



THE PUG PERIPHERAL



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TI NEWS by Gary Taylor

Before I type up my article for the newsletter, I always think of lots of things to write about until I actually sit down to do it. Then I begin questioning whether or not what I would say is relevant or not. For example I went to the post office this morning and picked up the club's mail. We mostly get newsletters from other groups but today we received two newsletters from the St Louis 96er's for the month of February, 1993. They are exactly the same. Perhaps they were sending us two months of newsletters at one time and got confused or maybe we are on their mailing list twice. Since we will be sending them a copy of this newsletter they will be alerted to what happened and correct the problem. Is this relevant?

I have been reading articles in Micropendium about connecting 3 1/2 inch disk drives to our computer. The discussion has revolved around the addressing of the drives because these new drives have switches that only allow two settings. This implies that they can only be used as DSK1 or DSK2. The latest article, however, explains how to modify a cable or an adapter plate to get DSK3 and DSK4.

The solution is much simpler than this. When TI developed a disk system for the home use they did not envision the home computer user to be technically qualified to be setting jumpers for setting addresses. The TI Disk Memory System Model No. PHP1240 (the TI disk controller) came packed with two cables and an adapter board in addition to the controller card and the Disk Manager Module. One cable was for internal drives and a "special" cable was for external drives. The "special" cable had female connectors at both ends. One end of the cable was attached to the connector tab that extends from the back of the peripheral system. The adapter board (part number 1040362-1) was attached to the other end.

Each external drive had an attached cable with two connectors, one at the end of the cable and one near the middle of the cable. The end of the disk drive cable was

attached to the adapter board on the Controller's cable. If a second external drive was to be connected a second adapter board was inserted into the connector in the middle of the first disk drive's cable. NO ADDRESSES WERE SET, ALL DRIVES WERE SET TO DSK1. But because of the placements of the adapter boards they responded as DSK1, DSK2, and DSK3.

When I replaced my SSSD external drive with two 720k 3 1/2 inch floppies four years ago, I used the same cable from the external SSSD drive. I just squeezed on another connector about 2 inches from the original and set the switch to dsk2 on the second external drive. When I reconnected the cable to the "special" cable that had the adapter board inserted the drives came up as DSK2 and DSK3.

When I purchased my HFDC and placed two DSDD 1/2 height drives in the expansion box they became DSK1 and DSK2. I placed the internal drive connector in the middle of the cable and terminated the cable with a female connector that extends from the back of the peripheral expansion box about three inches. I then placed the old "special" cable into this female connector with another adapter board and the drives were immediately accessed as DSK3 and DSK4.

With this set up I can remove the external drives at any time and connect them to a TI disk controller as DSK2 and DSK3. TI had a solution before there was a problem.

MIDI MASTER 99

I feel compelled to respond to some of the comments that were made in the Crystal Software Announcement by Micheal Maksimik in our last newsletter

I purchased MIDI Master 99 at the Lima show where it was offered to the public for the first time. I believe that was in May of 1991. I received version 2.1 with the understanding that version 3 would be available in the near future. Near future was explained to be a few weeks at most. Version 2.1 allows you to create and play MIDI music using the word processor by entering SNF formatted tunes, it also allows you to use files created for other computers. Version 3.0 was to allow you to

(Continued next page)

play the music on your midi device and record it onto your disk for playback later. I attended Mike's demonstration and was very excited and impressed with what had been accomplished by Mike. I noted at the time that Mike's table at the Lima faire was busy the entire day and he was selling cables and programs as fast as they could be produced. I have talked with Mike on several occasions at TI faires in Chicago (1991, 1992) and at Lima (1992) about the impending release of version 3.0 of MIDI Master. Mike has always been courteous, informative, honest and is obviously a great programmer to accomplish what has been done so far. I am sorry that the development of version 3.0 has been halted for the TI-99/4a and appreciate his offer to refund the \$45 purchase price. He apologizes to 2.3 owners who anticipated a miracle for their 32k systems.

However, I do not remember him offering me a miracle when I bought Midi Master 99. I do remember him telling me that version 3.0 would be shipped to registered owners of 2.1 soon. The fact that NO registered owners have written him about 3.0 does not reflect lack of interest but rather extreme patience with TI developers. The fact that he "feels it is a waste of programming effort to pursue the issue any further" may have something to do with the fact that there is no profit in it as he has already sold the product. It's hard to pay what is owed. It's hard to work grueling hours on a project that is both difficult and costly in terms of time that could be spent on other interests. Especially when you have already recieved the fruits of the promised project.

I have no intention of sending my MIDI Master 99 back for a refund. I appreciate the program for what it does and I thank Mike for it and hope that he continues to provide software and hardware products for our computer. I will be first in line to purchase programs that I can use. I just don't like being told that I was expecting a miracle!

Since the "Storm of the Century" prevented our meeting in March, I will be having the meeting I planned this month. I will have the Wall Street Analyst/Advisor programs, copies of Jim Peterson's public domain and shareware catalog, and will have a general discussion of our new Module-on-Disk library. See you on Sunday! Remember the meeting is on the FIRST SUNDAY IN APRIL AT THE LECTURE ROOM ONE LEVEL BELOW OUR REGULAR MEETING PLACE.

GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS

by Sue Harper
Pittsburgh Users Group

Last month I talked about /GR graphics. This month I will take on the _P and _C varieties.

These are the forms of pictures that are generated by TI Artist, a copyrighted program that is not in our library, but is available from the marketing company. It comes with many fonts and tricks, as well as sample pictures. The pictures are saved in two parts - one part holds the picture. That file has the _P after the name. The other holds the color, and that portion has the same file name, but with a _C on the end. Here is an example:

```
FISH_P
FISH_C
```

These two files would come together when entered into TI Artist and make a picture on the screen in color.

Some of the files that we have in the library do not have _C portions to them. They will load as well, the picture will just be in black and white. If you have TI Artist and load one of these, you can then add color and save it. Listing your disk will then show a _C file in addition to the _P file.

These files also work with MAX-RLE and can be strung together to put on quite a show. Unlike the /GR files, all of these format files are in the graphics section. Here's a list of disks with these files on them. Please note that there are some cases of duplication. Many of them have a version of MAX/RLE, but not necessarily the latest version. When in doubt, assume that the disk with the highest number has the most recent version. Since all of these disks are in GRAF, I will just list the numbers:

3010	3035	3050	3066	3169
3012	3036	3051	3067	3171
3013	3037	3052	3069	3172
3014	3038	3053	3142	3173
3015	3039	3054	3147	3174
3024	3040	3055	3150	3175
3025	3041	3056	3151	3176
3026	3043	3058	3153	3177
3027	3044	3059	3155	3178
3028	3045	3060	3156	3179
3029	3046	3061	3161	3180
3030	3047	3062	3166	
3031	3048	3063	3167	
3032	3049	3064	3168	

COMMANDLAND #6

By Sue Harper
Pittsburgh Users Group

Ah, sweet mysteries of computers - well, lets look at a few more of them. This time, FOR NEXT LOOPS!

FOR/NEXT loops can only be used in a program. they require line numbers, and you only use line numbers inside programs!

This is a small program using a FOR/NEXT loop:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 FOR T=1 TO 50
30 PRINT T
40 NEXT T
50 STOP
```

This short program will do the following:

Line 10 clears the screen
Line 20 tells the computer to count starting at one
Line 30 tells the computer to print the value of T
Line 40 tells the computer to look at what the value of T is, to go back to line 20 and add one to the value of T. This will cause the computer to go back through the program again and again until T is equal to 50. Then the computer will print the number 50 and stop.

Now, what good is that? Well, it is an excellent way of having the computer wait for a while. Let's say you want a sentence to be on the screen only long enough for someone to read it. This will tell the computer how long to leave the sentence on the screen:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 PRINT "THIS IS THE SENTENCE YOU SHOULD READ"
30 FOR Q=1 TO 100
40 NEXT Q
50 CALL CLEAR
```

This short program will make the sentence appear, the computer will count to 100 (and, by the way, the computer can count very fast!) and then the sentence will disappear. When you run the program, if the sentence is on too long, reduce the number 100 to something smaller. If the sentence is not on long enough, make 100 a higher number.

The computer can also count backwards, or by even or odd numbers, or any increment you choose. Here are some examples:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 FOR COUNTDOWN= 10 TO 1 STEP -1
30 PRINT COUNTDOWN
40 NEXT COUNTDOWN
```

This will have the computer count from 10 down to 1. This can be used in a game to send off a rocket, for example. It needs to be noted, however that the countdown numbers will flash by very fast. To slow this down we will add a second FOR/NEXT loop-

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 FOR COUNTDOWN=10 TO 1 STEP -1
30 PRINT COUNTDOWN
40 FOR WAIT=1 TO 250
50 NEXT WAIT
60 NEXT COUNTDOWN
```

Note that the second FOR/NEXT loop is completely inside the first one. Two loops cannot overlap. This is called NESTING: one sits inside the other like a nest.

Another use:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 FOR EVENS=2 TO 100 STEP 2
30 PRINT EVENS
40 NEXT EVENS
```

This will tell the computer to count by twos and to start at 2. Use this to decide what intervals you want. For example, in a game, a certain play might lose two points. Use this loop. If you want the move to lose three points, change the STEP number to 3. And so on.

I think that's enough FOR now. See you NEXT month with more. . .

~~~~~ TI-101 ~~~~~

OUR 4/A UNIVERSITY

by Jack Sughrue  
Box 459  
E. Douglas MA 01516

\*3 DOLLARS

To Whom One Turns

You people up back, let's have your attention up here!

Save your questions until the end, as I'll probably answer them along the way, anyway.

First, make sure you have your notebooks open and pens at the ready. There are lots of important names and addresses I'll be giving out. Only once. So, if you miss them the first time, it's as the French say, "Zee tough cookie."

Second, in my hand I have a SOFTWARE EXCITEMENT Catalog. These \$2 catalogs are for the IBM compatibles, Amigas, Macs, Commodores, and Apples. They are typical of the user-supported shareware-type catalogs for those machines, most of which contain the same items no matter who publishes them. Let's look at what they have to offer for \$4 per PROGRAM! If you buy a dozen programs they go for \$3 each. 20 brings the price down to \$2.50. When you order more than 50 of these programs the price gets down to \$2 each. Plus shipping charges and a \$3 handling and packing fee. But there are only 30 educational programs total, pre-school through college, anyway, so you couldn't even order 50 educational programs if you wanted to. But one has to be careful, even if you have a dozen children from ages 3 to 23. AMEMOMP (a memory game), for example, requires 640K (YES! 640!), a VGA or EGA monitor, AND a hard drive. Whew! Sure makes our little, very inexpensive, 32K TIs with single/single drives look puny, doesn't it? Or does it? What does this program do? You match up hidden pairs. It's a fancy variation of Concentration.

There is also a program called WORD GALLERY which helps children associate the printed word with the object it describes. (Doesn't that sound a bit like a few cartridges TI made about a decade ago?) There are also math programs that teach counting, addition, and subtraction through endless patience and some graphics and

games. (More cartridge deja vu?) There's also French and Spanish tutorials. And so on.

Anyway, if you have a use for any such fanciness or even ALL of these 30 programs, they will cost you about \$70.

Now, we'll begin with THE important educational resources of today's American TI Community.

As I'm not reading from my full notes today, Class, I'm afraid I'll be leaving out a few important resources unintentionally. Consider checking this out and locating the missing sources as part of your assignment for next time.

Meanwhile, let me start with some comparisons to this \$2 shareware catalog in my hand. There's a wonderful programmer and writer in Columbus by the name of Jim Peterson. He has a one-man company which has no equal for any other computer in the country. It's called TIGERCUB SOFTWARE (156 Collingwood Ave., Whitehall, OH 43213) and offers disks at \$1.50 each (postpaid for 8 or more). Disks! Not programs. And he has over 550 different disks! Jam-packed full of the best authors in the TI World, arranged by category and auto-loaded from a super menu. We're talking THOUSANDS of Public Domain and Shareware programs. Let's look under education, for example, where, along with the games sections, you can find not 30 but THOUSANDS of programs, various Concentrations just being a smidgeon of these. For example, there are three disks full of programs just for Vocabulary & Reading and 15 DISKS! just for math (to name a couple). Here are the programs from just ONE of these Vocabulary & Reading disks: Adjective to Adverb, Noun to Adjective, Learning to 'ing' It, Plural Endings, Animal Multitudes, Doctor Who, Vocabulary, Vocabulary Quiz, Syllables, Reading Practice, Speed Reading, Tense Time, Synonyms & Antonyms, Read-Fast, and Vocabulary II. 15 educational programs for \$1.50! Or, in this case, just 10 CENTS A PROGRAM! (Or, put another way, about 30 programs for \$3, instead of \$70, as is the case with the "other" computer.) In addition to some neat graphics, some of these programs have real speech! All for a dime. Nothing's been a dime since Nixon took us off the gold standard: not a pack of gum, not a comic book, not a candy bar. But now, thanks to Jim Peterson and TIGERCUB, the dimey has returned to those fortunate enough to own a TI-99/4A. Top quality for wonderful prices. To get his

catalog (\$1 deductible on first order) is like rolling Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Druidic Solstice, and 55 Birthdays all into one computing event.

I tell you, Class, it'll make your mouth water.

But where was I?

Oh, yes, TI resources for educational goodies. Er, tools. Educational tools and materials.

Obviously, if you own a disk drive, TIGERCUB is an enormous resource.

The next best resource is an active user group. Makes no difference if you live in East Douglas or Venedocia (if there really are such places), you can make the connection by joining by mail. I belong to a few user groups. In addition to monthly newsletters, which keep me very informed and up to date on TI matters of importance, I am also afforded the opportunity of participating in the treasure chests called Club Libraries. I'll use the Lima, Ohio, group as an example. (Lima UG, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia, Ohio, 45894). For my \$15 dollars a year I receive a MONTHLY newsletter of original articles, reviews, advice, programs, you-name-its. Also I automatically receive important updates of FUNNELWEB, the most used piece of software in the TI disk world. I have access to a zillion world-wide newsletters and other pieces of textware, not to mention the expertise of a truly sharing collection of hard-working, friendly 99ers. I am also entitled to the free library of cassettes and disks put together by this small, dedicated contingent of TI goodfellas (and gals). This means that I can look over the immense LIMA catalog at my home in Massachusetts and send cassettes and postage or disks and postage and get ANYTHING I want for nada, zilch, zero, cribbage 19, nothing. Beat that one, Kiddos!

Oops! As I was saying, we must look into our educational resources. There are many other user groups, too, Class. My local M.U.N.C.H. (560 Lincoln Street, P.O. Box 7193, Worcester, MA 01605) is probably my best personal resource, as I attend our monthly meetings and fairs and so on. We do lots of demos and hands-on type things and help each other whenever possible.

Anyway, Class, if you can find a local group you can go to for meetings, that's another great resource, but at least join one by mail if there are no locals.

And attend at least one TI Faire somewhere once a year, even if (as I do) you have to travel over 800 miles. It's worth it for all the...

If you'd hold the talking down back there, it would be greatly appreciated. We're running out of time, and I did want to...

Okay, Mr. Shakespeare, what is the question? I suppose that's the only way I can get you to stop waving your hand.

Listen up, Class! Listen up! Mr. Shakespeare over by the window wants to know about some of the educational software. He says he has a nephew in junior high who is having trouble reading and two granddaughters who are 8 and 4, respectively, and wants to know what the TI can do for him.

Yes, yes, Ms. Bronte, I'm AM going to tell you about educational software for people our age, too, but we won't be able to get into too much of that for a few sessions.

Right now, though, I'd just like to tell you about a few people who had some visions. It might help.

Terrie Masters, who used to be president of the Los Angeles group, spoke to me a few years ago about doing some educational networking with our TI educators. I've also discussed that same thing more than once with Charlie Good (Lima UG). And Sister Pat Taylor (1050 Carmel Drive #456, Dubuque, Iowa, 52001). And John Willforth (RFD #1, Box 73A, Jeannette, PA 15644). And Janet Ryan and her daughter Jennifer (10 Jolly Road, Ellington, CT 06029). And Mickey Schmitt (196 Broadway Ave., Lower Burrell, PA 15068). And Mike Wright (45 Centerville Drive, Salem, NH 03079). And Jim Horn [EXTENSIVELY] (P.O. Box 244, Lorton, VA 22079). And Rodger Merritt (1949 Evergreen Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635). And fellow elementary teacher Phil Townsend (c.o. Kawartha 99ers, 224 Woodward Ave., Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, K9L 1J7). And Eunice Spooner (Webb Rd., Box 3720, Waterville, ME 04901). And Barry Traver (835 Green Valley Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19128). And OFTEN with Jim Peterson. And, once with educational programmer Don Shorrock (P.O. Box 501, Great Bend, KS 67530). And very often with Chris Bobbitt even before he founded ASGARD (P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850). And piles of



teachers and interested parents and grandparents.

An educational network has been a hot topic for many years in our community. As a matter of fact, Terrie mentioned a teacher by the name of Joy Warner (Box 518, Mt. Baldy, CA 91759, whose daughter is a pilot and was in the recent winter olympics as a "lugist," one of those incredible sledders) who was bent on getting a network going. This past year Joy flew all over America trying to help Terrie's dream come true by meeting with as many TIers as she could meet during her whirlwind tour.

She discovered, as I did, that there is already much of that network in place and ready to connect. Jim Peterson has his TIGERCUB marvel. Charlie has been testing (with his own wonderful tykes) all kinds of marvelous and rare TI educational programs from Milliken, Scholastic, Disney, and so on. Mike and Charlie, along with Gary Taylor from Pittsburgh have been competing for ownership of the ultimate TI Collection (in fable known as the TI Grail). Eunice Spooner not only runs the only all-kids TI user group in America but has the best LOGO video and disk program money (\$10) can buy. Bill Gaskill and Ron Albright have been (to our 99 history) the best thing to happen to us. Bill still is. Dick Altman's wonderful Fairware List is now in the capable hands of Ida McCargar of the Southwest 99ers (P.O.Box 17831, Tucson, AZ 85730).

Oh, sorry, Ms. Bronte, I didn't notice the time. Anyway, keep this list. It's important when it comes time for the final. Guaranteed this material will be on it.

Did I mention NOTUNG? Or Tex-Comp? Or COMPRODINE? Or MICROpendium?

Or Regena? I didn't mention Regena? Quick. Write down REGENA, 918 Cedar Knolls West, Cedar City, UT 84720.

Ciao!

(Now let's see. Who did I leave off this list? And where does the time go?)



## FROM THE LIBRARIAN

by Sue Harper

I think the March meeting was just a hum dinger!!! See? Didn't I tell you all to get to a meeting and pick up some programs to use during inclement weather? Unfortunately, the weather got here before the meeting did! Anyway. . .

There are a number of new disks in the library and they will all be available for members to copy as they wish as usual. I won't bore you with details about them, since I told you most of the stuff last month! However, in the box of disks that Gary gave me 10 these many months ago I have found a large number of games, utilities, and other programs of interest to members. I still have some to work with, but so far for the April meeting, we will have 50 new disks to choose from. As usual, a printout of the DEKU comments will be available and I will also be there to answer questions (please ask easy ones!!!!)

As I mentioned, I still have some more disks to break down, and would love to have more. If you have a program or two (or more) that you think folks in the club would enjoy using, let me know. If you have DEKU it would help me tremendously if you would put the comments on the disk. That way, I don't have to run the program and figure out what it does. I am NOT a computer specialist, and many of the programs in the library are either over my head or outside my interests.

Well, see you at the meeting. And I know it is stated elsewhere, but we don't want anyone to forget, we are meeting the FIRST Sunday of April rather than meet on Easter Sunday. See you there. . .



## MIDI MASTER 99 and CASIO MT-240

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 hardware developments, it offers no compatibility difficulties.

There are only two problems - obtaining 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, Crystal 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. Unfortunately, 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 Christmas 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 manufacturer'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. I learned long ago not to hold my breath while waiting for a new version of any TI product.

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 I 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 convert 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 Master 99 is that it allows me to create music even though I cannot play an instrument - 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 simultaneously, 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 keyboard, and a disk containing the necessary software, the documentation, and some sample music files. The documentation 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 simultaneously 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 harmony, etc. Dolores 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 melody 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 compile it before playing. However, I understand that looping in this case is far more difficult than it would seem, and has only recently been implemented for MIDI on the

PC.

According to the documentation, existing TI Basic music can be easily converted 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 comparative 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 available. 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, I 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 combinations of two or more instruments. The best effects are generally obtained by giving all voices the default instrumentation 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: See last month's newsletter for an article on Crystal Software.





## "NEWing From Inside a Basic Program - Can it be done?"

Jonathan D. Guidry, 731-H Creighton Dr., New Iberia, LA, USA, 70560  
Reprinted from the Chicago Times, May 1992

The NEW command is very valuable to the programmer. However, it only executes in immediate mode. Have you ever wondered how to make the computer clear the memory from INSIDE a program? If you tried to use the word "NEW" after a line number, you got a \*COMMAND ILLEGAL IN A PROGRAM error. The key word new, in immediate mode, resets memory positions -31868 and -31952 to FF, FF, FF, FF in hexadecimal. Here is an example of the usage of resetting memory positions -31868 and -31952. (NOTE: If you plan to use the below example, the E/A or Minimax or Extended Basic and the Memory Expansion must be in place).

```
CALL INIT
CALL LOAD (-31868,255,255,255,255)
CALL LOAD (-31952,255,255,255,255)
```

In Extended Basic, chain the three statements together using the double colons (::). If you have a program in memory at the time these are executed, it will be erased. Try it. These statements are more useful at the end of a program. For example, if you place these statements at the end of a directory program called LOAD in Extended Basic, it will give you back the prompt after it is finished, and the memory will be erased.

These three statements can also guard that top-secret program you've been working on by erasing the memory if the correct password isn't given at the beginning of the program. It also prevents snooping. (Heck, I have 4 little brothers and sisters who snoop - ages 6 to 13). Also, do not forget they can be put anywhere in a program.

For those of you who want to ask me a question, send compliments, etc., please do not hesitate to write me directly or call me. Also, send me anything or use that you would think of being of help to me. I do not know everything, I am just an advanced hobbyist. (Heck, I am just starting to learning to learn the TMS 9990 Assembly Language). Thank you for reading this and have a nice day.



**THE PUG MEETS**  
**ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**AT WHITEHALL BOROUGH COMMUNITY ROOM**  
**100 BOROUGH PARK DRIVE**  
**WHITEHALL, PA.**

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| APR 1993      |         |
| S M T W T F S |         |
|               |         |
| 4             | MEETING |
| 11            |         |
| 18            |         |
| 25            |         |
|               |         |

CLASSES BEGIN AT 3PM  
GENERAL MEETING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 6PM

| PUG OFFICERS |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Pres:        | Gary Taylor   | 412-341-6874 |
| V Pres:      | Rick Keppler  | 412-941-3559 |
| Treas:       | Art Gardner   | 412-835-4304 |
| Rec Sec:     | George Dick   | 412-793-5834 |
| Librarian:   | Susan Harper  | 412-464-0525 |
| Paper Lib:   | Tom Puhatch   | 412-885-3183 |
| Cor. Sec.:   | Gary Taylor   | 412-341-6874 |
| NL Editor:   | Audrey Bucher | 412-861-5244 |

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| MAY 1993      |         |
| S M T W T F S |         |
|               |         |
| 2             |         |
| 9             | MEETING |
| 16            |         |
| 23            |         |
| 30            |         |

| SCHEDULE   |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| 3PM....    | SET UP                 |
| 4:00PM.... | MODULE ON DISK LIBRARY |
| 6-8PM      | MEETING                |

.DUES \$15/YR



PITTSBURGH TI USER'S GROUP  
P.O. Box 8043  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216



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PUG BBS  
412-885-3483  
300/1200/2400 BAUD  
24 HOURS

