

SPECIAL KUG BULLETIN #1

Offered as a special service to Kaypro users from the Word Processing Users' Group, Inc.

KUG Support Continues

In the last issue of KUGRAM we stated that we have not forgotten you, the Kaypro user. We also stipulated that W/Pug would continue the support of all Kaypro users. Unfortunately, we didn't say HOW we would do this. Well, this issue of the SPECIAL KUG BULLETIN is just one of the continuing sources of Kaypro information W/Pug will be sending to all KUGGERS.

When KUG was merged with W/Pug, it was our intention to perpetuate the fine support that KUGRAM and KUG have been offering members for more than four years ... and we will.

These bulletins are intended to give you the latest information regarding the Kaypro computer. Box 100 is still available for questions and answers. Most of the articles and letters in this issue, and the ones to come, will not relate to word processing. Those types of articles will appear in SCROLL, which you will continue to receive.

The SPECIAL KUG BULLETINS will be sent to all W/Pug-KUG members as often as pertinent information is available to us ... so keep those letters coming.

Many KUG services are still available to you. We hope to add programs to the KUG Library from time to time. Go Kaypro on CompuServe is still working. The next KUG Bulletin will feature a column on CompuServe by Frank Fallon, the sysop. Except for Vol. 1, no. 4, all back issues are in stock. Volumes 2 and 3 (with index) are \$15.00 each; Volume 1 (with index) is \$12.00. Volume 4 issues are \$5.00 each. The Volume 4 Index is \$3.00.

Box 100

Please allow me to rave about Highland MicroKit's "RoadRunner" monitor ROM for the '83 series Kaypros. I've had mine in my vintage II '83 for six weeks now, and I want to tell you: It's the greatest thing since jumping to 5MHz.

The monitor ROM is probably the most important chip, after the Z80 microprocessor, in any Kaypro computer. It contains much of the code for the CP/M BIOS (Basic Input/Output System), not to mention other critical information such as the physical characteristics of your system's disk drives. The term "monitor" in this context refers not at all to the display screen of your Kaypro, but rather to the innermost layers of its operating system (CP/M).

Highland's monitor provides not only all of the features that Kaypro built into its own monitor, but several more besides. Whenever you press the special attention key (Ctrl-hyphen), a routine in the ROM springs to life, saying "CURSOR?" The default is a solid block, but if you tap the underscore key, that old familiar character becomes your cursor, as will any other character that you hit the corresponding key for. Six other prompts follow, allowing you to select whether the cursor should blink or not, whether keyclick should be on or off, to which port the screen dump should be directed, and more.

The very last prompt is "SAVE?" If you answer Y, then your selections are written to the disk in drive A:. When next you boot from that disk, the cursor, keyclick, etc. are just where you left them. This means, of course, that you may have any number of disks set up any number of different ways.

The RoadRunner ROM constantly scans keyboard input for the attention key and acts upon it no matter what else is going on. You could be in the middle of saving a file to disk in Perfect Writer when you get a wild urge to turn your keyclick off. You rip off a blistering Ctrl-hyphen, and the B: drive screeches to a halt as the little CURSOR? prompt appears screen left, overwriting eight characters in your document. Once you've responded to the prompts, drive B: awakens from suspended animation, and you notice that the portion of your document temporarily overwritten by the prompts is now entirely restored.

The option to dynamically switch from one cursor to another in-medias-program can be valuable. I like a blinking solid block for text and program editing, but my wife refuses to even look at any cursor that seems to be winking at her, so she simply says N when the RoadRunner asks "BLINK?" I have a pseudo-graphics program in the works for my non-graphic II '83, a program which uses the solid block character to draw patterns on the screen. It can't have the same solid block as a cursor, so I shift back to the good old blinking underline and all is well, and then back to the blinking block for more troubleshooting in Turbo Pascal's editor.

The screen dump feature alone is well worth the price of the chip. Users of MS-DOS based computers almost always have a key labelled "PrtSc" -- the PrintScreen key -- which when struck will trigger a DOS routine that ships the contents of screen memory out to the printer. Such a feature has been conspicuously absent on the CP/M Kaypros, even though the '83 series machines sport a memory-mapped video much like their PC cousins. If you have ever wished that your programs' screen displays could somehow magically appear on paper, then this is the switch you'll love to throw. Simply pop a Ctrl-@, and your printer kicks into gear and rattles out for you an exact image of whatever is on the screen. It works anytime, whether you're out at the A: prompt or deep in the heart of Wumpus.

Another nice feature is support of multiple disk formats: Single-Sided-Double-Density, Double-Sided-Double-Density, and Quad Density (96 tracks per inch, 784K). Highland even supplies a formatting utility, on an accompanying disk, along with some excellent public domain utilities (among them a nifty memory resident keyboard-macro program).

Several companies produce replacement monitor ROMs for CP/M Kaypros, notably Micro Cornucopia, Advent, and Emerald MicroWare. The specs on each company's ROM seem to describe a superior product. I finally settled on Highland MicroKit's chip for three reasons: 1) It does not trap and render undisplayable the solid block character (ASCII 31) that I want for some of my programs. (Emerald's won't let it through.) 2) All the code for configuration is in the ROM itself, so there's no need to dig out a utilities disk (as with Micro C's) to change your selection for, say, your cursor. 3) The price/performance ratio is splendid: \$19.95 (Kaypro 4) or \$24.95 (Kaypro II), as compared to \$49.95 for a comparable product from Micro C, and \$69.95 for Emerald's offering.

The Kaypro II/2 version requires some modification of the main board. (If you've done a 5MHz upgrade, you've already performed the necessary alterations, and can go with the Kaypro 4 version.) Some Kaypro IIs/2s are really Kaypro 4s in disguise. The way to determine definitely which variety you have is to remove the cover of your machine (power cord disconnected) and peek at the existing monitor ROM on the main board. It's at location U47, toward the front of the board, and has a paper label affixed to its top surface. If the label reads "81-149," then you really do have an antedeluvian II '83. If the label reads "81-232," then you have either a Kaypro 4 '83 or a II/2 '83 that is for all intents and purposes a 4 '83, except that its full-height Tandon disk drives are single rather than double-sided (but you may upgrade to DS drives without any hardware modification).

The Kaypro 4 version is simply the chip itself. All you must do is follow the instructions to remove your present (socketed) monitor ROM and plug in your new one. If you're at all intimidated, your dealer or teenager will doubtless come to your rescue.

Highland MicroKit also offers a fast (no wait-states) 5MHz speed-up kit. The address is PO Box 21B, Highland MD 20777.

The man behind the business is one Dan Carl, and I have found him to be very knowledgeable and, though there is no tech support phone number available, very willing to help through the mails with my picky technical questions. I am as satisfied with Highland MicroKit as I am with their excellent product.

In sum, Highland's RoadRunner monitor ROM is a very intelligent, very well executed enhancement for the '83 Kaypros. In terms of value for the money, it is an extraordinary deal indeed. Get yours now, before Dan Carl realizes how much it's really worth.

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I was more than pleased to receive several prompt responses for my Perfect Writer indexing problem that was published in the Jan-Feb 87 KUGRAM. The solution I needed came from other KUG members.

My problem really was that Perfect Filer puts out two files. The first is just a single record defining the device type followed by an end of file mark. The second file contained the actual indexed file that I needed. Getting beyond the end of file mark that the Perfect Filer program puts out after its single record first file was the difficulty.

I was not aware of the DEVICE = FILE feature within PF. I tried everything that I could think of, but neither BASIC nor CP/M system programs seemed to be able to get past that end of file mark. DEVICE = FILE used in the format step does the trick.

My Kaypro II is of the pre-1983 variety, so I am limited in memory and disk space. However, I have always been able to find a way to do what I needed to get done. I have found my small machine quite able to do what I need; therefore, I have not seen fit to invest in a new computer of the IBM-compatible style. Now, having solved my indexing problem, I still think my machine is quite able to do whatever I will need in the near future.

Here is my PW indexing solution:

I first reformatted each chapter with its own index for DEVICE = FILE. This produced formatted output suitable for re-editing with PW. Using the PW split screen feature, I separated off the index portions into new files. Some minor editing was necessary using PW for things such as removing page numbers, etc. This produced files of indexes ready for merging.

Next I modified a merge program that I found in an MBasic manual to merge these individual indexes together. I then wrote a special MBasic program that took the merged file and created double-columned pages of index information for input to PW. I then used the VERBATIM environment to create my final double-columned and sorted index for my book. It worked great!

Although this method worked and produced the output that I wanted, I think that, as time permits, I will work on modifying a quick sort procedure that is in my MBasic manual to replace the merge. This will save me a few steps in the future, I think.

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New Library Descriptions

182 (CP/M) *RECORDING YOUR ANCESTRY* (Genealogy): This program, used with Perfect Writer 1.20, will allow you to record your ancestry in a clear, simple hard copy form. There is an easy method by which the connection between the various family files is shown. You can add collateral relatives with great ease.

737 (MS-DOS) *EZ-FORMS*: A form-generating program which lets you generate master forms tailored to your unique needs. EZ-FORMS allows you to create or revise a master form or a completed (filled-out) form. A master form can be modified only when in the "create or revise a master form" mode. Master and completed forms can be stored as well as printed. EZ-FORMS requires an IBM PC or compatible with at least 256k of RAM.

738 (MS-DOS) *AUTOMENU*: Provides the user with an-easy-to-read and understandable menu of options to choose from. It automatically executes the commands required to bring the selected menu option to the user's fingertips. AUTOMENU provides the user with the capability to set up customized menu systems. The user can define the menu titles, the menu options displayed, and the DOS-compatible commands required to carry out each of these menu options.

739 (MS-DOS) *LANGUAGES I*: A Spanish and French language tutor. LANGUAGES is a series of menu-driven tutorial programs designed to be run on the IBM PC/XT/AT/jr or any compatible clone. Each program in the series contains hundreds of word combinations and verb conjugation forms. Also included is the capability to select language-to-English or English-to-language combinations, choose multiple choice answers, be retested on misses, print a multiple choice test, and run a full quiz diagnostic routine with line printer output.

740 (MS-DOS) *LANGUAGES II*: Same as 739 for German, Hebrew and Italian.

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