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VOLUME 2 · 1987

R/D COMPUTING

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Dedicated to TI 99/4A and 9900 Computer Systems

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WELCOME ABOARD:

We have some new personnel on board. I would like to welcome Joe Warder of Regal Capital, Bill Weiler and Michael Jarman of Helix Circuits, as well as Henri Schlereth and Judi Beckett for Ryte Data South.

Growing from start-up in publishing to software publishing to hardware on a cash only basis has been VERY tough. Here only the tough survive. In the TI market, most of the players have left for greener pastures. The companies that remain are tenacious survivors and visionaries who BELIEVE in the TMS 99xx technology. They do deserve your support.

Then again, all of YOU have proven to be supporters. The ones we need to reach are 'out in the cold'; owners who do not belong to users groups, owners who have closeted their machines, owners who have yet to upgrade their "home" computer and others who are not aware of the power contained in their consoles.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

The announcements of the new machines from Apple and IBM have created a wave of optimism in the computer industry. This is good news for computer users, support companies and manufacturers. With all the high powered hardware being introduced, the choices open to computer users are increasing.

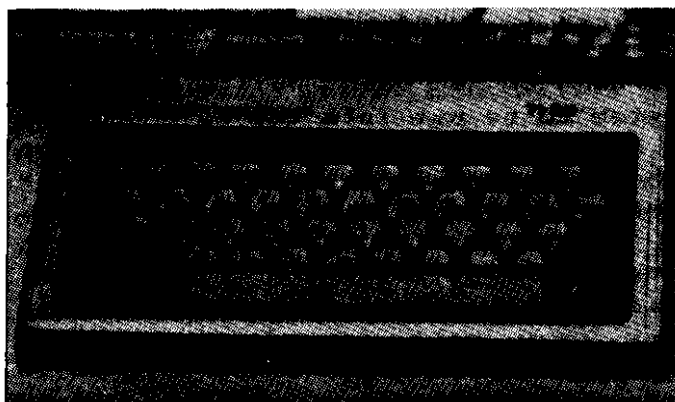
Many believe that the Macintosh SE and the Macintosh II are THE products to watch. The Mac II incorporates far reaching technology, expansion slots, IBM 8088 co-processors and true cross system connectivity (one of the new buzzwords).

Stay tuned, this is the arena.

This issue is a collection of various hardware projects, tips and the like that have some very good results. We have found that the improvements are both valuable and quite noticeable. With the extended memory maps and new card based projects, it is possible to transform the TI on a user basis!

We would like to encourage owners to attempt this type of electronics modification. With the price of spare consoles at an all time low, there is relatively little danger of doing irreparable damage. Get out your soldering iron and parts, try some projects and get the results.

Of particular note is the very simple resistor change suggested by Bob Lawson. This two cent change gives a clearer video display... something else that TI "should" have done in the basic design.



HARDWARE GROUP:

The response to the hardware SIG coordinated by Bob (Tony) Wagner is moving right along. Over three dozen people have responded to the call. I believe this group has more talent than even TI could muster. Several projects are in motion which will have far reaching effects over the next

several months. Hardware inputs from the group promise to give all TI 99/4A owners some astounding results.

As with anything that contributes to the support of our orphan, your support is both welcome and ABSOLUTELY essential. Nothing occurs in a vacuum. Even more to the point, a little participation goes a long way in providing the "afterlife" phenomena we witness in the 4A world. One of the major challenges facing a hardware group is that of financing the work done. This will have a telling influence on the progress.

The top priority project (in my book) is an extended memory specification. A modification to the operating system would be required - but would allow the 99/4A to access and USE additional memory... the key component for more sophisticated software.

CO-PROCESSORS:

Ahhh! Now this is a timely focus... William Borchardt of the Sun City 99ers writes that he is working on a co-processing system that will allow the removal of the GROMs from the console. This would entail altering the 99/4A clocking system to allow an increase in speed from the machine. The intent is to allow either the GPL approach or a user built operating system to be put into the co-processor to be accessed from the 99/4A in the same fashion that the GROM interface works - only at a higher clock speed. It looks as if the basic design is finally coming together.

This is the type of project that would work very well in a group format. There is always a LOT of work to do in order to develop a project. Monty Schmidt tells me that he has an 8088 'co-processor' project up and running for his university class. Interfaces through the 8k DSR space on the DSR RAM CARD. THIS type of project 'could' provide a true IBM compatibility mode with bus to bus information transfer. Only a large amount of money, time and talent would produce a commercial project. It does

sound interesting.

OTTAWA TI FAIRE 1987

Having missed the New Jersey and the Boston TI Faires (sorry folks), we did manage to make the Ottawa show on May 16th at the Merrivale High School. With the holiday weekend, the turnout was a bit light. The number of vendors was down from last year and the number of TI owners also seemed to be shy of last years event.

We set up next to Myarc - with Lou Philips and Walt Howe showing the Geneve 9640 computer. We had our 99AT Expansion Systems on display along with Monty Schmidt's COMMAND DOS (also now shipping).

I can personally verify that Myarc's 9640 is ALL that it is supposed to be and more. In fact, some of our own subscribers and Canadian TI 99/4A owners now HAVE this new machine in their possession. Steve Michelson of the Toronto 9T9'ers walked out with one under his arm. Disk Only Software was selling and taking orders for Myarc's Geneve 9640 computer system.

Myarc is shipping the machine with a full 350 page manual. All software that is specified to work - WORKS. I saw a number of modules downloaded to run. This means that software is available... and more new software will become available. I also personally know of several programmers who are releasing packages SOON - if not before.

For us the show was important in that we were able to determine exactly how much power the card pulls from the card bus. Very critical in determining the total compatibility of the 99AT Expansion System.

Scott Darling, the SYSOP of GENIE was at the show. GENIE has come to Canada through connection nodes in several cities. Try calling 1(800) 638-9636 for more information. We also met many other TI 99/4A luminaries and supporters.

Adding a Real Time Clock to the BK DSR Card
 John Clulow (Eenie address J.CLULOW)
 (419) 874-9858

This project adds the National Semiconductor M58167 clock to the BK DSR RAM card. Before you attempt to add the clock, you must complete the non-DSR BK addition. Make sure the card is working properly. Double check the wiring of the data lines in the 74LS245. D0 - D7 must be wired to the edgcard connector exactly as shown in the schematic. While the memory will work with any order of data line connection, the clock will not.

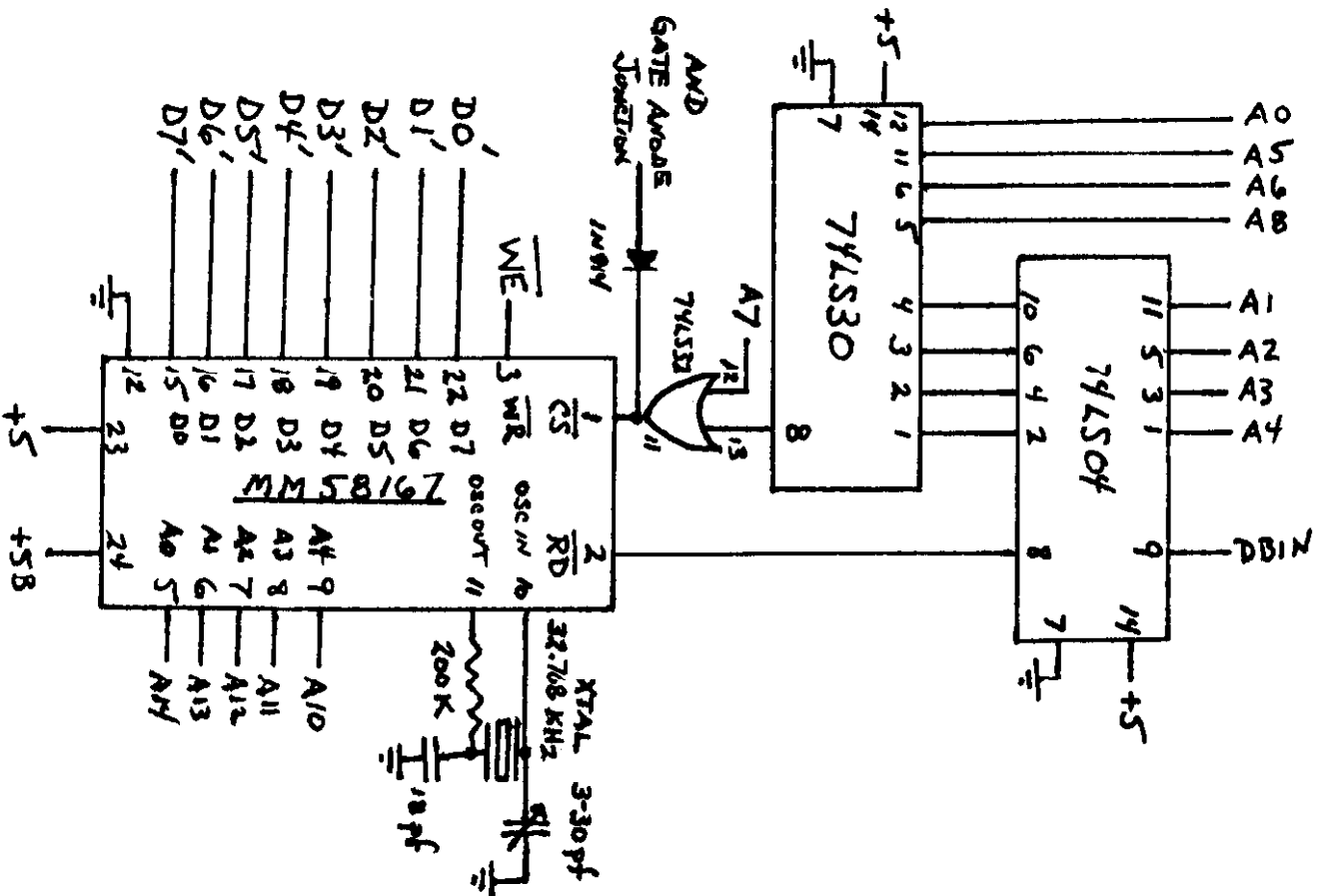
To complete this project, you will need a 74LS24, 74LS30, M58167 clock, 32.768 K Hz microwatt crystal, 1N914 diode, 200K ohm resistor, and two small capacitors. One capacitor is fixed and should be around 20 pf. The other is a variable capacitor with a range of 1 to 30 pf. Digi-Key (800-344-4539) is one source of these parts.

Wire the circuit as shown in the diagram. The address lines and DBIN need not be connected to the edgcard connector; you can refer to the BK card schematic and use appropriate pins on the 3264 or 138, for example. For D0' to D7', use the 74LS245 pins 2 through 9, and make sure the corresponding input pins (18 - 12) are properly connected to the edgcard connector. The anode end of the 1N914 diode should be connected to the junction of the anodes of the two diodes used in the AND gate you made in the non-DSR RAM project (see step 6). It could also be connected to pin 15 of the 74LS368 or pin 19 of the 74LS245.

When you purchase your clock IC, obtain a data sheet. Here is a partial list of addresses used in working with the clock:

8680 .001 sec	8686 minutes	868C day of month
8682 .01 sec	8688 hours	868E months
8684 seconds	868A day or week	8688 status
	868B status	8684 reset

Software for the clock is available from the Eenie library.



TI-99/4A OWNERS SURVEY

DATE: _____

PLEASE USE A DARK COLORED FELT PEN. THANK-YOU
YOU MUST SELECT ONLY 1 ANSWER, NO EXCEPTIONS.

- A1(2) WHAT IS YOUR SEX? M ___ F ___
A2(5) WHAT IS YOUR AGE GROUP? 17 OR UNDER ___ 18-24 ___ 25-34 ___ 35-44 ___ 45 AND OVER ___
A3(5) HOW MANY YEARS OF EDUCATION? 11 OR LESS ___ 12 ___ 13-15 ___ 16 ___ 17 AND OVER ___
A4(5) YOUR OCCUPATION? STUDENT ___ BLUE COLLAR ___ WHITE COLLAR ___ PROFESSIONAL ___ RETIRED ___
A5(2) DO YOU USE A COMPUTER AT WORK? Y ___ N ___
A6(8) WHICH BRAND? N/A ___ IBM ___ APPLE ___ DEC ___ SPERRY ___ NEC ___ DONT KNOW ___ OTHER ___
A7(3) HOW MANY TI-99/4A OR 4As DO YOU OWN? 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 OR MORE ___
A8(4) HOW MANY PEsystems DO YOU OWN? 0 ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 OR MORE ___
A9(7) WHICH MEMORY EXPANSION DO YOU HAVE? NONE ___ TI ___ CORCOMP ___ FOUNDATION ___ MYARC ___ MECHATRONIC ___ OTHER ___
A10(6) WHAT SIZE? N/A ___ 32K ___ 128K ___ 256K ___ 512K ___ 1024 ___
A11(6) WHICH DISK CONTROLLER CARD DO YOU OWN? NONE ___ TI ___ FOUNDATION ___ MYARC ___ CORCOMP ___ OTHER ___
A12(4) HOW MANY 5-1/4" DISK DRIVES DO YOU OWN? NONE ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 OR MORE ___
A13(5) CONFIGURATION? N/A ___ SS/SD ___ DS/SD ___ DS/DD ___ DS/QD ___
A14(2) DO YOU OWN A HARD DISK SYSTEM? Y ___ N ___
A15(4) WHATS THE SIZE? N/A ___ 10 OR LESS MEG ___ 20 MEG ___ 30 OR MORE MEG ___
A16(2) DO YOU OWN A MODEM? Y ___ N ___
A17(4) INDICATE HIGHEST BAUD RATE? N/A ___ 300 ___ 1200 ___ 2400 ___
A18(10) WHICH PRINTER DO YOU OWN? NONE ___ TI ___ EPSON ___ PROWRITER/NEC ___ OKIDATA/C ITOH ___
STAR MICRONICS ___ COMREX/TOSHIBA ___ BROTHER/CANNON ___ JUKI/CITIZEN ___ OTHER ___
A19(2) DO YOU OWN A MONITOR? Y ___ N ___
A20(2) ARE YOU USING A TV? Y ___ N ___
A21(10) WHICH MONITOR BRAND? N/A ___ TI ___ AMDEK ___ SANYO/TAXAN ___ NEC ___ TATUNG/SAMSUNG ___
MAGNAVOX/SONY ___ EPSON/PRINCETON ___ HITACHI ___ OTHER ___
A22(4) IS YOUR MONITOR? N/A ___ RGB ___ RGB/COMPOSITE ___ MONOCHROME ___
A23(2) DO YOU HAVE THE GRAM KRACKER? Y ___ N ___
A24(3) HOW MANY SOFTWARE CARTRIDGES (MODULES) DO YOU OWN (INCLUDE CASSETTE) ? 9 OR LESS ___ 10-24 ___ 25 OR MORE ___
A25(3) HOW MANY SOFTWARE DISKS DO YOU OWN? 9 OR LESS ___ 10-24 ___ 25 OR MORE ___
A26(4) HOW DO YOU USE YOUR TI? ENTERTAINMENT ___ BUSINESS ___ EDUCATION ___ PROGRAMMING ___
A27(7) PROGRAMMERS, WHAT DO YOU PROGRAM IN? N/A ___ BASIC ___ XBASIC ___ ASSEMBLY ___ FORTH ___ C ___ OTHER ___
A28(2) EVER WRITE A COMMERCIAL PROGRAM FOR TI (INCLUDE FREEWARE)? Y ___ N ___
A29(7) IN WHAT LANGUAGE? N/A ___ BASIC ___ XBASIC ___ ASSEMBLY ___ FORTH ___ C ___ OTHER ___
A30(2) DO OTHERS USE YOUR TI? Y ___ N ___
A31(4) HOW MANY OTHERS? N/A ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 OR MORE ___
A32(2) DO YOU OWN ANY OTHER BRAND OF COMPUTER? Y ___ N ___
A33(6) IF SO WHICH BRAND? N/A ___ IBM ___ APPLE ___ COMMODORE ___ ATARI ___ OTHER ___
A34(4) APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK DO YOU USE YOUR TI? 4 OR LESS ___ 5-9 ___ 10-14 ___ 15 OR MORE ___
A35(2) ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A USERS GROUP? Y ___ N ___
A36(8) HOW MANY MEMBERS? N/A ___ UNDER 33 ___ 34-66 ___ 50-74 ___ 75-99 ___ 100-150 ___ 151-199 ___ OVER 200 ___
A37(2) ARE YOU MEMBER OF A COMMERCIAL NETWORK? Y ___ N ___
A38(5) WHICH ONE? N/A ___ COMPUSERVE ___ SOURCE ___ GENIE ___ OTHER ___
A39(6) HOW MUCH IN DOLLARS DO YOU USE IT PER MONTH? N/A ___ \$29 OR LESS ___ 30-49 ___ 50-74 ___ 75-99 ___ 100 OR MORE ___
A40(2) DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE (OR HAVE) THE MYARC 9640? Y ___ N ___
A41(9) WHAT SOFTWARE AREA YOU WOULD LIKE FOR THE 9640? N/A ___ CAD/GRAPHICS ___ DESK-TOP PUBL ___ DATABASE ___
WORD/PROC/MULTIPLAN ___ TRUE BASIC ___ ASSEMBLY ___ C-LANG ___ OTHER LANG ___
A42(8) WHAT ABOUT HARDWARE FOR THE 9640 ? N/A ___ APPLE COMPATIBILITY ___ IBM COMPATIBILITY ___ RGB MONITOR ___ 3.5" MICRO
DISKETTE ___ CD ROM ___ SPEECH RECOGNITION ___ INTELLIGENT MODEM ___
A43(2) DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE (OR HAVE) TRITONS TURBO XT? Y ___ N ___
A44(8) HOW MANY EXTRAS DID YOU BUY WITH THE TURBO-XT? N/A ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___
A45(2) WOULD YOU LIKE AN 'AT' UPDATE FOR THE TURBO-XT? Y ___ N ___
A46(3) HAVE YOU PLANS TO PURCHASE CARDS BY OTHER VENDORS? Y ___ N ___
A47(2) DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE (OR HAVE) RAVES KEYBOARD? Y ___ N ___
A48(2) DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE (OR HAVE) A MOUSE? Y ___ N ___
A49(2) DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO: MICROPENDIUM Y ___ N ___
A50(2) DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO: SMART PROGRAMMER Y ___ N ___
A51(2) DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO: COMPUTER SHOPPER Y ___ N ___
A52(2) DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO: GENIAL TRAVELER Y ___ N ___
A53(2) DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO: UG PUBLICATIONS Y ___ N ___
A54(5) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THIS SURVEY? VERY POOR ___ POOR ___ OK ___ GOOD ___ VERY GOOD ___

AC*(3) THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS ARE DEMOGRAPHIC. IF YOU ARE IN USA OR CANADA WHAT IS YOUR TELEPHONE AREA CODE. ALL OTHERS ENTER CITY: _____

ZC*(3) IF YOU ARE IN USA OR CANADA PLEASE ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE. ALL OTHERS ENTER COUNTRY: _____

FOR COMMENTS, PLEASE WRITE A BRIEF LETTER & ENCLOSE IT WITH THE SURVEY.

C99 PART THREE

by Ron Albright Jr.

Last time we touched on what c99 is, and what files come on the disk - plus what some of the more important ones do. This time we'll actually do some code. As we progress, we will stress some sort of style in how we enter programs. I am no expert on style (or c99 for that matter), but since c99 is so free-form and has no line numbers to follow, it can be very difficult to read programs if you don't follow some rules. These rules are not universally agreed upon, but we'll try to develop some sort of easy to read style of our own. I will make a few assumptions to start:

First, I will assume that you have a single drive system with only single sided capability.

Second, I will assume that you have a basic understanding of the Editor/Assembler package, i.e. you know how to use the Editor and run programs out of either Option 3 or Option 5.

I will further assume, that you have assembled at least one source code file with E/A. If these assumptions are incorrect, let me know and we'll touch on the Editor Assembler more next time. Let's get started.

Take a clean disk and copy the following c99 files onto it:

CSUP	D/F 80	12 SECTORS
PRINTF	D/F 80	14 SECTORS
UTIL1	PROGRAM	33 SECTORS
UTIL2	PROGRAM	33 SECTORS
UTIL3	PROGRAM	29 SECTORS

Next, from the Editor/Assembler disk, copy these files to the same disk:

ASSM1	PROGRAM	33 SECTORS
ASSM2	PROGRAM	28 SECTORS
EDIT1	PROGRAM	25 SECTORS

If my addition is correct, that gives you 199 sectors on our work disk. Now

we are ready to proceed. Keep our work disk in the drive and insert the Editor/Assembler cartridge. From the menu, load the Editor and go into the Edit mode.

Type in this program:

```
/* c99 The smallest c99 program */

main() /* a comment */

{
    /* we aren't going to do anything!
*/
}
```

Congratulations! You have just entered your first, valid c99 program. Let's look at it. The first line is nothing more than a "REM" statement. Instead of REM, c99 recognizes anything enclosed within "/* */" as a comment and ignores it when compiling. You can put anything between these comment delimiters, and it will survive compiling without error. Use them frequently as you program. As we mentioned, c99 programs are difficult to read at best and REM statements are useful to remind yourself, as well as others reading the program, what you had in mind. As shown on the next program line, the /* can be used on the same line as compilable code, so comment each step of your code for clarity.

A routine called "main" is required somewhere in each and every c99 program. Typically, it is the first block of code, sets things up and calls the other routine(s) to take over. When the compiler sees "main()" (or anything else with the "()" after it - like "first()", "setup()" - it labels this as a function. A function is similar to a subroutine in Extended Basic. A string of functions make up a program. They are just like using "SUB routine" in XB. It is run when its name ("main", "first", "setup") is 'called'. The "main" routine is run whether it is called or not called (guess that is why they call it "main"). More on this later.

For now, think of c99 as simply a series of "calls" to blocks of modular code called functions with each function labeled with "name()". Each function is enclosed with a pair of braces - it starts with an open brace (() and ends with a closed brace ()). This tells the compiler where this block of code starts and ends. Everything within those braces is part of that function. In our first program, the only thing in the main function is a "REM" statement, so it will 'do' nothing. It is compilable though. A function may include a call for another function. Look at this example:

```
main()
(
    doit();
)

/* doit doesn't do anything! */

doit()
(
/* see! Nothing here to do! */
)
```

This time, main calls up the second function, "doit" which, also, doesn't do anything. You can see how programs are built. Typically, (but not necessarily) the main function will include all the calls to the functions that make up a whole c99 program. It's like having an XB program that is nothing more than a series of "GOSUB"s (really a series of "CALL SUB" routines). Each function call does its own task and returns control back to the main, or controlling program. The good c99 program will break large programs into smaller ones and write a function for each. If a function can stand alone (has nothing in it unique to a single program) the programmer eventually develops a 'toolbox' of useful small routines (functions) that can be combined in different ways to solve problems. That is just one of the beauties of c99.

So, let's compile this program. After typing it in, hit FCTN 9 twice, get

the EDITOR menu and elect to save it to disk. Your main work disk should have plenty of room without disk swapping. After saving to Disk 1, hit FCTN 9 again to get the main E/A menu. Chose Option 5 to "RUN PROGRAM FILE". The three compiler files, which I have renamed UTIL1, UTIL2 and UTIL3 run out of Option 5, not Option 3 (which runs D/F80 files). When you are prompted for "Program Name:" you only have to hit enter since you have changed your compiler files to UTIL1 - 3. The default name for E/A 5 is UTIL1 and those files will be loaded automatically. You see why I renamed them. You will then be prompted by the c99 compiler (prompts will vary depending on which version of c99 you use) for an input file name. Type "DSK1.filename" (filename being generic for whatever you called the file you typed in and saved to disk). You will then be prompted for an output file name. Call it "filename/C", just to remind yourself that it is a compiled file. Then, hit ENTER and you are off and running. The compiler will flash each function name on the screen as it is compiled to show you where you are in the program. You should see only "main" if you are compiling the first program and "main" then "doit" if you are compiling the second program. If an error is encountered, you will be told. We'll assume that you typed these short routines in without error for now. It shouldn't take long. You are told to press enter to continue after the compiler is done.

Now what? If you catalog your disk now, you should see the initial source code file you typed in and saved with a second filename called "filename/C". Both should be D/V80. You have one more step to do before the program can be run. What the compiler produced was assembly language source code. Like all source code, it has to be assembled. Get to the main E/A menu and choose Option 2, Assemble. When asked to "Load Assembler?" hit "Y" to load the E/A assembler files (ASSM1 and ASSM2). Since we placed these on the work disk, they should load right in without swapping disks. You are

then prompted for the "Source File Name". Type in "DSK1.filename/C" (NOT the program you typed in and saved, but the compiler's output filename). For an "Output File Name", I use "DSK1.filename/O" to let me know this is object code. Then hit ENTER for each of the next two assembler prompts ("List File Name" and "Options"). The assembler should start right up and finish with the assembly process. Now, catalog your disk again. You should see a third file added - "filename/O". This time, it is not D/V00, but D/F00... assembly language OBJECT code. You have produced an assembly language program. How do you run this 'do nothing' program you have written? Go back to the main E/A menu. Choose Option 3 from the menu. When asked for "File Name", type in "DSK1.filename/O". Then hit enter. You get the same prompt again "File Name". This time, type "DSK1.CSUP". This c99 support file MUST be loaded after you load ANY c99 program. Hit enter. When you get the prompt for the third filename, just hit enter this time. When asked for the "Program Name", type in "START". All c99 programs run with the program name START. Your do nothing, super-duper assembly language program should now "run". You then immediately get the "Hit enter to continue" message and you have finished.

Well, how does it feel to have generated an assembly language program just like the "big boys"? Next time, we will do something with a little more substance. We will create a simple menu, which will demonstrate keyboard input and the "printf", "puts" and "getchar" functions. But, for now, I just wanted to go through the mechanics of running the c99 system. Till the next tutorial, get a C book, read the manual that comes with c99 itself, send for the newest version [3.0] of the compiler (pay Clint) and we'll progress further next time.

(c) 1986 Ron Albright

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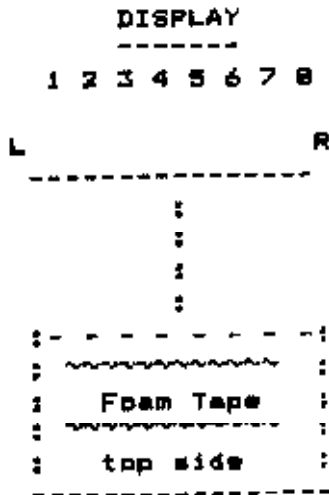


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or write:

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1884 Columbia Rd #1021
Washington DC 20009



Note: The author painted the PCB surface silver to match the console.

Mount the LEDs so that the FLAT edges face down toward the bottom of the PCB.

Connect the leads at the top of the board together in 1 line.

Now you are ready to wire the DIP HEADER as follows.

Now using a ribbon cable connect one end to the header pins 1-8 and last PIN #9 (+5v), if possible use a different color for this Pin (red).

The other end of this cable is connected to the Display PCB. Left - right numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and finally connect pin 9 to the top line of the LEDs.

Now affix piece of double sided foam tape to the surface of the PCB but do not remove adhesive cover from the side facing you.

Cover the rear side of the board at the LED connections with a piece of electrical tape to insulate them from possibly shorting against some metal object.

Also using a piece of wire wrap wire tie down the ribbon cable to the display PCB, this will help prevent any wires from being pulled free.

That's it!

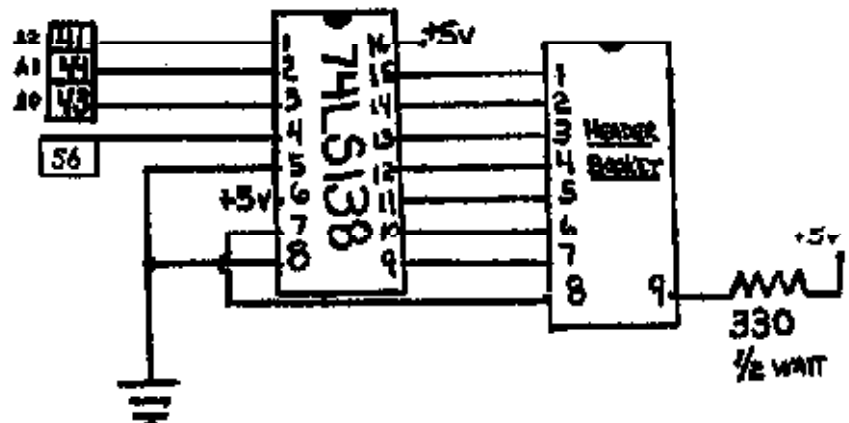
As a precaution, with the cable plugged into the socket you should check for any shorts between pin #9 and any other pin on the Dip Header socket.

The author placed the displayboard on the rear surface of the console with the LEDs about 1/4 to 1/2 inch above the silver trim.

TI-99/4a Memory Map

LED#	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
1	>0000->1FFF	Console ROM
2	>2000->3FFF	Low Exp Mem
3	>4000->5FFF	DSR Space
4	>6000->7FFF	Cart. Mem
5	>8000->9FFF	Console Ram Sound Chip VDP R/W Speech R/W GROM R/W
6	>A000->BFFF	High Exp 1
7	>C000->D000	High Exp 2
8	>E000->FFFF	High Exp 3

ENJOY!



If you have any questions :

Stephen J. Tuorto
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Unionville, Ontario L3R 1Y0
(416) 477-3684

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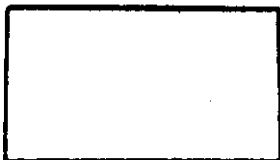
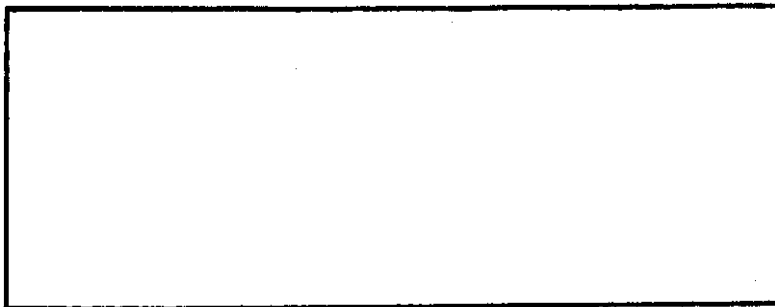
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