Dual Floppy Drive Set

For Any Retro Floppy Disk Interface

Manual

Introduction

Thank you for ordering this product!

Many people like to experience the nostalgic feeling of working with Floppy Drives once again.
Some may even need this unit for professional purposes, like with musical equipment or something else.

The Dual Floppy Drive Set contains HD PC Floppy Disk drives for 3.5" DD or HD disks.
Please read the 'DD vs. HD' paragraph for some important information.

In the box

The Dual Floppy Drive Set comes with:

- Integrated 34 pin Floppy Drive cable
- 5V 2A Power Supply*

* We might only have EU plug power supplies in stock, but will add a UK adapter for addresses in the UK.
The included power supply is compatible with world standards, so 90 - 240V and 50 or 60Hz.
So for other countries, you can use a simple (travel) mains adapter.

The Dual Floppy Drive Set has been thoroughly tested before shipment, and has been checked to be clean
and fully working.

Required Floppy Disk interface

Your (retro) computer requires a Floppy Disk interface to be able to connect the Dual Floppy Drive Set to it.

For example:

- Shugart compatible interfaces like:
    - Disciple Disk interface for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum
    - PlusD or PlusDlite Disk interface for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum
    - Sandy Disk interface for the Sinclair QL
    - Gold card interface for the Sinclair QL
    - Trump card for the Sinclair QL
    - BBC with integrated Disk interface
    - And many more…
- IBM PC interfaces like:
   - MB02 or MB03+ for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum

Make sure to check if your computer has a Floppy Disk interface, and what standard it supports.
See the next paragraph for more information about the differences of the most common standards.

Shugart vs. IBM standards

There are 2 main standards in pinouts for Floppy Disk Drives: Shugart or IBM PC.
They mainly differ on pins 10 - 16.

We configure the Dual Floppy Drive Set to Shugart pinout by default, unless otherwise requested, since these are mostly used on retro computers, and Shugart pinout was the default in the 80's.
PCs with 3.5" Floppy Disk Drives used the IBM PC pinout.
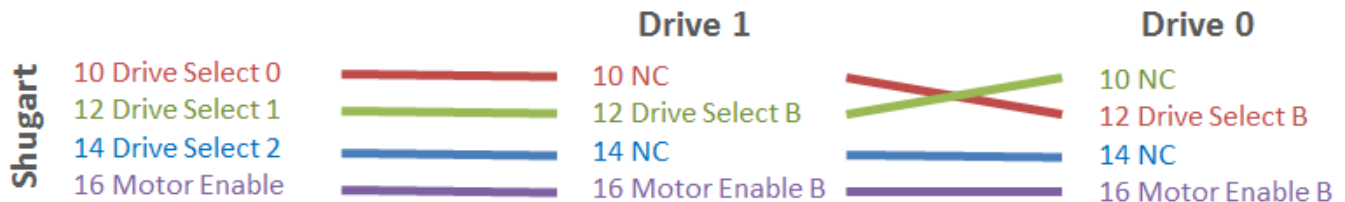
However, you can request us to configure the Dual Floppy Drive Set to IBM PC pinout to use on more modern Floppy Disk interfaces.
Most of the IBM PC compatible Floppy Disk interfaces will support HD formatting as well, which will work with this Dual Floppy Drive Set if configured to IBM PC standard pinout.
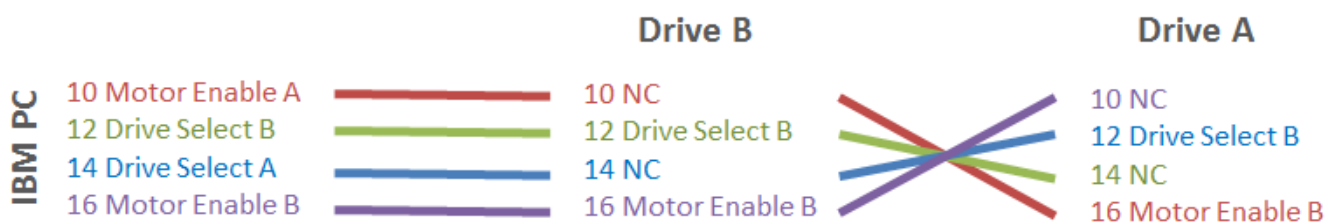
On the above wiring diagrams you can see that there are some major differences in naming and wiring.

The wiring does not affect formatting however, so it's up to the Floppy Disk interface how the drives can be used for formatting disks.

DD vs. HD disks

The Dual Floppy Drive Set contains two PC HD Disk Drives.

These drives support these formatting settings:

- 80 track Single Sided Double Density (SS DD) disks
- 80 track Double Sided Double Density (DS DD) disks
- 80 track Double Sided High Density (DS HD) disks

These drives do NOT support 40 track or Single / Standard Density formatting.

Most retro computers will format as DS DD, not HD.
However there some modern interfaces have been developed for retro computers that do support HD disks, such as the MB02 or MB03+ Floppy Disk interface for the ZX Spectrum.

Using HD disks to format as DD

NOTE: do NOT format HD disks as DD, for example by closing the HD hole with tape or a label.
HD disks are made with a less sensitive magnetic layer, that will lose data much sooner when formatted as DD.

If you are in need of Double Density disks, it's better to obtain used DD disks and reuse them.
It's very hard to find new unused DD disks, but ByteDelight might offer them sometimes.
ByteDelight will also offer used but cleaned and tested DD disks in the webshop when available.

Servicing the set

NOTE: there are no user serviceable parts inside.

The unit is not meant to be opened, since the screw holes are covered with caps that can't be taken out without damaging them, and some double adhesive tape has been used to close the case for a perfect fit.

The reason for this is that there are almost no suitable cases to be found, and the one we use is the best there is for this purpose.