

TASCOPIY 464

The Screen Copier

**A
Tasman Software Program
for the
Amstrad CPC 464, 664, and 6128**

TASCOPY 464

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1. INTRODUCTION

TASCOPY gives CPC 464 owners with popular dot-matrix printers the ability to print two sizes of screen copy for each display mode: an A4 size screen copy and a large "poster size" copy. The "poster size" copy is printed onto separate sheets which can be cut and joined.

When loaded and configured to run with your printer the screen copies are invoked by the new Basic commands:-

| COPY for an A4 size screen copy
| POSTER for a "poster size" screen copy

Before using the TASCOPY software you must configure it for your make and model of printer. This procedure is described in Section 2 below.

2. LOADING AND CONFIGURING TASCOPY

The COPY and POSTER programs are recorded on opposite sides of the tape. They must both be configured for your make and model of printer by following the procedure described in this section.

Before loading from the TASCOPY 464 cassette reset the computer by holding down [CTRL] and [SHIFT] and pressing [ESC]. Then place the TASCOPY cassette in the datacorder and type:

RUN"

and press:

ENTER

Note that the above command can also be achieved by holding down the control [CTRL] key and pressing the small [ENTER] key on the numeric pad. You will then be prompted to press the datacorder PLAY key and then any other key. The message:

Loading COPY.BAS block 1
or
Loading POSTER.BAS block 1

will appear depending on which program you are loading.

Once the program has loaded it will ask you to specify:

- (a) Your make and model of printer;
- (b) Whether your printer requires a linefeed code in addition to a carriage return (if in doubt then follow the course of action suggested by the program);
- (c) Whether you wish to redefine the dot pattern printed for any of the screen colours. You should normally respond by pressing N for No for this option. (This option is described in Section 6.);
- (d) Whether you wish to save the configured program onto a blank tape. If you do save the configured program then it will load more quickly than the full program but please refer to the restrictions described in Section 4.

After step 4 above, and whether or not you saved the configured program, the computer returns to Basic and shows the normal Basic message "Ready" at the top left hand corner of a cleared screen. Screen copies may now be printed as described in Section 3 below.

3. USING TASCOPY 464

If the COPY program is loaded then a screen copy is printed by executing the command:

| COPY

where the | symbol is obtained by holding one of the SHIFT keys down and pressing the @ key. (The @ key is immediately right of the P key.)

Similarly, if the POSTER program has been loaded, then a poster size screen copy is printed by executing the command:

| POSTER

The | COPY and | POSTER commands may be either executed directly or may be in a line of your own Basic program.

To abandon the printing of a screen copy press the escape [ESC] key.

4. LOADING AND USING A CONFIGURED VERSION OF TASCOPY 464

A configured COPY or POSTER program will load very much more quickly than the programs supplied on the TASCOPY 464 tape but the following rules should be adhered to:

- (a) Always load your configured COPY or POSTER program immediately after turning the computer on or after resetting;
- (b) If you attach any device to the computer which uses memory (i.e. the disc interface) then the TASCOPY 464 configuring programs have to be loaded and run again to create new configured COPY and POSTER programs which will load and run with the new memory configuration.

5. LOADING AND USING BOTH THE COPY AND POSTER PROGRAMS

Both the COPY and the POSTER programs may be loaded one after the other.

If loading with the configuring programs from the TASCOPY 464 tape then load and configure either the COPY program or the POSTER program from one side of the tape. When the configuring is complete and the Basic "Ready" message shows at the top of an empty screen then do NOT reset the computer. Load the second program from the other side of the TASCOPY 464 tape and configure it in the normal way. Both the | COPY and | POSTER commands may then be used.

In order to be able to load configured COPY and POSTER programs you must configure them as described in the above paragraph, saving each, preferably onto the same tape, when given the option. This is because they must be loaded in the order in which they were saved.

6. SCREEN PIXEL REPRESENTATION

When a screen copy is printed each pixel (dot) on the screen is printed as a pattern of dots. The printed dot pattern depends on the colour of the screen pixel. The printed dot pattern for any colour in any mode may be redefined using the configuring program option referred to in Section 2(c).

When this option is used the screen prompts are largely self explanatory. Each square that is filled in the grid patterns corresponds to a dot that will be printed. The editing commands that are shown on the screen may be used to change the dot patterns for any specified colour in any screen mode. Once a particular dot pattern has been edited the replace "R" command must be used to specify that this is the new dot pattern to be used in future.

7. SCREEN COPY FORMATS

(a) | COPY type:

Mode 0: one sheet horizontally
Mode 1: one sheet sideways on
Mode 2: one sheet sideways on

| POSTER type:

Mode 0: 2 sheets horizontally
Mode 1: 4 sheets sideways on
Mode 2: 4 sheets sideways on

NOTICE

Some printer manuals warn that the continuous printing of bit image data can damage the printhead. Whilst no such damage was detected during comprehensive testing of the Tascopy 464 software Tasman Software Ltd can assume no responsibility for any damage so caused.

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ADDENDUM: For Disc Systems

To load configuring programs FROM disc:

type

RUN "TCOPY" for | COPY program

and

RUN "TPOSTER" for | POSTER program.

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Tascopy 464 drives the following printers

Amstrad DMP 1
Epson FX-80
Epson RX-80
Epson MX-80 Type III
Shinwa CP-80
Mannesmann Tally MT80
Star DMP 510/515
Brother HR5
Canon PW 1080A
NEC PC-8023B-N
Seikosha GP-550A