

A U T O N E T I C S

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RECOMP TECHNICAL BULLETIN NO. 6

TITLE: FLEXOWRITER PREPARATION OF RECOMP TAPES

PURPOSE: To detail the means by which RECOMP tapes may be prepared off-line on a flexowriter.

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CONTENTS:

1. General use of the Flexowriter:¹ The Flexowriter may be used to make an original RECOMP tape, to list a RECOMP tape, or to duplicate a tape. In each case, however, the listing of the tape being processed is typed simultaneously. In actual operation, the Flexowriter works exactly as the RECOMP typewriter does,² except for the following: a) Tabs and margins must be set manually by adjusting the metal flags under the removable hood. b) The "feed" switch causes the Flexowriter to punch letter shift characters as long as both it and the "punch" switch are down. c) The "halt code" switch will punch one tape feed (blank) character when depressed when the "punch" switch is down.
2. Preparation of character control tapes:³ The Flexowriter may be used to make tapes that are to be read under program control, one to eight characters at a time. The typist must type at least 12* blank characters after each group to allow time for the RECOMP photoreader to slow down to a halt and then speed up again to read the next group. If a loop of blank tape is placed in the Flexowriter reader, the required blanks may be inserted on the tape being punched by the duplication mechanism. Note that RECOMP ignores leading blanks when requested to read a specific number of characters.

3. Change of location counter setting on fill mode tapes:⁴

To change or set the location counter to a new value by means of the "L" control character on a fill mode tape, type the following:

Letter shift

"L"

Figure shift

The five new location setting digits

Carriage return

The shift characters insure that there are at least eight characters between carriage returns to comply with RECOMP timing requirements, as well as insure a legible printed copy.

4. Command Format⁵ and Alpha Format⁶ tapes: Tapes of these formats require no special delay character consideration.

5. Numeric Format Tapes:⁷ Punching a tape in numeric format requires serious timing considerations. In general, there must be at least eight characters after a decimal point and before the next decimal point or carriage return, and at least twelve characters after a carriage return and before the next decimal point or carriage return. In the following examples, a number in parentheses indicates the minimum number of blanks that must be inserted in that position; CR stands for carriage return:

a) +1.5 (7) CR (10) +6.75 (6) CR

b) +2.X (5) +3.X

c) -2.59632189 CR (3) +21963842.X

Note that X (or /) is equivalent to the clear button on the RECOMP console.⁸

6. Halt and start codes:⁹ If a halt code (H) or a start code (S) is punched following a decimal point or carriage return in the C or F modes, at least eight blanks must occur between the enter code and the H or S. In the L mode, no blanks are required. In the N mode, at least 12 blanks are required. An H or S may given in lieu of the carriage return in the C or F mode. In this case, the last word is not stored in memory, but is left in the accumulator. At least 12* blanks must follow a H or S code in every case.

*As many as 40 blanks may be needed for some photoreaders.

REFERENCES

- 1 Flexowriter Manual, Friden Inc.
- 2 Ibid, and RECOMP II Operating Manual, p.41.
- 3 RECOMP II Operating Manual,p. 80f.
- 4 Ibid, p.41
- 5 Ibid, p.42
- 6 Ibid, p.45
- 7 Ibid, p.44f
- 8 Ibid, p.48 P.2

INFORMATION TO: All concerned

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