

# AMIGA SHOPPER

## **Welcome to the new-look Amiga Shopper Subscribers' newsletter!**

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the new, improved, subscribers' newsletter. Now washes whiter and gets rid of those tough, difficult to shift stains. Nine out of ten Amigas who expressed a preference said they preferred it! And it won't cost you a penny more!

Ahem. sorry about that. Anyway, this month we have decided to juggle things around a bit. From now on, this letter will contain the details of what's on this month's stunning subscribers' disk, as well as this bit from me. I'll be talking about more or less anything that pops into my head, although I will endeavour to make sure that some of it has something to do with Amigas and *Amiga Shopper*.

For instance, this month we take a detailed look at monitors, which are one of the most important parts of your Amiga. After all, it's all very well having an incredibly powerful computer for DTP or graphics work if all you can see is an image the size of a postage stamp. What's the use of investing in a 24-bit graphics card if the signal it gives out makes your monitor explode or gives you a screen image which bounces around like a hyperactive tigger?

In order that none of these unfortunate things happen to you, we will give you the full lowdown on each monitor, including exactly which machines it will work with and which will complain vociferously if you throw an AGA signal at them. Check out our Supertest which begins on page 10: you might find a few surprises in there.

As you might expect, most of the talk amongst the Amiga community over the last few months has been on the fate of Commodore and the Amiga. There have been few places where this discussion has been more active than the various on-line Amiga conferences. The general consensus has been that the proposed management buy out from Commodore UK will be a good thing, although some people still aren't convinced by the plans of David Pleasance and company at Commodore UK's Maidenhead hideout. Needless to say, the kind of idiotic message I talked about in my editorial for issue 40 still makes the odd appearance.

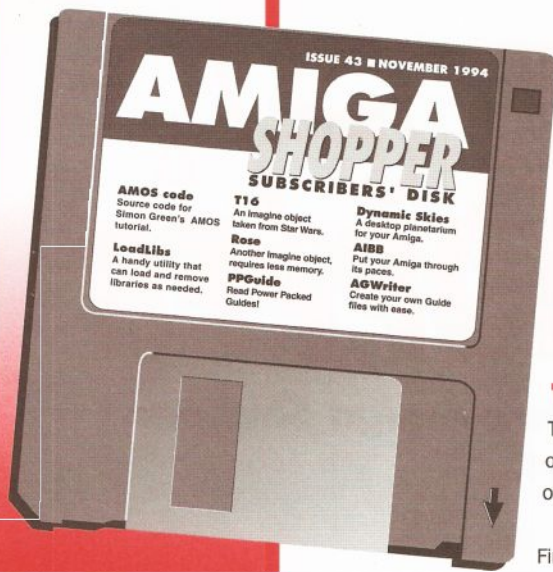
And speaking of the Internet, you will probably have noticed the special preview of the latest launch from Future Publishing inside this envelope. This magazine will tell you all of the things you need to know about the Internet, so don't forget to give the .Net preview a quick look, as it promises to be an excellent magazine. Of course, we will still be covering the Internet in *Amiga Shopper*, but we can't dedicate an entire magazine to it. .Net can, and it's looking good.



*Richard Baguley is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. His other habits include taking photographs, drinking the odd pint of Guinness and sleeping as much as possible.*

*Richard Baguley*

Richard Baguley  
Editor



# Subscriptions

Graeme Sandiford shows you how to use the programs on the disk.

Here are some instructions on how to use the programs on this month's subscribers' disk.

shift double-click the document.

## REPLEX

*Replex* is a most useful program that can fool your computer into thinking it is running a requested program when it is, in fact, running another. To use *Replex* simply double-click its icon and a window will appear containing a total of 16 boxes – eight on the left and on the right.

The boxes on the left are where you should enter the names and paths of the programs you wish to substitute. The boxes on the right are for the programs and their paths that you wish to replace those on the left.

That's all you have to do. Because the program also accepts the path that should be taken to find the program it can stop the errors that happen when an icon is searching in the wrong directory for its default tool.

## DYNAMIC SKIES

This is not a particularly new program, but it is one of my favourites. *Dynamic Skies* is a desktop planetarium and in some ways I actually like it better than *Distant Suns*. One of my chief reasons is that it is just so easy to use. In fact, you could get to grips with the program without any help from me.

The only thing you really need to know is that if you click with your left mouse-button on the map then the view will be centred on that point. But, if you click near a star, planet or nebula with your right mouse-button a requester will pop up. By using this requester you can find out more about the object or centre your view on it.

## AIBB

*AIBB* stands for *Amiga Intuition-Based Benchmarks*. It's the program that we use to test the performance of different machines. It's the perfect opportunity to tell your friend how much faster your machine is than theirs. Just run the program, select a test and then sit back and gloat – or cringe.

## AGUIDE

Is a replacement for Commodore's *AmigaGuide* program. It has two advantages over *AmigaGuide* – it has file requester support and can open its own screen. Aside from that it works just like Commodore's own program.

## LOADLIBRARY

*LoadLibrary* is a handy program that will help keep your libraries under control. If a program refuses to run from a floppy drive because it is missing a library file you can use *LoadLibrary* to load the necessary library. Once you've finished with the program *LoadLibrary* will delete the unneeded libraries.

To use the program just double-click on the icon and then select the small bar that will appear. You can use the file requester to load the desired library. When you've finished just select Remove and Quit.

## T16

This is an interesting *Imagine* object created by Michael Hazlett of New Zealand.

Here's how to use the object.

First of all this is a large object that requires about 6Mb to render. It

also makes use of good use of *Essence II* textures. If you don't have this version of *Essence* you'll have to remove all the textures. If you are using *Imagine 2.0* all you have to do is select all the objects and bring up the Attributes requester. Then drop any *essence* texture that has been applied to an object. If you have *Imagine 3.0* there is an easier option. Change the attribute of one object and Apply that object's attributes to any others you want to share that texture.

You may also encounter a few errors from *Imagine* when rendering. Don't worry – just click on okay and it should render normally.

## AGWRITER (WB 2+ ONLY)

The *AmigaGuide* document format has certainly taken off recently. However, creating them can be a bit of a pain, not to say more than a little confusing. There are a few programs in the PD sector that claim to make this task easier. However, *AGWriter* is the first that has actually done the job much better than a standard text editor.

Using the program is very simple. To create a link to a node you must first select a selection of text. This is done in the same manner as an ordinary word processor, by dragging the cursor on the word or sentence that is to act as a link to the node of your choice. To help you navigate the document as you are editing it you can move backwards and forwards or from node to node.

Testing nodes is also easy because you can do so by just double-clicking on it. That's basically how the program works if you encounter any problems or would like know what else the program is capable of read the program's Guide file.

## PPGUIDE (WB 2+ ONLY)

Recently I received a request for a program that could read *Power Packed AmigaGuide* documents. With the number of programs that have *AmigaGuide* help files this can help save a considerable amount of hard disk space. As luck would have it *PPGuide* came through post the following morning. *PPGuide* can read packed and non-packed guide files with equal ease.

Using the program is easy. To execute it from Shell simple type *PPGuide* and the name of the document you wish to view. If you wish to run *PPGuide* from Workbench and the document you wish to view has no default tool, you can select *PPGuide* then

And on this issue subs disk we have:

- **AGuide**
- **AGWriter**
- **AIBB**
- **AMOS Code**
- **C Propping**
- **Dynamic Skies**
- **Loadlibrary**
- **PPGuide**
- **Replex**
- **Rose**
- **T16**

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# AMIGA SHOPPER

## Welcome to the Amiga Shopper Subscribers' newsletter!

Quote of the month:

"One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man."

Elbert Hubbard

Dear Subscriber,

Technology is a wonderful thing. It allows us to do things that a few short years ago would have been regarded as miracles. For instance, who would have dreamed in the 1970s that we would be creating new worlds within computers through processes such as Ray Tracing? Who would have dreamed that we could have magazine covers created in California and sent over the Internet to us in sunny Bath?

And don't forget this letter. I'm typing this into my rather nice portable Psion computer on a coach on the way to the Future Entertainment show in London. Once I get back, I'll transfer this to my Amiga via a serial link and read it over to make sure it makes sense. I'll then pass it over to Nick for him to lay out and send to the printers. In fact the first time this will be put onto paper is when Nick gives me a printout of this page to check over before it goes to the printers. A paperless office? Well, maybe not yet, but we are getting there.

Speaking of paperless offices, don't forget that here at Future Publishing we are taking our first steps into the world of paperless magazines by putting sections of the magazine onto the Internet. In a few weeks time you'll be able to log onto our World Wide Web page and read sections of the magazine. It's all happening in Futurenet, our Internet site. To find out what it's all about, try accessing the WWW page <http://www.futurenet.co.uk>. Just tell them Richard sent you.

Cheers

Richard Baguley  
Editor



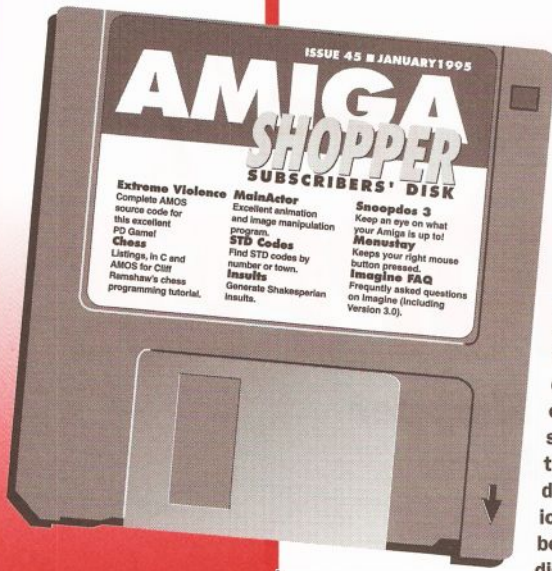
*Richard Baguley is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. In past lives he has been a photographer, a PC support operative and a filing clerk amongst other things (although he doesn't like to talk about them).*

## SAVE £100 ON WORDSWORTH!

We've got together with Digita this month to offer you a stonking offer. You, as a subscriber to this magazine, can get £100 pounds off Wordworth 3.1! Digita have been hard at work over the last few months adding new features to Wordworth and generally cleaning it up. Wordworth 3.1 has a range of stonkingly powerful features, including:

- **Auto correction** – corrects typing mistakes as you type. Can also be used to save you typing in long words or phrases.
- **Drawing tools** – create lines, curves, rectangles, circles etcetera and manipulate them within your document.
- **Extensive font support** – use Compugraphic, TrueType or Amiga bitmap fonts.
- **Text effects** – send your text spiralling around the page in a truly weird and unnerving way.

Sounds good? Well, all you have to do is to ring Digita on ☎ 01395 270273, quote your Amiga Shopper subscription number (on the label on the outside of the bag you received this issue in), give them £49.95 and you'll receive a spanking new copy of Wordworth 3.1! However, you'd better get a move on, as this offer closes on the 31st of December! Alternatively, send a cheque or postal order to Digita at: Digita, Freepost, Exmouth EX8 2YZ. Please bear in mind that you'll need at least two disk drives and 3Mb of memory to use Wordworth 3.1. If you don't have this amount of memory, you should see about getting hold of Wordworth 3.1SE, which only requires 2Mb of memory.



# Subscriptions

Richard Baguley shows you how to use the programs on this month's exclusive subscribers' disk.

Welcome to the Amiga Shopper subscribers' disk! This month we have another stonking selection of programs, including the complete source code to a top shareware game! To get at any of the things on the disk, simply double click on the appropriate icon. The program or file will then be decompressed onto the RAM disk, and you can move it from

there to any disk or directory you choose by simply dragging it.

## SNOOPDOS

It's a common problem: you've installed a new program onto your machine and it's not working properly. Somewhere along the line it's trying to open a file which doesn't exist or isn't in the right place. But how do you find which one it is? Snoopdos to the rescue!

Snoopdos is a simple, but incredibly useful program which allows you to monitor what's going on in your machine. By this I mean that it can monitor what programs are attempting to open which files, or what AmigaDos functions are being called. This is quite mind-numbingly useful if you are trying to work out why a program isn't working or trying to debug a program you've written.

To use Snoopdos, simply double click on the program icon and it will open a window on the workbench screen. Start off any program and you'll see a list of files which are opened and find out who opened them. You'll also be told if the operation was OK or if it failed. You will probably see several operations which fail when you start a program, but this doesn't necessarily mean it's bust. Most programs will look in several different locations for a file before giving up, and the file required may not be in the first location the program looks at.

You can also configure which operations are displayed by clicking on the Setup button of the Snoopdos screen. For more details on how to configure this excellent program, check the documentation which is in AmigaGuide format.

## STDCODES

This is an excellent little utility which allows you to find out where in the country a specific STD code is. It also allows you to work the other way, and even has international dialling codes included. It's also been updated to include the new dialling codes which BT are bringing in next year.

In fact, it's also an excellent example of how to make use of the various powerful functions available in AmigaDos, as it's all done through a one line AmigaDos script. For more details of how to use this program, check the readme file which accompanies it.

## INSULTS

"Thy mother smells like an errant ill-nurtured clack dish!"

This rather cute (but completely useless) program will generate Shakesperian insults for you. Simply run the program from the CLI by typing "insults" and you will be supplied with another rib-tickling Shakesperian compliment. The program was written by Peter Darton from an original idea posted on Usenet. Each of the insults is randomly generated, so you get a new insult

every time you run the program, thou bootless bat-fowling miscreant.

## MENUSTAY

This is a useful little program which may not revolutionise the way you work, but it might be useful. What it does is to patch up the operating system so that menus stay up when you press the right mouse button. This means that you don't have to hold down the right mouse button to select an option from the menu. The button effectively stays pressed until you press the right mouse button again.

## MAINACTOR

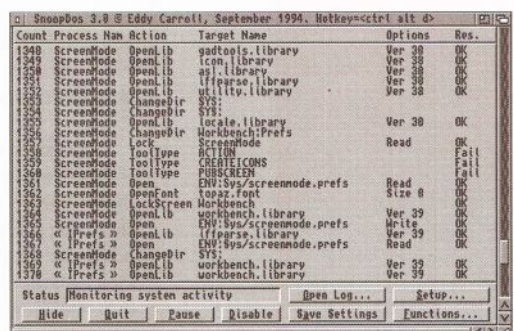
Mainactor is an incredibly powerful and highly flexible modular animation package which allows you to carry out a wide range of operations on animations or images. For instance, you can load in a series of individual images and save them out as an animation in either Anim-5, Anim-7 or Anim-8 format. You can even save and load primitive PC animation formats such as .FLI or .FLC. But it doesn't end there. It can also be used to save individual frames from an animation or give you information on individual frames from an animation.

It's not as powerful as a program such as Art Department Professional, but it is an extremely powerful tool for fiddling around with animations and images. It also boasts a very powerful ARExx interface, and it can also work with programs such as AdPro or ImageFx by kicking of ARExx scripts, some extremely good examples of which are enclosed with the program. It will also work quite happily on a number of 24 bit graphics cards (such as the Picasso II and Retina).

Mainactor is a shareware program, so the version on this disk will bring up a requester every now and then asking you to send some dosh to the author. If you are planning to make serious use of this program, this would be \$25 well spent.

## EXTREME VIOLENCE

Finally, we have a real bonus for all of you AMOS programmers out there. Our resident AMOS expert Simon Green has agreed to give away the full source code to his excellent shareware game Extreme Violence. Simon has just got a job with top programming house Silicon Dreams, so this is a unique chance for you to see how a top programmer writes a game. To read and use the source code, you'll need a copy of AMOS (or even AMOS Pro from the Amiga Format coverdisk). Unfortunately, we haven't got the space on the disk to put the compiled version on, but you can run the program from the source code on this disk.



Need to know what's going on when you open a program? Try setting Snoopdos to the task!

And on this issue's subs disk we have:

- SNOOPDOS 3.0
- INSULTS
- MAINACTOR
- STD\_CODES
- MENUSTAY
- IMAGINE FAQ
- EXTREME VIOLENCE SOURCE CODE

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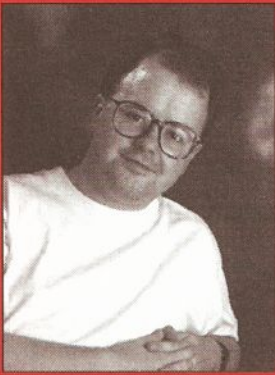
# AMIGA SHOPPER

## Welcome to the Amiga Shopper Subscribers' newsletter!

Quote of the month -

"If you want to annoy your neighbours, tell the truth about them."

Pietro Aretino



Richard Baguley is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. In past lives he has been a photographer, a PC support operative and a filing clerk amongst other things (although he doesn't like to talk about them).

Dear Subscriber,

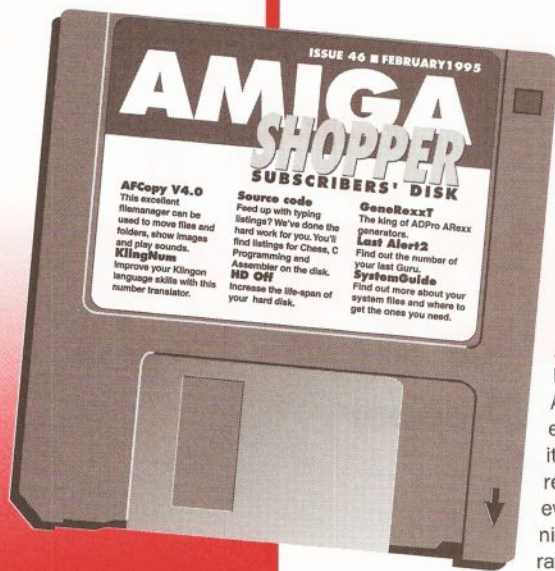
As of next month, you will see some changes in *Amiga Shopper*. You'll still get the same excellent mixture of reviews and advice, but you will notice one big change: two disks on the cover. As of next month, *Amiga Shopper* will have two disks mounted on the cover, with some of the best serious Amiga software you can get hold of. On these disks you will find full commercial programs, the best PD and shareware and programs and files to help you get the most out of our Coverdisks and the ones on our sister magazine, *Amiga Format*. You will also continue to receive the *Amiga Shopper* subscriber's disk, giving you a rather groovy three disks with every issue.

Not only that, but we will also be introducing a whole new section to the magazine, where we will be giving you extensive tutorials on some of the best programs available for the Amiga. If you want to find out how to really use a program, we're the people to show you how.

So what will this mean to you, the loyal subscriber? Apart from getting three wonderful disks with your issue of *Amiga Shopper*, that is? Nothing. You will not be asked for any more money, although the cover price of the magazine will rise to £3.95. The cost of your subscription will stay at the same competitive rate. Think of it as our way of saying "thank you" for subscribing to *Amiga Shopper*. Stick around. I think you'll like what you see.

Cheers,

Richard Baguley  
Editor



# Subscriptions

Graeme Sandiford shows you how to use the programs on this month's exclusive subscribers' disk.

And on this issue's subs disk we have:

- AFCOPY V4.0
- KLINGNUM
- STARHAWK
- HD OFF
- WBFLASH
- LAST ALERT 2
- NOERRORS
- SYSTEMGUIDE
- XTRUDER
- GENEREXXT
- CODE



## AFCOPY V4.0

If there is one thing that every Amiga-owner should have, especially ones with hard drives, it's a file manager. *Directory Opus* is recognised as the best, but not everyone can afford it. So being the nice folk that we are, we supplied a rather nifty PD alternative – *AFCopy*.

The program comes in three flavours; *AFCopy* is for use on 68000 machines such as the 500 and 600, *AFCopy\_020* and *AFCopy\_030* are for machines with faster processors like the 1200. Once the file has been decompressed and you have run the program by double-clicking on the appropriate icon, you should have a screen with two main windows.

These windows will probably contain the contents of your RAM disk. To change directory you can simply click on a DEV button, which are located beneath each window and are labelled DFO:, DF1: and so on. If you wish to copy a file or directory, then click on it once, select a destination directory, click on your source directory again and press the button marked Copy or press <c>. If you want to enter a directory just click on it with the right-hand mouse button.

The program also does loads of other stuff – have a play, or read the documentation.

## KLINGNUM

This is one for all you Trekkies out there. Yep you guessed it, this program translates numbers into Klingon. To use it from Workbench select the directory it is in then choose Show All from the Window menu, double click its icon and then enter <space> and the number to be converted. Easy. If you are really serious about learning your Klingon numbers, you can copy KlingNum into your C: directory and then type its name from Shell.

## STARHAWK

StarHawk is an *Imagine 3D* object taken from Syndesis' 3D-ROM. It's a rather well modelled spaceship with its attributes already set up. You can just load it and render, or make any changes you fancy.

## HD OFF

Hard disks can be noisy and what's more they stay on until the machine is turned off, which can also shorten your drive's life-span. Hd Off is a tiny program that turns your hard disk off and thereby stops it from spinning unnecessarily.

Using the program is easy, just follow the same procedures as with *KlingNum*. But, enter the shut off time in minutes – don't set it too low though!

## WBFLASH

This is a nice little Workbench hack. It changes the active colour of your Workbench – that's the colour the border of a window becomes when it is selected. It doesn't just change the colour to a different one, it cycles through a range. If you choose your range carefully you get quite nice relaxing effect.

## LAST ALERT 2

Last Alert2 is a very useful utility indeed. It will tell

you the Guru number of your machine after it has crashed. Once the folder has been unarchived double-click on the install icon and the files will be copied to the appropriate directories. By default Last Alert 2 will be copied to your WbStartup drawer. This means that if your machine crashes the program will be run as soon as the machine resets. It will produce a requester that informs of number of the offending Guru.

## NOERRORS

*NoErrors* is a program that has topped Barkin' Mad's PD chart for a while. It performs an exceedingly useful function – it can hide physical errors on disks from your computer.

Sometimes disks can be physically damaged and ordinarily, cannot even be reformatted properly. However, by using some kind magic *NoErrors* can format these disks. It all sounds a bit odd, but it does work. The author claims it will work on hard disks too, but I'm not brave enough to try it out!

To run the program just double-click and select the drive to be formatted.

## SYSTEMGUIDE

Most people's Workbench directories are usually full of system files that are a mystery to their owner. *SystemGuide* is an *AmigaGuide* document that lists a whole load system files.

To use it you must have either *AmigaGuide*, *MultiView* or another program capable of reading these files. The document not only outlines what the files do it also lists a source where possible. It covers a number of filesystems, libraries and devices.

## XTRUDER

*Xtruder* is absolutely not a 3D tool of any description. It is, in fact, a virus killer. Indeed, it is a virus killer with a difference. It's been written to try to stop Viruses spreading through BBSs.

It needs some manual installing though. You need to copy the libraries to your libs: directory and copy the Bootblock brainfile (can be found in the programs L: folder) to your L: directory. Once you have done that the program is ready to run. It features an ARexx port, timed checks, it can check packed files and can read archives.

## GENEREXXT

*GeneRexxT* is an exciting ARexx generator for *ADPro*. It's Shareware, so if you find it useful please follow the registration instructions. The program needs ARexx and version 2.3 or above of *ADPro*. Once the files have been extracted you need to copy two files to your C: directory; RX and HI. Once you have done that the program is ready to run.

Operation is quite straightforward and is well-documented. However if you become confused press <Help> or <right-Amiga><h>, for the help system.

## CODE

Too save your fingers, you'll find source code on the disk for our Chess, Assembly programming and C tutorials.

# AMIGA SHOPPER

***Welcome to the Amiga Shopper Subscriber's newsletter and to the first issue of the new-look Amiga Shopper!***

Dear Subscriber,

A big hello from your new Editor, Sue Grant, and a huge welcome to the new-look Amiga Shopper. Not only have we increased the number of pages of top quality reviews, tutorials and advice that we have always brought you in Amiga Shopper, but we have also gone full colour and have even improved the paper quality of the magazine.

And on top of all that we are now giving away two Coverdisks. Every month from this issue these Coverdisks will feature complete programs, invaluable utilities and exclusive upgrades to existing packages. And we'll have instructions and tutorials to complement your Coverdisks. Plus, as a loyal subscriber, you will continue to receive your exclusive Subscribers' disk with every issue, which means that you will have *three* disks every month!

And inside Amiga Shopper this month we take a look at our top 100 serious PD programs; we have a massive 10-page supertest and round-up of programming languages; plus, we answer your most frequently asked questions.

We would welcome any comments on the rebirth of Amiga Shopper and any suggestions you may have for future features or tutorials or indeed anything else you would like to see appearing in your favourite Amiga magazine.

Enjoy!  
Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the new Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 12 years and has been at Future Publishing for two years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play and then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscriptionsdisk

Yes, even with two coverdisks, you still get your exclusive *Subscribers'* disk. Graeme Sandiford shows you how to use its contents.

Please remember that this disk is not bootable – bootup from your normal disk first.

## AIBB 6.5

In the office, we find this is an invaluable tool when it comes to reviewing hardware. It's also useful for finding out more about your machine and its capabilities (especially when it's faster than your mate's).

The way in which AIBB determines the speed of your machine is by performing complicated and processor-intensive tasks known as benchmarks. These will put your computer through its paces in a variety of different ways. The different benchmarks are intended to test how quickly your machine can perform tasks such as drawing images and moving data.

While you can be told how fast your machine is by looking at its specifications, performing benchmarks will give you an idea of how your machine will perform in everyday tasks.

To run AIBB from Workbench you must first select Show All from the Window menu, as there is no icon. You'll be asked for some command arguments, but just press Return and you'll be taken to AIBB's main screen.

From here you'll be able to perform any of the benchmarks by clicking on the appropriate button in the bottom-right of the screen. After a benchmark has been completed, a graph will be plotted. The first bar represents the performance of your machine and the rest other models of the Amiga.

## PCRestore

I'm not entirely sure that this is the sort of program that should have been on the disk, as it might encourage too much PC-interaction. But, then again, it has come all the way from Sweden... What PCRestore does is restore backups of PC files that have been made with MSDOS's native Backup command. This is great, especially if you want to transfer large files that cannot fit on a single disk.

The program is easy to use thanks to a simple, but effective, interface. The first thing you need to do is specify source and destination directories. To do this, click on the Config button and then use the fileselectors to select directories or volumes. You can also choose to automount the source volume.

Once this is taken care of, you can start restoring those PC files – yippee, or something. Oh yes, by the way, the program is shareware. But, remember, don't blame us if you grow a beard and become exceedingly boring as a result of PC-overuse!

## Filthy Lucre

This was one of my favourite packages of last year. Filthy Lucre is an excellent shareware personal finance manager. As it is shareware, please remember to register it if you find it useful (see the documentation for more info).

The program itself is a joy to use as it is very straightforward. You simply have to add the date of a transaction, a code (if you like), a description and a figure in the credit or debit column. The program will work out a running balance automatically.

You can work on several accounts at once and can even merge them together. Other features include sifting of entries, macro recording, searches and bar charts.

Included with the archive are some example accounts and documentation. You'll also find fonts and libs directories. You will need to copy the fonts to your own Fonts: directory and may also need to copy any libraries you don't have.

## Lottery-Winner

If your Amiga is feeling left out as lottery-fever sweeps the nation, then let it get in on the action with Lottery-Winner. Lottery-Winner is a prediction program that has been tweaked to try to forecast winning lottery numbers.

Although I have not tried it out, as I don't gamble, it does make use of a prediction engine rather than blind luck. However, to get the best prediction possible you will have to enter some of the previous winning numbers.

There are three methods that can be used to make predictions: Predict – finds the most likely numbers; Random numbers – have a guess; and Overdue – numbers that, while not among the most likely combinations, are overdue to make an appearance.

The program is limited in its usability as it is shareware and is effectively intended as a demo version of the full program. When you register you'll receive an updated version with more features and a larger database.

By the way, if you do strike it lucky why not share your good fortune with the author – and us for that matter!

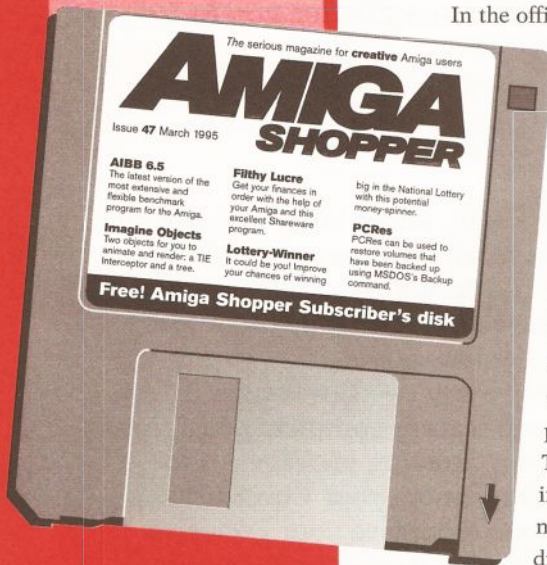
## Imagine Objects

There are two objects on this month's disk as different as they could possibly be. One is a TIE Interceptor from Star Wars and the other a tree.

The TIE has been crafted by my own hands, it's one of the first objects I made. Unfortunately I never got around to finishing off the surface attributes. I've made more complicated, and better, objects since, but I just love the design of the ship.

The tree is a fractal-generated object, which I believe was created in Vortex. It is quite detailed and lifelike – it even has several leaves!

Anyway, that's about it – enjoy!



- AIBB 6.5
- Imagine Objects
- Filthy Lucre
- Lottery-Winner
- PCRestore

**Future**  
PUBLISHING



# AMIGA SHOPPER

*Greetings, fellow Amiga enthusiasts, and welcome to the Amiga Shopper Subscribers' newsletter.*

Dear Subscriber,

Now you've had plenty of time to read your new-look March issue of Amiga Shopper from cover to cover, we would welcome any comments you may have about it – such as what you think of the two Coverdisks, the mix of features and reviews in the issue and what you would like to see covered in future issues of Amiga Shopper. You know what you want from your Amiga magazine and we want you to tell us!

On to this month. Inside the magazine we have: a feature all about the 3D graphics and video specialists, Premier Vision; another enormous supertest, this time our chosen subject is modems; and we also have the first in a series of Photogenics tutorials (if you want to have a look at this great image processing package, then get hold of Amiga Format issue 69 which has a demo of Photogenics on the Coverdisk). That's enough about them – back to Amiga Shopper; we also have lots of reviews, a Comms tutorial all about FidoNet and Tim Tucker talks about making music on your Amiga. And that's only half of the magazine; there's also a six-page Public Domain section and, of course, Amiga Answers, plus loads more.

And, as ever, you have your special "exclusive-to-subscribers" disk which contains three excellent programs: APlayer, BluffTitler and SuperDuper – see overleaf for more details.



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the new Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 12 years and has been at Future Publishing for two years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play and then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscriptionsdisk

Yes, even with two Coverdisks, you still get your exclusive *Subscribers' disk*. Graeme Sandiford shows you how to use its contents.

We have another juicy *Subscribers' disk* for you this month. As usual, I've scoured the Internet looking for new and exciting programs, but this time the best programs that I've found are a tad on the large size. So,

rather than going for quantity, I've gone for quality and put three top-notch programs on this month's disk.

However, please remember that the disk is not bootable – you would be surprised at the number of letters I get each month. Also if a disk icon doesn't appear, try scrolling down your Workbench window.

## APlayer

APlayer is one of the most feature-laden module players I have seen in some time. The A stands for Accessible and indeed that is what it

is. It has a number of features that make playing your favourite modules as easy and convenient as possible. Please note that you will need Workbench 2 or greater to run this program.

To run APlayer, first double-click on the unpack\_APlayer icon, to de-archive the Lha file to RAM. Next, copy the extracted files to disk and run the installation script. As it uses Commodore's Installer, it is quite a straightforward process – just follow the on-screen prompts.

Right, now you've got it up and running, what's so special about APlayer? Well, first of all, it can load and play an inordinate number of different module formats. There is a huge list of supported formats in the documentation and I don't even recognise half of them.

However a more unusual feature is the program's ARexx support. You can access most of the program's features through a few simple commands. You can also control APlayer via the keyboard, so you don't have to waste time clicking on buttons. It's all very intuitive; for example, pressing the left and right arrow keys will rewind or forward a module.

The principles behind the way that APlayer works are very simple – indeed, it works in similar fashion to a CD player. But, instead of loading tracks from a CD, it loads in modules which are then manipulated in much the same way as CD tracks would be. For instance, you can program APlayer to play the modules you have loaded in a specific order or randomly. Unlike most CD players, you can also save a list of your favourite modules.

APlayer can also play modules that have been packed with programs such as PowerPacker. Not

only this, it can also de-archive Lha files automatically. However, it will only play the modules that are on the archive's root directory.

APlayer can be used as a sample-ripper too. It can save samples from modules so that you can use these in your own compositions. However, you can also play them back straight from your keyboard as the module is being played. Well, there are plenty of other excellent features, but I won't rave on any more as there isn't enough space. If you want to find out more, read the guide document that has been supplied.

## BluffTitrer demo

This is a demonstration version of an intriguing program. BluffTitrer can be used to animate 3D text. As it is only a demonstration version, you won't be able to save your animations. BluffTitrer requires at least Workbench 2, a 68020, or faster, processor and will benefit greatly from some Fast RAM and an AGA chipset.

The program is quite simple to use as it works on a key-frame system. What this means is that to create an animation all you need is an end and start frame – the computer will work out all the frames in between. For example, if you wanted to rotate some text by 180 degrees, you would simply change the appropriate value in the next frame. Then, the computer will work out the changes that will need to be made for the text to get from start to finish, doing so on a step-by-step basis.

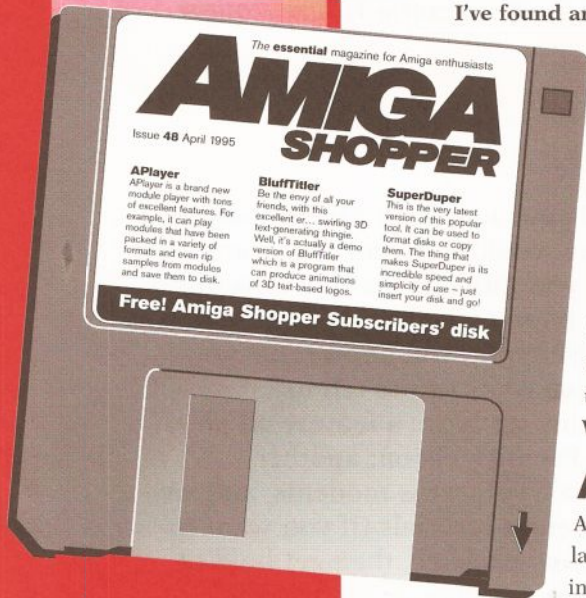
That's quite a simple example that needs two key-frames, a start and a finish. To create more complicated motions, you'll need more frames. This is quite easy to do – you simply make the changes you want and then press the insert button. This will insert a key-frame with the positional and rotational information you've set.

As well as being able to change the text's position and rotation, you can also change the way it and its background appear. You can edit the palette by hand, or choose from several ready-made ones. You can also alter the shape and proportions of the text by making it thicker, or making it more slanted and so on.

After a few adjustments, you'll have the option to view a preview or generate an animation. To make a preview, just press the preview button, to view the animation in colour, then press start, but make sure you are at the first frame so you can see the whole animation.

## SuperDuper 3.13

Despite its flashy name, SuperDuper performs a relatively simple task – it copies and formats disks. However, there is a reason for it being called Super, and that's because of its incredible speed – it can copy a disk in as little as 38 seconds... phew! It also has ARexx support and disk buffering. ■



- APlayer
- BluffTitrer Demo
- SuperDuper 3.13

**Future**  
PUBLISHING

# AMIGA SHOPPER

*By the time you read this subscriber's letter, Amiga International may have a new owner. Or, maybe not...*

Dear Subscriber,

I am writing this subscription letter early on in the month and well before the news pages of the magazine itself are put together. Therefore, although I can't bring you any exclusive news about the Commodore International situation here, there may be some exciting stuff on page 12. Or maybe there won't! In any case, we'll still keep you updated on all the latest developments in what is fast becoming the longest-running news-story ever.

This month, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Amiga – the first machine, the A1000, was announced at the June CES in the States way back in 1985. Richard Baguley takes you through the last 10 years of the Amiga, including the highlights and the best and worst Amiga software and hardware that has been released.

And to satisfy any video enthusiasts, our Supertest this month is on genlocks. Steve McGill reviews 12 of the best and recommends the one that suits your needs. Plus, there's the usual bunch of reviews and tutorials to help you get the most from your Amiga.

Amiga Shopper has been covering the serious side of all things Amiga since May 1991 which was our very first issue. You know it makes sense. Enjoy.



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the new Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 12 years and has been at Future Publishing for two years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play and then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscriptionsdisk

Yes, even with two Coverdisks, you still get your exclusive *Subscribers' disk*. Graeme Sandiford shows you how to use its contents.

Hello and welcome once again to the little bit of blue plastic that is exclusive to Amiga Shopper Subscribers. We have another mixed selection of the latest and best PD – there's always something for everyone.

## Remind

What, the Subscribers' disk has got to go today? I knew I forgot something. Well, from now on, I'm going to use a more intrusive, and less ephemeral, method of remembering important dates and times. Remind is just such a thing. It's a program that will remind you of important dates.

Installing Remind is extremely easy – simply unpack it and then copy it to your hard disk, or a floppy. Obviously, because of its nature, the ideal place to put Remind is the WBStartup drawer of your Workbench disk or partition. This way, it will run each time your Amiga is booted – no excuses for forgetting to run the program!

Once run, you can enter several important times or dates by selecting the Add tool from Remind's window. You can ask the program to remind you of your appointment daily, weekly, or even yearly. Thanks to a well thought-out interface, you can quickly select a date one or two weeks, or even months, in advance from the current date by clicking on a button.

## Anime Guide

With their incredibly realistic animation, mind-blowing special effects and unpredictable storylines, it's little wonder that anime has taken off in a big way in Europe and America. However keeping track of films and their storylines is not easy – there are so many them. This file is an AmigaGuide document that contains details of popular anime productions. It's been Powerpacked, so you'll need to use PPGuide, or a similar program, to read it.

The information in the document has been obtained from a variety of sources on the Internet and is quite comprehensive – it's got details of every video I've got, or have heard of. Most entries have descriptions of the films' plots and episode outlines. The guide is spilt into two areas: the Anime Title Listings for films, and the Episode Guides for adapted TV series.

## PicCon V2.50

This is the latest version of the extremely popular programmers' tool PicCon. It's mainly intended to be used by programmers, because its main asset is that it can convert images to sourcecode for inclusion in your programs or games.

However, since it supports DataTypes, you can use it to convert to and from any image format you have the DataType for. This program is shareware, so please don't forget to check the registration documentation.

The main new feature of the program is the ability to load animations, as well as single images. As in previous versions, the program has support for a bewildering number of formats from different kinds of machines – even for consoles such as

Nintendo's SNES and Sega's Mega Drive. This really is an essential tool for most programmers, especially games developers.

## Drop'n Act 2

This is a cool tool for those of us who want to save ourselves from developing an RSI on our mouse-clicking finger. How so? Drop'n Act is a very clever program – it can be taught what types of data a file is and then it can launch the correct application to display it. So, all you need to do is drag the file over the Drop'n Act's icon and the program does the rest for you.

After you have unpacked the archive, you need to run the installation script which copies all the necessary files to the appropriate places in your system. Once you have done that and re-booted your system, you need to go to the Prefs drawer of your system disk. This is where you tell the program what to do with what type of file.

For example, you might want to select Viewtek to display animations and pictures, or get the program to launch your favourite text-editor to edit text files. Hey, I know it's the height of laziness, but who wants an over-developed right arm?

## OpaqueMove

This is another one of those WBhacks that can really come in handy. OpaqueMove is primarily intended for use by people with graphics cards or AGA machines. It makes moving windows around Workbench that much easier. It accomplishes this by enabling you to move windows while they are still opaque. What *that* means is that you can move a window without selecting it and by clicking on any point on it.

This is particularly useful if you have a cluttered Workbench screen, like mine, since you don't have to keep bringing windows forward, or pushing them back. Anyway, the instructions are in the archive – have fun and er... be productive.

## LZX

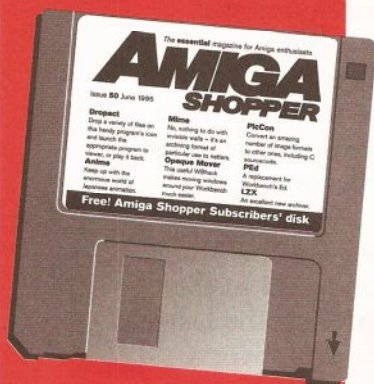
If there is one thing that is always at a premium in the computer world it's storage space. LZX is a new archiving system that claims to be the most efficient yet – on *any* platform. Like most programs of its sort, it can be run from the CLI and follows a similar command format as LHA.

There are three versions supplied: LZX\_68000EC for machines with the basic 68000 or 68010 CPUs; LZX\_68020 for machines with 68020; and 68030 processors and LZX\_68040 for more powerful machines. Give it a go, it has good compression rates and is surprisingly fast.

## Mime

There is a funny story behind this one. The morning I downloaded this from CIX, one of the guys from Amiga Power had a file from the Internet that had been archived using the Mime format. As it happened, I just got this program 10 minutes earlier.

It can be executed from CLI and is actually two programs – mpack and munpack – I'll leave you to figure out what they do! ■



- Remind
- Anime Guide
- PicCon V2.50
- Drop'n Act 2
- OpaqueMove
- LZX
- Mime



# AMIGA SHOPPER

*We've endured a year of nail-biting anxiety for the future of our beloved machine. Now the wait is finally over...*

Dear Subscriber,

A huge sigh of relief and a pat on the back for us all – because we had the sense and loyalty to stick with the best computer in the world for the past year. Our patience has finally paid off and the Amiga now has a brand new owner in the shape of Escom, the German PC manufacturer.

Apparently, Escom plan to manufacture Amigas in China and they also intend to resurrect the Commodore 64 for sale in Eastern Europe and the Far East countries. They are also confident that they can get machines back on the streets in three months, so we shouldn't have much longer to wait! There are many more plans up their sleeves, but they're not committing themselves to anything at the time of writing. However, check out our news pages in the issue for more information, because they go to press much later than this letter and there will have been more developments by then.

The Commodore UK team, in the shape of David Pleasance and Colin Proudfoot and their financial backers, decided to pull out of the bidding process because Escom or Dell had more financial muscle behind them. But, apparently, they intend to talk to Escom about staying involved with the Amiga in some way.

Anyway, it is a time to rejoice that the Amiga is saved.

Long live the Amiga!



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 12 years and has been at Future Publishing for three years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play and then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscriptionsdisk

Yes, even with two Coverdisks, you still get your exclusive *Subscribers' disk*. **Graeme Sandiford** shows you how to use its contents.

Eh, it's me again – last time, honest. We've got some interesting programs on this month's disk that should help you to sleep more soundly at night, and enhance, tidy up and even brighten up your Workbench screen. One last thing, please remember that the disk is not bootable.

## Diavolo

The world is a dangerous place and, as a result, nothing is totally secure – not even your Amiga. Whether as a result of a freak electrical storm or a clumsy room mate almost everyone is going to lose information from their hard disk sooner or later. The only thing you can do about it is be ready for it when it happens. One of the best ways of making sure you don't lose everything for good is by making regular back-ups.

To help you sleep better at night and save you some dosh, we've included a back-up program on this month's *Subscribers' disk*. The program is called Diavolo and is relatively easy to use. However, because there is not much in the way of documentation, I don't know too much about the program, including its system requirements. To install it, simply drag any of the libraries that you don't have across to your Libs: drawer.

As the program has no icon, you'll need to show all files in the window before you can run it. Once the program has loaded, simply click on the back-up button to make a back-up of your hard disk, or the restore button to reproduce a backed-up volume.

When backing up, you have a choice of three methods: you can save the back-up on floppies, as a file on a disk, or to any other AmigaDOS volume. The available devices for backing up are listed in the window labelled Mounted Volumes. This includes any floppies, hard disks, RAM disks and CD-ROMs. Select the device to be backed up by double-clicking on its name.

This will take you to the select window where you can select which files are to be included in the back-up. To select a file for inclusion, hold a shift button and click on it. When a file is white, it will be included – if it's black, it will be left out – the same goes for directories in the left window.

Right, now we've selected our files we can start the back-up procedure by pressing the start back-up button. After that, follow the on-screen prompts.

## Zed

This next program has absolutely no practical value at all, but I've included it on this month's disk for a good reason – it's extremely cool. What does it do? Put simply, it plays a nice 3D animation on your Amiga's Workbench backdrop – I suppose it could be described as therapeutic (yes a *practical* use).

Installing Zed on your system is a simple process, considering the degree of groovyness that will be added to it. Just extract it by double-clicking on its icon. One you've done that, you need only double-click on the version of the program that you want to use since you don't need to install any libraries or fonts. Although the

program can be placed in any directory, if you find the calming effect that the program provides is something you must have all the time, you should copy the program into your WBStartup drawer.

## MCP

The Amiga's Operating System may be one of the best, but even this mighty environment can be improved upon and MCP (short for Master Control Program, I don't think it's related to the one from Tron – at least I hope not) is another Workbench-enhancer. So, what can MCP do for you?

The system comes complete with a mouse accelerator, anti-drive-click program, a library and font search utility, screen-blanker, screen-dimmer, mouse pointer blanker, MSDOS-style wildcards (\*), a crunch patch, tool aliases, MUI prefs program, tootype enhancer and a replacement Workbench title that display more info.

Installation is pretty straightforward since the program uses Commodore's Installer utility. However, you will be asked to confirm almost every action the program will make.

Some features of particular note include AssignWedge which enhances the normal "please insert volume" requester. It can also be used to attempt to mount the requested device, or stop the requester from appearing at all.

The program will also keep a record of Gurus in a file stored in your S: directory to aid you in finding out the probable cause of all those nasty crashes. If you're looking to brighten up your desktop, you'll be glad to hear that MCP can use 16-colour mouse pointers, so you can load an IFF brush to replace your mouse pointer.

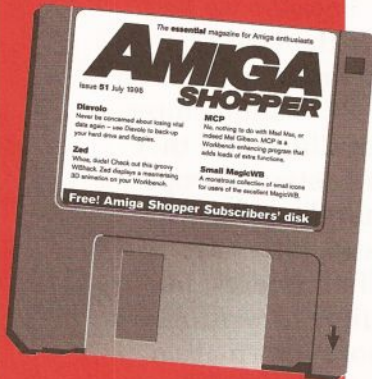
For more info on how the program works and what other functions it can perform, have a look at the documentation. Although this is not a shareware program – the author has asked that you register the program, so please do so.

## Small Magic Workbench Icons

There's more to icons than simply making Workbench look a little more interesting by adding lots of little funny shapes. True, they can improve the appearance of your desktop, but they can also help you to identify programs and types of files more easily.

Magic Workbench does a good job of improving the appearance of your Workbench screen. However, the icons that are used with this system are big since they are intended to be used with interlaced screens. These icons have been created for people who don't have multisync monitor, but would still like to use the icons at a reasonable size.

There are icons for a large number of programs, file types and system utilities. To use them, just copy them across to the same directory as the icon you wish to replace. ■



- Diavolo
- Zed
- MCP
- Small Magic Workbench Icons

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The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **52** August 1995

*There's even more reason to subscribe to Amiga Shopper – we've packed 15 programs and utilities on to the Subscribers' disk.*

Dear Subscriber,

You'll be pleased to hear that Escom recently held a press conference in Frankfurt to disclose their plans for the Amiga. Amiga Shopper was there and we asked Escom when exactly Amigas will appear in the shops; how many of their 230-odd High Street stores would stock Amigas; what new Amigas they were planning for development; do they see any conflict between their PC manufacturing and the Amiga; and, well, pages and pages of other searching questions. We bring you the full story (plus some exclusive pictures) in our Special Report on page 14 of this issue.

As for the Coverdisks this month, David, our Coverdisk wizard, has worked his magic and crammed in a multitude of excellent programs and utilities. And, as subscribers, you receive your third, exclusive Subscribers' disk which is also packed with loads of great programs which should keep you busy until the next issue of AS appears.

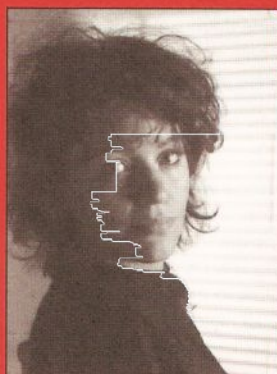
Don't forget that we want your feedback on all the issues of Amiga Shopper – especially those magazines that we've produced since the relaunch issue of March 1995. As subscribers, I would welcome your comments on the content of the issue, what you think about the cover design and which programs you want to see on the Coverdisks. And anything else that you have a strong opinion on for that matter.

Since Escom bought Commodore International we send them copies of Amiga Shopper every month, so they will, hopefully, take note of your ideas about how you want them to develop, manufacture and market your favourite machine.

So put pen to paper and send your letters to me at Talking Shop, Amiga Shopper, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscriptionsdisk

Can it be true? With the massive amount crammed on to this month's two main Coverdisks, do you still get your exclusive subscription disk?

**David Taylor** assures you that it is and that you do! And it's even fuller.

Welcome to our own little slice of paradise, where we, the faithful, locked away from those poor lost souls who must trudge to the newsagents every month to get their copy of AS, are rewarded with more utilities than Batman's belt. By which I mean, of course, welcome to the Subscribers' disk. To use it, simply boot the disk and, if you've got two drives, put the first Coverdisk in the other drive. This new method does require a bit of disk-swapping for those with only one drive, but it does mean that we can squeeze even more stuff on.

## ExCalc

There are plenty of calculators available for the Amiga, so why would we include one here? After all, you even get a simple one supplied by WorkBench. **ExCalc** though claims to be the first calculator available for any computer which can be accurate to over 50 decimal places.

All this power is available through both a GUI and command line Interface, where not just digits, but whole equations can be calculated. As well as the convenience of functions like square and cube roots, there are full scientific, power and logarithmic operations and (does the list never end?) programming functions like 'and', 'or' and 'shift'. The calculator also has a scrolling window memory of previous calculations and results.

The guide gives a much more detailed description, as well as details of how to register this shareware version, which will allow you to customise the Interface.

## Invoicer

If you use your Amiga for business on occasions, it would be nice to be able to create invoices and keep a database of them. Well, **Invoicer** is here to help you do exactly that. It's simple to use and even has a tutorial file to help you get to grips with it. The program requires the reqtools.library to run, which you must have installed in your system libs: drawer. If you don't have the library, don't despair, you can find it on Coverdisk 1, on the **Text Master** and **File Master 3** disk. There's even an Install icon for the library.

## MFormat

It won't have escaped your notice that the Interface for Commodore's own format command is a bit useless. Well, with typical Amiga tenacity, Eric Sauvageau decided to do something about it and wrote a replacement - **MFormat**. It has an easy-to-use GUI with preferences settings. You can format all types of disks, as well as specify such options as auto-start (for multiple formats), auto-inc (for creating disks which step the name, i.e. Disk001, Disk002, etc.), create icons (for trashcans), install (to make the disk bootable), quick and verify.

I can't help but say that this is the Interface that we should have had all along and, if you agree, then don't forget you must register because **MFormat** is shareware.

## MultiCX Prefs

On this month's Coverdisks you'll already have found the excellent commodity **MultiCX**. All the preferences for **MultiCX** can be altered using the tooltypes, but there's an even easier way of using this brilliant companion program. Adding a GUI to the preferences, it couldn't be easier to alter the most configurable commodity we've ever seen.

Thanks to both Martin Berndt and Michael Barsoom,

the authors of the two programs, for their help and remember to register!

## Icon Deluxe

Creating icons is a great way to customise your disks and programs, but **IconEdit** (provided with Workbench) isn't exactly the most powerful program. **Icon Deluxe** brings the power of a paint package to the creation of your icons. All the tools are there including fill, box, circle, cut, paste, zoom and (here's the bit I like) the ability to add text. Again, a lot of effort has gone into this package, so, if you use it, register.

To compliment **Icon Deluxe**, we've also included another program, **PictIcon**, which allows you to drop IFF images on to its icon and converts them into icons. **Icon Deluxe** has this ability, but can only handle images up to 400x400, but **PictIcon** is designed specifically for this purpose and will scale them for you.

## DOSMan

AmigaDOS is one of the best things about the Amiga. Although it can be daunting at first, the ease-of-use of the Shell brings a new level of power to users. If you've ever had the displeasure of using MS-DOS, then you'll know how relaxing it is to slip back to the Amiga's Operating System. Even so, we all need to refer to the manual from time to time, if only to confirm our thoughts. Now, however, it's easier, because Peter Bagnato has created this on-line manual. MUI users have an Interface provided, but standard users can use the volume as an AmigaGuide. It's essential reading.

## ShellBench

Executing a command from Workbench is possible, but how about a whole new update to the 'Execute command' with a GUI and a multitude of options? You guessed it, here's **ShellBench**. To use it, install the program and the necessary library, which can be done with the Install icon, but make sure you have over 100K free in SYS:

## And the rest...

Phew! That's the briefest of guides to what's on this month's Subscribers' disk, but I haven't finished yet, because there's more to mention. There's **Lens**, which is a magnifier for Workbench or any screen - very useful for aligning icons, or making detailed changes. I must also mention **MClock**, the tiny clock program that includes an alarm function with reminders that can be entered. Simply boot the program, activate it and click on the right mouse button to enter the options screen. Oh, and there's **Virus List**, which details all the archives you should avoid and makes an ideal supplement to **Virus Checker** (on this month's Coverdisks) to help you keep your Amiga safe. **JSplit** is also on here, which enables you to split large files down into smaller denominations to allow you to fit it on to floppy disks.

Then there's **MagicWord**, a macro recorder that can be invoked in any program, allowing you to record and use macro short-cuts in programs that don't normally have the facility. And last, but by no means least, there's **Mass** and **Diff**, two CLI commands that respectively allow you to do multiple assign and directory creation, and to examine the difference between two seemingly identical files.

All of which brings the total amount of data on this month's three Amiga Shopper disks to a staggering 6Mb! Until next month, have fun! ■



- ExCalc
- Invoicer
- MFormat
- MultiCX Prefs
- Icon Deluxe
- PictIcon
- DOSMan
- ShellBench
- Lens
- MClock
- Virus List
- JSplit
- MagicWord
- Mass
- Diff

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The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **53** September 1995

*The best Amiga magazine for serious users goes from strength to strength with subscribers getting even more for less.*

Dear Subscriber,

By the time you read this letter, we'll already be hard at work halfway through the next issue. So while you drool over the exceptional quality of this issue, we'll be fired up about the top-notch content of next month's AS and with good reason. More cracking disks, a music Supertest that follows on from this month's music feature, great products. And as to the month after that! Phew, I can't begin to tell you. As if things aren't good enough, it just gets better and better, which is exactly the case of the Amiga itself.

Although Escom are still in the early stages of Amiga ownership and after a year with no official development, we are still seeing amazing advances in Amiga technology. This month, we've got an exclusive preview of the second stage of development of Hi-Q's Powerstation. For years we've asked for some degree of PC compatibility, because it's a sad fact that PCs are quite popular and we need to be able to make use of some of their resources. It finally looks as if that may become a possibility, with your Amiga accessing PC accessories and linking to a PC network being just the tip of the iceberg.

With such a bright future being promised after such a cloudy year, make sure you've got your subscription up to date so that you don't miss out on any of the upcoming goodies. Remember that, especially as a subscriber, your constructive criticism is more than welcome in the AS offices so that we can continue to develop the magazine and disks in the way you want them to go. The address to write to is in the letters pages and don't forget that you could win £25 if we choose your letter as the month's star missive.

Well, I won't keep you any longer as I'm sure you want to get to the programs on this month's Subscribers' disk and I'm not surprised. Yet again, it's 100 per cent full with 13 utilities crammed on.

Don't thank us, thank the people who wrote the programs by complying with their shareware notices – some of them just want a postcard or E-mail!



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscriptionsdisk

Wrecked with exhaustion after cramming so much on to this month's Coverdisks, we've had to send **David Taylor** off for rehabilitation, but before he went, we made him create a subs' disk to weep for. Cruel, aren't we?

This month we've got some cracking software for you with some excellent programs to supplement those on the Coverdisks, giving you, the subscribers, extra backup. Every month we think that we've created the best disks that we've ever seen, but this month it's beyond doubt. Of course, I know the treats we've got in store for future issues, but I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's take a look at the three disks of goodies that are packed on to this month's Subscribers' disk...

## ZXAM Spectrum Emulator 1.6b

After I spent last month examining the sets of emulators for the Amiga, it seemed only fair that we passed some of them on. So, you'll find Shape Shifter 3, the Mac emulator, on the main disks, but you lucky people have also got this gem. This emulator was rated 92 per cent by Jason Holborn in AS51. It requires an '020 processor or above, but does run on ECS machines.

Once loaded, you'll be able to load in a snapshot of a Spectrum program (there are none included here, because of their dubious copyright status, but PD libraries do stock them – check out the legal status with them before purchase) or you can go to the Spectrum screen.

The most amazing aspect of this emulator is its compatibility. It seems to run all Spectrum programs and is indiscernible from the real thing.

You may be interested to know that as we went to press version 2 of this program was released, so registering will get you upgraded.

## MachV

MachV is a multi-functional utility program. It offers mouse enhancements as well as hotkeys for both Shell and Workbench. It even allows different settings for individual windows. In the words of its author, "...the real power of MachV is in its special functions. Macros can be written using these functions to do any mouse action from the keyboard, run programs at a desired time, or interface with Arexx".

Some of the mouse features include Sun mouse, mouse to menu, which jumps the mouse to the menus when you press the right button, the ability to dictate the mouse port and to adjust the interpretation of a middle mouse button.

There are just too many other features to go in to here, but the guide file gives you a full tour and using the program is a doddle. One thing worth mentioning is the clock bar that it creates, which can be fully configured to include memory, co-ordinates, date and a gadget bar.

## Image Studio PNG

It can't have escaped your attention that the file standard GIF has been in the news recently. CompuServe posted a notice stating that people using the file format would have to start paying royalties.

With typical Amiga abandon, people said "Sod ya then, we'll write our own". And they have.

PNG is intended to take over from GIF and although isn't officially completed, it is already being offered support by some up-to-date programs. This contains the loader/saver for this file format for the Image Studio 2 program.

The exclusive AS version of the program itself can be found on this month's Coverdisks. This new loader just needs copying to the modules/io/ directory in Image Studio 2.

## Amiga Temp

We get quite a few requests for hardware projects and although they don't seem to have mass appeal, we don't like to let anyone down. Here, then, is something to keep your DIY hand in. It contains a software program and directions for the necessary hardware, so that you can use your Amiga to take multiple temperature readings. We'd love to hear how people get on and where they put their thermometers (within reason, of course).

## AssignZ

Brilliant. AssignX has been a favourite utility by many for some time and now AssignZ offers the power of AssignX, only more so. When using programs, it's not uncommon to get a requester for a certain volume, when the problem is that you've renamed the disk or put it in a different directory. Now, when this requester is thrown up, you will be offered a GUI that can select and create an assign, mount a volume or deny it. A powerful assign manager that appears automatically when you need it.

## And the rest...

Deep breath! OK, that's a quick guide to some of the utilities and here's a mention of the rest.

There's **SIP**, a fantastic system information program, that even allows you to clean up memory after a crash.

**A4000HW** and **A1200HW** are two text guides to frequently asked questions for A4000 and A1200 users.

**Menustay** is a neat little utility that saves wear and tear on the mouse, by keeping the menu up after clicking the right mouse button, instead of having to hold it down.

Shell users, will be pleased with **Powersnap**, which gives you the chance to use a clipboard to cut and paste within Shell windows.

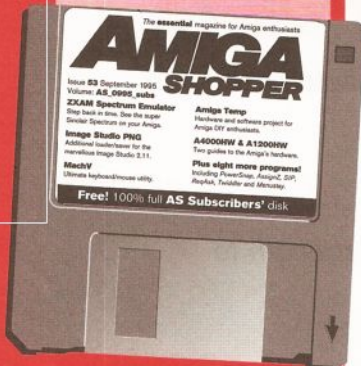
**PointerX** transforms the boring 'busy' pointer to an animated clock which ticks away as it sleeps.

For the fidgeters amongst you, there's **Twiddler**, which allows you to fiddle around on Workbench when you should be doing something else – it's especially good for messing around with when you are on the 'phone.

Lastly, we've squeezed on **ReqAsk**, a neat command that sends a requester for the ask command instead of waiting for keyboard input.

That brings the total packed on to this month's disk to around a staggering 7Mb! And that is why we won't do two shows a night anymore! We won't!

Until next month, enjoy! ■



- ZXAM Spectrum Emulator
- MachV
- Image Studio PNG
- Amiga Temp
- AssignZ
- A4000HW
- A1200HW
- SIP
- Menustay
- Powersnap
- PointerX
- Twiddler
- ReqAsk

**Future**  
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The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **54** October 1995

*Amiga Technologies are off the starting block and half-way down the track. But when will they reach the finishing tape?*

Dear Subscriber,

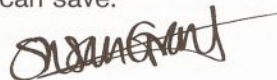
The good news is that Amiga Technologies have set up six offices around the world – one is in Philadelphia in the States and the other five are based in Europe, including the one we told you about last month which is based in Maidenhead and run by ex-Commodore UK man Jonathan Anderson. And anyone who is connected to the Internet will have already seen the brand new logo for the Amiga. (What do you think of the design, by the way? Write in and let us know.)

The bad news is that the price of the A1200 looks like its going to be £399 and the on-sale date for A1200s has slipped a bit to the end of September, so we'll have to wait that bit longer to replace our tired old friends – you'll find the latest news from Amiga Technologies on page 14. They also plan to hold another press conference in London in August – Amiga Shopper will be there and we'll be able to bring you even more news next month.

We've also been busy planning some great issues for you, with a Supertest of monitors next month and a new 3D tutorial from Babylon 5 man Mojo, and there's certainly no shortage of great Amiga kit to review.

Back to this issue, we asked our panel of Amiga experts to tell us all about the Amiga equipment they use everyday and which Amiga software and hardware they just couldn't do without. John Kennedy loves messing about with music on his Amiga, so we asked him to review the best Amiga music packages and hardware for our Supertest this month – check out our feature in last month's Amiga Shopper where we tell you all about the successful group Alien Race who use Amigas to produce their music. We also give you a leg up the music ladder with our top hints and tips for getting your music published.

If all that wasn't enough, now there's another reason why subscribing to Amiga Shopper makes sense. Not only do you save money by getting your issues cheaper than anyone else, not only do you receive this newsletter and your exclusive subscribers-only Coverdisk every month, but now you can get extra money off Amiga Shopper's Mail Order goods too, which makes them even more of a bargain! Turn to page 78 of the issue to find out how much money you can save.



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscribersdisk

Here we go again. Another month, another Subscriptions disk and another set of top notch software. **David Taylor** introduces this month's selection.

It's a Monday morning and after a hectic two weeks ensuring we got the latest versions of software and the very best programs available, I have to admit I'm a bit stuck for words. Yeah, the programs are great and everyone's certain to find something they want. Sure, the amount of data packed on to this disk is incredible. You'll soon be wondering how you did without this or that utility. But how can I say all that without boring you? I guess I'll have to let you find out for yourselves...

## Organiser

Kicking off this month's crop is an organiser that actually consists of more than one program. When you load the manager, you can choose which parts of the organiser you want to use. These parts are then loaded separately. Each element is given an item in the Tools menu on Workbench. This way the composite parts are smaller and can be loaded independently, which makes it faster and more flexible. So, if you're not in need of the address book side, but need to remember Aunt Hilda's birthday, then just use the scheduler part.

The program is easy to use and comes with extensive documentation. Thanks to Norman Little, the author, for sending it in. The source code is also included, archived in the source directory using LZX. To de-archive it, you need either a hard disk or a lot of RAM because the source is over 1Mb. If you are unsure how to de-archive, open a Shell and type:  
"AS\_1095\_1:c:\unlzx x AS54\_Sub1:AS54\_Sub1\_Zone1/Organiser/source/source.lzx <destination>" (where <destination> is changed to your destination, e.g. RAM:).

## Menus & More

Ever wanted to create a lovely graphical interface to launch your programs? You can draw it in DPaint but can't do anything with it? Menus & More is the solution. Described as a closer way to designing your own Workbench than anything else, there's a program for creating screen menus and also one for playing them back, so you can fully integrate them into your system.

There are some example files included to help you get started, but a read of the docs is recommended.

## DClock

Because I compile the disks, I end up searching through hundreds and hundreds of megabytes of programs every month. Consequently, my WBStartup drawer is being changed quite often. One program that I've been searching for is a good clock. There are loads of programs out there, but they are either too large or don't do enough. DClock is configurable and powerful, with alarm features and dates, yet it's small and easy to use.

## Wangipad

I admit it. I used to be a Tools Daemon freak. Nothing and nobody could convince me that any other program

would do. But Wangipad, sent in by Lee Kindness, has changed my mind.

Tools Daemon is a configurable menu for Workbench that allows you to put your favourite programs in there, giving you instant access, instead of having to dig through directories to double-click on their icon. Wangipad is slightly different. This program puts a launchpad on your Workbench. This little window can be user defined for size and placing, and you can set it up as you want and then capture it using the Preference editor. Like Tools Daemon, you can put as many programs in there as you want. Then to use a program, you just double click on the name.

Because it's always there, I've found it easier to see where the programs are and don't even need to look through menus to start the program I need. Into the WBStartup drawer with this one!

## Image Compressor

Here's a program for all you AMOS users. This can compress and decompress IFFs as ABK powerpacked files. It has been written to replace the IFF compacter that comes with AMOS Pro. There are quite a few options, which should make this worth a look for AMOS programmers. This version requires registering to get all the options.

## And the rest...

Oh, we're nowhere near finished, but we're running out of space already. So I'd better make a quick mention of the other goodies on the disk.

There's **Opticon**, which is a great CLI command that optimises icons and removes the unnecessary data. You'll be surprised at how much difference this makes. There's also the **Icon2C** utility in this drawer.

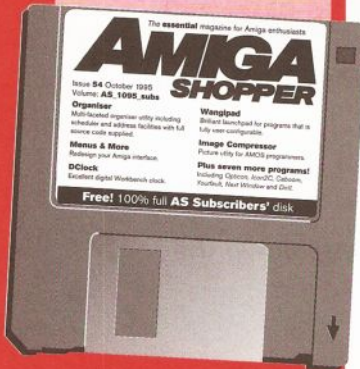
Lee Kindness supplied another two programs, **Caboom** and **Yourfault**. The first one will make your windows explode when you close them and the other is an amusing little hack that changes the error messages on your Amiga to point the problem back at you, like "No banana in drive"!! The source code for both has been included and can be found in LZX format in each directory (see the information on Organiser for an idea of how to de-archive the code).

There's also a **guide file on CD-ROMs**, giving you an insight into how they work so you'll be able to make a more informed choice, knowing exactly what you need.

**Next Window** is a commodity that will allow you to cycle through windows and activate them without using the mouse, which should make life easier for Shell users.

Last, but not least, is **DirII**, a replacement Dir command that supplies you with more info than the original command.

And a quick byte count for this month's three AS disks brings the fully de-archived score to a fun-filled 8Mb! Thank you, and good night. ■



- Organiser
- Menus & More
- DClock
- Wangipad
- Image Compressor
- Opticon
- Icon2C
- Caboom
- Yourfault
- CD-ROM guide
- Next Window
- DirII



The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **55** November 1995

*Phew! What a scorcher. I never thought I'd ever say this, but I hope when you read this we've had some rain...*

Dear Subscriber,

By the time you read this you may be the proud owner of a brand new Amiga, having coughed up £399 for an A1200 – £499 if you bought one with a hard drive installed. And if you're after an A4000T you'll have paid out around £2,230. Plus, you will have a software bundle – including Scala MM300 if you bought the 4000 or 1200 with hard drive.

At the time of writing we still don't know exactly what that software bundle contains – except that there will be a database, a spreadsheet, a word processing package, a paint package and two games. AT hadn't dotted the i's and crossed the t's of the deal when I attended the Amiga Technologies press conference at Heathrow on 16th August (turn to page 14 of the issue where you'll find all the latest information).

Sadly, Amiga Technologies have no intention at the moment to spend money on advertising the new Amigas: Escom's initial investment when they bought Commodore – and the money they have spent since then trying to get the machines back into the shops as quickly as possible – leaves them without much ready cash left for an advertising budget. However, all of the Escom shops will stock Amigas, and Amiga Technologies assured us that all the staff in the Escom shops know the technology well and are ideally suited to selling the machines, so new Amigas will be very easy to get hold of. Hurrah!

By the way, Jonathan Anderson (Managing Director of Amiga Technologies GmbH UK) thanked all of the Amiga press several times during the meeting for helping to keep the interest in the technology alive for so long!

But, back to this issue. We're rather proud to have fitted a whole 5Mb of excellent programs on to our two Coverdisks, including HiSoft BASIC and F1 Licenceware's most popular title ever, Introducing Workbench. And because you subscribe, you get the extra Subscribers disk too. That little lot will keep you busy for a while!

We also thought it about time we had a look at some monitors for you. You should have seen us lugging them back and forth from freelancer to photoshoot – no joke in this scorching weather. And David has been dying to write a feature on storage for the Amiga, so this month we let him. Plus Mojo's back with some more 3D tutorials. And then there's pages and pages of reviews and tutorials...

There's so much in it!



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscribersdisk

*Hot town, Summer in the city, Dave's looking sweaty but the disks are all pretty. Of course, when you read this Autumn will be upon us. Oh well...*

When we pack 5Mb on to our Coverdisks, you'd think we'd have done enough, wouldn't you? But we don't agree! So, we've brought the total to over 7.5Mb, by making you, the Subscriber, a third exclusive disk. And here it is...

Getting the balance right on Coverdisks is always difficult, so thanks to everyone who has written in or E-mailed me with their opinion. Keep them coming. It helps me to shape the disks in the way you want, so even if it's just more of the same, let me know. And nobody could blame you if you do, especially when you take a look at the selection this month. There's everything from applications and utilities, to demos and Workbench patterns. Let's get stuck in.

## TiffView 1.16

On the main Coverdisks you'll find the datatype in this month's Technical Zone is for Tiffs. This program is the accompanying viewer that was written by the author of the datatype. It doesn't stop at viewing Tiffs though – it can display most images through the use of other datatypes, and to my mind it's one of the fastest JPEG loaders I've come across. You can also change the screen mode, so that you view different modes to those of your Workbench. Before you start, read the instructions on the Coverdisks to make sure all the necessary libraries and datatypes have been installed to your system from the archive.

## Extra Info 1.3

Let's talk icons. And I don't mean Marilyn Monroe. Icons are the small pictures that appear on your Workbench, the things you click on to launch a program. It's easy to change some of the parameters using the Information menu that comes on Workbench, but as with a lot of system software, it could offer so much more. And now it can. Extra Info is a program that gives you much more control. Even better, you can also attach it so that when you select Info from the menu on the WB, Extra Info is

called instead. To use it, you must have the bgui.library installed to your libs: from the directory.

## ZShell 2.7

ZShell is a full Shell that can improve your CLI. To start it, install it to your c: directory and type "ZSH". It has a total of 66 built-in commands. In addition, it has the ability to complete your filenames by pressing tab. It has pipes and a review buffer, on-line help, wildcards... As you can see, this program has much to commend it over the usual Shell. The documents are much more extensive than we can be here, so read them before you get started.

## Imagine Object

This month's 3D Zone is packed with objects for LightWave, but we didn't want you Imagine users to feel left out, so here's a rather splendid object of Luke Skywalker's land speeder for you to play with. Have fun!

## Before Dark

In response to your requests, we've tracked down a set of backdrops for you to use on Workbench. There are over 40 here, and there's a text file with some instructions to help you get the best results.

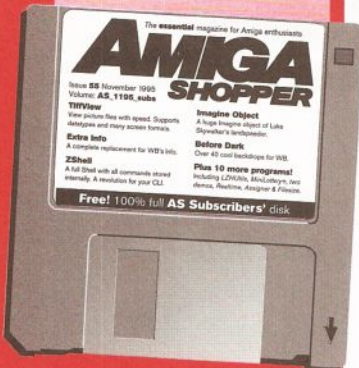
## And the rest...

There are tonnes of other goodies on these disks as well. **LZXUtils** is a set of four utilities that will scan LHA archives for errors, try to recover corrupted data and also allow you to split and join large archives. As a bit of fun, there's **MiniLottery+**, to help you pick your lucky numbers. Showing exceptional skill are two demos or intros, **Seasick** and **S-FAD**, both released at The Assembly '95. They are both from the 40K category (they are unpacked, so they archived better, but when packed with Stonecracker, you'll see they are under 40K) and can be double-clicked on to run.

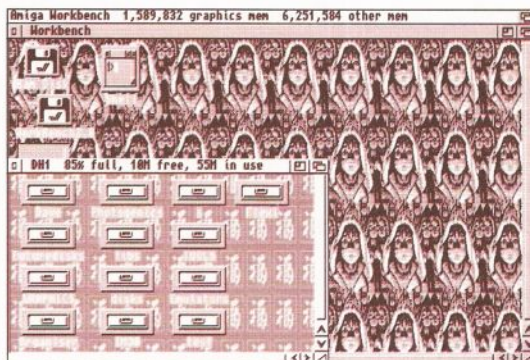
**Realtime** is a small utility that updates your memory usage in real time and far quicker than Workbench can.

**Assigner** is a GUI for making assigns and **Filesize** attaches itself to your tools menu, allowing you to do a quick byte count on files. There's also its companion program, **Drawersize**, that can do size counts of multiple drawers. The **WBAD** drawer contains four programs to brighten up your Workbench and have a colourful pointer. Last, but by no means least, is a module called **Future**, for which you'll need a module player to use it.

So, there you have it. Another 2.5Mb of programs and data. Hopefully, it should keep you entertained until next month when we have... (Unfortunately, Dave fainted here from exhaustion).



- TiffView
- Extra Info
- ZShell
- Imagine Object
- Before Dark
- LZXUtils
- MiniLottery+
- Seasick Demo
- S-FAD Demo
- Realtime
- Assigner
- Filesize
- Drawersize
- WBAD
- Future



*Before Dark offers you a choice from over 40 backdrops.*

The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **56** December 1995

*I've only just packed away my bikini and suncream and it's December already. Where did Autumn disappear to?*

Dear Subscriber,

You may have guessed by now, because of the early on-sale date of this December magazine and the previous couple of issues, that we have a Christmas issue in store for you too. That means that you get 13 issues of your favourite serious Amiga magazine every year. And all of them with two feature-packed Coverdisks – three in your case, as a subscriber.

And have we got a great issue for you this month – we are particularly proud that we've managed to cram over 5Mb of carefully-chosen programs and utilities on to our two Coverdisks, and that's not including the great stuff on your exclusive Subscriber's disk. And then inside the issue we have a feature on networking with your Amiga – John Kennedy has been experimenting in this area for months and brings you his findings.

We thought it was about time we had a look at word processing packages too – we've included Wordworth 4SE in the feature which is the version bundled in the Amiga Magic software pack with the new machines. Wordworth 4 will be released in its own right nearer to Christmas, so we'll be looking at that later on. Another installment of Mojo's tutorial will make 3D fans happy, plus we have all our usual reviews and tutorials to keep you busy.

Let us know what you think of the new style of our Public Domain section, by the way – if you have any ideas of what else to put in, then let us know. David is always on the look out for new and original programs to include too.

Jonathan Anderson and some of his colleagues from Amiga Technologies are coming down to Bath to see the Amiga mags soon – we are looking forward to showing them around the offices. I'll report on their visit in our Christmas issue – maybe we'll have some pictures of them meeting the teams!

Meanwhile, dig in to the issue and we'll see you next month. Remember, you only have 60 shopping days until Christmas. Yeurch!



Sue Grant,  
Editor.



*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

# Subscribersdisk

*It's raining, it's pouring, your Amiga is snoring. Well, here comes its wake-up call. David introduces this month's alarmingly good Subscribers' disk.*

**This month's Subscribers' disk has another 2.5Mb of programs and extras. There's a full Licenceware product for starters - exclusive to Amiga Shopper subscribers - all here and all free.**

I've had a few letters from subscribers who haven't managed to de-archive some of our earlier disks. The answer is very simple. Boot the Subscribers' disk. All the de-archiving is as automatic as possible, but you do need to boot the disk for the procedure to be set up. Anyway, enough burble, let's get on with it.

## Ultimate Quiz 1

This was a tough call. AS doesn't cover games, but when we found this program and wangled a deal so that we could give it all away free, we decided to go for it. Ultimate Quiz 1 is a full F1 Licenceware package with 1,000 questions split into several categories, from General Knowledge to Big Movies and from Red Dwarf to Star Trek. It's more a brain drainer than a game.

To pit your grey matter against the Amiga, just double-click on the Quiz.exe icon. If you're playing on an unaccelerated A500+, don't worry if it doesn't appear to do anything for a few seconds after the disk finishes. The screen then goes black and The Quiz appears. Click the left mouse button to move the screens. Then choose the category you want to try; the questions load and you can start. Answering the questions is simple (knowing the answers is harder!) - choose your answer and select the letter that represents it with the mouse. Remember that there's a time limit for questions and you've only got a certain number of credits per game. Enjoy!

## GCat

Keeping track of disks isn't easy. Even if your collection featured only the disks from AS (not likely, I know), you'd soon have no idea where all the programs were. This is where disk cataloguing programs help. GCat caught my eye because it can be used to catalogue many different drives, not just df0:. This means that you can quickly build up a catalogue of your hard drive. So, say you stored the AS disks in dh1:AS/, you could create a full listing that is easy to browse and quick to update. The interface is bare, but functional. Don't be deceived by looks; this program is very useful.

## Text Engine 5

This month's word processing feature has coincided nicely with the release of Text Engine 5. This is a fully-featured WP, it contains everything that you'd expect, including a dictionary. Simply load the program and you can start typing. It's very intuitive, so you shouldn't have any trouble using it. To check the spelling, first load the dictionary and then check the document. If it finds a word it doesn't know, it queries it. You can edit the

dictionary if you want to include the word for future purposes. If there are no mistakes, you'll be returned directly to typing mode.

There are full documents for this program, which guide you through all the features. You should note that although the program is complete and un-crippled, it is still Shareware. The author asks a modest sum in return for it. Please register if you keep the program.

## Ordering

File managers, couldn't live without 'em. Well, there are more and more appearing, which means you can choose the one that suits you best. This one contains an external preferences program (very à la DOpus), which makes configuring the look and operation of the program very easy, even down to altering the button functions.

As you'd expect the screen has two areas, with one side to be used as source and the other as destination. You can choose from any device for either of these. The buttons above the split screen define the actions and there are also some menus for extra functions such as formatting disks. It's a very competent program.

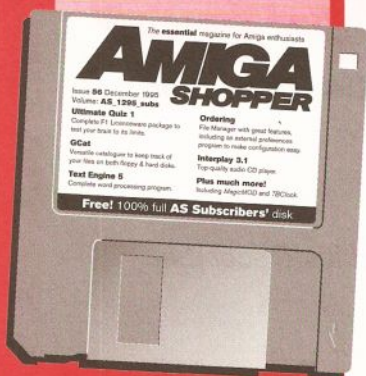
## And the rest...

That's not the half of it, because there's loads of other programs on this disk too. **Interplay 3.1** is an excellent audio CD player that works with any CD-ROM that uses the cd.device. If that's set up as standard (as it is with most drives), then all you have to do is load the program, which has everything including disc cataloguing. In keeping with the musical theme, there's **MagicMOD**, a music module player. To use it, make sure you install the libraries that are included. There are also **four modules** for you to play and add to your collection.

**TBClock** is a small clock that sits itself in the titlebar of your screens and can be configured to include different information, such as the day and date. **F1 Guide** is something of a novelty, an AmigaGuide which contains all the information you'd want about Formula One racing, including up to date statistics. Rather unusual, but one for the motoring fans. To put the icing on the cake, we've topped off the WP vein with a selection of **clipart** and **fonts**.

A quick note about a minor bug in ExtralInfo, which was on last month's Subs disk:

1. A conflict between BGUI and SleepingPointers sometimes causes the machine to lock up when using BGUI "pop-up" cycle gadgets. This has nothing to do with ExtralInfo.
2. In ExtralInfo, the "All/One" button on the tooltypes page does nothing under V38 of the BGUI library. It requires V39, which is due for release shortly. Until then, you can still select multiple tooltypes using the mouse by holding down the shift key. ■



- Ultimate Quiz 1
- GCat
- Text Engine 5
- Ordering
- Interplay 3.1
- MagicMOD
- TBClock
- F1 Guide
- 4 music modules
- Clipart
- Bitmap Fonts

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The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **57** Christmas 1995

*Will Santa bring you a shiny new Amiga Magic pack to play with for Christmas? Or will he just drink the sherry and disappear?*

Dear Subscriber,

In this Christmas issue, we have a special report from the Solelectron factory in Bordeaux, France where Amiga Shopper's ex-production editor, Anna Grenstam went to see how the new A1200s are made. She was also invited to a tour around a vineyard on the same day – we're hoping that the photographs she took won't be too blurry!

We have plenty of other features to keep you busy over the Yuletide period, including a look at viruses and how to combat them; a feature on multimedia; and a great competition from Digita to win a copy of Wordworth 5.

It looks like the popular programming language AMOS will be resurrected too – read the news pages for more details – so we have included the AMOS extension IntOS on the Coverdisk this month.

The Amiga Shopper team would like to take this opportunity to wish all our loyal subscribers a very merry Christmas indeed.

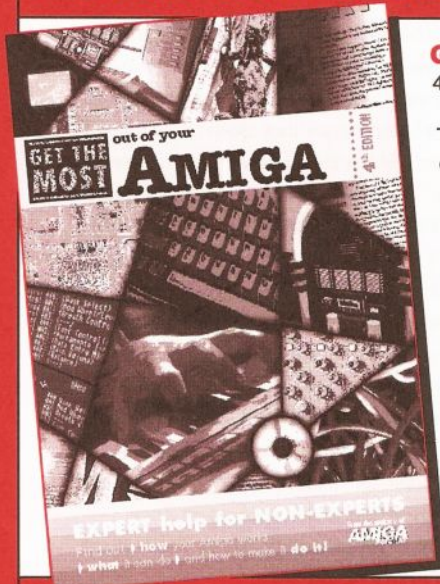


Sue Grant,  
Editor.



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## Exclusive subscriber offer!



### Get The Most Out Of Your Amiga

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Section A gives you the low-down on how your Amiga works, including all of the hardware and software. There's even a glossary covering all the terms that you're ever likely to come across.

### What your Amiga can do

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Amiga games, music, graphics and multimedia. Again, there's a full glossary at the end of the section to ensure that you are familiar with all of the technical terms.

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# Subscribersdisk

Who needs Father Christmas when there's so much for you on the free Subscribers' disk? David Taylor presents you with yet more goodies.

Hmm. I'm supposed to find something witty, amusing and yet informative to say once again. Well, I can't. I have thrown all my energies into packing this disk 100 per cent full (yet again) with a variety of programs to interest everyone and to be honest, I'm pooped. So, have a merry Christmas and don't spend too long away from the family playing with all the stuff you've got from Amiga Shopper's disks. See you in '96.

## DMC Demo

On this month's Coverdisks there's an exclusive copy of AMOSzine, the disk mag created especially for AMOS users. It has a very professional-looking front end and is very easy to use. That's because it was created with DMC, the F1 Gold title.

So that you, too, can try your hand at making mags like this, we've got hold of a demo of DMC. There are full instructions included. Just double click on the DMC icon and it will load – you can read the instructions from here. The full version of DMC can be bought from F1 for £6.99. ☎ 01392 493580.

## Flick

While it's not a pleasant fact, it is true that there are other computer platforms apart from the Amiga. That doesn't really cause us that much of a problem, though, because with certain programs, we can gain access to all their data (and can they say the same of the Amiga? No!). This program is specifically for the playing back of animations that have been made in the PC FLI format. Simply double click on the program and select the animation file. It's especially useful if you've got some PC CD-ROMs or some CDs which are multi-format as you can now have a look at the anims made for PC users.

## AmigaStart

There are quite a few programs around that are designed to smarten up your startup. It's easy to see why. I mean, don't you get sick of looking at that really exciting Shell

screen? This program is quite configurable and allows you to choose from several pictures including your own. But AmigaStart does more than just display pictures; as it boots it prints certain system information, such as processor and memory. Try the example pics and then move on to designing your own. The docs explain how to integrate your own images, so do read them. This program's really designed for use with a hard drive.

## AKCC

It seems that some of the most popular things to be included on the disks are replacement CLI commands. So, this month we've included a collection called AKCC, which is a huge selection of new CLI commands to either replace or complement existing CLI commands. There are ones to suit normal users and programmers. Read the guides for more details about the package and for an explanation of the numerous commands included.

## FontView

If you're like me, you've probably got quite a healthy collection of fonts, but find that taking a quick look at them is almost impossible. Here's where FontView comes in. It can show you the font, display details about it and jump screens so that you aren't tied to Workbench when working.

## And the rest...

But I know you lot, that won't be enough for you. Don't worry, there's still loads more. There's **Encryptor**, a new file protector that encodes your programs and data so that nobody else can use them without your password. The reason I liked this one is because it uses an Applcon so that you can just drop your files onto them to have them en/de-coded.

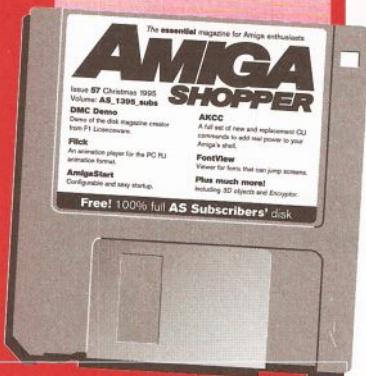
There's another WB launcher, called **WBLaunch**, that may not have as many features as others, but is quite small and easy to configure with a simple text file.

**Ktooltypes** is a program that allows you to select an Icon and then edit the tooltypes within your favourite word processor. The best part is the way that it attaches itself to the Tools menu on Workbench so as to allow you to choose it easily. This way it really integrates into your Workbench.

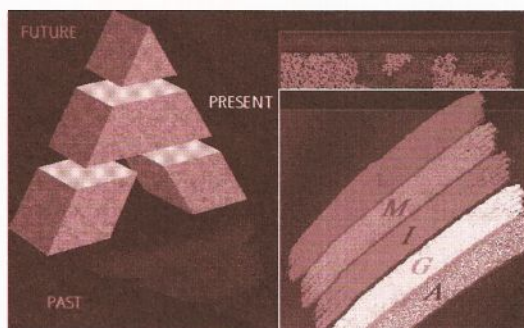
And 3D users are also catered for with a selection of **objects** for Imagine that let you make a train. There is a selection of carriages which should be quite useful.

Music lovers too can find a MIDI module that can be used if they've got a keyboard attached. There's also a further music module for MusicLine editor that is on this month's main Coverdisks in the Application Zone.

Well, that about wraps it all up. Hope you enjoy all these extras – have fun using them.



- DMC Demo
- Flick
- AmigaStart
- AKCC
- FontView
- Encryptor
- WBLaunch
- Ktooltypes
- Imagine objects
- MIDI module
- ML module



Turn your Amiga's bootup screen into one that makes it look like a real workstation with AmigaStart.

The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **58** January 1996

*Welcome to the very first Amiga Shopper of 1996. Make it your New Year Resolution to eat, sleep and breathe Amiga. We have...*

Dear Subscriber,

What better start to the New Year than another World Of Amiga Show, which Amiga Technologies are busy organising as we speak – check out our news pages in the issue for all the details. Amiga Shopper will be there on a stand with Amiga Format, so why not come along and say hello?

And we have plenty of great features, reviews and interviews planned for you already for the next few months – we could fill two issues every month without even trying! (Don't tell our publisher, though.)

But, back to this issue where the highlights include OTM's database PowerBase 3.4 on the Coverdisks (which ties in nicely with our business software Supertest); a report from the Computer '95 Show in Cologne; an Operating Systems head-to-head; plus another 3D tutorial from Mojo.

Amiga Shopper would just like to say: "Happy New Year!"

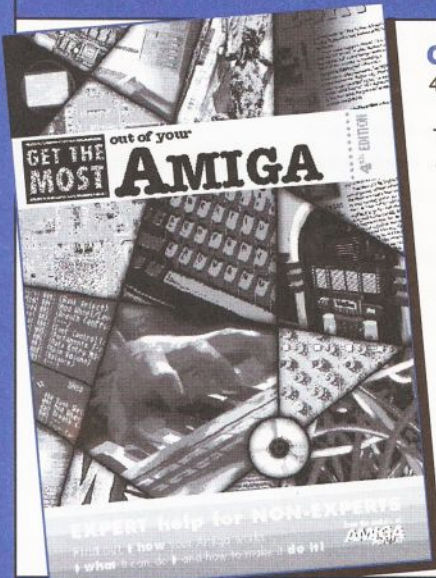


Sue Grant,  
Editor.



Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

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### What your Amiga can do

Section B helps you to explore in depth the myriad of possible uses for your Amiga; DTP, Comms, programming,

Amiga games, music, graphics and multimedia. Again, there's a full glossary at the end of the section to ensure that you are familiar with all of the technical terms.

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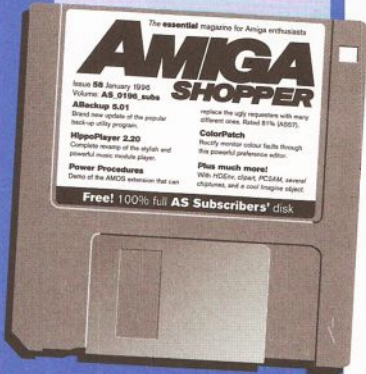
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# Subscribersdisk

Last month's Subscriber's disk was a real Christmas cracker and this, the first edition of the New Year, brings the promise of yet more gems rooted out by champion truffle-hunter **David Taylor**.



- **ABackup 5.01**
- **HippoPlayer 2.20**
- **Power Procedures**
- **ColorPatch**
- **HDEnv**
- **Clipart**
- **PC2AM**
- **Chiptunes**
- **Imagine object**



Here we are with the January issue that I'm having to sweat over late into the night so that I can go on my Summer holiday. The world is a strange place. Still, enough consideration of the temporal distortion that surrounds our offices, because this disk certainly isn't stuck in the past. There's over 3Mb of fantastic stuff squashed on here.

You need four floppy disks if you're installing to floppy. On with the show...

## ABackup 5.01

ABackup has been a popular back-up program on the Amiga for a few years. It has now seen the release of version 5 and been brought bang up to date. It is designed for use with hard drives and so, when you've de-archived the disks – even to hard drive – you should use the Install icon to make sure all the files are installed in the correct places. When that's done, just double-click on the icon to start the program. The program itself is very easy to use, allowing you to back up and restore files and partitions with ease. If you do have any problems, there is a comprehensive guide for you to refer to. Note that this program is Shareware – see the docs for details of registering.

## HippoPlayer 2.20

There are plenty of module players around, but they tend to offer varied functions. This player grabbed my attention because it can play modules that are archived with LHA or LZX. I actually had a problem using it with LHA archives, but I got around this by repeating the use of the LZX script, since the registered version of LZX can also deal with LHA files – so if you haven't registered LZX, here's another incentive. HippoPlayer is very easy to install. It requires the reqtools.library in your Libs: (the library is included) and a few files to be copied to your S: directory. The docs are there for more details, but you should find the operation quite easy, especially since it's had the GUI revamped and the rather nifty Prefs section updated.

## Power Procedures

Last month's main Coverdisk contained IntOS, the AMOS extension. It seems that although Europress seemed to believe it to be a dead language, AMOS is still popular. This is another extension to allow you to update the rather awful requesters that are inherent in AMOS programs. Power Procedures is a demo and can actually be used in compiling in your own programs, although it will only work for a certain number of times. We reviewed it last issue in the PD section and gave it a very respectable 81 per cent. I wouldn't be surprised if quite a few of you register for the full version. If you do, let us take a look at your finished programs, won't you?

Details of using Power Procedures and how to register it can be found in the docs. There's also a demo for you to take a look at the requesters before you try them out in your programs.

## ColorPatch

Ever had a monitor go on the blink and want to alter the display or the contrast? Well, here's the program for you. Designed to look like most Preferences programs, you can alter the colour saturation and even use it for colour correction. Although you might think you are altering the palette, you aren't – you are altering the interpretation of colours. So if one colour doesn't come out as it should, you can use this to correct your display's error.

## HDEnv

Some people have been asking for this program, so here it is. This is designed to allow you to maximise your RAM:, by changing ENV: to a directory on your hard disk. Normally ENV: is held in RAM: and contains all the small preferences for your programs. Because of the number of programs nowadays, this can easily be 100K made up entirely of 1 and 2K preference files. This program requires a bit of installing and messing around with your StartUp-Sequence, so only do this if you're confident you know what you're doing. Above all, ensure you have a back up of your StartUp-Sequence before doing anything. I mean it – I'm not going to start talking people through re-constructing their StartUp just because they couldn't be bothered to store a 2K file back-up. You have been warned!

## And the rest...

Is that the lot? You must be joking. There's a full disk of **clipart**, made up entirely of illuminated letters for use in fancy script-type pictures. This has every single letter illuminated in two ways and the disk contains the full Alphabet archive from Aminet.

There's also a program called **PC2AM**, which is used to convert text files from PC to Amiga format. It converts the unusual ASCII codes to the Amiga ones.

In the **Chiptunes** directory, you can find a selection of chiptunes taken from Aminet. There's some of my favourites here as well as some new ones. You can listen to them in most module players, including HippoPlayer on this disk.

Last, but not least, is an **Imagine object** for 3D lovers. It's of Darth Vader's ship from Star Wars (although I'm up for correction – it might be his ship from one of the other films; my knowledge of the trilogy isn't entirely encyclopedic). Anyway, it's so you didn't feel left out after all that Real 3D stuff in this month's 3D Zone. LightWave users, please send your objects in for inclusion because there aren't that many around. ■

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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **59** February 1996

Dear Subscriber,

David has been busy slaving away finding enough programs to fill all three of our Coverdisks again this month. I think you'll agree that he's done a splendid job – turn over this page to discover what he has prepared exclusively for our subscribers. Having spent your last penny over the festive holiday, we help you get your finances back in order with Money Matters 4 on our main Coverdisks – there's a special time-limited demo of the full package for you to try out. Plus, we have a discount off the price of the program from Digita. And there's loads more stuff on the disks to keep you busy.

As for the rest of the issue, we have another blinder for you. Fresh from Germany we have the 3D program Cinema 4D. Is it as good as Imagine 4? John Kennedy reviews the two programs head-to-head. And we have the second part of our printers Supertest – there are loads of new printers around at the moment, with more on their way. After numerous requests, David has also written a feature introducing the Shell, to help make those of a nervous disposition more confident about using it!

Read on and enjoy!

Sue Grant, Editor.



Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

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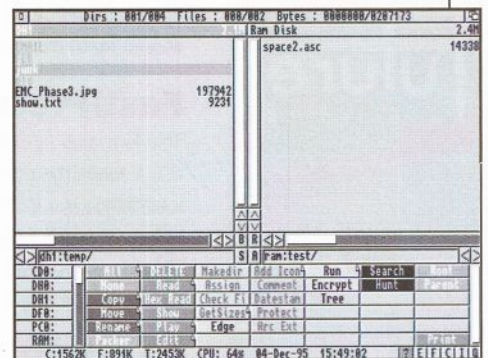
### Image FX 2.1

With its flexible interface and modular savers and loaders, ImageFX has become the number one force in image processing. As

well as some very unique features, ImageFX is simple and intuitive to use.

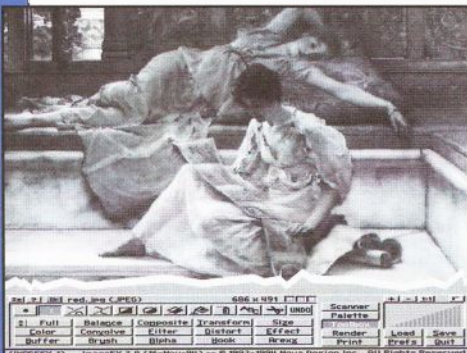
We reviewed this excellent program as part of our paint packages Supertest back in our September 1995 issue (for back issues ☎ 01225 822511). It was awarded 94 per cent and a Star buy!

Peter Lee said of ImageFX 2.1: "Top rated image processor and graphics tool which uses a friendly front end to carry out some powerhouse special effects. Its preview mode speeds up work and it boasts innumerable features which ADPro can't match. Highly controllable, and like ADPro, works on true-colour 24-bit images without you having to sell a kidney to get a graphics board."



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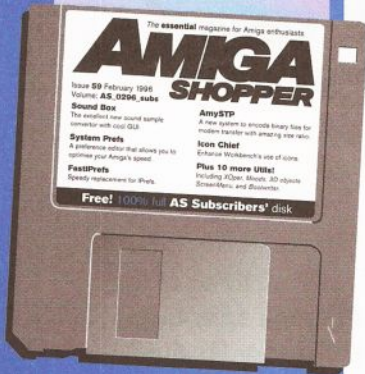


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# Subscribersdisk

It's February and Valentine's Day is fast approaching. **David Taylor** encourages you to show your Amiga just how much you love it by giving it Amiga Shopper's Subscribers disk.



This month's exclusive Subscribers disk is jam-packed with brilliant programs and much more besides. There are actually three disks archived on to the Subscribers disk, but getting at the programs couldn't be easier. All you have to do is boot the disk and have the first Coverdisk from the main magazine ready (because some files are needed from it). You can then install the programs painlessly to either floppies or hard disk. Here's a quick guide to what's available:

- Sound Box
- System Prefs
- FastIPrefs
- AmySTP
- Icon Chief
- XOper
- Moods
- Real 3D object
- LightWave object
- Imagine object
- ScreenMenu
- BootWriter
- AMOS tutorial
- DMouse
- Music modules

## Sound Box

This program is a wonderful tool for audio users. It gives you the power to take control of your sound samples. Not only can you load them in and convert them from one format to another, you can also adjust the sample rate and play the samples back.

There is also a set of effects that allow you to change the samples – you can flip them around, set up a loop, optimise a sample or fade it out at the end. As you'll soon discover, the ease of use coupled with the power of this surprisingly small utility make it a real gem for music makers. Please note that this is the Shareware version and although functional, there is a registered version that offers even more. See the documents for details.

## System Prefs

With A1200s, it is possible to adjust the way the system operates and whether it uses caches or not, but it can be a pain changing them. System Prefs is a GUI that gives you control over the system and includes a guide to all the possibilities and what they actually do. This is a utility for those who know about their Amiga, so novices should tread carefully.

## FastIPrefs

This is a version of IPrefs that has been re-written for OS 3.1. It loads the preferences quicker and allows you to load things like Workbench backdrop pictures faster than before. It needs copying to your C: directory, but you should make a copy of the original IPrefs as a backup before overwriting it with this new version.

## AmySTP

Whenever you want to send a binary file via E-mail, you have to find a way around the fact that E-mail only sends ASCII text. This means converting executables or archives to ASCII, using some sort of code that can be deciphered at the destination to reconstruct the original

files. Although this uuencoding (as it is known) works, you end up with a text file you need to send that is much larger than the original file, which means expensive and wasted online time.

AmySTP is a new program that can encode files, but results with a text file of similar length to the original! You need to use AmySTP to encode and decode the data, but you'll be amazed at the results.

## Icon Chief

One of the annoying things about Workbench is that despite three versions when you show all files from the menu, you see files which don't have icons with the same non-informative hammer icon. Icon Chief, once installed, changes this by making use of the whatis.library (not supplied) to use a correct type of icon. It can make Workbench much more accessible.

## And the rest...

There's much more on this disk too, but not enough room here to give you a complete description. **XOper** is a system monitor that gives you full details of the tasks that your Amiga is performing, which can be useful in tracking down problems. **Moods** is an interface designed to allow you to swap between Workbench preferences easily and even when the new files, like pictures, are stored in an archive.

Because there was no room on the Coverdisks this month for a 3D Zone, there are three objects included on this disk. There is the rocket object for **Real 3D** owners (which can be used in the full version of Real 3D Classic given away by our sister magazine, Amiga Format on their November 1995 issue. If you missed it call ☎ 01225 822511 to get hold of a back issue) and also the monk object for **LightWave**. Both of these were featured in the Internet section of our PD Select last month. There's also a huge skeleton object for **Imagine** users. Hope that keeps 3D enthusiasts happy.

**ScreenMenu** gives you an easy way to manage Public Screens and **BootWriter** is a cool program for working with the bootblocks of disks – this is a program for use by experts only, beginners should take care.

There's also the executable program compiled from the source code (on the main Coverdisks) from this month's **AMOS tutorial** on page 70.

**DMouse** is a little utility for accelerating and blanking your mouse, amongst other things. And if you're a little tired after working your way through that lot, there's a directory contain a couple of **music modules** for you to listen to.

See you next month! ■

**Future**  
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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **60** March 1996

Dear Subscriber,

Amiga Shopper values its subscribers. Not only do we give you a third free disk every month, packed with programs and utilities, but we have also arranged special subscriber prices for you for our Mail Order products (check out page 72 of the main issue for more info). And now we have another special offer, exclusive to subscribers...

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get hold of some excellent Amiga books at incredible bargain prices. Future Publishing are holding a Mad March book sale and are offering Amiga Shopper subscribers even more money off the sale prices. Take a look at the box below for more information.

And you won't be disappointed at the content of the issue this month either. We have a reviews special for you with some great new products featured, including the incredible 1260 accelerator. There was a mighty battle for the chance to review this board, with John Kennedy the vanquisher. However, battered and bruised though he is, David has been busy investigating the clandestine world of software piracy.

Turn over to find out what's on your free subscribers disk this month...



Sue Grant, Editor.



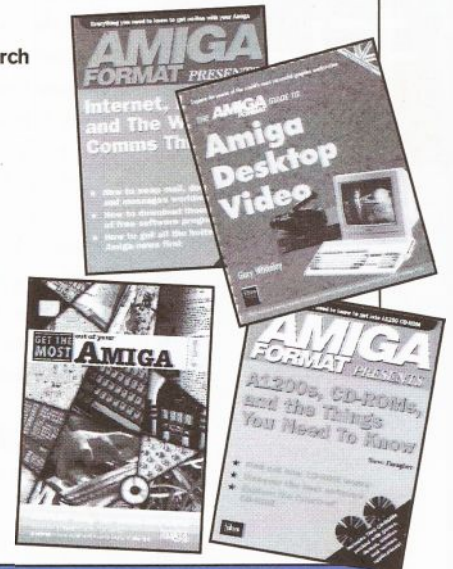
*Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.*

## Amiga books **SALE!** Exclusive subscriber prices

Future Publishing are holding the biggest books sale of the year. And subscribers to Amiga Shopper can save even more money off the sale prices. The sale prices are valid until 31st March 1996 and all these offers are valid while stocks last. All prices include postage and packing.

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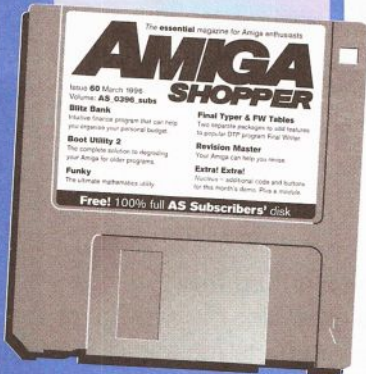
All you have to do to order any of the above books is to phone our order hotline on ☎ 01225 822511, quoting your subscriber number and the books you require.



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# Subscribersdisk

This month's Subscribers' disk brings the grand total of data on our March issue's disks to over 9Mb. **David Taylor** unleashes the power.



- **Blitz Bank**
- **Boot Utility 2**
- **Funky**
- **Final Typer and Final Writer Tables**
- **Revision Master**
- **Nucleus extras**
- **Music module**

Three disks bursting with goodness are squeezed on to this month's Subscribers' disk. However, getting at the programs has never been easier. Simply boot the Subs disk and have the first Coverdisk handy, because you need some files from it. Then you can install all the programs automatically to hard drive or floppy disks. Here's a rundown of the disk's contents:

## Blitz Bank

It can be impossible trying to keep track of your finances through your bank statements and fiddly calculations on scraps of paper. This new program, Blitz Bank, could be the solution. It is an intuitive utility that's designed to work out exactly how you are doing. You can set up an account and enter in automatic and manual transactions. This way you'll not only have a record of the money you've earned and spent, but also of any incomings and outgoings due.

This is a Shareware program, so don't forget to register. You'll also note that while you can install an English version, which has all of the menus in English, the documentation is in French only. This shouldn't be a problem as far as using the program is concerned though, because it is all pretty obvious.

## Boot Utility 2

Years on and people are still using older programs on new Amigas. The trouble is that there can be some backward compatibility problems. This is where Boot Utility 2 comes in. This program can set your Amiga so that it can use the older programs without a problem.

Boot Utility 2 has been developed and updated over the years and this is likely to be its final release. However, the program has more up its sleeve than a simple degrader. As its name suggests, Boot Utility is designed to take care of all manner of booting options. Thus it can also read and store bootblocks and restore them to disks.

## Funky

Computers excel at mathematics. In fact, that's all they really do. So it's about time that a program made use of this fact to give you real power in this field. Funky is one

such program. It offers calculations with every conceivable mathematic operation and can display results in graphic form, which can be quite stupendous.

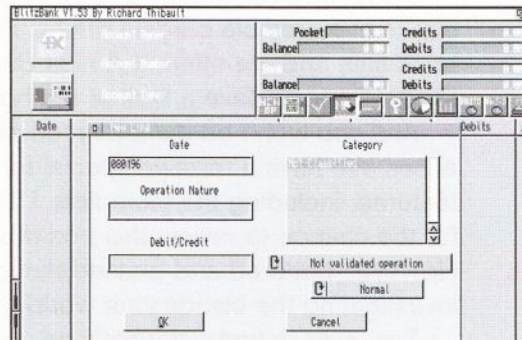
## Final Typer and Final Writer Tables

There are two separate packages here. The first, Final Typer, is a program that can be installed for use in the main program giving you access to all the unusual characters, like foreign accented ones, without the need to learn the strange codes. It can be tricky to install, but if you read the instructions and follow them step by step, you shouldn't have any problem.

FW Tables is a script to help you design and lay out tables within Final Writer. Again, the installation instructions can be found in the package's documentation.

## Revision Master

When I first saw this program, I thought it was going to be another time tabler. But how wrong I



**Blitz Bank is easy to use and can keep track of your finances, including automatic transactions.**

was. Revision Master is designed to test your knowledge, giving you questions on your chosen subject. The idea is that you supply it with the data, which it can then test you on. This Shareware version comes with a set of questions on several topics, to give you an idea of the program's ability. Read the docs for details of how to register.

## Extra! Extra!

Packing all those programs on to your disk was no mean feat, but to top it all, there's still a couple more goodies.

In the Nucleus Extras directory, there are more example buttons that you can use when creating your own front ends with the program on the main Coverdisks this month. There is also the example code that can be loaded into Nucleus, of the program's own example.

The cherry on top is a rather nifty music module for all the music fans out there. You need to have a module player to load it and play it.

**And that wraps it up for another issue. But don't worry, we'll be back next month with yet more splendiferous programs. ■**

**Future**  
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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **61** April 1996

Dear Subscriber,

Not only have we put together another stonkingly good disk full of brilliant programs for our subscribers, but we have also arranged a couple of special offers which are exclusive to subscribers of Amiga Shopper. See the box below where you can take advantage of our special bargain prices for Digita's Organiser 2 and Money Matters 4. It just goes to show that it's worth subscribing – don't forget our other mail order bargains on page 67 too.

We are starting a fix it series of special features and tutorials this month. We intend the series to be a handy "How to" reference guide to technical problems such as fixing peripherals, using the Internet, creating multimedia pages, installing software and so on. As subscribers, you can help us out by telling us what you would like to see covered in this series. So, please write in to the usual address with your ideas.

Turn over the page for details of your disk this month.

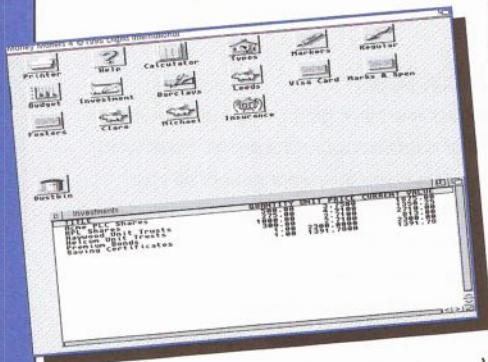


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Sue Grant, Editor.

## Amiga Shopper special offers!

### Money Matters 4



Money Matters 4 is the new version of the excellent finance manager from Digita. Amiga Shopper subscribers can now save £15 off the RRP of £49.99. Yes,

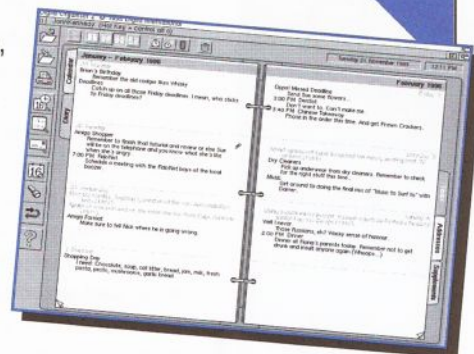
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Matters 4 for only £34.99! **Order code: AMFMM4**

### Organiser 2

We have also arranged a special offer for our subscribers for the essential filofax-style Organiser 2 also from Digita. Again, Amiga Shopper subscribers can save a massive £15 off the RRP of £49.99. It's only £34.99!

**Order code: AMFORG2**



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Remember to quote your subscriber number when you order

# Subscribersdisk

April fool that he is, **David Taylor** spent his week off compiling your exclusive *Subscribers' Disk*. "Dedication, that's what you need!" Roy Castle is sorely missed.

To install your *Subscribers' Disk*, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main *Coverdisks* at hand because the *Subscribers' disk* needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks, by loading *Workbench* and using the script on the first *Coverdisk*. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.

## GFX 24 Lab

Ever since reviewing this program back in AS57, we have been eagerly waiting for this new version. It's finally arrived and we've put it on the disk for you. *GFX 24 Lab* is a Freeware package that can be used to add effects to pictures, convert image formats and crop or adjust levels of colour in pictures. In fact, there are dozens of effects. The program should be very useful for low level graphics users who can't afford a high end application.

*GFX 24 Lab* couldn't be easier to use. Load in a picture and then select the operator. You may need to define any additional parameters for the operator to customise the images, but these are self-explanatory.

This version is the standard version optimized for 68000 processors, although it should work with any processor with adequate memory. There wasn't room on the disk to include the other version optimized for 020s or for the example pictures. You can get these from the Aminet archive or from a PD house.

## Scout

I reviewed this program last month in our PD Select section and gave it a fantastic 95 per cent. Although it requires MUI for its interface, it is a program that serious users should not be without, ranking alongside *SnoopDOS* for usefulness. *Scout* allows you to examine, for instance, library usage. Unlike *SnoopDOS* though, it does not list them as they are called, but shows all the ones resident in memory and gives you the chance to see more information or remove them.

Obviously, *Scout* is not limited to libraries and can examine many other areas of the Amiga. OK, it's not the sort of program that you'll need every day, but no serious user who knows how the Amiga works should be without it. I've already had reason to rely on it a couple of times to see what was being used.

## Telephone Book 3

I have got thousands of address books and I don't know where any of them are. It's a good idea to keep an electronic backup of them all on your computer and this is one of the best and easiest address books to use that I've come across. It has a modular outlook, opening windows as you need them, and it comes with full online help should you need it.

## EmbedIFF

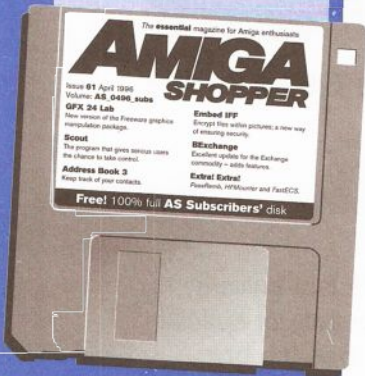
This is another program that I reviewed last month and gave a Star buy. It allows you to encrypt files, but in a very novel way. Any file can be hidden within a 24-bit IFF image. The encryption uses redundant data within the image to store the file and the picture remains displayable. There are several levels of encryption available and the deeper you use it, the more corruption appears in the picture. There is a mode that examines the picture and tells you the maximum file size that can be incorporated into the picture. There's also an example picture included. Very interesting.

## BExchange

This is a replacement for the standard *Exchange* commodity. It uses the *bgui.library*, which must be installed in your libs: drawer and is included in this distribution. Not only does *BExchange* update the interface, giving you a resizable window, it also adds some new features to the program. *Exchange* normally only allows you to select and view or remove programs one at a time, but this new program can select programs all at once too, which makes things faster when you just need to get rid of them all.

## Extra! Extra!

As ever, there's a few more gems included to round off the triumph that constitutes our *Subs disk*. *PassRemb* is a utility that allows you to keep a note of all your passwords for things like BBSs in one utility so you just have to remember a single password. It can even be used to enter your password automatically. *HFMounter* is a useful program for serious users, allowing you to mount pseudo-floppy disks on your hard drive. Finally, *FastECS* is for *ShapeShifter* users with 030 boards. It's got very tight requirements, but should help appropriate people use colour screens. ■

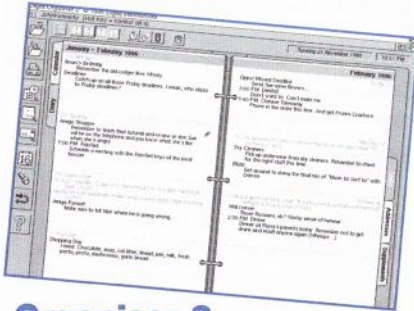


- **GFX 24 Lab**
- **Scout**
- **Telephone Book 3**
- **EmbedIFF**
- **BExchange**
- **PassRemb**
- **HFMounter**
- **FastECS**



## Amiga Shopper special offers

Subscribers to Amiga Shopper can save £15 off both of these excellent programs from Digita International.



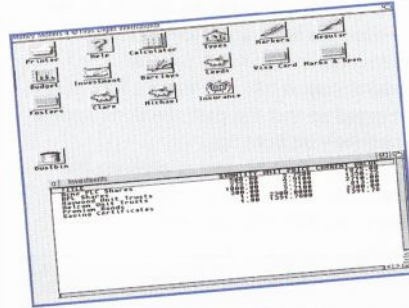
### Organiser 2

Organiser 2 is the new version of Digita's personal information manager. We reviewed Organiser 2 in AS44 and awarded it 91 per cent and a Star buy. John Kennedy reckoned it was an essential addition to his Workbench.

### Money Matters 4

Money Matters 4 is the ideal financial manager for the home or small business user.

Amiga Shopper reviewed the program in our March 1996 issue and it received 90 per cent and a Star buy. "The ideal starting point for anyone wishing to improve their financial situation", as Graeme Sandiford put it in his review.



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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue 62 May 1996



Welcome once again to our exclusive subscriber's newsletter and subscriber's disk instructions.

We have changed the format of this letter this month; you will find the disk instructions in the centre pages this time; we have also arranged some more money-saving offers for you which you will find on the back page. You can save £15 each off the price of two exceptional new programs: Organiser 2 and Money Matters 4. It pays to subscribe to Amiga Shopper!

By the time you read this, you should have received your AS subscription renewal notices (unless you are a new subscriber, of course) – we apologise for the delay in sending them out. Please ask for back-dated issues if you missed them. We are happy to have you aboard for another year in the eventful life of the Amiga.

See you at the World Of Amiga Show...

Sue Grant,  
Editor

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AS62

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See back page for special offers

# Subscribers disk

**David Taylor** introduces the extra 3Mb of programs that you lucky subscribers have FREE on this month's exclusive disk. What more could you ask for?

**T**here are some times when we have to make a decision between including an excellent program with high system requirements or a less exciting, but less demanding package. Well, we decided that as subscribers to the best serious magazine for the Amiga, you are the section of our readership most likely to be properly kitted out. That's why we've included the powerful ChaosPro on the Subscribers disk. The program requires an 020 processor, an FPU and a hard drive. If you don't have a system that can run ChaosPro, don't fret; there are still masses of other programs that you will be able to use.

## ChaosPro

When we started looking at this program, we were surprised to see yet another fractal generator being released. Then we realised just how flexible and powerful ChaosPro is.

The program can be opened in various screen modes and with a number of different screen colours. Bear in mind that the more colours used, the longer it takes to render the fractal. When the program's screen appears, you can choose the type of fractal you want to create and then have it calculated. It takes a long time to work out the fractal and it is generated in portions. There are masses of options and parameters for the program and these are all detailed in the huge documentation that can be found in the guide directory.

## MagnifiCAD

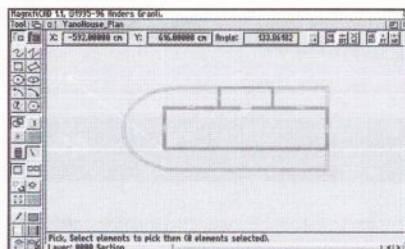
Back in AS53 we featured the first release of MagnifiCAD. It has now been updated and had a wealth of new features added, so we've included this new version for you to use. MagnifiCAD is a program that helps you design or plan projects. For instance, have you ever needed to create a floor plan? Maybe you want to sell your house or

design your office. MagnifiCAD is able to create 2D plans on various levels and has sets of symbols and drawing tools, as well as options that are specifically geared to making the job as quick and easy as possible.

## CGWBPattern

The idea of WBPatters and pictures as backdrops is one way of customising your Amiga and gets rid of the dull grey screen that is the bane of many an art editor's life. However, the standard WBPatter preferences program has several shortcomings. It can only handle IFFs and it is bugged so that the patterns don't appear immediately on boot up.

Also, there is no way of allowing the program to choose from a variety of pictures so that you can have a

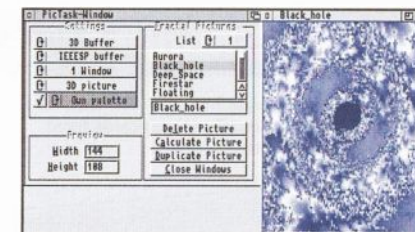


**MagnifiCAD brings the power of computer aided design to your Amiga.**

different pattern each time you boot. If only there was a program that could do all these things.

And, yes, that is exactly what CGWBPattern is. It requires a patch to be inserted in your StartUp-Sequence and has a preferences editor that can be used in the same way as others, except that you must have the bgui.library (included in the package) installed in libs: for it to work. You can then use all picture formats through datatypes and decide, from the variety of options, how you want the picture displayed; whether as a tile or a standalone.

This patch offers so many changes that I wouldn't consider swapping back to the original. It has proven to be stable on my system and is so much faster than the original that I can't recommend it enough.



**ChaosPro is a fractal generator with more options to make better pictures.**

## WIG3

This is a bit of a hybrid utility. It enables you to search drives for files or filetypes. Then you can choose a file from the ones found and act upon it; anything from copying it to viewing or reading it. WIG3 is a handy util that can be more flexible than the search option within file managers.

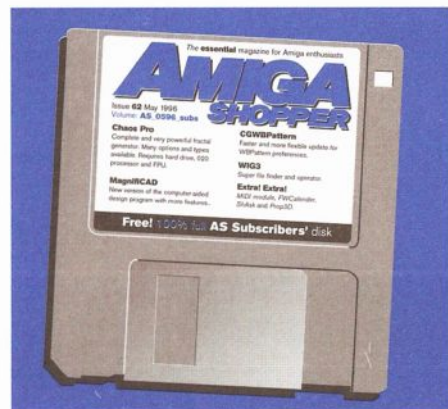
## Extra! Extra!

That's a stunning collection of programs. But here at Amiga Shopper, we don't think that that is enough, so we ensure that the Subs disk is always 100 per cent full. Which means that there are always some more small programs too.

This month, there's a **MIDI module** for MIDI fans. Then there's **FWCalender**, which is an ARExx macro for Final Writer users. **ShAsk** is a new CLI command that enables you to use the ask command but with the response being prompted by a requester containing the question. It has default and timeout options. Lastly, **Prop3D** is a patch that updates the look of gadtools requesters. It gives them a better 3D scroller and a more modern feel. ■

## Installation

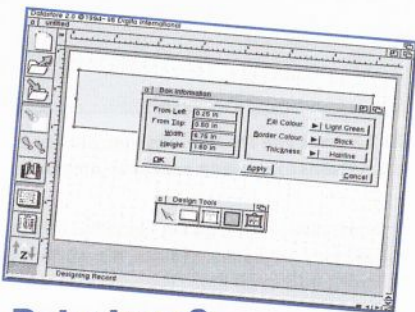
**To install your Subscribers disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the Subscribers disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading Workbench and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.**



- ChaosPro
- MagnifiCAD
- CGWBPattern
- WIG3
- MIDI module
- FWCalender
- ShAsk
- Prop3D

## Amiga Shopper special offers

Subscribers to Amiga Shopper can save £15 off this excellent database package from Digita International.

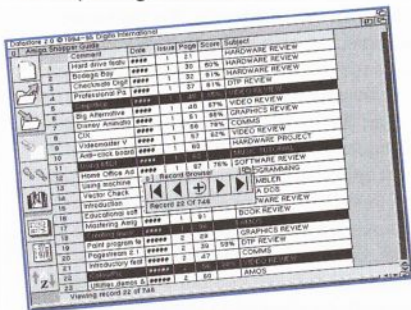


### Datastore 2

Datastore 2 is one of the Amiga's leading commercial database programs. Coming from the Digita stable, you know its a thoroughbred. When we reviewed it in AS60, Nick Veitch awarded it 84% and said "Searching is one of the things that

Datastore has always been able to do proficiently, and quickly. The support of wildcards is very useful too... it does have an easy to use interface and is very flexible in terms of display modes and so on. It is simple and straightforward and it shouldn't take more than an hour or so to get the hang of it!"

Sounds good? Well, here's your chance to get it for the incredible price of only £34.99, saving £15 off the RRP.



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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue 63 June 1996



It's been a busy month and no mistake. Yes, Amiga Shopper is now under my guidance, but that's not been the most exciting development the Amiga world has seen over the last four weeks.

By the time you read this, the new prototype of the Amiga will have been sighted on our shores, probably by many of you, at its UK debut at the World of Amiga show. Lightwave 4, eagerly awaited by 3D users, has finally arrived and you can read our review this issue.

And speaking of the issue, I think you'll be rather pleased with what we've got. Graphics users can see what we thought of the animation capabilities of all the packages, both 2D and 3D as well as pick up some handy hints and tips on how to produce your best work. Video enthusiasts can get stuck into our feature all about video and the Amiga at every level. Word fanatics can make real use of the exclusive Wordworth 5TD on the main Coverdisk and read our review of the new SE version.

As subscribers though, you've got even more than ordinary readers to get stuck into. The Subs disk this month is packed with programs that you'll love and also has an animation submitted by one of our readers (whose letter has disappeared, but thank you whoever you are!) for you to see how simple a good animation can be.

And finally we've got another exclusive offer for subscribers which can save you £15 off Digita's Datastore 2. Turn to the back page for details.

We hope that you agree that this is yet another excellent issue of Amiga Shopper and we'd love to hear from you if you do. If you don't, well, let us know why not and if it's within our power, we'll do something about it.

Until next month, enjoy...

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

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See back page for special offers

# Subscribers<sup>disk</sup>

**David Taylor** is your guide for another special subscriber's disk, packed to perfection with a host of new, useful utilities to enhance your Amiga experience.

**S**ome people have been saying that the Amiga's Shareware scene is diminishing and that there's isn't much new stuff appearing. Which would explain why I have trouble fitting all the new stuff on my 1Gb drive to test it out. If anything, the quality of releases is on the up and as ever, the AS Subs disk is here to furnish you with as much as possible. Let's get started...

## DB 3.2

This program has been growing for quite some time and we reviewed version 3 in AS60. Since then some of the restrictions have been removed, although the program is still Shareware. DB 3.2 is a database program that can be changed by you for use in a number of ways. You can use it for normal text databases or to interface with players and use it for pictures and sounds. The program is very easy to use and comes with examples and extremely detailed

documentation. As you can see from the picture below, it allows you to use your Amiga to store any data you want.

## FileMorph

Whenever you use a file manager, you do tend to find that while it's fine for single actions, it becomes a bind if you want to perform repetitive tasks with multiple steps to lots of files. FileMorph is the answer. It allows you to perform several operations through a set of steps. The whole process is accessed through any easy to use GUI.

## ZShell 2.9

The Amiga's shell is a rather excellent way to interface with your computer, but despite being into its third release, it lacks a lot of features that people have always considered necessary. There are various solutions, like the clipboard enhancer on this month's Coverdisk, and through the use

of replacement commands. ZShell is a step further along the line and acts as a full replacement for your CLI offering many more features while retaining transparent access to the original C commands. This means that if a command is not built-in to ZShell, (like archivers, for example), it will check the C drawer and use the command from there if available.

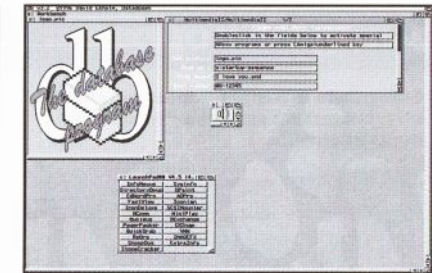
## Animation

This month our main feature is about animation. We're covering the packages available, but also trying to give you some guidance and help towards producing your own animations. On the Coverdisk, you can find an IFF containing the key frames for a 2D figure animation. Here you can also find a full spinning globe animation, which you can view in any compatible package (or you can use the Biganim utility included on this disk). Obviously, there are limits to the amount of data we can put onto a floppy, but you'll be pleased to know that we have been able to obtain some space on the Cover CD of sister mag Amiga Format issue 85. On there, you'll find many more of the animations and tutorial matter. Cool.

## Biganim

The best utility around for displaying animations is Biganim. It can play back animations directly from disk and uses a buffer system to get the best playback possible. The details are given the docs, but

*You'll find a complete animation of the globe on this month's disk.*



**DB 3.2 gives you the features that you need in a database including access to pictures.**

at its simplest, it's "biganim filename". When you do play an animation back, it's worth watching it through more than once as the first pass is used to sort the buffer out and subsequent passes will be smoother.

## FastMath Libs

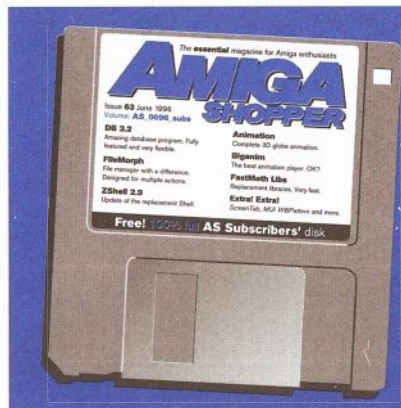
These are the replacement libraries which we talked about in last month's PD section. They offer impressive speed-ups, although the maths libraries are used so briefly that you might not notice. Check out the benchmarks for the proof.

## Extra! Extra!

Also included on this disk is **ScreenTab**, which is a useful utility that allows you to use a hotkey to swap through screens. Very PC. **MUI WBPatten** is another solution to the poor WBPatten program supplied with the Amiga. It requires MUI to run, but offers a variety of options for sprucing up your display. **CowCopy** is a new copy command that has a variety of options for copying, deleting and renaming files in one go. Have fun, see you next time. ■

## Installation

To install your Subscribers disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the Subscriber's disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading Workbench and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.



- DB 3.2
- FileMorph
- Zshell 2.9
- Animation
- Biganim
- FastMath Libs
- ScenTab
- MUI WBPatten
- CowCopy

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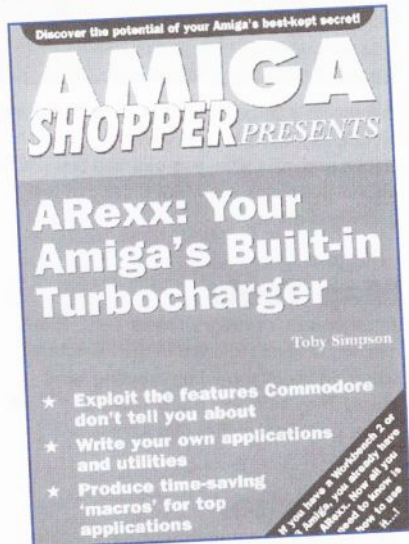
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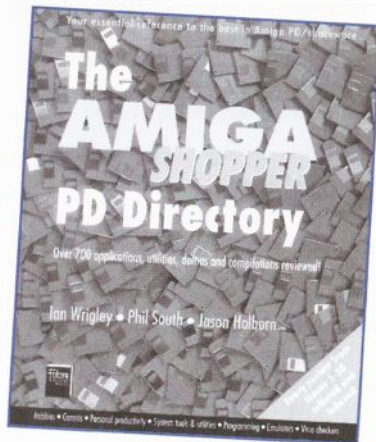
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The essential magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue 64 July 1996



Well, there's rather a lot to sort out this month. Firstly, it won't have escaped your notice that we have suffered a sad blow. Because of the uncertainty over the Amiga's future and lack of advertiser confidence we have been forced to cut our issue again. This time it's perhaps the cruelest cut back of all, the loss of a Coverdisk. As a subscriber, you still receive the extra Subscribers' disk, but we can only afford a single Coverdisk now. We'll continue to pack on the most useful programs that we can and as a Subscriber you've been shielded from the necessary price raise as well.

This is the only way that we can keep AS alive and Subscribers get the best deal that we can afford to give. Small comfort, I know, but this is the harsh reality of market forces.

Secondly, it appears that some subscribers were sent out their May issues (AS62) with only two of the three disks. By the time you read this it should have been rectified, but if you haven't then please get in touch with our Customer Services on ☎ 01225 822510 between 9am and 4.30pm weekdays. I know that a lot of you have written to me and I have passed on the letters to the appropriate department, but unfortunately I don't have any stocks of the Subs disk myself. Many apologies for this horrendous error; I'm not going to point any fingers, but rest assured it wasn't our fault! (It never is, is it?)

On a more positive note, the issue itself has some very exciting stuff indeed. Although VISCorp had to reschedule their press conference in order for them to be able to give clearer answers to the inevitable questions, they have been sending out regular press releases about developments and you can read what they had to say in our News pages. We've also got the most comprehensive round-up to date of accelerator cards for A1200s and a complete DIY hardware project with the necessary software on the Coverdisk. I hope it all proves of interest.

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers disk

**David Taylor** brings you the latest software from around the world for your delectation and delight. Here's a brief guide.

**T**his month's disk will unpack to three floppies or to hard drive, but there's also a picture which is included on the actual Subs disk, as there was no point trying to archive a JPEG. When you unpack the disks, you'll find a wealth of utilities for all different types of Amiga owners.

## Tiny Meter

Tiny Meter is a rather misleading name for what is probably the largest memory meter utility around. That's not because it is unwieldy, but because the package contains so many extras and options. The program itself will run on a standard WB3 machine, but in order to use the excellent preferences program, you need MUI.

Tiny Meter offers masses of features for you to use on the window. You can customise the size and appearance of the program itself as well as the more useful preferences concerning methods used for refreshes and enquiries. The features of the program can also be modified so that you can include a clock, CPU usage, free



**Tiny Meter can offer you many different features when monitoring your system.**

memory, types of memory and disk drive usage (and you can specify which drives should be included).

## UnZip 512x

After we included a letter in our Amiga Answers section last month about .Zip archives, quite a few readers have either rung up or written in asking for details of the Zip archiver. I was surprised that so few seemed to have it, so we tracked down the most recent version and have included it.

.Zip archives are actually PC format archives, but people with emulators or who want to get into .Zip archives for text files or pictures can use them on the Amiga.

Obviously, you won't be able to use PC programs without an emulator or a PC, but that doesn't seem to have removed the need for the archiver on the Amiga. There is a Readme file in the directory which gives you instructions on using UnZip.

## Blitz BASIC code

While we haven't got room in the issue at the moment for a Blitz tutorial, you'll have noticed by the inclusion of the Shapes Manager on our Coverdisk, that we don't want to leave Blitz users out in the cold. That's why we've also included this directory, which contains two utilities, a calculator and an animation player, written in Blitz together with their source codes for you to work through.

## Assign List

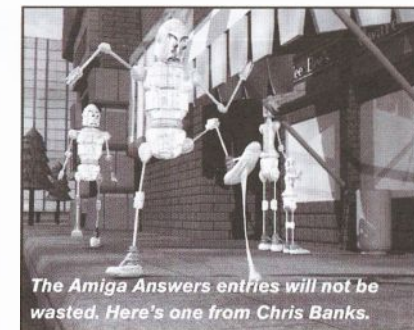
Assigns, who need 'em, eh? Well, we all do, but setting them up is a sure fire way to clutter up your user-startup. This program gives you a clear interface with which to sort out your assigns and has a patch that will make sure they are all executed from one command in your startup-sequence. It saves a lot of messing about and a lot of wading through your startup script. You can add all types of assign so that should you not need an assign to take effect until it's called.

## 3D objects

This is actually a quick mention of two separate drawers which contain objects with textures for both Imagine and LightWave. They were all supplied by AS readers who created them and some of them have been featured in the winning Amiga Answers competitions.

## Picture

Speaking of the Answers competition, we've finally had to bring it to a close, but we had quite a few outstanding entries that we never got to publish. True to our word though, we intend to give those budding artists their fifteen minutes of fame if we can. That's why we've included a picture on



this month's Subs disk. It's a rather amusing picture rendered in LightWave by Chris Banks and, as I said, you can find the JPEG on the Subs disk itself, not on any of the unpacked disks.

## Map Tools

Another one for programmers here. There are two utilities included in this directory which will help you when creating level maps. They help you design tiles and blocks when putting together maps.

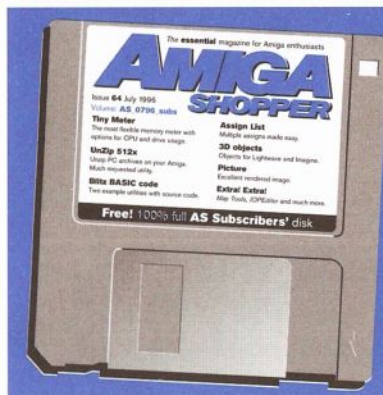
## IOPEditor

Whenever you get an object for Imagine, you're likely to find that it has the paths for its textures set to something that isn't on your machine. Indeed, you'll find this is the case with the objects on this disk. IOPEditor offers you a simple GUI which can give detailed or summarised information about the paths of an object and change them for you to ones that suit.

**The disk contains much more, but we're out of space! Go and explore! ■**

## Installation

To install your Subscribers disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the Subscriber's disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading Workbench and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.



- Tiny Meter
- UnZip 512x
- Blitz BASIC code
- Assign List
- 3D objects
- Picture
- Map Tools
- IOP Editor
- Faster Forbid
- FMS Disk
- Borderblank
- Bootdate
- PointerX
- Picture
- Remcards

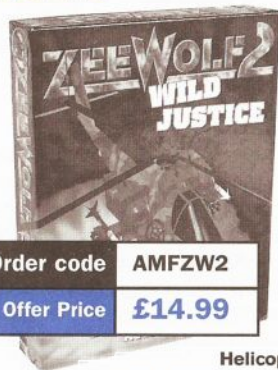


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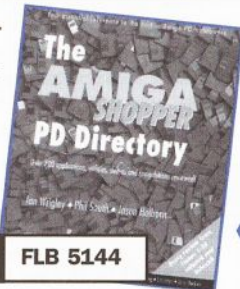
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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue 65 August 1996



Dear Subscriber

So, the wait is finally over and ViScorp's jury has returned. The Walker is dead before it ever hits the streets. Well, surprisingly, this has cheered quite a few of us up. There were some very serious doubts about a machine based on an 030 chipset ever succeeding at all.

In their recent press conference, ViScorp announced their dedication to our platform with a new OS planned as soon as possible. What now seems likely is the appearance of some form of 040 A1200 with the new OS and hopefully a realistic price point.

The news also that Phase 5 are to be allowed to licence the Amiga hardware, a chance they have reportedly jumped at, is another breakthrough for the Amiga. It has long been maintained that the only way to reclaim the marketplace was by opening up the way for third party manufacturers.

The downside of course is that it means we'll be seeing yet more time delays eating away at any remaining user base loyalty and that the new Amigas will have an even harder time finding a market. However, there is room for a computer like the Amiga in the marketplace so long as it is targeted well and quickly. Whether ViScorp manage it or not remains to be seen, but it looks like our favourite machine is finally in the hands of people who understand the extent of the work that lies ahead.

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers

This month's *Subscribers'* disk brings you a wealth of useful programs. David Taylor introduces the collection.

Please read the instructions for installing the Coverdisk included in the box opposite. Note also that this month there is a text file on the Subs disk that gives you a guide to the contents of each of the archives. The *Pictures* are also stored directly on the disk in the *Pictures* directory and not within an archive.

## AlphaSpell UK

This directory contains a large additional English dictionary for use with the *AlphaSpell* package included on the main Coverdisk. To install use the script included or simply copy the files to the directory where you installed the original data.

## ShapeShifter 3.5

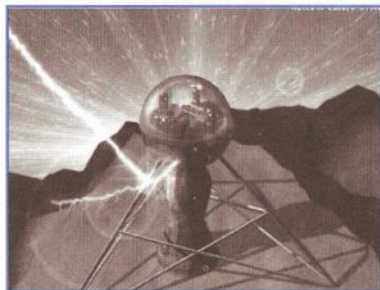
This program is a Macintosh emulator allowing you to run Macintosh software at an acceptable speed on your Amiga. You need to take an image of your Macintosh's ROMs using the software provided and you then need to place the ROMs as software in the *ShapeShifter* directory. Before starting the program, you do need to adjust your startup-sequence and enter the *Prepareemul* command that will set up the memory on your Amiga in such a way that the "Mac" can use it.

When you start the program you need to set up either a Mac partition or a Macintosh hard disk file. Install the Mac system software and you'll have a fully functioning Mac emulator multitasking on your Amiga.

The emulator can use Mac floppy disks if you have a HD drive attached and SCSI devices, including scanners and tape streamers. You can use up to 256 colours on an AGA machine and up to 16 million colours on a machine with a graphics card attached. The program can run on one or two monitors and it's an incredibly flexible and powerful system.

You require at least an 020 processor and 4Mb RAM as well as OS2.1 or above.

Simply load the pictures into an image processor or picture viewer.



You also need the Macintosh for its ROM file and the system disks. The package is shareware and you should register with the author to get the full version which costs US\$40.

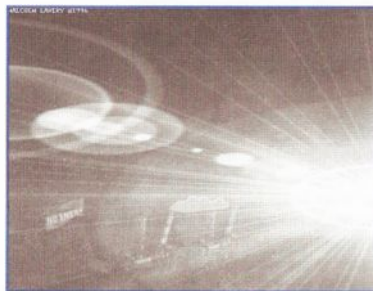
## Magic Menu

The Amiga's menu system does still look remarkably out-dated, but by using this program you can change not only the way that the menus

work, but also their antiquated look. The program just needs the one program file and the best place to put this is in your WBStartup drawer so it starts automatically every time you boot up.

When you want to edit the preferences, use the hotkey to open up the interface. You can set the program so that when you

Dazzling images created by the author of *Magic Paintbox*, Malcolm Lavery.



click your right mouse button the menus will pop up and stay open instead of having to hold down the button. The menus no longer remain at the top of the screen and will appear wherever your pointer is.

There is a hotkey to open up the menu from the keyboard (default LAmiga Space) which means you can use the menus with the arrow keys and Enter to choose menu items. You can easily cancel a menu by pressing Escape.

## FindIt GUI

This is a program that gives you the Find command present on other Operating Systems. You need to install the *bgui.library* to you *libs:* directory. The search can be made on mounted volumes and for any filenames matching your text input. It's very simple, but it has been a glaring omission from the Amiga's Workbench for some time.

## Plugged

This is a CDDA player that promises a player with powerful features which can remain in the background when you are using it so that it's as transparent as possible. For this reason, you can set the preferences and the hide the interface so that it will play CDs automatically when you put them into the drive. In fact all the

settings will then be used with all CDs put in. You can also edit track listings so that the interface can show details of the artist and CD tracks.

## Time Piece

*Time Piece* is a program similar to the *Tiny Meter* package on the main Coverdisk. It allows you to put a clock and memory meter on your Workbench and also to have a menu program launcher. The program launcher is edited within the preferences program and you can use the launcher by making sure the bar is selected and then clicking the right mouse button.

## Mathan

This is a remarkable program that has extensive uses. Using *ARexx*, it allows you to plot a 3D surface and then save it as an IFF picture or to solve a linear simultaneous equation. As such it is a sort of complex calculator aimed at engineers or maths students. For a more detailed explanation, you need to read the documentation.

## Version WB

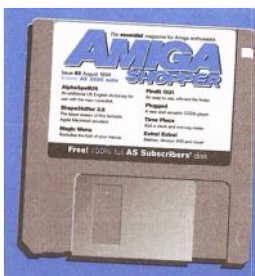
This program gives you a GUI that can be used to select a file and to get the version and revision number of the command or library. It's much simpler and quicker to use than the original CLI program.

## Pictures

On the Subs disk you'll find a *Pictures* directory with two pictures created by Malcolm Lavery, author of *Magic Paintbox*. They're called *Dome City* and *Mine Explosion*. Both pictures are saved as JPEGs and you just need to load them into an image processor or a picture viewer. ■

## Installation

To install your *Subscribers* disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the *Subscriber's* disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading *Workbench* and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.



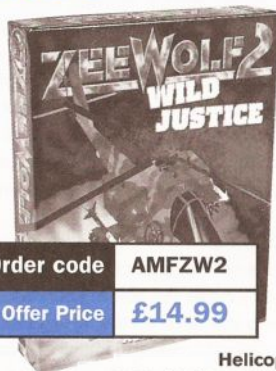
- AlphaSpell UK
- ShapeShifter 3.5
- Magic Menu
- FindIt GUI
- Plugged
- Time Piece
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- Version WB
- Pictures

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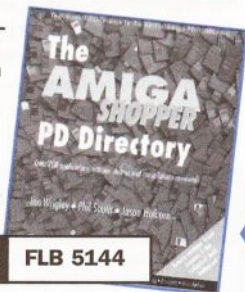
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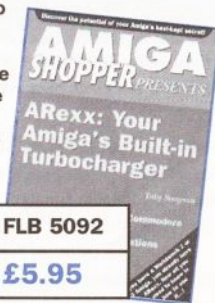


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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue 66 September 1996



Dear Subscriber

After the upheavals of the last few months, it has been a relatively calm month for the Amiga. VIScorp know they have got to move fast to stem the flow of users from Amigas, but have avoided the pitfall of making promises they can't keep. They have revealed that they are truly committed to new architecture and new desktop Amigas, setting up an architecture design group of experts to work on the new projects. They also seem aware that the result will have to be a next generation powerhouse.

In the mean time, AS will continue for as long as we can providing you with the news and reviews that can keep you and your machine bang up to date. However, we've noticed that many users are reticent to spend more money on software for a machine they are not too confident about and that you look to our Coverdisks for much of your software nowadays. With this in mind, we've done a massive feature on PD and Shareware this month so that you can see the quality of cheap software now available. There's coverage of anything from text editors and image processors to music packages and morphing programs. Just because you're on a tight budget doesn't mean you can't use your Amiga for all sorts of purposes.

And you'll find the very best of new PD on this month's Subscribers' disk, so turn over and see what we've got for you.

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers disk

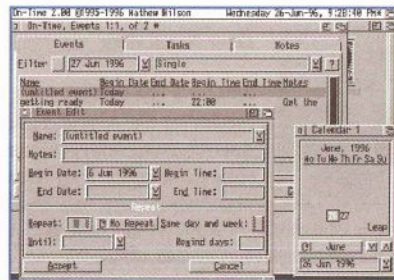
This month **David Taylor** introduces a mere four packages, but bigger can be better and less be more than you think!

Often in the past we have spurned larger packages for taking up too much room on our disks, but this month, instead of offering you repetitive utilities (as there were no original ones on offer), we decided to restrict the number of programs and use these larger ones. We hope you'll agree they're worth it.

## Everyday Organiser

This packages consists of three separate programs which when installed are integrated to work together. Locate is an address book utility, Alarmist a daily alarm management program and On-Time, a personal event and task manager. There are also four extra utilities included: TimePrefs, Talk, Sam and Coder.

Locate is a very competent address manager, with entries for the address and phone numbers and also for any notes as well as a dial facility for those with a modem



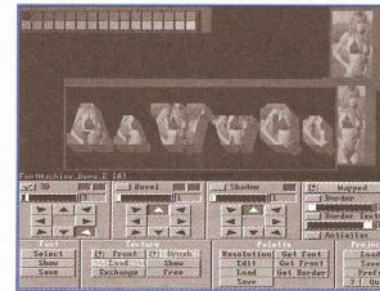
**Easy Organiser is really a suite of programs to solve all your organisational needs.**

attached with a through port to their phone.

Alarmist, unlike some alarm clocks, can handle multiple events so that you can set any number of alarms and set program launches to each alarm. It is designed to work in conjunction with On-Time so that it can launch the latter on specified dates to notify you of your appointments and also be attached to

Locate should you want to load that too. Alarmist has the advantage of a flexible Workbench clock and an ability to show any number of clocks from around the world.

The On-Time diary is a remarkably powerful program, but one that is very easy to use. When you open it, you will see two screens. One is a calendar which shows today's date and any other date that has events attached. To set an event, you simply click on New and a separate window will



**Create fonts with any picture as a texture for your own work.**

appear for you to fill in the details including any specific times and any number of times the event should be repeated, if you want it to appear on the next day as well for instance.

From the extra utilities, TimePrefs is a MUI replacement for the Workbench time preferences program, Talk is a replacement for the Say command, Sam a datatype sample player and Coder an encryption command.

All of the main programs in this package require MUI and make use of its appearance for a very approachable interface.

## Font Machine

If you are into video titling then you'll know that the Amiga has some real advantages, but that getting hold of fonts can be somewhat tricky. Creating your own is a little difficult too without expensive software. Font Machine though is a superb new program that can let you load in different fonts and then uses IFFs as textures to be mapped on and transform a normal font into a multi-coloured version.

However, because you can use normal pictures, the textures don't have to be simple patterns, but can be proper images so that you can create letters out of anything.

The fonts can be of different sizes and

you can take an ordinary font and make it into a 3D one, by using the 3D outline or bevel it if you wish. When you set a 3D look or bevel or a shadow, you can choose which direction it will go in so that it can appear that you are looking at the font from a variety of angles. You can set the palette for fonts and also use the preferences for the program to set the resolution and method of colour re-mapping. For best results you can even turn on anti-aliasing. Once you have added your effects to a font, you can load in different fonts so that the same effects are added to them as well. Included in the package are several example projects for you to take a look at so that you can see how to make best use of Font Machines excellent features. Details of the full version, which amongst other things can save larger fonts, can be found in the documents.

## DeepX

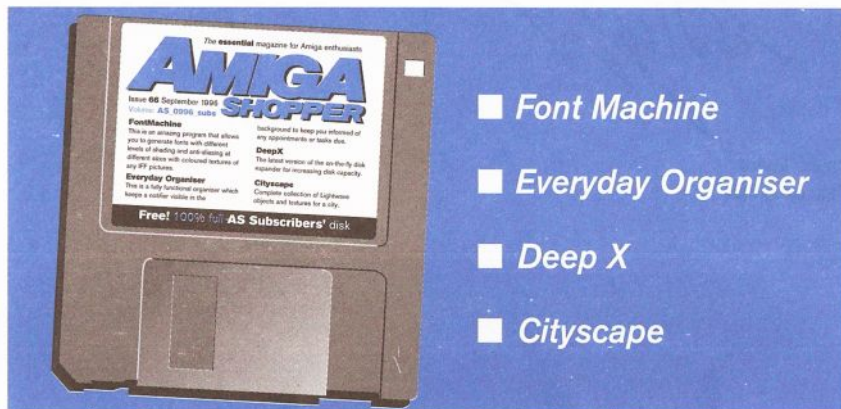
This is the new version of a useful package that can increase the size of your hard drive by making use of an on-the-fly expansion system. DeepX is easy to install and use, with options available to set the program to work automatically in the background. You can set it to request whether files should be compressed transparently or if you should be informed and requested to confirm the action. These preferences are set from the simple preference GUI, which makes the whole process painless.

## Cityscape

This is simply a directory containing a set of objects for Lightwave complete with their textures. Using this package, you should be able to quickly and easily create a complete Cityscape, including things like bus shelters and telephone boxes. ■

## Installation

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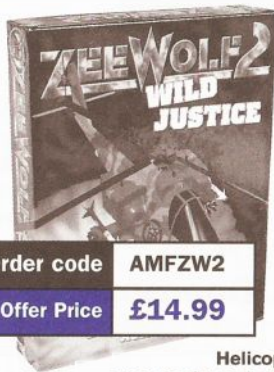
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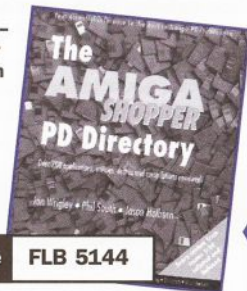
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# AMIGA SHOPPER

## Subscription Letter

Issue 68 November 1996



I am sad to say that you are now a member of a very exclusive club. With the market continuing to deteriorate, Amiga Shopper will no longer be able to take new subscriptions and so, as your subscription runs out, you will not be able to renew it. This is because there is little chance of another 12 issues of your favourite mag.

We shall be continuing for as long as possible and you will continue to get your mag until your subscription ends or we do, whichever is the former. You will then have the opportunity to take up a subscription with our sister magazine, Amiga Format.

If your subscription is coming to an end, then don't despair. You can still set a regular order for Amiga Shopper at your newsagents and that will guarantee that you don't miss out on a single issue.

On a happier note, we are still around so let's not dwell too much on the future, but on the present which is looking pretty good for serious users. There has been no let up in new releases of both hardware and software and you can read the definitive reviews, as usual, in the main magazine. The Coverdisk is jammed with some top quality stuff, but there wasn't room for the usual smaller utilities so you lucky subscribers have this month's pick on your exclusive disk. Turn over for details of the disks contents and remember, chin up.

Regards

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers disk

**David Taylor** introduces this month's *Subscribers* disk which has the very best in new software from the Amiga PD.

This month's disk has got some real treats in store for you. There's a new version of SysSpeed, the system tester and of LCDDaemon the software for the LCD hardware project which we ran in AS64 and which proved so popular. Then there's a 3D object for Imagine and on the disk itself an example rendering of it in JPEG form and, to top it all off, another six useful utilities.

## SysSpeed

Other speed testers which are used for measuring the capabilities of your system can be very incorrect. Their results are either spurious or not really very revealing about the system. SysSpeed reckons to change all this and allows you to create complete modules of tests so that you can compare machines. In addition to doing standard CPU rating tests, there are various optional tests based on real software so

that, assuming you have the programs, you can get results from graphics packages and archivers to see how well your machine operates under real situations.

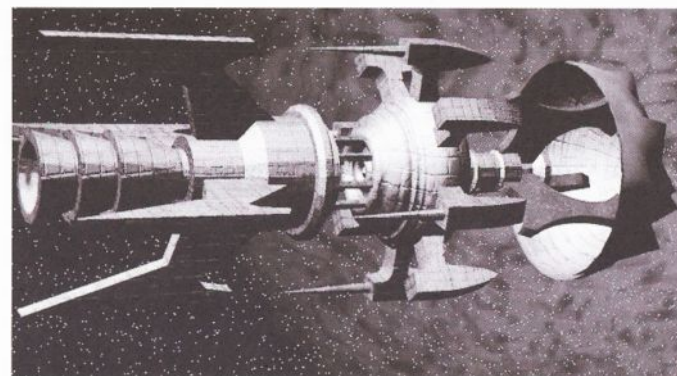
The testing doesn't stop with the CPU and can be used to check all of the system including disk speeds.

## TinyPlayer

This is a very small and compact module player which can play a variety of file formats including the brand new OctaMED Soundstudio format. It handles Med files, files packed with PowerPacker, files crunched with XPK and much more.

## Clip History

The clipboard is a useful facility that allows you to copy and paste text around an application. Whenever you copy a piece of text in an application it is placed as a temporary item in the clipboard for you to



This is a rendering of the *Lost* object. The picture is on the *Subs* disk itself in the *Picture* directory and the object is in the third *Subs* Zone.

use. However, we always want more and complain that there is only a single clipboard and that, while there is no technical reason against it, we can normally only hold one item in memory. Also a item copied to the clipboard in one application is not necessarily available to be pasted in another.

Clip History solves both of these problems and gives you an interface which can be brought up with a hotkey so that you can choose which item you want to paste. It expands a useful feature into an invaluable one.

## Ultra Pay Advice

This application is a brand new version of Pay Advice and allows you to enter all your pay details every month so you can keep track of them and ensure that you are not paying too much tax and that you have been paid the correct amount. It is extremely easy to use and you should be able to get your pay in order very quickly.

## XFD

This package requires installing and it allows you to unpack any packed file using just one single command. Normally you would have to know exactly what form of file you were working with and have the appropriate unpacker to be able to do any work on it. Now all you need is this package with its set of custom libraries and use the xfd decrunch command (there are also other commands for other functions included). You select the filename and destination and it will be automatically unpacked. Wildcards are accepted so you

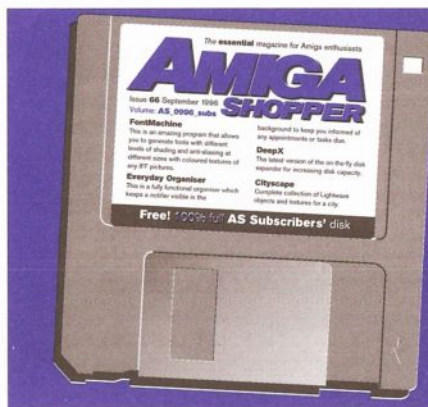
can scan the entire directory. For example, Xfddecrunch df0:#? Ram: will try every file on df0: and unpack any packed ones to ram:. This is especially useful for packed data files or documents that you want to work with but were unable to load.

## LCDDaemon

In AS64 we ran a special DIY hardware project that showed you how to create a liquid crystal display that your Amiga could control and use to display pertinent information that may not be able to be displayed on the screen. This is the latest release of the software and if you don't have issue 64, don't worry because the instructions for building it are included in the package.

## And the rest...

Also included on the disk are a set of macros for Final Writer a new object for Imagine users, called *Lost* and created by T Coleman, and a utility called *CyberMap* which *CyberStorm* owners can use to speed up the performance of their cards. ■



- SysSpeed
- Tiny Player
- Clip History
- Ultra Pay Advice
- XFD
- LCD Daemon
- and lots more...

## Installation

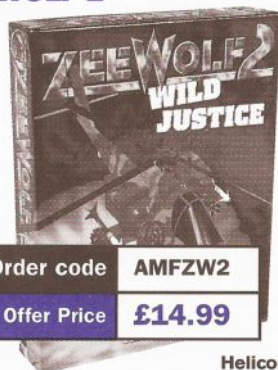
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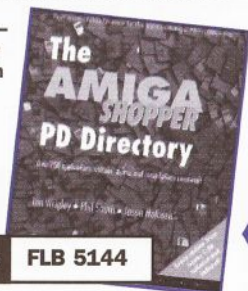
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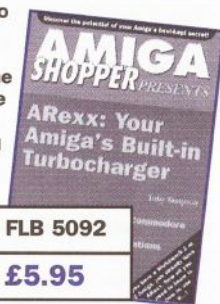
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The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

# AMIGA SHOPPER

## Subscription Letter

Issue **69** December 1996



So there has finally been a little advancement on the Amiga front with VIScorp showing off what it hopes to be a prototype casing for a new A4000. It's not exactly stunning news, but at least it shows they realise that any new Amiga has to be pretty powerful.

This month sees the release of Art Effect and you can read the first and most comprehensive review in this month's issue. What became apparent when using it was that software for the Amiga nowadays lags behind other platforms only because of the level that programmers have to write to. While it is impressive to see any decent serious software running on a 2Mb machine, it would be better to see a full application that requires 6Mb RAM just to run.

I'm not trying to encourage sloppy programming but we need a program that leaps the Amiga back ahead of the competition showing off features that can't be done on a PC or Mac. The problem is that there aren't enough high spec Amiga owners out there. People see upgrading to an O30 as a big leap. Two or three years ago, it was. Now, however, Pentium processors are ten a penny (well, almost) and everyone can afford some real power. For the Amiga to compete it needs to be a powerful platform and that means it's users digging deep and paying for the processing power that will encourage programmers to write powerful programs for it.

Elsewhere there have been some important new releases, including a new version of Directory Opus - for which we have a companion disk this month on the main Coverdisk. Here in subscribers' land, we have a set of excellent programs and utilities too. Turn the page to check them out.

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers

David Taylor introduces another jam packed Subscribers' disk with some excellent new programs for everybody.

This month saw a resurgence of uploads to Aminet and made selecting the cream of the crop more difficult than usual. We've sifted through them though and picked a real set of gems for you this month. There's even the HDSleep program that so many of you have requested which allows you to power down your drive when your machine is dormant. Make sure you read all the instructions first.

## Everyday Organiser 2.10

This is an extensive update to a suite of programs that we've included before. It all centres around On-Time which is a schedule database which keeps track of events in an easy to understand way. It filters events to display them in chronological order. Individual months are displayed using separate calendar windows. The author claims to have optimised the code so that repetition of events doesn't slow down the interface, whether repeated for a week or for years!

It also works in conjunction with its own sister program, Alarmist, which can

be used to warn you of upcoming events or to launch programs at specified times. Alarmist can deal with multiple alarms, each of which can have a separate preset pre-warn time. It can even deal with multiple events set for the same time.

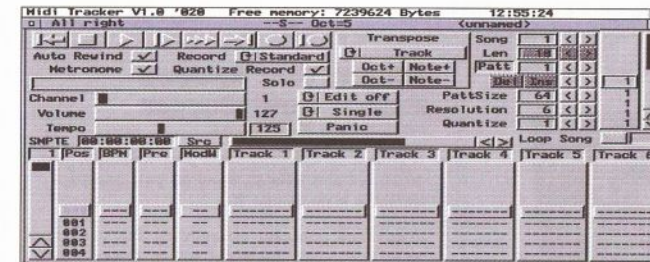
Also included is Locate, an address book, and a set of small programs written by the same author – a replacement Say command, a sound datatype player and a replacement Time Preferences interface. This is a complete organisational solution and uses MUI. To find out how to make the most of all its hidden features, make sure you read the documentation thoroughly. Note that because of the size it doesn't all fit onto a single floppy. Rather than find a way around this and because you require MUI anyway, it has been set to only de-archive to a hard drive. If you don't have a hard drive, don't try and de-archive this suite.

## MIDITracker

This is a MIDI player and editor that has been designed to operate like a standard module tracker editor. If you don't use MIDI, then this editor won't work, as it doesn't make use of the Amiga's own sound channels. Unlike other trackers which have MIDI capabilities, the author has designed this one uniquely for MIDI.

It allows dynamic pattern sizes, an unlimited number of tracks per channel, support for any synth and the ability to adjust the volumes of all channels independently. It can import ProTracker modules and import/export general MIDI files. MIDITracker can handle multiple

good idea to keep powering down your drive and restarting it because it will shorten the life of the drive. But, it's also not good to have it continually spinning when you aren't making use of it for hours on end. So if you have to leave your machine on for rendering or for a BBS,



This tracker program has been designed for MIDI users to offer more than just the features included in standard module trackers.

songs in memory and has a sample editor to edit sample dumps. All this and XPK compression too!

## AKCC

This package includes a whole new set of CLI commands which can be added to your path. They add a whole host of new features that can be used as standard from the CLI. They include CheckExec, DOSRequest, KAssign, KInfo, NewName, Move, Kill, Comment, Display and many more. You must make sure that you use the installer so that they are available correctly and read the documents so that you know how to use them.

## ClockFreq

Many users with accelerators have asked whether there is a way to test the clock frequency of their processor. Although you should be able to see the speed printed on the chip, some cards have been known to overclock a chip. Although this command doesn't claim to be 100% exact for the speed, it does give you a reasonably accurate reading to check whether it is as claimed.

## HDSleep

This program can be used to turn off the motor of your hard drive after you have booted up. Be warned though, it isn't a

then this program can be set to turn off the drive after a specified period (an hour is suggested).

The drive restarts automatically when access is required. Make sure you read the documents very carefully before using this program.

## AmiCDFS 2.36

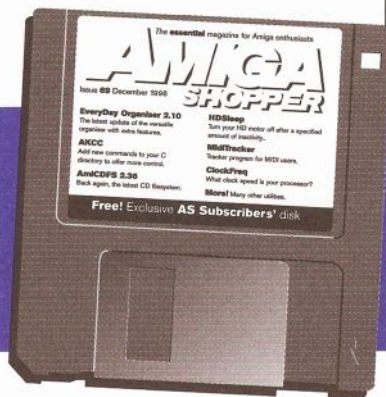
It's back again. This is a new update for the best CD-ROM filesystem. In addition to bug fixes, there are several new features including automatic casing and better configurable access to the Mac standard HFS system of CD-ROMs. There's no room to go through all the features again – so take a look at the docs.

## And the rest...

There's SysPic, a fast boot picture viewer; Wordwrap, the program that can change the text wrap on text files; CleanUp can scan for empty folders and remove them – ideal if you are continually installing and removing programs and PCC, a mountlist for automatic mounting of PC drives. There's also a picture submitted by Martin Jones and rendered using Imagine. ■

## Installation

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- Everyday Organiser 2.10
- MIDITracker
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- AmiCDFS 2.36



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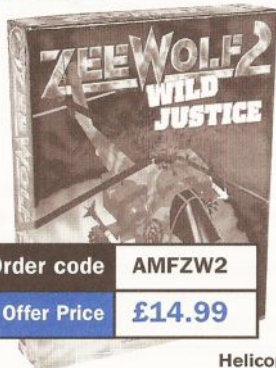
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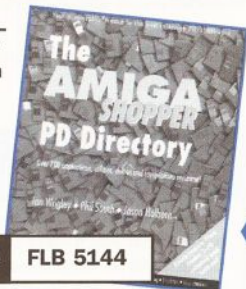
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# AMIGA SHOPPER

## Subscription Letter

Issue 70 Christmas 1996



Dear Subscriber

Here we are in the last issue of this year (although the first issue of 1997 will be out before the end of 1996) and what a year it has been. Our detractors claimed we'd not make it this far, but we are soldiering on. The future may not be too bright at the moment but at least the candle is still burning. It has been uplifting this month to receive so many letters of support from loyal readers. Believe it or not, it is you that we toil late into the nights for and it's good to know we don't do so in vain. A heart felt thanks to you all.

On the wider horizon, 1996 has been another unsettling year for Amiga owners. With still no sign of a new machine and yet another legal wrangle over the ownership of the Amiga, many owners have become disillusioned and moved on to the PC. It must be stressed that the PC does not offer a simple future. Constant developments mean constant upgrading. There is no chance that a PC bought now will still be capable of running new software in a few years time. Add to that the fact that the home software market is thought of as any product up to £1000 and you can see that the "other side" is a very expensive one. The Amiga market, on the other hand, has continued to develop innovative products, but they have started to come from smaller companies. It does mean though that there is still plenty to keep Amiga owners occupied.

So with some sadness, but also with optimism we bid farewell to 1996 and welcome 1997. See you next year.

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers disk

What's in the Christmas stocking? **David Taylor** plays Santa and passes out the programs crammed onto this month's exclusive Subscribers' disk.

This month's disk contains a real mix of programs and also the set of pictures from Eric Schwartz's unofficial Amiga Grassroots campaign. The Survivor set of pictures are designed to be put anywhere and to be used by Amiga owners to increase awareness of the Amiga platform in an honest and useful way. If there isn't the official advertising we need, Eric has decided we might as well do it ourselves. So we thought we'd better pass the images along to you so that you can do whatever you can. Why not drop us and Eric a line to let us know of any way you use the pictures?

## Argue

This program performs a rather surprising function. It can add MUI interfaces to any Shell command. This means that if you have a command, say a shell only animation viewer, and you are sick of typing out all the arguments each time, you can quickly

create an interface with it all on. It works through installing the software to your machine and then having each interface stored as a text file with the information in it (see the guide or one of the many example interfaces for details) which has Argue as a tool type. Argue then passes information from the smart interface to the command. It means that anyone can now create interfaces for those programs which lack them. Please do send in any new interfaces you create for inclusion on a future disk.

## AmigaNCP

A surprising number of Amiga owners have one of Psion's palmtop computers and quite a few have asked whether there is a way to link them to their Amigas in the way PC owners can do with theirs. This software is the answer and it allows you to transfer files between Psions and your Amiga using the NCP protocol. To use it you need your Amiga and a Psion S3 (or other which features Remote Link, although



The Amiga starts its fight back here with the grassroots campaign instigated by Eric Schwartz.

you can actually use it to connect to any other system which uses NCP) and a 3-Link serial cable.

## Cycle to menu

This package allows you to enhance your interfaces. It patches the system so that pop up menus actually scroll down rather than just appearing. It is a small thing, but with configurable preferences, it does mean that you can have interfaces, like your preferences, working in a neater way.

## MPack

If you receive files via E-Mail from other platforms, you may discover that they are now packed in the MIME format and not simply uuencoded. This is a problem and I've had a few readers mailing me trying to find a way to decode MIME messages with no success. Here is the answers as MPack can both pack and unpack MIME and also deal with uuencoded data. A complete solution in one handy command. It doesn't have GUI, but read the docs for information on using it and then build one using Argue if you want.

## MPIndex

Windows95 has a help system which allows you to do specific searches for information. Although Amigaguide uses a similar hypertext approach to help, it doesn't have this help feature. Until now. MPIndex

is a suite of programs for building help file indices and an interface for displaying them and searching them as well as then linking to the part of the amigaguide that is relevant.

## QT

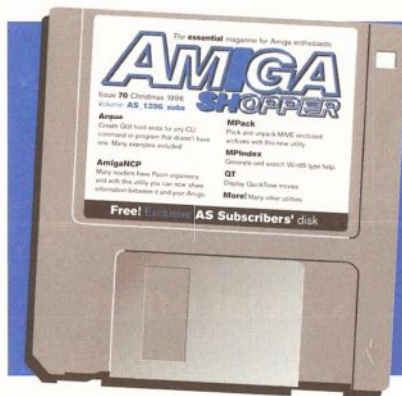
Quicktime movies are used extensively on both the Mac and the PC, but until now haven't been playable on the Amiga. This software now allows you to although you do really need a fast processor. There are plenty of QT movies on the Internet for you to view.

## IconBar

This is a simple program launcher designed by the author for those who want to save memory and avoid loading Workbench. It displays pictures as icons on the bar and takes the instructions for program launching from individual text files associated to the pictures (numbered simply 1-9).

## And the rest

There are also a few more programs to be found on the disk. There's DiskSqueeze which is a system for packing up whole disks using LZX compression (it requires LZX) in a much more efficient way than DMS and Lupe which magnifies sections of the screen. As well as the Survivor pictures we've already mentioned, there's a picture on the Subscriber's disk itself which was submitted to us by Arnold Szerletics from Hungary.



- Argue
- AmigaNCP
- Cycle to menu
- MPack
- MPIndex
- QT
- IconBar
- DiskSqueeze
- Lupe
- Survivor

## Installation

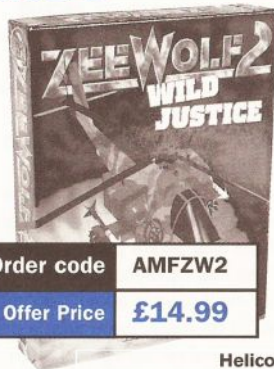
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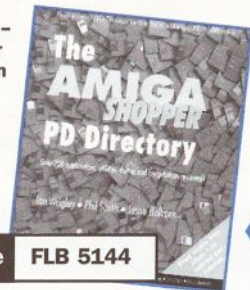
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# AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue 71 January 1996



Dear Subscriber

Well, this is my final Subs letter and the end of an era. I had not wanted to be the last person to sit Amiga Shopper's Editor's chair, but have stayed to the end working late into the night with the likes of Andrea Ball who has done an amazing job keeping AS together. For both of us the duties on Amiga Shopper have been in addition to our normal jobs - she as the Production Editor on Amiga Format and myself as the CD-ROM Editor on PC Plus - and the work has meant many missed social events. But it has been worth it and the reward of reading many letters from supporters, who have appreciated Future's efforts to keep the market alive as long as possible, has been gratifying. Thanks also to Nick Aspell for always being ready to help out when everything was turning into a complete nightmare.

It hasn't been easy seeing AS reduced in size, but we've always managed to offer a magazine that few with double the page count can provide. We've tried to ensure that the magazine has remained tightly focused and while we haven't ignored outside events, we've recognised that you don't really want to read about the latest Pentium developments or techno gadgets for the home. This month we could have done a retrospective of all the years of AS, but instead we decided to keep the mourning to a minimum as we had so much more interesting items to cover.

Now though the market has shrunk further and we cannot compete with even our sister magazine, Amiga Format, which now has a CD-ROM every month. Although we are going you can rest assured that the Amiga stills has a true friend in her. So with much sadness, and a final thanks for your loyalty, all I can say is "See you in the pages of Amiga Format." Keep the faith.

David Taylor  
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

# Subscribers disk

On this final Subscribers' disk **David Taylor** introduces four of the best new Shareware products.

**O**ver the years the Subscribers' disks have been packed with as many of the best programs we've been able to find. Many of you have every single one and often say how invaluable you have found them. Coverdisks have always been one of the best sources of software, both as a means of trying out commercial products and evaluating Shareware as well as getting some true gems, which you could never live without, for free. I've always been as much interested in the disks of a magazine as in the magazine itself - even before I began to compile them for magazines myself.

Since doing the AS disks I have always tried to include the right balance of utilities so that there was something for all tastes. Judging my your comments I have mostly achieved this and so I've done the same on this final disk. There's a program to expand your DTP capabilities, an emulator, a music program and a utility. Remember that in the future you will still be able to get quality software from Aminet and from the disks, or better, CD-ROM of Amiga Format.

## ShapeShifter 3.6

I put a lot of thought into whether to include this new release of the Mac emulator or whether to break convention and include the PC's Amiga emulator UAE instead, as we know many of you already have PCs. In the

end, I decided that as ShapeShifter is such an important Amiga program I'd include it here and for the PC owners among you, you will be able to find versions of the latest release of UAE on the next available CD-ROM of PC Plus, probably the February 1997 issue (out at the beginning of the new year).

ShapeShifter allows you to emulate an Apple Mac on your Amiga and run Mac software. To use it you need an Apple Macintosh from which you can save out the ROMs as a file. The program then uses these ROMs to allow the Amiga to emulate the Mac. Why bother? Well, you can get the ROM files from a cheap second hand machine and then use it on a high end Amiga to outperform the original. This clone can actually run very fast because the Macs are based around the same processor as the Amiga so it doesn't have to interpret that.

When the ROMs are installed in the same directory as the program you can insert the Prepareemul command in your startup-sequence so that the Amiga's memory is set up for use with the Mac (this doesn't affect the Amiga using it when you

don't use ShapeShifter). You can then start the program and create a simulated hard drive or mount a proper one (if you are a registered user). When the emulator then boots you can install the operating system software and you have a fully operational Mac to install software on and use.

Version 3.6 is Shareware and registering costs \$40 (about £30), but gives you access to hard drive partitions and SCSI devices. New in this release are support for sound cards, QuickDraw acceleration, improvements to the serial driver and more together with bug fixes.



*The Amiga starts its fight back here with the grassroots campaign instigated by Eric Schwartz.*

## MathScript

One thing that we've had a few letters about is the lack of proper support for maths programs, both in Amiga Shopper and on the Amiga in general. This program goes some way to rectifying this by allowing you to create mathematical equations using all the configurable maths signs. All you need to do is type them in, adjusting the figures to the correct power, etc and you can then save the resulting equation out as a formula or export it as an IFF, TIFF or EPS for importing into a DTP program. No Amiga DTP package has adequate high end mathematical support and this feature should allow you to circumvent the problem.

Note that this program is Shareware and uses MUI.

## Musiker

This is a very unusual program. It takes a set of samples and instruments, chosen either by yourself or at random (and there are a set of samples included so you just need to set the list it can choose from) and creates a music module from them. It works almost completely at random, although some of the harmonics are taken from a predefined database. Not surprisingly some of the tunes it creates are terrible, but some are actually quite catchy. The author does hope that Aminet and BBSs don't become

flooded with poor tracker modules, because that isn't the point, but if you need a song in a hurry or need a piece of music to test something out then Musiker is a real boon. If you get a module you like, you can save it out for use in your work. The interface requires MUI.

## Guidance

This utility is a replacement for the amigaguide command and allows you to load in powerpacked or xpk packed amigaguide files. All you need to do is set the default tool of the guide's icon to Guidance and it will load up any guide file. Obviously it means you need the amigaguide.library but it does expand the use of amigeguides.

That's it then. Another fine Amiga tradition draws to a close. The quality of some of the Shareware programs and their ease of use has convinced me that the demise of the Amiga is a loss beyond compare. To be resurrected fully is going to take a great deal of money and effort, but that is no reason for existing Amiga owners to leave their machines. If a computer does what you need then why change? The only reason for spending thousands of pounds on a new machine is if you need one. Rest assured that we shall still be around supporting you users through Amiga Format for as long as enough of you want us. This may be the end of Amiga Shopper, but it doesn't need to be the end of years of happy Amiga computing. There's still plenty install for all of us. I hope you've found something on our disks that have made it all worthwhile and if so, don't forget to drop the program's authors a line to thank them. Only through your support will more programs be released. Take care.

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- Shapshifter 3.6
- MathScript
- Musiker
- Guidance



## Important Notice for Subscribers

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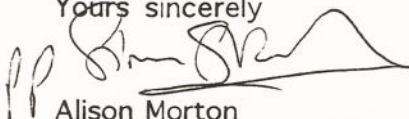
As you know by now, this is the last issue of Amiga Shopper. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given us over the years, some of them particularly trying for Amiga owners. Though Shopper is no more, the Amiga still has a great champion in Amiga Format, so don't despair. You will still be able to get years out of your Amiga.

I am as anxious as you are that you don't miss out on your Amiga fix, so I have transferred all Shopper subscribers to Amiga Format. However, to make sure you know exactly what your own position is please read the information below carefully:

- All Amiga Shopper subscribers with outstanding issues have been automatically transferred to Amiga Format DD version. You will not lose any issues and need take no further action. However, if you would like to swap to the CD version, please call our Customer Services Dept on 01225 822511, who will do this for you at no extra cost.
- If your subscription has ended with this issue, please take advantage of the subscription form inside the magazine to subscribe to Amiga Format.
- If you paid for your Amiga Shopper subscription by Direct Debit, rest assured no further money will be taken from your account. When your subscription comes up for renewal, you will need to fill in a new Direct Debit mandate as the current mandate is no longer valid and we have cancelled it for you. In the meantime you will receive Amiga Format for the issues you have already paid for.
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- If you do not want to be transferred to Amiga Format but would like to transfer to any of Future's other magazines, or if you would like a refund for the issues you have left on your subscription, then please call Customer Services on 01225 822511 and we will do this for you.

Once again, thank you for your support and may I welcome you to Amiga Format and wish you many years of Amiga enjoyment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Morton", with a large flourish at the end. To the left of the signature are the initials "PP".

Alison Morton

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