

# QPC Concepts

The Concepts Reference Guide describes concepts relating to SBASIC and QPC. It is best to think of the Concept Guide as a source of information. If there are any questions about SBASIC or QPC itself which arise out of using the emulator or other sections of the manual then the Concept Guide may have the answer. Concepts are listed in alphabetical order using the most likely term for that concept. If the subject cannot be found then consult the index which should be able to tell you which page to turn to.

Where an example is listed with line numbers, then it is a complete program and can be entered and run. Examples listed without line numbers are usually simple commands and it may not always be sensible to enter them into the emulator in isolation.

This guide is a combination of the Sinclair QL manuals Concepts section, the (Super)Gold card manual, the Toolkit 2 manual, the QPAC2 (Extended Environment), the SMSQ/E manual, and the QPC manual.

© 1984 SINCLAIR RESEARCH LIMITED  
© MIRACLE SYSTEMS  
© 1994-2002 TONY TEBBY  
© MARCEL KILGUS



## arrays

Arrays must be **DIM**ensioned before they are used. When an array is dimensioned the value of each of its elements is set to zero or a zero length string if it is a string array. An array dimension runs from zero up to the specified value. There is no limits to the number of dimensions which can be defined other than the total memory capacity of the computer. An array of data is stored such that the last index defined cycles round most rapidly:

the array defined by

**DIM array(2,4)**

will be stored as

0,0 low address  
0,1  
0,2  
0,3  
0,4  
1,0  
1,1  
1,3  
1,4  
2,0  
2,1  
2,2  
2,3  
2,4 high address

Command	Function
<b>DIM</b>	dimension an array
<b>DIMN</b>	find out about the dimensions of an array

## background

The screen background (the area beneath any open windows) can be set to a plain or stippled colour, or an image.

**BGCOLOUR\_QL** sets the background to one of the QL mode colours, or stipple patterns. Background colours and stipples are defined in the same way as normal QL mode colours as used in **INK**, **PAPER** etc.

**BGCOLOUR\_QL 255** Sets the background colour to a black and white check  
**BGCOLOUR\_QL 1** Sets the background colour to blue

**BGCOLOUR\_24** sets the background colour to one of the 16 Million (24 Bit) true colours, The background colour is defined in the same way as normal 24 Bit colours as used in **INK**, **PAPER** etc.

**BGCOLOUR\_24 40** Sets the background colour to deep blue

**BGIMAGE** allows the use of a background image instead of a solid colour. The image which is stored in a file, is loaded by.

**BGIMAGE win1\_wallpaper** Load a wallpaper

Background images must be in the form of a screen snapshot at the screen resolution you are using. To create a background image.

**100 WINDOW SCR\_XLIM,SCR\_YLIM,0,0 : REMark Full screen**

. Draw the wallpaper on the screen

**900 SBYTES\_O win1\_wallpaper,SCR\_BASE,SCR\_LLEN \* SCR\_YSIZE**

Generating a screen image in this way as a program, prevents the cursor and the save command spoiling the generated image.

Command	Function
<b>BGCOLOUR_QL</b>	set background to a solid colour or stipple
<b>BGCOLOUR_24</b>	set background to a solid colour
<b>BGIMAGE</b>	load a background image

## BASIC

SBASIC includes most of the functions, procedures and constructs found in other dialects of BASIC. Many of these functions are superfluous in SBASIC but are included for compatibility reasons:

<b>GOTO</b>	use <b>IF</b> , <b>REPEAT</b> , etc
<b>GOSUB</b>	use <b>DEFine PROCEDURE</b>
<b>ON...GOTO</b>	use <b>SElect</b>
<b>ON...GOSUB</b>	use <b>SElect</b>

Some commands appear not to be present. They can always be obtained by using a more general function. For example, there are no **LPRINT** or **LLIST** statements in SBASIC but output can be directed to a printer by opening the relevant channel and using **PRINT** or **LIST**.

<b>LPRINT</b>	use <b>PRINT #</b>
<b>LLIST</b>	use <b>LIST #</b>
<b>VAL</b>	not required in SBASIC
<b>STR\$</b>	not required in SBASIC
<b>IN</b>	not applicable to 68008 processor
<b>OUT</b>	not applicable to 68008 processor

comment: Almost all forms of **BASIC** require the **VAL(x\$)** and **STR\$(x)** functions in order to be able to convert the internal codified form of the value of a string expression to or from the internal codified form of the value of a numeric expression.

These functions are redundant in SBASIC because of the provision of a unique facility referred to as "coercion". The **VAL** and **STR\$** functions are therefore not provided.

## break

If at any time the computer fails to respond or you wish to stop a SBASIC program or command then press

**[CTRL] [SPACE]**

A program broken into in this way can be restarted by using the **CONTINUE** command.

Screen output may be paused by pressing either **CTRL F5**, or the **ScrLock** key.

To switch between a full screen display and a window, press **SHIFT CTRL F12**

To perform a soft reset, (restart SMSQ)

**[CTRL] [SHIFT] [ALT] [TAB]**

To terminate QPC

**[CTRL] [SHIFT] [ScrLock]**

QPC should be ended with the **QPC\_EXIT** command from SBASIC, or the **"X"** (close) button on the Windows title bar.

## channels

A channel is a means by which data can be output to or input from a QPC device. Before a channel can be used it must first be activated (or opened) with the **OPEN** command. Certain channels should always be kept open: these are the default channels and allow simple communication with QPC via the keyboard and screen. When a channel is no longer in use it can be deactivated (closed) with the **CLOSE** command.

A channel is identified by a channel number. A channel number is a numeric expression preceded by a #. When the channel is opened a device is linked to a channel number and the channel is initialised. Thereafter the channel is identified only by its channel number. For example:

```
OPEN #5,SER1
```

Will link serial port 1 to the channel number 5. When a channel is closed only the channel number need be specified. For example:

```
CLOSE #5
```

Opening a channel requires that the device driver for that channel be activated. Usually there is more than one way in which the device driver can be activated. This extra information is appended to the device name and passed to the **OPEN** command as a parameter. See concepts *device*.

Data can be output to a channel by **PRINTing** to that channel; this is the same mechanism by which output appears on the QPC screen. **PRINT** without a parameter outputs to the default channel #1. For example:

```
10 OPEN #5,flp1_test_file  
20 PRINT #5,"this text is in file test_file"  
30 CLOSE #5
```

will output the text "this text is in file test\_file" to the file test\_file. It is important to close the file after all the accesses have been completed to ensure that all the data is written.

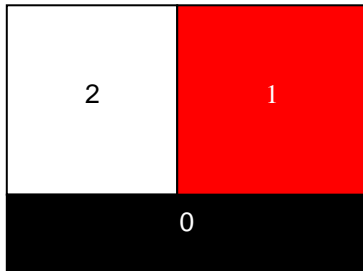
Data can be input from a file in an analogous way using **INPUT**. Data can be input from a channel a character at a time using **INKEY\$**

**GET**, **PUT**, and their variations can also be used to output and input from a channel. **GET** and **PUT** allows data to be sent and read from a channel with more control than simply **PRINTing** and **INPUTing**.

A channel can be opened as a console channel; output is directed to a specified window on the QPC screen and input is taken from the QPC keyboard. When a console channel is opened the size and shape of the initial window is specified. If more than one console channel is active then it is possible for more than one channel to be requesting input at the same time. In this case, the required channel can be selected by pressing CTRL C to cycle round the waiting channels. The cursor in the window of the selected channel will flash.

QPC has three default channels which are opened automatically. Each of these channels is linked to a window on the QPC screen.

- channel 0 - command and error channel
- channel 1 - output and graphics channel
- channel 2 - program listing channel



Command	Function
<b>OPEN</b>	open a channel for I/O
<b>CLOSE</b>	close a previously opened channel
<b>PRINT</b>	output to a channel
<b>INPUT</b>	input from a channel
<b>INKEY\$</b>	input a character from a channel
<b>GET</b>	unformatted input from a channel
<b>PUT</b>	unformatted output to a channel

## character set and keys

The cursor controls are not built in to the operating system: however, if these functions are to be provided by applications software, they should use the keys specified; also the specified keys should not normally be used for any other purpose.

Decimal	Hex	Keying	Display/Function
0	00	CTRL £	NULL
1	01	CTRL A	
2	02	CTRL B	
3	03	CTRL C	Change input channel (see note)
4	04	CTRL D	
5	05	CTRL E	
6	06	CTRL F	
7	07	CTRL G	
8	08	CTRL H	
9	09	TAB (CTRL I)	Next field
10	0A	ENTER (CTRL J)	New line / Command entry
11	0B	CTRL K	
12	0C	CTRL L	
13	0D	CTRL M	Enter
14	0E	CTRL N	
15	0F	CTRL O	
16	10	CTRL P	
17	11	CTRL Q	
18	12	CTRL R	
19	13	CTRL S	
20	14	CTRL T	
21	15	CTRL U	
22	16	CTRL V	
23	17	CTRL W	
24	18	CTRL X	
25	19	CTRL Y	
26	1A	CTRL Z	
27	1B	ESC (CTRL SHIFT I)	Abort current level of command
28	1C		
29	1D	CTRL SHIFT J	
30	1E		
31	1F		
32	20	SPACE	
33	21	SHIFT 1	!
34	22	SHIFT 2	"
35	23	#	#
36	24	SHIFT 4	\$
37	25	SHIFT 5	%
38	26	SHIFT 7	&
39	27	'	'
40	28	SHIFT 9	(
41	29	SHIFT 0	)
42	2A	SHIFT 8 / Prt Screen	*
43	2B	SHIFT =	+
44	2C	,	,
45	2D	-	-
46	2E	.	.
47	2F	/	/



Decimal	Hex	Keying	Display/Function
48	30	0	0
49	31	1	1
50	32	2	2
51	33	3	3
52	34	4	4
53	35	5	5
54	36	6	6
55	37	7	7
56	38	8	8
57	39	9	9
58	3A	SHIFT ;	:
59	3B	;	;
60	3C	SHIFT .	<
61	3D	=	=
62	3E	SHIFT .	>
63	3F	SHIFT /	?
64	40	SHIFT '	@
65	41	SHIFT A	A
66	42	SHIFT B	B
67	43	SHIFT C	C
68	44	SHIFT D	D
69	45	SHIFT E	E
70	46	SHIFT F	F
71	47	SHIFT G	G
72	48	SHIFT H	H
73	49	SHIFT I	I
74	4A	SHIFT J	J
75	4B	SHIFT K	K
76	4C	SHIFT L	L
77	4D	SHIFT M	M
78	4E	SHIFT N	N
79	4F	SHIFT O	O
80	50	SHIFT P	P
81	51	SHIFT Q	Q
82	52	SHIFT R	R
83	53	SHIFT S	S
84	54	SHIFT T	T
85	55	SHIFT U	U
86	56	SHIFT V	V
87	57	SHIFT W	W
88	58	SHIFT X	X
89	59	SHIFT Y	Y
90	5A	SHIFT Z	Z
91	5B	[	[
92	5C	\	\
93	5D	]	]
94	5E	SHIFT 6	^
95	5F	SHIFT -	_

Decimal	Hex	Keying	Display/Function
96	60	SHIFT 3	£
97	61	A	a
98	62	B	b
99	63	C	c
100	64	D	d
101	65	E	e
102	66	F	f
103	67	G	g
104	68	H	h
105	69	I	i
106	6A	J	j
107	6B	K	k
108	6C	L	l
109	6D	M	m
110	6E	N	n
111	6F	O	o
112	70	P	p
113	71	Q	q
114	72	R	r
115	73	S	s
116	74	T	t
117	75	U	u
118	76	V	v
119	77	W	w
120	78	X	x
121	79	Y	y
122	7A	Z	z
123	7B	SHIFT [	{
124	7C	SHIFT \	
125	7D	SHIFT ]	}
126	7E	SHIFT #	~
127	7F	SHIFT ESC	©
128	80	CTRL ESC	ä
129	81	CTRL SHIFT 1	ã
130	82	CTRL SHIFT '	â
131	83	CTRL SHIFT 3	é
132	84	CTRL SHIFT 4	ö
133	85	CTRL SHIFT 5	õ
134	86	CTRL SHIFT 7	ø
135	87	CTRL '	ü
136	88	CTRL SHIFT 9	ç
137	89	CTRL SHIFT 0	ñ
138	8A	CTRL SHIFT 8	z
139	8B	CTRL SHIFT =	œ
140	8C	CTRL ,	á
141	8D	CTRL -	à
142	8E	CTRL .	â
143	8F	CTRL /	ë

Decimal	Hex	Keying	Display/Function	
144	90	CTRL 0	è	
145	91	CTRL 1	ê	
146	92	CTRL 2	ï	
147	93	CTRL 3	í	
148	94	CTRL 4	ì	
149	95	CTRL 5	î	
150	96	CTRL 6	ó	
151	97	CTRL 7	ò	
152	98	CTRL 8	ô	
153	99	CTRL 9	ú	
154	9A	CTRL SHIFT ;	ù	
155	9B	CTRL ;	û	
156	9C	CTRL SHIFT ,	ß	
157	9D	CTRL =	ø	
158	9E	CTRL SHIFT .	¥	
159	9F	CTRL SHIFT /	`	
160	A0	CTRL SHIFT 2	Ä	
161	A1	CTRL SHIFT A	Å	
162	A2	CTRL SHIFT B	Ä	
163	A3	CTRL SHIFT C	É	
164	A4	CTRL SHIFT D	Ö	
165	A5	CTRL SHIFT E	Õ	
166	A6	CTRL SHIFT F	Ø	
167	A7	CTRL SHIFT G	Ü	
168	A8	CTRL SHIFT H	Ç	
169	A9	CTRL SHIFT I	Ñ	
170	AA	CTRL SHIFT J	Æ	
171	AB	CTRL SHIFT K	Œ	
172	AC	CTRL SHIFT L	α	alpha
173	AD	CTRL SHIFT M	δ	delta
174	AE	CTRL SHIFT N	θ	theta
175	AF	CTRL SHIFT O	λ	lambda
176	B0	CTRL SHIFT P	μ	mu
177	B1	CTRL SHIFT Q	π	pi
178	B2	CTRL SHIFT R	φ	phi
179	B3	CTRL SHIFT S	ì	
180	B4	CTRL SHIFT T	ç	
181	B5	CTRL SHIFT U	€	
182	B6	CTRL SHIFT V	§	
183	B7	CTRL SHIFT W	α	
184	B8	CTRL SHIFT X	«	
185	B9	CTRL SHIFT Y	»	
186	BA	CTRL SHIFT Z	°	
187	BB	CTRL [	÷	
188	BC	CTRL \	←	
189	BD	CTRL ]	→	
190	BE	CTRL SHIFT 6	↑	
191	BF	CTRL SHIFT -	↓	

Decimal	Hex	Keying	Display/Function
192	C0	Left	Cursor left one character
193	C1	ALT Left	Cursor to start of line
194	C2	CTRL Left / Backspace	Delete left one character
195	C3	CTRL ALT Left	Delete line
196	C4	SHIFT Left	Cursor left one word
197	C5	SHIFT ALT Left	Pan left
198	C6	SHIFT CTRL Left	Delete left one word
199	C7	SHIFT CTRL ALT Left	
200	C8	Right	Cursor right one character
201	C9	ALT Right	Cursor to end of line
202	CA	CTRL Right / Delete	Delete character under cursor
203	CB	CTRL ALT Right	Delete to end of line
204	CC	SHIFT Right	Cursor right one word
205	CD	SHIFT ALT Right	Pan right
206	CE	SHIFT CTRL Right	Delete word under & right of cursor
207	CF	SHIFT CTRL ALT Right	
208	D0	Up	Cursor right
209	D1	ALT Up	Scroll up
210	D2	CTRL Up	Search backward
211	D3	ALT CTRL Up	
212	D4	SHIFT Up / Page Up	Top of screen
213	D5	SHIFT ALT Up / Home	
214	D6	SHIFT CTRL Up	
215	D7	SHIFT CTRL ALT Up	
216	D8	Down	Cursor down
217	D9	ALT Down	Scroll down
218	DA	CTRL Down	Search forwards
219	DB	ALT CTRL Down	
220	DC	SHIFT Down / Page Down	Bottom of screen
221	DD	SHIFT ALT Down / End	
222	DE	SHIFT CTRL Down	
223	DF	SHIFT CTRL ALT Down	
224	E0	CAPS LOCK	Toggle CAPS LOCK function
225	E1	ALT CAPS LOCK	
226	E2	CTRL CAPS LOCK	
227	E3	ALT CTRL CAPS LOCK	
228	E4	SHIFT CAPS LOCK	
229	E5	SHIFT ALT CAPS LOCK	
230	E6	SHIFT CTRL CAPS LOCK	
231	E7	SHIFT CTRL ALT CAPS LOCK	
232	E8	F1	
233	E9	CTRL F1	
234	EA	SHIFT F1 / F6	
235	EB	CTRL SHIFT F1	
236	EC	F2	
237	ED	CTRL F2	
238	EE	SHIFT F2 / F7	
239	EF	CTRL SHIFT F2	

Decimal	Hex	Keying	Display/Function
240	F0	F3	
241	F1	CTRL F3	
242	F2	SHIFT F3 / F8	
243	F3	CTRL SHIFT F3	
244	F4	F4	
245	F5	CTRL F4	
246	F6	SHIFT F4 / F9	
247	F7	CTRL SHIFT F4	
248	F8	F5	
249	F9	CTRL F5	
250	FA	SHIFT F5 / F10	
251	FB	CTRL SHIFT F5	
252	FC	SHIFT space / Insert	"Special" space
253	FD	SHIFT TAB	Back tab (CTRL ignored)
254	FE	SHIFT ENTER	"Special" newline (CTRL ignored)
255	FF	See below	

Codes up to 20 hex are either control characters or non-printing characters. Alternative keyings are shown in brackets after the main keying.

Note that CTRL-C is trapped by SMSQ and cannot be detected without changes to the system variables.

Note that codes C0-DF are cursor control commands.

The ALT key depressed with any key combination other than cursor keys or CAPS LOCK generates the code FF, followed by a byte indicating what the keycode would have been if ALT had not been depressed.

Note that CAPS LOCK and CTRL-F5 are trapped by SMSQ and cannot be detected without special software.

## clock

SMSQ/E contains a real time clock, which runs when QPC is started. It obtains the current date and time from the Windows operating system on the PC. The SMSQ/E clock is then updated once per minute. So that the SMSQ/E clock, should never be more than one minute different from the Windows clock.

The format used for the date and time is standard ISO format.

**2001 JAN 01 12:09:10**

Individual year, month, day and time can all be obtained by assigning the string returned by DATE to a string variable and slicing it. The clock will run from 1961 JAN 01 00:00:00

Comment: For a description of the format, see BS5249: Part 1: 1976 and as modified in Appendix D.2.1 Table 5 Serial 5 and Appendix E.2 Table 6 Serials 1 and 2.

Command	Function
<b>SDATE</b>	set the clock
<b>ADATE</b>	adjust the clock
<b>DATE</b>	return the date as a number
<b>DATE\$</b>	return the date as a string
<b>DAY\$</b>	return day of the week
<b>ALARM</b>	set an alarm

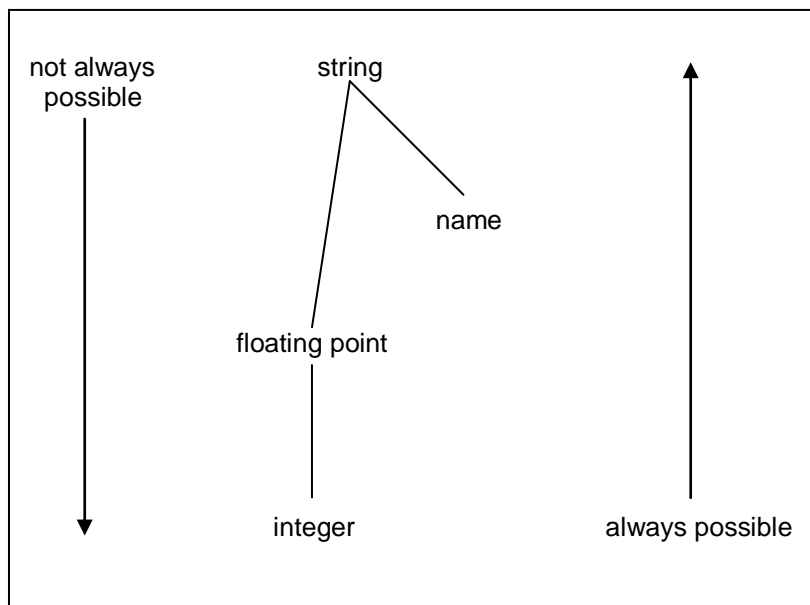
## coercion

If necessary SBASIC will convert the type of unsuitable data to a type which will allow the specified operation to proceed.

The operators used determine the conversion required. For example, if an operation requires a string parameter and a numeric parameter is supplied then SBASIC will first convert the parameter to type string. It is not always possible to convert data to the required form and if the data cannot be converted an error is reported.

The type of a function or procedure parameter can also be converted to the correct type. For example, the SBASIC **LOAD** command requires a parameter of type *name* but can accept a parameter of type *string* and which will be converted to the correct type by the procedure itself. Coercion of this form is always dependent on the way the function or procedure was implemented.

There is a natural ordering of data types in SMSQ/E, see figure below. String is the most general type since it can represent integer data (almost exactly). The figure below shows the ordering diagrammatically. Data can always be converted moving up the diagram but it is not always possible moving down.



example: **a = b + c**

(no conversion is necessary before performing the addition. Conversion is not necessary before assigning the result to a.)

**a% = b + c**

(no conversion is necessary before performing the addition but the result is converted to integer before assigning.)

**a\$ = b\$ + c\$**

(b\$ and c\$ are converted to floating point, if possible, before being added together. The result is converted to string before assigning.)

**LOAD "flp1\_data"**

(the string "**flp1\_data**" is converted to type name by the load procedure before it is used.)

comment: Statements can be written in SBASIC which would generate errors in most other computer languages. In general, it is possible to mix data types in a very flexible manner:

- i. **PRINT "1" + 2 + "3"**
- ii. **LET a\$ = 1 + 2 + a\$ + "4"**

## colour

QPC can operate in 4 different colour modes. Each executing job or SBASIC job may have it's own colour mode.

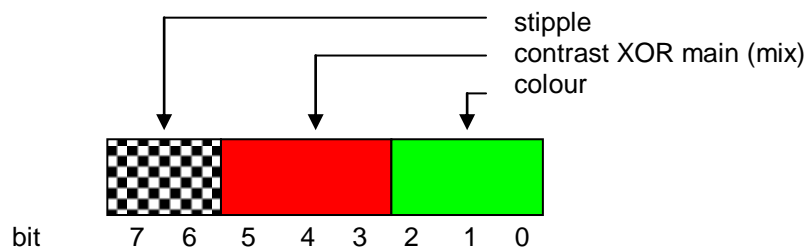
## COLOUR\_QL

This is an 8 colour mode which can display either a **solid colour** or a **stipple** - a mixture of two colours to some predefined pattern. Colour specification in the **COLOUR\_QL** mode, can be up to three items: a colour, a contrast colour and a stipple pattern.

When an SBASIC program starts executing, it is set to QL colour definition.

**single** *colour := composite\_colour*

The single argument specifies the three parts of the colour specification. The main colour is contained in the bottom three bits of the colour byte. The next three bits contain the exclusive or (XOR) of the main colour and the contrast colour. The top two bits indicate the stipple pattern.



By specifying only the bottom three bits (i.e. the required colour) no *stipple* will be requested and a single solid colour will be used for display.

**double** *colour := background, contrast*

The *colour* is a *stipple* of the two specified colours. The default checkerboard stipple is assumed (stipple 3)

**triple** *colour := background, contrast, stipple*

*Background* and *contrast* colours and *stipple* are each defined separately.

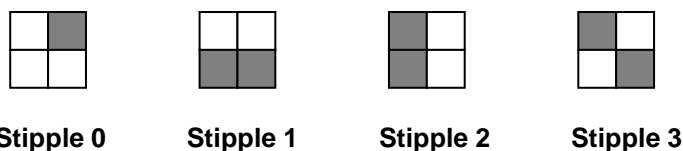
**colours** The codes for standard palette colours:

code	colour	bit		24 bit value		
		pattern	composition	R	G	B
0	Black	0 0 0		00	00	00
1	Blue	0 0 1	blue	00	00	FF
2	Red	0 1 0	red	FF	00	00
3	Magenta	0 1 1	red + blue	FF	00	FF
4	Green	1 0 0	green	00	FF	00
5	Cyan	1 0 1	green + blue	00	FF	FF
6	Yellow	1 1 0	green + red	FF	FF	00
7	White	1 1 1	green + red + blue	FF	FF	FF

Colour Composition and Codes



**stipples** Stipples mix a background and a contrast colour in a fine stipple pattern. Stipples can be used in SMSQ/E in the same manner as ordinary solid colours. There are four stipple patterns:



Stipple 3 is the default.

- example: i. **PAPER 255 : CLS**  
 ii. **PAPER 2,4 : CLS**  
 iii. **PAPER 0,2,0 : CLS**

This program will display all of the colours and stipple patterns available in the **COLOUR\_QL** mode.

```

100 REMark COLOUR_QL colours
110 WINDOW 750,550,25,25
120 COLOUR_QL
130 PAPER 0:INK 7
140 CLS
150 FOR x=0 TO 7
160 FOR y= 0 TO 31
170 PAPER 0:INK 7
180 AT y,15*x : PRINT_USING "#####",32*x+y; : PRINT " "; : STRIP
    32*x+y:PRINT " "
190 NEXT y
200 NEXT x
210 PAUSE
  
```

comment: This program requires QPC to be operating in at least an 800x600 pixel screen mode.

## COLOUR\_PAL

This is a 256 colour mode, which allows you to display any 256 colours from a palette of 16 Million. Colour specification in the **COLOUR\_PAL** mode, is defined as a number between 0 and 255

- example: i. **PAPER 63 : CLS**            Deep purple  
 ii. **PAPER 35 : CLS**            Pastel Yellow

This table lists all the standard 256 colours available in **COLOUR\_PAL**, along with their 24 Bit values.

Colour Number	Colour Name	24 Bit value			Colour Number	Colour Name	24 Bit value				
		R	G	B			R	G	B		
0	00	Black	00	00	00	13	0D	Ash grey	DB	DB	DB
1	01	White	FF	FF	FF	14	0E	Dark red	92	00	00
2	02	Red	FF	00	00	15	0F	Light green	B6	FF	B6
3	03	Green	00	FF	00	16	10	Mustard	92	92	00
4	04	Blue	00	00	FF	17	11	Dark green	00	92	00
5	05	Magenta	FF	00	FF	18	12	Sea blue	00	92	92
6	06	Yellow	FF	FF	00	19	13	Dark blue	00	00	92
7	07	Cyan	00	FF	FF	20	14	Purple	92	00	92
8	08	Dark slate	24	24	24	21	15	Shocking pink	FF	00	92
9	09	Slate grey	49	49	49	22	16	Orange	FF	92	00
10	0A	Dark grey	6D	6D	6D	23	17	Lime green	92	FF	00
11	0B	Grey	92	92	92	24	18	Apple green	00	FF	92
12	0C	Light grey	B6	B6	B6	25	19	Bright blue	00	92	FF

Colour Number	Colour Name	24 Bit value			Colour Number	Colour Name	24 Bit value		
		R	G	B			R	G	B
26	1A Mauve	92	00	FF	95	5F	6D	24	B6
27	1B Peach	FF	B6	B6	96	60	6D	24	FF
28	1C Light yellow	FF	FF	B6	97	61	92	24	00
29	1D Light blue	B6	FF	FF	98	62	92	24	49
30	1E Sky blue	B6	B6	FF	99	63	92	24	92
31	1F Rose pink	FF	B6	FF	100	64	92	24	DB
32	20 Pink	FF	B6	DB	101	65	B6	24	24
33	21 Beige	FF	DB	B6	102	66	B6	24	6D
34	22 Pastel pink	FF	DB	DB	103	67	B6	24	B6
35	23 Pastel yellow	FF	FF	DB	104	68	B6	24	FF
36	24 Pastel green	DB	FF	DB	105	69	DB	24	00
37	25 Pastel cyan	DB	FF	FF	106	6A	DB	24	49
38	26 Pastel blue	DB	DB	FF	107	6B	DB	24	92
39	27 Pastel rose	FF	DB	FF	108	6C	DB	24	DB
40	28 Brick	B6	6D	6D	109	6D	FF	24	24
41	29 Light khaki	B6	B6	6D	110	6E	FF	24	6D
42	2A Dull green	6D	B6	6D	111	6F	FF	24	B6
43	2B Dull cyan	6D	B6	B6	112	70	FF	24	FF
44	2C Steel blue	6D	6D	B6	113	71	00	49	00
45	2D Dull pink	B6	6D	B6	114	72	00	49	49
46	2E Brown	6D	24	24	115	73	00	49	DB
47	2F Khaki	6D	6D	24	116	74	24	49	24
48	30 Dusky green	24	6D	24	117	75	24	49	6D
49	31 Dusky blue	24	6D	6D	118	76	24	49	B6
50	32 Midnight blue	24	24	6D	119	77	24	49	FF
51	33 Plum	6D	24	6D	120	78	49	49	00
52	34 Dusky pink	B6	49	92	121	79	49	49	92
53	35 Buff	B6	92	49	122	7A	49	49	DB
54	36 Avocado	92	B6	49	123	7B	6D	49	24
55	37 Dull turquoise	49	B6	92	124	7C	6D	49	6D
56	38 Dull blue	49	92	B6	125	7D	6D	49	B6
57	39 Faded purple	92	49	B6	126	7E	6D	49	FF
58	3A Cerise	92	00	49	127	7F	92	49	49
59	3B Tan	92	49	00	128	80	92	49	DB
60	3C Grass green	49	92	00	129	81	B6	49	24
61	3D Sea green	00	92	49	130	82	B6	49	6D
62	3E Ultramarine	00	49	92	131	83	B6	49	FF
63	3F Deep purple	49	00	92	132	84	DB	49	00
64	40	00	00	49	133	85	DB	49	49
65	41	24	00	24	134	86	DB	49	92
66	42	24	00	6D	135	87	DB	49	DB
67	43	24	00	B6	136	88	FF	49	24
68	44	24	00	FF	137	89	FF	49	6D
69	45	49	00	00	138	8A	FF	49	B6
70	46	49	00	49	139	8B	FF	49	FF
71	47	49	00	DB	140	8C	00	6D	00
72	48	6D	00	24	141	8D	00	6D	49
73	49	6D	00	6D	142	8E	00	6D	92
74	4A	6D	00	B6	143	8F	00	6D	DB
75	4B	6D	00	FF	144	90	24	6D	B6
76	4C	B6	00	24	145	91	24	6D	FF
77	4D	B6	00	6D	146	92	49	6D	00
78	4E	B6	00	B6	147	93	49	6D	49
79	4F	B6	00	FF	148	94	49	6D	92
80	50	DB	00	00	149	95	49	6D	DB
81	51	DB	00	49	150	96	6D	6D	FF
82	52	DB	00	92	151	97	92	6D	00
83	53	DB	00	DB	152	98	92	6D	49
84	54	FF	00	6D	153	99	92	6D	92
85	55	00	24	00	154	9A	92	6D	DB
86	56	00	24	49	155	9B	B6	6D	24
87	57	00	24	92	156	9C	B6	6D	FF
88	58	00	24	DB	157	9D	DB	6D	00
89	59	24	24	B6	158	9E	DB	6D	49
90	5A	24	24	FF	159	9F	DB	6D	92
91	5B	49	24	00	160	A0	DB	6D	DB
92	5C	49	24	49	161	A1	FF	6D	24
93	5D	49	24	92	162	A2	FF	6D	6D
94	5E	49	24	DB	163	A3	FF	6D	B6

Colour Number	Colour Name	24 Bit value			Colour Number	Colour Name	24 Bit value		
		R	G	B			R	G	B
164	A4	FF	6D	FF	210	D2	00	DB	00
165	A5	24	92	24	211	D3	00	DB	49
166	A6	24	92	6D	212	D4	00	DB	92
167	A7	24	92	B6	213	D5	00	DB	DB
168	A8	24	92	FF	214	D6	24	DB	24
169	A9	49	92	49	215	D7	24	DB	6D
170	AA	49	92	DB	216	D8	24	DB	B6
171	AB	6D	92	24	217	D9	24	DB	FF
172	AC	6D	92	6D	218	DA	49	DB	00
173	AD	6D	92	B6	219	DB	49	DB	49
174	AE	6D	92	FF	220	DC	49	DB	92
175	AF	92	92	49	221	DD	49	DB	DB
176	B0	92	92	DB	222	DE	6D	DB	24
177	B1	B6	92	24	223	DF	6D	DB	6D
178	B2	B6	92	B6	224	E0	6D	DB	B6
179	B3	B6	92	FF	225	E1	6D	DB	FF
180	B4	DB	92	00	226	E2	92	DB	00
181	B5	DB	92	49	227	E3	92	DB	49
182	B6	DB	92	92	228	E4	92	DB	92
183	B7	DB	92	DB	229	E5	92	DB	DB
184	B8	FF	92	6D	230	E6	B6	DB	24
185	B9	FF	92	B6	231	E7	B6	DB	6D
186	BA	FF	92	FF	232	E8	B6	DB	B6
187	BB	00	B6	00	233	E9	B6	DB	FF
188	BC	00	B6	49	234	EA	DB	DB	49
189	BD	00	B6	92	235	EB	DB	DB	92
190	BE	00	B6	DB	236	EC	FF	DB	6D
191	BF	24	B6	24	237	ED	00	FF	49
192	C0	24	B6	6D	238	EE	24	FF	6D
193	C1	24	B6	B6	239	EF	24	FF	B6
194	C2	24	B6	FF	240	F0	49	FF	00
195	C3	49	B6	00	241	F1	49	FF	49
196	C4	49	B6	49	242	F2	49	FF	92
197	C5	49	B6	DB	243	F3	49	FF	DB
198	C6	6D	B6	24	244	F4	6D	FF	24
199	C7	6D	B6	FF	245	F5	6D	FF	6D
200	C8	92	B6	00	246	F6	6D	FF	B6
201	C9	92	B6	92	247	F7	6D	FF	FF
202	CA	92	B6	DB	248	F8	92	FF	49
203	CB	B6	B6	24	249	F9	92	FF	92
204	CC	DB	B6	00	250	FA	92	FF	DB
205	CD	DB	B6	49	251	FB	B6	FF	24
206	CE	DB	B6	92	252	FC	B6	FF	6D
207	CF	DB	B6	DB	253	FD	DB	FF	49
208	D0	FF	B6	24	254	FE	DB	FF	92
209	D1	FF	B6	6D	255	FF	FF	FF	6D

This program will display all of the colours available in the **COLOUR\_PAL** mode.

```

100 REMark COLOUR_PAL colours
110 WINDOW 750,550,25,25
120 COLOUR_PAL
130 PAPER 0:INK 1
140 CLS
150 FOR x=0 TO 7
160 FOR y= 0 TO 31
170 PAPER 0:INK 1
180 AT y,15*x : PRINT_USING "#####",32*x+y; : PRINT " "; : STRIP
(32*x+y):PRINT " "
190 NEXT y
200 NEXT x
210 PAUSE

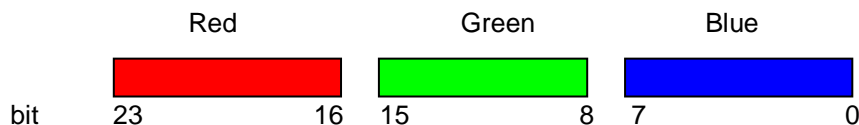
```

comment: This program requires QPC to be operating in at least an 800x600 pixel screen mode.

## COLOUR\_24

This is a 16 Million (24 Bit) colour mode, allowing you to display any of the available 16 Million colours.

Colour specification in the COLOUR\_24 mode, is defined as a number between 0 and 16,777,215



The 24 Bit value used in **INK, PAPER, STRIP** etc is calculated as (Red \* 65536) + (Green \* 256) + Blue. Where each of the colours Red, Green, and Blue have values between 0 and 255.

example: i. **PAPER 219 \* 65536 + 219 \* 256 + 255 : CLS** Pastel Blue  
ii. **PAPER 14408703 : CLS** as above in decimal  
ii. **PAPER \$DBDBFF : CLS** as above in hexadecimal

## COLOUR\_NATIVE

In QPC **COLOUR\_NATIVE** is the same as **COLOUR\_24**

## Palettes

The actual colours used in **COLOUR\_QL** and **COLOUR\_PAL** mode are stored in tables which may be redefined, allowing you to change the colours that are displayed to any of the available 16 Million (24 Bit) colours.

**PALETTE\_QL** enables you to redefine the 8 colours used in the **COLOUR\_QL** mode, to any of the 16 Million (24 Bit) colours. The replacement colours must be specified as 24 Bit true colours.

```
PALETTE_QL start, colour [,colour [,colour [,colour [,colour [,colour  
[,colour [,colour ]]]]]]]
```

*start := first colour in table to change*  
*colour := true colour value*

This program will change only the two colours cyan and yellow, into khaki and orange, leaving the others unchanged.

```
600 khaki = 109*65536+109*256+36  
610 orange = 255*65536+146*256  
620 PALETTE_QL 5,khaki,orange : REMark change only 2 colours
```

Many QL programs define some of the colours displayed as "white minus a colour", on a 4 colour QL display, "white minus red" appears as green on a QL. "white minus red" however is really cyan, not green. As a result, many QL mode 4 programs take on rainbow hues when displayed on a QPC screen.

This can be "fixed" by redefining the colours so that colour 2 (Red) is a bright crimson, and colour 4 (Green) is a bright sea green. This will ensure that using true colours (24 Bit), colour 2 plus colour 4 is equal to colour 7.

We also need to ensure that colour 1 is equal to colour 0, colour 3 is equal to colour 2, colour 5 is equal to colour 4, and colour 6 is equal to colour 7. This is to simulate the QL mode 4 colours.

```
600 crimson = 255*65536+100 : REMark crimson is red + a bit of blue  
610 sea = 255*256+155 : REMark sea green is green + the rest of blue  
620 white = crimson + sea  
630 PALETTE_QL 0,0,0,crimson,crimson,sea,sea,white,white :  
REMark set 8 colours
```

**PALETTE\_8** enables you to redefine any or all of the 256 colours used in the **COLOUR\_PAL** mode to any of the 16 Million (24 Bit) colours. The replacement colours must be specified as a 24 Bit true colour.

**PALETTE\_8** *start, colour* \*[,colour] \*

*start* := first colour in table to change

*colour* := true colour value

If new colours are required, they should replace colours towards the top of the table so that the low colours remain unchanged.

This example will set colours 248 to 255 of **PALETTE\_8** to black, blue, red, magenta, green, cyan, yellow, and white

**100** black = 0 : red = 255 \* 65536 : green = 255 \* 256 : blue = 255

**110** magenta = red + blue : cyan = blue + green : yellow = green + red

**120** white = red + green + blue

**130** **PALETTE\_8** 248, black, blue, red, magenta, green, cyan, yellow, white

**warning:** Once a palette has been changed it can only be reset manually or by resetting SMSQ/E.

Command	Function
<b>COLOUR_QL</b>	set 8 colour mode
<b>COLOUR_PAL</b>	set 256 colour mode
<b>COLOUR_24</b>	set 16 Million (24 Bit) mode
<b>PALETTE_QL</b>	change 8 colour palette
<b>PALETTE_8</b>	change 256 colour palette

## communications

### parallel

QPC can access up to 4 parallel ports (called PAR1, PAR2, etc) for connecting it to equipment which use parallel output communications.

The PC on which you are running QPC will usually have one parallel port fitted, known as LPT1. The QPC Configurator can determine which PAR port is connected to which LPT port. (usually PAR1 = LPT1 and PAR2 = LPT2)

The PC parallel port connectors will usually be 25 pin connectors

Translate, determines whether the data sent should be translated into other characters. This is generally used when sending text to printers, to convert the ASCII codes which are different between the QPC character set, and the printers characters set. See the **TRA** command.

Parallel communications on QPC are 'simplex', that is the parallel port is transmit only.

## communications

### serial RS-232-C

QPC can access up to 8 serial ports (called SER1, SER2, etc) for connecting it to equipment which use serial communications obeying EIA standard RS-232-C or a compatible standard.

The RS-232-C 'standard' was originally designed to enable computers to send and receive data via telephone lines using a modem. However, it is now frequently used to connect computers directly with each other and to various items of peripheral equipment, e.g. printers, modems, etc.

As the RS-232-C 'standard' manifests itself in many different forms on different pieces of equipment, it can be an extremely difficult job, even for an expert to connect together for the first time two pieces of supposedly standard RS-232-C equipment. This section will attempt to cover most of the basic problems that you may encounter.

The PC on which you are running QPC will usually have one or two serial ports fitted, known as COM1 and COM2. The QPC Configurator can determine which SER port is connected to which COM port. (usually SER1 = COM1 and SER2 = COM2)

The PC serial port connectors will be either 9, or 25 pin connectors

9 pin	25 pin	Name	Function	Direction
1	8	DCD	Data Carrier Detect	In
2	3	RXD	Receive Data	In
3	2	TXD	Transmit Data	Out
4	20	DTR	Data Terminal Ready	Out
5	7	GND	Signal Ground	-
6	6	DSR	Data Set Ready	In
7	4	RTS	Ready to Send	Out
8	5	CTR	Clear To Send	In
9	22	RI	Ring Indicator	In

Once the equipment has been connected, the baud rate (the speed of transmission of data) must be set so that the baud rates for both QPC and the connected equipment are the same. The serial ports on QPC can be set to operate at:

300  
600  
1200  
2400  
4800  
9600  
19200  
38400  
57600  
115200      baud

The QPC baud rate for each serial port is set by the **BAUD** command.

The parity to be used by QPC must also be set to match that expected by the peripheral equipment. Parity is usually used to detect simple transmission errors and may be set to be even, odd, mark, space or no parity, i.e. all 8 bits of the byte are used for data.

Flow control determines how QPC and the peripheral device know when to communicate with each other. Flow control can be either:

- Hardware      Where a signal line is used by one end of the connection to the other end, to say, don't talk now I'm busy.
- Software      Where a signal is sent down the Transmit data line to the receiver, to say, don't talk now I'm busy (XOFF), or I am now ready to listen (XON). The receiver can be either the peripheral device, or QPC itself
- None            There is no flow control. Data will be lost, or corrupted if the receiver is busy doing other things when data arrives, or cannot process the data it is receiving fast enough.

Translate, determines whether the data sent should be translated into other characters. This is generally used when sending text to printers, to convert the ASCII codes which are different between the QPC character set, and the printers characters set. See the **TRA** command.

Serial communications on QPC are 'full duplex', that is both receive and transmit can operate concurrently.

The parity and handshaking are selected when the serial channel is opened.

comment: There is also the serial receive only device (SRX), and serial transmit only device (STX). They are the same as the SER device, except that one will only transmit data, and the other will only receive data.

command	function
<b>BAUD</b>	set transmission speed
<b>OPEN</b>	open serial channels *
<b>CLOSE</b>	close serial channels

\* see concept *device* for a full specification

## data types variables

**integer** Integers are whole numbers in the range -32768 to +32767. Variables are assumed to be integer if the variable identifier is suffixed with a percent %. There are no integer constants in SBASIC, so all constants are stored as floating point numbers.

syntax: *identifier%*

example: i. **counter%**  
ii. **size\_limit%**  
iii. **this\_is\_an\_integer\_variable%**

### floating point

Floating point numbers are in the range +/- (10<sup>-615</sup> to 10<sup>615</sup>), with 8 significant digits. Floating point is the default data type in SBASIC. All constants are held in floating point form and can be entered using exponent notation.

syntax: *identifier | constant*

example: i. **current accumulation**  
ii. **76.2356**  
iii. **354E25**

**string** A string is a sequence of characters up to 32766 characters long. Variables are assumed to be type string if the variable name is suffixed by a \$. String data is represented by enclosing the required characters in either single or double quotation marks.

syntax: *identifier\$ | "text"*

example: i. **string\_variables\$**  
ii. **"this is string data"**  
iii. **"this is another string"**

**name** Type name has the same form as a standard SBASIC identifier and is used by the system to name Floppy disk files etc.

syntax: *identifier*

example: i. **flp1\_data\_file**  
ii. **ser1e**

**binary** Binary values are represented as a sequence of zeros and ones, preceded by a percentage sign.

syntax: *%constant*

example: i. **%1001**  
ii. **%11001010**

### hexadecimal

Hexadecimal values are represented by a sequence of the numbers 0 – 9 and the letters A – F. To represent the values 0 - 16

syntax: *\$constant*

example: i. **Ten = \$A**  
ii. **one\_hundred = \$64**  
iii. **PRINT PEEK(\$28000)**



## dev virtual device

DEV is a defaulting device that provides up to 8 default search paths to be used when opening files. As it was designed to be dumped on top of QDOS it is not very clean, but, equally, it is reasonably efficient.

Each DEV (DEV1 to DEV8) device is attached to a particular real device or a particular default directory on a real device.

Files on a DEV device can be **OPEN**ed, used and **DELETE**d in the same way as they can on the real device. Note that the DEV definitions are global.

Default directories for the DEV device may be set with the **DEV\_USE** command.

The DEV device may be redirected with the **DEV\_USEN** command.

Command	Function
<b>DEV_USE</b>	attach DEV device to a real directory
<b>DEV_USEN</b>	rename DEV device

## devices

A device is a piece of equipment on QPC (or the underlying PC) from which data can be received (input) and to which data can be sent (output).

Since the system makes no assumptions about the ultimate I/O (input/output) device which will be used, the I/O device can be easily changed and the data diverted between devices. For example, a program may have to output to a printer at some point during its run. If the printer is not available then the output can be diverted to a Floppy disk file and stored. The file can then be printed at a later date. I/O on QPC can be thought of as being written to and read from a logical file which is in a standard device-independent form.

All device specific operations are performed by individual device drivers specially written for each device on QPC. The system can automatically find and include drivers for peripheral devices which are fitted.

When a device is activated a channel is opened and linked to the device. To correctly open a channel device basic information must sometimes be supplied. This extra information is appended to the device name.

The file name should conform to the rules for a SBASIC type name though it is also possible to build up the file name (device name) as a SBASIC string expression.

In summary the general form of a file name is:

*identifier [information]*

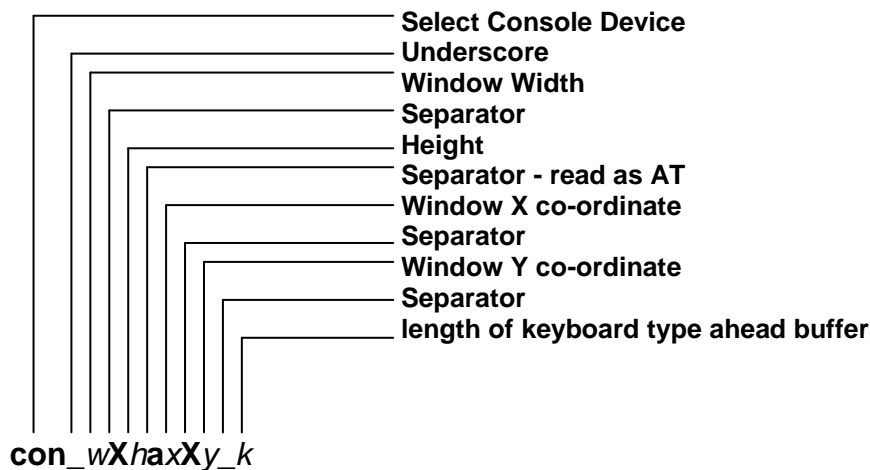
where the complete file name (including the extra information) conforms to the rules for a SBASIC identifier.

Each logical device on the system requires its own particular 'extra information' although default parameters will be assumed in each case where possible.

**define**     *device := name*

where the form of the device name is outlined below.

**example** for console device



**CON\_wXhaxXy\_k** Console I/O  
 | wXh | - window, width, height  
 | AxXy | - window X,Y co-ordinate of upper left-hand corner  
 | k | - keyboard type ahead buffer length (bytes)

default: **con\_448x180a32x16\_128**

example: **OPEN #4,con\_20x50a0x0\_32**  
**OPEN #8,con\_20x50**  
**OPEN #7,con\_20x50a10x10**

**SCR\_wXhaxXy** Screen Output  
 [ wXh ] - window, width, height  
 [ AxXy ] - window X, Y co-ordinate

default: **scr\_448x180a32x16**

example: **OPEN #4,scr\_0x10a20x50**  
**OPEN #5,scr\_10x10**

**SERnptce** Serial (RS-232-C) Receive and Transmit

n port number (1, 2, 3 or 4)  
 [p] parity [f] handshaking [t] translate  
 e - 7 bit + even i - ignore flow control d - direct output  
 o - 7 bit + odd h - handshake CTS/DTR t - translate  
 m - 7 bit + mark (1) x - XON/XOFF  
 s - 7 bit + space (0)

[c] carriage return [e] end of file  
 r - raw data f - <FF> at end of file  
 c - <CR> is end of line z - CTRL Z at end of file  
 a - <CR><LF> is end of line  
 <CR><FF> is end of page

default: **ser1htr** (8 bit no parity with handshake, translate)

example: **OPEN #3,ser1e**  
**OPEN #4,serxdc**  
**COPY flp1\_test\_file TO ser1c**

### **SRX***npftce* Serial (RS-232-C) Receive only

*n* port number (1, 2, 3 or 4)  
[*p*] parity [f] handshaking [f] translate  
**e** – 7 bit + even **i** - ignore flow control **d** - direct output  
**o** – 7 bit + odd **h** – handshake CTS/DTR **t** - translate  
**m** – 7 bit + mark (1) **x** - XON/XOFF  
**s** – 7 bit + space (0)

[c] carriage return [e] end of file  
**r** - raw data **f** - <FF> at end of file  
**c** - <CR> is end of line **z** – CTRL Z at end of file  
**a** - <CR><LF> is end of line  
<CR><FF> is end of page

default: **srx1htr** (8 bit no parity with handshake, translate)

example: **OPEN\_IN #3, srx1e**  
**OPEN #4, srxxdc**  
**COPY srx1c TO flp1\_test\_file**

### **STX***npftce* Serial (RS-232-C) Transmit only

*n* port number (1, 2, 3 or 4)  
[*p*] parity [f] handshaking [f] translate  
**e** – 7 bit + even **i** - ignore flow control **d** - direct output  
**o** – 7 bit + odd **h** – handshake CTS/DTR **t** - translate  
**m** – 7 bit + mark (1) **x** - XON/XOFF  
**s** – 7 bit + space (0)

[c] carriage return [e] end of file  
**r** - raw data **f** - <FF> at end of file  
**c** - <CR> is end of line **z** – CTRL Z at end of file  
**a** - <CR><LF> is end of line  
<CR><FF> is end of page

default: **stx1htr** (8 bit no parity with handshake, translate)

example: **OPEN\_NEW #3, stx1e**  
**OPEN #4, stxxdc**  
**COPY flp1\_test\_file TO stx1c**

### **PAR***ntce* Parallel Port (transmit only)

*n* port number (1, 2, 3 or 4)  
[f] translate [c] carriage return [e] end of file  
**d** - direct output **r** - raw data **f** - <FF> at end of file  
**t** – translate **c** - <CR> is end of line **z** – CTRL Z at end of file  
**a** - <CR><LF> is end of line  
<CR><FF> is end of page

default: **par1tr** (translate, raw data)

example: **OPEN\_NEW #3, par1da**  
**OPEN #4, ser**  
**COPY flp1\_test\_file TO par1**

### **PRT** Printer port (either SER or PAR)

default: none

example: **OPEN\_NEW #3, prt**  
**COPY flp1\_test\_file TO prt**

## **NUL***t*

Nul device, throw away output, provide dummy input

[*t*] type

**p** – waits (forever or until the specified timeout) on any input or output operation

**f** - emulate a null file. Any attempt to read data return an End of File Error as will any file positioning operation. Reading the file header will return 14 bytes of zero (no length, no type ).

**z** - emulate a file filled with zeros. The file position can be set to anywhere. Reading the file header will return 14 bytes of zero (no length, no type).

**l** - emulate a file filled with null lines. The file appears to be full of the newline character (10). The file position may be set to anywhere. Reading the file header will return 14 bytes of zero (no length, no type ).

default: **nul**

example: **OPEN #7, nulz**  
**OPEN #4, nuli**  
**COPY ser1 TO nul**

## **PIPE***\_name\_l*

Two ended Pipe device (first in, first out)

*name* pipe name

[*l*] indicates pipe length in bytes (default 1024 bytes)

default: no default

example: **OPEN\_NEW #7, pipe\_alpha**  
**OPEN\_NEW #4, pipe\_beta\_2048**  
**OPEN\_IN #5, pipe\_beta**

## **HISTORY***\_name\_l*

Single ended Pipe device (last in, first out)

[*name*] public history name

[*l*] indicates pipe length in bytes (default 1024 bytes)

default: no default

example: **OPEN #7, history**  
**OPEN #4, history\_messages\_2048**  
**OPEN #5, history\_512**

## **DEV***n\_name*

Defaulting file accessing device

*n* - Dev drive number

*name* - Dev drive file name

default: no default

example: **OPEN #9, dev1\_data\_file**  
**OPEN #9, dev5\_test\_program**  
**COPY dev2\_test\_file TO scr\_**

## **FLP***n\_name*

Floppy drive File Access

*n* - Floppy drive number

*name* - Floppy drive file name

default: no default

example: **OPEN #9, flp1\_data\_file**  
**OPEN #9, flp1\_test\_program**  
**COPY flp1\_test\_file TO scr\_**

**RAMn\_name** RAM (virtual) drive File Access

- n* - RAM drive number
- name* - RAM drive file name

default: no default

example: **OPEN #9, ram1\_data\_file**  
**OPEN #9, ram1\_test\_program**  
**COPY ram1\_test\_file TO scr\_**

**WINn\_name** Winchester hard disk drive File Access

- n* - WIN drive number
- name* - WIN drive file name

default: no default

example: **OPEN #9, win1\_data\_file**  
**OPEN #9, win1\_test\_program**  
**COPY win1\_test\_file TO scr\_**

---

Keyword	Function
<b>OPEN</b>	initialise a device and activate it for use
<b>CLOSE</b>	deactivate a device
<b>COPY</b>	copy data between devices
<b>COPY_N</b>	copy data between devices, but do not copy a file's header information
<b>EOF</b>	test for end of file
<b>WIDTH</b>	set width

---

## direct command

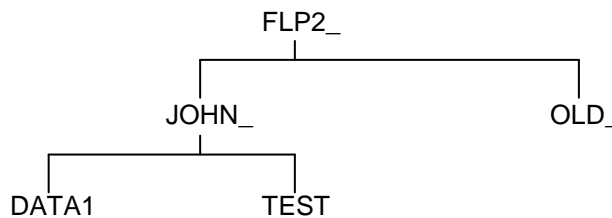
SBASIC makes a distinction between a statement typed in preceded by a line number and a statement typed in without a line number. Without a line number the statement is a direct command and is processed immediately by the SBASIC command interpreter. For example, **RUN** is typed in on the command line and is processed, the effect being that the program starts to run. If a statement is typed in with a line number then the syntax of the line is checked and any detectable syntax errors reported. A correct line is entered into the SBASIC program and stored. These statements constitute a SBASIC program and will only be executed when the program is started with the **RUN** or **GOTO** command.

Not all SBASIC statements make sense when entered as a direct command, for example, **END FOR**, **END DEFine**, etc

## directories

In SMSQ terminology, a 'directory' is where the system expects to find a file. This can be as simple as the name of a device (e.g. FLP2\_ the name of floppy disk drive number 2) or be much more complex forming part of a 'directory tree'.

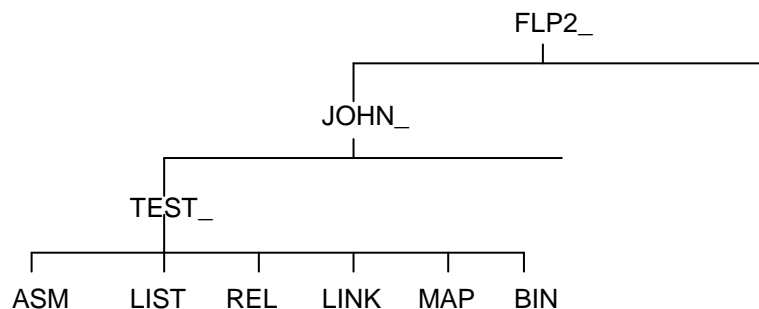
For example: the directory FLP2\_ could include directories JOHN\_ and OLD\_ (note: all directory names end with an '\_'), and JOHN\_ could include files DATA1 and TEST).



This shows another characteristic of the 'directory tree': it grows downwards. The complete SMSQ filename for DATA1 in this example is FLP2\_JOHN\_DATA1. (You may have come across the terms 'pathname' or 'treename': these refer to the same thing as a SMSQ filename.)

One unusual characteristic of the SMSQ directory structure is the absence of a formal file name 'extension'. This is not strictly necessary as 'extensions' (e.g. \_aba for ABACUS files, \_asm for assembler source files etc.) are treated as files within a directory.

This can be illustrated with the case of an assembler program TEST, processed using the GST macro assembler and linkage editor. The assembler source file (TEST\_ASM), the listing output from the assembler (TEST\_LIST), the relocatable output from the assembler (TEST\_REL), the linker control file (TEST\_LINK), the linker listing output (TEST\_MAP) and the executable program produced by the linker (TEST\_BIN) are all treated as files within the directory TEST\_.



SMSQ/E provides facilities to set default directories. The defaults are available for all filing system operations. A default may be set to any level of complexity and gives a starting point for finding a file in the tree structure. Thus, in this example, if the default is FLP2\_, then JOHN\_TEST\_ASM will find the assembler source. If the default is FLP2\_JOHN\_, then TEST\_ASM will find it, while the full filename FLP2\_JOHN\_TEST\_ASM will find the file regardless of the default.

Command	Function
<b>DATA_USE</b>	set data default used by <b>LOAD, OPEN</b> etc
<b>PROG_USE</b>	set program default used by <b>EX/EXEC</b> etc
<b>DEST_USE</b>	set destination default used by <b>COPY, RENAME</b> etc

## directory devices

Directory devices handle individual files, organised in directories (with at least one root directory). The drive RAM is used to access the RAM-disk, FLP is used to access the floppy disk, and WIN is used to access the hard disk. More details can be found in the hardware-dependent sections of this manual. SMSQ/E will read and write from and to QL floppy disk (DD and HD, if your hardware permits).

In addition, SMSQ/E comes with in built drivers to recognise, (PC) DOS floppy disks, and (Atari) TOS floppy disks (DD and HD).

The SBASIC command **DIR** has been extended to show density and format of a medium. There are now new functions, which allow you to fetch this information, see the **DMEDIUM\_xxx** range of functions.

If you insert a QDOS 720k floppy disk into flp1\_ and type:

```
DIR flp1_
```

Then you will see the following (or similar) output on the screen:

```
diskname QDOS DD  
720/1440 sectors  
...directory ...
```

If you insert a DOS high-density disk and ask for the directory again, you should see:

```
DISKNAME MSDOS HD  
720/2880 sectors  
...directory ...
```

## DOS device

The DOS device has been created to transfer data between the Windows and the SMSQ environment. Using the device you can directly browse your PC hard disks (or network drives or CD-ROMs or whatever), read and write files.

Please note that the DOS device is NO replacement for the WIN device (never intended to be), all SMSQ header information gets lost on DOS drives, therefore you cannot store executable code on them.

You can use this device in the same way as any other QPC directory device to access and exchange files between Windows and SMSQ/E as easy as never before. The usual restrictions imposed by the general QDOS file naming convention apply, i.e. the length of the directory + filename is limited to 36 characters. Names longer than that won't show up in the directory lists! Therefore, it is a good idea to place files, which you want to access from both SMSQ/E, and Windows only one or two directory levels deep or change the base of one DOS drive directly below the desired directories.

Many filenames that are valid under SMSQ/E are not valid on Windows. The offending characters (e.g. \*, /, ? etc. or filenames with spaces at their end) are translated into other, valid ANSI characters. This conversion works quite well, but I still suggest to use valid filenames only.

One problem with the SMSQ/E way of accessing files is that the “\_” separator can be a valid part of a name or a directory separator. Therefore the relation SMSQ/E filename -> Windows filename is not unique. This can cause some problems:

Let's say you have two directories named **C:\QL\STUFF\** and **C:\QL\STUFF\_NEW\** and you want to create a file called **DOS1\_QL\_STUFF\_NEW\_BRANDNEW.TXT**. Where does the file belong to? It could mean any of the following choices:

**C:\QL\_STUFF\_NEW\_BRANDNEW.TXT**  
**C:\QL\STUFF\_NEW\_BRANDNEW.TXT**  
**C:\QL\STUFF\NEW\_BRANDNEW.TXT**  
**C:\QL\STUFF\_NEW\BRANDNEW.TXT**

Probably the last one is the one you intended it to be, but how should QPC now? The easy solution is not to use underscores in directory names. But if you can't help it, it gets essential to know how the DOS device works.

Since v3.02 there is a new algorithm which is based on the simple assumption that if you have a directory called “**QL\_STUFF**” you won't also create “**QL\STUFF**”.

The basic principle is that the algorithm always searches for the longest consecutive parts of the name. In the above example QPC would begin with searching for any directory starting with “**C:\QL**”. If there is none the process is complete and the result is simply “**C:\QL\_STUFF\_NEW\_BRANDNEW.TXT**”. Otherwise it will look for any directory starting with “**C:\QL\_STUFF**” next. Again, if there is one, QPC will try “**C:\QL\_STUFF\_NEW**” and so on. If not however it will test whether the last successful part (“**C:\QL\_STUFF**”) is a directory of its own. If yes it's considered as a part of the filename and all future searches use it as their base (i.e. next step being “**C:\QL\_STUFF\NEW**”). If not the search is ended with the result again being “**C:\QL\_STUFF\_NEW\_BRANDNEW.TXT**”.

If this sound too confusing or too badly explained (probably both) just remember one thing: never use “\_” within directory names.

Finally please note that you cannot use **RENAME** to rename files on a DOS drive. SMSQ/E allows you to rename files from one directory to another one, which is not compatible with the DOS way of renaming files. If you want to rename a file, you need to **COPY** it and **DELETE** (i.e. “move”) the old file.



## DOS disks

You can load files from (PC) DOS disks as if they were QPC disks. You can save files to DOS disks, but you have to make sure that the filename does match the DOS naming convention, i.e. up to eight characters, full stop, up to three characters for the extension.

All the filing system calls will work on DOS disks, you can create subdirectories, delete files. You cannot, however, use the **FORMAT** command to format a floppy disk to DOS format. It will always be the preferred (QDOS) format.

The DOS filing system does not have the concept of different file types. Different file types are distinguished by their filename extension. Therefore, QDOS "executable" programs (file type 1) cannot be handled the way they are handled on a QDOS disk. From SMSQ/E version 2.87 on, you can copy executable files onto DOS disks, which can later be executed from this disk. They will get a special extension '.EXn' where n is the number which specifies the dataspace (which is usually held invisible to the user in the file header): it is  $512 \cdot 2^n$ . This extension will be invisible in SMSQ/E, but will be seen in DOS. Example (assuming flp1\_ contains a DOS disk):

### **COPY win1\_CLOCK TO flp1\_CLOCK**

Will create a file **flp1\_CLOCK.EX1** on the DOS disk. You can still refer to it as flp1\_CLOCK, it will be shown in the directory as flp1\_CLOCK only, but if you look at this disk on a DOS computer, then you will see the real name. Extensions of executable files will be removed automatically, e.g.

### **COPY win1\_PROGRAM\_bin TO flp1\_PROGRAM.bin**

Will not create a file **flp1\_PROGRAM.bin**, it will create a file **flp1\_PROGRAM.EX3**, but you have to refer to it as flp1\_PROGRAM only, e.g.

### **EX flp1\_PROGRAM**

As the filename extension is lost anyway even if you copy the file back, we suggest that you do not specify an extension. This will also make sure that you do not end up with files having the same filename.

## error handling

Errors are reported by SBASIC in a standard form:

**At line** *line\_number* : *statement\_number* *error\_text*

Where the line number is the number of the line where the error was detected, statement number is the number of the statement in the line, and the error text is listed below.

- (1) **incomplete**  
An operation has been prematurely terminated (or break has been pressed).
- (2) **invalid job ID**  
An error return from SMSQ/E relating to system calls controlling multitasking or I/O.
- (3) **insufficient memory**  
SMSQ/E and/or SBASIC has insufficient free memory.
- (4) **value out of range**  
Usually results from attempts to write outside a window or an incorrect array index.
- (5) **buffer full**  
An I/O operation to fetch a buffer full of characters filled the buffer before a record terminator was found.
- (6) **invalid channel ID**  
Attempt to read, write or close a channel which has not been opened.  
Can also occur if an attempt to open a channel fails.
- (7) **not found**  
File system, device, medium or file cannot be found.  
SBASIC cannot find an identifier. This can result from incorrectly nested structures.
- (8) **already exists**  
The file system has found an already existing file with the same name as a new file to be opened for writing.
- (9) **is in use**  
The file system has found that a file or device is already exclusively used.
- (10) **end of file**  
End of file detected during input.
- (11) **medium is full**  
A device has been filled (usually Floppy disk).
- (12) **invalid name**  
The file system has recognised the name but there is a syntax or parameter value error.  
In SBASIC it means a name has been used out of context. For example, a variable has been used as a procedure.
- (13) **transmission error**  
RS-232-C parity error
- (14) **format failed**  
Attempted format operation has failed, the medium is possibly faulty (usually a Floppy disk).

- (15) invalid parameter**  
There is an error in the parameter list of a system or SBASIC procedure or function call.  
An attempt was made to read data from a write only device.
- (16) check failed**  
The medium (usually a Floppy disk) is possibly faulty
- (17) error in expression**  
An error was detected while evaluating an expression.
- (18) arithmetic overflow**  
Arithmetic overflow division by zero, square root of a negative number, etc.
- (19) not implemented**
- (20) write protected**  
There has been an attempt to write data to a shared file.
- (21) invalid syntax**  
A SBASIC syntax error has occurred.
- (22) PROC/FN cleared**  
This is a message which is for information only and is not reporting an error. It is reporting that the program has been stopped and subsequently changed forcing SBASIC to reset its internal state to the outer program level and so losing any procedure environment which may have been in effect.
- (23) access denied**

#### **error reporting**

The line number where an error occurred, is returned by **ERLIN**. And the error number by **ERNUM**.

**REPORT** will report the description of the last error encountered.

**ERT** can be used with functions which return an error code, in order to allow the program to stop, or continue.

#### **error recovery**

After an error has occurred the program can be restarted at the next statement by typing

**CONTINUE**

If the error condition can be corrected, without changing the program, the program can be restarted at the statement, which triggered the error. Type

**RETRY**

#### **error handling**

Error handling is invoked by a **WHEN ERROR** clause. When an error is encountered, processing is passed to the commands in the **WHEN ERROR** clause. Within the **WHEN ERROR** clause the type of error can be tested for, and appropriate actions can be taken.

## expressions

SBASIC expressions can be string, numeric, logical or a mixture: unsuitable data types are automatically converted to a suitable form by the system wherever this is possible.

### define

```
monop := | +  
        | -  
        | NOT
```

```
expression := | [monop] expression operator expression  
              | (expression)  
              | atom
```

```
atom := | variable  
        | constant  
        | function [ (expression *, expression *) ]  
        | array_element
```

```
variable := | identifier  
            | identifier%  
            | identifier$
```

```
function := | identifier  
            | identifier%  
            | identifier$
```

```
constant := | digit * [digit] *  
            | *[digit]* *, *[digit]*  
            | *[digit]* * [.] *[digit]* E *[digit]*
```

The final value returned by the evaluation of the expression can be integer giving an **integer\_expression**, string giving a **string\_expression** or floating point giving a **floating\_expression**. Often floating point and integer expressions are equivalent and the term **numeric\_expression** is then used.

Logical operators can be included in an expression. If the specified operation is true then a one is returned as the value of the operation. If the operation is false then a zero is returned. Though logical operators can be used in any expression they are usually used in the expression part of an **IF** statement.

example: i. **test\_data + 23.3 + 5**  
ii. **"abcdefghijklmnpqrstuvwxy"(2 TO 4)**  
iii. **32.1 \* (colour = 1)**  
iv. **count = -limit**

## Extended Environment

### The Parts of the Extended Environment

The Extended Environment comes as four loosely connected parts. The Pointer Interface, the Thing System, the Window Manager, and the HOTKEY System 2.

The Pointer Interface is an extended version of the QDOS CONsole driver which accepts user input from a "pointing device", usually a "mouse" as well as from the keyboard. The user's input is directed to the program that he wishes to use by pointing to that program with a "pointer" (an arrow or other pointing symbol which appears on the screen). The Pointer Interface also keeps the display tidy when there is more than one Job trying to write to the display.

Programs do not have to be written specially for the Pointer Interface; all the window save and restore operations are done automatically.

The Window Manager is a set of utility routines that provides menu handling facilities to programs which have been written specially for the Extended Environment. These facilities create a user interface, which is reasonably uniform and consistent from program to program, even where these programs come from completely different suppliers.

The HOTKEY System 2, in contrast, is entirely under the user's control. A Hotkey can be used to Execute a program, to pick a one of the Jobs executing so that you can work with it, to stuff pre-defined strings into the keyboard queue, to recall the last line typed or to transfer strings from one program to another.

The standard system incorporates SBASIC functions to add and remove Hotkeys, but, as all the operations required to control the HOTKEY System 2 are built into the Hotkey Thing (*Thing!! of all the parts of the Extended Environment, Things are the simplest and most confusing to the uninitiated*), there is no problem in providing the same control through other programs. QPAC 2, for example, provides some facilities for users to access the HOTKEY System 2.

The Thing System is something, which most users do not need to bother themselves with. The Thing System exists to make it much easier for software developers to write programs which communicate cleanly with programs from other suppliers. There is no direct user control over the Thing System, but for those who might be interested, here is some background information.

*SMSQ/E allows Jobs to communicate directly with each other without the need to pass the information through "pipes". They can do this by sharing some area of the computer's memory. To maintain the self-cleaning aspects of the SMSQ operating system, the shared memory and the communicating Jobs will normally need to be owned by the same Job. If this owner Job, is removed, the communicating Jobs will be removed as well as the shared memory. Thus the system is kept clean.*

*The Thing System is a means of defining and controlling areas of shared memory. A Thing can be used to transfer data between Jobs, which are completely independent, and these Jobs do not need to be executing at the same time. A Thing can be permanent until removed, or it can be owned by a Job. When a Job owning a Thing is removed from the computer, then the Thing is also removed by SMSQ/E at the same time. If there are any Jobs using a Thing, which is removed from the computer, then the Jobs will be removed.*

They are called Things because they can be almost anything. The Window Manager should be a Thing, but it was written before Things were implemented. HOTKEY System 2 is a Thing. The programs, which form QPAC 2 are Executable Things. Things can be used to control access to sound synthesizers, to control the layout of the display (e.g. the Button Frame of QPAC 2), to provide functions which can be accessed from any programming language (e.g. FILE\_SELECT\$ from Jochen Merz's MENU extensions) or almost anything else.

## The Pointer Interface

The main purpose of the Pointer Interface is to allow the user to organise the display in such a way as to make it easier to see and control a large number of Jobs running in the computer at any time.

The Pointer Interface is an extended QDOS CONsole driver, which accepts user input from a "pointing device", usually a "mouse", as well as from the keyboard. And the user's input is directed to the Job that he wishes to use by pointing to that Job's windows with a "pointer" (an arrow or other pointing symbol, which appears on the screen).

This would not be very useful if there were many Jobs with windows which overlapped in the usual confused way, as it would be impossible to tell which of these Jobs was the intended recipient of the user's instructions. To avoid this problem, the Pointer Interface ensures that, when you have two or more Jobs with overlapping windows, the windows belonging to one of these Jobs will appear to be on top of the other Jobs' windows. It is the top Job that will get the user's keystrokes and mouse button presses.

If the top Job will not accept Pointer input, but is waiting for the user to type on the keyboard. Then the pointing symbol will change to a letter K. If, for any reason, the top Job will not accept any entry from the keyboard or mouse, the pointing symbol will change to a "No Entry" sign.

## The Cursor Keys and the Mouse

The cursor keys can usually be used to move the pointer around the display in place of using the mouse. You may find that it is easier to work with some programs if this facility is suppressed. There are two commands, which can be used to turn the cursor key control off and on again.

**CKEYOFF** *Turn cursor key control off*  
**CKEYON** *and back on again.*

The mouse can also be used to generate cursor key strokes, for programs which accept cursor key input, by pressing the left hand button and moving the mouse while holding it down.

## Locked Windows

To keep the screen tidy, if a Job's windows are partly or completely covered by another Job's windows, then the lower Job's windows are "locked". If a Job tries to write to a locked window, or to read keystrokes through a locked window, then it will be suspended by SMSQ/E (not by the Pointer Interface). If the pointer is over a locked window, the pointing symbol changes to a picture of a padlock. The padlock will also appear if the display is frozen (e.g. by pressing CTRL F5).

## Picking

There are various ways in which a Job can be "Picked", either to unlock its windows so that the Job can write to them, or to direct the keyboard queue to that Job.

If part of a Job is visible, then you can point to the Job and Pick it by pressing the left hand mouse button or space bar. You can also use the right hand button or ENTER key, but this also generates a "Wake Event" (see under "Events").

It is possible to bring the Job at the bottom of the pile of windows to the top by pressing CTRL and C (the standard SMSQ/E keyboard switching keystroke).

Finally, a specific Job can be Picked to the top by any Job written to use the Pointer Interface extended operating system entry point IOP.PICK. In particular, Jobs can be Picked using the Pick program in QPAC 2 or using a Hotkey through the HOTKEY SYSTEM 2.

## Unlockable Windows

It is possible to define a Job's windows to be "unlockable". These windows are kept outside the control of the Pointer Interface and thus are every bit as badly behaved as the standard QDOS CONsole driver windows. This means that, for example, it is possible to create a clock program which writes the time and date into a spare hole in the Quill display. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that other programs will have a spare hole in exactly the same place and such a clock program is of limited use as it will make rather a mess of any other programs which are used at the same time as Quill.

The HOTKEY System 2 includes facilities for executing programs with unlockable windows.

*There is a clean solution to this problem. If you wish to have two Jobs writing to the same set of windows, so that both Jobs are locked and unlocked together, the window used by the clock (or other similar program) should be owned by the other Job. This is the solution used by the Calendar program in QPAC 1. If you are writing a program in SBASIC, and you wish to have a clock linked to the program, then you can do this by opening a window where you wish the clock to be, and executing the clock in that window.*

## Primary and Guardian Windows

It is common for Jobs to have more than one window open at a time. To keep things simple, the Pointer Interface defines a "Primary Window" area. The Primary Window area of each Job is used to determine which Jobs overlap on the display.

For true Pointer Environment Jobs, the Primary Window is defined by a special operating system call, and, although the Primary Window can be moved or re-sized, other windows owned by the Job must be within the Primary Window area. For other programs it is just the smallest rectangular area which encloses all of the Job's windows. If these windows change in size or position, then the primary window may change as well. In turn, this may cause parts of other Job's windows to be restored or even unlocked. This may be desirable (e.g. where a modest Job is being moved around the display) or it can have some unpleasant effects.

To prevent a Job's Primary Window changing size, it is possible to define a "Guardian Window" which is opened for the Job, before the Job itself starts executing. The HOTKEY System 2 can be used to execute programs with Guardian Windows. A Guardian Window will be the Primary Window for the Job, and must be defined to cover the whole of the area of the display that will be used by the Job. In most cases this Guardian Window will cover the whole of the Display.

## Restoring Windows

When a Primary Window is locked because another Primary Window is opened, expanded or moved on top of it, the whole Primary Window area is saved.

When part or all of a Job's Primary Window becomes visible as a result of other Primary Windows being moved, Primary Windows being closed or the Job itself being Picked, the Pointer Interface will restore those parts of the Primary window that have become visible. Unlike most window environments, where it is the responsibility of each Job to maintain its own windows, this is done by the Pointer Interface without any co-operation from the Job. This method, therefore, works as well with Jobs that are written in ignorance of the Pointer Interface as it does with Jobs that are written to take advantage of it

## Events

To improve the efficiency of the system, the Pointer Interface provides a "Event Vector" for programs using the Pointer. These programs do not need to keep on checking the position of the Pointer or the state of the mouse buttons. Instead, these programs will suspend themselves until an Event occurs, such as the Pointer moving into the window or a key or mouse button being pressed. It is up to each program to interpret these Events. The Window Manager provides a uniform response to these Events.

## The Pointer Interface and Badly Behaved Software

In principle, any well written software can be "multitasked" under SMSQ/E without any additional software and without any real problems. All you need to do is to **EXEC** the programs you wish to use (**EXEC**ing new programs and quitting the ones already executing whenever you wish). When you wish to direct the keyboard input to another Job, just press CTRL and C until you get to it. The screen can get a little untidy, but using the Pointer Interface can cure that.

In practice, there are several problems, one of which can occur in both well written and badly written software.

The SMSQ/E CONsole driver assumes that all Jobs requiring input from the user will have an active keyboard cursor. This is not necessarily so in keyboard based graphics programs which bypass the CONsole driver and read the keyboard directly. (This enables them to detect cursor key presses at the same time as other keystrokes, a facility not available through the CONsole driver.) As these direct keyboard reads bypass the CONsole driver, it is not possible to stop such Jobs reacting to keystrokes intended for other Jobs. It is possible to give this type of job a Guardian Window with a "Freeze" option. When the Job is buried by another Job, the program is suspended, thus preventing it from stealing the input intended for another program.

There is a similar, but less serious, problem with menu based programs which read the keystrokes through a CONsole which does not have a cursor. Although the Psion programs have a visible cursor, they use the trick of reading though a special CONsole which does not have a cursor. Thus, without the Pointer Interface you cannot use CTRL C to switch the keyboard input to one of these menu based programs or one of the Psion programs. With the Pointer Interface you can use CTRL C to switch the keyboard input to any Job which reads the keyboard through the CONsole driver.

*So much for the type of problems for which there is sometimes some justification, now we come to the nasty bits.*

In addition to their suppression of CTRL C, the Psion programs have a number of other nasty tricks to play on unsuspecting users. The first has nothing to do with the display: when Quill, or one of the other Psion programs starts executing, it grabs most of the available memory. It may not need all this memory, but doing this ensures that there is not enough memory left for any other program to be executed. It also means that there is not enough memory for a window save area to be allocated by the Pointer Interface. The HOTKEY System 2 includes facilities to execute the Psion programs in such a way that the amount of memory they use is limited.

The next nasty trick is that the Psion programs make a large number of unnecessary operating system calls to set the display MODE. The Pointer Interface can survive this, but it can be rather annoying for the user.

Their worst trick is writing directly to the display. In the case of the Psion programs, this trick performs no useful function and the harmful side effects can be minimised by the use of a Guardian window. There are programs which are much worse, but even so, some of these will work if they are executed within a Guardian window with the Freeze option which will stop them writing to the display (or doing anything else!) while they are buried.

There are two types of program which are sure to give problems. The first is the type of program which is so badly behaved that it is unable to share the machine with another copy of itself. The second is the type of program which pokes values directly into the operating system data structures.



## The Window Manager

The Window Manager provides a set of utility routines, which simplify the handling of menus and pull-down windows. There is no reason why any particular program should use the window manager, but using it provides a reasonably uniform user interface to applications programs. The following description applies to standard menu windows. Other types of windows should be similar, but there may be some subtle differences.

A window set up by the window manager has a number of different parts. The first is general information: this could be lines or borders dividing the window to improve the clarity, or explanatory text or icons. Then there are the "loose menu items": so called because they are not tied down to any fixed organisation and can be put anywhere in the window. Finally, there are the "sub-windows" (*These are called "application sub-windows" within the Window Manager to distinguish them from the "information sub-windows" which just contain the general information*). Simple pull-down menus may not have any sub-windows, whereas in menus that include lists of items to select (e.g. lists of files) the sub-window may well be the most important part.

## Selecting Menu Items

A menu comprises a number of "items". Items can be selected by pointing to the item using the cursor keys or mouse, and then pressing the space bar, ENTER or one of the mouse buttons. The space bar is equivalent to the left button: pressing this is termed a "HIT". The ENTER key is equivalent to the right button: pressing this is called a "DO".

Items have one of three states: "unavailable", "available" or "selected". Most items will be available, selected items are shown using a highlight colour combination, while unavailable items are shown in a reduced visibility colour combination.

When you point to an item, a border will appear around it: this indicates that it is the "current item". This is the item which will be HIT or DONE. If the item is unavailable, then there will be no effect. If the item is available, then the item will be set to the selected state, and the action associated with the item will be carried out. If the item is selected, then a HIT will make the item available again, while a DO will keep the item selected and then carry out the associated action.

The distinction between a HIT and a DO depends on the operation. Very often a HIT will merely change the state of the item, while a DO will do the action. For other items HIT and DO are similar but DO is more forceful. For some items there is no distinction between them.

You can select several items in a sub-window menu by holding the mouse button down and moving (slowly) through the menu. As the pointer moves into each item, it will be selected.

## Single Keystroke Selection

It is also possible to select items using a single keystroke. This key will often be the first letter of the item name (if it has a name), it may be shown in the menu as a symbol close to the item, or you may need to memorise it from the manual.

The effect of single keystroke selection also depends on the operation. For an item within a sub-window, it may just move the pointer to the item, making it the current item, or it may move it to the item and HIT or DO it. For Loose menu items, it will HIT or DO the item without moving the pointer: this stops the pointer being moved out of the current sub-window.

Current sub-window? Yes, the Window Manager allows there to be several sub-windows in one window. Usually, items in a sub-window can only be selected by single keystroke if the pointer is in that sub-window. So that keystroke selection of sub-window menu items can be used from anywhere in the window, each sub-window has a selection keystroke. To move the pointer into the sub-window, press the sub-window selection keystroke: you can then select items within the sub-window by single keystroke.

## Pan and Scroll

Items in a menu sub-window are arranged in rows and columns. There may be more items in a menu sub-window than can be displayed in the available space. If this happens, the window will be marked as pannable (you can move the contents sideways), or scrollable (you can move the contents up and down). The window can be both pannable and scrollable, but this is usually very inconvenient.

A window is marked as pannable or scrollable by including rows of arrows within the window, or by putting a pan or scroll bar to the right of or below the window. The pan or scroll bar includes a block which indicates the (size and) position of the visible section of the menu within the complete menu. If the block in a scroll bar starts halfway down the scroll bar, then the first visible row in the menu is about half way down the list or rows in the complete menu.

To pan or scroll by one column or row, you can press ALT and a cursor key. HITting an arrow row will have the same effect. To pan or scroll by the width (less one column) or height (less one row) of the window, you can press ALT, SHIFT and a cursor key. DOing an arrow row will have the same effect.

To pan or scroll directly to a position in the menu, move the pointer to the pan or scroll bar and HIT the bar at the position required. If you keep your finger on the left button or the space bar, you can "drag" through the menu using the mouse or cursor keys. To make this simpler for keyboard users, the sub-window selection keystroke will also move the pointer from inside the sub-window to the pan or scroll bar.

## Split and Join

Some menu sub-windows can be split into two or more sections. Each section can then be panned or scrolled independently. To split a window, point to the pan or scroll bar where you wish to split to be made and DO it. The window may be re-joined by DOing on the split.

## Standard Loose Items

There are a number of standard loose menu items and keystrokes. The most common are the F1 (Help), F3 (Command) and ESC (Escape - leave the menu). As these are the most common, they also tend to be the most variable. Help may be available using F1, even if there is no Help item visible. F3 or the command item will usually give access to a further (pull-down) menu. ESC can mean leave the menu, leave the menu without saving any changes made or leave the program altogether. If in doubt, try it.

There is a set of window control items which are all selected by **CTRL** and a function key (**F1** to **F4**). These keystrokes are denoted **CF1**, **CF2**, **CF3** and **CF4**. The operations will only be available if the appropriate item is available.

- CF4** Move
- CF3** Resize
- CF2** Sleep
- CF1** Wake

To move the window, HIT or DO the Move item or press **CTRL** and **F4**. The window can then be moved using the mouse or cursor keys. The pointing symbol changes to the Move symbol, and it may happen that the only thing that moves while you are positioning the window is this symbol. When you have moved far enough, HIT or DO will complete the operation.

Resize is similar to move: HIT or DO the Resize item, or press **CTRL** and **F3**, and you can then change the window size.

The purpose of the Sleep item is to tuck the Job away to bed to free some of the display. This is especially useful for Jobs with large windows. The Job will shrink its window to a small "button", and wait until it is woken up.

The Wake item is used to create a "wake event" to the Job. If the item is a button, the wake event will make it re-create its windows. If the windows are already set up, the wake event will make the Job refresh the menus. This is useful for Jobs, which display information about the system. The Files menu of QPAC 2, for example, will re-read the directory of the appropriate disk when it receives a wake event.

A wake event is also created when a Job is picked by a DO rather than a HIT, and it is possible to send a Job a wake event using the HOTKEY System 2.

## The HOTKEY System 2

The HOTKEY System 2 provides Hotkey facilities. A Hotkey is a key, which is pressed to cause an action, which is independent of the program with which you are working at the time. For example, if you have a Hotkey, which pops up a telephone directory, then it does not matter whether you are in the middle of using a word processor, or doing your accounts, you press the Hotkey and up pops the directory. The keystroke is stolen by the HOTKEY System 2, and so the program you are working with, remains blissfully unaware that anything has happened.

Using HOTKEY System 2, the ALT key is used to indicate that a keystroke may be a Hotkey. This operates in the same way as the CTRL and SHIFT keys and may be used in combination with either (or both) to define up to 128 Hotkeys.

## Hotkey Operations

There are many different operations which may be carried out using Hotkeys. To make it even more flexible, there is one operation that allows any code to be added to HOTKEY System 2. In this manual, however, we will describe only those operations which can be set up using the SBASIC extensions which are incorporated into HOTKEY System 2.

Three Hotkeys are set up with the HOTKEY System 2. These are intended to save you time and effort by doing some typing for you.

<b>ALT ENTER</b>	recalls the last line you typed into the current keyboard queue (and the line before that, and so on).
<b>ALT SPACE</b>	copies the current " Stuffer Buffer" into the current keyboard queue.
<b>ALT SHIFT SPACE</b>	copies the previous " Stuffer Buffer" into the current keyboard queue.

(The file name is put into the Stuffer Buffer by QPAC 2 when a file is Viewed or by QD when a file is saved. Other programs put whatever they wish into the Stuffer Buffer, and you can set the Stuffer Buffer within your own SBASIC programs with the **HOT\_STUFF** command.)

You can also set up Hotkeys to copy predefined strings into the current keyboard queue. This can be useful for common phrases such as "Yours sincerely" or long command sequences such as "**F3 P D ENTER N P**" which prints a spreadsheet from Abacus.

The second group of Hotkeys is concerned with executing and Picking programs. Hotkeys can be set up execute programs either from file, or from Executable Things. You can define Hotkeys which will Pick programs which are already executing, and Hotkeys which will Wake programs or Executable Things.

Using one of this second group, you can use a Hotkey to pop up a program you want to use, on top of the program you are using at the time.

## How Hotkey System 2 works

All the Hotkey operations are performed by a Job called HOTKEY. There is a small task which examines the keyboard queue after a keystroke has been put into it. When you press an ALT key combination which has been set up as a Hotkey, this task will pass a special Event to the HOTKEY Job which will leap into action and do whatever has been specified. If the attempt fails (possibly because there is not enough memory) the HOTKEY Job will burp and retire into the background again. If there is no room in the current keyboard queue, then Hotkeys, like any other keystroke, will get lost.

## Setting Hotkeys Using SBASIC

Using Hotkeys is very simple, but unfortunately, you do have to set them up first. HOTKEY System 2 includes a number of SBASIC functions to enable Hotkeys to be set up, changed and removed by SBASIC programs. Using functions, instead of procedures, enables error checking to be carried out simply, and any corrective action taken. The HOTKEY System 2 functions (and procedures) start with "HOT\_" so you should have no problem identifying them. Most Hotkeys will be set up in a BOOT file, but you can add, remove or change any Hotkeys at any time, either by typing the appropriate commands into the SBASIC command console, or by **RUN**ning an SBASIC program.

## Case Dependent Hotkeys

You can define Hotkeys in two ways. If you define a lower case Hotkey, then the Hotkey action can usually be invoked by pressing **ALT** and the appropriate letter, regardless of whether the **SHIFT** key is pressed or **CAPSLOCK** is set. If, however, you define an upper case Hotkey, then this action, will only be invoked by **ALT**, and the upper case character.

For example, if these Hotkeys are set:

Hotkey	Action
a	Execute Alarm
Q	Execute Quill
q	Execute QRAM

"**ALT Q**" (**ALT SHIFT Q**) will execute Quill, while "**ALT q**" will execute QRAM. Both "**ALT A**" and "**ALT a**" will execute the alarm clock.

## Summary of Functions to set up Hotkeys

Function	Sets Hotkey to
<b>HOT_KEY</b> ( <i>key, list of strings</i> )	copy strings to keyboard queue
<b>HOT_CMD</b> ( <i>key, list of commands</i> )	send commands to SBASIC
<b>HOT_RES</b> ( <i>key, filename</i> )	execute resident program
<b>HOT_RES1</b> ( <i>key, filename</i> )	... one copy only
<b>HOT_CHP</b> ( <i>key, filename</i> )	execute resident program
<b>HOT_CHP1</b> ( <i>key, filename</i> )	... one copy only
<b>HOT_LOAD</b> ( <i>key, filename</i> )	load and execute program
<b>HOT_LOAD1</b> ( <i>key, filename</i> )	... one copy only
<b>HOT_THING</b> ( <i>key, Thing name</i> )	execute Thing
<b>HOT_PICK</b> ( <i>key, Job name</i> )	Pick Job
<b>HOT_WAKE</b> ( <i>key, Job name</i> )	Wake Job

## Errors when Setting Hotkeys

The functions used to set up, change and remove Hotkeys have two distinct error handling methods. If the function is used incorrectly, (e.g. missing parameters), then execution of the program will stop in the usual way. If, however, the parameters are correct, but you are trying to do an operation which is not allowed, or proves to be impossible (e.g. redefining a Hotkey without removing it, or trying to load a file, which does not exist), then the function will return an error code. This error code can be used to ask the user (probably yourself) to do some corrective action (e.g. put a particular disk in the drive) before the Hotkey function is called again.

One error code, which can be returned from any of the functions, is ERR.IU (-9, in use). This can occur if another Job has tied up the Hotkey system for more than 2 seconds. If there is a long pause before an "in use" error return, this is the most likely reason.

## Error Reporting

If you do not wish to do any error processing, it would be more convenient to call these functions as procedures. A BOOT (or other program) would then stop automatically with the usual cryptic error messages. Unfortunately this cannot be done directly with the standard SBASIC interpreter, but the Hotkey system includes a simple procedure which will report the error and stop if its parameter value is negative. This procedure, **ERT**, can be used with any function which returns an error code (e.g. many of the Qtyp SPELL functions) as well as with the Hotkey functions. Thus there are three main ways of calling the Hotkey functions:

<b>hkerr = HOT_RES (' t', Qtyp)</b>	get error code from HOT_RES
<b>PRINT HOT_RES (' t' , Qtyp)</b>	print error code from HOT_RES
<b>ERT HOT_RES ('t', Qtyp)</b>	stop and report if error

## Hotkey Filenames and Other Names

Some of the functions to set Hotkeys need to be supplied with a file name. You will not usually need to specify a drive name as HOTKEY System 2 will use the Program Default (set up by **PROG\_USE**).

In general, the textual parameters of a Hotkey function can be given as either "strings" or "names". A name must start with a letter, and contain only letters, digits and underscores. A string can have any characters between apostrophes or quotes. If in doubt put the parameter between quotes or apostrophes: particularly if you will be compiling your program.

Furthermore, when defining the Hotkey itself, the key is best placed between apostrophes of quotes to avoid problems with the SBASIC name handling which does not distinguish between upper and lower case.

## Boot Programs for the Extended Environment

When the QPC starts up, or after being reset. The SBASIC interpreter will load and run a SBASIC program called "BOOT". This program should be used to set up QPC to match the way you wish to use it. This BOOT program will usually be stored on WIN1\_ as WIN1\_BOOT, although a floppy disk can also be used if you configure QPC to boot from a floppy first.

The majority of QL/QPC software falls into one of two main groups, "resident extensions" and "executable programs". The other important group, SBASIC programs. SBASIC programs compiled with QLiberator or Turbo are true "transient programs".

"Resident extensions" are provided to expand the capabilities of QPC. Some are supplied on disk and need to be loaded in at the start of a session and remain resident in QPC for the whole of that session. The Extended Environment comes built into SMSQ/E and does not need to be loaded. Other typical examples are the Pointer Toolkit and the Spell extensions. All of these are intended to be of use for many different programs throughout an entire session.

"Executable programs" are designed to come and go as required. These are executed as required, and when you have finished with them, they go away, leaving QPC's memory free for other executable programs. Typical examples are Quill, Abacus and the other Psion programs.

Some executable programs require specific resident extensions to be present. The reasons vary. Most Qjump programs require the Extended Environment because it makes it simple to provide the type of pop-up menus and non-destructive windows that we prefer to use. Qtyp requires the Spell extensions, because we thought that it was necessary to separate out the actual spelling checking so that it could be used in other programs as well (such as real word processors). The Editor requires the Turbo Toolkit because it is Turbo compiled SBASIC and uses some facilities not available in SMSQ/E.

As a general rule, a BOOT file should load all the resident extensions you require, before any programs are started. This will avoid 'not complete' error messages when you try to load further extensions. The BOOT file is used in much commercial software to give users instant access to their new program. Many users never progress beyond this point, but re-boot their system every time they wish to change programs.

The boundary between a supplier providing a very complex BOOT file to make it very easy to use their software, and a supplier providing so complex a BOOT file that it becomes almost impossible to use any other supplier's software is a very fine one.

There is one simple test that you can do to find out whether a particular program is likely to give problems. Can you execute two copies of the program at the same time as the SBASIC interpreter? In the case of programs written for the Pointer Interface, the answer will usually be an unqualified yes. For other software you may have to do some detective work.

The manual for a software product should tell which of the files are resident extensions, and which are executable program files. If it does not, then you must first look at the BOOT file for the program. You need to find the command which **EXECs** the program itself. Before this you may find some **RESPR**, **LBYTES** and **CALL** commands. If you find any **POKEs**, you can probably give up. Next, reset QPC and **LOAD** the BOOT file, delete all of the SBASIC commands except the **RESPR**, **LBYTES**, **CALL** and **EXEC** commands you have found and add a second **EXEC** for the program. Now **RUN** this skeleton SBASIC BOOT program - you should now be able to press CTRL and C to switch the keyboard from one copy of the program, to the next and then to the SBASIC interpreter. If it turns out that the program is so badly behaved that you cannot have two copies executing at the same time, then it is unlikely that the program will tolerate any other software.

If you cannot execute the second copy of the program because there is not enough memory left, then you will need to use the Psion option of the HOTKEY System 2.

If, while using a particular program, you find that bits of its windows tend to disappear, or get eaten up by other programs, then you will need to execute the program with a Guardian window using the HOTKEY System 2. If the program keeps on modifying the display while it is buried, then you will need a Guardian window with the Freeze option.

To set up your own BOOT file, you will have to determine which resident extensions are needed for each of the programs you wish to use. This should be stated in the manual. Alternatively, you can examine the supplier's own BOOT file. Resident procedures will be any code loaded by statements of the form:

```
a=RESPR(size): LBYTES flpl_filename,a: CALL a or  
LRESPR (filename)          or  
base=RESPR (size)          loading several files into one space  
LBYTES flpl_filename1, base: CALL base LBYTES flpl_filename2, base + a_bit:  
CALL base + a_bit          . . . etc.
```

These statements can be copied into your own BOOT file at the appropriate point, and the files themselves copied onto your own BOOT disk. The statements may be scattered over several lines to confuse you.

Sorting out BOOT files varies from the easy (e.g. The Editor) to the impossible (too many to mention). Very easy BOOT files would consist of "**EXEC flp1\_filename**", in which case you need to add nothing to your own BOOT file unless you wish to HOTKEY the program with **HOT\_RES**, **HOT\_CHP** or **HOT\_LOAD**. Difficult conversions are where the BOOT file indulges in copyright messages, pretty borders, playing tunes or other methods of obscuring the useful bits of code. Impossible BOOT files are those which include **POKEs**, or start an application with a **CALL** statement. These can, sometimes be used, but require the attention of an expert machine code hacker to convert them to a sanitary form.

Some resident extensions interact with others. If this happens, then some care is required with the ordering of the resident extensions. The HOTKEY System 2 interacts with the ALTKEY facility. The Pointer Interface interacts with Lightning.

Load any program specific resident extensions and other Toolkits. When all your resident extensions have been loaded, you should set up the Hotkeys you require, and include a **HOT\_GO** command to get the HOTKEY Job going.

## Examples

These example BOOT files are intended to start you off. We specify the drive explicitly, and the file names are between apostrophes. The first is for clarity only, the second is a personal preference.

### BOOT\_PSION Program

This boot file sets up a Psion plus Qtyp environment. All four Psion programs are permanently resident, although only Quill is started.

```

100 REMark - Load all our extensions
110 :
160 LRESPR ' f lpl_qtyp_spell'           spelling checker extensions
170 :
180 REMark - Extensions loaded, stuff our QPC full of the
190 REMark - Psion programs
200 :
210 ERT HOT_RES (' t', ' f lpl_qtyp' )    Qtyp in case we use Quill
220 ERT HOT_RES (' q', ' f lpl_quill', p)  ALT Q for a new Quill
230 ERT HOT_RES (' a', ' f lpl_abacus', p)  ALT A for Abacus
240 ERT HOT_RES (' r', ' f lpl_archive', p) ALT R for Archive
250 ERT HOT_RES (' e', ' f lpl_easel', p)   ALT E for a new Easel
260 :
270 HOT_GO                               get HOTKEY going
280 :
290 : REMark - now we set some HOTKEYS for picking Jobs
300 : REMark - to pretend that we are using Taskmaster
310 :
320 ERT HOT_PICK (' 0', " )              SBASIC and other no-name Jobs
330 ERT HOT_PICK ('1', 'Quill')
340 ERT HOT_PICK ('2', 'Abacus')
350 ERT HOT_PICK ('3', 'Archive')
360 ERT HOT_PICK ('4', 'Easel')
370 HOT_LIST                             tell us what we have, please
380 PAUSE 300: HOT_DO q                  start with Quill only

```

## BOOT\_ANOTHER Program

```
100 REMark - First shrink SBASIC' s windows a bit
110 WINDOW #0;512, 42, 0,214:BORDER #0;1,4,0
120 WINDOW #1;256,172,256,36:BORDER #1;1,255
130 WINDOW #2; 256,172, 0,36:BORDER #2;1,255
150 :
210 LRESPR ' flp1_qtyp_spell'           spelling checker extensions
220 LRESPR 'flp1_Qpac2'
230 :
240 ERT HOT_WAKE (' x', ' Exec' )       Exec menu of QPAC 2
250 ERT HOT_WAKE (' p', ' Pick' )       Pick menu of QPAC 2
260 ERT HOT_RES (' t', ' flp1_qtyp' )   Qtyp
270 ERT HOT_RES ('c', ' flp1_calc' )    Pop up calculator
280 ERT HOT_RES (' k', ' f lp1_calendar' ) ... our calendar
290 ERT HOT_RES (' w', ' f lp1_alarm' ) ... and the alarm
300 ERT HOT_LOAD (' d', ' f lp1_QD' )   load QD on demand
310 ERTHOT_LOAD ('8', ' f lp1_Text87' ) ...orText87
330 HOT_GO                               get HOTKEY going as well
340 EXEC ' f lp1_Clock'                  clock around the clock
350 EXEC ' f lp1_Sysmon'                 we need this to know what is going on
360 :
370 ERT HOT_PICK (' b', " )             pick SBASIC
380 HOT_LIST
390 PAUSE 300: HOT_DO e                 start off with the Editor
400 PAUSE 100: HOT DO b                 but with SBASIC on top
```

## BOOT\_HI\_RES

BOOT program for a high resolution system

```
100 REMark Hi Res BOOT program
110 :
120 REMark For 800x600 display in 65536 colours
130 :
140 DISP_COLOUR 3,800,600
150 COLOUR_QL
160 BGCOLOUR_24 1.679652E7
170 WINDOW#0,800,120,0,330 : BORDER#0,1,1
180 WINDOW#1,400,300,400,30 : BORDER#1,1,255
190 WINDOW#2,400,300,0,30 : BORDER#2,1,255
200 INK#0,7 : PAPER#0,0 : CSIZE#0,1,1
210 INK#1,0 : PAPER#1,7
220 INK#2,7 : PAPER#2,1
230 CLS#0 : CLS#1 : CLS#2
240 :
250 REMark Load some resident extensions
260 LRESPR win1_system_qlib_run336mod    Qliberator runtimes
270 LRESPR win1_system_menu_rext       Menu extensions
320 :
330 REMark Set up the pointer system
340 LRESPR win1_pe_qpac_qpac2
350 :
390 REMark Set up Hot keys
400 ERT HOT_PICK('b'," )               Pick Basic
410 ERT HOT_THING('1','Files';'\dWIN1_') Files thing for WIN1_
420 ERT HOT_THING(CHR$(232),'Button_sleep') Sleep thing
430 ERT HOT_THING('.', 'Button_Pick')   Button frame
440 ERT HOT_LOAD1('x','win1_xchange_xchange')
450 :
470 ERT HOT_WAKE('P','Pick')           Call the Pick menu
480 ERT HOT_WAKE('R','Rjob')           Call the Rjob menu
490 :
```



```

500 REMark Set up now go
510 :
520 REMark Create the buttons for the screen
530 :
550 BT_SLEEP 'Pick'
560 BT_SLEEP 'Exec'
570 BT_SLEEP 'Rjob'
580 BT_HOTKEY 'x','Xch'           Put Xchange on a button
590 BT_HOTKEY '1','WIN1'        Put Win1_ on a button
600 :
610 HOT_DO 'b'                   Pick the button frame
620 HOT_DO CHR$(232)            Put system(SBASIC) to sleep
630 :
640 HOT_GO                       Start the hotkey system
650 :
660 REMark SBASIC setups
670 PROG_USE win1_
680 DATA_USE win1_

```

## file types files

All I/O on QPC is to or from a 'logical file'. Various file types exist.

<b>data</b>	SBASIC programs, text files. Created using <b>PRINT</b> , <b>SAVE</b> , accessed using <b>INPUT</b> , <b>INKEY\$</b> , <b>LOAD</b> etc.
<b>exec</b>	An executable transient program. Saved using <b>SEXEC</b> , loaded using <b>EXEC</b> , <b>EXEC_W</b> etc.
<b>code</b>	Raw memory data, screen images, etc. Saved using <b>SBYTES</b> , loaded using <b>LBYTES</b> .

## flp floppy disk drive device

QPC can access up to 8 floppy disk drives (called FLP1\_, FLP2\_, etc) depending on how many are fitted to the host PC.

QPC will support double density (DD) and high density (HD) QDOS formatted disks .

Double density disks will store up to 720K bytes (1440 sectors) of data, and high density disks will store up to 1.4M bytes (2880 sectors) of data.

## functions and procedures

SBASIC functions and procedures are defined with the **DEFine FuNction** and **DEFine PROCedure** statements. A function is activated (or called) by typing its name at the appropriate point in a SBASIC expression. The function must be included in an expression because it is returning a value and the value must be used. A procedure is activated (or called) by typing its name as the first item in a SBASIC statement.

Data can be passed into a function or procedure by appending a list of **actual parameters** after the function or procedure name. This list is compared to a similar list appended after the name of the function or procedure when it was defined. This second list is called the **formal parameters** of the function or procedure. The formal parameters must be SBASIC variables. The actual parameters must be an array, an array slice or a SBASIC expression of which a single variable or constant is the simplest form.

Since the actual parameters are actual expressions, they must have an actual type associated with them. The formal parameters are merely used to indicate how the actual parameters must be processed and so have no type associated with them. The items in each list of parameters are paired off in order when the function or procedure is called and the formal parameters become equivalent to the actual parameters. There are three distinct ways of using parameters.

If the actual parameter is a single variable and if data is assigned to the formal parameter in the function or procedure then the data is also assigned to the corresponding actual parameter.

If the actual parameter is an expression then assigning data to the corresponding formal parameter will have no effect outside the procedure. Note that a variable can be turned into an expression by enclosing it within brackets.

If the actual parameter is a variable but has not previously been set then assigning data to the corresponding formal parameter will set the variable specified as the actual parameter.

Variables can be defined to be local to a function or procedure with the **LOCal** statement. Local variables have no effect on similarly named variables outside the function or procedure in which they are defined and so allow greater freedom in choosing sensible variable names without the risk of corrupting external variables. A local variable is available to any inside function or procedure called from the procedure function in which it is declared to be local unless the function or procedure called contains a further local declaration of the same variable name.

Functions and procedures in SBASIC can be used recursively. That is a function or procedure can call itself either directly or indirectly.

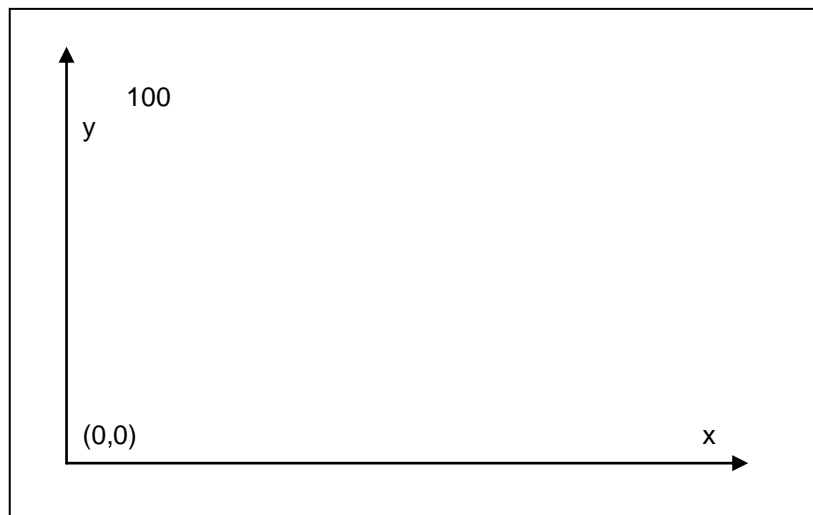
Command	Function
<b>DEFine FuNction</b>	define a function
<b>DEFine PROCedure</b>	define a procedure
<b>RETurn</b>	leave a function or procedure (return data from a function)
<b>LOCal</b>	define local data in a function or procedure

## graphics

It is important to realise that the QPC screen has non-square pixels and that changing screen mode will change the shape of the pixels. Thus if the graphics procedures were simply pixel based they would draw different shapes in the two modes. For example, in one mode we would have a circle while the same figure in the other mode would be an ellipse.

The graphics procedures ensure that whatever screen mode is in use, consistent figures are produced. It is not possible to use a simple pixel count to indicate sizes of figures, so instead the graphics procedures use an arbitrary scale and co-ordinate system to specify sizes and positions of figures.

The graphics procedures use the **graphics co-ordinate system**, i.e. draw relative to the **graphics origin** which is in the bottom left hand corner of the specified or default window. Note that this is not the same as the Pixel Origin used to define the position of Windows and Blocks etc. The graphics origin allows a standard Cartesian co-ordinate system to be used. A graphics cursor is updated after each graphics operation: subsequent operations can either be relative to this cursor or can be absolute, i.e. relative to the graphics origin.



The Graphics Coordinate System

The **scaling factor** is such that the full distance in the vertical direction in the specified or default window has length 100 by default and can be changed with the **SCALE** command. The scale in the x direction is equal to the scale in the y direction. However, the length of line which can be drawn in the x direction is dependent on the shape of the window. Increasing the scale factor increases the maximum size of the figure which can be drawn before the window size is exceeded. If the graphics output is switched to a different size of window then the subsequent size of the output is adjusted to fit the new window. If the figure exceeds its output window then the figure is clipped.

It is useful to consider the window to be a window onto a larger graphics space in which the figures are drawn. The **SCALE** command allows the graphics origin to be set so allowing the window to be moved around the graphics space.

The graphics procedures are output to the window attached to the specified or default channel and the output is drawn in the **INK** colour for that channel.

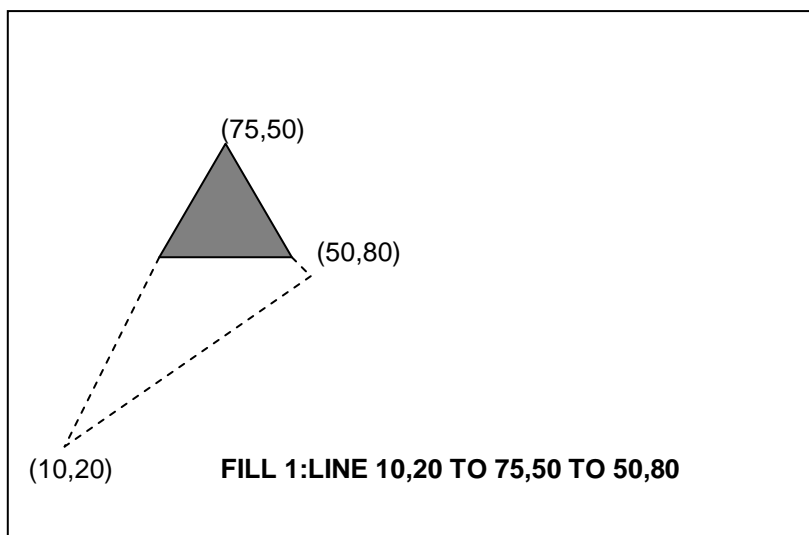
Command	Function	
<b>CIRCLE</b>	draw an ellipse or a circle	}
<b>LINE</b>	draw a line	} absolute
<b>ARC</b>	draw an arc of a circle	}
<b>POINT</b>	plot a point	}
<b>CIRCLE_R</b>	draw an ellipse or a circle	}
<b>LINE_R</b>	draw a line	} relative
<b>ARC_R</b>	draw an arc of a circle	}
<b>POINT_R</b>	plot a point	}
<b>SCALE</b>	set scale and move origin	
<b>FILL</b>	fill in a shape	
<b>CURSOR</b>	position text	

### graphics fill

Figures drawn with the graphics and turtle graphics procedures can be optionally 'filled' with a specified stipple or colour. If **FILL** is selected then the figure is filled as it is drawn.

The **FILL** algorithm stores a list of points to plot rather than actually plotting them. When the figure closes there are two points on the same horizontal line. These two points are connected by a line in the current ink colour and the process repeats. Fill must always be reselected before drawing a new figure to ensure that the buffer used to store the list of points is reset.

The following diagram illustrates **FILL**:



**warning:** There is an implementation restriction on **FILL**. **FILL** must not be used for re-entrant shapes (i.e. a shape which is concave). Re-entrant shapes must be split into smaller shapes which are not re-entrant and each sub-shape filled independently.

## history virtual device

The HISTORY virtual device is not associated with any physical hardware. HISTORY devices are buffers for storing information or passing it from one task to another. The HISTORY device is single ended, what goes in one end, comes out the same end in the reverse order (LIFO -last in first out).

A HISTORY device is much simpler than a PIPE device as it only has one end. It is used to store a number of messages which may then be retrieved in reverse order: if it becomes full, the oldest messages are thrown away. The messages are separated by newline characters.

There are two types of history devices: private and public. Private HISTORY devices are for use within a particular application and may only have one channel open to them. Public HISTORY devices are named and so may be accessed by many applications at the same time, or at different times. A public HISTORY device may even be used as a "mailbox".

A HISTORY device is opened by name, just like any other device. The name starts with "HISTORY" which is, for a public HISTORY device, followed by public name and then, optionally, the HISTORY device size. If no size is given, 1 kilobyte of message space is assumed. If a public HISTORY device already exists, then the size is ignored!

<b>HISTORY</b>	A private HISTORY; 1024 bytes total space
<b>HISTORY_512</b>	A private HISTORY, 512 bytes total space
<b>HISTORY_thoughts</b>	A public HISTORY for thoughts
<b>HISTORY_box_80</b>	An 80 byte small mailbox called BOX

Single character names should not be used: these are reserved as keys for special variations which may be made available in the future.

<b>HISTORY_U_FILES</b>	A public HISTORY with all entries unique???
------------------------	---

Messages may be put into a HISTORY device by either using **PUT** or **PRINT**. If the HISTORY device becomes full, the oldest message(s) are thrown away.

Messages may be taken out using **GET** or **INPUT**. But which message?

For a private HISTORY it is fairly simple. The first **GET** or **INPUT** after a message has been put into the HISTORY will get the most recent message. The next **GET** or **INPUT** will get the previous message until there are either no messages left (in which case **GET** or **INPUT** return null strings) or another message is put in. Note that GETting or INPUTing messages does not take them out of the HISTOTY.

<b>OPEN_NEW #4, HISTORY_512</b>	Open a private HISTORY device to hold 512 bytes
<b>PRINT #4, msg1\$</b>	For a private HISTORY, the message need not be atomic
<b>PUT #4, msg2\$</b>	...but this also puts a message in.
<b>INPUT #4, a\$</b>	Inputs msg2\$ into a\$
<b>GET #4,b\$</b>	Gets msg1\$ into b\$

For a public HISTORY, the channels are fairly independent. A channel being used to read messages would continue to fetch messages in reverse order even if new messages are being added through other channels. In order to get the most recent message, a channel being used for read operations only needs to be able to reset its internal pointer. This is possible using the file positioning facility. Usually the position will be set to 0 (the most recent message) but it may be set to any (smallish) number.

**GET #4\0, a\$, b\$**      Get the most recent and next most recent messages  
**GET #4\4, x\$**         Get the fifth most recent message.

HISTORY has some characteristics of a filing system device. You can get a directory of public HISTORY devices, you can VIEW a public HISTORY and you can delete a public HISTORY.

**DIR HISTORY**                      Get a list of public HISTORY devices  
**VIEW HISTORY \_thoughts**      Have a look at my thoughts  
**DELETE HISTORY \_thoughts**    ...and get rid of them

## identifier

An SBASIC identifier is a sequence of letters, numbers and underscores.

```
define:  letter := | a..z
           | A..Z

          number := | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |

          identifier := letter * [| letter | number | _ | ] *
```

example: i. **a**  
 ii. **limit\_1**  
 iii. **current\_guess**  
 iv. **counter**

An identifier must begin with a letter followed by a sequence of letters, numbers and underscores and can be up to 255 characters long. Upper and lower case characters are equivalent.

Identifiers are used in the SBASIC system to identify *variables, procedures, functions, repetition loops*, etc.

**waring:** NO meaning can be attributed to an identifier other than its ability to identify constructs to SBASIC. SBASIC cannot infer the intended use of an identifier from the identifier's name!

## keyword

SBASIC keywords are identifiers which are defined in the *SBASIC Keyword Reference Guide*. Keywords have the same form as a SBASIC standard *identifier*. The case of the keyword is not significant. Keywords are echoed as a mixture of upper and lower case letters and are always reproduced in full. The upper case portion indicates the minimum required to be typed in for SBASIC to recognise the keyword.

The set of SBASIC keywords may be extended by adding *procedures* to QPC. It is a good idea to define these with their names in upper case and this will indicate their special function in the SBASIC system. Conversely, ordinary procedures should be defined with their names in lower case.

**warning:** Existing keywords cannot be used as ordinary identifiers within a SBASIC program. SBASIC keywords may be found by typing **EXTRAS** at the command prompt.

## maths functions

SBASIC has the standard trigonometrical and mathematical functions.

Function	Name
<b>COS</b>	cosine
<b>SIN</b>	sin
<b>TAN</b>	tangent
<b>ATAN</b>	arctangent
<b>ACOT</b>	arcotangent
<b>ACOS</b>	arccosine
<b>ASIN</b>	arcsine
<b>COT</b>	cotangent
<b>EXP</b>	exponential
<b>LN</b>	natural logarithm
<b>LOG10</b>	common logarithm
<b>INT</b>	integer
<b>ABS</b>	absolute value
<b>RAD</b>	convert to radians
<b>DEG</b>	convert to degrees
<b>PI</b>	return the value of $\pi$
<b>RND</b>	generate a random number
<b>RANDOMISE</b>	reseed the random number generator



## **mdv microdrive directory device**

Microdrives provided the main permanent storage on the QL. Each Microdrive cartridge had a capacity of at least 100Kbytes.

Microdrives are not supported in QPC.

## **nul virtual device**

The NUL virtual device is not associated with any physical hardware. NUL devices are completely dummy.

The NUL device may be used in place of a real device. The NUL device is usually used to throwaway unwanted output. It may, however, be used to provide dummy input or to force a job to wait forever. There are five variations.

**NULP** waits (forever or until the specified timeout) on any input or output operation.

**NUL**, **NULF**, **NULZ** and **NULL** ignore all operations (the output is thrown away).

**NUL**, **NULF**, **NULZ** and **NULL** return a zero size window in response to window information requests. Pointer Information calls (IOP.PINF , IOP.RPTR) return an invalid parameter error.

**NUL** is an output only device, all input operations return an invalid parameter error.

**NULF** emulates a null file. Any attempt to read data from NULF will return an End of File Error as will any file positioning operation. Reading the file header will return 14 bytes of zero (no length, no type).

**NULZ** emulates a file filled with zeros. The file position can be set to anywhere. Reading the file header will return 14 bytes of zero (no length, no type).

**NULL** emulates a file filled with null lines. The file appears to be full of the newline character (10). The file position may be set to anywhere. Reading the file header will return 14 bytes of zero (no length, no type).

## operators

Operator	Type	Function
=	floating string	logical type 2 comparison
==	numeric string	almost equal ** (type 3 comparison)
+	numeric	addition
-	numeric	subtraction
/	numeric	division
*	numeric	multiplication
<	numeric string	less than (type 2 comparison)
>	numeric string	greater than (type 2 comparison)
<=	numeric string	less than or equal to (type 2 comparison)
>=	numeric string	greater than or equal to (type 2 comparison)
<>	numeric string	not equal to (type 3 comparison)
&	string	concatenation
&&	bitwise	AND
	bitwise	OR
^^	bitwise	XOR
~	bitwise	NOT
OR	logical	OR
AND	logical	AND
XOR	logical	XOR
NOT	logical	NOT
MOD	integer	modulus
DIV	integer	divide
INSTR	string	type 1 string comparison
^	floating	raise to the power
-	floating	unary minus
+	floating	unary plus

\*\*almost equal - equal to 1 part in 10<sup>7</sup>

If the specified logical operation is true then a value not equal to zero will be returned. If the operation is false then a value of zero will be returned.

**precedence** The precedence of SBASIC operators is defined in the table above. If the order of evaluation in an expression cannot be deduced from this table then the relevant operations are performed from left to right. The inbuilt precedence of SBASIC operators can be overridden by enclosing the relevant sections of the expression in parentheses.

*highest* unary plus and minus  
string concatenation  
INSTR  
exponentiation  
multiply, divide, modulus and integer divide  
add and subtract  
logical comparison  
NOT (bitwise or logical)  
AND (bitwise or logical)

*lowest* OR and XOR (bitwise or logical)

## pipe virtual device

The PIPE virtual device is not associated with any physical hardware. PIPE devices are buffers for storing information or passing it from one task to another. The PIPE is double ended: what goes in one end, comes out the other in the same order (FIFO -first in first out).

There are two variations on the PIPE driver: named and unnamed pipes. Both of these are used to pass data from one program to another. Unnamed pipes cannot be opened with the SBASIC **OPEN** commands but are opened automatically by the **EX** and **EW** commands when these are required to set up a "production line" of Jobs. Whereas, if a pipe is identified by a name, any number of Jobs (including SBASIC) can open channels to it as either inputs or outputs.

If, using named pipes, matters become confused, then that is a problem to be solved by the Jobs themselves. This is not as bad as it sounds. Unlike other devices, named pipes transfer multiple byte strings atomically unless the pipe allocated is too short to hold the messages. This means that provided the messages are shorter than the pipe, many jobs can put messages into a named pipe and many jobs can take messages out of a named pipe without the messages themselves becoming scrambled.

If a PIPE is shared in this way, there are two simple ways of ensuring that the messages are atomic. The first, using fixed length messages, if not available to SBASIC programs. The second, using "lines" terminated by the newline character, works perfectly. N.B. the standard **PRINT** command will not necessarily send a line as a single string for each item output.

<b>PRINT #3,a\$ \ b\$</b>	Bad, sends 4 strings: the newline characters are separate
<b>PRINT #3,a\$ &amp; CHR\$ {10};</b>	Good, sends 1 string, including the newline
<b>INPUT #4,b\$</b>	Good, reads a single line from the pipe

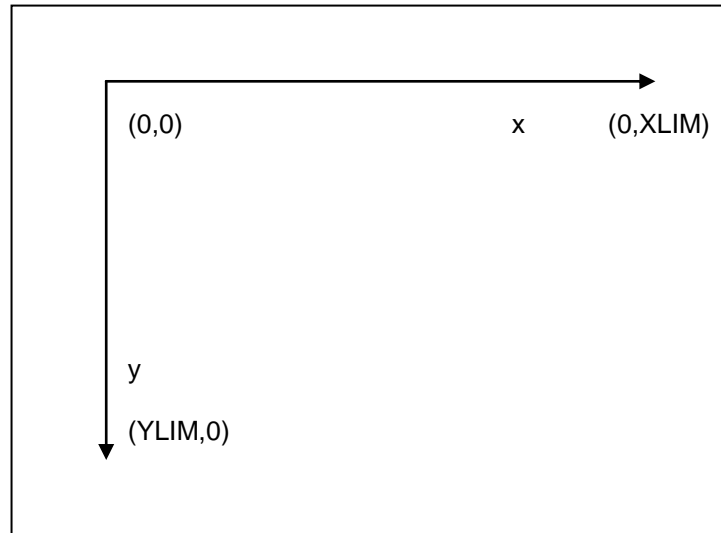
Named pipes should be opened with **OPEN\_NEW (FOP\_NEW)** for output and **OPEN\_IN (FOP\_IN)** for input. A named pipe is created when there is an open call for a named pipe, which does not exist. It goes away when there are no longer any channels open to it and it has been emptied. As well as the name, it is possible to specify a length for a named pipe. If the pipe already exists, the length requested is ignored.

<b>OPEN_NEW #4, PIPE_xp1</b>	Open named output pipe of default length (1024 bytes)
<b>OPEN_NEW #5, PIPE_frd_2048</b>	Open named output pipe of length 2048 bytes
<b>OPEN_IN #6, PIPE_xfr</b>	Open named input pipe

## pixel coordinate system

The **pixel coordinate system** is used to define the positions and sizes of windows, blocks and cursor positions on the QPC screen. The coordinate system has its origin in the top left hand corner of the default window (or screen). The system will use the nearest pixel available for the particular mode set making the coordinate system independent of the screen mode in use.

Some commands are always relative to the default window origin, e.g. **WINDOW**, while some are always relative to the current window origin, e.g. **BLOCK**



The Pixel Coordinate System

## program

An SBASIC program consists of a sequence of SBASIC statements, where each statement is preceded by a line number. Line numbers are in the range of 1 to 32767.

Command	Function
<b>RUN</b>	start a loaded program
<b>LRUN</b>	load a program from a device and start it
<b>[CTRL] [SPACE]</b>	force a program to stop

syntax: *line\_number* := \*[digit]\* {range 1..32767}

\*[*line\_number statement* \*[:*statement*]\*]\*

example: i. **100 PRINT "This is a valid line number"**  
**RUN**

ii. **100 REMark a small program**  
**105 COLOUR\_QL**  
**110 FOR foreground = 0 TO 7**  
**120 FOR contrast = 0 TO 7**  
**130 FOR stipple = 0 TO 3**  
**140 PAPER foreground, contrast, stipple**  
**150 CURSOR 0,70**  
**160 FOR n = 0 TO 2**  
**170 SCROLL 2,1**  
**180 SCROLL -2,2**  
**190 END FOR n**  
**200 END FOR stipple**  
**210 END FOR contrast**  
**220 END FOR foreground**  
**RUN**

## QDOS

### QL

The QDOS operating system is a predecessor of the SMSQ/E operating system. QDOS was originally used in the Sinclair QL computer. Circa 1983

The Sinclair QL used a version of BASIC known as SuperBASIC. SBASIC and SMSQ/E used in QPC are direct descendants of SuperBASIC, and QDOS.

SMSQ/E includes all the QL SuperBASIC commands, the Toolkit 2 commands, Pointer interface, Window manager, and the commands which have been provided to support the various add-on drivers. SMSQ/E supports 99.9% of SuperBASIC. SMSQ/E supports all the devices, which were supported by the drivers supplied with the Atari QL Emulator, the GOLD card and the OXL. The (Super) Gold card is a hardware add-on to the Sinclair QL, and the QXL is a PC add-on card containing a QL compatible computer.

## ram virtual directory device

The RAM device behaves like a very fast disk drive. It is so fast because being virtual, there is virtually nothing to move to get information in and out. It is, in fact, no more than a reserved area of SMSQ/E's main memory (its RAM - Random Access Memory). This means, of course, that any space taken by a RAM disk is not available to programs executing in QPC. Furthermore, any data stored in a RAM disk will be lost when QPC is exited or reset!

RAM disks in the QPC may be of any size, subject to there being enough memory. The normal usage of a RAM disk would be to use it as a temporary storage area, or to speed up the operation of programs with very disk intensive operations.

A dynamic RAM Disk is created just by accessing it with any normal operation (e.g. DIR). This type of RAM Disk takes memory as required, and releases any memory as files are deleted or truncated.

A fixed RAM disk is created by formatting it: the size, in sectors, is given in place of the usual medium name. This pre-allocates all the space that will be available in the RAM disk.

### **FORMAT ram2\_80**

This removes the old RAM disk number 2, and sets up a new RAM disk of 80 sectors. A RAM disk may be removed by giving either a null name or zero sectors

### **FORMAT ram1\_            or            FORMAT ram1\_0**

The RAM disk number should be between 1 and eight, inclusive, while the number of sectors (512 bytes) is only limited by the memory available.

## SMSQ/E

SMSQ/E is the QPC Operating System used by QPC, and supervises:

- Task Scheduling and resource allocation
- Screen I/O (including windowing)
- Disk drive I/O
- Parallel and serial channel communication
- Keyboard input
- Memory management

A full description of SMSQ is beyond the scope of this guide but a brief description is included.

### **system calls**

System calls are processed by SMSQ in **supervisor mode**. When in supervisor mode, SMSQ will not allow any other job to take over the processor. System calls processed in this way are said to be **atomic**, i.e. the system call will process to completion before relinquishing the processor. Some system calls are only **partially atomic**, i.e. once they have completed their primary function they will relinquish the processor if necessary. Unless specifically requested all the system calls are partially atomic.

The standard mechanism for making a system call is by making a trap to one of the SMSQ system vectors with appropriate parameters in the processor registers. The action taken by SMSQ following a system call is dependent on the particular call and the overall state of the system at the time the call was made.

## input/output

SMSQ supports a multitasking environment and therefore a file can be accessed by more than one process at a time. The SMSQ filing sub-system can handle files which have been opened as **exclusive** files or as **shared** files. A shared file cannot be written to. QPC devices are processed by the **serial I/O sub-system**. The filing sub-system and the serial I/O sub-system together make up the **redirectable I/O system**. As its name suggests any data output by this system can be redirected to any other device also supported by the redirectable I/O system.

The device names required by SMSQ are the same as the device names required by SBASIC and are discussed in the concept section *devices*. The collection of standard devices supplied with QPC can be expanded.

## devices

The standard devices included in the system are discussed in this guide in the section **devices**. Further devices may be added to the system, given a name (e.g. SER1, PRT) and then accessed in the same way as any other QPC device.

## multitasking

Jobs will be allowed a share of the CPU in line with their priority and competition with other jobs in the system. Jobs running under the control of SMSQ can be in one of three states:

- active:** Capable of running and sharing system resources. A job in this state may not be running continuously but will obtain a share of the CPU in line with its priority.
- suspended:** The job is capable of running but is waiting for another job or I/O. A job may be suspended indefinitely or for a specific period of time.
- inactive:** The job is incapable of running, its priority is 0 and so it can never obtain a share of the CPU

SMSQ will reschedule the system automatically at a rate related to the 50 Hz frame rate. The system will also be rescheduled after certain system calls.

example: This program generates an on-screen readout of the real-time clock, running as an independent job.

First **RUN** this program with a formatted cartridge in floppy drive 1. This generates a machine code title called 'clock'. Wait for the drive to stop.

Then type:

**EXEC flp1\_clock**

and a continuous time display will appear at the top right of the command window.

```
100 c=RESPR(100)
110 FOR i = 0 TO 68 STEP 2
120 READ x:POKE_W i+c,x
130 END FOR i
140 SEXEC flp1_clock,c,100,256
1000 DATA 29439,29697,28683,20033,17402
1010 DATA 48,13944,200,20115,12040
1020 DATA 28691,20033,17402,74,-27698
1030 DATA 13944,236,20115,8279,-11314
1040 DATA 13944,208,20115,16961,16962
1050 DATA 30463,28688,20035,24794
1060 DATA 0,7,240,10,272,200
```

N.B. Line 1060 governs the position and colour of the clock window - the data terms are, in order:

border colour/width, paper/ink colour, window width, height, x-origin, y-origin

These are pairs of bytes, entered by **POKE\_W** as words.

The x-origin and the y-origin (the last data item) should be 272 and 202 in monitor mode.

Generate the paper and ink word, for example, as  $256 * \text{paper} + \text{ink}$ . Thus white paper, red ink is  $256 * 7 + 2 = 1794$



## repetition

Repetition in SBASIC is controlled by two basic program constructs. Only the **FOR** construct must be identified to SBASIC:

```
REPeat [identifier]          FOR identifier = range
    statements                statements
END REPeat [identifier]     END FOR [identifier]
```

These two constructs are used in conjunction with two other SBASIC statements:

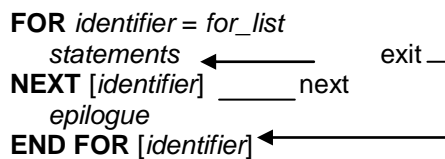
```
NEXT [identifier]          EXIT [identifier]
```

Processing a **NEXT** statement will either pass control to the statement following the appropriate **FOR** or **REPeat** statement, or if a **FOR** range has been exhausted, to the statement following the **NEXT**.

Processing an **EXIT** will pass control to the statement after the **END FOR** or **END REPeat** selected by the **EXIT** statement. **EXIT** can be used to exit through many levels of nested repeat structures. **EXIT** should always be used in **REPeat** loops to terminate the loop on some condition.

A combination of **NEXT**, **EXIT** and **END** statements allows **FOR** and **REPeat** loops to have a **loop epilogue** added. A loop epilogue is a series of SBASIC statements which are executed on some special condition arising within the loop:

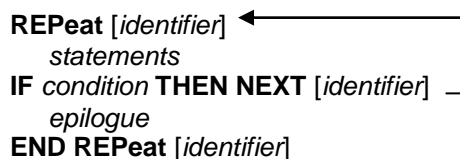
```
FOR identifier = for_list
    statements ← exit
NEXT [identifier] _____ next
    epilogue
END FOR [identifier] ←
```



The loop epilogue is only processed if the **FOR** loop terminates normally. If the loop terminates via an **EXIT** statement then processing will continue at the **END FOR** and the epilogue will not be processed.

It is possible to have a similar construction in a **REPeat** loop:

```
REPeat [identifier] ←
    statements
IF condition THEN NEXT [identifier]
    epilogue
END REPeat [identifier]
```



This time entry into the loop epilogue is controlled by the **IF** statement. The epilogue will or will not be processed depending on the condition in the **IF** statement. A **SELeCt** statement can also be used to control entry into the epilogue.

## screen

Some QL programs write directly to the display memory. This can cause display problems with QPC, as the display memory is not in the same place as in the QL.

The **QPC\_QLSCREMU** command enables or disables the original QL screen emulation. When emulating the original screen, all memory write accesses to the area \$20000-\$207FFF are intercepted and translated into writes to the first 512x256 pixels of the big screen area. If the screen is in high colour mode, additional colour conversion is done.

Possible values are:

- 1: automatic mode
- 0: disabled (default)
- 4: force to 4 colour mode
- 8: force to 8 colour mode

When in QL colour mode the emulation just transfers the written bytes to the larger screen memory, i.e. when the big mode is in 4 colour mode, the original screen area is also treated as 4 colour mode. In high colour mode however the colour conversion can do both modes. In this case you can pre-select the emulated mode (4, 8 as parameter) or let the last issued **MODE** call decide (automatic mode). Please note that that the automatic mode does not work on a per-job basis, so any job which issues a **MODE** command changes the behaviour globally.

Please also note that this transition is one-way only, i.e. bytes written legally to the first 512x256 pixels are not transferred back to the original QL screen (in case of a high colours screen this would hardly be possible anyway). Unfortunately this also means that not all, old programs run perfectly with this type of emulation. If you experience problems start the misbehaving application in 512x256 mode.

## slicing

Under certain circumstances it is possible to refer to more than one element in an array i.e. slice the array. The array slice can be thought of as defining a **subarray** or a series of subarrays to SBASIC. Each slice can define a continuous sequence of elements belonging to a particular dimension of the original array. The term array in this context can include a numeric array, a string array or a simple string.

It is not necessary to specify an index for the full number of dimensions of an array. If a dimension is omitted then slices are added which will select the full range of elements for that particular dimension, i.e. the slice (0 TO ). SBASIC can only add slices to the end of a list of array indices.

```
syntax:  index := | numeric_exp           {single element}
           | numeric_exp TO numeric_exp  {range of elements}
           | numeric_exp TO              {range to end}
           | TO numeric_expression       {range from beginning}

array_reference := | variable
                  | variable ( [ index * [,index] * ] )
```

An array slice can be used to specify a source or a destination subarray for an assignment statement.

example: i. **PRINT data\_array**  
 ii. **PRINT letters\$(1 TO 15)**  
 iii. **PRINT two\_d\_array (3 , 2 TO 4)**

String slicing is performed in the same way as slicing numeric or string arrays.

Thus

<b>a\$(n)</b>	will select the nth character.
<b>a\$(n TO m)</b>	will select all characters from the nth to the mth, inclusively
<b>a\$(n TO)</b>	will select from a character n to the end, inclusively
<b>a\$(1 TO m)</b>	will select from the beginning to the nth character inclusively
<b>a\$</b>	will select the entire contents of a \$

Some forms of BASIC have functions called **LEFT\$, MID\$, RIGHT\$**. These are not necessary in SBASIC. Their equivalents are specified below:

SBASIC	Other BASIC
<b>a\$(n)</b>	<b>MID\$(a\$,n,1)</b>
<b>a\$(n TO m)</b>	<b>MID\$ (a\$,n,m+1-n)</b>
<b>a\$(1 TO n)</b>	<b>LEFT\$ (a\$,n)</b>
<b>a\$(n TO)</b>	<b>RIGHT\$ (a\$,LEN(a\$)+1-n)</b>

**warning:** Assigning data to a sliced string array or string variable may not have the desired effect. Assignments made in this way will not update the length of the string. The length of a string array or string variable is only updated when an assignment is made to the whole string.

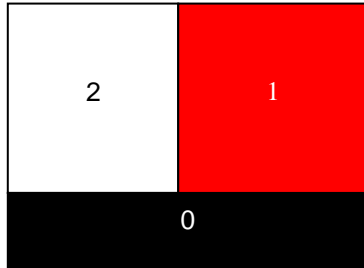
## start up

Immediately after starting or resetting QPC the screen will be cleared and the default screen is displayed.

QPC has the ability to 'boot' itself up from programs contained in either the Hard disk or in Floppy drive 1. If a disk is found and if it contains a file called **BOOT** it is loaded and run.

## default screen

The QL has three default channels which are linked to three default windows.



Channel 0 is used for listing commands and error messages, channel 1 for program and graphics output and channel 2 for program listings. The default channel can be modified using the optional channel specifier in the relevant command.

## sound

Sound in QPC is generated by emulating the QL's second processor (an 8049) and is controlled by specifying:

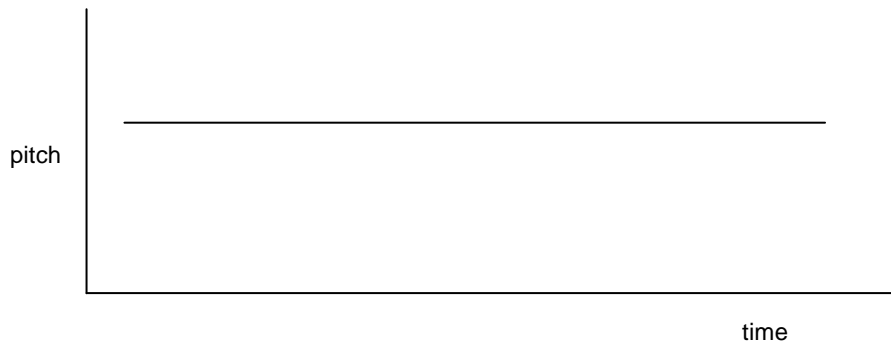
- up to two pitches
- the rate at which the sound must move between the pitches, the ramp
- how the sound is to behave after it has reached one of the specified pitches, the wrap
- if any randomness should be built into the sound, i.e. deviations from the ramp
- if any fuzziness should be built into the sound. i.e. deviations on every cycle of the sound

Fuzziness tends to result in buzzy sounds while randomness, depending on the other parameters, will result in 'melodic' sounds or noise.

The complexity of the sound can be built up stage by stage gradually building more complex sounds. This is, in fact, the best way to master sound on QPC.

Specify a duration and a single pitch. The specified pitch will be beeped for the specified time.

### LEVEL 1

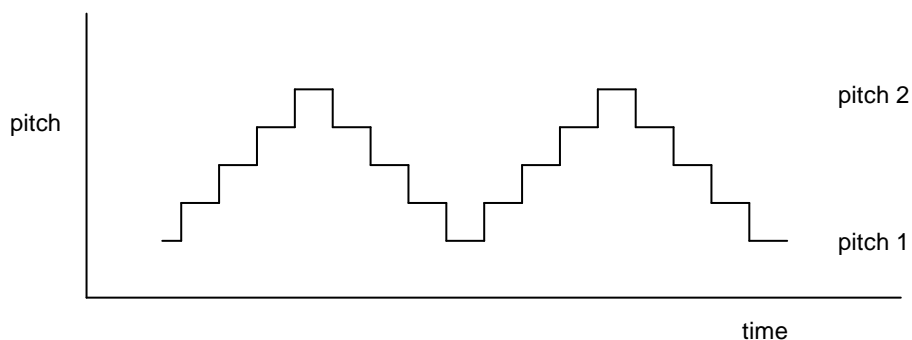


This is the simplest sound command, other than the command to stop the sound, on QPC.

### LEVEL 2

A second pitch and a gradient can be added to the command. The sound will then 'bounce' between the two pitches at the rate specified by the gradient.

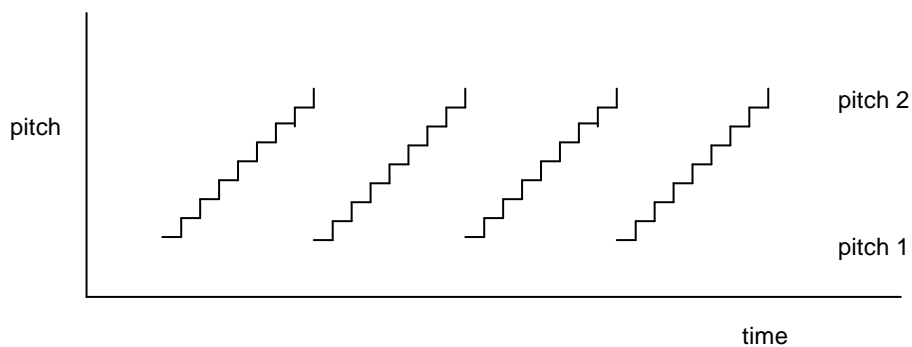
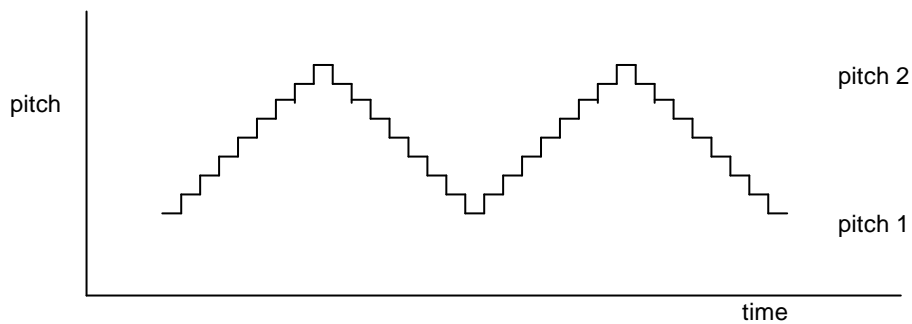
The sounds produced at this level can vary between: semi musical beeps, growls, zaps and moans. It is best to experiment.



### LEVEL3

A parameter can be added which controls how the sound behaves when it becomes equal to one of the specified pitches. The sound can be made to 'bounce' or 'wrap'.

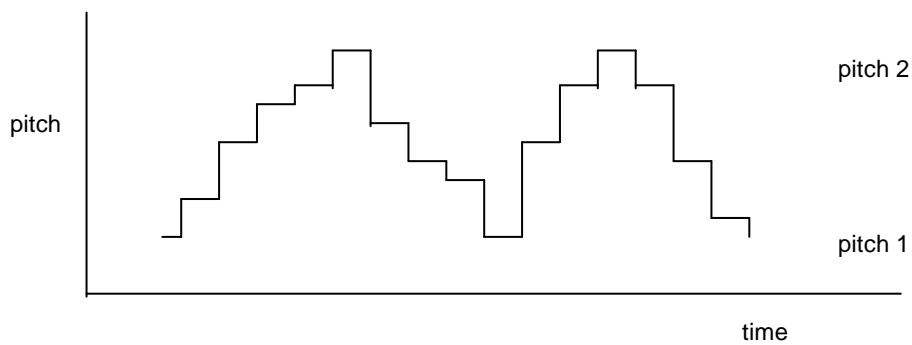
The number of wraps can be specified, including wrap forever. It is even more important to experiment.



### LEVEL4

Randomness can be added to the sound. This is a deviation from the specified step or gradient.

Depending on the amount of randomness added in relation to the pitches and the gradient, it will generate a very wide and unexpected range of sounds.



## LEVEL 5

More variation can be added by specifying 'fuzziness'. Fuzziness adds a random factor to the pitch continuously. Fuzziness tends to make the sound buzz.

Combining all of the above effects can make a very wide range of sounds, many of them unexpected. QPC sound is best explored through experiment. By specifying a time interval of zero the sound can be made to repeat forever and so a sequence of **BEEP** commands can be used until the sound generated is the sound which is required. A word of warning: slight changes in the value of a single parameter can have alarming results on the sound generated.

## statement

An SBASIC statement is an instruction to QPC to perform a specific operation, for example:

**LET a = 2**

will assign the value 2 to the variable identified by **a**.

More than one statement can be written on a single line by separating the individual statements from each other by a colon (:), for example:

**LET a = a + 2 : PRINT a**

will add 2 to the value identified by the variable **a** and will store the result back in **a**. The answer will then be printed out

If a line is not preceded by a line number then the line is a direct command and SBASIC processes the statement immediately. If the statement is preceded by a line number then the statement becomes part of a SBASIC program and is added into the SBASIC program area for later execution.

Certain SBASIC statements can have an effect on the other statements over the rest of the logical line in which they appear i.e. **IF**, **FOR**, **REPeat**, **REM**, etc. It is meaningless to use certain SBASIC statements as direct commands.

## string arrays

### string variables

String arrays and numeric arrays are essentially the same, however there are slight differences in treatment by SBASIC. The last dimension of a string array defines the maximum length of the strings within the array. String variables can be any length up to 32766. Both string arrays and string variables can be sliced.

String lengths on either side of a string assignment need not be equal. If the sizes are not the same then either the right hand string is truncated to fit or the length of the left hand string is reduced to match. If an assignment is made to a sliced string then if necessary the 'hole' defined by the slice will be padded with spaces.

It is not necessary to specify the final dimension of a string array. Not specifying the dimension selects the whole string while specifying a single element will pick out a single character and specifying a slice will define a sub string.

**comment:** Unlike many BASICs SBASIC does not treat string arrays as fixed length strings. If the data stored in a string array is less than the maximum size of the string array then the length of the string is reduced.

**warning:** Assigning data to a sliced string array Or string variable may not have the desired effect. Assignments made in this way will not update the length of the string and so it is possible that the system will not recognise the assignment. The length of a string array or a string variable is only updated when an assignment is made to the whole string.

Command	Function
<b>FILL\$</b>	generate a string
<b>LEN</b>	find the length of a string



## string comparison

**order** . (decimal point/full stop)  
digits or numbers in numerical order  
**AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz**  
space ! " # \$ % & ' ( ) \* + , - . / : ; < = > ? @ [ ] ^ \_ / { | } ~ ©  
other non printing characters

The relationship of one string to another may be:

- equal: All characters or numbers are the same or equivalent
- lesser: The first part of the string, which is different from the corresponding character in the second string, is before it in the defined order.
- greater: The first part of the first string which is different from the corresponding character in the second string, is after it in the defined order.

Note that a '.' may be treated as a decimal point in the case of string comparison which sorts numbers (such as SBASIC comparisons). Note also that comparison of strings containing non-printable characters may give unexpected results.

### types of comparison

type 0 case dependent - character by character comparison

type 1 case independent - character by character

type 2 case dependent - numbers are sorted in numerical order

type 3 case independent - numbers are sorted in numerical order

type 0 not normally used by the SBASIC system.

**Usage** type 1 File and variable comparison  
type 2 SBASIC <, <=, =, >=, >, **INSTR** and <>  
type 3 SBASIC == (equivalence)

## **syntax**

### **definitions**

SBASIC syntax is defined using a non-rigorous 'meta language' type notation. Four types of construction are used :

| | Select one of  
 [ ] Enclosed item(s) are optional  
 \* \* Enclosed items are repeated

.. Range  
 { } Comment

e.g.

A   B	A or B
[ A ]	A is optional
* A *	A is repeated
A..Z	A, B, C, etc
{this is a comment}	

Consider a SBASIC identifier.

A sequence of numbers, digits, underscores, starting with a letter and finishing with an optional % or \$

*letter* := | **A..Z**  
 | **a..z**  
 {a letter is one of: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
 or abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz}

*digit* := | **0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |**  
 {a digit is 0 or 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9}

*underscore* := **\_**  
 {an underscore is **\_**}

*identifier* := **letter \* [letter | digit | underscore] \* | % | \$ |**  
 -----  

must start	a sequence of letters
with a letter	digits and underscores
	i.e. repeat something
	which is optional

## turtle graphics

SBASIC has a set of turtle graphics commands:

Command	Function
<b>PENUP</b>	stop drawing
<b>PENDOWN</b>	start drawing
<b>MOVE</b>	move the turtle
<b>TURN</b>	turn the turtle
<b>TURNTO</b>	turn to a specific heading

The set of commands is the minimum and normally would be used within another procedure to expand on the commands. For example:

```
100 DEFine PROCedure forward(distance)
110  MOVE distance
120 END DEFine
130 DEFine PROCedure backwards(distance)
140  MOVE -distance
150 END DEFine
160 DEFine PROCedure left(angle)
170  TURN angle
180 END DEFine
190 DEFine PROCedure right(angle)
200  TURN -angle
210 END DEFine
```

These will define some of the more famous turtle graphic commands.

Initially the turtle's pen is up and the turtle is pointing at  $0^0$ , which is to the right hand side of the window.

The **FILL** command will also work with figures drawn with turtle graphics. Also ordinary graphics and turtle graphics can be mixed, although the direction of the turtle is not modified by the ordinary graphics commands.

## win hard disk directory device

Hard disk drives on QPC are large files stored on the host PC. The files usually have the suffix ".WIN" but anything else is fine, too. The name and directory can be configured separately for up to 8 win devices in the QPC program configurator.

## windows

Windows are areas of the screen which behave, in most respects, as though each individual window was a screen in its own right, i.e. the window will scroll when it has become filled by text, it can be cleared with the **CLS** command, etc.

Windows can be specified and linked to a channel when the channel is opened. The current window shape can be changed with the **WINDOW** command and a border added to a window with the **BORDER** command. Output can be directed to a window by printing to the relevant channel. Input can be directed to have come from a particular window by inputting from the relevant channel. If more than one channel is ready for input then input can be switched between the ready channels by pressing

### [CTRL] C

The cursor will flash in the selected window

Windows can be used for graphics and non-graphic output at the same time. The non-graphic output is relative to the current cursor position which can be positioned anywhere within the specified window with the **CURSOR** command and at any line-column boundary with the **AT** command. The graphics output is relative to a graphics cursor which can be positioned and manipulated with the graphics procedures.

### parts

Certain commands (**CLS**, **PAN** etc.) will accept an optional parameter to define part of the current window for their operation. This parameter is as defined below:

part	description
0	whole screen
1	above and excluding cursor line
2	bottom of screen excluding cursor line
3	whole of cursor line
4	line right of and including cursor

Command	Function
<b>WINDOW</b>	re-define a window
<b>BORDER</b>	take a border from a window
<b>PAPER</b>	define the paper colour for a window
<b>INK</b>	define the ink colour for a window
<b>STRIP</b>	define a strip colour for a window
<b>PAN</b>	pan a window's contents
<b>SCROLL</b>	scroll a window's contents
<b>AT</b>	position the print position
<b>CLS</b>	clear a window
<b>CSIZE</b>	set character size
<b>FLASH</b>	character flash
<b>RECOL</b>	recolour a window

<b>A</b>	
Arrays.....	3
slicing.....	67
strings.....	73
storage.....	3
<b>B</b>	
Background.....	4
colour.....	4
image.....	4
BASIC.....	5
Baud rates.....	23
BEEP.....	69
Binary.....	24
Booting.....	45
Break.....	5
<b>C</b>	
Cartridges	
Microdrive.....	57
Channels.....	6
Character set.....	8
Circles.....	52
Clock.....	14
Coercion.....	15
Close channels.....	6
Commands	
keywords.....	55
direct.....	30
turtle graphics.....	75
windows.....	76
screen.....	66
Codes	
characters.....	8
colour.....	16
palette.....	17,20
8 colour mode.....	16
256 colour mode.....	17
16 million colour.....	20
COM.....	22
Communications.....	22
channels.....	6
devices.....	26
networking.....	35
Comparisons.....	74
Console device.....	26
Control characters.....	8
Conversion.....	15
Coordinates	
graphics.....	52
pixel.....	60
CTR.....	22
CTS.....	22
Cursor.....	38
<b>D</b>	
Data	
structures.....	3
types.....	24
Data storage	
Microdrives.....	57
arrays.....	3

date.....	14
DCD.....	22
DCE.....	22
DEFine FuNction.....	51
Defaults	
DEFine PROCEDURE.....	51
Devices.....	25
console (con).....	26
dev.....	25,28
floppy disk (flp).....	28,50
virtual disk (ram).....	29,62
hard disk (win).....	29,75
dos.....	32
I/O	
nul.....	28,57
pipe.....	28,59
history.....	28,54
parallel (par).....	22,27
serial (srx).....	27
serial (stx).....	27
serial (ser).....	22,26
screen (scr).....	26
channels.....	6
file types.....	50
Dimension.....	3
Direct command.....	30
Directories.....	30
Directory devices.....	31
DOS disks.....	33
DSR.....	22
DTR.....	22
<b>E</b>	
Elements.....	3
Error handling.....	34
Events.....	39
EXIT.....	65
Expressions.....	36
Extended environment.....	37
pointer interface.....	38
cursor keys.....	38
mouse.....	38
locked windows.....	38
picking.....	38
unlockable windows.....	39
primary windows.....	39
guardian windows.....	39
restoring windows.....	39
events.....	39
window manager.....	41
menu items.....	41
single keystrokes.....	41
pan & scroll.....	42
split & join.....	42
loose items.....	42
hotkey2.....	43
<b>F</b>	
Files.....	50
Filename.....	26,55
Filling shapes.....	53
Floating point.....	24
Floppy disk.....	28,50

FOR.....	65
Functions.....	51

## G

GND.....	22
Graphics.....	22
turtle.....	75
Guardian window.....	39

## H

Handshaking.....	23
Hexadecimal.....	24
Hex codes.....	8
High resolution colour.....	20
History device.....	28,54
Hotkey2.....	43

## I

Identifiers.....	55
Initialisation.....	71
Input	
channels.....	6
devices.....	26
windows.....	76
Integers.....	24
I/O	
devices.....	26
Qdos.....	61
windows.....	76

## J

Join.....	42
-----------	----

## K

Keyboard conventions.....	8
Keywords.....	55

## L

Lines.....	52
Line numbering .....	72
direct commands.....	30
Local variables.....	51
Locked window.....	38
Loops.....	65
Loose items.....	42
LPT.....	22

## M

Maths functions.....	56
Menu items.....	41
Microdrives.....	57
Modes.....	66
Mouse.....	38
Multitasking .....	63

## N

Name.....	24,55
NEXT.....	65
Nul device.....	28,57

## O

OPEN.....	6
Operators.....	58
Operating system.....	61
Output	
channels.....	6
Ordering	
coercion.....	15
precedence.....	58

## P

Pan.....	42
Parallel.....	22
Parameters.....	51
Peripheral expansion.....	37
Picking.....	38
Pictures.....	52
Pipe device.....	28,59
Pixel coordinates.....	60
Pointer interface.....	38
Points.....	52
Power up.....	68
Precedence.....	58
Primary window.....	39
Procedure.....	51
Programs.....	61

## Q

Qdos.....	61
QL.....	61

## R

Ram disk.....	29,62
Repetition.....	65
Restoring windows.....	39
RI.....	22
RS-232-C.....	22
RTS.....	22
RXD.....	22

## S

Scaling.....	52
Screen.....	66
con.....	26
scr.....	26
windows.....	76
colours.....	16
modes.....	66
Scroll.....	42
Serial communications.....	22
Signals.....	22
Single keystroke.....	41
Slicing.....	67
SMSQ/E.....	62
Sound.....	69
Split.....	42
Start up.....	68
Statements.....	71
Stipples.....	16
Strings.....	24
variables.....	73
slicing.....	67
arrays.....	73

comparisons.....	73
Switching on.....	68
Syntax definitions.....	74

## **T**

Time.....	14
Trig functions.....	55
Turtle graphics.....	75
TXD.....	22
Type conversion.....	15

## **U**

Unlockable windows.....	39
-------------------------	----

## **V**

Variables.....	24
local.....	51
string.....	24

## **W**

Winchester hard disk.....	29,75
Window manager.....	41
Windows.....	76