCSI card on the back of your computer (please check your computers documentation for the style of connector) to the back of the ESI sampler. The ESI series of samplers use a 50pin Centronics type SCSI connector. These cables should be readily available to you at any local computer store.

Connections

Second, using your SCSI cable you will need to connect your computer to the ESI sampler. With the computer and the ESI sampler turned off connect the cable between the SCSI card in your computer and the ESI sampler. If you have any external SCSI hard drives or SCSI CD-Rom drives these should be located between the computer and the ESI sampler as shown in figure 2.1.

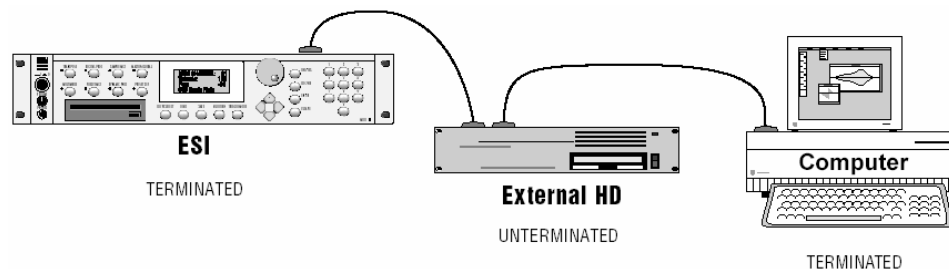


Figure 2.1 : Basic SCSI Layout

System Booting

When all of the cables are secure, turn on the hardware and boot the computer. Many people have their own ideas of what order hardware should be powered on and many ways work. Play around and figure out what is best for you. One popular method is to leave everything powered off and power on the computer first. When the computer has booted and you are looking at the Windows desktop right click the “My Computer” icon and choose “Properties” from the menu that appears. Then turn on all the external drives and then lastly the ESI sampler. When the ESI sampler has finished detecting drives and is ready to be used click on the tab called “Device Manager” and then the button titled “Refresh”. This causes Windows to look for and find all the external SCSI hardware including the ESI sampler and add it to its list of known attached hardware.

3. Software Installation

Installation of the ESI-Win program is very straight forward if you are familiar with installing programs on Windows based computers. Most people will not experience any problems if they allow the installer to use its default settings and merely click Next and Yes through the installation program.

Installation

For those less experienced with installing software on a Windows computer the following is a step by step breakdown of the process.

- 1) Download the ESI-Win program from the SimplyData web page located at <http://www.simplydata.co.uk>
- 2) Uncompress the downloaded file and run the SETUP.EXE file contained within.
- 3) Click Next on the Welcome screen
- 4) Click Yes on the Software License Agreement screen
- 5) Enter your user information and click Next
(Note: you must enter at least a single character into the company field)
- 6) Choose where the program should be installed and click Next
- 7) Choose your setup type and click next
(Note: as of the time this document was completed, there was only one choice of installation type)
- 8) On the Select Program Folder screen choose where you would like the program to show up in your start menu and click next.
- 9) Click Next on the Setup Complete screen.

Running

You now have the program installed. To run it just choose it from the location in the start menu chosen in step 8 above.

4. Getting around the program

Explanation of layout

There are two windows to the ESI-Win program as shown in figure 4.1. The window on the left allows navigation and shows the existence of your SCSI disks, CD image files, floppy drives, and samplers. The right window houses the information about your patches and samples. The left window looks and functions much like the windows explorer program while the right displays the name, ID number, and size of the patches or samples that exist in the location highlighted (left clicked on) in the left window.

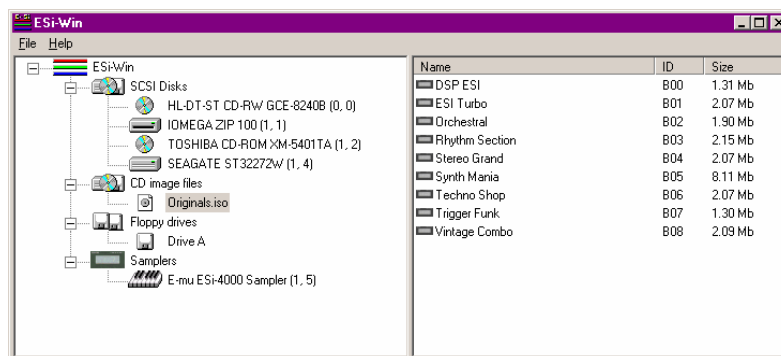


Figure 4.1 : Main Program Screen

Navigation and menus

ESI-Win uses standard menus to allow navigation through basic task choices. Each menu item has its own task and purpose. The remainder of this section will explain in brief what these menu options are and the task that they are used for.

Left Side Window Menu

When you right click on item in the left side window of the program you will be given a menu of options to choose from. Listed below are the functions and their descriptions for this menu.

- 1) Refresh
Rescans that drive, disk, or image to get and display the current list of banks and information in the right side window
- 2) Add
Allows you to add an already created ISO CD image to the program listing for modifying or to create a new ISO CD image to add banks to for burning purposes.
- 3) Remove
Allows you to unmount an ISO CD image
- 4) Import Bank
Allows you to send an bank file to the disk which will then be loadable by the sampler
- 5) Import Empty Bank
Allows you to insert an empty bank onto the disk for later modification
- 6) Properties
Currently unused

Left Side Menu Exceptions

There are two special cases where the menu described above will differ. These situations happen when you right click on the floppy drive and when you right click on the sampler. When you click on the floppy drive you are only given the option of “Import Wav to ESI floppy” This menu item allows you to send a single wav file to a floppy disk to be transported to the ESI series sampler.

The other special case happens when you right click on the icon that depicts your sampler. This menu will allow you only two options: “Refresh” which acts just as above, and “Transmit Sample” which allows you to send a sample to the ESI sampler via a SCSI connection and map it to the keyboard.

Right Side Menu (On Bank)

If you right click on a bank in the right side window you are given the following menu choices.

- 1) Export
Backs up a bank
- 2) Delete
Deletes the bank (no conformation required so be careful)
- 3) Rename
Renames a bank
- 4) Renumber
Change the ID number of the bank
- 5) Properties
Gives same information as the right side window about banks.

Right Side Menu (On Sample)

When you right click on a sample in the right window you are given a slightly different menu than if you click on a bank. The following is a description of these menu options and their functions.

- 1) Delete
Deletes the sample (no conformation required so be careful)
- 2) Receive Sample
Sends the sample to your computer for editing or archival purposes.
- 3) Properties
Gives same information as the right side window about banks with the addition of the number of channels and length of the sample.

5. Backing up a bank

Creating backups of one of the main uses of ESI-Win. It also happens to be one of the simplest of tasks to complete with the program.

By first left clicking on a drive in the left side window and then right clicking on the bank you would like to back up, the program will bring up a menu. On this menu choose “Export...” This selection will bring up the a display resembling figure 5.1.

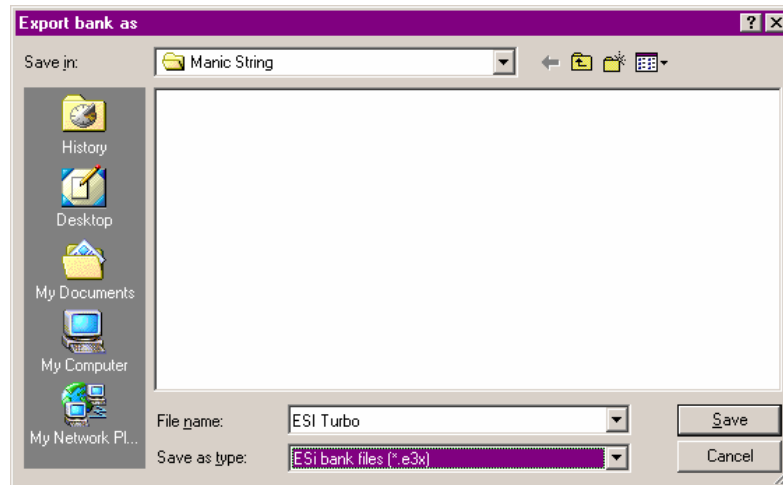


Figure 5.1 : Exporting A Bank

On this display you may choose the location to save the backup file to by using the icons on the left side or the pull down menu near the top. To change the name of the file simply type it into the box titled “File name” and click the save button. You will be informed of the progress of this procedure by a status window much like the one shown in figure 5.2.

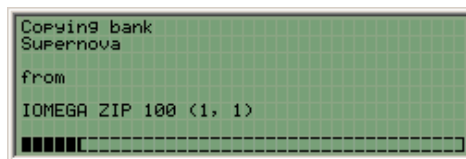


Figure 5.2 : Export Status Update

6. Restoring a bank

Restoring a bank from a backup file is almost just as simple as creating the backup.

By right clicking on the drive you wish to send the restored bank to and choosing the “Import Bank...” option from the menu that appears you will be shown a display resembling figure 6.1.

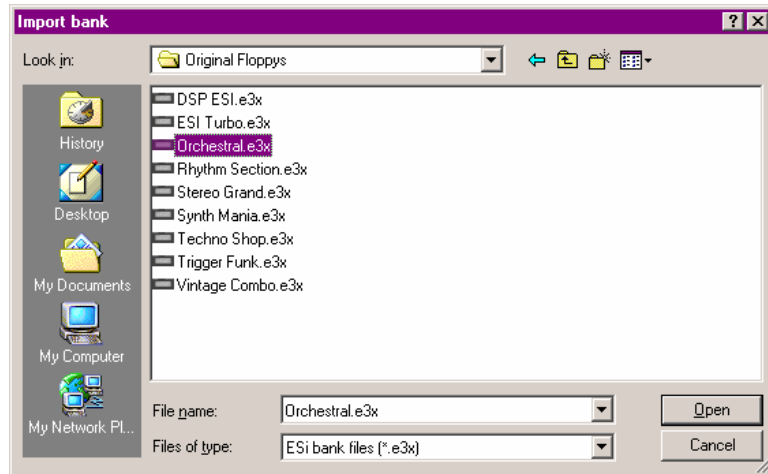


Figure 6.1 : Importing A Bank

In this display simply use the icons on the left side or the pull down menu near the top of the screen to choose the location of the file to restore. Then click on the file from the middle window that you wish to restore and click the “Open” button. ESI-Win will then send that bank to the disk you chose. You will be updated on the progress of this transfer by a status update window much like the one shown in figure 6.2.

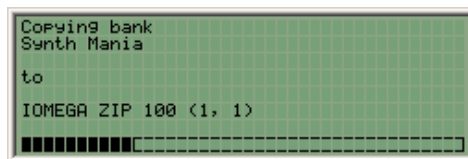


Figure 6.2 : Import Status Update

7. Bank Modification

There are four basic actions that can be taken with banks using ESI-Win other than copying. These actions include creation, deletion, renaming, and renumbering. These four actions are simple to carry out by using the following methods.

Creation

Creation of a new bank is a quick and painless procedure. Simply right click on the drive that you wish to add the new bank to and choose “Import Empty Bank” from the menu that appears. This will place a new bank on the selected drive titled “EMPTY BANK”. You may now modify this bank and add or remove samples from it.

Deletion

To delete a bank, right click on the bank you no longer want and choose “Delete” from the menu that appears. Be sure to note that there is no conformation made before it deletes the bank so you must be careful not to accidentally delete the wrong bank.

Renaming

Sometimes you may wish to rename a bank, such as when you create a new bank using ESI-Win and do not want to leave it titled “EMPTY BANK”. In this situation right click on the bank that you wish to rename and choose “Rename...” from the menu that will appear. This action will bring up a window, shown in figure 7.1, where you may type in the new name over the old name and click “OK” to rename the bank.

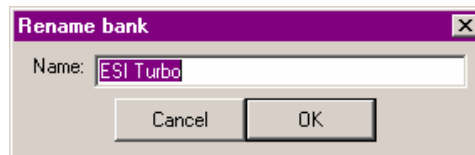


Figure 7.1 : Bank Renaming

Renumbering

Renumbering a bank may come in useful if you wish to reorder or reorganize after creating or deleting new banks. To renumber a bank, right click on the bank that you wish to move and choose “Renumber...” from the menu. In the window that resembles figure 7.2 that will appear, use the pull down menu to choose the new location and click “OK” to complete the process.

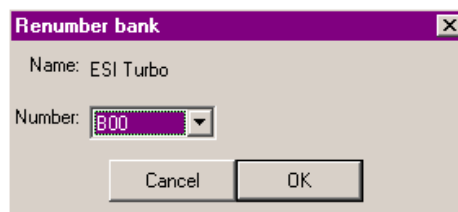


Figure 7.2 : Bank Renumbering

8. Sample transfer via SCSI

Transferring a sample via SCSI allows you to take standard WAV format files and import them into your ESI series sampler.

How it works

This process works by loading the sample into the bank your ESI sampler currently has in its memory so it may be a good idea to first create an empty bank as described in section seven of this document.

The process

First you will want to use your ESI sampler to load the bank that you wish to import samples to. This must be done using the ESI sampler itself and cannot be done using the ESI-Win program.

Second you will need to right click on the icon that represents your sampler at the bottom of the left side window of the main ESI-Win program. From the menu that appears choose “Transmit Sample...” When you make this menu selection a window resembling that of figure 8.1 should be displayed. In this window you can use the pull down boxes to choose the sample number from S000 to S999, the original key of the sample, and the key range to which the sample should be mapped. If you do not wish to map the sample to any area of the keyboard as of yet just choose the “Don’t place sample” option.

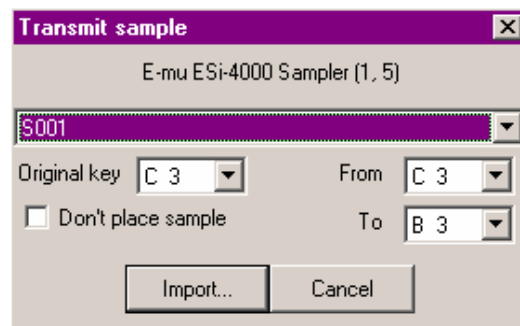


Figure 8.1 : Sample Transmit Settings

When you have modified all the default settings to meet your needs simply click on “Import...” and ESI-Win will prompt you for the location of the WAV format sample with a display much like the one shown in figure 8.2.

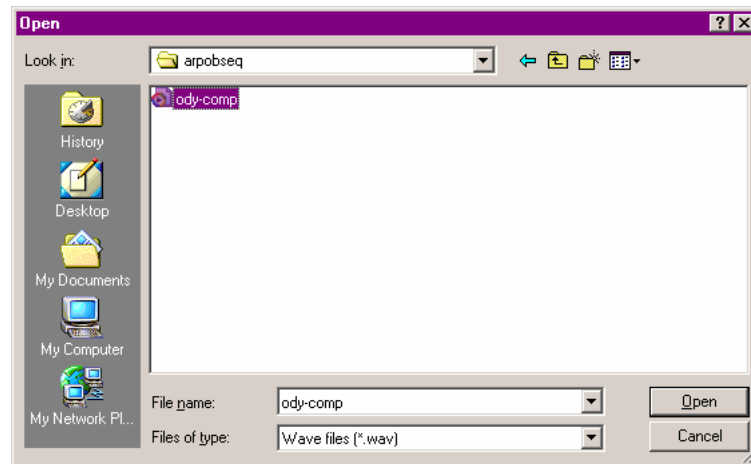


Figure 8.2 : Importing A Sample

In this display you may use the icons on the left or the pull down menu located at the top of the display to choose the location of your WAV file. Once you have found the file you wish to transfer simply click on the file and then click the “Open” button. ESI-Win will then transfer the file to the ESI sampler and refresh the right side window to display the listing of the samples currently in your ESI samplers memory.

Make sure to save

Since the samples were transferred into your ESI samplers memory and have not yet been permanently saved you will want to make sure to tell your ESI sampler to save the bank when you are finished sending samples to it.

9. Sample Transfer Via Floppy Disk

Transferring samples to your ESI sampler via floppy disk is one of the more tedious actions that you can do with ESI-Win. It is however a necessary feature for some people who either do not have a SCSI card in their computer or have the ESI-32 model without the SCSI option.

Why this is a slow process

The reason that transferring many samples to your ESI via floppy disk and ESI-Win is so tedious is that you can only put one sample per floppy. This sample must then be loaded into the ESI sampler and the process repeated. Then later you can merge all the single samples together as needed.

Making the floppy

The first step to transferring a sample to the ESI sampler via floppy is to find a blank floppy and insert it into your computers floppy drive. Note that any information on the disk will be lost if used for this process.

Second right click in the left side window on the floppy drive icon where your disk is located. From the menu that will appear choose “Import WAV to ESI floppy...” This should bring up a display similar to figure 9.1.

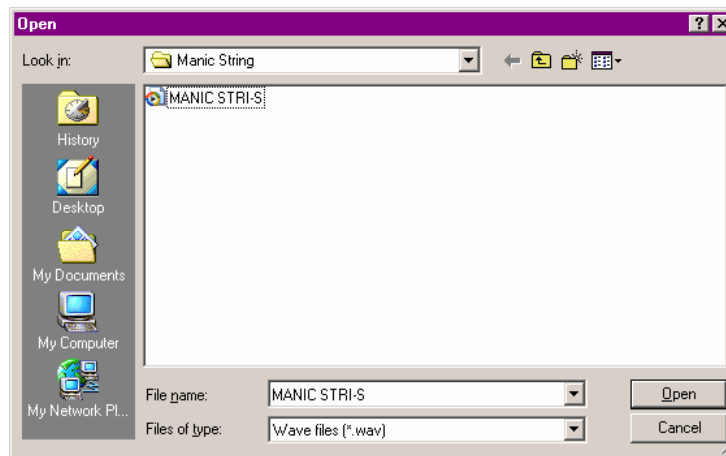


Figure 9.1 : Importing A Sample To Floppy Disk

Using the icons on the left side or the pull down menu on the top, choose the location of the WAV file that you would like to transfer to your floppy. Once you are in the proper location click on the name of the sample you want to transfer and click the “Open” button. ESI-Win will respond with a display, much like figure 9.2, informing you of how many floppy disks will be needed to transfer the sample. Some large WAV files may take multiple disks.

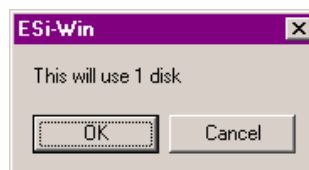


Figure 9.2 : Number Of Disks Needed

When you click “OK” to continue with the transfer ESI-Win will respond by prompting you to insert the first disk and click “OK” such as in figure 9.3. This display will reappear for each disk that ESI-Win needs to transfer the sample.

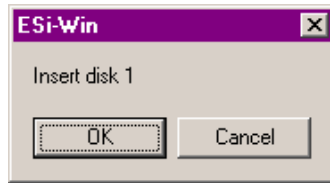


Figure 9.3 : Disk Insertion Prompt

Throughout the process of transferring the sample to the floppy ESI-Win will keep you informed of its status with a display that resembles figure 9.4.

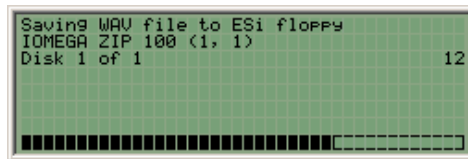


Figure 9.4 : Sample Transfer Status Update

When the displays disappear you are ready to use the floppies in your ESI sampler and load the new sample.

10. Creation of a CD Image

Probably the second greatest reason, just short of making backups, that people use ESI-Win is to create ISO standard CD images that can later be burned and accessed by the ESI sampler. The process for creating such an image file is as follows.

Choosing to open or create

The first step is to right click on the “CD Image Files” icon in the left window of the ESI-Win program. This will bring up a menu of options from which you want to choose “Add...” Choosing this option will bring up a prompting window shown in figure 10.1. From this window you have the choice of creating and opening a new ISO image by clicking “Create...” or you may open an already created ISO image to modify or retrieve data from by clicking on “Add...” The option paths are described below.

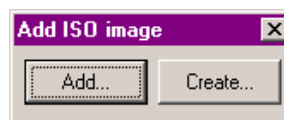


Figure 10.1 : CD Image Choice Prompt

Creation of a new ISO image file

By choosing to create a ISO image file you will be prompted with a display resembling that of figure 10.2. On this display you can use the icons located on the left side or the pull down menu at the top to choose a location where the image file will be saved. Using the “File Name” box at the bottom you may title the image file to make it distinguishable by you. After you have chosen the location and name simply click on the save button to create the ISO image file. ESI-Win will automatically open the newly created file for use. The image file will now be treated just as any other drive in the program and all normal actions can be done to it.

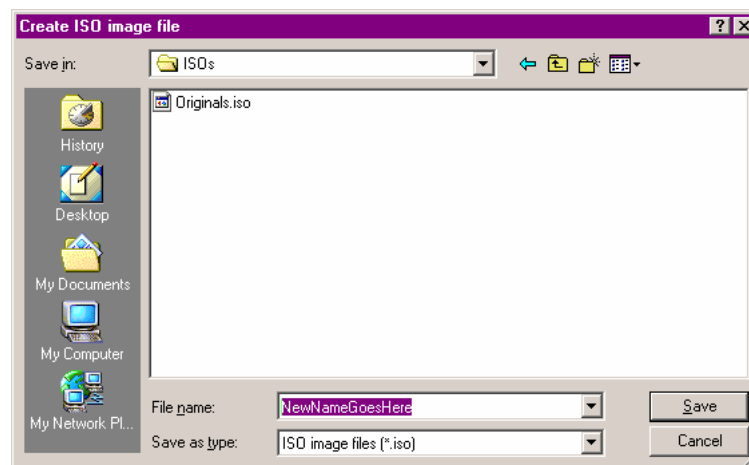


Figure 10.2 : Creation Of An ISO Image

Opening an existing ISO image file

You may have need to open a previously created ISO image file instead of creating a new one. You may wish to add or remove banks, modify banks within the image, or even export banks from the image to another disk. By choosing the add option you will be given a display such as the one shown in figure 10.3. In this display simply use the icons on the left side or the pull down menu near the top of the screen to choose the location of the image file to open. Then click on the image file from the middle window and click the “Open” button. The image file will now be treated just as any other drive in the program and all normal actions can be done to it.

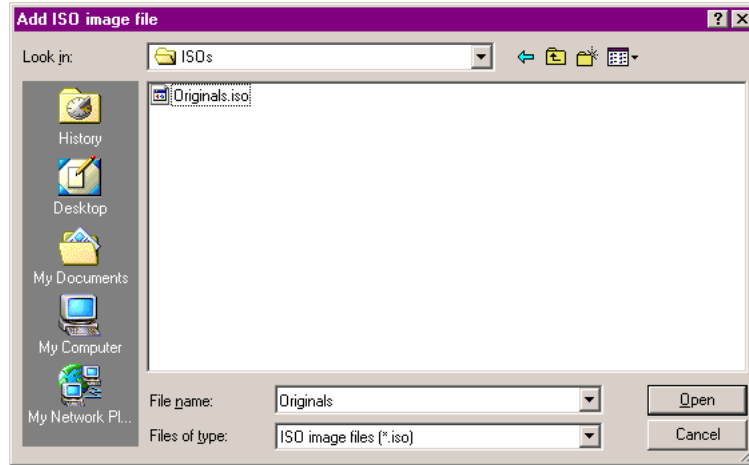


Figure 10.3 : Opening Of An ISO Image

Physical CD Creation

Once you have created an image file and populated it with samples all you have to do to create a ESI compatible CD is open it with your favorite CD burning software and create the physical disk. The file is ISO standardized and hence compatible with any major CD burning software package. Please refer to the documentation accompanying your burning software package for specific instructions on burning a CD from an image file.

11. Resources

Adaptec

<http://www.adaptec.com>

A developer and manufacturer of many SCSI hardware and software products. If you need to install the latest ASPI drivers you can find them in the 'support' section under 'downloads' on their web page.

E-MU Systems

<http://www.emu.com>

The manufacturer of the ESI series of samplers. Although they cannot help with the ESI-Win program they are an invaluable resource for information pertaining to the ESI sampler hardware should a problem arise.

If you need technical assistance, or have a hardware related technical question, please send e-mail to music-support@emu.com or call 610.948.8060

SimplyData

<http://www.simplydata.co.uk>

The creators and maintainers of the ESI-Win program itself. The web pages available give a great deal of information and are a great help. This is the best place to go to get the latest version of the program.

Yahoo ESI Newsgroup

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EMU-ESI32_and_4000/

As the support newsgroup for the ESI series of samplers, there is a great deal of useful information on both the hardware, ESI-Win software, and related issues here. This is also a great place to get quick answers to all your questions.