

AmiAS154P

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

AmiAS154P

1.1 Table of Contents

AmiAS154P v1.1

A driver for the asl54p reversible autoswitch.

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Author

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1.2 What to do with it

Purpose

=====

The asl54p is a reversible autoswitch, that allows you to connect upto four computers to a single printer or one computer to four printers. For the last option a special piece of software is required to control the switch. As always there's only software for the PC, until now ...

The as154p is produced by Aten International and sold under different labels at computer stores. It costs around DEM 99,- / EURO 50,- / US\$ 60 ,-.

Here is a picture of the as154p (jfifdt required).

1.3 Legal stuff

Copyright

=====

AmiAS154P is Copyright (c) 1999 by the author Stephan Rupprecht.

The program is distributed under the concept of SHAREWARE, you are requested to send me DEM 5,- / US\$ 3,- if you like the program and continue to use it.

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1.4 What you need to use it

Requirements

=====

- Any Amiga (compatible) computer, CPU 68020 or better
- OS 2.0 or better
- as154p reversible autoswitch
- parallel port (supported are Amiga build-in, iobliz2 / iobliz12p, mfc3)
- v24 cable (1:1 male 25pin subd on both ends) to connect the switch to the computer.
- and of course some printers ;))

1.5 How to install it

Installation

=====

Just copy AmiAS154P to any place you want.

1.6 How to configure and use it

Important note

=====

If you want to connect the as154p to the build-in parallel port, you have to modify the cable that connects your computer to the switch by cutting line 17 (SELECT). But watch out:

- 1) I am not responsible for any damage that is caused to your computer, the switch, your family or pets ;)
- 2) By cutting the line some printers may no longer work.
- 3) Sending data to the printer may cause the switch to change the current port (uncommen).

You can forget about this note, if you connect the as154p to an ioblix- or mfc3 board ! These boards have a complete centronics parallel port thus the modification is not necessary for them.

Configuration and Usage

=====

You can run AmiAS154P from Workbench or from a shell. For WB usage you'll have to specify options via tooltypes, otherwise you'll have to use command-line parameters.

BOARD/K, UNIT/N/K, CX_POPKEY/K, CX_POPUP/T, CX_PRIORITY/N/K, ANAME/K, BNAME/K, PORT, DNAME/K, ENAME/K, BCKEY=BROADCASTKEY/K, AKEY/K, BKEY/K, DKEY/K, EKEY/K, AUTOCLOSE/S

If you start AmiAS154P with CX_POPKEY given, the program creates a commodity object and pops up its window each time you press the specified hotkey, or at startup when CX_POPUP=YES was specified. An ARexx port will be created, too (see later).

```

+---+-----+---+---+
| O | AmiAS154P      | Z | D |
+---+-----+---+---+
|                                     |
| +-----+ |                                     | | |
| |          Broadcast          | | Pressing this button connects to all ports/ |
| +-----+ | | printers. |
|                                     |
| +-----+ | | Pressing this button connects to port A. | |
| |          Printer 1          | | The label of this button can be changed by |
| +-----+ | | the ANAME option. |
|                                     |
| +-----+ | | Pressing this button connects to port B. | |
| |          Printer 2          | | The label of this button can be changed by |
| +-----+ | | the BNAME option. |
|                                     |
| +-----+ | | Pressing this button connects to port D. | |
| |          Printer 3          | | The label of this button can be changed by |
| +-----+ | | the DNAME option. |
|                                     |
| +-----+ | | Pressing this button connects to port E. | |
| |          Printer 4          | | The label of this button can be changed by |
| +-----+ | | the ENAME option. |
|                                     |
| +---+ | | When checked, pressing one of the buttons |
| | | Autoclose this window | | above will close the window. The initial |

```

```
| +--+ | state of this gadget can be changed by the
| | | AUTOCLOSE option.
+-----+
```

The AKEY, BKEY, DKEY, EKEY, BCKEY options allow you to define a hotkey for each port/printer. By default there are no hotkeys defined.

If you invoke AmiAS154P without CX_POPKEY a port number must be supplied, this is done via the PORT option. It accepts either 1 or A for port/printer A, 2 or B for port B, 3 or D for port D, 4 or E for port E and 0 or BC for broadcast. After switching to the given port, the program will exit. If you start the program with CX_POPKEY given, the PORT option is optional.

By default AmiAS154P assumes that the switch is connected to the build-in port of your computer. If not, the BOARD option must be specified:

```
BOARD=IOBLIX      for the ioblix z2
BOARD=IOBLIX1200  for the ioblix 1200 par
BOARD=MFC3        for the multifacecard3
```

any other ioboard is not supported yet (does someone have developer docs for the hypercom boards?) !

The UNIT option is optional and only required for an example, when the switch is connected to the second parallel port of an ioblix z2.

The ARexx port is named 'AMIAS154P' and provides the following commands:

```
SWITCH2PORT <portnr> - switches to the specified port (see PORT option).
QUIT - guess what it does ;)
```

Starting v1.1 of AmiAS154P a new device called 'as154p.device' will be added to your system if you invoke the program with CX_POPKEY given. This device allows you to control the switch in a comfortable way but requires that you have a printer.device installed that supports multiple printer on different ports/units (TurboPrint by IrseeSoft or printer.device v42). All you have to do is to reconfigure printer.device to send all printer data to as154p.device, where each printer is connected to a different unit. Example:

```
Printer1 is connected to Port A of the switch then the correct unit number
for this printer is 1 (as154p.device, unit 1).
Printer2 is connected to Port B of the switch then the correct unit number
for this printer is 2 (as154p.device, unit 2).
...
```

Now each time you want to print something, you don't have to worry about the switch anymore. as154p.device will connect your computer to the desired printer for you.

NOTE: Unit 0 of as154p.device connects to all printers (BROADCAST).

1.7 How did it grow up

History

=====

1.0 first public release

1.1 implemented as154p.device to control the switch much easier.

1.8 How it will grow up

Future

=====

\textdegree{} add support for the mfc2 and hypercom boards.

\textdegree{} bugfixes ;)

\textdegree{} your suggestions

1.9 Known bugs

Bugs

=====

None as far as I know, but no one is perfect ;)

1.10 Acknowledgments

Thanks

=====

Axel Teichmann <A.Teichmann@gmx.net> who bought the as154p and asked me to write this software :-)

1.11 Who did it

Author

=====

Send comments, questions, etc., to

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1.12 Pick and click

General

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