

Advanced

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WRITTEN BY		January 23, 2025	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

Advanced

1.1 MAIN

1.2 Conditional Branching with IF

Conditional Branching with IF

ASM-One has the possibility to use Conditional Branching. This allows you to assemble your source based on certain conditions.

Obvious exmaples are that of excluding 68020++ code from a version ment for the 68000/010.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1.3 Building and Using MACRO's

Building and Using MACRO's

MACRO's are pieces of coding presented by just one 'instruction' with some 'operands'.

The most obvious thing people do with MACRO's is to replace repetitive coding with just one 'instruction'.

In this chapter I will try to explain how you can Build and Use your own MACRO's.

Before you start
A simple MACRO
A complex MACRO

Some MACRO's Explained
Using the NARG symbol
Errors & Debugging

1.4 Some usefull information before you start

Some usefull information before you start

Where to place MACRO's in your source ?

The best place to place MACRO definitions is in the beginning of your source. Our in a seperate INCLUDE file, which is included in the beginning of your source.

Beginning a MACRO

You begin a MACRO by making up a label to define the MACRO. After the label (in the next colom) you will put the word 'MACRO':

mymacro: MACRO

In the middle of the MACRO

He will be the coding that make up the MACRO.

Ending a MACRO

A MACRO should ALWAYS be ended with the word 'ENDM':

ENDM

MACRO Operands

MACRO operands start with an backslash (\) followed by a number ranging from 0 to 9.

Special Operand

Since a MACRO could be used several times within you source, it would be impossible to assign a unique label to labels within the MACRO.

Luckely there is a special symbol for that: \@.

Whenever ASM-One encounters this symbol within a MACRO, ASM-One will replace the \@ for a number.

MACRO Depth

MACRO's can be called in MACRO's up till 5 levels.

1.5 A simple MACRO

A simple MACRO

A very simple MACRO that I use myself is the following:

```
Gfx:    MACRO
        move.l  gfxbase,a6
        jsr _LVO\1(a6)
        ENDM
```

To use this MACRO in my source, I would do the following:

```
start:   Gfx Text
```

ASM-One will translate this to:

```
start:   move.l  gfxbase,a6
        jsr _LVOText(a6)
```

As you can see, ASM-One has replaced the '\1' with 'Text'.

Other MACRO's that are used quite often are the PUSH and PULL MACRO's.

```
PUSH:    MACRO
        movem.l \1,-(a7)
        ENDM
```

```
PULL:    MACRO
        move.l  (a7)+,\1
        ENDM
```

You could make the a little bit more complex by using one operand to specify the address register to store the registerlist:

```
PUSH:    MACRO
        movem.l \1,-(\2)
        ENDM
```

```
PULL:    MACRO
        movem.l (\2)+,\1
        ENDM
```

Although this is almost the same as using the MOVEM instruction.

Advantage of these MACRO's are that you will not forget how to store a registerlist on stack. Many people have trouble with the - and + before or after the address register. This is the option to make sure you will always be right.

As you can see, these MACRO's will simply save you some serious typing or thinning and thus preventing you from making mistakes.

1.6 A complex MACRO

A complex MACRO

Here's an example of a more complex MACRO:

```
do_it:    MACRO
    btst   #\1,d0
    bne.b  \@1
    move.l  \2,d0
    lsl.w  #\3,d0
    bra.b  *+4

\@1:      moveq #0,d0
    ENDM
```

You could call this MACRO by typing the following in your source:

```
start:    do_it 10,d2,3
```

Also showed here is how to branch out of a MACRO. Since you don't know where the MACRO will be used, you can't branch to a specific label. If you would do that, you could get in to serious problems.

The only thing left is to specify the branch in bytes calculated from the current offset (in assembler -- aangegeven met een -- *).

But be carefull !!! These hardcoded branches will NOT be updated when something changes in your source !!!

1.7 Some MACRO's explained

Some MACRO's explained

If you browse to the AMiga Includes now and then, you will notice a lot of MACRO's. These MACRO's are used so a C-like programming style can be used in the Includes.

Many people have no clue at all what these MACRO's do. So I'll take this opportunitie to explain some of these (very) complex MACRO's.

BITDEF MACRO

The BITDEF MACRO is as follows (example from the exec/exec.i):

```
BITDEF  AF,68010,0 ; also set for 68020
```

As you can see, the MACRO uses three operands. The first is a piece of text used to uniquely identify this group of Bit Definitions (namely that the bits of the AttnFlags). The second is used to specify the uniquely identify the bit definition with the group (namely the type of processor). And the third is used to specify the actual value of the bit.

When compiled, we will get the following line in our source:

```
AFB_68010 equ 0
```

As you can see, a 'B' has been added to the label. This 'B' is not specified as one of the operands for the BITDEF MACRO. So this 'B' is inserted by the MACRO directly or by another MACRO called within the BITDEF MACRO.

Now let us look how the BITDEF MACRO looks like (exec/types.i):

```
**
** Bit Definition Macro
**
** Given:
** BITDEF  MEM,CLEAR,16
**
** Yields:
** MEMB_CLEAR EQU 16      ; Bit number
** MEMF_CLEAR EQU 1<<16   ; Bit mask
**

BITDEF      MACRO      ; prefix,&name,&bitnum
    BITDEF0 \1,\2,B_,\3
\@BITDEF    SET        1<<\3
    BITDEF0 \1,\2,F_,\@BITDEF
    ENDM

BITDEF0     MACRO      ; prefix,&name,&type,&value
\1\3\2     EQU        \4
    ENDM
```

Although this may look quite complex, it is actually quite simple.

First let us look at the BITDEF MACRO itself, line by line:

```
BITDEF      MACRO
```

Here's where the MACRO definition starts.

```
    BITDEF0 \1,\2,B_,\3
```

Here another MACRO is called. As you remembered the BITDEF MACRO needed THREE operands. But FOUR operands are specified here. Which means that the BITDEF0 operand needs FOUR operands !!

```
\@BITDEF    SET 1<<\3
```


Here, a value is assign to the label \@BITDEF. Since the BITDEF MACRO is used in virtually every assembler include, it would be impossible to use a standard label. Therefore the '@' is used. ASM-One will replace '@' with a number.

Also remember, the THIRD operand (\3) was the ACTUAL value of the bit (zero in our example).

```
BITDEF0 \1,\2,F_,\@BITDEF
```

Here the bitmask is generated. Since the value of the bit is different @BITDEF is specified as the value instead of \3.

```
ENDM
```

End here the MACRO is ended.

If you look closely, you will see that there's not a lot happening in this MACRO. The real stuff is done in the BITDEF0 MACRO. Which needs FOUR operands and consists of only ONE line !!!

Let's see what that line does:

```
\1\3\2      EQU      \4
```

Ah, it's the actual line of coding that's been generated here.

As you can see, the MACRO needs FOUR operands. Operands \1, \2 and \3 will form the label, operand \4 the value.

Many people get confused here, because they know they only specified THREE operands to the BITDEF MACRO, and don't understand where the FOURTH operand is coming from. But BITDEF0 and BITDEF are two DIFFERENT MACRO's.

Operand \1 for the BITDEF MACRO is NOT the operand \1 for the BITDEF0 MACRO !!

It is as follows:

```
BITDEF
```

Operand	Value
\1	AF
\2	68010
\3	0

```
BITDEF0
```

Operand	Value
\1	AF
\2	B_
\3	68010
\4	0

Now you will say that the \1 operand is the same for BOTH MACRO's since they have the same value. It may seem like that, but when I

rearrange the operands for the BITDEF0 MACRO, I'll still get the same result:

```
BITDEF      MACRO      ; prefix,&name,&bitnum
    BITDEF0 \3,\2,B_,\1
ENDM

BITDEF0     MACRO      ; prefix,&name,&type,&value
\4\3\2      EQU        \1
ENDM
```

So as you can see, the operands are ONLY related to the operands specified for the MACRO. Operand \1 for the BITDEF MACRO has the 'AF' as value, while operand \1 for the BITDEF0 MACRO has '0' as value.

If you open exec/types.i you will see even more complex MACRO's.

Maybe you will now be able to read them and understand what they actually do.

1.8 Using the NARG symbol

Using the NARG symbol

The NARG symbol is ONLY usefull with MACRO's. The NARG symbol will hold the number of operands passed to the MACRO. Together with Conditional Branching you can make decisions IN the MACRO.

Here's an example

```
adres:      MACRO
    IF NARG=2
    move.l   d0,(\1,\2)
    ELSE
    move.l   d0,(\1,\2,\3)
    ENDIF
ENDM
```

This MACRO can be called with 2 or 3 operands:

```
start:      adres 10,a1
            adres 10,a1,d1
            rts
```

Which would be translated to the following code:

```
start:      move.l   d0,(10,a1)
            move.l   d0,(10,a1,d1)
            rts
```

Note: Outside the MACRO's NARG will not work or may have unknown values.
Only use it WITHIN MACRO's !!!

1.9 Errors & Debugging

Errors

Besides some specific MACRO errors (like MACRO overflow, etc.) there are some general errors you could encounter.

It's known that ASM-One's MACRO code has bugs, to swim around these bugs it's advised to write MACRO's using the following rules:

- 1) Place comment INFRONT or AFTER the MACRO, not IN the MACRO
- 2) Avoid the use of ANY unnecessary character IN the MACRO
- 3) NEVER use the backslash (\) as something different than it's ment to do in a MACRO (identify Operands)

Debugging

MACRO's are hard to debug, specially when they are complex. And it's getting more difficult because ASM-One will give an error on the line the MACRO is used, and not WITHIN the MACRO itself.

If you doubt the working of your MACRO, place it OUTSIDE a MACRO. Than ASM-One is able to generate normal errors.

Another option is to TURN OFF the 'Source-Level-Debugger', and debug your code directly. In this case ASM-One will step through the assembled source and you will see exactly what ASM-One has assembled.

Unfortunately, most errors are assembling errors, and the will force you to work without the debugger.