

CHAPTER TWO

Putting RamFactor to Work

Introduction

This chapter explains how to use RamFactor as a RAMdisk. It will explain how to create a RAMdisk in the operating system of your choice, how to copy files to the RAMdisk, and how to execute programs from the RamFactor RAMdisk. Although you don't have to be an experienced programmer to use the RAMdisk feature of RamFactor, you should have a working knowledge of the applicable operating system.

- ◆ *Note:* We've included "A Brief ProDOS Tutorial" in Appendix E of this manual to help those who are new to ProDOS understand it a little better.

Remember that a RAMdisk is a volatile data storage medium! If the power is turned off, all information stored in the RAMdisk disappears. Be careful how you use the RAMdisk feature. Back up your data often and consider RamCharger™, the battery backup option for RamFactor. (See Appendix A.)

How RamFactor emulates a solid-state RAMdisk depends on the operating system booted into the computer. The following sections describe how RamFactor is used with these different operating systems: ProDOS, DOS 3.3, CP/AM 5.1, and Pascal 1.3.

- ◆ **WARNING!** Don't try to boot an unformatted RamFactor RAMdisk using the PR# command! If you do, you'll find yourself in the RamFactor Partition Manager program. Chapter 3 has the details on the accessing and using the Partition Manager.

ProDOS RAMdisk

When a ProDOS based startup disk is booted, ProDOS automatically recognizes the RamFactor card as a DATA disk with the volume name /RAMs, where s is the number of the slot containing the RamFactor card. You can store your data files in the ProDOS DATA disk or load programs to it and run them, but you can't start up from (boot) the DATA disk. To create a PROGRAM RAMdisk, or one that can be booted, you must first format the ProDOS RAMdisk.