

Poor Man's Newton



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What is it?

Poor Man's Newton is a HyperCard stack that contains address and telephone information and generally behaves like Apple's new Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), the Newton MessagePad. If you are like me and you can't afford to buy one of these high tech tools, here is your chance to own a virtual one that can be used on your Macintosh.

Machine Requirements

While the Poor Man's Newton can run on any Apple Macintosh model capable of running HyperCard 2.0 or later, it is best suited for those machines having at least a 12" monitor. The stack can also be used with Apple's HyperCard Player.

Poor Man's Newton's Buttons and Their Purpose

Button Name Purpose:



The **Assist** button is used to get on the Newton's various buttons and their functions. Under System 7, this help has been provided through the use of Balloons which reveal themselves when the cursor is positioned over a button or field of interest.



The **Find** button is used to Find one or more words in the Newton's database. After the Newton has found the first occurrence of your search string, subsequent presses of the RETURN or ENTER key will continue the search.



The **Undo** button is not currently functional in this version of the Newton. Suggestions are welcome.



The **Previous** and **Next** buttons are used to view the previous and next addresses.



The **Extras** button is used to access the Extras page where the Newton's sound can be turned on/off, the type of sound the Newton makes can be selected, the Newton's local area code can be set, information can be exchanged with another Newton, and a application icon for the Newton can be installed on HyperCard's Home card.



The **Dates** button displays the Calendar card where a calendar and the current time are presented.



The **Names** button is used to add or find an address in the Newton's database. If name that you are adding to the database does not previously exist, a new page or card will be added and the Newton will allow you to enter additional information.



The **Home** Card button is used to go immediately to HyperCard's Home card.



The **Quit** button is used for quitting the Poor Man's Newton to return to the Finder.



The **Envelope** icon contains a pull down menu that perform a number of the Newton's core functions. Hold down the mouse button over the Envelope icon and wait until the menu appears before making a selection.



The **Tools** Palette button shows or hides the drawing tool palette. The browser or hand tool must be selected after any one of the drawing tools has been selected to use the address book again.



The **Install at Home** button creates a link to the Poor Man's Newton on HyperCard's Home card. This function is entirely optional.



The **Exchange Information** button allows users of previous versions of the Poor Man's Newton to easily update their new copy of the program with the information already contained in their previous copy of the program. Within the new or updated copy of the Newton, click once on this button and select your previous copy of the Newton from the Open File dialog box. The new or updated copy of the Newton will then copy all of the information contained in the old copy, including any pictures, maps, or icons which you may have added to a person's card!



The **Close** button is used to exit a function or dialog and resume using the program.

The Contents of the Envelope Menu



About...

This command displays an about dialog box containing the author's name and address and copyright information.

Sort Addresses

Sorts the addresses in the stack by the first line of the address field.

Page Setup...

Displays the standard Page Setup dialog box.

Print One...

Selecting this command from the Envelope menu prints the contents of the current card to the printer.

Print Many...

This command provides you with a method for printing information about more than one record, an address list for example.

Font

Selecting one of the type faces from the Font submenu changes the font used in the address and notes fields.

Import Text...

One method of getting addresses into the Newton is to read in a text (ASCII) file containing address information. Addresses in this format need to be stored on one or more lines with a ‘\’ character between addresses as a record delimiter. If they are formatted properly, addresses that are imported in this way will be stored on individual cards.

Export Text...

Addresses may also be exported from the Newton as a text (ASCII) file. Addresses will be delimited in the file using the ‘\’ character.

Delete Address/Delete All Addresses

An address may be removed or deleted from the Poor Man’s Newton by using the Delete Address command from the Envelope menu. Once this command has been selected, a dialog box will appear to make sure you really want to delete the current address card. Answering in the affirmative, will remove the card from the stack. Holding down the option key while selecting this command from the menu removes the address card from the stack without the dialog box check. Furthermore, holding down the shift and option keys while selecting this command will delete all address card from the Poor Man’s Newton without any further action. This is handy when you want to clear an existing Newton or when duplicating one in order to start a new one.

The Tool Palette



The tool palette appears whenever the Tools palette button is highlighted at the bottom of the Newton’s screen. Except for the top row of button, this palette contains drawing tools that you can use to create images on the Newton’s screen. Use of each of the tool will become pretty self evident as you gain experience working with them, but the following shortcuts should be observed:

1. Command + Tab key will reselect the browser cursor if the Tool Palette window gets closed before the browser cursor is reselected.
2. Double-clicking the lasso tool selects the picture on the current card.
3. Double-clicking the eraser tool erases the entire image on the current card.
4. Double-clicking the paint bucket displays a pattern palette that could can use to paint with.

5. Double-clicking on any of the open polygon tools, makes them draw filled and visa versa.
6. Double-clicking on the text tool allows you to select the typeface, style, and size of text before typing on the card in paint mode.
7. Double-clicking on the line tool allows you to set the line thickness for all drawing operations.
8. Double-clicking on the paint brush allows you to select a brush for subsequent painting.

AppleEvents? Of Course it Supports Them!

Poor Man's Newton also supports AppleEvents. In addition to supporting the core group of AppleEvents ('quit', 'open', 'pdoc', and 'clos'), the Newton also supports the following:

Class	ID	AppleEvent Data	Returns
'newt'	'addr'	"Cicinelli"	Does a search for a card containing the search string "Cicinelli" and returns the contents of the address field.
'newt'	'note'	"Hensel"	Does a search for a card containing the search string "Hensel" and returns the contents of the notes field.

Contacting the Author

I can be contacted by mail or telephone at the following two addresses:

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Version History

1.0 First Public Release.

1.1 Down arrow next to envelope now gives users a clue that the envelope really is a pulldown menu rather than a button.

Changed Sound checkbox to a push button and popup menu combination to

allow users to select their own favorite Newton sound!

Made Balloon Help appear over the Assist button immediately rather than requiring the user leave the button first.

Added some missing Balloon Help messages.

The Newton will now dial any number selected in the address or notes field in addition to one appearing as the last line of the address field.

A Calendar card has been added under the Dates button.

Fixed a bug with the Names button. The List of names was not always sorted.