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PC-Font Description:

I. Major Functions:

1. Extended character set.

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Allows an Epson MX (with Graftrax), RX, or FX printer to print 243 of the 256 ASCII characters. The remaining 13 are used by the program to control printer font options. In contrast, only 94 characters (in the ASCII range 32-126) can currently be transferred from the screen to the Epson printer. The new characters fall into these groups:

	ASCII #
	<hr/>
o Engineering/Scientific/Financial characters	224-253
o Foreign language characters	128-168 173
o Miscellaneous characters	1-7 16,17,19 21-25 28-31 169-170 174-175

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2. Block graphic fonts.

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Allows the Epson printers specified above AND the IBM Graphics printer to print the 49 block graphic characters consisting of single line, double line, and solid line fonts at twice the normal density. In contrast, Epson printers cannot translate any of the screen graphics into print! The greater density produces darker image and sharper contrast characters than those of the IBM Graphics printer.

	ASCII #
	<hr/>
o Block graphic characters	176-233 254

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3. Font selection.

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Allows the printers specified above to choose one of 13 possible fonts as a default by specifying a single parameter on the command line. The ability to change fonts easily can be useful across a wide variety of applications. For instance, compressed print can be used to print large spreadsheet output, emphasized and/or double strike print for near-letter-quality correspondence, double wide print for overhead transparencies, condensed print for diskette directory labels, etc. Following is a summary of the various font styles:

Font Size	Font Density	Characters per line	Lines per inch
Condensed	Double strike	132	14
Compressed	Standard	132	8
Compressed	Double strike	132	8
Standard	Standard	80	6
Standard	Double strike	80	6
Standard	Emphasized	80	6
Standard	Correspondence	80	6
Compressed-Wide	Standard	66	6
Compressed-Wide	Double strike	66	6
Double wide	Standard	40	6
Double wide	Double strike	40	6
Double wide	Emphasized	40	6
Double wide	Correspondence	40	6

In addition, Epson printers can print the above fonts (except condensed) in italics, bringing the total number of font combinations to 26.

Command line font selection allows the casual user a wide variety of output styles without having to research esoteric printer control codes. Experienced users can still set, reset, and change fonts by embedding printer control codes within the text using an editing or word processing program.

4. Automatic Skip over Perforations:

Allows the printers specified above to enable or disable the Skip over Perforation option by a command line parameter.

The Skip over Perforation feature is usually set on or off by a hardware switch inside the printer. Word processors generally expect the option to be disabled. An incorrect setting can cause double skipping between pages. However, most editors and the DOS 2.x PRINT command expect the option to be enabled. An incorrect setting here causes output to be printed over the entire page, including over the perforations. In order to maintain consistent, high quality output from different sources the user is forced to continually reset the switch.

This sounds easy enough in theory. However, accessing the switch for the first time requires partially disassembling the printer. After that a tool (usually a bent paper clip) must be fabricated to toggle the switch on or off through a small access port. The operation requires a technical sophistication that many business users do not desire to learn. Placing this option under user control improves the quality of the output while decreasing the knowledge the user must possess to obtain it. Experienced users can still set or reset this option using either hardware or software techniques.

