

Group

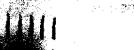
Chicago TImes

Newsletter of the Chicago TI-99/4A Users Group





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I GOT TO GET IT IN ...

Just the other day one young studd asked me , "WHAT GOOD IS THAT T199/4A COMPUTER ?"

Needless to say, I could not give him a good answer. I was lost . Didn't have any answer for him.

But then the next thing .!@##% He told me he is going to be getting married at the end of APRIL.

I asked him why in the world did he want to do that with her? She was all wrong. She did not have long hair. She was just a bit to fat. AND, She didn't know how to cook. !!!! & ect.

His reply was as was to be . "I LOVE HER." MY COME BACK WAS, "I LOVE MY TI99 700."

So now I can play with my TOY99.

ANOTHER LOST IS # //

There was a COMPUTER JUNK YARD in CALUMET CITY ILLINOIS. IT SEEMS LIKE SOME OF THE NABORS DIDN'T LIKE IT. I LIKED IT A LOIS. I GOT ALL KINDS OUT OF THERE. CHEAP TOO! SO, Now there are in CHICAGO ILLINOIS.

IT'S A FREE PLUG FOR THE PLACE I CAN GET MARD AND FLORIES CHEAP.

OXFORD METALS

8316 -- 40 S. BIRKHOFF St. CHG# - ILL . Zip -PHONE # 1-312-483-9300

I said that I got a good mess of good stuff from there. I did. But, What I did not say was that any of it was from an TI99/4A. It was not. There is some good stuff there for my TOY99. It's up to you if you want to go there.

And still another;

In the last issue I said that there would be some TI99 stuff there to be sold.

\$250.00 got him a great mess TI-STUFF.

AND / A week ago 1 asked someone if they wanted to try the TI99/4A at home . NOH THEY HANT TO GET ONE OF THERE OWN. (full system please.)

or, was it two weeks! Anyhow, The kids loved it.

cheap cheap cheap theeeppm cheeper

I JUST SPENT FIVE MIN. ON THE PHONE CALLING HIM. HE COULDN'T NAIL DOWN THE PRICE. HE WANTS 6 TO 7 HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR THE THO SYSTEMS.

B. TI-SYSTEM

1=P-BOX 2= TI KEY BOARD 3= ect ect..
JACK DOUGLAS

1-315-656-3806

146 HILSON DR.

E.SYRACUSE N.Y.

13057

----- YOU CAN CALL HIM.

Now for some off of the wall stuff !!

Can someong tell me if they have made any wild screens for TI-RUNNER. I just want to know if I am the only nut who plays the game of TI-RUNNER ?? FREDDY FREDDY FREDDY! ANYBODY GOT THAT ONE? If so, Please tell me if you EDITED THE SCREENS FOR FREDDY ???

The same with MINER 2049er . DID ANYONE EDIT THAT GAME ???

So until next TI-times. CAN SOMERODY SEND IN SOME SMALL PROGRAMS FOR THE NEWS-LETTER ???? PLEASE.

THANKS ALL, TONY I. STEGER, ILL. 60475

P.S. 30 TO 60 THOUSAND PROGRAMS ARE JUST TO MUCH.

bharch issue MEMBERSHIP NEHS AND VIEWS BY JAMES BROOKS

Hello there all of you TI'ers. The plan of the meetings has changed. No more will there be business discussed to the general membership. If you wish to know about the business meeting, come one hour earlier.12:00 Noon.

Now this will be the last issue for some of the members who have not renewed. Due to the sudden illness of the editor. Tony "Z", the newsletters have gotten behind a bit. He is back to work now and we hope he will continue with good health.

I missed the last meeting because I did not get the MASK that I needed but I have it now. If you see a strange face at the next meeting, it may be me wearing my "filter out all forms of smoke and even chemical odors".

With our new President, many new things will be happening. The next meeting will be more software demonstrations (a project had been planned but changed to a later meeting).

Now the big thing is get your renewals up dated. If you plan to continue with this group, now is the time to renew.

Oh, BTH, any member who has renewed and 1 do not have you recorded as "up to date", please bring it to my attention, ince I was not at the last couple of meetings. I may have missed a few that signed up there that I am not aware of.

Also, our sysop has really made vast improvements in the S&T program on the BES. It can now be reached by the meer dialing 1 708 862 Ø182. no "coma's needed anymore.

Some of the out of town members have sent letters requesting various needs so I have decided to print the main theme of some of these *letters.*

Member #173, Al Morgan is interestred in finding instructions for ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE. He is at. 859 E. Broadway; Stratford, Conn. 06497. He does not have a phone number to reach him. Anyone that can help him out, please write to the above address.

Member #250, Ton Morrison for a DS/DDdrive controller, info on a CORCOM RAMDISK, and a program for a SMART MODEM. Also, can anyone identify chips? These are memory chips marked TMM4164AP-15. He list no phone so you can write him c/o Rt.1 Box 15 B; Louisburg, KS 66053.

Member #699, Laverne Zlatnik would like to be of benifit to the group by reviewing programs for library articles. Attention: Librarian! Laverne is offering to help you. Write or send programs to:

Laverne Zlatnik; 1872 102nd Rd; Delia, KS 66418. Member #240, Lowell L.Snitchler, who finally got his Geneve to work but is plagued with the fact that the hardware and operating system keeps evolving and information was not available. He would like to get a "HARD COPY" of the final process to operate the GENEUE. Write him: Lowell L. Snitchler, PH.D.; 248 Olde Post Road; Niceville, FL 32578. So until the next meeting, I will say so long for awhile.

- .TL 123:27,52
- .CO ITALICS/ON 11 2 11
- .TL 125:27,53
- .CD ITALICS/OFF er y er
- .TL 2:27.87,1
- .CO ENLARGED/ON C-U + "B"
- .TL 18:27,87,0
- .CO ENLARGED/OFF 0-0 + "6"
- .TL 4:27,45,1
- .CO SCLID UNDERLINE/ON · C-U + "D"
- .TL 20:27,45,0
- .CO SOLID UNDERLINE/OFF C-U + "T"
- .LM O;RM 74;FI;AD
- .IN +5
- .HE Elsner and West-The Internal 32K "Matchbox .FO лапалилиналилиналилиналилиналили Рэпа '

.FI;AD;LM3;RM58;PL50 .CE^4 The^CTIUG^Library^Corner. ApriI^^1993 Disk^Reviews^by: WALTER^HARD^Jr.

All disks are \$2.00 per disk unless otherwise noted.

Bhipping and handling: U.S.A.*** add 10.30 per disk. Others*** add 10.60 per disk.

Make check or money order payable in U.S. funds to: CHICHAGO TI USERS GROUP

Mail to: ^^CTIUG LIBRARIAN ^^DAVID A.^CONNERY ^^420 FRANKLIN BLUD ^^ELGIN IL 60120-4439

Please allow 4-6 weeks for deleviery.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THESE REVIEWS ARE THOSE OF THE REVIEWERS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE CTIUG.

.CE8

.IN+5
Diskname:^FINELINE^^^^^^^Free:^226^Used:^134
Filename^^^Size^^^^Type^^^^P^^^^Comments

LOADAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

iffifffif^^^^28^^^Pgm^^^^N These 和室enames are iffifffiff^^^4^^^I^^D/U^80^^^N not printable.

There are 24 more D/V 80 files on this disk. They are named "PAGE1 thru PAGE24" and are 3 or 4 sectors in length and unprotected.

Diskname:^TI-HELPER^^^^^^^Free:^129*Used:^231 Filename^^^Size^^^^Type^^*^P^^^Comments

-README^^^^^16^^^D/V^8Ø^^^N ADD/PAGE^^^^^12^^^D/V^8Ø^^^N

ADDRESSIAAAA 10AAAD/UA80AAAN I saw the same thing about this fine program i.e. it is now in the public domain. In fact I think one board had it for downloading. But again I think I would write to the address listed just to be sure.

ADDRESS2^^^^ 16^^ D/V^8Ø^^^ N
ADDRESS3^^^^ 6^* O/V^8Ø^^^ N
CENSUS^^^^ 6^* O/V^8Ø^^^ N
GOTHIC^^^^ 17^^ D/V^8Ø^^^ N
GROUPSHEET^^ 17^^ D/V^8Ø^^^ N
LOAD^^^^^ 10^^ 21^^ D/V^8Ø^^^ N
LRG/GROUP^^^ 16^^ D/V^8Ø^^^ N
SOURCE1^^^ 16^^ D/V^8Ø^^ N
TREE^^^^ 13^^ D/V^8Ø^^ N

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by Jim Peterson

In my opinion, Midi Master 99 is one of the most interesting accessories ever developed for the TI-99/4A. It is very reasonably priced and, unlike many hard-ware developments, it offers no compatibility difficulties.

There are only two problems - obtain- ing it, and finding a low-priced MIDI- compatible keyboard to use it with.

Of all the TI suppliers with a poor reputation for filling orders, Grystal Software seems to have been the worst. Perhaps that has now changed, but the surest way to obtain the product would be to catch Mike Maksimik at a computer fair and walk away from his table with it firmly clutched in your hand.

Midi Master 99 was developed using the Casio MT-240 keyboard, which sold for about \$80 and I was lucky enough to be able to find one for that price. Unfor- tunately, it is no longer on the market. The only MIDI-compatible keyboards in the 1992 Casio catalog are the CT-700 at \$399, the CT-670 at \$499 and the CT-770 at \$599.

A local music store told me that Yamaha keyboards with the MIDI interface started at about \$200, but I do not know the model numbers. A few people have been able to find them in discount stores for about \$190, but those stores usually only stock them for the Christ- mas sales. The music stores only carry the professional keyboards in the \$400 - \$600 dollar range; they would probably order a cheaper model for you, but would certainly charge you full manufac- curer's suggested retail price or more.

Many people are waiting to buy Midi Master 99, or to write any music for it, until Version 3 is released. Hearned long ago not to hold my breath while waiting for a new version of any TI pro-duct.

Version 3 is supposed to allow you to play music on the keyboard, which will be converted into a MIDI file that the computer can play back, through MIDI, on the keyboard. Since can only play a keyboard with even fewer fingers than the three I use for typing, that doesn't interest me.

Come to think of it, if you can play the keyboard, why would you want to con-vert your music to a MIDI file? Why not just tape it to a cassette, if you want to save it?

To me, the great thing about Midi Mas-ter 99 is that it allows me to create music even though I cannot play an inst-rument – just as I used to do in Extended Basic, using the three tone generators of the TI-99/4A. Also, it allows me to do things that no musician could do from the keyboard, such as playing two or more instruments simult- aneously, or playing chords that no human hand could reach, or creating musical effects that would require two very nimble-fingered musicians.

Midi Master 99 consists of a cable, to connect your RS232 card to the key-board, and a disk containing the necess-ary software, the documentation, and some sample music files. The documenta-tion is adequate. It contains a good deal of technical material that is way over my head, but which is not necessary in order to use the program.

Music files are created by keying in an SNF file, from sheet music, using TI- Writer or Funnelweb or Editor/ Assembler. If you use TI-Writer or Funnelweb, select the open cursor mode or else save the file by PF with the C option, because carriage returns will result in an error message.

If you have an elementary knowledge of reading music, keying in a selection is quite simple, although it does take time. The only thing I had to learn is that octaves start from C, not from A. The lowest note available, in octave 0, is the C which is 3 notes above Hertz 110 A, the lowest note available from the TI tone generators (other than the noise generator). This means that you may have to fudge on some notes in the bass clef.

You can key in all voices simultan—eously or separately.
That is, you can key in a melody note and its harmony notes, and then go on to the next, or you can key in the entire melody, and then the entire first note of the har—mony, etc.
Dolcres Werths of Harrison Software, who knows more about this than i ever will, recommends the second method, but I am stubbornly sticking to the first way.

One serious flaw is the lack of looping - a directive to repeat the mel- ody over again as many times as you wish, which is so easily done in XBasic programming. You can only use the Copy function of Funnelweb to copy the file after itself, which doubles the time required to load and comple it before playing. However, I understand that looping in this case is far more diffi- cult than it would seem, and has only recenty been implemented for MIDI on the PC.

According to the documentation, exis- ting TI Basic music can be easily cog- verted to the MIDI SNF format. In actual practice, it depends on how the music was originally programmed. That had best be the subject of another article.

The completed file can be saved in DV80 format, in which case it is loaded and compiled each time it is played, or in compiled image format which will load and play directly. The trouble is that the image file is stored in a very wasteful PC-style format of three 33- sector files. I have not done any com-parative timing, but it seems that the additional loading time wipes out the time saved by not compiling - unless, of course, you have the file on a ram- disk or hard drive. Also, image files cannot be modified.

As a bonus for waiting so long for my Midi Master 99, Maksimik sent me a free copy of his Midi Album program. This requires the Mini Memory module or other device to provide extra memory, as Midi Master 99 itself uses all that is avail—able. It will catalog a disk, allow you to select the files you want to play randomly or in sequence, and load and play them. It works very well. I did find that you must be sure to specify duration and instrumentation in the SNF file, if it is to be played through Midi Album; otherwise, it will carry through the values from the previous selection rather than using the program defaults.

For some reason, the documentation on my Midi Album disk was a DV254 file rather than a DV80 file, so it could not be printed with Funnelweb!

Different models of keyboards have different instruments available, and different numbers assigned to these instruments. Maksimik has provided a patch program, so that you can use your keyboard to play music written for a different keyboard. On the copy of Midi Master 99 he sent me, he had patched the percussion instrumentation into a couple of the other voices, which caused me great puzzlement for awhile.

If the music is in SNF format, it is probably more practical to just edit the file. I do hope that those who write MIDI music will include remarks in the SNF file, or separately with image files, to indicate what keyboard they programmed for and what instruments they assigned.

Regarding the Casio MT-240, it is a budget model which lacks some desirable features. For one thing, it does not allow MIDI to control the volume. It perhaps uses the same tone generators as a larger model because I found several instruments, numbered 21 through 29, beyond the 20 on the panel. There are also some additional percussion effects in the octave above the keyboard range.

I have found several problems which may be the fault of the keyboard, of Midi Master 99, or of Midi in general. Without having other keyboards to try out, | cannot tell.

Some instruments such as bells, are not practical to use because they continue to reverberate and create a dissonance. Others, such as chorus, drag out until they seem to affect the rhythm. Some, such as organ, are almost silent in the lowest octave, probably because they also sound in an octave lower. Some instruments sound harsh when programmed in all three voices although not when played from the keyboard. I have found it difficult to find pleasing combinantions of two or more instruments. The best effects are generally obtained by giving all voices the default instrument tation of piano, and most existing Ti MIDI music has been written for that instrument.

Dolores Werths, the renowned music programmer of Harrison Software, is trying to organize a by-mail users group for those making music with Midi Master. If you are interested, write to her at 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville MD 20781.

RIBBONS AND INK

by Jim Peterson

Deals

In a recent article regarding the NX1020 printer, I mentioned that Midwest Micro was selling ribbors for that prin- ter at \$3. 98 each in lots of six. I ordered six of them.

When I put in the first one and tried to print something, the chatter clutch on the printer made a terrible racket. The spindle of the cartridge was stucktight, would not budge.

put in another one, and tried again. It printed beautifully for several pages, then I noticed that it had stopped putting anything on the paper. The spindle was turning but the ribbon was not moving.

return authori- zation for all six ribbons.

In the meantime, I had called V-Tech Inc. and talked to a very knowledgeable man about reinking ribbons. He sent me a 2 oz. bottle of V1 7R roller ink, which he recommended, for \$2.90 plus \$1.80 shipping. That should be enough to last longer than my printer.

He also sent ar instruction sheet which states that original ripbons and good quality replacement ribbons have a woven seamless ribbon loop, but that replacement cartridges from MEI, Full- mark and Midwest Micro have a poor spliced loop. (Midwest Micro calls it "electronically welded") and are not worth reinking.

TV-Tech also sells a very wide variety of r bbon cartridges at very reasonable prices, as well as reinking machines, etc. They also have replacement ribbons; a woven loop ribbon for the Star NX-1020 is only \$1.50, a 42 ft. welded loop 4--color ribbon for the NX-1020R is only \$3.50.

I found it very easy to re-ink an NX-1020 cartridge; just use a krife blade to pryit open, and apply ink to the foam roller. However, there is a strip of tin in there which can fall out, so keep the cartridge flat on the table as you are opening it.

You must saturate the foam roller with ink – it soaks in very slowly – and you must run several pages of printing through before the ribbon will be inked and printing evenly.

The address of V-Tech Inc. is 2223 Rebecca, Hatfield PA 19440. The phone number is (215) 822-2989.

First, let's look at the command line. That's the TI-WRITER HELP: EDITOR

sΞ

by Tom Kennedy CIS ID# 74176,774

How many of you have a typewriter, please raise your hard. Keep your hand up if your typewriter has interchangeable text. How about automatic bold and underline? Or some amount of memory storage (for letter heads, etc.)? How about an erase key? Those of you left have probably got a pretty expensive piece of machinery, but TI-WRITER has ten times the functions, or features of the best typewriters. With TI-WRITER, your only limitation is your own creativity.

To start off with, what will you need to operate your Word Processor? You must have the 99/4A console (TI-WRITER won't work with the 99/4), a TV or monitor, the cartridge and disk package, the disk system, memory expansion, the RS232 interface, and a printer. In other words, the whole works. The printer is something you definitely want to be careful in choosing because all of your work will be in vain if you can't print out exactly what you type in, and with an attractive appearance.

first, let's look at the command line. That's the line at the top of the screen when you're in the command mode. There are seven commands shown and sixteen sub-commands that are options of the main seven. The commands are selected by typing only the letters that are capitalized in the word. For instance: "F" for Files, "SH" for SearcH, or "LF" for Load File. That's an interesting point: you can access any of the sub-commands from the main command menu. In other words, to ShowDirectory (which is a cisk catalog) you would enter the command mode, (FCTN 9), and either type "F" for files, and "SD" for ShowDirectory, or just type "SD" immediately. This feature saves a lot of time and keystrokes.

The first command is Edit. This simply enters you into the text-edit mode in which text is created.

Next is Tabs. When you hit 'T", the top part of your text is shown with a scale across the top showing the current tabs and margins. Changes are made by simply typing over existing entries with the appropriate symbol $(L,R,T,\ or\ I)$.

"F" for files allows you to work with your text file as a whole. To Load, Save, Delete, Print, Purge, or ShowDirectory. "PF" for print file is not what you'll get when you print out through the text formatter; it just prints a "hard copy" of the whole file, just as you see it on the screen. It doesn't print with any of the modifications made by the format commands (more on those later). "PF" is useful for making a fast copy of a long letter, or whatever, in order to check for errors without having to scroll back and forth or up and down. Purge simply erases the file from memory to prepare for a new entry. It is similar to the "NEW" command in BASIC.

Next is 'L" for Lines. This allows you to work

with whole lines or groups of lines by moving them to somewhere else in the text, copying to somewhere else and leaving the original intact, to delete groups of lines, or to quickly move the cursor to some line in the text with the ShowLines option.

Search (or "SH") gives you the option of either the FindString routine or the ReplaceString routine. FindString will move the cursor to the first and/or each successive use of the word string you give. ReplaceString searches the text for a given string and replaces all or one occurrence with the new string. This is great for correcting a repetitive spelling error.

RecoverEdit is a failsafe repair in case the text buffer was purged in either the File or Quit command. It will pull back everything but the first line and restore the file. I guess the loss of the first line is the penalty paid for accidentally erasing a file, which can't be done very easily.

Finally, Duit, as the name implies, blows it all apart and leaves you with the title frame. But before it goes, all open files are closed (such as to disk or printer) so no data is lost. Fortunately, it first gives you the option of saving your file (in case you forgot to do that already) or just purging the file and going back to the edit mode. But if you really want to quit, you type "E" for Exit and it shuts down.

Now let's go over the keyboard. II-WRITER makes extensive use of the FCTN and CTRL keys and uses every possible function of the top line of keys (the numbers). There are also many functions that have duplicate methods of keystrokes to activate them. For instance, to enter the command mode, you either press FCTN 9 or CTRL C. The reason for this duplication is to allow you to choose which is easiest to use depending on where your fingers are at. The problem though, is that it can be very confusing trying to remember the fifty different key combinations that activate the thirty functions. A better method is to just pick which keys you're going to use for what function and ignore the rest. What I do is use the number line keys for anything shown on the overlay strip and just memorize the few functions hidden down in the keyboard. Let's start by going down the overlay strip, left to right.

****************** OJPS! * CTRL 1 * This can be a real lifesaver. It recovers, or "backs up" #(CTRL 2)* a function that you didn't mean to hit. Like if you goofed * * and hit "Delete Line" instead of "Insert Character", you * * just hit "OOPS!" and the line comes back. Del Char # FCTN 1 # This is the same as "DEL" in console BASIC. It deletes *(CTRL F)* one character under the cursor and pulls the rest of the # # line up to fill. Reformat * CTR_ 2 * This is used to close up the text after using Insert *(CTRL R)* Character. It deletes all spaces between the cursor and the * * next word in the text. Then it draws all subsequent words up * * through the paragraph until it encounters a Carriage Return. Ins Char * FCTN 2 * In the Word Wrap . node (solid cursor), thirty two blank *(CTRL G)* characters are inserted after the cursor and the bulk of the ! * text is pushed down the line. After insertion of new text, * * you hit Reformat and any remaining spaces are removed. In # * the Fixed mode (hollow cursor), this operates the same as in * * console BASIC. Screen * CTRL 3 * This allows you to choose which of the five color Color * * combinations of text/screen you prefer. The default, for no * * good reason, is white on dark blue. But I find this hard on * * the eyes. I prefer to turn down the color on my monitor and * * use either black on green or

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clack on light blue. Del Line * FCTN 3 * Deletes the entire line that the cursor is on, including *(CTRL N)* the space of the line. Next x CRTL 4 * This advances the cursor to the beginning of the Paragraph*(CTRL J)* following paragraph and puts the first line at the top of * * the page. Roll Down* FCTN 4 * This is called a "vertical block scroll", which means * * that the next 24 lines of text are shown. This is handy for * * scanning quickly down the text to get to some point. Dupe Line* CTRL 5 * This creates an exact duplicate of the line the cursor : * is on and places it directly below. Some have questioned * * :ts value in writing text. especially since the Move/Copy # # function can do the same, but this key makes it faster and * * easier to create repetitive lines such as a double row of * * asterisks under a title. Next * FCTN 5 * This is a "horizontal block scroll". It jumps across to Window * * display the next block of 40 characters, in increments of * * 20. For example, the screen starts out on column one to * * forty, then twenty to sixty. then forty to sighty. Last * CTRL 6 * The opposite of "Next Paragraph" Paragraph*(CTPL H)* Roll up * FCTN 6 # The opposite of "Roll Down" *(CTRL B)* Word Tab * CTRL 7 * This moves the cursor down the line to the first letter *(CTRL W)* of each word. Tab & FCTN 7 * Just like on a typewriter, this moves the cursor to next *(CTRL I)* setting, defined using the Tab function on the command line. New # CTRL 8 * This places a Carriage Return symbol at the end of the Paragraph* * line you're on and skips down to the next line. If you have # # preset an auto-indent, (by using an "I" in Tabs) then it # # also indents over to the proper column. Ins Line * FCTN 8 * Inserts a blank line above the line the cursor is on. *(CTRL 0) * New Page * CTRL 9 * Inserts a blank line with a No and Cr symbol at the * * beginning. This causes the printer to feed to the next page. Command/ # FCTN 9 * This is how you exit from the edit mode to get to the Escape *(CTRL C)* command line and the functions above it. It also is used to * * cancel a command already in progress. Word Wrap* CTRL 0 * This switches from the "Word Wrap" mode to the "Fixed" * *mode. In Word Wrap, when you reach the end of the line the * * cursor jumps to the next line. If you're in the middle of * * a word at the end of the line,

the whole word you were on * * moves down too. This allows you to just type continuously * * without looking up to see when to hit enter. In the fixed \star \star mode, when you reach the end of the line your letters just * * pile on top of each other and you hit enter to move to the * * next line. Line * FCTN 0 * This removes or displays the four-digit line numbers Numbers * * at the left side of the screen. The numbers are used for * * reference when manipulating blocks or lines of text, just * * like when you're editing a BASIC program. You need line * * numbers to refer to where changes will be made. Quit * FCTN = 1 Quit is the same as in console BASIC. Use Quit option. * * of the Command line to safely exit TI-WRITER. Back Tab * CTRL T * The same as Tab except it backs up one setting. * * Beginning* CTRL V * Moves the cursor to the beginning of the line you're on. of Line # * Del.End * CTRL K * This is just like Delete Character (FCTN 1), except it of Line* * takes out everything to the right of the cursor. Home * CTRL L * This moves the cursor to row 1, column 1, on the screen Cursor * * only. Unfortunately, it doesn't move to first line of text, * * which would be more convenient when you were at the a long * * document and wanted to jump to the top. [For that, enter S, * # then enter 1.1 Left Mrgn* CTRL Y * Allows you to temporarily back-arrow beyond the left Release: * margin when it has been set past zero. *********************************** The last four key functions to mention are the cursor arrows: UP, DOWN, LEFT, & RIGHT. These stay the same as in console BASIC.

Now, if you're still following along you may be quite cenfused with this onslaught of information. The point is, you can't learn all of this in one sitting, but after using TI-WRITER for a while you start to pick things up as you need them. Rest assured, you &do spend the majority of your time typing. The purpose of most of the functions l've mentioned are to manipulate the text which is already in the file. I have simply tried to cover all of this in order to bring something to your attention that you might have missed, or to peak your interest in the capability of the TI-WRITER software.

To review, in the command mode we can choose between Edit, Tabs, Files, Lines, SearcH, RecoverEdit, or Quit. As sub-commands of those seven, we can choose Load File, Save File, Print File, Delete File, Purge, ShowDirectory, Move Lines, Copy Lines, Delete Lines, ShowLines, FindString, ReplaceString, or Exit.

[Added note: TK-WRITER does not support the SD option.]

Now I want to cover the Text Formatter, which prints out the document. Most importantly, the special symbols, called Format Commands, that the formatter uses to alter the print-out of the document, which are installed in the Text Editor. In other words, you put these commands into the text when you write it and as the formatter comes across them it changes the text accordingly but doesn't actually print the symbols. There are six groups of formatter commands that are all applied in a similar manner. All commands must be in caps and must be on a line that starts with a period.

****************** Text Dimension commands, as the name implies, move or shape the words in the document (margins, linespacing, right justify, etc.) .FI : FILL : PUTS AS MANY WORDS ON A LINE AS WILL FIT. .NF : NO FILL : CANCELS FILL. . AD : ADJUST : ALIGNS THE TEXT TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT MARGINS. (RT. JUSTIFY) .NA : NO ADJUST: CANCELS ADJUST. .LM n : LF MARGIN: SETS LEFT MARGIN TO "n". . RM n : RT MARGIN: SETS RIGHT NARGIN TO "n". . IN n : INDENT : CREATES AN AUTO-INDENT FROM LEFT MARGIN. .LS n : LINE SP : SETS LINE SPACING TO "n" LINES. .PL n : PG LENGTH: DEFINES NUMBER OF LINES TO A PAGE. . BP : BEGIN PG : DEFINES FIRST LINE OF NEW PAGE. Internal Format commands control the spacing of characters on a line. .SP n : SPACE : SIMILAR TO THE TAB FUNCTION. .CE n : CENTER : CENTERS NEXT 'n" LINES BETWEEN MARGINS. Highlighting commands control functions such as underline or bold and allow you to redefine characters to use them to send CTRL codes to the printer. ^: REQUIRED : JOINS WORDS TOGETHER WHEN REQUIRED TO PREVENT SPLITTING IN : SPACE : REFORMATING, UNDERLINE, ETC. & :

UNDERLINE: (UNDERSCORE) UNDERLINES ALL TEXT FOLLOWING UNTIL NEXT PACE. @ : BOLD : (OVERSTRIKE) RETYPES FOLLOWING TEXT FOUR TIMES. .TL xx: TRANS- : ALLOWS REASSIGNMENT OF ONE CHARACTER TO REPRESENT A NUMBER. : LITERATE : OF CHARACTER VALUES TO SEND CODES TO THE PRINTER. .CO t : COMMENT : SIMILAR TO REM IN BASIC--ALLOWS NOTES THAT DENT PRINT. Page identification commands print notes in the upper or. lower corner of each page, either headers or footers. .HE t : HEADER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT TOP OF EACH PAGE. .FO t : FOOTER : PRINTS TEXT (t) AND PAGE NUMBER AT BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE. .PA : PAGE # : RESETS PAGE NUMBER IN .HE AND .FO File management commands . IF 1: INCLUDE : MERGES A FILE TO PRINT A DOCUMENT TOO LARGE FOR ONE FILE. : FILE : Mail Merge option commands are used to supply values to the variables in a letter that has been set up for the mail merge option .ML f :MAIL LIST: IDENTIFIES VALUE FILE (f) FOR MAIL LIST. *n* : VARIABLE : INSERTED IN TEXT AS VARIABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT FROM VALUE FILE. .DP n:t:DISPLAY : PROMPTS YOU USING TEXT "t" TO ASSIGN TC. VARIABLE (*n*). : PROMPT :

The use of these commands in your text is what separates the word processor from a typewriter. They allow you to get the most out of your printer. So, now you've written your document, and inserted all the format commands, now how do you print it out? First, save the document and exit the Text Editor. At the title menu, select Text formatter, imake sure the program disk is in the drive) and the screen will blank with the prompt "ENTER INPUT FILENAME". Enter the name of the file you just saved. (ex. DSK1.MYFILE) and hit enter. Next, the prompt "ENTER PRINT DEVICENAME" appears after the file is loaded. If you use a serial printer, the device name would be RS232.BA=xxx with xxx being the baud rate. If you're using a parallel printer, the device name is PIO. Also, you must add either .CR or .LF to the end of the device name. This tells TI-Writer whether your printer will handle the carriage return or the line feed. Check your printer manual and the TI-Writer manual in detail to find out which you use. The next prompt is "USE-MAILING LIST". If you aren't printing "form letters" just hit enter to accept the default of N (NO). Next is "WHAT PAGE(S)? (ALL # IF you want to print the whole document, accept the default for all pages. Otherwise, you can print any of the pages or groups of pages. The prompt 'NUMBER OF COFIES: 1' tells how many copies of each page are to be printed. The last prompt is "PAUSE AT END OF PAGE? N". The main purpose of this function is if you are using separate sheets of paper it will stop and wait for you to align the next sheet. Now, about the Mailing List Option, Let's say you've written a form letter to send out to various individuals, maybe a resume'. You write the letter like normal, but when you come to a name or address or something that will change with each letter, you put in its place a variable in the form of in*, where n is a number to identify the order. So instead of starting off with: "Dear Nr. Smith" you would have "Dear Mr. "1*" and so on, when you're all through with your letter, save it and purge the memory. Now you must create what is called a Value File, which is your mailing list where TI-Writer will draw the variables from. A value file consists of a list values to be inserted into the letter, listed one to a line, preceded by the number of the variable and ending with a carriage return symbol. Groups of values must be separated by a line with just an asterisk and a carriage return. For example: 1 John Smith 2 123 STREET 3 Seattle, WA * 1 Jane Doe 2 456 STREET 3 Seattle, WA At the top of your letter you insert the .ML f command where f equals the filename of your value file. After selecting the mailing list option the computer will use this command to fill in the variables. If there is no .ML command in the letter then when you are prompted for "MAILING LIST NAME:" you supply the filename. This allows you to call on a number of files for different groups. Another way to insert values is to use the Define Prompt command. With this command you do not insert a .ML command calling a value file and instead you insert lines containing the format: .DP n:t - where n is the number of the variable and t is the prompt text. Now, when you come to the prompt "USE MAILING LIST?" you select "N"

for NO and as the document is printed when a variable is encountered the printing stops and the text you chose appears on the screen asking you for the appropriate value. If you don't include a ".DP n:t" command in your text, the computer responds with "ENTER DATA FOR VARIABLE *nk" and it can get confusing trying to remember which item you're on. This method is handy for letters which you only want to print one copy at different times to different people. Let me tell you, this is why I bought a computer. I'm sure we all went through that period of time before buying a computer when we would ask: "what am I going to use a computer for, anyway?". Well I decided there were two things I wanted to do: 1) Store files of data (recipes, albums, etc.) and 2) Use my computer as a typewriter. I didn't know about TI-WRITER when I bought the 99/4A, but now I know. that I made the best choice possible. I hope you will all find TI-WRITER as easy to use and as powerful as I have. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to help. Just ask! Tom Kennedy 74176,774

.CO Updated 2 Dec 1785

.LM 8; RM 75; F1; AD

, CE

The following was sent to us by Dick Altman of the San Francisco 99ers. I've nade a couple of additions notably paragraphs 4A, B and C.

VEAIRWARE

Following is the most complete list I know of-of existing FAIRWARE. Please, please drop me a line if you know of others, so that I can continue to spread the word. If you find errors in such things as the addresses please advise me as soon as possible.

- 1. MASSCOPY-Steve Lawless 2514
 Maple Ave., Wilmington, Deleware 19808.
 This is a beautiful disk copier. You can use two drives at once for rapidity.
- 2. SCREENDUMP-Danny Michaels
 Route 7, Box 460, Florence, Al. 35630
 works with Epson type printers and will
 give you both verticle or horizontal
 printouts in double or single size.
- 3. NEATLIST-by the same Danny Michaels lists multi-statement lines to your printer OR disk and references your program variables to simplify reading.
- 4. DMIOOO-Ottawa 99/4 U.G. ...F.O. Box 2144, Station D, Ottawa, ONT. K1P5W3. This disk manager rivals CORCOMP'S version, and will make your TI Disk Manager II worthless!
- 4A. DM1000 Source Code available from the Ottawa TIUG on 1 DSSD or 2 SSSD diskettes. The group has purchased this code from the program's author and is currently maintaining/upgrading both. Version 2.2 of the Nanager was released at the TI-Faire in Chicago on Nov 2nd. Version 2.3 is most current and Ver 3.0 is nearly ready for release.
- 4B. 2D-GRAPHICS in TI-Forth by Jean Pierre Morin of the Ottawa TI-99/4A UG. (DSSD or 2 SSSD diskettes) Very powerful Graphics program with many pre-defined functions and a full implementation of TI-Logo built in.

- 42. A/L Utility disk by Art Green of the Ottawa TI-99/4A US. Contains 6 assembly language utilities including 3 disk utilities, a terminal emulator and a printer set-up for dumping PrintArt files to your printer. Art's latest addition to this package is a file called DISTOCAS which will transfer a whole disk of files to cassette in one operation. He developed this program to aid our club librarian. SSSD
- 4). MULTIPLAN SIDEWAYS PRINT DUMP by Mauro Tommietto of the Ottawa TI-99/4A User Group...e.iminates the restriction of max 8 columns for a MP printout. 100% M/L written. SSSD

Contributions, if any, for the above 5 packages should be made to the Treasurer of the Ottawa User Group(by arrangement with the authors).

- 5. TE3C-Joe Freeman ... Engineering Dept. of University of Florida is so superior to TI's TERMINAL EMULATOR 2 that there is no comparison. It permits downloading of 20 times as much info from bulletin boards and instantaneously! It'll sure save you phone time on the big boards like COMPUSERVE and THE SCURCE.
- 6. X_DISASM-Fred Hawkins 1020
 North 6th St., Allentown, PA 18102.
 For those that send him a few bucks,
 you receive excellent documentation to
 go with his program on disk.
- 7. FASTTERM-Paul Charlton ... 1110 Pinehurst Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901 is another excellent Terminal Emulator, some say "it's the best one available anywhere".