Introduction

Thank you for buying this Prelude1200 sound card for your A1200.

The Prelude1200 is an all-new design which attaches to the (otherwise unused) A1200 clock port header. It is 100% API compatible with the well-established ZorroII Prelude card - and therefore with virtually all applications software written for the ZorroII version of Prelude. note that you will need an '030/50Mhz accelerator (or faster) and 8MB fast memory to make full use of the Prelude 1200 card.

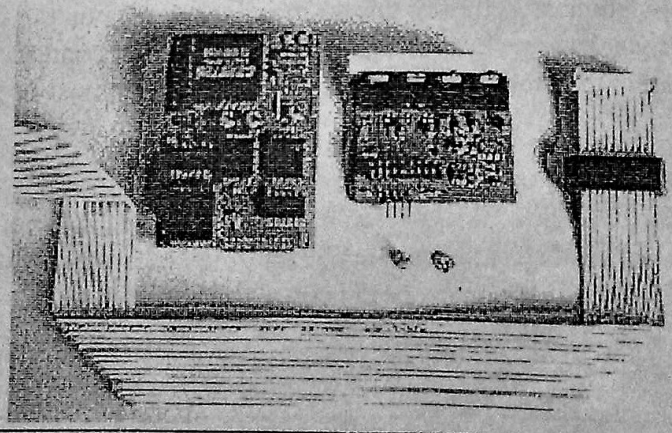
You should however be aware that certain other A1200 accessories (for example some Zorro slot adapters, and the Elbox (Power) IDE Flyer) partially or wholly obstruct the A1200 clock port. If, on further examination of your A1200 system, you find that you cannot use the clock port because it is obstructed in some way then you MUST contact your supplier BEFORE attempting to fit the Prelude to your A1200. In most cases they will be able to advise you how to get round the problem.

Checking out your order

On receipt of your Prelude1200 please check carefully to ensure you have received the following components (see the picture below):

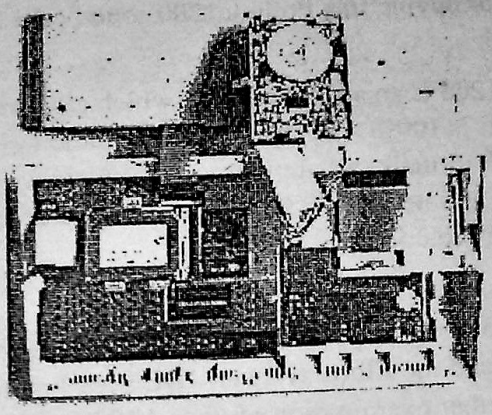
- Prelude1200 Digital Card with clock port connector under (leftmost in picture)
- Prelude1200 analogue card for fitting in the A1200 blanking plate next to the external floppy drive connector - (rightmost in picture)
- Flexible ribbon cable with ferrite filter for linking the two cards
- 3mm nut and bolt for securing the analogue card to the A1200

If any items are missing please contact your supplier before proceeding. Claims for shortages cannot be entertained once installation has started.



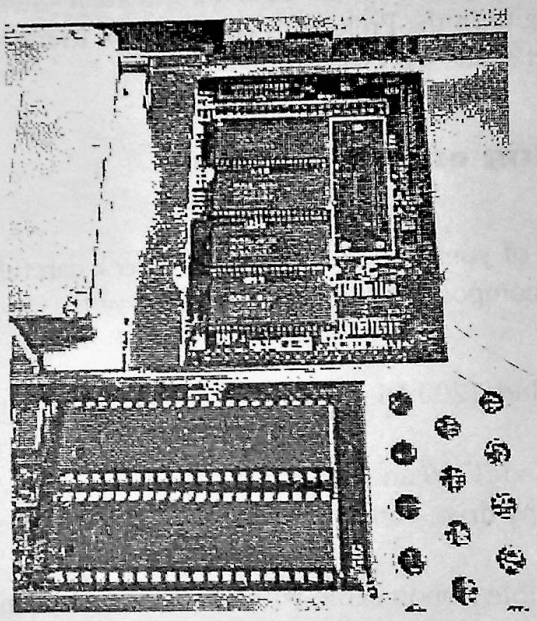
Installing your Prelude1200

1. Turn over your A1200 and remove the five screws which hold the top of the case in place, and the two screws at the back above the external floppy port which hold the back edge of the internal floppy drive.



2. Turn the A1200 the right way up, remove the LED connector from the motherboard and put the top half of the case on one side. Slide the keyboard back out of its clips and lay it upside down behind the A1200.

3. Remove the single screw at the side of the floppy drive towards the front of the A1200 and rest the floppy drive mechanism upside down on the back of the keyboard. (See the illustration.)



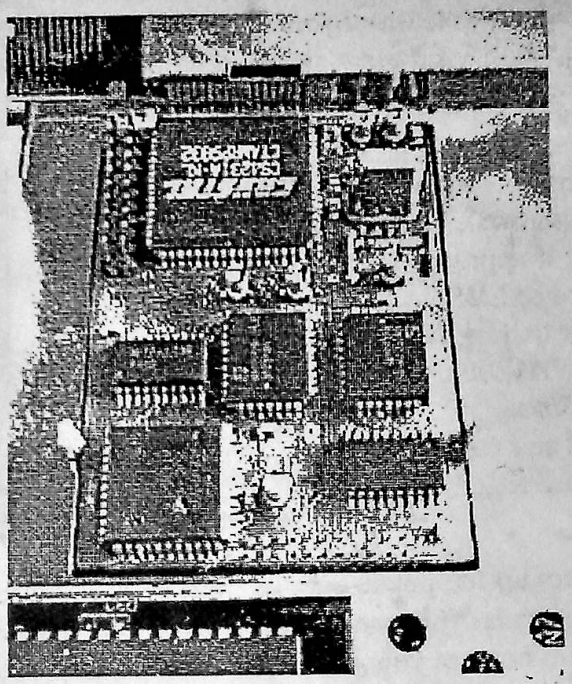
4. At the centre of the A1200 is a perforated metal cover - the RAM shield - which covers the clock port connector. Bend up the metal tags at each side (which hold it in place) and remove the cover. Now bend the tags outwards so they are flat against the metal shield. You can now see the 4 'chip ram' memory chips, and toward the front edge of the hole (nearest the Kickstart ROM chips) you will see the pins of the clock port connector (See the illustration.).

Note 1: Some A1200s were fitted with 40 pin connectors (i.e. 2 rows of 11 pins) instead of the designated 22 pins (i.e. 2 rows of 11 pins). If your motherboard has been fitted with one of these (40-pin) the actual clock port connector consists of the rightmost 22 pins of this 40-pin connector (ie on the floppy drive side). If you have such an 'overpopulated' clock port connector you should ensure that the Prelude1200 is connected to the rightmost 22 pins.

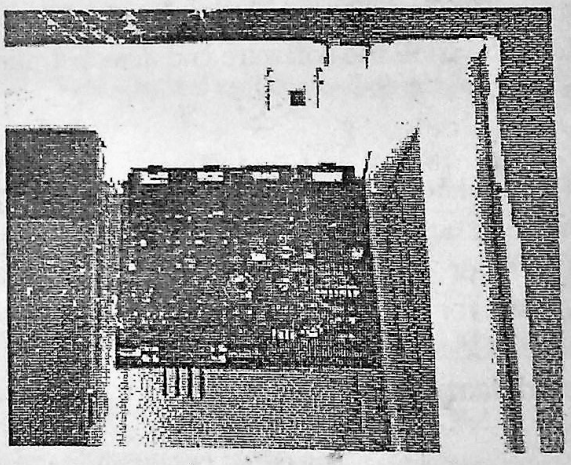
Note 2: A few A1200's were fitted with an incorrectly positioned clock port (ie the leftmost 22 pins have been fitted instead of the rightmost 22 pins) or with no clock port connector at all. These are manufacturing faults which can be rectified relatively easily by many dealers on a chargeable basis.

Note 3: If your A1200 has an internal 3.5" hard drive fitted which obscures the clock connector you will have to reposition it to the top left corner of your A1200. To do this you will probably need to remove the top metal shielding in its entirety. Be sure to place some insulating material under the repositioned hard drive to prevent it shorting out components on the A1200 motherboard.

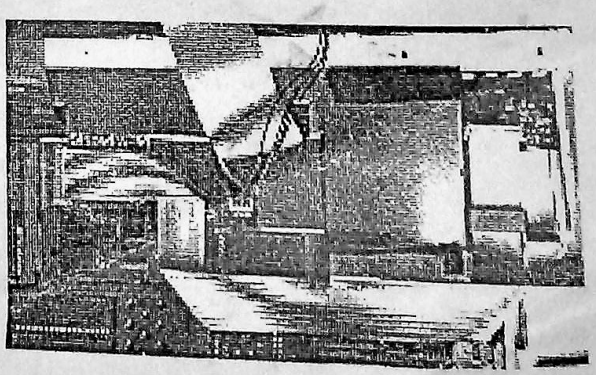
5. Position the Prelude1200 digital board on the clock port connector ensuring that both rows of pins are correctly positioned. The board occupies the entire opening on which the clock port connector is situated. PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK THAT THE BOARD IS CORRECTLY POSITIONED ON THE CLOCK PORT HEADER. SERIOUS DAMAGE COULD BE CAUSED TO THE PRELUDE1200 AND/OR YOUR A1200 IF THE BOARD IS NOT POSITIONED CORRECTLY. ANY DAMAGE CAUSED TO YOUR PRELUDE1200 BY INCORRECT FITTING IS EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED FROM WARRANTY PROVISIONS. ALL FORMS OF CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS ARE EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED.



6. Remove the blanking plate on the rear of the next to the floppy drive using a small flat-bladed screwdriver and slide Prelude1200 analog board in from the rear (outside) of case. Fix it in place using the nut and bolt provided through the hole moulded into the base of A1200 case under the (correctly positioned) analog board.



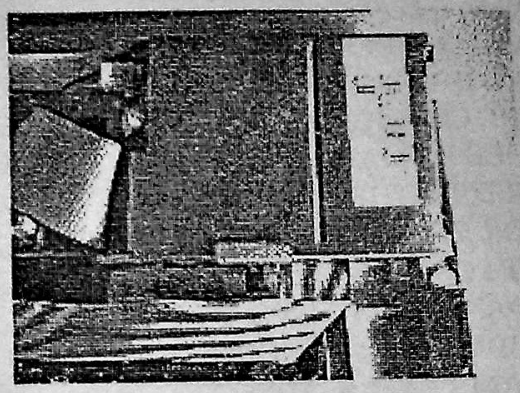
7. Connect the ribbon cable between the analog and digital boards as shown. Note that the ferrite filter on the cable is positioned near the end of the cable which attaches to the analog board. The red stripe on the cable is positioned to the right of the connector on the analog board (looking from the front of the case), and towards the rear of the digital board connector.



8. If you have your A1200 installed in a tower (such as Eyetech's EZ Tower) with a

CDROM installed *and* have a specified the optional 'AUX 1' CD audio input connector when you purchased your Prelude 1200, you can connect the audio output from the rear of the CDROM mechanism to the 'AUX 1' connector using a suitable CDROM 4-way audio cable (not supplied as standard but available from most Prelude dealers). The AUX1 connector - when fitted - is positioned directly under the analog board's ribbon cable connector and pointing to the front of the A1200. This allows you to mix - under software control - CDDA audio with Prelude audio. If you wish to mix the audio from the Amiga's output with that from your CDROM and/or the output from the Prelude1200, connect a 2 x phono to 1 x 3.5mm stereo jack lead (not supplied) between the Amiga's phono output sockets and the AUX2 input on the Prelude1200 analog board.

9. Reposition and refix the floppy drive (using all 3 screws), keyboard (and internal hard drive if appropriate). Then reconnect the indicator LED connector and reposition the upper half of the case. Squeeze the rear edge of the A1200 until the two halves of the case snap into place. Turn the A1200 over and insert and fasten the five screws which hold the case together.



10. Connect up the power supply, monitor and mouse and power up. If the A1200 fails to boot, switch off immediately and recheck your installation work. If you cannot rectify the problem contact your supplier's technical support line before proceeding.

11. Assuming all is well, proceed with software installation. Please note that you will need a CDROM to install the software and demonstration files (over 100MB of files are included on the CD).

Note: If you wish to record from an amplified (or pre-amplified) audio source (e.g. from the 'line out' socket of a Walkman, MiniDiscor CD player you should use the 'LINE' or 'AUX 2' input socket on the Prelude1200. The 'MIC' input should only be used for low-level microphone connections as it has an additional preamplifier stage. Connecting a 'line' source to the 'MIC' socket will overload the input and could damage the Prelude 1200's internal circuitry.

Prelude1200 software

A comprehensive range of public domain and proprietary software is supplied with your Prelude1200 on the accompanying CDROM. Much of the supplied software is under continual development so the program documentation and release notes are supplied in Amigaguide and text format 'Readme' files on the CD itself rather than in printed form. In addition the Prelude1200 Amigaguide document gives the latest status of support software currently under development.

The software is installed using the standard Amiga installer routine. Software updates when released are available from ACT's website at www.act-net.com.

The following software is currently available for your Prelude1200:

- **Prelude-AHI drivers** - making the Prelude1200 compatible with applications which use AHI Amiga retargettable sound standards. AHI (not supplied) must be preinstalled.
- **Toccata API drivers*** - to allow the Prelude1200 to support some popular Tocatta applications, including Octamed Sound Studio and Hippoplayer. The Toccata emulation is currently being updated to improve its Octamed Sound Studio compatibility still further.
- **Mixer** - a Workbench startup program which sets the relative levels of the MIC, LINE, AUX 1 (CDROM audio) and AUX 2 (A1200 audio) inputs to the Prelude1200 card. The inputs are mixed in real time and output to the Prelude1200's stereo output socket.
- **GMX** - a graphical based mixer which allows input balance adjustments to be made in real time. The values set can be saved - and are subsequently used by the mixer program (above) on boot-up.
- **Play 16** - a CLI-based 16 bit, hard drive (or CDROM) digital audio playing program using the AHI standard.
- **AHI Record** - for hard disk hifi audio recording using the AHI standard.
- **Tapedeck** - a graphical hard disk 16-bit stereo audio recording and playback program. Note that only AIFF-format digital audio is supported at present. MPEG-3 audio can be played back direct from Tapedeck if a PowerUp PPC is present in the system.
- **Simple Tapedeck** - a graphical program to record and playback CDDA type data streams native on Prelude (with full duplex support, which the Tapedeck does not have).
- **Surround*** - a surround sound decoder for the A1200 Prelude Card (available Feb 99).
- **Samplitude Opus** - the definitive Amiga sound editing suite. A limited functionality demonstration version is included on the Prelude 1200 CDROM. The full version is available (at additional cost) from your Prelude dealer.

Asterisked (*) programs are not currently part of the CDROM distribution but are/will be available for download from ACT's web page.

Please note that Eyetech is the official distributor of ACT products in the UK. Some of the included CD-based documentation may still refer to former ACT distributors.

This Amiga accessory was designed and manufactured in the EC by Albrecht Computer Technik (ACT) and distributed by Eyetech Group Ltd.