

THE GUILFORD 99'ER NEWSLETTER

VOL.1 NO.4

MAY

Ken Bailey, President  
Bob Carmany, U. Pres.  
Carl Foster, Sec/Treas.

Edwin Simpson, Newsletter Ed.  
George Von Seth, Program Lib.  
VACANT, Education

NEXT MEETING

Date: May 1, 1984  
Time: 6:30 P.M.  
Place: Zayre's 1421 E. Cone Blvd  
Electronics Department  
Program: Inside the 99/4A and a  
demonstration of digitized speech

COMPUTER CLASSES

This space will be used to announce the time, date and program for our User's Group computer classes. As you can see, the position of Education Chairperson is vacant. If anyone is interested in this purely administrative non-teaching position contact Ken Bailey through our mailbox or, better still, contact him or one of the other officers at our next meeting. We do have some volunteers to teach various course levels but we really need someone to coordinate everything. We hope to get the classes started just as soon as we can get someone to fill that position.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS has turned over the sales of the remaining hardware and software to a company called TRITON, at P.O. Box 8123, San Francisco, California 94123. The toll-free phone numbers are:  
1-800-227-6900  
or 1-800-227-5257

We also need your help in getting material to publish in the Newsletter. If you have questions about software, hardware, or anything else, send them in to the Newsletter at P.O. Box 21691. Hardware and software reviews are always welcome---there is just no way to cover everything on the market at the present time.

T.I. is still answering questions about the 99/4A at 1-800-TICARES.

Since all of the above numbers are in later time zones, they will be answered until at least 6 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

So, even with the T.I. withdrawal there are still sources of T.I. Products.

Here it is, over four months since you got your T.I. 99/4A for that early Xmas present. After countless games of MUNCHMAN, T.I. INVADERS, and PARSEC you have decided that there must be something more that your computer can do. You would like to expand your system but before you could get the money together, T.I. surprised everyone and dropped out of the game. Now, you are left with the console and a tape recorder --- and a question of "where do I go from here?".

The world of third-party peripherals has gone completely crazy in the past couple of months since everyone is trying to tap into the huge base of T.I. owners. CORCOMP (a former T.I. supplier) has come out with a mini-expansion box with room for 3 cards and a disk drive---they also make an assortment of cards. TENEX has announced plans for its own "super" expansion box and there is an outfit in Florida that has a PEB that includes about everything (including speech) for \$795.

Third-party memory expansion stand-alones run about \$125-\$135 and RS232 interfaces are about the same. There are even stand-alone disk drives available.

With some 800 software producers around, the menu is virtually unlimited in variety and scope. So read those magazine advertisements, make a choice, because T.I. expansion is easier and cheaper now than when T.I. was in the game.

\*\*\*\*\*  
PRESIDENT'S CORNER  
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GREETINGS TO ALL\*\*\*\*\*

At the April meeting a few things were brought up, such as non-profit status for the User's Group, meeting places, and a meeting time. A committee was formed to research all of these possibilities and they will be discussed at the May meeting. We are now exchanging newsletters with other User's Groups around the nation and I would like to extend my greetings to those groups with whom we are presently exchanging.

On April 12, a SCM copier was donated to our group by ROGER MATHEWS. This machine is a treated paper copier and will cost the club about 3 cents per copy. A letter of thanks is on its way to Mr. Mathews along with a copy of this newsletter.\*\*\*\*\* THANK YOU MR. MATHEWS FROM ALL OF US!!

\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*\*

The club is presently undergoing a restructuring. We hope that by the June meeting everything will be in full swing. The only thing that we are lacking is a chairperson for the Educational Committee.

We are also looking for people to serve as guest speakers at our meetings. If you have anything that you would like to share with the other members of the group(ie. new programs that you have acquired or other items of interest that you have discovered about the 99/4A)don't hesitate to call me and we'll set up a program date for you.

Well, that's all for now, HAPPY COMPUTING AND MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.....

KEN BAILEY PRES.  
PH# 993-8421  
Kernersville, NC

\*\*\*\*\*  
E-X-P-A-N-S-I-O-N PRIMER  
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If you are new to the world of personal computing, you may find yourself a bit bewildered with all the talk of RS232's, P-cards, etc. I'm sure everyone was when they first started out---whether they will admit it or not. So, let's talk a little bit about expansion.

If you look at your basic console, you will notice a sliding door on the right side. That is your expansion port. If you have a Speech Synthesizer, it will connect to that port by means of a buss that extends from its left side and it, in turn has an expansion port on its right side. ALL of the other peripherals connect to this port.

If you have a Peripheral Expansion Box (PEB), all you have to do is slide the appropriate cards into the box and plug in the power cord and the wide extender buss into the port.

What do these "cards" do?

MEMORY EXPANSION- Basically, this card increases the memory available to your computer and allows you to run larger programs. It also allows you to perform some advanced programming functions.

RS232- This card allows you to use printers, modems(for telecommunications) and other devices.

DISK CONTROLLER- This card contains the necessary circuitry to tell your disk drive where to look for a program on the disk you have loaded.

P-CARD - Allows you to run Paschal programming language.

DISK DRIVE- A disk drive is like a record player--it records programs or later play-back.

All of these accessories are available as "stand-alones"--each connects to the one before it with an extender buss in what is called a "daisy-chain" configuration.



CROSS BYTES

ACROSS

1. President of Guilford 99'er User's Group is Ken \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Decisions module
5. Change a mistake
8. Popular game module
10. The TV adapter is also called \_\_\_\_\_ modulator
11. In the game in 8 across, \_\_\_\_\_ ships attack
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Emulator II
15. 3rd party producer of disk drives (pg. 28 Nov. Enthusiast 99)
17. Guilford 99'er \_\_\_\_\_ Group
19. Company in South Bend, Indiana that sells T.I. products
20. Your T.I. 99/4R has 16 \_\_\_\_\_ available
21. In Extended Basic, Call \_\_\_\_\_ for speech
22. Recent game module based on a TV Korean War Show
26. Special edition of "The Source" for T.I. users
27. \_\_\_\_\_ Record Keeping Module
30. Advanced Programming Language
31. A house pet that may climb on your computer console
32. \_\_\_\_\_ Grammar, Educational module
34. In Extended Basic, Display \_\_\_\_\_
37. Put this in your expansion Box
39. Popular children's Programming Language
40. \_\_\_\_\_ of Doom
41. Same as 37 across
42. When reading a program cassette, type in \_\_\_\_\_ CSI
43. Here or \_\_\_\_\_
44. \_\_\_\_\_ Wesley Computer Math Games

DOWN

2. Producer of Pac-Man, Donkey Kong and others for the T.I.
4. Before removing a module, turn your computer \_\_\_\_\_
6. Command statement to reserve space for arrays
7. T.I. \_\_\_\_\_ word processor
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Programming Language
10. Function (8)
12. Gorilla \_\_\_\_\_ Printer
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Memory Module
16. Pac-Man clone

18. A glorified power strip is a \_\_\_\_\_ protector
21. Joy \_\_\_\_\_
22. Instead of a TV, you can use a \_\_\_\_\_ with your computer
23. \_\_\_\_\_ synthesizer
24. \_\_\_\_\_ and she
25. 3rd party producer of software such as Robot Runner, Zero Zone, and Mnnnbeam Express
26. Hustle is a computer game for one or \_\_\_\_\_ people
28. Mathematical capabilities of the computer make it easy to figure out square \_\_\_\_\_
29. Hardware and \_\_\_\_\_
30. A special key that changes the value of other keys when pressed
33. \_\_\_\_\_ Town, part of the Adventure Series
35. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
36. You can use a computer as a calculator to \_\_\_\_\_ or subtract
37. What you plug in for power
38. User's Group \_\_\_\_\_ are \$6.00 per year

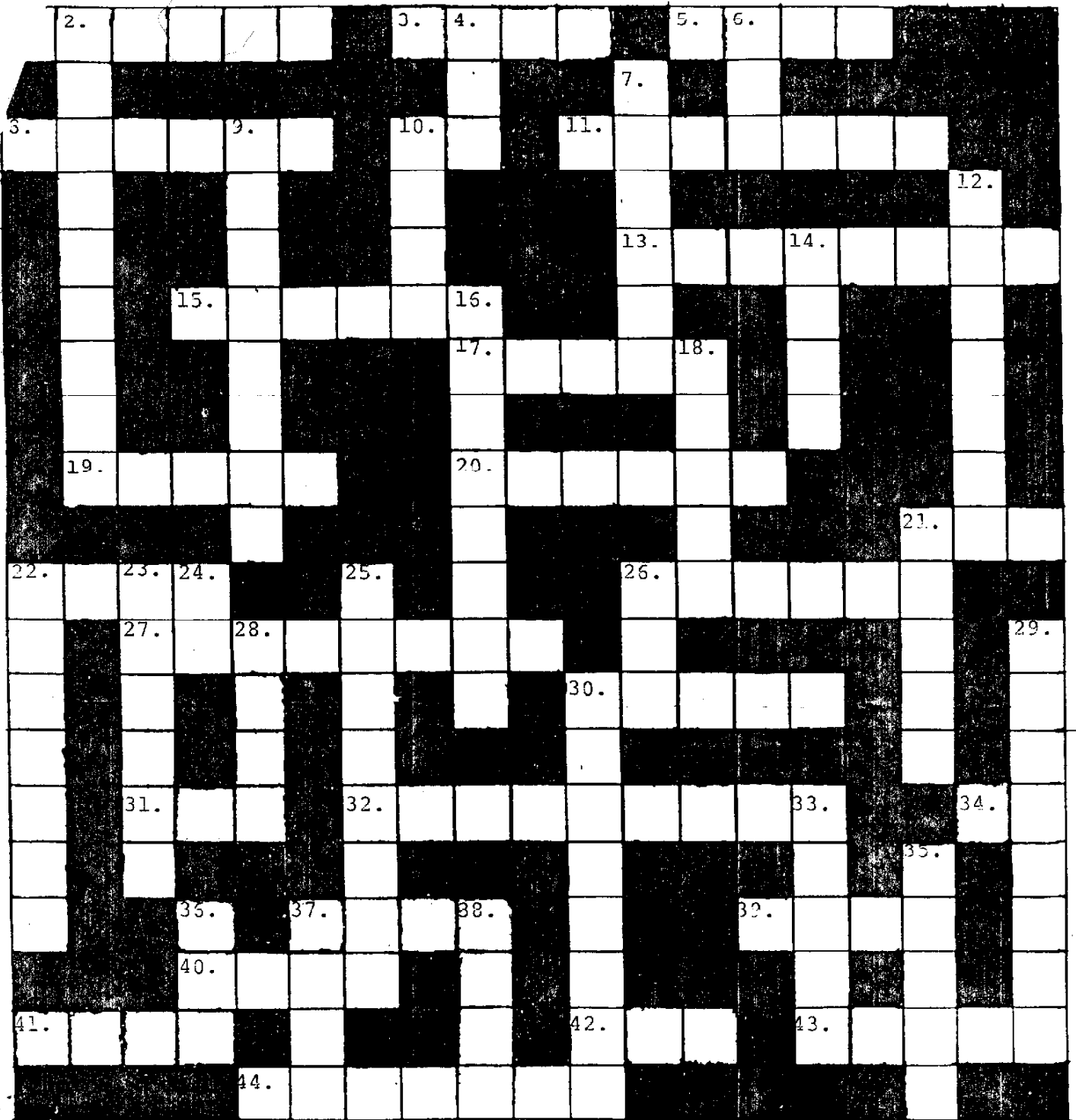
The solution to the puzzle will be printed in next month's Newsletter.

We would like to hear your views on whether to make puzzles of various kinds with computer-related solutions a regular part of our monthly Newsletter.

In fact, anytime you have a comment about what you would like to see included in the Newsletter, feel free to contact Edwin Simpson the Newsletter Editor. After all, it is not as easy as it might seem to get material together without knowing what you want to see on these pages.

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We need to make some plans for our Kids Komputer classes. So, if your kids want to learn programming, contact one of the officers so we know how many want the class



\*\*\*\*\*  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
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\*THE GAME MASTERS OF GUILFORD COUNTY\*

This column will be devoted to those in the User's Group who have become game "feaks". We will recognize those members of our group by publishing the names and high scores that you record on T.I. and T.I.-comatible games.

All of the T.I. command module games such as Parsec, TI Invaders, Munchman, Alpiner, Tombstone City, Burgertime, Moon Mine, and the rest are eligible. Any of the Atari-Soft games produced for the T.I. and PLAYED ON A T.I. CONSOLE such as Pac-Man, Centipede, Donkey Kong, Dig-Dug, etc. and any other third party software games are also included.

We need names and scores to put in next month's newsletter! All User's Group members and their families are eligible. Send the game title, your name, and your high score along with the signiture of one adult witness to P.O. Box 21691, Greensboro, N.C. 27420. A photograph showing the game screen and score can be used in place of a witness.

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 FREE PROGRAM  
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This is a program that was sent to us by Vaughn Software for the benefit of our users group. It really does not do anything but it is interesting to watch.

```

100 REM *****
110 REM * SNAKE DANCE BY *
120 REM * VAUGHN SOFTWARE *
130 REM *****
140 REM
150 REM
160 REM EXTENDED BASIC REQUIRED
170 REM
180 RANDOMIZE::CALL CLEAR::CALL
SCREEN(2)
190 B=RND*190::CALL MAGNIFY(1)::CALL
CHAR(96,"B")::FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL
SPRITE(#A,96,8,95,10,10,SGN(95-B)*A)
::NEXT A
200 D=RND*20::FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL
MOTION(#A,D,A*SGN(10-D))::NEXT A::
C=C+1::IF C<25 THEN 200
210 FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL
COLOR(#A,RND*14+2)::NEXT A::C=0::
CALL MAGNIFY(2)
220 FOR A=1 TO 28::B=RND*14+2::CALL
PATTERN(#A,96)::CALL POSITION(#A,U,U)
::CALL MOTION(#A,SGN*(96-U)*9,
SGN(10-U)*9)::NEXT A
230 FOR A=1 TO 28::CALL PATTERN
(#A,96)::NEXT A::CALL DEL SPRITE(ALL)
:: GOTO 190
  
```

They sent us another called "TELE-TUNE" that could be used as the basis for an auto-dial modem program that we will publish next month.



Have you ever wondered if there are any publications that deal with the T.I. 99/4A? Are you tired of trying to translate TRS-80 and Atari programs so that they will run on your machine? Well, there are a couple of publications that are geared for the T.I. 99/4A.

The first of these is a newsletter type, monthly, 16 page publication called "THE SMART PROGRAMMER" by Miller's Graphics, 1475 W. Cypress Ave, San Dimas, CA 91773. It deals mainly with memory mapping, programming tips, and usually has several "ready-to-run" programs each month. It also has specialty columns on TI-FORTH and the TI-PC. The subscription rate is \$12.50 per year.

The second Publication is the "HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE" (formerly "99'ER MAGAZINE"). Since T.I.'s withdrawal from the market, it has added Commodore, Apple, and IBM PC to it's pages. The magazine is a wealth of information with programs, tips, and specialty columns. The subscription address is "HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE", P.O. Box 5537, Eugene, Oregon 97405 and the rate is \$25 for one year, \$45 for two years, and \$63 for three years.

## MAIL ORDER

What are we talking about when we refer to a "major mail-order house"? After all, just about all of the business in T.I. and T.I.-related products is now done through the mails.

A major mail-order house is a firm that stocks a wide spectrum of products; hardware, software, computer supplies, and books. Some companies sell only software (and it may be just one or two items) and others may deal in a specific item or series of hardware items. But the true mail-order companies have a wide range of products.

The next question that arises is "Who are these guys?". There are three companies that advertise consistently in the pages of magazines and other periodicals. They are as follows:

Tenex, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6578  
South Bend, IN 46660  
1-800-348-2778

TENEX has a toll-free order line and they will send their catalogue of various T.I.-related products FREE upon request. Several members of our User's Group have ordered from them with satisfactory results.

Tex-Comp  
P.O. Box 33084  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
1-818-366-6631

TEX-COMP does not offer a toll-free order line and their catalogue is the nominal fee of \$2.00 ---they do give you a \$5.00 certificate with your catalogue.

Uni-Source Electronics  
P.O. Box 44240  
Lubbock, TX 79464  
1-800-858-4580

UNI-SOURCE offers a 1000+ item catalogue of T.I. and third party products and some of their prices are the lowest advertised for some items. The catalogue is \$3.00 plus \$1.50 postage and includes all future updates. Also note the toll-free order line.

## SOFTWARE

The software market is nearly impossible to document. There are over 500 individual suppliers of software for the T.I. Currently, the number of individual packages probably is in excess of 10,000 varied applications. They cover topics from Agriculture (Hog production) to Zoology (tutorials) and virtually everything in between.

The largest single facet of the market is the segment encompassing games. They range from educational types to those purely for entertainment.

There are various business applications, Utility programs, computer literacy and many others.

Where can these programs be purchased? Again, go to your magazines and (ugh!!) read the ads. HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE has the full spectrum of advertisers that cover almost every software topic available. And, as distasteful as reading ads may be, they are an important source of information about what is available for the T.I. So, unless you have a fully expanded system and no desire to acquire any more software, it would be worth the time to read the ads in HCM, COMPUTE, and the other magazines available.

When you turn on your computer, the first thing it does is to search and see what peripheral devices are attached. So, if you have stand-alone devices (ie. interfaces, memory expansion, printers, etc.) make sure that they are plugged in and connected BEFORE you turn on your console. Otherwise, the computer may not recognize the fact that they exist and you will get an "error message" when you try to access them.

Anytime you get an "error message" while trying to access a device that you turned on before you turned on the console, check your console-to-peripheral connection.

\*\*\*\*\*  
PROGRAMING TIP  
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In programs that we use numbers and mathematical formulas, we often want to limit the number of decimal places in the answer to a dollar and cent amount. This would also allow you to keep neat columns when printing several answers. Here is one method of rounding numbers:

```
100 INPUT X
110 X=INT((X+.005)*100)
120 IF LEN(STR$(X))=1 THEN 240
130 W$=SEG$(STR$(X),LEN(STR$(X)),1)
140 T$=SEG$(STR$(X),LEN(STR$(X))-1,2)
150 X=X/100
160 IF VAL(T$)=0 THEN 200
170 IF VAL(W$)=0 THEN 220
180 PRINT "$";X
190 GOTO 250
200 PRINT "$";STR$(X)&".00"
210 GOTO 250
220 PRINT "$";STR$(X)&"0"
230 GOTO 250
240 PRINT "$ 0.0"&STR$(X)
250 PRINT "IS THE ROUNDED NUMBER"
260 GOTO 100
```

Although this method is effective, it is somewhat long and complicated. If anyone can come up with a better method, send it to Newsletter Editor, P.o Box 21691, Greensboro, N.C.

\*\*\*\*\*  
SOFTWARE REVIEW  
BY EDWIN SIMPSON  
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COCKTAILS  
Dynamic Enterprises  
Box 124  
Hicksville, N.Y. 11801  
Cassette (\$9.95)

This program contains recipes for all of the home bartenders in our User's Group. Choose your favorite from the 19 drinks listed, and the computer will give you the ingredients, mixing instructions, and a picture of the drink in a glass.

If you prefer, you can pick out the ingredients you have available, and the computer will tell you which drinks you can make.

You might pick up a few programming tips by listing the program, and the colorful graphics displays are interesting. But, if you have mixed many drinks, you probably don't need the recipes. If you don't mix drinks often, the recipes may be helpful. Instead of paying Dynamic Enterprises \$9.95 for the program, you can type in an almost identical program from "99'ER MAGAZINE", Volume 1, Number 4. It is called "Bartender", and although the line numbers are different, everything else is the same. Who copied who?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
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QUESTION:

I HAVE THE T.I. 99/4A WITH THE PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX. IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN PRINT WHAT IS SHOWING ON THE MONITOR AT WILL ?

Yes. What you are asking about is called a "screen dump". We have a program in our program library called "screen copy" that will do the trick. We hope to have more information about the availability of programs from the library at our May meeting or June Newsletter.

QUESTION:

WHY WON'T THE REMOTE CONTROL IN THE COMPUTER TURN MY CASSETTE RECORDER ON AND OFF? HOW DO I FIX IT?

The problem is that the polarity of your tape recorder is opposite of that of your computer. You can either solder a male and a female plug back-to-back with the opposite wire contacts together. There is a product called "TI-SETTE" available from "HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE" for \$4.95. As a last resort, you can operate the recorder manually.



HARDWARE REVIEW  
BY BOB CARMANY

Paraprint 18A  
Doryt Systems  
14 Glen St.  
Glen Cove, N.Y.  
\$185.00

The Paraprint 18A is a stand-alone parallel printer interface for the T.I. 99/4A that plugs in to the expansion port on the right side of the console. It enables the user to interface with any Centronics standard parallel printer.

The printer is connected by cable from the rear of the interface. I have an STX-80 connected to mine but it will work with any parallel printer. The interface end of the cable is a non-standard 34 pin edge connector so you will either have to buy the cable that is sold with the interface or have your own made. I am using a flat ribbon cable but a better choice would be a shielded cable to eliminate interference on your monitor. The interface has a separate power plug.

The interface will support all of the T.I. print commands and comes with a three page brochure outlining the procedures involved. It functions as "PIO" as the equivalent of the parallel port in the T.I. RS232 card.

I have used the Paraprint 18A for several months and found its performance to be entirely satisfactory.

The Paraprint 18A is available from the manufacturer or from most of the mail-order houses. DORYT SYSTEMS also makes a 32K stand-alone memory expansion box. Both have expansion ports on their right side to accommodate other peripherals in a "daisy chain" configuration.

The Doryt-produced cable will cost you an additional \$33.00. You can probably have one built from locally purchased components that will be completely satisfactory in performance.

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INFORMATION  
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As most of you know, we are currently exchanging newsletters with other user's groups in the area and around the country. We will have them available for you to see at our May meeting. We hope that you will get some helpful hints from them. At any rate, you will be able to see what the other T.I. User's Groups are doing.

I have seen it mentioned in several magazines and articles, but did not realize that people were so attached to their T.I.s. You very seldom see one for sale in the classified sections of the newspaper or in any of the swap columns. There was a printer-generated figure in the Editorial Column of one of the 99'ER MAGAZINES showing Venus De Milo hugging a T.I. console with the idea that she would rather lose her arms than her T.I. If you have not done much programming with your computer, NOW IS THE TIME TO START!! You have one of the most reliable and powerful personal computers made.

Ken Bailey advises that the Electronic Bulletin Board is up and running for messages only. It should be fully operational shortly. We hope that everyone with a modem will take advantage of the Bulletin Board when it comes "on-line" at full operational capacity.

We are currently working on a User's Group roster that will have names, addresses, telephone numbers and system hardware listings for our members. This will be available to Group members so members with like systems can get together and exchange ideas and programs.

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THE GUILFORD 99'ER USER'S GROUP NEWSLETTER IS FREE TO DUES PAYING MEMBERS OF THE USER'S GROUP (ONE COPY PER FAMILY, PLEASE). DUES ARE \$6.00 PER FAMILY PER YEAR. SEND CHECK TO P.O. BOX 2169 GREENSBORO, N.C. 27420. THE CLUB'S SOFTWARE LIBRARY IS FOR DUES PAYING MEMBERS ONLY.  
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