

ATARI MACRO ASSEMBLER  
PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET II  
6/14/83

The following is a list of updated product information for the ATARI Macro Assembler.

INFO #1: The 'MSG' pseudo op can be used to send messages to the screen during an assembly. The format is: `iglab MSG <string>`. The message to be displayed must be placed inside single quotes. Example: `MSG 'GOING INTO PHASE TWO'`

INFO #2: When a subtitle has been defined previously, another 'SUBTTL' command will cause a page eject when an assembly listing is being sent to a printer.

INFO #3: The limit on the number of files that can be linked is 39, not 40 as the manual stated.

INFO #4: When using an equate for a page zero location, the assembler will generate a two byte address unless the equate precedes the reference to the location. Place equates for page zero locations in the beginning of the source file to insure that the assembler will generate one byte addresses when they are referenced.

INFO #5: the 'REAL6' pseudo operation causes an incorrect value to be set for the internal location counter during assembly. The most significant digit of the location counter is set to the most significant digit of the object code generated by the 'REAL6' pseudo operation. However, the object code is generated correctly. The following example shows how to correct subsequent location counter values by using the ORG pseudo op.

| Label | Operation     |
|-------|---------------|
| PI    | REAL6 3.14159 |
|       | ORG PI+6      |

INFO #6: the cross reference map does not support line numbers greater than 99. If the page size of your listing is larger than 99, the line numbers generated follows the sequence of the ATASCII character set. Therefore line 100 is represented as ;0, 110 is ;0, 120 as <0, and so forth.

INFO #7: The 'LIST \*' pseudo op does not pop the stack correctly when followed by two consecutive 'LIST-L' pseudo operations. Use a temporary 'LIST-L' to turn off the listing.

INFO #8: The title line drops the extension of an eight character name. If a file name is eight characters long, the listing does not print the file extension.

INFO #9: In an 'ECHO' block pseudo operation, binary numbers are treated as macro parameters. The assembler is confused because the '%' is used for both macro parameters and binary numbers. Do not use binary numbers with an 'ECHO' block.

INFO #10: The ENDM terminator in an ECHO or MACRO definition must be followed by a carriage return. No comment is allowed. A 'Y' error will occur during assembly if a comment is included in the source statement.

INFO #11: In the 'SYSTEXT' file, the location of 'HITCLR' is given as \$D014 and should be \$D01E. Use the Program Text Editor to edit the location of HITCLR in the 'SYSTEXT' file.

INFO #12: When an address is computed using a label from a 'USE' block, correct object code is generated but an 'R' error is flagged on the line in which the address is calculated. Ignore the 'R' error.

INFO #13: An 'ORG' pseudo op in a 'USE' block will cause the location counter to be reset in the mainline program. Be sure to reset the location counter upon return to the mainline program with another 'ORG' pseudo op.

INFO #14: In a nested Macro the operation field of the first line of the inner Macro must be preceded by an expanding tab character.

INFO #15: A 'PROC' pseudo operation within a Macro generates a 'Y' error but assembles correctly. Ignore the 'Y' error.

INFO #16: The ATARI Macro Assembler does not recognize inverse characters when defined in a 'DB' statement. Use the hex value of the inverse character to define it with a 'DB' statement.

INFO #17: When generating an assembly listing with some third party printers, the page ejects do not occur in the correct place. Since the output of the ATARI Macro Assembler was formatted for the ATARI 825 printer, there is no way to make the listing perfect. It is possible to get a more compact listing by using the command line of the ATARI Macro Assembler to set the page size to '0' (PS=0). This causes AMAC to generate a page of 127 lines and also suppresses title and subtitle lines. When page size is set to 0 however, a full cross-reference map will not show correct line numbers.

INFO #18: If the block markers are not cleared after performing a block move operation with MEDIT, further keyboard entry will result in garbage characters appearing on the screen. Clear the block markers after a block move with the 'MC' command before entering any further text.

INFO #19: A SYSTEM RESET will return MEDIT to the DOS menu immediately. Work files will be lost as a result. Be sure not to press SYSTEM RESET while using MEDIT.

INFO #20: Symbols preceded with a '?' are not excluded from the reference map as stated in the manual.