



Menu Disk Creation for Yamaha® EL Electones®

User Guide

EL Menu

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User Guide

By John Beesley

Edition 1.0

April 2000



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EL Menu

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About this Guide

This guide has been written to help you get started using EL Menu. It includes an overview of the program's options and facilities and gives you an idea of what you can do with the program.

This guide assumes that you already know how to use your PC and Microsoft Windows™.

Structure

This guide takes you from an introduction to EL Menu, through installation and set-up, to an overview of each aspect of the program.

- Chapter 1 gives an overview of the program.
- Chapter 2 gives instruction on installation of the program including hardware requirements as well as the procedure for registering the program.
- Chapter 3 leads you through your first time using the program and briefly introduces various aspects that will be covered later in the guide.
- Chapter 4 deals with each aspect of the program in detail and gives tips on how to make the best use of each aspect while you are working with the program.
- Chapter 5 is a step by step guide to creating your first Menu disk.
- Chapter 6 includes a place to record your customer details and registration number which you will need for e-mail support.

Other Related Documentation

In addition to this guide, you may want to consult.

- The on-line Help text. It includes an introduction to EL Menu and details of all aspects of the program.
- The manuals and other documentation for your PC and Microsoft Windows.
- The owner's manual for your EL Electone.

1. Introducing EL Menu

This chapter includes a brief introduction to Menus and provides an overview of EL Menu including a list of key features.

1.1 What is a Registration?

The word 'Registration' has been applied to keyboard instruments for centuries. It stands for the settings that a player makes to an instrument before or while playing. On a pipe organ this would be done by selecting and combining various stops (registers). The resulting setting of the instrument would be called the registration.

In Electones there are hundreds of different sounds, rhythms and effects so it has become more important to be able to store these registrations. There are up to 16 registration buttons on the EL range of Electones and these can be used to store the current registration of the EL voices and rhythms. Virtually all the settings that are made on the panel can be stored, but there are exceptions.

- Type setting in Reverb
- Type setting in D.R.E (available on some ELs)
- Attack Mode in Flute Voices
- Pan, Reverb and Volume settings in the Rhythm Instrument page (ELX-1, EL900/700/500)
- User Keyboard Percussion assignments (the choice of the keyboard percussion preset can be memorized but not the actual instrument assignments)
- Registration Shift settings
- Pitch/Transpose settings
- Voice Edit (except for the choice of User voices currently assigned to the Dotted buttons)
- Voice Disk voices
- Rhythm Pattern Program patterns (except for the choice of User rhythm patterns currently assigned to the Dotted buttons)
- Rhythm Sequences
- MIDI settings
- Lead Initial Touch setting (ELX-1, EL900)

The use of 'User' voices and rhythms deserves a special mention. These are stored and retrieved to the EL by the disk drive as a block of 16 voices and 40 rhythm patterns. Registrations only contain information about which of these have been selected on the panel and not the actual data of the voice or rhythm. This becomes significant in the creation of Menu disks because the actual voices and rhythms cannot be stored on a Menu disk, so these need to be stored separately.

1.2 What is a Registration Menu?

A Registration Menu is a special form of floppy disk that is used by the EL to allow registrations to be chosen from the central display instead of the white buttons.

The advantages of this system are:

- Registration Names - so that you can see what sound will be produced
- Page Names - so you can label the type of registrations in a page or the title of the piece of music for which they are intended.
- 80 registrations are available at once (instead of 8 or 16)
- 16 registrations are visible at once.
- Choose the number of pages you want (up to 5)
- Instant loading - just put the disk in and the registrations appear (no need to choose a track and press play).
- Assemble arrangements quickly from your favourite sounds by saving the Menu registration to the white registration buttons in the order they appear in your piece.

1.3 What is EL Menu?

EL Menu gives you the ability to create your own Menu disks using a standard Windows 95 (or above PC). You can copy your own registrations to the Menu in an easy-to-use visual environment. You can see exactly what it will look like on the display of the EL. The Menu system allows you to label your registrations for your own purposes or to share them with other people.

Key Features

- Simple to use.
- Familiar controls for MDR track selection.
- Instant loading of your registrations from floppy disk or hard disk.
- 'Quick Load' function to load straight from floppy disks.
- Graphical Menu display imitating the appearance of the Menu on the EL display.
- Graphical Registration button display.
- Transfer the registrations into the Menu by simply dragging and dropping them on the Menu display.
- Automatic Naming (can be switched off) that reflects the origin of the registration e.g. 'Trk1Reg1'.
- One-click Menu disk creation to a floppy disk.
- Store your Menu files on hard disk - create Menu disks only when you need them.
- Quick loading of Menu disks from floppy disk.
- Model selection sets the program for your particular EL model.
- Copy and paste registrations or complete pages between different Menus or within the same Menu.
- On-line Help documentation to keep you on track if you get stuck.
- All the advantages of storing your registrations in Menu disk format.

Summary

EL Menu gives you the opportunity to create your own Menu format disks in a quick, simple to use graphical environment.

2. Installation

This chapter details what is required to install EL Menu.

2.1 Before you install EL Menu

To install and run EL Menu you will need:

- An IBM compatible 486 or higher PC (100Mhz or above recommended) running Windows 95 or higher. This should be a stand-alone PC, or if connected to a network, have Windows running on the PC's local hard drive.
- Minimum 16Mb memory and 10Mb free hard disk space.
- Minimum 256-colour VGA screen.

2.2 Installing EL Menu

Before running the installation please close all other applications except Windows.

To install EL Menu:

- Insert Set-up Disk 1 into the floppy disk drive.
- Select the start button to display the pop-up menu, then select the Run option to display the Run window. Type in a:setup (where 'a' is the drive letter of the floppy disk drive). Select the OK button.

A grey box appears at the start of installation. If some of the files on your PC are old the program may tell you that you need to start Windows again. If so then you will have to restart the EL Menu installation again as described above. Once you are running the EL Menu Set-up program follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

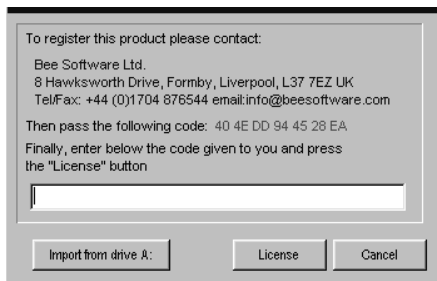
2.3 Registration

Unfortunately there are many people who do not respect the copyright of software producers. This makes it necessary to include some copy-protection in the program to reduce piracy of the product. This is bound to cause a little extra work for the legitimate user for which we apologise.

After you install EL Menu using the method described above you will not be able to use the program until it is unlocked using the 'Key Disk' supplied in the package.

To unlock the program

- Run EL Menu by clicking on its icon in the Start Menu>Programs list
- A box will appear stating that this product's license has expired.
- Click on YES
- A box will appear as shown below.



- Make sure the 'Key Disk' is not write-protected (tab closed). Insert the 'Key Disk' into drive a: and click on the 'Import from A:\' button.
- Please wait while the program is unlocked.
- Click on OK.

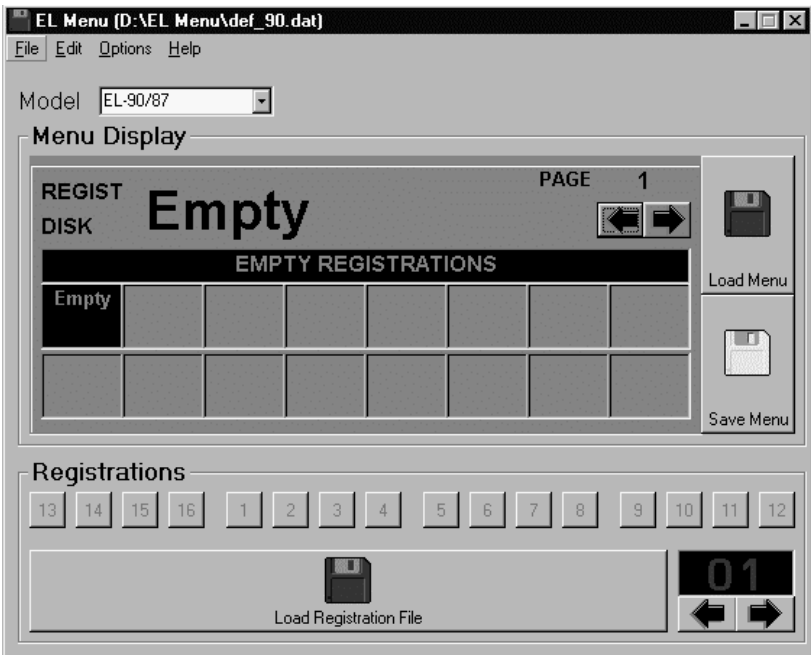
The program is now unlocked on the PC, and will run the next time you try.

3. Getting Started

This chapter leads you through first use of the program and takes you on a guided tour of the main features of EL Menu.

Once you have installed EL Menu then you are ready to run the program for the first time. Click on the Start button and move the mouse pointer to Programs. On the pop-up list you should find 'EL Menu'. Click on this to launch the program.

The EL Menu program will appear as shown below.



3.1 Guided Tour

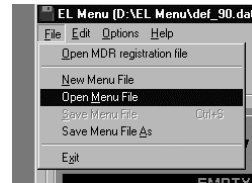
The first thing we need to do is set the EL model to the one you will be using the program with. To do this click on the down arrow in the box next to 'Model'.

You will see a choice of 3 different model types. Click on the one that matches your instrument. If you have an ELX-1 select the EL-90/87 option. This setting will be remembered by the program so that you only have to do this once. It is changed, though, if you load a Menu file into the program that was made for a different model than the one selected.

Next we can load a Menu into the program so that you can see how the Menu display works. If you have the Menu disk that came with your instrument then you can load this into the program by putting it in the disk drive and then clicking the 'Load Menu' button.



If you do not have the disk handy then click on the File item on the menu bar and select 'Open Menu File'.



Then select the file labelled 'Demo.dat' and click 'Open'. This may not be for your particular model so you may wish to reset the selected Model as described above.

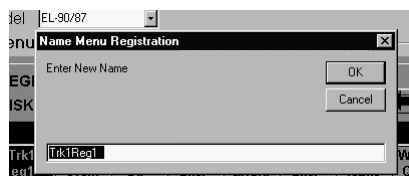
Once the Menu file has loaded the screen will change to show the names of the registrations that are stored in the file.

Symphonic Orchestra							
Maest oso	Grand Orch.	Full St.	Str. Ens.	LowSt &Harp	Pizz. Ens.	Class icEns	Woods Quart
Flute &Harp	Fanfa re	Brass Ens.	PfCli max	Baroq ue	VL.Ro coco	Str. Quart	Choir Tutti



To select a registration simply click on the corresponding square in the display. The colours in the square will invert to show that the registration is selected.

To change the name of a registration double-click on the registration square. A box will appear into which



3. Getting Started

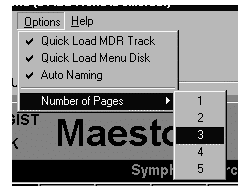
you can type the new name. You can enter up to 10 characters. When you have typed in the name click on OK.

The page title is in the black band above the 16 registration names.



You can rename this in the same way by double-clicking on it. You can type up to 40 characters for a page title.

To change to a different page, click on either of the two arrow buttons at the top right of the screen. These operate in the same way as the page buttons on the EL panel. You can have up to 5 pages on a Menu file. You can change the number of pages by choosing 'Options' on the menu bar at the top of the screen. Moving the mouse to 'Number of pages'. A pop up display allows you to choose how many pages you want.



In order to put your own registrations into the Menu you must first load them into the 'Registrations' display. When there are no registrations loaded the registration buttons are greyed-out. To load your registrations from a disk. Insert a normal EL registration disk into the computer disk drive. Choose a track that contains registrations using the arrow buttons beneath the red track number display. Then, click on the big 'Load Registration File' button.



The registrations are loaded and you will see the registration

buttons change to white, indicating that there are registrations ready for transferring into the Menu. If the track on the disk does not contain registrations then a message will appear saying that the track is empty.

To transfer a registration into the Menu, move the mouse above the white registration button. Press and hold the left mouse button. The pointer will change to a blue arrow. Keep the mouse button pressed and move the arrow over the square into which you want to put the registration. Release the mouse button.

The name of the registration square changes to show the origin of the registration. Of course you can rename it by double-clicking, typing a new name and pressing the Enter key (or clicking on OK).



To make a Menu disk that operates in the EL, put a blank formatted disk into the disk drive and click on the 'Save Menu' button. Wait a second or



two (or until you hear a sound) for the disk drive to finish writing to the disk. Remove the disk and insert it in the EL disk drive slot.

After a few moments you will see the Menu in the EL display. To choose a registration simply press the 'Data Control' button beneath the display corresponding to the registration you want.

So, that's the end of the guided tour. As you can see EL Menu is easy to use and some people may feel confident to get started creating their own menus even at this point. The rest of this user guide covers each of the program's functions in detail.

4. Working with EL Menu

4.1 Registrations, Registration Files and Menu files

This section describes in detail the difference between these different terms.

Registrations

As explained at the start of the manual, registrations contain information about the way the EL panel has been set up. The registrations in the white buttons and those in the Menu files contain exactly the same kind of information.

Registration Files

These are the files on the disk that the EL creates when you save your settings to the MDR disk drive. Registration Files in fact hold more than just registrations. They also contain the User Voices and Rhythms along with a variety of other global settings for the instrument. The sixteen registrations are just a part of the MDR file.

When EL Menu loads a registration file into memory it copies the 16 or 8 registrations from the file into the white registration buttons of the 'Registrations' display. Only these registrations can be copied to the Menu disk so, if your registrations use User Voice or Rhythms, in order that the registrations sound correctly you will need to load them into the organ first before using the Menu disk.

Menu Files

Menu files have space to store 80 registrations split into 5 pages. When a Menu disk is created the file will load and display itself in the screen automatically when inserted in the EL disk drive.

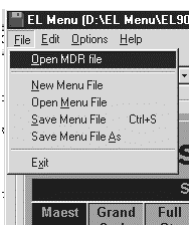
4.2 Menu Bar

This section deals with the drop-down menus that you see at the top of the EL Menu display.

File

Click on the File item on the menu bar. A drop-down list appears. It is split into three sections.

- MDR
- Menu
- Exit



You will be familiar with opening and saving files on your computer. EL Menu uses the standard Windows system for this. On the right of the menu options you will see the key combinations which provide a shortcut to these functions.

'Open MDR registration file' deserves a special mention in that it is used to load registrations into the program that you can then transfer into your Menu. These registrations are in the form of an MDR file (a file created by the EL internal disk drive). The MDR files are created when you save your settings using the built-in disk drive on the EL. They are saved with a *.b00 file extension (b, zero, zero). They are labelled as 'Mdr_' followed by the track number. This track number is actually 1 less than the MDR display e.g. track 01 on the Electone would be:

Mdr_00.b00

EL Menu includes a very easy way to deal with all this using the 'Load Registration File' and track selection in the main window. The only reason that the option appears on the File menu is to allow you to use registration files that are stored on your PC hard drive or that you have downloaded from the Internet.

'New Menu File' replaces the current Menu display with a blank one. If the Menu you are working on has changed since it was last saved then you will be asked whether you are sure you want to continue.

'Open Menu File' allows you to look for a Menu file on your Hard Drive. This is different from the Load Menu button on the main display which automatically loads a Menu from the floppy disk drive.

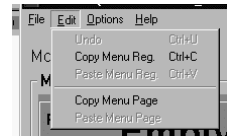
'Save Menu File' saves the Menu file back to its current file location.

'Save Menu File As' allows you to choose a different name and location for the Menu file.

The functions above allow you to keep a library of Menu files with names that you will be able to recognise. When an actual Menu disk is created by the program, a special file name is used that the EL can recognise. So when you want to make a Menu disk from your Menu file use the 'Save Menu' button on the EL Menu display.

Edit

Clicking on Edit in the menu bar displays the Edit drop-down menu. There are two sections one for individual registrations and the other for complete pages of registrations.



There is an 'Undo' facility which allows to go back to the original registration after copying or transferring from the registration buttons. Just in case you make a mistake.

When a Menu registration is selected you can use 'Copy Menu Reg.' to put a registration into memory so that it can be Pasted to another location. This could be on a different page or even a different Menu File. A shortcut for copying a registration can be achieved by using the Ctrl + C keys together.

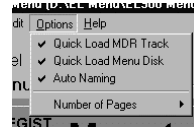
To paste the registration to another location select the location and then click on the Edit menu and select 'Paste Menu Reg.' A shortcut for pasting a registration can be achieved by using the Ctrl + V keys together.

Another very useful function is the ability to copy and paste complete pages of registrations. Again this can be within a Menu file or you can paste a page of 16 registrations into a different Menu file.

Press either of the Page buttons to select the page you want and then choose 'Copy Menu Page' from the 'Edit' menu. The Page is stored in memory. Use the page buttons to locate the page you wish to paste the stored page to and choose 'Paste menu page' from the 'Edit' menu. The page is pasted to the new location. You can load another Menu file at any time while the Page is stored in memory to allow you to move pages of 16 registrations between Menu files.

Options

This menu turns on and off some time-saving functions and also allows you to set the number of pages in your Menu files.



The first three items in the list have ticks next to them when they are turned on. To turn them on and off simply select them. They toggle between on and off each time they are selected.

Quick Load MDR track

This governs what happens when you press the 'Load Registration File' button at the bottom of the display. With the function turned on the program first accesses the floppy disk drive. If there is a MDR registration disk in the drive it will try and load the track from the disk. If the track contains registrations they will be loaded into the program ready to be transferred into the Menu display. If the track is empty a box will appear to tell you.

If the function is turned off the program immediately opens the EL Menu folder on the hard drive to allow you to browse for MDR registration files in another location. This is the same as using the Open MDR Registration file command on the File Menu.

Quick Load Menu Disk

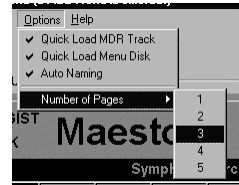
With this function turned on and a Menu disk in the floppy disk drive, the 'Load Menu' button on the display causes the program to load the Menu file on the disk appropriate for the currently selected EL model. If the function is turned off then the button opens the EL Menu folder on the hard drive to allow you to browse for Menu files.

Auto Naming

When a registration is transferred from the MDR registration buttons to the Menu Display the program generates a name reflecting the original location of the registration in the format 'TrkXRegX'. Sometimes you will not want this to happen. If you turn off auto-naming the registration is transferred but the name on the Menu display remains unchanged.

Number of pages

Moving the mouse pointer to 'Number of pages' opens up a pop-up menu with the numbers 1 to 5. Clicking on the appropriate number changes the Menu file so that it has the selected number of pages.



4.3 Menu Display

This section describes in detail the functions of the Menu display

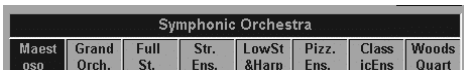


Page Buttons



There can be up to five pages of registrations in a Menu file so the Page buttons are used to move between them - the right hand arrow moves to the next page up and the left one to the previous.

Page Title

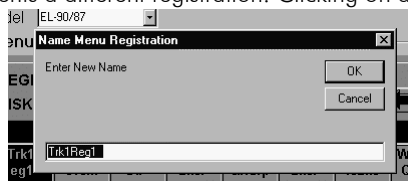


This is in the black band across the top of the registration squares. Each page can, of course, have a different title. This means that you can have a name that describes the registrations collectively.

To change the name double-click on the black band. A box appears so that you can type in the new name (up to 40 characters). Click on OK and the page is renamed.

Registration Names

Each square in the Menu display represents a different registration. Clicking on a square selects the registration and the text is inverted. To rename the registration double-click the one you want to change. A box appears for you to type in the new name. Click on OK and the registration is renamed.

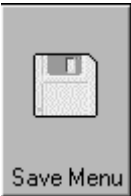


Load Menu



When 'Quick Load Menu Disk' in the Options drop-down menu is on this button opens a Menu file on a floppy disk in the computer disk drive. The file corresponding to the currently selected model is loaded. If the 'Quick Load' function is off then a standard file opening window is displayed allowing you to browse the computer file system for Menu files.

Save Menu



This button is used to make a Menu disk suitable for use in the EL. When used it changes the volume label of the floppy disk so that the EL recognises it as a Menu file. It is important to remember that if you use a disk that isn't blank then the EL will not be able to access any of the files on the disk other than the Menu file (you cannot change tracks). You can of course copy the files you want onto another disk but it is much better to make sure that you keep Menu files and normal registration files separate.

4.4 Registration Display

This is where the registrations from the MDR registration files are loaded ready for being transferred into the Menu display.

Registration Buttons

These are laid out in the same way as on the EL itself. In other words the leftmost button is actually 13 instead of 1. When there are no registrations loaded the buttons are grey and cannot be selected. They turn white as soon registrations are available to be transferred.

To transfer a registration to the Menu display drag the corresponding button over the Menu display and drop it in the desired location. If Auto-naming in the Options drop-down menu is switched on the registration name will change to something similar to 'Trk1Reg1', reflecting the source of the registration. During drag and drop the mouse pointer will turn into a blue arrow.

To transfer all sixteen registrations to a page at once drag the actual 'Registrations' frame/box and drop it in any of the registration squares. During drag and drop the mouse pointer will turn into a orange disk with 'All Reg' written on it.

If you are using an EL70 then a message will appear asking you to choose which row you would like the 8 registrations to be loaded to - top or bottom.

Track Select



This operates in the same way as that on the EL disk drive controls. To move between tracks on the disk you can press the left and right arrows in the same way. Clicking on one of the arrow increases the track number by one. If you hold the mouse button down you can scroll through the track numbers more quickly. You will notice that having loaded registrations into the registration buttons, moving to a different track disables the registration buttons (turns them grey again). This is to avoid confusion over which track's registrations are loaded into the white buttons.

Load Registration File

When 'Quick Load MDR file' in the Options drop-down menu is on this loads the registrations from the floppy disk track displayed in the track select window. If the track is empty a message will be displayed. If the registrations are for a different EL Model you will be asked if you want to continue. You can always use the registrations from a higher model in a lower model but not the other way round because certain panel settings would be missing. When 'Quick load' is off, clicking on this button opens the normal 'Open Registration File' window to enable you to browse the file system for other registration files (file extension is b00).

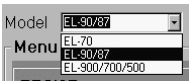


5. Step by Step to Your First Menu Disk

This chapter takes you step by step through the process of creating a Menu disk.

5.1 Starting a New Menu

Run EL Menu by clicking on the Start button in Windows and moving the pointer to Programs. A pop-up menu will appear and you will find the EL Menu icon in the list. Click on this and the program will start.



Select the model number corresponding to your EL by clicking on the model box and then on the model you have.

Click on the File menu item and then on New. This clears the currently loaded menu file. It may already be blank but this is how you would start a new project.

5.2 Loading your registrations

Next you need to decide which registrations you would like to use on your Menu disk. Once you have decided, place the registration disk containing your registrations into the computer disk drive. Select the correct track number using the track select buttons next to the large 'Load Registration File' button. Then click on the 'Load



Registration File' button. If there are registrations on the track then these will be loaded into the program and the registration buttons will become white showing that they contain registrations that are ready to be transferred.

If the registrations on the disk are not for your model you will be asked if you want to continue. Click on 'Yes' but then change the Model back to the instrument you have.

5.3 Transferring and naming your registrations

To transfer your registrations all you need to do is drag and drop the desired registration button onto the Menu display. To do this, place the mouse pointer over the registration you want to transfer. Press and hold the left mouse button. The mouse pointer will become a blue arrow. Keep the left mouse button held down and move the blue arrow directly over the square into which you wish to transfer the registration. Release the mouse button and the registration is transferred. The name of the square will now be similar to 'Trk1Reg1' reflecting the source of the registration.

If you wish to transfer all 16 of the registrations at once move the mouse pointer to a position within the 'Registrations' box (but not actually over a registration button) and press and hold the left mouse button. The mouse pointer will change to an orange disk with 'All Reg' on it. Keep holding the mouse button and move the mouse to position the disk symbol over any of the Menu display registration squares and release the button. All 16 registration squares will be filled with the contents of the 16 registration buttons.

The EL70 has 8 registrations available in the 'Registrations' display so if you are transferring EL70 registrations, during this procedure you will be asked to which row of Menu squares you want to transfer.

Transfer as many of the registrations as you like. You can put them in different pages and you can load different registrations into the white buttons without affecting the contents of the Menu.

It is a good idea to name the registrations as you transfer them to keep track of which registration is which. Double-click on the registration square which you wish to name. A box will appear into which you can type upto 10

characters. It is worth noting that there are two lines of 5 letters in the display. It is almost always necessary to abbreviate the names in some way. Once you have typed the new name, click on OK. You can go over them as often as you like until they look right.



5.4 Naming the menu page

Now that we have the registrations, we need to give each page a name. To do that, choose the page you want to name using the page arrows and then just double-click on the Page title bar which is immediately above the 16 registration names. A box will appear into which you can type the new name for the page. Up to 40 characters can be used. Click on OK to store the name.

5.5 Saving the Menu on the PC

Once you have transferred and named the registrations and pages we need to keep the Menu file safe by saving it to the PC hard drive. Click on the File menu item and then on 'Save Menu File As'. A window will appear for you to type the name you wish to give the Menu file. You can be as detailed as you like. Try 'My First Menu' and then click on 'Save'. The file is saved to the hard drive.

5.7 Creating a Menu Disk to use with the EL

Now that the Menu file is safe on the hard disk we can create a Menu disk that can be read by the EL. You will need a blank formatted disk. Put this in the computer disk drive and then click on 'Save Menu' button in the Menu display. After a few moments the job is done. Remove the disk from the disk drive and put it in the EL. The central display will change to show the available registrations.



Congratulations, you have just created your first Menu disk!

6. Support

This section deals with how Bee Software can help you to get the best out of EL Menu and to deal with any questions you may have with regard to the software. If you run into difficulties and this user guide is unable to help then you may contact Bee Software to get more information. Unfortunately Bee Software cannot offer telephone support. If you do not have access to the Internet please fax your message to the following number: (01704) 876544. If you are sending from outside the UK: +44 1 704 876544

6.1 Your Customer Details

In order for Bee Software to help please have ready your product serial number and your customer ID. These will be given to you when you register the program. In order to keep these in a safe place please record them in the space provided below:

Customer ID	
Product Serial Number	

6.2 email Support

You can email any queries you may have to the following address:

support@beesoftware.com

You will receive a response as soon as possible.

6.3 Using the Program on another PC

The license agreement of EL Menu allows a single user to use the program. This is accomplished by means of a 'floating' license. What happens is that the program can be installed on more than one PC and the license can be transferred backwards and forwards by means of a floppy disk.

Follow the same instructions to install the program on the separate computers. When the program indicates that the installation is unregistered:

- Run EL Menu on the licensed PC.
- Under the 'Help' menu choose 'Export License'.
- Insert a blank formatted high-density floppy disk.
- Click on OK. Wait while the license is exported.
- Click on OK.
- EL Menu will close.
- Go to the other PC.
- Run EL Menu.
- When prompted to register the program click on YES.
- Insert the disk from above into the floppy drive.
- Click on 'Import from A:/'.
- Wait while the program is registered.
- Click on OK.
- Run EL Menu again.

The license can be moved between the computers as many times as you like using this system.

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