

Plot-Handler

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	<i>TITLE :</i> Plot-Handler		
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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

Plot-Handler

1.1 Plot-Handler Documentation

Plot-Handler V1.0 - Documentation

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1.2 Disclaimer

This software is to be used at everyone's own risk. The author cannot be held liable for any damage directly or indirectly caused by the program and/or the manual.

1.3 Copyright and Distribution

Plot-Handler V1.0 including all accompanying files is © Copyright 1995 by Oliver Hitz. All rights reserved.

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This program may not be included or used in commercial programs without a written permission from the author.

1.4 Introduction

Some programs offer the output of HPGL data. This can sometime have big advantages, e.g. in CAD programs. Instead of calculating huge bitmaps, you just tell your printer "draw me a line from here to there; draw me a circle with the diameter ...". The rest is done by your printer.

Although language is designed for plotters, many other printers also support it (See Supported Printers). If you also own such a printer, Plot-Handler is very handy to you. It invokes the HPGL mode of your printer, sends the data to it and puts your printer back into the standard mode.

If you don't own a printer, which supports HPGL, sorry! (But if you really want to use HPGL, there exists another program called Plot-Handler, which turns every graphics printer into a HPGL printer (It is part of FF333 "MultiPlot" and FF698 "SCRAM500"). In this case you don't need my Plot-Handler anymore.

1.5 Requirements

To use Plot-Handler you need an Amiga with Kickstart 2.0 or higher and a printer that supports HPGL. (See @ { " Supported Printers " LINK PrinterList })

1.6 List of Supported Printers

The following printers are supported by Plot-Handler:

HP LaserJet III, IIID, IIISi, IIIP, 4, 4Si, 4L, 4ML

This list has been taken from the "PCL 5 Comparison Guide" from Hewlett Packard. As this covers only printers from Hewlett Packard, also other printers may be supported by Plot-Handler (especially PCL 5 printers).

1.7 Installation

To install Plot-Handler, simply double-click on the "Install" icon. You will then be asked whether you want the PLT: device to be mounted automatically on startup or manually. After your choice, the entire package will be copied onto your workbench.

1.8 How to use Plot-Handler

Plot-Handler is a DOS handler. This means, you cannot do anything directly with the main program. It can only be accessed from other programs.

To print out a HPGL file, simply open a shell window and enter:

```
1> copy <HPGLFile> to PLT:
```

To send commands manually, enter:

```
1> copy * to PLT:
<commands>
...
...
...
```

To end, press "CTRL" + "\".

To plot from a program which offers HPGL output, just select PLT: as output file. All output will then directly be redirected over Plot-Handler to your printer.

1.9 Problems

Installation fails

Please check, if you are really running OS2.0 or higher. The installation script will check this and fail if you are still running older versions.

Your printer doesn't answer

Please check, if your printer really supports HPGL commands. Plot-Handler uses the standard PCL-5 printer commands to invoke the HPGL mode, so if you own another one, Plot-Handler doesn't know its codes... Sorry!

1.10 Future plans

Plot-Handler offers only very few features. I have a lot of ideas in mind, but first of all, I'd like to know if there is some interest around for a program like this. It wouldn't be very complicated to add other features, but I won't do anything more only for me, as the actual version satisfies my needs. (I just wanted a program that switches to HPGL mode automatically, without editing huge scripts...)

So, if you use it and you'd like to have some improvements, please let me know.

1.11 Feedback

If you like this program and you have some ideas for improvement, feel free to send them to me. I'm very pleased about every feedback I get. (Bug-reports are also welcome as I don't like buggy programs...)

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- - -- ----* Up The Irons! *---- -- - -

So it shall be written - so it shall be done.

1.12 History

Version 1.0 - First public release.