

**in**

<b>COLLABORATORS</b>
----------------------

	TITLE :  in		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY		October 27, 2024	

<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>
-------------------------

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Table of Contents . . . . .	1
1.2	About Trackdisk Prefs . . . . .	1
1.3	Installation . . . . .	2
1.4	Installation: TDPrefs . . . . .	2
1.5	Installation: Trackdisk . . . . .	2
1.6	Editing Preferences . . . . .	2
1.7	Preferences - Calibrate delay . . . . .	3
1.8	Preferences - Settle delay . . . . .	3
1.9	Preferences - Step delay . . . . .	3
1.10	Preferences - Retries limit . . . . .	3
1.11	Preferences - NoClick . . . . .	4
1.12	Preferences - Drives . . . . .	4
1.13	Technical Informations . . . . .	4
1.14	Tech Infos: TDPrefs . . . . .	4
1.15	Tech Infos: Trackdisk . . . . .	5
1.16	Tech Infos: Trackdisk Public Unit . . . . .	5
1.17	Disclaimer . . . . .	5
1.18	History . . . . .	5

# Chapter 1

## in

### 1.1 Table of Contents

Trackdisk Prefs  
By Eric Sauvageau (Merlin)

June 11th, 1994  
Freeware

About Trackdisk Prefs  
Installation  
Editing Preferences  
Technical Informations  
Disclaimer  
History

### 1.2 About Trackdisk Prefs

Two years ago, I was using Nickprefs (from Nicola Salmoria) for two things: the animated wait pointer, and the trackdisk preferences. I loved the second feature because I had a quite noisy external drive, and I found that if I modified some of the trackdisk parameters for this device, I could reduce grinding noise heard while the heads were moving.

But someday, I traded my old A500 for a shiny little A1200, with AGA and Kickstart 3.0. Nice babe! But... Nickprefs crashed under 3.0 because of some nasty trick done to the OS. So I had to remove Nickprefs from my system.

Some months later, I haven't found yet a replacement for the trackdisk preferences. So I decided to solve this problem.

So was born Trackdisk Prefs. It's mainly a new preferences editor that will allow you to adjust the various trackdisk.device parameters in the same way you would adjust your screenmode or your printer parameters.

Note:Trackdisk Prefs requires Kickstart 2.04 or better.

---

## 1.3 Installation

You can use the included install script to install Trackdisk Prefs (just double-click on the "Install" icon), or read the following instructions.

Trackdisk Prefs consist of two programs:

TDPrefs - Stays in background, watching for any change request.  
Trackdisk - The preferences editor.

## 1.4 Installation: TDPrefs

TDPrefs is a small program that will do the same things IPrefs is already doing with the other preferences: it will sit in background (eating 0% CPU time - pure Amiga magic :), watching for any change in the preferences. As soon as it will notice a change in the preferences, it will adjust your drives according to it, and will return to idle state.

Just copy TDPrefs in your C: directory, and insert this single line somewhere in your S:User-Startup, or in your S:Startup-Sequence (I like to put it just after IPrefs):

```
C:TDPrefs
```

No need to RUN it since it will detach itself from the current CLI. If you want to remove TDPrefs at a later time, just enter:

```
TDPrefs REMOVE
```

If you are really tight in RAM and want to save 5 Kb, you can put C:TDPrefs somewhere in your startup-sequence, and just before the LoadWB command, put a C:TDPrefs <NIL: >NIL: REMOVE. You will no longer be able to adjust your drive settings "on the fly" without a reboot, but the initial settings found in the prefs file the first time TDPrefs was runned will still be used by your drives.

## 1.5 Installation: Trackdisk

Trackdisk is the new preferences editor that should be copied with its icon in your Prefs/ drawer where all other preferences editor are. When you want to modify some of the trackdisk.device parameters, just run this program, adjust the various parameters, and then save them.

## 1.6 Editing Preferences

Once you have inserted TDPrefs in either the Startup-Sequence or the User-Startup, reboot the system, and run Trackdisk from your Prefs/ drawer. You'll see that the program looks much alike all other preferences editor, so I'll only explain the available parameters.

---

Calibrate Delay  
Settle Delay  
Step Delay  
Retries  
NoClick  
Drives

## 1.7 Preferences - Calibrate delay

Range: 1000-10000

Default: 4000

This is the delay the trackdisk.device will wait after stepping the heads during a calibrate. Usually, a calibrate will occur when a read/write error is encountered (you know, when the heads moves across the whole disk two times, a delay, and another head sweep?). Raising this value could be of some help when you have an old drive.

## 1.8 Preferences - Settle delay

Range: 5000-30000

Default: 15000

This is the delay trackdisk.device will wait after reaching a desired cylinder, before reading or writing any data.

## 1.9 Preferences - Step delay

Range: 1000-5000

Default: 3000

This is the delay trackdisk.device will wait after stepping the heads. This is the parameter you'll want to adjust if your drive is too noisy when moving heads. I've found that you can lower the value to 2300-2400 without experiencing read errors. Note that this safety limit can change, depending of your own drive. Raising this value could also help if you have an old drive, and experience lots of errors with it.

## 1.10 Preferences - Retries limit

Range: 0-50

Default: 10

This is the number of times trackdisk.device will retry to read/write a track after encountering an error before giving up and displaying a "Read/Write error block xxxx". Raising this value can be usefull when you have some bad disk and you want to salvage files from it. You could also lower it to 0, so a Read/Write error will appear immediately if trackdisk.device has problems trying to read/write datas from a disk. It could be usefull if you want to know immediately if the disk you are using is prone to some future read/write errors.

---

## 1.11 Preferences - NoClick

Range: On or Off

Default: Off

You surely know about this annoying drive clicking when there's no disk in a floppy drive? There's already a lot of small programs that will disable this annoying clicking, but since it's something part of the trackdisk.device parameters (the real name is Trackdisk Public Unit), why not include it in TDPrefs? ;)

Checking this gadget will set the NoClick flag of the Trackdisk Public Unit, quieting the drive-clicking. You may be asking: "Why the heck Commodore haven't turned off the drive clicking by default?" There can be two reasons:

a) Some older drives with mechanic stop (I suspect that much of the A500 have those) can be damaged by using this feature on a long period. You can tell if you have one of those mechanic stop by the little clicking still heard from your drive even with Noclick turned ON. If this is the case, don't turn ON the NoClick feature for this drive.

b) I've noticed by experience that while the NoClick feature is turned ON on a system with quite a few harddisk partitions, the floppy drive will take much more time to acknowledge the insertion of a disk. Don't ask me why tough :)

## 1.12 Preferences - Drives

Range: DF0: to DF3:

You can use different settings for each of your floppy drives. Just select here which drive you are currently adjusting.

## 1.13 Technical Informations

TDPrefs and Trackdisk were compiled using Amiga E 2.1b. The GUI was designed with GadToolsbox 2.0c and SrcGen 0.4.

TDPrefs  
Trackdisk  
Trackdisk Public Unit

## 1.14 Tech Infos: TDPrefs

When runned, TDPrefs will start a new Process pointing to itself, so this way it will not block the current CLI process. It will create a notify request, remaining in wait-state, watching for any change in the ENV:Trackdisk.prefs file. As soon that a change will be noted to this file, it will awake, load the new preferences, adjust the drive's

---

Trackdisk Public Unit structures, and return to its wait-state. This way, the only time TDPrefs will take some CPU time will be when a change occur in the prefs file.

## 1.15 Tech Infos: Trackdisk

Trackdisk is a simple preferences editor, that will allow you to modify a preferences file saved in ENV:Trackdisk.prefs (USE or SAVE) and in ENVARC:Trackdisk.prefs (SAVE only). It doesn't actually accept any argument.

## 1.16 Tech Infos: Trackdisk Public Unit

The floppy drives are handled by the trackdisk.device, each drive being a different unit (DF0: is unit 0, DF1: is unit 1, and so on). Each unit has a public data structure with various parameters, some of them being Read/Write, others being Read Only.

So, in short: TDPrefs is 100% OS friendly (or so I think, at least!), and should work with future OS releases.

## 1.17 Disclaimer

This software is provided "as is". I'm not responsible of any problem you may encounter while using this software or any other files included in this package. You are using it at your own risks.

This archive can be freely distributed, as long as all included files remains unmodified. The whole archive and the files included in it are Copyright © 1994 by Eric Sauvageau.

Even if this software has been tested thoroughly, some bugs can still exists in it. If you found one, just send me a netmail on Fido 1:242/907.0 about it so I can fix it for a future update.

If you are using this program on a regular basis, then you MUST pay the Shareware fee. Remember that supporting software authors is the best way to support YOUR Amiga.

Thanks to: -Nicola Salmoria for Nickprefs.  
-Commodore-Amiga for my A1200 (I neeeeeeed an HD!).  
-Wouter van Oortmerssen for Amiga E and SrcGen 0.4.  
-Jabba Development for GadToolsbox 2.0c.

## 1.18 History

---

v1.0 - First public release.

"So stand up and cry for freedom  
And keep the dream alive."

-White Lion

---