

DISK MANAGER FOR TI-99/4A

(Written for the Swedish user group PROGRAMBITEN 91-1)
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There are several good disk managers for TI-99/4A. I have tried to compare the six most used programs:

- TI Disk Manager 2 module
- Ottawa DM 1000 version 3.5
- Myarc DM V version 1.30 for HFDC
- John Birdwell Disk Utilities 4.2
- Funnelweb Disk Review 40 column
- Funnelweb Disk Review 80 column

There are bugs in many versions of DM1000, so don't use earlier or later version than 3.5. Funnelweb has an improved version of DM1000 v.3.5 which is the best for the ordinary user.

It is important to be able to use the same drive as source and copy if you only have one drive. All managers can handle this except FW DR80 which needs two drives. FW DR40 can copy single files (FCTN-C) with a single drive, but "Tag" of several files needs two disk drives.

Density is single, double or quad. Notice that DM1000 cannot handle DS/QD.

A file have a file header and a number of data sectors. The first 32 files will always store the file headers on sector 2-33, but if more files are used, also higher sector numbers are used. All disk managers (except DM1000) will first write the file header and then the data sectors. If you use DM1000 with file copy to copy TI-FORTH then you will find that the copy cannot be used because one large file needed low sectors for data when all high sectors were occupied. The file header will then be placed after the data sectors even though the file header will be on a low sector number.

The programs read and write files by using file access or sector access routines in the disk controller card. File access with Myarc HFDC work wrong (fragmented files will be corrupted) so only use disk manager with sector read for the hard disk controller.

You can rescue a deleted file with recover file if you haven't written any other file on these free sectors.

FW Disk Review can simultaneously copy from one drive to 8 other drives.

Sweep disk will release all sectors and files on sector 0 and 1 as if it was a new formatted disk. There will be no test of bad sectors. Don't use sweep disk if you are uncertain if the disk may have bad sectors.

	TI DM 2	OTTAWA DM1000 3.5	MYARC DM V 1.30	DISK UTIL 4.2	FWEB DR40 4.31	FWEB DR80 4.31
Number of DSK	1-3	1-8	1-9, WDS	1-9, A-Z	1-9	1-9
Single drive in/out	YES	YES	YES	YES	(YES)-	-
Density	S, D	S, D	S, D, Q	S, D, Q	S, D, Q	S, D, Q
FILE copy file	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
header before data	YES	-	YES	YES	YES	YES
read/write	file??	sector	sector	sector?	file	file
sectors per pass	45	40	58	40	?	59
copy with rename	YES	-	-	YES	YES	YES
copy overwrite test	-	-	YES	-	-	-
move file	-	YES	YES	YES	-	-
delete file	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
recover file	-	YES	-	YES	YES	YES
view D/V80 + D/F80	-	YES*	YES	YES	YES	YES
view all D/V + D/F	-	-	YES	YES	YES	YES
view INT + PROGRAM	-	-	-	-	YES	YES
view Myart G6 + G7	-	-	-	-	-	YES
protect file	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
rename file	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
DISK catalog	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
printer control code	-	YES	-	YES	-	-
rename disk	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
multifile copy	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
files per pass	one	one	several	one	one	one
destination number	1	1	1	1	8	8
copy used sectors	-	YES	-	YES	-	-
copy all sectors	-	YES	YES	YES	-	-
sectors per pass	-	104	57	39	-	-
format	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
multidisk format	-	YES	-	YES	-	-
sweep disk	-	YES	-	-	YES	YES
TEST read test	YES	-	YES	YES	YES	YES
write test	YES	-	YES	-	-	-
SECTOR EDIT	-	-	-	YES	YES	YES

* = FW-version of DM1000 will not view DIS/FIX 80

DISK MANAGER 1000

(Written for the Swedish user group PROGRAMBITEN 91-3)
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There is a wrong article about DM 1000 in Micropendium jan 91
page 36.

Copy Disk with bitmap means that only sectors marked as used in sector 0 will be copied to exactly the same sectors on the copy. You gain speed if the disk have a few used sectors. You can avoid unnecessary disk swaping if you have a single drive for both original and copy. Fractured files will not be unfractured. A fractured file doesn't have its data sectors close together but are divided in two or more blocks (this may slow down the loading of the file). Instead you must choose multifile copy (sector 1 has pointers to all file headers) to unfracture the files. Mark all files with C or press A if you have the FW version that will automatically mark all files with C.

Copy of a disk with Sector Copy means that all sectors will be copied up to the number in sector 0 byte >A->B:

>0168	360 sectors
>02D0	720 sectors
>05A0	1440 sectors

It is more safe to use Sector Copy if you haven't created the files on the disk yourself because it will give an exact copy regardless of how the sectors have been marked in sector 0-1.

The file headers are first stored on sectors 2-33 (hex >02 - >21) and not until all these are used will other sectors be used. This is independent of disk format SS/SD, DS/SD or DS/DD.

New address to Ottawa UG:
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