

APPENDIX D

Programmer's Reference

Introduction

This chapter is intended for heavy-duty programmers interested in developing application software for the RamFactor card.

Description of RamFactor

The RamFactor is a peripheral expansion card which functions primarily as a mass storage device. It works with ProDOS, Pascal 1.3, and DOS 3.3. RamFactor was designed to be totally compatible with virtually all software written for the Apple II Memory Expansion Card. It also provides some additional useful features not available on the Apple card. These features include:

- RamFactor Partition Manager firmware, which enables RamFactor memory to be subdivided into partitions, with each partition totally isolated from the others.
- Expansion port for addressing additional memory beyond the 1 Megabyte available on the main RamFactor circuit card.
- Connector for RamCharger, an optional uninterruptable power source for RamFactor RAM.

RamFactor Partition Manager Firmware

When a blank RamFactor is first accessed by either ProDOS or Pascal 1.3, the RamFactor firmware dedicates all of RamFactor's RAM to that operating system as a formatted data disk. The RamFactor Partition Manager firmware remains inactive until called by a PR#s from BASIC or a Cs10G command from the Monitor. (This feature allows RamFactor to be fully Apple II Memory Expansion Card compatible, until the RPM firmware is called.) Once the RamFactor RAMdisk has been configured as a bootable device, the only way to access the RPM firmware without powering down is by the Cs10G command.