Windmill

Desktop App

User Manuel - March 2025

Introduction

When I first developed Brise Controller, I used to program it through Arduino's coding tools, and even if that suited my needs, I quickly realised I had to find a more natural way to use Brise.

This is how I decided to develop the Windmill software, as an easy to use and easy to understand way to benefit of the full capacities of Brise. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun, but despite all my efforts, some bugs might still lie in a shadow corner of this software. All my apologies for those of you who will encounter such annoying situations : report it by emailing me, and I will try to fix it as quickly as possible.

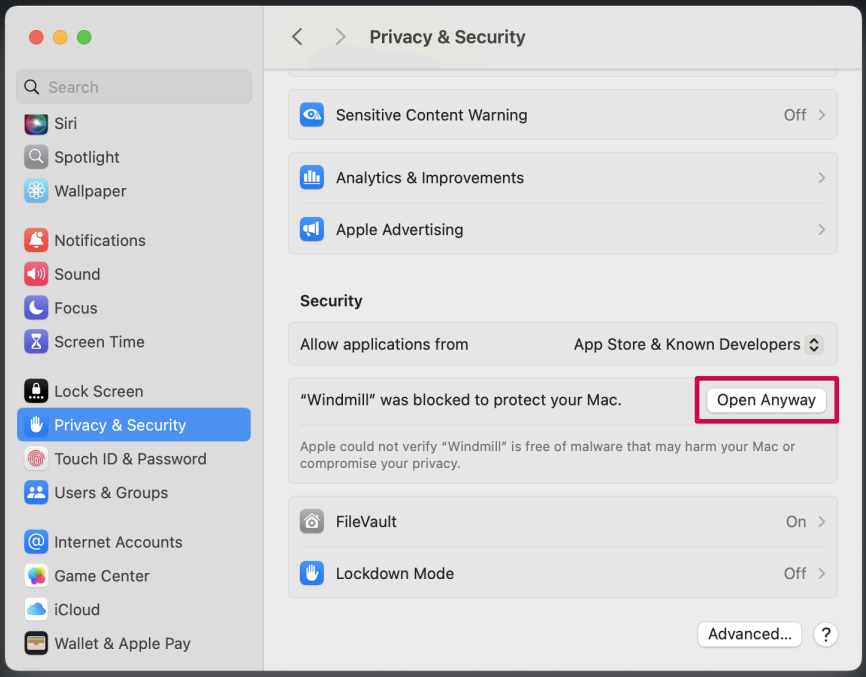
I wish you the best in your musical journey,
Théophile Donato

Disclaimer

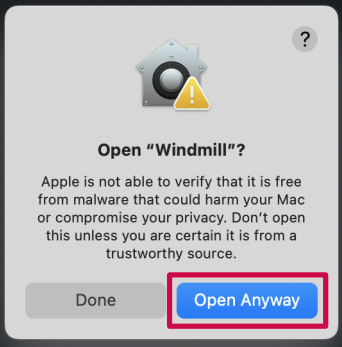
If you are an Apple user, you might have this frightening message when you open Windmill for the first time :

Apple is very strict on unknown softwares, so you have to manually allow your computer to open it. If you don't want to do it, you can (of course) still use Brise and customise your mapping *via* Arduino programming. Go to the last section for more informations.

To allow WINDMILL on your Mac, go to *System Settings - Privacy & Security* and click *Open Anyway.*



You will have to confirm your choice, enter you password, and you are ready to go!



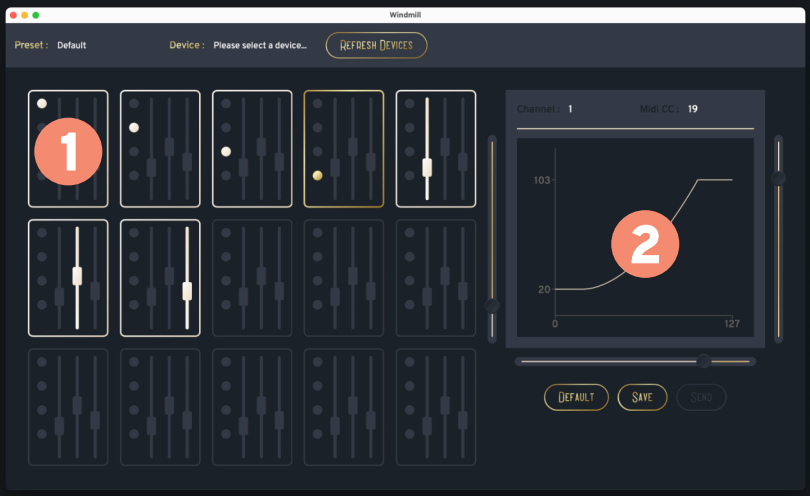
Quick Start

Windmill allows you to craft up to 15 independent midi control, that you will share among the 7 faders and knobs of your Brise controller.

By default, each fader and knob is assigned to a single midi cc, but we will se later how to change that.

When you click on a Brise outline, the display area shows the midi channel and the midi CC in use, as well as the curve of your control (where you begin, finish, and how you go there).

If you want to modify those, adjust the sliders for minimum, maximum and bend, and enter the desired CC or Channel.

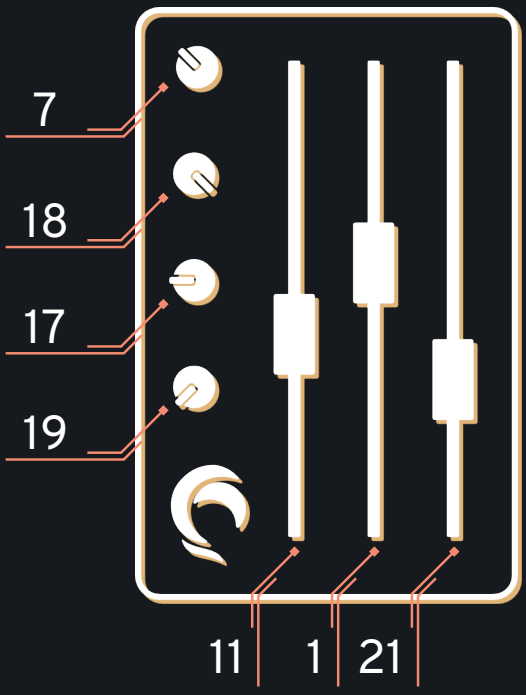


1 : Brise outline. Click on the desired knob/fader to select it
2: Display area

CAUTION : The Channel and CC fields must meet the midi requirements (Channel between 1 and 16, CC between 1 and 127). To avoid errors when sending new parameters to your BRISE, you cannot enter other values. In particular, you cannot totally erase the value (even to type another), and it will be set to 1 by default.

You might prefer to select the value and type a new one rather than trying to erase the previous one.

Here are the defaults midi CC :



All CC are on Channel 1, min = 0, max = 127, no bend

Save Preset

Once you are happy with you midi CC, you can save them for later, share them or just experiment something else without loosing everything. Just hit the Save button, choose a name that doesn't already exist, and it will be done !

If you want to access or delete it, you will find it in the "Select Preset" menu. For now, it is not possible to edit an existing preset. The best solution for this is to load it, make the modifications (delete the old one if you want the same name) and save it again !

Choose a Device

Please press the Refresh Devices button, wait a few seconds, and you should see *Brise-Controller* appearing in the list. Select it !

In some cases, your Brise could have a label issue, and be displayed as Arduino (a micro-controller on which it is based). Don't worry, and select Arduino.

Send Configuration

You have chosen your favourite CC ? It's time to send them to Brise. I love simple things, and this step will be !

Hit the Send button, wait until a success message displays, and that is done.

Do NOT disconnect your Brise while it's loading

If you encounter any issue while sending your settings to Brise, (eg : it takes toooo loooong), please refer to the next section.

Otherwise, I wish you the best with musical composition !

Common Issues

Here are the issues I have heard of, and how to solve them.

First things first. If you encounter any kind of issue, please try to disconnect-reconnect your controller, as well as testing other USB port or cable. It may be as simple as that. If it solves the issue but just for a limited time, let's continue.

Can't Send Code

If Windmill's message "Sending Code..." doesn't end, and no error appears, try to perform an app reload (right-click), and try again in Debug Mode.

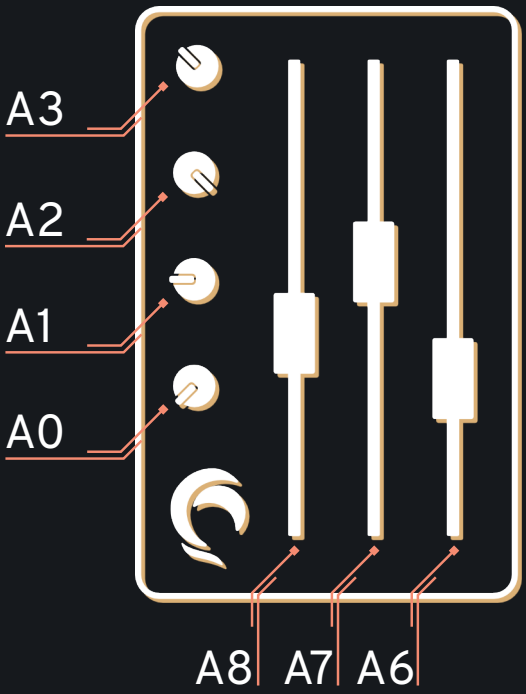
Brise Stops Working

It's good practice to wait a few seconds between plugging your Brise and using it. I realised that using it *while* plugging it could cause freezes.

Arduino IDE

This is NOT something I recommend trying on your own if you don't know what to do

The Brise Controller is based on an Arduino pro micro, so in case of bug in Windmill, you can access your Brise via the Arduino IDE. However, I must warn you that errors in the process could lead to "brick" your Brise (*ie* your computer won't be able to detect it again), and "unbrick" it will be utterly complicated.



CAUTION : When uploading your code through Arduino IDE, take **EXTRA-CARE** to the selected board. Choose *arduino leonardo*, or *sparkfun pro micro*.

Please note that this action will accordingly change the name of your Brise.