

RAMD14K for Atari DOS 2.5

RAMD14K is a ramdisk driver for Atari XL with at least 64k and DOS 2.5. It uses the 14kB RAM hidden by the OS ROM. It is an extension of the previous work described in COMPUTE! Issue 77 from October 1986 (section INSIGHT: Atari, article "A Special RAMdisk For The 800XL" by Bill Wilkinson).

Important:

This version only works with original Atari DOS 2.5.

How Does It Work

The program RAMD14K.COM replaces the RAMDISK.COM delivered with Atari DOS 2.5. You can just rename RAMD14K.COM to RAMDISK.COM. If you start it the first time you will probably get an output like this:

```
RAMD14K FOR ATARI DOS II VERSION 2.5
SET UP RAMDISK D:8
FORMAT RAMDISK
COPY DUP.SYS
CREATE MEM.SAV
```

Now the ramdisk is ready to use. Besides enabling the ramdisk furthermore the DUP.SYS was copied, MEM.SAV was created, and the drive to look up these files was set to D8:. If any error occurs during this process the DOS error code is displayed like this:

```
RAMD14K FOR ATARI DOS II VERSION 2.5
SET UP RAMDISK D8:
FORMAT RAMDISK
COPY DUP.SYS
ERROR- 170
```

If DUP.SYS is not found on D1: then MEM.SAV is not created and the look up drive for DUP.SYS und MEM.SAV is not set to D8: but the ramdisk is ready to use. The error codes conform with DOS II Version 2.5.

Important:

Atari DOS 2.5 is patched to access the extra RAM hidden by OS ROM instead of the 130XE RAM. After starting RAMD14K.COM it is not possible to use the original RAMDISK.COM any longer. If you save the DOS using command H then the patched version is saved.

After warm start or cold start (without power off/on) the ramdisk will still be in working order and be recognized. The output will look like this:

```
RAMD14K FOR ATARI DOS II VERSION 2.5
SET UP RAMDISK D8:
```

How to Use The!Ramdisk without DUP.SYS and MEM.SAV

If you have already set up a ramdisk with DUP.SYS and MEM.SAV and you can get rid of them to save space. You have to do two task:

- 1) Delete DUP.SYS and MEM.SAV
- 2) Execute an cold start using DOS command M with address E477

The second step is important. Just deleting DUP.SYS and MEM.SAV would lock you out at a warm start or a switch from cartridge to DOS because DOS still looks at D8: for these files. After a cold start RAMCART.COM recognize the missing DUP.SYS and switch the look up drive back to D1:.

If you want to use DUP.SYS and MEM.SAV on ramdisk again:

- 1) Copy DUP.SYS to the ramdisk
- 2) Execute a cold start using DOS command M with address E477
- 3) Create MEM.SAV by using the DOS command N.