# Finding and Running Plugins in Sibelius

*Bob Zawalich January 26, 2019*

Finding a plugin you want to install requires that you know the category of the plugin, and that might not be easily available. Running Sibelius plugins requires you to either know the menu that contains your desired plugin or to assign shortcuts to the plugins you use.

I will describe 2 mechanisms I have developed to make these processes easier.

## Finding downloadable plugins and their categories

While you can go to either the list at **File > Plug-ins >Install Plug-ins** or the plugin download page at http://www.sibelius.com/download/plugins/index.html to find a plugin, you will have to look through 550-odd plugins in about 30 categories, and this can be a tedious process. A **Find By Name** command on the Installer page would be a big help, but since there is none, I made up a list of all the plugins on the download page, and Philip Rothman improved its searching and hosts and maintains the list at https://www.nycmusicservices.com/musicresources/#sibelius-plug-ins.

You can sort the columns by name, category, Sibelius version, or author, but the big gain is the Search button.  You can type any part of a plugin name, and you will see any plugins that match what you typed, anywhere in the entry. This will show you the category, which you can then remember to find the plugin when you go to install it. The list is also a great way to browse for plugins available on a given topic.

If you click on a plugin name, the link will take you to the **Sibelius Plugin Download Page** entry for that plugin, where you can see the plugin description, and even download the zip file should you so desire.

## Run Plugins By Name

Version 02.20.00
Added 11 Aug 2011 (last updated 16 Jul 2018)

For use with Sibelius 6, Sibelius 7.1, Sibelius 7.5, Sibelius 8.x, Sibelius 18.x and Sibelius 19.x

Run Plugins By Name lets you find plugins to run by name in a sorted list.

Recently run plugins are shown at the top of the list, in most-recently run order first, followed by all the other plugins in alphabetical order.

By default you select a name in the list, and click the Run button or type enter to run the plugin. If you want to work more with a mouse, there is an option to run a plugin by simply clicking on a list entry. That does not work for the currently selected entry (the click must change the selection to run), so to run that plugin, type Enter or click Run.

Assign a shortcut to this plugin to have a list of recently run plugins easily available.

Updated 14 December 2011 to give better file name information when there are plugins with the same menu name.

Updated 31 December 2011 for better error recovery when a plugin is renamed or deleted.

Updated 13 October 2-12 adding option to change the maximum number of recent plugins on the list.

Updated 12 August 2014 to allow specifying zero "recent" plugins.

Updated 6 October 2014 to speed up the list sort so it starts up faster.

Updated 16 January 2017.The option to run a plugin when the list box was clicked has been disabled for Sib 7.5 and later because the list box appeared to receive a click before a user could click on it. It is still available for Sib 6 and 7.1.3.

### Categories

- Accidentals (9) »
- Arrange (2) »
- Analysis (6) »
- Batch Processing (18) »
- Color (12) »
- Composing Tools (44) »
- Layout (47) »
- Menus and shortcuts (4) »
- Notes and rests (67) »
- Other (37) »
- Playback (24) »
- Proof-reading (9) »
- Text (89) »
- Navigation (17) »
- Filter and Find (45) »
- Chord Symbols (11) »
- Note Input (5) »
- Lines (15) »
- Simplify Notation (1) »
- Focus On Staves (2) »
- Comments (5) »
- Harp (14) »
- Transformations (7) »
- Hitpoints (3) »
- Guitar (6) »
- Banjo (3) »
- Selection (4) »
- Developers' Tools (13) »
- Engravers' Tools (22) »
- Tuplets (2) »
- Sight-impaired (7) »

Find plugins by Sibelius version

- All versions

Here is an example of plugins that relate to guitars:

Last updated on December 28, 2018. There are 551 plug-ins on the page. Due to some deletions, the highest plug-in id is 583.

Show 10 ⌄ entries                                        Search: guitar

| Plug-in Name ⬍ | Author ⬍ | Category ⬍ | Sib version ⬍ |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Alternate Picking | Bob Zawalich | Guitar | 6 - 8 |
| Circle TAB Half and Whole Notes | Bob Zawalich | Guitar | 6 - 8 |
| Fix TAB Collisions | Bob Zawalich | Guitar | 5 - 8 |
| Guitar Capo Notation | Bob Zawalich | Guitar | 6 - 8 |
| Guitar Capo Notation_Sib4 | Bob Zawalich | Guitar | 4 - 5 |
| Trace TAB Collisions | Bob Zawalich | Guitar | 5 - 8 |

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries (filtered from 551 total entries)          ‹ Previous   Next ›

Scoring Notes has a post about this list. Thanks to Philip Rothman for hosting and maintaining it.

I keep a shortcut to this list in all my browsers.

## Running plugins

There are a number of ways to make the actual running of plugins simpler, but this is what I do.

Install **Run Plugins By Name** (category **Other**). This will install an additional plugin, **Run Last Named Plugin**, as well.

I assign easy to use shortcuts for both these plugins because I use them all the time. Since I don't use some of the function keys as Sibelius intended, I use F8 for **Run Plugins By Name**, and F7 for **Run Last Named Plugin**, but any convenient shortcut key will do.

Here is what the dialog for **Run Plugins By Name** looks like:

**Run Plugins By Name Version 02.20.00**

This plug-in will run the selected plugin. Plugins recently run by this plugin (but not those run directly) appear first in the list, in the order in which they were run, followed by other available plugins, which are sorted by name.

Select or find a name in the list, then click or Tab to the Run plugin button.

[ ] Find plugin | Run plugin

Plugins to run
☑ Use "Find plugin" as default button

Plugin Descriptions
List Plugins
Invert Chords
Install New Plugin
Export Manuscript Paper Unchanged
All Symbols Labeled
Find and Replace Text
Create Insert Symbol Plugin
Insert One Symbol
Identify Selected Objects
Identify Selected Symbols
Find Symbol
Export Audio Score And Parts
There It Is!
Browse Selected Objects
What Is Where
Calculate Statistics
Color Enharmonic Pitches
Apply Named Color
Swap Or Replace Text Styles

*The last 20 plugins I have run*

12-Tone Matrix
About Dolet 6 for Sibelius
Add Accidentals to All Notes
Add Accidentals to All Notes Multi Select
Add Accidentals to All Sharp and Flat Notes
Add Articulations To Notes
Add Articulations To Selected Notes
Add Bar Before Special Barline
Add Bar Number Changes For Rehearsal Marks
Add Bar Rests In Empty Voices

*The rest of my installed plugins, in alphabetical order*

Max number of recent plugins: 20 | Cancel

☐ Run Stopwatch | by Bob Zawalich

First of all, there is a list of all the plugins installed on your machine, both shipping and user installed. The first 20 plugins in the list (as determined by the Max number of recent plugins checkbox) are the 20 most recent plugins, in the order in which they were run.

After those plugins, all the rest of the plugins are listed in alphabetical order by name (normally the name that appears on a plugin menu). I don't care where they are installed on my machine.

To run a plugin, you can type any part of a plugin name in the **Find plugin** edit box, then type **Enter** (which will activate the **Find plugin** button) until you have the plugin you want selected in the list.

Then tab to the **Run plugin** button, type **Enter**, and the dialog will close and the plugin will run.

## Running the same plugin again

If you want to run the same plugin again, you can repeat the above procedure (and the plugin you just ran will be at the top of the list) or you can run **Run Last Named Plugin** (you assigned a shortcut to it, didn't you?), which will run that plugin without you needing to choose it. This works great if you are running a single plugin several times, and you don't need to give it its own shortcut.

## Duplicate plugin names

Sibelius uses the file name of a plugin, without its path, to run a plugin, even in a menu. If you have multiple copies of a plugin with the same name in different folders, Sibelius will just run the first one it finds. This is a problem for Run Plugins By Name, and it will warn you about duplicates and will tell you which version of the plugin will actually be run. You can find out more about duplicate plugins [here](here).

## Changing the initial focus and default button for different workflows

Did you notice the checkbox called **"Use Find plugin as default button**"? This is on by default, and when it is on, the dialog comes up with the focus in the edit box and the **Find plugin** button is the default button.
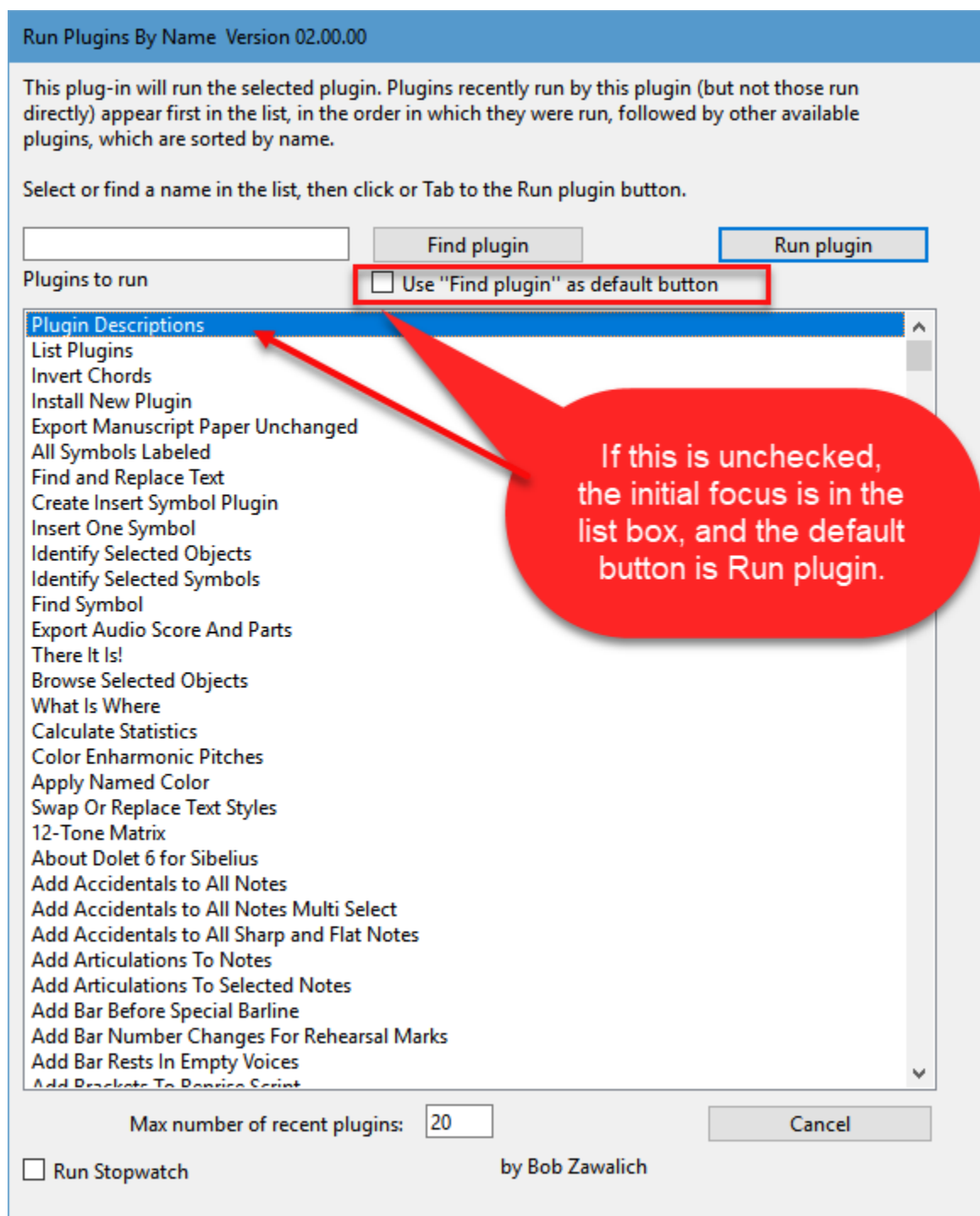
This works well if you know you will be finding a plugin. You can immediately start typing, and then type the Enter key as many times as you like to find the next match in the list box. When you have the plugin you want, you can hit Tab once to get to the **Run plugin** button, and type **Enter**.

If, however you know that the plugin you want will be easily available near the top of the list, you would have to click in or tab to the list to select the plugin, and then either Tab to the **Run plugin** button or click on it with the mouse, which is a little awkward.

In that case, uncheck **Use Find plugin as default button,** and 2 things will happen. The dialog will close and reopen, and the focus will be in the list box and, and the default button will be **Run plugin**. (The default button in a dialog is the one that is executed when you type **Enter** if the focus is not on a button).

Now when you run **Run Plugins by Name** it will come up that way, and you can choose your plugin with an arrow key, then type **Enter**.

I use both mechanisms, depending on my workflow. The settings are remembered across Sibelius sessions.

There are other plugins which will let you run other plugins, such as **Fixed Plugin Shortcuts** and **My Plugins**, but this is what I do all the time, and I find it saves me a lot of time.

**Run Stopwatch**

This is mostly for plugin developers. If it is on, it will trace out how long a plugin takes to run. You will likely never need to use it.