1 Introduction: User-Programmable Interface

User-Programmable Interface

The L-Edit User-Programmable Interface (UPI) provides tools for automating, customizing, and extending the L-Edit command and function set, adding enormously to its power and flexibility.

UPI is based on C-language macros that describe actions or sets of actions to be performed automatically.

Macros can draw from a large number of available calls, variables, and datatypes to specify and modify the whole range of L-Edit operations.

Load sets of macros together and access them individually or interactively.

UPI can access macros as text files containing raw C code or as compiled dynamically linked libraries (DLLs).

UPI handles macros in four steps:

- Reading. Macros are read (loaded) in units of files. A macro file consists of one or more C-language macro routines.
- Registration. Macros are identified for use within L-Edit.
- Binding (optional). Each macro is associated with a keyboard shortcut and/ or a menu command.

- Execution. L-Edit runs the macro.

Documentation Conventions

This section contains information about the typographical and stylistic conventions used in this user guide.

Special Fonts

The following inline references are represented by a bold font:

- Menu and simulation commands (For example: **.print tran v(out)**.)
- Literal user input (For example: Enter **14.5**.)
- Program output (For example: S-Edit generates names for the ports on the symbol based on the **PAD** string.)
- All dialog elements—fields, checkboxes, drop-down menus, titles, etc. (For example: Click **Add**.)

Freestanding quotations of input examples, file listings, and output messages are represented by a constant-width font—for example:

```
.ac DEC 5 1MEG 100MEG
```

Variables for which context-specific substitutions should be made are represented by bold italics—for example, ***myfile*.tdb**.

Sequential steps in a tutorial are set off with a checkbox (☑) in the margin.

References to mouse buttons are given in all capitals—for example, MOVE/ EDIT. When a key is to be pressed and held while a mouse button is used, the key and button are adjoined by a plus sign (+). For example, **Shift**+SELECT means that the **Shift** key is pressed and held while the SELECT mouse button is used.

The terms "left-click," "right-click," and "middle-click" all assume default mappings for mouse buttons.

Text omitted for clarity or brevity is indicated by an ellipsis (**…**).

Menu Commands and Dialog Titles

Elements in hierarchical menu paths are separated by a **>** sign. For example, **File > Open** means the **Open** command in the **File** menu.

Tabs in dialog boxes are set off from the command name or dialog box title by a dash. For example, **Setup > Layers—General** and **Setup Layers—General** both refer to the **General** tab of the **Setup Layers** dialog.

Special Keys

Special keys are represented by the following abbreviations:

Key	*Abbreviation*
Shift	**Shift**
Enter	**Enter**
Control	**Ctrl**
Alternate	**Alt**
Backspace	**Back**
Delete	**Del**
Escape	**Esc**
Insert	**Ins**
Tab	**Tab**
Home	**Home**
End	**End**
Page Up	**PgUp**
Page Down	**PgDn**

Key	*Abbreviation*
Function Keys	**F1 F2 F3** …
Arrow Keys	$\downarrow, \leftarrow, \rightarrow, \uparrow$

When certain keys are to be pressed simultaneously, their abbreviations are adjoined by a plus sign (+). For example, **Ctrl**+**R** means that the **Ctrl** and **R** keys are pressed at the same time.

When certain keys are to be pressed in sequence, their abbreviations are separated by a space ( ). For example, **Alt**+**E R** means that the **Alt** and **E** keys are pressed at the same time and then released, immediately after which the **R** key is pressed.

Abbreviations for alternative key-presses are separated by a slash (/). For example, **Shift**+$\uparrow$ / $\downarrow$ means that the **Shift** key can be pressed together with either the up ($\uparrow$) arrow key or the down ($\downarrow$) arrow key.

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Online User Guide Conventions

Text	Chapter title
Text or **Text**	Indicates a hypertext link
Contents/Search	Indicates a link to the Table of Contents file
Index	Indicates a link to the Index file
◀ ▶	Indicates a link to the previous/ next page

Acrobat Reader Toolbar Tips

◀ ▶	Go to previous/next page
I◀ ▶I	Go to start/end of chapter
◀ ➡	Go back/forward through pages viewed
🔍	Perform a full-text search
📄	Open the search results list
📄◀ ▶📄	Go to previous/next search result item