
TENN TONES / CLARENCE JEY

ORIGINAL HARDWARE • MAC WORKFLOW • OCTOBER 2026

Mac to SP-1200

The Floppy Disk Workflow

WAV Files > BackFlip1200 > HFE > Greaseweazle
> Physical Floppy Disk > Original E-mu SP-1200



TESTED ON THE ORIGINAL SP-1200

Original floppy drive retained | Samples loaded and tuned successfully

TennTones | Clarence Jey | Mac to SP-1200

WAV Files -> BackFlip1200 -> HFE -> Greaseweazle -> Floppy Disk -> SP-1200

Original hardware workflow | Successfully tested 22 October 2026

Result: A WAV-derived drum kit created in BackFlip1200 was exported as HFE, written onto a physical 3.5-inch DD floppy with Greaseweazle, and loaded successfully into the original SP-1200 after booting its OS disk. The samples played and tuning worked.

1. Equipment and files used

- Original E-mu SP-1200 with its working factory floppy drive and separate operating-system floppy.
- MacBook Pro running macOS Terminal; BackFlip1200; HxC Floppy Emulator v2.16.13.1 (inspection only).
- Greaseweazle V4.1, firmware 1.6, Host Tools 1.23; external 3.5-inch floppy drive connected as Drive B.
- Disposable 3.5-inch double-sided/double-density (DS/DD) floppy: white 3M disk marked DS/DD, 1.0 MB unformatted (typically 720 KB PC-formatted).
- Original BackFlip1200 image in this session: /Users/clarencejey/Downloads/SPCYMKIT1.HFE.

2. Prepare the drum kit in BackFlip1200

Prepare source WAV samples in Cubase or another editor. Import/assign sounds in BackFlip1200, then export a complete SP-1200-compatible .HFE floppy image. This is the step that builds the SP-1200 disk structure. In the successful test, the exported image was named SPCYMKIT1.HFE.

Note: Exact BackFlip1200 button-by-button sample assignment settings were not recorded during this test; follow its interface for creating and exporting the kit.

3. Optional: inspect the HFE in HxC

Open HxC Floppy Emulator and click Load; select the exported HFE. In this test HxC showed 80 tracks, 2 sides. An HxC export to MFI was also tried, but proved unnecessary: Greaseweazle 1.23 supports .hfe directly. Use the original HFE for writing. Do not export as raw-sector IMG merely for this workflow.

4. Confirm Greaseweazle is connected

Open Terminal. The following read-only command identified the connected device:

```
gw info
```

Observed: Greaseweazle V4.1, firmware 1.6, Host Tools 1.23. To confirm .HFE is supported by this installed version:

```
gw write --help
```

The supported file suffixes included .hfe (and .scp); .mfi was not listed.

5. Locate the HFE image

```
find ~/Downloads -iname "SPCYMKIT1*.hfe"
```

Observed output:

/Users/clarencejeey/Downloads/SPCYMKIT1.HFE

6. Identify and test the floppy drive

Insert a spare, expendable DS/DD floppy into the Greaseweazle-connected drive. Close its write-protect hole (write-enabled). Confirm there is no valuable content: the write operation will overwrite the disk.

Test Drive B rotation (non-destructive):

```
gw rpm --drive=B
```

Successful output from this session: Rate: 299.818 rpm; Period: 200.121 ms. That established that Drive B and its index signal were working.

Earlier attempts returned GetFluxStatus: No Index on A and B. After checking connections, a non-destructive seek was run:

```
gw seek --drive=B 0
```

```
gw seek --drive=B 40
```

The head audibly moved, and a subsequent RPM check succeeded. The exact cause of the earlier No Index errors was not established. Do not write until the drive reliably reports its rotational speed.

7. Write the HFE to the physical DD floppy

Warning: This command overwrites the floppy. Double-check the drive identifier and use only the disposable DD disk, never an original library or OS floppy.

```
gw write --drive=B "/Users/clarencejeey/Downloads/SPCYMKIT1.HFE"
```

Greaseweazle wrote tracks T0.0 through T79.1 (80 cylinders, both sides), returned to the Terminal prompt, and reported no write-command failure.

Important verification caveat: It also reported No tracks verified (Reason: Verify unavailable). Therefore the write was not independently verified by Greaseweazle. Hardware loading in Step 8 was the successful functional test.

8. Load into the original SP-1200

1. Insert the original SP-1200 operating-system floppy.
2. Power on the SP-1200 and wait for its operating system to finish loading.
3. Remove the OS floppy when the machine is ready.
4. Insert the newly written BackFlip1200 sound floppy.
5. Use the SP-1200 normal disk-load procedure to load its sounds. Do not format the newly written disk.
6. Play the pads and test tuning.

Observed result: The SP-1200 loaded the new disk like a normal sound disk. The sounds played perfectly and the SP-1200 tuning worked. This confirmed the end-to-end workflow on the original hardware.

9. Reusable quick-reference commands

```
gw info
```

```
find ~/Downloads -iname "SPCYMKIT1*.hfe"
```

```
gw rpm --drive=B
```

```
gw write --drive=B "/Users/clarencejey/Downloads/SPCYMKIT1.HFE"
```

Replace the filename/path for future kits. Recheck the drive letter and use a sacrificial DS/DD disk each time. The SP-1200 must be booted from its OS disk before loading a sound-only floppy.

10. Sound and workflow notes

This method bypasses recording each sample through the SP-1200 analog input, but playback and tuning occur on the actual SP-1200 hardware. It does not prove that digitally imported sounds are identical to sounds sampled through the SP-1200 inputs. A matched comparison can establish that separately.

Record of successful TennTones experiment, based on the actual screenshots, commands, and SP-1200 loading result from this session.