



# Tech Info Library

## Applesoft: Stopping the Apple IIe cursor from blinking

You prefer a solid non-flashing cursor over the flashing "checkerboard" that the Apple IIe normally provides? If you have Apple's 80-column Text Card just type PR#3, then ESC-4. The system will have the eighty column cursor (a solid non-flashing blank) and will be in 40-column mode.

If you do not have a Text Card, fear not; just type

```
POKE 49162,0: PRINT CHR$(4);"PR#3"
```

and you can get the same effect.

You can use this next sample routine as the startup program on a diskette or the startup routine in an Applesoft program. Line 14 determines whether it is on an Apple IIe or an Apple II. If, by the time Line 16 executes, no Apple Text Card is detected in the system, then Line 18 enables the 80-column firmware.

[NOTE: The firmware is enabled by the monitor during Cold Boot (i.e., power-on startup or OPEN-APPLE-CTRL-RESET) if there is a Text Card installed].

Line 18 activates the firmware now that it is enabled. The 80-column firmware maintains a mode status byte in RAM at location 1275 (\$04FB). Bit 7 of this byte determines whether Lowercase Restrict mode is active or not. Line 28 guarantees that this bit is set to enable the mode. Lowercase Restrict mode is normally only available in direct mode typing Escape-R and cannot be done otherwise in a program.

```
10 TEXT : SPEED= 255
12 D$ = CHR$(4): REM CTRL-D
14 IF NOT ( PEEK (64435) = 6) GOTO 30: REM NOT APPLE IIE
16 IF NOT ( PEEK (49162) < 128) GOTO 20:
    REM TEXT CARD INSTALLED
18 POKE 49162,0: REM ENABLE 80-COLUMN FIRMWARE
20 PRINT D$;"PR#3": PRINT : REM ACTIVATE FIRMWARE
22 PRINT CHR$(17): REM SWITCH TO 40-COLUMN MODE
24 MB = 1275: REM 80-COLUMN FIRMWARE MODE BYTE ($04FB)
26 MS = PEEK (MB): REM READ CURRENT MODE STATUS
28 IF (MS < 128) THEN POKE MB,MS + 128:
    REM SET BIT-7 TO ENABLE LOWER CASE RESTRICT MODE
30 NORMAL : HOME
```

Apple Technical Communications

Keywords: <None>

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This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 173