

Connect_CDROM

COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

Connect_CDROM

1.1 Connecting an IDE CD-ROM drive

Connecting an IDE CD-ROM Drive

1. Buy an internal IDE CD ROM drive which is 100% ATAPI compatible. Shop around, slower drives are stupidly cheap as end of line stocks. 2 speed drives have been seen for as little as £16!
 2. Buy yourself the software. IDEFix '97 is current leader of the pack if you are willing to put up the nagging requestors until you pay the registration fee, alternatively, go for AmiCDFS. Both of the programs are available for a pittance from any PD library.
 3. Find power for the drive. If your A1200 or A600 power supply is reasonably beefy and unstressed, then you can take power from this, look at solution 3a. If it isn't look at solution 3b:
 - 3a. Use the header on the A1200 motherboard which the floppy drive is connected to. The CD-ROM uses larger plugs, but only the size is different. Any computer parts supplier can sell you a cable which splits a CD-ROM style (3.5") power connector to two floppy disk style (2.5") connectors. One small connector goes to the floppy, one to the motherboard. The big connector goes to the CD-ROM drive.
 - 3b. The CD-ROM drive can be powered very easily from a PC cased power supply. They have connectors which will slot straight into the CD-ROM drive. Take one from an old secondhand case, or buy one new, they cost about £15. Better still, buy yourself a mini-tower case, it will house your CD-ROM drive more cleanly without external cables trailing all over the place and gives you a convenient switch. If you do power your CD-ROM drive separately from your Amiga, switch on the CD-ROM drive first!
 4. Set the jumpers. At the back of the CD-ROM drive there are a couple of jumper switches - pins short circuited together with a small metallic clip - which specify the device as being either a master or slave. Your hard drive should be master, your CD-ROM drive should be set to slave.
 5. Connect the CD-ROM drive to your Amiga with an IDE cable. The important thing to remember is that the side of the ribbon cable with a strip on it should connect to pin 1 of everything you plug it into. If your Amiga fails
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to boot, you may have an IDE device plugged in the wrong way. Notice that the IDE connector on an A1200/A600 is 44 pin, while your CD-ROM drive is 40 pin. An unfortunate oversight on Commodore's part when they designed the machine. You will need to buy a special adaptor cable - if you have a 3.5" drive fitted in your A1200, you'll have this special adapter cable already. You will also need to make sure that this cable has three connectors on it, one for the CD-ROM, one for the hard drive, and one to connect to the motherboard. Phone your favourite Amiga dealer, this is a specialist part.

6. Power up and install the software, following the instructions which come on the disk.

7. Enjoy all the best new games, applications and compilations. You'll never look back! Total outlay varies depending on the details you employ, but this can set you back as little as £30 - £4- if you shop around!

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