HOME MOVIE
AND
VCR TITLER

by

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Purpose:

This program is designed to provide a user-friendly package to create and display colorful titles for your home movies, slides or VCR tapes. It works with any 800, XL Series or XE Series ATARI with at least 48K memory and 1 disk drive.

Design:

The program uses ATARI Graphics Mode 2 for all title displays. A maximum of twenty separate screens for each title may be created and then displayed on the monitor screen for filming with a home movie or other camera or fed into your VCR for dubbing in titles.

The screens may be fine-scrolled as one, long screen or you may select the page-flipping mode in which each screen is displayed with enough time to read it and then the next screen is brought into view. The alphabet mode simulated the typing of one character at a time as seen on the title screen of this program.

You can choose any of the 128 available colors for the background and four other colors can be selected for your characters and inter-mixed as your desire.

Instructions:

Turn on your disk drive and (TV) monitor. Insert the disk and turn on your computer with BASIC installed. After you have watched the program create the title screen, press **START**.

The Main Menu will appear. The first time you use the program you will not have created any titles. Sample titles (EXAMPLE.SCN and ROCKET.SCN) have been provided on the disk. If you wish to see them type "1". (Try ROCKET.SCN with the scrolling mode for an interesting effect.) If you wish to immediately go to the **CREATE** mode, type "3". (The ERASE mode is provided to allow you the remove unwanted titles as the directory fills up.)

After selecting Load or Create, a series of five screens will appear which allow you to select the background color and four character colors. Making the color selections at this point will allow you to see the results of your creations exactly as they will appear in the final version. The colors for the characters will depend upon whether you are using **NORMAL UPPER-CASE**, **INVERSE UPPER-CASE**, **NORMAL LOWER-CASE**, or **INVERSE LOWER-CASE**.

Each screen works in the same way. The selection (background, normal upper-case, inverse upper-case, etc.) will be shown at the top of the screen. While holding down the **CONTROL** key, press the arrow keys to change the color. The result is immediately apparent. After you have set the color to your satisfaction, press the return key. The next selection may now be made. You will be shown a composite screen of all your selections when done. (You may wish to make a copy of the keyboard mode and associated colors for later reference.) If you are satisfied with the appearance, press "Y". Pressing "N" will take you back to the beginning of the **color** selection routine.

WARNING
DO NOT PRESS THE RESET KEY.
The keyboard will lock-up, you must turn the
computer off and then on again to re-start!

After you have set the colors to your satisfaction, you are ready to create your title screens. (If you loaded an old title at the start of the program, the Create mode is bypassed and you are sent directly to the option screen described below.) A blank screen in the background color you selected will appear with a small window at the bottom of the screen. There is a message in the window which should look like this:

AFTER YOU HAVE PREPARED THE SCREEN TO
YOUR SATISFACTION, PRESS ESCAPE KEY
THIS IS SCREEN # Ø

Depending upon your choice of colors, the message may or may not be visible. Since you selected the colors, I cannot guarantee the visibility.

In the upper part of the screen is a small open cursor. You may control its position just as you would a normal cursor in graphics mode zero. Characters you type will appear at the cursor position and the cursor will move to the right. There is full wrap-around for the cursor, but it will not advance to the next line!

After you have finished creating the screen, press **ESCAPE**. The message at the bottom of the screen will change to:

PLEASE WAIT FOR ME TO COPY SCREEN.

After the screen has been copied into memory, a new message will appear:

DO YOU NEED ANOTHER SCREEN?

Answering **"Y"** will clear the previous screen and you can
continue for a maximum of 20 separate screens. If you reply
"N", you will be provided with an option screen. Press:

> **"A"** for ALPHABET PAGING
> **"S"** for SCROLLING ACTION
> **"P"** for PAGE-FLIPPING.
> **"E"** for EDITTING
> **"C"** for CREATING NEW TITLES
> **"K"** for KEEPING OR SAVING THE CURRENT TITLE

I suggest that you save the present title before
continuing. You can always return to the above screen
following any of the selected options. (Create will destroy
your present work.)

SHOW TITLE

Make sure your VCR or camera is ready to record the
titles and press **START** after selecting the desired viewing
mode i.e., scrolling or page-flipping. The screen will
fill with your creations.

TIPS

HOME MOVIE CAMERA OR STILL SLIDES

Position the camera directly in front of the monitor
screen to reduce parrallax. If possible set the camera
speed to less than 1/30th of a second to prevent bars caused
by the screen refresh cycle. When ready to film the screen,
reduce room lighting to a minimum. Glare reflected from the
room lights can be very distracting in your final product!
You should have enough light from the screen itself for
satisfactory results. Remember, you are photographing a
light source.

After you have everything set, press **"START"** on the
computer and turn on the camera at the same time. Some
experimenting may be necessary. Keep notes on the camera
setting for later use or adjustment.

VCR

Connect the TV/COMPUTER switch box which is normally
used for connecting the computer RF output to a television
set used as a monitor to the antenna terminals of your VCR
instead of the television set. If you wish to observe the
screen as you work, connect the TV to the output of the VCR.
Refer to the instruction manual for your VCR and Figure 1
from this instruction set for details. Your VCR may require
a 300 ohm to 75 ohm transformer. Do not try to use the same
channel for both input and output on your VCR. That is, if
your VCR uses channel 3 as output to your TV then change

your ATARI to use channel 2 not channel 3. The output channel for the ATARI is the input channel for your VCR!

After you have everything set, press **"START"** on the computer and set the VCR to record mode at the same time. I recommend that you actually record the ATARI output to a blank tape and later use this tape for the dubbing process. Although this means a little extra work, you will not risk destroying the original tape which you are trying to add titles to. You will always be able to start over if the final product does not meet with your approval!

NOTE:

After leaving the Create or Edit modes, you may still be in lower-case and/or the inverse character modes. Some commands will generate an error under these circumstances. All errors should be trapped and allow you to correctly enter the proper response. If you have trouble with any selections, try toggling the ATARI key and/or the upper-case, lower case modes. The most notable place where this type of error may occur and not be visible is in the Main Menu where you may try typing an inverse number.