
**Copyright © 1992 by TextModeCad Company
All Rights Reserved**

First Edition, December 1992

TextModeCad Company makes no warranties with respect to this documentation and disclaims any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular use. Information in this document is subject to change without notice. TextModeCad Company assumes no responsibility for errors that may appear in this document. From time to time, changes may occur in filenames and files included on the distribution disks. TextModeCad Company makes no warranties that such files or facilities as mentioned in this documentation exist on the distribution disks or as part of the materials distributed.

TextModeCad programs are protected by the copyright laws that pertain to computer software. It is illegal to make copies of the contents of disks, except for your use as backups, without the express written permission from TextModeCad Company.

table of contents

overview	1
system configuration	2
using TMC	3
coordinate systems	3
bar menu	3
main dialog box	3
scrolling	4
automatic scrolling	5
line modes (zooming)	5
interface attributes	5
system commands	6
system command summary	7
bit	8
cas	12
chr	12
cin	16
cla	16
clr.	17
clw	17
cpy	18
del	18
exi	19
help	19
ind	21
lis	21
mon	22
mov	24
rec	25
sho	27
sto	28
tbl	29
tex	32
txt	32
wrp.	33
wrt	33
system variables	35
system variable summary	36
menus	37
menus summary	37
dir	38
dup	39

TMC is used for the composition of raster images and the subsequent conversion of the images into binary data to be sent to a laser printer with HP PCL5 Printer Language compatibility. Similar routines to be used for the creation and editing of bit map fonts are presently under development for inclusion in future versions of TMC.

While within the TMC environment, any data generated may be written to disk files, displayed on the screen or sent to the printer. Disk files that are written from within the TMC environment can be in either binary mode or text mode. Binary files include the attribute byte of each character cell along with the character byte. Consequently when binary files are recalled to the screen the characters bring along the colors they had when they were saved. This facility makes TMC ideal for preparing and making screen presentations in color. Files saved in text mode consist solely of the character bytes and are therefore suitable for printing.

system configuration

The system used by TextModeCad Company for the development of TMC consists of the following:

- IBM compatible 386SX (MSDOS)
- 40 Mb Hard Drive
- 3 Mb RAM
- Intel 387SX Math coprocessor
- VGA graphics board
- Logitech Serial Mouse
- HP LaserJet III compatible laser printer

TMC will operate without the coprocessor. At compilation time a switch was selected which tells TMC to check for the coprocessor at execution time and use it if one is present, otherwise use an emulator which does the job but not quite as fast.

The laser printer is not a necessity since very good output results are obtainable with the use of any printer. One advantage to using TMC with a dot matrix printer without landscape printing capabilities is that within the TMC environment you can print the worksheet in as many sections as is required and splice them all together. This technique may also be required for extra large worksheets even with the landscape printing capabilities of a laser printer.

each command and TMC system variable will indicate whether that item provides for keyboard entry or not. While entering data at this prompt a rather primitive editor is available. You can not insert any characters between other characters. If you make an error in your typing your only recourse is to use the back arrow delete key to get back to the error then retype the remainder of the line. If you are using the mouse to select commands from the bar menu, rather than keying them in, the under bar text cursor should not be visible in this area. You may need to press the enter key to kick it out of there. The under bar text cursor should be off except while entering commands, variable names and data at the "TMC >" prompt. Informative messages such as the name of the most recently assigned file name will also appear in this area when ever it is of a concern.

The top left area is generally a prompting area that can also serve as a reminder to you as to what phase of a certain command you are in.

The top right area displays the screen coordinates and work sheet coordinates of the current mouse cursor position and displays an instantaneous message during certain commands.

The bottom right area displays error messages.

scrolling

We can pan around the worksheet while looking through the opening in the screen with TMC's scrolling mechanism. To move to the right of the worksheet move the mouse cursor into the right border of the interface (anywhere on screen column coordinate 80) and press the right mouse button. By just tapping the right mouse button you can move one work sheet column at a time or by holding it down you can move to the right edge of the worksheet. Alternatively you can move with the right arrow key on the keyboard. As this is being done you can tell where the top left corner of the screen opening is relative to the worksheet by having moved along the horizontal scale as you panned to the right of the work sheet. If you pan to the edge of worksheet you will see that the maximum worksheet column number is 168. Also note that on the scale the tens are red under 100 and green over 100. To move back to the left press the right mouse button while the cursor is positioned anywhere in screen column 1 or use the left arrow key on the keyboard.

system commands

TMC like other CAD systems is based on the selection and execution of commands that perform various functions necessary to complete the desired end product. A listing of TMC's system commands and a brief description of the function of each is presented in the "system command summary" list. A somewhat more detailed description of each command as well as some examples and ideas on the use of TMC follows.

Many of the commands may be executed with a left mouse button click on the menu bar (by selection) as well as by key-in at the "TMC >" prompt. The alternative methods of execution are indicated in the detailed documentation for each command.

The entry or selection of required accompanying data must be by the same method used for the command selection. If you key-in a command it must be followed on the same line by any required data; if you select a command with a left mouse button click from the menu bar the required data must be selected with left mouse button clicks also.

If a command is inadvertently selected from the menu bar with a left mouse button click it must be cleared with a right mouse button click before proceeding.

TMC is case sensitive; all commands and data keyed-in must be lower case.

Automatic scrolling is provided for during execution of many of TMC's commands. See "automatic scrolling" under the section "using TMC" for a description of this unique feature.

Commands are terminated with a single right mouse button click except for "cpy" and "moy" which require two right mouse button clicks; the first click terminating the current copy or move operation and the second terminating the command.

When using commands that drag an image around the screen, you need to come to a complete stop before clicking the right mouse button to terminate the move.

In the assignment of coordinate values to diagonally opposite corners of a rectangular area, if the same set of coordinates is assigned to both corners then a single character cell has been defined.



"bit" is used for scanning a raster graphic image contained within a rectangular area of the worksheet (not necessarily totally visible on the screen), converting it to HP PCL5 printer language raster graphic binary data and writing it to a disk file in text mode format.

The disk file written to will have the name most recently assigned to the TMC system variable "zz" through the use of the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "dir" of the menu bar. The file name may also be assigned by keying in the TMC system variable name "zz" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the desired file name. As usual the file name must include enough of the path name so that its exact location can be established.

"bit" is executed with a left mouse button click on "bit" of the menu bar followed by left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet that contains the image. The command is terminated immediately upon selection of the second corner.

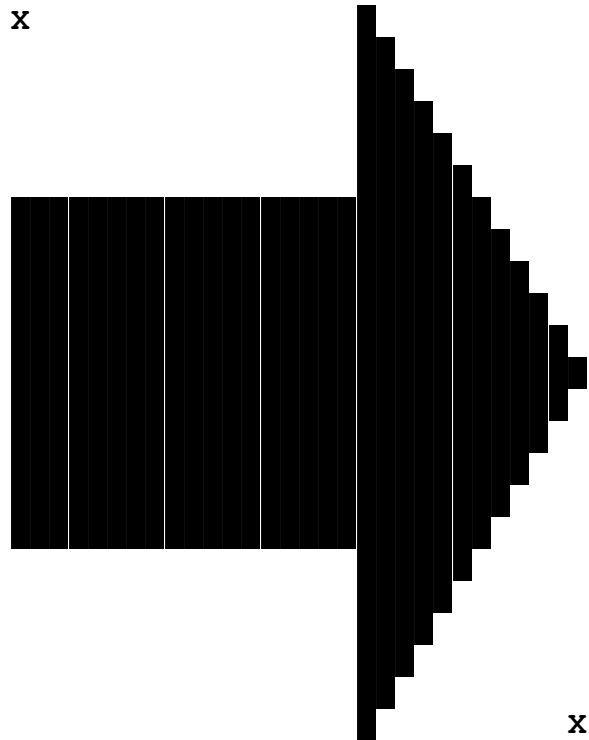
With the mouse/menu method of execution automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "bit".

"bit" may also be executed by keying in the command name "bit" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet that contains the image.

With the key-in method of execution the area of the worksheet containing the image may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed and will therefore not be visible. This is of no concern to TMC, the area designated will be written to the file whether visible or not.

Subsequently the file may be merged or inserted into the file of any text document to be printed. The printer control escape sequences generated by "bit" may be edited so the raster graphic image may be printed at any given set of X/Y coordinates on the document along with the remainder of the text contained in the document. The image may be treated as any other HP PCL5 raster graphic image in that it may be filled with a pattern, etc.

Select decimal character code 219 from the "asc" menu.
Set TMC system variable "zz" to arrow.tst (the name used for
the data file) by key-in:
TMC > zz arrow.tst
Compose the arrow as shown below using command "chr".
Execute "bit" with a left mouse button click on the menu bar
followed with left mouse button clicks at the spots
indicated with the X's below.



Execute "lis" with a left mouse button click on the menu bar
followed with a left mouse button click at the spot
desired for the top left corner of the data file. The
file will appear similar to that shown below.

Note the string of 5 printer control escape sequences on the
first line and 2 on the last line. "bit" is designed to add
these 2 lines to the data. They may be edited to suit
existing conditions. The third sequence on the top line
contains the X and Y coordinates of the location of the top
left corner of the image on the printed page.

cas

"cas" is used to reverse the case of all the characters contained within a rectangular area of the worksheet.

The colors are not affected by using "cas".

"cas" is executed with a left mouse button click on "cas" of the menu bar followed with left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet. Double clicking at a given character cell location reverses the case of that single character. Reversing the case of characters in other areas of the worksheet may continue until the command is terminated with a right mouse button click.

With the mouse/menu method of execution automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "cas".

"cas" may also be executed by keying in the command name "cas" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet.

With the key-in method of execution the rectangular area of the work sheet intended for character case reversal may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed.

chr

chr" is used for placing rectangular areas on the worksheet at any location and size filled with any ASCII character.

The ASCII character used is the character most recently selected from the menu activated with a left button click on either "asc", "drw" or "dup" of the menu bar. The character may also be set by keying in the variable name "asc" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the decimal ASCII character cod

The foreground and background colors used are the colors most recently selected from the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "col" of the menu bar. The colors may also be set by keying in the variable name "txc" for foreground or "bgc" for background at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the numerical equivalent of the desired colors as noted on the "col" menu.

EXAMPLE 2:

Select decimal character code 196 from the "drw" menu.

Select the foreground color Red (4) and background color

Black (0) from the "col" menu.

Execute "chr" by key-ins:

TMC > chr 22 28 22 53

TMC > chr 24 28 24 53

TMC > chr 26 28 26 53

(22, 28) _____ (22, 53)

(24, 28) _____ (24, 53)

(26, 28) _____ (26, 53)

Variables "rsk" and "csk" set the number of rows and cols respectively to skip between rows and cols containing the most recently selected ASCII character. In Example 1 both of these variables were set to zero, the default values.

Other values for these variables may be set by keying in the variable name at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the value.

EXAMPLE 3:

Same as Example 1 except set "rsk" to 1 and "csk" to 4 by the following key-ins to produce one blank row between rows and four blank columns between columns:

TMC > rsk 1

TMC > csk 4

 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$
 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

EXAMPLE 4:

Same as Example 2 except that by setting the variable "rsk" to 1 and "csk" to 0 only two coordinate points are required rather than six.

(13, 28) _____

_____ (17, 53)

If "rsk" and "csk" were both 1, dashed lines would result.

Having completed the basic table the text can be added as shown below with the "txt" command . Colors may or may not be added depending on their significance and whether you are making a screen display presentation or not.

Catageory	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Executives	90,000	85,000	90,000	90,000
Project Managers	80,000	80,000	75,000	75,000
Engineers	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,500
Draftspersons	150	300	300	400

cin

"cin" closes a file previously designated by the command "ind" as containing TMC command data to be processed as a batch file.

"cin" can be executed only by keying in the command name "cin" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the name of the bat file. As usual the file name must include enough of the path name so that its exact location can be established.

cla

"cla" clears the entire worksheet as opposed to only the portion of the worksheet visible on the screen. If it is desired to clear only the portion of the worksheet visible on the screen use the command "clw".

"cla" is executed with a left mouse button click on "cla" of the menu bar. The entire worksheet is immediately cleared and is not recoverable.

"cla" may also be executed by keying in the command name "cla" at the "TMC >" prompt.

cpy

"cpy" is used for copying rectangular areas of the worksheet of any size and location to new locations.

"cpy" is executed with a left mouse button click on "cpy" of the menu bar followed with left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet to be copied.

The top left corner of the area will appear to be attached to the cursor as it is dragged across the screen.

Give left mouse button clicks at the new locations of the top left corner of the area being copied.

Give a right mouse button click to dispose of the area from the cursors grasp.

You may then select another area to copy, or give a second right mouse button click to terminate the "cpy" command.

Automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "cpy" and is in effect until the command is terminated.

"cpy" may not be executed by keying in the command name "cpy" at the "TMC >" prompt.

TMC suggests that the diagonal corners used for the "cpy" command and their order of clicking be: bottom right first then top left. The reason for this is that the top left corner of the image being moved is the point of attachment.

del

"del" is used for deleting rectangular areas of the worksheet at any desired location and size.

When the deletion is made the entire rectangular area is displayed with what TMC calls the deletion color. The deletion color used is the color most recently selected from the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "dlc" of the menu bar. The deletion color may also be set by keying in the variable name "dlc" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the numerical equivalent of the desired color as noted on the "dlc" menu. The default color is black (0).

Also, as noted in the main dialog box, you may return to "edit" mode by pressing the <Esc> key once to get rid of the current "help" frame and once to get back to "edit" mode. Any combination of right mouse button clicks and <Esc> key presses will work. A left mouse button click on the "exit" button on the header strip provides a third method for getting rid of the current "help" frame.

For additional on screen help, select help while in help mode.

In "help" mode all "edit" mode commands are inoperative.

Example:

You are in edit mode and you want help with "rec". Do a left mouse button click on "help" or press F1. Page 1 of "Using TMC" appears. Do a right mouse button click to get rid of it. Do a left mouse button click on "rec". To get back to "edit" mode double click the right mouse button.

The foregoing introduction to using TMC and TMC's online help appears on two help frames titled "using TMC" that are displayed immediately upon entering the help mode. The first of these two frames must be cleared before you can access help on any other topic as described above. To bypass displaying "using TMC" and the necessity to dispose of it before being able to access anything else set the TMC system variable "bypass" to 1; enter the system variable name at the "TMC>" prompt followed by 1.

The number of lines from the file that are displayed and added to the worksheet is the number most recently assigned to the TMC system variable "lism". A value for "lism" may only be assigned by keying in the TMC system variable name "lism" at the "TMC > " prompt followed by the desired value. The default value for "lism" is 300.

The foreground and background colors used are the colors most recently selected from the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "col" of the menu bar. The colors may also be set by keying in the variable name "txc" for foreground or "bgc" for background at the "TMC > " prompt followed by the numerical equivalent of the desired colors as noted on the "col" menu.

"lis" is executed with a left mouse button click on "lis" of the menu bar followed with a left mouse button click at the spot desired for the location of the top left corner of the contents of the file. The command is terminated immediately upon selection of the location of the top left corner.

There is no automatic scrolling with "lis".

"lis" may also be executed by keying in the command name "lis" at the "TMC > " prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of the desired location of the top left corner of the contents of the file.

With either method of execution the area of the worksheet intended to receive the file may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed and will therefore not be visible without moving the screen opening to that area of the worksheet (scrolling).



"mon" is used for placing a string of three letter abbreviations for any number of months at any spacing and beginning with any month along a single row.

The number of months used is the value most recently assigned to the TMC system variable "numo" which can only be set by keying in the variable name "numo" at the "TMC > " prompt followed by the desired value. The default value is 12.

To make the placement by the mouse method give a left mouse button click on "mon" of the menu bar, one on character row 2 at character column 26 and one at character column...looks like 49 should do it.

	1					2					3					4					5				
	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890					
1											Feb	Mar	Apr	May											
2																									
3																									
4																									
5																									
6																									
7																									
8																									
9																									
10																									
11																									

mov

"mov" is used for moving rectangular areas of the worksheet of any size and location to new locations and deleting the present image.

The rectangular area left behind is rendered the color of the most recent setting of the deletion color unless you make the present location one of the new locations also. This is possible, and sometimes may be the most efficient way to perform a "cpy" (copy).

The deletion color used is the color most recently selected from the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "dlc" of the menu bar. The deletion color may also be set by keying in the variable name "dlc" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the numerical equivalent of the desired color as noted on the "dlc" menu. The default for the deletion color is black (0).

"mov" is executed with a left mouse button click on "mov" of the menu bar followed with left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet. The top left corner of the area will appear to be attached to the cursor as it is being dragged.

With the mouse/menu method of execution automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "rec".

"rec" may also be executed by keying in the command name "rec" at the "TMC > " prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangle.

With the key-in method of execution the area of the work sheet intended to receive the rectangle may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed.

EXAMPLE:

Select line style 1 from the "sty" menu.

Set the foreground color to Light Cyan (11) and background color to Dark Blue (1) by key-ins:

TMC > txc 11

TMC > bgc 1

Execute "rec" by key-in:

TMC > rec 19 24 23 55

(19, 24)



(23, 55)

When "sty" is set to 5, rectangles may be drawn with the ASCII character conforming to the character code number most recently assigned to the TMC system variable "asc". "asc" may be set by clicking on a selection from the menu activated by clicking on either "asc" or "drw" of the menu bar. The "asc" menu includes all 256 characters whereas the "drw" menu offers only the special line drawing characters.

Quite often the desired character may already be on the screen. If this situation arises the character code for that character may be assigned to "asc" by first clicking on "dup" of the menu bar and then clicking on the character at its present location. Confirmation of the assignment is indicated by a message in the top right half of the main dialog box.

The foreground and background colors of each character will be displayed in the same colors that it had when the file was written since the file must be in binary format. In this format the file contains the attribute byte as well as the character byte of each character.

"sho" is executed with a left mouse button click on "sho" of the menu bar followed with a left mouse button click at the spot desired for the location of the top left corner of the contents of the file. The file may continue to be displayed and added to the worksheet at other locations until the command is terminated with a right mouse button click.

Automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "mov" and is in effect until the command is terminated.

"sho" may also be executed by keying in the command name "sho" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of the desired location of the top left corner of the contents of the file.

With either method of execution the area of the worksheet intended to receive the file may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed and will therefore not be visible without moving the screen opening to that area of the worksheet (scrolling).

The key-in method of execution is most desirable for large files covering large areas.

sto

"sto" is used for writing the contents of a rectangular area of the worksheet to a disk file in binary format. In this format the attribute byte as well as the character byte of each character is written such that the file can be recalled and displayed in the same colors that it had when written.

The disk file written to will have the name most recently assigned to the TMC system variable "zz" through the use of the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "dir" of the menu bar. The file name may also be assigned by keying in the TMC system variable name "zz" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the desired file name. As usual the file name must include enough of the path name so that its exact location can be established.

"tbl" is executed with a left mouse button click on "tbl" of the menu bar followed with left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular table. The command is terminated immediately after selection of the second corner of the table.

With the mouse/menu method of execution automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "tbl".

"tbl" may also be executed by keying in the command name "tbl" at the "TMC>" prompt followed by the row/col coordinate integer values of any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular table.

With the key-in method of execution the area of the work sheet intended to receive the rectangular table may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed.

With the mouse/menu method of execution the user can visually see that TMC is generating the desired number of table rows and columns. With the key-in method of execution it is necessary to calculate one set of table corner coordinates from the given data. One should be able to use the following equations to make the required calculations.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{row2} &= \text{row1} + / - (\text{table rows}) * (\text{tro} + 1) \\ \text{col2} &= \text{col1} + / - (\text{table cols}) * (\text{tco} + 1) \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE:

Construct the same table shown on page 8 of "help on chr".

The number of character columns in the 4 month table columns is 6, so set the variable "tco" to 6 by keyin:

```
TMC> tco 6
```

The number of character columns in the category column is 22; say 3 table columns of 6 character columns each for 18; 2 character columns will need to be added to the 2 that will be occupied by vertical lines. The final total number of character columns is 52. There will be a total of 7 table columns needed initially.

The number of character rows in the table rows is 1 which is the default for the variable "tro" so leave it as it is.



"tex" is used to set TMC's line mode to 25, 43 or 50 lines. The default value which is the mode at the time TMC is executed is 43 lines.

"tex" is executed with a left mouse button click on "mod" of the menu bar followed with a left mouse button click on any of the three selections offered on the "mod" menu.

"tex" may also be executed by keying in the command name "tex" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the desired number of lines to be displayed (25, 43 or 50).



"txt" enables the user to create a rectangular block of text at any desired location and size on the worksheet.

The foreground and background colors used are the colors most recently selected from the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "col" of the menu bar. The colors may also be set by keying in the variable name "txc" for foreground or "bgc" for background at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the numerical equivalent of the desired colors as noted on the "col" menu.

"txt" is executed with a left mouse button click on "txt" of the menu bar followed with left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area.

With the mouse/menu method of execution, automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "txt".

"txt" may also be executed by keying in the command name "txt" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet.

With the key-in method of execution the area of the worksheet intended to receive the rectangular area may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed.

"txt" is designed to display the entire block in the most recently selected background color; the user may dynamically see the extents of the block as it is being defined.

WRT

"wrt" is used for writing the contents of a rectangular area of the worksheet to a disk file in text mode format.

The disk file written to will have the name most recently assigned to the TMC system variable "zz" through the use of the menu activated with a left mouse button click on "dir" of the menu bar. The file name may also be assigned by keying in the TMC system variable name "zz" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the desired file name. As usual the file name must include enough of the path name so that its exact location can be established.

"wrt" is executed with a left mouse button click on "wrt" of the menu bar followed by left mouse button clicks at any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet you wish to write to the file. The command is terminated immediately upon selection of the second corner.

With the mouse/menu method of execution automatic scrolling is in effect immediately after clicking on "wrt".

"wrt" may also be executed by keying in the command name "wrt" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of any two diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular area of the worksheet you wish to write to the file.

With the key-in method of execution the area of the worksheet intended to be written to the file may be outside the area of the worksheet currently being displayed and will therefore not be visible. This is of no concern to TMC, the area designated will be written to the file whether visible or not.

If the device name of your printer is assigned to "zz", then "wrt" will write directly to the printer.

During execution of "wrt", trailing spaces are truncated if "trunc" has the value of 1 and not truncated if set to 0. The effect of this variable can be seen when a file created by "wrt" is displayed with the system command "lis". Files created with "trunc" set to 0 will display as a full rectangle with the background of the color most recently assigned to the system variable "bgco".

system variable summary

VARIABLE	DEFAULT	DESCRIPTION
----------	---------	-------------

- asc(asc) 19-solid ASCII character for "chr".
- bgc(bgc) 0-Black TMC background color for all commands using colors.
- csk 0 Number of columns to skip by "chr".
- dlc(dlc) 0-Black Background color for areas deleted by "del".
- lis 300 Number of lines to be listed by "lis".
- mon1 1-Jan First month in string placed with "mon".
- numo 12 Number of months placed by "mon".
- bypass 1 = on Switch to bypass initial help screen.
- rsk 0 Number of rows to skip by "chr".
- sty(styl) 1-Single Line style used by "rec" and "tbl".
- tco(tcol) 5 Number of character cols per table col for "tbl".
- trunc 1 = on Switch to truncate trailing blanks used by "wrt".
- tro(trow) 1 Number of character rows per table row for "tbl".
- txc(txco) 7-White TMC foreground color for all commands using colors.
- zz untitled.Name of current file to read or write. Used by all commands accessing files.



"dir" can not be used for assigning a name to a new file. A new file can be assigned a name only by entering the TMC system variable name "zz" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the desired file name. "dir" can only assign "zz" the name of an existing file with a left mouse button click on the name desired.

A copy of the actual menu is shown below and can best be used in describing how it can be used.

TextModeCad		Load File		TMC Ver 1.00	
Path Name: C:\TMCINC\TMC01					
File Name: CHR1.HLP					
..	<DIR>		03-24-92		4:47a
DEMS	<DIR>		03-24-92		5:45p
HELP	<DIR>		03-24-92		9:09a
MENU	<DIR>		03-24-92		1:11a
CHR1	HLP	45427	03-24-92		2:32p
CHR2	HLP	36289	03-24-92		2:54p
DRW1	HLP	1234	03-24-92		7:45p
LIS1	HLP	56932	03-24-92		8:36a
<< E x i t >>		<< Continue >>		<< H e l p >>	
Esc		Enter		F1	

The current directory, the directory containing the files shown in the list, will be shown as the Path Name.

To change directory give a left mouse button click on the directory name shown in the list. Directory names are those with a < DIR > after them. The " .. " directory is the parent of the current directory. Changing directory in this menu has no effect on your working directory.

interface attributes

TMC's user interface consists of everything displayed within the TMC environment that is not user generated; user interface frame, menus, help frames, etc. The attributes consist of configurations, sizes, colors, locations, etc. Most interface attributes can be altered by the user by assigning new values to "attribute variables" or editing the files containing the various configurations; "menu.dat" and "help.dat".

attribute variables

TMC interface attribute variables are parameters that control attributes of the user interface. TMC interface attribute variables along with TMC system variables are included in the configuration file "tmccfg.ini". This file is an ASCII text file and the values may be edited with most any text editor. The values assigned to the variables listed in this file are the values they assume at execution time and retain until they are changed within the TMC environment. Upon exiting the TMC environment the values current at that time are written back to this file and will become the active values at the next time of execution.

Within the TMC environment values are assigned to the TMC attribute variables by entering the variables name at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the desired value. Certain variables may only be changed by editing the "tmccfg.ini" file; these variables are noted by the open circle bullets in the list titled "attribute variable summary".

The variables included in the "tmccfg.ini" file and their default values can be displayed within the TMC environment by giving a left mouse button click on "var" of the menu bar. This display can be disposed of with a left mouse button click anywhere on the screen and all the variables shown will be assigned the so called default value shown. To dispose of the display without setting the default values give a right mouse button click anywhere on the screen.

attribute commands

Attribute commands are commands designed specifically for accessing the files "menu.dat" and "help.dat". These commands along with their description are given in the list titled "attribute command summary". These commands, unlike the system commands can only be executed by keyboard entry in a manner described for the various system commands under the section heading "system commands". Likewise, the data required for each command must be entered by keyin at the "TMC >" prompt following the command name.

The two files consist of blocks of data, each of which is headed by a unique name representative of the interface item that it displays when called upon. "help.dat" contains data for all the on line help frames and "menu.dat" contains all the other display items. The data blocks contained in each file are listed, along with a description, in the two lists titled "menu block summary" and "help block summary".

By assigning either of the two file names to the TMC system variable "zz" as previously described and assigning the desired block name to the attribute variable "blk", the user can call up these blocks of data and edit them. The block name assignment is made by entering the attribute variable name "blk" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the name of the desired block. The block may then be displayed by entering the attribute command name "shoblk" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinates of the desired location of the top left corner of the block.

After editing the block as desired with the standard system commands the block can be returned to its file by entering the attribute command name "stoblk" at the "TMC >" prompt followed by the row/col coordinate values of any two diagonally opposite corners of the block. But before doing this it will be necessary to delete the old block data from the file by entering the attribute command "delblk" at the "TMC >" prompt; no data required but you better be sure the name currently assigned to the attribute variable "blk" is the one you want to delete.

menu block summary

BLOCK NAME	SUBJECT MATTER
• asci	ASCII character codes
• bott	Interface frame dialog box at bottom of screen
• colors	TMC system color selector
• delc	Background color selector for system command "del"
• direc	Menu for "dir" - Load file
• draw	ASCII character codes for line drawing characters
• info	Information only - Characters 176 - 178
• intro01	Introductory screen displayed upon execution
• main	Bar menu at top of screen
• mode	Video mode selector - number of text rows
• side	Right side of interface frame
• spare	Spares that may be used by the user
• styl	"rec" and "tbl" line style
• welcome	Welcome screen - second frame seen after execution

files and setup

In referring to the "files summary", the first four files in the list make TMC run. For best results and simplest setup put these four files in the same directory, like "C:\TMC" and add the full path name of that directory to the PATH definition in your "autoexec.bat" file. Then edit the configuration file "tmccfg.ini" with any ASCII text editor so that the values of the two variables, "menupath" and "helppath" are the correct complete full path name to the two files "menu.dat" and "help.dat". With this setup you are now ready to run TMC from any directory in your MS-DOS environment. If you want to set up different from this it will help you to know that within the program TMC searches the PATH directories to find "tmccfg.ini" so make sure that it is in a directory that is in your PATH definition. TMC looks only one place for each of the two files "menu.dat" and "help.dat" and that is where you tell it to look by assigning the full path names to the two variables "menupath" and "helppath" within the file "tmccfg.ini".

The ".man" files include escape sequence printer commands for an HP-III or compatible laser printer. If you have such a printer you should be able to print up a user manual of desktop publishing quality. These files use the soft fonts included in the "TMC01.fon" file so if you do print the manual don't forget to download this font file. You should be able to download it with the DOS copy command as follow

```
C: > copy /b tmc01.fon prn
```

If you don't have a laser printer you will need to edit out all the printer commands from the ".man" files before you try to print a manual. Else make use of the transaction form included in the "readme.dat" file and order a desktop publishing quality copy today.

The remaining files, except for the "readme.dat" file, contain data that can be used to print sample TMC creations. They all contain HP-III printer control escape sequences and can only be printed on a compatible printer. Except for "prnesc.lis" which must be printed from within the TMC environment, the ".lis" files may be printed from the DOS or the TMC environment.

The ".sho" files contain attribute bytes and may only be printed on an HP-III or compatible printer from within the TMC environment.



