9.6   USING THE COMPUTHINK DISK DRIVE

The Computhink disk drive unit is also designed for use with five inch mini floppy disks. The unit operates with the aid of a ROM based system called 'DISKMON" and users are advised to read the DISKMON USER'S GUIDE which is supplied with the system.

The following set of instructions constitutes a brief summary of DISKMON commands and is designed to help the beginner get off the ground.

9.6.1   Starting up

(a)   Check that both the PET and the disk drive unit are switched off.

(b)   Switch on the PET.

(c)   Switch on the disk drive unit. (When switching off, switch off the disk drive unit first.)

(d)   To initialize the "DISKMON" operating system type the instruction SYS 45056 followed by the RETURN key.

(e)   Insert the disk or disks and close the drive door(s). The disk should be inserted with the manufacturer's label on the bottom right hand corner nearest the user.

9.6.2   Using a new disk

Before being used for the first time the disk should be "formatted"; this process divides the disk into 40 sections and normally not more than one program (file) is stored in each section. Long programs may take more than one section.

The "format" command is

$F,drno

drno will be either 1 or 2. The left-hand drive is number 1.

NOTE.   The formatting procedures of the Computhink and the CBM drive units are different and this means that disks are not interchangeable.

9.6.3   The disk directory

The directory may be inspected by means of the command

$D,drno

9.6.4   Loading a program from disk to PET memory

A program may be loaded by using the command

$L,drno,"program name"

The program name will usually be established by referring to the directory.

9.6.5   Saving a program on disk

A program in PET memory may be saved on disk by using the command

$S,drno,"program name"

Program names may be up to 16 characters long.

Programs may also be saved in place of existing programs by using the same name. This effectively erases the original.

9.6.6 Erasing a program from disk

A program may be erased by using the command

$E,drno,"program name"

The DISKMON operating system also supports a number of additional commands and BASIC instructions, which may be used when the operator has had some experience. The DISKMON USER'S GUIDE should be consulted for further information.

The Computhink system is supplied with a demonstration disk which contains a number of utility programs. The most useful program for the beginner is perhaps DISKCOPY which enables the full contents of a disk to be copied directly on to a second disk.