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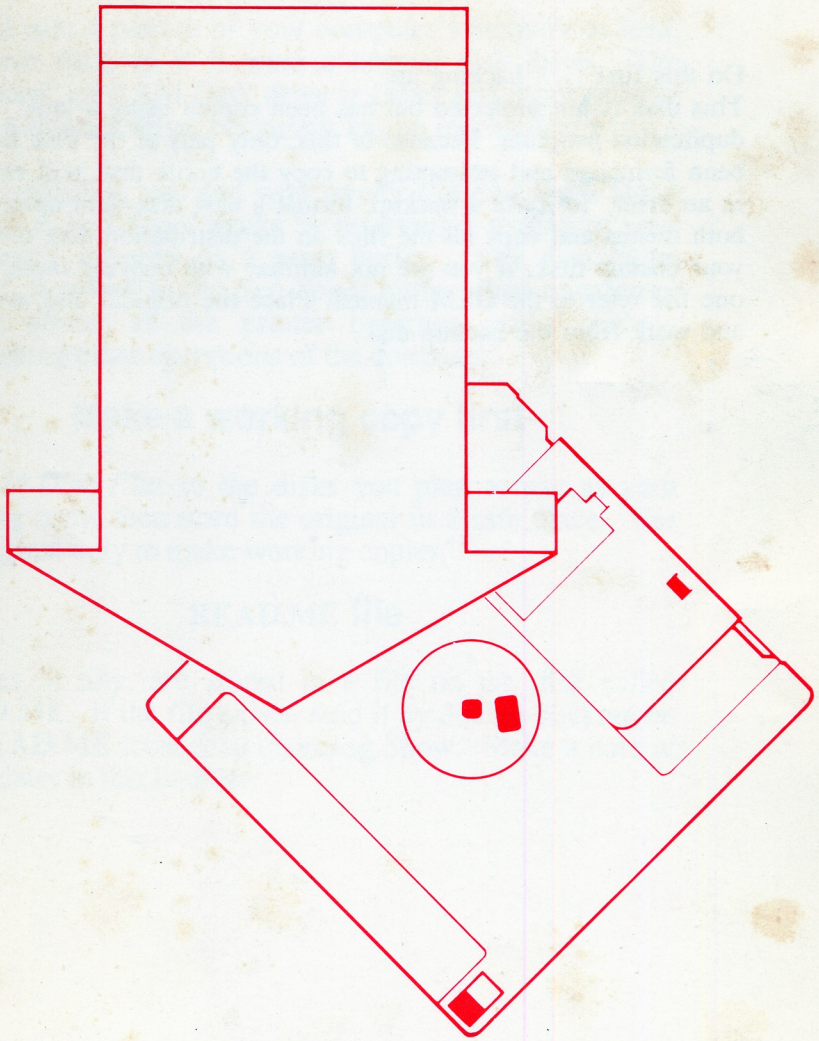
M-DISK PLUS



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Do this first . . . backing up.
This disk is not protected but has been copied using a bulk duplication program. Because of this, only part of the disk has been formatted and attempting to copy the entire disk will result in an error. To make a backup, format a new disk then open both menus and copy all the files on the distribution disk onto your backup disk, if you are not familiar with copying more than one file refer to the GEM manual. Place the original disk away and work from the backup disk.

M-Disk Plus

Introduction

M-Disk Plus is a combination of two great programs from MICRODEAL *M-Disk* and *Soft Spool* were joined, and vastly improved, to give the user one fabulous software package!

M-Disk uses a portion of your computer's memory to load, and save data, as if it were a normal disk drive. The "phantom", or RAM Disk drive is faster and more reliable than a hardware drive, because it has no mechanical parts.

With *Soft-Spool*, you and your printer can now work at the same time. *Soft-Spool* works by reserving a section of your computer's memory as a print buffer. Any data to be printed, is stored in the *Soft-Spool* buffer, then transferred to the printer as the printer becomes ready, without interrupting other operations of the computer.

Make a working copy first

Copy *M-Disk Plus* to the disks you plan to use as your working copy, then store the original in a safe place. Use the original only to make working copies.

READ.ME file

Updates, if any, are stored in a file on the disk called **READ.ME**. If the file exists, read it by double-clicking on the **READ.ME** icon, then choosing Show. Make a note of the updates in this booklet.

Configuring *M-Disk Plus*

The program **CONFIG.TOS** is used to set the memory usage of *M-Disk* and *Soft-Spool*. To execute the program double click on the icon **CONFIG.TOS**. The screen will clear and show three options.

1. Config MDISK
2. Config SPOOL
3. Exit Program

When option 1 is selected, the configuration program will attempt to open the file **MDISK.PRG**. If it cannot find it, an error will be displayed. If the program is successful, you will be prompted, *Which drive for M-DISK (D-P):*, then enter the desired drive letter. Next you will be prompted, *Memory to be allocated for M-DISK:*. Valid sizes are from 1-800 (pressing return will allocate the maximum memory possible); these values are then saved back to disk.

When option 2 is selected, the configuration program will attempt to open the file **SPOOL.PRG**. If it cannot find it, an error will be displayed. If the program is successful, you will be prompted, *Memory to be allocated for spooler:*. Valid sizes are from 1-800 (pressing return will allocate the maximum memory possible), and these values are then saved back to disk.

When option 3 is selected you will be returned to the **DESKTOP**

How to install *M-Disk Plus*

You must install ***M-Disk Plus*** before executing any program that uses them. This can be done automatically, at boot time, or manually. **To reclaim the memory that M-Disk Plus has reserved, you must reboot the computer.** ***M-Disk Plus*** will not install if the memory usage specified would leave less than 128 kilobytes of memory .

Manual Installation

Double-click on the icon labeled **MDISK.PRG** or **SPOOL.PRG** for the program title screen to appear. If the program cannot install itself, an error message will appear and wait for you to press **RETURN** to continue. Refer to the section on error messages for an explanation of the errors that may occur.

Automatic Installation

Drag the file(s) **MDISK.PRG/SPOOL.PRG** to an **AUTO** folder on your boot disk. To create an **AUTO** folder refer to your owners manual. Now, whenever you reboot, the programs in the **AUTO** folder will be automatically loaded. To abort the loading of ***M-Disk Plus***, hold down the **CONTROL**, **SHIFT**, or **ALT** keys.

How to use M-Disk

At the **DESKTOP**, select a drive icon, then choose Install Disk Drive from the Options menu. Type the drive name set in **CONFIG** and **RAMDISK**, as the drive identifier. Click on Install, then Select Save Desktop. This will save the drive Icons in the **DESKTOP.INF** file, and will cause the **RAMDISK** Icon to appear automatically.

How to use Soft-Spool

Once installed, *Soft-Spool* invisibly intercepts **BIOS** print calls. You need to do nothing special to use it, just make print requests as normal. When **non-BIOS** print calls are made, *Soft-Spool* is ineffective, but will not interfere with the print operation. *Soft-Spool* can send data to the printer at speeds of up to 200 characters per second.

Error messages

Can't allocate memory for M-Disk: - There wasn't enough memory to create a ram disk and still leave 128 kilobytes for TOS.

Can't allocate memory for spooling: - There wasn't enough memory to create a *Soft-Spool* buffer, yet still leave 128 kilobytes for TOS.

SPOOLER Already Active Clear Backlog (Y/N) ?
Soft-Spool is already installed. You may clear all data waiting in the printer queue by responding Y.

IMPORTANT

IF THIS DISK FAILS TO LOAD PLEASE RETURN
JUST THE DISK TO:

MICRODEAL LTD / MICHTRON U.K.
(DISK REPLACEMENT DEPT)
FREEPOST ST. AUSTELL PL25 4BR ENGLAND
(No Stamp is Necessary)

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM REGARDING THE PROGRAM
AND REQUIRE TECHNICAL HELP

EITHER

CALL OUR BULLETIN BOARD ON (0726) 65422 (24 hour) V21/23/22

OR

WRITE TO: CUSTOMER QUERIES DEPT., MICRODEAL BOX 68
ST. AUSTELL PL25 4YB ENGLAND

OWNER REGISTRATION

Please fill in and return the owner registration card supplied with this program, this will ensure that you are informed of any major program upgrades and that you periodically receive information regarding Microdeals range of products.