

Z-MACROS: A NEW APPROACH TO ORGANIZING AND EXTENDING 1-2-3 MACROS

Seattle, WA 11-25-85

Z-macros are introduced in two worksheets published by JUST DISCS: Z and ZSTARTER. Z supplies a model structure for building and expanding a library of Z-macros; ZSTARTER explains the idea behind them and is the one you start with.

A Z-macro isn't itself run from the keyboard, but is called by a macro that is - macro Z (usually). There are two other macros with special uses: X and Y. X marks your place in the worksheet and takes you to the Z-macro area. Y confirms the choice you point to, and gets you back to your place. And then, any time and any place you run Z, Z runs the Z-macro you last confirmed for it with Y.

You can run X, Y, Z...Z... as often as you like. And the only limit to the number of Z-macros is the number of labeled ranges 1-2-3 can handle. That and the amount of memory on your system. In worksheet Z, Z-macros are numbered \0..\1..\2..\3..\4.. to suggest unlimited expansion. But you can give them any legal range names you like. (By the way, the examples include a simple and effective toggle macro and a menu setup; menus are easy with Z-macros).

The idea with Z-macros is you change macro Z on the fly so it can call, at different times, any routine in your Z-macro library. And here's something else: Z is the default. You can tie a Z-macro to any other letter (except X or Y), unless you want a regular macro to be the only one tied to that letter.

When X marks your place and takes you to the Z-macro area, you point to the Z-macro you want. And run Y to confirm your choice. Y pauses until EITHER you press [Enter] to indicate you want the Z-macro tied to the default, Z, OR you enter a letter, A through W, to have the Z-macro tied to that.

You can change the Z-macro tied to a letter any time you like. You can even rename regular macros to free up their letters and then tie them, as if they're Z-macros, to their original letters. That way they can share those letters dynamically with Z-macros.

If you're new to macros, worksheet Z is a good foundation to build your macro library on. If you're a pro, you'll find it increases the power and range of your existing library. Z and ZSTARTER were created with 1-2-3 Release 1A, but of course they work under Release 2 as well.

ZSTARTER has all you need to get started with Z-macros, using worksheet Z. Here's its second page:

Sheet1

Welcome to ZSTARTER and the idea of Z-macros.

A Z-macro is one of what can be a large number of macro routines that are called by Z (by default). So when YOU run Z, Z runs IT.

On the pages below, ZSTARTER shows you

- How to load Z-macros into this worksheet

- How to check out the Z-macros, choose one and run it

- How to create a Z-macro

- How to load Z-macros into any other worksheet

- How to add regular macros to your Z-macro library

- How to run regular macros and Z-macros together
[PgDn]...

...and here's how ZSTARTER ends up:

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...that's it, except for a text file named READ.ME! you can call up on the screen outside of 1-2-3 by responding to the DOS prompt, A> (or B> or whatever) with the command TYPE READ.ME! Or you can just give the command GO to see the same stuff with built-in page breaks.

Sheet1

JUST DISCS are interested in what you would like to see in ZSTARTER and Z in the future, and in giving you credit for your suggestions. Details are in READ.ME!

***The disk referred to contains worksheets ZSTARTER and Z as well as the text file READ.ME! It's 5.25", DSDD, and runs under PC DOS 2.0 (or 2.1). Phone JUST DISCS at (206) 384-3660 to order it and pay by VISA. Or save the \$4 handling charge for phone orders by sending a check for \$15 to

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