TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
HOME COMPUTER NEWSLETTER

NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

BASIC COMPUTER INTRODUCED

TI's Basic Computer, the TI-99/2, was announced at the 1983 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, January 6th.

The 99/2 is expected to be available by early spring with a suggested retail price of $99.95.

The Basic Computer is equipped with 4.2K RAM, built-in BASIC, a 16-bit processor and typewriter-style keyboard.

As an alternative to more complex systems, the 99/2 offers the first-time buyer a high quality, low cost, expandable computer.

The system is expandable to 36.2K bytes of RAM, and the built-in TI BASIC language is upwards compatible with the 99/4A BASIC. The RF video output jack connects to a television set for black and white screen display. An audio cassette interface is built-in for program storage and retrieval. A cassette recorder may be purchased separately.

Low cost peripherals connect to the 99/2 via the built-in HEXBUS™ Interface (see Revolutionary Interface System Developed, page 2), an easy-to-use and flexible interface system.
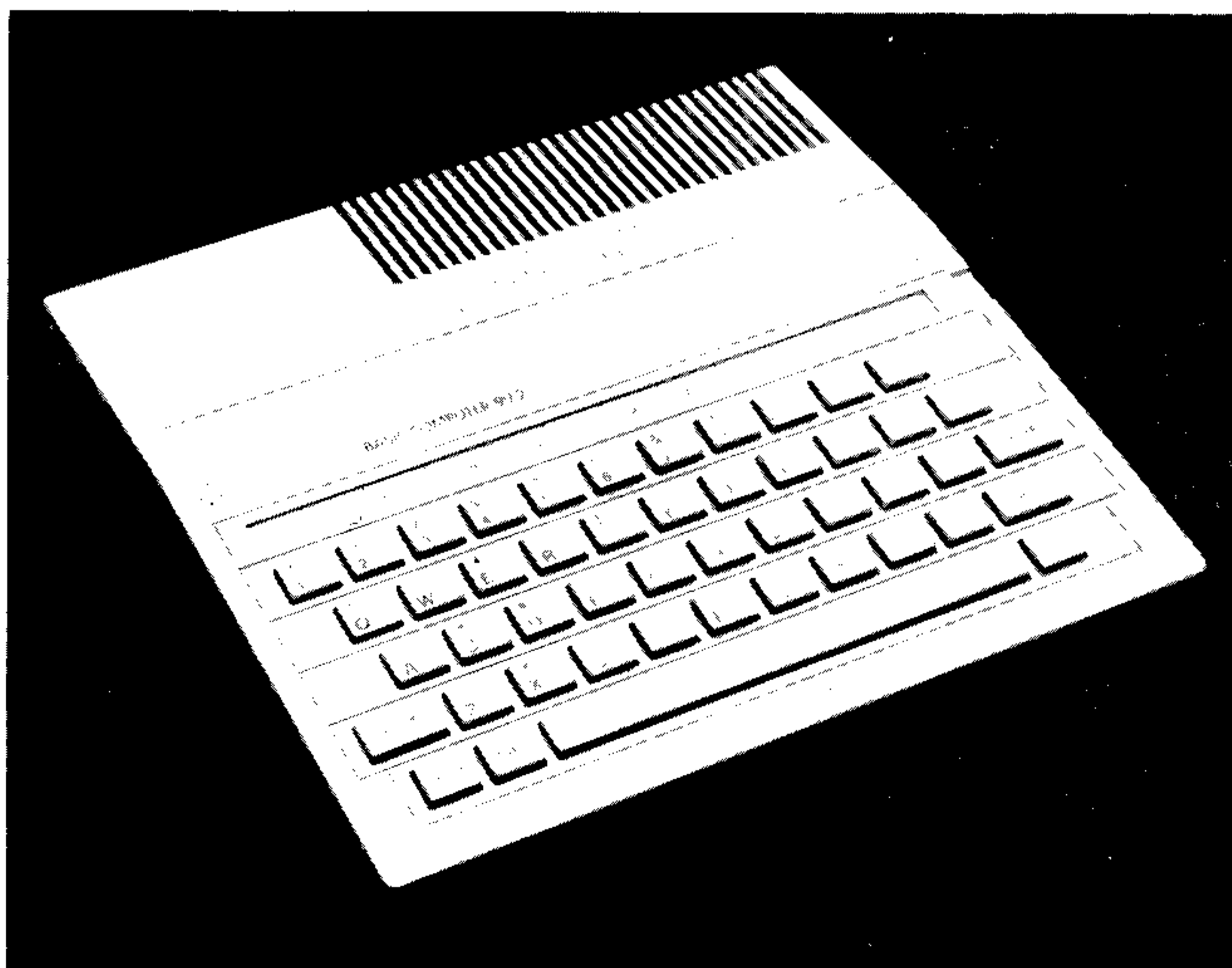
Pre-programmed software packages are being developed in cassette tape and plug-in cartridge formats.

The first pre-programmed software will be available in the categories of Entertainment, Information Management and Education.

A full line of low cost peripherals will be available including an RS-232-C Interface, four-color Printer/Plotter, and a Wafertape™ Drive (48K storage/tape).

A cassette Program Recorder is available now.

Software and peripheral specifications and suggested retail prices will be printed in future issues of the Home Computer Newsletter.

NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

NEW SOFTWARE R

TI-99/4A PROGRAM RECORDER ANNOUNCED

The Texas Instruments Program Recorder will be available during the first quarter of 1983 (1Q83). The suggested retail price is $69.95.

Advantages of the TI Program Recorder (PHP2700) over other TI-99/4A-compatible cassette recorders include:

*Input jacks color-coded for easy cable connection.

*Optimum volume and tone control settings marked on recorder.

*Digital counter, pause control and built-in microphone.
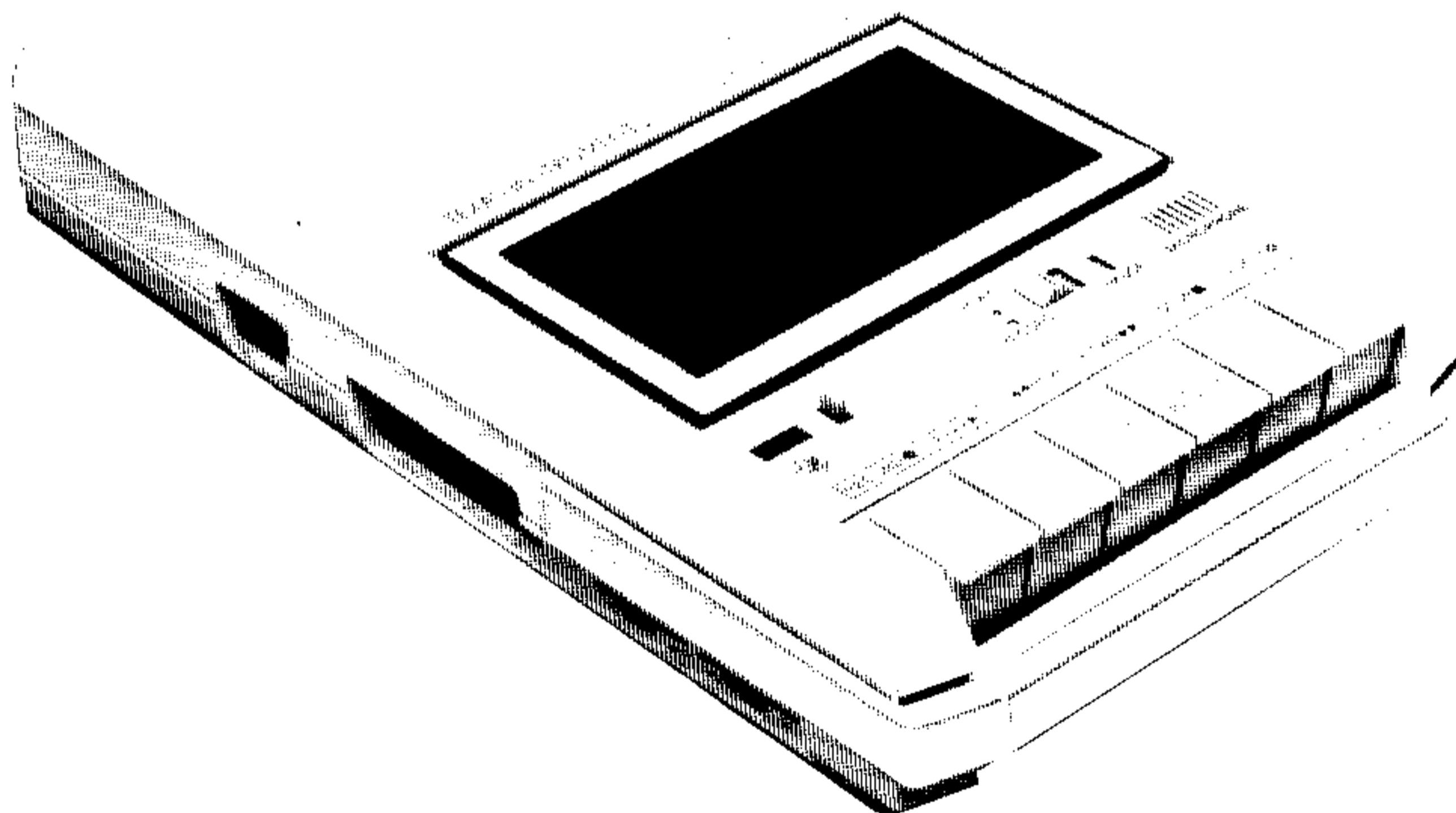
*15-page manual covering set-up, loading/saving programs, file management and troubleshooting.

*Custom electronics specially designed for TI-99/4A and TI-99/2 compatibility.

The Program Recorder is specifically engineered for use with TI Personal Computers for reliable, inexpensive program storage. However, the recorder also can be used for regular cassette recorder functions.

In addition, a TI-99/4A cassette cable is included with the recorder, at no extra charge (a $12.95 value).

TI-99/4A PROGRAM RECORDER

REVOLUTIONARY INTERFACE SYSTEM DEVELOPED

The HEXBUS™ Interface, a hardware interface system, has been developed for the TI-99/4A Home Computer.

The HEXBUS™ system permits peripherals designed for a particular computer, the Compact Computer 40, for example, to be used with the TI-99/4A. The suggested retail price is $59.95.

In essence, HEXBUS™ enables communications between various peripherals by utilizing electronic impulses carried by an eight-conductor wire.

The interface resembles a wide Speech Synthesizer and connects with the I/O port on the right side of the 99/4A. Peripherals are connected via a cord which extends from the back of the interface.

When compared to the TI 99/4 Peripheral Expansion System, the HEXBUS™ gives access to lower performance but lower priced peripherals, and does not have the convenience of housing all peripherals in a compact box.

The HEXBUS™ Interface will be particularly useful for computer owners who own two TI computers and want to use the same peripherals for both, or, who do not want to invest initially in peripherals with higher performance and price.

A full line of peripherals is planned. By mid-1983, a compatible RS-232 Interface, Wafertape™ Drive, telephone modem and portable printer/plotter are expected to be available for use with the Interface.

Suggested retail prices and specifications of compatible peripherals will be given in later issues of the Home Computer Newsletter.

NEW SOFTWARE IDEAL FOR PROFESSIONALS, SMALL BUSINESSES

Two new software packages from Texas Instruments, TI-WRITER and MICROSOFT™ MULTIPLAN™*, bring word processing and spread sheet capabilities to the TI-99/4A.

TI-WRITER, now available in many retail outlets, performs many functions formerly available only on large word processing systems.

The package, consisting of cartridge, disk and step-by-step instruction manual, has a suggested retail price of $99.95.

A TI-99/4A console, monitor (or television and adapter), Peripheral Expansion System, Memory Expansion Card, RS-232 Interface Card, Disk Memory System and any RS-232-compatible printer are required to run the package.

The system allows users to create and edit text, then save on disk and/or print the material in paragraph, chart or table form.

Text editing and formatting features include inserting and deleting characters, lines and paragraphs, automatic paragraph indentation, margin justification, word wrapping, overstriking and underlining, moving and copying text and document reformatting.

Command mode functions include loading, saving and deleting files, setting tabs and displaying file directories.

Documents can be saved, loaded and printed from disks. Text also can be printed from the screen.

MICROSOFT™ MULTIPLAN™ is a second generation electronic spread sheet designed for professionals with little or no knowledge of computers.

The suggested retail price is $99.95. The cartridge and disk package is scheduled to be available in January 1983.

Electronic worksheets are similar to pencil and paper worksheets. The difference is that once you put the information into the computer (rather than on paper), the computer does all the calculations for you.

MULTIPLAN™ is called a second generation electronic spread sheet because it can do everything VisiCalc™** (first generation) can do, but much more.

Unique features of MULTIPLAN™ include:

*Convenient and easy-to-use on-line reference guide.

*Cells and areas which can be named in English instead of codes.

*Linked worksheets.   When you change a figure on page 1 that affects totals on page 3, the totals are refigured too. The total number of pages that can be linked depends on the complexity of the worksheets.
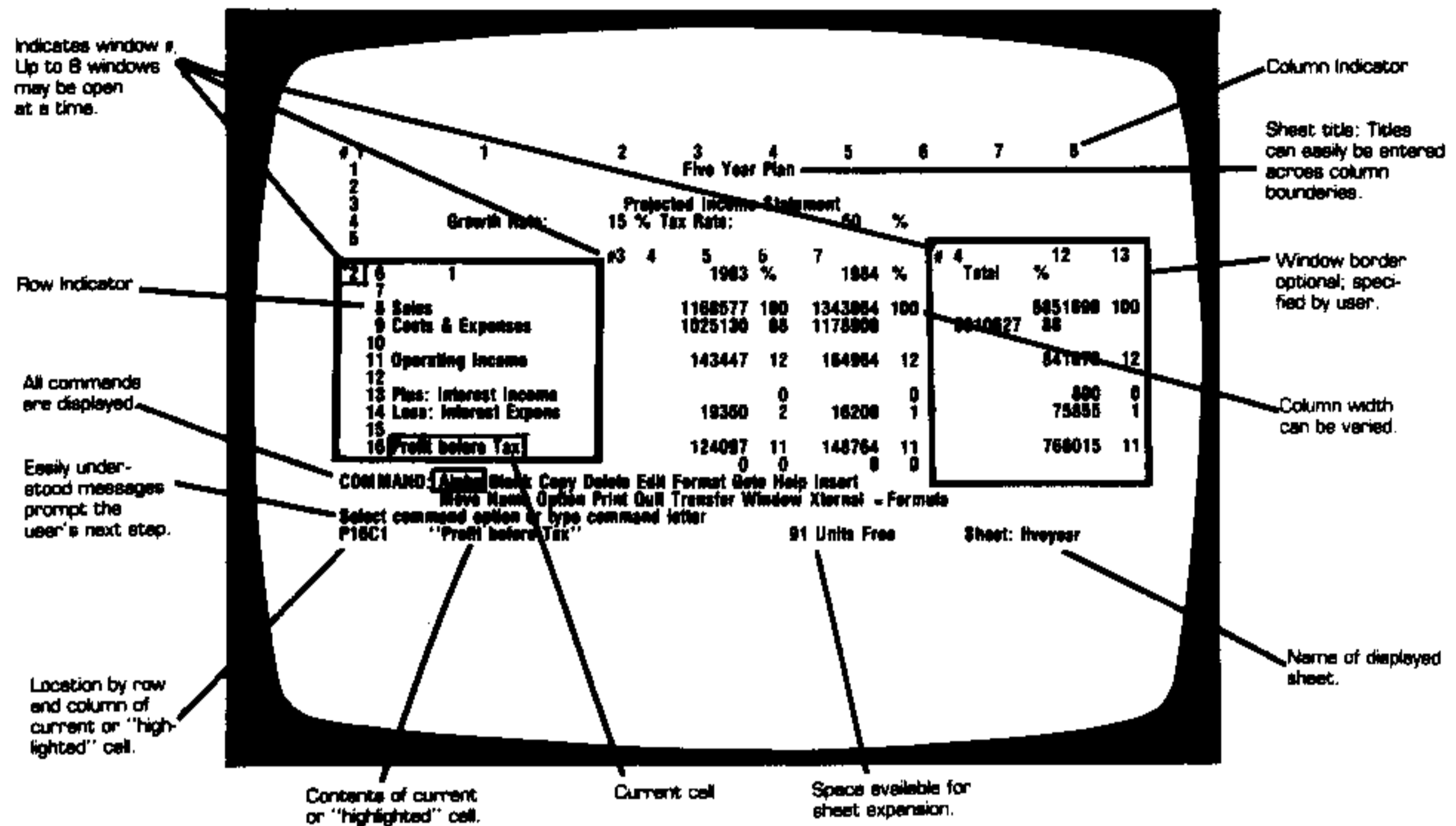
*Formatting options produce presentation-quality reports.

*Sorting can be done alphabetically or numerically.

*Workspace is 63 columns wide and 255 rows deep.

*Trademark of the Microsoft Corporation.

**Trademark of VisiCorp.

A TYPICAL MULTIPLAN™ SCREEN

PERSONAL TAX PLAN NOW AVAILABLE

Personal Tax Plan, developed by Aardvark Software, Inc. for the TI-99/4A, is now available.

The system consists of two disks and has a suggested retail price of $99.95.

The package is designed to perform comprehensive and accurate calculations for tediuous tax problems within seconds. Tax variables can be input and isolated for a variety of tax equations. Up to five tax scenarios can be simultaneously calculated for any one tax year. Or, one scenario may be projected for up to five years.

Personal Tax Plan is written in UCSD Pascal* and requires the TI-99/4A console and monitor (or television and adapter), Peripheral Expansion System, P-Code Card, Disk Memory System and Memory Expansion Card.

Results can be displayed on the screen and saved on disk. With the addition of the RS-232 Interface Card and a compatible printer, results can be obtained in printed form.

*UCSD Pascal is a trademark of the Regents of the University of California.

DLM SERIES EDUCATIONAL AND FUN

Six arcade-style math practice cartridges are scheduled to be available in January and February for the TI-99/4A Home Computer.

The Developmental Learning Materials Arcademics™* series consists of six cartridges with a suggested retail price of $39.95 each.

The entertaining programs allow players to practice basic math skills, and at the same time, play an arcade-style game. For this reason, the programs can be used by players of all ages.

In ALIEN ADDITION, players must fire the correct addition answers to defend the missile base from enemy invaders.

In MINUS MISSION, a robot can destroy blobs of creeping slime only if the player gives the right subtraction answer.

In ALLIGATOR MIX, finicky alligators cannot be fed unless the correct answers are given to addition and subtraction problems.

$$6+2=8$$

Violent meteor showers threaten a star station in METEOR MULTIPLICATION. Cannons are fired to destroy the meteors when the right answer is displayed.

The ammunition against advancing tanks in DEMOLITION DIVISION is the answer to the division problem.

In DRAGON MIX, the fire-breathing dragon can defend the city only when the player rapidly provides the correct answers to multiplication and division problems.

$$5 \times 3 = 15$$

All problems are based on the 0 to 9 tables for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Players can give answers to the problems in the six games using either keyboard or joystick control.

*Trademark of the Developmental Learning Materials Corporation.

TUNNELS OF DOOM

Tunnels of Doom is a magical game package which takes players on adventurous and dangerous treasure hunts.

The two-game package has a suggested retail price of $59.95, and consists of a cartridge and either a cassette or disk.

Pennies and Prizes is a limited game appropriate for children or demonstrations. There can be only one player, and there are no monsters, weapons or magical items. The player's object is to find eight quest items.

The object of Quest of the King is to find the king and his rainbow orb in a limited period of time.

Up to four players can search for the king, but in doing so, the search team must plan in advance and be alert to the dangers of monsters, trick fountains, living statues, magical items (such as fireballs, medicinal aids and scrolls), mysterious vaults and treacherous monsters (the Oozes, Gremlins and Metalloids).

A sample quest game is provided.

Players have the options of choosing from three levels of difficulty, class of player (fighter, wizard, rogue or hero), number of floors in the dungeon (up to 10) and weapons and supplies to be bought from the General Store.

Hand and range weapons, armor, shields, rations and healings can be bought from the General Store prior to starting or during the quest.

After making these crucial decisions, the party is ready to begin its quest.

Each floor of the dungeon has 20 rooms. Players travel through three-dimensional hallways and can enter rooms through regular doors or well-hidden, secret doors. Players also can listen at the doors for sounds of the monsters.

Monsters possess varied degrees of evil powers. As the players go deeper into the dungeon, the monsters become stronger and fiercer. Some monsters can be eliminated with only one blow, while others may be strong enough to withstand half a dozen attacks.

Of particular interest to people who normally play board-type adventure games, is the fact that the computer acts as score keeper or dungeon master.

And, a status can be saved on cassette or disk and games can be resumed at a later time. Or, players have the option of saving the status at a crucial point of the game, playing out one strategy, and later trying alternate strategies by recalling the original status.

At any time during the quest, a status report can be obtained.

The Player Report displays name, class, current number of hit points and wounds, experience, weapons left, level, bonuses, monster damage and types of armor, shields and protection left.

The Party Report indicates the amounts of gold, rations and quest objects possessed and a summary of the players' hit points and wounds.

Monster Reports indicate the monster's name, endurance, experience and monster ratings (resistance, speed and mobility).

The game ends when all the players have been eliminated or when the players find the King and retrieve the King's rainbow orb of power before it is destroyed or time runs out.

Tunnels of Doom is a great party game. The pace is faster and more exciting than most board adventure games because the players don't have to keep scores manually. In addition, the game features sound, color, and three-dimensional graphics.

NEWSLETTER FORMAT CHANGED

In December, the Users' Newsletter format and name were changed.

The Home Computer Newsletter will be published monthly and focus on Users' Group news, new products, software and innovations.

Each quarter, the newsletter will be expanded to include information and special excerpts from the TI Computer Advantage Club Newsletter.

Suggestions and letters to the Home Computer Newsletter are welcomed.

Such correspondance should be sent to: **Texas Instruments, Inc., P. O. Box 10508, MS 5882, Lubbock, TX 79408 ATTN: Editor.**

CONSUMER PROMOTIONS EXTENDED

Because of high consumer interest and participation, the Home Computer $100 Rebate and Free Speech promotion have been extended until April 15, 1983.

You are eligible to receive a $100 rebate from Texas Instruments if you purchase a TI-99/4A console between Sept. 1, 1982 and April 15, 1983.

To receive the console rebate, you must: (1) Fill out the rebate coupon (2) Fill out the yellow user card packaged with the console (3) Cut out (for proof of purchase) the words "Model PHC-04A DESC: 99/4A QTY 1" from the console carton (4) Send the original sales receipt (no photocopies) with the first three items to: TI, Home Computer Rebate, P. O. Box 10546, Lubbock, TX 79408.

You are eligible to receive a free Speech Synthesizer (a $149.95 value), if you purchase 6 software packages or 2 software libraries, between Sept. 1, 1982 and April 15, 1983.

To receive the synthesizer, you must: (1) Fill out the Free Speech coupon (2) Cut the end flaps off of the six software program packages. If you buy libraries, send a letter stating which libraries you bought. (3) Send the first two items along with the original sales receipt to: TI FREE SPEECH, P.O. Box 10546, Lubbock, TX 79408.

If you purchase a console and software at the same time, send in the required items for the FREE SPEECH at the same time you send in for your $100 rebate. Software credit will be filed on a computer. When you send in proof of purchase for the remaining software, the initial purchase will be credited to your account.

If you have already bought a console and software at the same time and have sent in the requirements only for the $100 rebate, you should send in the serial number of your console with the other requirements for the FREE SPEECH promotion to receive proper credit.

You should keep copies of all receipts, end flaps, etc., for your records.

TI-99/4A USERS' GROUPS

Printed below is the most recent list of Users' Groups. Because of the number of inquiries, we regret that requests for listings from TI can no longer be filled. However, new groups will be listed in the Home Computer Newsletter and complete lists will be printed periodically.

If you have started a group and it is not on this list, please write to: Texas Instruments, Users' Group Coordinator, P. O. Box 10508, MS 5890, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

U.S. USERS' GROUPS

NATIONAL GROUP

The 99/4 Program Exchange
P. O. Box 3242
Torrance, CA 90510

ALABAMA

TI BOG
709 Nytor Circle
Birmingham, AL 35210

ARIZONA

ARIZONA 99 USERS' GROUP
4328 E. LaPuenta Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85044

CALIFORNIA

Arnold Hirsch
1673 Chateau
Anaheim, CA 92802

L.A./South Bay 99er Users' Group
5128 Merrill Street
Torrance, CA 90503

SF/South Bay 99er Users' Group
Capt. Byron Monroe
16380 E. La Chiquita
Los Gatos, CA 95030

COLORADO

Colorado 99/4 Users' Group
15177C East Louisiana Drive
Aurora, CO 80012

FLORIDA

Tampa Bay 99er Users Group
13097 Lois Avenue
Seminole, FL 33542

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Jerome Strauss
353 Park Drive
Palatine, IL 60067

KANSAS

Mid America 99/4 Users' Group
P. O. Box 2505
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

MASSACHUSETTS

M.U.N.C.H.
1241 Main Street
Worchester, MA 01603

Pioneer Valley TI-99/4 Users' Group
3 Market Street
Northampton, MA 01060

MINNESOTA

Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul
Home Computer Users' Group
P. O. Box 12351
St. Paul, MN 55112

MISSOURI

Kansas City 99/4A Computer Users
4511 N. Troost
Kansas City, MO 64116

99/4 Users' Group of St. Louis
4127 Quincy
St. Louis, MO 63116

NEW YORK

Jerald Greenberg
34 Maple Ave. Box 8
Armonk, NY 10504

Upstate New York 99/4 Users' Group
7 Steve Lane
Albany, NY 12205

OHIO

Cin-Day Users' Group
11987 Cedarcreek Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45240

OREGON

Pacific Northwest TI 99/4 Users' Group
P. O. Box 5537
Eugene, OR 97405

Portland Users of Ninty Nines
421 Northwest 69th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665

PENNSYLVANIA

Daniel Cooper
P. O. Box 285
Hazelton, PA 18201

Pittsburgh Users' Group
P. O. Box 18124
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

RHODE ISLAND

Tri-State Users' Group
P. O. Box 457
Lincoln, RI 02864-0457

SOUTH CAROLINA

Carolina Computer Club
225 Wynchwood Drive
Irmo, SC 29063

TENNESSEE

Athens 99/4 Computer Users' Group
c/o Bob Lamb
McMinn County High School
2215 Congress Parkway
Athens, TN 37303

TEXAS

Dallas TI Home Computer Group
P. O. Box 672
Wylie, TX 75098

Andy Belivacqua
Route 2, Box 75-U
Mansfield, TX 76063

JSC Users' Group (JUG)
15727 El Camino Real
Houston, TX 77062

Houston Users' Group
10107 Westview #112
Houston, TX 77043

Lubbock Computer Club
99/4 Users' Group
5730 - 67th Street
Lubbock, TX 79424

West Texas 99/4 Users' Group
P. O. Box 6448, M/S 3030
Midland, TX 79701

WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington D.C. 99/4 Users' Group
P. O. Box 267
Leesburg, VA 22075

WASHINGTON (STATE)

Puget Sound 99'ers
P. O. Box 6073
Lynnwood, WA 98036

WISCONSIN

"Program Innovators"
2007 North 71st Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

LOGO USERS' GROUP

Young Peoples' LOGO Association
1208 Hillsdale Drive
Richardson, TX 75081

INTERNATIONAL USERS' GROUPS

International 99/4 Users Group, Inc.
P. O. Box 67
Bethany, OK 73008

International Home Computer
Users' Association
P. O. Box 371
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

99/4 Users of America
5028 Merit Drive
Flint, MI 48506

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