

**MBlank**

<b>COLLABORATORS</b>
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# Chapter 1

## MBlank

### 1.1 MBlank 1.22 - Guide

MBlank 1.22 - Index

DISCLAIMER

Copyright

Intro

Requirements

Installation

Usage

Preferences

Tooltypes

Modules

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### 1.2 MBlank 1.22 - Copyright

Copyright Notice.

MBlank is FREEWARE and may be henceforth distributed without any notification towards the author AS LONG AS you distribute it contained in the original archive, or an exact copy. No charges may be made to consumers, other than the cost of the

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carrying media added to the cost of transportation. In some cases administrative overhead may be charged as well.

Notification, although not obligatory, would be very much appreciated.

### 1.3 MBlank 1.22 - Disclaimer

The author can and will not be held responsible for any damage to ANYTHING caused by the use of this program and/or modules.

### 1.4 MBlank 1.22 - Introduction

Program: MBlank 1.22 - Screen Saver

Status: FreeWare

Function: Blanks the screen after a user-defined period.  
Type of blanking depends on user-selected module.

Features:

- TRUE font-sensitivity, adapts to screen-font changes on the fly, same goes for the MBlank.prefs window and the Module settings windows.
- External prefs window, only using memory if needed.
- Module settings alterable from within MBlank.
- Commodity, external control via Exchange.
- Multiple tasks, for maximum flexibility.
- Menu, (if desired) menu-item on WorkBench->Tools menu, if picked, blanking will start in one second.
- Application window, throwing modules on it will cause MBlank to 'play' that module immediately, this is handy for testing modules, Prefs window also AppWindow.
- Relatively small, low memory consumption AND low cpu-usage if used without modules, or Dimmer.
- Stable, but read the disclaimer first anyway.
- Surprising, future modules might surprise you.
- Internal custom module support, easy settings handling.
- Developers will get friendly support.
- Most up to date version easy to download from the author's homepage.
- Runnable from CLI or WorkBench/WBStartup.
- Installation-script checks for WBStartup+ presence.
- Tooltype settings via installation-script if expert-mode.
- OS2.04 compatible. (I think).
- Custom modules are very easy to implement (in assembly).

Motives: Wanted small/compact basic blanker.  
Do some commodity research.

Language: Assembly, Devpac Lite.

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Requirements: OS2.04+, 68020+, also see  
Requirements  
.

## 1.5 MBlank 1.22 - Requirements

Requirements: commodities.library (v37+)  
workbench.library (v37+)

MBlank uses several other libraries as well, but these do not need to be loaded from disk, since your Amiga keeps them all in ROM.

As long as you're using OS2.04 and up, you should be fine.

Modules may have additional requirements.  
Check out the  
Modules  
section for details.

## 1.6 MBlank 1.22 - Installation

Installation: Double-click the 'MBlank-Install' icon to start.  
Choosing the expert mode will allow you to set  
a few important  
tooltypes  
during installation.

or

You could install MBlank manually, but this is not advised, especially not if you want MBlank in your WBStartup drawer. If you do, remember to set the MOD\_PATH tooltype in the MBlank icon correctly, as well as the Prefs tooltype, which should point to the MBlank.prefs file.  
(The installation script will take care of this for you automatically, saving you the hassle.)

As long as the MBlank directory-tree has the following structure, everything should be fine:

```
MBlank      (dir)
  MBlank    file
  MBlank.info  icon
  MBlank.guide  file
  MBlank.guide.info icon
  MBlank.prefs  file
  MBlank.readme  file
  MB_Develop  (dir)
    module.i    file
```

```
Forces.blm.asm    file
MB_Docs          (dir)
#?.blm.guide     files
MB_Modules       (dir)
#?.blm           files
#?.blm.info      icons
```

In this tree the MBlank tooltype 'MOD\_PATH' would be 'MOD\_PATH=MB\_Modules', which is already the case. The PREFS tooltype would be 'PREFS=MBlank.prefs'.

## 1.7 MBlank 1.22 - Usage

Usage: MBlank can be started from the WorkBench or from CLI with 'Run'. If its window popped up, you can throw modules ('fujibar.blm' files) on it which MBlank will show after a short delay. This allows a user to quickly see what a module is like.

Arguments: Use the tooltypes to simulate arguments.

MBlank Window: The display gadget on top, displays the name of the blanker module that will be used next time blanking is required.

SHORTCUTS: 'a' or 'A'  
The 'About...' gadget pops up an information window.

SHORTCUTS: 'n' or 'N'  
The 'Next...' gadget, allows you to 'jump' to the next module.

SHORTCUT: 'b' or 'B'  
The 'Blank' gadget, enables you to initiate blanking immediately, inserting a short delay which gives you the opportunity to release your mouse or keyboard.

SHORTCUT: 'p' or 'P'  
The Prefs... gadget, pops up a prefs window.

SHORTCUT: RIGHTAMIGA + 'H' or 'h'  
The 'Hide' gadget, pressing this gadget will close the MBlank window. You can change screen-font when the window is hidden, because the next time the window pops up, it will adapt to the new settings.

SHORTCUT: RIGHTAMIGA + 'Q' or 'q'  
The 'Quit' gadget kills MBlank, closing all windows associated, except the 'About' window, which runs as a separate task.

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NOTE: Pressing the window's close gadget, HIDEs the window.

## 1.8 MBlank 1.22 - Preferences

The prefs window is, like the MBlank popup window, font-sensitive. You can alter some settings here, but some will only take effect when MBlank is started a next time. ('Window at startup' for example.)

The following items can be set, they correspond with the tooltypes, so for more information, go to that section

SHORTCUT: 'w' or 'W'

-'Window at startup', equivalent to the 'CX\_POPUP' tooltype. If checked, MBlank will popup its window at startup.

-'X' and 'Y', equivalent to the 'POPX/Y' tooltypes. These will change if you move the MBlank window while the Prefs window is displayed.

If you want to save the position of the 'main' MBlank window with the other settings, you will have to check the 'Save' gadget next to the 'X/Y' gadgets.

SHORTCUT: 'k' or 'K'

-'Hotkey', equivalent to the 'CX\_POPKEY' tooltype.

Important: You may not use the 'alt' or 'shift' qualifiers, but instead you must use the 'lalt', 'ralt', 'lshift', 'rshift' qualifiers.

SHORTCUT: 'a' or 'A'

-'Application menu-item', equivalent to the 'MENU' tooltype. If checked, MBlank will add a menu-item to the WorkBench Tools menu.

SHORTCUT: 's' or 'S'

-'Seconds', equivalent to 'SECONDS' tooltype.

NOTE: Changes in this gadget are immediate.

SHORTCUT: 'm' or 'M'

-'Mouse-move reset', equivalent to the 'MOUSETRIG' tooltype. If checked, MBlank will reset blanking if your mouse moves.

SHORTCUT: 'd' or 'D'

-'Disk ins/rem reset', equivalent to the 'DISKTRIG' tooltype. If checked, MBlank will reset blanking if you insert or remove a disk from a diskdrive.

The Save/Use and Cancel buttons:

-Save, saves the settings to the MBlank icon. It will first check the existance of a tooltype and will replace it if it allready exists (even if it's enclosed in parentheses), otherwise it will create the tooltype.



The following tooltypes will get saved:

CX\_POPUP=YES or NO  
 CX\_POPKEY=key combination  
 MENU=YES or NO  
 SECONDS=number of seconds before blanking  
 MOUSETRIG=YES or NO  
 DISKTRIG=YES or NO

Only if 'Save' is checked:

POPX=popwindow left  
 POPY=popwindow top

The contents of the Module Settings window, if up, will not be saved, you will have to use the 'Save' gadget on the Module Settings window to save those contents.

-Use, uses the new settings, but will not save them.

-Cancel, nothing has changed, really.

-Modules Path, this gadget is currently disabled and read-only.

-Modules Listview,

Here you can select a module from the list and bring up a settings window by selecting the 'Settings...' gadget or by pressing its keyboard shortcut 't/T'.

If you select a module, but the 'Settings...' gadget remains disabled, the module has no settings.

## 1.9 MBlank 1.22 - ToolTypes

\* = settable during installation in expert-mode.  
 - = settable via workbench information window.  
 + = will be automatically set by installation script.  
 (reflecting the path selected.)  
 p = settable via prefs window.

- DONOTWAIT

p/- CX\_PRIORITY  
 default: 0

Commodity priority.

p/- CX\_POPKEY  
 default: 'ctrl lalt b'

Key combination that causes MBlank to popup it's pop-window. (shift, rshift, ctrl, lalt, ralt + a letter.) DO NOT use 'alt', 'shift' or 'caps', since these are not yet supported by MBlank.

p/\* CX\_POPUP=YES|NO  
 default: NO

Popup window at program startup?

p/- POPX=number  
default: 0

Pop-window x-coordinate.

p/- POPY=number  
default: BARHEIGHT+1

Pop-window y-coordinate.

p/\* SECONDS=number  
default: 180

Seconds before blanking.

p/\* MENU=YES|NO  
default: NO

If YES, a menu-item will be added(an attempt will me made at least), to the WorkBench/Tools menu; 'Blank Now'.  
If it is 'picked', blanking will start in 1 second.

- DELAY=number (1/50th of seconds)  
default: 50

This value determines the delay between selecting the 'Blank Now' menu-item and blanking. This allows you to release/park your mouse after the menu-action.  
This delay will also be used with thrown modules, they will not start immediately but will wait for this delay first.

p/\* MOUSETRIG=YES|NO  
default: YES

If YES, MBlank will signal a module to reset if a mouse-event happens. (mouse-button presses/mouse-moves)

If NO, MBlank will only reset the counter if it's not currently blanking, but a mouse-move will not reset blanking, in which case you'd have to press a mouse-button, or press a key to reset the blanking.

p/\* DISKTRIG=YES|NO  
default: NO

If YES, tells MBlank that you want the display to be restored if a disk is inserted or removed.

+ MOD\_PATH=path relative to MBlank home-dir or absolute path

Use 128 characters at max.

If you specify a module-path here and DO NOT specify a MODULE(below), MBlank will alternate all files in the specified module-path, but will only look at #?.blm files.  
This allows you to have all MBlank files in a single

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drawer. If you DO this, set 'MOD\_PATH=' (without quotes), MBlank will then alternate all modules found in the drawer in which MBlank itself resides.

The RANDOM=YES tootype+value(below), will cause the alternation to occur at random.

- MODULE=Module.blm

Use 30 characters at max.

With this tootype you can force MBlank to use a specific module. The module-name will be appended to the MOD\_PATH(if present).  
If MODULE=BLACK, MBlank will use the standard built in 'Black-Screen' blanker.

\* RANDOM=YES|NO  
default: NO

If only a MOD\_PATH is specified, no MODULE, then MBlank will alternate all modules found in this path in order.  
If RANDOM=YES with the above situation being true, MBlank will alternate the available modules at random.

+ PREFS=path/MBlank.prefs  
default: MBlank homedir/MBlank.prefs

## 1.10 MBlank 1.22 - Changes

MBlank, +If MBlank.info doesn't exist, one will be created if Save Prefs is used.  
MBlank.prefs, +If a module has no icon, but it does support settings, MBlank will create an icon.  
Petasan.blm, +New module, will be improved later.

## 1.11 MBlank 1.22 - Contact

Author: Rafael Calderon  
Zd. Parallelweg 155  
6862BZ Arnhem  
Gelderland  
The Netherlands

Email: damian@cybercomm.nl

Use MBlank as the subject of your e-mail.

http: [www.cybercomm.nl/~damian](http://www.cybercomm.nl/~damian)

Append '/personal/projects.html', without the quotes, to go to the 'Projects-Page' directly.

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## 1.12 MBlank 1.22 - Bugs

Bugs:

Nothing dramatic as far as I know,  
contact  
me if you find  
something, also read the individual 'Modules -> Bugs' sections.

## 1.13 MBlank 1.22 - Modules/Develop

Developers.

NOTE: If you decide to program a blanker-module or maybe convert an existing one, don't distribute the module yourself. Sent it to me, I will include it in a following release AS LONG AS it's completely stable. It HAS TO BE STABLE because it will run on the MBlank task(process)-context, it would take MBlank down with it on failure.

I've included the module.i include file with this archive.

If you want to write a module, bear this in mind:

- Your module must start with the BLM-structure as stated in module.i
- Don't use SECTIONS, do your own allocations. (MBlank loads your module as ONE data-block, so if you need CHIP or something, allocate it yourself from within the module.)
- Use position independant code.
- Your module will run on the MBlank task-context, this means that you can use the library-base pointers stored in the AllGlobals structure.
- See also the module.i include-file.

If you still have questions,  
contact  
me,  
or take a look at the example source first.

### ADDENDUM:

Creating settings for your module has been made extremely easy. MBlank supports the following gadgets in the settings-window:

CHECKBOX\_KIND  
CYCLE\_KIND  
STRING\_KIND  
SLIDER\_KIND  
[LINK\_KIND]

For every gadget on a settings window, you must have a tooltype. MBlank will use a module's icon to save/test the settings.

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It will check for the existence of a tooltype and will take its value as the current setting. Your module only has to set up a few structures and strings as defined in the module.i include. Your module also has to parse the tooltypes via the DiskObject pointer which can be found in gb\_DiskObject(a5).

MBlank expects the following data with each gadget:

```
CHECKBOX_KIND TOOLTYPE=YES or NO
CYCLE_KIND   TOOLTYPE=OPTION or OPTION2 or OPTION3
              (combinations are ignored, mutual. excl.)
STRING_KIND  TOOLTYPE=fujilalala
SLIDER_KIND  TOOLTYPE=positive number
LINK_KIND    Next gadget will be placed to the right
              of the previous, the window will become
              an extended one and the screentitle will
              get a little MBlank plug.
```

Look at the supplied example source and see how it's done.

## 1.14 MBlank 1.22 - Modules

```

                General
                    Dimmer
Forces
Petasan
```

```

                Developers
```

## 1.15 MBlank 1.22 - Modules/General

General Module Information.

'Black-Screen':

Used in cases of module failure or if the user set the MODULE=BLACK tooltype/value. This blanker will open a low-resolution screen with a depth of 1 bitplane. All colours will be set to 0, which is black.

If MBlank cannot open this screen, it will KILL itself.

To see how a module's tooltypes affect a module's behavior, you don't have to quit/change/start MBlank every time you alter a module's tooltypes.

You can change a module's tooltypes during blanking, MBlank loads in the icon just before blanking, so changed tooltypes will not be ignored.

To test modules, you only have to throw a module's icon on the MBlank popup-window(ctrl alt b). MBlank will start blan-

king with the thrown module one second later, unless the file which you threw was not a module. Multiple modules in one throw are ignored, only the first is used.

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