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Apple IIGS Finder: Description of Features and Some User Tips

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The Apple IIGS Finder brings much of the power of the Macintosh Finder to the Apple IIGS. It lets Apple IIGS users use a 'desktop' interface for launching applications and performing file manipulation. The Apple IIGS Finder works only on an Apple IIGS with a mouse and at least 512K of memory.

Some of the features of the Apple IIGS Finder are:

- icon representation of volumes, disk files, and the trash can.
- menus: Apple, File, Edit, View, Special, and Color.
- online Help available in the Apple menu.
- choice of colors for individual volume and file icons.
- the Put Back function lets the user return files that have been thrown in the trash can or recently moved to the desktop back to their original locations.
- a Preferences option in the Special menu provides six options (all of which default to 'on'):

Display help for dimmed commands. If this box is checked, users can select a greyed-out menu option, and get help on why that option is currently not available.

Double-check before removing files and folders. If this box is checked, a dialog box requests verification before files or folders are deleted.

Color selected icon's background instead of its outline. If this box is checked, the selected icon's background is colored instead of its outline. It is personal preference, but the default -- background color fill -- is easier to see than a colored outline

Save Finder information onto disk. If this box is checked, the Finder creates a file called FINDER.DATA that records the window position and size of all open windows. Another file, called FINDER.ROOT, remembers what windows were open on the desktop when the disk was ejected. If for some reason you want this data not to be recorded, don't check this box.

Hide the Finder's data files. If this box is checked, when a window is opened, the default is to not display the FINDER.DATA and FINDER.ROOT files. If you want them displayed, don't check this box.

Do a smart block copy. If this box is checked, the default mode when copying disks of the same size is to copy only those blocks that contain information (this speeds the process). To copy all blocks, regardless of whether they contain information, don't check this box.

Users familiar with the Macintosh Finder may find the following tips useful when using the Apple IIGS Finder:

- After making a working copy of the original Apple IIGS System Disk 3.0, unlock the working disk. If you don't, the window positions and icon arrangements won't be saved to disk.
- When a 5 1/4" disk is inserted into the drive, there is no way for the Apple IIGS Finder to know it is there, unless you tell it. There are now 5 1/4" disk drive icons on the desktop, directly below any other volumes that are online. When a 5 1/4" disk is inserted, double click on its icon so the Finder can recognize the disk.
- If a volume is brought online while there is another volume of the same name already on the desktop, a dialog box warns the user that the volumes have the same name the operation is cancelled. The disk is not ejected, and the volume does not appear on the desktop. The best thing to do after receiving such a message is to eject the disk by hand.

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