

Club KidSoft Volume 3, Issue 1

Windows Version

What's new?

Simpler Catalog Click on the catalog button to shop from the easier-to-use kid's software catalog.

Flying Chair Click on the chair as it flies out from behind the scientist's head to go to the Club Room.

The Brain Game Pick a brain, any brain, by clicking on a jar on the table. And watch out! The Mad Scientist might do something unexpected.

Club Radio In the ClubRoom, click on the radio to hear what's playing on Club Radio! This issue you can listen to the new song, The Mad Scientist. Clicking anywhere else on the screen will turn off Club Radio.

Club TV When you click on the TV in the ClubRoom, sit back and watch some funny movies and a video highlight of some of Amazing Animations, available in the software catalog. The Channel Changer button is on the upper left of the TV. The On/Off switch is on the upper right of the TV. Click on the Return button in the lower left of the screen when you're done.

Club Art Click on the painting in the ClubRoom to see (and hear!) the fantastic creations from Club KidSoft members. Not only that, you can change the animations! Click on the animation frame bar, the black and white bar beneath the art. By clicking on each frame and moving the pieces around, you can completely change the animation frame-by-frame. Click on the Return button in the lower left of the screen when you're done.

Club Stories Click on the ZapWriter in the ClubRoom to read what Club KidSoft members are writing. Check out the Weird Science Contest Writing Contest winners.

Contests Clicking the switch on the back wall in the ClubRoom will take you to the Club Contest screen. You can learn how to enter this issue's contest, The Design Your Own Musical Instrument Contest, and win great prizes! You can also find out who won last issue's contest, The Tour of the Galaxy winners. Click on the Return button in the lower left of the screen when you're done.

Unlocked Products

Quickly see the list of products you've already unlocked by clicking on the Unlocked Products button on the front screen.

User's Guide

For information on running the Club KidSoft application, please see the **User's Guide** (MANUAL.WRI) file. To see this file, you can double click on the **User's Guide** icon in the program manager.

Troubleshooting

Compaq Users Running TabWorks

If you are using TabWorks, install the Club KidSoft software using the following steps:

- 1) Start by selecting **OPTIONS** on the TabWorks menu bar
- 2) Select **FILE TRACKING...**
- 3) Turn off **Track File Creation** and **Track File Modification**. To do so, remove the X in the box next to each item
- 4) Put the CD-ROM disc into the CD-ROM drive.
- 5) In TabWorks, choose **RUN** under the file menu. Then type `d:\setup` if you're installing from the D drive. Press the enter key and follow the on-screen instructions.

- 6) Once installation is complete, save your notebook by selecting FILE on the menu bar, and click SAVE BOOK.
- 7) Double-click on the Club KidSoft CD icon in TabWorks.
- 8) Follow directions on the screen to register your disc. Have fun!

Potential Problems with Video drivers

If you have an older or incompatible video card or video driver in your computer, you may experience problems running the Club KidSoft application. These problems can appear as application crashes, demos that don't operate properly, incorrect colors displayed, error messages referring to *getPixel()* or *floodfill()* function calls not being supported, or garbage on the screen. In most cases these problems can be fixed by updating the video driver to the most recent version. You should contact the manufacturer of your video card to find out if there is a newer version of the video driver. KidSoft has included some of the screen-drivers we used during testing. Use these drivers at your own risk.

NOTE: You need to be running at **least** 640x480 in 256 color mode. You can run in higher resolution or number of colors if your video card supports it.

Problems with Network Drivers

If your computer is on a network, you probably have network drivers loaded. Most network drivers load into lower conventional memory. Many of the DOS based demos need lower memory in order to run. If you experience problems running DOS demos, try removing the network drivers from your AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS.

Problems running demos from Club KidSoft Application

If you experience problems running demos from the Club KidSoft application, you should try to run the demos from the File Manager directly. All of the demo programs are available on the Club KidSoft CD in a folder called DEMOS at the root of the CD.

NOTE: Conventional (or lower) memory should be above 580K for demo programs to run properly. If you are running MS-DOS 6.2 or higher, you can run MEMMAKER at the DOS prompt to increase your available conventional memory.

Problems using your mouse in demos

Some of the demo programs on the CD are DOS programs. In order to use your mouse in these demos, you have to have a DOS mouse driver loaded. Normally this will be done in your CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT file. You should consult your DOS User's Guide or the manual that came with your computer (or mouse, if purchased separately).

Problems with QuickTime

If QuickTime fails to initialize, you will need to reinstall the Club KidSoft application. Follow the instructions on the inside of your CD sleeve.

SoundBlaster errors when loading demos

If you receive an error saying "SoundBlaster is in use" when launching a demo, you should exit Windows, reboot your computer and try again. This may happen when a demo crashes or doesn't properly release the sound card when exiting.

Problems with compression

If you are running with a compression utility (such as DoubleSpace or Staker) you may experience problems during KidSoft installation, execution and/or product unlocking/installation. If you experience problems, you should use a non-compressed drive.

Problems with Virus protection

If you receive messages from virus protection utilities such as "Access denied" during installation, running the Club KidSoft program, running demos, or product unlocking you should disable the

virus protection while using the Club KidSoft CD.

Errors during unlocking

If you receive an error when unlocking a product, you should check the amount of free disk space available on your hard drive and refer to **Problems with Compression** above.

Memory Usage

Club KidSoft uses approximately 3 MB of RAM to run. If you don't have enough memory available, Club KidSoft will warn you. If you haven't already done so, you should turn on Virtual Memory (in the Control Panels Program Group). Please see your Windows User's Guide for information on turning on Virtual Memory.

We recommend that you have at least 585K of lower conventional memory in order to get the best results from the Club KidSoft application. Many of the DOS demo programs on the CD require at least 565K of lower memory in order to run. Additionally, the QuickTime movies in the Club KidSoft application may appear choppy or sound may drop out if you do not have enough free memory.

QuickTime Installation

Club KidSoft requires QuickTime for Windows 1.1. All of the necessary files are included on the Club KidSoft CD and are installed automatically for you. If you have an older version of QuickTime for Windows (which should be located in either the Windows System directory, the Windows directory or in one of the directories listed in your PATH environment variable), you will be asked if you want to update your existing copy to Version 1.1. If you don't upgrade your existing version or don't have QuickTime for Windows, Club KidSoft will install the run-time files in the same directory as the Club KidSoft executable.

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