INDEX ON <key> TO <file>
creates an index file for the database in use. (See R,52.)

INPUT ['prompt'] TO <memvar>
prompts user to enter <exp> into already named <memvar>. (See R,66.)

INSERT [BEFORE] [BLANK]
inserts a new record anywhere in database file. (See R,25.)

JOIN TO <file> FOR <exp> [FIELDS <list>]
creates new database file by merging records of files in use in Primary and Secondary areas for which FOR <exp> evaluates as a logical True. (See R,82.)

LIST [<scope>] [<field list>] [FOR <exp>] [OFF]
lists records of file in use. (See R,16-18.)

LIST FILES [ON <disk drive>] [LIKE <skeleton>]
lists files on disk. Default values: logged drive, database files. (See R,19,21.)

LIST MEMORY
lists current <memvars>. (See R,34.)

LIST STATUS
lists system information: e.g., system date, files open, index files and keys, and all SET parameters.

LIST STRUCTURE
displays structure of file in use. (See R,19-21.)

LOCATE [<scope>] [FOR <exp>]
finds first record which satisfies specified condition. Use Continue to reach next such record. (See R,54.)

MODIFY COMMAND <file>
calls dBASE II's text editor and brings up designated file for modification. (See R,73.)

MODIFY STRUCTURE
allows structural modification of database file in use. (See R,40,44-46.)

NOTE or *
commands dBASE II not to read the rest of command line. Used to insert programming comments in command files. (See R,73.)

PACK
eliminates records marked for deletion (See R,26.)

QUIT [TO <list CP/M level commands or .COM files>]
terminates dBASE II and returns control to operating system. Optionally calls system level programs. (See R,73.)

READ
initiates full-screen editing of a formatted screen, and accepts data into GET commands. (See R,68.)

RECALL [<scope>] [FOR <exp>]
reinstates records previously marked for deletion. (See R,26.)

REINDEX
updates index files not in use during alteration of corresponding database file.

RELEASE [<memvar list>] or [ALL] or [ALL LIKE <skeleton>] or ALL EXCEPT <skeleton>]
eliminates unwanted <memvars> from current memory. (See R,34.)

REMARK
permits display of following characters. In command file is used to output comments to screen or print. (See R,73.)

RENAME <oldfile> TO <newfile>
permits renaming of file. (See R,73.)

REPLACE [<scope>] <field> WITH <exp> [,<field2> WITH <exp2>...] [FOR <exp>]
replaces the value of specified fields of specified records with stated values. (See R,49.)

REPORT [FORM <filename>] [<scope>] [FOR <exp>] [TO PRINT]
generates or accesses existing Report Form File for output of data in user-defined format. (See R,56.)

RESET [<drive>]
resets CP/M after disk swap.

RESTORE FROM <file> [ADDITIVE]
retrieves and activates <memvars> previously saved in .MEM file. Deletes all current <memvars> unless Additive option employed.

RETURN
terminates a command file and returns control to calling file or interactive mode.

SAVE TO <file> [ALL LIKE <skeleton>] [ALL EXCEPT <skeleton>]
saves all current (designated) <memvars> to .MEM file.

SELECT [PRIMARY] or [SECONDARY]
switches between dBASE II's primary and secondary work areas. (See R,72.)

SET
see below for all SET commands.

SKIP [+/− n]
moves forward or backwards through the records of the file in use. Default value: +1, +n (See R,22.)

SORT ON <key> TO <file> [ASCENDING] or [DESCENDING]
creates a version of the database file in use whose records are arranged alphabetically or numerically according to the information contained in the field specified as the SORT <key>. Default value: ascending. (See R,51.)

STORE <exp> TO <memvar>
computes the value of <exp> and stores it to the designated <memvar>. (See R,33.)

SUM <field list> [TO <memvar list>] [<scope>] [FOR <exp>]
computes and displays the sum of numeric fields. (See R,57.)

TOTAL TO <file> ON <key> [FIELDS <field list>] [FOR <exp>]
generates a summary version of an indexed or pre-sorted database file which contains the totals of numeric fields for records (in the use file) bearing the same <key>. (See R,58.)

UPDATE FROM <filename> ON <key> [ADD <field list>] or [REPLACE <field list>]
allows batch update of file in use by drawing upon information from designated FROM file. (See R,82.)

USE <file> [INDEX <file list>]
opens a database file and (optionally) engages desired index files. (See R,16.)

WAIT [TO <memvar>]
suspends dBASE II operation until a single console character is entered; optionally stores the latter to a designated <memvar>. (See R,66.)

SET COMMANDS
(See R,80-81.)

The default value of each SET command of ON/OFF type is indicated by order of presentation: OFF/ON indicates default value of OFF; ON/OFF a default value of ON.

SET ALTERNATE TO [<file>]
creates designated file (type .TXT) for saving screen output to disk. Repeated without [<file>], closes .TXT file.

SET ALTERNATE OFF/ON
ON sends screen output to disc file created with previous command; OFF shuts off output.

SET BELL ON/OFF
ON rings bell when invalid data entered or field boundary passed; OFF turns off bell.

SET CARRY OFF/ON
When using APPEND (full-screen), ON enters data from last record into present record; OFF turns off function.

SET COLON ON/OFF
ON displays colons which delimit or bound input variables; OFF hides colons.

SET CONFIRM OFF/ON
ON waits for <return> before skipping to next field in full-screen mode; OFF skips to next field as soon as present field is filled.

SET CONSOLE ON/OFF
ON sends all output to screen; OFF suspends all output to screen.

SET DATE TO <MM/DD/YY>
sets or resets system date.

SET DEBUG OFF/ON
ON sends output from SET ECHO and STEP to print; OFF sends output to screen.

SET DEFAULT TO <drive>
commands dBASEII to regard specified drive as default drive for all future operations.

SET DELETED OFF/ON
ON prevents dBASE II from reading/processing any record marked for deletion following a command which has <scope> as an option. OFF allows dBASE II to read all records.

SET ECHO OFF/ON
ON allows monitoring of command file execution by echoing all commands to screen; OFF suppresses echo.

SET EJECT ON/OFF
ON causes REPORT command to trigger a form-feed (page eject) before sending report to print; OFF disables the page eject.

SET ESCAPE ON/OFF
ON enables user to abort command file execution by hitting ESCape key; OFF disables ESC key.

SET EXACT OFF/ON
ON requires exact match in any comparison between two strings (e.g., in use of FOR <exp> or FIND command); OFF allows matches between strings of different lengths.

SET FORMAT TO [<file>]
accesses specified file (type .FMT) containing custom made screen/print format for use in conjunction with APPEND, EDIT, INSERT, etc.

SET FORMAT TO <screen/print>
directs output from format file to screen or printer.

SET HEADING TO <cstring>
saves <cstring> internally and inserts it as REPORT header line. (cstring limited to 60 chars.)

SET INDEX TO <file list>
sets up index files for use with corresponding database file. First listed .NDX file will be engaged as the active index; all other .NDX files will be automatically updated to reflect any changes to the database file.

SET INTENSITY ON/OFF
ON enables inverse video or dual intensity during full-screen operations (if hardware permits); OFF disables these features.

SET LINKAGE OFF/ON
ON enables simultaneous movement of record pointers in both Primary and Secondary work areas in response to commands which only permit downward movement through a file (i.e., commands with <scope>). OFF suspends pointer linkage.

SET MARGIN TO <n>
sets left hand margin of printer to <n>.

SET PRINT OFF/ON
ON directs output to printer; OFF cuts off output to printer.

SET RAW OFF/ON
ON LISTs and DISPLAYs records without inserting spaces between fields; OFF inserts an extra space between fields.

SET SCREEN ON/OFF
ON enables full-screen operation with APPEND, EDIT, CREATE, etc. OFF disables full-screen operation.

SET STEP OFF/ON
ON aids debugging of command files by halting execution after performing each command; OFF disables STEP.

SET TALK ON/OFF
ON displays results of commands on screen; OFF suppresses display of results.

STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

DO <file>
accesses and executes a command file (type .CMD). (See R,62.)

DO CASE	permits choice of one and only one
CASE <exp1>	of several possible execution
<statements>	paths, i.e., CASE <exp1> through
CASE <exp2>	CASE <expN>. When CASE
<statements>	<exp> evaluates as logically True,
CASE <expN>	the following statements and
<statements>	commands will be performed.
OTHERWISE	OTHERWISE clause for alternate
<statements>	execution path is optional. DO
ENDCASE	CASE structure must be terminated with ENDCASE.

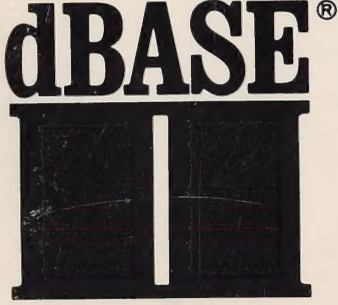|	
DO WHILE <exp>	opens a structured command loop.
<statements>	The following commands and
LOOP	statements will be executed until
<statements>	<exp> evaluates as a logical
ENDDO	False. An optional portion of DO WHILE, LOOP causes command file to jump back and re-evaluate DO WHILE <exp>. Structure must terminate with ENDDO. (See R,64.)

IF <exp>	permits conditional execution of
<statements>	following statements and commands. Optional ELSE provides an
ELSE	alternate path of execution. Struc-
<statements>	ture must terminate with ENDIF.
ENDIF	(See R,62.)

TEXT	allows the output of text informa-
<any text>	tion from a command file. dBASE
ENDTEXT	II will read everything as text for output until it encounters an ENDTEXT command. (See R,83.)

dBASE® II

dBASE II COMMAND AND REFERENCE GUIDE

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Designed to supplement the User Manual and Help File, the dBASE II Command and Reference Guide will give you immediate access to information vital to the operation of the dBASE II program. Where necessary, references to the dBASE II manual have been placed in parentheses. 'R' (for Red) indicates the usage portion of the manual; 'G' (for Grey) indicates the reference section. (Because the reference section of the manual is alphabetically ordered, page referrals for dBASE II commands have been omitted.)

CONVENTIONS

TYPOGRAPHICAL CONVENTIONS

Lowercase	user-supplied information
Uppercase	explicit portions of dBASE II commands
[...]	optional portions of dBASE II commands
<...>	user-supplied portions of dBASE II commands

FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS

File names may be up to 8 characters (no spaces) long. (See R, 93.)

FIELD NAMING CONVENTIONS

Field names may be up to 10 characters (no spaces) long, must start with a letter, but can include digits and embedded colons. (See R, 92-93.)

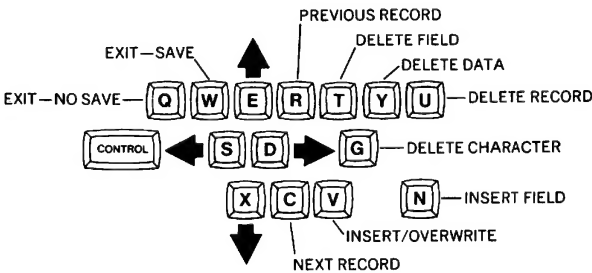## LIMITATIONS

(See G, 154.)

dBASE II DATA TYPES

(See R, 31-33; G, 8)

C Character data. Includes any printable console (ASCII) character.
N Numeric data for calculation. Includes numbers, +, −, .
L Logical data. Includes Y,y,T,t for True, or N,n,F,f for False.

CURSOR MOVEMENT AND CONTROL KEYS

FULL-SCREEN OPERATION (all modes):

For special controls used in conjunction with Edit, Modify, Append, Create or Insert, see R, 15-16 or G, 23-24.

dBASE II FILE TYPES

.CMD	command file	(See G, 6-7; R, 61 ff.)
.DBF	database file	(See G, 5-6; R, 11 ff.)
.FMT	format file	(See G, 7; R, 83-85)
.FRM	report form file	(See G, 7; R, 55-57)
.MEM	memory file	(See G, 6)
.NDX	index file	(See G, 7; R, 52-53)
.TXT	text output	(see G, 7; R, 47-49)

TERMINOLOGY

(See G, 25-27).

<commands> or <statements>	any valid dBASE command or function.
<cstring>	character string(s). In most instances must be delimited with single quotes (' '), double quotes (" "), or brackets ([ ]).
<cstring exp>	an <exp> whose content is defined as Character in type. May be a cstring, a memvar or field with character content, or any combination of these items and operators.
<delimiter>	any non-alphanumeric character used to demarcate data, e.g., single quotes (' '), double quotes (" "), brackets ([ ]), colons (: :), commas (, ,), etc.
<exp> or <expression>	an item or group of items and operators whose value can be determined by dBASE II. <exp>s may be defined as C, N, or L depending upon the "type" of data they contain.
<exp list>	a list of expressions delimited with commas.
<field>	a record field name.
<field list>	a list of field names delimited with commas.
<file>	name of file you wish to create or access.
<index file>	name of index file you wish to create or access.
<key>	the portion(s) of a database file used to create an index file.
<memvar>	the name of a memory variable.
<memvar list>	list of memory variables delimited with commas.
<n>	a number which dBASE II regards as a literal value.
<numeric exp>	an <exp> whose content is defined as Numeric.
<scope>	command option specifies range of records dBASE II must treat in executing command. <scope> has three possible values: ALL records in file; NEXT n records in file; and RECORD n. Default value varies from command to command.
<skeleton>	allows batch manipulation of files of same type and/or with matching cstring in filename; allows batch manipulation of groups of <memvars> with matching cstring in name. (See R, 21 and Change Summary at back of manual, 2.2, 2.3.)

OPERATORS used for data manipulation.

(See R, 35-40 G, 14-17.)

Logical Operators (listed in order of precedence)

()	parentheses for grouping
.NOT.	logical not (unary operator)
.AND.	logical and
.OR.	logical or
$	substring logical operator

Arithmetic Operators (listed in order of precedence)

()	parentheses for grouping
*	multiplication
/	division
+	addition
−	subtraction

Relational Operators

<	less than
>	greater than
=	equal to
<>	not equal to
<=	less than or equal to
>=	greater than or equal to

String Operators

+	string concatenation
−	string concatenation with blank squash

FUNCTIONS

(See R, 77-79; G, 9-14.)

*
deleted record function evaluates as a logical True if current record is marked for deletion.

#
record pointer (a system memory variable) stores the number of the current record.

&
macro function permits the use of a <memvar>'s stored value in a command line. (<memvar>'s value must be a 'cstring'.)

! (<cstring exp>)
upper case function converts all lower case characters to upper case.

$ (<exp>, <start>, <length>)
substring function extracts the specified part of <exp> from the given starting position for the given length.

@ (<cstring exp 1>, <cstring exp 2>)
substring search function yields an integer value indicating where the first string appears in the second.

CHR (<numeric exp>)
yields the ASCII character equivalent of a numeric expression.

DATE ( )
name of system variable containing the system date.

EOF
End-Of-File function evaluates as a logical True when last record of USE file has been surpassed.

FILE (<file>)
file function evaluates as a logical True if named file exists on disk in use.

INT (<numeric exp>)
integer function truncates everything to the right of the decimal to form an integer.

LEN (<cstring exp>)
length function returns the number of characters in the specified <cstring exp>.

RANK (<cstring exp>)
returns the (ASCII numeric) value of the leftmost character of <cstring exp>.

STR (<numeric exp>, <length>, [<decimals>])
string function converts specified portion of <numeric exp> into a cstring.

TRIM (<cstring exp>)
trim function removes trailing blanks from specified cstring.

TYPE (<exp>)
type function indicates data "type" of indicated <exp>.

VAL (<cstring exp>)
value function converts a cstring (composed of numerals) into a numeric expression.

dBASE II COMMANDS

? <exp>
evaluates and displays value of <exp>. (See R, 23-24)

@ <coord> [SAY <exp> [USING 'picture']] [GET <var> [PICTURE 'picture']]
format console screen or printer output. (See R, 67.)

ACCEPT ['prompt'] TO <memvar>
prompts user to input cstring into specified <memvar>. Input requires no quotes. (See R, 65-66)

APPEND [BLANK]
add record(s) or blank, formatted record to database file. (See R, 25, 68.)

APPEND FROM <file> [SDF] or [DELIMITED] [FOR <exp>]
appends data from a database or system data format file into database file in use. (See R, 48.)

BROWSE [FIELDS <field list>]
allows full screen "window" viewing and editing of database file in use. (See R, 14-16.)

CALL <memvar>
machine language command. (See G, 31.)

CANCEL
aborts command file execution.

CHANGE [<scope>] FIELD <list> [FOR <exp>]
permits selective editing of records by field. (See R, 50.)

CLEAR
"resets" dBASE. (See R, 73.)

CONTINUE
continues a LOCATE command. (See R, 55.)

COPY TO <file> STRUCTURE [FIELD <list>]
copies structure of file in use to designated file. (See R, 42.)

COPY TO <file> [<scope>] [FIELD <list>] [FOR <exp>]
copies file in use to designated database file. (See R, 41-42.)

COPY TO <file> [<scope>] [FIELD <list>] [SDF] [DELIMITED [WITH <delimiter>]] [FOR <exp>]]
copies data from file in use to file with designated name and format. (See R, 47-48.)

COPY TO <file> STRUCTURE EXTENDED
creates a database file whose records represent the structure of the file in use. (See R, 43.)

COUNT [<scope>] [FOR <exp>] [TO <memvar>]
counts records that satisfy some condition. Default value is all records. (See R, 57.)

CREATE [<file>]
initiates creation of database file. (See R, 11.)

CREATE <newfile> FROM <oldfile> EXTENDED
creates database file whose structure is determined by the data contained in the records of the <oldfile>. (Used with COPY STRUCTURE EXTENDED. See R, 43-44.)

DELETE [<scope>] [FOR <exp>]
marks specified records for deletion. (See R, 26.)

DELETE FILE <file>
deletes specified file. (See R, 26.)

DISPLAY [<scope>] [<field list>] [FOR <exp>] [OFF]
displays records of database file in use. (See R, 16, 20.)

DISPLAY FILES [ON <disk drive>] [LIKE <skeleton>]
displays files on disk. Default values: database files, logged drive. (See R, 21.)

DISPLAY MEMORY
displays current <memvars>s. (See R, 33-35).

DISPLAY STATUS
displays system information: e.g., system date, files open, index files and keys, and all SET parameters.

DISPLAY STRUCTURE
displays structure of file in use. (See R, 21.)

EDIT [n]
initiates selective editing of database file in use. (See R, 14.)

EJECT
commands printer to perform a form feed (eject page).

ERASE
clears console screen. (See R, 17, 67)

FIND <cstring>
locates first record in indexed database file whose <key> matches the specified <cstring>. (See R, 53.)

GO or GOTO <n> or <TOP>, or <BOTTOM>
positions to specific record or place in the database file in use. (See R, 22.)

HELP [<command verb or other entry>]
accesses Help File overview or specific Help File entry for brief explanation of specified command mode, function, etc.