

Briel Altair 8800 Quick Reference

17 Feb 2014

Jeff Tranter <tranter@pobox.com>

Based on firmware version 5.1. Features marked with * require firmware 5.2.

Keyboard Function Keys

<Control>C	Aborts in-progress SD card directory listing.
<Control><Alt>C*	SD Card command shell. Commands: CLS, DIR, DEL. <Escape> to exit.
<Control><Alt>D	Use at file name prompt to get directory of SD card.
<Control>S	Pause SD card directory listing. Press any key to resume.
<Control>F1	Send text file, e.g. to load a text file into BASIC.
<Control>F2	Toggle text capture to file.
<Control>F3	Increment VGA text color.
<Control><Shift>F3	Decrement VGA text color.
<Control><Alt>F3	Increment VGA background color.
<Control><Shift><Alt>F3	Decrement VGA background color.
<Control>F4	Change cursor appearance and blink rate.
<Control><Alt>F4	Turn off composite cursor.
<Control>F5	Increment composite text color.
<Control><Shift>F5	Decrement composite text color.
<Control><Alt>F5	Increment composite background color.
<Control><Shift><Alt>F5	Decrement composite background color.
<Control>F6	Toggle backspace as BS or _ for Altair BASIC.
<Control><Shift>F6	Toggle Caps Lock on/off at startup.
<Control><Alt>F6	Toggle Num Lock on/off at startup.
<Control><Shift><Alt>F6	Toggle between Wordstar and VT100 arrow key functions.
<Control>F7	Toggle serial port on/off.
<Control><Shift>F7*	Set serial console bit rate.
<Control>Alt>F7*	Change bit rate used between Propeller and ATmega
<Control>F8	Save current terminal settings to EEPROM.
<Control>F9	Toggle line wrap mode.
<Control><Alt>F9	Toggle newline/linefeed mode.
<Control><Alt>F10	Perform terminal firmware update.

Switch Settings

STOP/RUN	PROTECT	AUX	Address	Comments
RUN	Down	Down		Fast run mode.
STOP	Down	Down		Step mode. Steps when STEP pressed up.
STOP	Down	Up		Step mode with terminal output for each machine cycle.
STOP	Up	Up		Step mode with terminal output for each machine instruction.
STOP	Down	Down		Auto step mode. Raise and hold STEP, select RUN, release STEP.
	Down	Up	11	Load binary file on reset or powerup (e.g. 8kbas.bin). Hold down <Shift> to save as autoloader.
STOP	Up	Up	8	Press STEP to save memory to SD card. Turn off PROTECT to continue.
	Up	Down	<address>	Set breakpoint based on address switches. Push PROTECT down and RUN to continue.
	Down	Up	14, 12, 10, 8	Perform CPU firmware update.
		Up	9	Perform memory test on reset or powerup.
STOP	Up	Up	11	Press STEP to load binary file.
RUN		Up	12	Load and run autoloader binary on reset or powerup.