Alternate Floppy Formats.READ.ME

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Chapter 1

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1.1 CrossDOS Plus -- Alternate Floppy Formats

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The advanced Format utility (the 1.3/2.0 version only) allows a different format to be forced on an MS-DOS floppy disk. Forcing a format on other disk types such as AmigaDOS will not succeed.

Forcing a format is optional. Normally the Format utility will format the disk to the optimal size. If you can, don't force a alternate format. If you do need to force a format, make sure you know what type of disk you are planning to use. Forcing a format will override disk size checking.

Floptical drive users may need to force a disk format because the software mechanisms for checking the size of the media in the drive are not available. Follow one of the two procedures detailed in the section Notes for Floptical Users for formatting disks.

We recommend that if you must force a format, that you use the icons on the product disk. Installed versions can be used if the 1.3/2.0 version of the Format command is installed.

Alternate Format Types

Notes for Floptical Users

1.2 alternate format types

The following are the types of alternate formats supported. Double-click on the icon that matches the format desired. Do not modify any of the ToolTypes in the icon. This may result in an improper format.

MSDOS_720K.Format This is the standard format for an MS-DOS 3 1/2" low density disk. If you are using the standard Amiga drive don't use this icon but rather use the Format utility instead.

This format is useful for floptical drive users because the software cannot sense when a low density disk is in the drive.

MSDOS_1.44M.Format This is the standard format for an MS-DOS 3 1/2" high density disk. If you are using the standard Amiga high density drive don't use this icon but rather use the Format utility instead. If you do not have an Amiga high density drive, forcing this format will fail.

This format is useful for floptical drive users because the software cannot sense when a high density disk is in the drive.

Floptical_20M.Format This is the format for a MS-DOS 20 Meg floptical disk. This format is not a hard drive format but a compatible floppy format. Do not use this format if your floptical device is configured as a hard disk.

If you do not have a floptical drive, forcing this format will probably fail.

This format is useful for floptical drive users because the software cannot sense when a disk the size of a floptical is in the drive.

ATARI_720K.Format This is the standard format for an Atari ST 3 1/2" low density disk. Use this if you must but most Atari-STs can read the standard MS-DOS 720K format.

MSDOS_360K.Format This is the standard format for an MS-DOS 5 1/4" low density disk. If you are using the standard Amiga drive don't use this icon but rather use the Format utility instead.

1.3   notes for floptical users

Formatting with the floptical drive may require forcing a disk format. This is because your SCSI host controller cannot properly sense the size of the unformatted disk in the drive. There are two ways to format using the floptical drive.

One: Insert a preformatted MS-DOS disk in the drive with the same formatted size as you want to format. If you want to format a 1.44M disk, for example, insert a preformatted MS-DOS 1.44M disk in the drive first. Then, execute the Format program. Proceed with the program until you come the requester that says "Ok to format volume ... " then insert the actual disk to be formatted and proceed.

Two: Double-click on the format project icon in the :system/Alt_Formats drawer that corresponds to the desired format. For example, double-click on the MSDOS_720K.Format icon to 'force' the format of the disk to 720K. Proceed through the format.

Choose the method that makes you comfortable. Experimentation is your best teacher.

NOTE: At this time, GVP controllers will not permit a format of a blank floppy using the Format program. In order to low-level format a blank floppy you need to use their FAAASTPREP program, select "Manual Installation" then select "Low Level Format". When completed, exit FAAASTPREP and perform a Format with the "Quick Format" option.