

FormatMaster 1.3 for Windows

A Floppy Disk Formatting Utility

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## 1 PROLOG

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You may register FormatMaster in one of the following ways:

- 1) By mail with check or money order to:

New-Ware  
8050 Camino Kiosco  
San Diego, CA 92122-1820

- 2) By telephone with Visa/Mastercard to:

New-Ware  
(619) 455-6225  
Business hours ONLY please!  
Monday thru Friday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time  
Saturday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time

- 3) Electronically through the New-Ware BBS:

New-Ware BBS  
(619) 455-5226  
24 Hours per day  
7 Days per week

- 4) Users in Japan:

Call P. & A. Ltd. at 0425-46-9141.



The New-Ware BBS operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Node #1 is dedicated to registered users only. Nodes #2 is open to all callers. Users registering via the BBS receive access to the latest registered version within 1 day after leaving their credit card data. Users who register by mail or phone may also access the registered version by BBS, but you MUST log on and leave a comment to the sysop to the effect that you are a registered user and desire access. The author can also be reached on CIS via PPN 71535,665 (please use EMAIL).

The Shareware version of FormatMaster may be freely copied and passed on to other individual users for their evaluation. Disk vendors and/or distributors that desire to distribute FormatMaster must adhere to the guidelines specified in the file named VENDOR.DOC.

### 3 VERSION HISTORY

#### Version 1.0

- Initial release.

#### Version 1.1

- Fixed bug that caused problem writing the FAT in certain systems after detecting bad sectors.
- Fixed bug with electing to format another disk.

#### Version 1.2

- Fixed minor bug that prevented saving/loading disk volume labels greater than 10 characters in length.

### 4 REGISTERING FORMATMASTER

FormatMaster for Windows is a Shareware product. It is NOT public domain software. New-Ware urges those who find FormatMaster to be of sufficient utility so as to use it on a regular basis to remit a registration fee of \$25.00. Registered users will receive a copy of FormatMaster on disk that has the opening Shareware information screen removed. In addition, registered users will have access the Shareware Products BBS for retrieval of all future registered versions of FormatMaster. Selecting the Registration item from the program main menu will result in a pop-up window that will prompt you for all the necessary information and then print the form for mailing.

Registering FormatMaster is easy and may be accomplished in one of following ways:

- (1) Mail a check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 payable to New-Ware. California residents MUST



add 7.25% sales tax (\$26.81 total).

- (2) Mail your Visa or Mastercard number, card expiration date, phone number, and signature to New-Ware.
- (3) Call (619) 455-6225 and leave your Visa or MasterCard number, expiration date, name and address, and phone number. NOTE: The answering system is a highly secure digital computer.
- (4) Call the Shareware Products BBS and register on line. The number is (619) 455-5226, N/8/1, 1200/2400/9600 (HST) baud. Your credit card can usually be validated within one day and this is the quickest way to get a copy of the registered version.
- (5) In Japan please call P. & A. Ltd. at 0425-46-9141

FormatMaster will be shipped via first class mail within two days of receipt of a registration. If you are using Visa or Mastercard for payment please ensure that you include the full card number (i.e., 1234 5678 0000 1234) and the card expiration date. Visa or Mastercard only, please. No other credit cards can be accepted.

If you call the voice number to register, you may get an answering machine. Have your card or the form printed by FormatMaster ready so you can leave your registration information quickly and accurately. The answering machine is operated via a computer and is extremely secure.

## 5 WHAT IS FORMATMASTER

FormatMaster for Windows (hereafter called FMW) is a sophisticated yet easy to use program that specializes in formatting 3 1/2" and 5 1/4" floppy diskettes. It offers time and labor saving features such as configurable volume label and sequential serial numbers and a feature that allows you to create a floppy disk that will pass the boot sequence on to your hard drive.

## 6 INSTALLING FMW

FMW is easy to install. Simply place FMW.EXE, FMW.HLP, and FMW.INI in a directory on your hard disk. Start Windows and select the group you wish FMW to reside in. Then select "File" from the PM main menu and then select "New". A dialog box entitled "New Program Object" will appear. Click the "Program Item" button and then click. The "Program Item Properties" dialog box will appear. You should enter a short



textual description and then enter the full DOS path name for FMW. For example, suppose you created a directory named D:\WINUTIL\FMW and placed the FMW files there. Your entry into the "Command Line" field would be D:\WINUTIL\FMW\FMW.EXE. Leave the working directory entry blank and click on the "Change Icon" button. The FMW icon will appear. Click the "Okay" button and then you can simply click on the FMW icon any time you wish to run FMW.

## 7 THE FMW MAIN DISPLAY

The main FMW display is organized into several main areas. The Options area contains seven check boxes that control various formatting options. There is an area where you may enter a disk volume label and/or a serial number. The top right quarter of the main display contains controls that select the target drive and whether the operation is to low (360K/720K) or high (1.2M/1.4M) density.

There is a nine action button array where all of the FMW formatting operations may be launched. Please consult the FMW on-line help feature (F1) for more specific information.

The bottom area of the display contains a status line that indicates which is the active drive and which capacity is currently set for that drive.

Please note that the FMW main menu provides access to the same functions as do the Action Buttons and that each menu displays which accelerator keys control which functions.

## 8 EASY REGISTRATION

FMW provides a registration template which can be filled out and set to your printer. Press the Alt+R key or access the "Help" menu and select the "Register FMW" item. Remember to use the Tab key to move from one field to the next and only press the Enter key if you are ready to print.

### 8.1 VOLUME LABEL LINE INPUT EDITOR

You may enter a volume label by selecting the line editor that is labeled "volume Label". Up to 11 DOS legal characters may be entered here.

FMW will label a freshly formatted target disk with the volume label that is in the line editor if the Options "Add Label" box is checked.



See the next section for how the volume label is used with disk serial numbers.

## 8.2 SERIAL NUMBER INPUT EDITOR

To use this feature, check the "add Serial #" box. Then select the "serial Num:" input editor and type any legal serial number. FMW will add the serial number to the volume label immediately after formatting a target diskette. If you desire to sequentially increment the serial number as a series of disks are formatted, check the "Incr Serial #" option. For example, if the "Volume Label" field contains "MYDISK" and the "Serial Num:" field contains "1000" and the "add Serial #" option is checked, FMW will add "MYDISK1000", "MYDISK1001", "MYDISK1002", etc., successively to each disk formatted. The volume label field can be blank and the "Add Label" option does not need to be checked.

## 8.3 COMMAND PUSH BUTTONS

A 3 x 3 array of nine command push buttons occupies the lower right quadrant of the FMW main window. Each button has a name that describes the command function that will be performed when the button is pushed. For example, push the "Quick Format" button to cause FMW to perform a quick format on the target disk.

A button may be pushed in three different ways. One way is to click on the button with the left mouse. An alternate method is to press the Tab key until the button is highlighted and then press the Enter key or tap the space bar. Each of the command buttons is duplicated in the FMW menu system and by one of the accelerator keys (Alt+Key).

## 9 THE FMW ON-LINE HELP SYSTEM

FMW is supported by a Window help system. To attain help at any time, press the F1 key or click on the Help button.

## 10 HOW FMW FORMATS A DISK

When the DOS FORMAT utility formats a floppy disk, it checks to see if the disk is already formatted. If the disk is not formatted, it performs a full track-by-track format and verify operation. If the disk is formatted, there is no need to actually format each track so FMW performs a track-by-track verification. In either case, FMW will initialize the disk boot sector, file allocation table, and root directory area and mark any bad sectors found during the verification.



You may check the "Force Full" box to force FMW to perform the track-by-track formatting of a previously formatted diskette.

The FMW quick format option is the fastest method of initializing a previously formatted disk because it neither formats nor verifies the target disk. Instead, it reads the FAT and directory sectors, clears all but bad sector marks, and rewrites to the disk.

## 11 BOOTABLE DISKETTES

FMW will format a diskette so that it is a system diskette which means that the system files (IO.SYS, MSDOS.SYS, and COMMAND.COM) are transferred to the diskette. If you are running DOS 6.0 and DBLSPACE.BIN is in your DOS path, it will be transferred as well. This makes the diskette bootable. Most diskettes, however, are formatted as "data" diskettes with no system files. These disks will not boot and your system will issue an error message and pause if you happen to have a non-system disk in drive A: when the system is booted.

FMW can make a special non-system diskette that will automatically pass the boot sequence to drive C: if the special diskette is in drive A: with the door closed at boot time. To make a diskette capable of this behavior, place a formatted diskette in one of your drives, make the drive active, and select the "Make Bootable Floppy" item from the main "Misc" menu. The target disk should not be a system disk and must be formatted.

## 12 THE FM.INI FILE

FMW is initialized at start-up by loading the FM.INI file. This is an editable ASCII text file that must be stored in the same directory with FM.EXE. The file can be updated in two ways. The preferred method is by setting the various options on the main FMW display as desired and then using the "Save FM.INI" function. The less preferred method is to edit the file with a text editor. Here a sample of the file format:

```
;Copyright 1993, all rights reserved:
; New-Ware
; 8050 Camino Kiosco
; San Diego, CA 92122
; (619) 455-6225 (9:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM Pacific Time)

;Place this file (FMW.INI) in the same directory as FMW.EXE or
in
;your Windows subdirectory.
```



```
[Desktop]           ;defines start position of the FMW main
window
Xorg=32
Yorg=9
Width=460
Height=390
```

```
[Startup]          ;affects FMW upon initial start up
Drive=A
CapacityA=0
CapacityB=0
VolumeLabel=
SerialNum=0
```

```
[options]
;yes will check the appropriate FMW check box
Addlabel=No
AddSerialNum=No
TransferSystem=No
ForceFull=No
NoWarning=No
IncrementSerNum=Yes
BothDrives=No
NoBeeps=no
ForeGround=40      ;amount of task time to the ;relative
amount of time allocated to the foreground ;when FMW is
formatting in the background
```

Since FMW may be operated in the background to format diskettes while you are working directly with another application, you may wish to experiment with the "Foreground=" item. The higher the number, the more time FMW will relinquish to the active task as it proceeds through its format sequence.

You may place comments in this file, but they MUST be preceded with a semicolon as illustrated above.

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