

Envision

Utilities

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Introduction

There are three utilities on the front of this disk, CONVERTR, DISPLAY, and PRINTMAP. You will need to copy them onto another disk to use them. Use the DOS command O if you have only one drive, the command C if you have more. Load the programs from DOS using the L command. (If each program is copied to a separate disk containing DOS, they may be renamed AUTORUN.SYS and they will run when the disk is booted.

Map Converter

This program will convert any standard MicroPainter format picture into character graphics. MicroPainter is the 62 sector, uncompressed format supported by many drawing programs. The Koala Pad and Atari Touch Tablet will save and load in the MicroPainter format if you press the < and > keys (unshifted Clear and Insert) when the picture is displayed. If you cannot get your picture into MicroPainter format, we suggest PICTURE PLUS (AP0179) which will convert any format into any other format.

When you run the program, you will be asked for the filename of the picture you want to convert. After the picture is loaded, you will be asked whether you want an Even, Optimized, or Antic Mode 2 conversion. Even and Optimized will convert the picture into Antic Mode 4 (the multicolor mode with no BASIC equivalent). Even conversion will always produce the picture in 8 fonts, dividing the screen evenly. Optimized will produce the picture in as few fonts as possible. Antic Mode 2 will produce the picture in (not surprisingly) Mode 2 (Graphics 0). 130XE owners will be able to load these maps into ENVISION and modify them. 800/XL owners will be able to use simple pictures in Optimized or Antic Mode 2 which can be converted to only one font. All users will be able to use the maps in the DISPLAY and PRINTMAP programs (see below) as well as their own programs.

Map Display

This program is being placed in the Public Domain so that you can give your ENVISION masterpieces to your friends, user groups, etc. DISPLAY will display any map in a free-standing format. If your map is larger than one screen, DISPLAY will display it in a smooth-8-way-scrolling format with no borders. This produces a display unique in the world of Atari graphics. It provides a new artistic medium for creative people. Take a look at NCC1701.MAP for an idea of what is possible. DISPLAY does not support animation.

Print Map

This program will print your maps to any Epson-compatible graphics printer. There are lots of choices for formatting the printout. Just press the appropriate number to cycle through the options. PRINTMAP and ENVISION give you tremendous printing capabilities. You can produce HUGE printouts, do fancy typesetting, produce music manuscripts, print program listings (including graphics characters). Printing using the ROM set will help you to debug your maps. This is a utility which Darren sent us just before deadline and, frankly, we have not yet explored it. However, the potential is almost unlimited. The letter which Darren included explaining the utility was created with PRINTMAP and was VERY impressive. Use your imagination and let us know about any really innovative uses you develop.