

# HDOffGUI User's manual

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**Matthias Andree**

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# 1 Copying

HDOffGUI 1.7 is copyrighted by Matthias Andree.

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You **must** send me an E-Mail, picture postcard or letter if you use HDOffGUI regularly, please state your likes and dislikes and your configuration if you want.

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<sup>1</sup> this applies also to the file\_id.diz file!

## 2 Overview

HDOffGUI is a graphical user interface to HDOff 1.38 or newer. HDOff 1.38 is a hard disk power/noise saver for hard disks connected to the internal A600/A1200/A4000 IDE host. HDOffGUI is written by Gideon Zenz.

HDOffGUI uses triton 1.4 by Stefan Zeiger.

HDOffGUI features:

- Installs itself as Commodity, can be controlled by commodities exchange
- Configuration via tool types and environmental variables
- Can start HDOff asynchronously if it is not already active when HDOffGUI is started
- Documentation in DVI and AmigaGuide format<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> the master document is written in Texinfo format and thus can easily be converted into these formats

## 3 Requirements

In order to be able to use HDOffGUI, you need:

- Amiga 600HD/1200HD/4000(T) with at least one IDE hard drive connected to the internal IDE host
- Kickstart/AmigaOS 2.04
- Triton 1.4 by Stefan Zeiger (minimal version<sup>1</sup> is included)
- HDOff 1.38 by Gideon Zenz (**not** included!)

You can obtain HDOff 1.38 from either:

- Aminet: `'disk/misc/HDOff_1.38.lha'`
- <http://ernie.mi.uni-koeln.de/~gzenz/hdoff.html>

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<sup>1</sup> full version can be obtained from Aminet: `'util/libs/tri14usr.lha'`, a copy is on Aminet 8

## 4 Installation

There is no Installer script. You do not really need one either, installation is quite easy from Workbench. To install HDOffGUI, follow these steps:

1. If you have 'PGP' and 'MD5SUM': Check distribution integrity.
  - Add my PGP key to your key ring by typing `PGP -ka HDOffGUI_34.guide`
  - Check the signature of 'MD5.ASC' by typing `PGP MD5.ASC`
  - Check the files by typing `MD5SUM -vc MD5`

Alternatively, you can use the Check script that has come along with HDOffGUI for convenience if you trust it that far. Open a shell, `CD` to the directory you have HDOffGUI unpacked to and type `Check`.

2. Install HDOff.
3. Install Triton. Double-click on the Triton drawer icon, then double-click the Install icon
4. Drag the HDOffGUI icon anywhere you want, maybe the WBStartup drawer of your boot partition if you want HDOffGUI to be activated on start-up of your computer. HDOffGUI will automatically start HDOff if it is not active, which means HDOff must reside in C: in order to be found.
5. Configure HDOffGUI. See Chapter 5 [Using], page 5, for details.

## 5 Configuring and Using HDOffGUI

### 5.1 Starting HDOffGUI

HDOffGUI can be started both from WorkBench and from Shell. The way it reads its configuration depends on the way it is started, though.

HDOffGUI cannot be started twice. The first copy will pop up its window as soon as you started the second one. The second one leaves immediately.

#### 5.1.1 Starting from Workbench

Double-click the HDOffGUI icon or put HDOffGUI along with its icon in the WBStartup drawer of your boot partition. The configuration is read from tool types.

#### 5.1.2 Starting from Shell

You can just type `HDOffGUI` and add tool types as command line arguments. Preferably, you would type `RUN <>NIL: HDOffGUI`, eventually followed by tool types as options on the same line. The tool type options set in the icon are ignored, they must be specified on the command line.

Although the compiler<sup>1</sup> that I have used allows generation of self-detaching programs (these do not require writing `RUN` before their names), I have chosen NOT to do so, but instead I recommend starting HDOffGUI from WorkBench<sup>2</sup>. You could place this line in your `'s:user-startup'` if you wanted. If you do so, you should not place HDOffGUI in WBStartup, as it would pop up its window.

## 5.2 Configuring

HDOffGUI can be fully configured via *tool types*. In addition, the delay time before shutting down the drives can be configured by an *environmental variable* **UNLESS** any of *TIMEMASTER* and *TIMESLAVE* are set. See *HDOFFGUIPREFS* for details.

Nota bene: The tool types are **only** taken into regard if HDOffGUI is started from WorkBench! You need to specify the tool types as arguments if you start HDOffGUI from Shell.

To set Tooltypes, click on the icon and choose `'Information...'` from the `'Icons'` menu. You can “comment out” tool types you want to be ignored by enclosing them in parentheses, `'(` and `)'`, example: `(TIMESLAVE=10)`.

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<sup>1</sup> SAS/C 6.57

<sup>2</sup> Starting a GUI from Shell is somewhat contradictory anyway.

### 5.2.1 Configuration via tool types

Attention: the quote marks ‘**around this**’ are not to be included in any option.

- *CX\_POPKEY* specifies the hotkey that pops up the window if it’s hidden. Defaults to CONTROL LALT H.
- *CX\_POPUP* specifies if you want the window shown ‘yes’ or hidden ‘no’ when HDOffGUI is started. Default: yes (shown).
- *CX\_PRIORITY* specifies in which order to start commodities. Valid values are -128 to 127, higher priority commodities are started earlier.
- *STOPDRIVES* specifies the hotkey to stop both drives at once<sup>3</sup>. Defaults to CONTROL RALT H.
- *STOPMASTER* is basically the same as *STOPDRIVES*, except that it stops the master drive only (unit 0).
- *STOPSLAVE* is basically the same as *STOPDRIVES*, except that it stops the slave drive only (unit 1). This is **ignored** if there is only one drive, of course.
- *TIMEMASTER* specifies the time<sup>4</sup> in minutes that the master drive must be unused before it is switched to *standby* mode<sup>5</sup>, set to 0 if you do not want the master drive to be shut down at all. If this tool type is specified, the environmental variable is **completely ignored**.
- *TIMESLAVE* is basically the same as *TIMEMASTER*, but applies to the slave drive. Ignored if only one drive is present.

*TIMEMASTER* and *TIMESLAVE* are only implemented, because Gideon demanded them. I prefer *HDOFFGUI\_PREFS* as the time can be saved to this variable, but not to *TIMEMASTER* and *TIMESLAVE*.

### 5.2.2 Configuring via environmental variable

Nota bene: The environmental variable is ignored if *TIMEMASTER* or *TIMESLAVE* is specified. It is also ignored if HDOff is already running when HDOffGUI is started.

The environmental variable is called *HDOFFGUI\_PREFS* and must contain two positive, integer numbers, separated by white space, they and have the same meaning as *TIMEMASTER* and *TIMESLAVE* (in that order).

Example: saying `SETENV HDOFFGUI_PREFS 45 60` before starting HDOff and HDOffGUI would spin down the master drive after 45 minutes being unused, the slave drive after 60 minutes.

The time preferences are saved temporarily<sup>6</sup> — in ENV: — when you quit the GUI, you can save them permanently using ‘Save preferences’ from the ‘Project’ menu.

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<sup>3</sup> There is actually a short delay between shutting down the master and the slave drive, this is normal

<sup>4</sup> IBM says that one spin down/spin up cycle is approximately equivalent to 7 hours of use.

<sup>5</sup> The drive will automatically spin up again if accessed

<sup>6</sup> to the next reboot

### 5.3 Using the GUI

The GUI window can be (un)zipped by pressing `DELETE` or by pressing the ZIP gadget (second right in the title bar).

The GUI window can be hidden by Commodities Exchange, selecting 'Hide window' from the 'Project' menu, by pressing `RCOMMAND H`. It can be made appear again by Commodities Exchange or by the `CX_POPKEY`, if specified.

The standby buttons set the corresponding drive to standby mode immediately. They will spin up again automatically if accessed, even if HDOff is no longer active<sup>7</sup>. The key you can press to take the same action is underlined.

The Time set sliders allow you to change the time the drives need to be unused before they are shut down. A count down is displayed in the 'Time left' column. The key you can press to take the same action is the underlined letter from the 'Drive' column. If the time is set to zero, HDOff will not shut down the drive at all unless you press the Standby button (or its corresponding key).

The other buttons are self-explanatory as are the menu options not explained here. See `HDOFFGUI_PREFS`, for more detailed information on the 'Save preferences' menu item.

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<sup>7</sup> General comment: This is different from SCSI drives which can not automatically spin up again themselves.



## 6 News

### 1.4 (first public release)

### 1.5 (second public release)

minor bugfixes, check script to check for integrity

### 1.6 (third public release)

slave recognition

### 1.7 (fourth public release)

cleaned up internal GUI management, does not ghost 'Commodity Information' menu item any more if HDOff is not present.

window close button now hides window instead of quitting program

## 7 Known Bugs, Restrictions and Incompabilities

HDOffGUI has been developed and tested on an Amiga 4000 with CyberStorm 68060/50, 24 MB FastRAM, OS 3.0, Conner CFA340A, Western Digital Caviar AC31200F,

GCC 2.7.2<sup>1</sup>, SAS/C 6.57, GoldEd 3.1...4.7.2 PRO, Triton 1.4, Triton 2.0 beta, CyberGuard, MungWall, TexInfo 3.9, PasTeX 1.4.

If you encounter any bugs or misspellings in this document, please contact the author, See Chapter 8 [Author], page 10.

### 7.1 Known Bugs

- Triton 1.4 has some bugs. If you encounter strange enforcer hits, try Triton 2.0+

### 7.2 Restrictions

#### 7.2.1 Slave recognition

Slave recognition is not yet implemented in HDOff, it is instead done by just trying to open scsi.device unit 1. If this fails, HDOffGUI assumes you have only one IDE drive.

#### 7.2.2 Disabling

There is no way to determine if a drive is in standby or running mode if HDOff is disabled for that drive. Thus, the standby button is always available so you can spin down the drive manually at any time.

### 7.3 Incompatibilites

- If HDEnv is installed, it can cause a drive to spin up again if you quit the GUI or hide it. This is caused by the triton GUI system which saves some parameters when closing a window. I recommend that you use HappyENV instead which is also available from Aminet.

## 8 Author

If you want to contact the author, be it that you want to send money (cash (only bills), eurocheques and German “Verrechnungsschecks” accepted), bug reports, inquiries, enhancement requests, whatsoever<sup>1</sup>, here is the address:

Matthias Andree  
Stormstraße 14  
58099 Hagen  
Federal Republic of Germany

Do not expect replies unless you provide me with a self-addressed, stamped envelope (for Germany) or an International Reply Coupon. E-Mail is the preferred way of contact, but if you send letters/postcards stating your E-Mail address, this will be fine, too.

E-Mail (use either one, but not two or more at the same time):  
`HDOffGUI@emma.line.org`  
`m_andree@line.org`  
`mandree@sx1.hrz.uni-dortmund.de`

If you are using E-Mail, may I ask you to use PGP if you have installed it. My PGP public key can be found in the AmigaGuide version of this document. Say `PGP -ka HDOffGUI_34.guide` to extract the PGP key and add it to your key ring.

Before you send bug reports, make sure you have read and understood this document entirely. It may cover certain aspects you have missed so far and solve your problem, thus eliminating the need to contact the author.

If you send bug reports, do state program and triton version, maybe include Segtracker, TNT or Enforcer information, your hardware configuration, what tools, patches and hacks you are using.

---

<sup>1</sup> do not send mail bombs :-)

## 9 Credit where Credit is due.

Friends

**Marc-Oliver Bönig**

When's the next BBQ party?

**Ingo 'Inge' Dahm**

Good friend. Has not got much time, but if he has, it's fun.

**Heiko 'Ewald Zappenduster' Damerau**

Entertainment in the 'numerical mathematics for physicists and engineers' lectures. Also called „der Funker”.

**Andreas 'Daffy' Dzierma**

Never let him know what his nick name is. Kellerkind. Goes 150 km/h with a 54 HP Golf II 1.6 Diesel.

**Frank Egger**

Mails, IRC, parties. Beta testing.

**Simon Ferber**

I owe you a pizza still.

**Stefan Forelle**

#AmIRC, Tribal

**Tini Garske**

”Go to sleep? It's dawning, let's go outside and watch the sun rise.” (4 a. m. at parties.)

**Senta Kallenbach**

Is Scandinavia gonna get us some time?

**Peter 'PIK' Kasel**

Many amazing Titan and Siedler games.

**Kaz a. k. a. Thomas 'Tiger-Tom' Kedzior**

„Heute ziehen wir uns richtig einen.” - Good ride to Texel. Thanks.

**Marcus 'Käpt'n' Kruse**

For being a good friend.

**Barbara Kussel**

Short but nice talk.

**Steffi Möller**

We've never played Titan, have we? Let's do so.

**Robert Nöker**

Weird statements, always fun.

**Torsten Ohm**

Wanna borrow some CD's? Ask him... Kellerkind.

**Daniel Reymann**

total eclipse of the sun, moon; kiting, telescopes, photography. Kellerkind. „Das hackt.” LASER fun-atic.

**Heike 'Heinz' Schenk**

Kukuck!

**Matthias ‘Schmaußbär’ Schmauß**

seeing the midnight sun in Bodø, Norway

**Nicholas ‘Yagger’ Stallard**

many IRC chats

**Gordon ‘Jeppe’ Storkmann**

Keep repulsing!

**Andre ‘Bimbam’ Tselekidis**

He knows every card game.

**Frauke Weiper**

Sorry that I did come to hike this year. Maybe some other time.

**Silke Wietz**

dancing<sup>1</sup>, kiting<sup>2</sup>, pictures & slides, nice tea afternoons & nights, being a very good friend<sup>3</sup>, ... and hey, the tea is waiting. Also called „Laufender Meter”.

**Ina Wohlgemuth**

Don't forget your gear.

Other Credits (Contributors, Supporters, ...)

**Ralph Babel**

The Amiga Guru Book (indispensable)

**Olaf ‘Olsen’ Barthel**

Amiga Developer CD, Term

**Dietmar Eilert**

GoldEd

**Ralf ‘Snoopy’ Imhäuser**

Tribal BBS, support

**Volker Remuß****Torsten Spicker**

Tribal BBS, special support

**Reinhard Spisser**

MakeInfo

**Volker Stolz**

MicroDot tools/FAQ, support

**Johnny Teveßen**

support, AnUUCP, Tribal BBS

**Sebastiano Vigna**

MakeInfo

**Oliver Wagner**

”OlliWare crashes best.” [TM]

**Gideon Zenz**

HDOff, the idea for HDOffGUI, beta testing

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<sup>1</sup> You did not guess it would turn out to be THAT good, did you? You're addicted to it.

<sup>2</sup> infects everybody, Daniel first, then me, then...

<sup>3</sup> „Nein, das sage ich einfach nur so.”

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