

About the Synergy Sample Button Sets

Quickstart

To try out the sample Button Sets in this folder, copy them into one of the following locations:

~/Library/Application Support/Synergy/Button Sets/
/Library/Application Support/Synergy/Button Sets/
(note the spaces in these paths)

In the "Menu Bar" tab of the Synergy Preferences, make a selection from the "Button style" pop-up and click "Apply". You can select the "Refresh..." item from the pop-up to ensure that Synergy sees any newly added sets.

It is also possible to install and switch between Button Sets by double-clicking them in the Finder. See "Installing Button Sets by Double-clicking" below for more information.

What are Button Sets?

You can customize the appearance of Synergy's menu bar buttons by using different button sets.

This is a feature that was introduced to Synergy in February 2003. Button Sets were embedded inside Synergy itself and were therefore difficult to add, remove or change. Version 1.2, released in August 2004, brings a greatly improved mechanism for adding, removing and changing Buttons Sets.

As of version 1.2, a Synergy button set is a folder with the extension "synergyButtons", containing custom button graphics for Synergy's previous, next, and play/pause buttons.

Synergy itself contains two button sets that are always available, "Safari" and "Safari Aqua".

Synergy also looks inside the following directories for button sets:

~/Library/Application Support/Synergy/Button Sets/
/Library/Application Support/Synergy/Button Sets/

The Synergy installer places a number of additional Button Sets into one of these directories, depending on whether you chose to install for the current user only or for all users on the machine.

In addition to the installed Button Sets, Synergy is distributed with a "Sample Button Sets" folder containing additional sets.

Installing Button Sets by Double-clicking

On its first run, Synergy 1.2 notifies the operating system that it handles packages with extension "synergyButtons". Here "first run" means the first time you click the "Start" button in the Synergy Preference Pane.

Once registered with the operating system, Button Set packages appear in the Finder with a custom icon (a folder with a Synergy badge), and double-clicking on the Button Set will cause it to open in Synergy. On opening a set, Synergy copies it into your ~/Library/Application Support/Synergy/Button Sets/ folder and immediately starts using the new set. This provides you with an easy way to trial new Button Sets simply by double-clicking them in the Finder. If Synergy is not running when a set is double-clicked, it will launch. Sets can be removed simply by dragging them to the trash.

What to do if Button Sets don't appear as double-clickable packages in the Finder

Under some circumstances, Mac OS X Launch Services may contain stale information. It may be necessary to relaunch Synergy and/or relaunch the Finder (for example, by logging out and logging in) in order to force the registration to take place. From that point on, Button Sets will correctly appear as double-clickable packages.

How do I create my own Button Sets?

You can see the structure of a Button Set by Command-Clicking an example set in the Finder and selecting "Show Package Contents..." To create your own set you would make a folder with a name of your choice and the extension "synergyButtons". Place your custom button graphics inside the folder. The following guidelines apply:

Button graphics should be in PNG format, with transparent backgrounds so that the menu bar can show through any unused area.

Two buttons of equal width (for visual symmetry) should be created for the "next track" and "previous track" buttons; these files must be named "nextImage.png" and "prevImage.png" respectively.

Four more buttons (all with the same width as each other) should be created and named "stopImage.png", "playImage.png", "pauseImage.png" and "playPauseImage.png".

"stopImage.png" is the graphic shown when iTunes is showing a Stop button (a square).

"playPauseImage.png" is used when communication between Synergy and iTunes is interrupted and hence Synergy does not know whether to display a pause or a play image.

All button graphics should be 22 pixels high (the height of the Mac OS X menu bar).

Button graphics should be saved in "web ready" format (without resource forks).

You should ensure that all graphics have a resolution of 72 DPI x 72 DPI (dots per inch) — the Mac OS X default — otherwise Cocoa will not display them as expected in Panther.

If you would like to have your own button set included in Synergy or made available for download on the Synergy website please send it to me <win@wincent.com>. You should include the following information:

The exact wording of how you would like your name to appear in the Synergy About tab (and on the Synergy Credits page).

A link to your website (if any) for display on the Synergy Credits page.

The copyright attribution that you want associated with your button set (for example, "Copyright © 2006 Your Name or Organization Name. All Rights Reserved."

In submitting your button set you retain the copyright, but you grant Wincent a unlimited royalty-free license to redistribute the set.