PET Programming Toolkit/Socket Set

A programming aid for use with the Commodore PET is being offered by Palo Alto ICs, a subsidiary of Nestar Systems. The Basic Programmer's Toolkit™ is a collection of machine language programs on a single ROM chip which aid the programmer in polishing, tracing, and modifying programs. The Toolkit plugs onto the memory expansion interface and onto the second cassette interface.
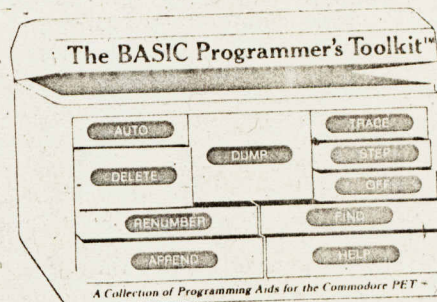
Ten commands are available with the toolkit, which comes with a manual detailing installation and use.

When entering a Basic program, the "Auto" command prompts by automatically generating the line number following the line number of the entry. The command "AUTO 100.10," for instance, will start at line 100 and generate lines in increments of ten. The commands "List" and "Delete" will list and delete either the entire program or a specified range of line numbers.

The "Help" command is designed as a debugging aid. On receiving an error message from Basic, the user types "Help." The computer then displays the offending program line and highlights the specific error in that line in reverse video. The "Trace" function, another debugging aid, displays a reverse video window in the upper right hand corner of the screen which shows the last six line numbers executed.

By pressing the shift key for each statement, the "Step" command can be used with the "Trace" function to single-step through a program. Typing "Off" will turn off either the "Trace" or the "Step" functions.

"Append" has the same syntax as "Load," but does not erase the current program; instead, it adds the program found on tape to the one currently in memory immediately after the last statement. Thus, the user can keep a library of subroutines on tape, and can incorporate them in new programs simply by appending them at the appropriate points.

The BASIC Programmer's Toolkit™
AUTO DUMP TRACE STEP
DELETE OFF
RENUMBER FIND
APPEND HELP
A Collection of Programming Aids for the Commodore PET™

The "Dump" and "Find" commands aid in dealing with program variables. "Dump" displays the current values assigned to variables, and can be used either during or after running a program. The "Find" command allows the user to search for a specified character string in a range of line numbers; the computer will find and display only those program lines that contain the specified string.

The Basic Programmer's Toolkit is available in two versions. One plugs onto the expansion port of an 8K PET and retails for $79.95; the other is a single chip that plugs into a spare socket inside the new 16- or 32K PET and sells for $49.95.

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