

Altair Minidisk Images

Unlike 8 inch floppies for which any disk could contain both a boot image and data files, there are two minidisk formats: The “boot” format contains a bootable image of BASIC or Altair DOS, the “data” format is for storage of programs and data files.

When a MOUNT is done on a bootable minidisk, a disk error message is displayed. This is normal – a documented “feature” of bootable disks. The bootable disk is permanently write protected (independent of the write protect notch on the floppy), so no files can be written to a boot disk. Because of this, it was typical to immediately remove the boot disk after BASIC (or DOS) was up and running and insert a data disk into drive zero. At this point, the MOUNT operation(s) were done.

On the Altair Clone, swapping a different floppy into drive zero is most easily done with the “Change Drive Assignment” option in the Floppy Disk menu of the Configuration Monitor. For example, after booting, use this option to swap drive 2 into drive 0.

Altair DOS Disks

DOS.dsk

Bootable Altair DOS 1.0. Runs version 1.0 EDIT, ASM, LINK, etc. from the “Altair DOS Programs” disk. Will also run the version 2.0 versions of ASM, LINK and FORTRAN 2.8 from the “DOS Fortran v1 r0 pn247642 sn100104” disk. Interestingly, DOS 1.0 will **not** run the version 1.0 EDIT, ASM, LINK, etc. from the “OS v1 Dsk 2 sn10048” disk (i.e., programs intended for DOS 1.01) – even those these programs are also “Version 1.0.”

OS v1 Dsk 1 sn10048.dsk

Bootable Altair DOS 1.01. Runs version 1.0 EDIT, ASM, LINK, etc. from the “OS v1 Dsk 2 sn10048” disk. Will **not** run the version 1.0 EDIT, ASM, LINK, etc. from the “Altair DOS Programs” disk (i.e., programs intended for DOS 1.0) – even those these programs are also “Version 1.0.” Also this version of DOS will **not** run the version 2.0 versions of ASM, LINK and FORTRAN 2.8 from the “DOS Fortran v1 r0 pn247642 sn100104” disk. DOS 1.01 seems to be a bastard version that may have never been officially released.

Altair DOS Programs.dsk

Altair DOS 1.0 editor, assembler, linker, copy utility, etc. These programs will **not** run under DOS 1.01.

DOS Fortran v1 r0 pn247642 sn100104.dsk

DOS assembler 2.0, linker 2.0, editor 1.0, Microsoft FORTRAN 2.8. These programs will **not** run under DOS 1.01.

OS v1 Dsk 2 sn10048.dsk

Altair DOS 1.01 editor, assembler, linker, copy utility, etc. These programs will **not** run under DOS 1.0 even though the version number of all the utilities is 1.0.

BASIC Disks

Altair Mini-disk BASIC 247633.dsk

Bootable BASIC 300-5-E system disk

Basic 300-5-F.dsk

Bootable BASIC 300-5-F system disk

4-1 files Master Startrek Memtest etc.dsk

BASIC games and programs

DATAFILE Program.DSK

DATAFILE program for maintaining a random file with name and address information

DATAFILE Names.dsk

Contains a single random file, "NAMES" for use with the DATAFILE program.

ELECTRONIC FILES - REPAIR.DSK

BASIC programs for electronic calculations

Logic Loan Lunar Orbit etc.dsk

BASIC games and programs

main files 8-80 backup.DSK

BASIC games and programs

PIP-MDT-TEST-etc.DSK

BASIC utilities

Starwars-startrek-saucer-etc.DSK

BASIC games and programs

QType 1 of 3 Main Programs.dsk

QType word processor. To use QType, boot BASIC with the "Basic 300-5-F.dsk" in drive zero. At the "MEMORY SIZE?" prompt, you must have sufficient RAM and specify 61800 (not more). In response to "HOW MANY FILES?" type 4, to "RANDOM FILES?" type 1. Once "OK" is displayed, remove the boot disk and insert the "QType 1 of 3 Main Programs" disk into drive zero. Now type MOUNT 0 to mount the program disk. The SYSGEN program on this disk can be used to configure QType for different terminal types.

QType 2 of 3 Buffers.dsk

Contains print drivers for different combinations of printer type and memory size. The required driver for the current QType configuration is already on QType disk 1.

QType 3 of 3 Samples.dsk

Sample QType files

WP-F ADCTST PCI ADC1 Lisa etc.dsk

WP-F word processor. Disk error in directory, some files lost.

Fixed WP-F ADCTST etc.dsk

Repaired version of the "WP-F ADCTST PCI ADC1 Lisa etc" disk. The "WP-G" and "WP-H" programs are enhanced versions of WP-F that display a directory of files to choose from when opening a document for editing.