

EmBackdrops3

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Chapter 1

EmBackdrops3

1.1 EmBackdrops 3 - Contents

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|                                     |
| Full-Screen *Colour* MagicWB Backdrops
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Introduction

Requirements

Usage

Legal Stuff

Really Important Bit. Honest.

Contacting The Author

1.2 EmBackdrops - Introduction

Introduction

They're back, and this time they're in colour!

Why?

Well, I liked my grey-scale backdrops, but with my 68030 18-meg 15" monitor 1.2gig HD Amiga, I thought it should be able to handle backdrops which were a

little more colourful (If you haven't seen the first two, they're dithered 3-grey shades - very nice though - download them and see :-)

The most colours I thought my workbench could be practical in was 64 though, so I didn't really want huge 24-bit things.

I decided to dither them in much the same way as before, with custom contrast levels so that you can still read white or black text on them (e.g. if you have a transparent background for your icon text) but into 32 colours. The Magic WB colours are in the palette, so they can even be used on 32 colour WBs if you don't mind not having any free pens for Multiview etc.

The original pictures (all from CD-ROMs or the internet, with a few by me) were converted to 32-colour 704*564 (Just big enough for my DBLPAL Hires No-Flicker HiresLaced Magic Workbench) using a combination of The Art Department (the original version, not ADPro!) and ImageFX, both of which I got off CU Amiga coverdisks, and PPaint (from an AF CD).

Oh, and yes, most of the guide is still the same as in the last archive :-)

1.3 EmBackdrops - Requirements

Requirements

WB 3+
Magic-WB 2 would be good (but is not essential - some people might even want to use NewIcons!)
A DBLPAL Hires No-Flicker Workbench Screen (or equivalent size)
An 32+ colour Workbench
Hard Disk is pretty essential
An Amiga :-)

1.4 EmBackdrops - Usage

Usage

The Boring-Always-The-Same-Way

Copy the files to a directory on your hard disk.
Use WBPatten preferences (or whatever the NickPrefs one is called) to chose your favourite picture.

The Really-Good-Random-Way

I don't know about you, but I get bored with the same backdrop on my Workbench all the time, and as there are plenty of backdrops to choose from it's nice to change them every so often. However, I don't enjoy constantly changing my prefs files, so I get the Amiga to choose a random backdrop each time I boot up. There are many ways to do this, but this is the way I do it (and what I think is the easiest)

You'll need some sort of random file copier. I use Chris Hodges' 'Randomfile'. It's on the Aminet in 'util/cli' under 'RandomFile.lha'. Copy it into your 'C:' directory.

First you need to copy all the backdrop files you want to use to a directory on your hard disk. This should preferably be a new directory, containing only the backdrops you want to use for your Workbench. Mine are in 'Work:Utilities/MagicWB/Patterns/WBGrey' so you should replace this with the path to wherever you put your backdrops when you see it.

You'll also need a temporary directory on your hard disk, which can be used for some temporary files. You could use 'T:', but this is on the Ram Disk, and I don't like using up too much ram. My temporary directory is 'Work:DiskTemp' so put your own path in whenever you see this.

Next, load 'S:Startup-Sequence' into a text editor (I'm afraid you can't use User-Startup) and find the line which reads C:IPrefs. Make a new line just above this one and enter:

```
RandomFile FROM "Work:Utilities/MagicWB/WBGrey/~(#?.info)" TO
"Work:DiskTemp/Backdrop.IFF"          ^
      ^                               |
      |                               |
      +-----+-----+
              |
          Put your own paths in here.
```

This should all be on one line, I've just put it on one here to fit in my AmigaGuide window.

Now reboot. When the Workbench comes back on load the WBPattern (or the NickPrefs equivalent) prefs program. Use it to choose 'Backdrop.IFF' from your temporary directory and then save the preferences.

That's it! Your backdrop should now change every time you reboot.

I like to keep my window patterns the same on each reboot, but you could use the same technique to select random window patterns too. Remember to use a different filename for the file you put in your temporary directory though!

Note: There are also various random backdrop choosing utilities on the aminet, but I prefer this way as it is simpler (to me at least) and doesn't eat huge amounts of memory (in fact, it eats none!).

1.5 EmBackdrops - Legal Stuff

Legal Stuff

I know it's boring, but it's really quite important, so do read it. Please?

All the image files contained in this archive are, to the best of my

knowledge freely distributable and manipulatable. If the copyright owners of these images don't like it, I can remove them from the archive.

Disclaimer

I, Jamie Montgomerie, will not be held responsible for any damage caused as a direct or indirect result of the usage of any of the files contained in this archive.

1.6 EmBackdrops - The Shameless Plug!

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Other (_/\/_ ) | ( _ Programs
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The Paper Counter

The ultimate in paper counting technology on your Amiga.
Should be available on the Aminet as 'PaperCounter.lha' under 'util/misc'

EmSpool - The Frame-by-Frame Hard Disk ANIM 5 spooler.

CLI Animation spooler. (for Anims in DPaint etc. format)

Should be available on the Aminet as 'EmSpool.lha' under 'gfx/show'

Both are freely distributable and should be available from any PD library.
If you can't find them they are both available directly from me. Just send an SAE and a blank disk to the address
elsewhere in the documentation

EmBackdrops 1 is available in 'pix/mwb' as 'EmBackdrops.lha', EmBackdrops 2 is available in 'pix/mwb' as 'EmBackdrops2.lha', but remember, they're not the same! They're grey-scale and for 8+ colour 640*512 WBs, (you weren't expecting full colour mages for WBs that depth were you?) otehrwise, pretty similar.

Other Good Archives

The original, grey-scale pictures were inspired by Roman Patzner's 'RomImages', which, in turn were inspired by Øyvind Falch's 'MiscPatterns'. If you fancy a look at these (you really should) you can find on the Aminet in pix/mwb under 'RomImages.lha' and 'MiscPattern1.lha' (Have a look at the original EmBackdrops first though :-)

1.7 EmBackdrops - Contacting The Author

Contacting the Author

EmBackdrops were compiled and processed by Jamie Montgomerie

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Email now - jamiem@enterprise.net
Or have a look at my home page - homepages.enterprise.net/jamiem/

Please mail me if you actually use this stuff. I've never had a single mail about my first two archives, but I'm sure SOMEONE must be using them.

If you're not 'connected' don't let it put you off - All letters or postcards are much appreciated.

It's nice to know if people are actually using my stuff.

1.8 EmBackdrops3 - The Secret Node3 - The Revenge, erm, two!

The Secret Node!

Phase 5, PowerUp, Amiga Forever, Amiga International. Hmm...