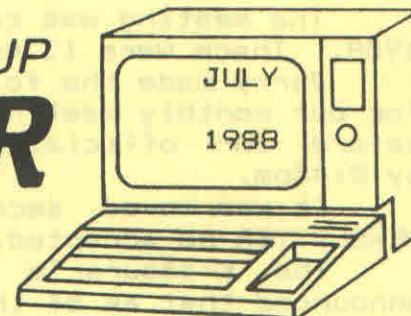


CEDAR VALLEY 99'ER USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER



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****NEWSLETTER TOPICS****

1. Future Meeting Dates
2. Next Meeting Notes
3. Minutes from the July Meeting
4. Review of THE WRITERS
5. Program Corner (a new feature)
6. August Hamfest/Computerfest
7. New Keyboard Revisited
8. Library Corner
9. The VCR Connection

****FUTURE MEETING DATES****

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for future meetings:
AUGUST 8, SEPTEMBER 12, OCTOBER 10.

*****NEXT MEETING*****

This month's meeting will be held on August 8 at our new place. Come to West Music in the Collins Road Square shopping center, Collins Road. We will be open at 6:30 PM, as we must be out by 9:00 sharp! Remember, West Music, one mile east of our former meeting place. Someone will have something to demonstrate (I hope!).

* * MINUTES FROM THE JULY MEETING *

*

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Canady on July 11, 1988. There were 13 members present.

Jerry made the following special announcement: The 6:30 PM starting time for our monthly meeting will allow an half hour for informal discussion before our official meeting starts. Come early as we will have to break up by 8:45pm.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes as printed in the NEWSLETTER be accepted.

The treasurer's report was given by treasurer Bruce Winter. He announced that as of the meeting date we have 32 paid members. In response to a question from the floor he noted that our UG exchanges newsletters with about 25 other UG. It was moved, seconded and passed that we accept the report as read.

OLD BUSINESS 1. The general consensus of those present was that the new meeting room was working fine. 2. Bruce announced that the sympathy card to the Dheins had been sent. 3. The assembly class will wait until fall to continue. 4. Gary announced a follow up on the CVARC Ham Fest to be held August 13-14, 1988 at Teamsters Hall in SW Cedar Rapids. No table information has been received yet but should be available to us. We will set up a system to show others that the TI is still a going computer. Volunteers will be needed to man the table and answer questions. The cost will be \$3.00 admission in advance which Gary will handle at the August meeting. 5. A general discussion on advertising the UG followed. Included were the following: a) We need to try to branch out b) Obtain a list of TI owners in this area. c) Advertise using cable channel 20 (public access channel).

NEW BUSINESS 1. Bruce announced that we are about out of discs to sell. Moved, seconded and passed that we buy 200 more. 2. Disc labels and write protects are available at APEX. Bruce was going to check availability and cost. Gary will be teaching a ham class this fall. It will be a 10 week course on theory and code practice culminating in a license when you pass the test. It is a Kirkwood sponsored class of continuing education. The materials used can be purchased at Iowa Radio for about \$15.00.

DISCUSSION 1. Printers Apprentice is very complex. Jerry is learning slowly. He will try to show it off soon. 2. Ed Edwards hinted about a possible NEWSLETTER series by him as Program Chairman. Please let him know so he can write it up. It was suggested that he start with DM1000 next month.

The meeting was closed.

The program for the evening was a continuation discussion of the use of FUNNELWEB V4.0. Jerry showed the use of the dot (.) commands.

Submitted by Bill Paeth, Secretary

THE WRITERS

Since there seems a continuing need to explore the uses of the various word processors and of TI-Writer and its clones as indicated in the two newsletters I receive, I thought I would share a guide I found to be most practical, extremely readable, and comprehensive.

If you ever have seen the awesome manual for TI-Writer you will appreciate even more...the small twenty-five page 8 1/2" by 5 1/2" guide called *THE WRITERS*. It is a guide to the use of TI-Writers and its clones and is written in the comfortable style of Harry Brashear whose reviews of many software programs are often in *MICROPENDIUM*.

To me, the \$2.50 plus \$.50 postage is simply a donation for one more special contribution to the TI community. In no way is the modest amount a payment for such an excellent work. Not only does it explain the regular aspects of the word processors, but it addresses very clearly the little practical problems one comes across. The helpful hints that most of us appreciate after learning the hard, frustrating way that certain inexplicable things happen are there too. Finally, I understood what to do when the cursor ignored the indent. The idea of using .IF to avoid reloading information on the formatter never occurred to me as I faithfully reload to get Docs printed out when there are a number of different files. From now on, they will be sequentially printed without the constant reloading.

The best part is that it is my kind of non-computerese English. For a copy, send to: The Western N.Y.99ers, 2763 Main St., New Fane, N.Y.14100. For those of you who find reading compressed print a problem, they also have it in normal print and size.

When I first received *Funnelweb* I had no manuals of any kind for the word processor part. Because I know the frustration, I decided to write this as I find it helpful now, and with each rereading another puzzle piece I resignedly thought was lost is found again!!!

Sr.Pat Taylor,BVM

* * * FROM THE MAILBOX * * *

This on-going column, where I try to identify all the important articles from the various group newsletters we receive each month, will be suspended for an indefinite period. Only two or three members have ever asked to read one of the mentioned articles, and I find that I no longer have time to write down details of everything I read. So...unless there is a great outcry from the masses, this column will be reinstated only when I need material to fill the newsletter pages. Thanks to some renewed input from a few members, that hasn't been necessary the past two issues. jcg

* * * PROGRAM CORNER * * *

AS BRUCE HAS A 'LIBRARY CORNER' TO LET OUR MEMBERS WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR CLUB LIBRARY... I THOUGHT THERE MAY BE A NEED TO TRY TO GO THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS OR ANY OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE LIBRARY OR ANY PROGRAM TO WHICH THERE MAY BE INTEREST... SO LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AND I WILL TRY TO REVIEW IT IN THE NEWS LETTER.

ONLY ONE MAIN RULE: PLEASE BEAR WITH ME, AND MY SPELLING, AND MY IDEA (hopefully it may improve with time and your help).

#1 program;

TI - KEYS BY WES JOHNSON 1986

FAIRWARE

THE COPY OF TI-KEYS IN OUR LIBRARY MAY HAVE A "LOAD" BUT I USED "KEYLOAD" TO LOAD THIS PROGRAM. IF YOU HAVE 'NT READ THE "DOC'S" YOU REALLY SHOULD, BUT FOR THOSE OF US WHO LIKE TO SEE IF A PROGRAM IS REALLY "USER FRIENDLY".....

* LOAD USING EXTENDED BASIC (DSK1.KEYLOAD) *

THE FIRST THING TO NOTICE IS THE SHAPE OF THE 'CURSER', IT WILL BE SQUARE AND WILL STOP BLINKING IF YOU PRESS THE 'CONTROL KEY'. THE BEST WAY TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IS TO TRY TO USE IT, SO PRESS THE CONTROL 'CTRL' AND '=' ... 'CRTL =' . THIS SHOULD PUT YOU IN THE MENU GIVEING YOU THE OPTIONS MENU.

OPTIONS ARE:

1 EDIT 2 SAVE 3 LOAD 4 TURN OFF KEYS 5 BACK TO BASIC

THESE ARE QUITE OBVIOUS...

1 TO EDIT THE DIFFERENT KEYS... I.E. IF YOU PRESS 'A' THE STARTING ASSIGNMENT IS LISTED AS 'ACCEPT' YOU CAN CHANGE IT TO WHAT EVER YOU WANT... MEANING... WHEN EVER YOU PRESS 'CTRL-A' YOU WILL SEE WHAT EVER YOU EDITED INTO THE LETTER 'A'.

THIS MAY SOUND CONFUSING BUT IT IS NOT HARD TO DO. YOU MAY ASSIGN ANY LETTER OR NUMBER.. A STRING OR COMPUTER COMMAND WORD THAT THE COMPUTER WILL ACCEPT.. I.E. IF YOU EDIT THE LETTER 'B' TO THE STRING 'BYE' (letters only B Y E) 'BYE'... AND SAVE THIS USEING THE SAVE OPTION... NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PRESS 'CTRL-B' TO 'BYE' YOUR COMPUTER.

NOW I HEARD SOME ONE SAY W H Y... WHY WOULD I WANT TO! WELL IF YOU ARE DOING A LOT OF THE SAME KIND OF PROGRAM WRITING. I.E. [DISPLAY AT(] .. [CALL COLOR(] .. [CALL CHAR(] .. AND I THINK YOU ARE CATCHING ON... ANOTHER WAY TO DO THAT WOULD BE TO EDIT 'C' TO BE 'CALL COLOR(' , NOW WHEN YOU WANT TO TYPE "CALL COLOR(" JUST TYPE 'CTRL-C' ...
E

ANOTHER ... WANT TO LIST TO PRINTER USEING 'CTRL-P' ... EDIT 'P' TO (LIST"PIO") AND ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PRESS 'CTRL-P' ... OR PRESS 'CTRL-L' TO (LIST) A PROGRAM.. OR .. 'CTRL-R' FOR (RUN "DSK1.LOAD") .. OR .. 'CTRL-O' FOR (OLD DSK1.LOAD). AS YOU AS CAN SEE THE USE IS COMPLETELY UP TO YOU.

THERE ARE OTHER "KEYS" PROGRAMS AVAILABLE OM THE MARKET , ONE OF THEM ARE "E - Z KEYS". ALSO THERE ARE WHAT ARE CALLED "MACRO". THIS PROGRAM "TI-KEYS" IS REALLY QUITE EASY TO USE, AND ONCE YOU START USEING 'CTRL-()' YOU WONDER HOW YOU DID WITH OUT.

THIS PROGRAM IS NOT WITH OUT PROBLEMS: THIS PROGRAM IS RUNNING WHILE YOU DO YOUR USUAL PROGRAMING, SO YOU CAN RUN .. LIST .. CREATE PROGRAMS WHILE THIS PROGRAM IS DOING IT'S THING. SOME PROGRAMS WITH ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE CAN WIPE OUT THE 'TI-KEYS' PROGRAM. THIS IS COMMON WITHMOST ALL PROGRAMS. ALSO THIS PROGRAM WILL TAKE UP MEMORY IF YOU TRY TO USE SOME LONG PROGRAMS.

I DO NOT WANT TO PUT A RATING, GIVE ENDORSEMENT, OR PUT DOWN ANY GIVEN PROGRAM IN THIS COLUMN BUT TO TRY TO GO THROUGH SOME OF THE PROGRAMS OPERATIONS SO TO (hopefully) SHOW THE PROGRAMS USAGE. I DO NOT WISH TO TAKE PLACE OF READING "THE DOC'S" NOR DO I CLAIM TO BE WITH-OUT ERROR. THERE ARE LOTS OF PROGRAMS FROM GAMES TO UTILITIES TO DATA PROCESSING THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY. GO OUT AND CHECK THEM OUT, PUT BRUCE TO WORK... TELL HIM WHAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AND HE WILL BE HAPPY TO GET A COPY FOR YOU..

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT PROGRAM OR KIND OF PROGRAMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THIS COLUMN. I DON'T WANT TO BE LONG WINDED OR REPEAT BUT I DO WANT TO KEEP THIS RATHER SIMPLE SO LET ME KNOW IF I END UP CONFUSING EVERONE.

LET THE TI/99 BE WITH YOU

PROGRAM COMM. 'MR.ED'

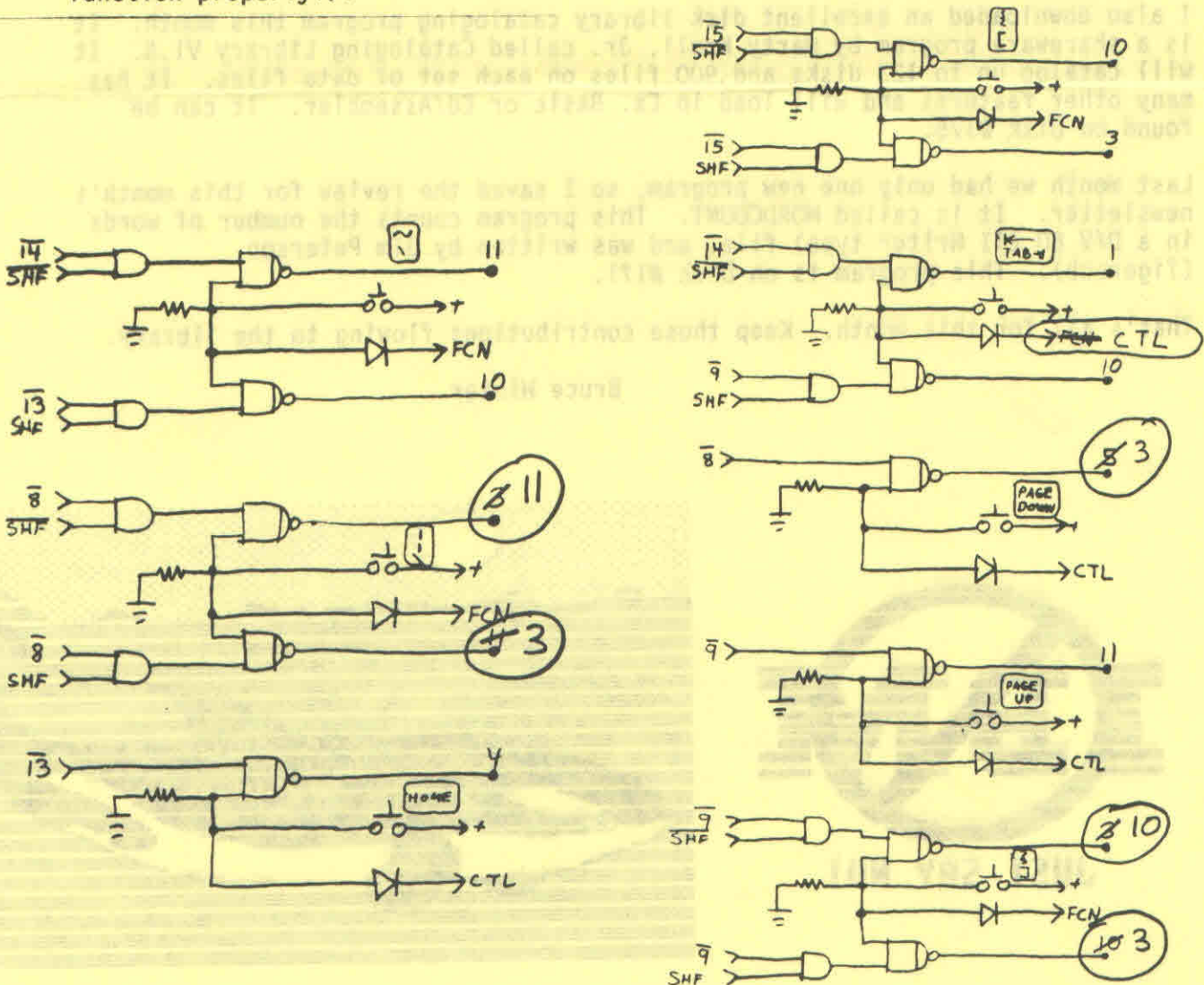
*** AUGUST HAMFEST/COMPUTERFEST COMING UP ***

Our User Group has been given a table for the upcoming Ham and Computer Fest August 13 and 14, courtesy of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club. Now, we need you members to volunteer your time and equipment to occupy the table and demonstrate the great features of our computer. I will be at the show most of the two days, so I can fill in for a while. Please contact me, soon, for time slots, and thanks for helping out. Let's keep the club in a high profile, and we might snag a few new members in the process!

Gary Bishop, V.P.
377-9574

*** NEW KEYBOARD PROJECT REVISITED ***

In the January, 1988 issue of the Newsletter, we published instructions and schematics for installing an IBM-type keyboard in your TI 99/4A computer. We have noted some minor errors in the schematic diagrams; the corrected drawings are printed below. Thanks to Gary Bishop for the article and the corrections. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused (but isn't it nice to know that it wasn't your mistake that caused the keyboard to not function properly?).



*** LIBRARY CORNER ***

We received 3 programs this month written by our own John Johnson. All require the Editor/Assembler cartridge and you also get the source code for these Assembly language programs.

ASTREK: Astrek is a space asteroids type game that progresses to more difficult levels as you play. It requires joysticks and some keyboard input.

GAME OF LIFE: Enter as many spaces or asterisks as you wish on the screen and then press ENTER. The program will then show the life cycle generations of the colony until it either dies out, settles into a steady state, or it is possible for the cycle to go on forever.

MCHK: This program will check your 32K memory for errors. It will run automatically and display the addresses as they are checked. If an error is found, it will stop and display the bad address.

These three programs are found on Disk #177.

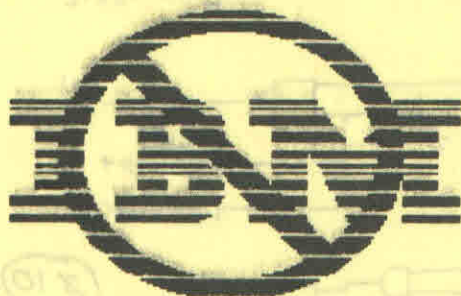
We also received 18 new RLE pictures. See two of them included with this article. These are on Disk #176.

I also downloaded an excellent disk library cataloging program this month. It is a shareware program by Marty Kroll, Jr. called Cataloging Library V1.5. It will catalog up to 123 disks and 900 files on each set of data files. It has many other features and will load in Ex. Basic or Ed/Assembler. It can be found on Disk #175.

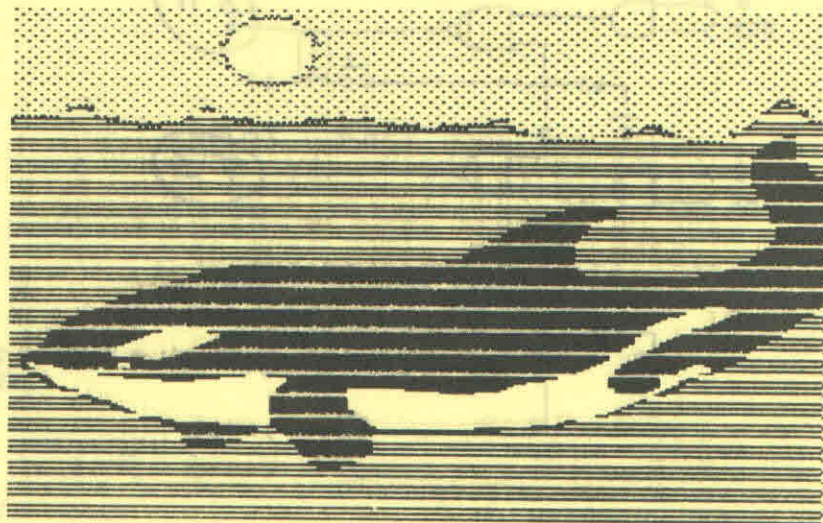
Last month we had only one new program, so I saved the review for this month's newsletter. It is called WORDCOUNT. This program counts the number of words in a D/V 80 (TI Writer type) file, and was written by Jim Peterson (Tigercub). This program is on Disk #171.

That's all for this month. Keep those contributions flowing to the library.

Bruce Winter



JUST SAY NO!



THE VCR CONNECTION

By John Parkins - Central Ohio Ninety-niners - March, 1988

Have you ever considered or wished that you could hook up your TI COMPUTER to a VCR? Or have you ever thought about the consequences or effects that you might achieve by doing so? Well, I had in the past, but never quite knew how to do it, or what the effect might be until I tried it. And I liked it! Just think about it for a minute and let your mind wonder with me for awhile, and we'll see what happens.

Let's just assume for instance that you like to play games on your computer. Or, maybe you have a favorite program that you like and run it quite often, such as one of those cartridges like Personal Record Keeping, or one like Tax Investment Records, or Household Budget Management. As a matter of fact, any kind of a program or game that you can think of that will give you a display that shows up on your screen or monitor, whether or not it can be printed out on a printer will be considered here. One might ask by now, what's the point?

My main point is this. Let's take the person that does not have a printer and only uses the console and monitor, or a TV set for the screen. Once you are done with the program and turn the console off, all is lost and gone forever. Right? OK. Now, let's assume that you have, or can get your hands on a VCR, since there are more households that have VCR's for home entertainment than those that have a printer for their 99/4A computer. Anyway, even if you do not have a friend that will let you use theirs, one can be rented from any of several video tape rental places very cheaply when comparing it to buying one. Just make sure it is a VCR (video cassette recorder), not a VTP (video tape player) for the VTP will not record, only play your tape. Now, with a VCR set up in the record mode and hooked up to your computer, everything that is shown on the screen is then captured or recorded on the video tape and can be played back at any other time that may be convenient for you. In doing so, you can immediately view your files or records, or, you can find out by watching the tape how skillful your keystrokes are in a session such as a TYPE TUTOR, etc. With a program such as a typing tutor, there is not way that you can save or record each lesson as you go to enable you to study it later, or be able to analyze your particular situation. Just imagine watching your mistakes as they happen. Seeing is believing, and I'm a believer. The TOUCH TYPING TUTOR cartridge is one that will not save your lessons to either a cassette tape or to a disk drive, much less give you a printout on paper.

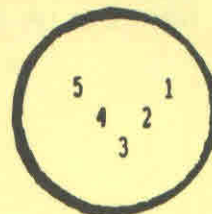
Now, maybe you can envision the importance of the VCR in the scope of an analysis in any type of given situation, even those that have the TI P/BOX with all of the cards in it, can and will find a practical use for their VCRs with the TI-99/4A system. The ones that can benefit most are those of you that are operating with only the bare console and a cassette recorder. And by the way, I might add that if you hook your VCR up right, it can entirely replace the need of your old audio cassette recorder. If you save your program on the VCR tape, you will then be able to reload it into the console from the VCR at a later time. Now you can think of all the possibilities of use for it.

THE GOOD PART comes next!

I can hear the questions rattling in your mind! How in the world can I get mine hooked up? If you are truly interested, read on! If not, you can skip the rest.

I noticed that my VCR had four RCA jacks on the panel, one for video input, one for audio input, one each for video audio output. I had all ready inspected and repaired my video modulator when it malfunctioned and was familiar with what was inside that little box that hangs from the back of the TV. I knew it had a video and audio and the ground connections inside. That's where I had to make the repair to the broken wire. I'm not digressing here, only letting you know how I stumbled onto this in the first place. I had some old 8mm movies of the children taken in the 50's that I wanted to convert to VHS and make copies for the children. A very dear friend and computer enthusiast of mine, Jack Montag, a professional photographer, agreed to make the conversion for me. Another friend in the club, Frank Skinner, had purchased a program from J&KH SOFTWARE called Video Titles II which will make automated sequences of custom titles for in-store advertising or video recordings. Frank had used this program to make a title display for his Computer Robotics Business with great success. I borrowed this program and generated some fancy titles for my homemade movies. My next step was to make a cable to connect it all together. Needed was a plug that was on a spare video modulator from Radio Shack. Now, all I had to do was desolder the plug from the wires. Next, I found a pair of jumper wires with RCA phono plugs on both ends. One happened to be red and the other black. I cut the plugs off of one end of each cable and stripped the insulation back to expose the wrapped shielded wire and the inside solid wire of each cable where the old RCA phono plug was.

I then twisted and soldered the shielded wires of both red and black cables together. This left the center wire of each cable to be dealt with. (This one has the small plastic covering on it. Trim only a small portion of this plastic off of each cable so that only a very short portion of wire is extending from it. The next step is to find your plug from the old video modulator. If you were to hold the plug in your hand and look into the open end, you would see 5 pins, arranged in what could be determined to look like a (happy face without eyes). The pin arrangement makes the big smile. Looking at them from right side to the left, we will call the right-most pin #1. It is the audio pin, where the red audio wire is to be soldered to. The very center or bottom pin is the common ground, where the twisted shielded pair is to be soldered to. The black wire is the only remaining wire and is to be soldered to pin #4, located just to the left of the center pin. This is the video pin. After the solder joints have been completed, replace the plug hood and it is ready for use. Just plug this plug into your console, and place the other ends into your VCR where the black RCA phono plug goes into the Video-In Jack and the red RCA phono plug goes into the Audio-In Jack of the VCR. From the VCR, you then connect your regular cable from VCR to the TV in the normal manner. (This would depend on the type of connectors whether they be twin flat leads or cable-ready which uses the 75 Ohm resistor.)



- #1 AUDIO-OUT
- #2 NOT USED
- #3 COM-GROUND
- #4 VIDEO-OUT
- #5 NOT USED

