

Color Computer Disk Utility version 0.7

About:

This program is a Graphical Front End utility that communicates with the **fdrawcmd.sys** floppy disk driver available from [<http://simonowen.com>](http://simonowen.com). The purpose of this utility is to allow Windows XP, 2000, Vista, etc.... users to read, write and format floppy disks for use with the Tandy Color Computer.

Disclaimer:

No support is provided for this tool. The author assumes no responsibility for any consequences from the use of this software. This software has only been tested on Windows XP Home Edition - Service Pack 2. It may or may not operate correctly on other OS versions.

Features:

This program allows you to read and write single or double-sided floppy disks with track counts of 35, 40 or 80. Double-sided disks are always assumed to be true double-sided, not "flippies" or the like. The supported track format is double density (MFM), 18 sectors per track, 256 bytes per sector. At this time, only the basic JVC disk image file format is supported.

This version also includes "experimental" support for reading (but not writing) disks in a 1.2MB 5.25 inch floppy drive without having to use any special jumper settings on the drive. If the program detects that the drive is spinning at 360 rpm instead of 300 rpm, it will adjust the data rate to compensate. This will usually require that you enable the "Head Double Step" option since the drive will likely be configured for 96 TPI instead of 48 TPI.

An **Auto Detect** option is available for reading floppy disks. This option simply causes the program to examine tracks 0, 34, 39 and 79 on each side of the disk in order to automatically configure the options for reading the disk. This may yield undesirable results if the disk has been formatted multiple times with different configurations.

When a floppy disk with bad/missing sectors is read, the program will substitute a user-selectable byte value to fill the sector's data in the image file. Sectors with CRC errors are read as-is. The program will generate a text file listing any such errors that are encountered.

The program also permits the formatting of floppy disks using the same configurations mentioned above. In addition, you can specify the **Skip Factor** (sector interleave) and the **Fill Byte** used to initialize the sectors.

Limitations:

Writing and Formatting 48 TPI disks in a 96 TPI drive (double stepping the head) is NOT supported.

Formatting a floppy disk does not install a File System on the disk. For Disk Extended Color Basic, no file system is necessary (just make sure to specify FF for the Fill Byte). For OS9 and NitrOS9, you will need to write a disk image which contains a pre-configured RBF File System after formatting the disk.