

FormAldiHyd-Manual

Chris Hodges

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : FormAldiHyd-Manual		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY	Chris Hodges	January 23, 2025	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	FormAldiHyd-Manual	1
1.1	FormAldiHyd Tablet Driver Manual	1
1.2	Legal Stuff...	1
1.3	Introduction...	3
1.4	Requirements...	4
1.5	How to install this great software...	4
1.6	dummy	4
1.7	Using FormAldiHyd...	4
1.8	Program Prefs Panel	5
1.9	Settings Panel	6
1.10	F-Keys Panel	8
1.11	Sound Panel	10
1.12	Using Formalin...	10
1.13	Pressure Support...	12
1.14	Known Bugs	12
1.15	Acknowledgements	13
1.16	The Future	14
1.17	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	14
1.18	Version History	15
1.19	Contacting the Author...	17

Chapter 1

FormAldiHyd-Manual

1.1 FormAldiHyd Tablet Driver Manual

Welcome to the

FormAldiHyd Tablet Driver V2.3

Copyright 2001 by Chris Hodges .

WARNING: Read this first before using this software!

Legal Issue

Introduction

Installation

Using FormAldiHyd

Known Bugs

The Future

Acknowledgements

Version History

Requirements

Pressure Support

Using Formalin

FrequentlyAskedQuestions

Contacting the Author

This software is GiftWare/PostcardWare .

1.2 Legal Stuff...

Copyright notice

"FormAldiHyd" software is partly based on the xf86HyperPen.c source by Roland Jansen <roland@lut.rwth-aachen.de>, the xfDigitalEdge.c source by

Christian Herzog <daduke@dataway.ch> and the xf86Wacom.c source by Frederic Lepied <Fredric.Lepied@sugix.frmug.org>. All further routines and this documentation were written by and are Copyright 2001 Chris Hodges. All rights reserved.

No parts of this program or documentation may be altered by any means (this includes editing, modifying, reprogramming, extracting, crunching, resourcing etc.) except archiving.

Disclaimer

This software has been proven stable in everyday use. The author is in no way liable for any loss of data, damages to software or hardware or personal injury (especially to hands and fingers) and illness that may result directly or indirectly from use of this program.

The author reserves the right to make changes to this software or documentation without notice.

Distribution

This software is freely distributable as long as the archive contents remain complete and unaltered and no fee is charged for this software.

None of the files in this package may be modified or left out or distributed with other products without written permission from the author. No unrelated files may be added to any archive containing this program.

Special permission is hereby granted to include the FormAldiHyd in FD collections such as Fred Fish's Amiga Library or Urban Müller's AmiNet archive or on AmiNet CDs.

Magazines have my permission to distribute this program on their cover disks and CDs, but I would appreciate if a copy of the magazine would be sent to me in that case.

PostcardWare Notice

This software is POSTCARDWARE. If you find this program useful, I expect you to send me a postcard of your location (please write your email address onto it!) or at least smash a Wintel machine you come across. You have to agree that this is not much asked and will raise my motivation on Amiga software development. Of course I'm always open to other kinds of gifts aswell! I'm again stupid enough not to cripple this software in any way, but I hope this still keeps people motivated to send in a postcard.

By copying, distributing and/or using this software you indicate your

acceptance of the above rules.

1.3 Introduction...

Introduction

FormAldiHyd is a driver intended for the Aldi/Medion/Tevion MD 9310 graphic tablet and WacomIV compatible tablets (Graphire, ArtPad, A3, A4, A5 and PenPartner). Experimental support for SummaGraphics compatible and AceCad tablets has been added with this release but remains untested.

I bought a MD 9310 in summer 2000, but have been too lazy to write a driver until November 2000. German speaking people are proposed to spell the name of this software as "From-Aldi-Hütt'" ;)

This program has been out some time now and has proven to be stable.

It fully works with:

- AipTek HyperPen 6000 (maybe other boards aswell, still unconfirmed).
- AipTek HyperPen 8000
- Aldi/Medion MD 9310 and Aldi/Tevion LT 9310

It works partly with:

- Wacom IV compatible (Graphire, ArtPad, A3, A4, A5 and PenPartner)
- SummaGraphics compatible boards (unconfirmed), no FKey or pressure
- AceCad boards (unconfirmed), no FKey or pressure

It does currently NOT work with:

- Wacom V series (Intuos) (might be added on demand)

Starting with V2.2 it finally works with MFC and IOBlix serial ports!

This is probably the only tablet driver that correctly works with all known (MUI) applications and at the same time has full pressure support.

Some portions of the code have been ported from the xf86HyperPen.c source by Roland Jansen <roland@lut.rwth-aachen.de> and Christian Herzog <daduke@dataway.ch>, who has taken over development of xf86HyperPen.c.

The experimental WacomIV support has been ported from the xf86Wacom.c source by Frederic Lepied <Fredric.Lepied@sugix.frmug.org>.

Short list of features:

- Comes both as CLI-only/WB (no GUI) and MUI version.
 - Can be run either in 9600 or 19200 baud mode (HyperPen only).
 - Supports pressure, which can be scaled to your requirements (e.g. with ArtEffect).
 - Versatile support of the functions keys at top of the tablet.
 - Can play sounds on button presses to make clicks audible.
 - Supports a threshold value for the left mouse button.
 - Middle and right mouse button can be swapped for stylus.
 - Mouse and Stylus can use different active areas.
-

- Mouse can be used in relative mode. A mode for left handed people is also available.
- Automatic detection of stylus and mouse.
- Tablet orientation can be changed by swapping x and y coordinates.
- Lots of different resolution can be chosen (up to 3048 LPI!).
- Fully compatible with MUI applications.
- Even works with low level software that reads the input events directly (Cinema4D, MagicMenu, etc.)

1.4 Requirements...

Requirements

Requirements:

- Kick 3.0 (V39) or higher
- MC68020 or higher
- Graphic tablet correctly connected to a serial port
- MUI for FormAldiHyd, not required for Formalin.

Developed on:

- A4000TE/60, 42MB, 42GB HD, CDR, ZIP, CV64, FliFix, X-Surf, HyperCom, MelodyPro

1.5 How to install this great software...

Installation

Just copy Formalin to your C: directory or to your WBStartup-Drawer and/or drag the FormAldiHyd icon to your favorite location. No other data files are required.

Have a look at the contributions folder for nice looking icons.

Also, I've included some sound samples in IFF-8SVX format for you to try out the sound feature.

1.6 dummy

Dummy node, ignore. Try to delete this node and see if you still can click on Using FormAldiHyd . Argh, AmigaGuide of OS3.9 is so damn buggy :(

1.7 Using FormAldiHyd...

FormAldiHyd

This is the MUI version. There is only one task, so this means, whatever blocks out the task from receiving the serial data and sending tablet events will pull the driver dead (e.g. clicking on cycle gadgets within the programs gui, pressing the right mouse button). In this case, the driver does not crash however, but can normally be reactivated by terminating the blocking event (e.g. using the mouse). To avoid these problems, iconify the GUI after you're satisfied with your settings.

The advantage of FormAldiHyd over Formalin is, that you can change your prefs on the fly and also can save them. I would go for this one first to test if your board works (or the driver does) and try out some settings.

There are five panels, one showing four lines of information about the state of the driver and the four other panels to set up you serial device, change other settings, configure the function keys and define sound effects for each button pressed or released.

Program Prefs
Settings
F-Keys
Sound

1.8 Program Prefs Panel

Program Prefs Panel

Changes to the serial settings will only take place after you pressed the Save or Use buttons at the bottom of the window!

FormAldiHyd Settings:

- Task Priority:
Use this to modify the task priority for whatever reasons. The default value of 20 is already a good thing, as input devices should be responsive at all costs. If you think you know better, just change the value to your needs.
- Start Iconified:
If you don't want the MUI version to pop up the window every time you start it, select this option.

Serial Settings:

- Serial Device:
Name of the device driver you have connected the tablet to. Be sure also to connect the keyboard adapter stuff, or the tablet will not get any power (so if the LED of the tablet isn't blinking, there's no use to try this driver). Normally should be something like serial.device.
-

- Unit:
Unit number for the device.
- Board Type:
Either choose HyperPen, WacomIV or SummaGraphics depending on the board you're using.
- Speed (for HyperPen only):
Baud rate for communication between the tablet and the computer. There are only two speeds currently supported (there were some more in earlier version, but they have been useless). You normally should select 19200, however, if the driver doesn't recognise your tablet, try 9600.
- Resolution (for HyperPen only):
Defines the resolution in lines per inch (LPI) to use. This is not really a serial setting, but it fitted in here nicely. Look at the table of possible resolutions (this is valid for the AipTek HyperPen 6000 board):

Resolution	Dots H	Dots V	Comments
100 LPI	599	449	Not recommended, leads to unprecise movement
200 LPI	1199	899	
254 LPI	1523	1142	
400 LPI	2399	1799	
500 LPI	3000	2250	Default resolution
508 LPI	3047	2285	
1000 LPI	5999	4499	
1016 LPI	6095	4571	
2000 LPI	11999	8999	
2032 LPI	12191	9143	
2540 LPI	15239	11429	Resolution might (!) not work on bigger tablets
3000 LPI	18449	13499	Resolution might (!) not work on bigger tablets
3048 LPI	18737	13715	Resolution might (!) not work on bigger tablets

Using high resolutions normally causes a wiggling mouse pointer. This setting has also effect on the scale of the delta values with RAWMOUSE events (i.e. for Cinema4D object movement).

- HyperPen 8000 (for HyperPen only):
HyperPen 8000 boards report as HyperPen 6000 boards, but have their X-coordinates already flipped. Use this switch to compensate (using "Flip X" instead will give you a wrong macrokeys ordering).

1.9 Settings Panel

Settings Panel

The preferences from the settings panel take effect immediately.

Emulation Settings:

- Flip X:
-

Mirrors the X axis.

- Flip Y:
Hence.
- Swap X \leftrightarrow Y:
Swaps the X and the Y coordinates.
- Kill on Overflow:
Sometimes an action like dragging a scroll bar (scrolling a lot of gfx around) causes a lot of uninterrupted CPU load, leading to lots of tablet messages queuing up in the internal buffer. If messages move the scroll bar, they are causing more CPU load and so on. Using this switch you can reduce the effect of this vicious circle by eliminating the buffer if it starts overflowing. If you've got a slow CPU, it might be best to leave it off though.
- Detection: Mouse only, Stylus only, Automatic
Normally, the mouse and stylus can be detected automatically by the driver, although the tablet does not send this information explicitly. However, there seem to be some 'defective' boards out there which make it impossible to recognise the input device correctly and therefore cause pointer jumping and render mouse button swapping useless. If you actually have such problems, set this gadget to the device you're using. You can still use both stylus and mouse, but the settings will not be changed automatically.
- Swap RMB \leftrightarrow MMB (for stylus only):
Swaps the right button (that's the lower stylus button) and the middle button (that's the upper one) of the stylus only. Might come in handy.
- Swap LMB \leftrightarrow RMB (for mouse only):
This is the left hand mode. It just swaps the left and right mouse button which could be useful for left handed people.
- Relative Movement (for mouse only):
If you're not used to tablets it's hard to stop lifting the mouse for using the normal relative movement. Normally, the stylus/mouse positions are absolute, i.e. it does not matter where you have previously lifted the pointing device. This new options allows you to use the mouse in relative mode. Note that the usable area setting can then be used to specify mouse acceleration.
- Usable Area:
Although it should be possible to reach the whole tablet area, this often very hard at the edges. This option allows you to shrink the active area by a certain percentage. Values from 90% to 98% are normally reasonable.

The active area can be set differently for the mouse and the stylus, to allow you switching from one input device to the other on the fly. This is useful because normally you would like much smaller usable area for the mouse to accelerate its movement.

Use combinations of Flip X, Flip Y and Swap X \leftrightarrow Y to operate the tablet in normal orientation, 90\textdegree{} turned, upside down or 270\textdegree{} turned \leftrightarrow

.

Pressure Settings:

- LMB Threshold:
Defines the minimum pressure required to activate the left mouse button. Values below 13% are not reasonable.
- Don't clip:
Normally, pressure is clipped to zero if no stylus button is pressed. This is done to stop painting programs like ArtEffect from painting with very soft pressure even though the stylus does not touch the tablet. If you tick this checkbox, the pressure will not be clipped. This can be reasonable if you have configured your pressure minimum at 13% or more and the LMB threshold is above the minimum pressure.
- Minimum & Maximum:
Defines the range of the pressure to be scaled to full output range. Values below the minimum are clipped to zero, and values beyond the maximum are set to the maximum pressure value.

To find a good range for these slider settings, you should enable the data output and just have a look which values you get when pressing the stylus on the board.

I'm using a LMB Threshold of 30%, a Minimum of 13% and a Maximum of 80%, which are the default values.

1.10 F-Keys Panel

F-Keys Panel

New in V2.1 is the F-Keys panel. It allows you to configure the function keys on the top of the tablet according to your needs.

There are twelve function keys with the HyperPen board and 32 macro keys on the WacomIV (only the first twelve are supported). For each key you can define one of the following behaviours:

- Disabled:
Clicking on the key will not do anything.
- String:
The ansi string contained in the corresponding gadget is emulated using keyboard presses. Whatever program is currently in input focus will receive the given key presses.

You can also use the following special characters:

- "\n": CR (Return key)
- "\r": CR (Return key)
- "\t": TAB
- "\\": normal backslash

Moreover you can also generate other special keys enclosed in angle brackets (e.g. "<alt f4>", see below for more details).

- Custom Key:

Generates a key according to the given description. The description must follow the normal rules for commodity keys. Here's a short list of what's possible (rawly taken from the RKM Libraries):

The following regular expression outlines the format of the input event description string:

```
[class] {(qualifier|synonym)} [highmap|ANSICode]
```

Class can be any one of the class strings in the table below. If the class is not explicitl stated, it will assume it is rawkey.

Class String	Input Event Class
-----	-----
"rawkey"	IECLASS_RAWKEY
"newprefs"	IECLASS_NEWPREFS
"diskremoved"	IECLASS_DISKREMOVED
"diskinserted"	IECLASS_DISKINSERTED

Qualifier is one of the qualifier strings from the table below. Notice that there can be more than one qualifier (or none at all) in the input description string.

Qualifier String	Input Event Class
-----	-----
"lshift"	IEQUALIFIER_LSHIFT
"rshift"	IEQUALIFIER_RSHIFT
"capslock"	IEQUALIFIER_CAPSLOCK
"control"	IEQUALIFIER_CONTROL
"lalt"	IEQUALIFIER_LALT
"ralt"	IEQUALIFIER_RALT
"lcommand"	IEQUALIFIER_LCOMMAND
"rcommand"	IEQUALIFIER_RCOMMAND
"numericpad"	IEQUALIFIER_NUMERICPAD
"repeat"	IEQUALIFIER_REPEAT
"midbutton"	IEQUALIFIER_MIDBUTTON
"rbutton"	IEQUALIFIER_RBUTTON
"leftbutton"	IEQUALIFIER_LEFTBUTTON
"relativemouse"	IEQUALIFIER_RELATIVEMOUSE

Synonym is one of the synonym strings from the table below. These strings act as synonyms for groups of qualifiers. Notice that there can be more than one synonym (or none at all) in the input description string.

Synonym String	Synonym Identifier	
-----	-----	
"shift"	IXSYM_SHIFT	/* look for either shift key */
"caps"	IXSYM_CAPS	/* look for either shift key or capslock */
"alt"	IXSYM_ALT	/* look for either alt key */

Highmap is one of the following strings:

```
"space", "backspace", "tab", "enter", "return", "esc", "del",
```

```
"up", "down", "right", "left", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5",
"f6", "f7", "f8", "f9", "f10", "help".
```

ANSICode is a single character (for example 'a') that Commodities Exchange looks up in the system default keymap.

Here are some example description strings. For function key F2 with the left Shift and either Alt key pressed, the input description string would be:

```
"rawkey lshift alt f2" = "lshift alt f2"
```

More useful strings might be:

```
"ramiga x"    : cut marked operation in most applications.
"ramiga c"    : copy operation.
"ramiga v"    : paste operation.
```

- Shell:

If the tip touched the function key area, the given command is run (asychroneously). Note that you should set up the correct amount of stack required or the program might crash. If the programm could not be started, there will be an error message. Input and output is collected from the console given below. You might want to enter NIL: here. This is a very powerful feature, use with care.

- F-Key:

Sends the corresponding function key to the current application. This is only available for the keys from F1 to F10, as there are no F11/F12 keys on the Amiga.

1.11 Sound Panel

Sound Panel

V2.2 of FormAldiHyd introduces the capability to play back sound effects whenever a button is pressed or released. This has been suggested by Jens Illigen ;)

For I'm far too lazy to write much about this feature, you'll just have to try it. All sound formats that you've got datatypes for are supported.

I've included some sounds of my collection to this distribution which I think might be useful.

1.12 Using Formalin...

Formalin

Formalin is the 'watered' (standalone) version of FormAldiHyd :) For it has no GUI I could have called it FormAlone aswell. Do so if it pleases you. The functionality of FormAldiHyd and Formalin is the same, although you cannot change the settings on the fly. However, Formalin uses less resources and is marginally faster.

Starting with V1.2, Formalin can also be started from Workbench. Use the ToolTypes to configure your settings according to the template shown below (the default icon already contains a guideline for all options). With the template getting apparently huge with the F-Key and sound options you're urged to use the ToolTypes instead of the command line.

The template for Formalin is:

```
DEV=DEVICE/A,UNIT/K/N,BAUD=BPS/K/N,ISWACOM/S,ISSUMMA/S,ISHPEN8000/S,
LPI/K/N,USEAREA=UAS/K/N,USEAREAMOUSE=UAM/K/N,PRI/K/N,
FLIPX=FX/S,FLIPY=FY/S,SWAPXY/S,SWAPRMB/S,LEFTHAND=SWAPLBRB/S,
RELMOUSE/S,MOUSEONLY/S,STYLUSONLY/S,NOPRESCLIP/S,KILLOVR/S,
LMBTHRES/K/N,PMIN/K/N,PMAX/K/N,EXTSTACK/K/N,EXTCON/K,
F1/K,F2/K,F3/K,F4/K,F5/K,F6/K,F7/K,F8/K,F9/K,F10/K,F11/K,F12/K,
LMBDOWNSND/K,LMBUPSND/K,MAXPRESSND/K,RMBDOWNSND/K,
RMBUPSND/K,MMBDOWNSND/K,MMBUPSND/K,FKEYSND/K,QUIET/S:
```

```
DEV=DEVICE    : name of serial driver (e.g. 'serial.device'). Required.
UNIT          : unit number for serial driver, defaults to 0 if omitted.
BAUD=BPS      : baud rate to use when communicating, defaults to 9600. Only
                other possible value is 19200.
ISWACOM       : Uses the WacomIV driver instead of the HyperPen driver.
ISSUMMA       : Switches to SummaGraphics/AceCad compatibility mode.
ISHPEN8000    : Enables the HyperPen 8000 compatibility patch.
LPI           : Resolution to use for the tablet. Default is 500LPI.
USEAREA=UAS   : percentage of the board area to utilize. Default is 95%. If
                USEAREAMOUSE is given, this area only refers to the stylus.
USEAREAMOUSE: like UAS, this time for mouse. If omitted, UAS value will be
                =UAM used instead.
PRI           : priority of the main task, defaults to 20.
FLIPX=FX      : flip x coordinate.
FLIPY=FY      : flip y coordinate.
SWAPXY        : swap x and y coordinates, so board can be used 90\textdegree{} ←
                rotated.
SWAPRMB       : swap right and middle mouse buttons.
LEFTHAND      : swap left and right mouse buttons.
=SWAPLBRB
RELMOUSE      : activate relative mouse movement.
MOUSEONLY     : defers from automatic input device detection to mouse only.
STYLUSONLY    : defers from automatic input device detection to stylus only.
NOPRESCLIP    : always passes the pressure through, even if left mouse button
                is not pressed. See FormAldiHyd settings above.
KILLOVR       : kill remaining buffer if buffer is overflowing.
LMBTHRES      : threshold value for the left mouse button, default: 30%.
PMIN          : minimum pressure threshold. Default is 13%.
PMAX          : maximum pressure threshold. Default is 80%.
EXTSTACK      : stack in bytes to use for external program launching
EXTCON        : console to use for external program launching
F1-F12        : string to configure the F-Keys, either:
```

- "D" -> Disable function key (default for F11/F12).
- "S:<mystring>" -> generate the given ansi string.
- "K:<key description>" -> generate a custom key.
- "X:<commandname>" -> launch given command
- "F" -> generate normal F-key (default for F1-F10).

xxxSND : defines the soundeffect you want to use. Either use:

- "<filename>" to load a sample with volume 64 or
- "xx:<filename>" where xx is a TWO DIGIT number representing the volume between 0 and 64.

QUIET : only print out error messages.

Normally you want to start this program asynchronously. If any error is encountered or a CTRL-C is received, the program will quit. If Formalin is started twice, it will send a break signal to the other task and therefore terminate it.

Example:

```
Run >NIL: Formalin hyperCOM3.device UNIT 1 BPS=19200 LPI=1000 UAS=95 UAM=40
SWAPRMBB NOPRESCLIP KILLOVR LMBTHRES=15 PMIN=13 PMAX=80 F1="esc"
F2="X:newshell" F11="K:ramiga c" F12="K:ramiga v"
LMBDOWNSND="32:Tick2.iff" RMBDOWNSND=DoorOpen.iff RMBUPSND=DoorShut.iff
```

1.13 Pressure Support...

Pressure Support

Now this is a sad story. I've done everything the AutoDocs say, but neither TVPaint, XIPaint nor Photogenics 2 seem to support the Intuition NEWTABLET messages and therefore readout the pressure value. ArtEffect however, supports it in various ways (try out 'Tablet: Intuos' or 'Accupoint').

FormAldiHyd uses a pressure value which is not 100% correct with the autodocs, but works with ArtEffect. Tablets are supposed to return a signed value for the pressure, but ArtEffect reads the value as unsigned.

1.14 Known Bugs

Known Bugs

Known Bugs:

- FormAldiHyd/Formalin can only be used for one tablet at the same time.

Also have a look at the FAQ for more information on bugs and problems.

1.15 Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all people who have already sent emails or gifts straight after the first/second release and who came up with suggestions and bugreports! You've helped to make this product better! Funnily enough, the gifts stopped right after the programm getting more features :(

Here's a list of (beta) testers, supporters and contributors (in no particular order):

Ron van Herk (Computer City, Netherlands)
Armin Rudel (AC-Münster, monetary donation)
Davy Wentzler (Audio Evolution)
Jens Illigen (sent a postcard)
Eugen Albiker
Holger Skusa (monetary donation)
Christoph Kirsch
Roger Petry
Gerhard Harms
Damian Stolarek (contributed an icon)
Thomas Langner (monetary donation)
Gerhard Müller (monetary donation)
Jens Pesek
Ruediger Leibbrandt
Andre Reischl
Stefan Manske
Markus Knoll
Frank Wieschus
Thomas Prokop
Philippe Bovier
Markus Bindhammer
Roland Jansen (xf86hyperpen)
Reinhard Katzmann (xf86digitaledge)
Christian Herzog (xf86digitaledge)
Frederic Lepied (xf86wacom)
Jan Heinemann (contributed two icons)
Peter Huyoff
Andre Trettin
Jens Schröder
Henry Schimmer
Stephan Leschke
Matthias Röhm (sent a postcard)
Harald Frank (phone support and hints)
Denis Spach (supplied the PenPartner source)
Günter Twellmeyer (massive bughunting)
Stefan Haubenthal (sent a silly postcard)
Richard Mulder (sent a postcard)
Sven Siemers (monetary donation)
Steven Folberg
Thomas Didjurgies
Nigel Richman
Alex Paton

I hope I have not forget anybody. If so, please tell me. If you want to get added to my mailing list, just send an email.

1.16 The Future

The Future

Here's a list of stuff that is planned for the next releases:

- Gamma corrected pressure instead of linear scaling?
- Adding some functionality to the middle mouse button.
- Try out if old OS 2.x TABLET messages might help for other applications pressure support.
- tablet.library emulation for DPaint pressure support?
If anyone has docs on this library, please send them it!

If you've got some good ideas, let me know.

1.17 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: The tablet does not work! Not even the LED is flashing!

A: You probably forgot to connect the keyboard adapter aswell. Without that keyboard thingy, the tablet won't get any power.

Q: Why does pressing two buttons at the same time doesn't work or causes strange behavior?

A: The tablet does gives back wrong data if you press two buttons. There is no cure for this problem. Just don't do it.

Q: The mouse pointer jumps to a different place as soon as I touch the tablet surface. Can't you fix this?

A: Some tablets seem to behave differently according to the specification and return a pressure value of 0 until the stylus touches the surface. This makes it impossible to distinguish between stylus and mouse. You'll have to change the detection setting to whatever you decide to use.

Q: When I click on some MUI gadgets within FormAldiHyd or press the right mouse button, the driver hangs. Why is this so?

A: This has been documented since V0.4alpha. There is only one task and if MUI (or Intuition) think they may block the drivers event generation, the stylus/mouse hangs. As a solution, I could write a second task for the GUI only, but this not worth the hassle. And next time, RTFM.

By iconifying the GUI, you probably won't come across this problem again.

Q: I've started Formalin from Workbench and am now unable to quit it.

A: Use Scout/ARTM to send a break signal to the task. There is no other way to kill it yet. If you're lucky and there's an output window of Formalin somewhere, press CTRL-C inside this window.

1.18 Version History

Version History

V2.3 (21-Apr-01): (42648/21848 Bytes)

- Lots of fixes to the WacomIV mode. There might be still problems with the mouse buttons or fkeys. Please report (give detailed description!).
- Added experimental SummaGraphics / AceCad compatibility mode. Neither FKey nor pressure support. Completely untested.

V2.2 (08-Mar-01): (41420/21208 Bytes)

- Released to my homepage and AmiNet.
- Oops: WacomIV selection was broken in FormAldiHyd V2.2.

V2.2 (07-Mar-01): (41416/21208 Bytes)

- Released to my homepage and AmiNet.
- Added support for sound effects (on demand of Jens Illigen).
- GUI layout changed a bit again.
- Added a HyperPen8000 compatibility switch, removed Skip CONFIG switch.
- Fixed a bug in the WacomIV init routine - tablet would not send coords.
- QUIET option did not work with Formalin (next time, I'll count the number of parameters with my fingers :(), introduced with V2.1.
- When starting Formalin a second time, the other task will now be terminated. This is especially handy when starting Formalin from WB.
- Serial issue finally fixed. Now works with MFC aswell! Thanks must go to Thore Böckelmann for his help and to the testers.

V2.1 (24-Feb-01): (39136/19672 Bytes)

- Homepage and registered users release.
 - Added support for the function keys. You can either use them as F-key emulation, cause some string to be printed, emulate any special key or launch some shell program. It also should work with the WacomIV driver, although only the first 12 F-Keys are supported (I think there are over 30!). Configuration via CLI in Formalin is a bit clumsy, so I encourage you to use the ToolTypes instead.
 - Added left hand mode for the mouse (swapping of left and right mouse button).
 - Slight changes to the serial code, causing time out messages that sometimes appeared to cease.
 - Changed the serial code to work around the strange behaviour (bug?) of the ioblixser.device. Maybe this also fixes the MFC problems? A very, very big thank you must go to Günter Twellmeyer for his very helpful bug reports and quick response. Without him, I hardly would have come close to the reason. Also, thanks to Thore Böckelmann for support and supplying a debug version of ioblixser.device.
 - Small modification to the WacomIV driver after having a look at the source code of the PenPartner driver supplied and by Denis Spach.
-

- Saving the Prefs only changed the ENVARC: settings, not the ENV: ones. Fixed.
- LPI setting never worked with Formalin since V2.0beta. Fixed.
- Some suboptimal GUI layout fixed.

V2.0beta (02-Jan-01): (34740/17632 Bytes)

- Released to my homepage after a few weeks of nothingness.
- Added experimental WacomIV mode. I don't have such a tablet to test the driver on, so you are asked to give me feedback on what works and what doesn't.
- GUI layout changed again a bit.

V1.3 (31-Dec-00): (42800/13800 Bytes)

- Released to my homepage and AmiNet.
- Added a patch to PeekQualifier/input.device. Now the last problems with the mouse button detections should be fixed.
- Added a Firework to the special Millenium Edition. Coded in one evening so please don't blame me for bugs and poor performance. Double Buffer support is currently disabled for BestModeID() is dysfunctional and I had no time to code a work around. Enjoy anyway.
- Tweaked the mouse/stylus detection. It's now a bit better, but still will not work correctly with defective boards.
- For those defective boards, I've added a manual setting to set the input device (mouse/stylus/automatic).
- Relative mode for mouse added. If there is demand, I will add this to the stylus aswell.
- GUI layout changed again, to reflect the device specific settings.
- Slightly changed the serial setup code. Maybe it works on MFCIII now?

V1.2 (24-Dec-00): (28860/13144 Bytes)

- Released to my homepage and AmiNet.
- Fixed the bugs with relative mouse movement (Cinema4D) and FlipX and/or FlipY enabled (thanks to Roger Petry for giving me the hint).
- Reduced lower LMB Threshold limit from 13% to 1% on users request.
- Added a second usable area slider for mouse only, so you can change between mouse and stylus on the fly and have a suitable acceleration for the mouse movements.
- Range for the tablet was 1 pixel off set (minor flaw).
- Iconify on startup did not work as stated in the manual (lazy me never tried it, sorry), so I added an option to iconify in the prefs.
- Changed the GUI layout a little bit.
- Added a FAQ to the guide.
- Painted a nice MWB icon for FormAldiHyd. Does anyone want to design a NewIcon or GlowIcon?
- Added a nifty logo to FormAldiHyd (sorry :)).
- Formalin now parses the ToolTypes and therefore can be started from Workbench without problems now.

V1.1 (15-Dec-00): (19336/12176 Bytes)

- Released to my homepage and all 'registered' users.
 - Converted readme to AmigaGuide format.
 - HUGE IMPROVEMENT: This is really something very wicked and odd and could easily rated to be a hack: I've added an InputHandler (written in assembly language and highly optimized, hehe) to correct the qualifiers of each event sent out from whatever source. Now this fixes the MUI Drag & Drop and IBrowse problems. And while I was at it, I decided to initially send out the tablet events as RAWMOUSE events and switch them
-

back to NEWPOINTERPOS events using the InputHandler right before the intuition library gets them. This kludge also fixes the problems with Cinema4D! It took hours of programming and testing to get this stuff working and I hope you enjoy it. I guess there is no other solution to solve all these problems in a more system conform manner.

V1.0 (15-Dec-00): (18940/11804 Bytes)

- Added 19200 baud mode and removed all other baud rates, as they were useless.
- Added LMB pressure threshold slider.
- Added pressure scaling (two sliders).
- Rewrote much of the pressure code, adding several workarounds to weird behaviors of the tablet when pressing buttons.
- Added detection for puck and stylus (was a heck of work, due to some very stupid behaviour of the tablet). Now the swapping of the middle and right button only affects the stylus and not the mouse.
- Usable Area in MUI version was not set at the start of the program (bug reported by Davy Wentzler).

V0.9ß (06-Dec-00): (16732/11232 Bytes)

- Second release on AmiNet and my homepage.
- Added lots of documentation to this readme.
- Fixed the problems that MUI programs have by adding the correct qualifier to the event.
- Added the options to flip the x and/or y coordinate, aswell to swap x and y.
- Added option to swap the right and middle mouse keys (might come in handy for the stylus).
- Pressure value is now set to 0 until the left mouse button is pressed. This should prevent ArtEffect et al from painting accidentally.
- Priority is now restored after exit.
- Cleaned up the code a bit, removed unnecessary parts.
- Found and fixed the bug in the serial driver stuff.

V0.6alpha (26-Nov-00): (18052/13720 Bytes)

- First quick AmiNet release. Lots of bugs and missing features. No docs.

1.19 Contacting the Author...

Contacting the Author...

Feel free to contact me. And send me a Postcard or something. Or ask me for the new features, so that I can torture you mentally for not sending me a postcard. There is also a mailing list for new versions, contact me if you want to be included.

Any mail, comments or donations welcome:

Chris Hodges
Kennedystr. 8
D-82178 Puchheim
Germany

Account: 359 68 63
BLZ : 700 530 70
Bank : Sparkasse Fürstenfeldbruck

Tel.: +49-89/8005856
Email: hodes@in.tum.de

WWW: <http://www.platon42.de/>
IRC: platon42 on EfNet
