

KNIGHT'S 'COMMANDER' TOOLKITS and SPEED BASICGENERAL

Knight's different 'COMMANDER' toolkits were available for six 'standard' Sharp Basics i.e. SP-5025, SP-6015, SB-5510, SB-6510, SA-5510 and SA-6510. The information below is partly conjectural because we do not have documents for the SP-6015, SB-5510 or SA-6510 versions. However, we are fairly sure that they all offer the 'core' of additional commands listed below.

'SPEED BASIC' was only available for SP-5025, but it contains the same set of 'core' commands, and also shares many 'extra' features with SP-5025 'COMMANDER' (for which we DO have documents). It thus seems right to cover 'SPEED BASIC' here, rather than separately.

THE 'CORE' OF ADDITIONAL COMMANDS

RENUMBER new,inc rennumbers the whole program (default 100,10)

DELETE mm,nn deletes lines mm to nn. N.B. in the DISK BASIC toolkits this command is given a different name, to avoid clashing with disk file DELETE command.
 i.e. BLOCK mm,nn (in the SP-6015 toolkit)
 or DEL mm,nn (in the SB-6510 toolkit)
 or PURGE mm,nn (in the SA-6510 toolkit)

DUMP n dumps variables; the range of 'n' is 0 - 7:-
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 ALL DEFFNs A\$ A\$(X) A\$(X,Y) N N(X) N(X,Y)

TRON n sets up a TRACE, delay governed by 'n' (1-255)
 (N.B. in SPEED BASIC this command is called SLOW)

OFF switches OFF the TRON facility.

LIST, DUMP and TRON can be stepped/controlled on one key:-

MZ-80K - Bottom R.H. graphics key
 MZ-80B - DOWN cursor
 MZ-80A - SPACE bar

'EXTRA' FEATURES IN SP-5025 'COMMANDER' and SPEED BASIC

APPEND appends the next Type 2 file on the tape (which MUST have higher line numbers than program already in RAM)

AUTO mm,inc sets up auto line-numbering (default 100,10)

PRINT/S dumps the screen to the printer

PRINT/A sends ALL PRINT and PRINT/P to screen AND printer

PRINT/O turns off PRINT/A (i.e. restores things to normal)

PRINT/B nn sets comma TAB on the printer (nn may be a variable)

PRINT @ X,Y;"MESSAGE" prints "MESSAGE" at X,Y on the screen
 (X = 0-39)(Y = 0-24)

N.B. This PRINT @ is conventional (X is 'along', 'Y' is 'down'),

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'EXTRA' FEATURES IN 'SPEED BASIC' ONLY

PRINT/N directs all PRINT and PRINT/P to the SCREEN ONLY,

AND and OR are implemented as literal keywords.

String inequalities (e.g. A\$>B\$) are legal; but unfortunately all string sorting is done on a length-based priority e.g.:-

>>> 'CATT' is treated as greater than 'DOG' <<<

DATA FILING is speeded up by a factor of about THREE, without losing compatibility with standard SP-5025 data files.

'EXTRA' FEATURES IN SP-6015 'DISK COMMANDER'

One of Knight's salesheets claims that SP-6015 'DISK COMMANDER' provides 'over 300 new commands'. WE DO NOT HAVE KNIGHT'S ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS, so we hacked into this toolkit to see how it works, and it is hard to see where the figure 300 comes from. Up to now we have found the expected 'core', plus the following 'extras':-

RON turns on REPEAT (on all keys), but the cursor is NOT changed.
ROFF turns off REPEAT

KEYON turns the graphics keypad into a combined numeric/keyword pad, with the following layout:-

Key 'Z' is	? BS 'Z' /	LIST* /LOAD*	Keys in right-hand
DELETE	7 8 9 *	LIST /SAVE	column, with SHIFT,
TO END	4 5 6 -	RUN * /GOTO	will give second set
OF LINE	1 2 3 +	DIR* /PRINT	as shown e.g./LOAD*
	0 00 . ,	DIR2* /KEYLIST*	(* = CR)

KEYLIST list the 10 single-keyword definitions (as above)
KEYOFF restores the graphics pad to normal.

N.B. There is no PRINT @ command in SP-6015 COMMANDER (perhaps it was considered unnecessary, given Sharp's CURSOR command).

'EXTRA' FEATURES IN THE MZ-80B 'COMMANDER' TOOLKITS

The SB-6510 'COMMANDER' is on TAPE, and must be loaded from TAPE when needed; it occupies \$FA00-FFFF but can be switched out by the command NORMAL. It has the 'core' commands, plus the reverse-field characters for the four CURSOR keys, HOME and CLR, all available in GRPH mode, with REPEAT on the SHIFTED cursor keys. WE DO NOT HAVE THE SB-5510 'COMMANDER', but we think it is very similar.

'EXTRA' FEATURES IN THE MZ-80A 'COMMANDER' TOOLKITS

SA-5510 'COMMANDER' installs the 'core' commands with no 'extras'; we think that SA-6510 'COMMANDER' is similar, but WE DO NOT HAVE IT IN THE SUC LIBRARY so we cannot be sure. David Jackson reported (on p.45 of Vol.3 No.4) that the SA-6510 version was 'bugged', but it is possible that the faults he described may not occur with all three versions of SA-6510. We cannot check this point at present.
