ProTitler

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Chapter 1

ProTitler

1.1 main

ProTitler Video Titling System

(c) By Jason Henegan 1994

Introduction Introduction to ProTitler

Disclaimer (Must Read)

Distribution Distribution details (Must Read)

Versions Version list to-date

Known Bugs Known bugs to-date

Installation Installing and running ProTitler (Must Read)

Effects The effects you can use!

Settings Menu Change Protitler's settings

Misc Menu Any extras.

1.2 disclaimer

Disclaimer

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No warranties of \_any\_ kind are made as to the functionality of this program. The author cannot be held legally responsible (liable) for any consequence of owning or using this software or documentation.

You are using it all at your own risk.

This document assumes a familiarity with the AmigaDOS system - if you are unsure about terms such as "fonts drawer", or processes such as copying files then consult your manual.

ProTitler will require a modification of your WorkBench disk or partition as part of the

installation process.

The author cannot be held legally responsible (liable) for errors or omissions in either the program or any documentation. Due to continual updating the contents of this guide may change without notice.

# 1.3 distribution

Distribution Details

~~~~~~~~~

Please press the button below which represents the version of ProTitler you are using:

Unregistered

Registered

1.4 unregistered

Distribution - Unregistered

ProTitler may be freely distributed for non-commercial purposes, as long as the files in the archive are present and have not been modified in any way.

No charge for ProTitler may be made, other than a reasonable cost to cover the media and copying time.

'Freely distributed' means you could:

- Try out ProTitler and give it to your friends.
- Upload ProTitler to your favourite BBS or FTP site and thereby receive 'upload credits'.
- Send ProTitler to your favourite PD company if it involves receiving no more than a free disk (if that's how they do things).
- Add ProTitler to a Fred Fish PD disk/CD or Aminet CD provided it contains at least 20mb of other genuine freeware.

You may keep ProTitler in your software collection for a period of ONE WEEK without

registering

If you are honest, this won't be a problem.. Not that I'm saying that the program examines date-stamps to check up on you.. (EVIL GRIN)

It's only until you produce some shareware software that you appreciate the value of registering.

1.5 registered

Distribution - Registered

The registered version of ProTitler has to be treated like any piece of COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE, and any laws regarding these apply.

This means you can't do the following:

- Copy ProTitler for use on ANY machine other than your own (or the one you work at).
- · Alter any of ProTitler.
- · Claim that you are the author.
- Recompile the source I provided for use on any machine other than your own (or the one you work at).
- Use ProTitler as part of a commercial product without my prior consent.
 i.e.
 contact

me first.

 Use ProTitler for broadcast on TV without contacting me first.
 (i.e. Make me a cash offer I can't refuse.)

This list is only a guide so other commercial laws apply.

1.6 runningprotitler

Installing ProTitler

ProTitler requires these fonts to be present in your FONTS: drawer:

Times 18 Helvetica 15 Courier 24 Times 24 Helvetica 18 Helvetica 24

You'll have to copy them yourself.. They can be found on your WorkBench FONTS disk. If you're not sure how maybe now's the time to learn! :)

Running from floppy-disk

Load ProTitler by double-clicking on the "Floppy-Load" icon. This will allow the program to read the fonts I have provided. DON'T double-click on the actual ProTitler icon unless you've copied the fonts across to your FONTS: drawer because it won't work. Running from hard-disk

Copy the fonts on the ProTitler disk to your FONTS: drawer. Copy everything else onto your hard-disk wherever you like. You now don't need the Floppy-Load icon so you may delete it. Run ProTitler with its icon.

Running your NEW Registered version

From floppy: Run ProTitler from your registered disk (Floppy-load icon)

From hard-disk: Replace the unregistered program with the registered program. Double-click as normal.

Some of the features are memory-hungry and may require you making some provision to save memory (eg kill external drives) but virtually all should run fine on a 1mb system.

1.7 introduction

Introduction

ProTitler purports to be one of the finest video titling systems for the Amiga (all bar Scala!). It has a wide range of effects mainly designed

with the genlock-user in mind, however if you don't have a genlock, the program still remains useful for video titling work. I have incorporated a number of features which I hope you will find useful.

This guide will show you how to get the most out of the ProTitler system. There are a few aspects of ProTitler which require a little patience but I'll try to explain these as best I can. I've included a comprehensive user-interface which I hope you'll find easy to use.

ProTitler should run fine on any 1mb Amiga (ECS or AGA). However only ECS graphics are supported:

• Low-res 320x256 32 Colours or HAM

- Low-res Laced 320x512 32 Colours or HAM
- High-res 640x256 Up to 16 colours
- High-res Laced 640x512 Up to 16 colours

ProTitler also supports NTSC - vertical resolutions up to 200/400 only.

```
Some of ProTitler's
effects
are very memory-hungry and may require in excess
of 1mb CHIP ram to be useful.
```

```
ProTitler is Shareware. Some of the
effects
are only available in the
registered
version.
```

1.8 effects

ProTitler's Supported Effects

These effects may be found in the Project/New Project menu. You can read

general information about using these effects.

```
Unregistered version: You may only use effects which are in GREEN letters,
and must
register
to use the RED ones.
```

TV Trailer

Action Replay

Sports Scoring (Registered version only)

Icon Captions

System Clock

Stopwatch (Registered version only) Countdown Timer

(Registered version only)

Scrolltext (Registered version only)

Vertical Credits

Table

Subtitles (Registered version only)

Static Picture

Scrolling Pictures

Analogue Timer (Registered version only)

The appearance of both ProTitler and these effects can be changed within the

SETTINGS MENU

1.9 geninfo

General Information

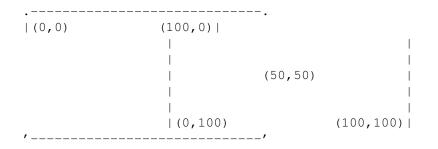
.

This section serves as a gentle introduction to making effects within ProTitler. When you select an effect to create, you are issued with a dialogue box similar to this:

+----+ TV Trailer _____ | A simple way to advertise TV programmes. | Screen Colours: [4][8][16] |

| | | | [Demo] [OK] [Cancel] | | | |

Many effect's parameters require you to enter an X and Y location. This is (unless otherwise stated) a percentage from the top-left of the screen:



All effects have a menu which you can access with the right mouse-button. It contains the following selections which are self-explanatory:

| +- | | + | | |
|-------|------|---------|--|--|
| | Load | Project | | |
| | Save | Project | | |
| - | | | | |
| Abort | | | | |
| +- | | + | | |

ProTitler uses a number of non-standard gadgets (like buttons) for entering data for effects. It is recommended you familiarise yourself with them, so that you won't have any problems. You can try them all out by looking in the

Misc Menu for a Gadget Test

ProTitler's effects may require the use of macros:

Formatting macros allow you to change the position of text.

ProTitler

Character macros allow you to add (c) and (r) characters.

Also, within gadgets, certain punctuation characters are used to space out information. These MUST be included (examples are given).

Text within the effects can be in any colour up to the number of colours in the screen. Colours are referenced by a single HEX digit which will be one of the following:

0123456789abcdef

- You don't need a \$ of 0x qualifier, just the digit or letter.

Some effects allow you to load in IFF pictures. These MUST be ECS compatible and up to a resolution of 1023×1023 (memory permitting). They do not autoscroll (except in

Scrolling Pictures).

1.10 scrcols

Screen Colours

The

effects

within ProTitler each run on their own custom screen. The number of colours in this screen affects not only the number of colours available for on-screen text, but also makes the effects slightly slower. (Don't panic, speed decrease is marginal!)

Set 4 colours if you only want one-colour text. ProTitler uses the first four colours as follows:

- 0: Genlock Transparent
- 1: Dark Blue good for text backgrounds
- 2: Black Opaque black used for text shadows
- 3: White Used for text lettering itself

This mode uses very little chip-mem and is very fast at rendering text.

Set 8 colours if you have more chip-mem or if you require more on-screen text colours. Colours 4 to 7 may be used as extra text colours.

Set 16 colours if you have oodles of chipmem (eg an A1200/4000). Colours 4 to 15 may be used for on-screen text colours. NOTE: Fonts will take much more time to render in this mode, so only select it if you really really need that many colours.

You can see how much chip-mem you have inside the Misc Menu

1.11 demo

Demo Mode

~~~~~~~~~

All

```
effects
within ProTitler (whether or not they're
registered
) have a
```

DEMO mode.

This allows you to see what the effects are like before creating one. The actual data for the demo is contained within the program and stems from test data I used when creating ProTitler.

It is recommended that you study the demos before creating a new effect, since the data for the demo will be copied to the creation dialogue box.

# 1.12 ok

OK Button

~~~~~~

Click here if you know how to create the effect and don't require a demo

A dialogue box will appear for the

effect for you to configure the parameters. If you have not yet registered you may not create some effects. These are RED in the menu. You must register to use them.

1.13 cancel

Cancel Button

This button cancels the New Project requester. It will allow you to pick a new selection from the menu.

You will have to press this button if you attempt to create an effect which requires the registered version of ProTitler.

1.14 tvtrailer

TV Trailer

This is designed to resemble US TV captions for television programmes. Two lines of text are wiped onto the screen (intended for the programme name and its time).

- Text : The various pages of the trailer. One page consists of two lines of the form:
 - line1/line2
 eg: Celebrity Mud Wrestling/Sunday, 9:30pm
- Y Pos : A percentage, how far down the screen the trailer should lie.
- Speed : The speed (in pixels/50th-sec) at which the wipe-right effect takes place. 30 is fine.

Font : The font for the effect. May be changed by clicking on the 'pick' button.

The other three gadgets are colour requesters.

1.15 actionreplay

Action Replay

In days of olde, when computers were first used to overlay graphics on sports programmes, a flashing 'R' used to appear to indicate an action replay. It looked rather blocky and cheap and very low-tech. This effect recreates that 'R' in painful low-res. I imagine it would look great on the kiddie's football matches (or something).

- X Size 1,Y Size 1 : Zoom factor for the first frame of the 'R' (there are two frames).
- X Size 2,Y Size 2 : Zoom factor for the second frame make this value larger, and the 'R' will pulsate!
- X Pos, Y Pos : Position (see General Information).
- Shadow : Shadow size, in pixels. A shadow is always displayed just have it in the right colour (ie not black).

Time : Time (in 1/50s) between size swaps.

1.16 sportsscoring

Sports Scoring

This effect was inspired from watching sport on TV. In the UK, football matches have the score shown while the match is taking place, even with a timer. This effect duplicates it perfectly.

Team 1, Team 2 : The teams taking part in the match. Score , Score : The initial scores for the two teams. X Pos , Y Pos : Position (see General Information). Minute : The minute the timer should start at. For English football matches this will be either 0 or 45. Font : The font to use. Border : The colour to surround the text. (Try 1 - dark blue)

When the timer is running, you can press the left or right arrow keys to increase the score of that team.

1.17 iconcaptions

Icon Captions

A demo of this is recommended. On UK TV there's a programme called 'The Chart Show' which uses an Amiga to display information about music groups. This effect attempts to duplicate it and provide some pseudo-interactive way of displaying information.

Picture : The background picture to display (select with 'pick').

The large entry field in the centre shows the message 'bubbles' to be displayed. There are four in the demo and are made up as follows:

The program doesn't interpret floating point numbers so '20.5' is two numbers. EACH and EVERY line must end in a '/' and EACH AND EVERY bubble

must end in a $' \setminus '$. Failure to do so will end in a crash. Ha ha!;)

Clear Y : When all bubbles have been activated, the program will clear the screen starting at this coordinate (not percentage). Click again to clear the screen totally.

1.18 systemclock

System Clock

Inspired by breakfast television, the on-screen clock simply takes the system's clock time and displays it in 24hr format. Perfect for live hookup of the Amiga! (If you want to fake a time, just change the system's clock.)

1.19 stopwatch

Stopwatch

This is useful for anything that needs to be timed. It has been designed with sport in mind, however. The timer is started, and can be suspended with the left mouse-button (a 'lap' or 'split' time is shown). When timing is complete (press the right mouse-button) the timing sponsor is shown.

```
Lap : What to print when the left mouse-button is held.
eg: LAP or SPLIT
```

Timing : Who provides the timing - Commodore in this case.

Flash : Toggle, if you want the 'Lap' message flashing or not.

1/100s : Toggle, include centiseconds?

Border : Border size, in pixels.

1.20 countdowntimer

Countdown Timer

Inspired by game-shows, this is a countdown timer accurate to 1/50s. Its usage is limited up to 99 minutes 59s. The timer will start at the stated minute and second, and will count down to zero.

Border : Border size, in pixels (to 'outline' the timer).

1/100s : Toggle, include centiseconds on the timer?

Note the timer can be suspended by clicking the left mouse-button, and reset early to 0:00:00 with the right button.

1.21 scrolltext

Scrolltext

~~~~~~~~~~~

This is used to pass information across the screen horizontally. Could be used for in-show information, or maybe credits too.

Speed : Scrolling speed in pixels per 1/50s.

Border : Start- and end-border size around the text, in pixels.

Note: The lines of the entry field are just concatenated, and some lines end in spaces - try removing them.

Also, due to the speed of your machine, you may need to reduce the number of screen colours used (if 'jumping' occurs). You may also have to kill any multi-tasking programs (eg a clock) to get maximum processor time.

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### 1.22 credits

Credits

~~~~~~~

Possibly the most 'familiar' effect - the vertically scrolling credit list, useful to people with/without genlocks. If mastered can give a professional credit list.

Text : The text in the credits (see Formatting Macros).

Speed : A percentage relative to 50 vertical pixels per second scrolling.

Wide : In 'Span-in' and 'Span-out' this value represents a width, in pixels, of the inside/outside border. Experiment.

1.23 table

~~~~~~

Table

This is a very versatile table which, when mastered, can be used to display any information. I've included a soccer-score demo, but it could equally have been a cricket, or baseball score page.

Title : Not surprisingly, the title of the table. Goes at the top. ;)

The entry field is a little like that used for the credits. Before editing this field, decide on how many VERTICAL COLUMNS your table will have. The demo has three.

Widths : These are widths of the vertical columns (in percentages). they'll need to add up to 100 and there must be one for every

column you entered in the entry field above.

As I said, if it's mastered, it can prove VERY useful.

# 1.24 subtitles

#### Subtitles

~~~~~~~~~~~

Subtitles are usually seen on foreign films to translate the dialogue. But in ProTitler's case, are used to display static text on the screen.

Subtitles are pages of text, consisting of a number of lines. The entry field contains lines of text that make up the pages of subtitles. The exact format of these lines is similar to that used in Credits (see Formatting Macros .)

Y Pos : Vertical location as a percentage (0=top 100=bottom)

Border : Background border size, in pixels.

1.25 staticpicture

Static Picture

This simply displays a picture on the screen - no fancy fades (yet?) wipes or other effects, just displays it. Could be used to display an on-screen logo (or something).

Picture : The picture to use.

Y Pos : Vertical location as a percentage (see General Information

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).

1.26 scrollingpictures

Scrolling Pictures

Base Pic : The filename used to create a list of pictures to use. The program likes pictures ending in '.iff' or '.ilbm' ONLY. You can have Cinemascope turned on, you can have 6 pictures. If it's off, you can have 8 pictures.

- eg : Base picture=blah.iff loads: blah1.iff
 blah2.iff
 blah3.iff
 " "
 blah8.iff (etc)
- In the file selector, you can pick any of the 'blah's.

Speed : Scrolling speed, as a percentage of 50 pixels/sec.

Hold Last : Toggle, if you want the last picture of the list held static until the mouse button is pressed. (Useful for copyright messages.)

NOTE: This effect is VERY memory-hungry and may be impossible on machines with a small amount of chip-mem. Use as few colours as possible. The screens MUST be ECS compatible (sorry, no AGA yet) and up to a size of 640x1020 pixels.

1.27 analoguetimer

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Analogue Timer

This is a basic analogue 'clock' which counts down from a maximum of 45 seconds. It's used behind-the-scenes to coordinate adverts and other things. Once you watch the demo you'll know what I'm on about.

Text Gadget : Enter here a number of lines of text: what your video is about.

Seconds : Number of seconds the timer counts down from (from 0 to 45).

Font : The font to use. I recommend Expanded 16 which is part of the registered distribution).

NOTE: At any time while the clock is counting down you may press the left mouse-button and clear the screen. This will stop the timer.

1.28 textmacros

TEXT MACROS (Important)

If you want to change the colour of text, insert a % character followed by the HEX value of the colour, eg:

%0 %1 %2 %3 %4 %5 %6 %7 %8 %9 %a %b %c %d %e %f

Credits and Subtitles

(Subtitles only: To insert a page-break, start the line with a $^\prime\,\backslash^\prime$ character.)

1: If you want to change the current font (once per line) the first thing on the line should be:

~[Font],[Size]: eg: ~times,24:

The tilde, comma and colon are necessary. If you don't need to change the font, omit this stage. 2: Now, the default formatting is CENTRALISED - so if you want centered text, just enter the text line. Else, enter one of these: {[Text line] eq: Left-justify: {Producer }[Text line] eg: Right-justify: }Jason Henegan [Left]<[Right] eg: The Bishop<Mr X [Left]>[Right] eg: The Actress>Miss X Span-in: Span-out: So, a complicated example could be: \~helvetica,18:Director>Jason Henegan - which incorporates: a page-break a font-change (to helvetica 18) span-out: Director (and) Jason Henegan _____ Table ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 1: Decide if you want a page break. Yes: start the line with a $' \setminus '$ char. The first line doesn't need one. 2: If you want to change the line's font, do so in the normal way: ~[font],[size]: eg: ~helvetica,24: 3: Next, for each element on the line choose the formatting it requires: Left justify : {[Text] eg: {Liverpool Right justify: }[Text] eg: }Arsenal Centered : [Text] eg: 3-1 Elements are seperated by a $^\prime\,,^\prime$ character. Each element except the last on the line has one. EG: \~courier,18:{This,Is,}Page 2 will display: This Is Page 2 - Which is left-format 'This', centre-format 'Is', and right-format 'Page 2'.

Examples

Colours: %4R%5A%6I%7N%8B%90%aW (RAINBOW) Left-Justify: {texttexttexttext Right-Justify: }texttexttexttext Centre: texttexttexttexttext (no macro) Span-In: Lefthandsize<Righthandside Span-Out: Lefthandsize>Righthandsize Font Change: ~helvetica,24: Page Break: \TheNextLine

See also

Character Macros

.

1.29 extramacros

Extra Macros

Copyright Symbol: ^c (not CONTROL-C) Registered Symbol: ^r (not CONTROL-R)

1.30 settingsmenu

Settings Menu

This is used to configure ProTitler's appearance:

```
Load Settings...
```

1.31 setfontparams

Font Parameters

Displays how fonts will be rendered inside the effects. It's important to try out these values with different fonts, as they significantly alter how the final effect will appear.

- Leading X : Number of pixels BEFORE the letter which are in shadow. Used to make fonts crisper on TV.
- Shadow X : Shadow pixels AFTER the letter again, to make the font easier to read when genlocked.

Shadow Y : Vertical offset (DOWNWARDS) of the shadow.

Note: The larger the shadows are, the longer the font takes to render.

1.32 setcine

Cinemascope

Cinemascope is the black border above and below a picture. It's only of real use with a genlock, i'm afraid.

^ , v : These set the size of the cinemascope.

Note: The performance of Credits

Scrolling Pictures is limited if you use cinemascope. This is because cinemascope takes up two screens; and if they're taken, they can't be used for long credit lists (either to display text or a picture).

1.33 setpalette

Colour Palette

Just a palette requester, changes the palette both for the effects, and the user-interface.

Note: For most effects, you choose how many colours the screens are drawn in - it's either 4, 8, or 16.

If you choose a 4 colour screen you cannot use colours 5 onwards. If you choose an 8 colour screen you cannot use colours 9 onwards.

The fewer the number of colours, the faster the screen will render, and the less CHIP-MEM it will consume. (See General Information .)

I've included a free memory display in the 'Misc' menu

1.34 loadsettings

Load Settings

This will load the colours changed inside set palette .

You can load the DEFAULT ProTitler colours inside 'ProTitler.pt.defaults'.

1.35 savesettings

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Load Settings

This will save the colours changed inside set palette .

You can save the DEFAULT ProTitler colours inside 'ProTitler.pt.defaults'.

1.36 extras

Extras.lha

The Registered version of the program comes with a large .lha archive. This contains the following:

Big1-5.iff: A HUGE demo of 'Scrolling Pictures' - requires 2mb Chip mem.

ProTitler.ascii: A 157k+ ASCII dump of the program listing (if you really WANT to read it! ;)) Also see Distribution

titler3.AMOS: The 238k AMOS Basic listing. Contains 27k of sprites. Also see Distribution

To decompress it, double-click on the 'Extract-Archive' icon or simply type:

lha x extras.lha ram:

LHA is provided. The registration fee is not intended to cover lha since it may be freely obtained.

1.37 knownbugs

KNOWN BUGS (boo hiss)

Scrolltext: Doesn't like italic fonts, or fonts whose size is >32 pts. Errors appear with a speed >18.

I'll try and fix bugs for registered users in the next version. If you know of a bug and are using the unregistered version then please register

1.38 registration

REGISTRATION for ProTitler

Remember ProTitler is SHAREWARE. Please send a minimum of £5 sterling (UK) or £10 (non-UK) to my address:

Jason Henegan 2 Orchard Close Biggleswade Beds SG18 ONE England

And I'll send you the latest version. Also include any suggestions, bug reports and comments about the program. If enough people register, I'll improve the program.

I'm not sure how you'd go about sending in the registration fee from outside the UK.. Consult your bank - £10 is due to cashing and postal charges. Remember UK currency is POUNDS STERLING, not dollars or ECUs.

You've seen my ugly mug in the Project/About menu. If you want your picture included in the program, send me a grayscale IFF on a disk (i.e. not a real photo) (any size) and i'll try to include it - the code is already written, I just need a picture.

Until next time, have fun with ProTitler!

1.39 versions

ProTitler Versions

Version list:

- 1.0 (9-10-94) Created.
- 1.1 (11-11-94) Analogue Timer added. (Registered version) This guide created.

1.40 contact

Contact

~~~~~~~

You can contact me at this address:

Jason Henegan 2 Orchard Close Biggleswade Beds SG18 ONE England

Send me bug reports (for registered users only) or suggestions for future effects or versions.

I can only support registered users who can't load the program, or unpack the

Extra.lha archive, or anything else that SERIOUSLY detracts from your enjoyment of ProTitler.

Please don't ask something like "How do I get an effect to do this...." because the chances are I'm too busy to reply - it has to be a (near) life & death situation!

Registered users can receive ONE free update in the future if they send me a disk to put it on.

# 1.41 miscmenu

~~~~~~~~~~~~

Misc Menu

This contains everything else I didn't include anywhere else :)

```
+----+
Chip Free...
      Fast Free...
      |
      Current Cinemascope...
      1
          |=====================================
          Gadget Test...
      +----+
```

1.42 chipfree

Chip Mem Free

ProTitler uses Chip-Mem to display graphics and screens. Some effects, like

Credits and Scrolling Pictures may not operate correctly with small amounts of chip-mem.

The number of screen colours determines how much chip-mem is consumed. Basically, a 16-colour screen takes up twice as much chip-mem as a 4-colour one.

1.43 fastfree

Fast Mem Free

ProTitler doesn't use much fast-mem.. In fact it doesn't allocate much more than is required to actually load it.

1.44 gadgettest

Gadget Tester

This is mainly for my use - it just displays all user-interface gadgets included in the version. It also allows you to try them out and become familiar with some of the more complex ones.

You can leave the screen at any time, and it doesn't affect any ProTitler variables or effects.