

How to use the Bridge Timer

Introduction

The **Bridge Timer** program is used to show a countdown for the players and is normally displayed on the three TVs in the Main Club Room. One TV is on the **NORTH** wall, one TV is on the **EAST** wall and the other TV is on the **SOUTH** wall. This allows all players to be able to see a clock while they are playing.

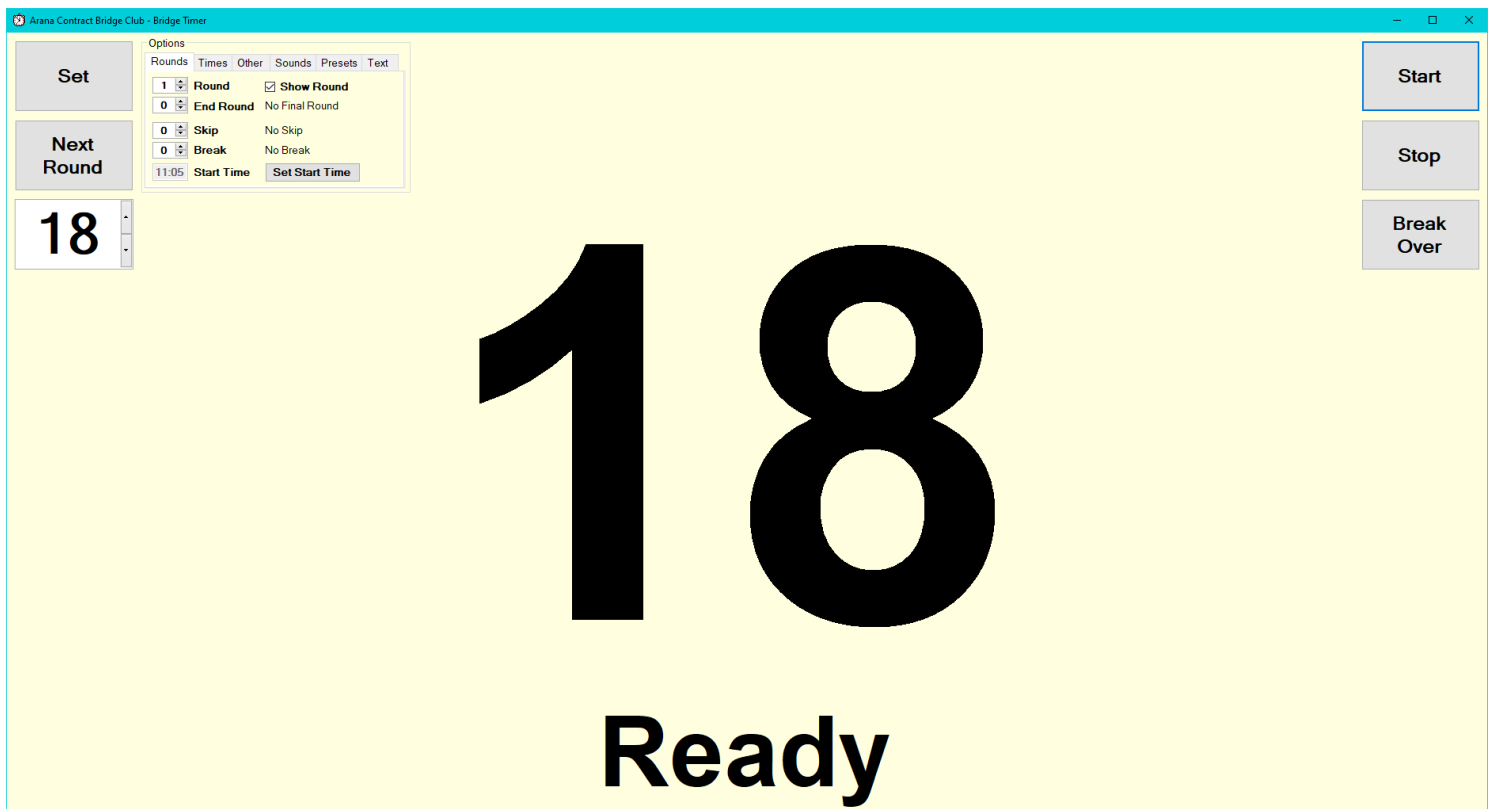
Start the Bridge Timer program

Click the **Bridge Timer** icon on the Taskbar or Start Menu to start the program.



For normal club play, the Bridge Timer program will display on the TVs in the Main Club Room.

The main program window is shown below.



When the mouse “hovers” over the time display, the mouse cursor changes to a **BLUE CIRCLE**. This is done so that the mouse cursor is easy to see when the timer is being operated via the wireless mouse from the club room.

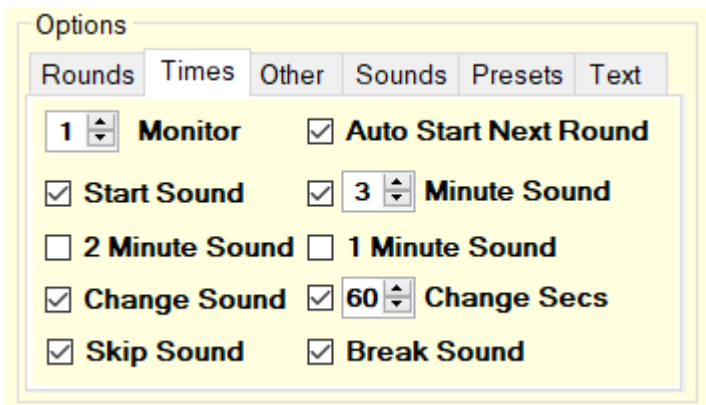
Main Buttons

Set	This sets the time for each round. The default is 18 minutes. The value is changed by clicking the Up/Down arrows at the side of the numeric counter box.
Start	This starts the timer for the round.
Stop	This stops/pauses the timer for the round.
Next Round	This resets the time for the beginning of the next round and starts the next round.
Break Over	This starts a 3 minute countdown for the start of the first session after the break.

You can click **“Stop”** followed by **“Next Round”** to reset the timer for the start of a new round at any time.

You click **“Break Over”** when you want to give the players warning that the first session after the break is just about to start. A 3 minute countdown will then start, and a sound will be played. At 2 minutes, and again at 1 minute, a further sound will be played. You choose the sound you want using **Options > Sounds**. When the countdown reaches 0, the next round will automatically start. You can change the countdown amount to be 4, 3 or 2 minutes.

Options (Times)



The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box with the 'Times' tab selected. The dialog has several tabs: 'Rounds', 'Times', 'Other', 'Sounds', 'Presets', and 'Text'. The 'Times' tab contains the following options:

- Monitor** **Auto Start Next Round**
- Start Sound** **Minute Sound**
- 2 Minute Sound** **1 Minute Sound**
- Change Sound** **Change Secs**
- Skip Sound** **Break Sound**

There are 9 check options. They can be turned on or off by clicking the individual check boxes.

Auto Start Next Round	If checked, the timer will automatically restart at the end of each round
Start Sound	If checked, a sound will play when the round starts
3 Minute Sound	If checked, a sound will play when there are 3 minutes remaining in this round
2 Minute Sound	If checked, a sound will play when there are 2 minutes remaining in this round
1 Minute Sound	If checked, a sound will play when there is 1 minute remaining in this round
Change Sound	If checked, a sound will play at the beginning of the countdown to “move for the next round”
Change Secs	If checked, there will be a countdown to “move for the next round”. The default is 60 seconds
Skip Sound	If checked, a sound will play when the next round is a skip round
Break Sound	If checked, a sound will play when there is a break after this round

The default is for the program to “ding” when there are 3 minutes left for this round. At 3 minutes, there must be a bid on the table for the final board of this round or the Director must be called and an average score will be assigned. At the end of the round, the buzzer will sound, indicating “move for the next round”. The default of 3 minutes can be changed to 3, 4 or 5 minutes using the numeric counter box next to the **“Minute Sound”** label. The default countdown can be changed to any value from 15 to 60 seconds using the numeric counter box next to the **“Change Secs”** label.

By default, the Bridgemate PC is set to use the sound on the TVs. Control the volume level using the TV remote controls.

Monitor

Next to the check options is a numeric counter box where “1” or “2” can be selected by using the Up/Down arrows. The default is “2”, which displays the Bridge Timer on the secondary monitor and the TVs. If this value is changed to “1”, the timer will start on the primary monitor the next time the Bridge Timer program is started.

Options (Rounds)

The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box with the 'Rounds' tab selected. The settings are as follows:

Setting	Value	Option
Round	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show Round
End Round	0	No Final Round
Skip	0	No Skip
Break	0	No Break
Start Time	11:14	<input type="button" value="Preset Round Times"/>

There is 1 check option.

Show Round If checked, the Round Number Text will be shown

The Round Number Text will be shown at the top of the program. If “**End Round**” is set to any value except 0, the Round Number Text will change from “**Round x**” to “**Round x of y**”. The Round Number Text will change to “**Final Round**” for the final round. It is a good idea to set the “**End Round**” number as the timer will stop at the end of the final round.

The Director also has the option to choose after which round the Skip (if any) takes place. The Director can also set the round after which the Tea/Coffee/Lunch break occurs.

Neither of these two options is set by default. There may be no Skip in the current session. However, it is a good idea to nominate the “**Break**” round as the timer will stop after the end of this round. After the break, the Director can just start the timer again.

The “**Round**” number can be set to any value at any time.

The screenshot shows the 'Preset Round Times' dialog box with the following options:

Number of Board Rounds	Time
<input type="radio"/> 2 Board Rounds	12
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3 Board Rounds	18
<input type="radio"/> 4 Board Rounds	24
<input type="radio"/> 5 Board Rounds	29
<input type="radio"/> 6 Board Rounds	35

When you click “**Preset Round Times**”, the dialog box above is shown. Here, you can easily select the number of boards per round and the time per round is set automatically. You can change the club default for these times as required.

Options (Other)

Options

Rounds Times **Other** Sounds Presets Text

Show Help Program Title

Minutes Only Time of Day

30 Seconds Only Pause

End Minutes Break Time 3

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Email: mikelevoi@gmail.com

There are 5 check options. They can be turned on or off by clicking the individual check boxes.

Minutes Only	If checked, the timer will show minutes only until the countdown reaches 6 minutes
30 Seconds Only	If checked, the timer will show 30 second values until the countdown reaches 6 minutes
End Minutes	If checked, the timer will show minutes only until the countdown reaches 1 minute
Time of Day	If checked, the timer will show the current time in the top left and right corners
Pause	If checked, the timer will auto pause when the time is clicked during play

You can customise the title of the program. The default is “Arana Contract Bridge Club”. Click “**Program Title**” and change the name to the name of your Bridge club. If you click “**Show Help**”, this PDF is opened.

You can change the time for the “**Break Over**” option to be 2, 3 or 4 minutes.

This Tab also shows the copyright information and the contact email address for support.

Options (Sounds)

Options

Rounds Times Other **Sounds** Presets Text

Event **Side** **Sound**

3 Minute A Low Bell

Set Sound Play Sound

You can choose any sound for any event. All the sounds are **WAV files** in the program directory. You can replace any file with a **WAV file** of your choice. You can also copy any valid **WAV** file to the program directory for your own use.

To change the **Sound** for an **Event**, choose the **Event** and then choose the desired **Sound**. Click “**Play Sound**” to listen to the **Sound**. Click “**Set Sound**” to select the **Sound** for that **Event**.

There are 7 preset displays. All displays can have their own tailored sounds. First, click “**Side**” and then choose “*blank*” (Default) or A, B, C, 1, 2 or 3. Now, choose the **Event** and set, or play, the **Sound** for that **Event**.

Options (Text)

Options

Rounds Times Other Sounds Text

Text for 3 Minute Warning
Final bidding started

Text for 2 Minute Warning
Less than 2 minutes

Text for 1 Minute Warning
Less than 1 minute

Reset Text

You can edit the text for the 3, 2 or 1 Minute Warning Messages. You can also enable or disable any Warning Message by checking or unchecking any of the 3 check boxes. You can click **“Reset Text”** to set the messages to default.

Normal Operation

Choose the time for each round using the Up/Down arrows. Set the total number of rounds to be played. Set the round number after which you want a break. Set the Skip round if required.

Options

Rounds Times Other Sounds Text

1 Round Show Round

10 End Round No of Rounds is 10

5 Skip Skip after Round 5

4 Break Break at 12:31

11:15 Start Time Set Start Time

Set

18

Example:

It is now 11.15 am. The session starts at 11.20 am. The tea/coffee break is to be at about 12.30 pm. Each round is 18 minutes plus one minute to move for the next round. Set the value of **“Break”** to **“4”**. As you change the Break value, the estimated time for the Break will be displayed. There are to be 10 x 3 board rounds. Set **“End Round”** to be **“10”**. The Skip will be after round 5. Set the value of **“Skip”** to **“5”**.

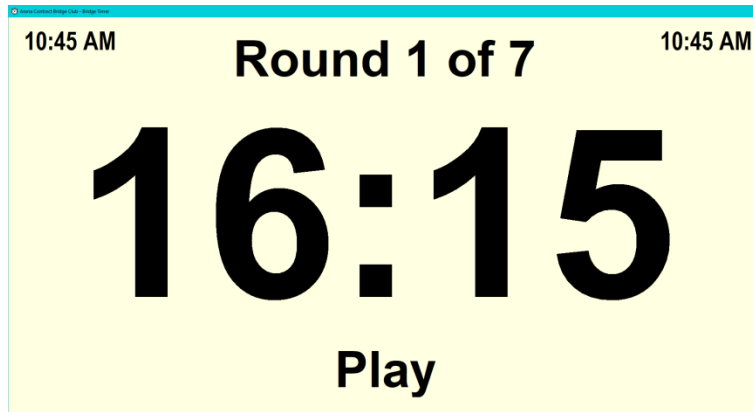
Now click **“Set”**. Click **“Start”** to start the timer when required.

Show/Hide the Controls

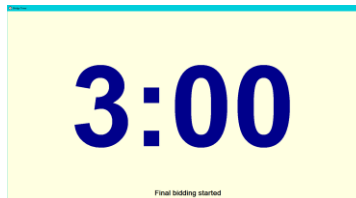
To show/hide the Buttons and Options, just click the time i.e. the middle of the program window.

Displays

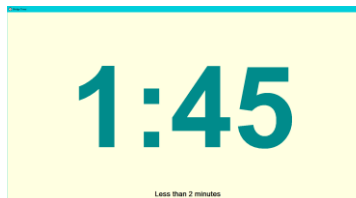
The text colour is black for most of the round. The time changes every 15 seconds, 30 seconds, or every minute.



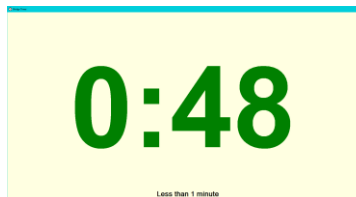
The text colour changes to blue when there are 3 minutes left for this round.



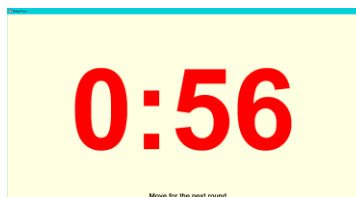
The text colour changes to cyan when there are 2 minutes left for this round.



The text colour changes to green when there is 1 minute left for this round. The time display changes every second.



The text colour changes to red during the 60 second "move for the next round". The time display changes every second.



Installation and Tailoring (For use at other Bridge Clubs)

Unzip the file **BridgeTimer.zip**. Retain the folder structure. Example: Unzip the folder to **C:\Arana\BridgeTimer**.

Double Click **BridgeTimer.exe** to run the program. Create a shortcut to this program on the Start Menu/Taskbar. Select the “check” options you want. All “check” options are saved. All sounds can be changed using **Options (Sounds)**.

Tailoring Example

Here is an example of how to install the program at **Northern Suburbs Bridge Club**. Northern Suburbs Bridge Club wants a Low Bell at 2 minutes and does not want the 60 second changeover or the 3 Minute Warning Message.

- Create a Directory called **C:\NSBC**
- Unzip the **BridgeTimer** directory to **C:\NSBC**
- Double click **C:\NSBC\BridgeTimer\BridgeTimer.exe**
- Click **Options (Other) > Program Title** and change the name to **Northern Suburbs Bridge Club**
- Change the checked options, choose **Event/Sound** and click “**Set Sound**”, then disable the 3 minute warning message.

Options

Rounds Times Other Sounds Presets Text

1 Monitor Auto Start Next Round

Start Sound 3 Minute Sound

2 Minute Sound 1 Minute Sound

Change Sound 60 Change Secs

Skip Sound Break Sound

Options

Rounds Times Other Sounds Presets Text

Event Side Sound

2 Minute | Low Bell

Set Sound Play Sound

Options

Rounds Times Other Sounds Presets Text

Text for 3 Minute Warning
Final bidding started

Text for 2 Minute Warning
Less than 2 minutes

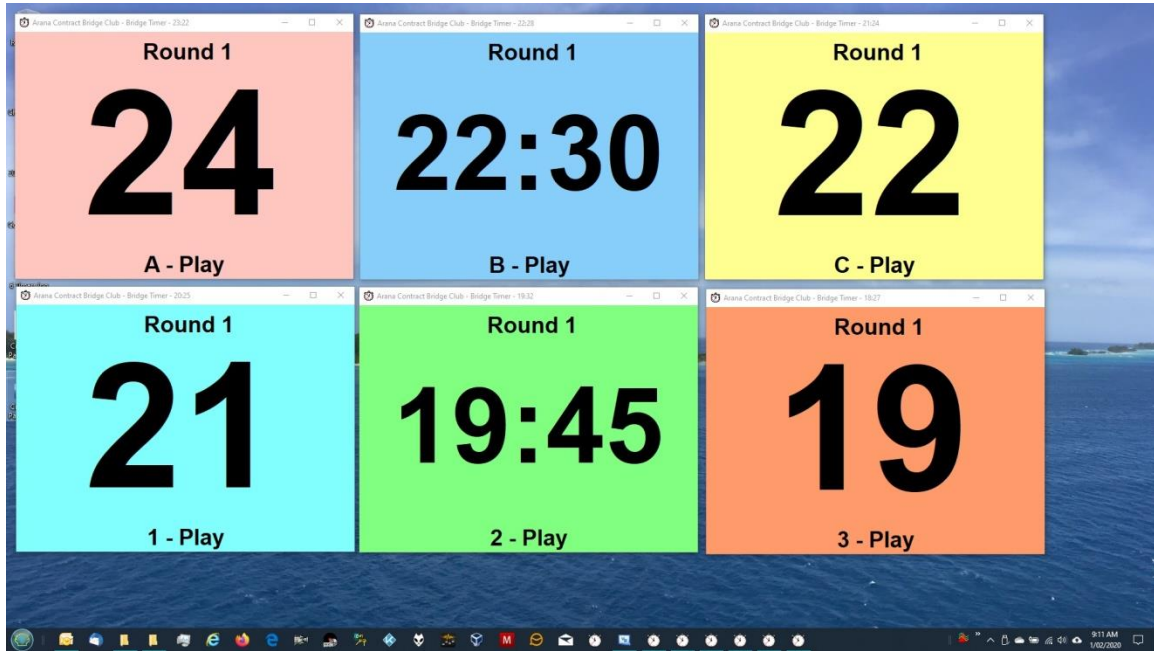
Text for 1 Minute Warning
Less than 1 minute

Reset Text

Mike Le Voi
IT Consultant
Qld Contract Bridge Club
15 May 2022
mikelevoi@gmail.com

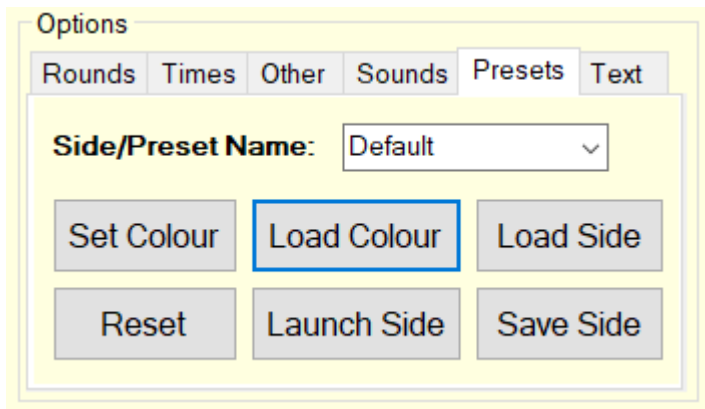
Advanced – Using Multiple Timers

The program caters for up to 7 timers: Default, Side A, Side B, Side C etc. Each timer has its own colour.



This allows, say, Side A to be playing 4 board rounds while Side B is playing 5 board rounds etc.

The timers are controlled via **Options > Presets**



There are 7 Sides/Presets Names

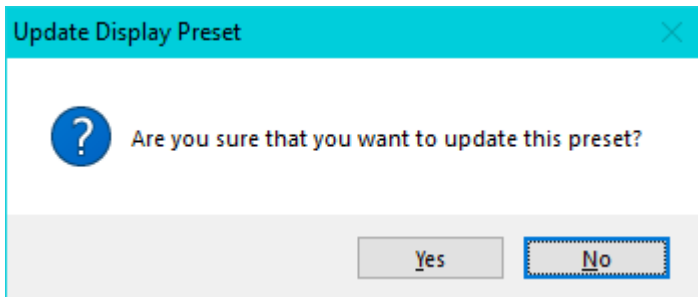
- Default
- Side A
- Side B
- Side C
- Preset 1
- Preset 2
- Preset 3

Initial Preset Definition

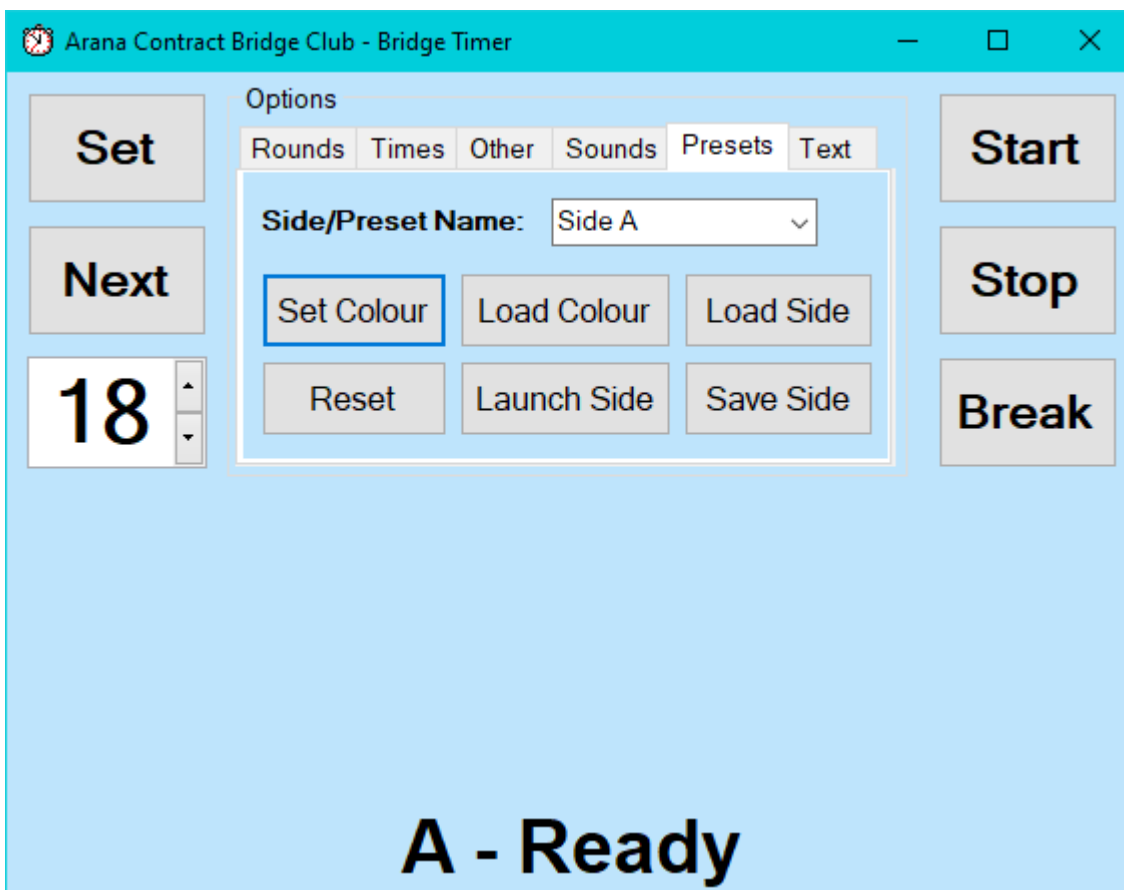
Before you can use the various timers, you have to define the preset definitions that you want. **This is a “once only” activity.** After this, all predefined timers can be launched by the program or via the command line.

To define the layout for **Side A**, select “**Side A**” and then click “**Load Side**”. Now drag the borders of the program so that the shape is what you want. Position the program on the monitor where you would like it to display.

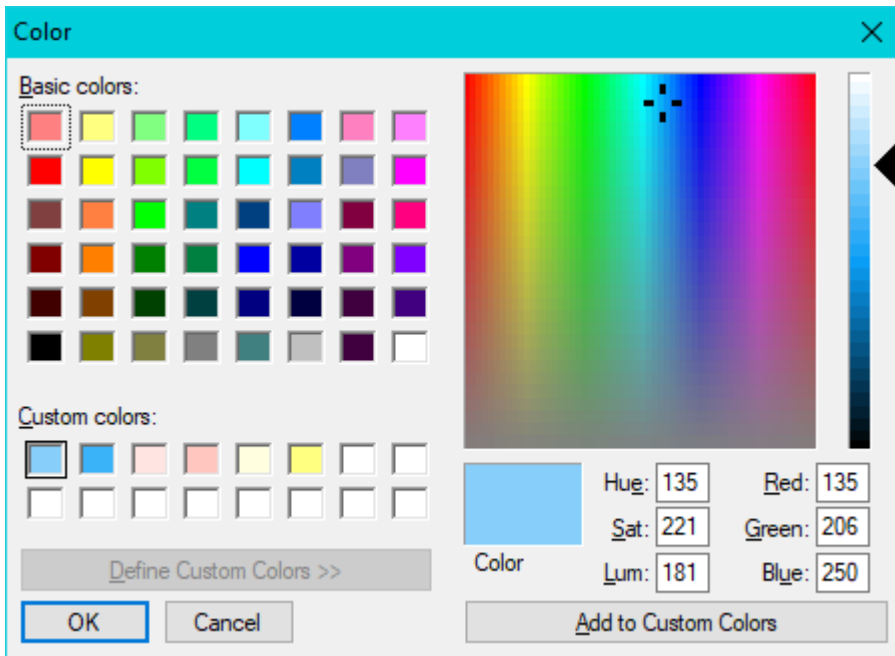
Now click “**Save Side**”. The following dialog appears:



Click “**Yes**”. Now, the shape, size and position for **Side A** has been defined.



Now define the colour you want for Side A. Click “**Set Colour**”.



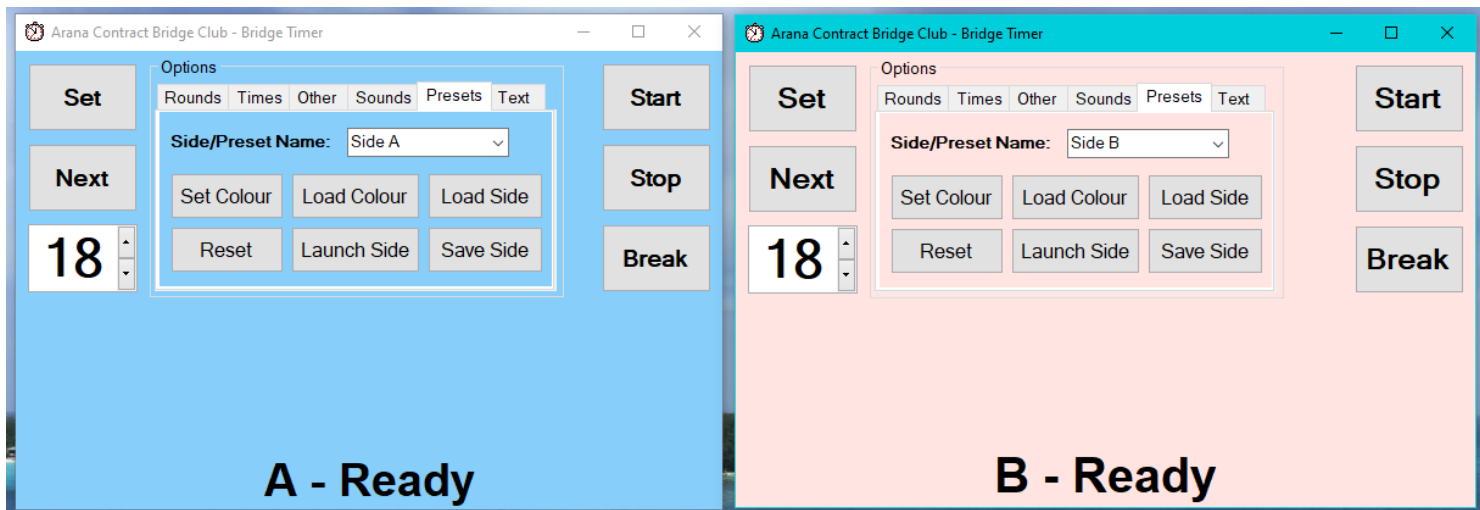
Choose the colour you want and click “OK”.

Repeat this operation for **Side B** and **Side C**. Also, define the size, shape etc for the **Default** preset as well as **Presets 1, 2 and 3**. If you dislike the colours that you have chosen, you can click “Reset” to reset to the default colours.

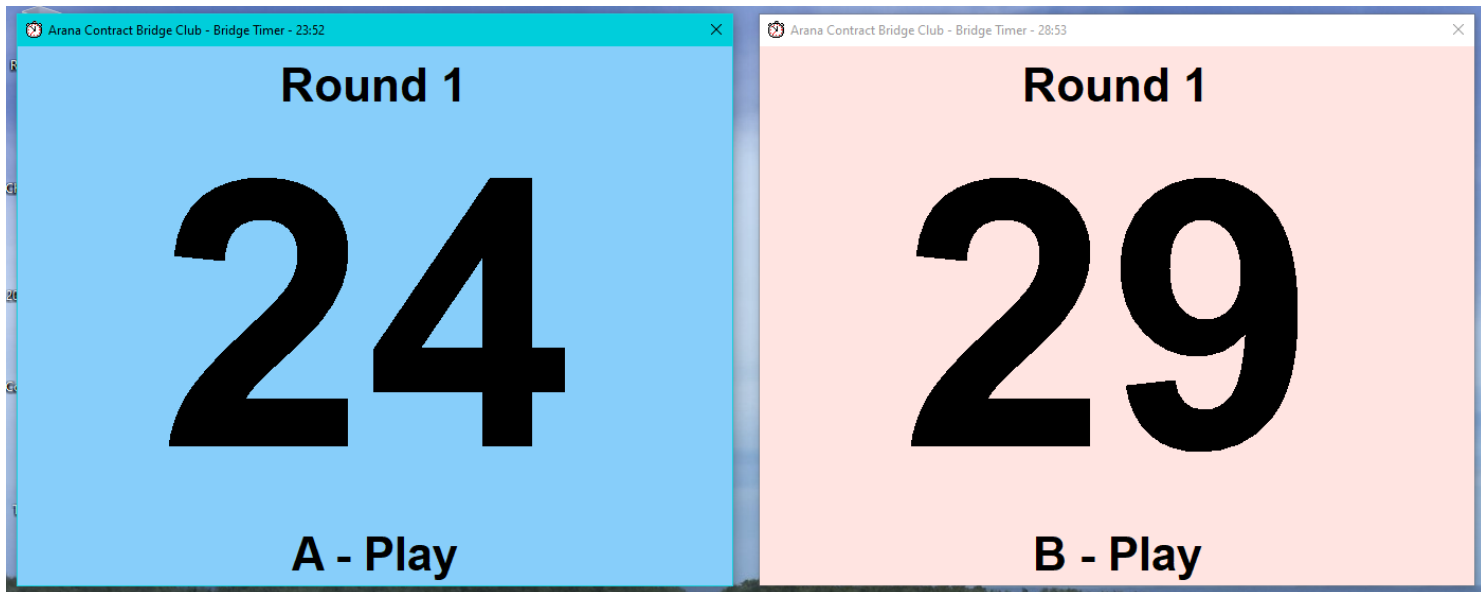
Starting Multiple Timers via the program

You can start multiple timers via the program or via the command line. Here is an example using the program:

- Start **Bridge Timer** and select **Options > Presets**
- Select **Side A** and click “Load Side”. The display will change to the required settings for **Side A**.
- Select **Side B** and click “Launch Side”. **Side B** will now start with the required shape, size and position.



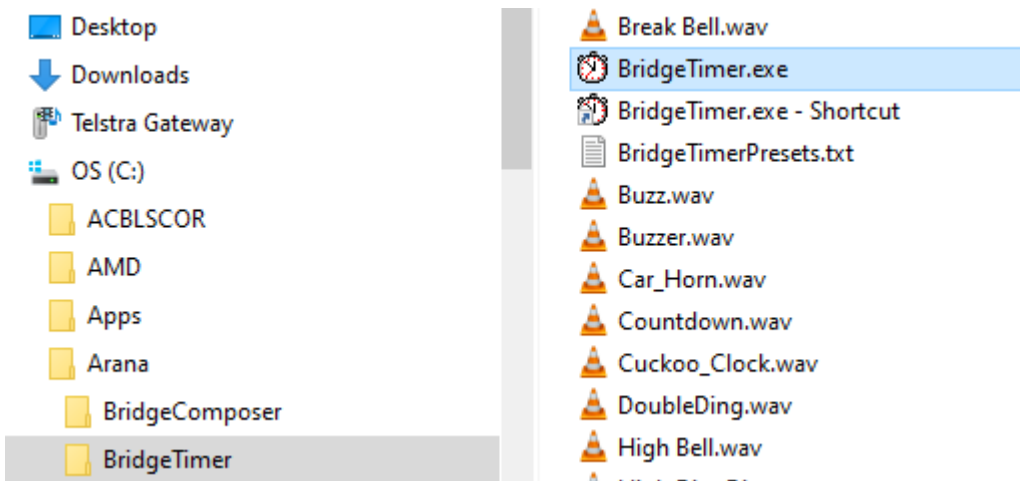
Now, simply set the round times for each side and start each timer.



Starting Multiple Timers via the Command Line

Here is an example of how to automate the start up of **Side A** and **Side B**:

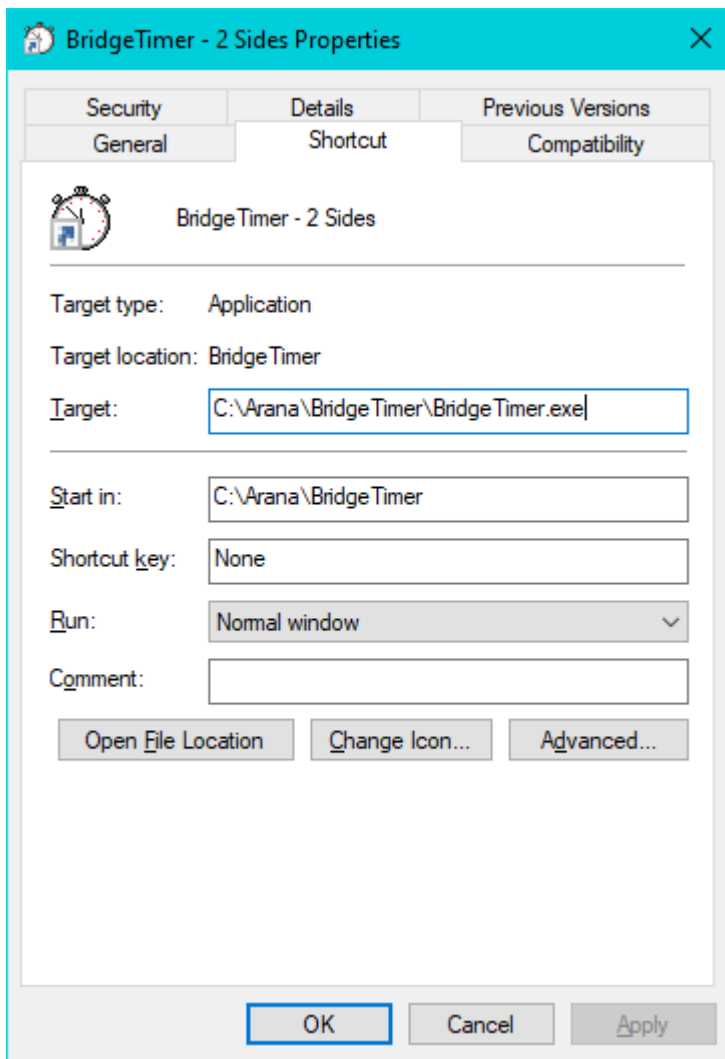
- In **File Explorer**, open the **Bridge Timer** directory and **Right Click** the program **BridgeTimer.exe**
- Select **Create shortcut**



- **Right Click** the shortcut and rename it to be called **“BridgeTimer – 2 Sides”**

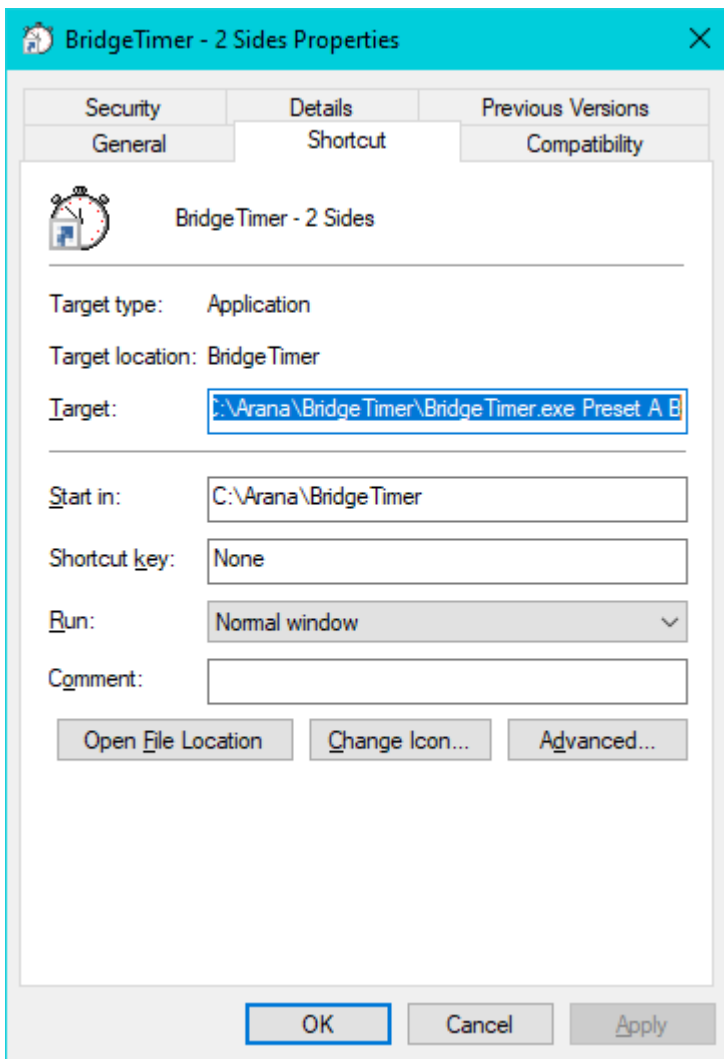
Name	Date modified
bigcursr.ani	15/02/1998 2:04 PM
bighand.ani	9/12/1998 10:30 PM
Break Bell.wav	16/11/2019 8:57 AM
BridgeTimer - 2 Sides	28/01/2020 3:33 PM
BridgeTimer.exe	28/01/2020 2:32 PM
BridgeTimerPresets.txt	28/01/2020 3:25 PM

- **Right Click** the shortcut and **select Properties**



- Edit the **Target** to read as follows (Your directory name will be different)

C:\Arana\BridgeTimer\BridgeTimer.exe **Preset A B**



- Now **Double Click** the shortcut to run the program. **Side A** and **Side B** will now **both** start 😊
- You can **Drag and Drop** the shortcut onto the taskbar if you want
- That way, you can start the **Side A** and **Side B** timers by a single click of the taskbar icon

The command line syntax is: **Preset x [y z]**

- **Preset** is mandatory
- You can specify **1, 2 or 3** presets
- The preset characters are:
 - 0 ("Default")
 - A, B or C (Side A, Side B or Side C)
 - 1, 2 or 3 (Preset 1, Preset 2 or Preset 3)

Examples:

Preset A B C Start 3 sides

Preset 0 2 Start the Default program and also start another instance - Preset 2