

Copydongle

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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	Copydongle	1
1.1	Ami-Card Hardware Copying Dongle	1

Chapter 1

Copydongle

1.1 Ami-Card Hardware Copying Dongle

Super Ami Card Hardware Construction

By Simon aka KHUL

There are many hardware copiers around. The ONLY original ones I think that are around are Cyclone and Super-Card Ami II. The others ie. Blit-a-Copy, Mac II are just blatant rip offs of Super Card. Having used both Cyclone and Super Card, it has to be said that Super Card is THE best and can copy 95% of original software. So we're going to make a Super Card compatible copying dongle.

What you need:

A good soldering iron, lead wire, a male and female 23 pin port, a 23 pin port plastic casing, and lots of thin wire. These can be obtained from Tandy or Maplins.

1. TO BEGIN

Make sure you know which port is which or you'll end up with a total mess. The port with holes is the female port, the other with spikes is the male port.

2. PERPARATION

Cut the thin wire into roughly 30 segments, each about 6 cm long. Why 30? Because I can guarantee you'll mess some up! Now, you should have plugged in your soldering iron to let it heat up. It's best to open a window while you're at it as well unless you wanna be intoxicated!

3. FIRST CONNECTION

Now shave off the plastic from the ends of the wire, just leaving the copper bare. Holding the male port, you should see little copper holes which jut out on the opposite side of the spikes. This is where your wire should be, so insert one end into hole no.1 (The numbers are on the other side.)

Grab your soldering iron and place it onto your lead coil. A little lead will melt onto the tip of your soldering iron and it should be clearly visible - BUT don't put too much or you'll clog up your whole device! Now, gently apply the solder OVER the connection between wire and hole. Do this quickly or you could melt your wire. Now let it cool for about 5 seconds. Great, if you've got this far you're doing well. Now repeat the procedure BUT this time connect the other end of the wire to the female hole (NOT the main ones - the ones that are copper and look like small tubes!). Don't forget to apply adequate solder.

If you've done that successfully you've managed to connect:

MALE 1 to FEMALE 1

4. THE REST

Okay, so now you know how to connect the wires here are the complete list of connections to make...

MALE	FEMALE
1	1
2	17
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
18	18
19	19
20	16
21	21
23	23

And NO, I haven't missed any out! Some holes don't need any connections.

5. FINISHING UP

Now, put the plastic case on and you're done. If it doesn't fit, then either you didn't cut the wires right, or you bought the wrong case! If it's the first, you can gently squeeze or twist the wires in the middle. Don't worry - it WILL fit!

Now making sure your computer ain't on, plug in your dongle into the diskdrive port. Now connect your extra drive (you don't have one? Oh, well, looks like you've been wasting your time!) to the back of the dongle.

Next, turn on your Amiga. If your disk drive hasn't decided to blow up you've probably done everything right. Load up your copy software, grab a copy of an original say, Jaguar XJ, Captain Planet, or Sensi Soccer and a blank disk, and see if it works - (It does!).

6. WHICH SOFTWARE?

Ones to get are Super Card Ami-II v2 - v4 softare, Blit-a-copy software, or Mac II software. If you really can't find any, then 17 Bit disk 1418 ie. Insanity Tools has Super Card v2.2 software on it. It works, but the software is crap! New versions have MUCH better interfaces, parameters, and deprotection schemes. If you are really desperate, sell your device for a tenner to some mug and go and buy the Original (£34.95).

A final note, there's no point in getting Syncro Express III coz it's a load of old rubbish!

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Back To Main Menu

Back To Projects Menu