

HOW TO BUY NEW FLOPPY DISK DRIVES

By Richard Roseen

1. Check for quality the main mechanical parts of the drive. They should be located on a solid die cast piece of metal. In other words solid metal structure throughout as the base of the drive that holds the motors, solenoids and other movable parts. Avoid any drive put together with metal plates.

2. New drives should be sold to you in antistatic plastic wrap (usually tinted looking) and may have a fitted styrofoam container, will always be half height, never full height, at least two sided, at least capable of 360k double sided double density. 720k 80 track drives are now getting rare due to the newer 1.2meg. drives. 1.2 meg. drives can be useable at 720k. (more on that later) New 3.5" drives are 720k or 1.44 meg. They should follow the rule of die cast body as above also. Newer 3.5" drives will have a thickness much less than a half height 360k drive. Only the new Myarc HDPC has promise of possible drivers to support 1.44meg 3.5" or 1.2meg. 5.25" use. Certain CorComp controllers have floppy disk

polarity tabs and can make difficult getting the proper polarity or orientation of the connector to plug in. Go for the works get the 5.25" bracket and the card edge adapter board that includes standard 5.25" power connector. These adapters may have a jumper for use on PC XT or AT clones, be sure to select XT.

3. Unless you have help from a Guru or user who has successfully installed and used the same drives, then get info from the seller or manufacture on drive selects, other jumper options or features, and resistor packs. On some new drives the resistor pack is permanently soldered to a high density logic board with a jumper to disable or enable the use of the resistor pack for installation as lesser drive or drives on the chain. If such a drive is the last drive in a chain whose other resistor packs can be removed, there is no problem.

4. Buy or at least shop for any drive or power connectors or power supplies or cases as you may or may not need depending on what you already have.

5. The least expensive power supplies, drive connectors, cables, etc. are sold by vendors selling chips and electronic parts, not by the dealers of floppy drives. The chip parts dealer will have alot of the necessary parts for homebuilt linear supplies at the lowest total cost of parts. A general list for a linear supply is a transformer, AC line cord and plug, switch, filter capacitor rated above 2200µF (micro farads), bridge rectifier or diodes, linear regulators both 5 and 12 volt.

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From THE D.C.S.

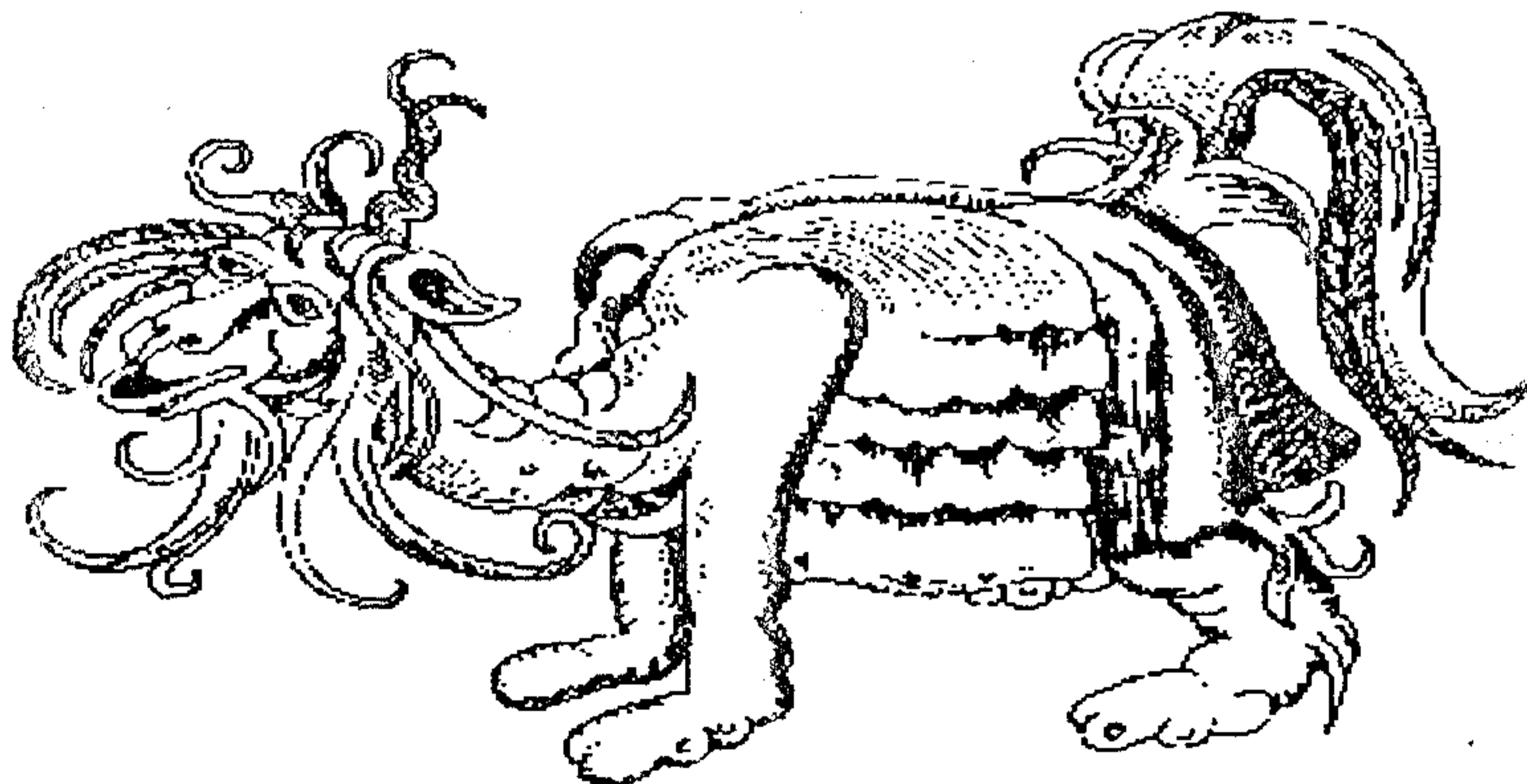
11. Power requirements: some 3.5" drives require less than 1 amp for 5 and 12 volts. Some 3.5" drives are very low power and some require only a 5 volt supply. 3.5" drives require the least power. New 5.25" half height drives never require more than 1 amp on 5 and 12 volt lines and can be as low 1/2 amp. on the 5 and 12 volt line. Add the amperage required for each drive for each 5 and 12 volt line to check your power supply needs for your drives. Drives can be powered separately because the 34 pin cable will carry the common logic signal ground between all drives on the the train and the computer. If building a linear supply be sure the transformer, bridge rectifier or diodes and linear regulator exceed your amperage needs. The transformer should be at least 12.6 VAC RMS and 6.3 VAC RMS (transformers are commonly rated with RMS voltage at their secondaries).

Written by Richard Roseen

This information was kept as general as possible so as to guide the 4A buyer. How to buy used floppy drives could never be this informative. Anyone wishing to document their experiences with a specific drive or drives is invited to do so by attaching this general article. An archived document.

My preferences are Mitsumi drives 3.5" and 5.25" any

density. These drives are the most quiet drives you WILL ever hear. They have a jumper block to enable/disable the resistor pack though have not verified the identity of the jumper as of yet. Another preference are the NEC 1036 3.5" 720k drives. They are small, quiet and durably solid, and like any other 3.5" drive lightweight and low power. Also, recommend Chinnon 3.5" 720k drives. These are much the same as the NEC drives except for screw shaft stepper motor and extremely low power and 5 volt only operation make it better. These drives may be the lowest power in the industry.



CONSOLE-ING THE ORPHAN

A Kodak Moment

by Phil Townsend

The last two weeks of July I took a break away from preparing Macintosh computers for our new elementary school for a family vacation in Massachusetts, U.S.A. I had mentioned to Jack Sughrue (pronounced "sugaroo", as I found out) that my family and I would be in his home state. Jack insisted that we should definitely visit him and his wife, Elaine. Jack lives in Douglas, Mass. which is a village close to the middle / southern part of the state. My wife and I along with our two kids dropped in for an overnight visit on our way to the coast.

I must mention that both Jack and I are elementary school teachers and at one time a few years ago we were both teaching grade five students, so we have a great deal in common professionally as well as our common love for our favourite "Orphan". Jack and I had spoken on the phone on several occasions and we have corresponded over the past few years swapping hints, tales and software.

Our 8 p.m. arrival was heralded by Jack and Elaine having a terrific meal ready for us, accompanied with much lively discussion about the Olympics, politicians, Free Trade, Mass. Turnpike employees and how they welcome tourists and of course today's Elementary education. Jack and I both realize, being teachers that education is being sadly underfunded in both of our countries, Canada and the U.S., We also know that many resources have not been tapped because of politics, lack of imagination. Jack is truly an entrepreneur, however - a man after my own heart! He is finding ways of getting computers to kids despite the "System".

Following several hours of dining, trading ideas, stories and the many uses for computers, the ladies and children went to bed, leaving Jack and I to our own devices! We found Jack's TI and tried out some of the software that I had brought for him and his fellow "M.U.N.C.H. ies". Even though I had driven for twelve hours to get to Jack's, I wasn't tired a bit (well maybe just a little)! Eventually, Jack and I retired for the night with many items still yet to be discussed.

The following day Jack and Elaine acted as tour guides, ably showing off their village and nearby historical museums and sites. Our visit with Jack and Elaine was far too short, we have only just had a chance to break the ice, but isn't it great how our \$99.00 computer (that's what I paid for mine) can bring people

together... that's what a communication tool such as a computer is supposed to do! Thanks Jack and Elaine, for your hospitality and friendship, it was you who made our trip truly memorable.

For further proof of the power of the TI in bringing people together, I look at the members of our own user group. We are a varied breed in professions, age, interests and lifestyles, but we all have this curiosity about computers, that is the common link. We often have social events which have been spawned by the friendships developed over the course of the past nine and a half years.

Many of the members of our little band have other brands of computers as well as the TI, but we all realize that the TI has some strengths that many of today's computers are just beginning to develop. Characteristics such as; ease of use, voice synthesis, modular design, standard key commands between programs, colour graphics and animation are but a few of the features that made the TI ahead of its time in home use and education. Its games were ahead of its time and are still as good, if not better than many games that I have seen for Nintendo and the like.

Education, games and home productivity are the TI's strong suite and that's where we have to market this little baby if we are going to find new members for our user groups. I had several TI's in my classroom which were used effectively by many students. (past tense here because I am currently working in a central resource role) to help them with reading, writing, math, the arts and graphic design to name just a few areas. My own children who are ten and twelve years of age, use their TI's for wordprocessing, games and to work on those math facts. I still haven't found a label creation/printer program on my Mac that is as effective and as quick and dirty to use as Steve Mcwatty's "Graphic Label Maker" for the TI. Nor have I come across any better Mac program for designing cassette box labels than "Cassette Labeller" which was written for the TI by Tom Wynne and is still available through Asgard Software. I use these programs very often. I also like "Mail List Manager" which is a public domain program written by Bill Gaskill and further developed by Bob Tisdale of our User Group and myself so that our group could use it for tracking exchange newsletters, our group's members and for printing all of the group's mailing labels. The Mac or a DOS machine could do this job but not with the ease and simplicity that the TI affords. So what should all of

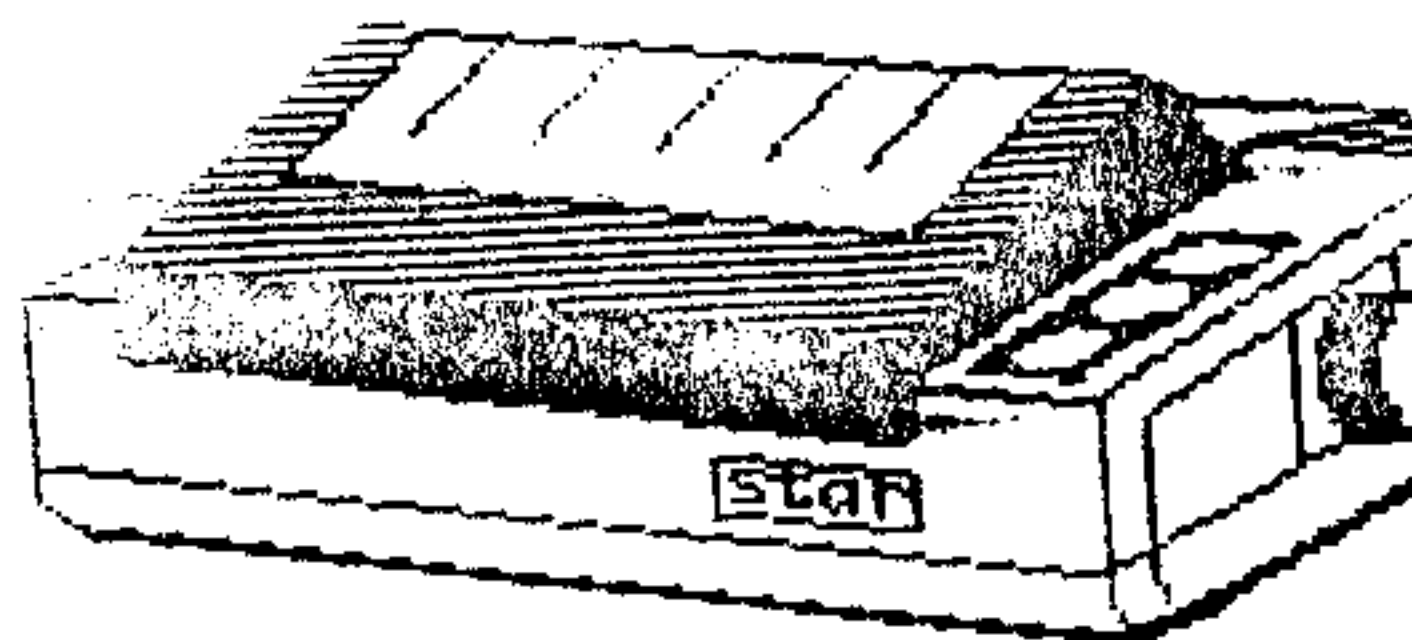
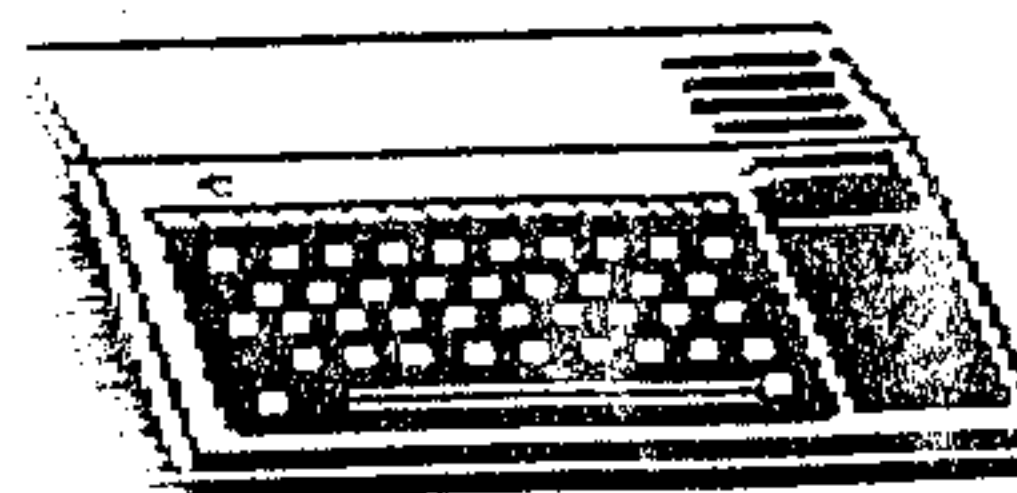
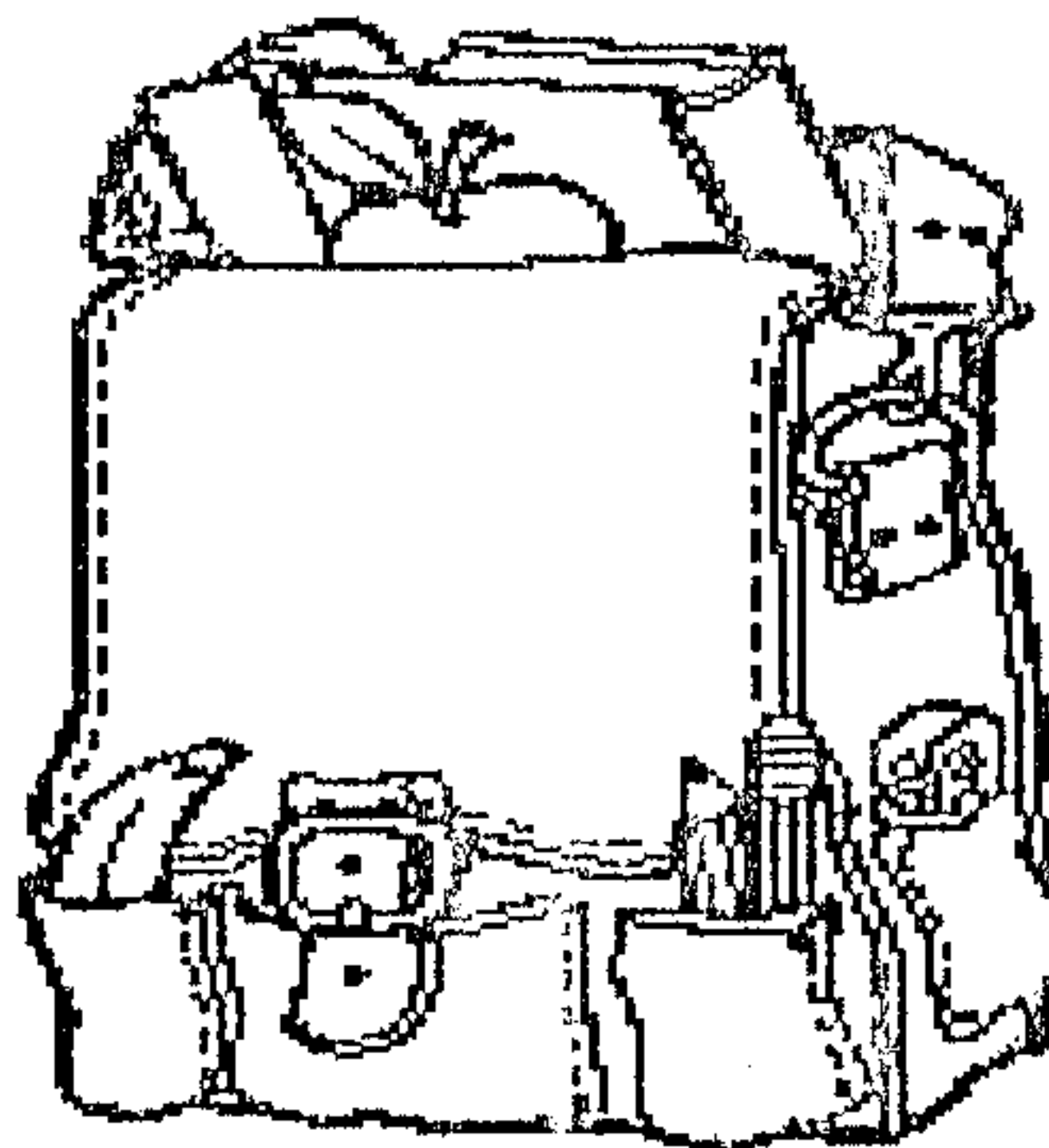
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these examples be teaching those of who wish to enhance our groups' memberships and the use of the TI ... We should be marketing the TI's strengths like crazy, not fretting because we don't own the expensive add-ons such as 80 column cards, RGB displays, a zillion MB ramdisk or hard drive. Let's remember and advertise the fact that the TI is an extremely useful and talented tool that can be utilized with a television and a standard cassette recorder. The Orphan does some important things very well, its up to us to do an equally good job of letting the rest of the world and potential new members know!

News of past TI'ers, ...

A few weeks ago I was attending the MacWorld conference in Toronto as a representative from our Board of Ed. In one of the sessions about "QuickTime" (video and audio on the Macintosh), I witnessed several computer animation videos created for a contest sponsored by Apple Computer Corp. a few of the videos were created by Apple employees in California, one of them being J. Peter Hoddie, formerly from the Boston TI user group and a previous editor of their newsletter. Peter also wrote some excellent software utilities for the TI. Talk about a small world!



MODULATOR REPAIR by Ron Warfield B.C.U.G Newsletter

Over the years, I have been asked for help on repairing the TI Modulator, so I decided that it is time to write an article on the little beast.

The most common problem with these units is broken wires at the computer end plug. This is easy to check and all you need do is pull the rubber cover back from the plug and look inside to see if a wire has broken off. This is a simple fix for all it requires is to solder the wire back onto the pin.

The next problem is more difficult. When you turn on the trusty old TI nothing comes onto the screen. This is usually the integrated circuit gone bad. These are not

too difficult to change except that the numbers on the chip are non-existent in any cross reference book. Well, here is help for you. The chip is MC1374P and is very cheap to acquire. I just bought ten for \$1.95 each. All you need is pop off the two covers of the modulator and unsolder the chip. If you don't have a desoldering tool, you can take a small pair of wire cutters and cut each connector close to the chip until it falls out and then a small soldering iron will easily remove each wire singly. When all the holes are cleaned out, insert the new chip with the index mark properly aligned and solder it into place. Replace the switch slide and the two covers and you should be back in business.

Converting MACPICS to TI Graphic Files
A review of Asgard's Pix Pro
by Frank A. Smith
Pittsburgh User's Group

When I spotted some MacPaint files on the club's BBS, I decided to use them to try out that part of Asgard's Pix Pro program known as the MacPaint converter. The following article is a step by step guide for those who may wish to try their hand at this program. It may help others to avoid some of the headaches I encountered along the way.

First of all, lets get an overall idea of what we're faced with in converting these files. The standard TI screen is 194X256 pixels in size. Page-Pro pics can be as large as 480X792. But, MacPaint pictures can be as large as 576X720 pixels total. It is obvious that many of the larger MAC pictures can't be converted to use on the normal TI screen. Fortunately, the MACPICS on the BBS were in groups of thirty smaller pictures which could be converted to ARTIST instances.

After unarchiving the MAC files, I loaded the MCPPIX program from the Pix Pro disk and began the conversion. I learned that the master disk can't contain a write protect tab during this time. Apparently the MCPPIX program must mark the end of the MAC file or errors are going to occur. Converting MAC to Page Pro format allows one to get the greatest part of the MAC picture converted. Stay away from converting MAC to PIX as this results in only half of a large MAC file being converted.

When I loaded the first of the MAC files into Page Pro, my first thoughts were, "MCPPIX doesn't work!!". I was confronted with screen after screen of broken up graphics. Fortunately, I'm persistent, and loaded every file from the disk. When I got to the last file, a large picture of a tiger, I was delighted to see a small corner of what turned out to be a perfect tiger picture. Here's what happened! When you convert MAC to Page Pro the disk directory records all the filenames but all of the files on the disk are overwritten by the last file converted. This proved to be a very handy feature. Remember how large MAC files are—even wider than Page Pro can handle. When I got the files converted to separate disks, I found that, of the 30 pictures per file, there was only room for about 1/4 of the last row of six pictures on a Page Pro screen. I decided to try using the file overwrite feature to my advantage. I went back to MCPPIX and converted every file three times to the same copy disk giving each file a different name. This resulted in the last file converted being a MAC file which fit on a Page Pro screen except for the last row of pictures. The other files were that same MAC file but the pictures had been shifted from right to left. Using this method, I was able to extract all of the MAC pictures from the five files.

Once the MAC has been converted and loaded into Page Pro, it's a simple matter of clipping each picture and saving to Page Pro picture files. WRONG!! I found that you

must have a write protect tab on your master disk at this time. If you don't, the file from which you are clipping pictures is scrambled during the saving of the clipped picture. Eventually, I managed to get 145 Page Pro picture files clipped from the five MAC files and proceeded with the final step of conversion.

MCPIX is only one part of the Pix Pro disk. The main program allows conversion of Page Pro pictures to TI-Artist Picture format, GRAPHX, TI-Artist Instance format, Picasso, Pix, or Pix 128 files. You can also convert any of these formats to any of the others. When you boot the program, you are asked which file you wish to load. Simply type in the filename of the picture. There isn't any need to type any extensions such as "_I" for an Artist Instance. Pix Pro will automatically figure out what kind of picture you are trying to load.

If you can't remember the filenames of your pictures, simply press ENTER when the prompt "DSK1." is displayed. Pix Pro will display a listing of the contents of the disk in that drive. Pressing any key will return you to the "Load File?" prompt.

After loading a picture, Pix Pro automatically displays it on the screen. At this point, there are many things you can do with it before resaving it.

If this is a color picture such as GRAPHX or TI-Artist, you may want to change the foreground or background colors. By pressing the "F" or "B" keys - Pix Pro will go through a list of foreground and background colors accordingly.

If you want to save only a portion of the picture, you can "clip" that portion. By pressing "C" a little arrow will appear in the top left corner. Move it around with the arrow keys until you have it positioned in the top left portion of the part you wish to save. Press the ENTER key and the arrow changes into a little box. Using the arrow keys causes the corners to split apart and surround the area to be clipped. When you press ENTER again, all of the picture except your "clipped" portion disappears from the screen.

While you are viewing a picture file, you may find that the picture is too big to be displayed on one screen. Pix Pro is prepared for just such a situation. You can use the arrow keys to move left, right, up, and down to scroll the picture onto the screen. This allows you to "clip" that portion of the picture which you want to save.

Pressing any other key will take you to the save menu. You then have the option of saving the picture in any of the previously mentioned formats, or displaying another picture by simply pressing ENTER.

Let's get back to the MAC files. Using the Pix Pro program, it was simply a matter of converting each Page Pro file to a TI-Artist Instance. I now have three DSSD disks packed with Artist Instances.

Pix Pro is a product of Asgard Software and can be obtained by sending \$14.95 plus \$3.00 to cover shipping in the U.S./Canada - \$7.00 for Airmail to:

Asgard Software
P.O.Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20849

News Release

Gofer and Clipix Updated!

Asgard is pleased to announce new release of new revisions of *Clipix* and *Gofer*.

Clipix, by Dan Gazsy, is a utility included with *Pix Pro*, *Gofer* and *Page Pro Composer* that allows you to load *Page Pro 99* pictures of any size and "clip" any portion and save it as another picture. This is a useful tool if you want to cut down a picture to fit within a certain page size. It is particular useful for manipulating MacPaint pictures converted with *Pix Pro* and PCX pictures converted with *Gofer*. Completely "what-you-see-is-what-you-get", *Gofer* is easy to use and very fast.

The latest revision of *Clipix* corrects compatibility problems with the Myarc HFDC. The new version functions properly with this device. HFDC users with prior versions of *Clipix* may receive the updated version of *Clipix* free by returning their program disk. *Gofer* is included as an extra bonus to purchasers of *Pix Pro*, *Gofer* and *Page Composer*, but may be purchased by itself for \$7.95.

Gofer, also by Dan Gazsy, is a program that features a vastly improved version of the the *Columnizer* included with *Page Pro 99*, utilities to modify "page format" files, perform batch conversions of *TI-Artist* instances to *Page Pro 99* format and vice versa, and a well-designed batch converter for converting IBM PC PCX-format picture files into *Page Pro 99* format (allowing you to use the tens-of-thousands of PCX format files available).

The latest revision of *Gofer* also corrects compatibility problems with the Myarc HFDC. The new version functions properly with this device. HFDC users with prior versions of *Gofer* may receive the updated version of *Gofer* free by returning their program disk. *Gofer* has a suggested retail price of \$14.95.

Tris 2 Released

Asgard Software is pleased to announce the release of *Tris 2* - by Jim Reiss.

The newest version of this very popular version of *Tetris*[™] for the TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve features improved graphics and "mutant" blocks. The latter consists of irregularly shaped blocks which change their pattern as they rotate and fall, and add a new level of complexity and challenge an already challenging game!

Tris 2 is available in cartridge for the TI-99/4A for \$19.95, and on disk for the Geneve-9640 for \$9.95. Owners of the previous version of the cartridge can obtain an "update" for \$8.00 (or \$5.00 with the return of their old cartridge). Disk users can receive the update for \$4.00.

To order a product send a check or money order plus \$3.00 for S&H to:

Asgard Software • P.O. Box 10306 • Rockville, MD 20859-0306

Chester J. Morrison
39 Bay State Road
Worcester, MA 01606

October 2, 1992

M.U.N.C.H.
P.O. Box 7193
Worcester, MA 01605-7193

Dear Sir:

I am writing to inquire if any of your members would be interested in purchasing some TI 99 hardware and software I have available. The hardware is as follows:

Qty	Description	Model #
3	Computer console Black & Silver	99/4A
2	Peripheral Exp box	PHP 1200
2	Flex cable	HTA 4282
1	Memory Exp. Card	PHP 1260
1	Disk Controller Cd	PHP 1240
2	1/2 ht Disk Drive	Teac
1	Full ht Disk Drive	TI
1	RS232 interface	PHP 1220
2	Speech synthesizer	PHP 1500
1	External disk power supply	
1	MBX1001 Exp. Sys.	1001
1	Horizon Ram Disk	
1	Maximem	
1	Printer, Star Gemini-10	
1	Printer, Royal Daisy Wheel	

In addition to the hardware, the software includes over 500 different programs on both disk and modules.

Sincerely,



Chester J. Morrison
852-3764

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1992 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 508 area unless noted)

President	W.C. Wyman	865/1213		
Vice President	Bruce Willard	852/3250	MUNCH DUES	
Secretary	Jim Cox			
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704	NEW MEMBERSHIP	\$25.00
Acting Editor	Jim Cox		RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP	\$15.00
Adv. Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502	NEWSLETTER ONLY	
Library	OPEN		SUBSCRIPTION	\$13.00
Disk Librarian	Lou Holmes	617 965/3584		
Gate Librarian	Walter Nowak	413 436/7675		
NEW-AGE/99	Jack Sughrue	476/7630		

OCTOBER MEETING. There were fourteen members at this meeting. Jack answered a number of questions about Funnelweb, it seems we can never get enough of this great program. Corson brought a TV and those interested were able to keep track of the Vice-Presidential debate. Chris won the raffle for the second month in a row. We will have to retire his ticket!!

NOVEMBER MEETING. This month I hope Jack will get a chance to demo some more of Mail List Manager, he didn't get to it last month.

RAFFLE. Every month we have a raffle to help defer the rental cost of our meeting hall. A typical raffle will have game and utility programs T-Shirts, books, bumper stickers, blank discs and all sorts of odds and ends for the T.I. Special this month we have a Glare Guard Professional monitor screen.

LIBRARY NOTICE. Please return any items borrowed from our library. If you can not come to a meeting or give these items to someone who will be at the meeting.

REPRINTS. Reprints are permitted as long as credit is given to M.U.N.C.H.

ARTICLES. I am always looking for articles for this newsletter, anything which interests you will probably interest other members of the TI community, so please share your ideas and opinions with all of us.

DISK LIBRARY. The disk library will be at the meetings from now on. We have copies of all disks in the library and they are available to members for just \$1.50 each for single discs, \$2.00 flippies, \$3.00 double discs and \$4.00 double flippie.

FOR SALE. The group has a TI Count Business Software package available for sale. If interested contact Jim Cox at the above number or the club address. We also have blank disks for sale. The price is \$6.00 for a package of 25 disks.

DISK OF THE MONTH. This month's disk is #112, Merry Christmas from the B.C. 99ers'. This is a disk of seasonal music.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. Dr. Michael Lutsch, Harrison, Mi.; C.L. Kelly Jr. of Union Bridge, Md.; Harry W. Guenther of Syosset, N.Y.; Edward Keane of Revere, Ma.; and Robert J. Kirby of Malvern, Pa.

THE MUNCH VIDEO is ready, members can purchase it for \$5.00, plus \$3.00 postage for mail orders.

