Amiga Floppy Drive Compatibility List

Since a disk drive is by nature a moving part, it is inevitable that it will fail someday. The vast majority of Amiga computers out there are least a decade old (some are nearly 20 years old), and so many users have had the misfortune of their disk drives dying on them. Replacing them is difficult because while Amiga disk drives are for the most part electrically compatible with those used in the Wintels of today, there are slight but vital differences in terms of both signals and pinout.

The problem stems mainly from the fact that Commodore used low-density drives throughout the Amiga line up until the Amiga 4000 and 3000T. (After that they made things even worse by switching to custom-made high-density drives that spun at half the speed of a normal high-density floppy drive.) In contrast, low-density drives were quickly phased out of use in the IBM world sometime around the mid-1980s and can be found on only the oldest of machines. The aim of this guide is to provide information on which disk drives will work or can be made to work in an Amiga.

If properly configured, some drives listed will work right away, and some will work with modifications. Most others cannot be configured at all. Drives that can't be reconfigured can be made to sort of work with a cable hack, but the "diskchange" signal will probably not work right (at least, it never worked for me). As a result, the Amiga will not be able to tell whether or not the drive has a disk inside. It is not possible to swap disks in games or start up an Amiga 1000 past the "insert Workbench" screen with this trick. Drives that have been modified or reconfigured sometimes suffer from a missing or different "ready" signal- this can cause problems with certain pieces of software that access the disk drive directly.

If you don't feel like modifying an existing floppy drive or can't find one that can be reconfigured, there are a few alternatives. Individual Computers offers an adapter board called the Kylwalda, which can be used to make almost any modern Wintel disk drive fully Amiga compatible. Eyetech also used to sell something called the EZ-DF0, which does something similar.

The following chart should help in figuring out which model of floppy drive might work best with your Amiga. Some work, some need modifications in order to completely work, and the rest will only partially work with the cable hack.

3.5 Drives:

Manufacturer	Model	Works unmodified?	Can be modified?	Notes
Alps Electric	DF354H090F	Unknown	Unknown	
Chinon	FZ-354	Yes	N/A	
Chinon	FZ-354A	Yes	N/A	
Chinon	FZ-357	Yes	N/A	
Chinon	FZ-357A	Yes	N/A	Will work as high-density drive in an Amiga.
Chinon	FB-354	Yes	N/A	Has 6-pin jumper block on back. Short pins 3 and 5.
Epson	SMD-380	No	No	
Epson	SMD-300	Unknown	Maybe	
Epson	SMD-340	No	No	Has large jumper array on the back-First row labeled G,A,A,T,T,0,(BLANK),1, second row labeled H,(BLANK),L,(BLANK),S,2(BLANK),3. Docs are here.
Mitsumi	D359T7	Unknown	Unknown	

NEC	FD1231H	Unknown	Unknown	
NEC	FD1035	Yes	N/A	Low-density drive.
NEC	FD1036 A	Yes	N/A	Low-density drive.
Panasonic	JU-257T234P	Unknown	Maybe	Has 5 setting switches- RY/DC, NC/OUT/IN, 0/3/2/1, SE/AT/PS2, MO/MS.
Panasonic	JU-257A023F	Partially	Maybe	Has 6 setting switches- 0/3/2/1, M0/M1, RY/DC, AT/PS2, NC/EX(or OUT/EX), A/B.
Panasonic	JU-257A606P	Unknown	Yes-see this file on Aminet	
Panasonic	JU-257A605P	Partially	Yes-see this CAPS Knowledge Base article	
Panasonic	JU-257A606PC	Unknown	Maybe	
Panasonic	JU-257A607P	Unknown	Maybe	
Panasonic	JU-257A137P	Unknown	Maybe	
Panasonic	JU-253-033P	Yes	N/A	To make it work, set MS/MD to MD, 0/1/2/3 to 0, RY/DC to RY.
Panasonic	JU-253-243P	Unknown	Unknown	
Sony	MPF920-F	No	No	Has one setting jumper.
Sony	MPF420-1	Yes	N/A	Has jumper grid for settings. To make it work, short pins 5 and 10, 11 and 6, 8 and 7, and 13 and 12. Also see: illustrated configuration.
Sony	MPF110-05	Yes	N/A	Low-density drive.
Sony	MPF17W-1	Unknown	Unknown	
Samsung	SFD-321B/KEPN	Unknown	Unknown	Has holes in the bottom of the housing through which solder pads with settings marked next to them can be seen.
Tamagawa	TS3118N8	Yes	N/A	Low-density drive.
TEAC	FD-235HFA429	Unknown	Unknown	Settings can be changed with solder pads according to the manuals.
TEAC	FD-235F	Yes	N/A	Low-density drive. Has 6 setting jumpers-MS, IR, RY, DC, D1, D0. To make it work, put jumpers on RY, DC & D0.
TEAC	FD-235HF3823	Yes	N/A	Has a grid of setting jumpers, with 4,3,2,1 from left to right and ABCDEFG from bottom to top. To make it work, put jumpers from 1A to 1B, 3A to 3B, 4C to 3C, 4E to 3E and 4G to 3G. Also short the "Frame Ground" jumper, which sits to the upper left of the main jumper grid. Also see: illustrated configuration.
TEAC	FD-235HF3435	Yes	N/A	Has a grid of setting jumpers, with 4,3,2,1 from left to right and ABCDEFG from bottom to top. To make it work, put jumpers from 1A to 1B, 3A to 3B, 4A to 4B, 3C to 4C, 3E to 4E, and 3G to 4G. Also short the

				"Frame Ground" jumper, which sits to the upper left of the main jumper grid. Also see: illustrated configuration.
TEAC	FD-235HF4240	N/A	N/A	Has a grid of setting jumpers, with 2,1 from left to right and ABCDE from bottom to top.

NOTE: All drives listed will only work with Amigas as 880K or 720K drives unless specifically noted.

Advice for unknown drives: if there's config switches or jumpers (sometimes you have to open the cover to get to them), experiment with every combination and see if that makes the drive work any better. If there aren't any, it's probably only going to work with the cable hack(which is not a practical solution) or an adapter board(which is costly).

If you have any corrections, additions or comments to add, feel free to e-mail me. Information on the kit called "The Real HD-Drive A357" and how it worked would be greatly appreciated, as would tips on how to modify the most common floppy drives in use today (such as the TEAC FD-235HFAXXX) for Amiga use.