

3 1/2 INCH DISK DRIVES ON THE TI99/4A  
BY FRANK AYLSTOCK

The 5.25" (360k) drives are becoming another orphan, like our TI. The disk controllers do not know if you have 3.5" or 5.25" drives. The only thing they know is what your input is, and the only control you have is the number of tracks per sector, number of sides and density. The TI disk controller will handle double sided but only single density. The Corcomp controller will handle double sided and double density. The Myarc card with the QUAD CHIP installed will handle disk drives up to 720k. The 5.25" quad density drives are another orphan but you can use 3.5" disk drives. The 3.5" drives can be up to 1.44meg this means that you will have 2880 sectors or the equivalent of 8 SS/SD floppy disks. The only drawback to the 3.5" drive is that all the programs you receive come on 5.25" floppy disks. However you can set up your system so that you have at least one 5.25" disk drive and the others 3.5" drives. The HFDC by Myarc will also accept up to quad density disks.

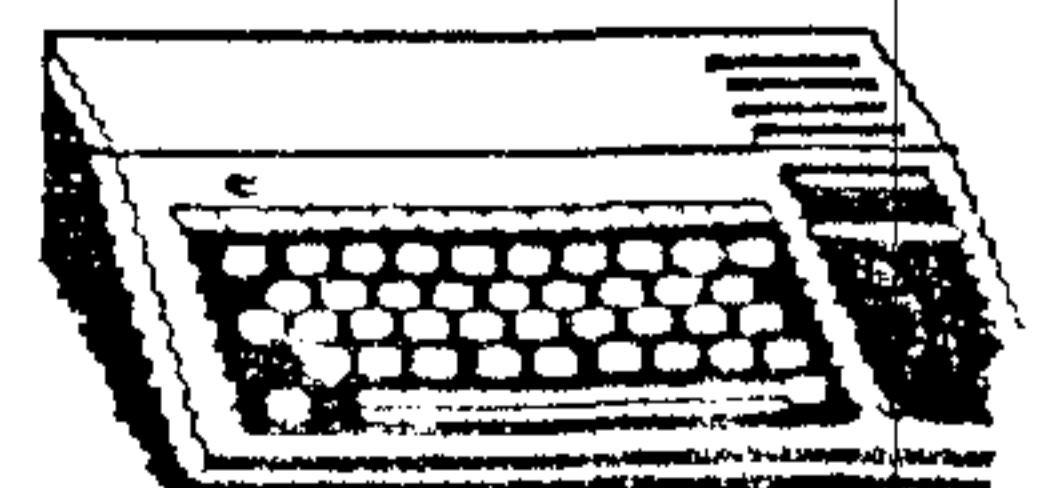
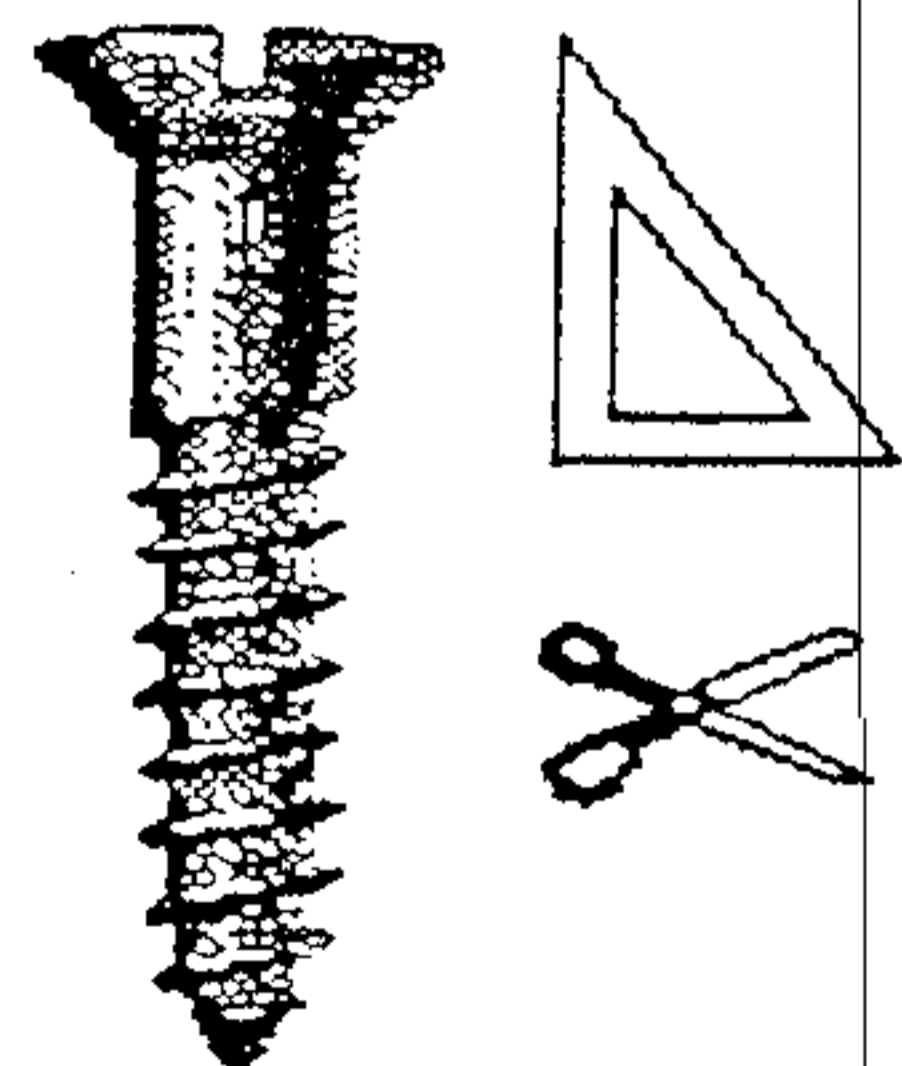
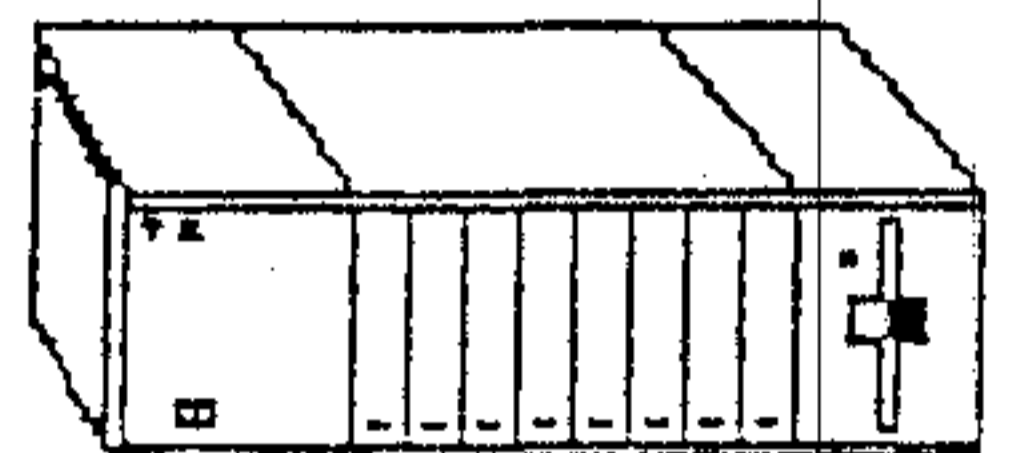
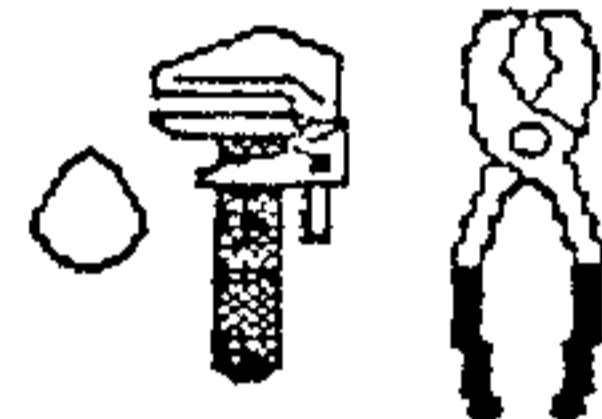
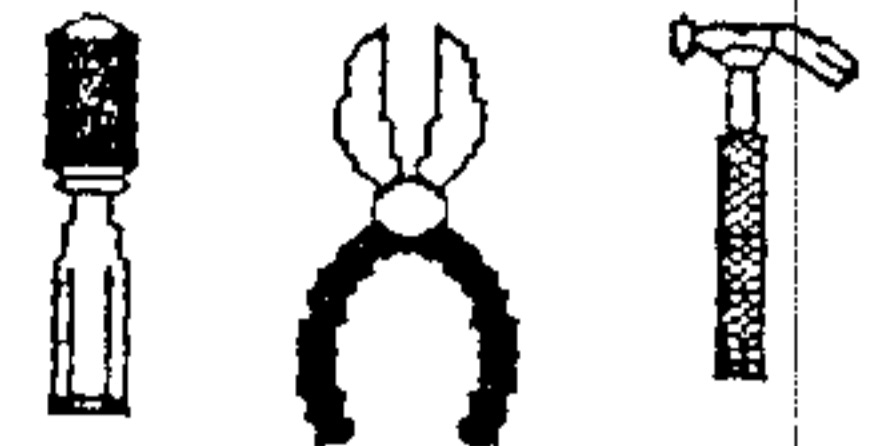
I would recommend that you switch over to the 3.5" drives as they are a superior form of storage for the following reasons.

- 1) The disks are enclosed in a shell/cover which hold them rigid and will not allow the disk to get bent. You can even write on the disk directly without harming the data.
- 2) They contain there own sliding reauseable "write protect tab". By merely moving the tab up or down the disk can be protected.
- 3) The size is a large consideration as they require a lot less space to store or transport them.
- 4) They contain a sliding door which protects the storage medium at all times. This door opens and closes automatically when the disk is inserted or removed from the drive.
- 5) The size aEso helps to read and write data faster than the 5.25" Eloppy disk drives.
- 6)The disks are coated with superior oxide which is less vulnerable to data loss.
- 7) They are considered more reliable than 5.25" disks especially important when dealing with quad density disks.
- 8)The drives take less current during the reading and writing process. In fact some of the 3.5" drives use only the 5 volts.

Last but not least is the price. Around this area (Los Angeles) the drives can be purchased for as little as \$50.00 and there is no conversion or other hardware changes to be made and they will replace the existing drives with very little labor.

Look into these drives!

The above was reprinted from the BREA USERS GROUP



At the last meeting, our editor asked me about ways to convert listed programs to 28-column width, and to convert listed programs to runnable programs. A couple of days later, I had a phone call from a user asking about the same thing. And, I have received a few newsletters with reprints of an article describing a method of listing to the printer in 28-column format.

Why list in 28-column format? Because that is the way a program appears on the screen. It is such, much easier to key in a program accurately when it is published in 28-column format, because you can edit your work by checking the position of characters in relation to the line above - especially when the program contains long stretches of blanks, or long hex codes.

About that method currently being reprinted - it doesn't work. At least, it doesn't work properly with Extended Basic programs. The idea is that you open the printer and send it ASCII codes 27 81 28, which sets the right margin at 28. You can get the same result by OPEN #1:"PIO",VARIABLE 28.

The problem is that Extended Basic program lines can be keyed in up to 140 characters long, and can be forced considerably longer. When you LIST a program to disk, it is saved in DV/80 format. Any line longer than 80 characters is broken into separate 80 character records. When you break those records into 28-character segments, you have program lines stopping in the middle and then continuing on the next line. They can still be keyed in correctly, if you realize what has happened, but the listing will not be in screen format, which is the whole purpose of using 28 columns.

Besides, you probably don't want to output to the printer. You want to output to disk, so you can incorporate the listing into a text article, as I am about to do.

So, what to do? If you have the Triton Super Extended Basic module, it is as easy as pie. Just - LIST "DSK1.LISTING":28:1-32766. It will do a perfect job but the listing will be in DV/28 format, which will not load into Funnelweb. So I will now write a

little program, save it, load it with my Super Extended Basic, and then load my little program to convert the DV/28 file into a DV/80 file which I will insert right here -

```
100 DISPLAY AT(10,1)ERASE ALL
L:"Input file? DSK":":": "Output file? DSK" :: ACCEPT AT(10,16):LN$ :: ACCEPT AT(12,17):OUT$
110 OPEN #1:"DSK"&LN$,VARIABLE 28,INPUT :: OPEN #2:"DSK"&OUT$,OUTPUT
120 LINPUT #1:M$ :: PRINT #2:M$ :: IF EOF(1)<>1 THEN 120 ELSE CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2
```

But you don't have the Triton module? Well, several years ago I wrote a 28 column converter which will do the job perfectly. It will also optionally replace and transliterate those characters that get messed up when you print a program listing through the formatter. It will even recognize unprintable blank characters which have been keyed in with the CTRL key and print their key letter underlined. That program was published in Tips From The Tigercub #18 with an upgrade in #21. It is available on my TI-PD disk #1015 and I will put it on the Spirit of 99 BBS again.

That program does require that the listing have standard line number spacing, numbered by tens from 100. If you are starting with a listing which is not in that format, this one will do the job but not as easily, because you have to first insert a carriage return at the end of each program line. To do that, load the listing into the Funnelweb Editor, press CTRL O to get the hollow cursor and CTRL U to get the underline cursor, go to the end of each program line with the arrow keys and press M.

```
100 DISPLAY AT(3,6)ERASE ALL
:"PROGRAM RELISTER":":": "Will reformat a LISTed XBasic program from any length to any other length."
110 DISPLAY AT(8,1): "Each program line (not file line) must end in a carriage return."
120 DISPLAY AT(12,1): "Input
```

```
Y(13,4):IF$ :: DISPLAY AT(15,1):"Output filename?": "DSK"
:: ACCEPT AT(16,4):OF$
130 DISPLAY AT(18,1):"Present line length?" :: ACCEPT AT(18,22)SIZE(2)VALIDATE(DIGIT):A
140 DISPLAY AT(20,1):"Reformat to what length?" :: ACCEPT AT(20,26)SIZE(2)VALIDATE(DIGIT):X :: IF X=A THEN 130
150 OPEN #1:"DSK"&IF$,INPUT :: OPEN #2:"DSK"&OF$,OUTPUT
:: IF X<A THEN 230
160 IF EOF(1)THEN 270 :: LINPUT #1:M$ :: L=LEN(M$):: IF POS(M$,CHR$(13),1)=0 THEN 180
170 IF P+L<X+1 THEN PRINT #2:M$ :: P=0 :: GOTO 160 ELSE PRINT #2:SE6$(M$,1,X-P)&CHR$(13):SE6$(M$,X-P+1,255):: P=0 :: GOTO 160
180 IF L<A THEN M$=M$&RPT$( " ",A-L):: L=A
190 IF P=0 THEN PRINT #2:M$ :: P=L :: GOTO 160
200 IF P+L<X THEN PRINT #2:M$ :: P=P+L :: GOTO 160
210 IF P+L=X THEN PRINT #2:M$&CHR$(13):: P=0 :: GOTO 160
220 PRINT #2:SE6$(M$,1,X-P)&CHR$(13):SE6$(M$,X-P+1,255):: P=LEN(SE6$(M$,X-P+1,255)) :: GOTO 160
230 IF EOF(1)THEN 270 :: LINPUT #1:M$
240 L=LEN(M$):: IF L+P>X THEN PRINT #2:SE6$(M$,1,X-P)&CHR$(13):: M$=SE6$(M$,X-P+1,255):: P=0 :: GOTO 240
250 IF M$=CHR$(13)THEN 230
260 IF POS(M$,CHR$(13),1)<>0 THEN PRINT #2:M$ :: P=0 :: GOTO 230 ELSE PRINT #2:M$ :: P=LEN(M$):: GOTO 230
270 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2
```

That one is also on TI-PD 1015.

Now, about converting listings to programs, without having to key them in well, let's save that for next month.

END

# TUTORIAL

What Is On My Disks? by George F. Steffen

Many times I have been asked by members of our club to take a look at a disk because they have a program that will not run, or they do not know how to access a file. Often I find that they are trying to run something that is not a program or that what they thought was a file was really a program.

The operating system which Texas Instruments put into their home computer is not the most versatile, it was designed for simplicity. In fact, it is so simple that many people operate the computer quite successfully without even knowing that there is such a thing as an operating system. All input and output is by way of "files" no matter whether it is to a printer, a modem, a disk, or whatever else might be connected. How the material in the file is organized is not of much importance when it goes to the printer, as long as it appears on the paper. However, if you have a disk and catalog it and wish to access a file which is listed in the catalog, it is much easier if you understand what it is.

If you examine the "TYPE" column of the disk catalog, you will see only five different entries. They are "Program", "Dis/Var", "Dis/Fix", "Int/Var" and "Int/Fix". There is nothing sacred about the number of types nor the names. They were established by TI in its disk controller and reference manuals. There could be eight different types without using any more bits to keep track of them. As far as the operating system is concerned, all are files, even those that list as "Program." "Program" means a memory dump file; the information is stored exactly as it is in the computer memory. "Display" means the information is stored just as it would be on a printer, while "Internal" indicates that each variable is preceded by one byte giving the length of that variable. "Fixed" means that each record is given the full length and "Variable" records start with one byte giving the length of the record.

Program files probably were given that name because that is how Basic programs are stored. These files normally have four words at the beginning used to keep track of where the file belongs in memory and the rest of the file is just a copy of the computer memory. In addition to basic programs, these files may consist of memory image dumps of assembly language programs and files created by some TI modules (Personal Record Keeping and Statistics, for example). There are some assembly language programs also which store program segments and files in this manner. Therefore, if you give the command OLD and the program listed on the catalog does not load, it does not mean that there is anything wrong with either your computer or the disk. The only way to tell what is in that file is to examine the disk with Navarone's Disk Fixer, Thompson's Disk+Aid, Miller's Diagnostics or other similar disk utility.

Display files are usually text files created by a word processor of some type. They may also be the result of listing a program to a disk. Usually they are Fixed 80, but this can be altered if desired. The Editor of Editor/Assembler creates Dis/Var 80 and the Assembler creates Dis/Fix 80. If you save a basic program with the MERGE option, you will see it stored as Dis/Var 163. To load a program stored in this manner, you must enter the command NEW followed by the command MERGE (FILENAME). These files may be viewed by using TI Writer, Editor/Assembler or a print program like the one I published in the Newsletter a couple of months ago.

Internal files usually have been created by operating programs. However, if you are using Extended Basic and Memory Expansion, a program too long to fit in VDP memory will be stored as Int/Var 254. If the program is not over 49 sectors on a disk, you may be able to convert it to a program file by using the commands CALL FILES(1), NEW, OLD (FILENAME) and SAVE (FILENAME).

When files are stored on disks, the file information block tells which type it is. However, there is no such header on tape, so you must be sure you know the type and arrange for input using the same type. If you use the wrong type, you may see some strange results.



**INCOME TAX HELPER**  
modified by  
Bob DeVilbiss

Shortly after I purchased my TI PEB and printer I received this program. Who gave it to me? I have no idea, but I find this program very useful when time comes to file my income tax returns. I have no idea who the author is, so I cannot give due credit.

My knowledge of programming remains a lot to be desired, but I was able to modify certain categories to fit my personal use.

The program is divided into two sections. The first section relates to all income that is received and the second section covers all expense items

When the program is printed, subtotals and totals are provided for all categories.

I find if I enter my income and expense items each month I am able to keep up with the paper work.

The program is written in BASIC and the input is entered in DATA statements. Instructions on how to enter the data are included in the program and they can either be viewed on the screen or sent to a printer.

The following is a list of the symbols and descriptions in case you want to modify the program:

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
M	Maximum number of categories.
NO	Maximum number of data reads
M1	Number of income categories
C1\$()	Master category code array
D1\$()	Master category description array

T\$	Income/Deduction code
C4	Transaction category code
D	Transaction amount
S\$	Transaction description
T1	Subtotal Income - Deduction
T2	Total Income/Deductions

```

100 CALL CLEAR
110 OPEN #1:"PI0"
120 PRINT "INCOME TAX RECORDING PROGRAM"
130 PRINT
140 PRINT "DATA STATEMENTS START WITH"
150 PRINT "LINE NUMBER 1990"
,::
160 PRINT
170 PRINT "DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE"
180 PRINT "INSTRUCTIONS? (Y OR N)"
190 INPUT A$
200 CALL CLEAR
210 IF A$="N" THEN B40
220 PRINT
230 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM INITIALIZES"
240 PRINT "THE VARIOUS INCOME/DEDUCTION"
250 PRINT "CATEGORIES. OUTPUT IS"
260 PRINT "PRODUCED IN SEPARATE"
270 PRINT "SECTIONS FOR INCOME AND"
280 PRINT "DEDUCTIONS. SUBTOTALS AND"
290 PRINT "TOTALS ARE PRODUCED FOR ALL"
300 PRINT "CATEGORIES."
310 PRINT
320 PRINT "ALL DATA IS ENTERED USING"
330 PRINT "--DATA-STATEMENTS."
"
340 PRINT "EXAMPLE:"
350 PRINT "DATA 1,M,13.45,EMPLOYER 1. (INCOME,WAGES,AMOUNT,SOURCE)"
360 PRINT
370 PRINT "PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE"
380 INPUT G$
390 PRINT "INCOME ITEMS ARE:

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"
400 PRINT " W,WAGES"
410 PRINT " P,PENSION"
420 PRINT " TR,TAX RETURN"
430 PRINT " I,INTEREST"
440 PRINT " D,DIVIDENDS"
450 PRINT " R,RENT/ROYALTY"
"
460 PRINT " D,OTHER"
470 PRINT
480 PRINT "DEDUCTION ITEMS ARE:"
490 PRINT " C,CONTRIBUTIONS"
500 PRINT " I,INTEREST"
510 PRINT " T,TAXES PAID"
520 PRINT " MD,MEDICAL/DENTAL"
530 PRINT " CT,CASUALTY THEFT"
540 PRINT " M,MISC EXPENSE"
"
550 PRINT " D,OTHER EXPENSE"
560 PRINT
570 INPUT "DATA STARTS WITH LINE 1990 PRESS ENTER":A$
590 PRINT "DO YOU WANT A PRINTOUT DF"
600 PRINT "THESE INSTRUCTIONS? (Y OR N)"
610 INPUT A$
620 IF A$="N" THEN B40
630 PRINT #1:"THIS PROGRAM INITIALIZES THE VARIOUS INCOME/DEDUCTION CATEGORIES"
640 PRINT #1:"OUTPUT IS PRODUCED IN SEPARATE SECTIONS"
650 PRINT #1:"FOR INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS. SUBTOTALS AND"
660 PRINT #1:"TOTALS ARE PRODUCED FOR ALL CATEGORIES."
670 PRINT #1:
680 PRINT #1:"ALL DATA IS ENTERED USING --DATA-STATEMENTS ."
690 PRINT #1:"EXAMPLE:"
700 PRINT #1:"DATA 1,M,13.45 ,EMPLOYER 1"
710 PR :
720 PR 1:"INCOME ITEMS ARE:"
730 PRINT #1:" W,WAGES B,B BUSINESS F,FARM I,INTEREST D, DIVIDENS R,RENT/ROYALTYD,OTHER"
740 PRINT #1:
750 PRINT #1:"DEDUCTION ITEMS ARE:"
760 PRINT #1:" C,CONTRIBUTIONS,I,INTEREST T,TAXES PAID"

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770 PRINT #1:" MD,MEDICAL/DENTAL CT,CASUALTY THEFT M,M MISC EXPENSE"
780 PRINT #1:" O,OTHER EXPENSE"
790 PRINT #1:
800 PRINT #1:"DATA ENTRIES START AT LINE #1990 . DATA STATEMENT (DATA END) MUST FOLLOW"
810 PRINT #1:"LAST DATA ENTRY."
820 PRINT #1: : : :
830 INPUT G$
840 CALL CLEAR
850 REM INCOME TAX RECORDING PROGRAM
860 PRINT "INCOME TAX RECORDING PROGRAM "
870 REM ##DATA INITIALIZATION##
880 M=15
890 NO=10000
900 M1=8
910 DIM C1$(15)
920 DIM D1$(15)
930 C1$(1)="M"
940 D1$(1)="WAGES (1040 LINE 7)"
950 C1$(2)="I"
960 D1$(2)="INTEREST INCOME (LINE 8) & (SCHEDULE B)"
970 C1$(3)="D"
980 D1$(3)="DIVIDEND INCOME (LINE 10) & (SCHEDULE B)"
990 C1$(4)="TR"
1000 D1$(4)="TAX REFUND (LINE 11)"
1010 C1$(5)="P"
1020 D1$(5)="PENSION BENEFITS (LINE 16a)"
1030 C1$(6)="R"
1040 D1$(6)="RENT/ROYALTY INCOME (LINE 17) & SCHEDULE E"
"
1050 C1$(7)="S"
1060 D1$(7)="SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS"
1070 C1$(9)="C"
1080 D1$(9)="CONTRIBUTIONS (SCHEDULE A)"
1090 C1$(10)="I"
1100 D1$(10)="INTEREST EXPENSES (SCHEDULE A)"
1110 C1$(11)="T"
1120 D1$(11)="TAXES PAID (SCHEDULE A)"
1130 C1$(12)="MD"
1140 D1$(12)="MEDICAL/DENTAL (SCHEDULE A)"
NEXT PAGE

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## News Release

# Asgard 128K Memory System Released

Asgard is pleased to announce the completion and imminent availability of the *Asgard 128K Memory System*.

The *AMS* is a product of a two-year research and development program focused on increasing TI-99/4A memory capacity. Designed by a team of hardware and software experts guided by experienced businessmen, and with the assistance and insights of a wide range of users, this device represents the beginning of a new direction, as well as a blending of new and proven technology.

The *AMS* combines flexibility with reliability and compatibility. It is the first advanced memory system for the 99/4A designed to be used exclusively as memory for programs and data.

When installed in your Peripheral Expansion Box it functions as a 32K card with standard TI-99/4A software. It is completely transparent to virtually every other TI-99/4A peripheral - it will not conflict with any floppy or hard disk controllers, or even some RAM-disks. The card does not need to be configured - simply plug it in and turn on the computer. Because it uses little power the *AMS* is highly reliable.

Programs designed to work with the card can access up to 128K of CPU memory simply and with a minimum of restrictions on program design. Memory can be banked in 4K increments, within a few clock cycles, anywhere within the standard 32K memory space available to TI-99/4A programs. The design used by *AMS* is similar to that used by TI in their TI-99/8 computer - and is currently readily accessible to programs written in Assembly and GPL.

To assist in programming for the *AMS* example programs with source code as well as extensive technical documentation is included with the device. All materials were prepared by software designers to be as clear and comprehensive as possible to programmers - and not just other hardware designers. The result is what we believe to be the easiest to program extended memory device for the TI-99/4A.

For non-programmers, *AMS* will open the door to a variety of new programs currently under development by some of the brightest programmers in the TI community today. With four times as much space available, *AMS* compatible programs will be more capable, faster, and have much more capacity for storing data. Types of programs can be written that would be impossible in 32K. Compatible languages under development will allow even casual programmers to write programs with access to the memory.

*AMS* is not just a promise of new possibilities, it also represents a different way of doing things as well as a different approach to past problems.

While it may seem unusual that a software company would take the initiative in producing a new memory card, it's not so strange when you consider that you need software to make hardware useful, and a software company can insure that some of that software is written.



Further, to break with the long history of some developers (including TI) of playing favorites and of secrecy, Asgard guarantees we will freely provide any and all software developers as much information as they need to take advantage of the AMS. It's time to end the games that have hurt the community in the past, and to bury the hatchet somewhere other than in each others backs.

Finally, since no one likes buying something that becomes obsolete tomorrow - all users can be assured an investment in AMS will be protected by a company that has been serving the TI community for 10 years. Asgard will provide reasonably priced upgrades and even trade-in options as we continue to develop this technology. Further, we will work to insure that any software written for AMS will be fully compatible with future developments with few if any changes.

The AMS is not an end in itself, it is a beginning on a path to liberating the TI-99/4A from memory constraints. It also represents a new way to do business in the TI community.

The *Asgard 128K Memory System* requires a TI-99/4A with a Peripheral Expansion Box and a disk system. It is compatible with all disk controllers, all video cards, and some RAM-disks and memory cards, as well as virtually all other cards for the TI-99/4A. It is not guaranteed to function with the Myarc or Corcomp RAM-disks, or the TI, Corcomp or Myarc 32K cards. No problems have been encountered with Horizon RAM-disks to date.

The suggested retail price of the AMS is \$119.95. At this time all design and testing of the design has been completed, and it is expected to be in stock by the end of September.

To order, send a check or money order for \$119.95, plus \$10.00 Shipping & Handling (in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere for Airmail), to:

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

COD and Credit Card orders are not accepted. All order to U.S. customers will be shipped via UPS Ground - please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Programmers may receive a free packet containing programming information by sending a post card to the above address. Again, please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1992 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!

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

President	W.C. Wyman	865/9683		
Vice President	Bruce Willard	852/3250	MUNCH DUES	
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Disk Librarian	Lou Holmes	617 965/3584		
Tape Librarian	Walter Nowak	413 436/7675		
NEW-AGE/99	Jack Sughrue	476/7630		

SEPTEMBER MEETING. There were twelve members present to see Jack demo Astroblitz and Magog, two games everyone found to be fun; and a new mail list program which he will further show this month. Chris Georges won the raffle.

OCTOBER MEETING. This month we have a demo of the new mail list program which is the Disk of the Month. Jack showed a little of this program last month and it looks good. We will have another glare screen as part of the raffle.

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 floppies, \$3.00 double discs and \$4.00 double floppy.

DR 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 #111, List Manager and Bill Gaskell's Enhanced Mail List Manager. It is a floppy and the price is \$2.00.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. George W. Dowdell of Chicago, Illinois and Phyllis Rothstein of Suffern, New York.

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

