

SERIAL PRINTER CABLE FOR AN APPLE ///
BY Rod Whitten

MATERIALS

The original A/// came with a "modem eliminator" cable which allowed one to hook up a serial printer to the A/// RS232 port (port C) with a standard RS232 cable. The later versions of the /// came without this cable. For those of you that do not have a modem eliminator and want to hook up a serial printer, following is the pin-outs that duplicate the modem eliminator. First you need two MALE DB-25 connectors (for the ends of your cable) and as a length of 10 conductor wire that will reach from your printer to your A///.

CONSTRUCTION

The following is the order to connect the pins in the cable to make your own single cable, which replaces the modem eliminator and the RS232 cable. The notation that I am using is as follows. 1 --> 1 means connect pin 1 at one end of the cable to pin 1 at the other end. You will be hooking ten wires to a total of nine pins.

1 --> 1	2 --> 3	3 --> 2
4 --> 8	5 --> 8	6 --> 20
7 --> 7	8 --> 4 & 5	20 --> 6

COST

One can use either solderless connectors or soldered. I bought the parts to build my last cable for about \$14. While this is not a large savings over having it built for about \$40, it is getting harder to have one made. With the above information, you can have it made correctly.

DRIVER CONFIGURATION

The other item you must check before trying to run you Serial printer is that your .PRINTER SOS driver is configured to match the printer. Usually the printers come set at 1200 baud and 7 bit, odd parity. See your printer manual to see if this is the way your printers dip switches are set. Now check your .PRINTER driver to see if it is: 1) a serial printer driver, and 2) that the driver configuration block is set to 1200 baud and odd parity. The value for 1200 baud is 08 and for odd parity it is 22. Detailed instructions on how to set this in the driver are in the Standard Device Drivers Manual on pages 102 to 105. Instructions on how to changes your SOS drivers in on pages 2 to 18 of the same manual.

****BUFFER****

If you have a printer with a large buffer, or have an external buffer you may want to set the baud rate higher (say to 9600 baud, (0E)). This would enable you to get your keyboard operational again while the printer is still printing. You must then make sure that the printer (or buffer) is properly configured to accept this higher baud rate. For example, I have a slow (12 cps) letter quality printer (the Dynax DX-15) connected to my /// through a 64K Microfazer buffer. I can send 15 pages of text to the buffer in about 1 minute, but it prints for about 20 minutes.

****WORD JUGGLER****

As a digression from the above topic, the Dynax printer (and probably the Comrex) will fully support printer commands sent from Word Juggler. This includes super- and sub-script, underline, and bold. I have found that

"Diablo" compatible means different things to different computer manufacturers; therefore, if at all possible, try your word processing program and the printer, BEFORE you buy to see if they support all the features that you want. In most cases this may mean packing your CPU into the dealer with your WP program and trying it out.