

# Vic 20 Machine Code

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## Bruce Smith



# **VIC 20**

# **Machine**

# **Code**



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**Bruce Smith**



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# Preface

At the centre of your VIC 20 microcomputer is the 6502 microprocessor which is responsible for coordinating and controlling every single thing your VIC 20 does while it is switched on. The microprocessor can be programmed in its own language—machine code—and that is the aim of this book, to teach you just how to program your micro at its very own machine level.

The text assumes that you have some knowledge of VIC BASIC but know absolutely nothing about machine code. I have tried very hard to write in a non-technical language and to set the chapters out in a logical manner, introducing new concepts in digestible pieces as and when they are needed, rather than devoting chapters to specific items. Wherever possible practical programs are included to bring home the point being made, and in most instances these are analysed and the function and operation of each instruction explained.

*VIC 20 Machine Code* is completely self-contained, suitable for either an unexpanded or expanded VIC, and includes a full description of all the machine code instructions available and suggests suitable applications for their use. After a ‘bit of theory’ in the opening chapters, the main registers of the 6502 are introduced and descriptions given of how, when and where machine code routines can be entered. There is also a simple machine code monitor program to facilitate the entry of such routines.

After discussing the way in which the 6502 flags certain conditions to the outside world, some of the modes of addressing the chip are described. Machine code addition and subtraction are introduced and the easiest ways of manipulating and saving data for future use by the program and processors are described. Machine code loops (equivalent to BASIC’s FOR . . . NEXT . . . STEP) show how sections of code may be repeated, and subroutines and jumps take the place of BASIC’s GOSUB and GOTO. Also included is a look at some of the more complicated procedures such as multiplication and division using the shift and rotate instructions.

The Kernal is a very important part of the VIC’s set-up, so no expense has been spared in explaining every Kernal routine in detail. Practical examples show how the more important ones can be used.

Finally, a comprehensive set of appendices provide a quick and easy reference to the sorts of things you’ll need to ‘want to know quickly’ when you start writing your very own original machine code programs!

Highbury, 1984

Bruce Smith



# 1 Machine Code or Assembly Language

The 6502 microprocessor within your VIC 20 microcomputer can perform 152 different operations, with each one being defined by a number (or *operation code*) in the range 0 to 255. To create a machine code program we need simply to POKE successive memory locations with the relevant operation codes—‘opcodes’ for short. For example, to store the value 5 at location 1500 (in other words to do the machine code equivalent of BASIC’s POKE 1500,5) we would need to POKE the following bytes into memory:

```
169  
5  
141  
220  
5
```

and then ask the VIC’s 6502 to execute them. Not exactly clear is it! That’s where *assembly language* comes in.

Assembly language allows us to write machine code in an abbreviated form which is designed to represent the actual operation the opcode will perform. This abbreviated form is known as a *mnemonic* and it is the basic building block of assembly language (or assembler) programs.

We could rewrite the previous machine code in assembler like this:

```
LDA #5  
STA 1500
```

and it can be read as:

**Load the accumulator with the value 5**  
**Store the accumulator’s contents at location 1500**

As you can see from the **bold** letters, the mnemonic is composed of letters in the instruction, which greatly enhances its readability.

Once the assembler program is complete, it can be converted into machine code in one of two ways.

1. With the aid of a *mnemonic assembler*. This is itself a program (written in machine code or BASIC) which transforms the assembly language instructions (known as the source) into machine code (known as the object code) and POKEs them into memory as it does so.

2. By looking up the relative codes in a table and then POKEing them into memory using a monitor program or a DATA-reading FOR. .NEXT loop. Full details of this method are given in Chapter 6, which also includes a simple monitor program.

All the programs in this book are listed in their DATA statement, machine code *and* assembler forms, so they can be entered by any of the above methods—simply extract the information you require.

Appendix 3 provides comprehensive user information about *all* of the 6502 opcodes, so don't worry too much if some of this seems a bit foreign at the moment—we'll soon change that!

## WHY MACHINE CODE?

A question often asked is, “Why bother to program in machine code at all?” Well, one reason might be that you’re fed up with BASIC and want to broaden your horizons, but, from the practical point of view there are two main reasons for programming in machine code.

Firstly speed. Machine code is executed very much faster than an interpreted high level language such as BASIC. Remember that the BASIC interpreter is itself written in machine code, and that the BASIC statements and commands are simply pointers to the machine code routines in the ROM which actually carry out the specified functions. It is because each statement and command must first be identified and located within the ROM that a decrease in operational speed occurs. Secondly, learning machine code allows you to understand just how your computer works, and lets you create special effects and routines not possible within the constraints imposed by the limited set of BASIC instructions. Machine code allows you to control your VIC 20 rather than it controlling you!

# 2 Numbers

## BINARY, HEX AND DECIMAL

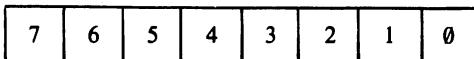
We have seen that the instructions the VIC 20 operates with consist of sequences of numbers. But just how are these numbers stored internally? Well, not wishing to baffle you with the wonders of modern computer science, let's try to simplify matters somewhat and say that each instruction is stored internally as a binary number. Decimal numbers are composed of combinations of ten different digits, that is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and are said to work to a *base* of 10. As its name suggests, binary numbers work to a base of 2 where only the digits 0 and 1 are available. These two numbers represent the two different electrical conditions that are available inside the VIC 20, namely 0 volts (off) and 5 volts (on).

The machine code described in Chapter 1 is therefore represented internally as:

Mnemonic	Machine code	Binary
LDA	169	10101001
\$5	05	00000101
STA	141	10001101
00	00	00000000
\$15	15	00010101

As can be seen, each machine code instruction is expressed as eight binary digits, called *bits*, which are collectively termed a *byte*.

Usually each of the bits in a byte is numbered for convenience as follows:



The number of the bit increases from right to left, but this is not so odd as it may first seem.

Consider the decimal number 2934, we read this as two thousand, nine hundred and thirty four. The highest numerical value, two thousand, is on the left, whilst the lowest, four, is on the right. We can see from this that the position of the digit in the number is very important, as it will affect its *weight*.

The second row of Table 2.1 introduces a new numerical representation. Each base value is postfix with a small number or *power*, which corresponds to its overall position in the number. Thus  $10^3$ , read as ten raised to the power of three, simply implies  $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1000$ .

**Table 2.1**

Value	1000s	100s	10s	1s
Representation	$10^3$	$10^2$	$10^1$	$10^0$
Digit	2	9	3	4

In binary representation, the weight of each bit is calculated by raising the base value, two, to the bit position (see Table 2.2). For example bit number 7 has a notational representation of  $2^7$  which expands to:  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 128!$

**Table 2.2**

Bit number	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Representation	$2^7$	$2^6$	$2^5$	$2^4$	$2^3$	$2^2$	$2^1$	$2^0$
Weight	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1

## BINARY TO DECIMAL CONVERSION

As it is possible to calculate the weight of individual bits, it is a simple matter to convert binary numbers into decimal numbers. The rules for conversion are:

If the bit is *set*—that is it contains a 1—add its weight  
If the bit is *clear*—that is it contains a 0—ignore its weight

Let us try an example and convert the binary number 10101010 into its equivalent decimal value.

$$1 \times 128(2^7) = 128$$

$$0 \times 64(2^6) = 0$$

$$1 \times 32(2^5) = 32$$

$$0 \times 16(2^4) = 0$$

$$1 \times 8(2^3) = 8$$

$$0 \times 4(2^2) = 0$$

$$1 \times 2(2^1) = 2$$

$$0 \times 1(2^0) = 0$$

$$\overline{170}$$

Therefore 10101010 binary is 170 decimal.

Similarly 11101110 represents:

$$1 \times 128(2^7) = 128$$

$$1 \times 64(2^6) = 64$$

$$1 \times 32(2^5) = 32$$

$$0 \times 16(2^4) = 0$$

$$1 \times 8(2^3) = 8$$

$$1 \times 4(2^2) = 4$$

$$1 \times 2(2^1) = 2$$

$$0 \times 1(2^0) = 0$$

—  
238

in decimal.

## DECIMAL TO BINARY CONVERSION

To convert a decimal number into a binary one, the procedure described earlier is reversed—each binary weight is subtracted in turn. If the subtraction is possible, a 1 is placed into the binary column and the remainder carried down to the next row where the next binary weight is subtracted.

If the subtraction is not possible, a 0 is placed in the binary column and the number moved down to the next row. For example, the decimal number 141 is converted into binary as in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3

Decimal number	Binary weight	Binary	Remainder
141	128(2 <sup>7</sup> )	1	13
13	64(2 <sup>6</sup> )	0	13
13	32(2 <sup>5</sup> )	0	13
13	16(2 <sup>4</sup> )	0	13
13	8(2 <sup>3</sup> )	1	5
5	4(2 <sup>2</sup> )	1	1
1	2(2 <sup>1</sup> )	0	1
1	1(2 <sup>0</sup> )	1	0

Therefore 141 = 10001101 binary.

## BINARY TO HEX CONVERSION

Although binary notation is probably as close as we can come to representing the way numbers are stored within the VIC 20, you will no doubt have noticed that the machine code examples include some groups of two characters preceded by a dollar sign, '\$'. This type of number is known as a hexadecimal number, or hex for short, and its value is calculated to a base of 16! This, at first sight, may seem singularly awkward, however it does present several distinct advantages over binary and decimal numbers as we shall see.

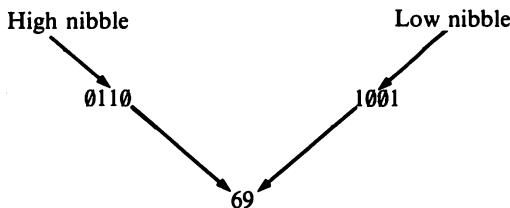
Sixteen different characters are required to represent all the possible digits in a hex number. To produce these, the numbers 0 to 9 are retained, and the letters A, B, C, D, E and F are used to denote the values 10 to 15. Binary conversion values are shown in Table 2.4.

**Table 2.4**

Decimal	Hex	Binary
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	3	0011
4	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
10	A	1010
11	B	1011
12	C	1100
13	D	1101
14	E	1110
15	F	1111

To convert a binary number into hex, the byte must be separated into two sets of four bits, termed *nibbles*, and the corresponding hex value of each nibble extracted from Table 2.4.

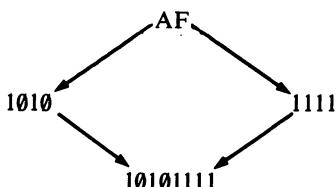
*Example* Convert 0110 1001 to hex:



Because it is not always apparent whether a number is hex or decimal (as in the example above), hex numbers on the VIC 20 are always preceded by a dollar sign—therefore \$01101001 is \$69 (read hex six nine).

By reversing the process, hex numbers can readily be converted into binary.

*Example* Convert \$AF to binary:



It should now be apparent that hex numbers are much easier to convert to binary (and vice versa), than their decimal counterparts, and the maximum binary number possible with one byte, 11111111, requires just two hex digits, \$FF.

## HEX TO DECIMAL CONVERSION

For the sake of completeness, let's see how hex and decimal numbers may be converted. To transform a hex number into decimal, the decimal weight of each digit should be summed.

*Example* convert \$31A to decimal:

$$\text{The 3 has the value } 3 \times 16^2 = 3 \times 16 \times 16 = 768$$

$$\text{The 1 has the value } 1 \times 16^1 = 1 \times 16 = 16$$

$$\text{The A has the value } 1 \times 16^0 = 10 \times 1 = 10$$

add these together to give \$31A = 794 decimal.

Converting decimal to hex is a bit more involved and requires the number to be repeatedly divided by 16 until a value less than 16 is obtained. This hex value is noted, and the remainder carried forward for further division. This process is continued until the remainder itself is less than 16.

*Example* convert 4072 to hex:

$$4072 \div 16 \div 16 = 15 = F \quad (\text{remainder} = 4072 - (15 \times 16 \times 16) = 232)$$

$$232 \div 16 = 14 = E \quad (\text{remainder} = 232 - (14 \times 16) = 8)$$

$$8 = 8$$

Therefore 4072 decimal is \$FE8.

Both of these conversions are a little long winded (to say the least!) and after all we do have a very sophisticated microcomputer available to us, so let's make it do some of this more tedious work!

# 3 Logically It All Adds Up!

## BINARY ARITHMETIC

Please don't be put off and skip this chapter simply because it contains that dreaded word—arithmetic. The addition and subtraction of binary numbers is simple, in fact if you can count to two you will have no problems whatsoever! Although it is not vital to be able to add and subtract ones and noughts by 'hand', this chapter will introduce several new concepts which are important, and will help you in your understanding of the next few chapters.

### ADDITION

There are just four, simple, straightforward rules when it comes to adding binary numbers. They are:

1.  $0 + 0 = 0$
2.  $1 + 0 = 1$
3.  $0 + 1 = 1$
4.  $1 + 1 = (1)0$

Note, that in rule 4, the result of  $1 + 1$  is  $(1)0$ . The 1 in brackets is called a *carry* bit, and its function is to denote an overflow from one column to another, remember,  $10$  binary is 2 decimal. The binary 'carry' bit is quite similar to the carry that can occur when adding two decimal numbers together whose result is greater than 9. For example, adding together  $9 + 1$  we obtain a result of  $10$  (ten), this was obtained by placing a zero in the units column and carrying the 'overflow' across to the next column to give:  $9 + 1 = 10$ . Similarly, in binary addition when the result is greater than 1, we take the carry bit across to add to the next column.

Let's try to apply these principles to add together two 4 bit binary numbers,  $0101$  and  $0100$ .

$$\begin{array}{r} 0101 \\ + 0100 \\ \hline 1001 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} (\$5) \\ (\$4) \\ \\ (\$9) \end{array}$$

Reading each individual column from right to left:

First column:	$1 + 0$	= 1
Second column:	$0 + 0$	= 0
Third column:	$1 + 1$	= 0 (1)
Fourth column:	$0 + 0 = 0 + (1)$	= 1

In this example a carry bit was generated in the third column, and was carried across and added to the fourth column.

Adding 8 bit numbers is accomplished in a similar manner:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 01010101 \\
 + 01110010 \\
 \hline
 11000111
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 (\$55) \\
 (\$72) \\
 (\$C7)
 \end{array}$$

## SUBTRACTION

So far we have been dealing with positive numbers, however in the subtraction of binary numbers we need to be able to represent negative numbers as well as positive ones. In binary subtraction though, a slightly different technique from normal everyday subtraction is used, in fact we don't really perform a subtraction at all—we add the negative value of the number to be subtracted. For example, instead of executing  $4 - 3$  (four minus three) we actually execute  $4 + (-3)$  (four, plus minus three)! Figure 3.1 will hopefully eradicate any confusion or headaches that may be prevailing!

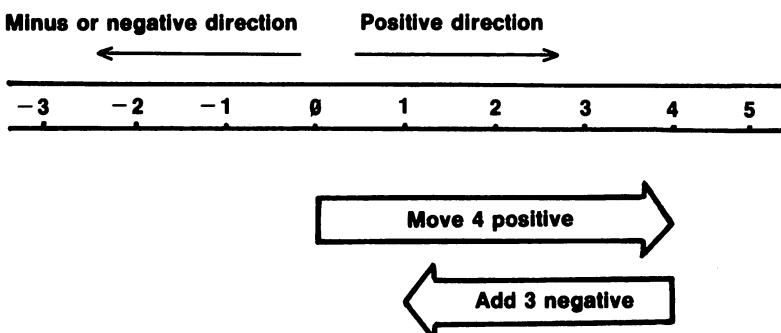
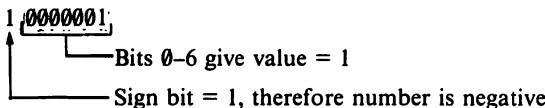


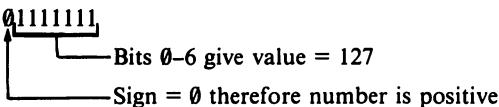
Figure 3.1 Diagrammatic representation of  $4 + (-3)$ .

We can use the scale to perform the example  $4 + (-3)$ . The starting point is zero. First move to point 4 (i.e. four points in a positive direction) and *add* to this  $-3$  (i.e. move three points in a negative direction). We are now positioned at point 1 which is, of course, where we should be. Try using this method to subtract 8 from 12, to get the principle clear in your mind.

Okay, let's now see how we apply this to binary numbers, but first, just how are negative numbers represented in binary? Well, a system known as *signed binary* is employed; where bit 7, known as the most significant bit (msb), is used to denote the *sign* of the number. Traditionally a '0' in bit 7 denotes a positive number and a '1' a negative number. For instance, in signed binary:



so,  $10000001 = -1$ . And:



therefore  $01111111 = 127$ .

However, just adjusting the value of bit 7 as required, is not an accurate way of representing negative numbers. What we must do to convert a number into its negative counterpart, is to obtain its *two's complement* value. To do this simply invert each bit and then add one.

To represent  $-3$  in binary, first write the binary for 3:

$0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1$

Now invert each bit. Replace each 0 with a 1, and each 1 with a 0—this is known as its *one's complement*.

$1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0$

Now add 1:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ + \quad \quad \quad 1 \\ \hline 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 1 \end{array}$$

Thus, the two's complement value of  $-3 = 11111101$ . Let us now apply this to our original sum  $4 + (-3)$ :

$$\begin{array}{r} (4) \quad \quad \quad 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ (-3) \quad \quad \quad 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 1 \\ \hline (\text{Now add}) \quad (1) 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1 \end{array}$$

We can see that the result is 1 as we would expect, but we have also generated a carry bit due to an overflow from bit 7. This carry bit can be ignored for our purposes at present, though it does have a certain importance as we shall see later on.

A further example may be of use. Perform  $32 - 16$  i.e.  $32 + (-16)$ .

32 in binary is:

$0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0$

16 in binary is:

$0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0$

The two's complement of 16 is:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1 \\ + \quad \quad \quad 1 \\ \hline 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \end{array}$$

Now add the two together:

$$\begin{array}{r} (32) \quad \quad \quad 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \\ (-16) \quad \quad \quad + \quad 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline (16) \quad \quad \quad (1) 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \end{array}$$

Ignoring the carry, we have our result, 16.

We can see from these examples that, using the rules of binary addition, it is possible to add or subtract signed numbers. If the 'carry' is ignored, the result, including the sign, is correct. Thus it is also possible to add two negative values together and still obtain a correct negative result. Using two's complement signed binary let's perform  $(-2) + (-2)$ .

2 in binary is:

$0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0$

The two's complement value is:

$$\begin{array}{r} 11111101 \\ + \quad \quad \quad 1 \\ \hline 11111110 \end{array}$$

We can add this value twice to perform the addition:

$$\begin{array}{r} (-2) \quad \quad \quad 11111110 \\ (-2) \quad \quad \quad + \quad \underline{11111110} \\ (1) \quad \quad \quad 11111100 \end{array}$$

Ignoring the carry, the final result is -4. You might like to confirm this by obtaining the two's complement value of -4 in the usual manner.

## LOGICAL OPERATIONS

The theory of logic is based on situations where there can only ever be two possibilities, namely *yes* and *no*. In binary terms these two possibilities are represented as 1 and 0.

There are three different logical operations that can be performed on binary numbers, they are AND, OR and EOR. In each case the logical operation is performed between the corresponding bits of two separate numbers.

### AND

The four rules for AND are:

1. 0 AND 0 = 0
2. 1 AND 0 = 0
3. 0 AND 1 = 0
4. 1 AND 1 = 1

As can clearly be seen, the AND operation will only generate a 1 if *both* of the corresponding bits being tested are 1. If a 0 exists in either of the corresponding bits being tested, the resulting bit will always be 0.

*Example* AND the following two binary numbers:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1010 \\ \text{AND } \underline{0011} \\ \hline 0010 \end{array}$$

In the result only bit 1 is set, the other bits are all clear because in each case one of the bits being tested contains a 0.

The main use of the AND operation is to 'mask' or 'preserve' certain bits. Imagine that we wish to preserve the low four bits of a byte (low nibble) and completely clear the high four bits (high nibble). We would need to AND the number with 00001111. If the other byte contained 10101100 the result would be given by:

$$\begin{array}{r} 10101100 \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{(byte being tested)} \\ \text{AND } \underline{00001111} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{(mask)} \\ \hline 00001100 \end{array}$$

the high nibble is cleared and the low nibble preserved!

## OR

The four rules for OR are:

1.  $\emptyset \text{ OR } \emptyset = \emptyset$
2.  $1 \text{ OR } \emptyset = 1$
3.  $\emptyset \text{ OR } 1 = 1$
4.  $1 \text{ OR } 1 = 1$

Here the OR operation will result in a 1 if *either* or *both* the bits contain a 1. A  $\emptyset$  will only occur if *neither* of the bits contains a 1.

*Example* OR the following two binary numbers:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \\ \text{OR} \quad \underline{0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1} \\ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \end{array}$$

Here, only bit 2 is clear, the other bits are all set as each pair of tested bits contains at least one 1.

One common use of the OR operation is to ensure that a certain bit (or bits) is set—this is sometimes called ‘forcing bits’. As an example, if you wish to force bit 0 and bit 7, you would need to OR the other byte with 10000001.

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \\ \text{OR} \quad \underline{1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1} \\ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{(byte being tested)} \\ \text{(forcing byte)} \end{array}$$

The initial bits are preserved, but bit 0 and bit 7 are ‘forced’ to 1.

## EOR

Like AND and OR, this donkey sounding operation has four rules:

1.  $\emptyset \text{ EOR } \emptyset = \emptyset$
2.  $1 \text{ EOR } \emptyset = 1$
3.  $\emptyset \text{ EOR } 1 = 1$
4.  $1 \text{ EOR } 1 = \emptyset$

This operation is exclusive to OR, in other words, if both bits being tested are similar a  $\emptyset$  will result. A 1 will only be generated if the corresponding bits are unlike.

*Example* EOR the following two binary numbers:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \\ \text{EOR} \quad \underline{0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1} \\ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \end{array}$$

This instruction is often used to complement, or invert, a number. Do this by EORing the other byte with 11111111.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \\ \text{EOR} \quad \underline{1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1} \\ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{(byte being inverted)} \\ \text{(inverting byte)} \end{array}$$

Compare the result with the first byte, it is completely opposite.

# 4 The Registers

To enable the 6502 to carry out its various operations, it contains within it several special locations, called *registers*. Because these registers are internal to the 6502, they do not appear as part of the VIC 20's memory map (see Appendix 5), and are therefore referred to by name only. Figure 4.1 shows the typical programming model of the 6502. For the time being we need only concern ourselves with the first four of these six registers, they are the accumulator, the X and Y registers and the Program Counter.

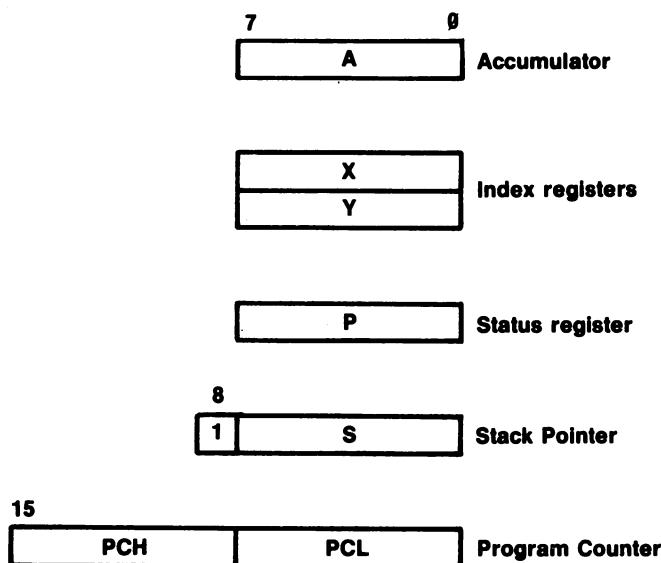


Figure 4.1 The registers—a typical programming model.

## THE ACCUMULATOR

We have already mentioned the accumulator (or 'A' register) several times in the opening chapter. As you may have already gathered, the accumulator is the main register of the 6502, and like most of the other registers it is eight bits wide. This means that it can hold a single byte of information at any one time. Being the main register, it has the most instructions associated with it, and its principle feature is that all arithmetic and logical operations are carried out through it.

The accumulator's associated instructions are listed in Table 4.1. It is not absolutely vital to be familiar with these at present, but they are included now as an introduction.

**Table 4.1**

Accumulator instructions			
ADC	Add with carry	PHA	Push accumulator
AND	Logical AND	PLA	Pull accumulator
ASL	Arithmetic shift left	ROL	Rotate left
BIT	Compare memory bits	ROR	Rotate right
CMP	Compare to accumulator	SBC	Subtract with carry
EOR	Logical EOR	STA	Store the accumulator
LDA	Load the accumulator	TAX	Transfer accumulator to X register
LSR	Logical shift right	TAY	Transfer accumulator to Y register
ORA	Logical OR	TXA	Transfer X register to accumulator
		TYA	Transfer Y register to accumulator

## THE INDEX REGISTERS

There are two further registers in the 6502 which can hold single byte data. These are the *X register* and the *Y register*. They are generally termed the 'index registers', because they are very often used to provide an 'offset' or index from a specified base address. They are provided with direct increment and decrement instructions—something the accumulator lacks—so are also quite often used as counters. However, it is not possible to perform arithmetic or logical operations in either index register, but there are instructions to transfer the contents of these registers into the accumulator and vice versa.

The instructions associated with both registers are given in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2**

X register instructions		Y register instructions	
CPX	Compare X register	CPY	Compare Y register
DEX	Decrement X register	DEY	Decrement Y register
INX	Increment X register	INY	Increment Y register
LDX	Load the X register	LDY	Load the Y register
STX	Store the X register	STY	Store the Y register
TAX	Transfer accumulator to X reg.	TAY	Transfer accumulator to Y reg.
TXA	Transfer X reg. to accumulator	TYA	Transfer Y reg. to accumulator
TSX	Transfer Status to X register		
TXS	Transfer X register to Status		

## THE PROGRAM COUNTER

The Program Counter is the 6502's address book. It nearly always contains the address in memory where the next instruction to be executed sits. Unlike the other registers, it is a 16 bit register, consisting physically of two 8 bit registers. These two are generally referred to as Program Counter High (PCH) and Program Counter Low (PCL).

# 5 A Poke at Machine Code

Now that we have got some of the basics out of the way, why don't we write our first machine code program, after all, that's what this book is all about!

Enter Program 1—you can omit the REM statements if you like. The (hex) machine code and assembler versions of the instructions are included as REMs alongside the DATA statements (which are, of course, in decimal).

## Program 1

```
10 REM ** MACHINE CODE DEMO **  
20 REM * PRINT 'A' ON SCREEN *  
30 CODE = 828  
40 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 5  
50 READ BYTE  
60 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
70 NEXT LOOP  
80 :  
90 REM ** MACHINE CODE DATA **  
100 DATA 169,65 : REM $A9, $41 — LDA #ASC"A"  
110 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR 65490  
120 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS  
130 :  
140 REM ** EXECUTE MACHINE CODE **  
150 SYS 828
```

The function of this short program is to print the letter 'A' on the screen. Nothing spectacular, but the program does incorporate various features that will be common to all your future machine code programs. The meaning of each line is as follows:

- Line 30 Declare a variable called CODE to denote where the machine code is placed.
- Line 40 Set up a data-reading loop.
- Line 50 Read one byte of machine code data.
- Line 60 POKE byte value into memory.
- Line 70 Repeat loop until finished.
- Line 100 Machine code data—place ASCII code for A in accumulator.
- Line 110 Machine code data—print A on the screen.

Line 120 Machine code data—Return to BASIC.

Line 150 Execute the machine code

To see the effect of the program just type in RUN, hit the RETURN key and voilà—the A should be sitting just above the 'READY' prompt!

## CODE—THE PROGRAM COUNTER

It should be fairly obvious that the machine code we write has to be stored somewhere in memory. In all the programs in this book I have used the BASIC variable 'CODE' as a pointer to the start address of the memory where the machine code is to be placed. (CODE acts, in effect, rather like the processor's own Program Counter.) You may wish to use your own variable name—and this is perfectly acceptable. For example, you may consider that PC is a more appropriate name for the start of the code—or even MACHINECODE. It does not really matter. What does matter is that you should get into the habit of using the same variable name in *all* your programs, and thus avoid ambiguity.

The value given to CODE must be chosen with care. It would be easy enough to allocate an address which causes the machine code to overwrite another program or even the assembly program itself! In Program 1 CODE is set to 828 using the normal variable assignment statement:

CODE = 828

and the six bytes of machine code are stored there—or more correctly—in the six bytes starting at 828 (828 to 833). If you look at Figure 5.1 you will notice that this area is in the *tape input/output buffer*. The tape buffer comprises locations 828 to 1019 (\$033C-\$03FB), making a total of 192 bytes available for machine code programs (provided, of course, the program does not access the cassette, thereby overwriting the machine code stored in the buffer). There are also nine free bytes below the tape buffer—from 820 (\$0334) onwards. As Program 1 is only six bytes long, it could be placed there.

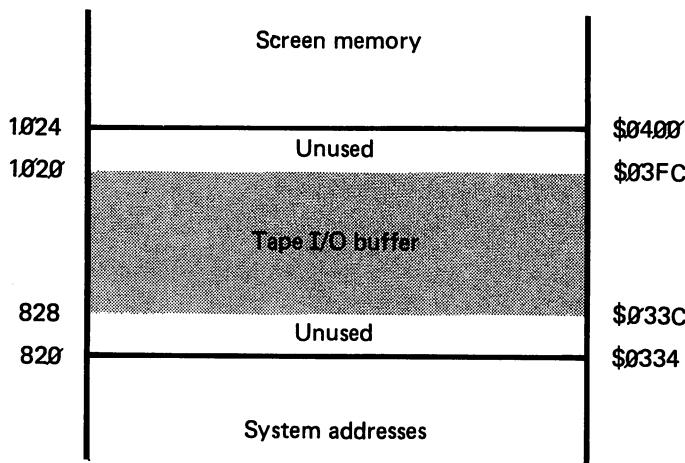
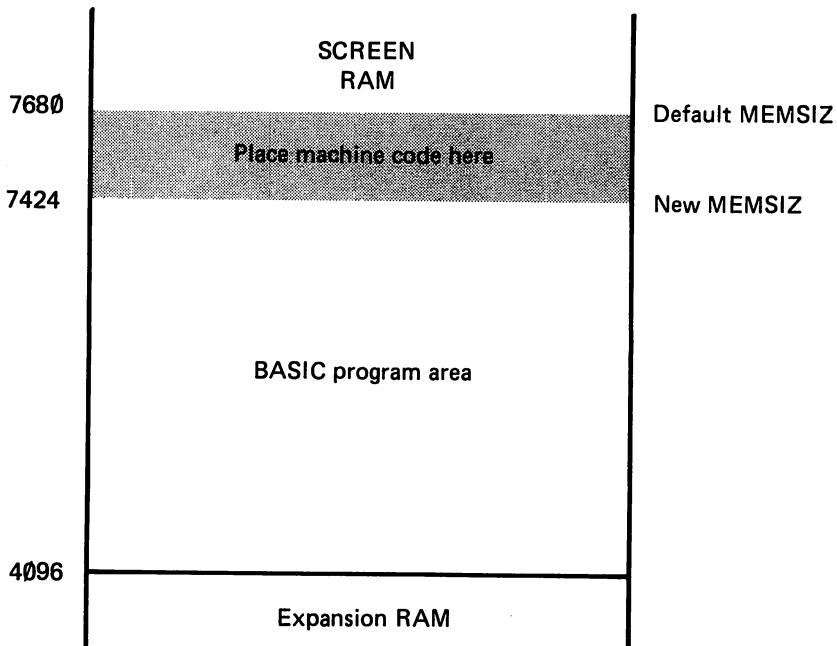


Figure 5.1 Place machine code in tape buffer.

A slightly more complex method of reserving space involves resetting the value of MEMSIZ. This is the label associated with locations 55 (\$0037) and 56 (\$0038), which hold the address of the highest memory location that may be used by a BASIC program. By resetting these two locations to point lower down the memory map, it is possible to create space above the BASIC user RAM and below the Screen RAM as shown in Figure 5.2. Program 2 illustrates how this technique can be used.



*Figure 5.2 Place machine code above MEMSIZ.*

### Program 2

```

10 REM ** PLACE M/C ABOVE MEMSIZ **
20 REM ** RESET MEMSIZ TO 7424
30 REM ** WHICH IS $1DFF
40 POKE 55, 0      : REM low byte
50 POKE 56, 29    : REM high byte
60 CLR            : REM clear stack
70 CODE = 7425    : REM set PC
80 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 5
90  'READ BYTE
100 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
110 NEXT LOOP
120 :
130 REM ** M/C DATA **
140 DATA 169,147   : REM $A9, $93      — LDA #$93
150 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR 65490
160 DATA 96         : REM $60          — RTS
170 :
180 SYS CODE

```

As a BASIC loader program is being used, MEMSIZ can be altered by the BASIC

program itself (lines 40 and 50). If a pure machine code program is being loaded into memory, MEMSIZ can be altered in *Immediate Mode* by:

```
POKE 55, 0  
POKE 56, 29  
CLR
```

Note that in both instances a CLR command is also entered (line 60 in the program). This ensures that any 'old' BASIC stack values are erased, as are the pointers associated with them. These are then reset as required by the new value of MEMSIZ. Line 70 sets CODE to the value of MEMSIZ +1 *before* the DATA is READ and POKEd into the space which has been created.

You may well be wondering just what new value should be assigned to MEMSIZ. Well, this will depend on the length of the machine code you wish to place above it. The formula is simply:

#### 7680 – Program length

(where 7680 is the default value of MEMSIZ in an unexpanded VIC). In general, though, it is best to add several bytes to the program length to be safe. Alternatively, just decide on an arbitrary amount of memory to keep clear and use this value. In the above example I decided to reserve 256 bytes, therefore the new value of MEMSIZ is given by:

```
7680-256 = 7424  
$1E00-$FF = $1D00
```

Next comes the question of how to calculate the individual byte values to be POKEd into locations 55 and 56. If we are entering them directly in hex format, then all we need to do is to split the address into its two constituent bytes and POKE these into memory. However, this is not possible in BASIC, so we need to calculate the decimal value of each byte as follows:

High byte	7425/256 = 29
Low byte	7456 – (29 * 256) = 0

The low byte (0) is POKEd into location 55 and the high byte (29) into location 56.

Oh, by the way this program produces a 'CLR' (line 140), which is the same as that obtained by pressing the SHIFT and CLR/HOME keys together. The ASCII code for 'CLR/HOME' is 147. (Line 150 will be explained later!)

## ENTERING MACHINE CODE

The most obvious way of entering machine code is to write a program that just contains line after line of POKEs. Program 3 shows how this method can be used to produce a machine code program that switches on the reverse character mode.

### Program 3

```
10 REM ** RVS ON USING POKEs **  
20 REM ** PLACE M/C IN TAPE BUFFER **  
30 POKE 828,169 : REM $A9           — LDA #'lower case'  
40 POKE 829,14   : REM $0E
```

```

50 POKE 830,32 : REM $20      — JSR 61898
60 POKE 831,210 : REM $D2
70 POKE 832,255 : REM $FF
80 POKE 833,96  : REM $60      — RTS
90 SYS 828

```

To see the effect of this, add the following lines from Program 1 to write an 'A' on the screen:

```

72 POKE 833,169 : REM $A9      — LDA #$41
74 POKE 834,65  : REM $41
76 POKE 835,32  : REM $32      — JSR 65490
78 POKE 836,210 : REM $D2
80 POKE 837,255 : REM $FF
82 POKE 840,96  : REM $60      — RTS

```

As you may be beginning to appreciate, entering machine code in this manner is somewhat laborious, particularly when it is a very long program. In the earlier programs the machine code was placed in a series of DATA statements, which were subsequently READ from within a FOR...NEXT loop and then POKEd into memory using the loop counter (LOOP) as an offset from the base address defined by CODE. This ensures that each byte is placed into consecutive memory locations.

Notice also, that in each program, every machine code operation was placed in a separate DATA statement, and was accompanied by a REM statement giving the same information in both the hex and mnemonic formats, for example:

```
100 DATA 169,65 : REM $A9, $41      — LDA #ASC ("A")
```

The REM items are included for flexibility. Each of the programs can be entered and RUN exactly as it stands, thus allowing you to get programming in machine code straightaway; however, if at some time in the future you invest in an *Assembler* program then you'll need to know the mnemonic versions. (The hex values are included for a reason that will soon become apparent!)

It is a good idea to get into the habit of including this type of REM statement into your own programs simply because it adds to the program's readability. Imagine being presented with a program that includes a single DATA statement:

```
100 DATA 169, 14, 32, 208, 241, 169, 146, 32, 202, 241, 96
```

It's not particularly clear what's being performed, and if you need to debug it, well . . . !

One final point regarding the loop count. This should be set to the total number of data bytes minus one. Remember that the loop counter itself must always start at '0' to ensure that the very first byte is placed at the address specified by CODE = CODE + LOOP = 828 + 0 = 828 (if CODE = 828).

## **IMPORTANT—Don't Read This**

Right, now I have your undivided attention I must make a couple of very important points regarding the VIC's memory requirements. Firstly, all the programs contained within this book will run on an unexpanded VIC, that is, one in which no extra memory has been added. However, if you are using an unexpanded machine, I would suggest that you omit the REM statements that I said you should include a moment ago! REM statements tend to eat up the available memory at a rate of knots and you'll find you have none left to finish entering the program.

You can keep your programs fairly readable if you keep to the operation per line structure, as described above, and just include a few REMs here and there, giving a brief

but concise description of the following section of machine code. If you have a printer then you could obtain a hard copy of the program and add the REMs after to keep a note of them, or more simply, keep a written copy in a program library of all your machine code programs.

Secondly, as you add extra memory the memory map gets shuffled to and fro a bit. For example, the screen memory is moved from 7680–8191 (\$1E00–\$1FFF) to 4096–4607 (\$1000–\$11FF), if an 8K block is added starting at 8192 (\$2000). As the programs herein are written to run on an unexpanded VIC, any programs that access the screen memory directly, by peeking or poking it, will need the corresponding addresses altered, to enable it to run correctly on a VIC with memory expansion. Appendix 5 details the Memory Maps and how they are altered by the addition of extra memory. Please consult these if you need to.

Now, on with the programming!

## THE HEX LOADER PROGRAM

An easier method of entering machine code is to use a *monitor* or *hex loader program*. This is a program which allows machine code to be entered as a series of hex numbers. Program 4 is a simple example.

### Program 4

```
10 REM ** VIC 20 HEX LOADER* *
20 PRINT CHR$(147)
30 PRINT " VIC 20 MONITOR"
40 PRINT : PRINT
50 INPUT "ASSEMBLY ADDRESS"; ADDR
60 REM ** MAIN PROGRAM LOOP * *
70 PRINT ADDR; " :";
80 REM ** GET HIGH NIBBLE OF BYTE * *
90 GOSUB 2000
100 HIGH = NUM
110 PRINT Z$;
120 REM ** GET LOW NIBBLE OF BYTE * *
130 GOSUB 2000
140 LOW = NUM
150 PRINT Z$
160 REM ** CALCULATE BYTE AND UPDATE * *
170 BYTE = HIGH * 16 + LOW
180 POKE ADDR, BYTE
190 ADDR =
200 GOTO 70
300
500 REM ** SUBROUTINE * *
2000 GET Z$
2020 IF Z$ > "F" THEN GOTO 2000
2030 IF Z$ = "A" THEN NUM = 10 : RETURN
```

```

2040 IF Z$ = "B" THEN NUM = 11 : RETURN
2050 IF Z$ = "C" THEN NUM = 12 : RETURN
2060 IF Z$ = "D" THEN NUM = 13 : RETURN
2070 IF Z$ = "E" THEN NUM = 14 : RETURN
2080 IF Z$ = "F" THEN NUM = 15 : RETURN
2090 IF Z$ = " " THEN GOTO 2000
2100 NUM = VAL(Z$) : RETURN

```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

- Line 20 Clear screen and HOME cursor.
- Line 30 Print heading.
- Line 40 Print two linefeeds.
- Line 50 Get start address for machine code.
- Line 70 Print address and '\$'.
- Line 90 Get high nibble of hex byte.
- Line 100 Save its value in HIGH.
- Line 110 Print high nibble.
- Line 130 Get low nibble of hex byte.
- Line 140 Save its value in LOW.
- Line 150 Print low nibble.
- Line 170 Calculate byte value.
- Line 180 POKE it into memory.
- Line 190 Increment memory counter.
- Line 200 Repeat.
- Line 2000 Get key.
- Line 2010 If it's an S then end program.
- Line 2020 If it's greater than F go back to 2000 and ignore it.
- Line 2030-2080 If it's in the range A to F declare its value and return.
- Line 2090 If no key pressed go back to 2000.
- Line 2100 Calculate value and return.

Enter and RUN the program. After it displays the heading you are asked to input an 'Assembly address'. This is simply the address that you would normally assign to CODE, and should be entered as a decimal value. On hitting RETURN the first program address is displayed followed by a dollar sign, \$. All you now have to do is to type in the hex digits. After you type the second digit, the byte value is calculated and then POKEd into memory. The next address is then displayed. The program checks for (and ignores) non-hex characters. To leave the monitor at any time type 'S' (for Stop!). Figure 5.3 shows the

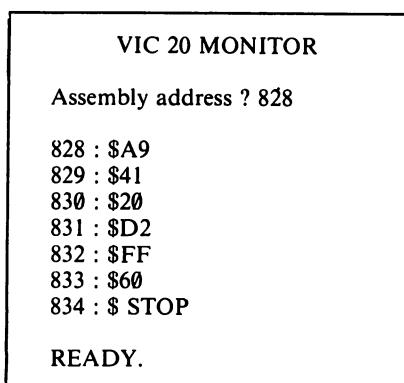


Figure 5.3 A typical monitor run.

result of a typical monitor run. Once entered the machine code can be tested using a SYS call to the address of the first byte of machine code.

Entering the above sequence of hex numbers and typing SYS 828 will print an 'A' on the screen.

## CALLING MACHINE CODE

To execute a machine code program the BASIC statement 'SYS' is used. To tell the BASIC interpreter just where the machine code is located, the SYS statement must be followed by a label or an address. So, to execute the machine code generated by the assembly language program type in either:

SYS CODE

which is the label name which marks the start of the assembly language program, or:

SYS 828

which is the start address of the machine code itself.

## GETTING IT TAPED

It is a very good idea, as a matter of routine, to get into the habit of saving your machine code programs on tape *before* you actually RUN them. This may seem a bit back to front because you normally would not do this in BASIC until you had RUN, tested and debugged the program. The trouble with running a machine code program for the first time, though, is that if it does contain any bugs it could cause the VIC 20 to 'hang-up', and the only way out of this is to switch the micro off and then back on, and start all over again. If your machine code does fail in this way, and you've saved it on tape, all you have to do is to reLOAD it and swat the bug out! If your program does 'hang-up' then try hitting the RESTORE and RUN/STOP key together; this will often return you to the safety of BASIC.

Once the program is fully debugged it is possible to save just the machine code if so required. We shall look at how to do this in Chapter 11.

## THE KERNEL

Supplied pre-packed within every VIC 20 micro is a set of machine code routines which are available for use from within machine code programs. These routines belong to a part of the Operating System called the Kernel. There are 36 routines in total, but for the present we need only concern ourselves with the more commonly used ones which are summarized in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1

Routine	Address	Operation
CHRIN	65487 (\$FFCF)	Input character from channel
CHROUT	65490 (\$FFD2)	Output character to channel
GETIN	65508 (\$FFE4)	Get character from keyboard queue
SCNKEY	65439 (\$FF9F)	Scan keyboard
STOP	65505 (\$FFE1)	Scan STOP key

We have already used the CHROUT routine several times to write the character in the accumulator to the screen. The instruction takes the form JSR 65490; the mnemonic 'JSR' simply tells the 6502 microprocessor to jump to the address given, and then come back here when finished. This is known as a 'subroutine'—which we shall look at in detail in Chapter 13.

# 6 Status Symbols

## THE STATUS REGISTER

The Status register is unlike the various 'other' registers of the 6502. When using it, we are not really concerned with the actual hex value it contains, but more with the condition or state of its individual bits. These individual bits are used to denote or *flag* certain conditions as and when they occur during the course of a program. Of the register's eight bits, only seven are in use—the remaining bit (bit 5) is permanently set. (In other words it always contains a 1.)

Figure 6.1 shows the position of the various flags, each of which is now described in detail.

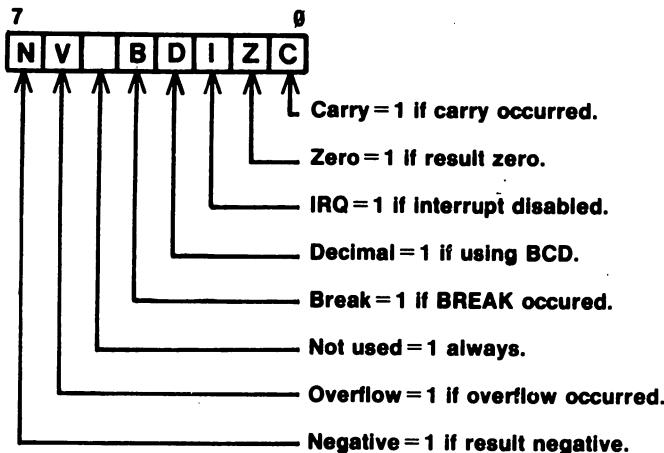


Figure 6.1 Status register flags.

### Bit 7: The Negative flag (N)

In signed binary, the Negative flag is used to determine the sign of a number. If the flag is set ( $N = 1$ ) the result is negative. If the flag is clear ( $N = 0$ ) the result is positive.

However a whole host of other instructions condition this particular flag, including all the arithmetic and logical instructions. In general, the most significant bit of the result of an operation is copied directly into the N flag.

Consider the following two operations:

LDA #\$80 \ load accumulator with \$80

This will set the Negative flag ( $N = 1$ ) because  $\$80 = 10000000$  in binary. Alternatively:

LDA #\$7F \ load accumulator with \$7F

will clear the Negative flag ( $N = 0$ ) because  $\$7F = 01111111$  in binary. There are two instructions which act on the state of the  $N$  flag—these are:

BMI Branch on minus ( $N = 1$ )

BPL Branch on plus ( $N = 0$ )

More on these later.

#### Bit 6: The Overflow flag (V)

This flag is probably the least used of all the Status register flags. It is used to indicate if a carry occurred from bit 6 during an addition, or if a borrow occurred to bit 6 in a subtraction. If either of these events took place the flag is set ( $V = 1$ ).

Look at the following two examples:

First,  $\$09 + \$07$ :

$$\begin{array}{r} (\$09) & 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1 \\ (\$07) & + 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 1 \\ \hline (\$10) & 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \end{array}$$

↑ No overflow from bit 6 therefore  $V = 0$ .

Second,  $\$7F + \$01$ :

$$\begin{array}{r} (\$7F) & 0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1 \\ (\$01) & + 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1 \\ \hline (\$80) & 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \end{array}$$

↑ Overflow has occurred from bit 6 therefore  $V = 1$ .

If we were using signed binary this addition would give a result of  $-128$ , which is of course incorrect. However this fact is flagged and so the result can be corrected as required.

#### Bit 5

This bit is not used and is permanently set.

#### Bit 4: The Break flag (B)

This flag is set whenever a BREAK occurs, otherwise it will remain clear. This may seem a bit odd at first, because surely we will know when a BREAK occurs. However, it is possible to generate a BREAK externally by something called an *Interrupt*, and this flag is used to help distinguish between these 'BREAKs'.

#### Bit 3: The Decimal flag (D)

This flag tells the processor just what type of arithmetic is being used. If it is cleared (by CLD), as is usual, then normal hexadecimal operation occurs. If set (by SED) all values will be interpreted as Binary Coded Decimal.

#### Bit 2: The Interrupt flag (I)

We mentioned interrupts above in the description of the Break flag, and they will be looked at in more detail in Chapter 22. Suffice to say now, that the flag is set ( $I = 1$ ) when the IRQ interrupt is disabled, and is clear ( $I = 0$ ) when IRQ interrupts are permitted.

### **Bit 1: The Zero flag (Z)**

As its name implies, the flag is used to show whether or not the result of an operation is zero. If the result is zero the flag is set ( $Z = 1$ ), otherwise it is cleared ( $Z = 0$ ). It is true to say that the Zero flag is conditioned by the same instructions as the Negative flag. Executing:

**LDA #0** \ load accumulator with zero

will set the Zero flag ( $Z = 1$ ) but:

**LDX #\$FA** \ load X register with \$FA

will clear the Zero flag ( $Z = 0$ ).

### **Bit 0: The Carry flag (C)**

We have already seen that adding two bytes together can result in carries occurring from one bit to another. What happens if the carry is generated by the most significant bits of an addition?

For example, when adding \$FF + \$80:

$$\begin{array}{r} (\$FF) & 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1 \\ (\$80) & + 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline (\$7F) & (1)0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1 \end{array}$$

↑ Carry over from bits 7

the result is just too large for eight bits, an extra ninth bit is required. The Carry flag acts as this ninth bit.

If the Carry flag is clear at the start of an addition ( $C = 0$ ) and set on completion ( $C = 1$ ) the result is greater than 255. It follows that if the flag is set ( $C = 1$ ) before a subtraction and clear on completion ( $C = 0$ ), the value being subtracted was larger than the original value. Two instructions are available for direct use on the Carry flag:

**CLC** Clear Carry flag ( $C = 0$ )

**SEC** Set Carry flag ( $C = 1$ )

Two instructions are also provided to act on the condition of the Carry flag.

**BCC** Branch on Carry clear ( $C = 0$ )

**BCS** Branch on Carry set ( $C = 1$ )

# 7 Addressing Modes I

The 6502 has quite a small instruction set when compared with some of its fellow microprocessors—in fact it has a basic clique of just 56 instructions. However, many of these can be used in a variety of ways, which effectively increases the range of operations to 152. The way in which these instructions are interpreted is determined by the *addressing mode* used. The following examples are in hex format.

Addressing mode	Mnemonic example	Opcode	Operand(s)
Immediate	LDA #255	A9	FF
Zero page	LDA \$FB	A5	FB
Zero page indexed	LDA \$FB, X	B5	FB
Absolute	LDA \$CD00	AD	00 CD
Indirect pre-indexed	LDA (\$FB, X)	A1	FB
Indirect post-indexed	LDA (\$FB), Y	B1	FB
Absolute indexed	LDA \$CD00, X	BD	00 CD

All seven of these instructions load the accumulator—but in each case the data loaded is obtained from a different source as defined by the opcode. This, as you may have noticed, is different in each case.

For the time being we shall only look at the first two of these addressing modes, immediate and zero page, both of which we have used several times already.

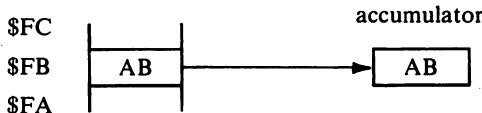
## ZERO PAGE ADDRESSING

Zero page addressing is used to specify an address in the first 256 bytes of RAM where data which has to be loaded into a specified register may be located. Because the high byte of the address is always \$00 it is omitted, and therefore the instruction and address require just two bytes of memory.

*Operation:* DATA \$A5, \$FB

LDA \$FB      

A5	FB
----	----



In the example, LDA \$FB, the contents of location \$FB (in this case \$AB) are loaded into the accumulator.

The use of zero page needs some care as this area is used by the BASIC interpreter as a scratchpad for storing addresses and performing calculations. However, Commodore have kept a few bytes clear for us to use as we please. These bytes are located between 251 (\$00FB) and 254 (\$FE) inclusive, and are of great importance as we shall see later on. The instructions associated with zero page addressing are shown in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1

Zero page addressing instructions			
ADC	Add with carry	LDX	Load X register
AND	Logical AND	LDY	Load Y register
ASL	Arithmetic shift left	LSR	Logical shift right
BIT	Bit test	ORA	Logical OR
CMP	Compare accumulator	ROL	Rotate left
CPX	Compare X register	ROR	Rotate right
CPY	Compare Y register	SBC	Subtract with carry
DEC	Decrement memory	STA	Store accumulator
EOR	Logical EOR	STX	Store X register
INC	Increment memory	STY	Store Y register
LDA	Load accumulator		

## IMMEDIATE ADDRESSING

This form of addressing is used to load the accumulator or the index registers with a specific value which is known at the time of writing the program. The 6502 knows from the opcode that the byte following is in actual fact data and not an address. However, to remind us of the fact, and to assist us when we are writing the initial assembler, we can precede the data byte with a hash sign, '#' (this shares the '3' key on the VIC's keyboard). Only single byte values can be specified because the register size is limited to just eight bits.

If we wish our machine code program to load the accumulator with 255, we can include the following two-byte sequence in our program:

DATA 169, 255 : REM \$A9, \$FF — LDA #\$FF

where 169 (\$A9) is the 'load the accumulator immediate' code.

Similarly, the X and Y registers can be loaded immediately with:

DATA 162,65 : REM \$A2, \$41 — LDX #ASC("A")

DATA 160,7 : REM \$A0, \$07 — LDY #\$07

Where 162(\$A2) and 160(\$A0) are the immediate codes for loading the X and Y registers, and 65(\$41) is the ASCII code for the letter A.

*Operation:*

LDA #\$FF

A9	FF
----	----

Accumulator

FF
----

Program 5 uses both zero page and immediate addressing to place an exclamation mark on the screen.

### Program 5

```
10 REM ** ZERO PAGE AND IMMEDIATE ADDRESSING * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 9
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 162,33      : REM $A2, $21    — LDX #ASC“!”
100 DATA 134,251     : REM $86, $FB    — STX $FB
110 DATA 165,251     : REM $A5, $FB    — LDA $FB
120 DATA 32,210,255   : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
130 DATA 96          : REM $60        — RTS
140
150 SYS CODE
```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

- Line 20 Assemble in cassette buffer.
- Lines 30-60 READ and POKE machine code.
- Line 90 Load X register with ASCII code for ‘!’.
- Line 100 Store X register contents in location \$FB.
- Line 110 Load accumulator with contents of location \$FB.
- Line 120 Jump to subroutine to print accumulator’s contents.
- Line 130 Return to BASIC.
- Line 150 Call machine code.

# 8 Bits and Bytes

## LOAD, STORE AND TRANSFER

To enable memory and register contents to be altered and manipulated, three sets of instructions are provided.

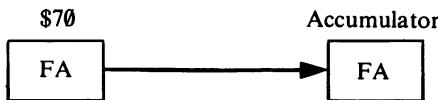
### Load instructions

The process of placing memory contents into a register is known as *loading*, some examples of which we have already seen. To recap however, these are the three load instructions:

- LDA Load accumulator
- LDX Load X register
- LDY Load Y register

All of these instructions may be used with immediate addressing, but when dealing with memory locations, it is more correct to say that the contents of the specified address are *copied* into the particular register, as the source location is not altered in any way.

For example, with LDA \$70, the contents of location \$70 (in this case FA) are copied into the accumulator, location \$70 is not altered:



The Negative and Zero flags of the Status register are conditioned by the load operation.

### Store instructions

The reverse process of placing a register's contents into a memory location, is known as *storing*. There are three store instructions:

- STA Store accumulator
- STX Store X register
- STY Store Y register

The register value is unaltered and no flags are conditioned.

*Example:*

LDA #0  
STA \$1500



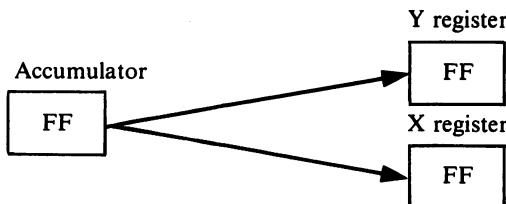
### Transfer instructions

Instructions are provided to allow the contents of one register to be copied into another—this is known as *transferring*. The Negative and Zero flags are conditioned according to the data being transferred. There are four instructions controlling transfers between the index registers and the accumulator.

TXA	Transfer X register to accumulator
TAX	Transfer accumulator to X register
TYA	Transfer Y register to accumulator
TAY	Transfer accumulator to Y register

*Example:*

LDA #\$FF  
TAY  
TAX



Unfortunately, you cannot transfer directly between the X and Y registers, you have to use the accumulator as an intermediate store.

YTOX	TYA	\ Y into accumulator
	TAX	\ accumulator into X

Similarly:

XTOY	TXA	\ X into accumulator
	TAY	\ accumulator into Y

This form of single byte operation is known as *implied addressing* because the information is contained within the instruction itself.

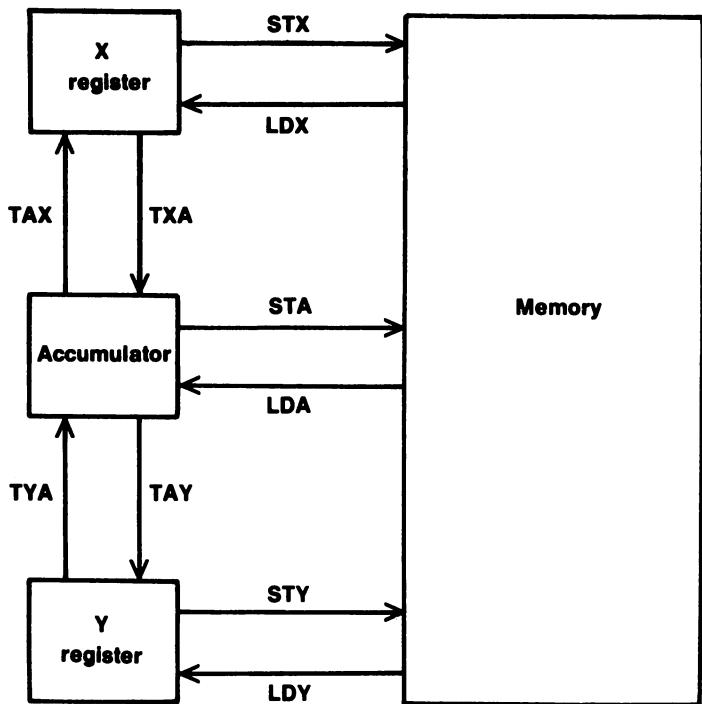


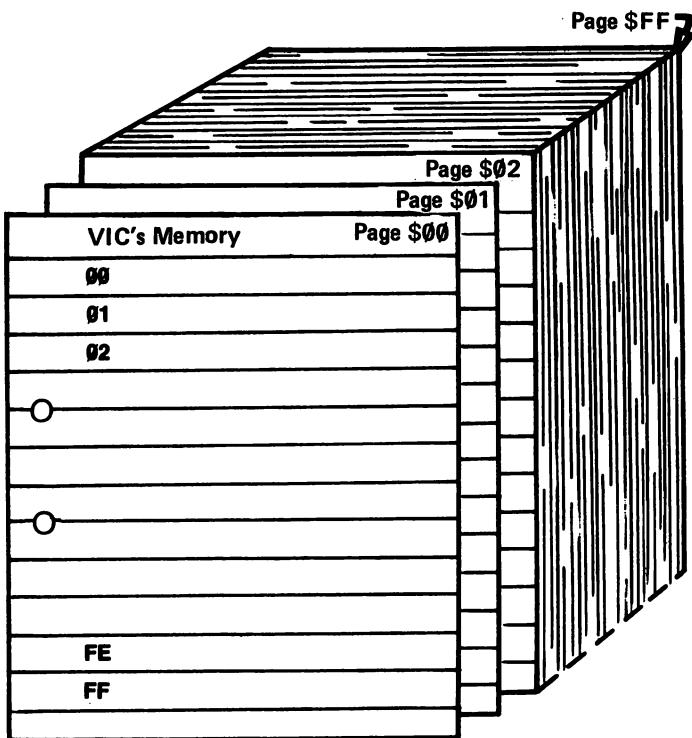
Figure 8.1 Load, store and transfer instruction flow.

## PAGING MEMORY

We have seen that the Program Counter consists of two eight bit registers, giving a total of 16 bits. If all these bits are set, 11111111 11111111, the value obtained is 65536 or \$FFFF. Therefore the maximum addressing range of the 6502 is \$0000 through to \$FFFF. This range of addresses is implemented as a series of *pages* and the page number is given by the contents of PCH. It follows that PCL holds the address of the location on that particular page.

As Figure 8.2 illustrates, each page of memory can be likened to a page of a book. This book, called 'VIC's Memory', has 256 pages labelled in hex format from \$00 to \$FF. Each individual page is ruled into 256 lines which in turn are labelled (from top to bottom) \$00 to \$FF.

Thus the address \$FFFF refers to line \$FF on page \$FF, the very last location in the VIC's memory map! Unlike conventional books, 'VIC's Memory' begins with page \$00 which is known more affectionately as *zero page*. Owing to the 6502's design zero page is very important, as we shall see when we take a further look at addressing modes in the next chapter.



*Figure 8.2 Pages of 'VIC's Memory'.*

Although we have referred to the VIC's memory map as a series of pages, it is more frequently talked of in terms of 'K'. The term 'K' is short for kilo, but unlike its metric counterpart, one kilo of memory, or a kilobyte, consists of 1024 bytes and not 1000 bytes. This slightly higher value is chosen because it is divisible by 256 and corresponds to exactly four pages of memory ( $4 \times 256 = 1024$ ). The total memory map therefore encompasses 64K because  $65536/1024 = 64$ !

# 9 Arithmetic in Assembler

We can now put some of the basic principles we have encountered in the opening chapters to some more serious use—the addition and subtraction of numbers. These two procedures are fundamental to assembly language and will generally find their way into most programs.

## ADDITION

Two instructions facilitate addition, they are:

CLC      Clear Carry flag  
ADC      Add with carry

The first of these instructions, CLC, simply clears the Carry flag ( $C = 0$ ). This will generally be performed at the very onset of addition, because the actual addition instruction, ADC, produces the sum of the accumulator, the memory byte referenced and the Carry flag. The reason for doing this will become clearer after we have looked at some simple addition programs. Enter Program 6.

### Program 6

```
10 REM ** SIMPLE ADD **  
20 CODE = 828  
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 7  
40      READ BYTE  
50      POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
60      NEXT LOOP  
70  
80 REM ** M/C DATA **  
90 DATA 24            : REM $18            — CLC  
100 DATA 169,7        : REM $A9, $07      — LDA #$07  
110 DATA 105,3        : REM $69, $03      — ADC #$03  
120 DATA 133,251      : REM $85, $FB      — STA $FB  
130 DATA 96            : REM $60            — RTS  
140
```

150 SYS CODE

160 PRINT "ANSWER IS : ";

170 PRINT PEEK(251)

As you can see, this program loads 7 into the accumulator using immediate addressing. Immediate addressing is used again in line 110 to add 3 to the accumulator value. The result, which is in the accumulator, is then stored at location 251. Line 150 executes the assembled machine code, and the result (if you're quick with your fingers you'll know its 10!) is printed out. RUN the program to see its effect then try substituting your own values in lines 100 and 110.

Re-type line 90 thus:

90 DATA 56 : REM \$38 — SEC

As you probably realize, the Carry flag will now be set ( $C = 1$ ) when the program is next executed. Reset lines 100 and 110 (if you have altered them), and RUN the program again. The result is now 11. The reason being that the Carry flag's value is taken into consideration during ADC (add with carry) and this time its value is 1.

	Accumulator	+	memory	+	carry	=	result
CLC	7	+	3	+	0	=	10
SEC	7	+	3	+	1	=	11

Again you might like to try your own immediate values—you'll find the result is always one greater than expected.

This program is quite wasteful both in terms of memory used and time taken for execution. If we know the values to be added together beforehand, then it is more efficient to add them together first. The machine code part of the program can then be incorporated into just two lines:

LDA #10 \ place 10 (7 + 3) into accumulator

STA \$FB \ store accumulator

Program 7 is a general purpose single byte addition program.

### Program 7

10 REM \*\* SINGLE BYTE ADD \*\*

20 CODE = 828

30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 7

40 READ BYTE

50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE

60 NEXT LOOP

70

80 REM \*\* M/C DATA \*\*

90 DATA 24 : REM \$18 — CLC

100 DATA 165,251 : REM \$A5, \$FB — LDA \$FB

110 DATA 101,252 : REM \$65, \$FC — ADC \$FC

120 DATA 133,253 : REM \$85, \$FD — STA \$FD

130 DATA 96 : REM \$60 — RTS

140

```
150 PRINT CHR$(147)
160 PRINT "SINGLE BYTE ADD DEMO"
170 PRINT : PRINT
180 INPUT "FIRST NUMBER";A
190 INPUT "SECOND NUMBER";B
200 POKE 251, A : POKE 252, B
210 SYS CODE
220 PRINT "ANSWER IS :";
230 PRINT PEEK(253)
```

RUN the program a few times entering low numerical values in response to the program's prompts.

Now enter 128 and 128 as your inputs. The result is 0, why? The reason is that the answer, 256, is too big to be held in a single byte:

$$\begin{array}{r} 128 \\ + 128 \\ \hline 256 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \$80 \\ + \$80 \\ \hline \$100 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \\ + 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline (1)0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \end{array}$$

and as can be seen, a carry has been produced by the bit overflow from adding the two most significant bits. As the Carry flag was initially cleared before the addition, it will now be set, signalling the fact that the result is too large for a single byte.

This principle is used when summing multibyte numbers, and is illustrated by Program 8 which adds two double byte numbers.

### Program 8

```
10 REM ** DOUBLE BYTE ADD **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 13
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 24 : REM $18      — CLC
100 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB   — LDA $FB
110 DATA 101,253 : REM $65, $FD   — ADC $FD
120 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB   — STA $FB
130 DATA 165,252 : REM $A5, $FC   — LDA $FC
140 DATA 101,254 : REM $65, $FE   — ADC $FE
150 DATA 133,252 : REM $85, $FC   — STA $FC
160 DATA 96 : REM $60      — RTS
170
180 PRINT CHR$(147)
```

```

190 PRINT "DOUBLE BYTE ADD DEMO"
200 PRINT : PRINT
210 INPUT "FIRST NUMBER";A
220 REM CALCULATE HIGH AND LOW BYTE
230 AH = INT(A/256)
240 AL = A - (AH * 256)
250 INPUT "SECOND NUMBER";B
260 REM CALCULATE HIGH AND LOW BYTE
270 BH = INT(B/256)
280 BL = B - (BH * 256)
290 POKE 251, AL : POKE 252, AH
300 POKE 253, BL : POKE 254, BH
310 SYS CODE
320 LOW = PEEK(251) : HIGH = PEEK(252)
330 RESULT = HIGH * 256 + LOW
340 PRINT "ANSWER IS :";
350 PRINT RESULT

```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

Line 20	Assemble code in cassette buffer.
Lines 30-60	READ and POKE machine code data.
Line 90	Clear Carry flag.
Line 100	Get low byte of first number, AL.
Line 110	Add it to low byte of second number, BL.
Line 120	Store low byte of result.
Line 130	Get high byte of first number, AH.
Line 140	Add it to high byte of second number, BH.
Line 150	Store high byte of result.
Line 160	Return to BASIC.
Lines 180-190	Clear screen and print title.
Line 210	Input first number.
Line 230	Calculate high byte value of A.
Line 240	Calculate low byte value of A.
Line 250	Input second number.
Line 270	Calculate high byte value of B.
Line 280	Calculate low byte value of B.
Lines 290-300	POKE high and low byte values of A, B into memory.
Line 310	Execute machine code.
Line 320	Get low and high bytes of the result.
Line 330	Calculate result.
Lines 340-350	Print result.

This routine will produce correct results for any two numbers whose sum is not greater than 65536 (\$FFFF) which is the highest numerical value that can be held in two bytes of memory.

Note that the Carry flag is cleared at the onset of the machine code itself. If any carry should occur when adding the two low bytes together, it will be transferred over to the addition of the two high bytes.

## SUBTRACTION

The two associated instructions are:

- SEC Set Carry flag
- SBC Subtract, borrowing carry

The operation of subtracting one number from another (or finding their difference) is the reverse of that used in the preceding addition examples. Firstly the Carry flag is set ( $C = 1$ ) with SEC, and then the specified value is subtracted from the accumulator using SBC. The result of the subtraction is returned in the accumulator.

The following program performs a single byte subtraction:

### Program 9

```
10 REM ** SIMPLE SUBTRACTION **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 7
40     READ BYTE
50     POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 56      : REM $38      — SEC
100 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB — LDA $FB
110 DATA 229,252 : REM $E5, $FC — SBC $FC
120 DATA 133,253 : REM $85, $FD — STA $FD
130 DATA 96      : REM $60      — RTS
140
150 PRINT CHR$(147)
160 INPUT "HIGHEST NUMBER";A
170 INPUT "LOWEST NUMBER";B
180 POKE 251, A : POKE 252, B
190 SYS CODE
200 PRINT "ANSWER IS ";
210 PRINT PEEK(253)
```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

- Lines 20–60 Assemble machine code.
- Line 90 Set Carry flag.
- Line 100 Load high number into the accumulator.
- Line 110 Subtract contents of \$FC from it.
- Line 120 Save result in \$FD.
- Line 130 Back to BASIC.
- Lines 160–170 Get two values.
- Line 180 POKE them into zero page.
- Line 190 Call machine code.
- Lines 200–210 Print the answer.

RUN the program and input your own values to see the results.

You may well be wondering why the Carry flag is set before a subtraction rather than cleared. Referring back to Chapter 3, you will recall that the subtraction there was performed by adding the two's complement value. This is found by first inverting all the bits to obtain the one's complement, and then adding 1. The 6502 obtained the 1 to be added to the one's complement form, from the Carry flag. Thus we can say:

1. If the Carry flag is set after SBC, the result is positive or zero.
2. If the Carry flag is clear after SBC, the result is negative and a borrow has occurred.

Try changing line 90 to DATA 24 : REM \$18—CLC and re-RUN the program. Now your results are one less than expected—the reason being that the two's complement was never obtained by the 6502, because only a '0' was available in the Carry flag to be added to the one's complement value.

To subtract double byte numbers the Carry flag is set at the entry to the routine, and the relative bytes are subtracted and stored. The resulting program looks something like this:

### Program 10

```
10  REM * * DOUBLE BYTE SUBTRACTION * *
20  CODE = 828
30  FOR LOOP = 0 TO 13
40      READ BYTE
50      POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60  NEXT LOOP
70
80  REM * * M/C DATA * *
90  DATA 56      : REM $38          — SEC
100 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB    — LDA $FB
110 DATA 229,253 : REM $E5, $FD    — SBC $FD
120 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB    — STA $FB
130 DATA 165,252 : REM $A5, $FC    — LDA $FC
140 DATA 229,254 : REM $E5, $FE    — SBC $FE
150 DATA 133,252 : REM $85, $FC    — STA $FC
160 DATA 96       : REM $60          — RTS
170
180 PRINT CHR$(147)
190 INPUT "HIGHEST NUMBER";A
200 INPUT "LOWEST NUMBER";B
210 REM CALCULATE HIGH AND LOW BYTES
220 AH = INT(A / 256)
230 AL = A - (AH * 256)
240 BH = INT(B / 256)
250 BL = B - (BH * 256)
260 POKE 251, AL : POKE 252, AH
270 POKE 253, BL : POKE 254, BH
```

```

280  SYS CODE
290  LOW = PEEK(251) : HIGH = PEEK(252)
300  RESULT = HIGH * 256 + LOW
310  PRINT "ANSWER IS ";
320  PRINT RESULT

```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

Lines 20-60	Assemble machine code.
Line 90	Set the Carry flag.
Line 100	Load low byte of high number into accumulator.
Line 110	Subtract low byte of low number from it.
Line 120	Save low byte of result in \$FB.
Line 130	Load high byte of high number into accumulator.
Line 140	Subtract high byte of low number from it.
Line 150	Save high byte of result in \$FC.
Line 160	Back to BASIC.
Lines 180-200	Get two numbers.
Lines 220-270	Calculate and store high and low bytes.
Line 280	Call machine code.
Lines 290-300	Calculate final result.
Lines 310-320	Print the answer.

## NEGATION

The SBC instruction can be used to convert a number into its two's complement form. This is done by subtracting the number to be converted, from zero. The following program asks for a decimal value (less than 255) and prints its two's complement value in hex:

### Program 11

```

10  REM ** TWO'S COMPLEMENT CONVERTER **
20  CODE = 828
30  FOR LOOP = 0 TO 7
40  READ BYTE
50  POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60  NEXT LOOP
70
80  REM ** M/C DATA **
90  DATA 56      : REM $38      — SEC
100 DATA 169,0   : REM $A9, $00 — LDA #0
110 DATA 229,251 : REM $E5, $FB — SBC $FB
120 DATA 133,252 : REM $85, $FC — STA $FC
130 DATA 96      : REM $60      — RTS
140
150 PRINT CHR$(147)
160 INPUT "NUMBER";A
170 IF A > 255 THEN PRINT "ERROR" : GOTO 160

```

**180 POKE 251, A**  
**190 SYS CODE**  
**200 PRINT "THE TWO'S COMPLEMENT VALUE IS :";**  
**210 PRINT PEEK(252)**

The meaning of each line is as follows:

Lines 20-60	Assemble machine code.
Line 90	Set the Carry flag.
Line 100	Load accumulator with 0.
Line 110	Subtract the contents of \$FB from it.
Line 120	Save result in \$FC.
Line 130	Back to BASIC.
Lines 150-160	Get number.
Line 170	Make sure it's less than 256.
Line 180	POKE number into \$FB.
Line 190	Execute machine code.
Line 200-210	Print result.

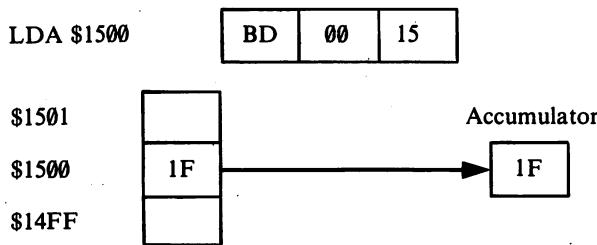
# 10 Addressing Modes II

Let us now take a second look at addressing modes. In the previous chapters we have seen how data can be obtained directly by an instruction using *immediate* addressing, or indirectly from a location in zero page using *zero page* addressing. We shall now see how two byte address locations can be accessed both directly and indirectly (through the all important zero page), and how whole blocks of memory can be manipulated using *indexed* addressing.

## ABSOLUTE ADDRESSING

Absolute addressing works in exactly the same manner as zero page addressing, but it covers all memory locations outside zero page. The mnemonic is followed by two bytes which specify the address of the memory location (which can be anywhere in the range \$100 to \$FFFF).

### Operation



As can be seen above, the operation code is followed by the address which, as always, is stored in reverse order low byte first. The contents of location \$1500 are copied into the accumulator when the instruction is executed.

Program 12 uses absolute addressing to place a red B on to the screen; note that it is not printed but stored into screen memory.

### Program 12

```
10 REM * * ABSOLUTE ADDRESSING * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 8
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
```

```

80 REM * * M/C DATA *
90 DATA 169,2      : REM $A9, $02      — LDA #$02
100 DATA 141,0,30   : REM $8D, $08, $1E   — STA 7680
110 DATA 141,0,150  : REM $8D, $96, $00   — STA 38400
120 DATA 96        : REM $60          — RTS
130
140 PRINT CHR$ (147)
150 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT
160 SYS CODE

```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

- Lines 20–60 Assemble machine code.
- Line 90 Load accumulator with display code for 'B' and colour code red.
- Line 100 Store B into screen memory.
- Line 110 Store red code into colour memory.
- Line 120 Back to BASIC.
- Lines 140–150 Clear screen and move cursor down.
- Line 160 Execute machine code.

The complete list of instructions associated with absolute addressing is shown in Table 10.1.

**Table 10.1**

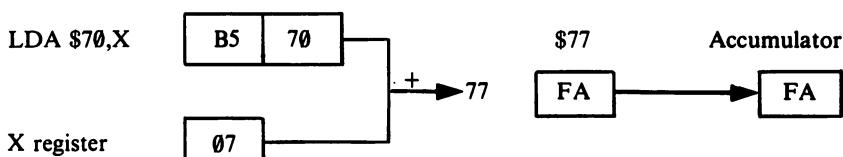
#### Absolute addressing instructions

ADC	Add with carry	LDA	Load accumulator
AND	Logical AND	LDX	Load X register
ASL	Arithmetic shift left	LDY	Load Y register
BIT	Bit test	LSR	Logical shift right
CMP	Compare accumulator	ORA	Logical OR
CPX	Compare X register	ROL	Rotate left
CPY	Compare Y register	ROR	Rotate right
DEC	Decrement memory	SBC	Subtract with carry
EOR	Logical EOR	STA	Store accumulator
INC	Increment memory	STX	Store X register
JMP	Jump	STY	Store Y register
JSR	Jump, save return		

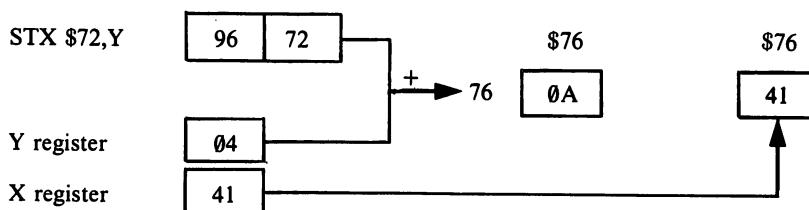
## ZERO PAGE INDEXED ADDRESSING

In zero page indexed addressing, the actual address of the operand is calculated by adding the contents of either the X or Y register to the zero page address stated.

*Operation:*



The X register in this instance contains \$07. This is added to the specified address, \$70, to give the actual address, \$77. The contents of location \$77 (in this case FA) are then loaded into the accumulator. Similarly:



Here the Y register is used as an index to allow the contents of the X register to be stored in memory location \$76. This address was obtained by adding the Y register's value, \$04, to the specified value, \$72. The original contents of location \$76 (0A) are overwritten.

*Note* the Y register can *only* be used to operate on the X register with instructions such as LDX \$FB, Y. The instructions associated with zero page indexing are listed in Table 10.2.

**Table 10.2**

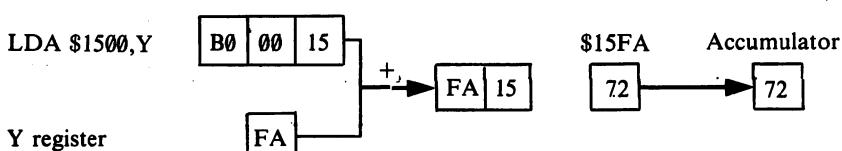
Zero page indexed addressing instructions			
ADC	Add with carry	LDY	Load Y register
AND	Logical AND	LSR	Logical shift right
ASL	Arithmetic shift left	ORA	Logical OR
CMP	Compare	ROL	Rotate left
DEC	Decrement memory	ROR	Rotate right
EOR	Logical EOR	SBC	Subtract with carry
INC	Increment memory	STA	Store accumulator
LDA	Load accumulator	*STX	Store X register
*LDX	Load X register	STY	Store Y register

The \* indicates the only commands which can use the Y register as an index. All other commands are for X register only.

## ABSOLUTE INDEXED ADDRESSING

Absolute indexed addressing is like zero page indexed addressing except that the locations accessed are outside zero page. The X and Y registers may be used as required to operate with the accumulator, or each other.

*Operation:*



The Y register's contents (\$FA) are added to the two byte address (\$1500) to give effective address (\$15FA).

The following program demonstrates how absolute indexed addressing can be used to move a section of screen memory from one location to another.

### Program 13

```
10 REM ** ABSOLUTE INDEXED ADDRESSING * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 21
40     READ BYTE
50     POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 162,32      : REM $A2, $20      — LDX #$20
100 DATA 189,0,30    : REM $BD, $00, $1E   — LDA 7680, X
110 DATA 157,74,31   : REM $9D, $4A, $1F   — STA 8010, X
120 DATA 202         : REM $CA          — DEX
130 DATA 208,247    : REM $D0, $F7      — BNE -9
140 DATA 169,0       : REM $A9, $00      — LDA #$00
150 DATA 162,32      : REM $A2, $20      — LDX #$20
160 DATA 157,74,151  : REM $9D, $4A, $97   — STA 38730, X
170 DATA 202         : REM $CA          — DEX
180 DATA 208,250    : REM $D0, $FA      — BNE -5
190 DATA 96          : REM $60          — RTS
200
210 PRINT CHR$(147);
220 PRINT "ABSOLUTE INDEXED ADDR"
230 GET A$
240 IF A$ = " " THEN GOTO 230
250 SYS CODE
```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Lines 20–60   | Assemble machine code.                               |
| Line 90       | Set X register count.                                |
| Line 100      | Load accumulator with contents of location 7680 + X. |
| Line 110      | Store accumulator's contents at 8010 + X.            |
| Line 120      | Decrement X register.                                |
| Line 130      | IF X <> 0 then go back.                              |
| Line 140      | Load accumulator with 0 (black colour code).         |
| Line 150      | Set X register count.                                |
| Line 160      | Store code in colour memory, 38730 + X.              |
| Line 170      | Decrement X register.                                |
| Line 180      | IF X <> 0 then go back.                              |
| Line 190      | Back to BASIC.                                       |
| Lines 210–220 | Clear screen and print title.                        |
| Lines 230–240 | Wait for a key to be pressed.                        |
| Line 250      | Execute machine code.                                |

When RUN, the message of line 220 is printed on to the screen. The program then waits for a key to be pressed before calling the machine code. The X register acts as the offset counter and is initialized in line 90. The byte at location 7680 + X is loaded into the accumulator, and then stored back into screen memory at 8010 + X; in both instances absolute indexed addressing is used. Two new instructions are introduced in lines 120 and 130 and these will be examined in the next couple of chapters. Briefly through, DEX decreases the contents of the X register by one, and BNE tests to see if the X register has reached zero. If X is not zero, the specified jump takes place, causing the load/store procedure to be repeated with the new value of X. Lines 150 to 180 work in a similar manner, storing the black colour code in the corresponding bytes of the colour memory. This, in effect, turns the letters 'on' so that they can be seen (see the *User Manual* for a description of this if you do not understand the procedure).

The instructions associated with absolute indexed addressing are shown in Table 10.3.

Table 10.3

Absolute indexed addressing instructions			
*ADC	Add with carry	**LDX	Load X register
*AND	Logical AND	LDY	Load Y register
ASL	Arithmetic shift left	LSR	Logical shift right
*CMP	Compare memory	*ORA	Logical OR
DEC	Decrement memory	ROL	Rotate left
*EOR	Logical exclusive OR	ROR	Rotate right
INC	Increment memory	*SBC	Subtract with carry
*LDA	Load accumulator	*STA	Store accumulator

Unmarked commands are available with X register as index only. Commands marked \* may use either register, whereas the one marked \*\* can only use the Y register.

## INDIRECT ADDRESSING

Indirect addressing allows us to read or write to a memory address which is not known at the time of writing the program! Crazy? Not really, the program itself may calculate the actual address to be handled. Alternatively, a program may contain within it several tables of data which are all to be manipulated in a similar manner. Rather than writing a separate routine for each, a general purpose one can be developed, with the address operand being 'seeded' on each occasion the routine is called.

Indirect addressing's beauty is that it enables the whole of the VIC's memory map to be accessed with a single two byte instruction. To distinguish indirect addressing from other addressing modes, the operands must be enclosed in brackets.

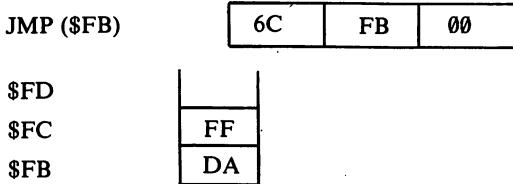
Pure indexed addressing is only available to one instruction—the jump instruction—which is mnemonically represented by JMP. We will look at JMP's function in more detail during the course of Chapter 13, but suffice to say for now that it is the 6502's equivalent of BASIC's GOTO statement. (Though it does of course jump to an address rather than a line number.)

A typical indirect jump instruction takes the form:

DATA 108, 251, 00 : REM \$6C, \$FB, \$00 — JMP (\$FB)

The address specified in the instruction is not the address jumped to, but is the address of the location where the jump address is stored. In other words, don't jump here but to the address stored here!

*Operation:*



From the operational example we can see that location \$FB contains the low byte of the address, and location \$FC the high byte. These two locations, which act as temporary stores for the address, are known as a *vector*. Executing JMP (\$FB) in this instance will cause the program to jump to the location \$FFFDA.

Program 14 illustrates the use of an indirect JMP to fill the screen with stars.

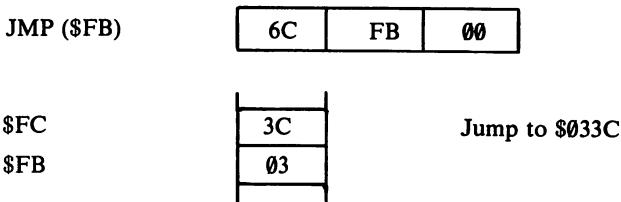
**Program 14**

```

10 REM * * INDIRECT JUMPING * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 15
40     READ BYTE
50     POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM * * M/C DATA * *
90 DATA 169,60    : REM $A9, $3C      — LDA = $3C
100 DATA 133,251   : REM $85, $FB      — STA $FB
110 DATA 169,3     : REM $A9, $03      — LDA #$03
120 DATA 133,252   : REM $85, $FC      — STA $FC
130 DATA 169,42    : REM $A9, $2A      — LDA #ASC“*”
140 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
150 DATA 108,251,0  : REM $6C, $FB, $00 — JMP ($FB)
160
170 SYS CODE

```

Lines 90 to 120 set up a vector in zero page. Two of the free user bytes are loaded with the assembly address of the machine code, 828 (\$033C) in this case. Line 130 places the ASCII code for the asterisk into the accumulator, and this is printed out using the Kernal routine at \$FFD2 (line 140). Finally the routine jumps back to the start via the zero page vector (line 150).

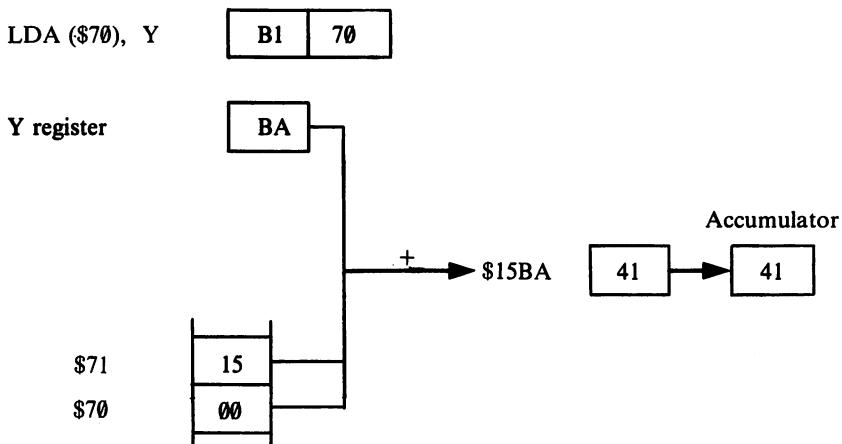


The program is now in a continuous loop and will carry on printing stars *ad infinitum*. Press RESTORE and RUN/STOP together to return to the prompt. The VIC 20 itself uses indirect addressing extensively. If you flip to page 000 you'll see a list of Kernal routines which, when called, perform indirect jumps into the depths of the Operating System via vectors in block zero RAM.

## POST-INDEXED INDIRECT ADDRESSING

Post-indexed addressing is a little like absolute indexed addressing, but in this case, the base address is stored in a zero page vector which is accessed indirectly.

*Operation:*



In the example above, the base address is stored in the vector at \$70 and \$71. The contents of the Y register (\$BA) are added to the address in the vector (\$1500) to give the actual address (\$15BA) of the data. It should be obvious that this form of indirect addressing allows access to a 256 byte range of locations. In the case above, any location from \$1500 and \$15FF is available by setting the Y register accordingly.

Program 15 uses post-indexed indirect addressing to move a line of screen memory from the upper to the lower half of the screen.

### Program 15

```

10 REM ** INDIRECT ADDRESSING **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 19
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 160,21      : REM $A0,$15      — LDY = $15

```

```

100 DATA 177,251 : REM $B1, $FB — LDA ($FB), Y
110 DATA 145,253 : REM $91, $FD — STA ($FD), Y
120 DATA 136 : REM $88 — DEY
130 DATA 208,249 : REM $D0, $F9 — BNE -7
140 DATA 162,21 : REM $A2, $15 — LDX #$15
150 DATA 169,0 : REM $A9, $00 — LDA #$00
160 DATA 157,74,151 : REM $9D, $4A, $97 — STA 38730, X
170 DATA 202 : REM $CA — DEX
180 DATA 208,250 : REM $D0, $FA — BNE -6
190 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
200
210 POKE 251,0: POKE 252,30 : REM SCREENTOP
220 POKE 253,74: POKE 254,31 : REM SCREENBOT
230 PRINT CHR$(147);
240 PRINT " INDIRECT INDEXED ADDR"
250 GET A$
260 IF A$ = " " THEN GOTO 250
270 SYS CODE

```

The program commences by assembling the machine code held in the data statements. Next, two vectors are created in zero page. The first (line 210) is POKEd with the address of the top left-hand corner of the screen (1024) and is called SCREENTOP. Similarly, in line 220, the next two locations are seeded to point to SCREENBOT (1544).

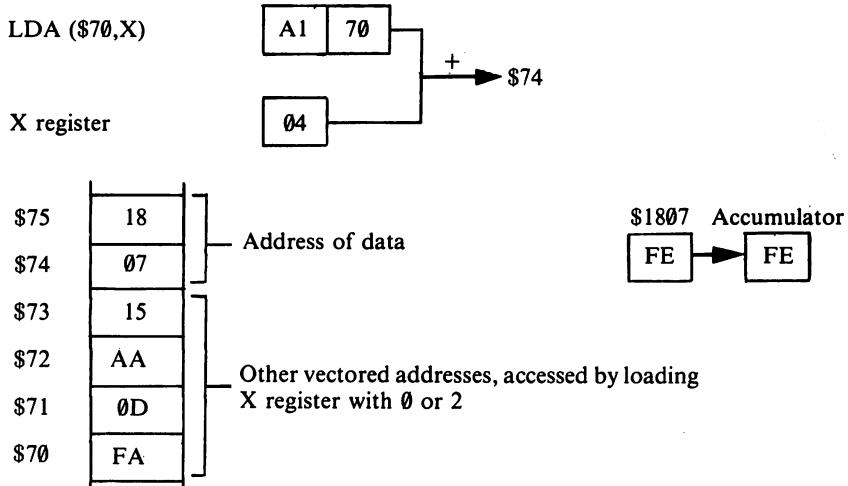
Once the program title has been printed and a key has been pressed, the machine code stored in the cassette buffer area is executed. The Y register is set to the text screen line length count (line 90), then using post-indexed indirect addressing, the byte stored at SCREENTOP + Y is loaded into the accumulator (line 100) and stored in screen memory at the location specified by SCREENBOT + Y (line 110). The Y register is decremented, thus allowing the next location to be accessed (line 120), and the process repeated until the Y register holds 0 (the BNE instruction in line 130 takes care of this, as we shall see in the next chapter).

The character codes for the title at the top of the screen are now stored in memory midway down the screen. To make them visible, the corresponding locations in the colour memory (from 38730) must be POKEd with the relevant colour code. This is taken care of in lines 140-190. Line 140 begins by initializing the X register to the line length, and the colour code is then loaded into the accumulator (line 150). Colour code '0' means that the text will appear black. Once again, the DEX and BNE (lines 180 and 190) are used to control the number of times this piece of code is repeated.

## PRE-INDEXED ABSOLUTE ADDRESSING

This addressing mode is used if we wish to indirectly access a whole series of absolute addresses which are stored in zero page.

*Operation:*



Here the contents of the X register (\$04) are added to the zero page address (\$70) to give the vector address (\$74). The two bytes here are then interpreted as the actual address of the data (\$1807).

Setting the X register to \$02 gives indirect access to the vector address \$15AA.

A list of instructions which can be used with pre- and post-indexed addressing is shown in Table 10.4.

Table 10.4

---

Pre- and post-indexed indirect addressing instructions

---

ADC	Add with carry
AND	Logical AND
CMP	Compare memory
EOR	Logical exclusive OR
LDA	Load accumulator
ORA	Logical OR
SBC	Subtract with carry
STA	Store accumulator

---

## IMPLIED AND RELATIVE ADDRESSING

Two other modes of addressing are available with the 6502 namely, *implied* addressing and *relative* addressing. We will be dealing with both of these addressing modes during the course of the next few chapters.

# 11 Stacks of Fun

## THE STACK

The stack is perhaps one of the more difficult aspects of the 6502 to understand, however it is well worth the time mastering as it lends itself to more efficient programming. Because of its importance the whole of *Page \$01* (that is memory locations \$100 through to \$1FF) is given over to its operation.

The stack is used as a temporary store for data and memory addresses that need to be remembered for use sometime later on during the program. For most purposes its operation is transparent to us. For example, when, during the course of a BASIC program a *GOSUB* is performed, the address of the next BASIC command or statement after it is placed onto the stack, so that the program knows where to return to on completion of the procedure. The process of placing values onto the stack is known as *pushing*, whilst retrieving the data is called *pulling*.

The stack has one important feature which must be understood—it is a *last in, first out* (LIFO) structure. What this means is that the last byte pushed onto the stack must be the first byte pulled from it.

A useful analogy to draw here is that of a train yard. Consider a small spur line, onto which trucks 1, 2 and 3 are pushed (see Figure 11.1). The first truck onto the line (truck 1) is at the very end of the line, truck 2, the second onto the line is in the middle, and the last truck (truck 3) is nearest the points.

**Truck 3 is last in and so will be first out.**

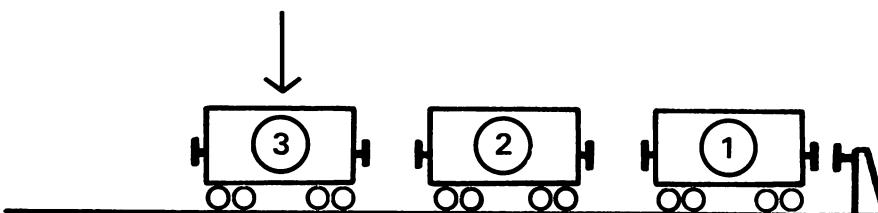


Figure 11.1 The stack—LIFO.

It should now be fairly obvious that the first truck to be pulled off the spur must be the last truck pushed onto it, that is, truck 3. Truck 2 will be the next to be pulled from the line, and the first truck in will be the last one out.

To help us keep track of our position on the stack, there is a further 6502 register called the *Stack Pointer*. Because the stack is a hardware item of the 6502, that is, it is actually ‘wired’ into it, the ‘page number’ of the stack (\$01) can be omitted from the address, and the Stack Pointer just points to the next free position in the stack.

When the VIC 20 is switched on (or a BREAK is performed) the Stack Pointer is loaded with the value \$FF—it points to the top of the stack—this means that the stack grows down the memory map rather than up as may be expected. Each time an item is pushed the Stack Pointer is decremented, and conversely, it is incremented when the stack is pulled.

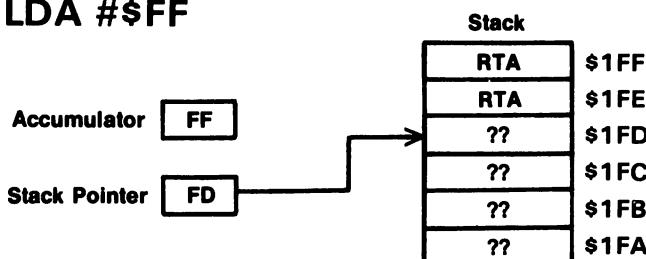
## STACK INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAVING DATA

The 6502 has four instructions that allow the accumulator and Status register to be pushed and pulled. They are:

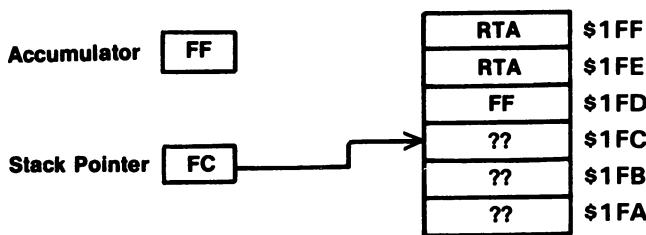
- PHA** Push accumulator onto stack
- PLA** Pull accumulator from stack
- PHP** Push Status register onto stack
- PLP** Pull Status register from stack

All four instructions use *implied* addressing and occupy only a single byte of memory.

### LDA #\$FF



### PHA



### LDA #\$00:PHA

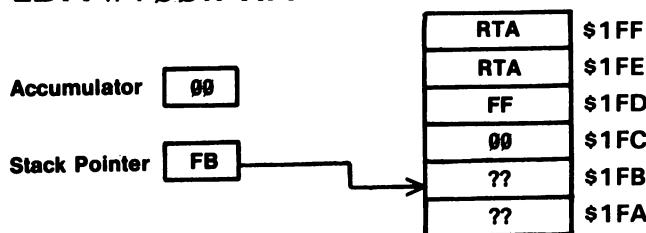


Figure 11.2 Pushing items on to the stack.

The PHA and PHP instructions work in a similar manner, but on different registers. In both cases the source register remains unaltered by the instruction. Again PLA and PLP are similar in operation, but PLA conditions only the Negative and Zero flags, while PLP of course conditions all the flags.

Consider the following sequence of instructions:

TWOPUSH LDA #\$FF	\ place \$FF in accumulator
PHA	\ push onto stack
LDA #\$00	\ place \$00 in accumulator
PHA	\ push onto stack

Figure 11.2 shows exactly what happens as this program is executed. The Stack Pointer (SP) at the start contains \$FD and points to the next free location in the stack. The first two stack locations \$FF and \$FE hold the two byte return address (RTA) to which the machine code will eventually pass control. (This may be the address of the next BASIC instruction if a call to machine code has been made.) The subsequent stack locations are at present undefined and are therefore represented as ??.

After the accumulator has been loaded with \$FF it is copied onto the stack by PHA. Note that the accumulator's contents are not affected by this operation. Once it has been pushed onto the stack, the Stack Pointer's value is decremented by one to point to the next free location in the stack (\$FC).

The accumulator is then loaded with \$00 and this is pushed on to the stack at location \$FC. The Stack Pointer is again decremented to the next free location (\$FB).

To remove these items from the stack the following could be used:

TWOPULL PLA	\ get \$00 from stack
STA TEMP	\ save it somewhere
PLA	\ get \$FF from stack
STA TEMP + 1	\ save it as well

Figure 11.3 illustrates what happens in this case. The first PLA will pull from the stack into the accumulator the last item pushed onto it, which in this example is \$00. The Stack Pointer is incremented, this time to point to the new 'next free location', \$FC. As you can see from the diagram the stack contents are not altered, but the \$00 will be overwritten if a further item is now pushed. The STA TEMP saves the accumulator value somewhere in memory so that it is not destroyed by the next PLA. This PLA restores the value \$FF into the accumulator, and again increments the Stack Pointer.

One thing should now be apparent—it is very important to remember the order in which items are pushed onto the stack, as they *must* be pulled in exactly the reverse order. If this process is not strictly adhered to then errors will certainly result, and could even cause your program to crash or hang-up!

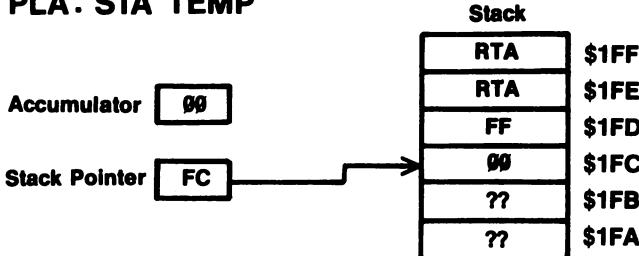
The following program shows how the stack can be used to save the contents of the various registers to be printed later. This is particularly useful for debugging those awkward programs that just will not work.

REGSAVE PHP	\ save Status register
PHA	\ save accumulator
TXA	\ transfer X into accumulator
PHA	\ save accumulator (X)
TYA	\ transfer Y into accumulator
PHA	\ save accumulator (Y)

It is important to save the registers in the order shown. The Status register should be saved first so that it will not be altered by the subsequent transfer instructions which could affect

the Negative and Zero flags, and the accumulator must be saved before its value is destroyed by either of the index register transfer operations.

### PLA: STA TEMP



### PLA: STA TEMP + 1

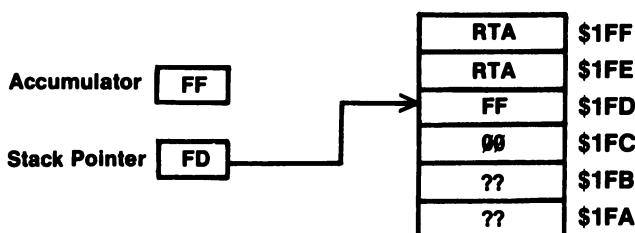


Figure 11.3 Pulling items from the stack.

If the registers' values had been saved to preserve them while another portion of the program was operating, we could retrieve them with:

PLA	\ pull accumulator (Y)
TAY	\ and transfer to Y register
PLA	\ pull accumulator (X)
TAX	\ and transfer to X register
PLA	\ pull accumulator
PLP	\ pull Status register

There are two final stack associated instructions:

- TSX Transfer Stack Pointer to X register
- TXS Transfer X register to Stack Pointer

These instructions allow the Stack Pointer to be seeded as required. On power-up or BREAK the VIC does the following:

- LDX #\$FF \ load X with \$FF
- TXS \ place in Stack Pointer

It is very unlikely that you will ever need these two instructions unless you go on to such splendid projects as writing your own interpreter!

We shall see how and why the stack is used to save addresses in Chapter 13.

# 12 Looping

## LOOPS

Loops allow sections of programs to be repeated over and over again. For example, in BASIC we could print ten exclamation marks using a FOR . . . NEXT loop like this:

```
10 FOR NUMBER = 0 TO 9  
20 PRINT "!" ;  
30 NEXT NUMBER
```

In line 10 a counter called NUMBER is declared and initially set to zero. Line 20 prints the exclamation mark, and line 30 checks the present value of NUMBER to see if it has reached its maximum limit. If it has not, the program adds one to NUMBER and branches back to print the next exclamation mark.

To implement this type of loop in assembly language we need to know how to control and use the three topics identified above; namely counters, comparisons and branches.

## COUNTERS

It is usual to use index registers as counters, because they have their own increment and decrement instructions.

INX	Increment X register	X = X + 1
INY	Increment Y register	Y = Y + 1
DEX	Decrement X register	X = X - 1
DEY	Decrement Y register	Y = Y - 1

All these instructions can affect the Negative and Zero flags. The Negative flag is set if the most significant bit of the register is set following an increment or decrement instruction—otherwise it will be cleared. The Zero flag will only be set if any of the instructions cause the register concerned to contain zero.

Note that incrementing a register which contains \$FF will reset that register to \$00, will clear the Negative flag (N = 0) and will set the Zero flag (Z = 1). Conversely, decrementing a register holding \$00 will reset its value to \$FF, set the Negative flag and clear the Zero flag.

There are two other increment and decrement instructions:

INC	Increment memory
DEC	Decrement memory

These instructions allow the values in memory locations to be adjusted by one, for example:

INC \$70	\ add 1 to location \$70
DEC \$1500	\ subtract 1 from location \$1500

Both instructions condition the Negative and Zero flags as described earlier.

Program 16 shows how these instructions can be used, in this case to print 'ABC' on the screen.

### Program 16

```
10 REM ** INCREMENTING A REGISTER **  
20 CODE = 828  
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 16  
40 READ BYTE  
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
60 NEXT LOOP  
70  
80 REM ** M/C DATA **  
90 DATA 169,65 : REM $A9, $41 — LDA #ASC"A"  
100 DATA 170 : REM $AA — TAX  
110 DATA 232 : REM $E8 — INX  
120 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2  
130 DATA 138 : REM $8A — TXA  
140 DATA 232 : REM $E8 — INX  
150 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2  
160 DATA 138 : REM $8A — TXA  
170 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2  
180 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS  
190  
200 SYS CODE
```

The meaning of each line is as follows:

- Lines 20-60 Assemble machine code.
- Line 90 Place ASCII 'A' in accumulator.
- Line 100 Save it in X register.
- Line 110 Increment X to give code for 'B'.
- Line 120 Print 'A' to screen.
- Line 130 Transfer ASCII code for 'B' to accumulator.
- Line 140 Increment X to give code for 'C'.
- Line 150 Print 'B' to screen.
- Line 160 Transfer ASCII code for 'C' into accumulator.
- Line 170 Print 'C' to screen.
- Line 180 Back to BASIC.
- Line 200 Execute machine code.

## COMPARISONS

There are three compare instructions:

- |     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| CMP | Compare accumulator |
| CPX | Compare X register  |
| CPY | Compare Y register  |

The contents of any register can be compared with the contents of a specified memory location, or as is often the case, the value immediately following the mnemonic. The values being tested remain unaltered. Depending on the result of the comparison, the Negative, Zero and Carry flags are conditioned. How are these flags conditioned? Well, the first thing the 6502 does is set the Carry flag ( $C = 1$ ). It then subtracts the specified value from the contents of the register. If the value is less than, or equal to the register contents, the Carry flag remains set. If the two values are equal the Zero flag is also set. If the Carry flag has been cleared, it means that the value was greater than the register contents, and a borrow occurred during the subtraction. The Negative flag is generally (but not always) set when this occurs—this is only really valid for two's complement compares. Table 12.1 summarizes these tests.

Table 12.1

Test	Flags		
	C	Z	N
Register less than data	0	0	1
Register equal to data	1	1	0
Register greater than data	1	0	0

## BRANCHES

Depending on the result of a comparison, the program will need either to branch back to repeat the loop, branch to another point in the program, or just simply continue. This type of branching is called *conditional branching*, and eight instructions enable various conditions to be evaluated. The branch instructions are:

- |     |                          |         |
|-----|--------------------------|---------|
| BNE | Branch if not equal      | $Z = 0$ |
| BEQ | Branch if equal          | $Z = 1$ |
| BCC | Branch if Carry clear    | $C = 0$ |
| BCS | Branch if Carry set      | $C = 1$ |
| BPL | Branch if plus           | $N = 0$ |
| BMI | Branch if minus          | $N = 1$ |
| BVC | Branch if overflow clear | $V = 0$ |
| BVS | Branch if overflow set   | $V = 1$ |

Let's now rewrite the BASIC program to print ten exclamation marks (see page 56) in assembly language.

### Program 17

```
10 REM ** 10 ! MARKS **  
20 CODE = 828
```

```

30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 12
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM * * M/C DATA * *
90 DATA 162,0      : REM $A2, $00      — LDX #0
100 DATA 169,33     : REM $A9, $21      — LDA #ASC“!”
110 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF   — JSR $FFD2
120 DATA 232        : REM $E8          — INX
130 DATA 224,10      : REM $E0, $0A      — CPX #10
140 DATA 208,248     : REM $D0, $F8      — BNE -8
150 DATA 96         : REM $60          — RTS
160
170 SYS CODE

```

Lines 90 and 100 initialize the X register and place the ASCII code for an exclamation mark into the accumulator. Line 110 uses the JSR instruction to print the accumulator's contents to the screen. The X register is incremented (line 120) and if not yet equal to 10 the BNE instruction (line 140) is performed and the program loops back to print another exclamation mark.

If you look closely at the program listing, more especially at line 140, you will notice that the BNE opcode is followed by a single byte, and not an address as you may have expected. This byte is known as the *displacement*, and this type of addressing is called *relative* addressing. The operand, in this case 248 (\$F8), tells the processor that a backward branch of 8 bytes is required.

To distinguish branches backwards from branches forward you use *signed binary*. A negative value indicates a backward branch while a positive number indicates a forward branch. Obviously, it is important to know how to calculate these displacements—so let's try it.

Before sitting down in front of your VIC 20 it is always best to write out your machine code program on paper. While it is perfectly feasible to write it ‘at the keyboard’ this nearly always leads to problems caused by errors in the coding (as I have proved many times!). To make it clear just where loops are branching to and from, you can use *labels*. Table 12.2 shows the layout for Program 17.

**Table 12.2**

Label	Mnemonics	Comments
START	LDX #0	Code begins
	LDA #ASC “!”	Loop counter
LOOP	JSR \$FFD2	ASCII code for ‘!’
	INX	Branch destination
	CPX #10	Print ‘!’
	BNE LOOP	X = X + 1
	RTS	Is X = 10 yet?
		No, continue
		All done!

To calculate the branch displacement, just count the number of bytes from the displacement byte itself *back* to the label LOOP.

### LOOP

JSR \$FFD2	3 bytes
INX	1 byte
CPX #10	2 bytes
BNE LOOP	2 bytes

This gives a total displacement of 8 bytes. Note that the relative displacement and the BNE opcode are included in the count because the Program Counter will be pointing to the instruction *after* the branch.

To convert this backward displacement into its signed binary form, you just calculate its two's complement value (see Chapter 3 if you need some refreshing on how to do this).

$$\begin{array}{r} 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0 \quad (8) \\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 1 \\ + \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad 1 \\ \hline 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0 \quad (-8 = \$F8) \end{array}$$

Since all branch instructions are two bytes long, effective displacements of -126 bytes ( $-128 + 2$ ) and +129 bytes ( $127 + 2$ ) are possible.

To make life easier, you'll be relieved to know that Appendix 6 contains a couple of tables from which you can read off displacement values directly.

To demonstrate the use of a forward branch enter and RUN Program 18 which displays a 'Y' if location \$FB contains a '0' or an 'N' otherwise.

### Program 18

```
10 REM * * FORWARD BRANCHING * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 14
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM * * M/C DATA * *
90 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB      — LDA $FB
100 DATA 240,6   : REM $F0, $06      — BEQ ZERO
110 DATA 169,78  : REM $A9, $4E      — LDA #ASC“N”
120                   REM BACK
130 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
140 DATA 96       : REM $60          — RTS
150                   REM ZERO
160 DATA 169,89  : REM $A9, $59      — LDA #ASC“Y”
170 DATA 24       : REM $18          — CLC
180 DATA 144,247 : REM $90, $F7      — BCC BACK
```

## 200 SYS CODE

In this program I have used labels contained within REM statements to identify the jump addresses. This should help to make things clearer.

The machine code begins by loading the byte at location \$FB into the accumulator. If the byte is zero this will automatically set the Zero flag, and the branch of line 100 will be executed (BEQ—branch if equal). Because this is a forward branch a positive value is used to indicate the displacement—in this instance 6 bytes forward. The accumulator is then loaded with the ASCII code for Y. If the contents of \$FB are non-zero, then the BEQ fails and the accumulator is loaded with 'N'.

Lines 170 and 180 illustrate a technique known as *forced branching*. The Carry flag is cleared and a BCC (branch carry clear) executed—because we cleared the Carry flag beforehand we have *forced* the processor to jump to BACK.

Whenever a register is used as a loop counter, and *only* as a loop counter, it is better to write the machine code so that the register counts down rather than up. Why? Well, you may recall from Chapter 6 that when a register is decremented such that it holds zero the Zero flag is set. Using this principle Program 17 can be re-written as follows, so that the CPX #10 instruction is superfluous:

## Program 19

```

10  REM ** DOWN COUNT **
20  CODE = 828
30  FOR LOOP = 0 TO 10
40  READ BYTE
50  POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60  NEXT LOOP
70
80  REM ** M/C DATA **
90  DATA 162,10      : REM $A2, $0A      — LDX #10
100 DATA 169,33     : REM $A9, $21      — LDA #ASC"!"
110
120 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
130 DATA 202         : REM $CA          — DEX
140 DATA 208,250    : REM $D0, $FA      — BNE LOOP
150 DATA 96          : REM $60          — RTS
160
170 SYS CODE

```

## FOR . . . NEXT

In BASIC the FOR . . . NEXT loop makes the VIC 20 execute a set of statements a specified number of times. All FOR . . . NEXT loops—including those containing positive and negative STEP sizes—are relatively easy to produce in machine code, and each type is summarized below.

## 1. FOR LOOP = FIRST TO SECOND . . . NEXT

This loop requires only two variables, the start and end values normally termed the

entry and exit conditions. Here they are defined by the two variables FIRST and SECOND. No STEP size is indicated therefore the loop will increment by one each time round. In assembler this is implemented as:

SETUP LDX FIRST	\ place loop start into counter
LOOP	\ mark loop entry
...	\ loop statements here
INX	\ add one to counter
CPX SECOND	\ has loop limit been reached?
BNE LOOP	\ no, execute loop again

## 2. FOR LOOP = SECOND TO FIRST STEP -1 . . . NEXT

This loop is essentially the same as the previous one, except that the counter must initially be loaded with SECOND, and then decremented by one each time round to mimic the STEP -1 statement.

SETUP LDX SECOND	\ place loop start in counter
LOOP	\ mark loop entry
...	\ loop statements here
DEX	\ decrement counter
CPX FIRST	\ finished?
BCS LOOP	\ no, execute again

In this loop the Carry flag remains set until the loop count is decremented below FIRST. Therefore, if SECOND = 10 and FIRST = 6 the loop is executed 5 times, just as it would be in BASIC.

## 3. FOR LOOP = FIRST TO SECOND STEP 3 . . . NEXT

This loop is similar to that described in 1, except that three INX instructions are required to produce the STEP 3.

SETUP LDX FIRST	\ place loop start in counter
LOOP	\ loop entry
...	\ execute loop statements here
INX	\ increment counter by 3
INX	
INX	
CPX SECOND	\ finished?
BNE LOOP	\ no, go again

On reaching SECOND the CPX instruction will succeed, setting the Zero flag. The BNE LOOP will fail and the loop is completed.

## 4. FOR LOOP = SECOND TO FIRST STEP -3 . . . NEXT

This loop is similar to that already described in 2, but needs three DEX instructions to generate the STEP -3.

SETUP LDX SECOND	\ place loop start in counter
LOOP	\ loop entry

```

    ...
    DEX          \ execute loop statements
    DEX          \ decrement by three
    DEX
    CPX FIRST   \ finished?
    BCS LOOP    \ no, go again

```

## 5. FOR LOOP = FIRST TO SECOND STEP NUM . . . NEXT

If NUM is known at the time of writing the program then just include the correct number of INX statements. However, if NUM = 10, ten INX instructions would be a pretty inefficient piece of programming. The rule here is to use INX for STEPs of 4 or less and otherwise to use the ADC instruction.

```

SETUP LDX FIRST
LOOP

    ...
    PHA          \ save accumulator if needed
    TXA          \ move counter across into
                  \ accumulator
    CLC          \ clear Carry flag
    ADC NUM     \ add STEP size
    TAX          \ restore counter
    PLA          \ and accumulator
    CPX SECOND  \ finished?
    BNE LOOP    \ no, go again

```

Note here that the counter's contents must be transferred to the accumulator for the ADC NUM instruction to be performed, and returned to the X register on completion. If the accumulator's contents are important they can be preserved on the stack.

## 6. FOR LOOP = SECOND TO FIRST STEP -NUM . . . NEXT

The rules for 5 apply here, except that the Carry flag must first be set and SBC used to mimic the minus STEP size.

```

SEPUP LDX SECOND
LOOP

    ...
    PHA          \ save accumulator if needed
    TXA          \ move counter across
    SEC          \ get Carry flag
    SBC NUM     \ minus STEP
    TAX          \ restore counter
    PLA          \ and accumulator
    CPX FIRST   \ finished?
    BCS LOOP    \ no, go again

```

Of course, the Y register could have been used equally well as the loop counter.

## MEMORY COUNTERS

Invariably programs that operate on absolute addresses will require routines that are capable of incrementing or decrementing these double byte values. A typical case being a program using post-indexed indirect addressing that needs to sequentially access a whole range of consecutive memory locations. The following two programs show how this can be done. First, incrementing memory addresses.

### Program 20

```
10 REM ** INCREMENTING MEMORY **  
20 CODE = 828  
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 6  
40     READ BYTE  
50     POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
60 NEXT LOOP  
70  
80 REM ** M/C DATA **  
90 DATA 230,251 : REM $E6, $FB      — INC $FB  
100 DATA 208,2   : REM $D0, $02      — BNE OVER  
110 DATA 230,252 : REM $E6, $FC      — INC $FC  
120             REM OVER  
130 DATA 96      : REM $60          — RTS  
140  
150 POKE 251, 0 : POKE 252, 0  
160 SYS CODE  
170 LOW = PEEK(251)  
180 HIGH = PEEK(252)  
190 NUM = HIGH * 256 + LOW  
200 PRINT NUM  
210 GOTO 160
```

Lines 90 to 120 contain the relevant code. Each time it is executed by the SYS CODE call (line 160) the low byte of the counter at \$FB is incremented. When the low byte changes from \$FF to \$00 the Zero flag is set, and so the branch in line 100 will *not* take place allowing the high byte of the counter at \$FC to be incremented.

Decrementing a counter is a little less straightforward.

### Program 21

```
10 REM ** DECREMENTING MEMORY **  
20 CODE 828  
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 8  
40     READ BYTE  
50     POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
60 NEXT LOOP  
70
```

```

80 REM * * M/C DATA * *
90 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB      — LDA $FB
100 DATA 208,2   : REM $D0, $02      — BNE LSBDEC
110 DATA 198,252 : REM $C6, $FC      — DEC $FC
120                   REM LSBDEC
130 DATA 198,251 : REM $C6, $FB      — DEC $FB
140 DATA 96       : REM $60          — RTS
150
160 POKE 251,0 : POKE 252,0
170 SYS CODE
180 LOW = PEEK(251)
190 HIGH = PEEK(252)
200 NUM = HIGH * 256 + LOW
210 PRINT NUM
220 GOTO 170

```

First, the accumulator is loaded with the low byte of the counter, \$FB (line 90); this procedure will condition the Zero flag. If it is set, the low byte of the counter must contain \$00, and therefore the high byte needs to be decremented (line 110)—the low byte of the counter will always be decremented (line 130).

If all registers are being used the following alternative can be employed:

```

INC COUNTER
DEC COUNTER
BNE LSBDEC
DEC COUNTER + 1
LSBDEC    DEC COUNTER

```

The process of first incrementing and then decrementing the low byte of COUNTER will condition the Zero flag in the same manner as a *load* instruction.

# 13 Subroutines and Jumps

## SUBROUTINES

If you are familiar with BASIC's GOSUB and RETURN statements you should have little difficulty understanding the two assembler equivalents:

JSR      Jump save return  
RTS      Return from subroutine

If you are not familiar, I will explain.

Quite often during the course of writing a program you will find that a specific operation must be performed more than once, perhaps several times. Rather than typing in the same group of mnemonics on every occasion, which is both time consuming and increases the programs' length, they can be entered once, out of the way of the main program flow, and called when required. Not every piece of repetitive assembler warrants being coded into a subroutine, however. For example:

INX : DEY : STA Temp

is quite common (or something very similar) however, when assembled it only occupies four bytes of memory, which is the same memory requirement as a JSR . . . RTS call. Nothing is to be gained by introducing a subroutine here then, in fact, it will actually slow the program operation down by a few millionths of a second! On the other hand:

CLC : LDA Temp : ADC Value : STA Somewhere

might well warrant its own subroutine call as, if absolute addressing is employed, it may be up to ten bytes in length.

Let's now look at a short program, which contains a couple of subroutine calls to the VIC's Kernal.

### Program 22

```
10 REM ** SUBROUTINE DEMO **  
20 CODE = 828  
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 14  
40 READ BYTE  
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
60 NEXT LOOP  
70  
80 REM ** M/C DATA **  
90 REM WAIT  
100 DATA 32,228,255 : REM $20, $E4, $FF — JSR $FFE4  
110 DATA 240,251 : REM $F0, $FB — BEQ WAIT
```

```

120 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB — STA $FB
130 DATA 230,251 : REM $E6, $FB — INC $FB
140 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB — LDA $FB
150 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
160 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
170
180 SYS CODE

```

This program uses two subroutine calls. The first (line 100) is to the Kernal GETIN subroutine at 65508 (\$FFE4) which is, in effect, a keyboard scan routine. A full description of this routine (and all other Kernal routines) can be found in Chapter 17 but briefly this routine returns a detected key's ASCII value in the accumulator. If no keypress is detected then the accumulator holds 0. Line 110 tests the accumulator for zero, branching back to the GETIN routine until a keypress is detected. Then the key's code is stored in location 251 (\$FB) and is incremented (line 130) before being loaded back into the accumulator. Finally, the CHROUT subroutine, which we have used several times before, is called to print the accumulator's contents to the screen. RUN the program to see the effect. Try pressing the 'A' key—a 'B' should be printed!

Now that we have taken a general overview of subroutine calls and their functions it will be useful to see just how they manage to do what they do.

The two instructions JSR and RTS must perform three functions between them. Firstly, the current contents of the Program Counter must be saved so that control may be returned to the calling program at some stage. Secondly, the 6502 must be told to execute the subroutine once it arrives there. Finally, program control must be handed back to the calling program.

The JSR instruction performs the first two requirements. To save the return address it pushes the two byte contents of the Program Counter onto the stack. The Program Counter at this stage will hold the address of the location containing the third byte of the three which constitute the JSR instruction. After pushing the Program Counter onto the stack, the operand specified by JSR is placed into the Program Counter, which effectively transfers control to the subroutine.

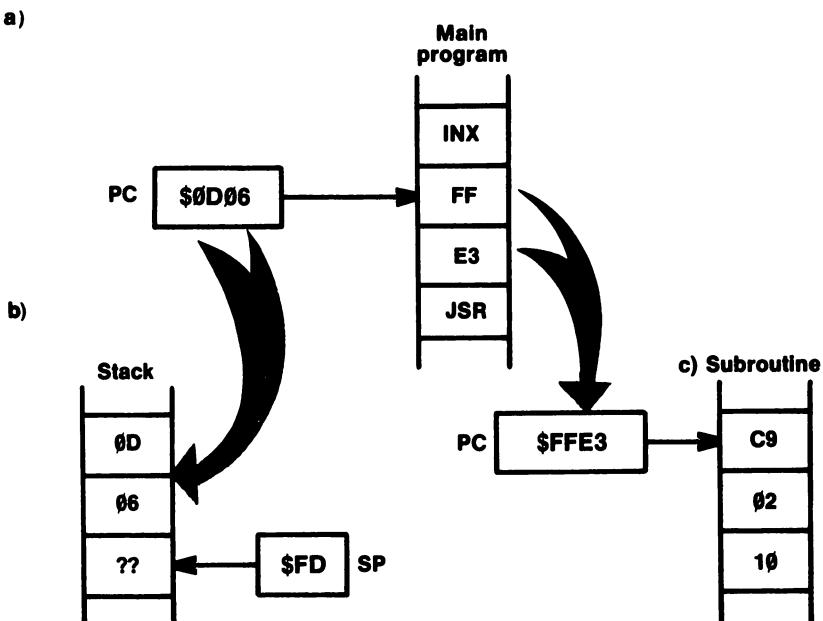


Figure 13.1 Steps taken by a JSR instruction.

Figure 13.1 shows how these operations take place, and in particular, their effect on the stack. At the time the 6502 encounters the JSR instruction the Program Counter is pointing to the second byte of the two byte operand (Figure 13.1a). The microprocessor pushes the contents of the Program Counter onto the stack, low byte first (Figure 13.1b), and then copies the subroutine address into the Program Counter (Figure 13.1c).

When the RTS instruction is encountered at the end of the subroutine, these actions are reversed. The return address is pulled from the stack and incremented by one (Figure 13.2) as it is replaced into the Program Counter, so that it points to the instruction after the original subroutine call.

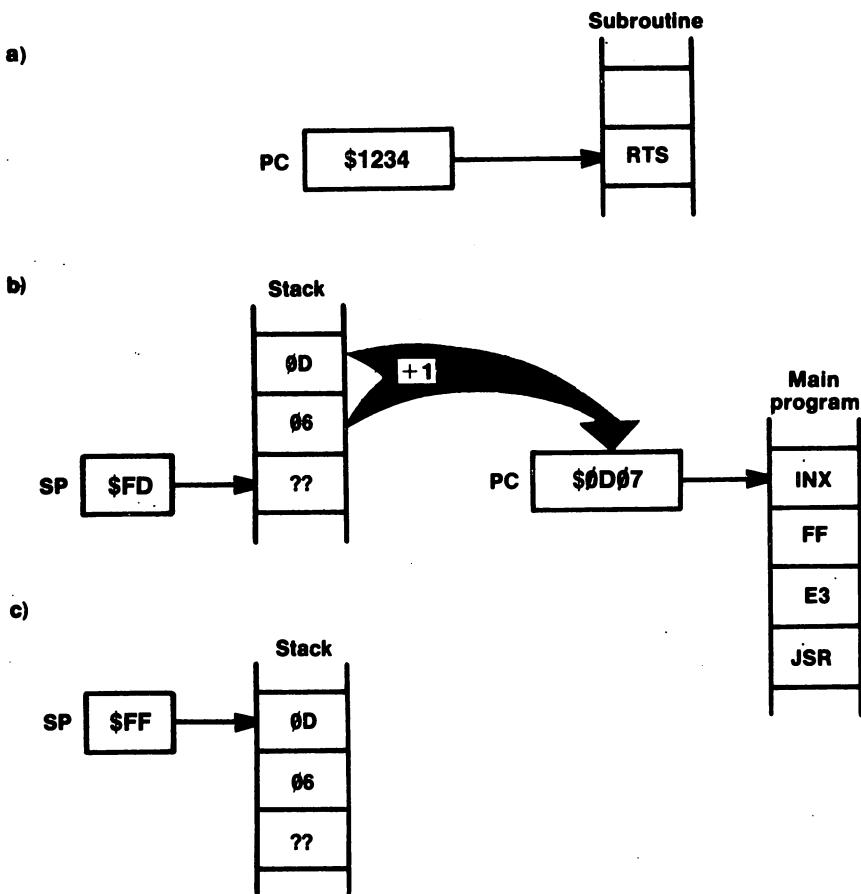


Figure 13.2 *Steps taken by an RTS instruction*

## PASSING PARAMETERS

Nine times out of ten a subroutine will require some data to work on, and this will have to be passed into the subroutine by the main program. For example, in Program 22, the values to be printed were placed into the accumulator before calling the CHROUT routine. This routine is written such that it expects to find a data byte in the accumulator. Other subroutines may require several bytes of information, in which case the

accumulator alone would not be sufficient. There are three general ways in which information or parameters can be passed into subroutines, these are:

1. Through registers.
2. Through memory locations.
3. Through the stack.

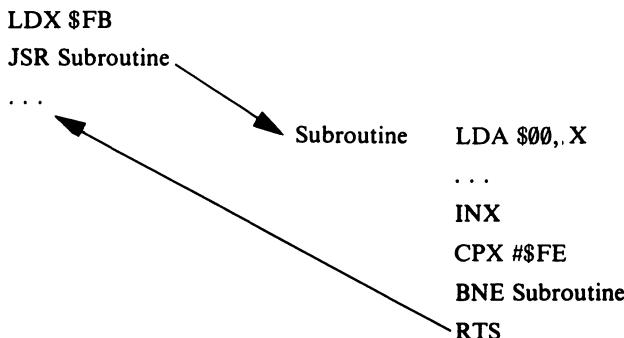
Let's look at each of these methods in turn.

### Through registers

This is quite obviously the simplest method particularly because it can keep the subroutine independent of memory. Because only three registers are available though, only three bytes of information can be conveyed. The registers may themselves contain vital information, so this would need to be saved, possibly on the stack, for future restoration.

### Through memory

This is probably the easiest method if numerous bytes are being passed into the subroutine. The most efficient way is to use memory in zero page between locations \$FB and \$FE inclusive, because this is reserved for user applications. If the subroutine uses several bytes of memory, a neat way of accessing them is to place the start address of the data in the X register, and then use zero page indexed addressing with \$00 as the operand as follows:



The disadvantage of using memory locations to pass parameters is that it ties the subroutine to a given area, making it memory dependent. However, on most occasions this does not really matter.

### Through the stack

Passing parameters through the stack needs care, since the top of the stack will contain the return address. This method also requires two bytes of memory in which the return address can be saved after pulling it from the stack (though, of course, the index registers could be used). If the stack is used, the subroutine needs to commence with:

PLA	\ pull low byte
STA ADDR	\ and save it
PLA	\ pull high byte
STA ADDR + 1	\ and save it

The STA instructions can be replaced by TAX and TAY respectively. It is common practice when using the index registers to hold an address, to place the low byte in the X register and the high byte in the Y register.

Once the parameters have been pulled from the stack the return address can be pushed back on to it with,

```
LDA ADDR + 1  
PHA  
LDA ADDR  
PHA
```

Remember, the stack is a LIFO structure, so the bytes need to be accessed and pushed in the reverse order from that in which they were pulled and saved.

If a variable number of parameters is being passed into the subroutine, the actual number can be ascertained each time by evaluating the contents of the Stack Pointer. This can be carried out by transferring its value to the X register with TSX, and incrementing the X register each time the stack is pulled until, say, \$FF is reached, indicating the stack is empty. The actual value tested for will depend on whether any other subroutine calls were performed previously—making the current one a nested subroutine. The value \$FF is therefore just a hypothetical case and assumes nothing other than that data is present on the stack.

## JUMPS

The JMP instruction operates in a similar manner to BASIC's GOTO statement in that it transfers control to another part of the program. In assembler however, an absolute address is specified rather than a line number (which does not, of course, exist in machine code). The instruction operates simply by placing the two byte address specified after the opcode into the Program Counter, effectively producing a jump.

Program 23 creates a continuous loop by jumping back to the start of the program. This is seen as an unending stream of asterisks being printed to the screen—you'll have to press RUN/STOP and RESTORE to get back to BASIC.

### Program 23

```
10 REM ** JUMPING **  
20 CODE = 828  
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 7  
40 READ BYTE  
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE  
60 NEXT LOOP  
70  
80 REM ** M/C DATA **  
90 REM START  
100 DATA 169,42 : REM $A9, $2A — LDA #ASC“*”  
110 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2  
120 DATA 76,60,3 : REM $4C, $3C, $03 — JMP START  
130  
140 SYS CODE
```

JMP will generally be used to leapfrog over a section of machine code that need not be executed because a test failed. For example:

	BCC OVER
	JMP SOMEWHERE
OVER	LDA BYTE
	ASL A
	INX
	DEY
SOMEWHERE	STA TEMP

Here, if the Carry flag is clear, the jump instruction will be skipped and the code of OVER executed. If the Carry flag is set the test will fail, the JMP will be encountered and the code of OVER bypassed.

A further use of JMP, the 'indirect jump', was detailed in Chapter 9. As we saw, the address that is actually jumped to is stored in a vector, the address of which is specified in the instruction. JMP (\$FB) being an example.

# 14 Shifts and Rotates

Basically, these instructions allow the bits in a single byte to be moved one bit to the left or one bit to the right. There are four instructions available:

ASL	Arithmetic shift left
LSR	Logical shift right
ROL	Rotate left
ROR	Rotate right

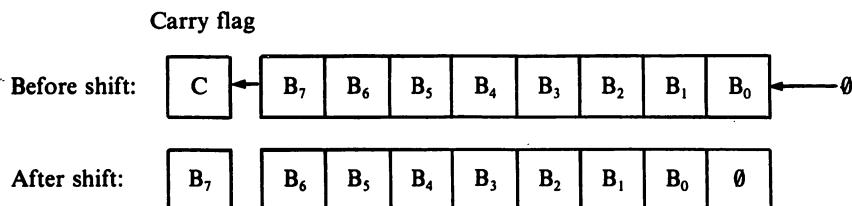
All of these instructions may operate directly on the accumulator, or on a specified memory byte:

ASL A                    \ arithmetic shift left accumulator  
ROL \$FB                \ rotate left location \$FB

Let's investigate each command in more detail.

## ARITHMETIC SHIFT LEFT

ASL moves the contents of the specified byte left by a single bit.

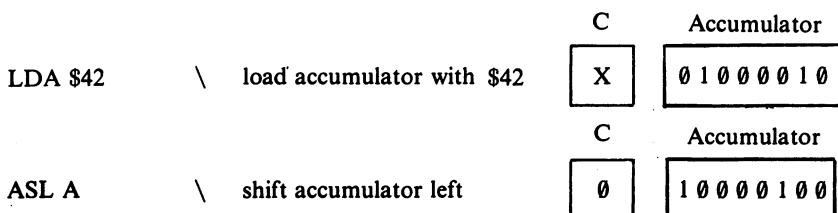


Bit 7 (B<sub>7</sub>) is shifted into the Carry flag, and a '0' takes the place of bit 0 as the rest of the bits are shuffled left. The overall effect is to double the value of the byte in question.

*Example:*

LDA \$42                \ load accumulator with \$42      C                    Accumulator  
    X                    0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0

    C                    Accumulator  
ASL A                \ shift accumulator left                    0                    1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0



The accumulator now holds \$84, twice the original value!

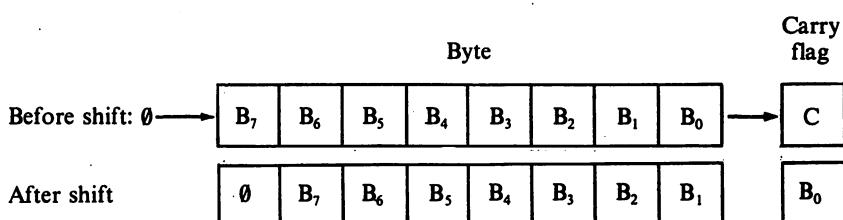
A further example of ASL is given by Program 24 which asks for a number (less than 64), multiplies it by four using ASL A, ASL A, and prints the answer.

#### Program 24

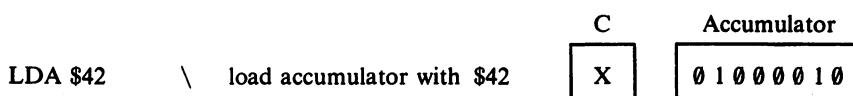
```
10 REM ** MULTIPLY BY FOUR **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 6
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB      — LDA $FB
100 DATA 10     : REM $0A          — ASL A
110 DATA 10     : REM $0A          — ASL A
120 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB      — STA $FB
130 DATA 96     : REM $60          — RTS
140
150 PRINT CHR$(147)
160 INPUT "NUMBER TO BE * 4"; NUM
170 POKE 251,NUM
180 PRINT "X 4 =";
190 SYS CODE
200 PRINT PEEK(251)
```

## LOGICAL SHIFT RIGHT

LSR is similar to ASL except that it moves the bits in the opposite direction, with bit 0 ( $B_0$ ) jumping into the Carry flag and a 0 following into the spot vacated by bit 7 ( $B_7$ ).



This instruction could well have been called arithmetic shift right because it effectively divides the byte being shifted by two. For example:



C

LSR A \ shift accumulator right

0

0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1

The accumulator now holds \$21, half the original value.

Using:

**LSR A : BCS Elsewhere**

or,

**LSR A : BCC Somewhere**

is a good efficient way of testing bit 0 of the accumulator.

Program 25 tests the condition of bit 0 of an input ASCII numeric character by shifting it into the Carry flag position. If the carry is clear a zero is printed, if set—a one is printed instead.

### Program 25

```

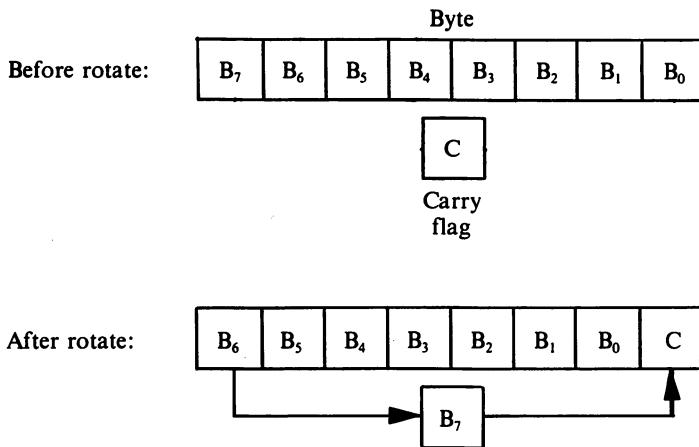
10 REM ** TEST BIT 0 **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 10
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB      — LDA $FB
100 DATA 74       : REM $4A          — LSR A
110 DATA 169,48   : REM $A9, $30      — LDA #ASC"0"
120 DATA 105,0    : REM $69, $00      — ADC #0
130 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
140 DATA 96       : REM $60          — RTS
150 :
160 INPUT A
170 POKE 251, A
180 SYS CODE

```

The input value (line 160) is POKEd into location 251 (\$FB). This is then loaded into the accumulator (line 90) and a logical shift right performed (line 100) which moves bit 0 into the Carry flag position—either setting or clearing it. The accumulator is then loaded with the ASCII code value for '0' (line 120) before the ADC instruction adds 0 to it (line 130)! No that's not as crazy as it seems—remember that the ADC instruction takes the value of the Carry flag into consideration. If it is clear then the accumulator will still hold the ASCII code for 0, but if it is set, one will be added to the accumulator's value so that it now holds the ASCII code for 1!

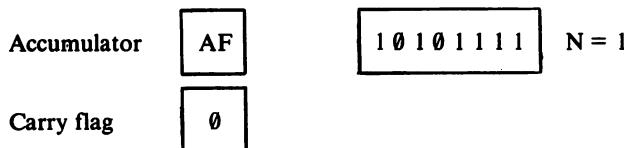
## ROTATE LEFT

This instruction uses the Carry flag as a ninth bit, rotating the whole byte left one bit in a circular motion, with bit 7 moving into the Carry flag, which in turn moves across to bit 0.

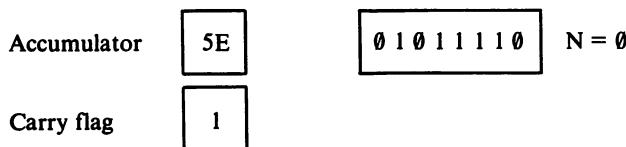


**ROL** provides an easy method of testing any of the four bits constituting the upper nibble of the accumulator. The desired bit is rotated into the bit 7 position, thus setting or clearing the Negative flag as appropriate.

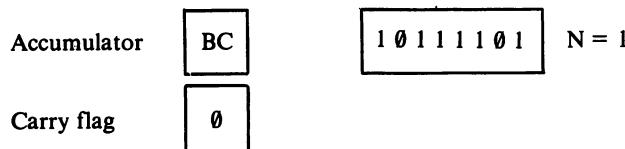
*Example:* test bit 5 of accumulator.



ROL A / rotate bit 6 into the bit 7 position



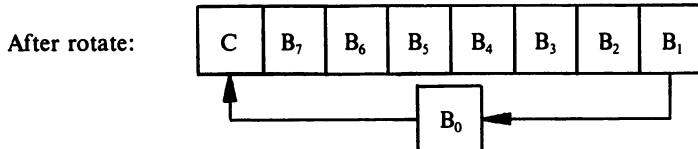
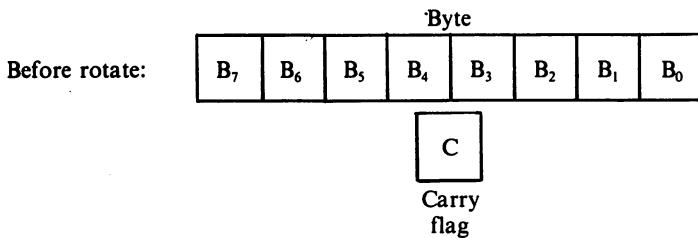
ROL A / rotate bit 5 into the bit 7 position



The Negative flag is now set, indicating that bit 5 of the accumulator was set.

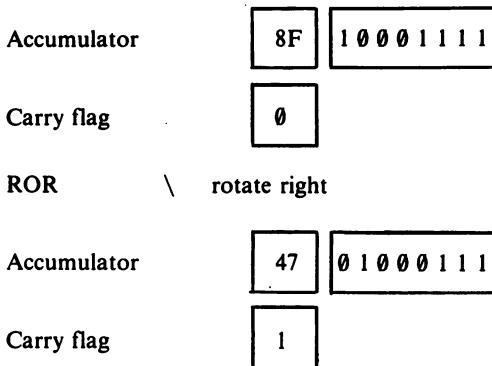
## ROTATE RIGHT

Works just like ROL except the bits move to the right.



*Example:* ROR accumulator containing \$8F.

CLC \ clear Carry flag  
 LDA \$8F \ load accumulator with \$8F



## LOGICALLY SPEAKING

If you need to shift (or rotate) the contents of a particular location *several times*, it is more efficient to load the value into the accumulator, shift (or rotate) that and store it back, than to manipulate the location directly.

For example, to rotate location \$1234 to the right four times, we could use:

ROR \$1234  
 ROR \$1234  
 ROR \$1234  
 ROR \$1234

This uses twelve bytes of memory, four for the instructions and eight for addresses.  
 Alternatively:

LDA \$1234

```
ROR A  
ROR A  
ROR A  
ROR A  
STA $1234
```

uses two bytes less and is 25% quicker in operation.

So far we have only considered shifting and rotating single bytes. By using combinations of instructions it is possible to perform similar operations on two byte values such as \$CAFE.

To perform an overall ASL on two bytes located at HIGH and LOW, ASL and ROL are used in conjunction:

ASL HIGH	\ shift bit 7 by LOW into Carry flag
ROL LOW	\ rotate it into bit 0 of HIGH

By exchanging the commands an overall LSR on the same two bytes can be performed:

LSR HIGH	\ shift bit 0 HIGH into Carry flag
ROR LOW	\ rotate it into bit 7 of LOW

Note that the bytes are manipulated in the reverse order because we wish to move the bits in the opposite direction. As with single byte shifts, the two byte values can be doubled or divided in half.

Two byte rotates to move the bits in a circular manner, are simply rotation operations performed twice! However, as with two byte shifts, it is important to get the byte rotation order correct.

A two byte ROR is performed with:

ROR HIGH	\ rotate bit 0 of HIGH into Carry flag
ROR LOW	\ and on into bit 7 of LOW

While two byte ROLs are implemented with:

ROL LOW	\ rotate bit 7 of LOW into Carry flag
ROL HIGH	\ and on into bit 0 of HIGH

Finally, moving back to single byte shifts, to shift the contents of the accumulator right one bit while preserving the sign bit, use the following technique:

TAY	\ save accumulator in Y register
ASL A	\ move sign bit (bit 7) into Carry flag
TYA	\ restore original value back into accumulator
ROR A	\ rotate right moving sign bit back into bit 7

The Y register has been used as a temporary store for the accumulator. We could have used the X register or a memory location with equal effect.

## PRINTING BINARY!

Quite often, it is necessary to know the binary bit pattern that a register or memory location holds. This is particularly true in the case of the Status register when the

condition of its flags can often provide a great deal of information about the way a program is running.

Program 26 shows how the binary value of a byte can be printed. It uses the Status register's contents at the time the program is RUN as an example.

### Program 26

```
10 REM ** BINARY OUTPUT OF SR **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 18
40     READ BYTE
50     POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 8      : REM $08      — PHP
100 DATA 104    : REM $68      — PLA
110 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB   — STA $FB
120 DATA 162,8   : REM $A2, $08   — LDX #$08
130             REM NBIT
140 DATA 6,251   : REM $06, $FB   — ASL $FB
150 DATA 169,48   : REM $A9, $30   — LDA #ASC"0"
160 DATA 105,0    : REM $69, $00   — ADC #$00
170 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
180 DATA 202     : REM $CA      — DEX
190 DATA 208,244  : REM $D0, $F4   — BNE NBIT
200 DATA 96      : REM $60      — RTS
210
220 PRINT CHR$ (147)
230 PRINT "NV—BDIZC"
240 SYS CODE
```

The Status register needs to be saved in a memory location so that it can be manipulated. To do this it must be transferred into the accumulator by first pushing it on to the stack with PHP (line 90) and then pulling it into the accumulator with PLA (line 100); it can then be stored in zero page at location 251 (line 110). The X register is used to count the eight bits of the byte, so it is initialized accordingly (line 120). Line 130 is used as a label marker for NBIT (short for next bit). The arithmetic shift left (line 140) moves the msb of location 251 (\$FB) into the Carry flag. The bit value (0 or 1) is printed out using the ASCII code for 0 and adding the Carry flag contents to it (lines 150 to 170) as described for Program 25. The bit counter is decremented (line 180) and a branch to NBIT executed if X has not reached zero (line 190).

To prove that the program does work, try including lines such as:

```
85 DATA 169,255   : REM $A9, $FF   — LDA #$FF set N
85 DATA 169,0       : REM $A9, $00   — LDA #$00 clear N set Z
```

These will condition the status flags as indicated. (Don't forget to change the LOOP count in line 30.) You might like to try modifying the program to print the binary value of any key pressed on the keyboard!

## BIT

The instruction, BIT, allows individual bits of a specified memory location to be tested. It has an important feature in that it does *not* change the contents of either the accumulator or the memory location being tested, but, as you may have guessed, it conditions various flags within the Status register. Thus:

1. The Negative flag is loaded with the value of bit 7 of the location being tested.
2. The Overflow flag is loaded with the value of bit 6 of the location being tested.
3. The Zero flag is set if the AND operation between the accumulator and the memory location produces a zero.

By loading the accumulator with a mask it is possible to test any particular bit of a memory location. For example, to test location TEMP to see if bit 0 is clear the following could be used:

LDA #1	\ 00000001
BIT TEMP	\ test bit 0

If bit 0 of TEMP contains a 0, the Zero flag will be set, otherwise it will remain clear, thus allowing BNE and BEQ to be used for testing purposes.

This masking procedure need only be used for testing bits 0 to 5 because bits 6 and 7 are automatically copied into the Negative and Overflow flags, which have their own test instructions.

BIT TEMP	
BMI	\ branch if bit 7 set
BPL	\ branch if bit 7 clear
BVC	\ branch if bit 6 set
BVS	\ branch if bit 6 clear

# 15 Multiplication and Division

## MULTIPLICATION

Performing multiplication in assembly language is not too difficult provided that you have grasped what you have read so far. Unfortunately there are no multiplication instructions within the VIC's 6502 instruction set, therefore it is necessary to develop an algorithm to carry out this procedure.

Let's first look at the simplest method of multiplying two small values together. Consider the multiplication  $5 \times 6$ . We know the result is 30, but how did we obtain this? Simply by adding together six lots of five, in other words:  $5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 = 30$ . This is quite easy to implement:

### Program 27

```
10 REM ** SIMPLE MULTIPLICATION **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 16
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 169,0 : REM $A9, $00 — LDA #$00
100 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB — STA $FB
110 DATA 162,6 : REM $A2, $06 — LDX #$06
120 DATA 24 : REM $18 — CLC
130 : REM LOOP
140 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB — LDA $FB
150 DATA 105,5 : REM $69, $05 — ADC #$05
160 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB — STA $FB
170 DATA 202 : REM $CA — DEX
180 DATA 208,247 : REM $D0, $F7 — BNE LOOP
190 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
```

```

200 :
210 SYS CODE
220 PRINT "RESULT = " ;
230 PRINT PEEK(251)

```

All we have done here is to create a loop to add 5 to the contents of location \$FB six times to produce the desired result! This method is reasonable for multiplying small values, but not particularly efficient for larger numbers.

At this point, it might be worth reviewing the usual procedure for multiplying two large decimal numbers together. Consider  $123 \times 150$ . We would approach this, (without calculators, please!) thus:

$$\begin{array}{r}
123 \quad (\text{Multiplicand}) \\
\times 150 \quad (\text{Multiplier}) \\
\hline
000 \quad (\text{Partial product 1}) \\
615 \quad (\text{Partial product 2}) \\
123 \quad (\text{Partial product 3}) \\
\hline
18450 \quad (\text{Result or final product.})
\end{array}$$

The initial two values are termed the multiplicand and multiplier, and their product is formed by multiplying, in turn, each digit in the multiplier by the multiplicand. This results in a partial product, which is written such that its least significant digit sits directly below the multiplier digit to which it corresponds. When formation of all the partial products is completed, they are added together to give the final product or result.

We can apply this technique to binary numbers, starting off with two three bit values,  $010 \times 011$

$$\begin{array}{r}
010 \quad (\text{Multiplicand}) \\
\times 011 \quad (\text{Multiplier}) \\
\hline
010 \quad (\text{Partial product 1}) \\
010 \quad (\text{Partial product 2}) \\
000 \quad (\text{Partial product 3}) \\
\hline
00110 \quad (\text{Result})
\end{array}$$

Ignoring leading zeros, we obtain the result  $110$  ( $2 \times 3 = 6$ ). Moving on to our original decimal example, its binary equivalent is:

$$\begin{array}{r}
01111011 \quad 123(\$7B) \\
\times 10010110 \quad 150(\$96) \\
\hline
00000000 \\
01111011 \\
01111011 \\
00000000 \\
01111011 \\
00000000 \\
00000000 \\
01111011 \\
\hline
10010000010010 \quad 18450(\$4812)
\end{array}$$

Hopefully you will have noticed that if the multiplier digit is a 0 it will result in the whole partial product being a line of zeros (anything multiplied by zero is zero). Therefore if a 0 is present in the multiplier it can simply be ignored *but* we must remember to shift the next partial product up past any 0s so that its least significant digit still corresponds to the correct 1 of the multiplier. This technique of shifting and ignoring can be used to write an efficient multiplication program.

### Program 28

```
10 REM ** SINGLE BYTE MULT 15 *** GIVING 2 BYTE RESULT **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 19
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 162,8 : REM $A2, $08 — LDX #$08
100 DATA 169,0 : REM $A9, $00 — LDA #$00
110 : REM AGAIN
120 DATA 70,252 : REM $46, $FC — LSR $FC
130 DATA 144,3 : REM $90, $03 — BCC OVER
140 DATA 24 : REM $18 — CLC
150 DATA 101,251 : REM $65, $FB — ADC $FB
160 : REM OVER
170 DATA 106 : REM $6A — ROR A
180 DATA 102,253 : REM $66, $FD — ROR $FD
190 DATA 202 : REM $CA — DEX
200 DATA 208,243 : REM $D0, $F3 — BNE AGAIN
210 DATA 133,254 : REM $85, $FE — STA $FE
220 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
230 :
240 PRINT CHR$(147)
250 INPUT "MULTIPLICAND"; A
260 INPUT "MULTIPLIER"; B
270 POKE 251, A : POKE 252, B
280 SYS CODE
290 HIGH = PEEK(254) : LOW = PEEK(253)
300 RESULT = HIGH * 256 + LOW
310 PRINT "RESULT IS ";
320 PRINT RESULT
```

This program takes two single byte numbers, multiplies them together storing the result (which may be 16 bits long) in zero page. Unlike the binary multiplication examples, it does not compute each partial product before adding them together, but totals the partial products as they are evaluated. This is a somewhat quicker method, because the final product is generated as soon as the last bit of the multiplier has been examined.

When RUN the program requests you to enter the multiplicand and multiplier (lines 250 and 260); these single byte values are then POKEd into memory. The machine code begins by setting the X register to 8 ready to act as the bit counter (line 90). The accumulator is then cleared—this is important as it affects the high result value in location 254 (\$FE). The main loop is marked by the label in line 110. Bit 0 of the multiplier is then

shifted into the Carry flag (line 120) and a branch to OVER executed if the Carry is clear (line 140). If set, the multiplicand value needs to be added to the accumulator (line 150). The product value now in the accumulator is rotated right (line 170) and a further ROR on the low result byte at 253 (\$FD) performed (line 180). These two operations move bit 0 of the accumulator into bit 7 of the low result byte. The X register is decremented (line 190) and the procedure repeated for bits 1-7.

As may have become clear in the last binary example, the procedure is—*if* the bit is set *then add the byte, else ignore it and move on to the next shifting operation.*

## DIVISION

When performing the division of one number by another, we are actually calculating the number of times the second number can be subtracted from the first. Consider  $125 \div 5$ :

$$\begin{array}{r}
 & 25 & \text{(Quotient)} \\
 (\text{Divisor}) & 5 \overline{) 125} & \text{(Dividend)} \\
 & -10 \\
 \hline
 & 25 \\
 & 25 \\
 \hline
 & 0 & \text{(Remainder)}
 \end{array}$$

Here, 5 can be subtracted from 10 twice, so we note the value 2 as part of the quotient. The 10 is brought down and subtracted from the first two digits of the dividend, leaving 2. Because 5 cannot be subtracted from 2 the remaining 5 of the dividend is brought down to give 25. 5 can be subtracted from this, without remainder, 5 times. Again this is recorded in the quotient, which now reflects the final result.

To divide binary numbers, this same procedure is pursued. The above example in binary would look like this:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 & 00011001 \\
 0101 \overline{) 01111101} \\
 & \underline{0101} \\
 & 10 \\
 & 101 \\
 & \underline{101} \\
 & 0 \\
 & 101 \\
 & \underline{101} \\
 & 0
 \end{array}$$

In fact, as you may see, dividing binary numbers is much simpler than dividing decimal numbers. If the divisor is less than or equal to the dividend the corresponding bit in the quotient will be a 1. If the subtraction is not possible a 0 is placed in the quotient, the next bit of the dividend is brought down, and the procedure repeated.

The following utility program divides two single byte values and indicates whether a remainder is present:

### Program 29

```

10 REM ** SINGLE BYTE DIVIDE **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 20
40 READ BYTE

```

```

50    POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60    NEXT LOOP
70
80    REM * * M/C DATA * *
90    DATA 162,8      : REM $A2, $08      — LDX #$08
100   DATA 169,0     : REM $A9, $00      — LDA #$00
110   REM AGAIN
120   DATA 6,251     : REM $06, $FB      — ASL $FB
130   DATA 42        : REM $2A          — ROL A
140   DATA 197,252   : REM $C5, $FC      — CMP $FC
150   DATA 144,4     : REM $90, $04      — BCC OVER
160   DATA 229, 252  : REM $E5, $FC      — SBC $FC
170   DATA 230,251   : REM $E6, $FB      — INC $FB
180   REM OVER
190   DATA 202        : REM $CA          — DEX
200   DATA 208,242   : REM $D0, $F2      — BNE AGAIN
210   DATA 133,253   : REM $85, $FD      — STA $FD
220   DATA 96         : REM $60          — RTS
230
240   PRINT CHR$(147)
250   INPUT "DIVIDEND"; A
260   INPUT "DIVISOR"; B
270   POKE 251,A : POKE 252,B
280   SYS CODE
290   PRINT "RESULT = ";
300   PRINT PEEK(251)
310   PRINT "REMAINDER = ";
320   PRINT PEEK(253)

```

In case you cannot readily follow what the program is doing, here is a line by line description of the mnemonics:

- Line 90 Initialize the X register to indicate the number of bits to be shifted—  
1 byte = 8 bits.
- Line 100 Clear accumulator which will hold partial dividend value.
- Line 110 Set loop.
- Line 120 Shift the dividend left to provide the least significant bit position for the next digit of the quotient.
- Line 130 The dividend bit is shifted left so that another bit from the partial dividend (which is in accumulator) can be tested.
- Line 140 The divisor and partial dividend are compared.
- Line 150 If the result indicates that the divisor is less than, or equal to the partial dividend . . .
- Line 160 . . . the divisor is subtracted from the partial dividend . . .
- Line 170 . . . and a 1 added to the quotient.
- Line 180 If compare shows that the divisor is greater than the partial dividend, these last two lines are skipped.

Line 190 The bit count is decremented . . .  
Line 200 . . . and control returned to line 110 if not complete.  
Line 210 Any remainder is saved in \$FD.

This program uses the shift instructions of lines 120 and 130 as a two byte shift register in which the accumulator acts as the higher byte. The carry produced by ROL A is insignificant, in fact it is 0, and is erased by the next ASL \$FB procedure.

## LOOK-UP TABLES

Look-up tables provide a neat, compact and efficient way of obtaining data for what might otherwise turn out to be long and complicated machine code programs. For example, suppose we want to develop a machine code program to convert degrees Centigrade into degrees Fahrenheit. The formula for this is:

$$^{\circ}\text{F} = 1.8 (^{\circ}\text{C}) + 32$$

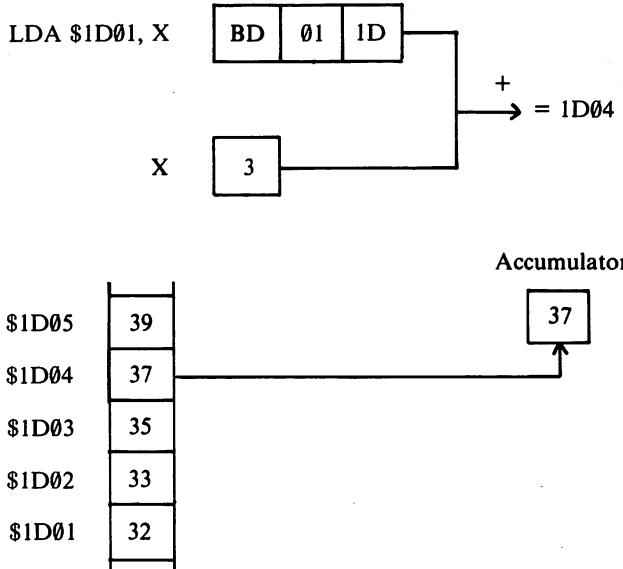
As you can see, this requires two mathematical operations—first a multiplication then an addition (a bit painful to the grey matter!). By providing the conversion values precalculated in a table, the Fahrenheit values can be extracted by using the Centigrade value as an *index* to the table. Try the following program:

### Program 30

```
10 POKE 55,0 : POKE 56, 29
20 CODE = 828 : TABLE = 7425
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 7
40   READ BYTE
50   POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM * * M/C DATA * *
90 DATA 166,251    : REM $A6, $FB      — LDX $FB
100 DATA 189,1,29   : REM $BD, $01, $1D  — LDA 7425, X
110 DATA 133,252   : REM $85, $FC      — STA $FC
120 DATA 96         : REM $60          — RTS
130 :
140 REM * * CALCULATE VALUES* *
150 FOR C=0 TO 100
160   F = (1.8 * C) + 32
170   POKE TABLE + C, F
180 NEXT C
190 :
200 PRINT CHR$(147)
210 INPUT "CENTIGRADE VALUE"; C
220 POKE 251, C
230 SYS CODE
240 PRINT "FAHRENHEIT VALUE";
250 PRINT PEEK(252)
```

Lines 150 to 180 calculate the equivalent Fahrenheit values for Centigrade values in the range 0–100. Each value is POKEd in turn into memory, to form a table which has its base above the reset value of MEMSIZ (lines 10, 20). The input Centigrade value for conversion is POKEd into location 251 (\$FB), and subsequently loaded into the X register when the machine code is executed (line 90). This value is used as the index to the table when loading the accumulator with the corresponding Fahrenheit value (line 100). This Fahrenheit value is stored in location 252 (\$FC) so that it can be accessed by the calling BASIC. The following example illustrates this graphically.

*Example:* Convert 3°C to Fahrenheit.



Therefore 3°C is equivalent to 37°F.

# 16 Floating a Point

So far throughout this introduction to machine code programming we have only been concerned with *integers*, or whole numbers. As in the real world though, *floating point* numbers also exist in the machine code world. A floating point number is one that contains a decimal point (although in binary this is more correctly referred to as a 'bicimal' point).

For example, the denary number 5.25 is a floating point number whereas the number 7 is a whole or integer number. In CBM BASIC the binary floating point numbers have what is known as 10 digit precision, displayed with 9 digits and with exponents in the range +37 to -38. The exponent of a number is simply a scientific notational form of representing numbers. For example, the number 1234.567 could be expressed exponentially as:

0.1234567E+4

The 'E' denotes the exponential value and the +4 the fact that the decimal point has been moved four places in a positive direction. Another way of writing this exponentially is:

0.1234567 × 10<sup>4</sup>

Similarly, the decimal value 0.0000123 can be expressed as 0.123E-4 or 0.123 × 10<sup>-4</sup>, the -4 indicating that the decimal point has been moved four places in a negative direction.

## THE FLOATING POINT ACCUMULATORS

The 6502 is provided with two memory-mapped floating point accumulators which manipulate the floating point numbers. These are known as the FAC (Floating Point Accumulator) and the AFAC (Alternative Floating Point Accumulator)—also known as FAC#1 and FAC#2. The addresses associated with them in zero page are shown in Table 16.1 overpage.

Looking at the two floating point accumulators we can see that each has six associated bytes. As already mentioned, each value has 10 digit precision, so to enable the value to be packed into six bytes it must be broken down into two components called the *binary mantissa* and the *binary exponent*. These are illustrated in Figure 16.1.

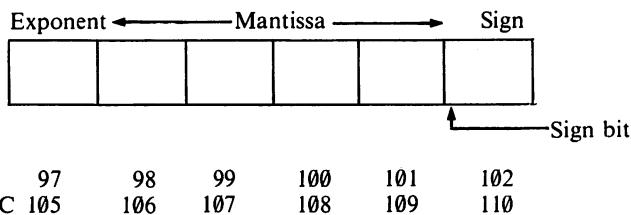


Figure 16.1 Floating point accumulator architecture.

**Table 16.1**

Label	Address		Description
	Decimal	Hex	
FACEXP	97	\$0061	FAC#1 exponent
FACHO	98-101	\$0062-\$0065	FAC#1 mantissa
FACSGN	102	\$0067	FAC#1 sign
BITS	104	\$0068	FAC#1 overflow digit
ARGEEXP	105	\$0069	FAC#2 exponent
ARGHO	106-109	\$006A-\$006D	FAC#2 mantissa
ARGSGN	110	\$006E	FAC#2 sign
ARIGN	111	\$006F	Sign comparison result FAC#1 v FAC#2

The binary mantissa is the 'number' part of the value, and this is stored in the centre four bytes of the FAC (and AFAC). The sign of the number denotes whether it is a positive or negative value, and this is stored in the sixth byte of the FAC (or AFAC). Only a single bit (bit 7) is required to store the sign—'1' represents a negative mantissa and '0' a positive mantissa.

The binary exponent is the first byte of the FAC (and AFAC) and this is used to represent both positive and negative exponent values by adding the value to, or subtracting the value from, 128. For example, an exponent of +15 is represented by:

$$+15 = 128 + 15 = 143$$

Whereas a negative exponent of -15 is expressed as:

$$-15 = 128 - 15 = 113$$

To allow a variety of floating point numbers to be handled by a standard set of floating point subroutines, the VIC 20's BASIC Interpreter *normalizes* them to a representation such that the most significant bit is *always* a '1'.

Consider the hexadecimal number \$0345. Writing this in binary form we obtain:

$$\$0345 = 0000\ 0011\ 0100\ 0101$$

In this case, the binary now has an exponent value of 2, or more correctly 1↑2 with the bicimal point being at the far right of the number. If we were to express this properly in exponential form we would read:

$$0000\ 0011\ 0100\ 0101 \times 2↑0$$

Now, to normalize this value we need to 'float' the bicimal point along to the left until it sits in front of the leftmost '1'. Figure 16.2 shows the process. Now, if we count the number of shifts we obtain our exponent value, which in this case is 10. Thus:

$$\$0345 = 0.1101\ 0001\ 0100\ 0000 \times 2↑10$$

To represent this in either of the floating point accumulators we must add the exponential value to 128 giving an exponent value of:

$$128 + 10 = 138 = \$8A \quad (1000\ 1010)$$

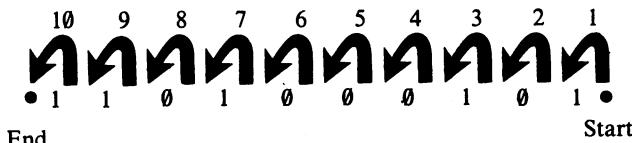


Figure 16.2 Floating the bicimal point.

Moving back to the mantissa, we have four bytes to fill, therefore the least significant bits must be padded out with 0s to give:

1101 0001 0100 0000 0000 0000 0000

Finally, to complete our normalization of \$0345 we must indicate a positive value by placing a 0 in bit 7 of the sign byte. Our final representation of \$0345 is given by:

Exponent	1st byte	1000	1010	\$8A
Mantissa	2nd byte	1101	0001	\$D1
	3rd byte	0100	0000	\$40
	4th byte	0000	0000	\$00 (padded bytes)
	5th byte	0000	0000	\$00
Sign	6th byte	0xxx	xxxx	

The xs in the sign byte denote that these bits may have any value.

The example given above was really an integer one, but numbers that do contain decimal values can be normalized in exactly the same manner. For instance, the decimal value 255.75 can be expressed in binary terms as:

1111 1111 . 11

where  $0.1 = 0.5$  decimal and  $0.01 = 0.25$  decimal. This can be normalized as before, giving a binary exponential representation of:

0.1111 1111 1100 0000  $\times 2^{18}$

## USING USR

A further BASIC statement, USR, is provided to call sections of machine code. It has an advantage over a normal SYS call in that it can also pass data from BASIC into the floating point accumulator, so that it can be manipulated by a user-supplied machine code program before returning the result to the calling BASIC program. Before executing USR the address of a machine code subroutine must be seeded into USRADD, which is located at the two bytes in zero page from \$01.

A USR call can take two forms:

USR(NUM)

transfers the value assigned to the variable NUM (or any other specified variable) into FAC#1 before handing control to the machine code routine located at the vectored address in USRADD. Whereas:

A = USR(B)

places the contents of B into FAC#1, executes the machine code at USRADD and returns the final result, via FAC#1, in the variable B.

Let's have a look at a couple of simple examples to get things clear in our minds.

### Program 31

```
10 REM ** USR DEMO **  
20 REM ** SET UP DUMMY MACHINE CODE **  
30 POKE 828,96 : REM RTS OPCODE  
40 PRINT CHR$(147)  
50 POKE 1,60 : REM SET UP USRADD TO  
60 POKE 2,3 : REM POINT TO 828  
70 A = 0 : B = 837  
80 PRINT "PRE USR A = ",A
```

```
90 A = USR(B)
100 PRINT "POST USR A = ";A
```

This program begins by POKEing an RTS instruction into memory at location 828 (line 30). USRADD is then pointed to this location. The values of A and B are assigned (line 70) and the value of the former printed (line 80). The USR routine is then called (line 90) passing the value of B into FAC#1. The code pointed to by USRADD is then executed—it returns control immediately back to BASIC (remember it's just RTS) passing the value in FAC#1 into the variable A which is subsequently printed out (line 100).

We can modify this program slightly so that it actually does something! Add the following two lines:

```
25 POKE 828,230
26 POKE 829,98 : REM INC $62
```

now change line 30 to read:

```
30 POKE 830,96 : REM RTS
```

RUN the program. The printed result should be:

POST USR A = 841

which is 4 more than the value passed into it through B (which was 837). What happened here was that the two new bytes of machine code (lines 25 and 26) incremented the high byte of the FAC#1 mantissa located at location 98. But why should this add 4 rather than 1? Examining the binary will make things clearer. 837 is \$0345 which is the value we were working on earlier. We know from our previous calculations that the byte stored in location 98 was \$D1. Incrementing this gives \$D2, therefore the four bytes of the FAC#1 mantissa read:

\$D2	\$40	\$00	\$00
1101 0010	0100 0000	0000 0000	0000 0000

We also know from our earlier calculations that the exponential value was 2<sup>10</sup>. Floating the decimal point ten places to the right to return to an un-normalized position gives:

1101001001.00000000000000000000000000000000

Ignoring the non-significant zeros and sorting the binary into bytes we obtain:

0000 0011	0100 1001
\$03	049

and of course \$0349 = 841.

The important point to remember when dealing directly with the FAC is that we are handling normalized values and even something as seemingly simple as an increment instruction will not have the obvious result!

Another important point to remember is that the contents of the FACs cannot be examined directly from BASIC by PEEKing locations. This is because even an operation as straightforward as PEEK will affect the FAC's contents. Therefore, to look at the contents of a FAC you need a machine code routine such as Program 32.

### Program 32

```
10 REM * * SAVE FAC#1 * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 10
40 READ BYTE
```

```

50    POKE LOOP + CODE, BYTE
60    NEXT LOOP
70    :
80    REM ** M/C DATA **
90    DATA 162,6      : REM $A2, $06      — LDX #6
100           REM AGAIN
110    DATA 181,96     : REM $B5, $60      — LDA $60, X
120    DATA 157,52,3   : REM $9D, $34, $03  — STA $0334, X
130    DATA 202        : REM $CA          — DEX
140    DATA 208,248    : REM $D0, $F8      — BNE AGAIN
150    DATA 96         : REM $60          — RTS
160    :
170    PRINT CHR$(147)
180    POKE 1,60       : REM SET USRADD POINTING
190    POKE 786,2,3    : REM TO 828 ($033C)
200    B = 837         : REM VALUE TO PASS TO FAC#1
210    A = USR(B)      : REM PASS AND EXECUTE CODE
220    PRINT "A = ";A
230    PRINT "FAC#1 = ";
240    FOR X = 1 TO 6
250    PRINT PEEK(820 + X);";"
260    NEXT X

```

The machine code to save the contents of FAC#1 is quite simple, and just involves an indexing loop which first loads a byte into the accumulator and then stores it somewhere safe (lines 90 to 150). RUNning the program produces the following output:

```

A = 837
FAC#1 = 138 209 64 0 0 81

```

The first five bytes compare favourably with the calculated values above. The final byte is derived from FACSGN. The value 81 is \$51 and in binary is  $01010001$ . The sign bit, bit 7, is clear and denotes a positive number. We can change the sign to a negative value by 'forcing' bit 7 to 1. To do this we need to logically OR the contents of FACSGN with \$80,  $10000000$  binary. Add the following lines to the program:

```

82    DATA 165,102    : REM $A5, $66      — LDA FACSGN
83    DATA 9,128       : REM $09, $80      — ORA #$80
84    DATA 133,102    : REM $85, $66      — STA FACSGN

```

and change the loop count to:

```

30    FOR LOOP = 0 TO 16

```

Now RUN the program. The result returned in A is now -837, while FACSGN returns 209.

## INTEGER TO FLOATING POINT

Included in the built-in subroutines are several which allow numbers to be converted from integer to floating point and vice versa. These can be of great help in allowing us to manipulate multibyte numbers in machine code, so let's examine a few of them in operation.

Program 33 shows how an integer value can be converted into its normalized floating point counterpart. The subroutine to do this is located at 54161 (\$D391). The integer value is expected to be found in the accumulator (high byte) and Y register (low byte)—on completion of the subroutine the floating point value can be extracted from FAC#1.

### Program 33

```
10 REM ** INTEGER TO FP **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 17
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE LOOP + CODE, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 169,1      : REM $A9, $01      — LDA #1
100 DATA 160,35     : REM $A0, $23      — LDY #$23
110 DATA 32,145,211 : REM $20, $91, $D3   — JSR $D391
120 DATA 162,6      : REM $A2, $06      — LDX #6
125           REM AGAIN
130 DATA 181, 96    : REM $B5, $60      — LDA $60, X
140 DATA 157,52,3   : REM $9D, $34, $03   — STA $0334, X
150 DATA 202         : REM $CA          — DEX
160 DATA 208,248    : REM $D0, $F8      — BNE AGAIN
170 DATA 96          : REM $60          — RTS
180 :
190 PRINT CHR$(147)
200 SYS CODE
220 PRINT "FAC#1 = ";
230 FOR X = 1 TO 6
240   PRINT PEEK(820 + X); " ";
250 NEXT X
```

The integer value being converted here is \$0123, and the high and low bytes are placed in the appropriate registers (lines 90 and 100) before the conversion routine is called (line 110). The floating point value is extracted from FAC#1 (lines 120 to 160) so that it can be PEEKed by the BASIC loop. RUNning the program produces this result:

FAC#1 = 137 145 128 0 0 0

Evaluating this, we have an exponent of 9 (137 – 128), and two bytes which in binary form give:

1001 0001 1000 0000

145

128

Moving the decimal point 9 places to the right we arrive at a final value of:

0000 0001 0010 0011

\$01 \$23

\$0123, which was our original value. The conversion works!

This subroutine for integer to floating point conversion can only handle numbers in the range 0 to 32767 (\$7FFF). This is because bit 15 is used to determine the sign of the integer value to be converted. If clear then a positive value is assumed; if set a negative value is evaluated and the fact signalled in FACSGN. To see this, try changing the following lines:

```
90 DATA 169,255 : REM $A9, $FF — LDA #$FF
100 DATA 160,255 : REM $A0, $FF — LDY #$FF
```

RUN the program now and see what happens—I'll leave it up to you to work out how and why you got the result you did!

## FLOATING POINT TO INTEGER

A subroutine which operates in the reverse direction, and converts a floating point value in FAC#1 to an integer one in the A and Y registers, is located at 53674 (\$D1AA).

### Program 34

```
10 REM * * FP TO INTEGER * *
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 17
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE LOOP + CODE, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM * * M/C DATA * *
90 DATA 162,6 : REM $A2, $06 — LDX #6
100 : REM AGAIN
110 DATA 189,52,3 : REM $BD, $34, $03 — LDA 820, X
120 DATA 149,96 : REM $95, $60 — STA $60, X
130 DATA 202 : REM $CA — DEX
140 DATA 208,248 : REM $D0, $F8 — BNE AGAIN
150 DATA 32,170,209 : REM $20, $AA, $D1 — JSR $D1AA
160 DATA 133, 251 : REM $85, $FB — STA $FB
170 DATA 132,252 : REM $84, $FC — STY $FC
180 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
190 :
200 FOR X = 0 TO 5
210 READ FAC
```

```

220 POKE 821 + X, FAC
230 NEXT X
240 REM ** FAC DATA **
250 DATA 137, 145, 128, 0, 0, 0
260 PRINT CHR$(147)
270 SYS CODE
280 PRINT "RESULTS RETURNED ARE:"
290 PRINT "ACCUMULATOR = "; PEEK(251)
300 PRINT "Y REGISTER = "; PEEK(252)

```

This program passes the normalized value of \$0123 (line 250) into FAC#1. The DATA is READ by the loop in lines 210 to 230 and placed into unused memory from 820. The machine code begins by transferring this data into FAC#1 using indexed addressing (lines 90 to 140). Once there, the conversion routine is called (line 150) and the resultant values in the A and Y registers saved in zero page, from whence they can be PEEKed (lines 290 and 300). RUNning the program produces:

RESULTS RETURNED ARE:  
ACCUMULATOR = 1  
Y REGISTER = 35

Converting this to hex gives \$0123!

## FLOATING MEMORY

Several subroutines are available which allow floating point values to be transferred to and fro between either of the floating point accumulators and memory. However, before we can use these, we must see how floating point numbers are stored in memory, as a slightly different format is used. Let's go back to the normalized value of \$0345 we used earlier, this was stored in the FAC as:

Exponent	\$8A	1000	1010
Mantissa	\$D1	1101	0001
	\$40	0100	0000
	\$00	0000	0000
	\$00	0000	0000
Sign		0xxx	xxxx

Looking at this, we can see that we waste 7 bits of the final sign byte simply because we only use bit 7 to denote the sign. If another way could be found of encoding this then the sign byte could be dispensed with.

You will remember that to normalize a floating point value the decimal point is floated left continuously until it reaches the left-most 1. We know, therefore, that the first bit of the mantissa will *always* be a 1. As the BASIC Interpreter knows this too, it can 'forget' the 1 and use this bit to store the sign. When the interpreter converts a floating point number stored in memory (outside either floating point accumulator), it looks at the msb of the mantissa to evaluate the sign, then resets it back to 1 to evaluate the number proper! In memory, then, the normalized representation of \$0345 is compacted into just 5 bytes stored thus:

Exponent	\$8A	1000	1010	
Mantissa	\$51	0101	0001	(bit 7 = 0 therefore number positive)
	\$40	0100	0000	
	\$00	0000	0000	
	\$00	0000	0000	

## THE SUBROUTINES

In all there are 33 floating point subroutines built-in to the BASIC Interpreter (well 33 that I have un-earthed!). It is important to remember that these subroutines are in no way 'standard' and their execution addresses could change if a new ROM is issued. For the same reason they are not transferrable to other VIC BASIC machines. However, if you're not going to be writing portable programs, and are interested only in getting the very most from your VIC, then you won't be too worried!

All of these subroutines are now listed (by address) so that you can take full advantage of them. (PS Don't tell Commodore will you!)

- \$C9C4 Place FAC into variable pointed to by FORPNT (locations 73 and 74).
- \$C9D6 Place integer in FAC+3 into variable pointed to by FORPNT.
- \$CFA7 Evaluate function and return its numeric value in FAC. String pointer value in FAC+3.
- \$D1AA Convert FAC to integer in A and Y.
- \$D391 Convert integer in A and Y to floating point value in FAC.
- \$D3A2 Convert integer in Y to floating point value in FAC.
- \$D7B5 Convert string pointed to by INDEX1 (locations 34 and 35) whose length is A, to a floating point value in FAC.
- \$D7F7 Convert FAC into an integer and store in INDEX1 (locations 34 and 35).
- \$D849 Add 0.5 to contents of FAC.
- \$D850 Subtract contents of FAC from floating point value in memory pointed to by A and Y. Place result in FAC.
- \$D867 Add contents of FAC to floating point value in memory location pointed to by A and Y. Place result in FAC.
- \$DA28 Multiply contents of FAC by contents of memory location pointed to by A and Y. Place result in FAC.
- \$DA30 Multiply contents of FAC by contents of AFAC. Place result in FAC.
- \$DA8C Load AFAC with floating point value of memory pointed to by A and Y.
- \$DAB7 Test FAC/AFAC for multiplication underflow or overflow.
- \$DAE2 Multiply FAC by 10. Place result in FAC.
- \$DAFE Divide FAC by 10. Place result in FAC.
- \$DB07 Divide contents of AFAC by contents of memory pointed to by A and Y with sign in X. Place result in FAC.
- \$DB0F Divide contents of AFAC by contents of memory pointed to by A and Y. Place result in FAC.
- \$DB12 Divide contents of AFAC by contents of FAC. Place result in FAC, exponent in A.
- \$DBA2 Place floating point value in memory pointed to by A and Y, in FAC.

- \$DBC7** Store contents of FAC in locations 87 to 91.
- \$DBCA** Store contents of FAC in locations 92 to 96.
- \$DBD0** Store contents of FAC in locations pointed to by address in locations 73 and 74.
- \$DBD4** Store contents of FAC in memory location pointed to by A and Y.
- \$DBFC** Place contents of AFAC in FAC.
- \$DC0C** Place contents of FAC in AFAC.
- \$DC1B** Round off contents of FAC.
- \$DC2B** Return sign of contents of FAC in A. \$00=zero, \$01=positive, \$FF=negative.
- \$DC3C** Store contents of A into FAC.
- \$DC5B** Compare contents of FAC with floating point value in memory pointed to by A and Y. Result of comparison returned in A. \$00 values equal, \$01 FAC > memory, \$FF memory > FAC.
- \$DC9B** Convert contents of FAC into four byte integer. Place contents in FAC+1.
- \$DDD7** Print contents of FAC as an ASCII string.

# 17 The Kernal

At the very top of the VIC 20's memory map, on page \$FF, are the Kernal Operating System routines which allow user programs to communicate with, and take advantage of, the professionally written machine code already present in the ROM. In all, 39 Kernal routines are available, and an alphabetical list of these is given in Table 17.1. When any of these routines is called, normally with JSR, the Kernal performs either a direct or an indirect jump into the heart of the Kernal via a vectored address on Page 03 of block zero RAM. Table 17.2 lists these vectored addresses. This approach of jumping indirectly into the Kernal has been done for a deliberate reason. In the future, the BASIC may be revised or enhanced and this will probably mean that the routines within the Kernal will be moved around somewhat. As long as access to the Kernal routines is via the 'official' vector, machine code programs written for BASIC version X will also run on BASIC version Z, because they will all enter the Kernal at the same point, even though the actual sequence of events that occurs when they get there may change!

What follows now is a description of each one of the Kernal routines—practical examples are included for the ones that you are more likely to use frequently.

**ACPTR** Get data from an IEEE serial bus.

Address	65445 (\$FFA5)
Registers	accumulator and X register
Preparation	TALK, TKSA
Stack use	13 bytes

ACPTR is used to read a byte into the accumulator from a serial device such as a disc. Because this call uses *full handshaking* the serial device must first be told to transmit data using TALK. The X register is also used by this routine. Error checking should be handled by READST as errors are signalled in the status word.

*Example:*

```
PHA          \ save accumulator
TXA
PHA          \ save X register
LDA #2
JSR TALK    \ device 2 to talk
JSR ACPTR   \ read byte from serial bus
STA memory  \ save data byte
              \ continue until finished
PLA
TAX          \ restore X register
PLA          \ restore accumulator
```

**Table 17.1 The Kernal routines**

Name	Address		Description
	Decimal	Hex	
ACPTR	65445	FFA5	Get byte from serial port
CHKIN	65478	FFC6	Open channel for input
CHKOUT	65481	FFC9	Open channel for output
CHRIN	65487	FFCF	Input character from channel
CHROUT	65490	FFD2	Output character to channel
CIOUT	65448	FFA8	Put byte to serial port
CLALL	65511	FFE7	Close all files and channels
CLOSE	65475	FFC3	Close specified logical file
CLRCHN	65484	FFCC	Close input and output channels
GETIN	65508	FFE4	Get character from keyboard buffer
IOBASE	65523	FFF3	Get base address of I/O devices
LISSEN	65457	FFB1	Command serial bus devices to listen
LOAD	65493	FFD5	LOAD memory from device
MEMBOT	65436	FF9C	Read/set bottom of memory
MEMTOP	65433	FF99	Read/set top of memory
OPEN	65472	FFC0	Open a logical file
PLOT	65520	FFF0	Read/set XY cursor position
RDTIM	65502	FFDE	Read real time clock
READST	65463	FFB7	Read I/O status word
RESTOR	65418	FF8A	Reset I/O vectors
SAVE	65496	FFD8	Save memory block to device
SCNKEY	65439	FF9F	Scan keyboard
SCREEN	65517	FFED	Return XY details of screen
SECOND	65427	FF93	Send second address after LISTEN
SETLFS	65466	FFBA	Set logical first and second address
SETHOOK	65424	FF90	Control Kernal messages
SETNAM	65469	FFBD	Set file name
SETTIM	65499	FFDB	Set real time clock
SETTMO	65442	FFA2	Set timeout on serial bus
STOP	65505	FFE1	Scan STOP key
TALK	65460	FFB4	Instruct serial bus device to TALK
TKSA	65430	FF96	Send secondary address after TALK
UDTIM	65514	Ffea	Increment real time clock
UNLSN	65454	FFAE	Command serial bus to unLISTEN
UNTLK	65451	FFAB	Command serial bus to unTALK
VECTOR	65421	FF8D	Read/set vectored I/O

**CHKIN** Open a channel for input.

Address	65478 (\$FFC6)
Registers	X register, accumulator
Preparation	(OPEN)
Stack use	none

CHKIN is used to define an input channel from a previously OPENed logical file, thus allowing it to be read. The X register is used to hold the logical file number, the accumulator is also used. This routine *must* be called before using either the CHRIN or GETIN routines if data is being input from any device other than the keyboard.

Note that this routine will automatically send a TALK address if the communicating device is present on the serial bus. A secondary address will also be sent if so specified in the OPEN routine.

**Table 17.2 Vectored addresses**

Name	Address		Vector
	Decimal	Hex	
USRADD	1-2	0001-0002	USR address (0 holds \$4C)
ADRAY1	3-4	0003-0004	Covert FP to integer
ADRAY2	5-6	0005-0006	Convert integer to FP
INPPTR	67-68	0043-0044	INPUT routine
KEYTAB	245-246	00F5-00F6	Keyboard decode table
IERROR	768-769	0300-0301	BASIC error message
IMAIN	770-771	0302-0303	BASIC warm start
ICRNCH	772-773	0304-0305	BASIC tokenizer
CINV	788-789	0314-0315	Hardware IRQ
CBINV	790-791	0316-0317	BRK vector
NMINV	792-793	0318-0319	NMI vector
IOPEN	794-795	031A-031B	OPEN vector
ICLOSE	796-797	031C-031D	CLOSE vector
ICHKIN	798-799	031E-031F	CHKIN vector
ICKOUT	800-801	0320-0321	CHKOUT vector
ICLRCH	802-803	0322-0323	CLRCHN vector
IBASIN	804-805	0324-0325	CHRIN vector
IBSOUT	806-807	0326-0327	CHROUT vector
ISTOP	808-809	0328-0329	STOP vector
IGETIN	810-811	032A-032B	GETIN vector
ICLALL	812-813	032C-032D	CLALL vector
USRCMD	814-815	032E-032F	User-defined vector
ILOAD	816-817	0330-0331	LOAD vector
ISAVE	818-819	0332-0333	SAVE vector

There are three possible errors:

- #3 File is not OPEN
- #5 No device present
- #6 File not an input file!

*CHKOUT* Open a channel for output.

Address	65481 (\$FFC9)
Registers	X register, accumulator
Preparation	(OPEN)
Stack use	none

*CHKOUT* defines a previously OPENed file for output so that it may have data written to it. The X register should contain the file number; the accumulator is also used. This routine *must* be used prior to sending data to another device. *CHKOUT* will automatically send a LISTEN address if the device is present on the serial bus.

*Note* it is not necessary to call this routine to ouput data to the screen.

There are three possible errors:

- #3 No file open
- #5 No device present
- #7 No output file present!

**CHRIN** Input a character from the input channel.

Address	65487 (\$FFCF)
Registers	accumulator, X register
Preparation	(OPEN, CHKIN)
Stack use	none

CHRIN reads a byte of data into the accumulator from the channel already open for input. If CHKIN has not been called to define an input channel the keyboard will be used as a default channel.

This routine can be used to manipulate data already present in the keyboard buffer—for example, to move the keyboard buffer into the tape buffer. As the X register is required by CHRIN, the Y register must be used for indexing:

	PHA	\ save accumulator
	TXA	
	PHA	\ save X register
	LDY #0	\ initialize Y register as offset counter
LOOP	JSR CHRIN	\ remove character
	STA TAPE, Y	\ place in tape buffer
	INY	\ increment Y
	CMP #13	\ does accumulator hold CR?
	BNE LOOP	\ no, so repeat
	PLA	
	TXA	\ restore X register
	PLA	\ restore accumulator

**CHROUT** Output character in accumulator to channel.

Address	65490 (\$FFD2)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	(CHKOUT, OPEN)
Stack use	none

This routine can be used to print ASCII characters to the screen as this is the default output device. Other devices can be set up by calling the OPEN and CHKOUT routines. The character to be output should be placed into the accumulator. The following example shows how a string of characters can be printed to the screen.

	PHA	\ save accumulator
	LDY #0	\ initialize counter
LOOP	LDA WORD, Y	\ get byte
	JSR CHROUT	\ print it
	INY	\ increment counter
	CMP #13	\ was last character a CR?
	BNE LOOP	\ no repeat
	PLA	\ restore accumulator
	RTS	

WORD COMMODORE 64 <CR>

*CIOUT* Output byte to device on serial bus.

Address	65448 (\$FFA8)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	LISTEN, (SECOND)
Stack use	none

*CIOUT* writes the byte currently held in the accumulator to a device present on the IEEE serial bus using full serial handshaking. To ensure that the device is ready to receive data the LISTEN call must be used first; SECOND may be used to send a secondary address.

*CLALL* Close all files.

Address	65511 (\$FFE7)
Registers	accumulator, X register
Preparation	none
Stack use	11 bytes

This routine closes all files that are currently open. *CLALL* also calls *CLRCHN* to reset the input/output channels.

*CLOSE* Close logical file.

Address	65475 (\$FFC3)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	accumulator, X register
Stack use	none

This routine is used to close a specified logical file—the file number being in the accumulator (this must be the same number that the file was OPENed with). Errors are 0 and 240 and should be handled by calling *READST*.

*CLRCHN* Close all input/output channels.

Address	65484 (\$FFCC)
Registers	accumulator, X register
Preparation	none
Stack use	9 bytes

This routine is called to restore all input/output channels to their default values. The default input device is the keyboard (device #0) and the default output device is the screen (device #3). If one of the devices being closed is on the serial bus this routine will also call *UNTALK* or *UNLISTEN*. *CLRCHN* is automatically called by *CLALL*.

*GETIN* Get a character from keyboard.

Address	65508 (\$FFE4)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

This routine gets one character from the keyboard queue and places it in the accumulator. Characters may also be read in from the RS232 port. If no character is found in the queue then the accumulator returns the value 0. The following example shows how you can wait for a key to be pressed:

WAIT	JSR GETIN	\ get character
	BEQ WAIT	\ if empty repeat

Alternatively, a specific character (or sequence of characters) can be looked for. The following routine will only continue if the numbers 6 and 4 are entered one after the other:

SIX	JSR GETIN	\ get first character
	BEQ SIX	\ repeat if empty
	CMP #ASC“6”	\ is it a six?
	BNE SIX	\ no, restart!
FOUR	JSR GETIN	\ yes, get next character
	BEQ FOUR	\ repeat if empty
	CMP #ASC“4”	\ is it a four?
	BNE SIX	\ no, restart from beginning
		\ yes, all systems go!

*IOBASE* Read address of 6526 CIA.

Address	65523 (\$FFF3)
Registers	X and Y registers
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

When called, this routine returns the 16-bit address where the memory mapped I/O is located, in the index registers. The X register holds the low byte address and the Y register the high order byte.

*LISTEN* Command serial bus device to LISTEN.

Address	65457 (\$FFB1)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

The device on the serial bus specified by the number in the accumulator is commanded to receive data. The device number is in the range 4 to 31. Errors should be handled by READST.

*LOAD* Load memory from device into RAM.

Address	65493 (\$FFD5)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	SETLFS, SETNAM
Stack use	none

This routine can be used to load or verify a block of memory from an input device (tape, for example). The accumulator holds the command code—0 signals LOAD, 1 signals VERIFY. The SETLFS and SETNAM routines must be called first.

If a relocation of the load is required the SETLFS routine should be used to send a secondary address of 0, and the index registers must hold the reload start address. If the device is addressed with a secondary address of 1 then the data is loaded at the address given by the header.

*Example:*

LDA #0	\ load file from tape
LDX #low byte address	\ call SETLFS and SETNAM first
LDY #high byte address	\ set LOAD flag
JSR LOAD	\ set reload address if required
STX TEMP	\ load memory
STY TEMP+1	\ index registers now hold highest address
	\ loaded—save if needed

Errors returned are 0, 4, 5, 8, 9 (see READST).

*MEMBOT* Set bottom of memory.

Address	65436 (\$FF9C)
Registers	both index registers
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

This routine can be used to either read or set the bottom of memory, depending on the condition of the Carry flag. If carry is set then the address of the bottom of memory is returned in the X and Y registers. If carry is clear on entry to this routine, the values in the index registers are interpreted as an address and are loaded into the MEMBOT pointer which points to the bottom of RAM. This routine can be used to create ‘safe’ machine code space by moving the MEMBOT pointer up the memory map (say 512 bytes up), as the following example shows:

SEC	\ read current pointer
JSR MEMBOT	\ set Carry flag
INY	\ pointer in X and Y
INY	\ increment page by two
CLC	\ clear Carry flag
JSR MEMBOT	\ rewrite MEMBOT

*MEMTOP* Set the top of RAM

Address	65433 (\$FF99)
Registers	both index registers
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine can be used to either read or set the bottom of memory depending on the condition of the Carry flag. If carry is set then the address of the top of memory is returned in the X and Y registers. If the Carry flag is clear on entry to this routine the values in the index registers are interpreted as an address, and are loaded into the MEMTOP pointer which points to the top of RAM.

*OPEN* Open a logical file.

Address	65472 (\$FFC0)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	SETLFS, SETNAM
Stack use	none

This routine is used to OPEN a logical file for input or output operations. Both SETLFS and SETNAM must be used prior to the OPEN routine. The following example shows how the BASIC equivalent of OPEN 1, 1, 1, "NAME" can be implemented:

```
LDA #4          \ length of file name
LDY #3          \ high byte address filename
LDX #60         \ low byte address filename
JSR SETNAM      \ write filename
LDA #1
LDY #1
LDX #1
JSR SETLFS
JSR OPEN
```

*PLOT* Read/set cursor position.

Address	65520 (\$FFF0)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine can be used to read or set the cursor position depending on the condition of the Carry flag. If carry is set the X and Y coordinates of the cursor are loaded into the X and Y registers respectively. If carry is clear then the contents of the X and Y registers are used to reposition the cursor at the new X, Y coordinates. The following example shows how this routine can be used—in this case to move the cursor across and down one position:

```
SEC          \ set carry
JSR PLOT      \ read cursor coordinates
INX          \ add one to X coordinate
INY          \ add one to Y coordinate
CLC          \ clear carry
JSR PLOT      \ reposition cursor
```

*RDTIM* Read system clock.

Address	65502 (\$FFDE)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine can be used to read the system (jiffy) clock which 'ticks' every 60th second. The accumulator returns the most significant byte, the X register the next most significant and the Y register the least significant byte. The jiffy clock is maintained in locations \$A0, \$A1 and \$A2 though these locations should not be read directly.

*Example:*

```

JSR RDTIM          \ read jiffy clock
STA $FB           \ save time in zero page
STX $FC
STY $FD

```

**READST** Read status word.

Address	65463 (\$FFB7)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine returns the current status of an input/output device. Status is returned as a single-byte bit pattern in the accumulator. This routine should generally be called on completion of any input/output procedure which might cause an error. The errors associated with particular bits are shown in Table 17.3.

**Table 17.3**

Bit	Cassette read	Serial RW	Tape verify/load
0		Time-out write	
1		Time-out read	
2	Short block		Short block
3	Long block		Long block
4	Read error		Mismatch
5	Checksum error		Checksum error
6	End of file	EOI line	
7	End of tape	No device present	End of tape

For example, the following routine can be used to check a tape load for checksum errors:

```

JSR READST
AND #$20          \ checksum?
BEQ ERROR         \ yes, call, handling routine

```

**RESTOR** Reset all system default vectors.

Address	65418 (\$FF8A)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

All system vectors used in Kernal and BASIC, plus the interrupt vectors, are reset to their default values.

**SAVE** Save memory block to device.

Address	65496 (\$FFD8)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	SETLFS, SETNAM
Stack use	none

The accumulator points to a zero page vector specifying the start address of the memory to be saved, and the index registers hold the end address. The SETLFS and SETNAM routines must be used prior to SAVE. Note that a filename is not needed when saving to tape (device 1).

The following routine shows how a section of memory stored from \$C000 to \$C12A (i.e. part of the BASIC ROM) may be saved to tape:

LDA #1	\ device 1 therefore tape
JSR SETLFS	
LDA #5	\ filename 5 characters long i.e. "FILE1"
LDX #LOW	\ load low byte address of filename
LDY #HIGH	\ load high byte address of filename
JSR SETNAM	\ write filename
LDA #00	\ low byte start
STA \$FB	
LDA #\$C0	\ high byte start
STA \$FC	
LDA #\$FB	\ point accumulator to START address
LDX #\$2A	\ low byte END address
LDY #\$C1	\ high byte END address
JSR SAVE	\ save memory block

**SCNKEY** Scan the keyboard.

Address	65439 (\$FF9F)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

This routine scans the keyboard looking for a 'depressed' key. If such a key is detected its ASCII code is placed into the normal keyboard queue for processing. The following example shows how a machine code program can truly handle input from the keyboard:

KEY JSR SCNKEY	\ scan keyboard
JSR GETIN	\ get character
BEQ KEY	\ branch if no key present

**SCREEN** Returns screen set-up.

Address	65517 (\$FFED)
Registers	X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine returns the number of columns in the X register and number of lines in the Y register.

**SECOND** Send secondary address for LISTEN.

Address	65427 (\$FF93)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	LISTEN
Stack use	none

This routine is used to send a secondary address on the serial bus following a call to the LISTEN routine. Errors are indicated in the status byte.

**SETLFS** Set up a logical file.

Address	65466 (\$FFBA)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine will normally be called during the initialization of input/output by other routines. It is used to declare the logical file number, device number and secondary address (command number). These are placed in the accumulator, X register and Y register respectively. If no secondary address is to be sent then the Y register should contain 255 (\$FF).

To set up the printer as logical device number 3, and to send a secondary address of 7 so that it will print in lower case, use the following:

```
LDA #3      \ logical file 3
LDX #4      \ select serial bus printer
LDY #7      \ lower case
JSR SETLFS
```

**SETMSG** Control messages.

Address	65424 (\$FF90)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine governs control and error messages. Bits 6 and 7 of the accumulator indicate the message's origin. If bit 7 is set an error message will be printed from the Kernal, i.e. 'FILE NOT FOUND'. If bit 6 is set, a control message is output, i.e. 'PRESS PLAY ON CASSETTE'.

Messages can be enabled or disabled as follows:

```
LDA #0
JSR SETMSG      \ turn off all messages
LDA #40         \ 0100 0000 bit 6 on
JSR SETMSG      \ control messages only
LDA #80         \ 1000 0000 bit 7 on
JSR SETMSG      \ error messages only
```

**SETNAM** Setup filename.

Address	65469 (\$FFBD)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

This routine is used to set up a filename for use by the OPEN, SAVE or LOAD routines. The length of the filename is loaded into the accumulator and the index registers are used to hold the address where the filename is stored—low byte in X register high byte in Y register. If no filename is required the accumulator can be set to 0 and the index register's contents are ignored.

To set the filename as 'RETURNS', which is stored as an ASCII string at \$0334, the following could be used:

```
LDA #7          \ filename length
LDX #$34        \ low byte filename address
LDY #$03        \ high byte filename address
JSR SETNAM
```

**SETTIM** Set the system clock.

Address	65499 (\$FFDB)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine is used to set the system jiffy clock. Three bytes are expected by the routine, the most significant byte is placed into the accumulator, the next in the X register and the least significant in the Y register.

**SETTMO** Set time-out on serial bus.

Address	65442 (\$FFA2)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine can be used to set or reset the time-out flag for the IEEE serial bus.

**STOP** Test for STOP key being pressed.

Address	65505 (\$FFE1)
Registers	accumulator, X register
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

If the STOP key is detected during a keyboard scan the Zero flag is set. If the STOP key is not detected, then the accumulator holds a byte corresponding to the very last row of the keyboard scan.

**TALK** Instruct the serial bus device to TALK.

Address	65460 (\$FFB4)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

The accumulator should contain the number which corresponds to the device about to be asked to TALK. Check status byte for errors.

**TKSA** Send secondary address after TALK.

Address	65430 (\$FF96)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	TALK
Stack use	none

This routine is used to send a secondary address on the serial bus to the TALKing device. The status byte should be checked for errors.

**UDTIM** Increment system clock.

Address	65514 (\$FFEA)
Registers	accumulator, X register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

This routine simply increments the system jiffy clock by one sixtieth of a second.

**UNLSN** Command serial device to unLISTEN.

Address	65454 (\$FFAE)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

This routine instructs all devices that are currently LISTENing on the serial bus to stop doing so! Use READST to check for errors.

**UNTLK** Command serial device to unTALK.

Address	65451 (\$FFAB)
Registers	accumulator
Preparation	none
Stack use	none

Instructs all devices currently TALKing on serial bus to stop doing so. Error checks may be performed on status byte.

**VECTOR** Read/set vectors.

Address	65421 (\$FF8D)
Registers	accumulator, X register, Y register
Preparation	none
Stack use	2 bytes

Depending on the condition of the Carry flag the system vectors will either be read or reset. Calling the routine with carry set causes the system vectors to be stored in the section of memory pointed to by the address held in the index registers. If the Carry flag is clear, the list pointed to by the index registers is copied into the system vectors.

# 18 Interrupts and Breaks

## INTERRUPTS

An interrupt is a signal that causes the program that is currently running to halt temporarily whilst program control is transferred to a subroutine somewhere in memory that is designed to *service* the interrupt. Once the interrupt has been dealt with control is passed back to the original program, allowing it to continue as though nothing had happened.

There are two different types of interrupt—the NMI (non-maskable interrupt) and the IRQ (interrupt request). The difference between the two is that an NMI must be serviced immediately because it is too important to ignore, whereas an IRQ can be ignored until we are ready to service it. A variety of different devices can interrupt the 6502, some obvious examples being devices attached to the user port or games port.

On the VIC 20, the NMI is used by the Kernal Operating System to communicate with various devices on- and off-board. As this type of interrupt cannot be ‘programmed’ directly it is not specifically covered here—though much of what follows is applicable. The IRQ has two instructions associated with it which directly affect bit 2 of the Status register, they are:

CLI	Clear interrupt disable bit
SEI	Set interrupt disable bit

The condition of the Interrupt flag within the Status register determines whether the IRQ is serviced or ignored when it occurs. If the Interrupt bit is set ( $I=1$ ) then an IRQ is ignored; if the Interrupt bit is clear ( $I=0$ ) an IRQ is serviced the moment it occurs.

Let’s examine the exact sequence of events that takes place when an IRQ occurs, assuming that the Interrupt flag is clear. Firstly, the processor completes the operation specified by the machine level instruction it is currently executing. The Status register is examined to determine if bit 2 is clear (in our case it is), in which case the contents of the Program Counter and Status register are pushed on to the hardware stack. The Interrupt bit is now set ( $I=1$ ) to shut out any further IRQs whilst one is being serviced. Note that the Interrupt bit is set *after* the Status register has been saved, thus preserving its pre-interrupt condition. At the end of this chain of events, the Program Counter is loaded with the contents of the locations \$FFFE and \$FFFF, the top two bytes in the memory map, and a jump performed to this address. The machine code located here (65352 in BASIC V2 machines) is listed below, and ends with a jump to the actual *Interrupt service routine* responsible for locating and servicing the IRQ.

The IRQ routine also has a vector in block zero RAM associated with it—at 788 (\$0314)—and any user-generated interrupt routines should gain control through here. On completion of the interrupt service routine, control must be returned to the interrupted

program. To facilitate this a further instruction is provided:

RTI      Return from interrupt

This instruction resets the Status register and Program Counter to the values previously saved on the stack, and allows the original program to continue from the point at which it was interrupted.

Before performing the indirect jump to the IRQ vector the Kernel also saves the contents of the other registers. This is very important because they will undoubtedly be altered by the interrupt service routine, and we need to ensure that the contents of *all* registers are in their pre-interrupt condition before the RTI is executed. The machine code located at 65394 responsible for this reads as follows:

65394	PHA	\ save accumulator on stack
65395	TXA	
65396	PHA	\ save X register on stack.
65397	TYA	
65398	PHA	\ save Y register on stack
65399	TSX	\ transfer Stack Pointer to X register
65400	LDA 260, X	\ get Status register
65403	AND #16	\ mask off high nibble
65405	BEQ +3	\ if Z = 1 then IRQ
65407	JMP (790)	
65410	JMP (788)	\ jump to IRQ service

As you can see, the accumulator and index registers are pushed on to the stack *before* jumping to the IRQ vector—any user-supplied routines should act on this and handle them as required. Several bytes in Page 03 are reserved as store locations for the registers (see Table 18.1), and user-supplied routines can also use these if stack space is at a premium. (The JMP (790) instruction is described in the next section—BREAKS.)

Table 18.1

Label	Address	Description
SAREG	780 (\$030C)	Accumulator store
SXREG	781 (\$030D)	X register storage
SYREG	782 (\$030E)	Y register storage
SPREG	783 (\$030F)	Stack Pointer storage

The VIC 20's keyboard is interrupt driven. Every time you press a key an interrupt service routine is used to store the depressed key's value into the keyboard buffer for servicing. As an active example enter the following one line program:

10 FOR N=0 TO 2000 : NEXT N

Type RUN and hit a few keys on the keyboard while this nonsense loop is being executed. When the loop has finished the keys you pressed previously appear on the screen, proving that you interrupted the program at machine level whilst it was running.

## BREAKS

There is an instruction in the VIC 20's 6502 instruction set which allows a software type of interrupt to be generated—this instruction is:

BRK      Break

**BRK** is a single byte instruction (opcode **\$00**) which can be inserted into programs as and when required. When the 6502 encounters a BRK instruction it does a number of things—in fact, it proceeds along a similar path to that taken by an IRQ. Firstly it increments the Program Counter so that it is now pointing to the instruction after the BRK, and then pushes this two byte address on to the hardware stack. Next it sets the Break flag, which is bit 4 of the Status register, and then pushes this on to the stack before jumping to the BRK servicing routine. This routine's address is stored in locations \$FFFE and \$FFFF and therefore it is the same servicing routine as that used by an IRQ. Or is it? Well not exactly—it just enters at the same point. Referring to the interrupt service routine address 65403, the high byte of the Status register, now in the accumulator, is masked off by the AND #16 instruction. Now if a BRK had occurred, bit 4 (the Break flag) would be set and the BEQ would not take place. Instead, there would be an indirect jump to the BRK vector at 790.

By resetting the BRK vector it is possible to perform simple machine code debugging by pointing the BRK handler to a user-supplied routine that prints out the contents of all the processor's registers at the time the BRK occurred.

# 19 Prepacked Utilities

I am sure that you will find the programs that follow in this chapter very useful when you write your own serious machine code—thus I have called them utility programs because they have a practical use. Included are programs to:

1. Convert an ASCII based hex number into its binary equivalent.
2. Convert and print a binary value as a two digit ASCII based hex number.
3. Print an ASCII string stored within the machine code itself.

## HEX TO BINARY CONVERSION

The following routine will convert two ASCII based hexadecimal characters into their eight bit binary equivalent. For example, if the characters F E are input, the binary value returned would be 1111 1110—this will of course be printed as 254, the decimal equivalent. This is a particularly important procedure especially if programs handling hexadecimal data are anticipated. Conversion is not difficult and Table 19.1 gives some indication of what is required.

Table 19.1

Hex character	Binary value	ASCII value	ASCII binary
0	0000	\$30	0011 0000
1	0001	\$31	0011 0001
2	0010	\$32	0011 0010
3	0011	\$33	0011 0011
4	0100	\$34	0011 0100
5	0101	\$35	0011 0101
6	0110	\$36	0011 0110
7	0111	\$37	0011 0111
8	1000	\$38	0011 1000
9	1001	\$39	0011 1001
A	1010	\$41	0100 0001
B	1011	\$42	0100 0010
C	1100	\$43	0100 0011
D	1101	\$44	0100 0100
E	1110	\$45	0100 0101
F	1111	\$46	0100 0110

In the case of the characters 0 to 9 it should be fairly obvious that all we need to do to convert them to binary is to mask out the high nibble of the character's ASCII code, because the low nibble binary is the same as the hex character itself.

Converting the characters A to F is a little less obvious. However, if the high nibble of the ASCII code is masked off, then the remaining low nibble is 9 less than the hex value required. For example, the ASCII for 'D' is 01000100, masking off the high nibble gives 0100, which is 4, add 9 to this to arrive at \$D = 1101.

### Program 35

```
10 REM ** ASCII HEX TO BINARY **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP =0 TO 48
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 32,94,3 : REM $20, $5E, $3 — JSR CHARACTER
100 DATA 165,252 : REM $A5, $FC — LDA $FC
110 DATA 32,84,3 : REM $20, $54, $3 — JSR CHECK
120 DATA 10 : REM $0A — ASL A
130 DATA 10 : REM $0A — ASL A
140 DATA 10 : REM $0A — ASL A
150 DATA 10 : REM $0A — ASL A
160 DATA 133,253 : REM $85, $FD — STA $FD
170 DATA 165,251 : REM $A5, $FB — LDA $FB
180 DATA 32,84,3 : REM $20, $54, $3 — JSR CHECK
190 DATA 5,253 : REM $05, $FD — ORA $FD
200 DATA 133,254 : REM $85, $FE — STA $FD
210 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
220 REM ** CHECK SUBROUTINE : $0354 **
230 DATA 201,58 : REM $C9, $3A — CMP #$3A
240 DATA 176,3 : REM $B0, $03 — BCS ATOF
250 DATA 41,15 : REM $29, $0F — AND #$0F
260 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
270 REM ATOF
280 DATA 233,55 : REM $E9, $37 — SBC #$37
290 DATA 96 : REM $60 — RTS
300 REM ** CHARACTER SUBROUTINE : $035E **
310 REM FIRST
320 DATA 32,228,255 : REM $20, $E4, $FF — JSR $FFE4
330 DATA 240,251 : REM $F0, $FB — BEQ FIRST
340 DATA 133,252 : REM $85, $FC — STA $FC
```

```

350      REM SECOND
360  DATA 32,228,255 : REM $20, $E4, $FF — JSR $FFE4
370  DATA 240,251   : REM $F0, $FB — BEQ SECOND
380  DATA 133,251   : REM $85, $FB — STA $FB
390  DATA 96        : REM $60 — RTS
400  :
410  PRINT CHR$(147)
420  PRINT "ENTER TWO HEX DIGITS"
425  PRINT
430  SYS CODE
440  PRINT "THEIR BINARY VALUE IS: "
450  PRINT PEEK(254)

```

The program begins by calling the CHARACTER subroutine to obtain two ASCII based hex characters (lines 310 to 390) and places them in locations 251 (\$FB) and 252 (\$FC). The high nibble character is converted first by calling the CHECK subroutine (lines 230 to 290). If the ASCII based character byte is in the range 0–9 the high nibble is masked off (line 250), otherwise 55 is subtracted from it (line 280). This has the same effect as masking off the high nibble and adding nine!

On returning from the CHECK subroutine the result, now held in the low four bits, is shifted left into the high nibble of the accumulator (lines 120 to 150) and saved for future reference (line 160).

A similar procedure is used to convert the low ASCII based character, but on return from the CHECK subroutine the resultant binary is logically ORed with the previous result (line 190) to produce the final value. This is then stored in location 254 (\$FD).

This program could be improved in a number of ways; for instance, the ASCII characters are not echoed to the screen, nor are there any checks to ensure that only legal hex values are entered. You might like to add these extra facilities yourself?

## BINARY TO HEX CONVERSION

To convert an eight bit binary number into its ASCII hex equivalent characters, the process described above is reversed. However, because characters are printed on the screen from left to right we must, in this instance, deal with the high nibble of the byte first. Program 36 requests a number for conversion (lines 300–370) and holds it in the accumulator. It is then pushed onto the stack (line 90), and the high nibble is shifted four times to move it into the low nibble position (lines 100–130). The subroutine FIRST does the conversion. After ensuring that no high bits are set (line 170) the binary value is tested to see if it's in the range 0–9 (line 180). If it is not (and is therefore in the range A–F), 7 is added to the accumulator (line 200—6 by the command plus 1 from the Carry flag). Line 220 performs the conversion by adding \$30, which effectively sets bits 4 and 5. After printing the ASCII character (line 230) control returns back to line 150, where the original binary value is pulled off the stack in readiness for the low nibble (line 170) to be converted into the appropriate ASCII character.

### Program 36

```

10  REM ** PRINT ACCUMULATOR AS HEX NUMBER **
20  CODE = 828
30  FOR LOOP = 0 TO 21
40  READ BYTE
50  POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE

```

```

60 NEXT LOOP
70 :
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 72      : REM $48      — PHA
100 DATA 74     : REM $4A      — LSR A
110 DATA 74     : REM $4A      — LSR A
120 DATA 74     : REM $4A      — LSR A
130 DATA 74     : REM $4A      — LSR A
140 DATA 32,69,3 : REM $20, $45, $03 — JSR FIRST
150 DATA 104    : REM $68      — PLA
160 REM ** FIRST SUBROUTINE : $0345
170 DATA 41,15   : REM $29, $0F      — AND #$0F
180 DATA 201,10  : REM $C9, $0A      — CMP #$0A
190 DATA 144,2   : REM $90, $02      — BCC OVER
200 DATA 105,6   : REM $69, $06      — ADC #$06
210             REM OVER
220 DATA 105,48  : REM $69, $30      — ADC #$30
230 DATA 76,210,255 : REM $4C, $D2, $FF — JMP $FFD2
240
250 REM ** DEMO PROGRAM **
260 REM LDA $FB : JMP $33C
270 POKE 820, 165 : POKE 821, 251
280 POKE 822, 76 : POKE 823, 60 : POKE 824, 3
290 PRINT CHR$(147)
300 PRINT "HIT A KEY AND ITS HEX"
305 PRINT "VALUE IN ASCII WILL"
310 PRINT "BE DISPLAYED"
320 GET A$
330 IF A$=" " THEN GOTO 320
340 A = ASC(A$)
350 POKE 251, A
360 REM ** CALL LINK ROUTINE—LINES 270 and 280 **
370 SYS 820
380 REM ** CALL 'SYS CODE' TO USE DIRECTLY **

```

Program 36 is demonstrated by pressing any of the alphanumeric keys—it then prints their ASCII hexadecimal value.

## OUTPUT ASCII STRING

This utility subroutine—Program 37—enables ASCII character strings to be stored within the body of machine code programs ready for printing on to the screen. It has two

advantages over the normal absolute indexing approach. Firstly, it is inserted into the program at the point it is needed and secondly, it calculates its own address and is therefore fully relocatable.

### Program 37

```
10 REM ** ASCII STRING OUTPUT ROUTINE **
20 CODE = 828
30 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 26
40 READ BYTE
50 POKE CODE + LOOP, BYTE
60 NEXT LOOP
70
80 REM ** M/C DATA **
90 DATA 104      : REM $68          — PLA
100 DATA 133,251 : REM $85, $FB    — STA $FB
120 DATA 104      : REM $68          — PLA
130 DATA 133,252 : REM $85, $FC    — STA $FC
140                   REM REPEAT $0342
150 DATA 160,0      : REM $A0, $00    — LDY #$00
160 DATA 230,251 : REM $E6, $FB    — INC $FB
170 DATA 208,2      : REM $D0, $02    — BNE CLEAR
180 DATA 230,252 : REM $E6, $FC    — INC $FC
190                   REM CLEAR
200 DATA 177,251 : REM $B1, $FB    — LDA ($FB), Y
210 DATA 48,6       : REM $30, $06    — BMI FINISH
220 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
230 DATA 76,66,3     : REM $4C, $42, $03 — JMP REPEAT
240                   REM FINISH
250 DATA 108,251,0   : REM $6C, $FB, $00 — JMP ($FB)
260
270 REM ** DEMO ROUTINE **
280 REM ** LOCATED AT $03E8
290 DEMO = 1000
300 FOR LOOP = 0 TO 16
310 READ BYTE
320 POKE DEMO + LOOP, BYTE
330 NEXT LOOP
340
350 DATA 169,147    : REM $A9, $93    — LDA #$93
360 DATA 32,210,255 : REM $20, $D2, $FF — JSR $FFD2
370 DATA 32,60,13     : REM $20, $3C, $33 — JSR OUTPUT
```

```

380 REM ** NOW STORE ASCII CODES FOR PRINTING **
390 DATA 86,73,67,32,50,48,13
400 REM V, I, C, ,2, 0, <CR>
410 DATA 234      : REM $EA          — NOP
420 DATA 96       : REM $60          — RTS
430 SYS DEMO

```

The main ASCII output routine is between lines 90 and 250, a short demonstration program is included in lines 350 to 420. The demo program begins by clearing the screen (lines 350 and 360), then the OUTPUT routine located at \$33C is called. Immediately following this call the ASCII text for output is POKEd into memory. The end of the string is marked by a negative byte—one that has its most significant bit set. NOP is ideal for this because it doesn't do anything (line 410).

The ASCII print routine, which is just 27 bytes long, begins by pulling the RTS address (from the calling subroutine) off the stack and placing it into two zero page locations, 251 (\$FB) and 252 (\$FC).

Because the string immediately follows the CODE subroutine call (see Figure 19.1), post-indexed indirect addressing can be used to load the first string character into the accumulator (line 200). Line 210 tests to see if the string-terminating negative byte has been reached. If not, the character is printed (line 220). A JMP back to REPEAT is implemented (line 230) and the zero page address incremented (lines 160–180) so that the next string character can be sought out. Once the negative byte is encountered and the test of line 210 succeeds, an indirect jump (line 250) via the zero page address will return control to the calling machine code program.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Hex</u>	<u>Mnemonic/character</u>
1000	\$3E8	A9 LDA#
1001	\$3E9	93 147
1002	\$3EA	20 JSR
1003	\$3EB	D2 ] \$FFD2
1004	\$3EC	FF ]
1005	\$3ED	20 JSR
1006	\$3EE	3C ] \$033C
1007	\$3EF	03 ]
1008	\$3F0	56 V
1009	\$3F1	49 I
1010	\$3F2	43 C
1011	\$3F3	20 <SP>
1012	\$3F4	32 2
1013	\$3F5	30 0
1014	\$3F6	0D <CR>
1015	\$3F7	EA NOP
1016	\$3F8	60 RTS

Figure 19.1 Memory layout of part of Program 37.

# 1 The Screen

The character set can be displayed on the screen in two different ways:

1. By printing the ASCII code.
2. By storing the screen code into screen memory and setting the colour memory.

The screen and ASCII codes are listed in the *Manual*.

To print an ASCII code on to the screen, first load the ASCII code into the accumulator and then call the Kernal CHROUT routine at \$FFD2. For example to print an 'A' use:

```
LDA #65          \ ASCII code for A  
JSR $FFD2        \ print it
```

The print position can be specified by first calling the Kernal PLOT routine.

Using screen codes is slightly more involved. First the screen code must be placed into the relevant screen memory position, and then the corresponding location in the colour memory must be POKEd with the specified colour code to 'turn on' the print colour. For example, to display a blue 'A' midway down the left-hand side of the screen the following can be used:

```
LDA #1          \ POKE code for A  
STA 7680        \ store in screen memory  
LDX #6          \ code for blue  
STX 3840        \ store in colour memory to show blue  
                  letter A
```

Figures A1.1 and A1.2 show the screen and colour memory maps.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

7680																					
7702																					
7724																					
7746																					
7768																					
7790																					
7812																					
7834																					
7856																					
7878																					
7900																					
7922																					
7944																					
7966																					
7988																					
8010																					
8032																					
8054																					
8076																					
8098																					
8120																					
8142																					
8164																					

Figure A1.1 Screen Memory Map

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

38400																					
38422																					
38444																					
38466																					
38488																					
38510																					
38532																					
38554																					
38576																					
38598																					
38620																					
38642																					
38664																					
38686																					
38708																					
38730																					
38752																					
38774																					
38796																					
38818																					
38840																					
38862																					
38884																					

Figure A1.2 Colour Memory Map

## 2 The 6502

So far throughout this book we have been concerned with the software aspects of the VIC's 6502, or in other words, how to program it! We could not really finish without having a glimpse at its hardware or physical features. For example, just how is it organized internally and how does it transfer data to and fro? While it is not absolutely vital to understand these features, an understanding of its design will enhance your new found knowledge.

Figure A2.1 shows a simplified block diagram of the 6502's design or *architecture* as it is more commonly called. If you study it many of the features will be readily recognizable. There are a few exceptions though, including three buses, the address bus, the data bus, and the control bus. You may well be wondering just what is meant by bus? It is not, as you may have thought, a number 19 bound for Highbury Barn—it's simply a collective term for a series of wires—or *tracks* as they are called on a *Printed Circuit Board* (PCB for short)—onto which a 1 or a 0 can be placed electronically.

By placing a series of 1s and 0s onto the eight lines of the data bus, a byte of information may be transferred to or from the address specified by the binary value present at that instant in time on the 16 lines of the address bus.

The control bus lines are responsible for carrying the numerous synchronization signals that are required for the VIC to operate.

### EXECUTING INSTRUCTIONS

We can now examine just how the 6502 fetches, interprets and executes each instruction. Firstly, the 6502 must locate and read the next instruction of the machine code program. It does this by placing the current contents of the Program Counter onto the address bus and simultaneously placing a read signal on the appropriate control bus line. Almost instantaneously the instruction, or more correctly the byte that constitutes the instruction, is placed onto the data bus. The 6502 then reads the contents of the data bus into a special internal, eight bit register, known as the Instruction Register (IR for short), which is used exclusively by the 6502 to hold data waiting for processing. Once in the IR, the Control Unit interprets the instruction and then generates the various internal and external signals required to execute the instruction. For example, if the data byte fetched was \$A5, the 6502 would interpret this as LDA zero page, and would fetch the next byte of data and interpret this as the address at which the data to be placed into the accumulator is located. Each one of these operations would be performed in a manner similar to that already described.

Obviously instructions and data must be fetched in the correct sequence. To enable this to happen the Program Counter is provided with an automatic incrementing device. Each time the Program Counter's contents are placed onto the address bus the incrementer adds one to its contents, thus ensuring bytes are fetched and stored in the correct order.

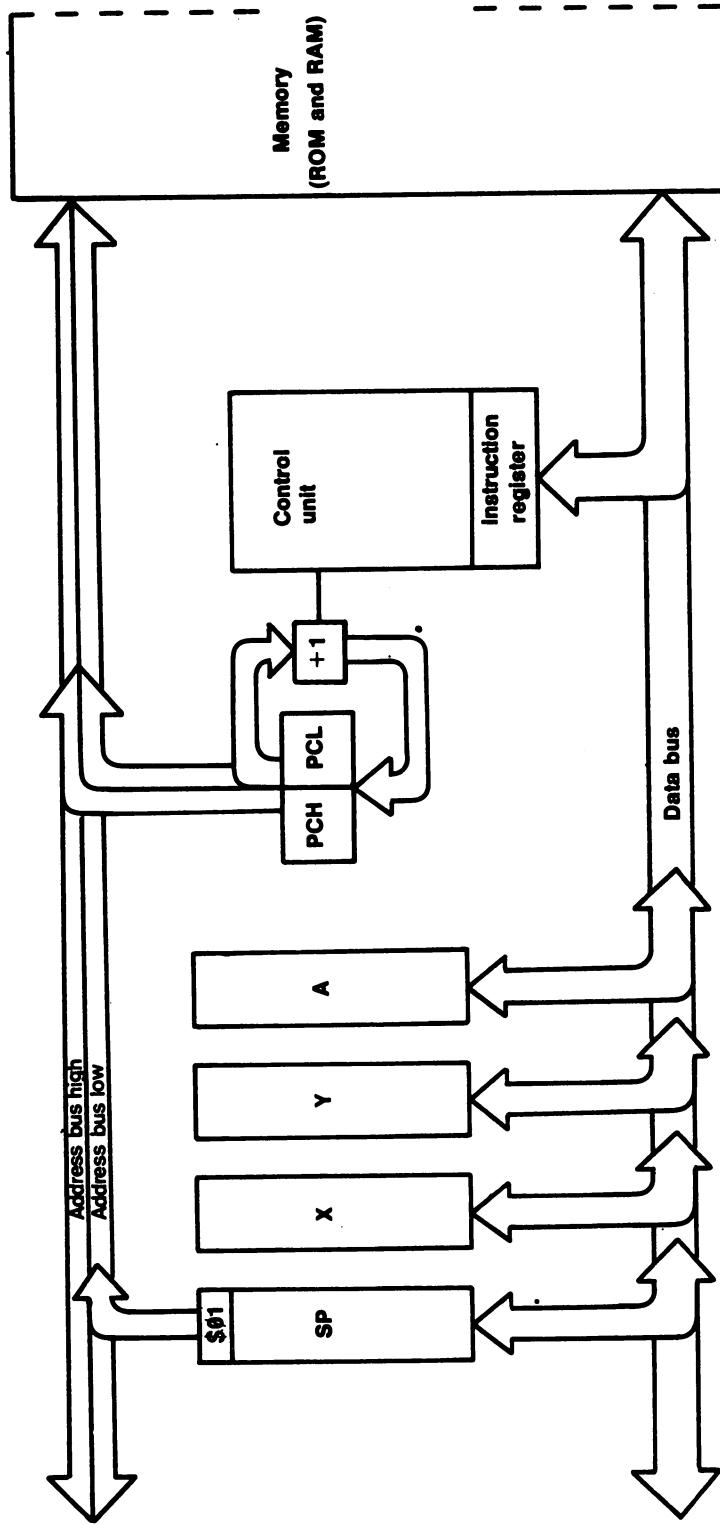


Figure A2.1 The 6502—block diagram.

# 3 The Instruction Set

This section contains a full description of each of the 56 instructions that the 6502 is provided with. For ease of reference, the instructions are arranged in alphabetical order by mnemonic, and each description is broken down into the following six sections:

*Introduction* A brief one or two line description of the instruction's function.

*Table* This details the addressing modes available with the instruction, and lists the various opcodes, the total number of memory bytes required by each addressing mode, and finally the number of cycles that particular addressing mode takes to complete.

*Status* Shows the effect the execution of the instruction has on the Status register. The following codes are employed:

- \* The flag is affected by the instruction but bits are undefined, being dependent on the byte's contents
- 1 The flag is set by the instruction
- 0 The flag is cleared by the instruction

If no code is indicated the flag remains unaltered by the instruction.

*Operation* A brief description of how the instruction operates together with details of its effect on the Status register.

*Applications* Some hints and tips on the sort of applications the instruction might be used for.

## ADC

Add memory to accumulator with carry.

Addressing	Opcode		Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex		
ADC #immediate	105	\$69	2	2
ADC zero page	101	\$65	2	3
ADC zero page, X	117	\$75	2	4
ADC absolute	109	\$6D	3	4
ADC absolute, X	125	\$7D	4	4/5
ADC absolute, Y	121	\$79	3	4/5
ADC (zero page, X)	97	\$61	2	6
ADC (zero page), Y	113	\$71	2	5/6

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
*	*				*	*	

**Operation** Adds the contents of the specified memory location to the current contents of the accumulator. If the Carry flag is set this is added to the result which is then stored in the accumulator. If the result is greater than \$FF (255) the Carry flag is set. If the result is equal to zero the Zero flag is set. The contents of bit 7 of the accumulator are copied into the Status register. If overflow occurred from bit 6 to bit 7 the Overflow flag is set.

**Applications** Allows single, double and multibyte numbers to be added together. Overflow from one byte to another is provided by the Carry flag which is included in the addition.

## AND

**Logical AND of memory location with accumulator.**

Addressing	Opcode	Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex	
AND #immediate	41	\$29	2
AND zero page	37	\$25	2
AND zero page, X	53	\$35	2
AND absolute	45	\$2D	3
AND absolute, X	61	\$3D	4
AND absolute, Y	57	\$39	3
AND (zero page, X)	33	\$21	2
AND (zero page), Y	49	\$31	5

N V — B D I Z C

**Operation** Logically ANDs the corresponding bits of the accumulator with the specified value or contents of memory location. The result of the operation is stored in the accumulator but memory contents remain unaltered. If the result of the AND is 0, the Zero flag is set. If the result leaves bit 7 set, the Negative flag is set. Otherwise both flags are cleared.

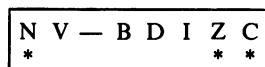
**Applications** Used to ‘mask off’ the unwanted bits of the accumulator.

AND #\$F0 \ masks off lower nibble, 11110000  
AND #\$0F \ masks off higher nibble, 00001111

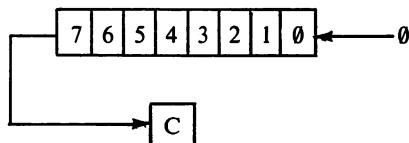
## ASL

Shift contents of accumulator or memory left by one bit.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
ASL accumulator	10	\$0A	1	2
ASL zero page	6	\$06	2	5
ASL zero page, X	22	\$16	2	6
ASL absolute	14	\$0E	3	6
ASL absolute, X	30	\$1E	3	7



*Operation* Shuffles the bits in a specified location one bit left. Bit 7 moves into the carry, and a zero is placed into the vacated bit 0.



The Carry flag is set if bit 7 contained a 1 before the shift, and cleared if it contained 0. The Negative flag is set if bit 6 previously contained a 1. The Zero flag is set if the location holds \$00 after the shift. (For this to occur it must previously have contained either \$00 or \$80).

*Applications* Multiplies the byte by two. Can be used to shift low nibble of byte into high nibble.

## BCC

Branch if the Carry flag is clear ( $C = 0$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Bytes	Cycles
	Hex		
BCC relative	144	\$90	2      2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Carry flag is clear ( $C = 0$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and is added to the current contents of the Program Counter. This gives the new address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Carry flag is set ( $C = 1$ ) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* The Carry flag is conditioned by a number of instructions such as ADC, SBC, CMP, CPX and CPY, and a branch will occur if any of these result in clearing the flag. A 'forced' branch can be implemented using:

CLC    \ C = 0  
BCC value    \ 'jump'

## BCS

Branch if the Carry flag is set ( $C = 1$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Bytes	Cycles
	Hex		
BCS relative	176	\$B0	2      2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Carry flag is set ( $C = 1$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and is added to the current contents of the Program Counter; this gives the new address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Carry flag is clear ( $C = 0$ ) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* As with BCC but the branch will only take place if an operation results in the Carry flag being set. A 'forced' branch can be implemented with:

SEC    \ C = 1  
BCS set    \ 'jump'

## BEQ

Branch if the Zero flag is set ( $Z = 1$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BEQ relative	240	\$F0	2	2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Zero flag is set ( $Z = 1$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and is added to the current contents of the Program Counter; this gives the new program address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Zero flag is clear ( $Z = 0$ ) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* Used to cause a branch when the Zero flag is set. This happens when an operation results in zero (e.g. LDA #0). The BEQ command is used frequently after a comparison instruction, for example:

CMP #ASC“?”

BEQ Questionmark

If the comparison succeeds the Zero flag is set therefore BEQ will work.

## BIT

Test memory bits.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BIT zero page	36	\$24	2	3
BIT absolute	44	\$2C	3	4

N V — B D I Z C

\* \* \* \*

*Operation* The BIT operation affects only the Status register, the accumulator and the specified memory location are unaltered. Bit 7 and bit 6 of the memory byte are copied directly into N and V respectively. The Zero flag is conditioned after a logical bitwise AND between the accumulator and the memory byte. If accumulator AND memory results in zero then  $Z = 1$ , otherwise  $Z = 0$ .

*Applications* Often used in conjunction with BPL/BMI or BVS/BVC to test bits 7 and 6 of a memory location and to cause a branch depending on their condition.

## BMI

Branch if the Negative flag is set ( $N = 1$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BMI relative	48	\$30	2	2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Negative flag is set ( $N = 1$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and is added to the current contents of the Program Counter; this gives the new address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Negative flag is clear ( $N = 0$ ) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* Generally after an operation has been performed (i.e. LDA, LDX etc.) the most significant bit of the register is copied into the Negative flag position. If it is set then a branch will occur using BMI. The 'minus' part of the mnemonic denotes this instruction's importance when using signed arithmetic—where bit 7 is used to denote the sign of a number in two's complement form.

## BNE

Branch if the Zero flag is clear ( $Z = 0$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BNE relative	208	\$D0	2	2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Zero flag is clear ( $Z = 0$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and is added to the current contents of the Program Counter; this gives the new address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Zero flag is set ( $Z = 1$ ) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* Used to cause a branch when the Zero flag is clear. It's often used, in conjunction with a decrementing counter, as a loop controlling command.

DEX

BNE AGAIN

will continue branching back to AGAIN until  $X = 0$  and the Zero flag is set.

## BPL

Branch if the Negative flag is clear (N = 0).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BPL relative	16	\$10	2	3/4/5

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Negative flag is clear (N = 0) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and is added to the current contents of the Program Counter; this gives the new address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Negative flag is set (N = 1) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* Generally after an operation has been performed (i.e. LDA, ROL, CPX etc.) the most significant bit of the register is copied into the Negative flag position. If it is clear then a branch will occur if BPL is used. The 'plus' part of the mnemonic denotes the instruction's importance when using signed arithmetic, where bit 7 is used to indicate the sign of a number in two's complement form. If a decrementing counter is being used in a loop this branch instruction allows the loop to execute when the counter reaches zero.

DEX

BPL again

This loop will finish when X is decremented from 0 to \$FF because \$FF = 1111 1111 binary, where bit 7 is set.

## BRK

Software forced BREAK.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BRK implied	00	\$00	1	7

N V — B D I Z C

1

*Operation* The Program Counter address plus one is pushed onto the stack, followed by the contents of the Status register. The Break flag is set and the VIC passes control to the BRK servicing routine at \$FFFFE.

*Applications* Used as a software interrupt.

## BVC

Branch if the Overflow flag is clear ( $V = 0$ ).

Addressing	Opcode		Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex		
BVC relative	80	\$50	2	2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

**Operation** If the Overflow flag is clear ( $V = 0$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and added to the current contents of the Program Counter. This gives the new address from which the program will now execute. This allows a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Overflow flag is set ( $V = 1$ ) the branch does not take place and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

**Applications** Used to detect an overflow from bit 6 into bit 7 (i.e. a carry from bit 6 to bit 7) when using signed arithmetic. When using signed arithmetic two numbers of opposite sign *cannot* overflow, however numbers of the same sign *can* overflow. For example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 01001111 \quad (\$4F) \\ + 01000000 \quad (\$40) \\ \hline 10001111 \quad (-\$71) \end{array}$$

↑ Overflow from bit 6 to bit 7

The result is now negative which is, of course, absurd! Similarly adding two large negative numbers can produce a positive result. In fact overflow can occur in the following situations:

1. Adding large positive numbers.
2. Adding large negative numbers.
3. Subtracting a large negative number from a large positive number.
4. Subtracting a large positive number from a large negative number.

The Overflow flag is used to signal this overflow from bit 6 to bit 7 and therefore, in signed arithmetic, a change in sign. If it is clear no overflow has occurred and BVC will cause a branch.

A 'forced' branch may be implemented using:

CLV   \ clear V  
BVC Forced                                   \ 'jump'

## BVS

Branch if the Overflow flag is set ( $V = 1$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
BVS relative	112	\$70	2	2/3/4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* If the Overflow flag is set ( $V = 1$ ) the byte following the instruction is interpreted as a two's complement number and added to the current contents of the Program Counter. This gives the new address from which the program will now execute, allowing a branch of either 126 bytes back or 129 bytes forward. If the Overflow flag is clear ( $V = 0$ ) the branch does not occur and the next byte is ignored by the 6502.

*Applications* Used to cause a branch if the sign of a number has been changed. In most instances this will only matter if signed arithmetic is being employed. See BVC for more details.

## CLC

Clear the Carry flag ( $C = 0$ ).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CLC implied	24	\$18	1	2

N V — B D I Z C  
0

*Operation* The Carry flag is cleared by setting it to zero.

*Applications* Should always be used before adding two numbers together as the Carry flag's contents are taken into account by ADC. A 'forced' branch may be implemented with:

CLC  
BCC clear

\ Clear C  
\ and 'jump'

## CLD

Clear the Decimal flag (D = 0).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CLD implied	216	\$D8	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
0							

*Operation* The Decimal flag is cleared by setting it to zero.

*Applications* Used to make 6502 work in normal hexadecimal mode.

## CLI

Clear the Interrupt flag (I = 0).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CLI implied	88	\$58	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
0							

*Operation* The Interrupt flag is cleared by setting it to zero.

*Applications* Causes any interrupts on the IRQ line to be processed immediately after completion of current instruction.

## CLV

Clear the Overflow flag (V = 0).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CLV implied	184	\$B8	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
0							

*Operation* The Overflow flag is cleared by setting it to zero.

*Applications* Used to clear the Overflow flag after an overflow from bit 6 to bit 7. In most instances this is only important if signed arithmetic is being used.

## CMP

Compare contents of memory with contents of the accumulator.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CMP #immediate	201	\$C9	2	2
CMP zero page	197	\$C5	2	3
CMP zero page, X	213	\$D5	2	4
CMP absolute	205	\$CD	3	4
CMP absolute, X	221	\$DD	3	4/5
CMP absolute, Y	217	\$D9	3	4/5
CMP (zero page, X)	193	\$C1	2	6
CMP (zero page), Y	209	\$D1	2	5/6



*Operation* The contents of the specified memory location (or immediate value) are subtracted from the contents of the accumulator. The contents of the memory location and accumulator are *NOT* altered, but the Negative, Zero and Carry flags are conditioned according to the result of the subtraction. To perform this subtraction, the 6502 first sets the Carry flag and then adds the two's complement value of the memory location's contents to the accumulator's contents. If both values are equal (memory = accumulator) the Zero flag is set and the Carry flag remains set. If the contents of memory are less than the accumulator (memory < accumulator) the Zero flag is cleared and the Carry flag set. If memory contents are greater than the accumulator (memory > accumulator) then both the Zero flag and Carry flag are cleared. If unsigned binary is being used the Negative flag is also set. If signed binary is being used the Overflow flag should be checked in conjunction with the Negative flag to test for a 'true' negative result.

*Applications* Should be used to test for intermediate values that cannot be tested directly from the Status register. For example:

```
CMP #00
BEQ AWAY
```

is a waste of two bytes, as the Zero flag will be set if the accumulator contains \$00, therefore all that is needed is : BEQ AWAY. To test for a particular key, the following CMP might be used:

```
JSR GETIN          \ get key
CMP #ASC"Y"        \ is it Y key?
BEQ YES
```

## CPX

Compare contents of memory with contents of the X register.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CPX #immediate	224	\$E0	2	2
CPX zero page	228	\$E4	2	3
CPX absolute	236	\$EC	3	4



**Operation** The contents of the specified memory location (or immediate value) are subtracted from the contents of the X register. The contents of the memory location and X register are *NOT* altered, instead the Negative, Zero and Carry flags are conditioned according to the result of the subtraction. To perform this subtraction the 6502 first sets the Carry flag and then adds the two's complement value of the memory location to the contents of the X register. If both values are equal (memory = X register) the Zero flag is set and the Carry flag remains set. If the contents of memory are less than the X register (memory < X register) the Zero flag is cleared but the Carry flag remains set. If memory contents are greater than the X register (memory > X register) then both Zero and Carry flags are cleared. If unsigned binary is being used then the Negative flag is set.

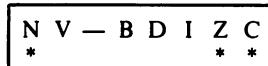
**Applications** Should be used to test for intermediate values which cannot be tested directly from the Status register. For example, to test the X register's contents during use as a loop counter try:

LDX #220	\ load X with 220
AGAIN DEX	\ decrement X
CPX #87	\ has X reached 87?
BNE AGAIN	\ no, go again

## CPY

Compare contents of memory with contents of the Y register.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
CPY #immediate	192	\$C0	2	2
CPY zero page	196	\$C4	2	3
CPY absolute	204	\$CC	3	4



**Operation** The contents of the specified memory location (or immediate value) are subtracted from the contents of the Y register. The contents of the memory location and Y register are *NOT* altered, instead the Negative, Zero and Carry flags are conditioned according to the result of the subtraction. To perform this subtraction the 6502 first sets the Carry flag and then adds the two's complement value of the memory location to the contents of the Y register. If both values are equal (memory = Y register) the Zero flag is set and the Carry flag remains set. If the contents of memory are less than the Y register (memory < Y register) the Zero flag is cleared but the Carry flag remains set. If memory contents are greater than the Y register (memory > Y register) then both Zero and Carry flags are cleared. If unsigned binary is being used then the Negative flag is set.

**Applications** Should be used to test for intermediate values which cannot be tested directly from the Status register. For example, to test the Y register's contents during use as a loop counter try:

LDY #220	\ load Y with 220
AGAIN DEY	\ decrement Y
CPY #87	\ has Y reached 87?
BNE AGAIN	\ no, go again

## DEC

Decrement memory contents by one.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
DEC zero page	198	\$C6	2	5
DEC zero page, X	214	\$D6	2	6
DEC absolute	206	\$CE	3	6
DEC absolute, X	222	\$DE	3	7

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*						*	

*Operation* The byte at the address specified is decremented by one (MEMORY = MEMORY -1). If the result of the operation is zero the Zero flag will be set. Bit 7 of the byte is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Used to subtract one from a counter stored in memory.

## DEX

Decrement contents of X register by one.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
DEX implied	202	\$CA	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*						*	

*Operation* One is subtracted from the value currently held in the X register ( $X = X - 1$ ). If the result of the operation is zero the Zero flag will be set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag ( $N = 0$  if  $X < \$80$ ;  $N = 1$  if  $X > \$7F$ ). The Carry flag is not affected by the instruction.

*Applications* Used with indexed addressing when the X register acts as an offset from a base address, allowing a sequential set of bytes to be accessed. Invariably used to decrement the X register when being used as a loop counter, branching until  $X = 0$  ( $Z = 1$ ).

## DEY

Decrement contents of Y register by one.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
DEY implied	136	\$88	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	Z	C
*					*	

*Operation* One is subtracted from the value currently held in the Y register ( $Y = Y - 1$ ). If the result of the operation is zero the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag ( $N = 0$  if  $Y < \$80$ ;  $N = 1$  if  $Y > \$7F$ ). The Carry flag is not affected by the instruction.

*Applications* Used with indexed addressing when the Y register acts as an offset from a base address allowing a sequential set of bytes to be accessed. Invariably used to decrement the Y register when being used as a loop counter, branching until  $Y = 0$  ( $Z = 1$ ).

## EOR

Accumulator exclusively ORed with memory.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
EOR #immediate	73	\$49	2	2
EOR zero page	69	\$45	2	3
EOR zero page, X	85	\$55	2	4/5
EOR absolute	77	\$4D	3	4
EOR absolute, X	93	\$5D	3	4/5
EOR absolute, Y	89	\$59	3	4/5
EOR (zero page, X)	65	\$41	2	6
EOR (zero page), Y	81	\$51	2	5/6

N	V	-	B	D	Z	C
*				*		

*Operation* Performs a bitwise exclusive OR between the corresponding bits in the accumulator and the specified memory byte. If the result, which is stored in the accumulator, is zero the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Used to complement or invert a data byte.

## INC

Increment memory contents by one.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
INC zero page	230	\$E6	2	5
INC zero page, X	246	\$F6	2	6
INC absolute	238	\$EE	3	6
INC absolute, X	254	\$FE	3	7

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*					*		

*Operation* The byte at the address specified is incremented by one. If the address holds zero after the operation the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 of the byte is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Add one to a counter stored in memory.

## INX

Increment contents of X register by one.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
INX implied	232	\$E8	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*					*		

*Operation* One is added to the value currently in the X register ( $X = X + 1$ ). If the result of the operation is zero the Zero flag will be set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag ( $N = 0$  if  $X < \$80$ ;  $N = 1$  if  $X > \$7F$ ). The Carry flag is not affected by the instruction.

*Applications* Used with indexed addressing when the X register acts as an offset from a base address, and allows a sequential set of bytes to be accessed. Often used as a counter to control the number of times a loop of instructions is executed.

## INY

Increment contents of Y register by one.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
INY implied	200	\$C8	1	2

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*					*		

*Operation* One is added to the value currently held in the Y register ( $Y = Y + 1$ ). If the result of the operation is zero the Zero flag will be set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag. The Carry flag is not affected.

*Applications* Used with indexed addressing when the Y register acts as an offset from a base address, allowing a sequential set of bytes to be accessed. Often used as a counter to control the number of times a loop is executed.

## JMP

Jump to a new location.

Addressing	Opcode		Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex		
JMP absolute	76	\$4C	3	3
JMP (indirect)	108	\$6C	3	3

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* In an absolute JMP the two bytes following the instruction are placed into the Program Counter. In an indirect jump the two bytes located at the two byte address following the instruction are loaded into the Program Counter.

*Applications* Transfers control, unconditionally, to another part of a program stored anywhere in memory.

## JSR

Jump, save return address.

Addressing	Opcode		Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex		
JSR absolute	32	\$20	3	6

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* Acts as a subroutine call, transferring program control to another part of memory until an RTS is encountered. The current contents of the Program Counter plus two are pushed onto the stack. The Stack Pointer is incremented twice. The absolute address following the instruction is placed into the Program Counter and program execution continues from this new address.

*Applications* Allows large repetitive sections of programs to be entered once, out of the way of the main program, and called as subroutines as often as required.

## LDA

Load the accumulator with the specified byte.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
LDA #immediate	169	\$A9	2	2
LDA zero page	165	\$A5	2	3
LDA zero page, X	181	\$B5	2	4
LDA absolute	173	\$AD	3	4
LDA absolute, X	189	\$BD	3	4/5
LDA absolute, Y	185	\$B9	3	4/5
LDA (zero page, X)	161	\$A1	2	6
LDA (zero page), Y	177	\$B1	2	5/6

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*	*					*	

**Operation** Places the value immediately following the instruction, or the contents of the location specified after the instruction, into the accumulator. If the value loaded is zero then the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag position.

**Applications** Probably the most frequently used instruction, it allows for general data movement and facilitates all logical and arithmetic operations.

## LDX

Load the X register with the specified byte.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
LDX #immediate	162	\$A2	2	2
LDX zero page	166	\$A6	2	3
LDX zero page, Y	182	\$B6	2	4
LDX absolute	174	\$AE	3	4
LDX absolute, Y	190	\$BE	3	4/5

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*	*					*	

**Operation** Places the value immediately following the instruction, or the contents of the location specified after the instruction, into the X register. If the value loaded is zero then the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag position.

**Applications** General transfer of data for processing or storage. Also allows a loop counter to be set to its start value.

## LDY

Load the Y register with the specified byte.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
LDY #immediate	160	\$A0	2	2
LDY zero page	164	\$A4	2	3
LDY zero page, X	180	\$B4	2	4
LDY absolute	172	\$AC	3	4
LDY absolute, X	188	\$BC	3	4/5

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*					*		

*Operation* Places the value immediately following the instruction, or the contents of the location specified after the instruction, into the Y register. If the value loaded is zero the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* General transfer of data for processing or storage. Also allows a loop counter to be set to its start value.

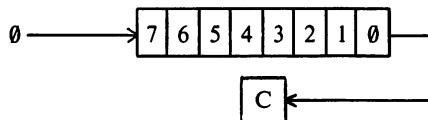
## LSR

*Operation* Logically shift the specified byte right one bit.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
LSR accumulator	74	\$4A	1	2
LSR zero page	70	\$46	2	5
LSR zero page, X	86	\$56	2	6
LSR absolute	78	\$4E	3	6
LSR absolute, X	94	\$5E	3	7



*Operation* Moves the contents of the specified byte right by one position, putting a 0 in bit 7 and bit 0 into the Carry flag.



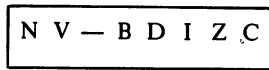
The Negative flag is cleared, and the Carry flag is conditioned by the contents of bit 0. The Zero flag is set if the specified byte now holds zero (in which case it must previously have contained \$00 or \$01).

*Applications* Divides a byte value by two (if D = 0) with its remainder shifting into the Carry flag position. Can also be used to shift the high nibble of a byte into the low nibble.

## NOP

No operation.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
NOP implied	234	\$EA	1	2



*Operation* Does nothing except increment the Program Counter.

*Applications* Provides a two cycle delay.

## ORA

Logical OR of a specified byte with the accumulator.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
ORA #immediate	9	\$09	2	2
ORA zero page	5	\$05	2	3
ORA zero page, X	21	\$15	2	4
ORA absolute	13	\$0D	3	4
ORA absolute, X	29	\$1D	3	4/5
ORA absolute, Y	25	\$19	3	4/5
ORA (zero page, X)	1	\$01	2	6
ORA (zero page), Y	17	\$11	2	5

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
*						*	

**Operation** Logically ORs the corresponding bits of the accumulator with the specified value, or contents of a memory location. The result of the operation is stored in the accumulator. If the result leaves bit 7 set the Negative flag is set, otherwise it is cleared.

**Applications** Used to 'force' certain bits to contain a one. For example:

ORA #\$80

\ 10000000 binary

will ensure bit 7 is set.

## PHA

Push the accumulator contents onto the 'top' of the stack.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
PHA implied	72	\$48	1	3

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C

**Operation** The contents of the accumulator are copied into the position indicated by the Stack Pointer. The Stack Pointer is then decremented by one.

**Applications** Allows bytes of memory to be saved temporarily. The index registers can be saved by first transferring them to the accumulator; memory bytes are saved by first loading them into the accumulator. Bytes are recovered with PLA.

## PHP

Push the Status register's contents onto the top of the stack.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
PHP implied	8	\$08	1	3

N V — B D I Z C

*Operations* The contents of the Status register are copied into the position indicated by the Stack Pointer. The Stack Pointer is then decremented by one.

*Applications* Allows the conditions of the flags to be saved, perhaps prior to a subroutine call, so that the same conditions can be restored with PLP on return.

## PLA

Pull the 'top' of the stack into the accumulator.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
PLA implied	104	\$68	1	4

N V — B D I Z C  
\* \* \*

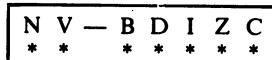
*Operation* The Stack Pointer is incremented by one, and the byte contained at this position in the stack is copied into the accumulator. If the byte is \$00 the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Complements the operation of PHA to retrieve data previously pushed onto the stack.

## PLP

Pull the 'top' of the stack into the Status register.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
PLP implied	40	\$28	1	4



*Operation* The Stack Pointer is incremented by one and the byte contained at this position is copied into the Status register.

*Applications* Complements the operation of PHP to retrieve the previously pushed contents of the Status register, or to condition certain flags from a defined byte previously pushed onto the stack via the accumulator.

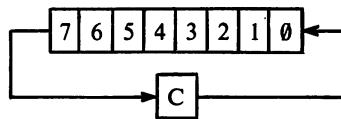
## ROL

Rotate either the accumulator or a memory byte left by one bit with the Carry flag.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
ROL accumulator	42	\$2A	1	2
ROL zero page	38	\$26	2	5
ROL zero page, X	54	\$36	2	6
ROL absolute	46	\$2E	3	6
ROL absolute, X	62	\$3E	3	7

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*	*				*	*	

*Operation* The specified byte and the contents of the Carry flag are rotated left by one bit in a circular manner.



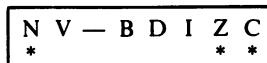
Bit 7 is rotated into the Carry flag, with the flag's previous contents moving into bit 0. The remaining bits are shuffled left. The Negative flag is set if bit 6 previously held 1; cleared otherwise. The Carry flag is conditioned by bit 7, and if the specified byte now holds zero the Zero flag is set.

*Applications* Used in conjunction with ASL, ROL can be used to double the value of multibyte numbers, as the Carry bit is used to propagate the overflow from one byte to another. It may also be used before testing the Negative, Zero and Carry flags to determine the state of specific bits.

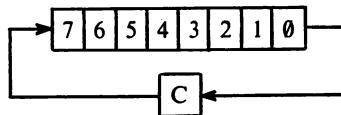
## ROL

Rotate either the accumulator or a memory byte left by one bit with the Carry flag.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
ROL accumulator	106	\$6A	1	2
ROL zero page	102	\$66	2	5
ROL zero page, X	118	\$76	2	6
ROL absolute	110	\$6E	3	6
ROL absolute, X	126	\$7E	3	7



*Operation* The specified byte and the contents of the Carry flag are rotated right by one bit in a circular manner.



Bit 0 is rotated into the Carry flag with the flag's previous contents moving into the bit 7 position. The remaining bits are shuffled right. The Negative flag is set if the Carry flag was set previously; otherwise it is cleared. If bit 0 contained a 1 the Carry flag will now also be set. If the specified byte now holds zero the Zero flag is set.

*Applications* Used in conjunction with LSR, ROR can be used to halve the value of multibyte numbers. It may also be used before testing the Negative, Zero and Carry flags to determine the contents of specific bits.

## RTI

Return from interrupt.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
RTI implied	64	\$40	1	6

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
*	*		*	*	*	*	*

**Operation** This instruction expects to find three bytes on the stack. The first byte is pulled from the stack and placed into the Status register—thus conditioning all flags. The next two bytes are placed into the Program Counter. The Stack Pointer is incremented as each byte is pulled.

**Applications** Used to restore control to a program after an interrupt has occurred. On detecting the interrupt, the processor will have pushed the Program Counter and Status register onto the stack.

## RTS

Return from subroutine.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
RTS implied	96	\$60	1	6

N	V	-	B	D	I	Z	C
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Operation** The two bytes on the top of the stack are pulled, incremented by one, and placed into the Program Counter. Program execution continues from this address. The Stack Pointer is incremented by two.

**Applications** Returns control from a subroutine to the calling program. It should therefore be the last instruction of a subroutine.

## SBC

Subtract specified byte from the accumulator with borrow.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Bytes	Cycles
	Hex		
SBC #immediate	233	\$E9	2
SBC zero page	229	\$E5	2
SBC zero page, X	245	\$F5	2
SBC absolute	237	\$ED	3
SBC absolute, X	253	\$FD	3
SBC absolute, Y	247	\$F9	3
SBC (zero page, X)	225	\$E1	2
SBC (zero page), Y	241	\$F1	2
			5/6



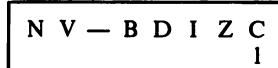
**Operation** Subtracts the immediate value, or the byte contained at the specified address, from the contents of the accumulator. If the value is greater than the contents of the accumulator it will 'borrow' from the Carry flag, which should be set at the onset (only) of a subtraction. If the Carry flag is clear after the subtraction, a borrow has occurred. If the result is \$00 the Zero flag is set. The contents of bit 7 are copied into the accumulator and V is set if an overflow from bit 6 to bit 7 occurred.

**Applications** Allows single, double and multibyte numbers to be subtracted from one another.

## SEC

Set the Carry flag (C = 1).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Bytes	Cycles
	Hex		
SEC implied	56	\$38	1
			2



**Operation** A one is placed into the Carry flag bit position.

**Applications** Should always be used at the onset of subtraction as the Carry flag is taken into account by SBC.

## SED

Set the Decimal mode flag (D = 1).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Bytes	Cycles
	Hex		
SED implied	248	\$F8	1 2



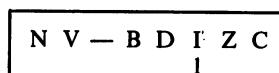
*Operation* A one is placed into the Decimal flag position.

*Applications* Puts the VIC in decimal mode, in which Binary Coded Decimal (BCD) arithmetic is performed. The Carry flag now denotes a carry of hundreds, as the maximum value that can be encoded in a single BCD byte is 99.

## SEI

Set the Interrupt disable flag (I = 1).

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Bytes	Cycles
	Hex		
SEI implied	120	\$78	1 2



*Operation* A one is placed into the Interrupt flag position.

*Applications* When this flag is set *no* interrupts occurring on the IRQ line are processed. However NMI interrupts are processed, as are BREAKs.

## STA

Store the accumulator's contents in a memory location.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
STA zero page	133	\$85	2	3
STA zero page, X	149	\$95	2	4
STA absolute	141	\$8D	3	4
STA absolute, X	157	\$9D	3	5
STA absolute, Y	137	\$99	3	5
STA (zero page, X)	129	\$81	2	6
STA (zero page), Y	145	\$91	2	6

N V — B D I Z C

*Operations* The contents of the accumulator are copied into the specified memory location.

*Applications* To save the contents of the accumulator, or to initialize areas of memory to specific values. Used in conjunction with LDA, blocks of data can be transferred from one area of memory to another.

## STX

Store the X register's contents in memory.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
STX zero page	134	\$86	2	3
STX zero page, X	150	\$96	2	4
STX absolute	142	\$8E	3	4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operation* The contents of the X register are copied into the specified memory location.

*Applications* To save the X register's contents, or to initialize areas of memory to specific values.

## STY

Store the Y register's contents in memory.

Addressing	Opcode		Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex		
STY zero page	132	\$84	2	3
STY zero page, X	148	\$94	2	4
STY absolute	140	\$8C	3	4

N V — B D I Z C

*Operations* The contents of the Y register are copied into the specified memory location.

*Applications* To save the Y register's contents, or to initialize areas of memory to specific values.

## TAX

Transfer the accumulator's contents into the X register.

Addressing	Opcode		Bytes	Cycles
	Decimal	Hex		
TAX implied	170	\$AA	1	2

N V — B D I Z C  
\* \* \*

*Operation* The contents of the accumulator are copied into the X register. If the X register now holds zero, the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Allows the accumulator's values to be saved temporarily, or perhaps used to seed the X register as a loop counter. Often used after PLA to restore the X register's contents previously pushed onto the stack.

## TAY

Transfer accumulator's contents into the Y register.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
TAY implied	168	\$A8	1	2

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
*						*	

**Operation** The contents of the accumulator are copied into the Y register. If the Y register now holds zero the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

**Applications** Allows the accumulator's values to be saved temporarily, or perhaps used to seed the Y register as a loop counter. Often used after PLA to restore the Y register's contents previously pushed onto the stack.

## TSX

Transfer the Stack Pointer's contents into the X register.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
TSX implied	186	\$BA	1	2

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
*						*	

**Operation** The contents of the Stack Pointer are copied into the X register. If X now holds zero, the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

**Applications** To calculate the amount of space left on the stack, or to save its current position while the stack contents are checked.

## TXA

Transfer the X Register's contents into the accumulator.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
TXA implied	138	\$8A	1	2

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
*					*		

*Operation* The contents of the X register are copied into the accumulator. If the accumulator now holds zero the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Allows the X register's contents to be manipulated by logical or arithmetic instructions. Followed by a PHA it allows the X register's value to be saved on the stack.

## TXS

Transfer the X Register's contents into the Stack Pointer.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
TXS implied	154	\$9A	1	2

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

*Operation* The contents of the X register are copied into the Stack Pointer.

*Applications* Allows the contents of the Stack Pointer to be set or reset to a specific value. For example, on 'power-up' or BREAK, the Kernal executes:

LDX #\$FF

TXS

to 'clear' the stack and reset the Stack Pointer.

## TYA

Transfer the Y register's contents into the accumulator.

Addressing	Opcode Decimal	Opcode Hex	Bytes	Cycles
TYA implied	152	\$98	1	2

N	V	—	B	D	I	Z	C
*						*	

*Operation* The contents of the Y register are copied into the accumulator. If the accumulator now holds zero the Zero flag is set. Bit 7 is copied into the Negative flag.

*Applications* Allows the Y register's contents to be manipulated by logical or arithmetic instructions. When followed by a PHA, it allows the Y register's value to be saved on the stack.

## 4 Instruction Cycle Times

			Implied			Relative		Immediate		Zero page		Zero page, X		Absolute		Absolute, X		Absolute, Y		(Zero page, X)		(Zero page, Y)		(Indirect)
ADC	—	—	—	2	3	4	4	4*	4*	4*	4*	6	5*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
AND	—	—	—	2	3	4	4	4	4*	4*	4*	6	5*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
ASL	2	—	—	—	5	6	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BCC	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BCS	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BEQ	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BIT	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BMI	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BNE	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BPL	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BRK	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BVC	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
BVS	—	—	2**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLC	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLD	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLI	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLV	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CMP	—	—	2	3	4	4	4	4*	4*	4*	4*	6	5*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

	Implied	Relative	Immediate	Zero page	Zero page, X	Absolute	Absolute, X	Absolute, Y	(Zero page, X)	(Zero page, Y)	(Indirect)
CPX	—	—	2	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
CPY	—	—	2	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
DEC	—	—	—	5	6	6	7	—	—	—	—
DEX	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DEY	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
EOR	—	—	2	3	4	4	4*	4*	6	5*	—
INC	—	—	—	5	6	6	7	—	—	—	—
INX	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
INY	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
JMP	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	5
JSR	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
LDA	—	—	—	2	3	4	4	4*	4*	6	5*
LDX	—	—	—	2	3	4	4	—	4*	—	—
LDY	—	—	—	2	3	4	4	4*	—	—	—
LSR	2	—	—	—	5	6	6	7	—	—	—
NOP	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ORA	—	—	2	3	4	4	4*	4*	6	5*	—
PHA	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PHP	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PLA	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PLP	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ROL	2	—	—	—	5	6	6	7	—	—	—
ROR	2	—	—	—	5	6	6	7	—	—	—
RTI	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RTS	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SBC	—	—	2	3	4	4	4*	4*	6	5*	—
SEC	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SED	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SEI	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		Implied	Relative	Immediate	Zero page	Zero page, X	Absolute	Absolute, X	Absolute, Y	(Zero page, X)	(Zero page, Y)	(Indirect)
STA		—	—	—	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	—
STX		—	—	—	3	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
STY		—	—	—	3	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
TAX	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TAY	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TSX	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TXA	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TXS	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TYA	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

\*Add 1 cycle if page boundary crossed.

\*\*Add 1 if branch occurs to same page or add 2 if branch occurs to a different page.

## 5 VIC 20 Memory Map

Kernal ROM	\$FFFF
BASIC ROM	\$E000
Expansion ROM	\$C000
VIC chip/colour RAM I/O RAM	\$A000
Character ROM	\$9000
Expansion RAM/ROM Block 3	\$8000
Expansion RAM/ROM Block 2	\$6000
Expansion RAM/ROM Block 1	\$4000
Screen RAM	\$2000
User RAM for BASIC Programs	\$1E00
Expansion RAM	\$1000
Vectors	\$400
Input Buffers	\$300
Stack	\$200
Zero Page	\$100
	\$00

## **Memory expansion**

When additional memory is added to Block 1, and Block 2 and 3 the Kernal moves the following areas of memory for BASIC:

<u>Memory</u>	<u>Old Address</u>	<u>New Address</u>
Screen Memory	\$1E00—\$1FFF (7680-8191)	\$1000—\$11FF (4096-4607)
Colour Memory	\$9600—\$97FF (38400-38911)	\$9400—\$95FF (37888-38399)
Basic Program Area	\$1000—\$1DFF(4096-7679)	\$1200 ————— (4608 —————)

# 6 Branch Calculators

The branch calculators are used to give branch values in hex. First, count the number of bytes you need to branch. Then locate this number in the centre of the appropriate table, and finally, read off the high and low hex nibbles from the side column and top row respectively.

*Example* For a backward branch of 16 bytes:

Locate 16 in the centre of Table A6.1 (bottom row), then read off high nibble (#F) and low nibble (#0) to give displacement value (#F0).

**Table A6.1 Backward branch calculator**

LSD MSD	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
8	128	127	126	125	124	123	122	121	120	119	118	117	116	115	114	113
9	112	111	110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97
A	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81
B	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65
C	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49
D	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33
E	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
F	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

**Table A6.2 Forward branch calculator**

LSD MSD	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
3	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
4	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
5	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
6	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111
7	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127

# 7 6502 Opcodes

All numbers are hexadecimal.

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 00 BRK implied        | 1C Future expansion   |
| 01 ORA (zero page, X) | 1D ORA absolute, X    |
| 02 Future expansion   | 1E ASL absolute, X    |
| 03 Future expansion   | 1F Future expansion   |
| 04 Future expansion   | 20 JSR absolute       |
| 05 ORA zero page      | 21 AND (zero page, X) |
| 06 ASL zero page      | 22 Future expansion   |
| 07 Future expansion   | 23 Future expansion   |
| 08 PHP implied        | 24 BIT zero page      |
| 09 ORA #immediate     | 25 AND zero page      |
| 0A ASL accumulator    | 26 ROL zero page      |
| 0B Future expansion   | 27 Future expansion   |
| 0C Future expansion   | 28 PLP implied        |
| 0D ORA absolute       | 29 AND #immediate     |
| 0E ASL absolute       | 2A ROL accumulator    |
| 0F Future expansion   | 2B Future expansion   |
| 10 BPL relative       | 2C BIT absolute       |
| 11 ORA (zero page), Y | 2D AND absolute       |
| 12 Future expansion   | 2E ROL absolute       |
| 13 Future expansion   | 2F Future expansion   |
| 14 Future expansion   | 30 BMI relative       |
| 15 ORA zero page, X   | 31 AND (zero page), Y |
| 16 ASL zero page, X   | 32 Future expansion   |
| 17 Future expansion   | 33 Future expansion   |
| 18 CLC implied        | 34 Future expansion   |
| 19 ORA absolute, Y    | 35 AND zero page, X   |
| 1A Future expansion   | 36 ROL zero page, X   |
| 1B Future expansion   | 37 Future expansion   |

38	SEC implied	60	RTS implied
39	AND absolute, Y	61	ADC (zero page, X)
3A	Future expansion	62	Future expansion
3B	Future expansion	63	Future expansion
3C	Future expansion	64	Future expansion
3D	AND absolute, X	65	ADC zero page
3E	ROL absolute, X	66	ROR zero page
3F	Future expansion	67	Future expansion
40	RTI implied	68	PLA implied
41	EOR (zero page, X)	69	ADC #immediate
42	Future expansion	6A	ROR accumulator
43	Future expansion	6B	Future expansion
44	Future expansion	6C	JMP (indirect)
45	EOR zero page	6D	ADC absolute
46	LSR zero page	6E	ROR absolute
47	Future expansion	6F	Future expansion
48	PHA implied	70	BVS relative
49	EOR #immediate	71	ADC (zero page), Y
4A	LSR accumulator	72	Future expansion
4B	Future expansion	73	Future expansion
4C	JMP absolute	74	Future expansion
4D	EOR absolute	75	ADC zero page, X
4E	LSR absolute	76	ROR zero page, X
4F	Future expansion	77	Future expansion
50	BVC relative	78	SEI implied
51	EOR (zero page), Y	79	ADC absolute, Y
52	Future expansion	7A	Futurç expansion
53	Future expansion	7B	Future expansion
54	Future expansion	7C	Future expansion
55	EOR zero page, X	7D	ADC absolute, X
56	LSR zero page, X	7E	ROR absolute, X
57	Future expansion	7F	Future expansion
58	CLI implied	80	Future expansion
59	EOR absolute, Y	81	STA (zero page, X)
5A	Future expansion	82	Future expansion
5B	Future expansion	83	Future expansion
5C	Future expansion	84	STY zero page
5D	EOR absolute, X	85	STA zero page
5E	LSR absolute, X	86	STX zero page
5F	Future expansion	87	Future expansion

88	DEY implied	B0	BCS relative
89	Future expansion	B1	LDA (zero page), Y
8A	TXA implied	B2	Future expansion
8B	Future expansion	B3	Future expansion
8C	STY absolute	B4	LDY zero page, X
8D	STA absolute	B5	LDA zero page, X
8E	STX absolute	B6	LDX zero page, Y
8F	Future expansion	B7	Future expansion
90	BCC relative	B8	CLV implied
91	STA (zero page), Y	B9	LDA absolute, Y
92	Future expansion	BA	TSX implied
93	Future expansion	BB	Future expansion
94	STY zero page, X	BC	LDY absolute, X
95	STA zero page, X	BD	LDA absolute, X
96	STX zero page, Y	BE	LDX absolute, Y
97	Future expansion	BF	Future expansion
98	TYA implied	C0	CPY #immediate
99	STA absolute, Y	C1	CMP (zero page, X)
9A	TXS implied	C2	Future expansion
9B	Future expansion	C3	Future expansion
9C	Future expansion	C4	CPY zero page
9D	STA absolute, X	C5	CMP zero page
9E	Future expansion	C6	DEC zero page
9F	Future expansion	C7	Future expansion
A0	LDY #immediate	C8	INY implied
A1	LDA (zero page, X)	C9	CMP #immediate
A2	LDX #immediate	CA	DEX implied
A3	Future expansion	CB	Future expansion
A4	LDY zero page	CC	CPY absolute
A5	LDA zero page	CD	CMP absolute
A6	LDX zero page	CE	DEC absolute
A7	Future expansion	CF	Future expansion
A8	TAY implied	D0	BNE relative
A9	LDA #immediate	D1	CMP (zero page), Y
AA	TAX implied	D2	Future expansion
AB	Future expansion	D3	Future expansion
AC	LDY absolute	D4	Future expansion
AD	LDA absolute	D5	CMP zero page, X
AE	LDX absolute	D6	DEC zero page, X
AF	Future expansion	D7	Future expansion

D8	CLD implied	EC	CPX absolute
D9	CMP absolute, Y	ED	SBC absolute
DA	Future expansion	EE	INC absolute
DB	Future expansion	EF	Future expansion
DC	Future expansion	F0	BEQ relative
DD	CMP absolute, X	F1	SBC (zero page), Y
DE	DEC absolute, X	F2	Future expansion
DF	Future expansion	F3	Future expansion
E0	CPX #immediate	F4	Future expansion
E1	SBC (zero page, X)	F5	SBC zero page, X
E2	Future expansion	F6	INC zero page, X
E3	Future expansion	F7	Future expansion
E4	CPX zero page	F8	SED implied
E5	SBC zero page	F9	SBC absolute, Y
E6	INC zero page	FA	Future expansion
E7	Future expansion	FB	Future expansion
E8	INX implied	FC	Future expansion
E9	SBC #immediate	FD	SBC absolute, X
EA	NOP implied	FE	INC absolute, X
EB	Future expansion	FF	Future expansion

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