

Graphicom Disk Utility

software (c) Joe Comunale Feb 1986

this documentation (c) Marty Goodman Feb, 1986

Introduction

Graphicom Disk Utility (GDU) is a program that facilitates arranging pictures on Graphicom Picture disks. It allows owners of two drives to more easily rearrange pictures, and move them freely between picture disks. The program also offers a convenient means of examining picture disks, and of erasing pictures from them during the editing process. It allows you to make up and present "slide shows", displaying one after another automatically all the pictures on a given Graphicom Picture Disk. Additionally, it incorporates all of the features of the familiar parts of the Graphicom package GC>BIN and BIN>GC.

Program Structure

The program is menu-driven, and all program control is via the Graphicom (right) joystick and two fire buttons. Generally, the MENU button (left joystick fire button) will allow you to exit from a given function if you hold it down. For those who wish to operate the program with a normal (one button) joystick, holding down the "X" key on the keyboard will have the same effect.

All functions of this program are affected by the MULTI-DRIVE option. Use this option if you have more than one drive, or if you want to use your one drive as a drive other than drive 0.

This program is written in BASIC, and so it cannot fully trap errors, particularly disk I/O errors. If you try to make it read a disk that has a damaged sector, you may find the computer will choke and display a cryptic IO ERROR message. You will have to RUN the program again. If you try to feed it a non-picture binary file during the Binary-to-GC function, the program might well completely hang up and force you to turn off the entire computer in order to restart the program. (Such files are NOT on this program's diet!)

Getting Started

Graphicom Disk Utility is supplied on a disk along with a spare copy of the Graphicom program itself. It is assumed you have purchased a copy of Graphicom from us if you are buying the utility.

Place the disk in drive 0 and type:

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RUN"GDU"
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then hit enter. The program will load, and you will shortly see the title screen. You then can see the main menu by hitting the pen (right fire) button. Items are chosen from the main menu by moving the (right) joystick up and down, causing the arrow on the screen to point at differing selections. When the arrow is pointing at the function you want to choose, selection is done by tapping the PEN (right fire) button.

Multi-Drive

This function will affect all other GDU functions. Use it to set the physical disk drives used for reading and writing picture data by the other functions in this program. If you never use the function, GDU will always use drive number 0 for all operations. But if you select this function and use it to set different "default" drives, GDU can be set up to transfer material from one drive to another. Setting the SOURCE drive will affect directly all other functions. Setting the DESTINATION drive will affect the Binary-to-Graphicom, Graphicom-to-Binary, and Transfer Pictures options, as those are the only ones in which a "destination drive" has any meaning.

Binary to Graphicom and Graphicom to Binary

These two options (first and third on the menu) closely duplicate the functions of the old separate Graphicom programs BIN>GC and GC>BIN. They are present here to make GDU a more integrated package. Their purpose is to allow you to transfer pictures in Radio Shack disk format to Graphicom Picture disks and vice versa. Unlike the old GC>BIN and BIN>GC, however, you can now use a two-drive system to advantage. If you have two drives, first select the "MULTI-DRIVE" option and, using it, define one of your drives as a "source drive" and one as a "destination" drive. You then will be able to use the Binary-to-Graphicom and Graphicom-to-Binary options in a two-drive mode, transferring pictures on drive 0 to binary files on drive 1 or vice versa. In other respects, the programs work the same as the original GC>BIN and BIN>GC. See page 28 of your Graphicom manual for further details.

BLANK OUT PICTURES

Using this option, you can wipe out any given picture on a picture disk and replace it with a blank (light) screen. This may be useful in the course of re-shuffling pictures on various picture disks. After selecting the option, you will be asked to put a picture disk in the drive. Then, on hitting the pen button, you will soon see the directory image of the picture disk, and a flashing rectangle. Move the rectangle with your joystick to select the picture you want to wipe out. Then tap the pen button to wipe out the picture. The drive to be used will either be drive 0 or the drive you selected as the SOURCE drive with the Multi-Drive option.

Slide Show

This option allows you to automatically sequentially display all the pictures on a given picture disk. Follow the menu prompts. If you want to PAUSE the display during the slide show, just hold down the PEN button for as long as you wish. Releasing the PEN button will cause the display to continue. The drive to be used for the show will be the drive you designated as SOURCE in the Multi-Drive function, or drive 0 if you did not use the Multi-Drive function.

Transfer Pictures

This function will allow you to transfer pictures from one picture disk to another. It is very valuable for rearranging pictures on picture disks. If you use the Multi Drive function first, you can set the transfer pictures function so that the source disk is in one drive and the destination disk is in another. Its operation is pretty straightforward, adhering to the usual conventions of selection of pictures using joystick and pen button. One selects a picture from one disk's directory, then indicates where one wants to place it on the display of another disk's directory. Holding down the letter X or the MENU (left fire) button while a picture is displayed will allow you to exit this function.

View Pictures

This function will allow you to examine the entirety of any given picture on a picture disk. After selecting it and following the prompts, the picture disk directory is displayed. Point the selector box at the picture you want to fully examine, and HOLD DOWN the pen button. As long as that button is down, you will see the picture. Releasing the pen button causes the picture disk menu to be re-displayed, so that you may select another picture for viewing. This function is exited using the X or MENU button during the display of a picture or picture disk directory. The drive to be used will be the drive you selected as the SOURCE drive if you used the Multidrive option. If you did NOT use that option, the program will look for disks on drive 0. In either case, the program will TELL you in which drive it expects the picture disk to be.

Legal Note

Like Graphicom itself, this program is supplied to you without the use of copy protection. You are encouraged to make backups of it for use as working copies, and to save the master disk in a safe place. But if you obtained the program from a friend, instead of buying it from us, please send us the \$12.00 that we charge for the program if you end up using it. Come on... if you really are using this program, you can AFFORD the nominal fee we ask for it!

We have made every effort to make this program work properly, but must make the usual disclaimer that accompanies virtually all software sold these days: We cannot be responsible for any loss to you due to problems caused by this software. Of course, if you do find a bug in this product, please let us know and we will endeavor to fix it.

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