

ADB01

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Chapter 1

ADB01

1.1 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Part 1 - Introduction

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS

BY FRANK BUNTON

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PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

This Introduction Contains These Topics

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS
CONCEPT OF THESE ARTICLES
CONTENTS OF THIS SET
ABOUT VERSIONS OF AMIGADOS
EXPLANATION OF SCRIPT FILES

=== End of Introduction ===

1.2 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Introduction - General Assumptions

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS - INTRODUCTION

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

I am assuming that readers of these articles have a working knowledge of how to:-

- Find their way around the keyboard and find all the keys on it.
 - Boot up their Amiga with the Workbench disk.
 - Use all the Workbench menu items with the right mouse button.
 - Open windows by double clicking on icons with the left mouse button.
 - Resize and move windows around the Workbench screen.
 - Start up programs from their icons by double clicking on them with the left mouse button.
 - Enter text in requester gadgets by typing in the text then pressing the
-

- Return key.
- Format a new disk.
- And generally find their way around the Workbench system of operating the Amiga.

If you are unfamiliar with any of these then you should read you Amiga manuals to gain that familiarity.

=== End of Text ===

1.3 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Introduction - Concept of These Articles

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS - INTRODUCTION

CONCEPT OF THESE ARTICLES

These articles are not meant to be a full and definitive description of all AmigaDOS commands with full explanations of 'Formats' and 'Templates.' If you want that sort of thing then read the AmigaDOS manual. These articles are not meant to be a complete replacement of the manual.

What this disk does attempt to do is to provide the beginner with an introduction to the use of AmigaDOS by providing information and examples of most of the AmigaDOS commands in a way that takes the user through various commands and their main options without getting tied up in the "Format" or "Template" of the commands. In my experience, most beginners cannot quickly understand the format or template given in texts about AmigaDOS. By following through these notes, it is hoped that the beginner can become familiar with the main options of most commands without needing to worry about formats and templates. However, one article FORMAT & TEMPLATE does attempt to give you an explanation of how to understand them.

This subject can be made to appear very complex if you plunge in at the deep end with the complexity of most of the books and articles available on the subject, so what I will try to do is get you started in the use of AmigaDOS and Shell/CLI as simply as possible.

For some of you, the first few articles will be all that you will need as you will only use Shell/CLI occasionally, e.g. when a program from the Public Domain says that it needs to be run from CLI. This is fine if that is all you want it for. The Amiga is such a versatile machine that it allows all levels of users to operate the machine via Workbench or Shell/CLI.

Others will come to prefer the use of Shell/CLI to that of Workbench. Some even brag that they never use Workbench! Even so, if you are just starting out I would recommend that you follow these articles and become familiar with the commands discussed in these articles before going on to the more complicated texts.

However, whichever platform you use (Shell/CLI or Workbench) you are using AmigaDOS.

=== End of Text ===

1.4 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Introduction - Contents of This Set

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS - INTRODUCTION

CONTENTS OF THIS SET OF ARTICLES

The articles in this set are split into various parts each dealing with one topic or one command.

It is recommended that the new user should start at the beginning and work through the articles in the order shown in Part 1 of the index. In that way, the reader should not strike commands or usages that have not already been explained. If later articles are read before previous ones then the reader may come across unexplained concepts.

However, it is not always possible to talk about a command without referring to a command not yet explained (which is one reason why the manuals are so hard to follow at times!) but I will do my best not to do so unless it is really necessary and then I will try to briefly explain the previously unexplained command. I may also give a cross reference to the article that more fully explains the as yet undiscussed command or topic.

However, once I have already discussed a command or topic, I will not always cross reference back to a previous article unless I think it necessary.

Likewise, if I cross reference a term at the start of an article I will not usually cross reference it later on in the same article.

Of course, the above explanation is only for new users. If you are using "AmigaDOS For Beginners" purely as a reference, then the above comments are not applicable.

At times I have example scripts in an article. This has already been discussed in the article Using AmigaDOS For Beginners.

=== End of Text ===

1.5 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Introduction - About Versions of AmigaDOS

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS - INTRODUCTION

ABOUT VERSIONS OF AMIGADOS

To date there have been these versions of AmigaDOS:-

1.1 1.2 1.3 2.0 2.1 3.0 3.1

Note - 2.0 is often (probably more correctly) referred to as 2.04

Note - at time of writing (June 1997) the prospect of new versions of AmigaDOS is unclear. Let's hope that the purchase of the Amiga by Gateway 2000 (and the renaming of Amiga Technologies to Amiga International) will result in bigger and better things for the Amiga!

Note - If you see reference to version 1.4 in some old literature, take note that it was used to refer to the (then) proposed upgrade from version 1.3. It was never released as version 1.4. The changes were so extensive that they renamed it 2.0.

Many features remain the same for all versions but many have been improved from one version to another.

Where something differs I will make a note of it.

When I refer to different versions, I may use things like this:-

Usage	Meaning
All Versions	All versions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.0, 2.1, 3.0, 3.1
Version x.x	All versions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.0, 2.1, 3.0, 3.1
Version 1.x	Versions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Version 2.x	Versions 2.0, 2.1, 3.1
Version 1.3+	Versions 1.3, 2.0, 2.1, 3.0, 3.1
Version 2+	Versions 2.0, 2.1 & 3.0, 3.1

If you have an earlier version, and see a reference to a version later than yours, then do not stop reading the article. In all likelihood the reference to the later version may only be brief and more information relevant to your version could come later.

You can just skip over items relating to versions that you do not have, However, reading about later versions may inspire you to go out and buy an upgrade for your system!!

Also, it can be very handy to know how commands work in versions other than your own if you come to read scripts written before or after your AmigaDOS version was introduced, or if you are trying to write a script that will operate for all AmigaDOS versions!!

=== End of Text ===

1.6 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Introduction - Explanations of Script Files

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS - INTRODUCTION

EXPLANATION OF SCRIPT FILES

Towards the end of this disk are some articles that deal with explanations of various script files that are not part of the normal command explanations. These include, among other things, the startup-sequences for various AmigaDOS versions. It often makes things a lot clearer if line by line descriptions are given of scripts as these are the place where the

full power of AmigaDOS can be demonstrated.

I would strongly recommend that you go through all these explanations. Even if you do not think that you will ever use the particular script, I think that you will find that you will pick up ideas for other scripts that you will write for yourself. One of the best ways of learning new techniques is to thoroughly examine other people scripts until you understand what each and every line does.

=== End of Text ===
