

ddbbase_guide

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Chapter 1

ddbase_guide

1.1 dDbase Documentation

dDbase Version 7.67

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©MADCAP-SOFTWARE

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What You Need	< Shows the Resources you will need to run dDbase
Getting Started	< How to Install dDbase
Introduction	< A brief guide to some of dDbase's features
Main Gadgets	< Help with the Main Gadgets.
Print Section	< Help with the Print Gadgets
Organise	< Help with the Organise Gadgets
Epilogue	< Just a few words from the author.
Useage	< The use of dDbase
Disclaimer	< The author claims Ignorance
PowerPacker	< ©Nico Francois
AmigaGuide	< ©Commodore
Sound Samples	< How to Play Sound Samples in dDbase.
Animations	< How to play Animations in dDbase
Tutorial	< Tries to explain how to use dDbase.
General Use	< Military view of dDbase.
dDbase-TOOLS	< Useful Tool Tips 'URR URR'.
Important Notes	
Function Keys	< What the Function Keys do!
dDbase to Guide	< Create an AmigaGuide Database
Speech	
ToolTypes	
CONTACT	< If you want to contact the Author!
LHA/LZX/DMS	< Notes on archivers
MAIL MERGE	
KNOWN BUGS	
Ami-FileSafe	
Calculations	
dDbaseScreen	
Other Keys	
What's New!	

1.2 Other Keys

There are a number of other keys that activate various functions. These are:

'u' This will allow you to unarchive any LHA/LZX archive.
It will open a filerequester for you to select the archive,
then you can 'Unarchive' 'Extract' data.

'z' You can view any external/memo field from the current record.

RMB Pressing the Right Mouse Button will either enable you to Edit
Delete, Move, Fill or Sort a field, depending on the cursor
position, or it will display the 'Organise' requester.

LMB Pressing the Left Mouse Button you can edit a field, depending
on the cursor position, or adjust/delete a box.

By keeping the LMB depressed (until a DisplaBeep) this will
list all the field data.

When entering data

~~~~~

\ This will add the filename used in a External Field. (Previous)

> This will add the data from the previous record.

< This will display all the field data from a list view.

## 1.3 Fill

A new feature (7.57). It's to save filling in the same data in  
each record if the field data is to be the same.

Example: Imagine a name and address database for a mailshot.

The names may be different also the different numbers as well as the  
road names. But there will be the same town or county.

(A typical name and address database)

```
Name
    Street
Town
    County
    Post Code
Comment or Category
```

The first 5 entries may all live in Hastings the next 4 in Bexhill.  
All you would do is enter Hastings in the first record and Bexhill  
in the 6th record and so on.

If all the entries were to be local then you would just have to put

East Sussex in the County field of the first record.

Select Fill (RMB on field name) then dDBase will fill in all the records (Just the selected field) in between the filled in fields.

## 1.4 Calculations

When you print a report you can now have a running total for any Integer or Calc fields.

## 1.5 Ami-FileSafe FileSystem

I have installed the Demo version on to my hard drive and I have to say that although I really like AFS it does not seem to like ddbase! :(

dDBase will work however but with some limitations. These are:

- (A) Saves to disk very slowly
- (B) When using the function PRINT All/Range When selecting Range and printing to a file this may cause a CPU Exception resulting in a Suspend/Reboot. I have no idea why! I have contacted Fourth Level Development and it is in there hands.

I can only speak for myself, but I think AFS is an excellent example of software and would have no hesitation in recommending it to anyone who is serious about there Amiga! Installing AFS was a serious upgrade as things just went faster! (File Requesters etc.)

## 1.6 Known Bugs

dDBase loses 40/80 Bytes of memory everytime it is run from Cli/WB

This is a fault in the startup code of the GFA Compiler.

dDBase does not produce any Mungwall Hits. To achieve this we had to FIX some bugs in the GFA Compiler. dDBase Free's ALL Allocated Memory.

WARNING::::: dDBase does however cause some Enforcer Hits.

This seems very much outside of my control (do I hear rubbish!!) Problem is GFA-Basic makes Enforcer go berserk! There is however one hit once dDBase has been compiled (re-curring). As such this will be the last version of dDBase.

dDBase however does not crash on '040 systems (I would guess '060 as well)

If I cant get to grips with BlitzBasic then this is farewell. :(

---



Editing Dates. I still haven't got around to fixing this. I shall start tomorrow!! :).

At the moment I cannot think of any more known bugs. But there are bound to be more bugs out there just waiting to be found! If you find any please let me know so I can SQUASH 'em.

dDbase will require at least 500K+ free ram: to run. If dDbase will not run try setting the maximum files lower.

PRINTING. dDbase has a very annoying habit of only printing reports onto one sheet of paper. Answer! In the printer preferences set it for Continuous Paper. I have tried for months/years to overcome this but it seems to be a problem with GFA-Basic.

dDbase does not agree with Ami-FileSafe

MEMORY.

If the memory drops below 40K there is a possibility that some functions will not work. These are:

Moving/Drawing Boxes.  
Moving/Adding Fields.

This is due to the memory used storing the screen information.

## 1.7 Mail Merge

SYNOPSIS: Create a file that can be used in a Word Processor

From 'Organise' you could Export the entire database using formats for: Final-Copy

Protex  
WordsWorth  
Pro-Write  
ASCII Mail Merge

This will enable you to Import the files as a Mail Merge file. see your Word Processers manual for more details.

To create a file from selected records:

- 1> Select 'Searching' from Print Options.
  - 2> Select '=' to search
  - 3> Enter your search data.
  - 4> Select 'File' from the requester
  - 5> Select file name from the File Requester.
  - 6> Now just select the format you wish to export.  
ASCII
-

```
Final-Copy
Protex.t.
WordsWorth
ProWrite
```

NOTE: WORDSWORTH PROWRITE

I cannot guarantee that either of these will work as I do not have a copy of either programs. However if you find that they do not work please let me know. If you could supply the information of the format they use it would be much appreciated. Address

IE. WordsWorth: Fields are seperated with a '9' (Tab) with the records seperated with a '10' (Carriage Return <PC>)

Thank you.

dDbase will create the file using your selected format.

NOTE:

The OutPut file can be Appended, you can add more data to it.

See OutPut

## 1.8 LHA Notes

dDbase will display/unarchive LHA/LZX files.

When you view an LHA/LZX'd file there is an odd chance that something may go wrong. If dDbase appears to hang up while displaying a console window 'dDbase.[Version]..LHA/LZX' try pressing the Escape Key. Because LHA/LZX was launched from its own Cli dDbase has to wait for the file T:ddbase\_temp to be created. If however there was an error while lha was creating the file list dDbase will hang around waiting for T:ddbase\_temp. I expect there is a better way of doing it. But I didn't do it that way, (so there).

dDbase uses a external program, uarc. It can be anywhere in the path, C: or in ProgDir:.

WARNING WIL ROBINSON:

Possible Problems: Occasionally when viewing an archives contents things will go horribly wrong! It appears that dDbase has 'Hung Up'. Do not despair! Just activate dDbase and press 'Esc'.

Why does it do that! Dont ask me, I haven't a clue. It works fine and suddenly it doesn't!

---

## 1.9 TOOLS

dDbase Tools Are:

```

MAX      Sets the Max amount of files. (Memory)
GIF      Sets the GIF Picture Viewer.
TIF      Sets the TIF Picture viewer.
JPEG     Sets the JPEG Picture Viewer.
MEDPLAYER Sets the MED Module Player.
SYNTHSOUND Sets the MED Synthsound Player.
          (Never Heard of one)
TRACKERPLAYER Sets the Sound/Protracker Player.
DOC_READER Sets the Document Reader. EG:PPMORE
ILBM-READER Sets the IFF Picture Viewer
          (Internal DEFAULT)
ANIMPLAYER Sets the animation player.
SAMPLEPLAYER Sets the Sample player.
PAGELENGTH Sets the page length when printing.
            system preference setting are default
SEPERATOR Record Seperator for exporting/importing
            to/from Superbase. (See Superbase manual)
CURRENCY Sets the currency. Defaults to £
TASKPRI   Sets the Task priority.
FIELDS    Sets fields to: FLIP/BEVEL/BOTH/DOUBLE.
            Experiment and see.
LOAD      Load a database when first run.
AMIGAGUIDE Set the path for the AmigaGuide or
            Multiview program.
TEXT_EDITOR Enter the name of your favourite text
            editor.
HEIGHT    You can specify the Window Height.
            This has to be more than 200 and less
            than:- Pal  Hires 256/Laced 512
                     NTSC Hires 200/Laced 400
            Obviously this would not be of any use
            to anyone one in NTSC Hires.

            It would of been good if you set the
            Workbench Window height to say 400 and
            Auto Scroll. Unfortunately this will not
            work whether this is GFA Basic's fault
            I do not know.
FIELDLENGTH Sets the maximum field length.
            Default=1000. If you want very large memo
            fields then you may want to set this larger
            DESTINATION This will set the path when you unarchive
                        extract files from a LHA/LZX archive.
                        Otherwise you will have to set the
                        destination via a ReqTools Requestor.
FORMFEED  This can be Y or N. When printing a report
            being set to N will suppress a Form Feed
            when you finish the report.
POPUP     If you want the 'Organise' Menu to popup
            when you press the RMB. (POPUP=Y)
BACKUP    Creates a backup when saving current database,
            if it previously existed. (Adds <file>.BAK)

```

---

```

        WAV   Enter your favourite WAV sample player.
    (ie: playl6)
        AVI   Enter your desired AVI player. CyberAvi
            is very good.
        MIDI   For playing MIDI files.
    MOV      For playing QuickTime Movies ©Apple
    Computers

```

With any of these tools if they require to be executed from a cli then just add a '\*' to the end.

IE. ILBM\_VIEWER=c:vt\*. This will open a cli and then run vt.

NOTE: I recently upgraded to a Apollo 1240 accelerator and found that dDbase can no longer read it's tools using tooltypes. It now uses a file, ddbase.tools. Edit it the same as the tooltypes.

## 1.10 Speech

If you press F6 function key dDbase will say the Contents of the current record. (Excepting Display fields)

Also with a memo field pressing F6 dDbase will say the contents of a open memo field.

## 1.11 Function Keys

What the Function Keys do

| KEY | FUNCTION                                                   |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| F1  | Displays the Keyboard shortcuts.                           |
| F4  | Edit Tools                                                 |
| F5  | Formats Memo Field's                                       |
| F6  | Say the contents of current record.                        |
| F9  | Create a Amigaguide Database from the current dDbase File. |
| F10 | Runs dDbase AmigaGuide help file.                          |

## 1.12 General Use

Some useful tips not covered.

1> Entering Data . Pressing '>' and return will copy the previous record field.

2> Pass arguments from Cli Eg.

```
>1 dDbase <filename>
```

Where <filename> is a database that you wish to load straight away.

EDIT FIELD:  
~~~~~

If you want to edit just one field just point at the field contents and press the left mousekey.

1.13 What you need

A 1MB Amiga running OS2.04 or higher

The Program dDbase

The Files

- dDbase.guide
- main.guide
- preferences.guide
- Organise.guide
- print.guide
- selector.doc
- search.doc

in the same directory as dDbase

The program 'Packit' in the C directory ©Michael J Barsoom
Also a Sample Player such as DSOUND ©Dave Schreiber

SUPPORT FILES SUPPLIED:

- openclip ©Niklas Lindholm
- saveclip ©Niklas Lindholm
- touchtone ©Paul Kerwin.

LIBRARIES you will need:

- Regtools.library
- ILBM.library
- AmigaGuide.library*
- Powerpacker.library

If you haven't got any of these libraries already in your Libs Directory then copy them from the dDbase disk (or the Directory).

*You will also need the AmigaGuide.library to view the dDbase.GUIDE. For those with WorkBench 2.1 or higher this will be on your workbench disks.

You can obtain AmigaGuide along with the required Licence on Fish Disk

870

If you have WB3.0+ then set the AMIGAGUIDE tooltype to:

```
sys:utilities/multiview
```

If you have WB2.0+

```
sys:utilities/amigaguide
```

Or you can copy it from the dDbase disk

If you wish for the complete ILBM/Regtools release then contact your local PD Library for the most recent release.

1.14 Getting Started

NOTE: dDbase will require at least 500K+ of free ram. It requires such a large amount because you can create very large fields. These fields are called Memo fields where you can import data from:

- a: Keyboard. (Via a text editor)
- b: From a text file. (upto 500 lines)
- c: A disk Directory
- d: Clipboard

Use the supplied Install program.

BUG FIX:- dDbase guide files now WORK with Multiview!

WARNING:- Some possible problems!!

~~~~~

(1) Memory

If you run dDbase several times you may get a problem ( A visit from Mister GURU ) This is because dDbase takes about 500+K of ram to store all the data etc. When you exit dDbase this ram is passed back to the system. The problem is that programs like dDbase need contiguous memory (all in one block) but after a program has passed the ram back the memory gets fragmented and so even when you see displayed enough ram to run dDbase there may not be enough contiguous memory. If you are ever unsure then just reset your Amiga .I would like to say that this is not my fault but its just the way the Amiga handles memory Allocation.

Also if you have a large file with a big 'Memo' field, doing any editing of any field may cause a Out Of Memory Error.

On a 1+ Meg Amiga you will be able to have upto 1600 Records. On a 1 Megabyte Amiga you will be able to have about 1000 Records.

---

## (2) The- Dating Game

If you have already created and entered data and then you edit a field to a Date Field this may trash any existing data you have entered.

If you find that it does trash the data then you can either add a new field as a date field and then Update each existing record. Or you can export the data and then edit the field to a Date Field after which select New and Delete Data. This will leave you with just the fields so you can import the data back into the database.

(You would of thought I would of fixed this by now!)

## (3) The Import Game

Always make sure when you wish to import data ascii or Superbase that you have selected the same amount of fields that was exported. dDbase is not very forgiving and may produce a error requester that will mean early retirement from dDbase. A most infuriating thing.

## (4) Errors

I have spent some time trying to ensure that most errors have or will be trapped. dDbase is protected with quite a good error routine.

If however dDbase finds an error that it does not like you will only be able to recover from one such error. If this happens please let me know exactly what you did to create the error.

## (5) ILBM Files

dDbase will not accept DPAINT BRUSHES. Why I dont know. So please dont use them in conjunction with dDbase.

Or See Tool Time.

# 1.15 Introduction

### NOTE

You will be able to get the most upto date version from  
'The DarkSide' BBS, sysop: Robert Dale. 0181-771-9100

That is of course if it is on line.

Tragically you will no longer be able to get a copy from BeachyHead Amiga as that has closed down.

Or if you do not have a modem.

From any good PD library such as:

ONLINE PD.  
Unit5, Embassy Building  
51a Piercefeild Road  
Formby, Liverpool L37 7DG

TELEPHONE: 01704 834335 or 834583

ROBERTA SMITH DTP PD  
190 FALLODEN WAY,  
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB,  
LONDON NW11 6JE

TELEPHONE: 0181-455 1626

UNDERGROUND PD  
54 CARMANIA CLOSE  
SHOEBURYNESSESS  
ESSEX, SS3 9YZ

TELEPHONE: 01702 295887

If you want to contact me or if you have any suggestions  
I can be found on DarkSide 2:254/524.53  
Address

One of the features of dDbase is the on line help , so if you get stuck just press the Help key for a AmigaGuide help file.

dDbase uses the ReqTools Library ,©Nico Francois, and uses emulated GadTools Gadgets. Uses Gadtools BevelBoxes and FlippedBevelBoxes. Also used is the ILBM Library to display IFF Pictures.

You can pass an argument from a cli EX:

```
>l dDbase <filename>
```

Where <filename> is a dDbase database that you wish to load on entry.

#### FEATURES

~~~~~

ON LINE HELP - Just press the Help Key.

EXTERNAL FIELD Displays a Gadget (Has a Blue Border
External Fields are:

ASCII field - Display any ASCII file.The External field is
displayed as a Gadget.

IFF Field - Display any non HAM/AGA ILBM IFF.When I get an A1200
this will change.

(With suitable Viewer [ViewTek] dDbase will display
GIF,JPEG,TIF files.)Other Types:

AMIGA GUIDE - Display Guide Documents

SOUND SAMPLES - Play standard sound samples (Via Player)

LHA - View Unarchive LHA'd files (Requires LHA)

LZX - View unarchive LZX'd files (Requires LZx)

POWERPACKER ASCII,IFF,GUIDE can all be Powerpacked

POSITION FIELDS -Position any field anywhere you like on screen
you can always reposition them at any time.

FIELD TYPES - STRING Enter any type of data.OR Required Data

DATE Date format -DD/MM/YY or DD MMM YYYY

NUMERIC Various Formats

BBOX TEXT in a BevelBox

FBOX TEXT in a FlipBox

TEXT TEXT.

EXTERNAL Display IFF, ASCII, AMIGAGUIDE Files,
Sound Samples, Anims, LHA, LZX, DMS.

MEMO Capture data from disk, Directories, Keyboard

ATTACH Attach a program to a field.

CALC Do calculations on fields.

EDIT FIELDS Move, Edit, Add, or Delete fields.

EXPORT/IMPORT Export to ASCII or SuperBase ©Precision Software,
format.Import ASCII or Superbase format.
Final-Copy, Protex, bBaseII, Mail Merge,
FinalData, Twist or AmigaGuide format.

FAST SORT Uses a Shell Metzner Sort

SNAP Saves current record in T:snap[n].ddb

REQTOOLS Uses ReqTools ©Nico Francois Requesters

GADTOOLS Uses Gadtools Bevel/Flip Boxes

DRAW BOX Draw BevelBoxes, FlipBoxes, Boxes, and Double Bevel
boxes. Upto 10 boxes allowed.

LOOKS Totally WB2 look.All functions accessed by Gadgets
and keyboard shortcuts.Press 'F1' to see current
shortcut.

CAPACITY Upto 2000+ Records (Keep an eye on the memory displayed
on the Window Title Bar).
Upto 20 Fields.
Draw upto 10 boxes.

POWERPACKER Can read powerpacked files.

SOUND SAMPLES Using a program like Play16 will play any sample

ANIMATIONS Can play animations (including AVI's)

NOTE dDBase is Giftware. This means that if you use dDBase then the author (that's me) would like you to send a gift of some sort. A gift could be: Blank Disks (DD or HD), LEGAL Software ie. PD SharWare etc, Money! (would be nice), Joystick, Mouse etc.

Where to Send Gifts!

1.16 Tool Time 'URR URR'

NOTE If you do not set the Pagelength then dDBase will attempt to get the pagelength from the preference settings.

I have found that dDBase does not always get it right. I tried a PROTRACKER module and found that dDBase did not recognise it although my Module player did. To remedy this you can ensure that a External file will be enacted on properly by using the following:

```

FILE  TYPE          FILENAME
~~~~~
TRACKER MODULE -    | mod.#?      (Prefix)
MED MODULE         | #?.med      (Suffix)
JPEG               | #?.jpg      (Suffix)
GIF                | #?.gif      (Suffix)
SOUND SAMPLE       | #?.svx      (Suffix)
ANIMATION          | #?.anim     (Suffix)
MIDI               | #?.mid
WAV                | #?.wav
AVI                | #?.avi
~~~~~

```

Also this will speed things up quite a lot. BEWARE the file will not be decrunched so make sure any tools that you use can handle powerpacked files.

Use and enjoy!!

1.17 Play Animations

dDBase can and will detect animations. So with the help of a program such as 'PPANIM'©Nico Francois, you can play back animations.

NOTE If your anim player only works from a CLI then use the '*' command

IE. biganim * [commands]

See Preferences to see how to select your favourite Anim Player.

1.18 Sound Samples

With the aid of a program such as DSOUND ©Dave Schreiber dDbase can play any sound sample.

NOTE If your sample player needs a shell output use the '*' command.

IE. dsound * -w -m

See ToolTypes to see how to select your favourite Sample Player.

1.19 Main Display Gadgets

- Create
- Field Definitions
- Delete
- Sort
- Load
- Add
- Edit
- Search
- Quick Search
- Cursor Keys
- GoTo
- About
- Print
- Save As
- Snap
- New
- Save
- Organise
- Preferences
- Display
- List

1.20 List Field

Synopsis: List Field

Lists a selected field in a List View type gadget. You can select from any:

- 1: Integer Field
- 2: String Field
- 3: Date Field

1.21 Create

Create

Synopsis: Creates a database.

ShortCut- c (LowerCase)

You have the choice of manually creating a database or use a new feature A *Daemon* (Like a Wizard as used by MicroSoft)

If you select Daemon then you can choose from some pre-defined databases.

Otherwise you will have to create the file as follows:

Enter How many fields you wish to have. Next enter the field name, see Field Types, next enter the length. You will then be asked for the 'Field Type'.

SELECT: STRING | DATE | INTEGER | BBOX | FBOX | TEXT | EXTERNAL | MEMO

Field Types.

~~~~~

|          |                                                      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| STRING   | Input Data any Format (Required: UpperCase: Normal:) |
| DATE     | Input data as Date DD/MM/YY                          |
| INTEGER  | Input Data as Numeric.                               |
| BBOX     | Displays as text in a BevelBox                       |
| FBOX     | Displays as text in a Flipped Box                    |
| TEXT     | Displays as text.                                    |
| EXTERNAL | Display ASCII, IFF, AMIGAGUIDE, Play Sound Sample    |
| MEMO     | Capture Data from Disk, File, Keyboard.              |
| ATTACH   | Attach a program to a field.                         |
| CALC     | Do calculations on fields.                           |

### Field Definitions

After you have defined your fields you now have to position them on the screen using the Mouse. When the field is in the desired position press the left mouse button. After you have positioned all of your fields you will then be able to add data as you wish. However If you have made a mistake this can be easily rectified by using the functions found in Organise.

STRING (Required) This means that an input is needed. To create a required field just select 'Required' from the requester after you have selected the String Field. Next you will have to enter a list of data to choose from.

To do this just type in the data and press return on a blank line to exit.

STRING (UpperCase) Whatever you input will be displayed in uppercase

STRING (Normal) Whatever you input will be displayed as such.

DATE -- You have the choice of two date formats.

DD/MM/YY as in 15/05/94

DD MMM YYYY as in 15 May 1994

NUMERIC --You have the choice of 5 Formats.

1 --- 999.9

2 --- 9999.99

3 --- £ 99.99

4 --- £ 9999.99

5 --- Any

NOTE You can set the Currency sign from Prefs

EXTERNAL - Any external field will be displayed as a Gadget.To access the file just click the gadget.To display the contents of the field select Snap.You can edit the field as usual.A ASCII Field Gadget has a broken blue border whereas a MEMO Field Gadget has a solid blue border.

Iff

Synopsis: Displays ILBM IFF Pictures

ShortCut p

Similar to External but displays a IFF File instead.To print the file select 'Searching' from the 'Print ' requester.

NOTE:

From this version dDBase can display AmigaE Modules with the aid of Showmodule which should be in the C: directory.

AmigaE ©Wouter Van Oortmerssen

See ASCII

Add Field

Edit Field

Move Field

## 1.22 Field Definitions

Field Definitions:

-----

## String

Synopsis: Field Definition- String Field

ShortCut s (LowerCase)

Defines the current field to input strings (Alpha/Numeric)

## Date

Synopsis: Field Definition- Date Field

ShortCut d (LowerCase)

Date Type 1 DD/MM/YY

Date Type 2 DD MMM YYYY IE. 12 Nov 1993

Defines the current field for a Date input.

NOTE: It is very important that you specify a date field BEFORE you enter any data.

If you have already created a database and have entered some data you will be alright if you Add a Date field.

On the other hand if you wish to change a current field to a Date field you will first have to Export the database, select New 'delete data' , then change the field type and Import the data back in.

## Integer

Synopsis: Field Definition- Numeric Data Input

ShortCut i (LowerCase)

Input Numeric data.

NUMERIC --You have the choice of 5 Formats.

1 --- 999.9

2 --- 9999.99

3 --- £ 99.99

4 --- £ 9999.99

5 --- Any

NOTE You can set the Currency sign from Prefs

~~~~

BBox

Synopsis: Field Definition- Display Field

ShortCut b (LowerCase)

Displays field title only. The field title is embodied in a BevelBox .NOTE You need only set the field length to 1.

Text

Synopsis: Field Definition- Display Field

ShortCut t (LowerCase)

Displays field title only.

NOTE You need only set the field length to 1.

FBox

Synopsis: Field Definition- Display Field

ShortCut f (LowerCase)

Displays field title embodied in a flipped bevel box.

NOTE You need only set the field length to 1.

EXTERNAL ASCII ~~~~~~

Synopsis: A Field Gadget that when depressed will display a ASCII file whose path and name is stored in the field.

Shortcut Non
ASCII Gadget

Synopsis: To display a ASCII Field

Shortcut

A gadget that when pressed will display a ASCII file that has the Path and Name stored in the Field.To see the Name and Path of a External field select Snap.A External field Gadget can be identified by a blue broken border.

dDbase has its own internal text file reader though you may prefer to use your own text viewer IE ppmore.

See External, Snap.

Iff Gadget

Synopsis: To Display a IFF Picture

ShortCut Non

A gadget when pressed will display a IFF Picture that has the name and path stored in the field.A IFF Gadget can be identified by a

blue Border. Just to see the contents of the field select Snap.

See IFF, Snap

MEMO

=====

Synopsis: Capture data from a File, Directory or Keyboard

Shortcut m

Displays a gadget with a solid blue border.

How to Use:-

When you add data for a Memo field you have a requester that asks you:

Use Existing | Load New | Key Board | Directory

How much data that can be held depends on the size of the field. If you wish to use a lot of data then you will have to have a large enough field size.

Load New

~~~~~

If this is the first Item and you wish to capture data from a file on a disk in DF1: then select Load New. Select the file using the file requester. After Some disk activity a window will open and the window title should read 'Use Cursor Keys Return to select.'

Press the Cursor Down key to scroll the text down the screen and the cursor up key to scroll the text up the screen. When you have displayed the start of the document press return. The window will clear and the start of the selected text will be displayed inverse on the screen. Using the cursor keys display the last line you wish to capture and press return.

Useful Tip- In any subsequent field entering '<' will display the first word from the text previously captured. ( Useful for Fish disk Content file).

#### Use Existing

~~~~~

This will allow you to grab more data from a file that has been previously opened.

Directory

~~~~~

Selecting this function will allow you to select data from the directory of a Disk. You select the data in the same way as above.

#### KeyBoard

~~~~~

This allows you to enter data from the keyboard using a text editor

See ToolTypes.

Grabbing Data

~~~~~

Use the cursor down/up keys. When you see the first line that you want, press return. If you have loaded a Directory and you wish to grab the contents of a Directory press 'l' this will load the directory, if you wish to go back to the previous directory press '\*'.

Once you have hi-lited the lines you wish to grab press return.

-----

### ATTACH

This allows you to add a program to a field.

Example: If you had a name and address database and wanted to telephone using a TouchTone dialling program.

FIELD 1	NAME	STRING
FIELD 2	STREET	STRING
FIELD 3	TOWN	STRING
FIELD 4	COUNTY	STRING
FIELD 5	POST CODE	STRING
FIELD 6	TELEPHONE	STRING
FIELD 7	RING	ATTACH

To use a touchtone program to telephone using Field 6 the formula is:

(TouchTone ©Paul Kerwin)

c:touchtone del=3 s%;f6

NOTE: To insert the field = s%  
To define the field = Fnn

It requires the semi-colan.

### CALC

Allows you to perform various calculations on fields.

FORMAT: F1/F2\*100

Where F1, F2 are the values of Field 1 and Field 2.

At the moment the inputing of the calculations are rather basic. I will at sometime in the future try to make it a bit easier to use.

I have just recently moved and I shall be going on a course at college so time is rather tight. I released this version to fix a rather large bug!

## 1.23 Delete

Delete

Synopsis: Deletes current record

ShortCut- D (UpperCase)

Selecting this will result in LOSS OF DATA make sure that you have backed up your data before using this function.

## 1.24 Sort

Sort

Synopsis: Sorts Records

ShortCut- S (UpperCase)

This function allows you to sort your data by any field. You can also sort numerically as well by string. After you select this function the select field requester appears. The sort routine is very fast and is case insensitive. In case you were wondering dDbase uses a type of Shell Metzner sort routine.

Now you can sort your database in a descending order as well.

## 1.25 Load

Load

Synopsis: Loads a previously saved file.

ShortCut- l (LowerCase)

This function does what it says- loads data from disk. The file requester has a pattern matching to '.ddb', this is added to all files saved with dDbase. This makes finding and loading a lot easier. (Nico Francois is worth his weight in gold)

## 1.26 Add

Add

Synopsis: Adds a record to the database

ShortCut- Cr (CarriageReturn)

---

To add data just press the return key and then just type in your data and then select Accept or Cancel. Easy isn't it.

Also if you have any external fields you can choose the ASCII/IFF file from a File Requester (Reqtools of course) ,so if you have more than one external field it might make sense to keep all your external files in the same directory.

NOTE: Entering '\\' will make dBase enter the filename of any external fields. (The External field will have to be before the String field)

## 1.27 Edit

Edit

Synopsis: Edits current record

ShortCut- e (Lowercase)

## 1.28 Search

Search

Synopsis: Search Database (Case Insensitive)

Shortcut =

With this function you can search the database using any of the fields. Any field that you do not want to use just leave blank. You can use '^' '=' '|' (thats shift + \).

Using '^' (In String) You would use this :- ^fred -: this would search that field for any occurrences of 'fred' in the field.

Using '|' (Left String) You would use this :- |fred -: this would search that field for the left part of the field that equals 'fred'.

Using '=' (Exact Match) You would use this :- =fred -: this would search that field for an exact match.

Using '\*' (Range) You would use this :- \*Peter|Oscar -: This would display all the records from Peter to Oscar. If you want to do a range with a date or the field length isn't sufficient to enter your range the just enter '\*' and after to have entered all your other search criteria you will be able to enter your range using a string requester.

Quick Search OutPut

---

## 1.29 OutPut

If you have specified to Print While Searching (Print) you can output to the printer using whatever format selected from the Print Options. Or to a file.

If you specify Output to a file you can:

- 1- ASCII File using whatever format selected from Print Options
- 2- Final Copy (Mail Merge)
- 3- Prottext (Mail Merge)
- 4- WordsWorth (Mail Merge)
- 5- ProWrite (Mail Merge)

NOTE:

You could do multiple searches and append the file. dDbase will export intellegently and will not initialise the file as in the case for Final Copy, Prottext or ASCII-Mail Merge file.

Also you can output to continuous labels.

NOTE You can output to a file, printer or the clipboard device.

(You will require openclip to be in the C directory to output to the clipboard)

## 1.30 Quick Search

Quick Search

Synopsis: Quick Search (Case Insensitive)

Shortcut ?

This function will search all fields for any occurance of the search word. Example :- If you entered 'fred' it would try to find any occurance of fred in any of the fields. This is case insensitive.

Also you can enter numerous search words.

IE. peter|david|london|hastings

Note the '|' character seperating the different search words.

dDbase will now search all fields for the occurances of:

peter david london hastings

See Search

---

## 1.31 Cursor Keys

|« Cursor Down

Synopsis: Move to start of Database

Shortcut Cursor Down

When a database has been open it moves to the start.

«« Cursor Left

Synopsis: Moves to the previous record

Shortcut Cursor Left

Displays the previous record.

»» Cursor Right

Synopsis: Displays the next record

Shortcut Cursor Right

Displays the next record.

»| Cursor Up

Synopsis: Moves to Last record

Shortcut Cursor Up

Moves to the last record.

## 1.32 Goto-

<> Space - GoTo

Synopsis: Goto Line No

Shortcut Space

Allows you to Jump to any Line No.

## 1.33 About

About

---

Synopsis: Tells you all about me!

Shortcut A (Uppercase)

What can I say!!!!

## 1.34 Print

Print

Synopsis: Allows user to print using various output.

ShortCut- p (LowerCase)

See Help in Print Section.

## 1.35 Save As

Save As

Synopsis: Saves DataBase

ShortCut s (LowerCase)

Produces a ReqTools File Requester so you can choose what name to save the database with.

## 1.36 Snap

Snap

Synopsis: Takes a snapshot of current record

ShortCut P (Uppercase)

Those of you who have not heard of the utility 'SNAP' © Mikael Karlsson, may find this quite strange. When selected the program will save the current record to T: as snap(nn).ddb. NN is updated for each record you Snap so after for instance you Snap 2 Records the directory T: would look something like this:

```
1.Ram Disk:> dir t:
snap1.ddb
snap2.ddb
1.Ram Disk:>
```

The reason why the current record is displayed in a Requester is quite simple SNAP © by Mikael Karlsson does not work due to the BevelBoxes.

---

dDBase automatically outputs the record to the clipboard using the utility 'OpenClip'

## 1.37 Display Database

Synopsis: Display Database

Shortcut u

Will display all fields (except Memo and Text Fields). Will require the file: C:Textfile.

See Select Fields

## 1.38 New

New

Synopsis:Deletes the whole database or data

ShortCut n (LowerCase)

You have the option Kill! | Data | Cancel. Selecting Kill! will delete the data and the data structure (fields etc). Whereas Delete Data will only clear the data leaving the data structure intact.

## 1.39 Save

Save

Synopsis: Save data direct without the option of a File Requester.

ShortCut v (LowerCase)

Save will only work if there is a database that has either been loaded or has previously been saved. In other words if the file path and name is null ("") it will not work

## 1.40 Organise

Organise

Synopsis: To alter fields and Import and Export Data

ShortCut o (LowerCase)

---

I believe that these functions make dDbase stand out from other Database programs. To be able to alter the fields and their position to Add fields or delete them with ease.

## 1.41 Preferences

### Prefs

Synopsis: Allows the user to alter some operations of dDbase

Shortcut x (LowerCase)

PRINT        This option sets the page Length for output to a printer.  
SEE the Print section.

SEPERATOR This allows you to enter the field seperator.This is useful  
when you are exporting or importing data from SuperBase.  
(SuperBase ©Precision Software)

CRUNCH       Will crunch any dDbase #?.dat file thats saved.Needs  
the command 'packit' to be in the c: directory.

CURRENCY    Set the currency sign to use.

TASKPRI      Alter the TaskPriority. (-10 to 20)

EDIT

EXTERNAL    If you wish to edit any ascii External files. If you do  
then select this function. dDbase will use the text editor  
specified in the Tooltypes

PRINTER     Will display printer preference settings.  
Please Note: The output is correct on my machine but they  
may differ on later versions of the operating systems.  
(It works fine with OS 2.1)

LABELS       You can setup labels. Either one or two accross etc.

SCREEN       When this is selected dDbase will open on its own screen

SAVE          This saves the preference settings.

## 1.42 Print Section

Print While Searching  
Print Envelope  
Print All/Range  
Print Current Record  
Table View  
Record View

---



Form View  
Labels

## 1.43 Print While Searching

Searching

Synopsis: Will send data to printer when you use the search function.

ShortCut- p (LowerCase)

You have the option to Output To Printer or a File. If you elect to output to a file you can select the Path and Filename with a requester. The data will Output to the screen and the file.

Selecting this function any data output from the next search will be output to the screen and to the printer in the format you have selected, Table View or Record View.

When using dDbase internal iff viewer you can print the picture to your printer. This will be dependant on having:

GraphicDump in SYS:Tools Directory.

## 1.44 Print Envelope

Envelope

Synopsis: Will output the selected fields to a Label or Envelope.

ShortCut- e (LowerCase)

You will be asked for the tab position and then it will print the current record (Selected Fields)

## 1.45 Print All/Range

All/Range Records

Synopsis: Prints all the records, or a Range.

ShortCut- a (LowerCase)

Both functions will output to either the printer or to a file!

---

Print All:

This function will print all the records in the format that you have selected.

Print Range:

Enter the first Record in the range. Next enter the Last record.

## 1.46 Print Current Record

Current Record

Synopsis: Prints Current Record

ShortCut- c (LowerCase)

Prints Current Record in the format you have chosen

## 1.47 Table View

Table View

Synopsis: Print Format

ShortCut t (LowerCase)

Prints selected fields horizontally accross the Paper. After reaching 65 lines you will be asked to insert a new sheet of paper. If you use tractor feed then set your printer to the top of the next page.

## 1.48 Record View

Synopsis: Print Format

ShortCut r (LowerCase)

Prints Selected fields vertically down the paper.

## 1.49 Form View

Synopsis: Print Format

Shortcut f (LowerCase)

---

Prints all fields as they appear on the screen. Saying that it will not display Bevel Boxes etc just the field Text and Data.

## 1.50 Organise

- Select Fields
- Export Data
- Import Data
- Edit Field
- Move Fields
- Add Field
- Statistics
- Draw Box
- Search & Replace
- Delete Range
- Create Mail List

## 1.51 Delete Range

Synopsis: Delete a range of records

First enter the beginning of the range. Next enter the last record in the range to be deleted. dDBase will delete this range.

NOTE:

Once you have deleted a range you can always restore the database by re-loading it from the source. BEWARE once you have saved the database, unless you made a backup, you can not restore it after you have deleted a range.

## 1.52 Search and Replace

Synopsis: Replace one word with another. (Globally)

Enter the word to be replaced. Now enter the word that is going to replace it.

(Ok/Ask/Cancel)

OK: This will carry out the operation without any prompts

ASK: This will give you a prompt if you want to replace.

(All/Select)

ALL: This will operate on all the fields

SELECT: Gives you the option of selecting the field to operate on.

NOTE: Search and Replace is case sensitive.

---

## 1.53 Select Fields

### Select Fields

Synopsis: Select the fields you wish to print

ShortCut s (LowerCase)

You have the option to select All | Select | Cancel.

#### ALL:

This will select all fields as default, also the field lengths.

#### SELECT:

A window will open on the left of the display. From the field requester select a field.

Enter the length. From the Field requester. Either select another field or the close gadget to finish.

## 1.54 Export Data

### Export DATA

Synopsis: Exports data with out the field information.

ASCII or SuperBase, bBaseII, Final-Copy, Protext  
Mail Merge Format, Twist or AmigaGuide.

ShortCut x (LowerCase)

#### ASCII

The selected fields will be output to a file. This will be useful to transfer data from one database to another or for a mail merge file for use with a word processor.

#### SuperBase

The data will be output in a format that SuperBase can Import. Also you will find a second file with a '.hlp' suffix, this file contains the field name and length of the records. To use the data in SuperBase you will first need to create a database that has the same amount of fields and the correct length. To find out how to do this look in the SuperBase manual.

#### FinalData

You have to make sure you have the correct amount of fields selected. The data will automatically be formatted for import to FinalData. The TAB character is used as a separator.

#### Twist Database

---

This is identical to FinalData.

#### bBaseII

This will create a bBaseII database from the current dDbase database using any String,Integer or Date field.

#### Final Copy (FC)

This will create a mail merge file for Final Copy. You will have to select the fields that you wish to use first.

#### Protex

This will create a mail merge file for use with Protex. First though you will have to select the fields that you wish to use.

dDbase will create a file called <filename>.mrg. This file contains the format to setup the Mail Merge file for Protex. Just Load/Merge from within Protex.

#### ASCII MERGE

This will create a ASCII mail merge for use in Word Processors other than Final Copy or Protex. First though you will have to select the fields that you wish to use. After selecting this option you will be asked whether you want the fields encompassed in quotes '"'. Next enter the record separator, a ',' is the default. Select the file name and there you go!

#### AMIGAGUIDE

This will create a Multiview/AmigaGuide database using the tools that you have selected in dDbase.

A new feature is that you can insert a ASCII file into the AmigaGuide database. If you have selected any External Field you will be asked if you want to Insert and ASCII files. If you choose to then you will be asked for a buffer size. This sets the maximum size of any files to be inserted. It would be ridiculous inserting massive files.

#### PRODATA

Although there isn't a function dedicated to Prodata ©Arnor, if you use ASCII MERGE this may well work ok!

If you know of any other formats I would be grateful if you would let me know about them.

My Address:

## 1.55 Import Data

---

## Import DATA

Synopsis: Merges Data ASCII, bBaseII or SuperBase Format

Shortcut i (LowerCase)

Merges data to database. Their must be the same amount for fields in the file to be imported otherwise all sorts of problems will occur. However the actual length of the fields on the file to be imported is not important, BE WARNED if the fields are longer than the current database then they will be trimmed to the size of the current field lengths.

## Import SuperBase

Will import data that has been previously exported from Superbase. Enter the field separator ie ',' or '\*' whatever you set in Superbase SuperBase ©Precision Software.

## Import bBaseII

Will import a bBaseII database. First though you will have to have the correct amount of fields selected.

## Import FinalData

Will import a ASCII file saved from FinalData providing the separator is a comma.

## Import Twist

Basically the same as FinalData.

# 1.56 Edit Field

## Edit Field

Synopsis: Allows you to edit any field. Also change the length. Delete Field.

Shortcut e (LowerCase)

Displays the Select Field requester. After selecting the field you can change or alter the field name. After pressing return you can change the field length. Also you can change the Field Type.

## Delete Field

After selecting Edit and Selected the Field you choose to delete. It must be noted that deleting a field not only deletes the specified field but also the corresponding data in the database.

---

See Create

## 1.57 Move Field

Move Field

Synopsis: Allows you to move any field to a new position.

ShortCut m (LowerCase)

You have the option to change all the fields or select field. Change all fields is the same procedure you went through with Create after defining your fields.

However if you choose to select the field that you wish to move, choose Select. After selecting the field from the Field Requester, all the existing fields will be displayed. All you have to do is to move your new field to the correct position and press the left mouse button.

## 1.58 Add Field

Add Field

Synopsis: Add field

ShortCut a (LowerCase)

Allows you to Add another field. A string requester appears for you to enter the name of the new field. Then you enter the length. You then have to select the Field Type. After this you position the new field using the mouse, when it is in the desired position press the left mouse button.

## 1.59 Statistics

Statistics

Synopsis: Displays Information about your Database

Shortcut = S (UpperCase)

Will display a requester displaying how many records, fields and displaying all the fields with their length and Field Types. You can also print the information.

STATUS

This will display system memory, database memory the size of

---

the current database, how many records and a very approximate of the maximum amount of records that you can achieve, it is only a approximation.If you have previously loaded a database prior to the current file it may not be very accurate.

## 1.60 Draw Box

Draw Box

Synopsis: Draw Flip / Bevel Boxes

Shortcut = b (LowerCase)

Select BEVEL|FLIP|RBOX|BBOX|DELETE|CANCEL

BEVEL Draws a bevelbox (GADTOOL)

FLIP Draws a flipbox (GADTOOL) (dDbase will not run on OS1.3)

BOX Draws a box.

BBOX Draws a box using Beveled Lines. (Best to Experiment a bit)

DELETE Deletes Selected Box

MOVE Allows the user to move a previously drawn Box.

CANCEL Exits from the routine.

Position pointer to the top left corner of the box that you wish to draw, then press the left mouse button. Move the pointer to the bottom right corner, you will notice the rubber banding effect. When the box is to your desired size press the left mouse button. To cancel while in Draw Mode just press the right mouse key.

NOTE: You can only go from Left to Right and not Right to Left.

DELETE BOX

After selecting this option from the Draw Box requester just click in the top left corner of the box you wish to delete. To cancel while still in delete mode just press the right mouse key.

MOVE BOX

Just click the left mouse key at the top left of the box you wish to move. After a small pause you will be able to reposition the box using the mouse. To cancel just press the right mouse key.

## 1.61 Create Mail List

Synopsis: Create a mailing list for a Word Processor.

First you will have to enter the field that you wish to select the

---



records for your mailing list.

Next select the output: ASCII DATA, Final Copy, Protex, Wordsworth, Prowrite or Labels.

If you selected anything other than Labels then you will have to enter a filename from the File Requester. Then you will be asked if you want to print labels as well.

Then using a List Field Requester select all the records you wish to use. If you select the wrong one then just re-selecting it will cancel that selection. When you have finished select 'Done' or close the window.

And that's all there is to it. Use and enjoy!

## 1.62 Epilogue

If you like dDbase and use it you might like to consider a small donation to the author of this breathtaking database. Or some blank disks or PD software, or a postcard but you are not obliged to do so although I would like any bug reports or any suggestions (Please No rude ones).

My Address Is:

If you want a copy of the latest version (if there is one) please look on

DarkSide SYSOP: Robert Dale  
Thornton Heath  
0181-771-9100

OR

ROBERTA SMITH DTP PD      Public Domain Library  
190 FALLODEN WAY,  
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB,  
LONDON NW11 6JE

TELEPHONE: 0181-455 1626

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PowerPacker     ©Nico Francois  
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SuperBase       ©Precision Software. (Gold Disk)  
Gadtools        ©Commodore  
SNAP            ©Mikael Karlsson  
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---

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ViewTek       ©Thomas Krehbiel  
FinalCopy     ©SoftWood Inc  
FinalData     ©SoftWood Inc

UseAge  
Disclaimer

## 1.63 Contact Address

By EMail

FidoNet address is - 2:2:254/524.53  
Internet address is - Peter@darkside.demon.co.uk

By Snail Mail

NOTE: New Address.

Peter Hughes  
88c Warrior Square  
St Leonards on Sea  
East Sussex  
TN37 6BP

## 1.64 Disclaimer

dDbase is provided "as is", without warranty of any kind. In no event will the author be liable for any direct or indirect damage or loss resulting from the use or misuse of this program. By using dDbase, you are accepting the above.

## 1.65 Use of dDbase

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You may freely copy dDbase and all the supporting files as long as only a minimal fee is charged for copying. A price similar to that charged by Fred Fish.

---

## 1.66 PowerPacked files

Any external file - ASCII, IFF, AmigaGuide may be 'crunched' using PowerPacker. Provided you have the program 'packit' in your C Directory.

Also any dBase database file ?#.dat may be crunched using PowerPacker. Again providing you have the command 'packit' in your C directory dBase will decrunch and load the file.

You have the choice to crunch ?#.dat files from within dBase. Again this will depend on you having 'packit' in your c directory.

### NOTE

A point worth mentioning is that dBase does not take into consideration how much memory decrunching a ?#.dat file will take.

This way dBase can detect and decrunch Powerpacked AmigaGuide format files, something that AmigaGuide can't do by itself.

### NOTE

Do not crunch any of the dBase guide files. IE:  
DDBASE.GUIDE, MAIN.GUIDE, PREFERENCE.GUIDE, PRINT.GUIDE,  
ORGANISE.GUIDE, SEARCH.DOC, SELECT.DOC.

I use PowerPacker Professional and I can highly recommend purchasing a copy.

If you have any trouble obtaining a copy of PowerPacker Pro contact

EuroPress Direct  
Europa House,  
Adlington Park,  
Macclesfield, SK10 4NP  
Telephone 01625 859333  
Price £14.99

Nico Francois is to be congratulated on this excellent program.  
(PowerPacker and Reqtools, also for Spot)

## 1.67 Create AmigaGuide Database

To create a AmigaGuide database from a dBase database.

### NOTE:-

GADGET FIELD - It is most important that you do not have any curly braces '()' in the Gadget Field. If you do then the gadgets become quite confused. This is not my fault.

- 1: Load a database file
  - 2: Sort the Field for use as the Gadget/Button
-

- 3: Select the Fields you wish to use
- 4: If you select a External Field then ensure you have the correct tool IE. If you use the internal ILBM viewer then select an external ILBM viewer ( Viewtek-PPshow etc) by pressing F4.
- 5: Press F9
- 6: Select/Enter a filename or select Cancel not to continue.
- 7: Select the Field for the Button/Gadget.
- 8: Enter the Title for the AmigaGuide Database.
- 9: Enter the Left Margin.(Tab)

If all has gone well dDbase will create the AmigaGuide database.

NOTE:

dDbase will write the field title and contents from :-

- A) Integer Field
- B) Date Field
- C) String Field
- D) Memo Field
- E) External Field

If you have selected a External Field then dDbase will determine what type of file it is and add the appropriate tool.

NOTE:

If however the external file is held on a different device/disk then a system requester will ask you to insert the appropriate device/disk. You can though select Cancel quite safely.

Also you have the option of adding any text files into the amiga guide document.

NEW:

Will insert the contents of AmigaE Modules with the aid of Showmodule which will need to be in the C: directory.

AmigaE ©Wouter Van Oortmerssen

And thats all there is to it.

## 1.68 AmigaGuide

You will require AmigaGuide.library to be in the libs directory and AmigaGuide somewhere in your path. (Ex utilities,c etc)

You can obtain AmigaGuide along with the Licence from Fish disk 870. Or you can copy it from the dDbase disk.(See the Licence)  
See ToolTypes for more information.

## 1.69 Important Notes

---

dDbase Will open on various screen modes

IE:

NTSC Hires  
 NTSC Hires Laced  
 NTSC Lowres  
 PAL Hires  
 PAL Hires Laced  
 PAL Lowres

dDbase DOES NOT LIKE OVERSCAN

dDbase can open it's own screen. This was done by engaging cheat mode.  
 (See dDbaseScreen )

dDbase was written and compiled using GFABASIC 3.5.

I would like to thank my chief mentor - tester Bret McGee  
 who through his determination incorporated REQTOOLS,ILBM Library  
 and Gadtools Bevel/Flip Boxes into dDbase.

THINGS TO COME (Well maybe)

~~~~~

SUBFIELDS Have fields in fields, similar to a Memo Field.
 (Sounds complicated)

LINK Set a link to another dDbase database or a text file.
 A type of relational feature.

BUGS

~~~~

Just when I think its safe to use dDbase I find some undocumented  
 feature (BUGS). So if this happens to you please let me know.

Live Long and Prosper  
 Peter Hughes.

## 1.70 dDbase Tutorial

dDbase TUTORIAL.

In this tutorial we shall just learn how to create,add data, and  
 edit a database.

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1.71 Load a Database

The Tutorial 1>Loading a Database<1

Load

Just select the Gadget called Load. Select the database from the File Requester and select OK.

You can move around the file with the cursor keys.

```

Cursor Left == Previous record      Cursor Keys
Cursor Right== Next Record
Cursor Up   == Last Record
Cursor Down == First Record
Space      == GoTo Record

```

Dont forget to see what the shortcut is press F1

Or press the Help Key as dDbase has on line help.

1.72 Create

Tutorial 2>Create a Database<2

If you had loaded a file previously select New and then select Kill from the requester.

Now select Create. A string requester appears for you to input how many fields you wish to have (1 to 20). For now enter 4 and press return.

It is always wise to plan your database before you create it (Obvious again!) ie work out how many fields etc and note them.

For this example we are going to create a database with 4 Fields. These will be:

```

Field 1      == Name
Field 2      == Address

```

```
Field 3      == Post Code
Field 4      == Telephone
Add Fields
```

After you have entered 4 in the requester the field requester appears. You will notice that the FieldName input is Active. So Enter 'Name' for the first field. Now the Field Length input gadget is active so enter 25. Just below this gadget you will notice 'Enter Field Type'. There are 7 gadgets displayed along the bottom of the requester. At this point you can select 'F1' for the shortcut. Just for now though select the String gadget (or 's' -shortcut)

Create

Now you will be confronted by a requester: Required, UpperCase, Normal For now select Normal.

What you have entered will now be displayed to see if it is correct. Select Correct (or press return) and you can enter the next fields.

Try doing these your self they are

```
Address      Length=40   String
Post Code    Length=10   String
Telephone    Length=20   String
```

After you have entered these you will now be required to position them on the screen.

The first field (Name) is displayed at the pointer. By moving the mouse you move the field. Move the field until its about an inch (or Metric equivalent) from the top and about an inch from the left of the screen and press the Left Mouse Button.

You will go through the same procedure for the other fields. Position the other fields with about half an inch below the one in front.

Once you have done this you have created you first file in dDbase. Dont forget to save this file.

To Save select Save As (save only works if there is a filename already declared). If you are not in the desired directory then see the Load tutorial of how to change directories.

Once you are in the correct directory just type a filename, for instance myfile, there is no need to add .ddb as the program will do this for you. After you have entered the filename just press return or select Ok!.

1.73 Add a Field

Tutorial 3>Adding fields <3

Add Fields

You can add more fields to your file quite easily. First select Organise. If a window does not open then follow the procedure in Load to load a file.

You will notice 12 Gadgets. For now select Add Field, or h for shortcut or press help key and select the gadget you need help with.

After you have selected Add Field you will see the Field Definition Requester. Enter Comments for the Field name and enter 30 for the length. Then select the string gadget. Select Ok! if it is correct and then you can position the field on the screen using the same method described earlier.

You have just added a field.

Now select Organise and then select Add Field once more. This time enter the following into the Field Name:

dDbase MADCAP-SOFTWARE

For the Length enter 1, this is because this field we are using just to display dDbase MADCAP-SOFTWARE and no data. For the field type select Text and then select Ok! if it is correct.

Next you will position this field on screen. Position it any where you like but please be sensible about it!

The field Type Text, FBox, BBox are all similar as they all display only fields. The difference is the text in FBox is displayed in a Flipped Bevel Box and BBox in a Bevel Box. The fact that dDbase uses GadTools.Library means that this program will not work on 1.3 machines.

If you have a pre WB2 machine then its tough. If you want to use dDbase and other Wonderful programs that utilise the many benefits of WB2/WB3, then its time you upgraded. UPGRADE or LOSE OUT on the Benefits of the OS2.04 or Higher Machines.

1.74 Editing

Tutorial 4>Editing Fields<4

You can Edit, Move, Delete Fields. All these functions can be accessed from Organise.

Edit All you have to do is select the field to edit and just follow the instructions.

Delete Field. Select the field to delete. The program will ask you if it is Ok to delete that field.

Move field. You can reposition either all or select the field/s you wish to reposition.

For more details see the dDbase.DOC or the Help feature of dDbase.

1.75 Searching

Tutorial 5>Search<5 Quick Search

There are two types of Search available. First there is a quick search that's the ? Gadget. If you select the Quick search all you have to do is enter the word or name that you wish to find in the string gadget and press return. The program will then search all the fields for any occurrence of the search word.

Secondly if you want to search specific fields then select '=' Gadget. You can Use:-

- ^ - Find any occurrence in the field. (Any Field)
- | - Find the Left most occurrence. (Any Field)
- <>- Greater than/Less Than. (Numeric/Date)
- * - Range Between to Parameters (Any Field)

See dDbase.DOC/Guide for more details.

1.76 Memo Field

Tutorial 6>Memo>6

NOTE: To input data from the keyboard you need to specify a Text Editor from dDbase Icon Tooltypes.

A memo field can be almost any length you wish it to be. You are though limited to displaying around 20 lines of text approx 78 characters wide.

With a memo field you can get text from a text file, a disk directory or from the keyboard.

To create a Memo Field you would first enter Add Field or when you are creating a database select Memo from the Add Field function.

For this tutorial we shall assume that you have already created a memo field called 'Description' with a length of 600. We shall use the example of getting the description from the 'Contents' file present on Fish Disks.

When you add data to this field select 'Load New'. Insert a Fish Disk

into any disk drive. Select this drive and select the contents file.

After some disk access a List View type gadget will appear. First select the start (top) of the text. Now select the end (bottom) of the text you wish to use. Obviously use the 'Up' 'Down' gadgets to move around the file.

1.77 Opening on its own Screen

Made possible by cheating! Well not quite though it should of been done a bit friendlier.

I created a small program using AmigaE that opens a 4 colour public screen using topaz/8 font and set's the shanghai flag.

In the directory called ScreenModes you will find 5 files.

InstallScreen: This allows you to select what screen mode to use.
PAL-HIRES
PAL-HIRES-LACED
NTSC-HIRES
NTSC-HIRES-LACED

The others are quite explanatory. If you wish to install them by hand then copy the desired screenmode to the dDBase destination as dDBaseScreen.

IE.

copy PAL-HIRES-LACED to work:ddbase/ddbasescreen

That's all there is to it really!

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