

# APPENDIX E

## **A Brief ProDOS Tutorial**

This is a brief explanation of the **Professional Disk Operating System, ProDOS**, for those who are completely new to it. All of this information and more is included in your *Apple Owner's Guide*, but we have provided it here for your convenience.

### **Operating System**

ProDOS is one of several operating systems for the Apple. Others include DOS 3.3 and Pascal. Operating systems, as defined in the *Apple Owner's Guides*, are programs that control how information is loaded into memory, how the computer handles the information, how the information is stored on a disk, and how the computer communicates with the printer and other peripherals.

### **Naming Volumes**

ProDOS must have a way to locate which disk (often called "volume") you want to access. Instead of typing in the location of the disk as in DOS 3.3 (ex: S6,D1), you simply type in the name of the disk (the volume name). Some rules for volume names are

- 1) Name can include letters, numbers, or periods but not spaces
- 2) Name must begin with a letter
- 3) Name can be up to 15 characters long

These rules also hold true for subdirectory names.

### **Root Directory and Subdirectory**

The main directory of the volume is called the root directory. The root directory uses the same name as your disk. Subdirectories are ProDOS' way of organizing information on a disk.

Think of the root directory as a file drawer and the subdirectories as folders within the drawer. You can

- 1) Put files directly into the root directory like putting documents straight into the file drawer