

Keyboard Extended Usage

General Keyboard Usage.....B-2
Print Function KeysB-2
Editing Keys.....B-3

General Keyboard Usage

Keys at the center of the keyboard retain their normal meaning. That is, they function just like a typewriter.

Function Keys (F1 to F12) at the left side and/or top of the keyboard are used for various purposes. The usage of Function Keys 1 through 10 (F1-F0) will be summarized at the TOP of any screen that uses them. However, in all cases, certain Function Keys will always have the same meaning from all screens:

- **F1** - Help - Results in a Help screen being displayed. It will provide additional information about the use of the Menu/Screen currently displayed.
- **F9** - Return - Results in a return to the Prior Menu/Screen.
- **F0** - (F10) Exit - Results in an Exit from the System (return to the DOS prompt).
- **Shift-F9** - Return Main - Results in a return to the Main Selection Menu.
- **Alt-F9** - Abort - Same as Ctrl-Break. In some cases, this combination will also take you from a Window back to the top part of a screen.


Normally, the primary meaning of the Function Keys is displayed on line 2 of the screen. However, when you hold down the **Shift**, **Ctrl** or **Alt** keys, the meaning of the function keys in combination with any of these three keys is displayed instead. The primary meaning of the keys is redisplayed when you are not pressing any of those three keys.

BOOMS support 4 different color schemes for screen displays. The initial color scheme is indicated in the BOOMS startup parameters (See Appendix H). You can cycle through the 4 schemes by repeatedly pressing "Alt-7" (that's the number 7, not Function Key 7).

Print Function Keys

Function Key 11 (F11) is the Print/Printer Characteristics Setup Key. These values are displayed in the top left corner of each screen. When used by itself and in combination with the Shift, Ctrl and Alt keys, F11 does the following:

- **F11** (by itself) - Cycles the printer destination (**PRINT=n**) as follows:
current printer# (shown as a number from 1 to 4) **to**
the screen (shown as the letter "T") **to**
the current "disk spool device" (shown as a letter other than "T". This defaults to the value of the "/F" parameter on the BOOMS STARTUP command **and back to**
current printer#
- **Shift-F11** - Cycles the printer number (**PRINT=n**) as follows:
1 to
2 to
3 to
4 and back to
1
- **Ctrl-F11** - Cycles the Printer Characteristics (**PRINTC=name**) as follows:
 As defined in the Global Record Printer entries (See "Global Parameters"), this key combination will cycle through the different printer characteristics
- **Alt-F11** - Cycles the printer number (**PRINT=n**) **and** printer characteristics (**PRINTC=name**) as defined in the first 4 printer entries of the Global Record (See "Global Parameters") as follows:
PRINT=1 PRINTC=related printer characteristics to
PRINT=2 PRINTC=related printer characteristics to
PRINT=3 PRINTC=related printer characteristics to
PRINT=4 PRINTC=related printer characteristics and back to
PRINT=1 PRINTC=related printer characteristics

 Some older 286 computers, and all 8088 computers, do not support Function Key 11. BOOMS simulates F11 using an Alt-number combination as follows:

Alt-1 simulates "F11"
 Alt-2 simulates "Shift-F11"
 Alt-3 simulates "Ctrl-F11"
 Alt-4 simulates "Alt-F11"

Editing Keys

The following editing keys are at your disposal:

- **Esc** - BOOMS Quick Accept Key. Pressing “ESC” tells the System that the remainder of the values being displayed are acceptable as is. This allows you to avoid unnecessary keystrokes. The ESC key is also used to terminate a Print activity (Quick Accept of Print).
- **Ctrl-Break** - This a 2 Key combination that is similar to pressing F9 (and the same as pressing Alt-F9). Ctrl-Break allows you to return to the previous screen without performing certain processing. See individual functions for the way that Ctrl-Break is used in various situations.
- **Tab** - Skip to the next field (or signal that all entries are complete if the cursor is currently in the last, or only, input field).
- **Enter** - Same as Tab.
- **Backtab** (uppercase Tab) - Skip to the previous input field.
- **End** - Skip to the end of the current input field.
- **Home** - Skip to the first position of the current input field.
- **Ctrl-Tab** - 2-key combination. Will tab to the next position (if any) as defined in global parameters (See Chapter 24).
- **Ctrl-(Right Arrow)** - 2-key combination, Arrow on numeric keypad. Skip to the next Word of the current input field.
- **Ctrl-(Left Arrow)** - 2-key combination, Arrow on numeric keypad. Skip to the previous Word of the current input field.
- **Ctrl-End** - 2-key combination. Delete all characters in the current field from the “cursor” to the end of the field.
- **(Down Arrow)** - Arrow is on the numeric keypad. Skip to the next line. The cursor will skip to the first input field in the same COLUMN as the start of the current field.
- **(Up Arrow)** - Arrow is on the numeric keypad. Skip to the previous line. The cursor will skip to the first input field in the same COLUMN as the start of the current field.
- **(Right Arrow)** - Key is on the numeric keypad. Skip to the next character in a field.
- **(Left Arrow)** - Key is on the numeric keypad. Skip to the previous character in a field.
- **(Backspace)** - Key is next to the “=”. Backspace and Delete character in a field.
- **Del** - Delete character at CURSOR and shift remaining characters in the field one character to the left.
- **Ins** - Toggle INSERT MODE. Characters can be INSERTED into a field. Characters to the right of the cursor are shifted to the right as new characters are entered. The Cursor displays as a “block” when insert is on. Insert Mode is automatically turned off when you leave the current field.

The following characters seem to cause confusion for many people. They are presented here for clarification:

- **Slash** - this character is on the same key as the question mark [?] (/ / / / / / / / / /)
- **Backslash** - this character is on the same key as the bar [|] (\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \)
- **Colon** - is the two dots [:] above the **semi-colon** [;]