





Dear Computerist:

"Humbug!" you might think. "Who cares about second editions? After all, they're just repackaged versions of the original books."

Not true! Writing the Second Edition of THE BASIC HANDBOOK was even more challenging than writing the First Edition three years ago. No language in the world has grown as fast in the last three years as computer BASIC. Writing the definitive reference of its various "dialects" and organizing it to be immediately accessible to all computer users, was no easy chore. Because of all the changes, the new book had to be completely re-typeset.

In this updated version, I've added extensive explanations of 240 new BASIC words written into new computers marketed (or those about to be introduced) around the world. I traveled to four continents gathering the facts. Many reader suggestions are incorporated, plus I've added a

few new ideas of my own and generally clarified and streamlined the entire book.

The result is a compendium of the nearly 500 BASIC words every computer user needs, along with strategies you can use to translate BASIC programs from one computer to another.

The BASIC Handbook is not designed to replace your user's manuals. It is a support reference to give you immediate access to the information you need to become a more adept and versatile programmer.

The universal acceptance of the First Edition established THE BASIC HANDBOOK as the last word on the most popular computer language. I urge you to add this up-to-date Second Edition to your reference library.

Sincerely,

David A. Lien*

**Educator and author Dr. David A. Lien is one of the world's leading technical writers, with over a half-million book sales to his credit. In addition to the updated The BASIC Handbook, Dr. Lien has written . . . Radio Shack's LEVEL I USER'S MANUAL – by far the best-selling computer book – plus the LEARNER'S MANUALS for the Epson MX Series Printers, and other CompuSoft Publishing books.*

Here's the 2nd Half of Your TRS-80* User's Manual...

Written by the Author of the 1st Half.

When the **Level I User's Manual** was first introduced to accompany the TRS-80*, operators and industry observers alike praised it as a "teaching breakthrough." Conversational and direct, it was considered to be the most readable and effective microcomputer teaching tool of its day.

And so it was. But times have changed. Consumer demands for a more powerful BASIC, spurred by engineering innovations, have led to the creation of a more versatile Level II BASIC.

Learning Level II was designed specifically to help you quickly master this powerful new programming tool. With this manual as your TEACHING guide, you can easily learn to:

- 1) Permit easy word manipulations, using the string and sub-string functions in the advanced BASIC.
- 2) Sort and retrieve large amounts of data, with the multi-dimension numeric and string arrays.
- 3) Eliminate the need to write your own routines, and give fast, machine-language speed in calculations, using the built-in library functions.
- 4) Monitor and alter memory locations directly from BASIC, using PEEK and POKE. This extends the control of the programmer and allows easier use of matching language programs with BASIC.
- 5) Easily format columns of numbers with printing charts and tables, with PRINT-USING.

Fortunately, **Learning Level II** was written by the same author who wrote the **Level I User's Manual**. It takes up exactly where the Level I manual leaves off, making this classic usable by all Level II users, new and old alike.

Learning Level II shows how to use the editor (a must for serious programmers), test for errors, and take advantage of the automatic line numbering feature. And it explains such statements as USR, INP, OUT and VARPTR.

Special sections deal with converting Level I programs to Level II and using the expansion interface with its real-time clock, dual cassette capability, and printer port. PLUS, there are several appendices, including a special "LEVEL II Error Message Reference Guide" with sample programs to explain error messages.



Why Should You Buy Learning Level II?

Because it does something none of the literature that accompanies the TRS-80* or any comparable computer does: it TEACHES you, easily and logically, how to gain control of the many diverse functions in Level II BASIC. Over 40 pages of updates make the **Level I User's Manual** compatible with Level II BASIC, including several pages you can cut out and paste directly into the Level I manual to update it. And it helps you learn by using many sample programs which enable you to explore difficult concepts.

What If You Haven't Learned Level I Yet?

With Dr. Lien's unique approach, you can start with the Level I manual, making suggested changes as you proceed. When finished, you can move right into **Learning Level II** — because it has been written specifically to enable the learner to make the smooth transition from Level I.

Can Learning Level II Be Used With Other Computers?

Learning Level II was created for the TRS-80*, the most popular computer in the world. Its great successes triggered the creation of several work-alike computers, including the PMC-80, System80, LNW-80 and Sinclair ZX80.

Is It A Reference Book?

No, it's **much more**. While the index does "refer" you back through the book for "refresher" study, the book was designed to TEACH you, to take you step-by-step through the fundamentals and nuances of Level II BASIC. For a fast and easy BASIC reference, use **The BASIC Handbook**, also by Dr. Lien.

The combination of **Learning Level II**, the **Level I User's Manual** and **The BASIC Handbook** provide the TRS-80* owner with the best set of BASIC learning and reference tools at any price.

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