

External Drive

P O W E R
C O M P U T I N G



U S E R
M A N U A L

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Power Computing

External Drive.

Owners Manual.

Thankyou for purchasing your new drive from Power Computing - the peripheral specialists. Your drive is of the latest design, and comes with a full guarantee for a year.

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Returned Goods - please note that we cannot accept goods for return without a Power Computing RA number. If you think that you have received a faulty product, please check the troubleshooting guide in this manual carefully, and then call Power Computing for instructions and authorisation.

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Section One

The Atari PC720 Drive

Installation Instructions

1. Switch off your Atari and all its peripherals.
2. Fit a plug on the PC720's mains lead, and plug the drive in.
3. Connect the disk drive's connector to the drive socket on the back panel of your Atari. The plug will only fit one way into the socket. Push the drive switch (located on the back panel of the disk drive) down (on). This switch controls the drive's internal power supply.
4. Switch on the peripherals and computer. The drive may now be treated in the same way as your internal drive. Note however, that your Atari will NOT boot from the external drive, even if the internal drive is empty.

Note: NEVER remove a floppy disk from the drive while the drive light is on - you may damage the disk or lose information on it.

Technical Data.

Storage Capacity	Double Density
Unformatted	1 mbyte
Formatted	720k Bytes
Transfer Rate	250k bit/Sec
Track Density	135 TPI
No Cylinders	80
Total No Cylinders	160
DC Power Supply	5V
Dimensions	230 × 104 × 30 mm
Weight	1 Kg.

Section Two

The Atari PC720E Drive

Installation Instructions

1. Switch off your Atari and all its peripherals.
2. Remove your joystick from the Atari (if fitted), and plug the black joystick lead into the empty joystick port. This lead serves to pick up the power for your drive, and the joystick may still be plugged into the joystick through port, located on the rear panel of the drive.
3. Connect the disk drive's connector to the drive socket on the back panel of your Atari. The plug will only fit one way into the socket.
4. Switch on the peripherals and computer. The drive may now be treated in the same way as your internal drive. Note however, that your Atari will NOT boot from the external drive, even if the internal drive is empty.

Note: NEVER remove a floppy disk from the drive while the drive light is on - you may damage the disk or lose information on it.

Technical Data.

Storage Capacity	Double Density
Unformatted	1 mbyte
Formatted	720k Bytes
Transfer Rate	250k bit/Sec
Track Density	135 TPI
No Cylinders	80
Total No Cylinders	160
DC Power Supply	5V
Dimensions	230 × 104 × 30 mm
Weight	1 Kg.

Section Three

The Amiga PC880 Drive

The PC880 leads the field of Amiga Drives, including in its design an isolating switch to enable or disable the drive, a thru port for daisy chaining, and the Power Computing anti-click board to take away that annoying 'empty drive' click. It is compatible with the Amiga 500, 1000, and 2000 machines.

Installation Instructions

1. Switch off your Amiga and all its peripherals.
2. Switch the PC880's isolating switch (located on the rear of the drive to position 1.
3. Connect the disk drive's connector to the drive socket on the back panel of your Amiga. The plug will only fit one way into the socket. Tighten the screws on the connector to the computer back panel.
4. Turn on the computer and peripherals. The drive will draw its power from your Amiga, and there is no need for an external power supply for the PC880.
5. Once the Workbench screen has booted from your internal drive, place a disk in your PC880, and a drive icon will appear on the Workbench. If no icon appears, and the drive LED fails to light, SWITCH OFF your Amiga and peripherals, reverse the position of the PC880's isolating switch (located on the rear of the drive), and repeat steps 3-5.

Note:

- a) NEVER remove a floppy disk from the drive while the drive light is on - you may damage the disk or lose information on it.
- b) As the drives are designed for very low power consumption, two PC880s may be daisy chained from your Amiga. However, more than two is not recommended.

c) The power on your Amiga MUST be switched off before the external drive can be enabled or disabled.

Technical Data.

Storage Capacity	Double Density
Unformatted	1 mbyte
Formatted	880k Bytes
Transfer Rate	250k bit/Sec
Track Density	135 TPI
No Cylinders	80
Total No Cylinders	160
DC Power Supply	5V
Dimensions	220 × 104 × 30 mm
Weight	1 Kg.

Section Four

The Amiga Dual Drive

The Power Dual Drive for the Amiga gives you the benefit of two external floppy drives in one compact case. The unit has its own power supply so that power is not drained from the Amiga 500. The two external drives are independent and copying operations can be carried out between the computer and either drive or from one drive to another. Both drives possess the unique Power Anti-Click feature so that they do not click when empty. The dual drive is compatible with Amiga 500, 1000, 2000, 1500 machines.

Installation Instructions

1. Switch off your Amiga and all its peripherals.
2. Switch the isolating switch (located on the rear of the drive) to position 1
3. Connect the disk drive's connector to the drive socket on the back panel of your Amiga. The plug will only fit one way into the socket. Tighten the screws on the connector to the computer back panel.
4. Plug the drive into the mains and turn on using the large switch
5. Once the Workbench screen has booted from your internal drive, place a disk in either of the external drives, and a drive icon will appear on the Workbench. If no Icon appears, and the drive LED fails to light, SWITCH OFF your Amiga and peripherals, reverse the position of the isolating switch (located on the rear of the drive), and repeat steps 3-5.

Note:

a) NEVER remove a floppy disk from the drive while the drive light is on - you may damage the disk or lose information on it.

b) The power on your Amiga MUST be switched off before the dual drive can be enabled or disabled.

c) Due to the multi-tasking nature of the Amiga, it is inadvisable to place two disks into the dual drive at exactly the same moment as validation errors may be produced.

Technical Data.

Storage Capacity	Double Density
Unformatted	2 × 1 mbyte
Formatted	2 × 880k Bytes
Transfer Rate	250k bit/Sec
Track Density	135 TPI
No Cylinders	80 PER DRIVE
Total No Cylinders	160 PER DRIVE
DC Power Supply	5V (FROM INTERNAL PSU)
Weight	3 Kg.

SPECIAL NOTE - DUAL DRIVE WITH BLITZ

For instructions on the special features of this dual drive, please refer to the PC880B section of the manual.

Blitz on the Dual drive works in much the same way as Blitz on the PC880B (see enclosed manual). However, you should note the following important points:

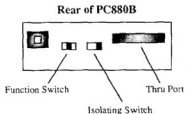
- Blitz Dual copies to TWO disks at once. You must have a disk in each drive for it to copy (even if one of them is a dummy).
- You must reboot your computer when changing from Blitz mode to normal mode or vice versa.
- The dual drive will "click" when empty if it is in Blitz mode. This is normal and is intended to warn you when the drive is in Blitz mode.

Section Five

The PC880B Drive

The PC880B leads the field of Amiga drives, including in its design the following features:

- Isolating Switch
- Thru' port
- Blitz Copier hardware built in
- Virus-Blocker switch
- Anti-Click



PC880B Switches

Isolating Switch

The PC880B has TWO switches on the back. The ISOLATING switch has two positions and is marked 0 and 1.

In position 0, the computer will not recognise the drive.

In position 1, the drive can be used.

The computer checks what drives are present when you first switch on. This means that:

Turning this switch on while the computer is on will have no effect.

To change the isolating switch, you MUST switch the computer off first.

Function Switch

The Function Switch has three positions marked A, 0 and B.

In position 0, the drive operates as NORMAL.

In position A, the "Anti-Virus" function is selected.

In position B, the "Blitz" function is selected.

Normal Mode.

The drive will operate as a standard Read/Write 880K external floppy drive.

Anti-Virus Mode

The drive will operate as a standard Read/Write 880K external floppy drive, but write access to the boot block on ALL drives (including the internal drive) will be prevented. You will not be able to format disks or carry out any other action that writes to the bootblock.

Blitz Mode.

This mode should be used with the BLITZ software when you want to back up floppy disks. It should not be used from the workbench and may give unpredictable results if this is done.

Installation of the PC880B

1. Switch off your Amiga and all its peripherals.
2. Switch the PC880B's isolating switch (located on the rear of the drive) to position 1.
3. Switch the Function switch to position 0 (Normal Mode).
4. Connect the disk drive's connector to the drive socket on the back panel of your Amiga. The plug will only fit one way into the socket. Tighten the screws on the connector to the computer back panel.
5. Turn on the computer and peripherals. The drive will draw its power from your Amiga, and there is no need for an external power supply for the PC880B.
6. Once the Workbench screen has booted from your internal drive, place a disk in your PC880, and a drive icon will appear on the Workbench. If no icon appears, and the drive LED fails to light, SWITCH OFF your Amiga and peripherals, check the position of the PC880B's switches, and repeat steps 3-5.

Note:

- a) NEVER remove a floppy disk from the drive while the drive light is on you may damage the disk or lose the information on it.
- b) As the drives are designed for very low power consumption, two PC880's may be daisy chained from your Amiga. However, more than two in a chain is not recommended
- c) The Power on your Amiga MUST be switched off before the external drive can be enabled or disabled.

Technical Data.

Storage Capacity	Double Density
Unformatted	1 mbyte
Formatted	880k Bytes
Transfer Rate	250k bit/Sec
Track Density	135 TPI
No Cylinders	80
Total No Cylinders	160
DC Power Supply	5V
Dimensions	220 × 104 × 30 mm
Weight	1 Kg.

Troubleshooting

All PC880B drives are tested at our factory with an Amiga 500 and extensive test software. In spite of this we still receive drives back from users as being faulty. Of these:

Around 75% have no fault and are returned because the customer has not read the instructions (usually the part about not changing the isolating switch while the computer is on).

Around 20% are caused by faulty Amiga 500 computers, power supplies that are not strong enough, or non-standard setups.

Less than 5% are actually faulty - usually due to damage in transit.

Before you contact our technical department, check the following:

1. Make sure that you have powered up your Amiga with the Isolating switch in position 1 and the function switch in position 0 (NORMAL MODE).
2. Check your drive with a WORKBENCH or EXTRAs disk. Many games load in unusual ways and are not a good test for the drive. If a drive works with Workbench then it is unlikely to be faulty.
3. Check your drive on a friend's computer. If it works in there then it is highly likely that the problem lies with your Amiga (yes this does happen!), and sending the drive back to us will not help you to get it working.

If you have to call our technical department, please have the exact symptoms of the fault, and what you did ready for our staff.

"my PC880 doesn't work", or "The drive won't format" are unlikely to tell us much about your problem. The description below would be more helpful:

I connected the PC880B to my Amiga 500, which also has a 512K RAM expansion and a modem fitted. I set the isolating switch to position 1 and the function switch to position 0. I booted the Amiga with my workbench disk in the internal drive, and no disk in the PC880. The workbench loaded as normal, but an icon appeared for the PC880B, saying "DFI Bad". Putting a disk in the PC880 made no difference to this - it did not seem to be reading the disk. I tried the drive on a friend's Amiga and it did exactly the same.

This would help our technician to find any fault that existed and would mean that you would spend much less time on the telephone to us.

Blitz on the PC880B

Running the Blitz! Amiga Program

Switch off your Amiga, and move the function switch on the PC880B to the position marked "B". Switch on your Amiga and insert the Blitz! Amiga disk once the workbench prompt appears. After a short time, the Blitz! main screen will appear. Wait until your internal drive access light goes out before removing the Blitz! Amiga software disk.

Using the Blitz! Amiga Program

Simply insert the disk that you wish to copy into your DF0: (or boot) floppy drive, and blank disks that you wish to copy to into ALL external floppy drives. Please note that the disk in DF0: must be write protected, and those in the other drives must not.

Press the left mouse button with the mouse pointer somewhere in the centre of the screen, and the copy process will begin. If you wish to abort the copy operation, simply hold down the left mouse button for a few seconds.

More Complex Copy Operations

Normally, none of the Blitz! Amiga settings will have to be altered, even if the disk that you wish to copy is for an ST or PC for example. However, if you do wish to copy a PC or ST disk, the copy will take less time if you tell Blitz! Amiga that it is a PC or ST disk. To do this, press and hold the right mouse button, move the mouse pointer over the 'Mode' menu item at the top of the screen, and select the appropriate format. The 'Options' menu allows you to copy only part of a disk, or to quit the program.

Notes When Using Blitz! Amiga

1. We strongly advise against copying onto unbranded disks.
2. Blitz! has no way of telling if the copy was successful, and so it may occasionally be necessary to re-copy a disk that has failed. Always check the disks that you have copied.

3. Blitz! can make up to three copies at once if you have three external disk drives, even on an Amiga 1500/2000. Note, however, that in normal use, a 1500/2000 will only be able to use two external drives.

4. ALL disks in external drives while Blitz! is copying a disk will be written to, thus erasing their old contents. For this reason. NEVER place valued disks into the external drives while using Blitz! Leave them write protected, that way Blitz! will warn you if you make a mistake.

5. Blitz! is intended as a method of copying public domain or user data disks quickly. As Such, Power Computing does NOT authorise the use of Blitz! to copy software protected under the 1988 Copyright Act.

6. Blitz Amiga is a high-precision copier which demands a high degree of accuracy from the Amiga internal drive. While most internal drives are able to provide this accuracy, many are not when standard quality disks are used to make copies.

If problems are experienced while copying standard DOS disks with Blitz Amiga we recommend the use of high density (1.44MB) floppy diskettes for your copies. These contain very high quality media and should allow you to copy most disks without any errors at all.

High density diskettes are readily available, and due to their popularity in the PC market their cost is very similar to that of standard 720K diskettes.

We reserve the right to change specifications & prices without notice.

REVISED EDITION - OCTOBER 1991

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