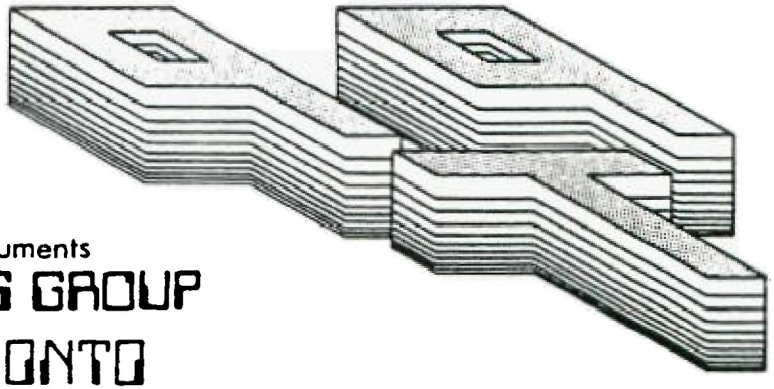
Nine T Nine UG
Nov 85



Texas Instruments
USERS GROUP
TORONTO

FOR THE TI-99/4A COMPUTER

NINE T NINE USERS GROUP

29 INGLESIDE DR.
DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO
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FULL MEMBERSHIP	$25.00 / year
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All memberships are household memberships. An newsletter subscription is only for those who do not wish to attend meetings, but wish to receive our newsletter and have access to our library. You are welcome to visit one of our general meetings before joining the group. If you wish more information contact our president in writing at the club address on the front cover or call and leave a message with his answering machine.

NEXT MEETING

The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26 at the Black Creek Public Library in Downsview, starting at 7:30 pm. The library is at 2141 Jane Street just south of Wilson Ave. The entrance to the library is on Jane Street.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

Any business wishing to reach our membership may advertise in our newsletter. The rates are as follows. (width by height):

FULL PAGE	(6" x 7 1/2")	$40.00
HALF PAGE	(6" x 3 1/2")	$20.00
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Please have your ads camera ready and paid for in advance. For more information contact the editor.

Don't forget, that any member wishing to place ads, may do so free of charge as as long as they are not involved in a commercial enterprise.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter in the form of articles, mini programs, helpful tips, jokes, cartoons and questions. Any article may be submitted in any form by mail or modem. We welcome the reprinting of any article appearing in this newsletter providing credit is given to the author and 9T9. If more information is required, call Emile Verkerk.

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the 9T9 USERS' GROUP. 9T9 cannot assume liability for errors or omissions in articles, programs or advertisements.

EDITORIAL

Hey boys and girls, its almost Halloween, so here goes with all the scary news.

First scary item. Tex-comp is out of P-Code cards. They returned my order and said sorry!! If anyone out there has one they want to get rid of, please call.

Second scary item. It is now two years since Texas Instruments decided to stop production on the 99/4A. Since that time, many companies have stepped in to fill the void with hardware, software & information. (See the centerfold). It wasn't the computer that died.

Which brings me to the final scary point. On October 27, 1985, there appeared an article written in the Sunday Star (look to your right) by George Brett. It places our computer in a very bad light.

I have contacted George Brett and it seems that the reason for his statements was not hatred of the TI 99/4A, but an ignorance based on misinformation. George invited me to send him a packet of information concerning the TI and promised that the November 3 Computer Watch would rectify any misunderstandings which occurred.

Now for the really scary part!! If people start dumping their consoles, so they can spend twice as much as they would expanding their TI, those places we depend on (TexComp, Triton, etc.), would go out of business, and where would that leave you and me.

So, for all of you who would like to share your TI experiences with Mr. Brett, photocopy this page and send it with your comments to:

George Brett
c/o The Toronto Star
1 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5E 1E5

I may have an orphan, but I've adopted it completely.

****

FOR SALE

One Panasonic Slimline cassette recorder, brand new, with TI cable & AC adapter () $50 or best offer. call Kenny Hunter (416) 736-1044.

****

Here's some help in how to choose a home computer

By George Brett Toronto Star

Reader Brenda Lynne has written with an excellent question that has forced me to revise my thinking about personal computers for home use.

Lynne's family has a Texas Instruments 99A computer — little more than a toy even if it were not out of production — and she wants a "real" computer for use by her two sons, one a budding writer of 16 who wants it for word processing and the other a younger boy who would use it for general homework.

Lynne — "who has trouble with doorknobs; you can imagine my apprehension about computers" — also asks about a printer "good enough for the older boy to submit work to publishers or literary agents."

My first reaction was to suggest an Apple IIe, an enhancement of the line that has done yeoman's service since 1977. Not counting a printer but including the Appleworks program (word processing, spreadsheet and database), the price would be about $2,000.

using MS-DOS and thus capable using most, if not all, of the v and growing library of progra written for this now-standar operating system.

I reviewed the IBM-compati Tandy 1000 some months ago, liked it. But I had not realized the price had plummeted. With monochrome monitor, an excellen integrated program called DeskM ate and a monitor, the system nov sells for $1,399. (DeskMate include word processing, spreadsheet, fil ing system, telecommunication software, appointment organize and messaging system for othe users.) A second, and necessary disk drive is $299.

So you'r talking abou $1,700, around $2,1 with a modes ly priced b adequate printer.

A barg Ms Lynne. you should check o other IB clones. (d forget to price tha cludes parable ware a second drive) including thos by Sanyo, Zenith and Olivett

While MS-DOS machines "home" computers, they do

LIST OF ADDRESSES - magazines that have articles on the TI 99/4A.

MICROpendium, P.O. BOX 1343, ROUND ROCK, TX 78680	Monthly that covers the TI 99/4A Home Computer since Feb/84. Monthly. $18.50/yr U.S.
MINI-MAG 99 c/o S.O.S. PUBLISHERS 21777 VENTURA BLVD. #203 WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364	Monthly exclusive magazine for TI 99/4A users since May/85. $28.00/yr U.S.
MILLERS GRAPHICS 1475 W. CYPRESS AVE., SAN DIMAS, CA 91773	Publishes a newsletter exclusively for TI and has a diagnostic program and other software that is very good. $12.50/yr U.S.
SUPER 99 MONTHLY BYTE MASTER COMPUTER SERVICES 171 MOSTANG STREET SULPHUR, LA 70663	Newsletter type publication, covers programming in X-basic, Multiplan, Forth and Assembly. Monthly. $16.00/yr U.S.
HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE, P.O. BOX 70188 EUGENE, OR 97401	Originally the 99'er mag and now covers TI Atari, IBMPC/jr, Commodore and Apple. 10 issues/yr, $32.00/yr U.S. Published programs available on disk and on tape.
COMPUTE! Magazine, 324 WEST WENDOVER AVENUE, GREENSBORO, NC 27408	Covers very little TI stuff, actually not worth the price.
FAMILY COMPUTING, 730 BROADWAY AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10003	Covers very little TI, same as above.
COMPUTER SHOPPER, PATCH PUBLISHING CO., INC., 407 S. WASHINGTON AVE., TITUSVILLE, FL 32796	Basically a want-adds tabloid with good general computer articles with a byline on TI. The prices in this mag will turn you green with envy.
The TI-99/4A TRAVelER c/o BRIAN A. TRAVER, EDITOR 305 GREEN VALLEY DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128	A new idea, a magazine on disk, articles and programs in each issue ,SS/SD or DS/DD SPECIAL pre-publication prices, $30.00 for 6 issues; $7.00 for sample issue, starting SEPT 85.

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, software & peripheral needs
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r for many years has a good
f TI stuff.

talog is called "The everything
the TI 99/4A Home Computer".

r catalog, refundable with first

original company designated to
te TI products after ending
production.

EAST END LIBRARY S.I.G.

A (S)PECIAL (I)NTEREST (G)ROUP IS NOW MEETING ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH IN TORONTO'S EAST END. RANDY ROSSETTO WILL BE RUNNING AN EAST END S.I.G. THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO COPY LIBRARY DISKS AND TAPES, REVIEW LIBRARY PROGRAMS, AND ACCEPT ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE 9T9 CLUB LIBRARY. THE MEETING PLACE IS CALLED "COMMUNITY 55" AND IS LOCATED AT ** 97 MAIN ST. ** AT SWANWICK AVE. (NEAREST INTERSECTION GERRARD ST. EAST/MAIN ST.). THE MEETING IS IN THE DAY-CARE ROOM AND REAL LIFE SIZE CHAIRS ARE AVAILABLE AND WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS AT LEAST TWO (2) COMPLETE SYSTEMS WILL BE ON SITE. SEE YOU THERE AT THE NEXT MEETING FOR SOME FUN AND TALK AND COMPUTING AND GENERAL SOCIALIZING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING AND TALKING TO SOME OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO MAY NOT HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO COME TO THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE SOME INTERESTING TOPICS TO DISCUSS ON HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE. IF YOU WISH TO SEND ANY COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EAST END S.I.G. A MAILBOX HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE CLUB. THE ADDRESS IS:

9T9 USER GROUP
c/o COMMUNITY CENTRE 55
97 MAIN STREET
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4E 2V6

SEE YOU THERE!!!

P.S. OH! BY THE WAY THE PHONE NUMBER AT "CENTRE 55" IS (416)-691-1113 AND THE HOURS ARE 9 AM - 10 PM MON TO FRI, 10 AM - 2 PM SAT, 10 AM - 4 PM SUN, IN CASE YOU WISH TO CALL OR DROP OFF A MESSAGE. THANKS.

From WINNIPEG 99/4 USER GROUP
September '84

BASIC/EX-BASIC

In Extended Basic, to recall the last line entered, press 'REDO'. This displays the contents of the COMMAND MODE LINE BUFFER. Once you recall the buffer contents you can edit and re-enter the line. This is useful when you've made a mistake and don't want to retype the last line you entered. It is also useful because you can change the last line you were on in edit mode. The entire line can be changed, including the line number. Just leave the editor at the line that you want to change, hit 'REDO', and voila! You are now free to edit the line or to COPY the line to another location by editing the line number. Try it!

You can also edit your program using the arrow keys! Type the number(don't press the return key)of the line you want to work on, then press the down arrow key(FCTN 'X'). The line will appear with the cursor positioned at the start of the program statement, and you can edit the line in the usual way. Press the down arrow key again and you will view the next line, the up arrow displays the previous line. This works only in EXTENDED BASIC.

Here are a few language translations that will help to convert those Microsoft Basic programs to TI Basic/Ex-Basic.

Microsoft Basic	TI Basic
RIGHT(A$,A)	SEG$(A$,(LEN(A$)-A)+1,H)
LEFT(A$,H)	SEG$(A$,1,H)

```
MID(A$,A,H)      SEG$(A$,A,H)
INSTR(A$,B$)     POS(A$,B$,1)
```

For 'INKEY$' use the following Ex-basic one liner:

```
100 CALL KEY(0,K,S)::IF S<1
THEN 100 ELSE INKEY$=CHR$(K)
```

or the following Basic lines:

```
100 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
110 IF S<1 THEN 100
120 INKEY$=CHR$(K)
```

There are other differences between the two Basics. Multiple statements in Microsoft uses only one colon while TI Ex-Basic uses two (':' vs '::'). Microsoft uses a semi-colon with 'INPUT;'while TI uses a colon,'INPUT:'. The string concatenation symbol in Microsoft in TI it is '&'. So, tion in Microsoft Basic e this:

```
Z$="X"+"Y" OR C$=A$+B$
```

The TI Basic translation would look like this:

```
Z$="X"&"Y" AND C$=A$&B$
```

Peeks and Pokes are not so easily converted as they depend on the ticular machine they are used. The above conversions should let you use some programs that you couldn't before.

To avoid having to check for lower case characters in CALL KEY commands selecting keyboard '3' will do the trick. This automatically treats lower case input as uppercase values.

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2.MUNCH MAN->$7.00
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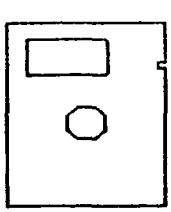
9.BACK ISSUES OF "99ER" MAGAZINE: SEPT/83;OCT/83;NOV/83;DEC/82.->$4.00 EACH

WANTED BY RANDY ROSSETTO

SS/SD FULL HEIGHT DISK DRIVE OR??



TK-WRITER ENHANCEMENT
From Jackson County 99'ers

If you have TK-WRITER from Tom Knight, there is now a modification to the LOAD program that will cut down on the wait when switching from EDITOR to FORMATTER. This wait is caused by the assembly language program being loaded back into the computer when LOAD is rebooted. This isn't necessary as the assembly language program remains in memory as long as you haven't turned your system off. If you convert your load program by replacing line 100 and adding 102,104 and 108 you'll save a lot of time. Line 100 checks to s if the assembly language progr is still in memory. If not, jumps to line 108 and loads t program. If it is in memory t program will read the REF/D table and access the assemb language program as usual.

```
100 CALL CLEAR::CALL INIT::CAL
    PEEK(-2043,A,B)::IF A<>84
    B<>75 THEN 108
102 CALL LOAD(16360,85,84,73,7
    73,84,250,212,70,79,82,77,
    65,84,250,132,69,68,73,84,
    79,82,250,22)
104 CALL LOAD(8196,63,232)::GO
    110
108 CALL LOAD("DSK.WRITER")
```

The TK-WRITER program is terrific program allowing everyo to use the TI-WRITER without t module. There is one min problem - bombing out the progr by typing "SD" for Show Directo to catalog the disk. Once y become aware of the problem, y can avoid it. But here is a f that modifies the EDITA1 file that if you enter "SD" the progr won't recognize the request a returns to the command line wi no loss of data. The sector th needs to be changed is the thi sector of EDITA1. The hex valu at bytes >14 and >15 are >53 a >44 (ASCII S,D). Change the > to >20 (space character).

This change is not very elega but it does work. The on problem is when you go back to t TI-WRITER module you will not able to Show Directory. T decision is up to you. If y only use TK-WRITER this is an eas decision to make.

40 COLUMN BY 24 LINES FOR THE 99/4A AND IN EXTENDED BASIC NO LESS

From the COMPUTER BRIDGE(December 1984)comes this beauty. Our thanks to Dr.Roy T.Tamashiro for a great program.

I have wanted to use a 40-column screen in a Basic program because you can put 43 percent more text on it than the normal 28-column screen in Basic. However, the 40-column screen is not available in TI-Basic or EXTENDED BASIC, even though the 40-column screen is present in the TI-99/4a ROM. The program below makes it possible to create and implement programs in EXTENDED BASIC on the 40-column screen. The 32k Memory Expansion, the EXTENDED BASIC cartridge, and cassette or disk system are required.
To access the 40-column screen, type in and save the program "FORTY-COLUMN TEXT SCREEN FOR X-BASIC" below, on disk or cassette.
Then compose your program for the 40-column screen.

To turn on the 40-column screen in your program, use the instruction, CALL LINK("FORTY"). You may use most of the normal EXTENDED BASIC instructions, but make the following substitutions:

EX-BASIC INSTRUCTIONS<>REPLACE WITH THIS FORMAT:

CALL CLEAR<>CALL LINK("CLS")

INPUT, LINPUT,or ACCEPT AT<> CALL LINK("INPUT",ROW&(1-24), COLUMN&(1-40),String Variable

PRINT or DISPLAY AT<> CALL LINK("DISPL",ROW&(1-24), COLUMN&(1-40),String Variable

CALL COLOR, CALL SCREEN<> CALL COLORS(Foreground,Background)

(If you wish to change the colors of the characters on the screen, add lines 16000 to 16020 in the SAMPLE PROGRAM below to your program as the last routine in your program. This makes it possible to use the above CALL COLORS(Foreground,Background) instruction. Use the color codes(1-16) normally used in BASIC to designate foreground and background colors. See example in the "SAMPLE PROGRAM" below.)

Do not use SPRITE instructions (CALL SPRITE,CALL MAGNIFY,CALL COINC etc.)on the 40-column screen. Other instructions such as HCHAR and CALL GCHAR work, but since they are oriented to the 32-column screen rather that the 40-column screen, the locations are confusing.

To switch back to the 32-column screen in EXTENDED BASIC, use the instructions, CALL LINK("BSCRN"). Be sure to include this CALL LINK when you exit the EXTENDED BASIC program-otherwise your program will not be visible on the screen (See line 200 in the "SAMPLE PROGRAM" below).

Note that the new INPUT DISPLAY instructions use string variables only. Thus numeric variables must be converted before or after these CALLS. For example, to DISPLAY a numeric variable, use the following mode:

```
210 N=1::N$=STR$(N) :: CALL
    LINK("DISPL",24,1,N$)
```

(In this example, the value in N, which is 1, is converted to the string variable N$ and displayed at row 24,column 1.)

Or, to INPUT a numeric variable:

```
230 CALL LINK("INPUT",24,1,N$)
    ::N=VAL(N$)
```

(In this example a number is accepted at row 24,column 1 and assigned to N.)

To RUN your program, first load and RUN the program below (FORTY-COLUMN TEXT SCREEN FOR X-BASIC), then load and RUN your program. As long as you do not use CALL INIT or load another Assembly Language program, you can run your program without re-RUNning the "FORTY-COLUMN TEXT" program.

```
100 ! ************************
110 ! * FORTY-COLUMN TEXT   *
120 ! * SCREEN FOR X-BASIC *
130 ! ************************
140 ! AUTHOR: ROY T.TAMASHIRO,
    ED.D
150 ! DECEMBER 1984,X-BASIC
    W/MEMORY EXPANSION
```

```
155 ! FIRST LOAD AND RUN THIS
    PROGRAM. THEN LOAD AND RUN
    YOUR PROGRAM.
160 ! AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT DO A
    'CALL INIT' OR LOAD AN
    'ASSEMBLY',
165 ! YOU CAN RUN YOUR PROGRAM
    WITHOUT RE-RUNNING THIS ONE.
170 CALL INIT

180 CALL LOAD(8196,63,216)::CALL
    LOAD(16344,66,83,67,82,78,
    32,50,108,68,73,83,80,76,
    32,48,190)
190 CALL LOAD(16360,73,78,80,85,
    84,32,49,36,67,76,83,32,32,
    32,48,78,70,79,82,84,89,32,
    48,38)
200 CALL LOAD(12288,8,31,16,0,
    50,190,0,0,0,0,1,108,51,18,
    8,0,0,0,0,0,0,2,12,50,116)
210 CALL LOAD(12312,215,32,47,
        190,215,32,47,191,13,0,1,
    108,2,107,2,224,131,224,2,1,
    240,129, 216,1)
220 CALL LOAD(12336,131,212,216,
        1,140,2,6,193,216,1,140,2,
    2,1,245,135,216,1,140,2,6,
    193,216,1)
230 CALL LOAD(12360,140,2,4,96,
    48,86,2,224,48,0,6,160,48,
    98,4,224,131,124,2,224,131,
    224,4,96)
240 CALL LOAD(12384,0,112,4,192,
    2,1,128,0,4,32,32,32,5,128,
    2,128,3,192,22,250,4,91,2,1)
250 CALL LOAD(12408,0,1,4,192,4,
    32,32,12,200,32,131,74,48,36,
    192,224,48,36,2,67,0,255,2,2)
260 CALL LOAD(12432,255,216,2,34,
    0,40,6,3,22,252,200,2,48,34,
    2,1,0,2,4,192,4,32,32,12)
270 CALL LOAD(12456,200,32,131,
    74,48,36,192,96,48,36,2,65,0,
    255,6,1,168,1,48,34,4,91,2,
    224)
280 CALL LOAD(12480,48,0,6,160,
    48,118,2,1,255,0,216,1,50,
    189,2,1,0,3,4,192,2,2,50,189)
290 CALL LOAD(12504,4,32,32,20,4,
    197,209,96,50,189,6,197,2,6,
    50,190,192,32,48,34,6,160,
    49,28)
300 CALL LOAD(12528,4,193,192,86,
    2,33,96,0,4,32,32,32,5,128,6,
    160,49,28,6,5,19,9,6,193)
310 CALL LOAD(12552,2,33,96,0,4,
    32,32,32,5,198,5,128,6,5,22,

    236,4,96,48,86,2,128,3,192)
320 CALL LOAD(12576,21,251,4,91,
    2,224,48,0,2,2,1,0,2,1,32,0,
    216,129,50,190,6,2,22,252)
330 CALL LOAD(12600,6,160,48,118,
    2,1,0,255,192,32,48,34,160,64,
    2,129,3,192,18,2,2,1,3,192)

340 CALL LOAD(12624,200,1,48,36,
    4,196,193,64,2,1,32,0,217,1,
    50,191,2,1,126,0,4,32,32,32)
350 CALL LOAD(12648,2,1,5,0,216,
    1,131,116,6,160,50,34,216,32,
    131,117,48,32,4,193,208,96,
    131,117)
360 CALL LOAD(12672,192,5,2,129,
    13,0,22,18,2,1,128,0,4,32,32,
    32,4,224,131,124,4,192,2,1)
370 CALL LOAD(12696,0,3,6,196,216,
    4,50,190,2,2,50,190,4,32,32,
    16,4,96,48,86,2,129,7,0)
380 CALL LOAD(12720,22,13,2,1,32,
    0,217,1,50,191,2,33,96,0,4,
    32,32,32,6,0,6,4,22,245)
390 CALL LOAD(12744,4,96,49,36,2,
    129,8,0,22,17,2,1,32,0,217,
    1,50,191,2,33,96,0,4,32)
400 CALL LOAD(12768,32,32,6,0,6,
    4,128,32,48,34,18,181,5,132,
    5,128,4,96,49,86,2,129,9,0)
410 CALL LOAD(12792,22,2,2,1,32,
    0,2,129,32,0,17,169,217,1,50,
    191,2,33,96,0,4,32,32,32)
420 CALL LOAD(12816,5,132,5,128,
    136,0,48,36,18,158,6,0,6,4,4,
    96,49,86,4,193,2,0,32,0)
430 CALL LOAD(12840,2,2,255,0,4,
    32,32,28,144,32,131,124,19,26,
    144,160,131,117,19,243,2,3,
    0,5)
440 CALL LOAD(12864,6,3,2,1,9
    6,1,22,254,4,32,32,28,144
    131,124,19,11,144,160,131
    117)
450 CALL LOAD(12888,19,228,4,
    32,28,192,195,22,239,152,
    48,32,131,117,22,220,4,91
    224,48,0)
460 CALL LOAD(12912,6,160,48,
    2,0,3,0,4,193,4,32,32,32,
    128,2,128,3,192,22,250,2,
470 CALL LOAD(12936,224,1,216
    131,212,6,192,4,32,32,48,
    3,32,4,32,32,48,2,0,7,23)
480 CALL LOAD(12960,4,32,32,4
    0,8,0,2,1,16,0,4,32,32,32
    128,2,128,8,31,22,250)
490 CALL LOAD(12984,4,96,48,8
    0,255,0,32,32)
```

SAMPLE PROGRAM

```
100 REM *SAMPLE PROGRAM*
110 CALL LINK("FORTY")
120 CALL LINK("CLS") :: CALL
    ("DISPL",1,15,"HELLO THER
130 CALL LINK("DISPL",10,1,
    "Foreground Color--Enter
    1-16:")
140 CALL LINK("INPUT",10,35,F
    :: F=VAL(F$)
150 CALL LINK("DISPL",12,1,
    "Background Color--Enter
    1-16:")
160 CALL LINK("INPUT",12,35,B
    :: B=VAL(B$)
170 CALL COLORS(F,B)
180 CALL LINK("DISPL",23,1,
    "Enter (1) to go on, or (
    to exit:")
190 CALL LINK("INPUT",23,38,K
    :: IF K$="1" THEN 120
200 CALL LINK("BSCRN") :: END
16000 SUB COLORS(F,B)
16010 CALL LOAD(12350,16*(F-1
      +(B-1)) :: CALL LINK
      ("FORTY")
16020 SUBEND
```