
Acorn Advance Release Note

(Version 1.01)

Introduction

This release note describes

- the contents of the Acorn Advance product packs
- points to watch out for when starting to use Advance
- advance features not described in the *Advance User Guide*
- the NetUtils application – not covered in the *Advance User Guide*.

Read the section entitled *Points to watch out for* when starting with Advance – you may find doing this saves you from problems later.

The NetUtils application may be needed by network users running Advance on RISC OS 3 version 3.10. If this does not apply to you, you can ignore the NetUtils section.

Acorn Advance pack contents

The following items are included in each of the three Acorn Advance product packages. If any items are missing from or damaged in your pack, notify your supplier immediately.

Advance Single-User Pack (SKB77)

- Two user guides:
 - *Advance User Guide*
 - *Advance Project Guide*
- Four discs:
 - Advance Program Disc 1
 - Advance Program Disc 2
 - Advance Data Disc A
 - Advance Data Disc B
- Climate Project Map (colour poster)
- Release Note (this leaflet)
- Owner Registration Form.

Advance Multi-User Pack (SKY77 or SKY78)

- Two user guides:
 - *Advance User Guide*
 - *Advance Project Guide*
- Four discs:
 - Advance Program Disc 1
 - Advance Program Disc 2
 - Advance Data Disc A
 - Advance Data Disc B
- Climate Project Map (colour poster)
- Release Note (this leaflet)
- End User Licence Sheet (Multi-User version)
- Owner Registration Form.

Points to watch out for

Nexus networking considerations

If you intend to run Advance on a Nexus filing system, and require separate shells in each scrap area, you should contact the technical department at SJ Research for further advice.

Virus infections

If you have successfully installed and run Advance, but it fails to load when you double-click on the !Advance icon to run it again, your machine may be infected with a virus. Contact your supplier and purchase a reputable virus toolkit to deal with the infection.

Font cache

Use the Task manager to set the Font cache size. Since all the Advance tools make full use of RISC OS 3 fonts, do not attempt to set the Font cache size to less than 32K. If you find Advance windows redrawing very slowly, or get Font cache errors, increase your Font cache size slightly. This setting is a compromise, as a larger Font cache size leaves less memory free for the applications. Sensible settings to start with when using Advance are:

1Mb computer	32K
2Mb computer	64K
4Mb computer (or larger)	128K

If you are working on a document which contains a large number of fonts per page, you should temporarily set your font cache to 64K or more, and save your document before attempting to print. Otherwise, printing may fail.

If you wish to alter the Font cache size your machine switches on with, use the Memory allocation window of the Configure application. For details about optimising your use of fonts, see the appendix *Fonts and the Font manager* in your RISC OS 3 User Guide.

Portrhouse font

Portrhouse font is not an outline font such as Trinity, Corpus, etc., and is supplied with RISC OS 3 for backward compatibility with RISC OS 2. Do not use Portrhouse in Advance documents. Advance documents containing Portrhouse will not print out as they appear on screen, and attempting to print them may cause printing failures.

Sassoon font

When printing to a PostScript printer, Sassoon font (supplied with RISC OS 3 version 3.5) and some other non-standard fonts print as Courier font. This applies to Advance Database, Spreadsheet and Graph files, but not to Advance Word Processor documents.

Printing and paper margins

If you find that any Advance documents are being printed out too close to the paper edges, or your printer is losing document edges, adjust your Paper size Graphics margins using the !Printers application. The basic steps are:

- 1 Determine what paper size name you are using. To check this, choose **Printer control...** from the printer icon bar menu. In the window that appears, press menu over the line describing your printer, and choose **Configure...**. The paper size name you are using is displayed in the field labelled **Paper:** near the top. Take note of this name, then close the two dialogue boxes.
- 2 Alter the graphics margins for this paper size. To do this, choose **Edit paper sizes...** from the printer icon bar menu. Click on the right arrow at the top of the Paper size dialogue box, and choose the paper size name you are using. Alter the Graphics margins fields appropriately, then click on **OK**.

For more details of using !Printers, see the chapter *Printing* in your RISC OS 3 *User Guide*.

Word Processor: 'New Headers' containing graphics

If you use the New Header/Footer option to create a new header for a page, and then include a graphic field in that header, you'll find that if you shorten the main document (by deleting text from it, for example) causing first page with this header to become blank, the blank page (with header) is retained at the end of your document.

To delete this blank page, first extend your document (by typing carriage returns, for example) so that the page is no longer blank, select and delete the graphic field from the header, then shorten your document again. If you try other ways of removing this trailing page, the Word Processor may close.

Word Processor: printing to file

Printing to file from the Word Processor can produce a file of type 'Data' rather than 'Printout' or 'PoScript'. If this is a problem, change the file type using the RISC OS Filer. For details about setting file types, see the chapter *The desktop Filer* in your RISC OS 3 User Guide.

Word Processor: shrinking graphic frames to zero size

When resizing graphic frames in Word Processor documents, avoid reducing them to zero height or width, as in some circumstances this can prevent you from editing your document further.

Word Processor: saving as default

If you attempt to save a document as default without first clicking in a document frame to select that document, an error message may be displayed.

Spreadsheet: very large numbers

When working with scientific format numbers (e.g. 3e8) in the Spreadsheet, avoid entering and working with values larger than +/-1e100, which can fail to display in some number formats, and can cause problems when graphing.

Spreadsheet: repeated pasting to the other tools

If you transfer data **from** the Spreadsheet **to** the other tools by **Cut** or **Copy** and **Paste**, and repeat this a very large number of times, you may see an error such as

Error from Advance Spreadsheet: Not enough memory to run this command.

If you see this, save any spreadsheet(s) loaded, close the spreadsheet window(s) and choose **Minimise memory** from the Advance icon bar menu before proceeding.

Spreadsheet: 'Save as Formulae'

Before saving a spreadsheet as a 'Formulae' text file, ensure that you have saved all loaded spreadsheets to disc. If you save a spreadsheet with a lot of text in one cell as 'Formulae', the spreadsheet can fail in some circumstances.

NetUtils

The NetUtils application is supplied on Advance Program Disc 2. You only need to use NetUtils if

1 you are running Advance on RISC OS 3 version 3.10.

and

2 you are working on data files (Advance Word Processor files, spreadsheets, databases or graphs) stored or updated over a network.

NetUtils corrects a problem in RISC OS 3 version 3.10 which can cause corruption of large files stored over a network.

To use NetUtils, open a directory display containing !NetUtils. This loads a small relocatable module. If you are going to use NetUtils regularly, copy NetUtils from Program Disc 2 to your fileserver. To use NetUtils automatically when you log on to your network, place !NetUtils in the root directory of your fileserver, and add a line to your !ArmBoot file such as

```
*Filer_Boot net::FServer.$.!NetUtils
```


Report Form

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Use this form to report any problems that you find in the software. Your comments will be taken into account in future products.

What is the exact configuration of your computer:

Computer:

RAM:

Hard disc drives:

Expansion cards:

Monitor type:

Monitor configuration:

Other:

Provide a summary of the problem:

If there is not enough room for your comments, please continue overleaf

An alternative way of reporting this information to Acorn is to type exactly the information you would write on this form into a text file using Edit and post it to the address below on an E format ADFS floppy disc.

How would you classify your experience with computers?

First-time user

Used computers
before

Programmer

Experienced
Programmer

Cut out or photocopy and post to:

Dept. Advance

Customer Support

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