

# SETHU JOURNAL

Volume 1, Number 2

\$2.50 a copy, \$12.50 a year

September, 1986

**Once upon a time**  
THERE WERE TWO WEALTHY MERCHANTS  
WITH FAIRLY GOOD PRODUCTS.



BOTH, HOWEVER, PERCEIVED THEMSELVES  
AS LOSING GROUND TO THE COMPETITION.



THUS, THEY CHOSE TO CHANGE THE "TASTE"  
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ONE MERCHANT SAID DISPARAGING THINGS  
ABOUT HIS CUSTOMERS AND VENDORS  
WHO LIKED THE OLD PRODUCT.



THE OTHER MERCHANT RE-INTRODUCED  
HIS POPULAR OLD PRODUCT WHILE  
KEEPING HIS NEW ONE...



THE  
END?

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\* Editorial Policy \*

We carry advertisements free of charge for any vendor who continues supporting all H/Z 8-bit machines. We also solicit compliments and complaints from our subscribers (Heath/Zenith computer users) about vendors' products and services—or lack thereof. In all cases comments must be explicit and detailed. We will publish any vendor's response in the next issue after receiving it. Honesty is vital!

N.B.—We carry subscribers want ads free of charge. Please send us your ad between the first and 10th of the month and we'll print it in the same month's issue. Please limit want ads to 250 =< words.

NOTE: If you submit an article to us which we subsequently publish we will either extend your present subscription by a year, or will give you a free one if you are not yet a subscriber. Also you automatically will become a full Society member for that same year.

## EDITORIAL

We've received a number of very interesting letters from subscribers and others verifying our belief that we're on the right course, serving the best interests of you Eight-Bit H/Z users. Unlike other computer publications, we shall continue keeping readers well-informed about the Eight-Bit H/Z not-yet-dead-machines. And we shall never deviate from our aim.

We strongly recommend that all Eight-Bit H/Z users write Heath and Zenith and urge them to re-introduce both kit and assembled '89s! In our opinion, the H/Z-89 is too good a machine to abandon simply because it works so reliably, and has so much "second source" support and so many well-satisfied users. Trashing the H/Z-89 was most ill-advised; your writing in as we suggest may possibly resurrect our treasured machines. (Remember what happened to a certain soft drink?!)

This month we're pleased to bring you a quite excellent, thoroughgoing technical article by Lee Hart on how to use H/Z-19 graphics without Ed-A-Sketch. We are sure you'll like it and find it very useful.

**Help Save The HEATH Eight-Bit Machines!**

# LETTERS

"Dear Mr. Geisler:

Thank you for sending a copy of your Journal and the free ad offer...

As you may know, we have exhibited at a number of Heath/Zenith Conferences. The last two were in St. Louis and the International event in Chicago. At these events, the entire FILEBASE™ package was being sold at \$89.95.

Although the ad officially says \$125, we are willing to continue the show price of \$89.95 to those who identify that they read [about] it in the SEBHC Journal.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Markowitz, Vice President  
EWDP Software, Inc."

[You're quite welcome! Ad is on page 19. We had to reduce it to fit our page size, but it's all there. - ed.]

"Dear Mr. Geisler:

Thank you for your invitation to advertise in the SEBHC Journal...

We are enthused about your venture. We support H-89's both out of practicality and necessity: we use four of them in our business, and we are adding more as required. As a developer of custom software and publishers of educational materials, we are interested in any ideas your readers may have for new products.

Thanks again for your generous offer. I am looking forward to seeing our ad in your next issue.

Sincerely,  
Richard A. Stanley, Vice President  
Wheeler Associates, Ltd."

[Thanks for the kind words; your ad is on page 17 - ed.]

"Dear Lenny,

I really enjoyed reading your first issue of SEBHC JOURNAL. I found myself grinning & nodding in agreement often. A breath of fresh air in an otherwise 'stuffy shirt' computer environment was just what I needed.

...A cheque for a subscription to the Journal will follow shortly. Look[ing] forward to the the next issue. Good Luck...

Sincerely,  
J.B. Sondberg, President  
SUNSOFT"

[A "breath of fresh air" is what we all need! Subscription blanks on pages 24, 25. See ad on page 16 -- ed.]

"Dear Len,

Loved the first issue! Find ad copy enclosed. Reduce/enlarge as you wish. Thanx!"

"Brad  
MAGNOLIA MICROSYSTEMS"

[U R Welcum! Ad on page 7; now some sour grapes -- ed.]

"Dear Len,

I read your latest newsletter [Vol 1, #11 and have to straighten something out with you. That is, your statement: 'Hence the emergence of an 8-bit newsletter to take up where REMark, Sextant Publishing and H-SCOOP have really fumbled the ball'.

I need to comment on this. Keep in mind that H-SCOOP started out as 'HS-SCOOP', a newsletter supporting only the H-8 computer, since in those days that's all there was. We eventually broadened to cover the software-compatible [sic] H-89. With much resistance we finally decided, since it was made by Heath, to cover the Z-100, and finally their PCs. Why? To stay in business!

As newer H/Z computers came out, more people were purchasing them, often to complement their H-8s and H-89s. Our subscriptions dropped when we said we would not cover the H-100s and PCs, so, we picked them up--to stay in business and continue our usual total-support image. [But] by then H-8 & H-89 information was already slowing down, and naturally, without information and articles, you cannot publish a full newsletter.

H-SCOOP discussed problems and cures for the H-8s and H-89s long before Heath or Zenith even acknowledged that any problems existed! The H-89 power supply is one [good example]. H-SCOOP described the problem and its cure, even as Heath and Zenith were saying no such problem existed. Ironically, the information we published appeared later in other H/Z newsletters and journals. And Zenith later sent [our] fixes to all their service departments and Heath stores [without giving us credit].

The bottom line is that I've always had an open door policy for information exchange. Of course, I can only print what I receive and I've published about all that I could find or write about the 8-bit systems in the past five years or so. But my offer still stands: I'll place something in next month's issue if anyone submits their experiences, problems, bugs, fixes, and reports.

Neither Quikdata or H-SCOOP are dropping any support for 8-bit machines, despite what you said in the [SEBHC Journal]. Please keep in mind that Quikdata and H-SCOOP are quite separate [entities]. Quikdata has been clearing out surplus 8-bit software--items we've sold only one or two of in the last year. It's smart business to clear out the slow movers. [Nobody complains if K-mart drops a line of no-profit merchandise, do they? -- ed.]

I am quite hurt that you even hinted that we are

GOTO PAGE 4

more &c!

-- continued from page 3 --

"dropping support of Heath's 8-bit machines. The only thing we've dropped are those items the 8-bit public no longer seems interested in..."

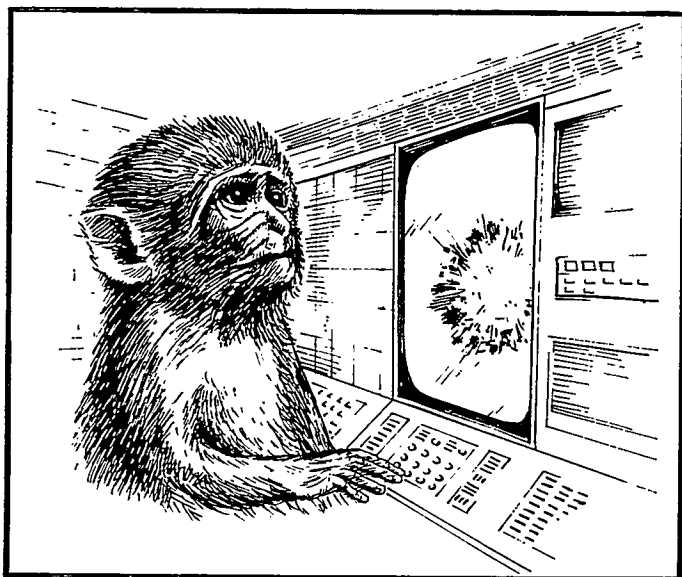
Sincerely,

Henry E. Fale

Quikdata Computer Services, Inc."

[Henry, we were terribly upset to find that we'd printed out a rough draft editorial instead of the corrected copy! We know by your letter that you still really care about us eight-biters. Please accept our most sincere apology for making such a horrible mistake! But in connexion with your remark that there's not much more to be written about H/Z 8-bit computers, see the (H-19) H/Z-89 tutorial starting on page 9 of this issue. Also, we have more "how-2" articles in the works for future issues. The H/Z 8-bit machines ain't dead yet! -- ed.]

+ B +



DRAT!!

### EARN A FREE 1-yr SUBSCRIPTION!

Get Your Eight-Bit Article Printed in The JOURNAL and we'll send you a full year's subscription in return! In addition, we'll make you a full-fledged, "card-carrying" member of the Society of Eight-Bit Heath Computerists for the same period. And for each succeeding article you submit and we publish we'll extend your subscription and SEBHC membership for another year. No other H/Z-oriented publication that we read has a similar feature for the benefit of their contributing authors!

What kind of article do we need and want? Here are a few suggestions (or you come up with something better!):

[\_\_] Hardware reviews, fixes or modifications

[\_\_] Programming shortcuts--any language

[\_\_] How-to articles about any non-BASIC language

[\_\_] Short utility program listings (we'll check 'em out before they're printed, so they'd better be right!)

[\_\_] Improvement patches for H/Z operating systems (HDOS and CP/M or ZDOS)

[\_\_] Computer-residence or computer-business equipment linkages intended to make life easier and simpler

[\_\_] Detailed articles about "hidden" or "undocumented" H/Z operating system features you've discovered and made profitable use of

[\_\_] Humorous or serious H/Z-oriented fact or fiction items (including illustrations whenever possible)

[\_\_] Cartoons--there's a limit to how many we can "crib"

[\_\_] Little-known H/Z historical facts and fallacies

[\_\_] Reviews of new software you've bought, etc.

We promise you that we'll read every word you send us and if it is publishable, we'll try to print it in the very next issue following receipt of your submission. To take advantage of this fast editorial service, please send us the text of your article as a straight ASCII file on a 40TRK, SS,SD or DS,SD disc, or upload it onto either the Source or CompuServe as an ASCII text file and we'll download it and take it from there.

If you use the Source, address a message to LEONARD GEISLER, ID: 80Y074.

If you use CompuServe, address your message to LEONARD GEISLER, ID: 72345,236.

In either case, leave a message \*briefly\* describing your article and how to find and download it from your personal file space. Please DO NOT SEND "BIN" files! My H-8 computer and modem software haven't yet learned how to handle such an esoteric code form!

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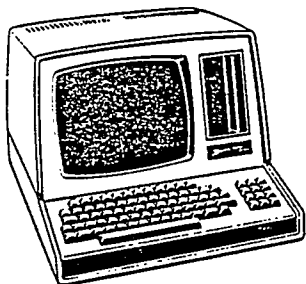
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# GRAPHICS ON THE H89

by Lee Hart

The H89 is quite a performer. It has a nice key layout, and an above average screen with excellent text display capability. But rarely do you see graphics used on the H89. Most programs don't use graphics at all; the few that do just use reverse video for highlighting, or draw a box around a message. So you may have come to the conclusion that using graphics on the H89 is extraordinarily difficult, or that a separate graphics board is required.

Nothing could be further from the truth! The H89 actually has excellent graphics capability (witness programs like Write-Hand-Man and games like Y-Wing). Like most things in micros, the trick is knowing how it's done. All the illustrations in this article were created and printed on a standard H89, with no special software or printers. I'll describe how it's done, and soon you'll be including graphics in your programs and printouts too!

## A Little Background...

The H89 is really two (\*) two (\*) TWO computers in one. One is the Z80-based computer with its 64K of RAM, disk drives, serial ports, etc. that we've all come to love. This is the one that runs your HDOS and CP/M operating systems, word processors, spreadsheets, games, and so on.

But there's a second Z80 in there, too. It has about 8K of memory, a serial port, and a keyboard connected. But more importantly, 2000 bytes of its RAM is visible on the screen. That's right; I'm talking about the terminal logic board, the same one that's used in every H19 terminal.

The terminal logic board (or TLB for short) takes care of everything to do with the keyboard and screen. It constantly watches for a key, and makes the "click" when you hit one. It translates the keys you type into a form palatable to your software; for instance, the "f1" key is translated into the sequence "ESCape S".

The TLB also receives commands from the computer to control the screen. Some are easy, like "display this character, and advance the cursor". Others get quite involved, like positioning the cursor, erasing all or part of a line, moving blocks of text around on the screen, etc. This is where having a separate Z80 really shines. On most micros, the main (and only) CPU must execute a loop that clears 2000 or more bytes of memory, a slow process. On the H89, the main CPU just sends an "ESCape E" and the whole screen is instantly erased. This is why the IBM PC and its ilk are so slow at moving things around on their screen.

None of this is any surprise to programmers; they have known about the virtues of a smart terminal for a long time. There are many excellent programs that put the H19's features to good use for word processing, spreadsheets, games, etc. Virtually every major 8-bit program includes the H19 in their configuration menus. The Z-100 completely emulates the H19 (albeit slowly), and even the IBM PC emulates the H19's ANSI mode via their ANSI.SYS device driver (thanks to Microsoft, who included it with MS-DOS).

It's important to remember that the computer and the TLB are like two separate people sharing the same house. Talking to one is NOT the same as talking to the other. Telling ME you saw me at lunch with my secretary would produce a much different result than telling my wife!

## Controlling the TLB

With the H89, the OFF-LINE key determines who you are talking to. With the OFF-LINE key up, you are talking to the computer and the TLB will ignore anything you type. With the OFF-LINE key down, you are talking to the TLB, and the computer will ignore everything.

As an example, run your favorite word processor and get some text on the screen. Now find the white plastic card that came with your computer (the one with the ASCII chart on one side, and the H19 commands on the other). On it we see that "clear display" is an "ESCape E" command.



Now let's try the picture. First draw the outside box. The letter "a" forms horizontal lines, the "v" vertical, and the four corners by c,d,e, and f. To remember which corner is which letter, imagine the letters arranged in alphabetical order around a clock face; "c" is the upper right corner, "d" lower right, etc. The same is true for the 3-pointed segments s,t,u, and v. Figure 3 is a memory reminder as to which letter is which line segment.

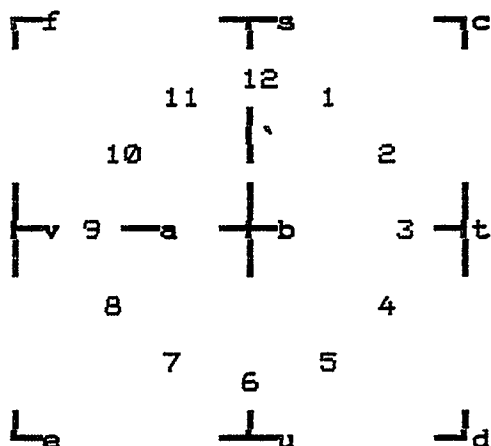


fig.3 - Arrange the Graphics Segments on a Clock Face to Help Remember Them

Now fill in the lower portion with the "i" key (the halftone fill), and add the labels for the keys. Your cursor keys and other functions should all work normally as long as they don't use graphics mode. For example, don't toggle the "Insert" mode in PIE because it will disable graphics on you. When finished, the on-screen picture should look like figure 1. Save the file to disk as you would normally.

Let's type the file we created and see what it looks like. Notice that we are still in graphics mode, so any lowercase text appears as "computer swearing". Using uppercase so we can read it, type "TYPE PICTURE". The computer will obligingly display our picture on the screen. Notice that everything is in graphics, even the top line that was originally in lower case.

Now let's return to text mode. Go off-line, type ESC G, then back on-line. If we again type the picture, it appears in lowercase.

How can we get the picture to be automatically displayed in graphics? As we discussed, your text editor will fight tooth and nail to prevent you from inserting an ESC in a text file. So we'll do it a "quick and dirty" way.

Let's assume you are working with CP/M. Type the following commands:

```
A) PIP GRAPHICS=CON: <return>
   (ESC) F <control-Z>
```

This delightful trick creates a 3-character file called GRAPHICS containing an ESCape, an F, and a control-Z (which only marks the end of the file). Do it again to create the file TEXT:

```
A) PIP TEXT=CON: <return>
   (ESC) G <control-Z>
```

Now we can TYPE GRAPHICS at the A) to enable graphics mode, and TYPE TEXT to enable text mode. What we are doing is telling the computer to tell the TLB to switch modes; it's easier than using the off-line method.

Next let's append these little files onto the beginning and end of our picture file like this:

```
A) PIP CALC=GRAPHICS, PICTURE, TEXT
```

This command tells PIP to create a single file called CALC that includes GRAPHICS to enable the graphics mode, then the PICTURE itself, and finally TEXT to switch back to text mode. We can now TYPE CALC to display the calculator picture in graphics mode, and automatically return to text mode upon exit. (Betcha didn't know PIP had these tricks up its sleeve).

Thus, we have a crude but effective method of creating graphics. Create the pictures with your word processor by manually switching the TLB into graphics mode. Then use PIP to append any necessary control sequences onto the beginning and end of the file before displaying it.

## Tips And Techniques

An advantage of this approach is that the full power of your word processor is at your disposal. Pictures can be of any height and width, limited only by what your word processor can handle. The popular graphic editor ED-A-SKETCH is limited to just one screen (24 lines by 80 columns). For example, this entire article was created and edited as a single text file (text and graphics) using the Magic Wand word processor. I have created 50-page manuals with dozens of illustrations using this technique.

Of course, it gets difficult at times to use a text editor for something for which it wasn't intended. Here are a few tricks to make the job easier.

1. Use block moves to save retyping.

If the same pattern is repeated several times, it is easier to copy the first one than to retype it. In our calculator example, make one line with the vertical bar on each side and the "i" area fill between them. Then copy this line 10 times to quickly form the body.

2. Use search-and-replace for awkward commands.

Pictures often contain odd sequences of keys that are awkward to type. So substitute an easily-typed key or sequence instead. When finished, replace the temporary key with the desired one.

For example, PIE makes it hard to enter an ESC code (control-K, ESC). So substitute the "%" key. Then tell PIE to find all occurrences of % and change it to ESC.

3. Put key "macros" to good use.

Most editors and word processors have at least one "macro" key, i.e. a way to program one key to do a sequence of commands. For instance, drawing a vertical line is awkward because the cursor moves "right" after each keystroke, while you want it to move "down". So program your macro key to type the vertical bar ('), then move the cursor left, and finally down a line, ready for the next iteration.

PIE's macro facility (the BLUE key) is particularly nice because it lets you record a whole sequence of commands, including cursor movements. You can even record a sequence of commands that draws a multiline object like an IC symbol, so it can be easily repeated wherever you like.

4. Use "Smartkey" programs to define objects.

There are a number of programs that allow you to reprogram what each key on your keyboard does. I use "Write-Hand-Man" from TMSI, though "Superkey" and "Smartkey" also work nicely. If your drawing has a shape that gets repeated many times, you can define a single key to draw it. Put the cursor where you want the object, and "pop" it onto the screen.

5. Create a library of commonly-used shapes.

Most word processors let you insert text from a second disk file. By creating a library of shapes, you can simply insert them rather than retyping each time. A good example is a file with large versions of the alphabet, like those used in the heading of this article. The VEDIT editor is particularly good at this sort of thing, because it has a great deal of control over exactly what gets inserted.

## Printing H19 Graphics

So now we've created our pictures, and can save them on disk and view them on the screen. How do we print them?

Printers respond to ASCII commands, much like the H19 terminal itself. But while terminals use relatively standardized commands, printers are decidedly non-standardized. Printers all look alike these days (little white boxes), but there has been no real attempt to standardize the commands to control them. So all I can do is describe my approach, and let you take it from there.

Some printers are particularly easy. The Heath H25 printer already includes the H19 graphics characters, so it's as easy to print graphics as it is to display them on the screen. Naturally, they made things difficult by using a different escape code to enable and disable graphics, but that's not a serious barrier.

Other printers are not so easy. The Epson MX-80 (and its clones) are common, but not very easy to do graphics on. The Epson has a sort of "Swiss Army Knife" command set — lots of gadgets to do things, but none of them works very well for the task at hand.

This article was printed on an Okidata Microline-92 printer. It's my third Okidata, and I have nothing but praise for them. They are fast, rugged, very easy to use, and I can't begin to count how many tens of thousands of pages I've printed.

The Okidata has a very useful feature called a "downline loadable character generator". This means I can re-define what the printed characters look like. When first powered up, it of course uses the standard 96 ASCII printable characters. But I can define up to 96 additional characters. So we'll define a set that looks just like the Heath H19 character set with graphics enabled. Thus printing files with H19 graphics is no more difficult than displaying the files. The only disadvantage is that each time you turn on the power, you must initialize the printer with this set (which is done by printing the file H19GRAPH).

How is this done? First, you design the character set. The Heath manuals have a nice illustration showing just what dots are turned on to make each character (it sure beats flattening your nose against the screen and trying to count dots). The H19 displays its characters in an 8-dot wide by 10-dot high matrix. The Okidata prints each character in an 11-dot wide by 7-dot high matrix. So you have to do a little work on graph paper to decide which dots to print so it looks like the Heath symbols.

Each character will be printed in a pattern called a matrix. The matrix is 11 columns wide, and each column is 7 rows high. There is the additional quirk that you can't place 2 dots side-by-side, or the second dot won't print. Figure 4 shows the matrix, with the "•" graphics character mapped into it.

COLUMN:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ROW: 1											(1)
2				•		•		•			(2)
3		•		•		•		•		•	(4)
4		•		•		•		•		•	(8)
5		•		•		•		•		•	(16)
6				•		•		•			(32)
7											(64)
SUM:	0	28	0	62	0	62	0	62	0	28	0

COMMAND: \OUT27,37,65,94,0,28,0,62,0,62,0,62,0,28,0  
(for Magic Wand's PRINT program)

fig.4 - Matrix for Okidata u92 Printer

Let's put together a command for the "Magic Wand" word processor to download this matrix into the Okidata printer. Magic Wand lets you embed printer commands in a text file with the OUT command. The command \OUT says "printer, I command you to do the following". Thereafter follows 1 or more decimal numbers which are to be sent to the printer exactly as-is.

The Okidata manual says to download a character font, you begin with the sequence ESC % A, which is decimal 27,37,65. Next, send the decimal value of the ASCII character for which this pattern is to be used. In this example, it is the "^", ASCII character 94.

The next 11 numbers define the dot patterns for each of the 11 columns. Each of the 7 rows has a value; a dot in row 1 is worth 1, a dot in row 2 is 2, row 3 is 4, etc. (you'll notice the ever-present binary sequence again). Total up the sum for each column as shown. These sums become the 11 values. Thus, the entire command becomes:

\OUT27,37,65,94,0,28,0,62,0,62,0,62,0,28,0

This has to be done for each of the 96 characters in the alternate character set. To save you this work, Listing 1 contains just such a list for the file H19GRAPH. If you'd like a copy on disk, send me a formatted disk and a dollar for postage.

Once this font is loaded, printing H19 graphics is almost as easy as displaying them. The command ESC 2 enables graphics, and ESC 0 returns to the standard set. Here's a summary:

	H19	Printer
enable graphics mode:	ESC F \out27,70	ESC 2 \out27,50
enable text mode:	ESC 6 \out27,71	ESC 0 \out27,48

As before, we can create a pair of 3-character text files with PIP that switch the printer into and out of graphics mode in case our editor won't let us insert ESC codes.

### Printing Tips

As before, here are some useful tricks for getting things to print out the way you want. The hints are necessarily specific to my hardware, but similar tricks should be applicable to your situation as well.

#### 1. Adjust printer line spacing.

Heath's graphic symbols are 10 dots high, while my printer only prints 7-dot high characters (it has 9 print wires, but only 7 at a time can print). So vertical bars look like dashed lines with the standard line spacing. Set the vertical line spacing to 7 dots (14/144", or 10 lines per inch) and vertical lines will be continuous.

#### 2. Adjust horizontal spacing for a "true" image.

A character cell on the H19 screen is about twice as tall as it is wide. This can be reproduced on the printer by selecting 17.1 cpi. The 80x24 screen therefore prints an image 4.6" wide by 2.3" high. This is how the calculator image was printed. The printed version is roughly half the size of the actual screen image, but the proportions are right.

#### 3. Use a "square" character cell.

For complex reasons, the best quality pictures are produced when the vertical and horizontal resolutions are the same (a "square" character cell). The Okidata printer can easily do this (72 dots per inch).

But the H19 has a fixed character cell which is twice as high as it is wide. So for best results, create the image on the screen so it appears "stretched" vertically by 2:1. Then when the image is printed, you will get a more pleasing picture. The title of this article was done this way. Note the uniform spacing of the "periods" in the border, and that diagonal lines are a 45 degree angle.

## 4. Avoid reverse video.

You can print reverse video, but there are a couple of reasons to avoid it if possible. First, large black areas suck the printer ribbon dry in nothing flat. Second, the "dottiness" of the dot-matrix process becomes quite obvious in large black areas, lowering image quality.

## 5. Design your own special characters.

Sometimes, the standard graphic symbols aren't enough. In this case, alter one (or more) of the existing symbols to suit your purpose.

Look again at the calculator picture of figure 1. The halftone fills the area smoothly so you can't see the border between each individual "i". But if you think about it, this shouldn't be possible. Each character cell is 7 dots high (a prime number), so there is no way to choose the dots so adjacent cells fit together without a recognizable border.

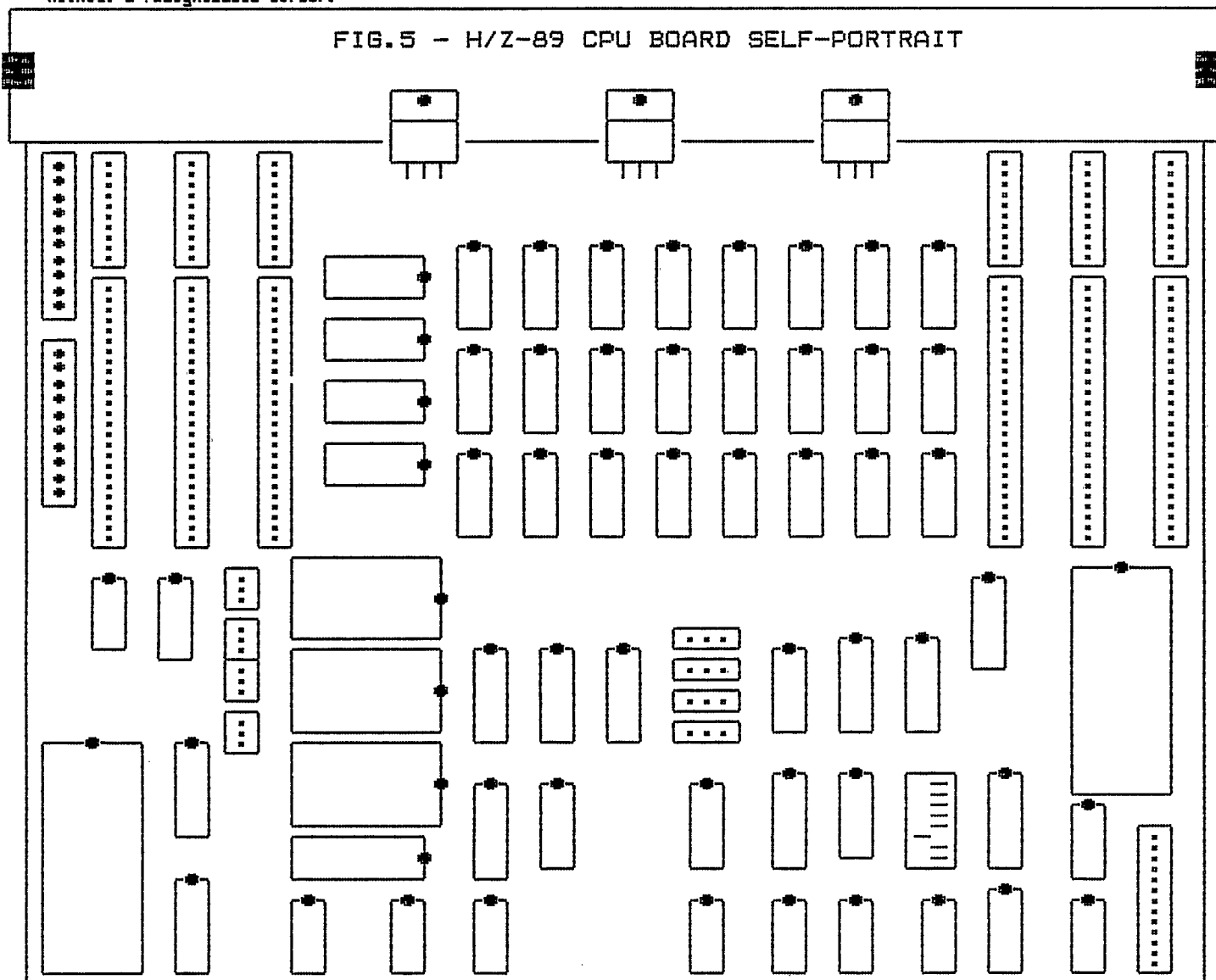
So I used TWO halftone fill characters, "i" and "j". The "j" is the complement of the "i", so they are used on alternate lines.

## Conclusions

As a final demonstration of this technique, figure 5 is a self-portrait of the H89 CPU board itself. So there you have it. No longer need your letters look as boring as the Congressional Record. Now you can make your own letterheads, illustrate your manuals, illuminate your software listings, even print your own Christmas cards. To update an old saying, one picture is worth 2K bytes!

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FIG.5 - H/Z-89 CPU BOARD SELF-PORTRAIT





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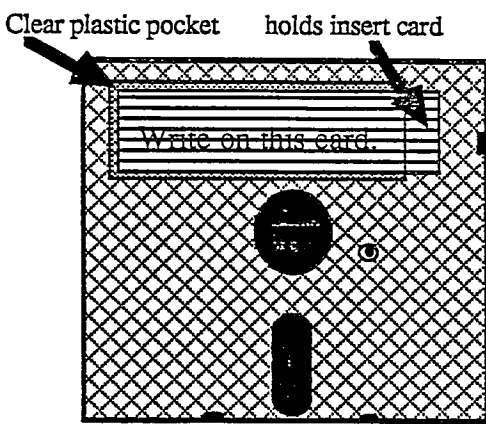
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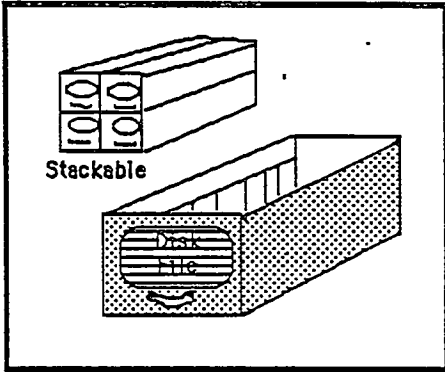
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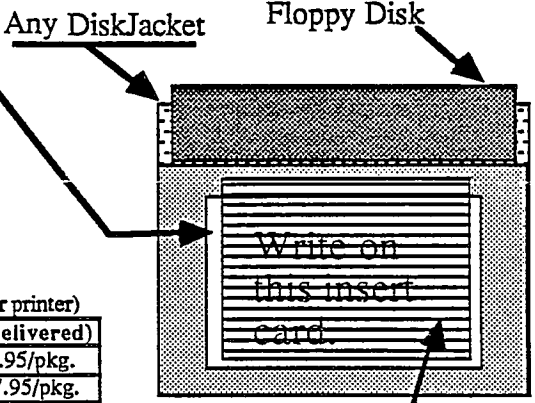
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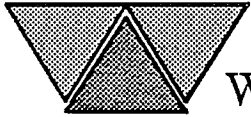
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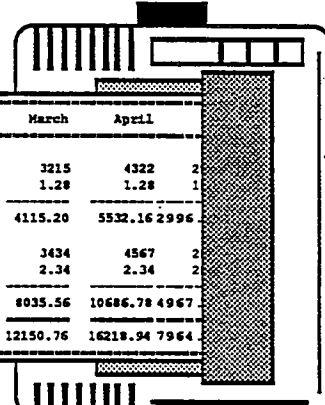
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