

in

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Contents

1	in	1
1.1	Knockout 2	1
1.2	Instructions	1
1.3	Menu	2
1.4	Music Editor	3
1.5	Vehicle Editor	3
1.6	Customising Samples	3
1.7	Amiga Setups	4
1.8	Credits	4
1.9	Registering	5
1.10	Future Improvements	6
1.11	History	7
1.12	Bugs	7

Chapter 1

in

1.1 Knockout 2

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- Instructions** - How to play
- Menu** - What all those options do
- Music Editor** - Add your own music to Knockout 2
- Vehicle Editor** - Add more vehicles to Knockout 2
- Customising Samples** - Add your own samples to Knockout 2
- Amiga Setups** - How Knockout 2 configures itself to your Amiga
- Credits** - Who created this groovy game
- Registering** - Where to send all your money
- Future Improvements** - What may be added to Knockout 2
- History** - Yawn
- Bugs** - The long list of bugs

1.2 Instructions

Instructions

The idea of the game is to knock all the other players off the ever shrinking circle, and then drive off on the bridge.

There are some variations on this theme included in this version :

NORMAL - normal game, as described above.

BALL - a ball is placed in the centre of the circle to be knocked into the players goals. There are only 4 players allowed in this game. A point is scored for getting a goal, and for knocking all the other players off. I'm afraid that the ball game is infested with bugs as of v2.x.

TEAM - this game mode allows 4 teams of 2 players each to play.

MAGNET - all the vehicles are made into magnets and are all attracted to each other.

ELASTIC - pieces of elastic join pairs of vehicles together. Great for swinging them off the circle! (Best played with 2 or 4 vehicles, otherwise it's too crowded and jerky on slow Amigas) Use the friction control to set the strength of the elastic. It's best when set quite low.

After a round, the scores will be shown. Each player has to press FIRE to continue on to the next game.

Special Keys

ESCAPE quits the current game and returns to the main menu. If you are in the middle of a round, the scores will be shown first.

AMIGA+A will toggle between Knockout 2 and Workbench. Unless you have a pretty meaty machine, you won't be able to multitask very well as Knockout 2 takes most of the processor time.

F10 pauses the game at its current state.

1.3 Menu

Menu

To move around the menu, use the arrow keys and return or the joystick. The options are :

START - start the game.

SOUND - toggles the amount of sound in the game, being either MUSIC, MUSIC+FX or FX. The music is loaded randomly from those in the Music directory.

GAME TYPE - toggles the game type, being either NORMAL, BALL, TEAM, MAGNET or ELASTIC. Read the [instructions](#) for more on these playing modes.

FRICTION - alters the amount of skiddyness. The smaller the bar, the more you'll skid around and the faster the game will be!

CIRCLE SIZE - alters the size of the circle at the beginning of each game. The longer the bar, the larger the circle.

FIRST TO - decides the number of wins before a winner is declared! Possible values are 5, 10, 20 and infinity (so you can play forever!)

CONTROLS - chooses the control method for each player. Either one of the keyboard or joystick controls, CPU (for computer controlled) or OFF (to turn "off" the player).

VEHICLE - chooses the vehicle for each player. Each vehicle has the same friction, responses etc.

NAME - the name for each player. There is a limit for the length of the name - 16 pixels, for technical reasons. Sorry! Better stick to initials.

SAVE SETUP - saves everything as defined above, to be automatically loaded when you next run Knockout 2.

QUIT - quit Knockout 2 and return to Workbench.

Important

Giving each player a name above their vehicle is all well and good, but it takes CPU time. If you wish to have names, but only have an A1200 or A500/A600, then turn off a few of the other players or the game will become unstable and will probably crash at the first smash up in the middle of the circle.

1.4 Music Editor

Music Editor

Knockout 2 comes with 4 pieces of music pre-installed, but you are quite welcome to include your own. To do this, simply load up the "Music Editor" and select "Load/Add Music". From the file requestor, locate your MOD and select it. You will be asked if you wish to compress it (when used with Knockout 2), simply to save disk space and reduce loading time. The MOD will then be copied into the "Music" directory of Knockout 2.

There are two other options, "Uncompress All Music" (so you can find any music you wish to delete) and "Compress All Music" (to compress any music you have previously uncompressed). FImp is used to compress the files.

If you do delete any music files, be sure to make the remaining sequentially numbered by renaming them.

1.5 Vehicle Editor

As well as using the Vehicle Editor, you can make your own vehicles using the AMOS(Pro) object editor. Load the Vehicle/* files into it and create your own vehicle using them as a template.

Vehicle Editor

To make your own vehicles for Knockout 2, load the "Vehicle Editor", and select "Grab Vehicle From IFF Screen". From the file requestor, select the screen containing the vehicle graphics. The screen must be of the following format :

The screen must only have 4 colours, with colour 1 being black, colour 2 being any colour (the colour of the vehicle) and colour 3 being anything (but don't use it).

You have to draw 32 rotations for the vehicle, starting with it pointing straight down and going through each of the angles anti-clockwise. If it really matters, the angle that they rotate by each time is 11.25 degrees.

The size of the vehicle can be no more than 16 pixels across and down.

Each angle of the vehicle must be placed horizontally, every 16 pixels. You may loop down on to the next line if you run out of space.

For an example of a vehicle screen, look at Example_Vehicle.iff.

"Delete A Vehicle" will delete the vehicle number that you select from the file requestor.

"View All Vehicles" will display all the vehicles with their numbers beside them. Click a mouse button to end.

If you create any good vehicles that aren't various parts of the human anatomy, then feel free to send them to me at bwy-att@paston.co.uk and, if you wish, I'll include them in the next version.

1.6 Customising Samples

Customising Samples

Should you not like the current sound effects in Knockout, or you want to add your personal touch, then you should approve of this feature. :)

If you look in the Samples directory you'll see a few files. These are the various samples used in Knockout that you can alter.

"Crash" is the sample played when the vehicles collide.

"Falling" is the sample for when a vehicle falls off the edge.

"Win" is the sample played when someone wins a game.

"Fight" is the sample played at the beginning of each game.

As well as these samples, there are a few other ones in the "Storage" directory. These are alternative samples that you might like to try by copying/renameing them as necessary.

1.7 Amiga Setups

Amiga Setups

Knockout 2 does it's best to configure itself to your particular Amiga setup. Here is a list of configurations made :

KS1.3 Amigas - will get as far as the intro and crash. UPGRADE!

A500/A600 with 1Mb - 5 players on screen.

A500/A600 with fast mem - 6 players on screen.

A1200 with 2Mb / A500/A600 with 020+ accelerator - 8 players on screen.

A1200 with fast mem - 8 players on screen, with no **names restrictions** .

NTSC - can't have maximum circle size, and the title screen is snipped slightly.

1Mb?

If you only have 1Mb of memory, then you may be receiving "Out of Memory" error messages. Knockout 2 does it's best to handle low memory situations, by closing Workbench deleting the menu music, skipping the intro, etc, but there is only so much it can do. If you are running it from Workbench, then try loading it from "No Startup-Sequence" in the boot menu. Also, try deleting a vehicle or two (leave at least one though!) and don't attach names. For PAL users, putting your Amiga into NTSC mode will save some memory.

1.8 Credits

Credits

Programming and Graphics by Ben Wyatt, bwyatt@paston.co.uk (Sorry about the sheer crapness of the graphics)

FLmp (used for compression) by P. Struijk and A. Brouwer.

Samples taken off the Internet and BBSs, and kindly donated by W. Allan Hudgins and David Filskov. Thanks!

Music came pre-installed on my HD with no documentation, but through reading the sample names, I have deduced the music was done by :

Game music :

1. Acidbat2 by ?
2. Addiction by Hyponosis/Futura
3. Drain Your Brain by Slaze of Definance (Daniel Celion)
4. Dunk Fix by Vacum

Intro music :

Hassua Vai Ei by Stargazer/Sonic (been shortened slightly)

Menu music :

Calm by D-luxe/Equinox

If I am wrong about any of these, let me know so I can credit them for their excellent music in the next release.

This program has been developed using AMOSPro+Compiler (the best programming package ever), Deluxe Paint 4 and AF's Real 3D Classic. Thanks to Chris Hodges for the AMCAF extension, which I've used extensively.

Greetings and thanks to...

Richard Freeman - Thanks for beta-testing and all the ideas!

Guillaume Serge - Thanks for your support and ideas! :)

Pietro Ghizzoni - The GUI Extension is great! Keep developing!

Chris Hodges - Greetings! ;-)))))) Read your mail more often!

Mads Dantoft - Thanks for sampling those samples! :)

Semprini - Great book! :-)

Fredrik Johansson - Thanks for your great ideas!

Paul Hickman - Remove the Libs:Easylife.library! :)

Pressman - Hope you get on-line again!

Oliver Dibben - Why are you still using an Archimedes!?

Michael Cox - Thanks for the AMOS Mailing List!

Steve Bye - Thanks for everything! :)

Michele Berionne - Hello!!! :-))

Meni Berman - Thanks for telling me about the great reviews! :)

Simon Carless - Thanks for the great reviews! :)

Peter Jansson - Thanks for all your suggestions!

I know I've forgotten loads of people. And I've lost the names of some of the people who have mailed me about the game. Sorry!

Some of my other programs on Aminet

Bounce in game/jump - a fun platform game where you control a bouncing ball.

Blobs in game/2play - a not-so-great 2 player platform game.

Borisball in game/demo - a F1 licenseware demo of the ultimate bat'n'ball game. Much more fun than Megaball <spit!>.

3D Pro in gfx/3d - the best stereogram/magic eye picture generator in the world. The emphasis is on it being fun and easy to use, but it is also a very powerful program!

Future attractions

PACAC - the Point And Click Adventure Creator. With it you will be able to create your very own graphical adventures such as Monkey Island and Beneath a Steel Sky, with little more effort than a few mouse clicks!

Dunablaster - the greatest bomberman game ever? Maybe... but probably not.

Rotting Corpses (working title) - a war game that's like Worms and DuneII, but each player can move their characters simultaneously, so the action is real time.

Dune2 in isometric - a clone of Dune2 with some extras (including water and built-to-order robots) and in isometric.

Are you a good computer graphics artist?

If you are, and would like to work on a game or two with me (probably a point'n'click adventure or the Dune2 clone), then get in contact. NOW! Please.

1.9 Registering

Registering

Knockout 2 is shareware. But being incredibly kind, I've given you the full version here. This is because I really can't be bothered to sort out a demo version, and send out full versions to where ever you live. I know, I'm lazy, but I doubt you're complaining. Probably also means no-one will register.

So what's to gain by registering? You know, all the usual stuff... Peace of mind. New versions sent to you directly (E-Mail only, I'm afraid). Encouraging a poor student (me) to program more great games and updates.

The registration fee is a stupidly small 5 UK Pounds, 10 US Dollars, 15 German DM or equivalent. Cash only please. None of this postal order/cheque/credit card crap, or I'll never speak to you again. Or, you can send me accelerator boards, SIMMs, any speed CD Rom drives or FPU's. :) Send notes in a non-see-through-able envelope to me at :

167 Oak Street
Norwich
Norfolk
NR3 3AY
UNITED KINGDOM

And thank you, in advance. (Don't forget to included your e-mail address if you want updates! You'd better include your snail-mail address just in case!)

BUT, don't let the fact that you haven't registered distract you from e-mailing me your comments about the game. I won't hassle you to register, as I like receiving e-mails almost as much as I like receiving money.

1.10 Future Improvements

Future Improvements

These are a few ideas I have and people have suggested for possible inclusion in future versions of Knockout :

I might add mines (as a sub game, like the Ball game), but I think it'd distract from the whole point of the game. If another player is coming towards you, to knock you off, you normally would try and drive out of the way possibly making the other player lose control and drive off. With mines, every time someone is coming towards you, you can just drop mines to stop them. The same problems apply to guns, missiles etc. I think they could ruin the game.

Different properties of the different vehicles, like traction, speed, acceleration, etc.

Possibility to play over the modem/null cable, or over the internet (yeah, sure I will).

Ability to alter the speed that the circle shrinks at.

Different levels of CPU intelligence and characteristics.

Automatic rotation of the vehicles in the Vehicle Editor. You'd only have to draw the vehicle pointing down, and the program would do all the rest. I tried a quick version of this, but the results looked very messy (like the DPaint rotate function). I have a few ideas of how to improve this though...

Add a "Player n Has Won!" screen for the "First To" game.

Extend the intro a bit. Maybe a 3D section.

Add different graphics depending on the friction setting. Eg. Ice for low friction. Sand for high friction. Anyone fancy drawing these?

Damaging vehicles. Have little health bars under the names. This could be a sub game, with walls around the edges - like Demolition Derby or Mangled Fenders.

Clouds/fog, to partially cover the play area.

Oil patches where you loose control.

Having the men jump out of the cars just before they fall, and then run around waiting to be squashed. :)

Random elastic joins.

Choosing the team to be on in the Team game. Could be applied to Elastic mode as well.

Race levels. Either like the intro, with the left falling away or a proper circuit.

Sound effects editor. Maybe combining the three editors in to one.

3D version. %-)

If you have any good ideas, let me know. But don't suggest guns, powerups or shops! ;-)

1.11 History

History

Knockout 2.03 is uploaded on to the Internet on May 25th 1996.

The infinitely dull history of Knockout :

2.03 Customisable samples. Should now work with 1Mb, hopefully! Small changes made to intro.

2.02 Speeded up scores screen. Fixed prefs saving bug. Changed colour of elastic so it's less flickery. Fixed sample squeaking bug (Thanks Chris!). Improved the AI of the CPU players slightly. Altered Magnet slightly. Removed demo game from beginning.

2.01 Added Elastic and Magnet games.

2.00 Added new menu system, team games, variable circle size, variable friction, different vehicles, play first to "n" wins, naming of the players, music, 8 sets of controls, vehicle editor, music editor, intro sequence. Reorganised the sprite bank to eliminate a few bugs and to make it more flexible. Made it so it did actually work on all Amiga set-ups, unlike the previous version! Improved CPU intelligence. Stopped vehicles from going on top of each other.

1.02 Fixed a few bugs. Added a "Knockout_Easy" file, with less skidding. Added an option to turn cars "off". Made it work on less powerful Amigas, restricting the number of cars.

1.01 Added 4-player parallel port adapter, to make it 7 human players. Fixed a few bugs in the ball game. Rendered an intro screen.

1.00 Written on the Amiga, but limited to 8 cars (for technical reasons), only 5 of which can only be human controlled. Added a ball game. Added a bridge for when a player wins.

0.99 Test version written on the Acorn Archimedes computer, with 16 simultaneous players. Very slow, and lots of keyboard control clashes, but very popular at school!

Famous Moments

Version 1.01 put on to AMIGA POWER's coverdisk on the APRIL 1996 issue. (I didn't send it to them!)

Version 1.00 reviewed in AMIGA FORMAT in the FEBRUARY 1996 issue. Made PD Selection of the Month.

Version 1.00 included on the AMIGA FORMAT subs disk (I've been told).

Why are such out of date versions used??? Those versions are almost a year old! If you review/coverdisk mount Knockout, please check Aminet (Internet, not CD) for the newest version!

1.12 Bugs

Bugs

The evil bugs of Knockout 2 :

When the two people in the same team win, the bridge won't come down until there is one vehicle left on the circle. This is a pretty easy bug to fix, but I'd rather write about it here than actually fix it.

The players sometimes "stick" to each other. This has happened in previous versions, except now it's less often and you won't go flying all over the screen.

The players can sometimes go through the ball in the ball game. No idea why...

Pressing Escape in the ball game crashes it.

Wierd things happen at the beginning of the ball game.

The ball game is infested with bugs. I'll fix it sometime, but I don't like the game much!

In the Elastic game, it leaves little blue specks everywhere. I cleared it up a bit, but I've no idea what's causing it.

Well, at least this list is getting shorter. Found any bugs which aren't listed here? Let me know!
