# AmigaWriter-Filter

Rüdiger Hanke

| COLLABORATORS | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | *TITLE* :<br><br>AmigaWriter-Filter | | |
| *ACTION* | *NAME* | *DATE* | *SIGNATURE* |
| WRITTEN BY | Rüdiger Hanke | August 10, 2022 | |

| REVISION HISTORY | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NUMBER | DATE | DESCRIPTION | NAME |
| | | | |

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# Chapter 1

# AmigaWriter-Filter

## 1.1 Welcome

```
            AmigaWriter Filter v1.0 for PageStream

 Written by Rüdiger Hanke

 This filter was a lot of work! It is
             Postcardware
             !!


              Introduction
            - What is this?

              IMPORTANT
            - Must read this!

              Requirements
            - What do you need?

              Installation
            - How to get it to work?


              Options
            - What options to set?

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              FAQ
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            - How to get the best results?

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```

```
          History
        - What has been done?

          Credits & Thanks
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```

## 1.2  Introduction to AmigaWriter Filter for PageStream

```
              AmigaWriter Filter for PageStream
```

You've downloaded a filter for use with PageStream. I've only tested it with
PageStream 4.0, there's no guarantee that it will run under 3.x, though I see
no reason why it shouldn't.

Main uses for this filter will probably be:
· Print AmigaWriter documents to PostScript
~· Export AmigaWriter documents to PDF
 · Use AmigaWriter documents as a WYSIWYG replacement for PageLiner
 · Change AmigaWriter documents to PageStream format and continue working
   on them with PageStream

This package includes two filters: a document filter and a text filter. If you
install both, you can both load AmigaWriter documents as if they were native
PageStream documents, and insert the flowtext of one of your AmigaWriter
documents into the current article with PageStream's Import Text menu option.

The document filter is more powerful of course, and many elements are only
imported when you use the document filter.

```
            Main Page
```

## 1.3  Important notice

```
            IMPORTANT NOTICE
```

(sorry for shouting, but some people are quite deaf when it comes to reading
anything usage-unrelated from the docs...)

This filter was created without any specifications of the AmigaWriter file
format. Haage&Partner, creators of Amigawriter, have not released them  ←
   publically
so far. It is therefore perfectly possible that the filter does not load one
of your documents or displays it wrong because I have misinterpreted some
information in the Amigawriter file. Please be aware of this and see
            bugs
               if you notice such a thing.

Though the filter should be able to load any Amigawriter document from V1-V2.20,
I therefore cannot give you any guarantee that it will work with your

documents. I further refuse to take responsibility for the safety of your data.
As any other computer program, it may crash, delete your harddisk, destroy your
graphics card, surf the web by itself or order pizza while you're not home.
Use it at your own risk.


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## 1.4  Required

Requirements

· PageStream
· Some AmigaWriter documents you can load :-))


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## 1.5  Installation

Installation

Please run the provided installer script for installation. It makes sure no  ←
    older
version is installed over a newer one.


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## 1.6  Options for the AmigaWriter Filter for PageStream

AmigaWriter Filter for PageStream Options

Template
Command line template for the text filter is:
CONVERTQUOTES+B,QUOTETYPE+S,CONVERTDASHES+B,CONVERTELLIPSIS+B,APPLYSTYLESONLY+B

where QUOTETYPE is one of US, FRENCH, GERMAN or GERMANFRENCH.

Command line template for the document filter is:
CONVERTQUOTES+B,QUOTETYPE+S,CONVERTDASHES+B,CONVERTELLIPSIS+B

where QUOTETYPE is one of US, FRENCH, GERMAN or GERMANFRENCH.

Options
When you select an AmigaWriter file for import into PageStream, a window
will pop up which allows you to set some options.

Convert Quotes
Converts quotes (" and ') to typographical quotes during import.

Quotes Format
Selects the format for quotes conversion. You can currently choose between
four formats:
· US Quotes are the ones you usually get with PageStream import
  filters
· French Quotes look like «this» and <this>. "'" characters are
  converted to typographical ones as in US quotes, except that they are
  always "closing" quotes. The greater/less characters "<" and ">" are converted
  to single French quotes. This has been done because it's almost impossible
  to determine for sure when a "'" character would have to remain such a one
  or have to be converted to "<"/">".
· German Quotes look like ,,this'' and ,this'.
· German-French Quotes look like »this« and >this< and are my personal
  favorites :-)). As for converting single quotes and "'", see the remarks
  made on French quotes.

Convert Dashes
Converts dashes to typographical en- and em-dashes during import.
Two dashes (--) are converted to an en-dash, three (---) to an em-dash.

Convert Ellipsis
Converts three dots (...) to a typographical ellipsis during import.

Apply Styles Only
This option is only available in the text import filter. It only "selects"
character and paragraph styles and disregards any further formatting.
Notice that the styles are not created if they don't exist.

What good is this option for? Honestly, I added this because I need it for
myself. The situation is the following: we're publishing role-playing stuff
on the web which is layouted with PageStream. We have several authors and
want a consistent layout. However, some of the authors don't have the fonts
I use for the final book and there's some formatting that AmigaWriter doesn't
support (like drop caps) that I'd have to add manually.

What can be done now is letting the authors write their articles, applying
a certain set of paragraph and character formats where necessary, using
format names that I have also defined in PageStream. When I import these
documents now into PageStream, only the styles are applied where necessary.
So, if someone starts the chapter with the AmigaWriter format "Chapter 1st
Paragraph" with any font she wants, and I have a style with this name
defined in PageStream which has the correct font set and a drop caps initial,
then it will automagically pop up in PageStream with the right font and a
drop caps initial!!!

It may also be nice when you already have a certain layout defined for a
PageStream document and you want to write a new article for it in AmigaWriter
without spending your time duplicating the PageStream styles or manually
applying the correct styles after import.

Should you use this, notice that really truly any other formatting
in this mode is discarded. So to, say, mark some words in italic within the
text, you must apply an appropriate character format, if you just

click the "italic" button in the AmigaWriter text window, it will be discarded!!

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## 1.7   Technical notes on the filter

Technical Notes

This section describes briefly which elements of AmigaWriter are imported how into PageStream. Please read this carefully, as data never travels well between programs. By knowing which elements are imported, which not, and which have changed semantics, you can improve the results from using the filter.

It also gives you an idea what you can use or can not use if you want to use AmigaWriter to do some sort of pre-layout for PageStream.

Features that are only available in the document filter are marked with (D).

Masterpages

The Document Format

The Character Format

The Paragraph Format

The Page Format

The Chapter Format

Text Elements

Boxes

Main Page

## 1.8   Masterpages

Masterpages

The filter will create masterpages for your PageStream documents. This way, when you continue to revise your document in PageStream and add a new page, you've got the correct header/footer. The masterpages are created based on the page formats that you've set in chapter format requester. The masterpages are named "<chapter name> Masterpage". The filter tries to reuse masterpages created for previous chapters where possible instead of creating new ones.

AmigaWriter does not know the concept of masterpages as does PageStream.
It simply keeps a list of page formats, each describing the boxes and
articles it contains. If you add boxes (text or pictures) to a page,
AmigaWriter creates a new invisible page format.

This causes a problem for the filter as when a different page format
appears (i.e. when you've got an additional box, say, a picture on the
page), it has to determine whether the masterpage can still be shown.
This is problematic when you've messed with the header/footer boxes on
a certain page in AmigaWriter. If you change the position or size of a
header/footer box on one page, the filter will not display the masterpage
on this page but create boxes on the page and insert a copy of the
header/footer articles into them. As PageStream (contrary to AmigaWriter)
cannot handle the same articles assigned to multiple boxes, when you
change the header/footer text on the masterpage, the text in the moved
header/footer will still show the old text.

The conclusion is not to mess around with the header/footer boxes in
AmigaWriter and leave them where they are.

If the filter erreanously does not show the masterpage on a certain
page even though you haven't moved or resized the box,
a) this is a bug and should be reported to me
b) you can switch it back on by selecting "In Back" for "Show Objects"
   in the page setup.


                Features Overview




## 1.9  Document Format


                Document Format

Author: (D)
Fully supported

Description: (D)
Fully supported

Creation date:
Not supported, and you probably don't want this to be changed

Modification date:
Wouldn't make much sense ;-)

Template:
Not supported and not required

Page format: (D)
Fully supported

Page orientation: (D)
Fully supported

```
Single/double pages: (D)
Fully supported

Print as:
Supported by PageStream, but not settable on document basis

Footnote settings:
Not supported as PageStream has no footnotes

Default tabstop: (D)
Partly supported, no alignment can be set for the default tab
in PageStream


                  Features Overview
```

## 1.10  Character Format

```
                    Character Format

Notice that when you use the "Apply Styles Only" option of the text
filter, all of these formattings will be ignored.

Font family:
Fully supported

Font size:
Fully supported

Position:
Partly supported, currently PageStream standard values are used

Bold/italic:
Fully supported

Underline:
Partly supported, the three underline styles (single, double and strike
through) are mutually exclusive in PageStream. In the import, strike
through takes precedence over double underline which in turn takes
precedence over single underline.

Small caps:
Partly supported, currently PageStream standard values are used. However,
it won't really help you as the current version of PageStream does not
display small caps properly for whatever reason.

Size:
Not supported by PageStream

Width:
Fully supported

Slant:
Fully supported
```

```
Text color:
Fully supported

Underline color:
Fully supported
```

Features Overview

## 1.11   Paragraph Format

Paragraph Format

```
Notice that when you use the "Apply Styles Only" option of the text
filter, all of these formattings will be ignored.

Alignment:
Supported except flexible spacing which is imported as justified

First line indent:
Fully supported. Notice that AmigaWriter interprets the first line
indent as absolute from the left box margin whereas in PageStream
you would express it relative to the left indent. As a consequence,
the filter modifies the value if necessary. So a different value
than you defined in AmigaWriter may appear here, the result will be
the same

Left indent:
Partly supported, PageStream can not indent to tab position. Tab
indents are converted to position indent

Right indent:
Fully supported

Paragraph leading (before/after):
Fully supported

Leading:
Fully supported

Next paragraph after return key:
Fully supported

Table of Contents:
Fully supported

New Page:
Partly supported, PageStream does not know page breaks as part of
paragraph format definitions. However, a page break is inserted at
the appropriate positions. When you edit your imported document with
PageStream, no page break will be inserted where the format is used

New Chapter:
```

Partly supported, PageStream does not do chapter separation as part of
paragraph format definitions. However, a new chapter is created at
the appropriate positions. If you want to create more chapters, you
must create them the usual PageStream way

Text filter: The text filter does not create new chapters.
It inserts a page break instead.

Date/Time formats:
Not supported by PageStream.

Tab positions:
Fully supported

Tab alignment:
Fully supported

Tab leading character:
Partly supported, PageStream allows only one leading character. In
case of "other", only the first character you enter is recognized

        Features Overview

## 1.12   Chapter Format

            Chapter Format

Chapter name: (D)
AmigaWriter internally gives chapters a name, although you cannot set or
change this name in the program (yet?). I nevertheless use it to name the
chapters in PageStream.

Page numbering start new/continue: (D)
Fully supported

First page number: (D)
Fully supported

Page number format: (D)
Fully supported, however, PageStream only uses the format for the page
numbers themselves. If you insert a "# pages" document field,
PageStream writes that number in arabian, whereas AmigaWriter uses the
format you've defined here as well

        Features Overview

## 1.13   Page Format

```
             Page Format
```

Columns: (D)
Used to create guides

Page margins: (D)
Used to create guides

Header/Footer: (D)
See
             Masterpages

             Features Overview


## 1.14   Text Elements

```
             Text Elements
```

Date:
99% supported. AmigaWriter is very lax about date elements. Insert a date
variable while AmigaWriter is running in your language, change the date
format for the current paragraph format (notice the element keeps its format!)
and then quit AmigaWriter and run it again in another language, load the
document, select "Update elements" from the menu and see what happens...
AmigaWriter keeps no record of what format or language a date element is in,
so the filter has to perform some extensive parsing here. Whenever it finds a
date element that it can't figure out, it is inserted "as is", otherwise it is
dissected and a PageStream date variable with proper language and format
settings is created. Where this isn't possible, a date variable will be
created nevertheless, but the text will be "fixed". You can select the
variable and choose Insert/Date... from the Type menu and set it as you
want.

Currently, the parser has support for AmigaWriter's German and English date
formats. If you would like to see your language added, email me the date
string formats for your language, as well as the names of the months in
your language. Notice that a language engine for your language must exist
for PageStream. Also notice that due to the bad AmigaWriter behavior, it
may not be possible to set the correct language in PageStream where formats
are ambiguous.

Time:
Fully supported

Page number:
Fully supported

Next page number:
Fully supported

Page count:
Fully supported, alas, the semantics in AmigaWriter and PageStream for
this element differ. AmigaWriter always gives you the total page count

```
while PageStream gives you the page count in the current document level
(the chapter).

Document name:
Fully supported

Document path:
Will be replaced with a document name element as PageStream does not
know a document path field

Footnotes:
Not supported by PageStream

Anchored pictures:
Not tested as PageStream locks up on my computer when I try to anchor
images in the text. The function is implemented, however, I have temporarily
disabled it until I can test it.


           Features Overview
```

## 1.15  Boxes

```
              Boxes

Generally, text and picture boxes are currently supported by the filter.
Links between text boxes as you would set them in AmigaWriter's box link
editor remain intact, as is the order of the boxes.

Show grey:
Not supported by PageStream

Don't show contents:
Not supported by PageStream

Don't print: (D)
Fully supported

Lock position/Lock size: (D)
Partly supported, PageStream can only lock both position and size. So when
either is selected, both are locked

Position: (D)
Fully supported

Inner box margin:
Not supported by PageStream

Border line width:
Fully supported

Border line color:
Fully supported
```

```
Box background color:
Fully supported

Text wrap: (D)
Partly supported. This was one of the most difficult and least satisfying
decisions to be made when writing the filter. AmigaWriter's and PageStream's
concepts for this are about as far apart as they could possibly be. In
AmigaWriter, you specify for a box whether its contents may be wrapped by
other boxes. In PageStream, you specify for a box whether it will wrap the
text in other boxes.

So the formats are incompatible, and it's impossible to bring AmigaWriter's
behavior 100% into PageStream. For now, the following simple algorithm is used
to determine whether text wrapped is switched on for a box in PageStream. It
gives you a good approximation in most cases I hope, however, it's not optimal
and it can surely be improved in future versions of the filter:

For every box starting with the lowest one, the filter determines all
intersections with underlying boxes. If any of those intersecting boxes has
the AmigaWriter text wrap flag switched on, the selected box will have text
wrap set on in PageStream.


            Features Overview
```

## 1.16  Tips and Tricks

```
            Tips and Tricks

· For best-possible WYSIWYG results, only use fonts in your document that you
  have installed in PageStream as well.

· Never use CGTimes and CGTriumvirate in documents you want to import into
  PageStream. PageStream cannot use these two fonts. The replacement fonts
  from PageStream will not give you good WYSIWYG results.

· Eliminating all word wraps from an AmigaWriter document can be an
  arduous work as AmigaWriter does not allow to switch off hypenization, but
  is necessary to have exactly matching line breaks.

· Tabs in connection with right-aligned paragraphs are handled differently in
  PageStream - load the Features_V2.0 document to see what happens. This is not
  a bug in the filter.

· Relative paths for images are treated differently in AmigaWriter and  ←
   PageStream.
  If you don't want to have PageStream popping up a file requester for each
  image, you should always use absolute path names.

· Remember that unless you have a special filter, PageStream cannot load
  JPEG images.


            Main Page
```

## 1.17  AmigaWriter-Filter for PageStream is Postcardware!

                    Amigawriter-Filter for PageStream is Postcardware!

 This filter was a lot of work. Getting SoftLogik's SDK to work with Storm C,
 fiddling with the (not exactly well-documented) SDK and the (even less as
 not at all documented) AmigaWriter specs. It's nice to have some feedback and
 notice others appreciate your work so I hope you won't mind that I release
 this filter as postcardware.

 That means I'd appreciate it if you send me a postcard if you try out this  ↩
    filter
 and decide to keep it on your harddrive. My address can be found
                here
                 .
 e-cards do not count ;-) If you find using this isn't worth the price of a
 small postcard, then you probably don't need this. Let me know what you use this
 filter for :-)).

 Every card will add 1 MU (motivation unit) to the pool from which I'll decide
 to write more PageStream plug-ins. Make your requests!

                    Main Page

## 1.18  Bugs

                  Bugs

 There'll be some ;-)

 If you find a bug, please
                email me
                 . If AW-Filter doesn't accept
 a document, I'll probably need your document file as well. I'll try to resolve  ↩
    the
 issue as soon as possible.

 If you have a problem, checking out the
                FAQ
                 might be helpful before
 contacting me.

                    Main Page

## 1.19  Credits and Thanks

```
            Credits

  The AmigaWriter filter is written and maintained by Rüdiger Hanke.
  You can reach the author at:

  Rüdiger Hanke
  Goerdelerstr. 40
  48151 Münster
  Germany

  E-Mail: tomjoad@muenster.de

  My home on the web - please visit me!
  http://www.talesofbeauty.de   (made 100% on Amiga)

  My Amiga software support site:
  http://www.muenster.de/~tomjoad/

  Copyrights

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  Heinz Andreolla. Icons included in this archive with kind permission.

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  AmigaWriter is copyright ©1998-2000 by Haage & Partner Computer GmbH

  Thanks

  The author wishes to thank:

  · Deron Kazmaier  - for his great DTP program, his help on text-anchored
                      images and box underline/fill stuff (the latter one really  ←
                        was
                      my fault as I used the wrong prototype :-((), and for a  ←
                        superb
                      support
  · Mark Knopfler   - for his gorgeous album "Sailing to Philadelphia" that
                      was literally playing all the time in the background
                      during development of this filter

            Main Page
```

## 1.20  Frequently Asked Questions

```
            Frequently Asked Questions

  Q: It doesn't work. It pretends to load, but I only get a blank document!
```

A: There was an overwhelming avalanche of e-mails from people all having this
   "problem":

   The document filter will create chapters and place the pages in the  ←
      chapters.
   It does not place any pages on document level which is where you are after
   the document has been loaded.

   You must switch to a chapter, for example by using the Document Palette  ←
      window.

Q: How about versions for Windows and Mac?

  A: PageStream plug-ins are platform independant. Creating Windows and Mac
     versions is just a matter of recompiling. Alas, due to my intolerance  ←
        towards
     x86 platforms, a Windows version is less than unlikely ;-)

     As for a Mac version, you'll have to wait until iFusion is out.

Q: Will you write more filters for PageStream? A Word document filter would
      be cool.

  A: I've written a Word text filter that does not support character and  ←
     paragraph
     formattings right now, but I'm working on this. You'll find it on Aminet or
     my support page at http://www.muenster.de/~tomjoad/.

     A Word document filter is unlikely to happen from me. But I'll continue to
     actively support PageStream and have plans for new filters for other  ←
        document
     formats.


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## 1.21  History


                History

 v1.0 (28.12.2000)
   After no problems with AmigaWriter documents were reported, I raise the
   version number to 1.0 and upload it to Aminet as announced.

   Changes from v0.9:
   ·~The filter does not require an FPU any longer
   ·~German typographical closing quotes were wrong
   · For all greyscale values, the "K" value in the Pagestream CMYK model
     is set. Previously, this had only been done for black
   · Some minor internal code revisions

 v0.9 (01.11.2000)
   Initial release only available from my homepage.

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