

David Computer Software

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K TO A CONVERTER

A utility to convert programs written in SP 5025 BASIC for the MZ-80K to SA 5510 BASIC for the MZ-80A. The utility will run on either machine.

The converter is in machine code, loading directly from Monitor. If BASIC is resident, before loading enter 'MON CR' (MZ-80A) or 'BYE CR' (MZ-80K). It will auto-run, and prompt the user to insert the cassette and set counter for program to be converted, and press 'SPACE' when ready. The message 'LOADING' is displayed. Once loaded, conversion of the program takes a second or so, and the user is then asked to insert a blank cassette for recording the modified program, pressing 'SPACE' when ready, and then 'PLAY.RECORD' when prompted. The utility will return to start, and prompt again for insertion of cassette for conversion. Exit is by reset or power off.

Usually converted programs will run without difficulty. Because of differences between the machines and their operating systems however, there are some things which could occasionally cause problems, and these are detailed below.

1. SP 5025 BASIC is more economical of space when storing programs than SA 5510, and the BASIC code itself takes up less memory. It is possible that extremely long programs will not have enough memory available left to run properly on the A, or even, in extreme cases, that they may not be convertible.
2. If the program has been written in an extended BASIC, any commands used not provided in standard SP 5025 will be converted to 1.
3. Octave indicators are converted from the MZ-80K system of '-' to the MZ-80A ++, if in " following a MUSIC statement, but not if in predefined strings called later by MUSIC.
4. The keyboards of the machines are not laid out the same, and some screen display characters are different. It may therefore be necessary to change some control keys or screen POKES for best effect.
5. The MZ-80A GET command, unlike the K, responds to a key already held down. If there are several GETs in succession therefore, execution may pass through them all from a single key press. If this causes a problem, insert a short delay (FOR...NEXT or MUSIC rest) before each. POKE 10407,0 at the start of a program, or eg 'GS=CHR\$(PEEK(17828))' after 'GET GS', are devices used on the K to mimic the MZ-80A response to GET, and should be deleted.
6. There could be POKES to control areas or BASIC. Any at the start of a program are usually to prevent LISTING etc. POKES in the range 4608-18437 could cause a program to crash. If the purpose of a POKE is unclear, try running the program without it.
7. Please note also that the highest line number permitted is 32767.

For the technically minded! Occupies H1200-H23A4. Loads K programs at H63E4 and transfers converted programs to H23A6.

It is a condition of sale that programs shall not be copied, lent or hired out, nor sold without a like condition being imposed on the purchaser.