

BenSpeaks

Ben Vost

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Chapter 1

BenSpeaks

1.1 Welcome to AFCD9

AFCD9

January 97

Well, as far as we're concerned in the magazine trade, Christmas has been and gone and you lot are reading your copies of Amiga Format balanced on bloated stomachs while a couple of Alka Seltzer plink, plink, fizz in a glass at your side. In reality, of course, it's only the end of November and I'm not even feeling the slightest bit Christmassy. However, it is my birthday in a week's time, so I am looking forward to that.

What about the CD? Well, I'm taking careful note of what you are saying in the surveys, but don't stop sending them in. As I change and improve the CD your ideas will still be relevant. You'll notice that the CD-ROM pages in the magazine now detail certain programs, games and utilities we think are specially worth a mention and I'm pleased to see that most of you think that the disc is reasonably well organised. One thing that has surprised me is the fact that quite a few of you think we put too much data on our CD for you to look at in a month - and very few of you think we should just fill the disc to the brim with any old rubbish just to make sure that you get 650Mb every month.

I dare say we'll get more and more surveys back stating that we are giving too much away now that we have started to put a second CD on our cover. Amiga Format gives you another exclusive and even more for your money each month.

All the best and lay off those After Eights,

Ben

PS. STOP SENDING YOUR MODULES! WE CAN'T USE THEM! (If you don't understand why, try taking a look at the submissions advice)

Here's that link to the submissions advice that so few of you pay attention to:

[submissions advice](#)

1.2 Submissions advice

HOW TO SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

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IMPORTANT! We can no longer accept your music modules as submissions for the Amiga Format CD owing to copyright problems with sound samples from copyrighted sources. Thanks for all your music submissions up till now, but please don't send any more...

We want you to send us your programs, animations, pictures, game tips and cheats, hacks, hardware projects, basically anything you can think of that you have done with your Amiga. It must be your own work - no passing off Chris Achilleos' greatest masterpieces as your own, and we need a variety of things from you in addition to your submission and we need them on your disk.

1. We need your name and address so that we know where to send your prize. You should also put your name and address on labels on your media.

2. We need two read me files accompanying your work; one for us and one to go on the CD itself (title them AF_ReadMe and ReadMe). These can be as in-depth as you want them to be, but should contain instructions for us on getting your work running if it is a complicated procedure, including things like necessary libraries and so on. The readme that will go on the CD will be the introduction of your work to the whole Amiga Format reading world so check your spelling and grammar and show people just what is so good about your work.

3. If your work requires files such as libraries which you cannot send us owing to copyright reasons make sure we know about them so that we can either arrange to put them on the CD, or warn our readers about them (you will probably do this in your CD read me).

4. Be aware that we won't be as interested in programs that need to boot or that require to be in a certain place on the CD, unless, of course, that place happens to be in your directory on the CD. Your directory will almost certainly have the path:
"AFCDx:ReaderStuff/your_name/" but then no-one will be able to run your program except from the CD, limiting its usefulness or appeal.

If we do put something on the CD that needs to autoboot, it will almost certainly only be as a DMS that readers will have to extract to disk before they can use it.

You can send us your work on pretty much any sort of media whether it be floppy disks (high or double density, but don't send us work on high density disks unless you yourself have a high density drive. High density disks used in a double density drive aren't as reliable as using double density disks), a floppy disk back up using AmiBack, Quarterback or any of the shareware backup tools, Zip disk, Jaz cartridge, SyQuest 44MB, 88MB or 105MB or EZ Drive, DAT tape backup from any of the above-mentioned programs (the only thing we're not very keen on is the Video Backup System that Power Computing sell in the UK,

we've had nothing but trouble with it), MIME e-mail to afcdsubs@futurenet.co.uk, basically anything apart from a listing on paper. We don't want to have to type in your program too!

We will return any media more expensive than high density floppies via registered post, so you won't have to worry about losing seventy quid's worth of Jaz cartridge.

Send your submissions to:

CD submissions
Amiga Format
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath, BA1 2BW

1.3 Thought for the month

On my soapbox again!

Computer 96 - Köln

This is the seventh year I've been to the Cologne show and while it's not as big as it once was, it's still as good for Amiga users the world over. Whenever I attend shows like this these days, I always expect the dealers to say that they won't be doing another show, that it isn't profitable for them, that the Amiga market is dead as far as they are concerned, but it never happens. There are always new products and punters four deep around them going oohh and aahh, dealers always sell out of top titles and hardcore hardware before Saturday's out and the beers always flow freely.

This show was no different apart from the fact that once again, the Amiga has no clear owner. Whispers about VIScorp were stronger than ever and it seems that most Germans don't trust the American company notwithstanding the fact that they have paid half a million DM just keeping Amiga Technologies afloat. Even so, there has been no movement in the Amiga camp and with the highly publicised castigations of the company from Amiga luminaries such as Carl Sassenrath things don't look good for Bill Buck's boys. In fact, this journalist has even heard tell stories of other bids for the Amiga technology and name from other companies. Now, at the moment I am not in a position to reveal what I have been told, but the next couple of months may be the most interesting the Amiga platform as a whole has experienced since it was launched.

Keep reading, all will be revealed...
