

Important additional information:

The following information is not included in the manual, but should nevertheless be read carefully. It may be a good idea to print it out.

- * When using a preemptive multitasking-system (e.g. MultiTOS, Mag!X 2.0), disk formatting may take a little longer than in a single-tasking environment. Sometimes task-switching may occur before the next track is stepped to - this will force another revolution of the disk before the next track can be formatted.
- * The maximum formatting speed of 35 seconds for a double-sided disk can only be achieved with 'Verify' set to 'off'.
- * HD-switching on a Falcon is preset to 'STE/TT' because this works in exactly the same way on all these models.
- * If you own an HD or ED upgrade kit and want to do HD/ED switching automatically ('automatic' in the 'formatting/special' dialog), a cookie has to be set to inform Kobold that your operating system supports these formats. If you have any problems with this option, it could be that your HD/ED software does not set the corresponding cookies. In this case you will find two programs for this purpose in the TOOLS folder. Please refer to COOKIES.TXT for further information.
- * If Kobold is run as an accessory under an operating system which allows you to change the screen resolution (e.g. TOS 4.0x on the Falcon), the option 'reserve memory' in the memory configuration dialog should not be set. It could otherwise prevent the system from allowing a resolution change.
- * Sometimes users ask us questions concerning the error message 'Bad data on disk C:' or similar. This message is not created by Kobold (note the difference in appearance between the simple TOS alert and the Kobold alerts!), but comes from the operating system or harddisk driver. This message means that a hardware error has been detected - this may be attributable to either long or loose cables or alternatively a drive which is unable to read/write a specific sector (due to serious internal problems). Such a problem cannot be caused by Kobold. KOBOLD IS NOT ABLE TO PHYSICALLY DESTROY YOUR HARDDISK! Kobold never writes to a bootsector and cannot reach the vitally important root sector! If for any reason your harddisk is not addressable, it cannot be a consequence of any copying you have done using Kobold!

One relatively frequent problem with hard disks that may render them unaddressable is the much-feared 'headcrash'. In this case the read/write head (hovering only a few micrometers above the disk surface) crashes against a dust particle, thereby scratching the surface and destroying the data on the disk. Removeable hard disks which are not 100 percent airtight are especially prone to headcrashes - they easily become dirty when used in a dusty or smokey room.

If you own a SCSI-harddisk and an unreadable sector is found, this is usually reported via an alert. If you select 'try again' here, attempting to access it a second time, the unreadable sector will be replaced by one of a set of reserved sectors. The original data will of course be lost, and this new sector will usually contain only zeros or a formatting test-pattern. You can recognise this if you see truncated files or directories. Part of the file will be filled up with 'UUUUUU...' (whereby the letter 'U' is equivalent to hexadecimal 55, the usual formatting test-pattern). The directory will contain several files all named 'UUUUUUUU.UUU'. If you see this effect you should now know the reason!

If such problems occur frequently, your harddisk has probably suffered a minor headcrash (a major headcrash would have prevented the drive from working altogether). You should be prepared to lose the complete harddisk within a few days! After all bad sectors have been replaced with reserved sectors, the drive will carry on reporting more and more 'bad data' errors because the dust-particle responsible for the damage is still in there doing harm to the surface of your disk. These bad sectors are no longer accessible even when you click 'try again' because they cannot be replaced anymore. You can now use the program 'CORRECT' to test the sectors. You should seldom find any new bad sectors on a SCSI-device because of this replacement - at this point CORRECT will find all the irreplaceable bad sectors. This is the time to backup all the data you can because the harddisk will soon become totally unusable!