

Quick DraCo Start Up

If all has gone well with your DraCo, on its way from DraCo Systems to you, you will be able to connect the Mouse, Keyboard, Power Cable, and SVGA Monitor cable to the appropriate ports on the back of your DraCo, then , pushing the power button, you should first see the DraCo boot Screen, and then the Amiga Workbench, showing a few icons, one of them being the "DraCo" Drawer.

If the shipping gods thus smile on you, you are on your way. If you are familiar with Amiga DOS, you will be able to make your way easily from this point on. Do make note of some of the cautions below. If you are not familiar with Amiga DOS or workbench, you should brief yourself on the general operations of the Amiga Workbench by referring to the proper sources(Amiga Dos Manual, Amiga Dos Hard Drive manual).

Since the DraCo is not 100% Amiga, it will behave differently in certain situations. In General, as you explore the DraCo, first try the "use" option, before committing to the "Save" option, in requesters, as you make adjustments to system configurations.

Not So Quick Start

If you are not looking at the bootup Screen, or the Amiga Workbench, you may have received a DraCo without Software Pre installed on Hard Drives. You will either need to Install the Software or install both hard drives and the Software. See the System Configuration section of this manual for details.

Alternatively, something could have come loose in shipping and you should refer to the Troubleshooting section.

Cutting to the Chase, MovieShop Now!

Since your primary use of the DraCo is likely to be Digital Video Production, once you are in the Amiga Workbench, you can launch the MovieShop software, and you are off and running.

Application software, including MovieShop, resides within the Draco Partition. You can access MovieShop by double clicking on the DraCo Drawer, and then on the MovieShop Drawer. Finally, double click on the MovieShop Icon and the MovieShop application will launch.

intensive applications -like Brilliance. Others that will cause problems are programs like SYSInfo, which attempts to talk to the chipset directly. Without an Amiga Chipset in the DraCo these programs can not function.

Determining which programs work and which do not is a trial and error process, and should be tried conservatively. You may want to try running applications from the Ram disk, prior to installing them on your hard disk. eventually, we will have a list of programs that are either known to work or cause problems.

In General most productivity type applications like DTP, Word Processing, and Spread Sheet applications should work. Otherwise, programs that send their Graphics display commands through the Operating System should work, unless they try to use the Amiga Chips set in some manner.

Programs that place a control 'panel' screen in one resolution, on top of another screen in a different resolution, exhibit the use of Amiga specific hardware Attributes. Some programs will have a separate versions, one for use with the Amiga Chipset that opens on a multi-resolution screen, as well as a version that use drivers like Cybergraphics which open their screen in a single resolution.

Amiga Floppy Emulation Precautions

Amiga Floppies are readable on the DraCo, but using this format is very CPU intensive. So the only time you should really use Amiga formatted media is when you are installing Amiga software. When the Floppy is being accessed, it will cause the system to bog down, so you should refrain from doing much else, like moving the mouse around.

If while reading Amiga or other Floppies you receive a read error, just hit the retry button, and that should clear up the problem.

System Configuration and Maintenance

Follow this procedure, if you have received a DraCo, without System Software or Hard drives installed.

This procedure should also be done if something you have installed seems to have caused havoc in your system, and all else seems to fail in getting gremlins or other varmints out of your OS. When all else fails, it is best to just start from a clean slate.

The following information also covers adding new hard drives to your system, and how to properly prep the drives for use with VLab Motion.

Configuring New Hard Drives

When Prepping New Hard drives

The CD ROM Drive in the DraCo is SCSI ID 3. Usually if drives have previously been added to you system for you, the Drives will use lower numbers starting with 0. But if you are not sure which addresses are being used on the SCSI bus, you should run the HDToolbox program from the DraCo floppy, to find out what addresses are being used, prior to adding new drives to the system.

You will need to un-protect the Floppy to prep the hard drives, by shutting the floppy's tiny slideable protection door. Boot off of the DraCo Floppy. When the Amiga Workbench comes up, double click on the HDToolbox icon.

You do not need to prep unit three (the CD ROM Drive), but all of the other drives that show up as unknown, you will need to prep.

For each Unknown drive:

(For sake of consistency, start with the lowest SCSI ID and work your way up.)

Click once on the drive in the main list in the 'Hard drives in System' window.

Then click once on the 'Change Drive type' button.

Then click once on the 'Define new...' button.

Then Click once on 'Read configuration'. If you are using a 4GB drive do not be alarmed that the size reads something very strange like '-1'.

Also, keep partitions for 4 GB drive below 4096 Mb. Movieshop can use these partitions in 3.0 or later versions but you must keep the size just below 4 GB.

Uncheck the 'supports reselection' option.

Exit the define/Edit Drive Type window, by clicking once on the OK button.

Partitioning Drives

Please refer to the Amiga Hard drive Users Guide, for details on using HDToolboxes Partitioning Software.

As a rule of thumb, make Vlab Motion Audio Partitions about 1/10th of the size of Video Partitions.

For each partition, to be used as an AmigaDos device, you will need to set the memory mask. It is easiest to do this while you are partitioning the drive.

While in the Partition Drive subwindow of HDToolbox, check the Advanced options box. and then click once on the 'Change...' button.

In the box marked 'mask', point the mouse at the leftmost 'f' in the text entered there. A text cursor will appear. Type '7f' (no quotes), and then hit the return key on the keyboard. If you do not hit the return key on your keyboard the changes will not take.

The mask entry should now read '0x7ffffffe'.

Click once on the OK button.

Do this for all partitions on all hard drives.

You will need to restart the system for the partitions you have just made to show up on the Workbench.

Amiga Dos Formatting Drives

You only need to Amiga Dos Format the Partitions you will be using for System Software, Applications, and Data for Amiga Dos Applications. Partitions for storing Vlab motion Audio and Video do not need to be Formatted.

If you are setting up a partition for the DraCo System Software and Amiga Dos, we suggest you call this partition DraCo.
DraCo and System Software
Install DraCo System Software

If the DraCoCD, is not already in the CD ROM Drive, put it there now.

As of this writing, there is only an install file for the German language, so you will need to use a bit of German to get through this phase.

Double click the 'DraCo_Install_deutsch' Icon.

At the first requester Click once on the 'Weiter mit Installation' button,

Then on the next requester Click on 'Weiter',

[If this is a reinstall and you have previously used drives as Moviestop devices for storing Audio or video, do not be alarmed if you get requesters that tell you that Hdxx: is not a dos device. Just click the cancel button, to clear the requester, and eventually installation will proceed.]

In the next requester you want to insert the Name of the System partition, which if you followed our advice above it should be called DraCo: If you are not sure about the exact spelling of your System Partition, click on the 'Laufwerke anz.' button and it will list the partitions in your system. You can then simply click on the partition that you want to install the DraCo System Software to.

Click on the 'Weiter' button. and then again on the next window.

Installation will commence.

After the installation completes, remove the floppy and the CD, and restart the computer. Either by pressing the reset button above the power button, or simultaneously pressing the Keyboard Keys <Ctrl>, <Black DraCo>, and <Blue DraCo> (on either side of the space bar).

Setting your system for the English language
(this step may not be necessary)

By double clicking on the Drawer icons to open the drawers, Open the 'DraCo' Drawer, (or the Drawer where you installed the DraCo system software), then open the 'Prefs' Drawer, and finally, then open the Locale drawer.

In the upper right corner, click the button labeled 'sprachen loschen', which will clear the languages. Then on the left top list choose English. You should also choose your country and timezone, and then click on the 'Spreichern' button.

Right above the Locale icon in the Prefs Drawer is the 'Input' drawer icon. Double click the Input drawer button, and choose American from the Keyboard list. Click save to exit.

Basic Setup for the Monitor

This step requires that you have the specifications for you Multisync/SVGA monitor. You need to know, the upper and lower scan rates for the horizontal frequency range. If you do not have the monitor's documentation, you can use the numbers 31 and 64 (these are conservative numbers for the average VGA monitor), and then find out the right numbers from a reputable source, and change them as soon as you have the exact info.

Double click on the 'CyberEnv Prefs' icon in the Prefs window, and then again, in the next window that opens.

Unless there is an option for DraCo or Altai (which is the actual name for the Dracos Graphics card), leave it on the 'Retina Z3' option in the 'Board' cycle gadget. To dispel possible confusion, there is no Z3 Bus in the DraCo, but the CyberGraphX software still uses the old name for the Amiga Based Retina Z3.

In the Monitor section, move the upper slider to the lower end of your Monitors Horizontal scanning range, like 30 or 31 Khz. Then Adjust the lower slider to the monitors Upper range, like 64Khz.

Click on the select button in the monitor section, and choose the monitor with the highest possible Scan rate that falls within your monitors specifications.

For a Sony 15 sf, I would use 31 and 64, in the upper section of the requester, then use the 'select' button to chose : Monitor -64khz.

Save your Preferences.

All other adjustments to the Display preferences are set through the Preferences Screenmode requester. Consult you Amiga Dos Manual about the use of the ScreenMode Preferences requester.

CAUTION: In experimenting with new screenmodes you should choose 'use', instead of 'save', until you know a particular mode works well. If you save a mode that does not work properly, you may have to reinstall all your software from disk!

Look for additional information on the Cybergraphx Software that should arrive separately from your distributor. We are presently in the process of obtaining English Guide files for CyberGraphx, please keep in touch concerning this.

To make screenmode adjustments to Applications which open without a Screenmode requester, there is a ScreenMode promotion program called 'newmode' that is in the utilities drawer, it does have a English guide file so you can read about it there.

Other Software Tweaks

Tweaks to System setup

On a freshly installed system, there are a few annoying things that may need attention.

In initial development, the DraCo used the Retina Software made for MacroSystem's Amiga Display cards. Thus there are a number of leftovers from that software, that need to be moved out of the way, because this software is not compatible with the CyberGraphics software that is now being used.

Since the DraCo now uses CybergraphX software instead of the Older Retina Software, there are a few drawers that can be moved out of the upper level of your workbench partition. Specifically these are the 'Retina System' and 'Retina Tools' drawer.

I would create a MStools drawer and put these Retina drawers in it.

Also place the Toccata tools drawer in this new MStools drawer, since Vlab's Moviestop software does most of what the Toccata stand alone tools do. You will need to use the Toccata tools, only if you are using Samplitude.

Alternative Dos Drivers

Similar to the, Cross Dos, PC0 icons on the Amiga, the PCA icon in the Storage /DosDrivers Drawer, will allow you to use MS DOS formatted Floppies. Also in the Storage/ Dos Drivers Drawer is the CD0: icon which

you will need to place in the Devs/DosDrivers Drawer if you want to access Amiga CDROMs.

To use the DraCo format in an Amiga, use the DRDD and DRHD icons on the DraCo CD (in storage/dosdrivers). They will allow you to mount, read, and write DraCo floppies in an Amiga system.

Tweaking AdPro For CyberGraphx

A similar adjustment needs to be made to the Adpro drawer. Open it and use the windows menu to 'show all files'. Then open the Displays2 Drawer and rename the 'retina' file to 'Retina'. This disables the screenmodes that use the old Retina software.

Now, run the Adpro program, and click on the universal loader. Use the file requester to locate the Xipaint drawer that was loaded onto your system partition ('DraCo'). In the pictures drawer of Xipaint, load a jpeg file, like Enterprise.jpg.

Now this is subtle, so pay close attention. Before you do anything else, with a file in Adpro's buffer, click once on the cybergraphic option in the savers list. Then from the Settings menu (using the right mouse button at the top of the screen) go down to the Set Modules>> submenu and choose Module #2. This should result in 'Cybergrahpics' being listed in the second Savers button on the main 'Adpro:' interface window. Either clicking this button or using the Blue DraCo key (which substitutes for the White Amiga key on the right of the space bar) and the 4 key, will bring up a screen mode requester. Choose a modest screenmode (since sometimes the higher color and resolution options do not work).

Now save these settings using the settings pull down menu .

Tweaking Xipaint For CyberGraphX

Prior to running xipaint you need to choose a screenmode for it. Do so by double clicking, the XiPrefs_E icon. Choose 'CyberGraphics, direkt', from the Available output Modules list on the left. Then click once on the select display button. Again be conservative, and work your way up from a lesser overhead screenmode. Start with something like 640x480 24 bit. If you want larger resolutions, it may help to use the 16 bit modes. You use the XiPrefs_E every time you want to choose a different screenmode for Xipaint. For the time being the other CyberGraphics output Modules do not seem to work properly. explore them using the 'use' instead of 'save' mode.

Trouble Shooting

If your DraCo does not arrive in a state of perfection and complete bliss, as described in the first section, or if you need to Install the DraCo System Software onto new hard drives, you will find the following information useful, if not somewhat amusing.

If at any time your DraCo does go on the Total Fritz(tech talk for 'owie', or 'boo boo'), You can follow the instructions below , and completely restore all the major software from the DraCo CD. If you need to restore a trashed system, it is advisable to renew your sense of humor before preceding. Take Five (or More) if necessary!

Prior to Reinstalling the whole DraCoCD, you should try resetting software defaults, by using options like 'load default settings from archive' in Movieshop's setting menu.

Regardless of how much we spend on shipping or packaging, problems do occur, and as long as you step through the troubleshooting process with a sense of balance, these problems can usually be worked out.

DraCo Hardware -No Boot up Checklist

Trouble shooting at the start

Boot Screen Menus

Holding down the left mouse button at bootup is equivalent to holding down both mouse buttons on a standard Amiga. this shows you the Amiga OS bootscreen menu. Here you can check which hardware has autoconfigured, and choose which drive to boot from.

Holding down the right mouse button, at bootup brings up the DraCo Boot screen. Here you can adjust various settings such as whether you use CyberGraphics. If you have not installed software to the hard disk yet, the Cybergraphics should be turned off.

At the bottom of the DraCo Boot screen is a checkbox to reset all DraCo setting to Default. This option is helpful especially if there is distortion in the DraCo Graphics display.

No DraCo Boot screen or Amiga Workbench

If the DraCo Boot screen or the Amiga Workbench screen never comes up, You should first check that nothing has wiggled loose on its journey to you.

Unhook the power and other cables from the back of the DraCo.

Remove the six Phillips head screws holding the cover on the tower case.

Lift the back end up as you pull back the cover away from the front of the system.

Inside check these connections:

For reference. The front of the system is where the power switch is and Back of the system is where the cables are connected.

Check the Seating of the Cards

Check to make sure all the cards are properly seated in their slots. This may require laying the unit down on its side so you can see in easier. A flashlight will also be helpful.

If any of the cards appear loose. Unscrew the stay screw holding the backplane of the card down. And remove the card completely. Now while piloting the tongue into the groove for the backplane, gently yet firmly seat the card into the slot. Check to make sure it is fully seated in it's slot.

Do this for all cards, as necessary.

Check the RAM

The main CPU board, with the small fan, is called the Eltanin.

On the Eltanin, check to make sure the RAM SIMMs are properly seated. You may need to take out SIMMs to see if ones further back are seated. A flashlight may be needed.

Check Wires and Ribbon Cables

Smaller wires connected to Eltanin

There are a few double strands of wires that connect to the Eltanin.

A red and white pair connects just behind the SCSI ribbon cable located nearest to the back of the system. The red wire should be closest to the back of the system.

Moving toward the front of the board, a bit past the middle, where the CPU is with its little fan, a blue and white pair of wires should be connected to a pair of pins that are located, right next to the first smaller ribbon cable socket. The blue wire in the pair should be closest to the ribbon cable sockets.

All the ways towards the front of the board, near the last ribbon cable socket, a Green and white pair of wires connects to the three pins in that area, with the white wire closest to the front of the system.

Ribbon cables connected to the Eltanin

With the exception of the floppy drive ribbon cable, which has a keyed connector and must be seated in its socket to fit into the notch, All the ribbon cables connect to the Eltanin, with the red marked side pointing toward the front of the system.

The SCSI Ribbon cable is larger then the rest and so it can only fit in the socket near the back of the system. The other cables generally hang down over their respective sockets. Make sure they are all seated properly into the Eltanin Board.

Now Trace the SCSI cable through the system, to make sure that the ribbon cable is properly seated into all the SCSI devices it is attached to. This may require a flashlight to see clearly. An 'almost' properly seated SCSI connection is going to cause intermittent or strange behaviors, so you should double check that all the connections are solid, by pressing evenly on the connector behind each SCSI device.

Now Trace the Ribbon cable for the floppy. It's socket on the Eltanin, is the second one from the front of the system. Make sure the other end is properly seated onto the floppy drive.

With the case off, reconnect the power chord, mouse, and Keyboard. Try booting up the system again. If you Get the DraCo Boot up screen and the Amiga Workbench Screen. You can skip the next section.

If you are still having problems. Place the DraCo Floppy disk in the Floppy Drive, and try booting up. If you do get The Boot up Screen and

the Amiga Workbench comes up, you probably need to install the system software onto your system Hard drive.

If your system does not boot off of the DraCo Floppy, contact Support Services.

If you have other Questions:

Support Services can be reached via email at:

mash@draco.com

Or by Phone at 303.440.5399

Install 4.0 Beta 46

A. Boot up the Draco

B. Insert disk into the Draco Vision

- 1. Double click on the Install_Beta disk Icon to open**
- 2. On the workbench Open up the Draco system drawer and open up the Movieshop drawer.**
- 3. You will now have three windows open A: The Movieshop drawer and B: the install disk window ignore the Draco system drawer.**
- 4. Click on the MS4.0 46 Icon in the Install disk window and hold down the left mouse button, drag it over to the Movieshop drawer. This will copy the 4.0 Movieshop to your Movieshop drawer.**
- 5. Double click on the install beta icon in the Install window. Let the program run. When it is finished remove the install disk and reboot the Draco.**
- 6. You will now have a copy of 4.0 Beta 46 in your Movieshop drawer and the Icon labeled Movieshop will be Movieshop3.5 Beta.**
- 7. Just for insurance I have included 3.5 Beta and 4.0 beta 46 on the install disk.**

Important notes; A project done in 4.0 will can not be loaded in 3.5 but if a scene is saved out it can be loaded in as a scene. A project done in 3.5 can be loaded in 4.0.