

**ADB08**

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# Chapter 1

## ADB08

### 1.1 AmigaDOS For Beginners - Part 8 - The DIR Command

AMIGADOS FOR BEGINNERS

BY FRANK BUNTON

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PART 8 - THE DIR COMMAND

Location - "c" directory (all versions)

Purpose - To display the contents of a directory

Availability - All AmigaDOS Versions

General Usage

Options - Comments

The ALL Option All AmigaDOS Versions

The DIRS Option All AmigaDOS Versions

The FILES Option AmigaDOS v1.3 onwards only

The INTER Option All AmigaDOS Versions

The AI Option All AmigaDOS Versions

=== End of Text ===

### 1.2 Part 8 - The DIR Command - General Usage

The DIR Command - General Usage

The next command to master is "DIR". If entered on its own:-

```
> DIR
```

it will show you the contents of the current directory, i.e. the names of all sub-directories with "(DIR)" after them and the names of all the current directory's files. It will not show the contents of the

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sub-directories (but see options).

It can also be used with the name of any directory so that you can view the contents of a directory without making it the current directory. For example, if the current directory is the root of the Workbench disk, you can view the contents of "devs/printers" by entering:-

```
> DIR devs/printers
```

If you are in a different path to the "devs/printers" directory, e.g. if the current directory is, say, "df0:fonts/topaz" you can view "devs/printers" by entering one of:-

```
> DIR df0:devs/printers
> DIR :devs/printers
```

If the current directory is on the disk in df0: and you wish to see a directory on the disk in df1: you can use:-

```
> df1:path-name/dir-name
```

Try using DIR as follows:-

```
> DIR Sys:
```

(Note that "Sys:" is the disk you booted from - either your floppy "Workbench" disk or the "Workbench" partition of your hard drive.)

For a floppy disk you should see something like this appear (for v3.1):-

```
WBStartup (dir)
C (dir)
Classes (dir)
L (dir)
Devs (dir)
Expansion (dir)
Libs (dir)
Prefs (dir)
Rexxc (dir)
S (dir)
System (dir)
T (dir)
Utilities (dir)
Devs.info           Disk.info
Expansion.info     Prefs.info
System.info        Utilities.info
WBStartup.info
```

Users with a hard drive system will see some extra items.

Users of workbench versions other than 3.1 will see somewhat different contents.

"Hidden" Directories

The first thing to note is that this shows 13 directories (v3.1) whereas, when the disk icon is opened, the disk window shows only 7 drawers (v3.1).

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The other 6 directories in v3.1 are "hidden" when you are using only the Workbench screen.

In v2+ these are not really hidden directories as you can view them in Workbench by selecting the "Window/Show/All Files" menu item.

All the file names that end in ".info" are, simply put, the actual icons that appear in the Workbench windows. Thus "disk.info" is the disk's icon, "System.info" is the icon for the "System" drawer, and so on. If a drawer or file does not have a corresponding ".info" file, then it does not have an icon and is hidden from Workbench v1.x and from Workbench2+ unless the "Window/Show/All Files" menu item is used.

Sometimes you may see a file named simply ".info". This is not an icon but a sort of "housekeeping" file that has information about the directory window and what is in it. It was used in some earlier versions of AmigaDOS.

=== End of Text ===

### 1.3 Part 8 - The DIR Command - Options

DIR Command "Options"

The options available for use with DIR are:-

The ALL	Option	All AmigaDOS Versions
The DIRS	Option	All AmigaDOS Versions
The FILES	Option	AmigaDOS v1.3 onwards only
The INTER	Option	All AmigaDOS Versions
The AI	Option	All AmigaDOS Versions

They can be used on the current directory, as in this example of the ALL option:-

---

```
> DIR OPT A
```

or, if you are using a directory name, put that directory name first then the option, as in one of:-

```
DIR Dirname OPT A      (for a directory on the current disk)
DIR Device:Dirname OPT A (for a directory on a different disk)
```

However, for the sake of simplicity, I will describe the options as though they are being applied to the current directory.

=== End of Text ===

## 1.4 Part 8 - The DIR Command - The ALL Option

The ALL Option

The ALL option has one of these formats:-

```
> DIR OPT A (v1.2, v1.3 & v2+) (meaning option all)
> DIR ALL   (v1.3 & v2+)
```

This will show not only a list of the contents of the current directory, but also the contents of any sub-directories within the current directory. Try it on the Workbench disk root directory to get an idea of how it works. (Press CTRL-C to stop the listing if you like.)

=== End of Text ===

## 1.5 Part 8 - The DIR Command - The DIRS Option

The DIRS Option

If you wish to view ONLY the names of the DIRECTORIES within the directory then you can use one of:-

```
> DIR OPT D (v1.2 onwards)
> DIR DIRS  (v1.3 & v2+)
```

=== End of Text ===

## 1.6 Part 8 - The DIR Command - The FILES Option

The FILES Option (NOT available in v1.2 in either form)

If you wish to view ONLY the names of the FILES within the directory then you can use one of:-

```
> DIR FILES (v1.3 & v2+)
```

---

```
> DIR OPT F    (v2+ only)
```

```
=== End of Text ===
```

## 1.7 Part 8 - The DIR Command - The INTER Option

The INTER (Interactive) Option

The interactive option or mode can be used as follows:-

```
> DIR OPT I    (v1.2 onwards)
```

```
> DIR INTER    (v1.3 onwards)
```

When this mode is used the system stops after each directory or file name and displays a question mark after it. The user can then interact with the DIR command by entering one of the following (upper or lower case is accepted):-

Return key only - go to next name in list

E - Enter the directory (Ignored for file names)

B - Go back up one level of directory tree. If in first directory then the command is quit.

Q - Quit the command

DEL - Deletes the file or the empty directory currently being named (NOT the DEL key but the letters D E L)

T - Type the contents of the file on screen.

C - (Not available in v1.2)

- allows the entry of an AmigaDOS~ command.

This option is rather difficult to use and get used to. Personally, I would rather use a good directory utility program.

```
=== End of Text ===
```

## 1.8 Part 8 - The DIR Command - The AI Option

The AI (All - Interactive) Option

The AI option is really a combination of the ALL and the INTER options.

It works in the same way as INTER but shows the contents of all subdirectories as well as the main directory.

```
> DIR OPT AI    (v1.2 onwards)
```

```
> DIR ALL INTER (v1.3 onwards)
```

```
=== End of Text ===
```

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