

RainbowTM 100

MSTM -DOS

Getting Started

Developed by Microsoft Corporation

digital equipment corporation

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The postage-prepaid READER'S COMMENTS form on the last page of this document requests the user's critical evaluation to assist us in preparing future documentation.

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Preface

Welcome to the Rainbow 100 Computer

We congratulate you on the purchase of the Rainbow 100 personal computing system. The Rainbow 100 computer is today's most versatile system. It is the only industry-standard computer built to DIGITAL's quality specifications and backed by DIGITAL's commitment to service and support. The Rainbow 100 computer is a sound investment in personal productivity that you'll enjoy using every day.

To get you started, we have prepared a set of easy-to-use documentation. We welcome your comments, which you can record on the card in the back of each manual. Please let us hear from you.

Remember that purchasing your first Rainbow 100 computer is just the beginning of your relationship with Digital Equipment Corporation, the world's leading manufacturer of minicomputers. Our dedication to quality manufacturing, our extensive availability of spares and accessories, and our service organization of 16,000 representatives worldwide are your further assurance of total DIGITAL quality. With the Rainbow 100 computer and the MS-DOS operating system, you have an investment that will grow in value as you use it now and in the future.

Starting and Stopping the Computer

This guide assumes you are a first-time user of Digital Equipment Corporation's Rainbow 100 computer. The guide presents each procedure in a step-by-step manner. Therefore, it is important for you to follow each step in sequence. If you attempt to follow steps out of sequence, some procedures will be confusing to you. Enjoy using the computer.

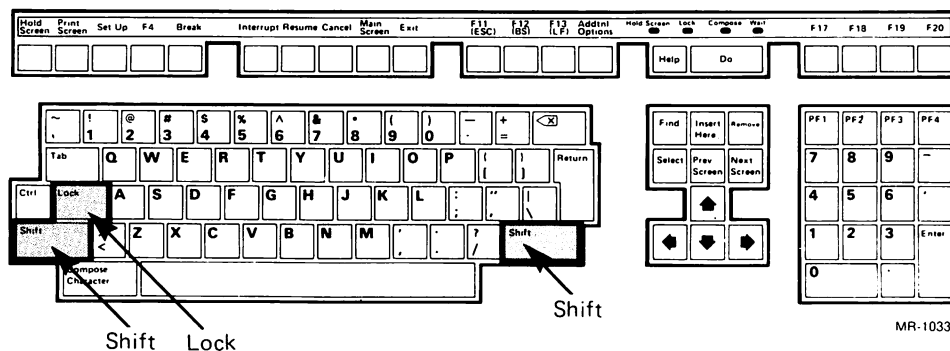
This guide is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1: Starting and stopping the Rainbow 100 computer and the MS-DOS operating system
- Chapter 2: Copying a diskette
- Chapter 3: Preparing a diskette

Starting and Stopping the Computer

The following information is helpful for you to know in order to use the computer:

- In examples of dialog between you and the computer, characters the computer displays on the screen are printed in black. Characters you type from the keyboard are printed in color.
- You can type these characters in either lowercase or uppercase. Use the Shift or Lock key on the keyboard to produce uppercase characters. The illustration below shows these keys.



NOTE

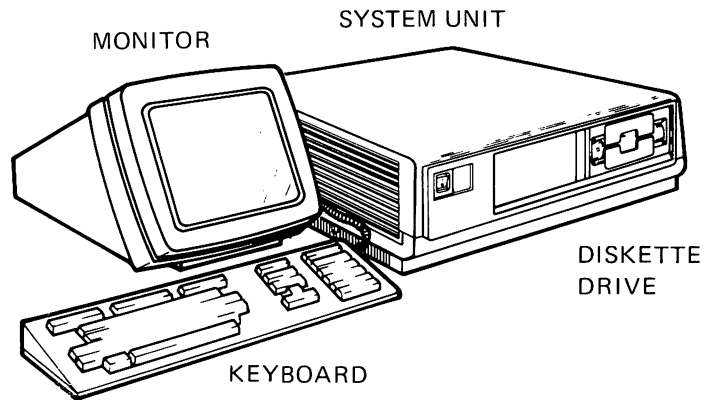
You cannot use the Lock key to type characters shown above numbers or other special characters on the keyboard. For example, if you want to type \$, %, *, (, :, ", ", ?, you must use the Shift key. The Lock key only affects the alphabetic characters. When the Lock key is on, you can return to lowercase by pressing the Lock key again.

- Be sure to type all spaces and punctuation marks exactly as they are printed in this guide. If you mistype a word or character, for example, if you type a semicolon (;) when it should be a colon (:), an error message is displayed and you must retype the line.

- <Return> means to press the Return key.
- <Ctrl/C> means to hold down the control key (labeled Ctrl on the keyboard). While you are still holding the Ctrl key, press the C key and then release both keys gently.

You cannot hurt the computer. Nothing that you type on the keyboard will do any damage to the Rainbow 100 computer.

The illustration below shows a Rainbow 100 computer including a monitor (video screen), keyboard, and system unit with a diskette drive (A and B).



MR-10314

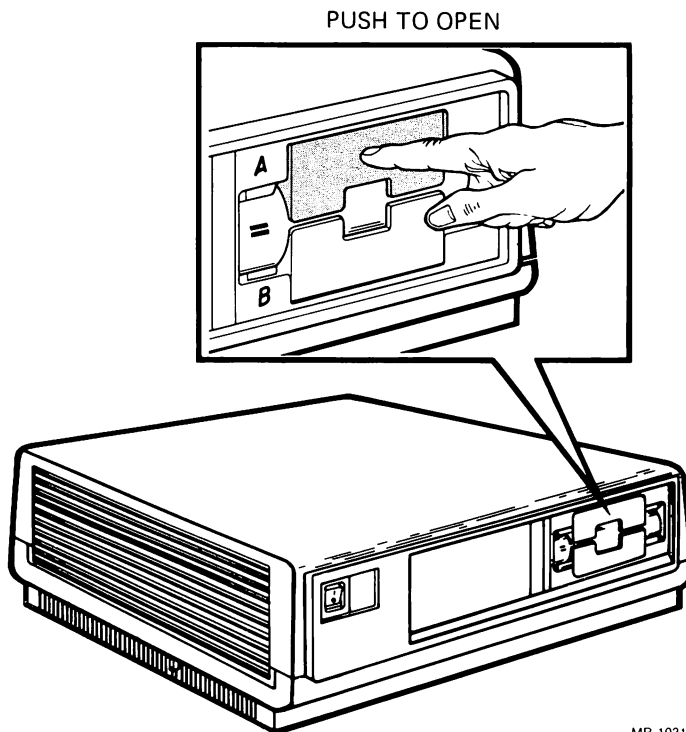
Setting up the Rainbow 100 Computer

If you need help at any time, call the appropriate DIGITAL Customer Help Line number listed at the end of this guide.

The instructions in this section assume that the computer has been installed according to the *Rainbow 100 Installation Guide*.

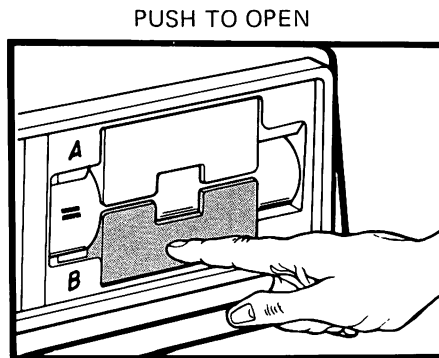
Opening the drive doors on a horizontal unit.

1. Open drive A by pushing on the **top** of the drive door.



MR-10315

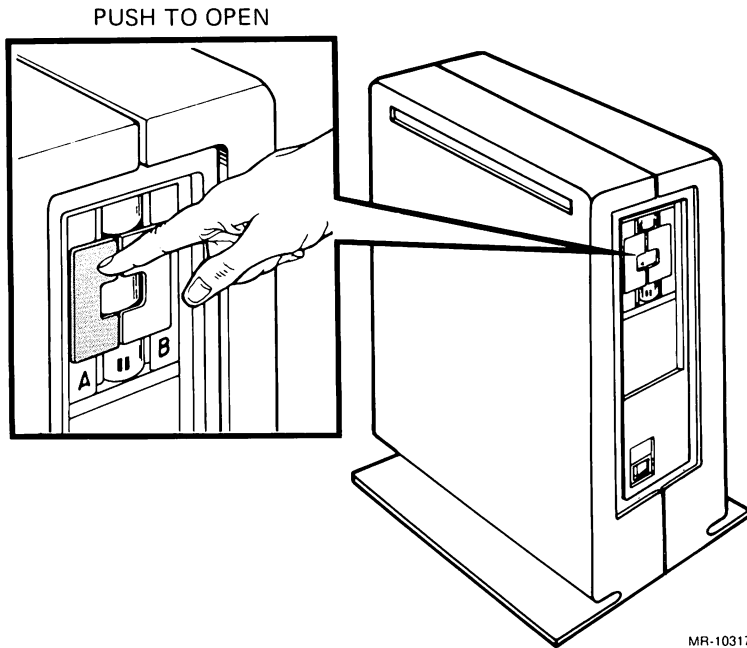
2. Open drive B by pushing on the **bottom** of the drive door.



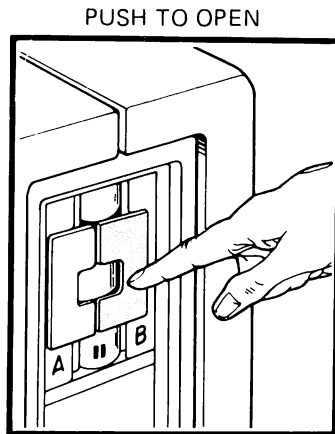
MR-10316

Opening the drive doors on a vertical unit.

1. Open drive A by pushing on the **left** edge of the drive door.



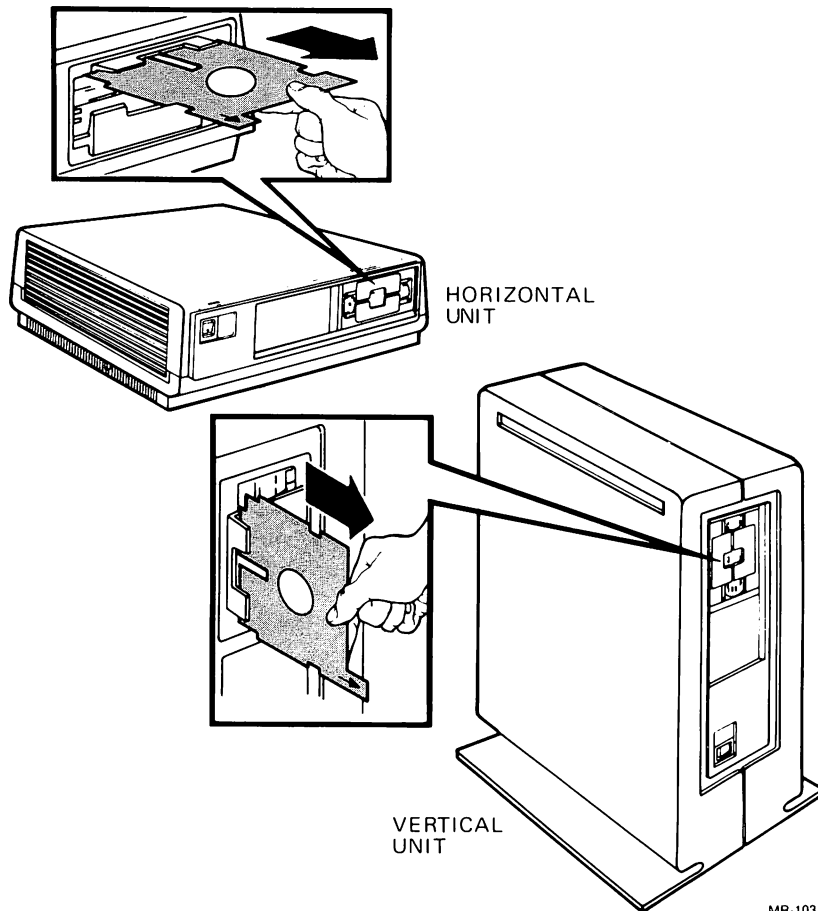
2. Open drive B by pushing on the **right** edge of the drive door.



MR-10318

Removing the protective card or diskette.

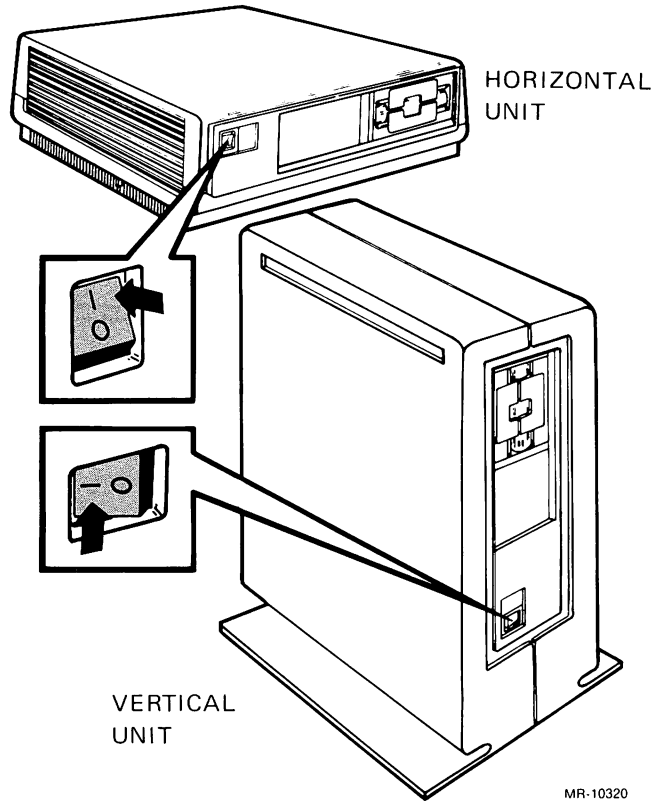
1. Be sure the diskette drives are empty.
2. If the protective card was not removed as part of the installation procedure, remove it now from drive A (and drive C if you have four drives.) Also remove any diskettes that you find in the drives. Remove these by grasping their outer edge and pulling *gently*.



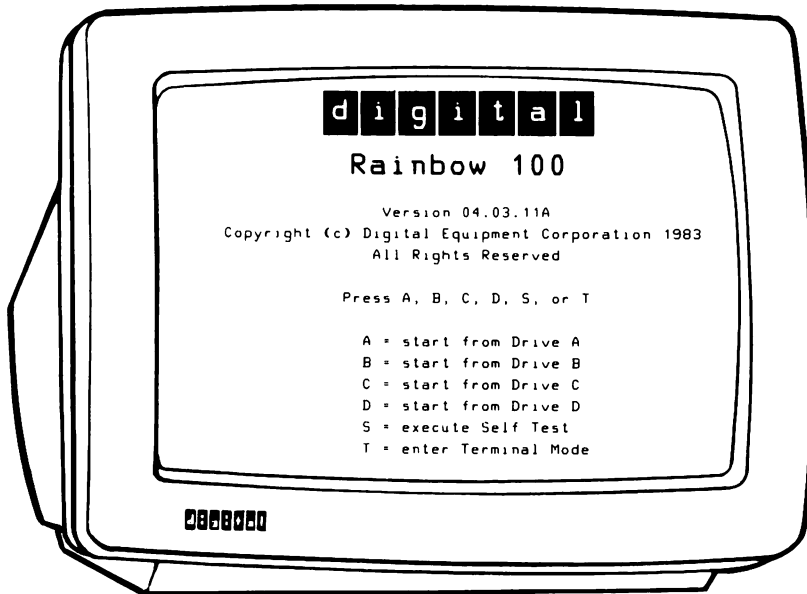
The protective card prevents the drive components from moving during shipment. Be sure to save it to use later if you move the computer.

Turning on the Rainbow 100 Computer

Turn on the computer by pressing the power switch to the 1 (on) position.



After about 13 seconds, you will hear whirring sounds and a beep. Then the Main System Menu is displayed as shown on the next page.

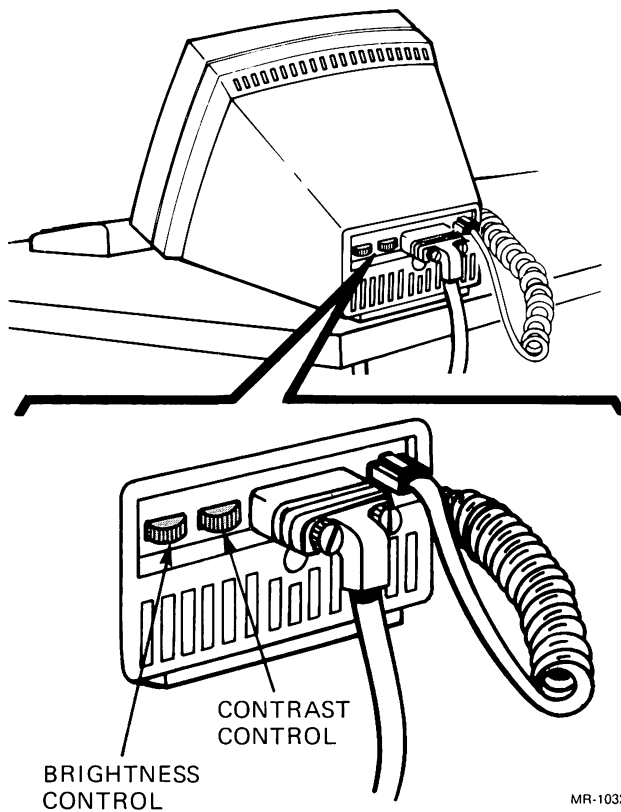


Helpful Information

When you turn the computer on:

- It automatically runs a short self-test to check its components.
- The drive doors can be opened or closed.
- The version number of the computer is displayed above the copyright notice in the Main System Menu. The number on your screen may be different from the number shown in the sample above. If you ever need to report a problem, your vendor may ask for your version number.

- If the Main System Menu is too dim or too bright, or is not displayed at all, adjust the brightness and contrast controls on the back of the monitor as shown below.



Contrary to the instructions in the Main System Menu, **do not** press any keys at this time. Wait until you have followed the instructions for inserting a diskette. If you accidentally press A, B, C, or D, the computer displays:

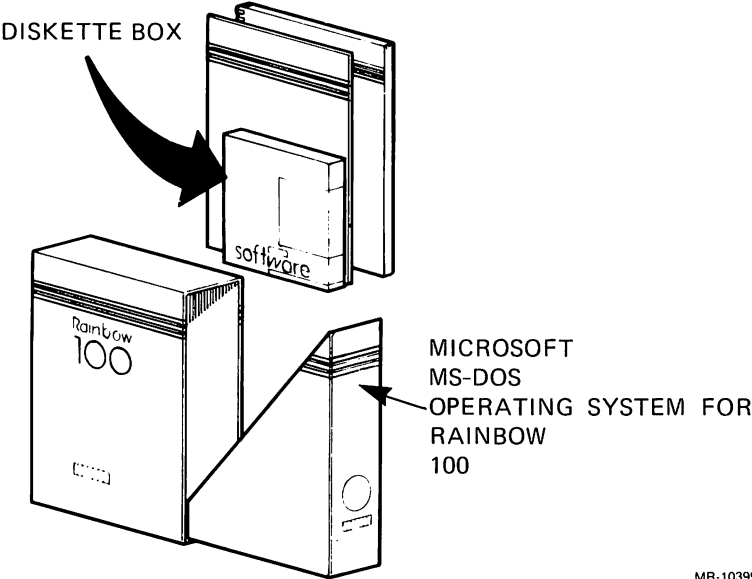
```
CONSULT USER'S GUIDE FOR ASSISTANCE - drive not ready
```

If you see this message, turn the computer off by pressing the power switch to position 0. Then turn it on again and start over.

If you see any other message, follow the instructions given in the message.

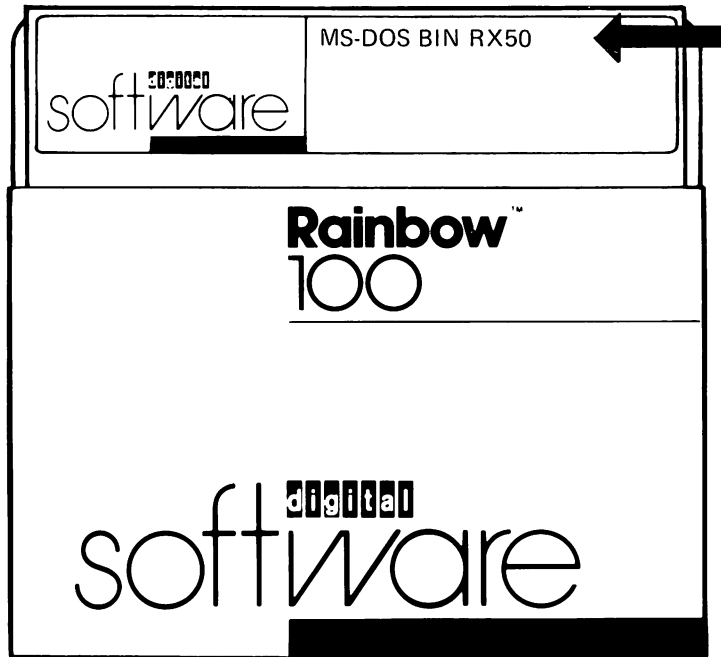
Finding the MS-DOS Master System Diskette

1. Open the Microsoft MS-DOS Operating System for Rainbow 100 Kit and remove the diskette box.



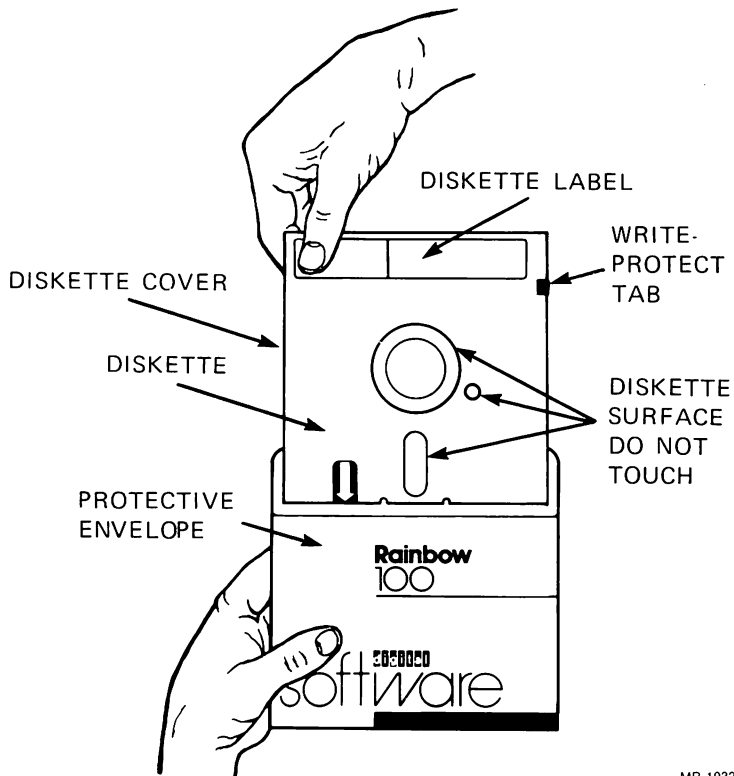
MR-10399

2. Remove the MS-DOS master system diskette from the diskette box.



MR-10400

3. Remove the MS-DOS master system diskette from its protective paper envelope.



MR-10324

Helpful Information

- Handle a diskette by its edges. Do not touch diskette surfaces that show through in the center of the diskette cover.
- If you want more information about diskettes, refer, at your leisure, to Appendix B in the *Rainbow 100 MS-DOS User's Guide*.

Starting the Operating System

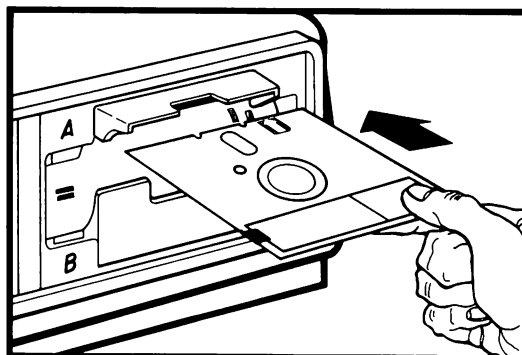
The Rainbow 100 computer operates with a group of instructions called an operating system that control the overall functioning of the computer. You are using an operating system known as MS-DOS.

When the Main System Menu, shown in the section called “Turning on the Rainbow 100 Computer,” is displayed on the screen, you can start the operating system. Proceed with the following instructions:

Inserting the master system diskette into a horizontal unit.

1. If the drive A door is closed, open it.
2. With the diskette label facing **up** and the write-protect tab on the **left**, insert the diskette into drive A.

ALIGN ORANGE ARROW
ON DISKETTE WITH
THE ORANGE STRIPE
ON THE DISKETTE DRIVE

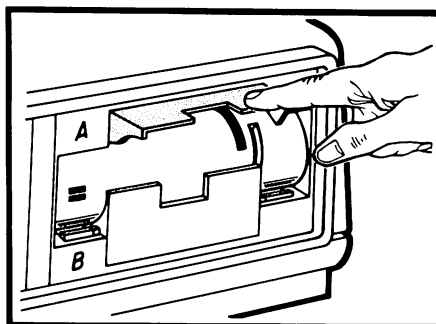


WRITE-PROTECT TAB

MR-10323

3. With the diskette securely in drive A, close the drive door by pushing on the outside of the open door. If the door does not close easily, make sure the diskette is fully inserted.

PUSH TO CLOSE

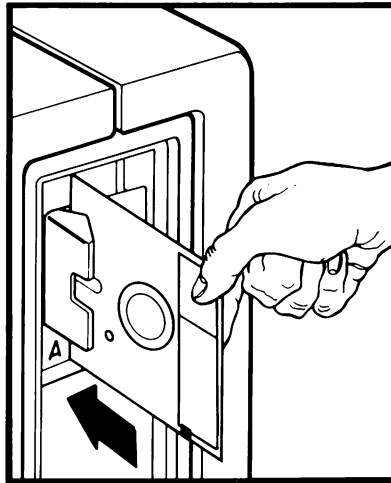


MR-10326

Inserting the master system diskette into a vertical unit.

1. If the drive A door is closed, open it.
2. With the diskette label on the **left** and the write-protect tab facing **down**, insert a diskette into drive A.

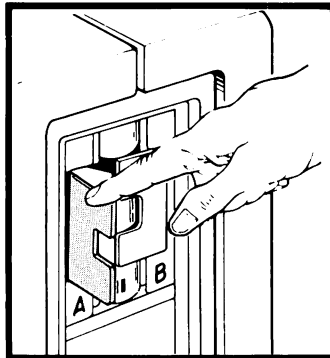
ALIGN ORANGE ARROW
ON DISKETTE WITH
THE ORANGE STRIPE
ON THE DISKETTE DRIVE



MR-10327

3. With the diskette securely in the drive, close the door by pushing on the outside of the open door. If the door of the diskette does not open easily, make sure the diskette is fully inserted.

PUSH TO CLOSE



MR-10328

On the keyboard, press:

A

in response to the Main System Menu.

Helpful Information

- Pressing A tells the computer which drive contains the system diskette.
- You will hear clicking and whirring sounds from the drive.
- A small light beside the drives turns on briefly.
- You will see the following message:

```
MSDOS Boot Loader V1.0
```

- After the clicking and whirring sounds stop, the operating system displays the start-up message as shown below.

```
MS-DOS version 2.01  
Copyright 1981,82 Microsoft Corp.
```

```
Command v. 2.10  
Current date is Fri 4-01-1983  
Enter new date: █
```

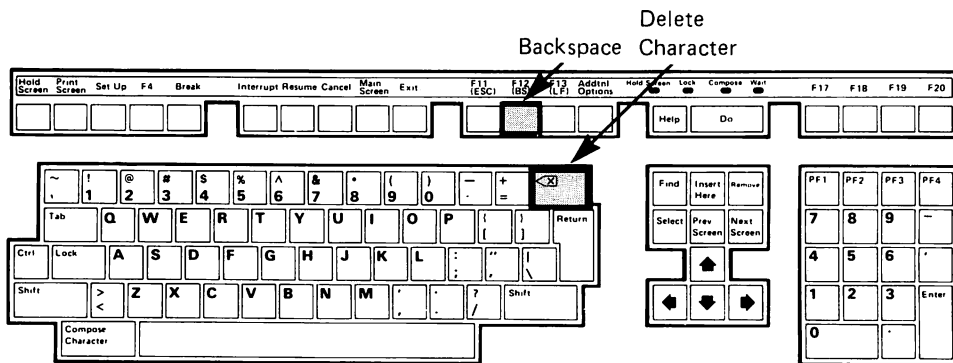
BU-1547

- The version number of the operating system is displayed along with the copyright date. The numbers on your screen may be different from the numbers shown in the previous illustration.
- If the entire start-up message does not display as shown, follow the instructions in the message at the top of the screen.

Setting the Date and Time

Notice that the last symbol displayed on your screen is a blinking rectangle or a blinking underline. This symbol is called a cursor. The cursor shows you where the next character you type will be displayed on the screen. The cursor is showing you where to enter today's date. Follow the directions below to enter the date and time.

If you discover a typing error before you press the Return key, use the delete character key or the backspace key to erase one letter at a time. The delete character key is located above the Return key and is marked with an X. The backspace key is labeled BS on the keyboard label strip. These keys are shown in the illustration below.



MR-10340

1. Enter today's date in the following format:
mm-dd-yy

For example, you would enter November 24, 1983 as:

11-24-83

Type in the current date and press the Return key.

The MS-DOS operating system displays the current time and asks you to "Enter new time:".

2. Enter the current time in the following format:

hh:mm

Note that the operating system uses a twenty-four hour clock. For example, 7:30 a.m. is typed as:

7:30

and 7:30 p.m. is typed as:

19:30

3. When you have entered the correct time, press the Return key. You will see:

A>

Congratulations! You have now successfully started the operating system.

The last symbol displayed on the left side of the screen, A>, is called the operating system prompt or prompt. The computer displays this prompt to indicate that it is waiting (or prompting) for instructions from you. The prompt consists of the name of the drive the operating system is currently accessing (A, B, C, or D) and a right angle bracket. The drive that is currently being accessed is also known as the active, or default, drive.

Resetting the Rainbow 100 Computer

Resetting the computer is like turning it off and then on again without pressing the power switch. It allows you to start over without having to remove the diskettes. When you reset the computer, it acts as though it were just turned on, and displays the Main System Menu.

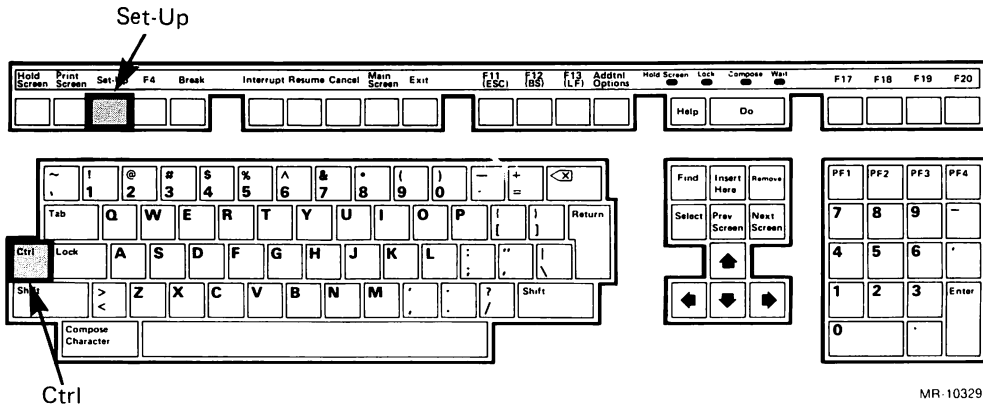
Helpful Information

- You may need to start over if the computer does not respond as expected. If, for example, the Main System Menu is not displayed after you turn the power on.
- Resetting works only when the computer is already turned on.

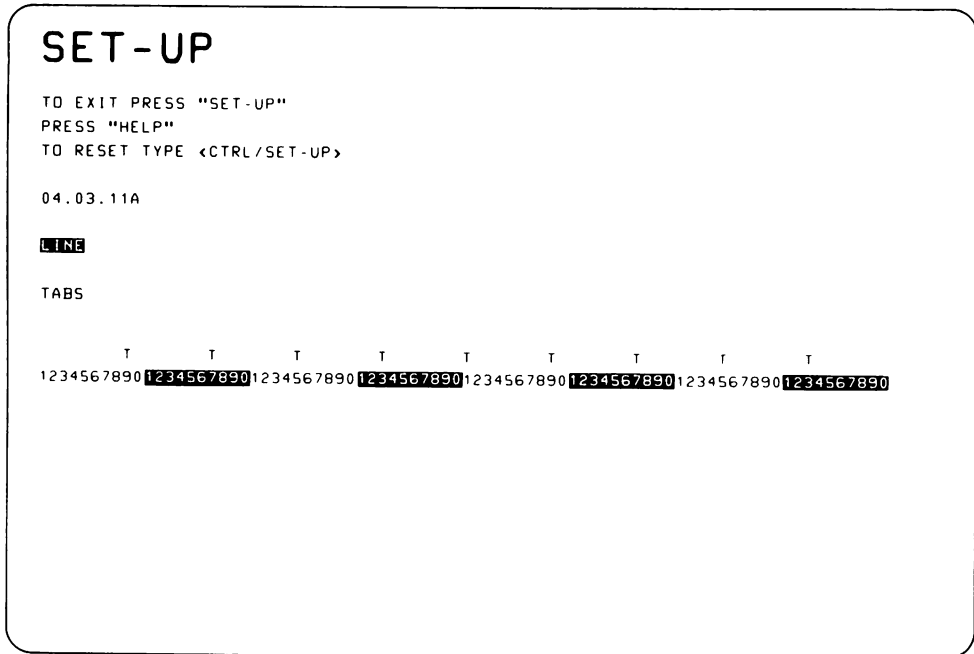
How to Reset the Computer

Practice resetting the computer now by following the instructions below:

1. Press the Set-Up key shown in the illustration below.



Then the text on your screen should look like the screen below.



BU-1652

2. Hold down the Ctrl key. While you are still holding the Ctrl key, press the Set-Up key again. Then release both keys gently.

The illustration on the previous page shows you the location of these keys.

You can reset the computer with or without diskettes inserted in the drives.

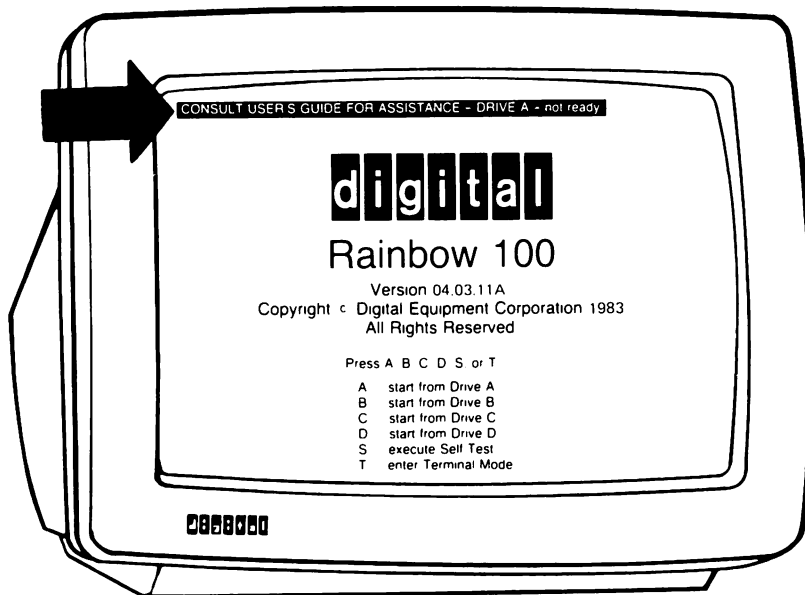
Starting and Stopping the Computer

The computer displays:

TESTING . . .

In about four seconds, the computer again displays the Main System Menu.

While you are using the computer, you can see unexpected messages displayed on the screen. There are many possible reasons for these messages. For example, the computer can find a problem while you are running a program, which is a collection of instructions to the computer. If you see an error message, refer to the error messages section of the *Rainbow 100 MS-DOS User's Guide*. The illustration below shows an example of an error message. You see this message if you have inserted a diskette incorrectly.

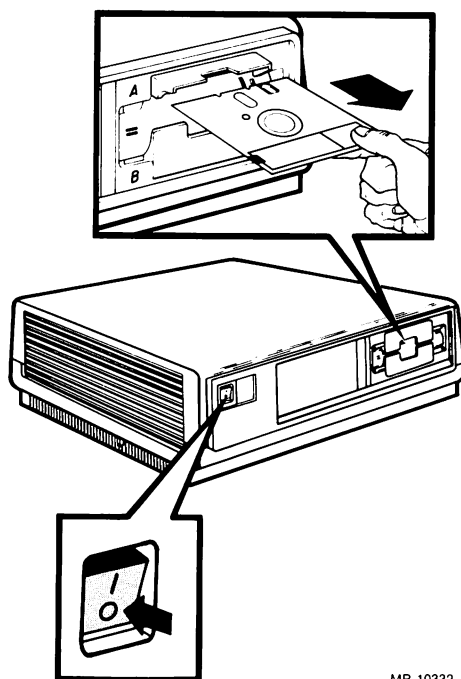


The *Rainbow 100 MS-DOS User's Guide* lists all error messages in alphabetical order and explains how to solve the problem that causes each message.

Turning off the Computer

This section describes how to turn the computer off. However, if you are using the computer for the first time, leave it on with the master system diskette in drive A, and proceed to the section called "What to do Next."

To end an operating session, **remove all diskettes before turning the computer off.** Then turn the computer off by pressing the power switch to 0.

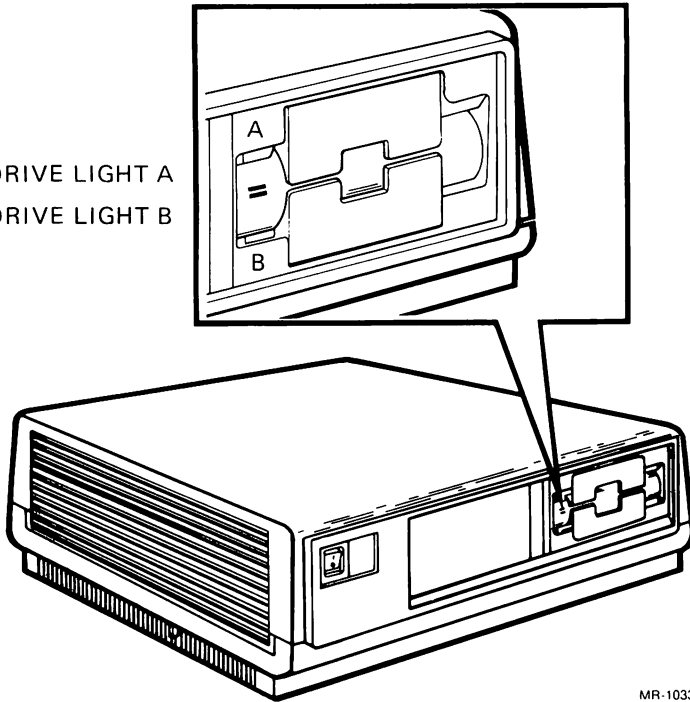


MR-10332

IMPORTANT

Do not remove a diskette from its drive while the operating system is accessing information on it. This activity is easy to detect because the small lights beside each drive are lit when the operating system writes to or reads from a diskette. The illustrations below and on the following page show the location of these lights.

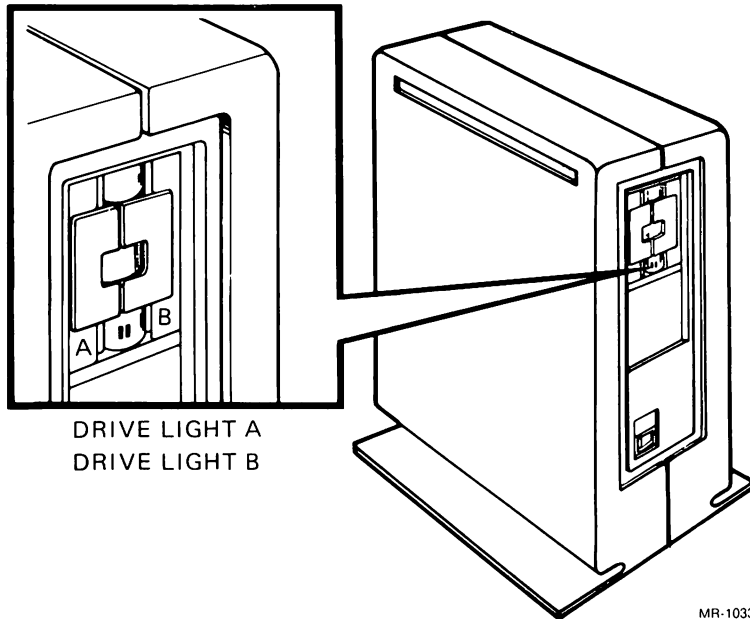
DRIVE LIGHT A
DRIVE LIGHT B



MR-10337

IMPORTANT

Always place diskettes in their protective paper envelopes and store them in a safe place. Keep diskettes in close-fitting, dust-tight boxes. Store these boxes in rooms with consistent temperature, humidity, and cleanliness.



What to do Next

Press A to start the MS-DOS operating system. Then read Chapter 2 and follow the instructions to make a copy of the MS-DOS master system diskette that is currently inserted in drive A.

2

Copying a Diskette

This chapter tells you how to copy a diskette. As an example, the chapter describes how to make a copy of the MS-DOS master system diskette that is currently inserted in drive A.

Why Copy a Diskette?

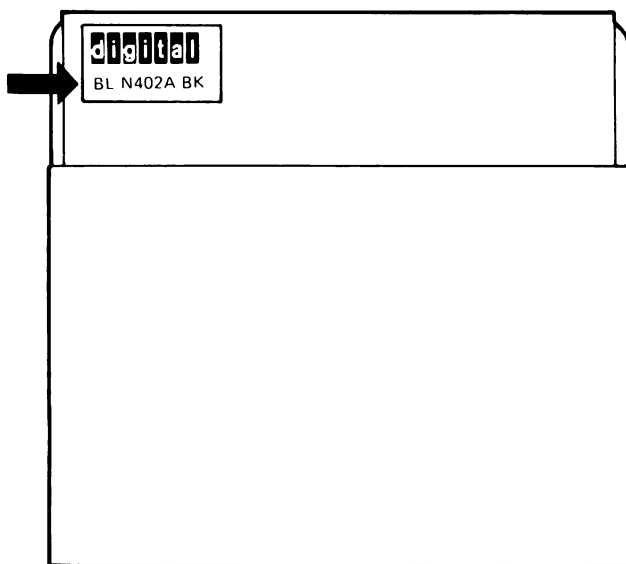
It is important to copy or back up all diskettes because a diskette can be accidentally damaged or lost. By making copies of your diskettes, you generate working copies and can store the original, or master, diskettes. The stored diskettes are then available to make other copies, when necessary.

You should back up all your diskettes regularly. To do this use the DISKCOPY program, which copies the entire contents of one diskette to another diskette.

Using the DISKCOPY Program

To copy the files from the MS-DOS master system diskette in drive A, you must first insert a new, empty diskette into drive B. You copy the MS-DOS master system diskette onto this new diskette.

1. Remove a new diskette from the diskette box in the Microsoft MS-DOS Operating System for Rainbow 100 Kit. The part number, BL-N402A-BK, is printed on the blank diskette's label.

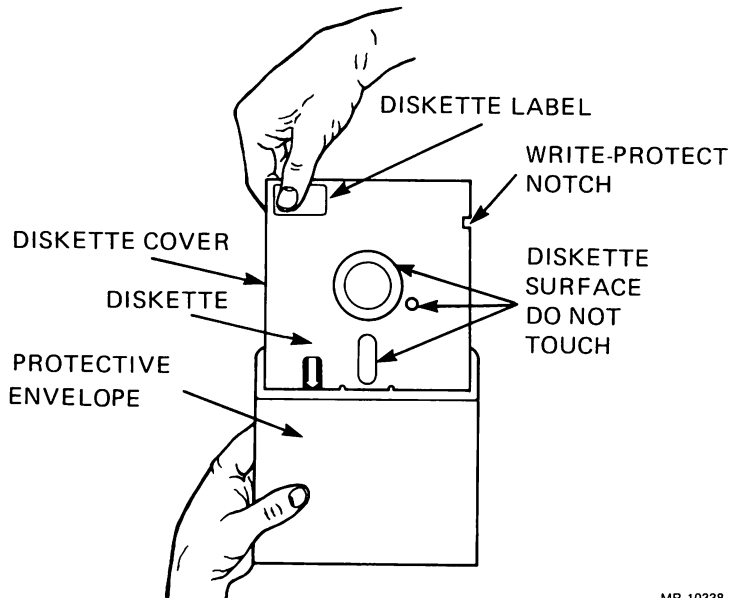


MR-10334

IMPORTANT

You must always use Rainbow 100 diskettes that are labeled RX50 or RX50K. You cannot copy information to any other type of diskette.

- 2. Remove the diskette from its protective paper envelope.



MR-10338

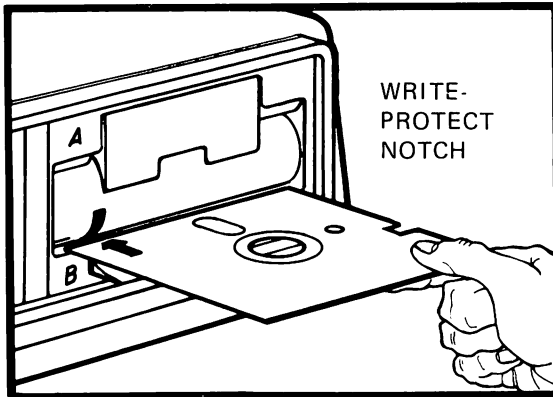
Copying a Diskette

3. Open drive B and insert the diskette.

- **Horizontal unit**

With the label facing **down** and the write-protect notch on the **right**, insert the diskette into drive B.

ALIGN ORANGE ARROW
ON DISKETTE WITH
THE ORANGE STRIPE
ON THE DISKETTE DRIVE



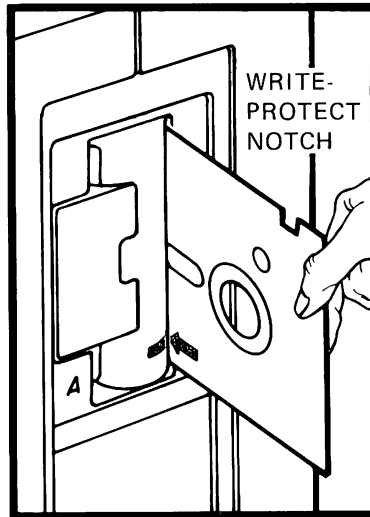
INSERT DISKETTE
"UPSIDE DOWN"
IN DRIVE B

MR-10335

- **Vertical unit**

With the label on the **right** and the write-protect notch facing **up**, insert the diskette into drive B.

ALIGN ORANGE ARROW
ON DISKETTE WITH
THE ORANGE STRIPE
ON THE DISKETTE DRIVE



MR-10336

4. Close drive B by pushing on the outside of the open door.

Copying the Master System Diskette

The DISKCOPY program copies the contents of one diskette to a different diskette. In the example below, you will copy the files from the MS-DOS master system diskette in drive A to the new diskette in drive B.

The DISKCOPY program takes about three minutes to complete.

1. After the A>, type:

```
A>DISKCOPY A: B:<Return>
```

Remember that <Return> means to press the Return key.

The screen displays the text shown below:

```
A>DISKCOPY A: B:
```

```
Insert source diskette into drive A:  
Insert formatted target diskette into drive B:  
Press any key when ready
```

BU-1548

2. Because you already have the correct diskettes in drive A and drive B, press any key. The MS-DOS operating system begins copying the master diskette and displays the message:

```
CoPyIng...
```

After the operating system has copied the diskette, DISKCOPY prompts:

```
CoPy another (Y/N)?
```

IMPORTANT

If you see any messages while you are copying, refer to the discussion of the DISKCOPY command in the *Rainbow 100 MS-DOS User's Guide*.

3. To end the DISKCOPY program, after the question mark type:

```
CoPy another (Y/N)? N
```

The system prompt, A>, is then displayed.

Congratulations! You have now successfully created a copy of the MS-DOS master system diskette.

Removing and Storing the Master System Diskette

To end this copying procedure:

1. Open the drive A door and **remove the MS-DOS master system diskette.**
2. Return this diskette to its protective envelope and store it in a safe place. By storing this master diskette, you are preserving a reliable diskette from which to make future copies of the operating system if the diskette you use daily is damaged or lost.
3. Open the drive B door and remove the newly copied diskette.
4. On one of the spare labels, write "MS-DOS Working" with a felt-tip pen.

IMPORTANT

If you have already attached the label to the diskette, do not write on the label with a ball-point pen or a pencil as these can damage the diskette.

5. Attach the label to the front of the diskette. Use this "working" copy for your everyday operations.

Looking at the Diskette Directory

Each diskette contains files, which are collections of information. Each diskette also contains a file directory, called a directory, which is similar to a book's table of contents. A directory tells the operating system what files are stored on the diskette.

To display the names of files that are stored in the MS-DOS diskette:

1. Insert your diskette with the working copy of the MS-DOS operating system into drive A.
2. After the system prompt, type:

```
A>DIR<Return>
```

The operating system displays a list of file names on the screen similar to:

```
A>DIR

Volume in drive A is MSDOS51783
Directory of A:\

COMMAND  COM      15925   5-17-83   1:50p
DEBUG    COM      11764   2-01-83  10:13a
CHKDSK   COM       6330   5-17-83   4:08p
RECOVER  COM       2277   2-01-83   2:22p
SYS      COM       850    5-17-83   4:09p
MORE     COM       4364   1-14-83   6:42p
DISKCOPY COM      1419   2-14-83   4:39p
EDLIN    COM      4489   5-17-83   4:31p
EXE2BIN  EXE      1649   2-01-83   9:19a
LINK     EXE     42368   1-06-83   4:36p
FIND     EXE      5796   1-14-83   6:35p
FC       EXE      2553   2-01-83   9:36a
SORT     EXE      1360   5-17-83   4:34p
FORMAT   COM      4176   5-10-83  12:12p
PRINT    COM     3335   5-17-83   3:38p
MASM     EXE     77440   2-01-83   1:13p
CREF     EXE     13824   6-02-82   6:06p

      17 File(s)      163840 bytes free
```

```
A> █
```

Helpful Information

- The names on your screen may not be the same, but they should be similar to the examples in this guide.
- Remember that nothing you type on the keyboard will damage the computer.
- You can type instructions to the operating system in lowercase or uppercase characters. To produce uppercase characters, use the Shift or Lock keys.
- If you make a typing mistake, but have not yet pressed the Return key, you can correct it by using the delete character or the backspace keys. The delete character key is located above the Return key, marked with an X. The backspace key is labeled BS on the labelstrip.

If you made a mistake but have already pressed the Return key, the operating system displays the error message, "Bad command or file name" followed by the system prompt, A>. For example, if you type:

```
A>DIRR<Return>
```

the operating system responds with:

```
Bad command or file name
```

```
A>
```

As long as you see the prompt, A>, you can type instructions to the operating system.

What to do Next

To prepare a diskette for storing information or files, read Chapter 3, which describes the FORMAT program.

If you are not going to continue to use the computer at this time, open the drive doors and remove the diskettes. Remember to return the diskettes to their protective paper envelopes. To turn the the system off, press the power switch to position 0.

3

Preparing a Diskette

This chapter tells you how to prepare an empty diskette using the FORMAT program. The FORMAT program gives a diskette a format or organization that the MS-DOS operating system understands.

IMPORTANT

You **do not** have to format a diskette if you are using the DISKCOPY program to copy all the files from one diskette to another.

If you have not already done so:

1. Insert your working copy of the MS-DOS operating system into drive A.
2. Turn the power switch to position 1.
3. Press A to start the operating system.

Preparing a Diskette

To prepare a diskette:

1. Type:

```
A>FORMAT B:<Return>
```

IMPORTANT

When using the FORMAT program, you must include the name of the drive that contains the empty diskette. If you do not include the name of the drive, the MS-DOS operating system displays an error message.

The MS-DOS operating system displays a message similar to the following:

```
Note: Requires pre-formatted RX50 Diskette
```

```
Insert new diskette for drive B:  
and strike any key when ready
```

2. Insert an empty diskette into drive B.
3. Press any key on the keyboard to let the MS-DOS operating system know you are ready.

After you press a key, the operating system displays:

```
Volume label (11 characters, RETURN for none)?
```

Volume labels are used to identify diskettes; they are like name tags for each diskette.

4. If you want to use a volume label to name the diskette, after the question mark, type:

```
Volume label (11 characters, RETURN for none)?MYDISKETTE:Return:
```

This gives your diskette the volume label, MYDISKETTE.

If you do not want to assign a label, press the Return key. You will see on your screen a message similar to:

```
393216 bytes total disk space  
393216 bytes available on disk
```

```
Format another (Y/N)
```

5. To end the FORMAT program, type:

```
Format another (Y/N)?N
```

The MS-DOS operating system then displays the system prompt, A>.

What to do Next

At this point, you are ready to begin working with the computer. You may wish to do one of the following:

- Make a copy of an application diskette.
- Create and edit a document using a word processing program.
- Run an application program.
- Make a single diskette with both the system programs and the application programs on it.
- Read the *Rainbow 100 MS-DOS User's Guide* for information about:
 - Using MS-DOS commands
 - Creating and editing a document using the MS-DOS text editor, EDLIN and the special editing keys
- End the session by removing all diskettes and turning the power switch to position 0.

Appendix

A

Getting Help

Help Line Phone Numbers

Country	Phone Number
U.S.A.	(800) DEC-8000
Canada	(800) 267-5251
United Kingdom	(0256) 59 200
Belgium	(02)-24 26 790
West Germany	(089)-95 91 66 44
Italy	(02)-617 53 81 or 617 53 82
Japan	(0424) 64-3302
Denmark	(04)-30 10 05
Spain	(1)-73 34 307
Finland	(90)-42 33 32
Holland	(1820)-31 100
Switzerland	(01)-810 51 21
Sweden	(08)-98 88 35
Norway	(02)-25 64 22
France	(1)-687 31 52
Austria	(222)-67 76 41 extension 444
Australia Sydney	(02) 412-5555
All other areas	(008) 226377

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Canada	DIGITAL EQUIPMENT OF CANADA LTD. 940 Belfast Road Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4C2 Attn: A&SG Business Manager
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