

# Addendum to the SpartaDOS X Reference Manual

or

But wait! There's More!

The following additions and changes are valid for versions 4.19 and above:

## Additional Commands

### CLS Command

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**Purpose** To clear the screen.

**Syntax** CLS

**Type** Internal

**Remarks** Useful mainly for batch files, CLS will simply clear the screen.

### RPM Command

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**Purpose** To check the RPM of a floppy drive.

**Syntax** RPM [d:]

**Type** External — on device CAR:

**Remarks** This command will continuously check and display the number of revolutions per minute (RPM) made by a drive until any key is pressed. This is mainly useful as a diagnostic tool to determine if a floppy drive is operating at the proper speed (288 RPM for most Atari drives, including the 810 and 1050, and 300 RPM for the XF551). This command will also give accurate information for a hard drive. Using RPM on a Multi I/O ramdisk will simply provide the relative access speed of the ramdisk, a worthless but interesting piece of information. RPM will not work on internal ramdisks. It will not work properly on Happy modified drives (or clones) while track buffering is enabled, either.

## VER command

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**Purpose** To display the current version number and date of the cartridge.

**Syntax** VER

**Type** Internal

**Remarks** This command will show the version number, revision date, and copyright notice as displayed when the cartridge is booted.

## Changes Made Since the Manual Was Printed

### Search Path

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*The search path* (as described on pages 5-4 and 5-5) *is now also used for batch files, the X command, the BASIC command, and the CAR command.* This is a major change and, we think, a very useful one. It is also possible to access the path when opening a file for *read only* from BASIC or any other language by adding 32 to the AUX1 value of the OPEN command. For example,

```
OPEN #1, 4+32, 0, "D:CONFIG.DAT"
```

will search the path defined by the environment variable "PATH" for the file. This will *not* work when opening a file for write or update, since this could cause unexpected and possibly dangerous things to happen.

Because of these changes, it is a good idea to make the current directory the second entry in the path. Changing the example in the last line on page 5-4 to do this would produce

```
PATH CAR:;;A:\DOS\;A:\TOOLKIT\;D9;>;A:>;>
```

where the two semicolons after "CAR:." mean that current directory should be searched.

## More on XEP80.SYS

XEP80.SYS, the driver for the 80 column box from Atari, will only work on NTSC computers. XEP80.SYS also does not provide a driver for the printer port on the XEP80.

## Using BASIC XE with SpartaDOS X

BASIC XE uses the same OSRAM area that the SPARTA.SYS driver uses for buffers if the "OSRAM" parameter is given. *This means that you can not use "DEVICE SPARTA OSRAM" in your CONFIG.SYS file when using BASIC XE.* This only applies when "USE OSRAM" is the first line in your CONFIG.SYS file, since the "OSRAM" parameter for SPARTA.SYS is ignored otherwise.

This also means that if you are using a 64K or 128K XL or XE computer you must use a custom CONFIG.SYS file to use BASIC XE. To create one, follow the directions in the first full paragraph on page D-2, substituting "USE OSRAM" for "USE BANKED" in the first line of the configuration. This configuration is just an example. You may modify it as you see fit as long as the first two lines are

```
USE OSRAM
DEVICE SPARTA
```

## Modified XF551 Disk Drives

Atari XF551 disk drives modified according to Bob Woolley's project to use a 720K 1/2" drive mechanism will properly format and operate at high speed. Parts and instructions for the upgrade (less drive mechanism) are available at the time of this writing from Innovative Concepts, 31172 Shawn Drive, Warren, MI 48093 [(313) 293-0730].

## Using MAC/65 with SpartaDOS X

When the computer is powered up, the MAC/65 cartridge initializes several page 4 memory locations and *never sets them again*, even when the cartridge is entered cold. Because of this, if you enter internal BASIC with the MAC/65 cartridge installed *before* entering the MAC/65 cartridge, those memory locations will be cleared. MAC/65 will then not work properly. To avoid this problem and still be able to use both MAC/65 and BASIC, use the CAR.SAV feature and enter the MAC/65 cartridge before entering internal BASIC. This will save those memory locations and restore them when you enter MAC/65. You will not be able to use the SpartaDOS X "LOAD" command to load files into memory and examine them from DDT, since entering the cartridge will restore the previous contents of that area. Use the MAC/65 "BLOOD" command instead.

## AtariWriter Plus

If you have a stock 130XE or 800XL computer, using AtariWriter Plus is straightforward. Simply insert the AtariWriter Plus diskette into D1: and type

```
D1:X AP.OBJ
```

If you have more than 128K of ram in your computer, the procedure is a bit more complex. You will need to prepare a boot floppy for AtariWriter Plus. FORMAT a disk in SpartaDOS format and create a text file named CONFIG.SYS file on it. The these lines must be in the CONFIG.SYS:

```
USE OSRAM
DEVICE SPARTA OSRAM
DEVICE SIO
DEVICE ATARIDOS.SYS
```

You may use the rest of this disk for anything you choose. To run AtariWriter Plus, boot the computer with this boot floppy in D1:. Remove this diskette and insert the AtariWriter Plus diskette. Then type

```
D1:X AP.OBJ
```

You may use a ramdisk at D3: - D9: with AtariWriter Plus, but you won't be able to get a directory of the ramdisk from the program. You can use this for temporary storage.

## Oops!

On page 4-51 the arguments for POKE 752 are reversed. POKE 752 1 will turn the cursor off, while POKE 752 0 will turn it back on again.

## Other Things

If you get an error 161, you need to increase the number of file buffers. This is done in the CONFIG.SYS file with the SPARTA.SYS drive as described on page 8-3. Just increase your "nfiles" value by one or more. Increasing "nbufs" will speed up disk access for additional open files but is not required.

We have had several people call to say that the SDX ramdisk is not as big as the 3.2 one or that SDX does not recognize their whole RAM upgrade. This is not really the case. Since these questions are not uncommon, however, we will go into a little more detail here with system configuration.

Page 8-2 shows the default system configuration used if you do *not* have a CONFIG.SYS file on D1:. If you have 256K or more in an XL or XE computer, SDX will automatically use one of the banks (USE BANKED) for DOS routines and drivers. This means that you have one less bank for your ramdisk, making it 16K smaller than it would be otherwise. You can write a custom CONFIG.SYS specifying USE OSRAM to allow you to use all available banks for your ramdisk.

Also in that default configuration is "DEVICE RAMDISK". As described on page 8-7, the default for RAMDISK.SYS is to use all available banks *beyond the four reserved for 130XE programs* and to assign the ramdisk to D9:. You can change this, too, in a custom CONFIG.SYS file by specifying the drive number and number of banks as shown on page 8-7. To override the reserving of the four banks, you *must* specify the number of banks in the "DEVICE RAMDISK" statement.

On a related topic, if you hold down the OPTION key when booting the computer, any CONFIG.SYS on disk will be ignored and the default configuration will be used. This is very useful if you happen to forget to include SIO.SYS in your CONFIG.SYS or some similar fatal error.