

## **tape-handler**

Arne Meyer <arne@uni-paderborn.de>

<b>COLLABORATORS</b>
----------------------

	<i>TITLE :</i> tape-handler		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY	Arne Meyer <arne@uni-paderborn.de>	July 20, 2024	

<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>
-------------------------

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>tape-handler</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Welcome to the Docs . . . . .	1
1.2	disclaimer . . . . .	1
1.3	Copyright . . . . .	2
1.4	What is this ? . . . . .	2
1.5	Features . . . . .	2
1.6	Requirements . . . . .	2
1.7	Installation . . . . .	3
1.8	How to use this thing . . . . .	3
1.9	Sample Mountlist entry . . . . .	4
1.10	Tape Control Program . . . . .	5
1.11	Known Bugs . . . . .	5
1.12	Version History . . . . .	5
1.13	Who wrote it . . . . .	6
1.14	How to Register . . . . .	6
1.15	How to Pay . . . . .	6

## Chapter 1

# tape-handler

### 1.1 Welcome to the Docs

```
tape-handler V1.1 (21.09.1997)
```

```
Copyright ©1997 by Arne Meyer  
e-mail: arne@uni-paderborn.de
```

```
tape-handler is SHAREWARE
```

```
Kickstart V3.x required
```

Welcome to the tape-handler Documentation Guide File

Disclaimer	
Copyright	Legal stuff
About	What's this ?
Features	Why should I use it ?
Requirements	What do I need ?
Install	how to install tape-handler
Sample Mountlist entry	Mountlist
The MT Command	How to use the MT Command
Known Bugs	Bugs
History	Version History
Author	Who did it ?
Shareware	How to register this Software
How to Pay	How to pay the registration fee

### 1.2 disclaimer

Disclaimer:  
-----

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS". NO WARRANTIES ARE MADE, EITHER  
EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO RELIABILITY, QUALITY, PERFORMANCE,

---

OR OPERATION OF THIS SOFTWARE. THE USE OF THIS PROGRAM IS AT YOUR OWN RISK. THE AUTHOR ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE OR LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE OR LOSS.

## 1.3 Copyright

The tape-handler, support files and its documentation are  
(C) 1997 by Arne Meyer. All rights reserved.

The right of using this program is granted to you by paying the SHAREWARE-fee of 10 U\$ ( 15 DEM ) or equivalent to the author.

Some of the mentioned names or products within this or other documents may be copyrighted by companies or trademarks of companies or persons.

You are NOT ALLOWED to ship this software ( not even this SHAREWARE version ), full or single parts of it, with your commercial product without prior written permission by the author.

This SHAREWARE release of the tape-handler may only be put on shareware compilations such as the Aminet CD-Rom or equivalent.

## 1.4 What is this ?

tape-handler is an AmigaDos handler for  
SCSI Sequential Access Devices ( Streamer ).

## 1.5 Features

Features:  
-----

- double-buffered-asynchronous I/O for maximum streaming performance
- controllable with an external program called mt ( blocksize, density, rewind, skip filemarks, ... )

## 1.6 Requirements

Requirements:  
-----

Software: OS 3.0 or better  
Setpatch 40.16 or better  
( Don't ask me for a 2.x or 1.x Version. These Versions of AmigaDos are outdated for years now !!! )

---

Hardware: SCSI Controller with SCSI-direct Interface  
SCSI Streamer (DAT/8mm/QIC/...)  
SCSI Host Adapter

Testing Environment:

The tape-handler and all support programs were developed and tested on an Amiga 2000 with an A2060 CPU Board from Phase5. It was also tested on a standard A4000 with an Oktagon 2008 SCSI-Controller.

The following Devices were used for testing:

Exabyte EXB8500,  
Exabyte EXB8500c,  
Exabyte EXB8505,  
Tandberg TDC3660

## 1.7 Installation

Installation:

-----

There is currently no Installer script supplied with tape-handler, but installation is very easy.

- (1) Copy tape-handler to your l: directory.
- (2) Copy mt to your c: directory.
- (3) Create Mountlist entry

## 1.8 How to use this thing

Usage:

-----

Store Data on the Tape using tar :

-----

```
tar -fcv <DEVICENAME> <FILES>
```

eg. if you want to store the contents of your SYS: Partition to your tape drive named TAPE: you will type

```
tar -fcv TAPE: SYS:
```

or if you don't want console output

```
tar -fc TAPE: SYS:
```

Restore Data from Tape using tar :

-----

---

```
tar -fxv <DEVICENAME> <FILES>
```

change to the directory where you want to restore the data  
and then type

```
tar -fxv TAPE:
```

or

```
tar -fx TAPE:
```

for more information on tar read the documentation supplied  
by the many tar ports from aminet/util/arc

## 1.9 Sample Mountlist entry

Sample devs/dosdrivers entry:

```
-----
;=====
Handler    = 1:tape-handler
Stacksize  = 4096
Priority    = 5
GlobVec     = -1
Mount       = 1
/*          device/unit/lun/blksize/blocks/buffers/DI=DiskChangeInterrupt|PR= ↵
    Process (see Docs) */
Startup     = scsi.device/4/0/10240/10/120/DI
;=====
```

The only thing you have to configure is the Startup line of the supplied Mountfile. The sections are described below. Separate the entries with a '/' and no spaces as shown in the above example.

```
device  = scsi device name ( e.g. 2060scsi.device )
unit     = scsi unit of your tape device
lun      = must be 0 ( other values not supported at the moment of
            writing this Guide )
blksize  = default blocksize ( if your streamer supports only one
            blocksize you must set the blocksize to that value )
blocks   = the number of blocks to be stored in one queue entry
buffers  = the maximum number of queue entrys that are used. maximum
            memory usage for data is calculated as follows:
            blksize*blocks*buffers ( if you have less memory the
            handler tries to use as much memory as it can get. )
DI       = if Diskchange Interrupt is supported by your Device
            then you should use this one, otherwise use PR
            (this one (DI) is known to work under 2060scsi.device)
PR       = this will start a separate process that will simulate
            the Diskchange Interrupt
            (this one (PR) was mainly written because a friends
            Oktagon2008 crashed with DI upon Tape Change)
```

## 1.10 Tape Control Program

'mt' is used to change parameters during runtime

DEVICE	- The name of your Mountlist entry for the tape drive. The environment Variable 'tape-handler/TAPE' is scanned if omitted
REW=REWIND/S	- Position the Tape in front of the first file
OFFL=EJECT/S	- Eject the Tape
EOM=EOD/S	- Skip to the end of the last backup on the tape. The next write command will create a new file on the tape
SFM=SKIPFILEMARK/K	- SFM <num> will skip <num> Filemarks, where num can be positive or negative This will skip Filemarks, not Files, so if you skip one Filemark back ( SFM -1 ) and the Tape was positioned after the Filemark it will be positioned in front of the same Filemark ! The only value supported in the Shareware version is 1
SETDENSITY/K	- Change the Density of the Streamer. This will NOT save anything to the Streamers nonvolatile RAM. Most Streamer only Support this at the beginning of a Tape.
SETBLK/K	- Change the Blocksize that is used to read/write Data ( UNIX default is 10240 )
STAT=STATUS/S	- Print status information for this Device
LOCATE/K	- not tested, use at your own risk !!
SLF=SKIPTOLASTFILE/S	- Skip to last File on Tape so you can easily Restore the last Backup you wrote to the Tape
SD=SHOWDENSITIES/S	- Show all known Density Codes

## 1.11 Known Bugs

Known Bugs:

-----

V1.0 - none

If you think you found a bug in tape-handler or mt, first check if the problem also occurs on a standard System ( no MCP, MCX, or other patches to the System. ). Check out if the bug is reproduceable. If possible, send an Enforcer output, a list of hardware/software installed in your computer and your mount entry for the tape device.

## 1.12 Version History

History:

-----

21.9.1997 V1.1 updated guide->dosdriver section  
minor changes in mt and the handler itself



13.9.1997 V1.0 Initial Release

## 1.13 Who wrote it

Author:

-----

snail mail: Arne Meyer  
Scherfeder Strasse 60  
33100 Paderborn  
Germany

e-mail: arne@uni-paderborn.de

## 1.14 How to Register

This software is SHAREWARE. You may use it for an unlimited period of time, but if you want to get rid of the annoying SHAREWARE-Requesters and want to use the full power of mt you will have to pay the SHAREWARE-fee of 10 U\$ ( 15 DEM ) or equivalent to the author.

You will then receive a unique version of the tape-handler without limitations. The fastest way to receive your version of the tape-handler is via e-mail.

Following limitations are in this Shareware Version

- nerv requesters during read/write operations
- mt can only skip one filemark every time
- density change is not supported

After paying the SHAREWARE-fee you will receive your personal copy of the tape-handler via e-mail. This is currently the only method for you to receive this software. If you send me your pgp public key I will send the program encrypted with that keyfile, so you can be sure only you will receive the tape-handler.

## 1.15 How to Pay

You may send cash money, euro-cheques, or transfer the 10 U\$ ( 15 DM (German) ) @ { "shareware" LINK shareware } fee to the following ↵  
account

Make sure you also send your e-mail address.

Sparkasse Paderborn,  
BLZ 47250101  
Ktnr. 29115201

---

If Cheques, then only DM-Cheques or Euro-Cheques please .

If you have questions, send an e-mail to me.