

User's Newsletter

Exciting TI Products Announced at Pittsburgh Users' Group Meeting

On September 20, 1981, the Pittsburgh Users' Group received a first-hand look at some of the exciting current and forthcoming products from Texas Instruments for the TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A Home Computers. Four areas were covered in the presentation: TI LOGO, the *TEXNET*SM Subscription Service and Terminal Emulator II *Solid State Software*TM Command Module, the Editor/Assembler *Solid State Software*TM Command Module, and several new entertainment packages.

The TI LOGO demonstration featured "Turtle graphics," as well as sprite creation/utilization. The group was shown how easy it is to create moving sprites and how the *MAKESHape* function works as a sprite definition tool. After this explanation of Turtle graphics and sprites, the group looked at previously created TI LOGO procedures.

The *TEXNET* special software service for TI Home Computer users and the Terminal Emulator II Command Module capabilities were then discussed. The ability to transfer files and download sound, graphics, and speech were the highlighted features. After a discussion on how the Terminal Emulator II module and the *TEXNET* service work together to access data base information, the Terminal Emulator II module's text-to-speech was demonstrated, including an explanation of how it could be utilized in user writ-

ten programs.

The new TI Editor/Assembler module was also demonstrated with the following capabilities of the Editor being particularly well-received.

General:

- Simulate the display of 80 columns with three 40-column "windows" (print-outs are 80 columns)
- Save and load files in either fixed or variable 80-column format
- Repeat function for key-stroke entry
- Purge command to clear the edit buffer and restart

Keystroke Functions (Edit Mode):

- Capability to INSERT/DELETE a single character
- Capability to INSERT/DELETE program lines
- Scroll screen both horizontally and vertically
- Tab to desired character position

ESCAPE functions (Command Mode):

- F(ind)—finds a particular string, including a specified occurrence of that string as well as which column limits to search
- R(eplace)—replaces a particular string in your code with another string, with the same features as the F(ind) command
- M(ove)—moves a section of code to another part of your program
- C(opy)—moves a copy of a section of code to another

part of your program

- D(elete)—deletes a section of code
- I(nsert)—inserts a file before a particular line of code
- S(how)—enables you to jump to a particular section of your program according to the line number specified
- A(djust)—provides a quick way to get in and out of line-number mode
- H(ome)—moves the cursor to the top left corner of the current screen
- T(ab)—enables you to easily change the tab locations

The second feature of the Editor/Assembler module that was emphasized was the ease at which a diskette-based program could be written by a user. Since you can write in Assembly language, the doors have been opened to develop fast-running programs that utilize the TMS 9900 microprocessor's power. The Editor/Assembler module will be available by the first quarter of 1982.

The final portion of the meeting was dedicated to TI's new arcade games: Tombstone City: the 21st Century; Car Wars; and TI Invaders. These Home Computer games are further examples of the diversity of the TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A computers. The games will be available in the fourth quarter of this year, and they will be explained further at that time.

SM*TEXNET* is a servicemark of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Miscellaneous Software

Name	Graphic Demos	Speech Demo	Printer Demo	Prog Aids	System	Media	Source
BASIC Demo	X					C	Users Group
Biorhythms	X					C	Users Group
Christmas	X					C	Users Group
Colorburst	X					C	Users Group
Color Crayon	X					C	Users Group
Color Crayon #2	X					D	Users Group
Colorado Flag	X					C	Users Group
Colour	X					C	Users Group
Demonstration	X					CM	TI
Fast/Ship	X					C	Users Group
Fishin'	X					C	Users Group
Haunted House	X					C	Users Group
Indiana	X					C	Users Group
Kaleidoscope	X					C	Users Group
Multi-Maze	X					C	Users Group
New Jersey	X					C	Users Group
NM Flag	X					C	Users Group
Ohio	X					C	Users Group
Patterns	X					C	Users Group
Playing Cards	X					C	Users Group
Seahorse	X					C	Users Group
Sine-Wave	X					C	Users Group
Snoopy #2	X					C	Users Group
Spiral-Graphics	X					C	Users Group
Stars	X					C	Users Group
Texas #2	X					C	Users Group
Valentine	X					C	Users Group
Very Large Letters	X					C	Users Group
Video-Graphs	X					CM	TI
Visions	X					C	Users Group
Speech Demo		X				C	Users Group
Speech Editor		X		X	X	CM	TI
Bunny			X			C	Users Group
Love			X			C	Users Group
Biorhythm-Printer			X			C	Users Group
MX-80 Block Gr. Dump			X			C	Denali Data
Printed Mazes			X			C	Users Group
Signs			X			C	Users Group
Thermal Printer Tests			X			C	Users Group
Call Key				X		C	Users Group
Color Comb. Display				X		C	Users Group
Dice Roll				X		C	Users Group
Graphing Package				X		C	TI
Large Characters				X		C	Users Group
Lower Case Letters				X		C	Users Group
Maze-Maker				X		C	Users Group
Name and Number				X		C	Users Group
Print Right				X		C	Users Group
Programming Aids I				X		C	TI
Programming Aids II				X		D	TI
Programming Aids III				X		D	TI
Diagnostic					X	CM	TI
Terminal Emulator II					X	CM	TI
TI Extended BASIC					X	CM	TI
Handicapper						C	Users Group
ITT						C	Users Group
Job Cost						C	Users Group
Trade						C	Users Group

MEDIA: D = Diskette, C = Cassette, CM = Command Module

Denali Data
 c/o International 99/4 Users' Group
 7908 N. W. 23rd Street, Suite #5
 Bethany, OK 73008

International 99/4 Users' Group
 7908 N.W. 23rd Street, Suite #5
 Bethany, OK 73008

Newest Software Packages from TI

Texas Instruments now adds five more software packages to the growing list of applications programs available for the TI-99/4 and TI-99/4A Home Computers.

Draw Poker

This package is a mind-teasing, one-player card game in which you play against the computer. The computer shuffles, deals and handles the details of play while you raise, call, fold, and discard. A bankroll of \$5,000 is given to both you and the computer. Play continues until you or the computer lose the bankroll.

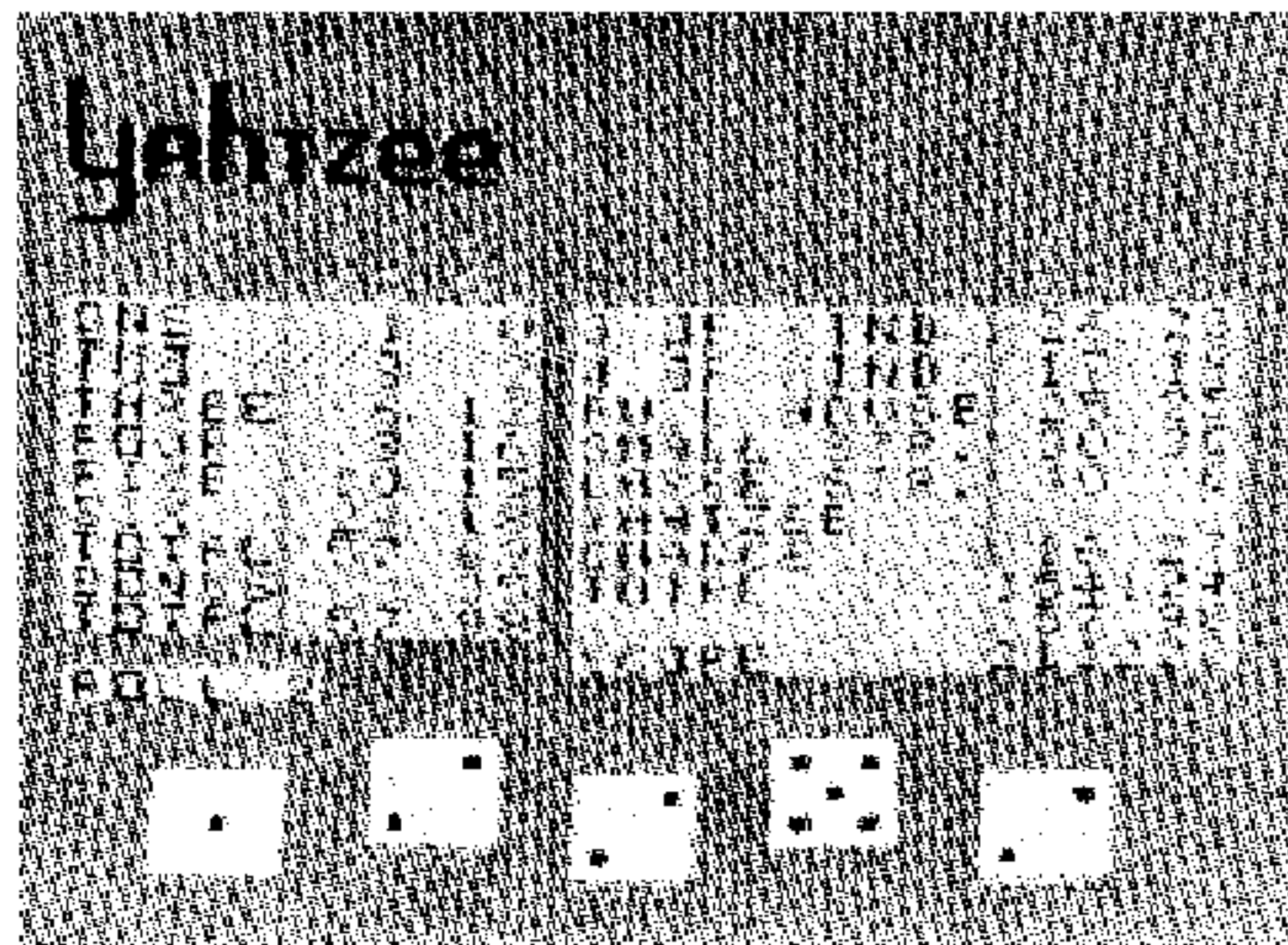
The package is available on diskette at a suggested retail price of \$24.95 or on cassette at a suggested retail price of \$19.95. The diskette version (model number PHD 5037) requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive). The cassette-based version (model number PHT 6037) requires a cassette recorder and TI Cassette Interface Cable. Both versions require the TI Extended BASIC *Solid State Software*TM Command Module.

Bridge Bidding II

Developed for TI by Robert Hamman and Robert Wolff of the Dallas "Aces," Bridge Bidding II lets you practice slam bidding. In addition, the program explains some of the bridge bidding conventions which can help you determine whether you should bid a grand slam, a small slam, or no slam. You can learn the art of ace asking, the sources of tricks, what is an adequate trump suit, cue bidding, asking bids, and Blackwood, Gerber, and Grand Slam Force conventions.

The package is available on diskette at a suggested retail price of \$29.95 or on a cassette at a suggested price of \$24.95. The diskette version (model number PHD 5039) requires the TI Disk Memory System (TI

Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive). The cassette-based version (model number PHT 6039) requires a cassette recorder and TI Cassette Interface Cable.



With the new Yahtzee* game from TI, you can concentrate on strategy, while the computer rolls the dice and keeps score for you.

Yahtzee*

Now, one of Milton Bradley's most popular games of strategy and chance can be played on your TI Home Computer. With the Yahtzee *Solid State Software*TM Command Module, you determine your game strategy while the computer rolls the dice and keeps score for you. The computer randomizes each roll of the dice, and you indicate which dice, if any, you want to keep. After a maximum of three rolls, you enter your points on the scoreboard.

Play against a friend or the computer using either regular or Challenge Yahtzee rules. With the Yahtzee Command Module, you will never have to search for dice again!

Yahtzee (model number PHM 3039) will provide your family with endless hours of fun and challenge. Its suggested retail price is \$24.95. No additional accessories are required.

Blasto*

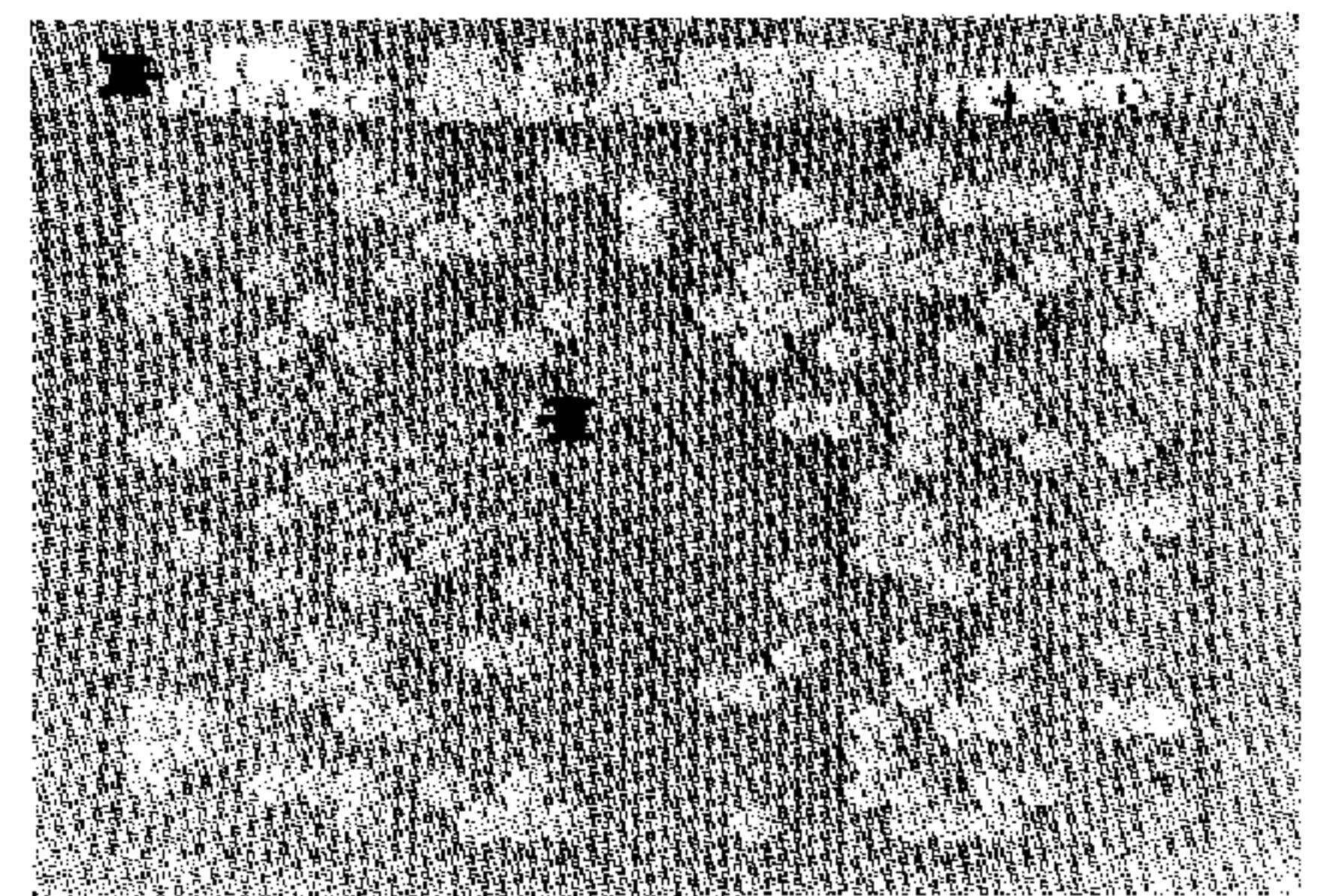
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in command of an armored tank traveling through mine fields, destroying both mines and the opponent's tank? With the Blasto *Solid State Software*TM Command Module, developed for Texas Instruments by the

Milton Bradley Company, you are placed in just such a situation.

Blasto can be played by one or two players. In a one-player game, the object is to blast as many mines as possible in a given time. You also can select mine density and whether or not there are tank trails.

In a two-player game you have the option to play with a mine-field battleground (similar to the one-player game, except that you try to hit both mines and your opponent) or a battleground with obstacles.

The Blasto Command Module (model number PHM 3032) is one of the many arcade games now available for your TI Home Computer. Its suggested retail price is \$24.95. The TI Wired Remote Controllers are optional.



Blasto*, the newest arcade game from TI, puts you in command of an armored tank traveling through a dangerous mine field.

Terminal Emulator II

The Terminal Emulator II *Solid State Software*TM Command Module is one of the most versatile telecommunications software packages on the market today. The *TEX-NET*SM subscription service is just one of the data bases that uses the many features of the Terminal Emulator II Command Module (see the August issue of your User's Newsletter).

If the *Solid State Speech*TM Synthesizer is connected to your computer, you can use the

(see TERMINAL EMULATOR, page 4)

*trademark of Milton Bradley Company

TI Home Computer Groups Continue to Grow

Two additional TI Home Computer Users' Groups are now active in the United States with two more in the organizational stage. Another Users' Group is now active in England, continuing the international scope of these organizations. The rapid growth of Users' Groups reflects the increasing interest in the TI Home Computer and its innovative and versatile technology.

These Users' Groups and others around the world are exceedingly helpful to those interested in sharing technical information, keeping up-to-date on new hardware and software, and exchanging thoughts and ideas.

The new active Users' Groups are:

South Carolina

South Carolina Texas Instruments Computer Club (TIC)
Danny Pack
225 Wychwood Drive
Irmo, SC 29063
(803) 781-6037

Texas

Young Peoples' LOGO Association (YPLA)
1208 Hillisdale Drive
Richardson, TX 75081
(214) 783-7548

England

T.I. Home
Paul Michael Dicks
157 Bishopsford Road
Morden
Surrey
SM4 6BH
01-640-7503

The Users' Groups being formed are:

Michigan

Michigan 99/4 Users' Group
Dave Fischer
5028 Merit Drive
Flint, Michigan 48506
(313) 736-3774

Wisconsin

"Program Innovators"
Gene Hitz
2007 North 71st Street*
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 453-0499

*Note: Contrary to the address that was printed on a recent flier, the correct address is 2007.

The National Users' Group now has become international. All correspondence should be sent to:

International 99/4 Users' Group
7908 N.W. 23rd St., Suite #5
Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 787-8521

There is also a change for correspondence for the Pittsburgh Users' Group:

Pittsburgh Users' Group
P.O. Box 18124
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

(TERMINAL EMULATOR, cont'd)

Terminal Emulator II module to speak any data you receive. The module also allows you to access the text-to-speech capabilities with a TI BASIC program, as well as send and receive color graphics, music, and text.

The Terminal Emulator II module (model number PHM 3035) has one of the highest utility ratings for your TI Home Computer software library. Its suggested retail price is \$49.95. To access data base services, the module requires an RS232 Interface and the TI Telephone Coupler (Modem). To transfer or save files, the module also requires a TI Disk Memory System (TI Disk Drive Controller and TI Disk Memory Drive) or a cassette recorder and the TI Cassette Interface Cable. To access the module's text-to-speech capabilities, the Speech Synthesizer is required.

*Texas Instruments invented the integrated circuit,
the microprocessor, and the microcomputer.
Being first is our tradition.*

Random Bits

New Literature Available from Consumer Relations

Two new pieces of literature are now available from Consumer Relations. They are:

- A list of TI BASIC and TI Extended BASIC changes and errors with dispositions of each.
- A description of how you may use TI BASIC to access files created with the Personal Record Keeping and Statistics *Solid State Software*TM Command Modules.

To obtain your copies of the above literature, write:

Consumer Relations
Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 53
Lubbock, Texas 79408

TEXNETSM Subscription Service Materials Being Prepared

At the time of the printing of this User's Newsletter, the final documentation and promotional materials for *TEXNET*SM subscription service are being prepared for those of you who have sent inquiries.

*SM*TEXNET is a servicemark of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

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Non-TI products are listed in this newsletter for your information. Their inclusion does not represent an endorsement by TI, and lists are not necessarily complete.