

ViVID5000

VirtualVIDC for A5000



Includes

SuperVIDC
Hi-frequency 256 colour
modes for A5000



ViVID5000

for Acorn A5000
running RISC OS 3.00 to 3.11

iSV
Products

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APDL

ViVID5000

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ViVID 5000

Before attempting to use this product please read the following warning:

WARNING

This product is designed for use on a 'real' Acorn A5000 computer running RISC OS 3.00 to 3.11 and with a 'MultiSync' CRT monitor or Acorn AKF display (e.g. AKF 18) capable of SVGA resolution.

This product is not designed to work with CGA (TV Type displays), VGA or non Acorn branded SVGA CRT monitors.

You can permanently damage a monitor if it's not compatible with ViVID5000.

We have not tested this product on flat panel monitors (LCD, OLED, Plasma etc) because most only support one framerate (e.g. 60Hz) or a very limited range of fixed framerates

Please read all of this manual before installing or using ViVID5000
There is important information here which could save you from damaging your monitor or computer.

ViVID5000 runs the Acorn VIDC to its limits so use of this product is at your own risk.

Use on Emulated Platforms

ViVID5000 may not behave correctly on emulated platforms, such as VirtualA5000 due to the use of scanline, raster, phosphor glow and shadow mask that are involved in creating the display.

If using in emulation ensure that the emulator cannot change the actual screen mode being displayed by Windows.

ViVID 5000

About ViVID 5000

ViVID 5000 (Virtual VIDC) is a software mode enhancer that allows higher than normal resolution screen modes to be displayed by an Acorn A5000 computer. ViVID 5000 requires a multi-sync monitor and has been designed to function using standard 14" multisyncs such as the Acorn AKF18. ViVID 5000 offers real resolutions up to 1024x536 and emulated hi-resolution virtual desktops up to 2240x2016 in 16 colours.

Emulated Environments

ViVID5000 should run in an emulated environment and, provided that the emulator does not try and change the actual Windows display mode, should be able to display all modes on a modern flat panel display. However the hi-resolution virtual desktops will not work correctly as they are designed for an analogue CRT display.

Before Loading ViVID 5000

Before loading ViVID 5000 please copy all the files from the master disk onto your hard disk and then place the master disk in a safe place. Only run ViVID 5000 from your hard disk. The master disk is not protected so you can easily make a backup. However please do not make this backup available or the original available to any third party.

**Please read all of this manual before running ViVID 5000 and
especially before running the SuperVIDC application.**

Other Screen modes/ColourCards

If you use any other screen modes from other manufacturers then these should be removed from memory before loading ViVID 5000. If you load some screen modes as part of your !Boot sequence then remove them from the !Boot file and reset your machine before trying to run !ViVID 5000. ViVID can only read information from its own & Acorn standard modes, any other modes can cause errors on trying to change mode.

Computer Concepts ColourCard

If ViVID 5000 detects a colour card then it will switch to a non Colour Card screen mode and then disable the Colour Card. ViVID 5000 and a Colour Card can both be used on the same machine, but not at the same time.

MonitorTypes

ViVID 5000 will only work if you have your computer configured to use an SVGA or MultiSync Monitor. To configure your machine find out what sort of Monitor you have then press the F12 key and type;

Configure Monitortype "n"
(n=4 for an SVGA monitor, n=1 for a multisync monitor)
Then press return twice.

Loading ViVID 5000

In the archive you should find the following.



There is a copy of this manual, a copy of ViVID5000 and a copy of SuperVIDC.

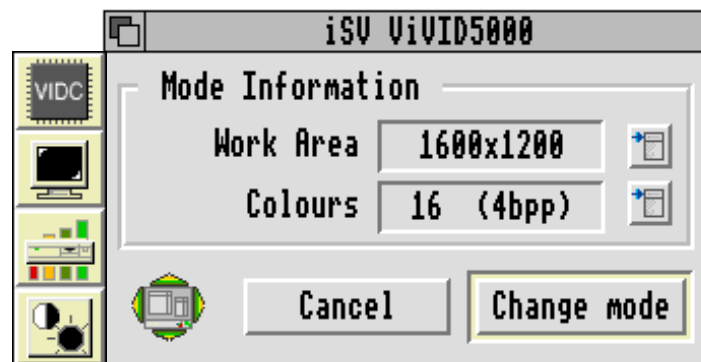
**DO NOT TRY AND RUN SuperVIDC TILL YOU HAVE READ THE
CORRECT SECTION IN THIS MANUAL**

ViVID 5000 is loaded in the normal way by double clicking on its icon. A title screen will appear and ViVID 5000 will load. ViVID 5000 only requires 64K of memory for the main program, and about 20K of module memory.

ViVID 5000 will run quite comfortably on a 1MB machine. Once ViVID 5000 has loaded it will install its icon next to the !Palette utility on the right of the icon bar.

Using ViVID 5000

To use ViVID 5000 simply click <select> on its icon and the screen mode window will open. This allows you to choose the resolution and the number of colours that you require. The ViVID 5000 screen mode window is very similar to the screen mode control window on the RiscPC. Pressing the <Menu> button on either the colours or work area menu icons will open the relevant menu for you.



Changing Work Area

Once you have chosen the resolution and number of colours that are required simply click on the Change Mode button. If you want to close the window without performing a mode change then click on the Cancel button.

ViVID 5000 Work Areas

ViVID 5000 supports six types of screen display. Real, Real rectangular pixel, Virtual, Super Virtual, high frequency and SuperVIDC.

As you can see the work area menu is split into five sections for each of these groups.

Section 1 - real square pixel modes

Section 2 - real rectangular pixel modes

Section 3 - Hi-res virtual modes

Section 4 - Super Virtual screen modes

Section 5 - High frequency modes

For details on the SuperVIDC modes see the SuperVIDC section.

Resolution/Work Area

Square pixel screens have a real resolution as quoted in the mode window. Rectangular and virtual screens offer the same desktop work area as a real screen of the same resolution, but not the same number of pixels. However because of the dot pitch of most 14" monitors they are very hard to tell apart from the real thing.

ViVID 5000 Colours

Not only does ViVID 5000 support the normal 2/4/16/256 colour desktops it also offers a special GreyScale mode. This is on the 2nd half of the menu. Also in the same section are "Amber", "Green", "Blue" and "Process" options. These provide a screen mode that emulates a monitor of each colour.

The process option provides a palette with colours similar to process ink colours.

!Paint's Snapshot feature

Please remember that you can take screenshots of a ViVID 5000 screen mode but that it will not be possible to read the sprite created on another machine unless it is also running ViVID 5000. Any screenshots should be produced using a Mode selected from the palette icon as per normal or converted to a normal screen mode using !ChangeFSI.

Colours	
2	(1bpp)
4	(2bpp)
16	(4bpp)
256	(8bpp)

GreyScale	
WarmGrey	
Process	

Amber	
Blue	
Green	

!SuperVIDC

The VIDC as fitted to pre RiscPC machines can usually only produce 256 colour screens when it is running at a slow speed (eg 24 mhz). The A5000 and later machines can produce 256 colour screens at a slightly higher frequency of 25.18 mhz (as used by ViVID5000).

Some A5000/A540 computers and quite possibly some A4000/A30x0 machines have a VIDC that has a higher specification than others. These machines have a so called "SuperVIDC". Supplied with ViVID 5000 is an application called !SuperVIDC. This can add extra high frequency 256 colour modes into ViVID 5000 which can then be selected like any normal mode.

To see if your particular machine has a "SuperVIDC" all you need to do is run !SuperVIDC. After following the prompts on screen a desktop will be displayed. If this screen is flicker free and does not shimmer then your machine has a higher spec VIDC chip.



DO NOT INSTALL THE !SuperVIDC MODES IF THE DISPLAY YOU SEE IS NOT ROCK SOLID OR YOUR VIDC CHIP MAY BECOME DAMAGED.

Info Windows

These are opened using the tools down the left side of the main ViVID window.

The top icon opens the current info window.

The 2nd icon shows details on your machines configuration.

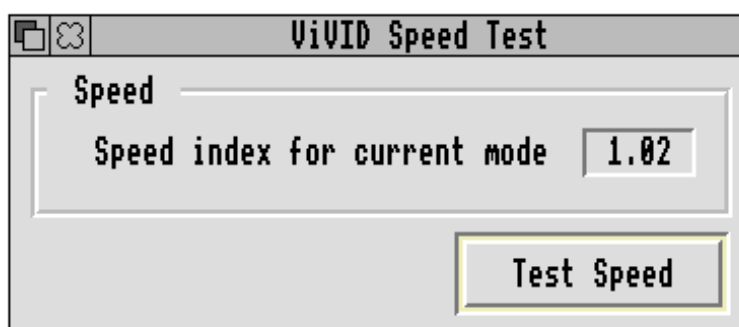
The third icon opens the speed test window

The fourth icon opens up the screen controls window.



Speed Test

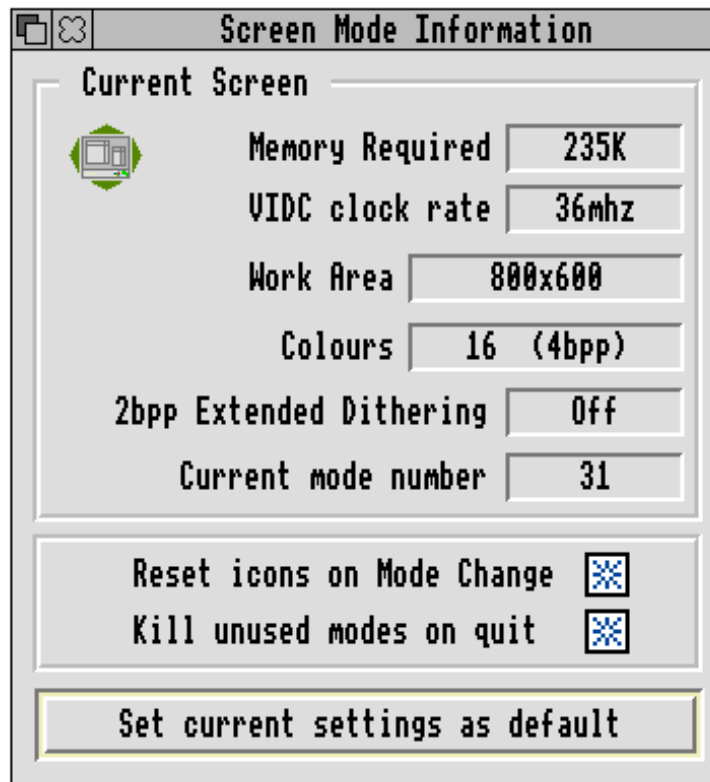
This utility gives you some idea how fast your screen mode is running. The lower the figure the faster the screen mode and the more responsive the machine will feel. For example a normal 25mhz A5000 will report a speed index of roughly 1.17 for mode 31 (800x600).



A figure less than this indicates a faster mode. A higher figure a slower mode.

Current info

This window provides information on the current screen mode including its real memory requirements, VIDC clock rate, work area etc. This also contains the save as default settings (see the next page).



Save Default

On the current info window is a button that allows you to save the currently selected work area and number of colours. Whenever ViVID 5000 is then loaded it will default to the same settings. As supplied ViVID 5000 has no default - so when you have found the ideal settings save them using this button. This button also allows you to save the settings of the reset icon on mode change button.

Control window

This window can be opened by clicking on "Utilities.Control.." in the ViVID 5000 main menu. It gives you control over the brightness, contrast and RGB values for the WIMPs colours. To change any value click on the up or down arrows. The "Reset" button will reset the palette to the current setting. Clicking OK will keep any changes, clicking Cancel will discard them.

Colour Calibration

The control window can be used to adjust all colours on screen so that they match a colour printer more closely.

This will only work for 16 colour modes and any changes made will be lost on changing resolution either via ViVID or from the Palette icon.

4bpp Extended dithering

This is selected automatically by ViVID 5000 when you choose a 4 colour screen mode. It offers a much enhanced display as RISC OS is able to dither the 4 colours to match the real colours required. Extended dithering makes the 4 colour modes quite usable when memory is at a premium. (In effect the 4 colour mode looks much more like a 16 colour greyscale mode).

Boot Sequences

We recommend that you install ViVID 5000 as part of your normal boot sequence. As ViVID 5000 was designed to use as little memory as possible specifically for this purpose. ViVID 5000 will also load quicker if run from a hard disk.

Please note that in your Boot sequence you should load Vivid in the following way:

```
eg      RUN <location of ViVID>.!ViVID5000.!Run
        RUN ADFS::HardDisc4.$.Programs.!ViVID5000.!RUN
```

(Note the extra !Run on the end of the commands).

Troubleshooting

If you find that some ViVID 5000 modes do not work then try changing your Monitortype to 4 (SVGA).

If some modes still do not work then it may well be that your monitor cannot scan at the correct frequencies as required by ViVID 5000. Check the data on the next page to see if the mode should work with your monitor.

Common faults

Earlier copies of ViVID (eg ViVID 20 1.4) sometimes suffered from a strange fluttering of the image. As far as we are aware this problem does not occur with ViVID 5000.

White bands at screen borders

This is caused by the screen being too "wide" for your monitor - and is caused by a monitor that cannot display the particular mode correctly.

Unfortunately your monitor cannot display the required mode at the correct frame rate.

Frequencies

Here is a list of the screen modes provided by Vivid5000.

ScreenModes			
Resolution	Vertical	Horizontal	Notes
640x480	64hz	32hz	
640x512	61hz	32hz	
736x535	54hz	29hz	
800x600	56hz	35hz	SuperVIDC Only
896x704	64hz	23.5hz	
960x624	50.5hz	32hz	
992x800	78hz	32hz	
1024x536	55hz	30hz	
1024x768	68hz	28hz	
1024x832	65.5hz	28hz	
1056x832	61hz	28hz	
1088x926	58hz	28hz	
1280x960	64hz	32hz	
1120x1008	54hz	28hz	
1152x896	59hz	27hz	
1280x1024	62hz	33hz	
1472x1070	54hz	29hz	
1600x1200	56hz	36hz	SuperVIDC Only
1920x1248	50.5hz	32hz	
2048x1232	48hz	30hz	
2112x1664	61hz	28hz	
2240x2016	43hz	28hz	

SuperVIDC modes only SuperVIDC 256 colour modes have the same frequency as normal 16 colour modes.

Hi-frequency modes

These have the same resolutions as some of the earlier modes but a higher refresh rate.

Hi-frequency ScreenModes			
Resolution	Vertical	Horizontal	Title in Menu
800x600	60Hz	35Hz	SVGA 60hz
1600x1200	60Hz	35Hz	XGA 60hz

Frequency notes

The frequencies shown above were obtained using an Acorn A5000 running at a stock speed of 25mhz with an Acorn AKF18 SVGA monitor.

All of the modes shown above should work on any normal multisync monitor. However some of the 256 colour modes may not be usable on some more expensive 17" monitors that require higher horizontal rates (eg Eizo F550i).

If you have a larger 15"+ monitor with digital picture sizing controls then it may well be that you would be better off using !ViVID20 (Digital) rather than ViVID5000 (Although big 256 colour modes may still not display correctly).

SuperVIDC Frequency notes

If your machine has a 'SuperVIDC' chip then after having run !SuperVIDC you will find that all 256 colour screen modes have the same frequencies as their 16 colour equivalents.

The modes that will be changed are:

SuperVIDC Screen Modes	
800x600	256 Colour
1024x600	256 colour
1024x816	256 colour
1056x832	256 colour
1600x1200	256 colour*
SVGA 60Hz	256 colour*
XGA 60Hz	256 colour*
2112x1664	256 colour

* **SuperVIDC modes only** ie not available on machines without a SuperVIDC chip.

Windows 95

Windows 95 requires a special screen mode in order for it to display its title screen in single tasking mode.

ViVID5000 supplies a special mode which is the correct size (320x400 pixels) in 256 colours. This special mode is automatically loaded when ViVID5000 is run. So provided ViVID 5000 is run before you use your PC card Windows 95 should be able to display its title screen correctly while single tasking.

Use of Acorn !SetIcons

Acorn supply an application called !SetIcons that allows you to choose between low and hi-res icons.

ViVID will try and switch to the correct icon set on a mode change whenever possible. However due to the way that !SetIcons is written the hi-res icons may not re-appear correctly unless !SetIcons has been run (Filer_Booting it is not good enough). Unless you are exceptionally attached to it we suggest that !SetIcons is not used, besides which it uses memory and slows the machine down very slightly.

Other desktop "enhancers"

ViVID 5000 has been tested with a large number of desktop enhancers (Including NewDesk & NewerLook) and so far we have found no problems.

Here are just a few of the other products you will be able to
download from RISCOS.com free of charge
(You can make a donation to help support future product releases but this is entirely voluntary)



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Some of the products shown above might not be available immediately.
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