

Support Group Application Note

Number: 005

Issue: 1

Author:



Use of *FX 3

Applicable
Hardware :

BBC B
BBC B+
BBC Master 128

Related
Application
Notes:

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Support Group
Acorn Computers Limited
Acorn House
Vision Park
Histon
Cambridge CB4 4AE

USE OF *FX 3**Output characters destination**

As a result of errors and omissions in the BBC User Guide, use of the *FX 3 command is difficult, particularly when one destination, which is not the screen, is required.

The error in the User Guide is as follows:

page 422: The chart of written character destinations shows four ticks in the Printer [Bit 2] column. There should not be ticks for *FX 3,2 and 3,3.

There is an undocumented bit of this word (bit 3) which allows other bits to be overridden; this is summarised in the chart below:

Value of n in decimal	Value of n in binary				EFFECT			
	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0	Printer	Screen	RS423	
0	0	0	0	0	/+	/	x	+ Printer controlled by VDU 1,2 3 and *FX5 and *FX6
1	0	0	0	1	/+	/	/	
2	0	0	1	0	x	x	x	
3	0	0	1	1	x	x	/	
4	0	1	0	0	x	/	x	
5	0	1	0	1	x	/	/	
6	0	1	1	0	x	x	x	
7	0	1	1	1	x	x	/	* Printer controlled by *FX5 and *FX6 and automatically enabled
8	1	0	0	0	/*	/	x	
9	1	0	0	1	/*	/	/	
10	1	0	1	0	/*	x	x	
11	1	0	1	1	/*	x	/	
12	1	1	0	0	x	/	x	
13	1	1	0	1	x	/	/	
14	1	1	1	0	x	x	x	
15	1	1	1	1	x	x		

Table 1 - the effect of *FX3.n

Note that the appropriate printer must have been selected with *FX5, and that if a serial printer is selected with FX5 and RS423 is selected from the above chart (with FX3) then the output from the RS423 port is undefined.