2.4.1 The Editor

The editor is the program that allows you to write and edit source programs to be compiled. You can also create batch files with this editor.

The editor included in the development package is MINCE (later versions of the development package may contain a different editor).

MINCE.PRG is the editor program itself. It is started like all other applications, but it isn't a GEM application; it runs under the TOS applications (Menu Options). On every boot-up, it's wise to install it as a TOS application. Thus, you install the MINCE.PRG from the menu OPTIONS with TOS-takes parameters (TTP) or you can rename the program to MINCE.TTP from the FILE menu with SHOW Info....

CONFIG.PRG is a program for adapting the editor to the computer. All details of the keyboard, screen and other compatability factors are kept here, but is redundant, since MINCE is adapted specifically for the ST. MINCE.SWP is the Atari ST configuration data.

LESSONS are text files that can be read into the editor. They give instructions on use of the MINCE editor.

Here are some editor basics. Start the editor; you can now input a program.

To save the program as a file, press the key combination Control-X/Control-W after you give it a name. If the program file is to be compiled with the C compiler, add the suffix .C (e.g. TEST.C).

To read a previously created file, press the key combination Control-X/Control-R). After making any changes to this file, you can resave the file without entering a new filename by pressing Control-X/Control-S.

To exit the MINCE editor, press Control-X/Control-C.

The list below gives your the most important MINCE commands. The Control key is represented by the character ©.

```
©-A Start-of-line          ©-X ©-C Exit editor
©-D Delete line            ©-E     Goto end-of-line
©-J New line               ©-K     Delete line
©-T Exchange character     ©-X ©-R Read file
©-X ©-S    Save file       ©-X ©-W Rename & save file
```

The batch file initiator is called **BATCH.TTP**. It takes as its parameter the name of the batch file to be used for a particular sequence of events—for example, compiling a C source file to an executable program.

A batch file has a name with a .**BAT** extension. A batch file to assemble a 68000 source file is called **AS.BAT**. This batch file contains all the commands to convert an assembler source file into an executable program.

Before we take a closer look at this batch file, we must first make a work diskette containing all of the programs used by the batch file.

Format a diskette. Next copy the following from the editor diskette to the newly formatted diskette:

> a) MINCE.SWP
> b) MINCE.PRG

The second program (program b), the editor itself, has a small drawback. Every time you start the program, you have to install it as a TOS application instead of a GEM application. The reason for this is that a GEM application chooses a mouse pointer, but drops the cursor. Obviously, an editor without a cursor makes for difficult editing. So instead of calling the editor directly, we install the application so that TOS-takes parameters (from the Options menu). This gives us the cursor and loads the editor automatically. Change the Document type in the information box if all your files will use the extension .S. You can also rename the MINCE.PRG to MINCE.TTP (Tos Takes Parameters) from the FILE menu.