

COMICBASE™ CONFIDENTIAL

News and Information for People who Love Comics

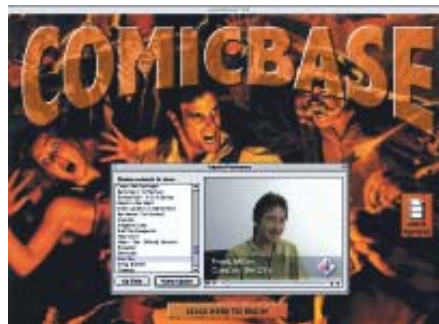
Vol . 6 No. 1

ComicBase 6.0 Gains New Powers!

Last year at this time, we were just about to release ComicBase 5, a massive upgrade, and a real landmark in ComicBase history. We were pretty excited, but then came the terrible moment where we had to ask ourselves, "So what do we do next?"

The answer was obvious: we went to Disneyland. (Where we had a great time, thanks, although 3-year-old Neil was a bit scared by the Haunted Mansion).

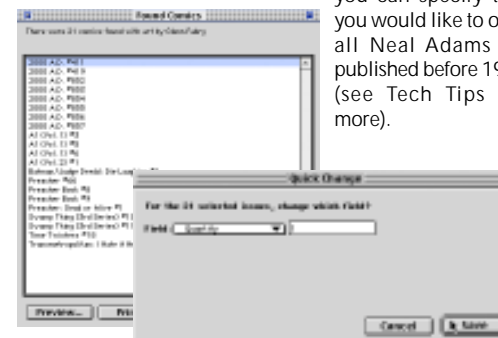
Then we got back to San Jose, took off our mouse ears, and started working on ComicBase 6. Over the past year, we've scanned pallet-loads of comics new and old, edited video interviews of some of comics' greatest stars, and indexed thousands of additional issues. And then there was the small question of updating and pricing what was by then the largest database of comics in the world. Now, at last, we're proud to present the result of all that hard work: ComicBase 6.0.



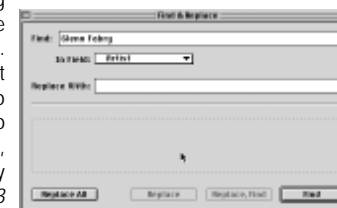
Introducing ComicBase 6.0!

Updated for the year 2001, ComicBase 6.0 comes loaded with over 13,000 titles and more than 165,000 issues, easily making it the largest upgrade we've ever offered. We have revved up your favorite features, making it easier to locate, change and customize the program to your collection.

Our popular Quick Change command can now perform searches and mark your comics according to character, title, publisher or even those issues you'd like to own (finally away to mark all those missing Sabretooth issues!) It also allows you to perform compound searches. For instance, you can specify that you would like to own all Neal Adams art published before 1960 (see Tech Tips for more).



Want to correct an artist or writer credit throughout the database? ComicBase 6.0 now includes a global find and replace command to alter facts across several titles. We have continued to fill in information for those comics we missed and have included thousands of additional, colorful scans, making it easier to locate specific issues. Tons of variant covers have also been added to ComicBase 6.0, including every version of *Gen13* #1 by Image Comics (we counted 15 of them!) and *Vampirella Monthly* by Harris Comics (even we couldn't believe there were this many covers!)



Continued on next page

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Updated Pricing

Our pricing trends have been updated to reflect current values, which are charted over a four-year historical timeline. This could not have been accomplished without the tireless help of the *Comics Buyers Guide* staff, the newspaper of the comics industry, thanks *CBG!*

Online Buying and Selling Just Got Easier

ComicBase 6.0's favorite buy and sell features have been updated for those wishing to sell their collection online or add to it. The "sell" comics command now works with the latest developments of sites like eBay, especially the "Buy It Now" feature. In response to popular demand, you can



now upload your own brilliantly clear cover pictures into your auction posting with just three clicks. Better yet, you can include full-size pictures instead of

the tiny, low-quality images you are limited to with eBay's built-in picture hosting. And if the comic you're selling is among the thousands in ComicBase and its Bonus Disk, you won't even need to scan the image at all—you can simply use one from the ComicBase library.

The New Deluxe Edition, with Bonus Disk #2!

With the release of ComicBase 5.0 we introduced a new Deluxe Edition which included a second CD packed with thousands of covers and other extras that we couldn't fit on the regular version. This year, the Deluxe Edition comes with a brand new Bonus Disk #2, which can be combined with last year's Bonus Disk to give you a library with over 20,000 comic images!

Bonus Disk #2 is loaded with new comic covers, including nearly full runs of titles like *Action Comics* and *Detective Comics*. Now, you can see in full color what issue #27 of *Detective Comics* looks like or find out which variant issue of *Gen13* you've got by clicking on the pull-down tab located above each cover.

Bonus Disk #2 also comes with exclusive new video interviews we've conducted with comic greats like Sheldon Moldoff (*Hawkman*), Frank Miller (*Sin City*), Julius Schwartz (*Green Lantern (2nd Series)*), Jeff Smith (*Bone*) and more! Nowhere else can you see your favorite artist or writer telling the story of how they created what you've come to love; all included in the ComicBase Deluxe Edition of 6.0.



Jeff Smith on the making of *Bone*

Order Your Upgrade Today!

All of these new features and goodies come complete in the ComicBase package. The Standard Edition of 6.0 includes the full program and database for \$129. The Deluxe Edition comes with the Bonus Disk filled with thousands of additional comic covers and exclusive video interviews for only \$20 more at \$149.



One of the production photos painter Glen Orbik used to stage the scene for Comicbase 6's cover.

Users of ComicBase 5.0 can upgrade to the Standard Edition of 6.0 for \$34.95 and the Deluxe Edition for \$49.95. All previous versions of ComicBase easily import all your data into 6.0 when you run the program for the first time and, as always, free unlimited technical support is available to all registered users.

ComicBase Tips & Tricks

Not a tip (but cool nonetheless)

We've finally gotten together a comprehensive list of all the keyboard commands and shortcuts in ComicBase, and added it as an appendix to the new manual (included in Adobe Acrobat format on the new disk). Even ComicBase veterans should check it out—and don't be surprised if you learn a few new tricks that you never knew ComicBase could do.

Multiple-criteria searching with the new Find/Mark

One of the nicer uses of the new ability to mark comics from the Found Comics list is that you can now do certain complex searches (i.e. "Show me all the comics I have duplicates of, or which cost less than \$1.00"):

1. Find your duplicates by using Find Comics to find all comics with Quantity greater than 1
2. Highlight the results and choose "Mark" from the Edit menu.
3. Find Comics for comics whose current price is less than \$1.00

4. Highlight and mark those comics
5. Find Comics for comics where Marked is checked.

Tracking which box a comic is stored in

I'm personally a proponent of the "always store in alphabetical order" school of comic book filing, and I'll admit to a certain warm sense of well-being when all my *Conan the Barbarians* are right in a row, after *Cloak and Dagger* and before *Congorilla*. Unfortunately, this system also makes me break out a new box—and usually transfer loads of comics around—whenever I get one more *Conan* than the old long box could hold.

An alternative is the "Just store it in a box and let the computer look it up" strategy. ComicBase will happily accommodate this using its Custom Fields (which are defined under the Setup menu's Custom Fields command). Define one of the fields as "Location" and, as you enter each comic, just fill in the box number. Later on, you can search or even print reports of the contents of each box using the Find Comics command.

One note: custom fields are *character fields*—not numbers. As such, a search for comics containing "Box 2" in your custom field will also find "Box 21", "Box 22", etc. To prevent this make sure you're searching where location is "Box 2", instead of just *contains* Box 2.

ComicBase Writers Pick Their Favorites

With hundreds of new titles comics appearing on the stands every month, it can be a daunting task trying to sort out the real gems from the ones that merely have holo-foil covers covers. To help us out, we asked the writers who contribute to ComicBase for their favorite new finds:

Top 10 by Alan Moore and Gene Ha

Apparently, this title published by America's Best Comics was a major favorite among our reviewers. The series is set in a city where *everyone* has super-powers and focuses on the police force who patrol this unique city. Steve George writes, "Of all Alan Moore's ABC books, this one is the best. A lovely concept--hilarious and dramatic at the same time, and some of the best team-book writing ever."

Ultimate Spider-Man by Brian Michael Bendis

"Marvel is making comics fun again!" writes Randy Meyeres. "It's like reading the adventures of Spider-Man for the very first time. Bendis even made me cry when I saw Peter collapse into Mary Jane's arms after Uncle Ben was murdered... and I knew it was going to happen!"

Avigon by Che Gilson

This dark tale of a "clockwork" woman who wonders if she might have a human soul is published by Image Comics and beautifully illustrated by Jimmie Robinson. Rob Anderson writes, "I didn't want this story to end!" If you like this story, check out the website www.Opi8.com for online goth drama.

Black Hole by Charles Burns

A dark fantasy by publisher Fantagraphics about a sexually transmitted virus that only affects teenagers. Rob Salkowitz writes, "Burns's super-clean artwork, great characterizations and 'teen plague' plot combine for a truly chilling masterpiece-in-progress. This is definitely one people will remember in 50 years."

Avengers (Vol. 3) by Kurt Busiek

The Marvel favorite of yesteryear gets a jumpstart with its latest volume. "Kurt Busiek and George Perez not only brought the Avengers back from the 'Heroes Reborn' storyline/universe, they also brought the series back to life," writes Joseph Self.

Strangers in Paradise (3rd Series) by Terry Moore

"Everyone has heard of this title, but have you read it?" writes Rob Anderson of this Image tale. "A story of friendship and love between two women and a guy, with action, intrigue, sex, violence, and heart-wrenching drama. Also, a great way to lure unsuspecting adults into the comics medium and hook them forever."

To order ComicBase, fill out the form below and send it to **ComicBase Orders, Human Computing, 4509 Thistle Drive, San Jose, CA 95136-2014**. You can also fax in your orders to **(408) 266-5869**, or order online at www.comicsoftware.com.

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