



WHAT'S NEW FOR THE TI99/4A
by Frank Billeri

PICASSO V2.0 This is not just another drawing program. PICASSO software has several utility type software that allow you to create pictures and text on the same paper. PICASSO pictures can be up to 300% larger than other graphics software and has a built-in font editor to create new fonts, draw, zoom, etc. ASGARD Software P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850. Tel 703-255-3085

PIX-PRO. A new picture conversion program for the 99/4A and Geneve 9649. This software will load software like Picasso, Graphx, TI_Artist, Page-Pro, Max-Rle, and save them to your favorite graphics program. ASGARD SOFTWARE (see above).

TI FAYUH. The fifth New England FAYUH date has been set. It will be held Saturday, April 14th at the Central Middle School at Waltham, Mass, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. More info and a map when it arrives.

TI99/4A REPAIRS. Repairs done at reasonable rates. Firm prices will be given before any work is done and everything is guaranteed. Contact Frank Billeri 515 Newport Avenue, So. Attleboro, MA 02703 or call 508 761-7245 evenings.

VALENTINES DAY



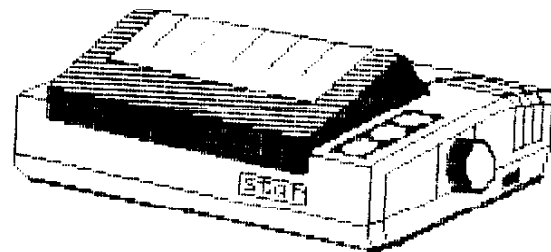


OKIDATA PRINTER CABLE
by Frank Billeri

I would like to share a story with you in hopes that I can save some of you the aggravation and dollars I have spent trying to build a parallel cable for a printers. As many of you know, I am the owner and operator for the HOUSE of COMPUTERS. One of my customers recently picked up a used Okidata 82A printer without a cable. I was asked to make a parallel cable that would work on the TI99/4A. I spent several hours attempting to build a cable without much success.

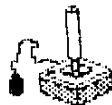
One morning the mailman brought me a Tenex catalog and I found that Tenex sells a cable made especially for the Okidata printer so I ordered it. The cost was \$36.95 + \$4.50 shipping. I waited patiently (2 weeks) for the cable to arrive. I tore open the package and hooked it up to the printer. I cataloged a disk and held my breath until I heard the printer clicking away. It worked great! About two weeks later, another customer who decided to by an \$\$\$ compatible, wanted to sell his TI equipment. I opened one of the boxes and guess what I saw. You guessed it, an Okidata 82A. I immediately asked him what kind of a cable he was using. He informed me that he was using a Serial cable. I took out my multimeter and pinned out his cable.

RS232 - TI PIN #	OKIDATA PIN #
1	1
3.....	3
	4-!
	5-!
	6--!
7.....	7
20.....	11
	20



I will explain the diagram in case you can not read it. All the Okidata printers I have seen have both parallel and serial connectors. the Serial connector is a standard 25 pin EIA. (same as the RS232 card)

Connect the following pins direct. 1,3, and 7. Pin 20, TI side, connects to the Okidata pin 11. Run a wire, on the printer side, connecting pins 4,5, and 6. Also, run a wire to connect pin 6 and 20 on the printer side. Good luck.





Graphics,

Reviews, Tips, Etc...

NOVA

by:

Jim Luque

DESK TOP PUBLISHING ON YOUR OWN - PART 1

This article will be but one of a series of three or four to follow in the coming months. All will be on the same theme: How to do your own Desk Top Publishing.

Because of our limited RAM capability a complete sophisticated Desk Top Publishing package seems unlikely; however, we can come close to duplicating much of the same output of an IBM or MACINTOSH. Granted, we may not do everything they can do, and we may have to "jump" through a few more hoops to reach our goal, but we CAN accomplish much the same; and at a much lower cost!

My ultimate goal is to demonstrate how such products like TI-ARTIST, FONT-WRITER, GRAPHX, PICTURE IT, and others, can be used separately or in union with one another to produce an attractive finished product.

For the first of my series, I will explain how I put together the BOOK REPORT form (see sample) I use for my class. A colleague of mine owns a

MACINTOSH. He created an attractive book report form that impressed me. I quickly said to myself, "How can I do the same?" After some thought, I began duplicating (no, improving!) his form. Our forms were identical in text, layout, and graphics, with the exception of the row of book ends at the top and bottom, and horse graphic.

Here's how I started: The TMS books and book ends are actually TI-ARTIST fonts. The name of the font is BOOK_F. It is on the TRIO+ SOFTWARE Data 3 disk of fonts and graphics. I booted the font into TI-ARTIST, typed the special character for the front book end, then "TMS", and finally, the end book end. I saved the TMS message as an Instance.

For the "reading horse" graphic, I had to first convert it from an RLE picture to an Instance. To do this, I used the Artist Enhancement option. After saving my newly created Instance, I decided it was too large for my

purpose; so I used ASGARD'S ARTIST ENLARGER (which also has a reduction feature) to reduce the Instance. I now had two saved "horse" Instances: the original and the reduced one.

I loaded my second horse Instance into TI-ARTIST, entered my font, and typed my title. I then saved this as a picture file. The two boxed in graphics were created and saved as ARTIST Instances. The fonts came from GENIAL FONT PACK #1 and 2. The fonts in this package are well suited for work like this, because of their size.

The borders came from ARTIST BORDERS II by ASGARD.

Now, here is how I put this all together. I created my TI-WRITER text file using the FONT-WRITER recognized dot commands. After saving this file, I ran it through the FONT-WRITER formatter. (See print-out of actual file below).

If you haven't used FONT-WRITER much, make sure all your files (text and graphics) are on the same

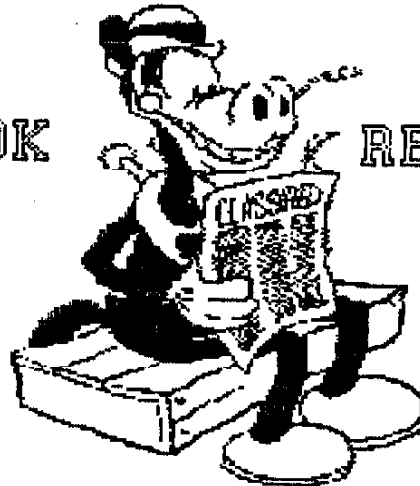
disk. FONT-WRITER will now print everything for you. I know all this may sound like a round-about way of doing things, but it's not really that bad. The hardest part is knowing exactly what you want to do first!

As you study the actual TI-WRITER file, you can see that the heart of the entire form was the creation of one Artist picture and 5 Instance files. The last Instance file was a saved Instance of my name in script. If you are wondering why my file starts with the page length (.PL) dot command of 999, it is because the page length default is 66 lines. If the bogus 999 length were not used, the paper would have form fed to the next page and finished printing the information on the second sheet!

Next month, I will show you how to use PICTURE IT, TI-ARTIST, and TI-WRITER to produce a very professional looking document. Until then, HAPPY TI-ING!
JIM LUQUE



BOOK REPORT



OUR NAME _____ DATE _____

THE TITLE OF YOUR BOOK _____

THE AUTHOR OF YOUR BOOK _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES _____

Circle the TYPE of book

Adventure	Mystery
Romance	Animal
Science Fiction	Myth
Bio/Autobiography	
Other _____	

In 75-100 words, write what your book was about; include the name(s) of the main character(s). SPELLING, GRAMMAR, CAPITALIZATION, AND PUNCTUATION WILL BE CHECKED. WRITE YOUR SUMMARY ON THE BACKSIDE OF THIS FORM.

In your summary, be sure to give some personal feelings -or views- of what you read (or learned); tell why you chose that particular book, and why you rated the book as you did.

Rate Your Book
Circle if it was a
"WINNER" or a
"LOSER"



The 9640 Column

by Bino Costa

White Wiggly Worm Software
P. O. Box 178
Seekonk, MA 02771

Hello, I am the White Wiggly Worm

Hello again. Long time no see! Sorry I haven't written in a while but I have been away from my Geneve 9640 what with school and all; as well as being disappointed at the lack of response I have received to this column. But since I am here again, and no quitter besides, I will continue with this column each and every month. I DO hope, however, that I get more letters from you out there: this being a column for the Geneve owner, I would appreciate knowing what Geneve owners want to hear about the Geneve. So if you have any questions, comments or criticisms having to do with the Geneve 9640 (and TI-99/4A) computers, please drop me a letter at the above address. I hope to hear from you soon. But in the meantime, I have some obscure or undocumented answers to questions a Geneve owner might ask. So without any delay, let's get right to it.

Q: My Geneve 9640 appears to be malfunctioning in that I can read from all my floppy drives, but whenever I try to write to any or all my drives, the computer hangs and the target disk becomes useless and must be reformatted. What should I do to get my computer working again?

A #1 Try cleaning the disk drive heads with a head cleaning kit. This problem can come up very suddenly if the heads are dirty; that is, the disk drive works OK one moment and doesn't work the next. If this doesn't work the first time, try it a second time. To get the heads on the cleaning disk, I suggest trying to format the disk with the sector verify option turned off. Afterwards, look at the disk and notice the dirt cleaned off the heads; do not use the same cleaning disk too many times.

A #2 If cleaning the disk drive heads doesn't solve the problem, do the following: Reboot your computer and get to the MDOS prompt. Set the date and time by entering DATE. Enter today's date. Enter TIME and enter the current time. The battery backed-up clock/calendar of the Geneve can influence the operation of any disk drives connected to the computer, making them not work right if the date or time settings somehow get screwed up. This can happen rather easily, especially when the system hangs or you try to run a non-Geneve compatible program. Also, if you boot MDOS and are prompted to enter the date and time right away, ALWAYS do so; don't just press enter. This means that the computer itself knows the current settings are screwed up, and should be corrected.

W: Sometimes, when using the GPL Interpreter with the Geneve, I press one or a few keys simotaneously, and when I release these, a key keeps

The 9640 Column (CONTINUED)

repeating itself on the screen, just as if I were holding that key down. This happens mostly in TI Extended Basic (module saved to disk) and MyWord. Why does this happen and what should I do about it if it does?

A: You have one of the two older keyboards that was available with the Geneve; the newer one does not do this, or so I'm told by Myarc. On these older keyboards, any key can do this, including arrow keys; these will move the cursor around instead of printing characters. To stop this, simply press the effected key when it happens and clear out the extra characters. If you are editing an Extended Basic program line when this happens, delete everything to the right of where the problem started. Extended Basic is very finicky when run on the Geneve.

Well, I've run out of space this month; I sure feel glad to be back writing this column again. Next month, I will discuss a method by which you could reclaim a disk full of files if any header sectors get blown, even the files that have the blown headers. One way this could happen is discussed in the first question above. So Until then, it's back to school for another semester; time to get good grades and continue to use your Geneve 9640. So stay tuned for February's column and take care. Bye now.

VALENTINES DAY



at premiere
Fair
Chicago



Jim Luque

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HOT NEW PROGRAM!
"ARTIST PRINTSHOP"

Did you type in last month's music program? Wasn't that easy? I hope you learned a little something about how to compose music on your TI-99. For those of you who didn't type it, the untitled piece was "Home On the Range."

This month's article centers on an up-and-coming program (Hopefully, I'll have it for demonstration by the time you read this).

Paul Coleman-of recent G.A.P. fame-has done it again! He's been working on a package he calls "ARTIST PRINTSHOP." Those of you who use "Graphic Lister, Designer Labels, G.A.P., and others, know of Paul's great programming skills. Everything he writes is first class!! But, enough of that.

ARTIST PRINTSHOP comprises three programs: Banner Maker, Stationery Maker, and Sign Maker.

Banner Maker utilizes TI-Artist Instances and fonts. Text can be 80 characters long; graphics can be in normal or mirror image. One has the choice of automatic centering of text and graphics or adjusting it up or down the page; one also has the choice of magnification of text and graphics from 1X to whatever will fit on the page! Everything prints out of memory--no disk accessing. Copies can be in single or double density. Graphics can be in front, behind, or on both sides of your message. Two different graphics can also be used. A better banner program, there isn't!!!

Stationery Maker also requires TI-Artist Instances and fonts.

Your options are: graphic left, plus text; graphic right, plus text; or graphic left and right, plus text. The graphic could also be "mirrored" (turned left-to-right). Stationery heading can have a line across the page (underneath the text and graphic(s)), or not. If you prefer everything at the bottom of the page instead, Stationery Maker will do that also. (The heading for this article was done with Stationery Maker). The third program, SignMaker, is, in my opinion, the jewel of the package. It's a little similar to PAGE PRO 99, but with some differences. It will output a super full page sign with as many as 5 instances and two (1 large, 1 small) font styles; however, each one can be printed in single and double size; making it appear like more than two different font styles. (See sign sample on next page).

Sign Maker comes with 12 (plus 1 blank) unique ready-to-use borders. Output can be single or double density, and single or multiple copies. The neat feature about this program is that it automatically formats (centers text) everything for you; you merely enter the text and graphic(s) information; and because it is written in C-99, it is fast!

There are some other valuable utility programs on the disk that I won't elaborate on at this time.

ARTIST PRINTSHOP requires console, expansion system, Extended Basic, and printer. The cost of the three-part package is \$25.00. Order from me, or from COMPRODINE 1949 Evergreen Ave. Fullerton, Ca 92635. S&H is about \$1.00-\$1.50.

Until next time, HAPPY TI-ING!

Something New For
Your 77-99...

Signmaker



MY FRIEND ON THE LEFT IS NOT MEANT TO SCARE YOU--JUST GET YOUR ATTENTION. WITH THIS PROGRAM YOU NOW HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE AND PRINT NEAT SIGNS LIKE THIS ONE. AND YOU CAN USE ANY TI-ARTIST FONTS OR GRAPHICS.

DOUBLE-SIZED TEXT
NEXT TO DOUBLE-
SIZED GRAPHICS.



OR SINGLE-SIZED TEXT BETWEEN SINGLE SIZED GRAPHICS. THE VARIATIONS ARE MANY. AS YOU WILL DISCOVER--MANY MORE THAN CAN BE SHOWN ON THIS SIGN.




TELL YOUR
FRIENDS
ABOUT IT!
THEY WILL
LOVE IT, TOO!



Marketed by
Comproline

POT POURI



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864-2948

Thought I'd pause this month from my usual format. As the title implies, what is to follow is a variety of ideas, comments, and tips I wish to pass along; hopefully, you will find something worth your while.

First of all, I wish to thank JOHN USHER, GREG HEDRICK, GARY CRAWFORD, MARIA ADLER, and DAN LISSON for the outstanding effort and leadership they are providing the club! As I read other User Group Newsletters, I sadly see more and more clubs dwindling in numbers and support. We are indeed fortunate to have the aforementioned people! I would strongly encourage all of you to drop them a message on the BBS, or use your newly purchased JIFFY CARD to say "Thank You."

A few months ago, I learned of a terrific service the TI-SLAVES (UTAH) U.G. is providing, as a money maker,

RENN CRUMP, Editor, is compiling MACINTOSH and IBM high resolution graphics and clipart; these are then converted to TI-ARTIST INSTANCES. The clipart is super! For those of you who like to use graphics, this collection is an absolute must! The price(s) is well worth it! For a 10 disk (SS/SD) set of graphics, the price is \$20.00. Sets, or Series, are all archived on one disk. Printed copies of the graphics are also provided. If you wish to merely order a particular disk of clipart, the price is \$3.00; a 4 disk order is \$10.00. If you have DS/DD capability, the 10 disk series is only \$18.00. At this writing, there are 6 sets available. Send \$1.00 for the first catalog (or the total amount mentioned above) to:
GRAPHICS CONVERSIONS
C/O TI SLAVES U.G.
3818 W. OWENSBORO DR.
WEST JORDAN, UTAH 84084
 Be sure to specify which format you desire (ss/sd, ds/sd, ds/dd). The graphic below is a clipart example.

Next, some of you may not be aware of a publication entitled HOME PUBLISHING,

by HARRY BRASHEAR. HARRY has done a very thorough job demonstrating the desktop publishing possibilities of the TI-994A. The entire 74 page "manual" was done with the TI-994A. Not only does he explain how to use such programs like TI-ARTIST, GRAPHX, PICASSO, CSGO, JOYPAINT, FONTWRITER, and others, but as a bonus he provides a disk with 4 special programs: INSTANCE PRINTER, BOX-IT (a TI-Writer utility that places boxes around text), FONT CHARTER (a utility that lets you know what characters and symbols are used in the TI-Artist fonts you have), and finally, ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHIC (a utility that takes an Artist Picture(.P) file and prints it in 3 different sizes. These 4 programs are invaluable. Since its initial printing, an additional supplement has been issued. This supplement, and others to follow, are all covered in the original price, \$15.00. NOTE... HOME PUBLISHING is not a program; it is merely a compilation of what can be done, with valuable tips and short-cuts using pre-existing programs. Order: HARRY BRASHEAR

2753 MAIN STREET
 NEWFANE, NY 14108.

As a special "thank you" for those of you that purchased JIFFY FLYER 3.0 from me, here are some new border styles you may enjoy. The first 3 were made by me. The last one was done by Sr Pat. of Dubuque, Iowa. Thank you, Sister! Load JIFFY FLYER. At the prompt #3 (Change Border), do a FCTN #2; enter the 4 hex-codes for each separate border:

```
7F7F7F7F7F7E7C7C
7E7F7F7F7F7F7F00
FFFFFFEFFF3F1F1F
3FFFFFFF7F7F7F00
```

```
FFC0BF0AFAFABAA
AAABACAFB0BF0CFF
FF03F0DF535D555
55D535F50BF03FF
```

```
FFB5FBFB858E83FB
FB858E83FB8585FF
FFADDFBFBAD71ADDE
DFAB71ADDFBFBDF
```

```
FEFEFCFC8F8F0F0
E0E0C0C080E0FCFC
FFFF7F7F3F3F1F1F
0F0F0707030F7F7F
```

Until next time, HAPPY TILING; and KEEP COOL THIS SUMMER*****



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