

Discus

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Discus		
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Chapter 1

Discus

1.1 Discus User's Manual

Discus
Version 1.2

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!!!SHAREWARE!!!

Overview	Why use Discus ?
Installation	How to install Discus
ToolTypes	Basic configuration
The Main Window	Soo many buttons!
The Menus	Are you hungry? ;->
The Title List Window	How to enter CD (sub)titles
The Program Window	How to enter a program
The Preference Window	How to configure Discus
The Path Window	How to change file paths
The Color Window	Getting colorful
Keyboard Shortcuts	Using the keyboard
ARexx Commands	Full-featured ARexx port
The EID Fileformat	How title lists are saved
Copyright	Discus is SHAREWARE!!!
Bug Reports	I don't like this...
The Author	That's me
History	Once upon a time...
Future Ideas	Next versions/other projects

1.2 Overview

Discus is a program to play audio CDs (CDDA) via an SCSI compatible CD-ROM drive and offers the following functions:

- Clearly arranged + really (!) compact user interface (CD player look)
- Commodity – Use the keyboard for the most important functions; the window automatically pops up whenever you insert a CD, the screen's title bar shows the current track
- Full-featured ARexx port (registered version)
- Automatic recognition and display of already known CDs
- EID file format: Allows 3 title lines and synchornizable subtitles (Just right for soundtracks!)
- Title programming (registered version), random replay (combinable with title programming), Intro function, fading and muting
- Multilingual using the Locale.library

System requirements:

- Amiga with OS 3.0 or better
- A harddisk is strongly recommended
- SCSI compatible CD-ROM drive

Discus was tested on the following system:

Amiga 1200/68030/50Mhz/2 MB Chip, 16 MB Fastram/Harddisk/
Mitsumi FX600 CD-ROM-drive on internal IDE port/Atapi.device
(IDE-Fix demo version)/AmiCDFS 2.37

Programming is based on the PD program MCDPLAY V1.2 by Jamie Keir (Thank you for publishing the source code!)

1.3 Installation

Installation is done by the Installer (simply double-click the installation icon). If you want to install the program manually, simply copy the Discus directory to your harddisk and the font files to your FONTS directory. If you want to, you can also copy the .catalog file you want to use (from the Catalogs directory) to the directory Locale:Catalogs/<Language>/. If you want to automatically execute Discus on startup, either copy the Discus directory to your WBStartup directory (bad) or insert a Discus call into your file S:UserStartup (better).

1.4 ToolTypes

Being a commodity, Discus supports the following ToolTypes (you can also use them as arguments via the shell):

- CX_PRIORITY:
Selects the commodity priority (-128 to 127)
- CX_POPKEY:
Selects the key shortcut used to open the main window; you can also enter any other commodity InputEvent (e.g. DISKINSERTED)
Default: CTRL LALT d
- LOCALE
If you want to use another language than English, you must specify it here (of course the catalog of this language has to be in the directory

Catalogs/<Language>/!)

- KEYFILE
If you register, you can here specify the path to your keyfile (as the filename is only appended, you may have to end your path with "/").
Default: ENV:

All other preferences can be changed directly in the program.

1.5 The Main Window

Picture

The main window offers all basic functions you need to play CDs and is divided into 2 sections:

1. The status display

In the left upper edge the number of the track currently played is displayed, followed by the number of tracks the CD contains (or by the program length, if you're in program mode).
On the right you see the time index of the current track as well as the remaining times of both the current track and the whole CD.
In the middle there are the 3 text lines used to display the current title (or subtitle), if it is already entered.
On the lower border you can find the music calendar (the current track is highlighted) and on the right the volume (0-255).

2. The Buttons

Immediately below the display there are the basic functions of the CD player:

>	Plays the CD or switches to pause mode
[]	Stops playing
<<	Searches backward
>>	Searches forward
<<	Jumps to the previous track
>>	Jumps to the next track
^	Opens/Closes the CD tray

The three buttons beside select the play mode:

REPEAT	The CD (or the current program) is played in an infinite loop
RANDOM	The tracks of the CD (or the program) are played in a random order
INTRO	Every track is only played for a short time (this time can be changed in the preference window).

Below you can see the buttons for the direct title selection:

1-18	Selects the corresponding track
+	Selects the tens digits 2-9 in succession; the track number can be completed using the buttons 1 to 9 and 0.

The two arrows on the right are used to change the volume.

In the lower right edge there are the last four buttons:

PROG	Enables/Disables program mode
A>B	Selects the topical repeat mode. By pressing this button you select the starting time index. To select the stopping index, simply click the REPEAT button, and the repetition will start.
FADE	Slowly decreases the volume until zero and switches to pause mode.
MUTE	Selects a low volume.

1.6 The Menus

Project Menu:

About	Shows the information window
Hide	Closes the main window
Quit	Exits the proram

Options Menu:

Preferences	Opens the preference window
Paths	Opens the path window
Colors	Opens the color window
Load	Here you can load different preference files
Save as	Saves the current preferences (you can choose the file name)

Lists Menu:

Program List	Opens the program window
Title List	Opens the title list window

1.7 The Title List Window

Picture

Discus (as many other CD players) allows the creation of title lists for your CDs. The title you create will then be displayed when playing the CD. What is so special about Discus's title lists is that every track can have 3 lines title text (have you ever been annoyed that you can only specify one composer?). Furthermore every titel can be split to several subtitles. Every subtitle has it's own time index on which it will be displayed when playing the CD - ideal for soundtracks and tracks consisting of several cues!

Track List	Here you can see all tracks of the CD (the first entry is the CD title itself). If the CD is unknown, the tracks are named "Unknown Track #xx".
------------	---

Listed Line	Specifies, which of the 3 title lines shall be shown in the listview gadget
Subtitles	Shows a list of all subtitles of the selected track; often a track will have only one subtitle.
D	Deletes the selected subtitle. The first subtitle cannot be deleted
A	Adds an empty subtitle
Time	Specifies the time index, at which the selected subtitle shall be displayed; for the first subtitle this is always 00:00 (relative to the beginning of the track)

Below there are three string gadgets, which correspond to the three lines of the title. Right of these are three checkbox gadgets, which are used to disable any of these lines. Instead of a disabled line the corresponding line of the previous subtitle will be displayed.

The lines should be used the following way:

Line	CD title	Track title
1	Composer(s)	Composer
2	Title	Title
3	Performer	Special information (e.g. for the subtitle)

Of course the meaning of the lines can be changed freely (for soundtracks I use the 3rd line of the CD title for the text "Original Motion Picture Soundtrack"), but I recommend accepting the standard listet above if possible.

You can specify as many subtitle per track as you want and enter, at which time index each of them shall be displayed. You can for example display in the 3rd line of a soundtrack CD, what just happened in the movie (see also the title files for the Star Wars Special Edition CDs - of course you have to own the CDs!)

Save	Saves the preferences permanently
Use	Accepts the preferences without saving them
Cancel	Ignores the changing you made since opening the window

You can also control most of the actions in this window using the keyboard. The cursor keys are used to leaf through the track (up/down) and the subtitle list (left/right). "A" adds a new subtitle and "1" to "3" switch the three lines on and off. By pressing the TAB key you activate the topmost activated string gadget. If you press ENTER while entering text, the cursor jumps to the next line (or to the next subtitle if there is no next line).

1.8 The Program Window

Picture

Track List	Shows all tracks of the CD; you can add tracks to the program by simply clicking on them in this list
Listed Line	Specifies, which of the 3 title lines shall be shown in the listview gadget
Program List	Shows the whole program (a program can have up to 99

	entries)
<	Moves the selected program title one entry up
>	Moves the selected program title one entry down
D	Deletes the selected program title
Save	Saves the preferences permanently
Use	Accepts the preferences without saving them
Cancel	Ignores the changing you made since opening the window

You can save one program per CD, which will be loaded automatically every time you insert the CD. To play the program, simply click on the PROG button in the main window and then press the PLAY button (|>). You can also combine the random mode and the program mode - then random titles from your program will be played.

1.9 The Preference Window

Picture

SCSI Device	The name of your SCSI device
SCSI ID	The ID number of your CD-ROM drive
Winding Speed	The length of one step in normal scanning mode in 1/75 of a second
Fastwind Speed	The length of one step in fast scanning mode in 1/75 of a second
Speedup Time	The duration after which the program will change from normal to fast scanning mode
Intro Length	The duration for which every track will be played in intro mode
Fading Speed	The speed for decreasing the volume in fade mode; smaller values result in faster fading
Mute Volume	The volume to switch to in mute mode
Auto Play	Selects, whether or not a newly inserted CD will be played automatically
Auto Pop Up	Selects, whether or not the main window shall pop up every time you insert a CD
Title Bar Info	Selects, wheter or not the beginning of a new (sub-) title shall be shown in the title bar of the current screen
Numericpad Control	Here you can switch off the numericpad control if you need those keys for other programs (not contained in the picture!)
Title Bar Format	The format for the title bar display according to the format string of the C function "printf" - if you don't know how to use this function you should not change the default; a wrong text can result in a crash)
Save	Saves the preferences permanently
Use	Accepts the preferences without saving them
Cancel	Ignores the changing you made since opening the window

1.10 The Path Window

Picture

ID Directory	The directory, which shall be scanned for a standard ID file if you insert a CD for which no EID file can be found. Specify the directory, in which the CD player you used before Discus stored it's files.
EID Directory	The directory, in which Discus stores his title files
Program Directory	The directory, in which Discus stores his program files

You can open a file requester for any of the directories by pressing the corresponding "?" button.

Save	Saves the preferences permanently
Use	Accepts the preferences without saving them
Cancel	Ignores the changing you made since opening the window

1.11 The Color Window

Picture

Color	Here you can specify which color to change
R,G,B	The red, green and blue values of the selected color ranging from 0 to 255

When changing the RGB values of a color, you can immediately see the result (if the main window is open). If one of the colors used by Discus is exactly the same as another color on the screen, this color will also change. Anyway, the color will be reset when closing the window. Nevertheless you should never change the screen colors using another program while the color window is open.

If the colors in the main window differ strongly from the selected ones after closing the color window, the color depth of the screen is probably too small.

Save	Saves the preferences permanently
Use	Accepts the preferences without saving them
Cancel	Ignores the changing you made since opening the window

1.12 Keyboard Shortcuts

The following keys of the numericpad can be used in combination with the CTRL and the left ALT key to control Discus:

1-9	Plays the corresponding track
0	Plays track #10
+/-	Jumps to the previous/next track
*	Activates/Deactivates the mute function
.	Stops playing
ENTER	Starts playing or switches to pause mode

/ Opens/Closes the CD tray

You can switch off the usage of these keys in the preference window if you want to use them with other programs.

1.13 ARexx-Kommandos

Normally the ARexx port should have the name "Discus". If (for whatsoever reason) another program already has an ARexx port with that name, &-p the names "Discus.1", "Discus.2", etc. will be tried until one is found that does not already exist.

1.) Commands without return value:

PLAYTRACK nr
Plays track #nr

PLAYINDEX nr
Plays the CD at time index nr (in 1/75 of a second)

SKIPFWD
Plays the following track

SKIPBWD
Plays the previous track

STOP
Stops playing

PAUSE [ON|OFF]
Toggles pause mode (if an argument is given: on/off)

EJECT [IN|OUT]
Opens/Closes the CD tray (can also be called without argument)

OPENMAIN
CLOSEMAIN
Opens/Closes the main window

OPENLIST
CLOSELIST
Opens/Closes the title list window

OPENPROGRAM
CLOSEPROGRAM
Opens/Closes the program window

OPENPREFERENCES
CLOSEPREFERENCES
Opens/Closes the preference window

OPENPATHS
CLOSEPATHS
Opens/Closes the path window

OPENCOLORS
CLOSECOLORS
 Opens/Closes the color window

LOADPREFS name
 Reads the preferences stored as name

LOADPROGRAM id
 Loads the program of the CD of which the ID is id. Instead of an ID you can of course specify any other text. The name of the program file which Discus will try to load is PRGid

LOADLIST name
 Loads the title list of the CD of which the ID is id. See also "LOADPROGRAM" for file name specifications.

PROGRAM [ON|OFF]
 Toggles program mode (if an argument is given: on/off)

QUIT
 Exits Discus

INFO
 Opens the information window

SETVOLUME level
 Sets the volume to level (0-255)

MUTE [ON|OFF]
 Toggles mute mode on/off

FADE [ON|OFF]
 Toggles fade mode on/off

INTRO [ON|OFF]
 Toggles intro mode on/off

REPEAT [ON|OFF]
 Toggles repeat mode on/off

RANDOM [ON|OFF]
 Toggles random mode on/off

2.) Commands with return value:

GETCDSTAT
 Returns one of the following values:
 0 No CD inserted
 1 Stop
 2 Pause
 3 Play

GETPLAYMODE
 Returns a value with the following bits set:
 Bit 0 Program mode
 Bit 1 Random playback mode

Bit 2 Intro mode
Bit 3 Repeat mode

GETTRAYSTAT

Returns one of the following values:

0 CD tray in
1 CD tray out

GETTRACKADDR nr

Returns the start index of track #nr

GETCURRENTTRACK

Returns the number of the track (or program title) that is currently played

GETVOLUME

Returns the current volume (0-255)

GETCDID

Returns the CD ID as string

GETPOS

Returns always (even in program mode) the number of the current track

GETADDR

Returns the current time index

1.14 The EID file format

Filename: EID+CD ID

e.g.: EID1900674A03EA55 (Soundtrack "Home Alone")

The subtitles of every track are written in succession according to the following scheme:

Line 1 (string, NULL-terminated)
Flag 1 (Specifies whether or not to display the line; BOOL)
Line 2
Flag 2
Line 3
Flag 3

After the last subtitle of a track the character #255 will be written to signal the beginning of a new track. Therefore you cannot use this character at the beginning of a subtitle text line!

1.15 Copyright

Discus is Shareware. Therefore, if you do not own the keyfile, this is only a restricted shareware version. You can order the keyfile from the author for ATS 200.- (US\$ 20.-, DM 30.-) - or more :)

To register, simply send the money to me. Please don't forget to write, for which program you want to receive the keyfile and also to specify your name. If you have an E-Mail address and give it to me, I will send you the keyfile via E-Mail, otherwise you have to put an empty disk and a stamped envelope into the envelope you send me.

The shareware version is restricted in the following ways:

- No A>B repeat
- No ARexx port
- You cannot add titles to the title catalog (only when using standard ID files)
- Torturing requesters >:->

The Shareware version of Discus may be freely copied, provided that you do not demand more money for the copy than for the disk and the copying (with other words : You may not demand any money for the program itself). You may, however, only copy all files without any changes (except that you are allowed to archive or pack them). CD and Internet releases are permitted.

As a user of this program you take the full responsibility for possible damage on your data or devices caused by this software. The author of this program may never be hold responsible for damages of any kind.

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1.16 Bug Reports

No bugs known yet... :-)

Should you encounter an error, please tell me !

1.17 The author

You can reach me under the following addresses:

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!!!ATTENTION!!!

I do not know how long my E-Mail address will be valid! As long as you can reach my

Internet homepage: www.qspr03.tuwien.ac.at/~msched/

you can safely send me an E-Mail.

1.18 History

Improvements for version 1.1:

- Keyboard shortcuts (title window)
- Numericpad control can be deactivated

1.19 Future Ideas

I have the following ideas for improvements:

- Title list for direct selection.

Should you have other ideas, please tell me ; I will then try to realize them. Registered users who gave me their E-Mail address can use their key file for all new versions of Discus.

You should, however, not count on me really writing a new version of Discus (aside from one that contains only bug fixes). I don't want to exclude this possibility, but after the long work of writing the program I have no motivation at the moment, and I have other projects, too.

P.S.:

As you obviously own a CD-ROM drive, you will surely also be interested in my program "Autostart", which you can find in Aminet (disk/misc) and on my internet homepage . This program automatically executes a script file whenever you insert a CD (just right for Meeting Pearls and Amiga Plus CDs)
:-)