

Getting Started With ComicBase™

(The Really Quick Guide)



Welcome to ComicBase!

Thank you for buying ComicBase, the ultimate software for comic book collectors. With ComicBase, you can learn about comic book titles, look up the current values and price histories of thousands of individual comics, see how your favorite titles are related to other titles, quickly find issues in which your favorite characters have appeared and much more.

In these pages, you'll learn the basics of using ComicBase and the ComicBase Encyclopedia of Comics. If you own ComicBase Master Edition or our other products, your user manual will give you more information about the advanced comic collecting features in those products.

Technical Support and Information

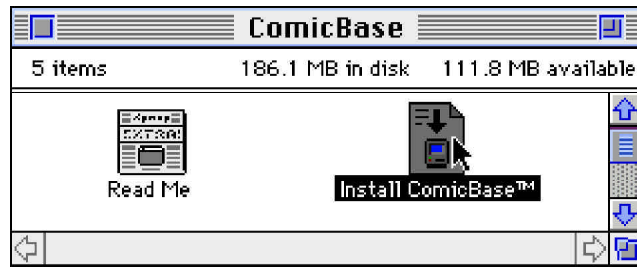
If you have questions or comments about ComicBase, you can reach us at:

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San Jose, CA 95136-2014
Tel: 408/266-6883
Fax: 408/266-5869
email: info@human-computing.com
web: www.human-computing.com

ComicBase represents over four years of hard work, and we're always striving to make it better. We will be continually revising and expanding its contents, and appreciate any updates or corrections our users can offer (we've been known to give out free T-Shirts and other goodies as thanks). Publishers who would like to see their books covered in ComicBase are also encouraged to send submissions to the above address.

Installing ComicBase

1. Insert the ComicBase CD into your CD-ROM drive. In the window that appears, double-click the Install ComicBase™ icon to launch the ComicBase installer.
2. Click the OK button on the installer splash screen.
3. The installer will recommend appropriate software for your system. ComicBase itself will be installed onto your hard drive, along with a few standard fonts and publisher logos. You will need about 15 MB free on your hard drive to hold this information.



If you only want to install part of the recommended software (for instance, everything but the fonts), choose Custom Install, then choose the parts you wish to install from the list of choices.

4. Click the Install button to begin the installation. This will take a minute or so.
5. When the installer is finished, open the folder named ComicBase™ on the top level of your hard drive. Double-click the ComicBase icon within it to begin using ComicBase. The first time you use ComicBase, you'll be asked to enter your registration number. This can be found on your registration card.

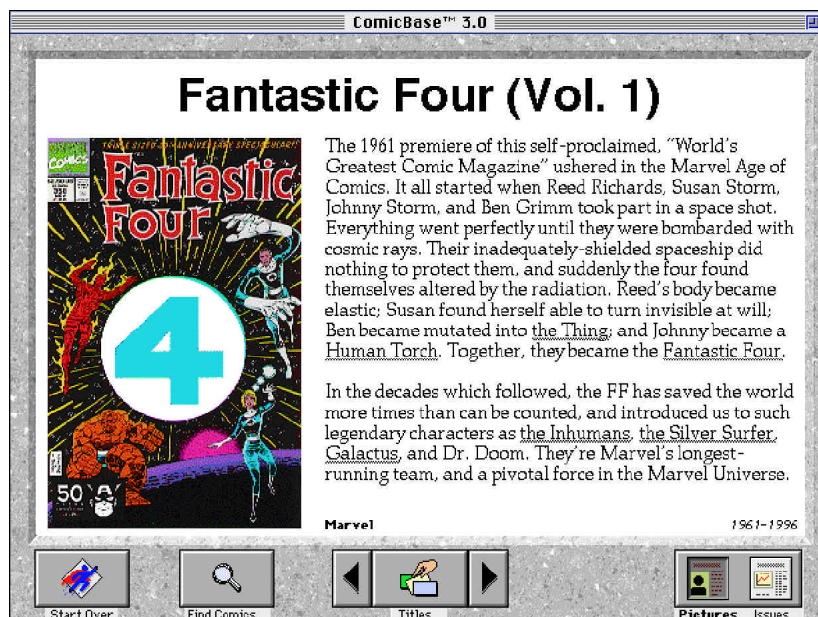


ComicBase Basics

The Descriptions View

ComicBase has two main ways of showing you information about a title, the *descriptions view* and the *prices view*.

When you first use ComicBase, you'll be using the descriptions view. Here you'll see write-ups telling you what the titles are about, as well as showing sample covers from those titles:



Seeing the Connections Between Titles

ComicBase uses special underlined words called *Hypertext* to let you see connections between titles with a click of the mouse. For instance, the Silver Surfer was a character who appeared in the series *Fantastic Four*, and later went on to star in several of his own titles.

For example, in the description for *Fantastic Four*, the words "the Silver Surfer" have a heavy underline, indicating that they are Hypertext. Clicking on those words takes you directly to the description for *The Silver Surfer (Vol. 1)*. As you use ComicBase, you'll notice a great many of these Hypertext connections, showing you how very interconnected the world of comics really is.

The Prices View

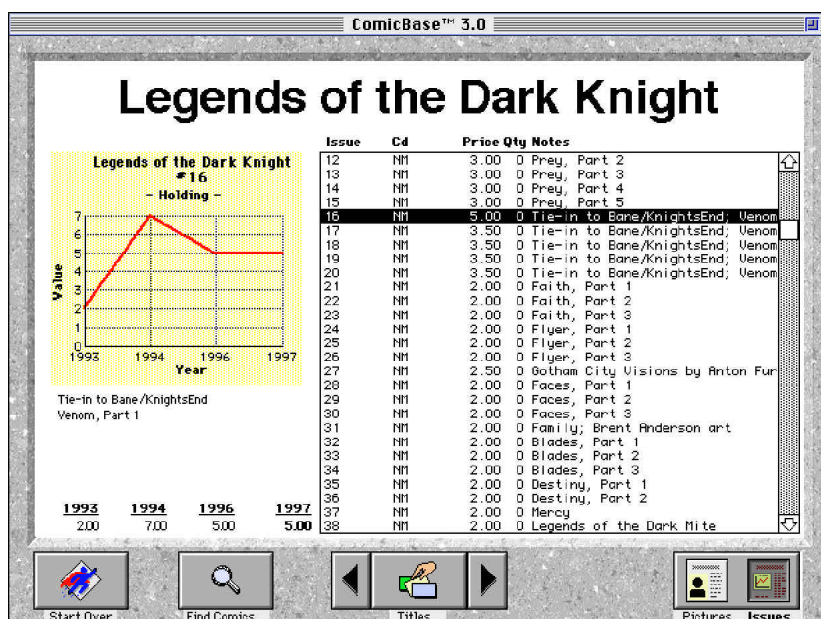
At the bottom right of the screen are two buttons for choosing which way you would like to view titles. The darkened button shows which view is active.



Clicking on the Prices button will switch you to the prices view. This shows a list of the individual issues for the title, along with their current prices and notes on special issues.

Seeing a Graph of an Issue's Value Over Time

ComicBase comes loaded with information on over 70,000 individual issues, with price histories going back four years. To see how a given issue's value has changed over time, simply click on its entry in the list. After a few seconds, its price graph will be displayed, along with a general measure of its activity ("Hot," "Sliding," etc.) and detailed note information for that issue.



About Pricing

The prices shown represent our best estimate of what a comic in the listed condition (usually "NM"—Near Mint condition) would cost you if you were to purchase it at your local comic book shop. This is a reasonable guide to pricing your own comics for sale, or for estimating their value for insurance purposes.

On the other hand, comic prices change constantly, and can vary greatly based on where you live. Keep in mind that no matter which price guide you consult, the ultimate value of your comics is what they are worth to you and/or to the person buying them.

Titles, issues and comics

Although these terms might seem interchangeable, they have very specific meanings in ComicBase:

- A **title** is the name of a comic book series. *Iron Man* is a title.
- An **issue** is a single installment of a title: *Iron Man* #125 is an issue.
- **Comics** are the actual number of comic books you have. You can have several comics for a particular issue: for instance, 2 *Iron Man* #300 comics. You might have thousands of comics in your collection.

In summary, you might have a collection with only a few titles, but have each issue for every title. If those titles date back several years, you might have thousands of individual comics.

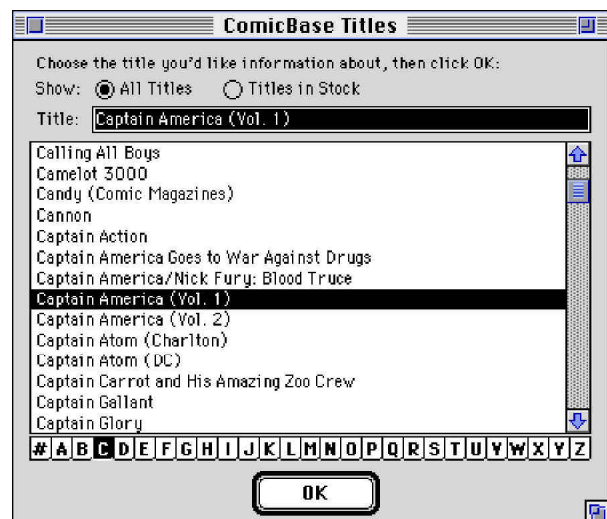
Viewing Other Titles

You can go to other titles by using the buttons located in the bottom middle of the screen. Clicking the right arrow takes you to the next title, alphabetically. The left arrow takes you to the previous one.



Clicking the Titles button in the middle brings up a list of all the titles in ComicBase. To go directly to a certain title, click the letter that corresponds to the first letter of its name, then choose it from the list. You can also simply type in the first several letters of its name to automatically scroll to that title.

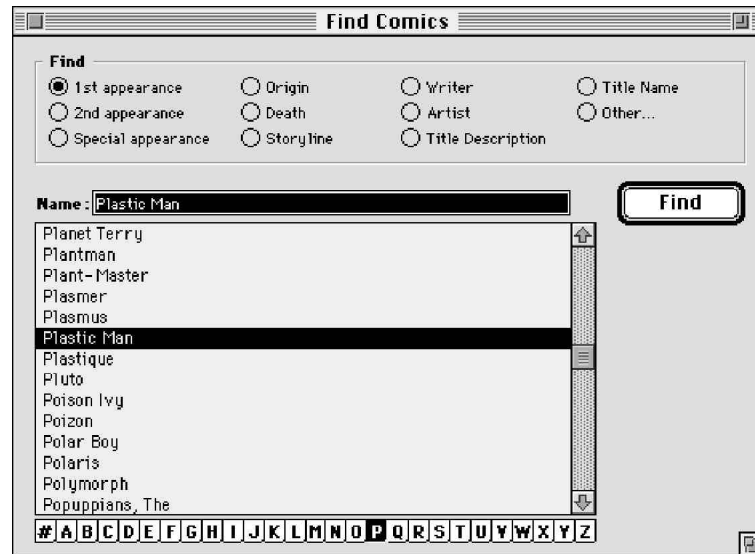
When you've highlighted the title you're looking for, click the OK button to go there.



Finding Special Issues

ComicBase can automatically find *first appearances* (the first issue a character appeared in), *second appearances*, *special appearances* (when a character guest stars in a title they do not regularly appear in), *origin stories* (that tell how a character came to be), *deaths*, *titles*, and *other* items that may be annotated, such as artists or writers.

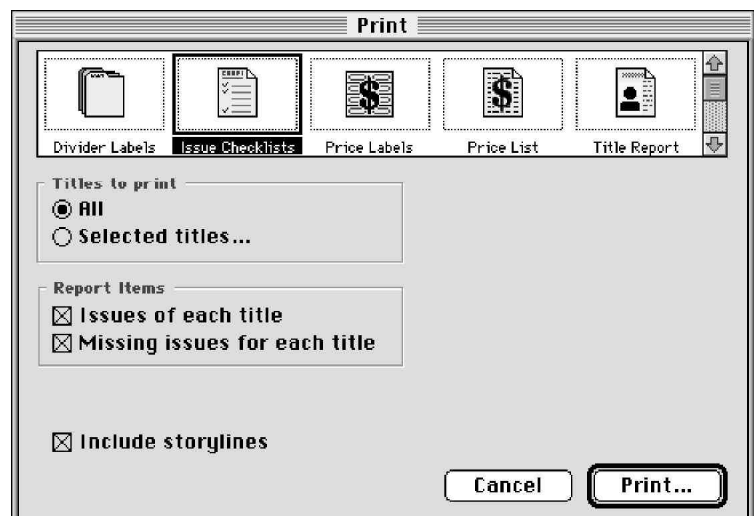
To find comics, click the Find button on the main screen, or choose Find Comics from the Comics menu. Then click the type of search you'd like to do. Finally, choose or type the name of the thing you are looking for and click the Find button to find it.



Printing Labels and Reports

In addition to its other capabilities, ComicBase can print a variety of reports and labels. Select Print from under the File menu to see a list of these. (The type of reports that can be printed will vary with the version of ComicBase you've purchased. If your edition of ComicBase included a manual, consult it for details on report printing.)

Choose the type of report you'd like to print by clicking its icon in the top list. A list of options for that report will appear below. Choose the desired settings, then click the Print button to print the report.



And now, a few words from the legal department...

We hope you enjoy using ComicBase to its fullest. We should caution, however, that under no circumstances should you distribute its information to other people without the express permission of Human Computing. Doing so violates the license agreement, copyright law, and frankly, it's not a nice thing to do. We're counting on you.

Products from Human Computing

■ ***The ComicBase Encyclopedia of Comics*** is the ultimate reference source for comic book collectors. It's an interactive encyclopedia on CD-ROM that contains descriptions of over 3,000 titles from Golden Age classics to today's cutting-edge independents, along with pricing information on over 70,000 different issues. **\$49.00**

■ ***ComicBase Master Edition*** is a new version of Human Computing's popular ComicBase program, combining an interactive encyclopedia/price guide with a powerful collector's system for managing your collection. Its encyclopedia contains art and descriptions for over 3,000 titles with price listings for over 70,000 individual issues. The collector's system lets you track your collection's value over the past four years, print price labels and reports, generate checklists of missing issues and much, much more. It's a collector's dream come true!
\$129.00 (*\$89.00 as an upgrade from ComicBase Encyclopedia*)

To order, call Human Computing at 408/266-6883.

Also, be sure to send in your registration card for important information, updates and special upgrade offers.