

Compact Disc Database

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Installing from Diskette

Copy the file CDBASE.OPA on to an SSD or the internal disk. The file must be in the \APP\ directory.

Next copy the files CDBASE01.RES¹ and CDBASE.SET into the \APP\CDBASE\ directory on the same drive as CDBASE.OPA.

□ The following example assumes that you have the program on a disk in drive A:, and want to copy the files to the internal disk.

In this case, the following commands would be used in MCLINK:

```
COPY A:\APP\CDBASE.OPA REM::M:\APP\CDBASE.OPA
COPY A:\APP\CDBASE\*.* REM::M:\APP\CDBASE\
```

Installing on the Series3a

Press PSION-I in the System Screen, and select CDBASE.OPA. Press the ENTER key. The program will be installed.

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Note: The screen shots in this handbook were made using a German Series3a. Although the screens for the CD Database appear in English, text which is taken from the system screen (as above) will appear in German.

Starting the Program

To start the program, select "Cdbase" and press ENTER. The program will start.

¹For French you will also need CDBASE02.RES, for German CDBASE03.RES, for Dutch CDBASE18.RES.

Entering a CD

When a file is opened for the first time, the following dialog box will appear:

You should now enter the information for your first CD.

For each CD you can enter the following information:

<i>Title</i>	The main title of the CD
<i>Artist</i>	The main artist on the CD
<i>Total Duration</i>	The total duration of the CD in the formation hh:mm:ss
<i>Ref</i>	The reference code for the CD
<i>Style</i>	The main style of music on the CD
<i>Code</i>	The numeric code for the CD (see later note)

When giving in the style, pressing TAB will present the user with a list of available styles. Later, you will have the opportunity to add your own styles to this list. If you don't want to specify a style for the complete CD, select "None".

Once you are finished, press ENTER. You will be asked, if you wish to enter further CDs.

If you answer 'Yes', then you can enter further CDs. 'No' will take you into Search Mode. The information you have just entered will be displayed on the screen.

As in the Database application, pressing ENTER will move to the next record. Pressing SHIFT-ENTER will move to the previous record. When there are no more records, the following message is displayed:

Pressing ENTER returns to the first record.

The Menu

With the menu key, you can select the various functions. Each function also has a *hotkey*, with which you can select the function directly.

Entering Tracks

Under "Track", for example, is the option "Add".

Entering a track is basically the same as entering a CD. Firstly, a dialog similar to the following will appear:

The title for the CD appears in Bold. The artist and style are automatically taken from the Disc Information, but can be changed on individual tracks. The number of the track is calculated automatically, but again this can be changed.

Once you are finished, press ENTER, and you be asked if you wish to enter further Tracks. Again, answering 'Yes' will allow further Tracks to be entered.

The number for the new track is once again calculated automatically. The number of the last track on the disc is shown in brackets after the total duration in Disc View.

The Diamond Key

Using the diamond key you can switch between CDs and Tracks. If, for example, you are viewing a CD-record, and press the diamond key, then the first track on that CD will appear.

You can use ENTER and SHIFT-ENTER, just as in Disc-Mode.

The ESC-key returns to the record for the current disc when in track mode, and to the first disc in the file when in disc mode.

Searching for a CD

In both the "Disc" and "Track" menus there is the option "Search". Using this you can search for particular discs and tracks.

You can search by title, artist, reference, or style. If you enter information in more than one field, the fields are combined, eg. "Title AND Artist" (logical AND).

For 'Styles' you have the options "All" or "None". "All" means that all styles are valid. "None" means that only CDs without a defined style will be searched.

You can also select, whether to search forward from the current position, or to start from the beginning of the file.

Searching for a Track

Searching for a track is the same as searching for a disc.

You are searching here for all tracks, not just those on the current Disc.

Editing and Deleting Discs and Tracks

Using 'Edit' you can change the stored information.

The dialog is identical to that used when entering a disc or track. When you are finished, press ENTER to save the changes, or ESC to return without saving.

With 'Delete' you can delete individual tracks, or even a whole disc. You must confirm that you wish to delete the selected track or disc. If you are deleting a disc, the following message appears:

If you answer "Yes", then not only the disc, but all of the associated tracks will be deleted.

Sound Files

For each Disc and each Track you have the opportunity to attach a Series3a sound file. These files are created with the "Record" Application. More information about this is in chapter 9 of the Series3a User Guide.

To attach file, select 'Attach Sample' from the menu.

Choose the name of the file you wish to attach. If you wish to create a new file, press 'MENU', enter the filename in the new dialog, and the sound recorder will start, otherwise press ENTER to confirm the selection, and the record now appears as follows:

You can either play the file with 'Play Sample' or by pressing the SPACE BAR.

Using 'Detach Sample' you can remove the attachment of this file, although this option does NOT delete the file itself.

Lending and Borrowing CDs

It is possible, that you lend someone one of your Discs, or that you indeed borrow a disc from someone else. In such circumstances, it is possible to record the details of such loans in the database.

In both cases, you can enter both the name and the date. When entering the date you can press TAB, in order to select using the calendar (as in Agenda).

Press ENTER to confirm this information, ESC to leave the information unchanged, or MENU to delete the information (eg. when the Disc is returned). For a disc which you have lent to someone, a message similar to the following will appear:

Selecting a particular Track

Using 'Jump to Track' you can move directly to a Track with a particular number.

Styles

Using 'Edit Styles' you can edit the styles available, or add new ones.

Select the category you wish to edit, or select "New".

Enter the new name for this style, and press ENTER.

Files

Using the "Files" menu you can create and open further databases.

'New' creates a new database.

'Open' opens another database.

'Import' imports a plain text file. (See later)

Reports

There are four different reports available to you.

List Discs lists all of the Discs in the Database.

List Tracks lists all of the Tracks on the current Disc.

List lent CDs lists all of the CDs which are marked as having been lent.

List borrowed CDs lists all of the CDs which are marked as having been borrowed.

When 'List Discs' is selected, the following dialog appears:

You have the option to select a particular style, or to list all the discs, that are in the database.

If a sound file has been attached to any of the records, then an asterisk will appear next to that record.

Press a key, and a new menu will appear. For Disc and Track lists there is the option 'Play Samples'. With this option you can play all of the sound files from the current report one after another.

With 'Print' you can print a copy of the current report using Parallel, Serial, or to a File.

Sorting the File

Version 1.3 includes two new functions for sorting your data file: Sort by Title, and Sort by Code.

Sorting by Code will place the records in the order of the codes given to the CDs. Sorting by title performs an alphabetical sort based on the CD titles.

This sort only affects the current data records. If any further records are added, they are NOT automatically sorted.

Sorting allows the production of a list of Disc titles in alphabetical order, by first sorting, and then producing a report.

Statistics

Another new option in Version 1.3 is the Statistics. This produces a window showing the total number of discs and tracks in the database, and the number of connections to sound files.

Codes

Version 1.3 allows each disc to be given its own code. The uniqueness of these codes is not checked, and the user may select which code a particular CD has. When entering a new CD, however, a code is automatically assigned.

The code is an integer value, ie. 1, 2, 3, 4... and so on.

Importing from a Text File

The user is prompted for a filename. All records in the file will then be imported. CDs without codes will be assigned the next available code.

□ NOTE: To have the Import option available, the file CDIMPORT.OVL must be present in the \APP\CDBASE\ directory. If you do not wish to use the import function, you can save space on your disk by removing this file.

The import file MUST have the following structure:

```
[Disc Title]
Artist
hh:mm:ss
Ref
CatNum
CodeNum
TrackTitle      -
TrackArtist     |
Track hh:mm:ss  |
TrackNote       | This portion is repeated
TrackCatNum     |
TrackNum        -
```

This represents ONE DISC RECORD, including the details of ALL the tracks. You should NOT leave any blank lines between records. So the overall format is

```
[Disc Title]
Disc Info
Track
Track
...
Track
[Disc Title]
...
and so on.
```

This is obviously not the best format for exporting from some database packages, but a way had to be found that would be acceptable to the majority of PC packages. The output file from a PC database will probably require editing before it can be imported.

Be warned that the import program makes no error checking, it merely imports the data as it finds it, and links all the tracks with their associated discs.

CD Database: History

Version 1.0

The program was originally written in response to a request for a database to categorise Compact Discs. This was my one of my first full applications for the 3a, so I also used it to try out various new techniques, eg. Fonts, sound.

Version 1.1

The program was made into a fully working version for use as a demonstration at the Systems Fair in Munich in October 1993. At this point, the list features, lending and borrowing, and printing were added.

Version 1.2

With Systems over, the program was tidied up into a more usable version. This was then released onto Cix and Compuserve, as well as the Psion Mailbox. The track number, for example, is automatically incremented during data entry, and the style and artist default to those of the disc instead of having to be typed in each time.

Credits for versions 1.0 to 1.2

To: Ingo Meyer-Kohlhoff for suggesting the program, and for testing the features in the early stages.
Gernot Radl for suggesting the lending and borrowing features, and also for testing in the early stages.

Version 1.3

Following the reasonable success of CDBase, it was decided to further its development, and to smooth out some of the existing features. In the German version, for example, the difference between 'Lending' and 'Borrowing' was clarified. Each disc is now issued with a code number, and discs can be sorted by either Code or alphabetically by Title. The first time the program is run on a particular file, it will assign codes to all the discs entered in Version 1.2. These codes can, of course, be edited.

New Features: Code for each disc.

- Sort by title.

- Sort by code.

- Database statistics

- The highest track number for a particular disc is now shown in the disc view.

- Selection of disc and track views is now possible over the menu (diamond).

- A French resource file has been added.

- Importing a plain-text file.

The Control-Menu option now works.
Pressing "Esc" in track view now returns to the current disc in disc now, not the first disc. Pressing "Esc" in disc view returns to the first disc in the file.

Fixes: The style now has a constant place on the screen.
The position of the date in "lending" and "borrowing" has been fixed.
The "open" dialog now only lists files with the correct extension.
Selecting a track by number only allows numbers within the valid range to be entered.

The language detection has been improved to allow for more language variants.

The version number on the printed reports has been fixed.

The "overlapping fields" problem on the printed reports with the title and artist fields has been fixed.

The performance of "Track view" has been improved.

In "Track view", and gaps in the track numbers are now skipped.

Finally, in version 1.2 the "Add Disc" and "Add Track" dialogs did not exit properly if no records were entered. This has been fixed.

Credits for version 1.3

To: Gernot Radl and Carolin Renner for helping to sort out the German grammar in 'Lending' and 'Borrowing', hereafter to be known as 'Verleihen' and 'Ausleihen'.
Steve Jones on cix for his suggestions and for pointing out my failings, including the sort function, the style fix, the print fix (for overlapping fields) and the track number on the disc screen.
Everyone (including Steve Jones again, and one of the callers to the Support Hotline), for requesting the CD Code option.
Steve Jones and Jeffrey Goldberg requested the import option.
Psion BV for translating the program into Dutch.

A note on the numbering of CDs

The numbering method used for the CDs was chosen because it is the simplest, and can be applied to a number of other methods. Other suggested methods, such as volume.disc are somewhat more difficult to implement, since different CD holders will hold different numbers of discs, and it is possible that the database would have to handle many different sizes of volumes.

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You may copy Version 1.3 of the CD-Database, but

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- * You may not Reverse Engineer the program.
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NOTE: The storing of some types of Data is forbidden or restricted under the Data Protection Act. It is the responsibility of the User (and NOT Psion) to register the data stored using this program.