



Hints and Tips for the IBM Personal Computer JX

IBM·JX
personal computer

110225-0

Introduction

You are now the proud owner of an IBM JX. Included with your new system is a comprehensive range of documentation on the hardware, BASIC and DOS. This small supplement called "Hints and TIPS" is designed to bring to your attention some important items that may otherwise take a little time to discover as you begin to explore your powerful and versatile new workmate. Please read through these items before you proceed to install DOS and your applications. Keep them in mind as you increase your knowledge of the capabilities of your new system.

MEMORY

If your IBM JX has more than 128K of RAM (Random Access Memory) you will be using a memory driver program to allow you to access the storage in excess of 128K bytes.

When delivered your DOS system contains the correct files to automatically invoke this memory driver for optimum performance of your IBM JX. You should be aware that there are several other options available to you in the way in which you can organize your RAM. To fully understand the alternatives you should read Appendix D of the IBM Personal Computer JX *DOS Reference*.

Among the options available is one to create a Memory disk. This can provide a useful additional storage device which can be addressed as an extra diskette drive. The important thing to remember is that this "Drive" will lose all its information when you switch off your IBM JX, so be sure you copy any files you want to keep to a real diskette before you turn-off.

You should also keep in mind that, whenever you create a new DOS diskette using the `FORMAT /S` command, it is essential to copy over the memory driver and associated files onto the new DOS diskette. The files you need are: `PCJRMEM.COM`; `CONFIG.SYS` and if you have the TOD (Time of day) clock option `TIMEDEV.SYS`.

BASIC

Your IBM JX comes complete with a BASIC interpreter which is in an area of ROM (Read Only Memory). This saves you space in your user memory and time in reading it in from a diskette. However, there is a limitation with this version of the BASIC interpreter that prevents it being used with a memory configuration of greater than 128K bytes. If you try to load BASIC from DOS with more than 128K configured you will get a message which states that the system is "Out of memory". You will need to reboot the system to recover from this.

In normal use this should not present any difficulties since most BASIC applications which are self booting will automatically configure themselves for 128K. Also if you bring the system up without DOS it will automatically enter BASIC with 128K of memory available.

If you should want to use a BASIC interpreter from DOS with more than 128K of memory, you can do so by using the BASIC interpreter which is provided on your DOS diskette. There you will find two versions which are named BASICJ and BASICJA these equate to the normal IBM PC BASIC and BASICA. Simply call them by their new names and they will work with any memory size that is available on your system. However unlike the built-in ROM BASIC they will occupy part of your user memory.

IBM PC 5-1/4 inch Diskettes

One of the options available to a purchaser of an IBM JX is an expansion unit which can be fitted with a standard IBM PC 5-1/4" diskette drive unit as drive C. However some applications available on the IBM PC require that they are started from drive A. To allow you to do this on the JX we have included a new command SWAP__AC. If you issue this command your 5-1/4" drive will be addressable as drive A and the right hand drive in the base unit will become drive C. You will now be able to start an application which is looking for a 5-1/4" diskette on drive A. The swapped condition can be easily reversed by issuing the command a second time.

Note: The SWAP__AC command can only be issued after DOS has been started, so this technique will not help if your program has to be booted from Drive A.

MODE CO80

The default for the JX is to bring up your system with the display mode set to a width of 40 characters. Some applications will not come up successfully with this display mode. If you normally need or prefer to work in 80 character mode then add the following command to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file: MODE CO80.

For more information about the MODE command and AUTOEXEC.BAT file refer to Chapter 2 of your IBM Personal Computer JX *DOS Reference*.

Among the applications that require MODE CO80 are:

Script/PC	Super C
DisplayWrite	Utilities I, II, III.
DOS File Tracker	DB/Editor/Writer
Project Planning and Scheduling	File Command II
DOS File View	INFOPC
SciCalc	Structured Assembler Translator
Object Library Maintenance	Select-A-Font

Display Picture Position

With some programs your picture may appear positioned more towards one side of the screen than the other. To correct this, press the Ctrl-Alt keys and hold them down while using the Left and Right Cursor keys to move the position of the picture.

Monochrome Display

Some of the applications available for the IBM JX may give you an option, during set-up, to select a Monochrome display. Unlike the IBM PC there is no separate monochrome adapter on the IBM JX, therefore you should always select the Colour Display when given this choice. Please note that with some applications selecting the Monochrome display option will give unpredictable results.