

'Lectric Toolbox Version 1.1

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What is 'Lectric Toolbox?

'Lectric Toolbox is a versatile program launcher for your applications. Some of its features are:

'Lectric Toolbox keeps your most used utilities and applications within easy reach. You may configure toolboxes for many tasks such as file maintenance or as a quick way to launch frequently used applications.

'Lectric Toolbox has extensive support of drag & drop. 'Lectric Toolbox will let you launch your applications by clicking on their icons or by dragging & dropping files onto your programs icons. Dragging and dropping is not limited to Windows 3.1 applications. Any program can be a drop target in 'Lectric Toolbox, even a DOS batch file!

With 'Lectric toolbox your toolboxes are not limited to a skinny toolbar on the side of the screen. The size of your toolboxes are configurable from a single icon to a 18 x 18 grid.

You are not limited to just one toolbox. You may have as many toolboxes defined as you need.

'Lectric Toolbox remembers its size and position when you save your toolbox, so you don't have to rearrange your desktop when you open a new toolbox.

You can quickly hide and unhide the toolbox by moving your mouse cursor to the bottom corners of the screen.

Program requirements

'Lectric Toolbox Requires Microsoft Windows 3.1*, a color video driver and a mouse.

Installing 'Lectric Toolbox

To use Toolbox, copy BWCC.DLL into your Windows system directory (\WIN\SYSTEM, on most systems) and TOOLBOX.EXE somewhere in your PATH. I suggest placing TOOLBOX.EXE and any toolboxes you create in their own directory.

You may then add TOOLBOX.EXE to any program manager group that you prefer. One way to do this is by using the File New Menu option in Program Manager or by dragging TOOLBOX.EXE from the file manager and dropping it into the group of your choice.

Accessing the System Menu

To access the system menu click the left mouse button on the box in the upper left corner of the toolbox window. From this menu you may save the toolbox you have created, load a toolbox previously saved, start designing a new toolbox, or change the way your Toolbox looks and behaves.

Toolbox Options:

- When the Stay on Top item is checked the Toolbox window will stay on top of all the other windows.
- When Checked the Allow Hide option will allow you to hide the toolbox by moving the mouse pointer to the bottom left corner of the screen. To unhide the toolbox move the mouse pointer to the bottom right side of the screen.
- When the Auto Arrange item is checked all of the icons will be packed as closely together as possible whenever you resize the Toolbox window.
- When the Confirmation item is checked you will be prompted when ever you delete a tool from the Toolbox.
- If the Minimize button item is checked your Toolbox will have a minimize button when it is restarted.*
- If the Window Border item is checked you Toolbox will have a border that will enable you to resize the Toolbox.*
- When you choose the Tile size menu item you can set the size of the Tiles that will be displayed (valid range is from 20 to 200 but values between 30 & 40 look best).
- The Window Caption item allows you to change the Toolbox title.

Action Items:

- The Move to corner item moves the Toolbox to the nearest corner of the screen.
- The Arrange Items menu item packs the items in the toolbox as close together as possible.

***Note:**

Items marked with an asterisk will take effect only after the toolbox file is saved, 'Lectric Toolbox is shutdown, and then restarted with the toolbox file specified on the command line! The window attributes are set when the program is started. If a toolbox with different attributes is loaded from the file menu the current window will not change.

Adding programs to 'Lectric Toolbox

The easiest way to set up a toolbox is to drag a file from the file manager and drop it into the desired cell in the toolbox window. You may drop any type of file into the toolbox as long as it is in some way executable (EXE, COM, BAT) or any file that is associated with an application (WRI, BMP, etc.). Windows executable files will be represented by their icon and DOS programs with a generic DOS icon. If a file is associated with an application it will appear raised in the toolbox. All executable files will appear recessed.

Launching Programs

You may launch the "tools" that you have placed in the toolbox by double clicking on the tools icon.

Alternately you may drag files to be manipulated to your tool and the program will be launched with the file loaded.

Changing a tools properties

Once in place you may change a tools properties by clicking the right mouse button on the tools icon.

Changing a tool's icon

You may want to change the appearance of a tool in you toolbox. You may do so by following this procedure:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Change Properties.
- Select the enter the name of the file which contains the icon you wish to use in the Icon field.
- To advance to the next icon in the current file press the choose icon button then use the scroll bars to advance through the available icons until you find the one you are looking for.
- After you have selected the icon you wish to use press the OK button.

Adding programs to 'Lectric Toolbox manually

If you want to change a program in the tool box without dragging and dropping from the file manager, follow this procedure:

If the cell in the tool box is empty:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Add Program
- Type in or use the BROWSE button to enter the name of the program that you wish to add.
- Click OK.

If there is already a program in the cell:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Change Properties.
- Type in or use the BROWSE button to enter the programs file name into the program field.
- Click on OK

Setting a Startup Directory

If you want a program to start up in the same disk directory each time you start it follow this procedure:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Change Properties.
- Type the startup directory into the directory field.
- Click on OK

Associating a file with a 'Lectric Toolbox tool

You may want to have a tool automatically load a file when it launches. You can add a file to a tool by following these instructions:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Change Properties.
- Type in or use the BROWSE button to enter the programs command line.
- Click on OK

OR

You may hold down the Ctrl key while you drag a data file from the file manager and drop it onto the tool of your choice.

Rearranging tools in your toolbox.

To move tools around in your toolbox, simply drag & drop them from one location to another. If a tool already occupies the destination cell the two tools will exchange places in the toolbox.

Removing a program from 'Lectric Toolbox.

If you wish to remove a program from 'Lectric Toolbox altogether follow this procedure:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Remove Tool.

OR

Drag the tool out of the toolbox window and release it.

Removing an associated data file from a tool.

To remove an associated data file:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Remove Properties.
- Select Command Line.

Removing a icon file from a tool.

To remove an icon file:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Remove Properties.
- Select Icon File.

Opening Multiple files

'Lectric Toolbox behaves one of two ways when you drop multiple files onto a tool. The default behavior launches a separate copy of the tool for each file dropped. The alternate behavior launches a single copy of your program and loads all of the files at once.

To enable a tool to accept multiple files follow this procedure:

- Open the tools property menu by right clicking on the tool's icon.
- Select Change Properties.
- Check the Accepts multiple files box.
- Press OK.

Repeat the procedure to disable this option.

Minimize on use

If you want the Toolbox to shrink to an icon when you run a program check the Minimize on use item in the Options section of the properties dialog box.

Run Options

By selecting the one of the radio buttons at the bottom of the preferences dialog box you can choose to start a program as minimized, maximized, normally, or hidden. NOTE: use the hidden option with caution. If the program will not terminate on its own there is no way to shut it down (short of quitting Windows) unless you have an enhanced task manager. The Windows task manager can not shut down hidden programs!

'Lectric Toolbox command line

If you launch 'Lectric Toolbox with a filename specified on the command line, 'Lectric Toolbox will load this file when it executes. If you place "Lectric Toolbox in one of your toolboxes you can associate a data file to it, as you can with any other program. This, in effect, allows you to have unlimited nested toolboxes.

Hint:

Through clever use of the window options you can make 'Lectric Toolbox appear to be a toolbar. If the you are operating a 640x480 video mode follow these instructions:

- Turn the Minimize button item in the system menu off.
- Save your toolbox.
- Shut down 'Lectric Toolbox.
- Start 'Lectric Toolbox again with your toolbox file specified on the command line.
- Set the tile size to 30.
- Resize your toolbar until it is 16 tiles high and one tile wide.
- Turn the Window Border item in the system menu off.
- Save your toolbox.
- Shut down 'Lectric Toolbox.
- Start 'Lectric toolbox again with you toolbox file specified on the command line.
- Move the toolbox to the bottom right hand corner of the screen.
- Select Move to corner from the System menu.
- Save your toolbox (you can access the system menu by pressing Alt-SPACEBAR).

A sample file 'BAR.TBX' is included.

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To register send \$15.00 (U.S.) to:

James Robinson
2809 Brookside Circle
Paragould AR 72450

Make checks payable to James Robinson. All checks must be drawn on a U.S. Bank.

You will receive a registration number that will disable 'Lectric Toolboxes nag screens disabled. Don't forget to specify diskette size, a return address, the 'Lectric Toolbox version number, and where you obtained 'Lectric Toolbox .

**The latest version of this software may be found on the Atlanta Windows
BBS 404-516-0048.**

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