

PEARTREE

The Master

ROM/ROM CARTRIDGE INSTRUCTIONS

Hello!

The Peartree RAM/ROM Cartridge allows you to install either 32k of sideways RAM four 16k ROMs into a single cartridge slot on your Master computer. In addition a write protect switch allows you to use even the most troublesome ROM images in sideways RAM.

A disc of support software is also supplied which provides you with a complete RAM/ROM management system. You are advised to make a personal backup copy of this software. Details on how to do this are supplied in the Master User Guide.

Please read through this sheet before attempting to use your cartridge.

Installation

Your RAM/ROM Cartridge is very simple to use provided a few guidelines are observed. You are advised not to insert or remove the cartridge while your computer is switched on. Always turn your system off before plugging the cartridge in, failure to do so could result in loss of data and possible damage to your RAM/ROM Cartridge.

The RAM/ROM Cartridge can be inserted into either of the cartridge slots and up to two cartridges can be installed at a time. The RAM/ROM cartridge is compatible with all Acornsoft ROM cartridges.

If you install the RAM/ROM Cartridge in to the rear socket then ROM slots 0 and 1 are used. If used in the front socket then slots 2 and 3 are utilized

Insure that the RAM/ROM Cartridge is inserted the correct way round with the legend facing you.

ROM or RAM?

To use your cartridge with ROMs simply insert up to 4 ROMs into the vacant slots on the cartridge. **IMPORTANT:** The ROM notch should be positioned facing down, i.e. away from the two switches on the cartridge. Inserting ROMs the wrong way around can damage them, so always double check. Consult your ROM manual for details on handling ROMs.

With four ROMs in position then any bank of two can be in action at any one time with the flip of a switch. Simply move the RAM/ROM Select switch to the left or right position to select. Pressing Break will insert the two ROMs. Typing:

*ROMS <Return>

will show the ROMs present .

With the RAM/ROM select in the ROM A position (pushed far left) then the ROMs in the ROM A LOW and ROM A HIGH positions will be available for use. With the switch in the ROM B position (pushed far right) then the ROMs in the ROM B LOW and ROM B HIGH positions are available for use. Note that after moving the switch it will be necessary to press CTRL-Break to install the ROMs.

RAM is used in much the same way. You will need to have 4 RAM chips to plug into the Cartridge. The type required 6264 and these are readily available. Peartree Computers can supply them if required. Phone for details. The RAM chips are installed in the same manner as the ROM chips; again the semi-circular notch at one end of the chip should be facing 'down'.

It is not possible to mix ROM and RAM together. The board should contain only ROM or RAM, not both. To use RAM push the RAM/ROM select switch to the RAM position (centre) and the Write Protect switch to the OFF position (far right). With problem ROMs that try to write to the RAM they are in thereby corrupting the program — first load the ROM image and switch the Write Protect switch to the OFF position before pressing CTRL-Break

Software

Supplied with your RAM/ROM Cartridge is a disc of software. The disc is 40 track format. If you have a switchable drive ensure that it is set to 40 track. If your drive is 80 track then you can still use the disc but you must first type; *DRIVE 0 40 <Return> Insert the disc and type:

*EXEC. !BOOT

or alternatively press Shift-Break.

The software will load and you will be presented with a Menu. This is the RAM/ROM Controller which is basically an easy to use management system. On the left of the screen is a list of options, on the right a list of ROMs. Several sockets will be marked Ram. The Ram in positions 0 and 1 or 2 and 3 is that available on the Cartridge.

Option 6 on the menu will clear all RAM in the Master. This can be used first, but should be used with care as once cleared contents cannot be retrieved.

Option 7 is a Ram Test sequence that checks that your RAM is functioning correctly. Note that this option will destroy the RAM contents.

Option 2 allows you to load a ROM image into RAM. Two such images are included on the disc — the first is FONT which will provide you with a modern character font in all modes other than mode 7, and the second is RFS which is a ROM Filing System format ROM image containing the programs on the disc. Try the FONT image first

Select Option 2 and then type in any number which has RAM in it as detailed on the display. Press Return and you will be prompted to enter the filename.

Type:

<Modern or Font> (*this is blank on the instructions*)

The ROM image will then be loaded into the specified RAM bank and the ROM title displayed on the menu. Next press CTRL-Break to install the ROM. Type:

MODE6<Return>

*MODERN <Return>

Any text you now type will be displayed in a Modern font! The font can be used at any time even in View! To reclaim the standard character set type:

•STANDARD <Return>

The RFS image can be loaded in the same manner. Typing:

*ROM <Return>

— note the spelling, no S as in *ROMS — and then:

♦CAT <Return>

will catalogue the programs in the ROM image. The action of the RFS program is rather like the use of tape although it is not possible to save. With the RFS image installed in a sideways RAM slot your RAM/ROM Controller is available at all times the machine is switched on.

Option 4 is a simple ASCII and Hex editor which allows the contents of

Sideways RAM to be edited in position. The disc or RFS must be in position when this option is used. The SHIFT *-f7 key* toggles between Hex and ASCII entry and the cursor and Shift-cursor keys allow you to scroll through a ROM image.

Option 1 will provide a catalogue of your disc. Option 2 works like its load counterpart except the ROM image is save (*sic*) to disc and option 5 will verify a ROM image on disc with a ROM image in the machine. Finally option 8 allows access to the * commands.

Disclaimer

Peartree Computers does not condone the use of Sideways RAM for the use of illegal 'pirated' ROM images. If you wish to use one of your existing ROMs in sideways RAM then first consult your ROM manual to see if the writers of the ROM will allow this. If in doubt, contact the ROM manufacturer for permission to do so.

Peartree Computers Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any loss of data due to the use of the RAM/ROM cartridge or associated software.

The software supplied with the cartridge is for public domain and may be used freely. Please distribute it to your friends — all we ask is that you inform them of the source and if you are happy, recommend the Peartree RAM/ROM Cartridge.

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