

T/Master™

What is it?

T/Master is an integrated software package. It does many things. *TM* combines a word processor, desktop publisher, spelling checker, spreadsheet, database, communications package, and business graphics. You won't find another software product that performs so many functions so well.

"To say T/Master is feature-rich is an understatement. I could not imagine a more powerful, trully integrated program. It seems to have all the bells and whistles of its peers as well as a unique application of the principle of software integration."

PCM Magazine, July 1989

TM is also an applications language. You can instruct it to generate reports or perform other tasks while you are away from your computer. Skilled users can develop complete systems for novices unfamiliar with *TM*, or, interface *TM* with other packages to draw on *TM's* unique capabilities.

What does it run on?

TM runs on IBM compatibles (XT's, AT's, and PS/2's) using MSDOS. It requires two floppies or a hard disk (operation with one 360K drive is possible but inconvenient). A minimum of 384K of memory is needed. Additional memory (up to 640K) is used to allow a larger working file (up to 370K). Most common graphics cards are supported.

TM can be configured for most printers to use 10 typefaces and to print pictures at a variety of resolutions.

Who uses it?

T/Master is the direct descendent of *T/Maker* which was first sold in August of 1980 for CP/M machines. The two programs combined represent an installed base of approximately 150,000 users.

T/Maker and *T/Master* have always known success abroad. In the Far East, large corporate customers are common. When you buy *Super REPO* (at \$950!) from UNISYS (Japan), *Gem-Writer* from Trigem Computers (South Korea), or even *Tsitsuga* from ACER International (Taiwan), you're actually getting *T/Master*. We sometimes think of *TM* as **THE MOST POPULAR PROGRAM THAT YOU NEVER HEARD OF.**

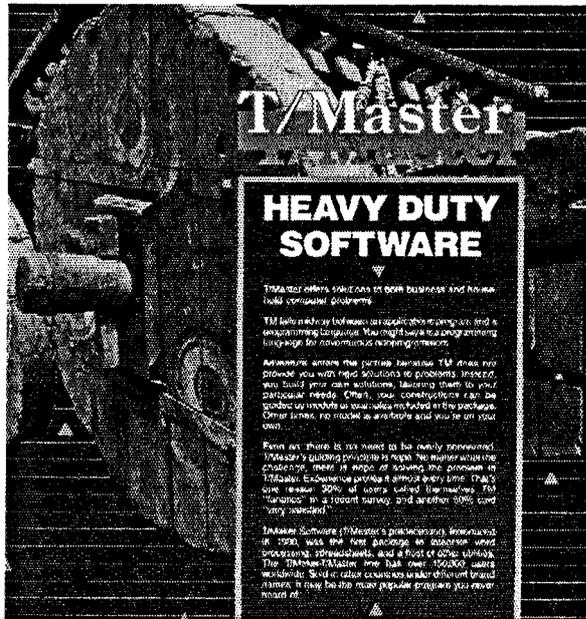
In the United States and Europe, *TM* is sold with the help of a limited marketing budget and many word-of-mouth referrals. In these countries, the small business owner, the independent consultant, and the home user represent the bulk of customers. Our users are typically searching for one, cost-effective answer to all their computing needs. Because we use only *T/Master* to run our business efficiently, we are always striving to make sure it can do the job.

It's refreshing to know that someone writes "real-world" software to help the productive person get the job done ... It's like driving a BMW when all your friends have Lincolns.

David Hughes

The current version is everything anyone could want.

Lee Jones



How does it work?

The heart of *TM* is a text editor. All files are plain text. You typically work with one file at a time. It may contain paragraphs or a spreadsheet or a database. It may contain all three at once. The text consists not only of the words and numbers you wish to print but also the instructions to *TM* of what it is expected to do.

In the case of a letter, these instructions would set margins or designate where to print page numbers. In a spreadsheet, they would describe what to calculate or how to format numbers. In a database, they would describe how to present the data on the screen or store it in the file.

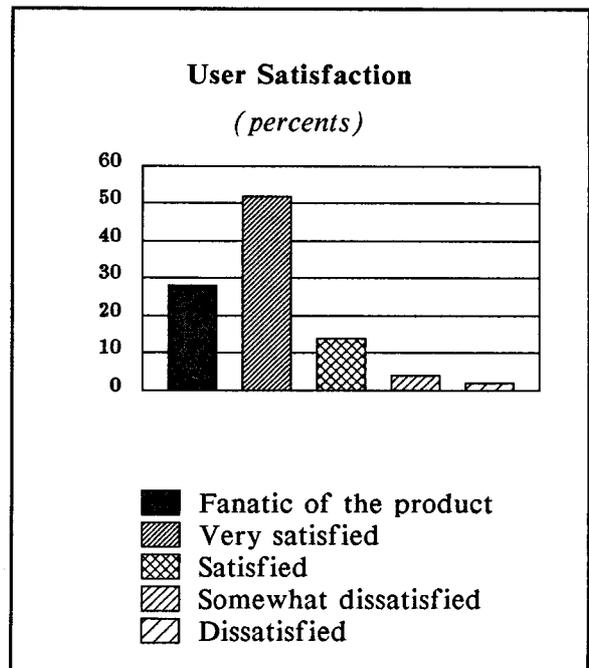
Once, these instructions are in place, commands are used to interpret the instructions. For example, the *align* command will justify text, the *compute* command will do calculations, the *update* command will allow you to enter or change data in a database.

When printing, the instructions for *TM* are typically removed. The major advantages of this approach are:

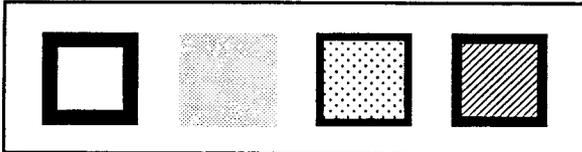
- 1) There are no hidden assumptions. What you see is what you asked for. When things go awry, tracking down the problem becomes considerably easier.
- 2) Because everything is just text, you can extract pieces of old files to attack a new situation.
- 3) You can automate most any task. Since *TM* expects instructions in the file and responds to a command language, the step from manual operation to using canned procedures is straightforward.

Will I like this style?

Our current users overwhelmingly do!



Boxes, shaded areas, and lines can be placed with another design command that allows you to specify their dimensions.



TM also includes 10 extra-large bit-mapped fonts that you can use for headings. Dot matrix users can take advantage of these as well.

Here's one example!

Best of all, TM's desktop publishing features can be used in generating form letters or financial reports. With TM, a terrific output doesn't mean you spent a lot of time creating it.

Quick Calculations

You can make quick calculations in a text file by defining a rectangular zone and putting your numbers and instructions in it.

```
@ 50 + 25
 / 5
 = 15
```

The at-sign is the *enter* button of TM's calculator. You use a keystroke to tell the calculator to calculate; results are placed after your equal-signs. You can edit the numbers or symbols and use the keystroke again to recalculate.

Spreadsheets

TM's spreadsheet is not like any other. It's so elegant you wonder why no one else thought of it! You design the spreadsheet yourself as plain text, but you must give a *columns line* which shows where the columns of numbers are located and how you want numbers formatted.

Equations are written horizontally to calculate one column from another or, vertically, to calculate one row from another. It is somewhat like a two dimensional calculator.

RECENT INCOME AND EXPENSES					
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
columns-----		xx,xxx	xx,xxx	xx,xxx	xx,xxx
@	all	@	+	+	=
@	Salary	2,000	2,000	2,300	6,300
	Expenses				
@	Rent	650	650	650	1,950
+	Food	300	350	360	1,010
+	Other	800	400	644	1,844
=	Total	1,750	1,400	1,654	4,804
=	Net	250	600	646	1,496

In the example, the line beginning with "all" is an equation to enter ("@" the value for the first column, add the values for the second and third columns, and put the result in the fourth column for **all** the rows below.

Tracing down the first position of the lines, you can see how the "Total" row is calculated by entering "Rent" and adding "Food" and "Other." Tracing down the third position, you can see the calculation of "Net" as "Salary" less "Total." The spreadsheet can be calculated or recalculated by a simple keystroke.

Preparing A Document

Preparing a document with *TM* is a matter of typing a mix of text and instructions. On color monitors, different typefaces are shown in different colors while editing. Instructions usually take the form of separate unprinted lines. These instructions control the layout of the page.

To set margins and determine justification, you will inscribe special lines with *aligning wedges*. For example, this text is being controlled by the wedges below.

```
<< fixed micro >>
```

"Fixed" tells *TM* that the first line of each paragraph must start at the same fixed position as other lines in the paragraph. "Micro" tells *TM* that a flush right look should be achieved using micro dot spacing (i.e., tiny extra spaces between words). The double less-than and greater-than signs set the margins. These wedges will control the alignment of text until a new set appears.

Wedges can be given names and recalled by their names as needed in the file. A key-stroke can be used to reformat the text to their specification.

Formatting of a page is handled primarily through *design commands*. These begin with a period and like aligning wedges are not usually printed.

For example, the lines below tell *TM* to print the heading shown, at the top of each page beginning with page 2. The page number would replace the characters "#P."

```
.top 2  
Chapter 1 (continued)  
Page #P  
.end
```

A full page can be previewed on the screen in true proportion by the touch of a key-stroke. (Incidentally, this flyer is printed with *TM* on a *LaserJet* printer. We do not believe in sending out reduced or artistic renditions of output.)

You can include a picture with another *design command*. For example, the line below would tell *TM* to print from the file "pictures," the picture "cover" at density "4" in the "center" of the column.

```
.graphic pictures cover 4 center
```

It's the exact line used to include the picture of our box cover on the previous page.

You can create a library of pictures and call one or more of them into a letter or document easily. You can convert images from other common formats like Microsoft Windows or PC Paintbrush to *TM* format. The picture of our box cover was converted from a TIFF file generated by a scanner.

Unlike many "publishing" programs, *TM* can print quality images--300 dots per inch on laser printers or 180 dpi on 24-pin printers. And, *TM* uses the fonts available in your printer for standard text. These print more clearly and faster than the bit-mapped fonts used in many other packages.

I have experimented with other word processors such as MS Word, XYwrite, and I have purchased a copy of First Publisher to assemble some books, etc., but it seems when the chips are down I am always back to T/Master ... because everything comes out so much better.

Clyde Whitby

(Because TM's file size is limited, we do not recommend its database for very large problems involving files in excess of 300K.)

The *record definition* shows how the data in a record is to be stored in a file. This one organizes five fields of data onto three lines.

```
<record>
A ( id      )
B ( name    ) ( rate    )
C ( hours   ) ( amount  )
<end>
```

The *screen definition* describes how data will be displayed on the screen. You can have up to 10 different screens and add text in colors to make the screen decorative and informative.

```
<screen>
ID Number : ( id      ) Hours: ( hours  )
Name      : ( name    ) Rate : ( rate   )
Amount    : ( amount  )
<end>
```

The *scan definition* is used to see many records at once on the screen. This makes it easier to browse around.

```
<scan>
ID Number: ( id ) Name: ( name )
<end>
```

A *reference definition* allows you to examine another data base file and retrieve information from it. Here a "name" and "rate" are retrieved when an "id" number matches.

```
<reference> names.1
  when id    = \id
      name   = \name
      rate   = \rate
<end>
```

A *rules definition* allows you to perform calculations with numbers or manipulate character strings.

```
<rules>
  amount = rate * hours
<end>
```

A *report definition* lets you produce a printed output that mixes data from a record with text.

```
<report>
  I.O.U. ( name )
        $ ( amount )
<end>
```

What else?

Plenty. We have not mentioned the 100 plus keystrokes you can use while editing, how the spelling checker works, or a great number of utility commands like *mix* which encrypts a file. We didn't even discuss the help or menu systems.

*... a sort of digital Swiss Army knife,
I kept finding more ways I could use
it.*

Howard Graves

We also did not discuss the 60 example files that come with T/Master. These examples can be used without understanding *TM*. Use two or three of them and you'll have gotten more value from *T/Master* than you'll get from most other products.

What's next?

TM is a product in constant transition. Since we shipped the first units in August of 1980, our product has changed and evolved almost constantly.

Perhaps one of our best testimonials was made by a man who claimed when he bought software, he bought it *for life*. He assumed it was our job to keep him up to date with the tools necessary to do everything anyone else was doing. We are proud that (at a price of six hundred dollars spread over eight years) he thinks we've done a terrific job. We hope he will still think so in another eight years.

What about support?

TM is supported by a technical phone number (408) 370-6888 which answers most business hours of most business days (West Coast time). You are welcome to dial the number if you have technical questions. Since we are a small company, this number is on rare occasions shut down for a day or two to accommodate vacations. When you talk to us, unlike some support lines, you can be sure the person you are talking to knows more about the product than you do.

Many users of *TM* run the program on a daily basis for all their computing needs and never phone. Assuming it is installed correctly, the program is about as close to bug-free as programs get.

To keep abreast of changes and get helpful tips, we suggest you subscribe to the *T/MUG Newsletter*. This contains answers to the most commonly asked questions and articles of interest on applications you can do with *TM*. Back issues are also available.

Prices and Return Policy

We maintain a 30-day money-back guarantee. If you are unhappy with your purchase for any reason, you may return the materials for a refund of your purchase price less the cost of shipment.

In my opinion it belongs to the world's best programs.

Ernst Brenner

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