



TEKSKIL

**Companion Computer Prompter
Instruction Manual**

***For Technical Information Please Call
604-985-2250***

Technology That Makes You Look Good™

FCC NOTICE

WARNING:

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class "A" digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment.

This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed in accordance with the instructions in this manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operations of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

TEKSKIL COMPANION COMPUTER PROMPTER

USER'S MANUAL

Table of Contents

SETTING UP THE TEKSKIL COMPANION PROMPTING COMPUTER	1
DIAGRAM OF THE HAND-HELD REMOTE CONTROL	2
DIAGRAM OF THE FRONT AND SIDE PANELS	3
CREATING NEW SCRIPTS	4
AUX VIDEO INPUT (TALENT FEEDBACK)	4
SAVING SCRIPTS	5
EDITING SCRIPTS	6
FILE MANAGEMENT	7
SCRIPT FILE CARTRIDGE MANAGEMENT	8
PROMPT MODE	10
RECEIVING SCRIPTS	11
TRANSMITTING OR PRINTING SCRIPTS	12
COMPANION EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY CONNECTION	13
COMPANION SERIAL CABLING	14
PROBLEM SOLVING AND FOR MORE INFORMATION	16
LIMITED WARRANTY	17

SETTING UP THE TEKSKIL COMPANION PROMPTING COMPUTER

CAUTION: *Never insert a Text File Cartridge until after the computer MAIN POWER switch has been turned on. Always remove the Cartridge before turning MAIN POWER off.*

The Minimum Equipment Required:

- 1 Companion computer
- 1 12 VDC power supply
- 1 9 inch monitor (Ikegami with Tekskil 12 VDC conversion)
- 1 Tekskil 909V Viewing Head
- 1 Remote Control unit
- 1 IBM Keyboard
- 1 Text File Cartridge (TFC)

Operational Setup

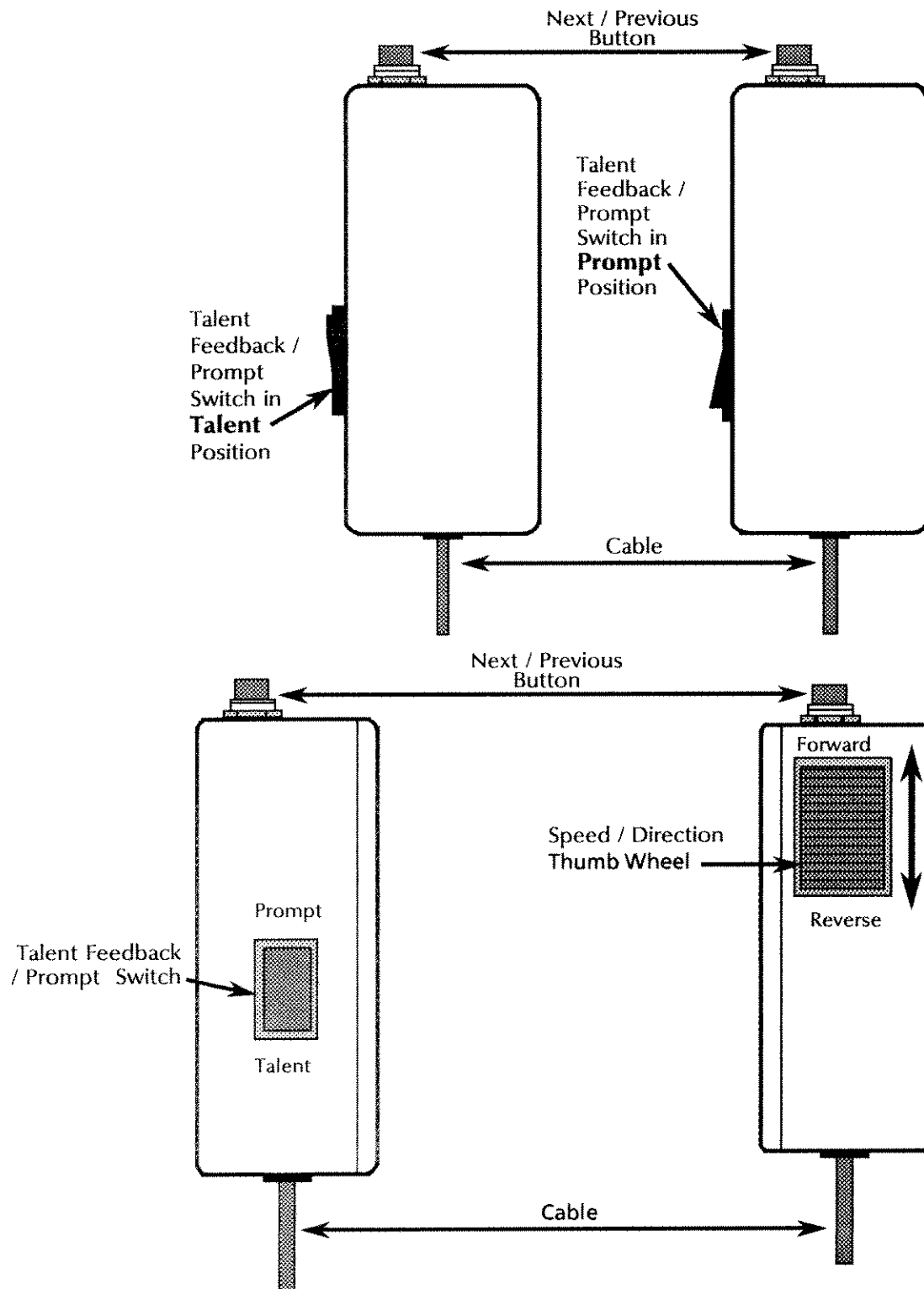
- Attach the Companion onto its mounting bracket.
- Insert the connector (female XLR-4) from your 12 VDC power supply into the 12 VDC INPUT connector located on the bottom panel.
- Plug the monitor power lead (small 2 pin DIN) into the 12 VDC OUTPUT jack on the bottom of Companion.
- Plug the hand held remote control unit into the jack on the panel.
- Connect the prompter monitor to the VIDEO OUTPUT located on the bottom panel of the Companion with the BNC video cable.
- Plug the Keyboard into the jack labeled KEYBOARD.
- Turn the 12 VDC power supply on.

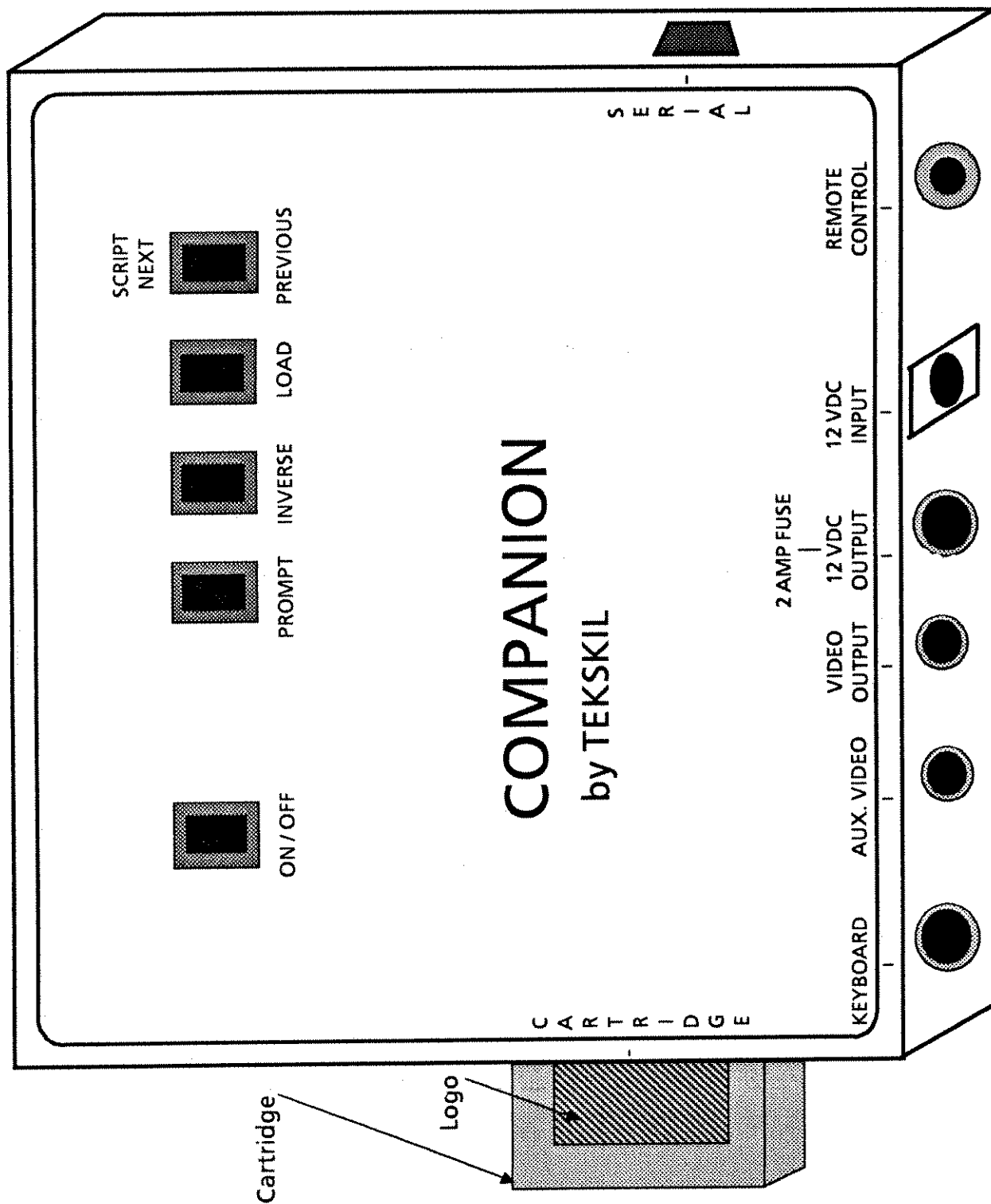
Power-up Sequence

- Turn the **POWER** switch on.
- Set the Speed / Direction knob on the Remote Control to maximum reverse (rotate knob fully down).
- Insert a Text File Cartridge (Tekskil Logo out) and press the **LOAD** button on the Companion front panel. The contents of the Cartridge will be read and displayed on the prompter monitor (a typical cartridge directory is shown below).

THIS IS THE CARTRIDGE TITLE		
01 GUN CONTROL	0034 LINES	00:00
02 NUCLEAR TEST	0174 LINES	00:00
03 FERRY SINKING	0095 LINES	00:00
04 TORNADO KILLS	0215 LINES	00:00
05 PROTEST MARCH	0019 LINES	00:00
06 SENATE DEBATE	0077 LINES	00:00

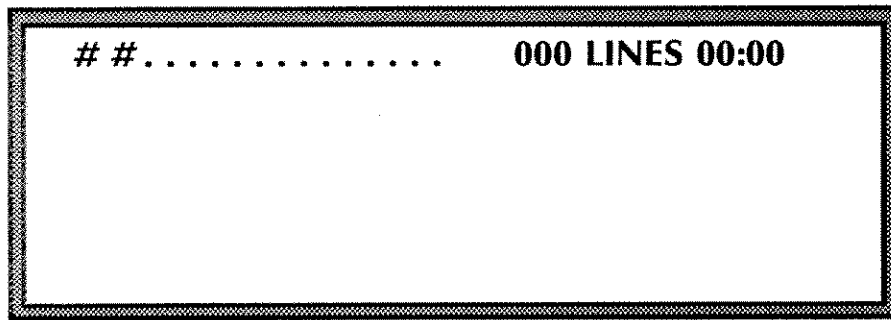
DIAGRAM OF THE HAND-HELD REMOTE CONTROL





CREATING NEW SCRIPTS

- Press **STORY FILE** on the keyboard.
- Press **SCRIPT NEXT** on the front panel or keyboard **CTRL-N**, until the screen appears as shown below.



- Press **EDIT** to enter the EDIT MODE. A flashing cursor will appear. Fill in the Script number and Title fields, but leave the LINES field as all 0's. Press **ENTER**, and type in your text. Uppercase is the character default in the Companion, however, pressing **CTRL-U** will select the lower case. **CTRL-U** will allow the user to toggle between upper and lower case characters. In PROMPT MODE, characters will appear in the case they were typed in.
- When you have finished typing your text, press **EDIT** again to exit EDIT mode.
- Press **STORY FILE**.
- Save the new script to Cartridge by pressing **CTRL-CART**. Press **Y** to complete the process, or any other key to abandon the write-to-cartridge sequence. More detailed instructions on SAVING SCRIPTS can be found on the next page.

AUX VIDEO INPUT (TALENT FEEDBACK)

- The Companion is equipped with an auxiliary video input controlled by the rocker switch on the remote control. When the switch is in the normal position, the Companion feeds its internally generated script to its video output. When the switch is depressed, the Companion feeds the video from the auxiliary input to its video output. Any desired video source can be connected to the auxiliary video input. One useful application of this feature is to connect a feed from the camera on the prompter head to the auxiliary video input on the Companion. The on-camera talent can then see themselves as the camera sees them (hence the term "Talent Feedback"). This can be used to check the framing of a shot, for instance.

SAVING SCRIPTS

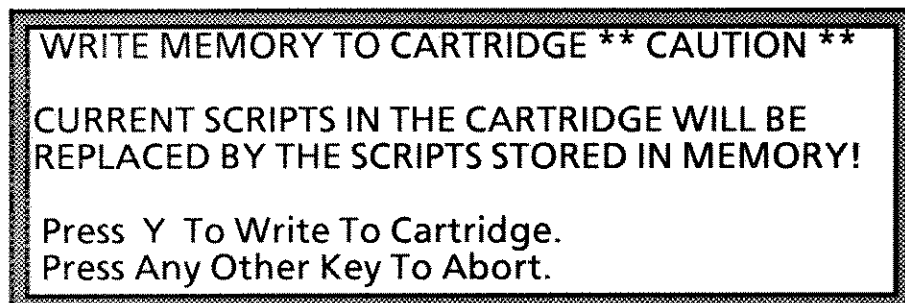
Storing Scripts to Cartridge:

The Text File Cartridge is a compact and rugged storage device for your script files, allowing you to save or download text quickly and securely. Each TFC contains a small circuit card with a resident battery, and has a lifespan of 5 years under normal circumstances. The storage capacity of the Cartridge is 128K, which is approximately 2 hours of continuous speech (64 double spaced, typewritten pages). Scripts are created in the Companion main memory and then moved to Cartridge for permanent storage.

It is important to regularly store script files to Cartridge to avoid loss of text.

Whenever scripts are copied from the computer, all existing Cartridge files are overwritten by the incoming text. Only the Cartridge Title (header) is not modified by a storage to Cartridge. It is designed to be a secure reference label for the Cartridge and must be amended separately (if desired).

- Press **STORY FILE**.
- Press **CTRL-CART** to write scripts to Cartridge. The screen shown below will appear as a caution. Continuing with this operation will replace the current contents of the Cartridge with the scripts in main memory. Press **Y** to complete the process, or any other key to abandon the write-to-cartridge sequence.



EDITING SCRIPTS

Selecting the Desired Script

- To select a script for editing, first press **STORY FILE** on the keyboard to display the scripts in main memory. To advance through the files, press **CTRL-N**. To move backward through the files press **CTRL-P**.

Locating the Area You Wish to Edit

- Use the remote control to quickly scroll through the script until you find the spot you want to edit.

Editing the Script

- Press **EDIT**. A flashing cursor will appear. Use the arrow keys to move the cursor to the location where you want to make edits.
- When **EDIT** is entered, Insert Mode is in effect. Pressing a key will insert that character to the left of the flashing cursor. Pressing the backspace key will delete the character to the left of the flashing cursor.
- When finished editing, press **EDIT** again to exit EDIT mode.
- Press **STORY FILE**. Save script changes to Cartridge by pressing **CTRL-CART**. Press **Y** to complete the process, or any other key to abandon the write-to-cartridge sequence.

The following functions are available in EDIT mode (flashing cursor):

CTRL-D	will delete the character under the cursor.
CTRL-K	will delete the entire line.
CTRL-O	will toggle between Insert Mode and Overstrike Mode.
CTRL-U	will toggle between the uppercase and lower case character sets.
CTRL-F	will invoke FIND (in both the PROMPT and EDIT modes). FIND can be aborted at this time by typing a carriage return. A window will appear at the top of the monitor. Type in the word to be found in the script and press a carriage return or the spacebar. The cursor will move through the script to the selected word and stop, flashing <i>fast</i> . Press the EDIT key once to revert to EDIT mode (<i>slow</i> cursor). Touch the EDIT key again and PROMPT mode is reinvoked. This is a helpful utility for finding a key word, setting markers or start pointers in a long script. FIND is case sensitive.
CTRL-C	will invoke CHANGE (in both PROMPT and EDIT modes). Type in the word(s) to be changed - up to 14 characters and enter a carriage return. Type in the new word(s), enter a carriage return. At the first match, type a carriage return or enter a CTRL-A for automatic change of all matches within the script. Touching the spacebar at a match skips that CHANGE . At the end of script press the EDIT key twice to return to normal operation. CHANGE is case sensitive.

FILE MANAGEMENT (Delete and Reorder)

Scripts either created from keyboard, downloaded from a Macintosh or an IBM computer via the serial port, or loaded from a Text File Cartridge, are temporarily held in computer main memory before being permanently stored to Cartridge. They can be displayed by pressing **STORY FILE** on the Tekskil keyboard. All entries will be displayed, terminated by an *** END OF SCRIPTS IN MAIN MEMORY *** message.

If more than eight scripts are in main memory, then use the hand held remote control to scroll up the next screen of entries.

Preferred Method to Delete a Script:

- Press **CTRL-STORY FILE** to enter the script file edit mode. The story file will be displayed, along with a flashing cursor.
- Use the arrow keys to move the flashing cursor to the script number of the script you wish to delete.
- Change the script number of the script you wish to delete to DD.
- To delete additional scripts, repeat steps 2 and 3.
- Press **CTRL-STORY FILE**. Any scripts whose numbers were changed to DD will be deleted.
- To save the modified story file to Cartridge, press **CTRL-CART** and answer Yes (Y) to the second screen.

Alternate Method to Delete a Script:

- Press **STORY FILE**.
- Press **SCRIPT NEXT**, **CTRL-N** or **SCRIPT PREVIOUS**, **CTRL-P** until the script to be deleted is displayed.
- Press **CTRL-Z**.

To Reorder Scripts:

- Press **CTRL-STORY FILE** to enter the story file edit mode. The story file will be displayed, along with a flashing cursor. The lowest numbered script will be at the top of the screen and the highest numbered at the bottom.
- Select the reorder sequence. Use the arrow keys to move the flashing cursor down and backspace over the old script numbers. Set the "new" first script's number to **01**. Subsequent scripts become **02**, **03**, etc. up to **39**.
- Press **CTRL-STORY FILE**. The scripts will be reordered as specified, and renumbered from **01** to **39**.
- To save the modified story file to Cartridge, press **CTRL-CART** and answer Yes (Y) to the second screen.

SCRIPT FILE CARTRIDGE MANAGEMENT

To Display the directory or contents of a Script File Cartridge:

- Insert a Cartridge (Tekskil logo out) into the CARTRIDGE slot on the side panel.

To Load a Cartridge into computer main memory:

- Insert a Cartridge (Tekskil logo out) into the slot on the side panel.
- Press the **LOAD** button on the computer front panel.
- The contents of the Cartridge will be loaded into computer main memory, and listed on the monitor.

To Delete all information in a Cartridge (Except the Header):

- Advance to any script resident in computer main memory by pressing the front panel **SCRIPT NEXT** switch or **CTRL-N**.
- Press **CTRL-X** (erases all scripts in main memory). Main memory is now blank.
- Press **CTRL-CART** to copy main memory to the Script File Cartridge. When the write-to-cartridge warning message is displayed, press **Y**. Only the protected Cartridge Title (header) will be displayed indicating all scripts have been deleted from the Cartridge.

Alternate Method of Deleting all Scripts in a Cartridge:

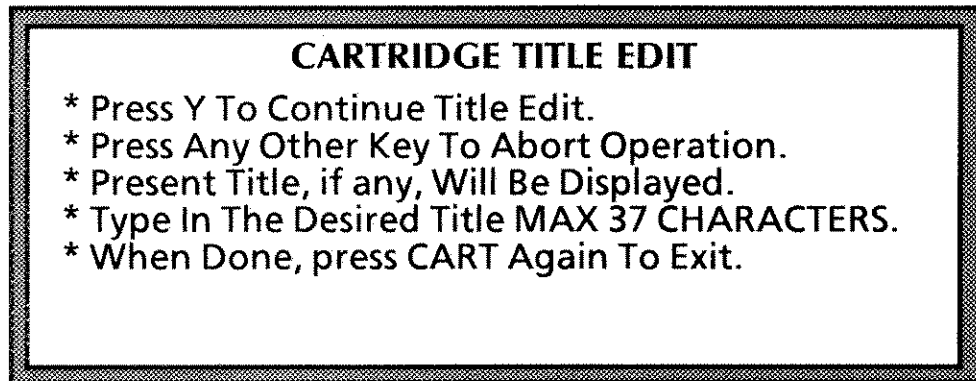
- Turn the Companion **POWER** switch off, wait 5 seconds and turn on.
- Insert Cartridge, and press **CTRL-CART**.
- Press **Y** when the warning screen is displayed. This will write the empty memory of the computer to the Cartridge and delete the contents of the Cartridge.

TO MODIFY YOUR CARTRIDGE TITLE (HEADER)

A Script File Cartridge should be assigned a title (header) for ease of identification.

To create a title, proceed as follows:

- Insert a Cartridge (Tekskil logo out) into the slot on the side panel.
- Press **CART**. The following screen will appear:



- To continue the Cartridge Title edit press **Y**, pressing any other key will abandon the Cartridge Title edit sequence. A flashing cursor will appear at the far left of the display.
- Type in the Cartridge Title.

Caution: *Only one line, or up to thirty-seven (37) characters are allowed for a Cartridge Title. Do not enter a carriage return in the character string.*

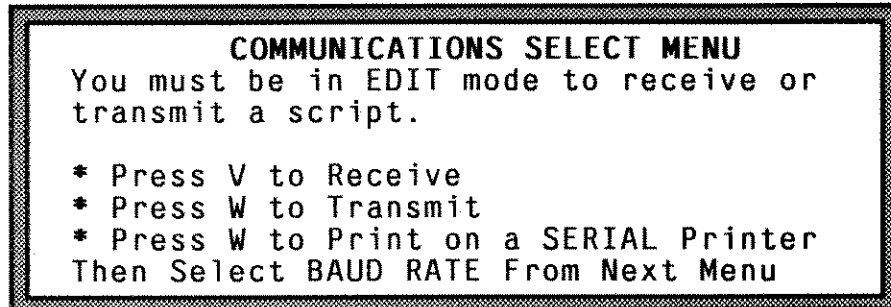
- Press **CART** again to end the Cartridge Title edit. The new Cartridge Title will be displayed along with a list of scripts residing on the Cartridge.

PROMPT MODE

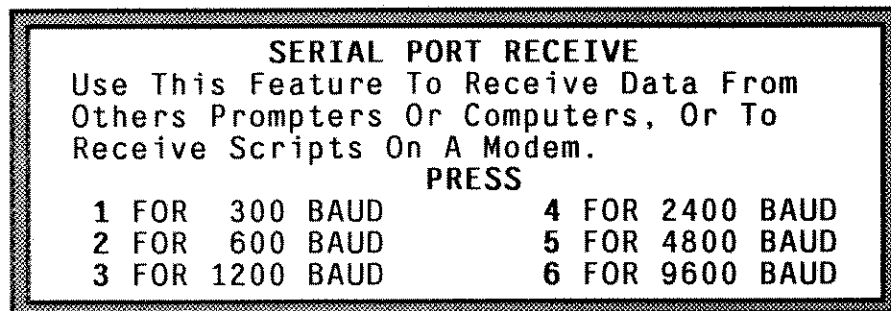
- To select a script for prompting, first press **STORY FILE** on the keyboard to display the complete script file. Press **CTRL-N, SCRIPT NEXT** to advance or **CTRL-P, SCRIPT PREVIOUS** to move backward to the correct script.
 - * PROMPT mode can also be entered directly from EDIT mode. With a single keystroke, you can prompt the same script you were editing by pressing **PROMPT**.
- Press the **PROMPT** key on the keyboard, or the **PROMPT** button on the computer front panel. The small edit font will be automatically converted to a center justified large prompting font.
 - * Pushing the top button on the hand held remote control can also be used to skip to **SCRIPT NEXT** or **SCRIPT PREVIOUS**, depending on the scroll direction chosen by the operator or talent.
- The prompter screen display has, in addition to the prompting text, a fixed **Talent Assistance Display**. This consists of an elapsed time clock and a relative "position in script" indicator. The time clock advances in real time if the scroll is in the forward direction, but stops during talent display or reverse. The "position in script" indicator fills as the script is advanced, and resets when the hand-held remote control is set in a reverse mode and the top push button on the remote control is pressed. The **Talent Assistance Display** may be toggled off and on by pressing **CTRL-H**.
- Script size may be toggled between the large prompt font and small edit font by pressing the **PROMPT** button on the Companion front panel or the **PROMPT** key on the keyboard. This control function is available only when in a non-edit mode, i.e. the flashing cursor not visible.
 - * The small edit font allows the operator to view a larger block of text than would be available in the prompt format.

RECEIVING SCRIPTS

To receive a script from another prompter or a computer, a new script must first be created. Assign a script number and a title, then enter a carriage return to open the file. Now press **Trans Recv** to display the COMMUNICATIONS SELECT MENU.

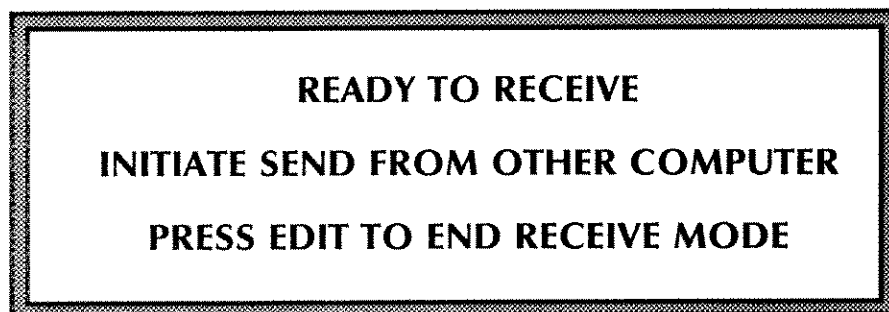


Press **V** to select SERIAL PORT RECEIVE. The BAUD RATE MENU will then appear.



Press the number corresponding to the baud rate you wish to use. Remember that the prompter or computer that is transmitting to you must use the same baud rate and data format as the receiving Companion. Companion uses a data format of 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit.

When the baud rate has been selected, the display will show the following:



This indicates that the Companion is ready to receive text. You may now initiate the send operation from your host computer.

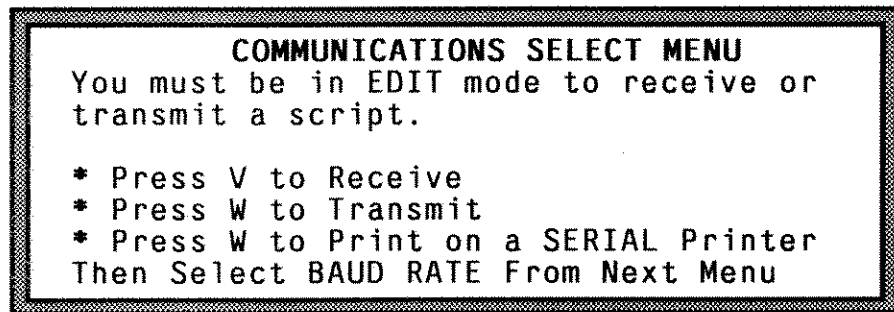
The incoming text will be displayed by the Companion as it is received. When the receive operation is complete, press the **EDIT** key again to close the script.

If desired, the script may now be saved to cartridge using the normal save-to-cartridge procedure.

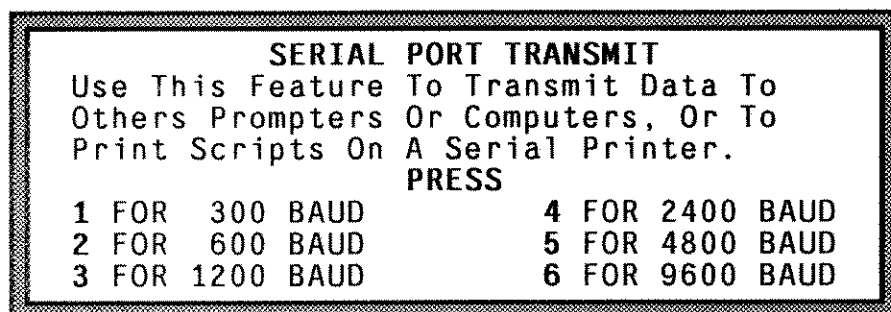
TRANSMITTING SCRIPTS

To transmit a script to another prompter, or a computer, the desired script must first be selected.

Once selected, press **EDIT** to invoke the flashing cursor. Using the down arrow key move the flashing cursor to the first character in the first line of text. Touch your keyboard spacebar to open the file. Now press **Trans Recv** to display the COMMUNICATIONS SELECT MENU.



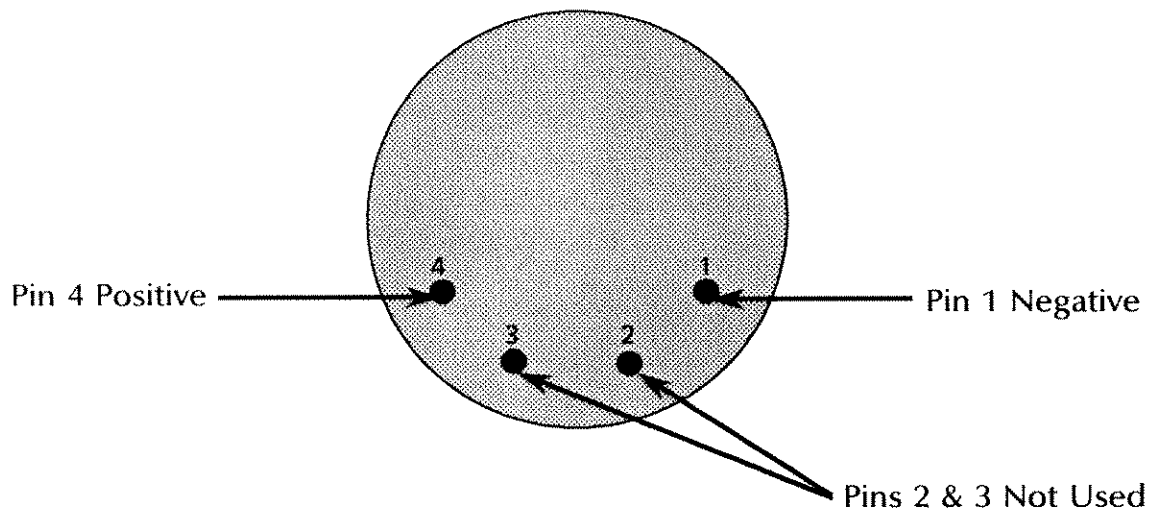
Press **W** to select SERIAL PORT TRANSMIT. The BAUD RATE MENU will then appear.



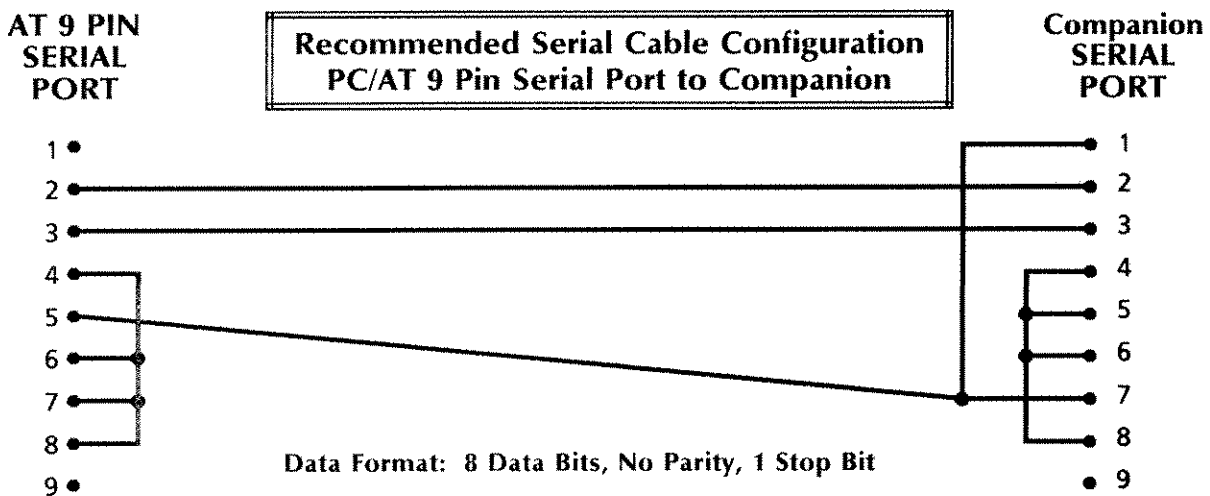
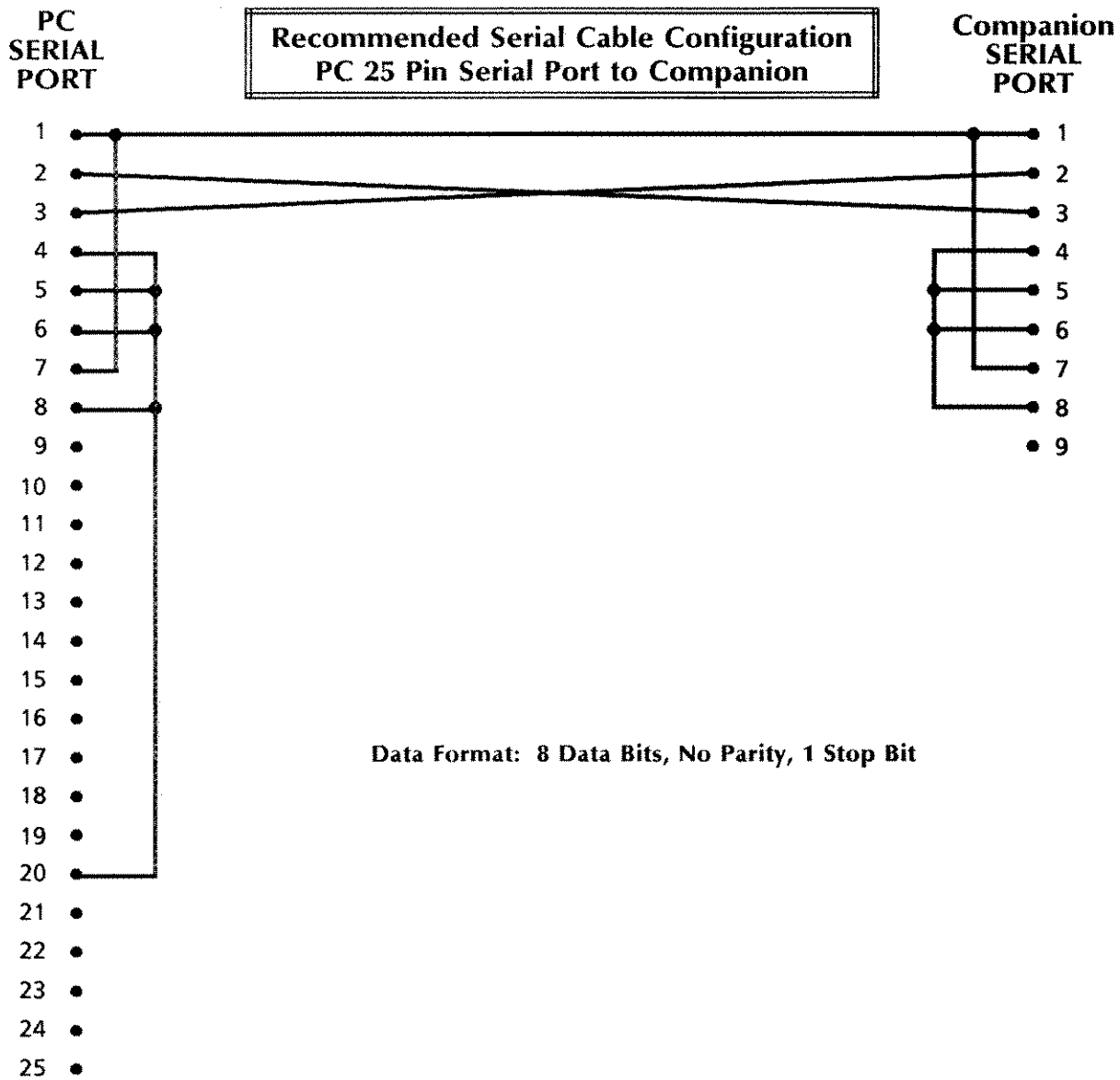
Press the number corresponding to the baud rate you wish to use. Remember that the prompter or computer that is receiving from you must use the same baud rate and data format as the transmitting Companion. The Companion uses a data format of 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit.

COMPANION EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY CONNECTION

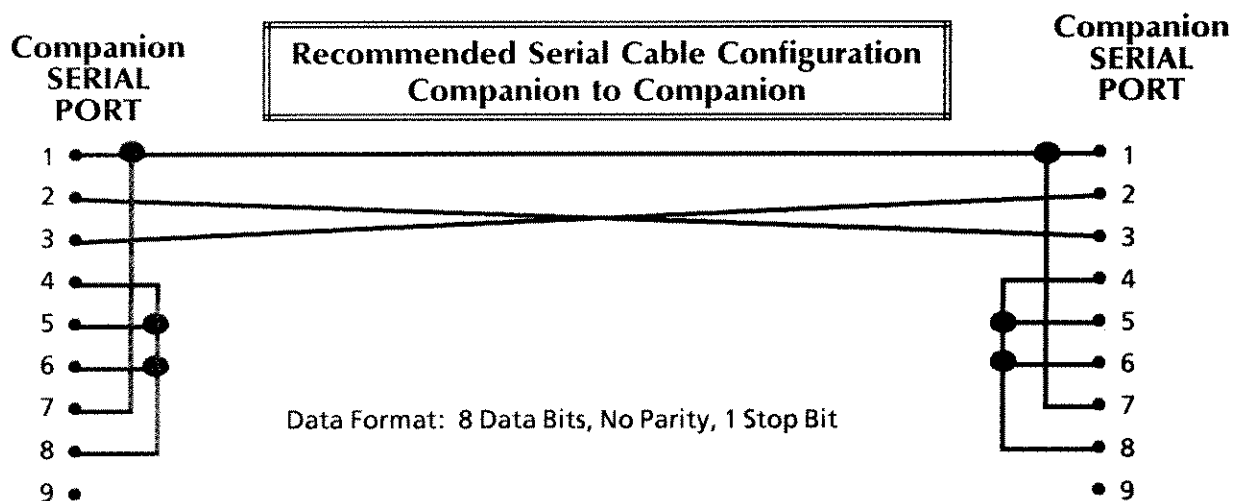
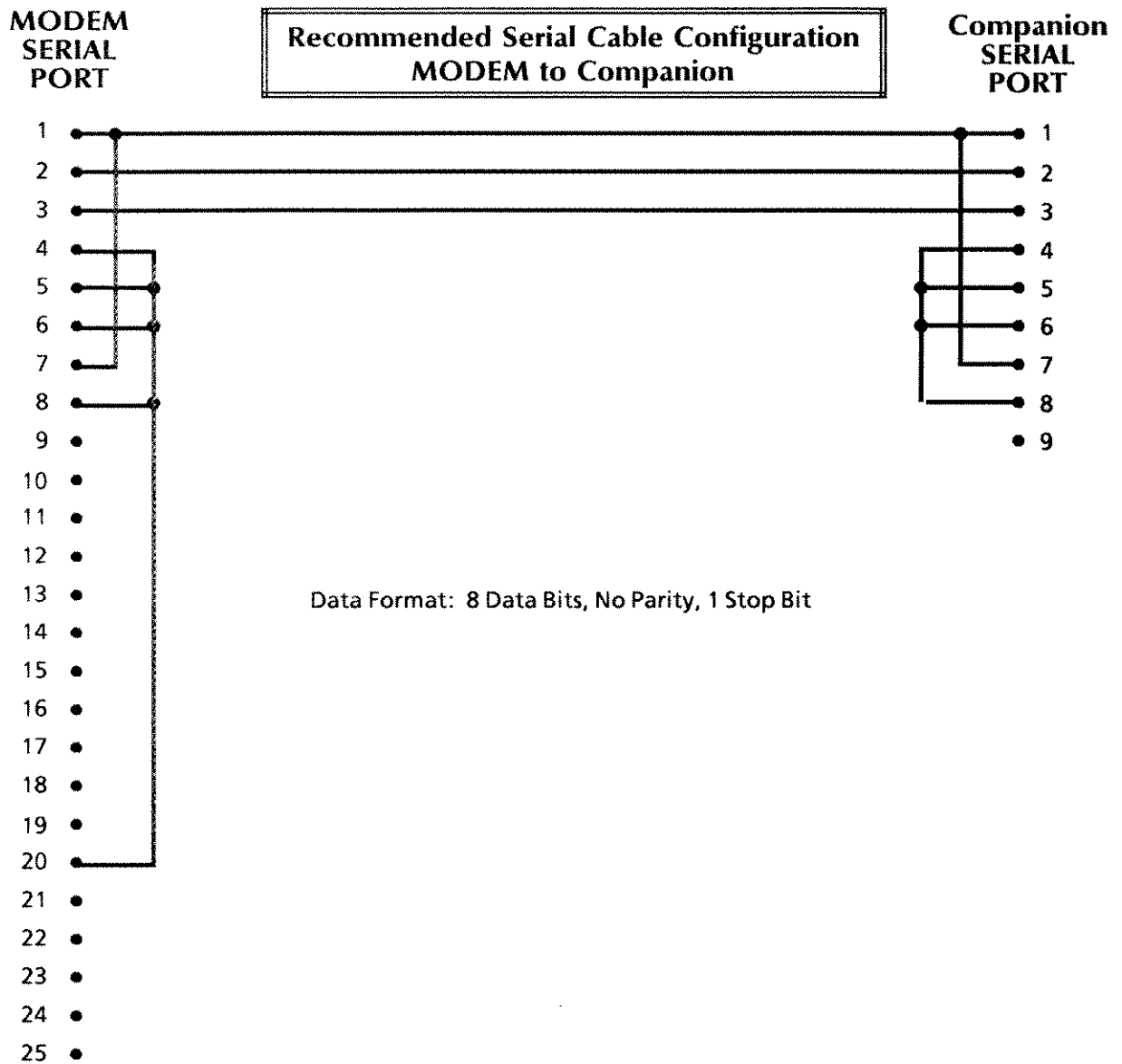
External power, 11 to 14 VDC, is supplied to the Companion through an XLR-4 male connector on the bottom edge of the unit. Pin assignments are as shown in the diagram below. The external power supply must be capable of supplying 11 to 14 VDC at 2 amps to power the Companion and 9" B&W monitor.



Companion SERIAL CABLING



Companion SERIAL CABLING



PROBLEM SOLVING

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Companion does not respond to the Tekskil Portable Keyboard.	Power off then on. This must be done if the Keyboard is plugged in with the Companion powered on.
What is the storage capacity of the Companion Text File Cartridge.	The Cartridge holds 128,000 characters (approximately. 2 hours of script).
Cannot enter more that 13 - 14 lines into a script.	This is normal operation if typing in the OverStrike Mode. Press CTRL-O to select Insert Mode and continue typing.
Part of a script disappears when loaded from the Script File Cartridge.	Companion Main Memory has been over filled. Press LOAD only once per Cartridge. Multiple Cartridges can be loaded in sequence, but beware that memory can be overfilled with unpredictable results. If memory becomes overfilled, remove the Cartridge and turn MAIN POWER off then on. DO NOT WRITE BACK TO THE CARTRIDGE when memory is overfilled. To do so will save the corrupted script to the Cartridge.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tekskil Industries, Inc.
#102-998 Harbourside Drive
North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V7P 3T2
Voice: 604-985-2250
Fax: 604-985-2248
Toll-Free: 877-TEKSKIL (835-7545)
E-mail: Info@Tekskil.com
Website: <http://www.tekstil.com>



LIMITED WARRANTY

Tekskil industries, Inc. ("Tekskil") warrants this product against defects in material and workmanship for a period of three (3) years from the date of purchase. This warranty applies only to products and components manufactured and supplied by **Tekskil**, which can be identified by the **Tekskil** trademark or logo affixed to them. Tekskil does not warrant products not manufactured and supplied by them.

During the warranty period, **Tekskil** will repair (or at it's option replace) this **Tekskil** product, or any **Tekskil**-supplied components that prove to be defective, provided that the **Tekskil** product is returned, all shipping charges prepaid, to an authorized **Tekskil** distributor.

This warranty does not apply if the product has been damaged by abuse, misuse, or misapplication, or as a result of service or modification by other than an authorized **Tekskil** service facility.

Tekskil is not responsible for damages resulting from the breach of any express or implied warranty, including damage to property and, to the extent permitted by law, damages for personal injury. Some states and provinces do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

THIS WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES. ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF RETAIL PURCHASE OF THIS PRODUCT. Some states and provinces do not allow limitation of how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

This warranty shall not be applicable to the extent that any provision of this warranty is prohibited by any federal, state, provincial, or municipal law that cannot be preempted. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights that may vary from state to state, and province to province.

Tekskil Industries Inc.