

main_gadgets_guide

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

main_gadgets_guide

1.1 Main Display Gadgets DDBASE Version 7.67 ©MADCAP-SOFTWARE

```
Field Definitions
Known Bugs
Other Keys
Function Keys
Tool Time
DDBASE to GUIDE
Tooltypes
MAIL MERGE
```

```
|<< << < > >> >>| = ? Add Edit Print Save As
List M Prefs ©Mad Cap Create Delete Sort Load
Snap S About SoftWare Display Organise New Save Exit
```

1.2 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
```

1.3 Exit

SYNOPSIS: Exit

SHORTCUT: Escape Key

Exits from dDbase!

(Well what did you expect? A herd of Wilderbeasts!)

1.4 Known Bugs

dBase loses 40/80 Bytes of memory every time it is run from Cli/WB

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

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

dBase still does not like PAL Hires/Laced 256 Colour Screens. I will get around to fixing this.

It is not so much a bug as it is the way that some routines have been written to keep dBase working at a reasonable speed but I think I can do something about it. (Open dbase on it's own screen)

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

Some windows becoming disassociated from dBase! I am still thinking about this one..Hmmm! (This was due to YAK. Use MultiCX it's alot better)

Fonts: dBase requires Topaz.font (8) to work. If this is a problem set dbase to open it's own screen.

DATE: Fixed a major bug in displaying the date.

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.

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.

Live Long and Prosper!

1.5 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.
 - WordsWorth
 - ProWrite

NOTE: WORDSWORTH PROWRITE

I cannot gaurantee 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 apreciated. 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

1.6 TOOLS

NOTE: dDBase no longer stores it's tools in the tooltype.

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
SEPARATOR Record Separator 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 Default=1000. If you want to have very
large Memo fields you may want to set
this larger.

DESTINATION This sets the destination path when you
wish to unarchive files. Otherwise you will
have to select the destination path via
a ASL Requestor.
POPOP If you want the 'Organise' Menu to popup
when you press the RMB. (POPOP=Y)
BACKUP Creates a backup when saving current database,
if it previously existed. (Adds <file>.BAK)
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.
WAV Enter your favourite WAV sample player
(ie: play16)
AVI Enter your desired AVI player. CyberAvi
is very good.
MIDI For playing MIDI files.

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.

1.7 Function Keys

What the Function Keys do

KEY	FUNCTION
F1	Displays the Keyboard shortcuts.
F4	Edit DDBASE tools {Play Soundtracker Modules etc}
F5	Format Memo Field's
F6	Speak the current record.
F8	Displays what the Function keys do.
F9	Create a AmigaGuide database from the current file.
F10	Runs DDBASE AmigaGuide help file.

1.8 Create AmigaGuide Database

To create a AmigaGuide database from a DDBASE 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.

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

And thats all there is to it.

1.9 Tool Time 'URR URR'

DDBase will recognise in total 13 different file formats.

You can add tools to Play/View 8 different formats.

These are:-

```
1= Sound Samples :See Prefs
2= Animations :Ditto
3= GIF Picture Format :Try Viewtek
4= TIF Picture Format :Know Ideah
5= JPEG Picture Format :Try Viewtek
6= MED Music Format :Medplayer
7= MED SynthSounds
8= SoundTracker Modules :Try NoisePlayer
```

ILBM {Not Dpaint Brushes} can be displayed by DDBASE itself and so does not need a tool. If you want to use a 'tool' to display a ILBM file then using a text editor add the tool to 'ddbbase-tools' see below.

The 'Other' formats are:

```
Maxiplan
Pagesetter
The Publisher
Final Copy
GFABASIC
AMOS
ARCHIVED FILES {LZH LHA LZX DMS} If you have LHA/LZX in your path
    then DDBASE will output a list of the archive.
DMS
STONE-CRACKER
```

HOW TO ADD A TOOL.

~~~~~

EXAMPLE: To Display a GIF Picture :^)

After you have selected the field ,a requester will ask you if you wish to Add a Tool, answer by selecting AddTool. Next simply enter the program that you wish to use with this format IE: vt . Which is short for ViewTek. The next time you select a GIF Picture Format file it will be displayed using viewtek.

HOW DOES DDBASE REMEMBER THE TOOLS

~~~~~

DDBASE reads the DDBASE.TOOLS file as default.

HOW TO EDIT THE TOOLS

~~~~~

Use a texteditor to edit 'ddbbase.tools' or you could just

press the function key F4.

~~~~~

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)
~~~~~

```

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!!

1.10 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 dBase will fill in all the records (Just the selected field) in between the filled in fields.

1.11 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, sort or fill 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 DisplayBeep) 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.

LMB You can select a Box to Edit,Delete,Move or Change type by clicking at the top left corner.

## 1.12 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 it manually 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
 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
 ATTACH Attach a program to a field.
 CALC Do calculations on fields.

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.

See ASCII

1.13 Field Definitions

Field Definitions:

 String

Synopsis: Field Definition- String Field

ShortCut s (LowerCase)

Defines the current field to input strings {Alpha/Numeric}
 The different types of string fields are:

Required When you create/edit you will have the ability to create a list of items to choose from.

UpperCase This will set any text to upper case.

Normal This you can enter what you like.

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.

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: AField 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 Non

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.

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. (VIA 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:

```
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.

\*NEW\* You can now display the field title in BOLD ITALIC or UNDERLINE  
This applies to all fields though MEMO, EXTERNAL and ATTACH aren't so cool.

## 1.14 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.

---

## 1.15 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.

## 1.16 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)

## 1.17 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)

## 1.18 Edit

Edit

Synopsis: Edits current record

ShortCut- e (Lowercase)

## 1.19 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 criterea you will be able to enter your range using a string requester.

Quick Search OutPut

## 1.20 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. dBase will export intelligently and will not initialise the file as in the case for Final Copy, Protex or ASCII-Mail Merge file.

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)

## 1.21 Quick Search

Quick Search

Synopsis: Quick Search (Case Insensitive)

Shortcut ?

This function will search all fields for any occurrence of the search word. Example :- If you entered 'fred' it would try to find any occurrence 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 separating the different search words.

dBase will now search all fields for the occurrences of:

peter david london hastings

See Search

## 1.22 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.

## 1.23 Goto-

**° Space - GoTo**

Synopsis: Goto Line No

Shortcut Space

Allows you to Jump to any Line No.

## 1.24 About

**About**

Synopsis: Tells you all about me!

Shortcut A (Uppercase)

What can I say!!!!

## 1.25 Print

---

Print

Synopsis: Allows user to print using various output.

ShortCut- p (LowerCase)

See Help in Print Section.

## 1.26 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.

## 1.27 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.

## 1.28 Display Database

Synopsis: Display Database

Shortcut u

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

---

## 1.29 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.

## 1.30 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

## 1.31 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.

## 1.32 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.

DATE Use DD/MM/YY or DD MMM YYYY (12/06/93 or 12 Jun 1993)

TASKPRI Alter the TaskPriority. (-10 to 20)

SAVE This saves the preference settings.

### 1.33 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.

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---

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Print  
Print  
Quick Search  
Quick Search  
Report  
Save  
Save As  
Search  
Search  
Searching  
Snap  
Sort  
The Z KEY  
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Display  
UpDate

---