

Issue 5  
July 88

# Script

The LocoScript  
Newsletter

## Contents

### News 2

A new set of fonts and  
LocoScript for Arabic users

### Paper Types 4

Using the right Paper Type  
for your paper

### Data files 7

How to produce new  
LocoMail data files from old

### Start Up 10

What happens when you  
load LocoScript

### Letters 13

### PostScript 16

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If you went to the Amstrad PCW Show at Alexandra Palace in May, you probably visited our stand – we were difficult to miss! If you didn't get a chance to attend, you'll have another opportunity to meet us in September because we're also going to the major personal computer show of the year. This is the Personal Computer Show (previously known as the PCW Show).

To make it easy, we've included a free ticket with this issue of *Script* for our "business" customers (unfortunately, red tape prevents us from including those of our customers who are under 18 in this category). As before, we'll be demonstrating the full range of our software and previewing some new products! We'll announce more details in the September issue of *Script*.

In this issue we focus on two different areas of LocoScript which have provoked interest – Paper Types and Start Up.

Using different types of paper is an area where we've made quite a few changes. In LocoScript 1, using a different type of paper often meant setting up the details each time you wanted to print. With LocoScript 2, you just have to set up the information once in a Paper Type. In our article, we explain how to use Paper Types. We also discuss the most common symptoms of printing on the wrong paper and show you how you can cure these problems by simply using the right Paper Types.

'Where has all the memory gone?' is a question that frequently crops up in the letters we receive. It seems that the amount of space available in Drive M is not what you always expect. So in our article on Start Up we try to answer the question by describing what happens to the files on your Start-of-day disc when you load LocoScript. We also offer some suggestions for making the most of the available space when you use add-on programs such as LocoSpell and LocoFont.

We're continuing the LocoMail series with a look at data files. You may have thought that creating a new data file always means typing it from scratch. Well, if all you want is a new version of an existing file there is another way of approaching this task – you can let LocoMail do it for you! In the article, we develop a LocoMail master document that extracts records from one data file and puts them in another. We also describe how the master can produce a data file that contains different information.

# News

## LocoFont 2! – a new set of fonts for the 8000 series

We've had a huge response to the release of LocoFont – the disc that gives you a range of different tpestyles to use with LocoScript on the 8000 series built-in printer with LocoScript. Many of you instantly suggested other fonts you'd like to have. To meet the demand, our artist in residence, Miranda Housden, has designed some new tpestyles which we have put on a new LocoFont disc – LocoFont 2.

There are some samples of the new fonts below.

Two of the new tpestyles – Mini15/17 and MiniPS – have been designed to let you fit more text on the page by printing 8 lines to the inch. The reduced size of the characters means you can use a line pitch of 8 and still retain a good sized gap between each line of text.

The Script font on the first LocoFont disc seems to have been very popular. So LocoFont 2 includes another joined-up style of characters which we've called Penman. The new tpestyle is less

ornate than the Script font and so should appeal to those of you who found Script a little too flashy!

Another of the new fonts is an Old English style. We didn't at first think such a font would be appropriate but we've received so many requests that we've decided to produce one after all (much against our better judgement!). As this is a purely English style, you won't be able to use Cyrillic, Greek, or Symbol characters in this style.

The LocoFont 2 disc costs £14.95 and comes with full instructions on installing the new fonts. It also includes the new versions of the Standard tpestyle we produced for the first LocoFont disc. (The original LocoFont disc is available for £19.95.) You don't have to buy LocoFont in order to use LocoFont 2.

**LocoFont and LocoFont 2 are only available for the built-in printer on the PCW8256 and PCW8512 machines.**

## Further printer support

We're continuing to expand our support for different printers. Recent additions to our list include Canon's A-60/F and AP-xxx range of printers, the IBM Wheel printer and the Schneider SD-15 and SD-24.

We're supporting the Canon A-60/F, Schnieder SD-15 and the IBM Wheel printer with new Printer Drivers. We found that the AP-xxx range of printers and the Schneider SD-24, we found were supported by Printer files we already had.

We've also enhanced our support for the GQ3500 laser printer. The GQ3500.PRI we supply lets you use the printer's built-in fonts but not the extra fonts that are available in the form of font cards you slot into the printer. So we've now produced Character Set files to support two of the PS font cards – GQ3500.#R1 and the GQ3500.#R2.

The GQ3500.#R1 file supports the 10 point Times Roman font and the GQ3500.#R2 file lets you use the 12 point Times Roman font (the point size describes the height of the character). These Character Sets won't have any effect unless you have the appropriate font card in your printer at the same time!

All the new Printer files are available on the latest version of the Printer Drivers Disc (for the PCW8256/8512) and the Printer Drivers and Character Sets disc (for the PCW9512).

For more information about the printers we support, contact us at Locomotive Software 0306 740606.

### MiniPS

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

### Penman

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

### Old English

The Old Ship Hotel  
Quayside  
Stornhavan  
Dorset

## Euro/Arabic version of LocoScript

In September, we'll have available a Euro/Arabic version of LocoScript. This version lets you type in text in Arabic as well as most of the European languages we support. (You won't be able to use the Cyrillic and Greek characters though – we had to sacrifice these characters to fit the Arabic ones in!)

There are two features which make this version special. Firstly, you can print a mixture of Arabic and English text from one document. This is more unusual than it might at first seem, because unlike the European languages, Arabic is written from right to left!

The Euro/Arabic version lets you swap between starting from the

right hand margin when you want to type in Arabic and starting from the left hand margin for English text. You can also include small sections of English text (typed from left to right) within the Arabic text and vice versa.

The second feature supports another difference between Arabic and the European languages. Arabic letters have more than one form and the form of each letter can change depending on the adjacent letters in the word. With this version, LocoScript works out for you which form the letter should take and changes it automatically.

The Euro/Arabic version also supports Urdu and Farsi scripts. It costs £59.95 and will be available for the PCW8256 and PCW8512.

## Spiral bound LocoScript User Guide

In response to your requests, we've now produced a spiral bound version of the LocoScript User Guide. Production costs for this type of wire binding are, however, high, so we have to charge for this version of the User Guide at a slight premium – £19.95.

A wire-bound version of the PCW version of our Mallard BASIC manual is also available at a cost of £9.95.

To purchase either of these wire-bound manuals, just complete the enclosed order form. (Remember to specify 'Spiral bound' in the Special Instructions box.)

```
A: group 2/KHAYYAM .000 Editing text. Printer idle, Using A:
Arabic Pi12 LS1 CR+0 LP6 Page 1 lin
f1=Actions f2=Layout f3=Style f4=Size f5=Page f7=Spell f8=Options
```

This verse was written by the poet Omar Khayyam:

گویند دوزخی باشد عاشق و مست با  
 قوی است خلاف دل در آن نتوان بست با  
 مگر عاشق و مست دوزخی خواهد بود با  
 فردا باشد بهشت همیو کف دست با

## Low cost printing

Some enthusiastic Amstrad and LocoScript users have recently joined together to provide low-cost printing services to fellow LocoScript users. In particular they offer cheap rates for printing LocoScript documents on laser printers. For example, they'll print a ten page document on a laser printer for £10.

As a special deal to Script subscribers, the Amscript User/Publishing Group are offering a 10% discount on all laser printing from LocoScript documents and ASCII data files. For more details about this service and membership of the organisation, you can contact :

Amscript User/Publishing Group,  
 68 Barcombe Road,  
 Brighton, East Sussex  
 BN1 9JR (0273 606067)

## Mallard BASIC for the ZX Spectrum +3

Those of you who own both a PCW and a ZX Spectrum +3 can now use CP/M Plus and Mallard BASIC on your Spectrum as well as your PCW.

If you've bought programs for your PCW or written your own Mallard BASIC programs you may have wanted to use them on the Spectrum as well, particularly as Mallard BASIC is much faster than the Spectrum BASIC.

We've produced a version of CP/M Plus and Mallard BASIC that will let you do this. As both the PCW and the Spectrum use the same size discs, you can now swap your programs between the machines with ease.

The disc costs £29.95 and comes with a 350 page User Guide which explains how to use CP/M and Mallard BASIC on the Spectrum.

# Using Paper Types

With LocoScript, you're free to print on virtually any size of paper because you can describe the physical characteristics of the paper to LocoScript. This description is stored in a Paper Type and you set up each document for a particular type of paper by picking out its name from a list of Paper Types in Document Set-up.

In this article we explain what happens when LocoScript prints documents set up for different Paper Types. What's crucial here is that you actually print on the paper LocoScript thinks you're using: you run into all sorts of problems if you use some other type of paper. As you'll see, these problems are easily avoided by using the right Paper Type for the paper.

To begin with, however, we look at what goes into a Paper Type and how LocoScript uses the information to print your documents correctly.

## What's in a Paper Type

### Single sheet or continuous

Single sheet paper and continuous stationery are handled very differently by the printer so LocoScript needs to know which type you're using. With single sheet paper, LocoScript feeds out each sheet at the end of the page and waits for you to put in the next sheet before continuing.

With continuous paper the sheets are attached to each other and the paper is fed continuously through the printer. If you select continuous stationery LocoScript knows that when it reaches the end of one sheet it can simply move to the top of the next sheet automatically and continue printing.

### The Text area

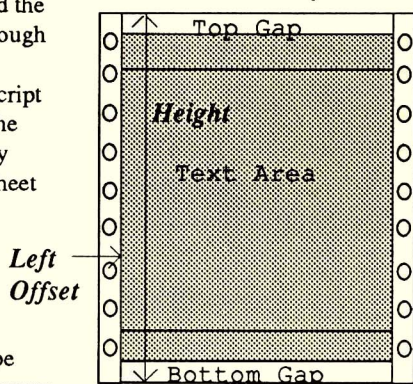
The settings in the Paper Type affect your document in two ways. Firstly the name lets you pick out the Paper Type you want to use for your document. Secondly, the Paper Type fixes the size of the Text area. The Text area is the number of lines allowed for text on each page and is equivalent to the Height less the sum of the Top and Bottom Gaps.

The Text area is sub-divided into three parts: the Header Zone, the Footer Zone and the Page Body. You can find out more about using these parts of the page in the article on 'Page Layout' in the Issue 4 of *Script*.

### The Top and Bottom Gaps

The Top and Bottom Gaps are the areas of the paper where you can't print text. On single sheet paper, the gaps are necessary because of the way the printer handles the paper. In order to grip the paper properly, the printer feeds in the paper an inch past the printhead so the Top Gap must be at least 6.

### Continuous stationery



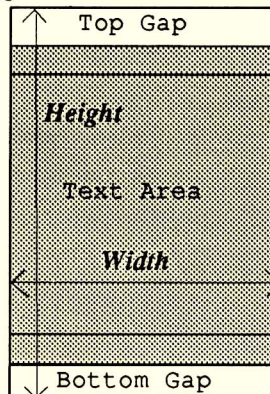
Left Offset

### Left Offset

On continuous stationery, the start position of the printhead may not always be where you want to start printing. There may be a gap between the edge of the paper and the printhead's normal start position because of the way the paper holders are positioned. Or you may simply want to start printing at a different position, for example on labels stationery. The Left Offset lets you bridge any gap by increasing in tenths of an inch the distance from the printhead's normal start position to the position on the paper where you want to start printing.

Similarly the last half inch of the paper can't be used for text as the printer can't hold the paper firmly enough to ensure that the text is printed straight. So the Bottom Gap should be a minimum of 3. You can increase the size of the gaps, for example, to move the printhead past a printed letter heading.

### Single sheet



### Width on single sheet paper

In LocoScript you can print on single sheet paper in one of two ways. You can either use the paper upright (known as 'portrait') or you can turn the paper on its side (known as 'landscape'). The Width setting on single sheet paper lets you measure the height of the paper when it's turned on its side. We've included it to let you use the paper sideways without having to set up an alternative Paper Type just for this purpose. You calculate the Width in exactly the same way as the height: inches across x 6 = width.

On continuous stationery, the problem with paper handling doesn't occur. Here the Top and Bottom Gaps settings ensure that you don't print on the perforations between the pages. All you have to do is position the paper so that the printhead is at the top of the page when you start printing.

### The Height

The Height setting is the length of the page in terms of the number of lines. LocoScript measures the page size in a pitch of 6 lines to the inch. So the height is simply the length in inches multiplied by 6. For example, 11 inch continuous stationery has 66 lines to the page ( $11 \times 6 = 66$ ) and A4 single sheet has 70 lines ( $11\frac{2}{3} \times 6 = 70$ ).

If you don't plan on using the paper sideways you can ignore the Width setting.

Don't confuse the Width setting with using the width of the paper when it's upright! LocoScript doesn't make any decisions about the position of the right hand margin for you - it's up to you to set the margins to fit in with the Paper Type you're using.

There is no Width setting for continuous stationery as you can't turn this type of paper on its side in the printer!

Each Paper Type is a set of details about a particular type of paper. It records, for example, whether the paper is supplied as single sheets or as continuous stationery, the length of each sheet, and how much of a gap there must be at the top and the bottom of each page.

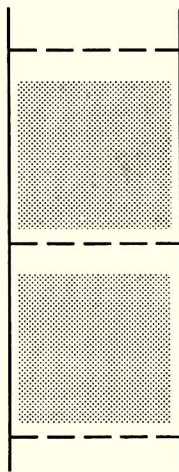
The information in the Paper Type allows LocoScript to work out how far to feed each sheet of paper through the printer as it prints your document. LocoScript itself can't 'see' the paper. Instead, it needs to be told, for example, whether the paper is single sheet or continuous so that it knows either to feed out each single sheet fully or to move to the top of the next sheet of continuous paper. To get to the right place at the top of the next sheet, it has to be told how long each sheet of paper is. Think of LocoScript as a blind person feeling down a piece of paper, and you should see the problems it has!

As you might guess, it's important that LocoScript knows the correct details for paper you're currently using. If LocoScript thinks that the paper is longer than it actually is, then it can happily carry on printing totally unaware that your text is being printed on the platen. Similarly, if it thinks you are using single sheet stationery when you are actually using continuous, then it will sit there waiting for paper even though there's plenty in the printer. Telling LocoScript that you are using a different type of continuous (for example A4 instead of 11"), may give you the right result on the first page but from then on, the text will gradually slide either up or down the page.

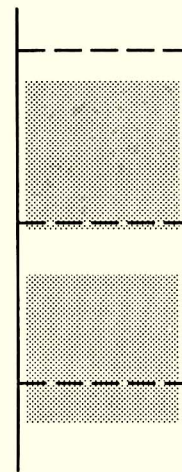
If you use A4 single sheet for all your documents, making sure that LocoScript has the correct details is no problem: it's the type of paper that LocoScript is set up to expect by default. But the chances are that you'll want to chop and change the paper you use. What is more, you won't always want to use the same type of paper even to print the same document: for example, you might want to print the final version of a document on single sheet but for convenience's sake you may prefer to produce draft versions on continuous stationery.

You have to set up LocoScript just once with the right information about your paper and then, LocoScript's system of Paper Types actually looks after you and stops you from getting it wrong – provided you never mislead it.

*Right details*

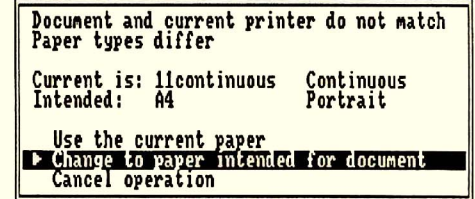


*Wrong details*



*These diagrams illustrate what happens when you give LocoScript the wrong Paper Type details. On the left, LocoScript has the correct details for the paper and the text (represented by the shading) is correctly positioned on the page. On the right, LocoScript has been misled over the length of the page and the text is printed over the perforations.*

*LocoScript's warning message*



## The Paper Type system

Each LocoScript document records the Paper Type that you intend to use for the final version in its Document Set-up. This is called the 'Intended' Paper Type and it is used by LocoScript to work out where to break the pages in the document.

As well as recording the Paper Types you intend to use, LocoScript also keeps a record of the type of paper it believes you are currently using in the printer. This is known as the 'Current' Paper Type and it is this that has to describe the actual paper that you are using if your documents are to be printed correctly.

Immediately after you load LocoScript the Current Paper Type is the Default Paper Type recorded in your Settings file. So if you tend to use one type of paper more than any other, select it as the Default Paper Type: then LocoScript will automatically set up the printer for this Paper Type whenever you start up.

If you change the paper in the printer, you have got to update the Current Paper Type, otherwise your document might not print correctly. You can do this by using the f3 Paper menu in the Printer Control State.

But if the paper you want to use is the one recorded in the document, LocoScript can update the Current Paper Type for you. The way it does this is as follows:

LocoScript always compares the Current Paper Type with the Intended Paper Type recorded in the document before starting to print. If they match, then it assumes that you are wish to continue using the same paper and simply prints the document. If they don't match, it stops and asks you which type of paper you want to use.

At this point, you have a choice of action:

- **Use the current paper** ie. the type of paper described by the Current Paper Type. This means carrying on using the paper already in the printer.
- **Use the intended paper** ie. the type of paper recorded in the Document Set-up. To do this, you have to put this type of paper in the printer and then select the option 'Change to paper intended for document'. LocoScript then automatically updates the Current Paper Type for you, so that you don't have to stop what you're doing to update the Current Paper Type by hand using the f3 Paper menu in Printer Control State.
- **Cancel the operation.** As always in LocoScript, you have the option to abandon what you're doing. You should also take this option if you don't want to print on either the current or the intended paper but on some other type of paper. Then you have to update the Current Paper Type using the f3 Paper menu in Printer Control State.

By comparing the Paper Types in this way, LocoScript ensures that you only ever choose to print on either the Current Paper or on the Intended Paper – and if you choose the Intended Paper, it then makes sure that this immediately becomes the Current Paper. As a result, the Current Paper Type should always describe the paper you are about to use – provided you never lie to LocoScript about what you actually did.

The only problem with this scheme is knowing what Current Paper Type LocoScript starts with. As we said earlier, this is the Default Paper Type recorded in the

Settings file. Just in case this isn't the paper in the printer when you first print LocoScript gives you an 'About to print' message – regardless of whether the Current and Intended Paper Types match. Among other things this tells you the type of paper LocoScript is expecting so that you have a chance to change the paper before proceeding.

## Having the right Paper Types

The Paper Type Scheme we've described relies on honesty, but it also relies on you having the description of each type of paper you use stored as a Paper Type.

On the LocoScript master disc we set up three Paper Types for the most commonly used types of paper – A4 single sheet, A5 single sheet and 11" continuous, but this doesn't mean you're limited to using these Paper Types and these types of paper. To handle other types of paper, you simply need to set up your own Paper Types. The worked example on this page shows you how to set up a Paper Type for A4 continuous stationery.

The important thing about creating a new Paper Type is to get the measurements right. For example, it is essential to measure the length of your paper as accurately as possible, particularly when using continuous stationery: otherwise the position of the text on the page will gradually move either up or down the page. In fact, you won't always be able to get the Height setting spot on because you have to give it as the nearest whole number after you measured the page in inches and multiplied by 6, but the error should be very small. (Any error you get is less important for single sheet paper. Here LocoScript feeds out each sheet fully so it doesn't matter if the Height setting you calculated is slightly less or greater than a whole number.)

A useful tip is to work from the Paper Type which most closely resembles the one you want to create. For example, to create a Paper Type for A4 continuous stationery, you can use A4 single sheet as the model and then you won't have to alter the Height or the Top and Bottom Gaps. All you will have to do is change the name of the Paper Type and the type of stationery, and clear the 'Ignore Paper Sensor' setting.

We show you how to do this in the worked example.

6

## Printing on the 'current' paper

If you print on a different type of paper to the one the document was intended for, the number of lines allowed for the Text area (see the section on What's in a Paper Type) in the two Paper Types may not match.

- If they do match, there won't be any difference in the way the document is printed.
- Printing on paper where the Text area is **longer** than the Text area in each page of your document, simply means that some lines of the paper are wasted.
- If you print on paper where the Text area is **shorter** than the Text area in the paper your document was intended for, it won't always be possible to fit all the text in your document's page onto a single sheet of paper. If there's too much text on a page for one sheet, LocoScript will print the rest of the page on a second sheet or more sheets if necessary.

Each new page of your document is still printed on a new sheet of paper, so you could easily get a pattern of pages where the text area is fully used on one page but only partly used on the next. However this pattern won't necessarily be regular because if the page is sufficiently short to get on one sheet of paper, this is all LocoScript will use.

If you look at the details of the A4 and 11" continuous Paper Types on the LocoScript disc, you'll notice that the Text areas are the same in both types of paper. This is not a coincidence! The gaps for 11" continuous have been set up so that you will get identical draft and final versions of a document printed on 11" continuous and A4 single sheet respectively.

## Setting up a new Paper Type

The following steps set up a Paper Type for A4 continuous stationery by working from a Paper Type that you already have – the one for A4 single sheet stationery.

- Display the Disc Manager Screen and then press **[F6]** to display the Settings menu. When the menu appears, move the cursor to Paper Types (NOT New Paper Type) and press **[ENTER]**. This displays a list of the Paper Types you already have.
- Move the cursor to the Paper Type you are going to work from – A4 in this case – and press **[ENTER]** again. You now see a menu containing the details of the Paper Type you picked out: this is the menu to use to set the new details. Simply work down the menu changing those details that need to be changed but leaving the rest unchanged.

Don't forget to change the name!

For our A4 continuous stationery, all we need to do is:

- change the name to A4continuous (press **[F2]** and then type the new name)
- move the cursor to Continuous stationery and press **[F2]** to select this, and
- move the cursor to Ignore Paper Sensor and press **[F2]** to clear this selection. (As the paper is continuous, you will want the Paper Sensor to warn you when you are coming to the end of your paper)

- When you are ready, select Create New Paper Type, press **[ENTER]**. This takes you back to the list of Paper Types, with the new name added. Press **[EXIT]** then **[ENTER]** to return to the Settings menu and then **[EXIT]** then **[ENTER]** again to leave the Settings menu. Save the new Settings file on your Start-of-day disc.

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Paper: A4continuous     |    |
| Single sheet            |    |
| ✓ Continuous stationery |    |
| Height                  | 70 |
| Left offset             | 0  |
| Top gap                 | 6  |
| Bottom gap              | 3  |
| Ignore paper sensor     |    |
| Set new details         |    |
| ▶ Create new Paper Type |    |
| Remove Paper Type       |    |

## The Bottom Line!

As with many of LocoScript's features, the key to using Paper Types is to set up LocoScript with the information it needs to do all the work for you. This may take some time and thought in the beginning but afterwards you'll never need to think about it again.

If you set up a template with the Paper Type you require, then all the documents you create using the template will automatically use this Paper Type. In the absence of a template, any documents you create will use the Default Paper Type for the Standard printer currently selected in the **f6** Settings menu.

# New files from old

Creating any LocoMail data file usually means typing in the information and then laboriously checking that it's all laid out correctly. But this doesn't have to be the case: if what you want is an extract of an existing file, you can use LocoMail to create the new data file for you. You won't have to edit the original or re-type any of the information – and there's no risk of typing in the information incorrectly or upsetting the layout of the records because LocoMail takes care of all this for you.

The records in the new data file don't have to be exactly as in the original data file – you can omit some of the records and leave out data items you no longer want or add new data items; you can even change the separators between the data items. What you can't do is change the order of the records.

All that's needed is a few simple LocoMail instructions in a master document.

To produce the new data file, we simply Merge the old data file with a LocoMail master document.

The Merging you're probably familiar with from our articles on mailshots produces a separate printed document for each record in the data file. But here, we're using Merge in a different way – to produce just one finished document, holding information drawn from the whole of the data file. And, instead of printing the result, we save it on disc.

The master document has to perform several tasks. First, it has to create the record pattern for the new data file, complete with separators and record pattern terminator. Then it has to build the records for the new data file by fetching the information from the old data file. It may change the information by modifying data items or even by adding, deleting or rearranging them.

To show you what's involved, we will create a master document to update a data file which holds details of subscribers to a magazine. This will include instructions to change the information in one data item, delete two redundant data items and add a new data item.

The master document on the next page shows you the complete set of LocoMail instructions split into a number of steps.

You can refer to them as we describe how we've built up the instructions to create the new file. But, before describing the LocoMail instructions we'll look at the structure of a data file.

## The data file

A LocoMail data file is made up of a series of records. Each record holds items of information, known as data items. In our example, the old data file is a subscription list and the data items are *initial*, *surname*, *address*, *payment*, *method\_of\_payment* and *date\_of\_renewal*.

LocoMail uses a special record, the record pattern, to pick out the data items. The record pattern identifies the names of the individual items and tells LocoMail the characters to look for in order to work out where one data item ends and another begins. These characters are known as separators. There is also a character to mark the end of the pattern: the record pattern terminator.

Although the record pattern can be a separate document, it is more usual for it to simply be the first record in the data file. The old data file in our example has its record pattern as the first record, and so too does the data file we create. Indeed, it is just this structure that allows us to change the record pattern.

Here you can see the record pattern for the old data file in our example:

```
item-names      separators
  /             /
initial; surname ←
address; payment ←
method_of_payment ←
date_of_renewal ↓
                ↓
                record pattern
                terminator
```

The records therefore look like this:

```
data items      separators
  /             /
D; Livingstone ←
31 Victoria Road ←
Highbury ←
Wiltshire; p ←
direct debit ←
181288 ↓
                ↓
                end-of-record
                marker
```

## The old data file

```
initial; surname#
address; payment#
method_of_payment#
date_of_renewal#
```

```
D; Livingstone#
31 Victoria Road#
Highbury#
Wiltshire; p#
direct debit#
181288#
```

```
H; Stanley#
55 Grange House#
Jedburgh#
Cumbria; u#
access#
150388#
```

```
F; Nightingale#
4 Balaclava Road#
Norwich#
East Anglia; p#
visa#
290188#
```

## The new data file

```
initial; surname#
address; payment#
junk_mail#
```

```
D; Livingstone#
31 Victoria Road#
Highbury#
Wiltshire; u#
y#
```

```
F; Nightingale#
4 Balaclava Road#
Norwich#
East Anglia; u#
y#
```

2 data items removed  
1 data item added  
1 data item changed

## Creating the record pattern

The first job the master document has to do is to put a record pattern at the start of the new data file. For any data file, it's crucial that the record pattern matches the layout of the data items and separators in the records. We've ensured that the records automatically match the record pattern by using the same set of LocoMail instructions to create both the record pattern and the records.

Step 1 of the master document stores all the parts of the record pattern in individual data items. We've used item-names such as *n\_initial* and *n\_surname*. Step 2 similarly stores the separators as *semi\_colon* and *cr*, and the record pattern terminator as *page*. Later we'll use the same item-names *n\_initial*, *n\_surname* etc to hold values of the data items in each record.

We can now produce the record pattern by telling LocoMail to insert the names and separators straight into the output file. The LocoMail instructions to do this are simply a list of the item names we've just set up:

```
n_initial : semi_colon ←
n_surname : cr ←
n_address : semi_colon ←
n_payment : cr ←
n_junk_mail : page ←
```

Note that we're just using ← and : to separate the names in our application. They don't get inserted into the output file.

As we want LocoMail to carry out these instructions in two places – first to create the record pattern and later to produce each new record, we'll use a program unit. This gathers together the instructions in one place and gives them a meaningful name. You use this name to call the instructions up when they're needed.

You set up a program unit by placing the instructions in quotes and preceding them by the program name and an equals sign. It is called up by a LocoMail instruction consisting of the program name preceded by a % sign (think of it as Perform).

In our master document, step 3 defines the program unit `write_record`, and step 4 calls it up to create the record pattern. Later we'll call up `write_record` to create the new records.

## Picking out records

The next stage is to select the records we're interested in from the old data file. We need to fetch each record in turn and decide whether to keep it or not. So we want to tell LocoMail to fetch one record, select the information we want and then move onto the next record, and so on until all the records have been processed.

One feature of a program unit is that you can use LocoMail's @ command to repeatedly perform the instructions it contains. That's just what we need here, so first, we'll set up the program unit to process a single record, then we'll look at repeating it and stopping at the end.

The actions we need when processing a record are to check if this record is to be included in the output, and if so to transfer the data items from the old data file to the data items we're going to output. So the instructions we want are:

```
#payment=paid : <
n_initial=...
. . . . .
%write_record
>
```

## The Master document

```
(+Mail)←
1 ; set up item names for record pattern←
  n_initial="initial"←
  n_surname="surname"←
  n_address="address"←
  n_payment="payment"←
  n_junk_mail="junk_mail"←
←
2 ; set up item names to hold separators←
  semi_colon=";"←
  cr="←
  "←
  page="↓
  "←
  "←
←
3 ; program unit to produce the new record pattern & records←
  write_record="←
    n_initial : semi_colon←
    n_surname : cr←
    n_address : semi_colon←
    n_payment : cr←
    n_junk_mail : page←
  "←
  "←
←
4 ; create record pattern←
  %write_record←
  "←
←
5 ; set up item names to use in process_record←
  paid="p"←
  unpaid="u"←
  yes="y"←
  "←
←
6 ; program unit to fetch old records & create new records←
  process_record="←
    #payment=paid : <←
      n_initial=initial←
      n_surname=surname←
      n_address=address←
      n_payment=unpaid←
      n_junk_mail=yes←
      %write_record←
    >←
    $+←
  "←
  "←
7 %process_record@surname←
(-Mail)
```

The first instruction is a conditional one which selects those records which meet the condition we've specified. Here this tests if the data item `payment` in the record in the old data file has the value "p", showing that the customer has *paid*. If it does, LocoMail carries out the instructions in the <> brackets.

The first block of instructions fetches data items from the record and stores them in the item-names that we used earlier to create the record pattern (`n_initial`, `n_surname` etc). Then `%write_record` tells LocoMail to produce the new record by carrying out the same instructions as we used for the record pattern. This guarantees that each record automatically matches the record pattern.

After processing the record we have to move on to the next. This is where this application differs from the more usual Merge. Instead of LocoMail starting

afresh with the next record when it runs out of instructions, we need to say "move to the next record and carry on". We do this with the \$+ command.

This is the forma of the program unit we're going to repeat. It's called `process_record`, and is set up in step 6. We'll look at the instructions in the program unit later on.

Now we need a way of telling LocoMail to carry out these instructions repeatedly until all the records in the old data file have been fetched. We can do this by using the command `%process_record@surname`.

The @surname part tells LocoMail to perform `process_record` until the value held in `surname` is null or zero. LocoMail automatically sets all the data items to null when it reaches the end of the file, so this test is the same as telling LocoMail to carry out the instructions for all the records in the file.





# Mysteries of Start Up!

Our support department often receives letters from people who are puzzled by the amount of space left in Drive M after they have loaded LocoScript. You begin with either 256k or 512k of memory, depending on the PCW you're using but end up with rather less! When you start up, LocoScript uses part of the memory for its files and calls the rest Drive M. If you work on a machine which has 512k you can use LocoScript and the add-on programs, such as LocoSpell and LocoFont, and have plenty of room in Drive M to edit your documents. If your machine only has 256k of memory, you're much more limited in the use you can make of the add-on programs.

In this article we discuss how you can use LocoScript and the add-on programs on both 256k and 512k machines. But we start by explaining what files you need to keep on your Start-of-day disc and what happens to them when you load LocoScript.

Your Start-of-day disc starts life as a copy of the LocoScript master disc. We recommend you to work with a copy because all discs have a limited lifespan. If you only use the master disc to make working copies, it's unlikely to get damaged and you'll always have it to fall back on it if your copy ever fails to load the program.

Once you've made a working copy, you're free to personalise it so that the features you want to use are automatically available every time you load LocoScript.

For example, you can install LocoSpell on the disc so that you can check the spelling of all your documents, or you can add Printer files so that you can use an external printer.

You don't have to put all the files that are on your master disc onto your Start-of-day disc. In particular, files such as READ.ME and PRINTER.LST only give you the latest information about your version of LocoScript and the list of printers that we support. They aren't part of the LocoScript program so you can remove them.

Other files can also be removed, depending on what features of LocoScript you use. (Remember to only erase files from your Start-of-day disc and not from your Master disc. Although you might not want the files now, you may need them later on!)

The best way of explaining which files you don't need is to look at those files which play a role when you load

LocoScript. They can be divided into four types: Program files, Printer files, Information files and Support files. We explain what these different types of files are in the box below.

## What happens at start up

When you start up, the **Program files** are loaded into memory and LocoScript also reserves a further area of the computer's memory as its 'working space'. The working space is split up into different areas.

For example, one part holds the details of the currently loaded printer. After LocoScript has taken what it needs, the remaining space becomes Drive M, some of which LocoScript promptly uses to hold Printer files and the Information files.

## The Program files

The Program files are KEYBOARD.JOY (which lets you use the keyboard), DISCMAN.JOY (which gives you the Disc Manager screen), SCRIPT.JOY (which lets you edit documents) and JxxxLOCO.EMS (which looks after everything else!). Without these Program files you won't even be able to load LocoScript!

You can't generally see these Program files on the disc because we've hidden them so that you're less likely to delete them accidentally. You can see them if you put a tick beside the option to 'Show Hidden files' in the f8 Options menu.

If you use LocoSpell and LocoMail, then you'll have two more Program files on the disc - LOCOSPEL.JOY and LOCOMAIL.JOY. These are the files you copy onto your Start-of-day disc when you 'install' LocoSpell and LocoMail.

## The Printer files

A Printer file holds information about a particular printer's facilities, how to use them and the characters in the printer's Character Set. There are two types - Printer Driver files with a filetype of .PRI and Character Set files which have a filetype of .#xx.

The Printer Driver file for the 8000 series built-in matrix printer is MATRIX.PRI and is already in group 0 of the supplied disc. To use a different printer you'll need the appropriate Printer Driver for that printer and the special Printer file INSTALL.DRV.

You may want to use alternative Character Sets which let you print characters in a different style on your printer. They take the same filename as the .PRI file they are associated with but have a filetype of .#xx. For example MATRIX.#SS is the sans serif Character Set for the 8000 series built-in printer.

## The Information files

The Information files are SETTINGS.STD and PHRASES.STD. SETTINGS.STD holds a list of all the printers, Character Sets and Paper Types that LocoScript knows about.

PHRASES.STD holds a standard set of phrases which LocoScript can automatically load for you from your Start-of-day disc. Whilst you must keep the Settings file on your Start-of-day disc, you don't have to load Phrases at start-up: you can load them by hand from a different disc later on. (For more information about Phrases, see the article in Issue 3 of *Script*.)

## The Support files

The Support files are TEMPLATE.STDs and, if you use LocoSpell, the system dictionary (LOCOSPEL.DCT) and any user dictionaries (USERSPEL.DCT) you've created.

If you add LocoSpell to your Start-of-day disc, LocoScript adds another 16k from the working space. However, unlike LocoScript 1, installing LocoMail doesn't use any extra working area.

The **Printer files** are copied into group 0 of Drive M, where their details are displayed. LocoScript needs to have the Printer files in Drive M so that it has the information available to let you swap between different printers.

If you only have one Printer file LocoScript doesn't need to keep the file in Drive M. Instead the information is loaded into the working space set aside for the current printer. LocoScript assumes you won't change the printer so you have more space in Drive M.

If you have no printer files on your disc at all, then LocoScript releases the working space normally reserved for the current printer (16k) back to Drive M.

The **Information files** – SETTINGS.STD and PHRASES.STD – are loaded into Drive M where they become system files which are hidden from you. In this case showing 'Hidden files' won't display the details. These files are the working copies of the Settings and Phrases files, and unlike the hidden files on your Start-of-day disc, you can't erase them.

The **Support files** – dictionaries and templates – are copied into Drive M, where they remain visible so you can erase them if you want.

LOCOSPEL.DCT, the system dictionary, and USERSPEL.DCT will be copied into group 0 of Drive M. Templates are copied to their corresponding groups in Drive M. (See the article on templates in Issue 1 of *Script*.)

## Using the add-on programs

The PCW 8000 machines are built in such a way that you can only start up the machine from a 180k disc in Drive A. (PCW9512s are built differently. The Drive A is a double density disc drive which uses 720k capacity discs.) If you want to use more than one of the add-on programs, you have a limited amount of space available on the disc to keep all the files. The way in which you set up your discs to use LocoScript and the add-on programs depends on two things: the amount of memory available on your machine and whether you have one or two disc drives.

## LocoScript and Drive M

With LocoScript you can use part of the computer's memory like a disc. LocoScript calls this part of the memory Drive M and, like Drive A and Drive B, displays information about it in the top section of the Disc Manager screen.

When you start up, the files that LocoScript needs to use are copied from your Start-of-day disc into memory. The space left over is called Drive M. LocoScript also copies other files on your disc which change or are optional, such as templates, into Drive M.

You may have noticed that the amount of space that your files take up on the LocoScript disc doesn't equal the amount that LocoScript carves off from the available memory. This is because loading LocoScript is a bit more complicated than just copying the files from one place to another.

You can use the 'free' space in Drive M as if it were another disc but it's a bit different to the compact floppy discs that you use in the other drives. To begin with, the disc is already in the drive– you

don't physically insert a disc in Drive M as you do in Drive A or Drive B.

Another difference is that whenever you reset or switch off the computer, all the files and documents on Drive M disappear. So you can only use Drive M as a place to store your documents temporarily.

When you finish editing a document on Drive M, LocoScript displays an alert message reminding you that you've saved a document in memory and advising you to copy the document onto a disc. LocoScript also spots when you've updated a user dictionary or saved a document using LocoMail on Drive M and displays a similar message.

**WARNING: Files saved on drive M**

**Before switching off, copy :**

**the result of your edit  
your user dictionary**

**▶ U!**

## PCW8512

If you work on a PCW8512, you automatically start with 512k of memory. You can use the add-on programs and have plenty of space left to edit your documents. The only time you're likely to run out of space is if you use the large LocoSpell dictionary, a large user dictionary and all the Character Set files holding fonts on Drive M!

On a PCW8512, you can take advantage of the second drive when you start up. LocoScript looks first on Drive A for the files it can load but it will also copy any Printer files or LocoSpell dictionaries that it finds in group 0 of Drive B. (If you've attached a hard disc to your PCW, LocoScript will also look in Drive C for Printer files and dictionaries.) It will also copy LocoSpell dictionaries from group 7 of either disc. If you keep the dictionaries in group 7, LocoSpell will use the copies in Drive M even if you leave your Start-of-day disc in the drive.

## PCW8256 with 512k of memory

On a PCW8256 you start with 256k of memory but you can increase the memory to 512k by fitting a memory

upgrade. If you do this then you can make the most of LocoScript and the add-on programs in the same way as PCW8512 owners.

However, LocoScript can't load the LocoSpell dictionaries and extra Printer files for you. You have to copy these files when you need them into Drive M after start up.

## PCW8256 with 256k of memory

On a PCW8256 without expanded memory you are very limited in the use you can make of the add-on programs. LocoScript uses up a large amount of the memory for its files and leaves you with about 60k of usable space in Drive M. So you can only use LocoScript and LocoSpell (with the small dictionary) or LocoScript with a couple of fonts. You won't be able to combine both add-on programs on one Start-of-day disc.

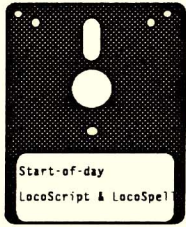
The real solution to this problem is to purchase a memory upgrade and increase the available memory to 512k. The next best thing you can do is to divide up the add-on programs between different Start-of-day discs. On the next page we suggest ways in which you might do this.

# Using more than one Start-of-day disc

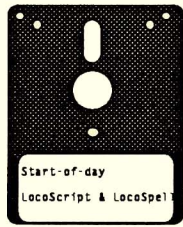
8256 (with 256k of memory) 8256 (with memory expanded to 512k)

8512 (with 512k of memory)

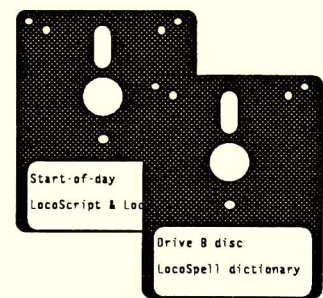
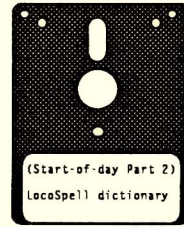
## ① LocoScript & LocoSpell



LOCOSPEL.JOY  
LOCOSPEL.DCT(36k)



LOCOSPEL.JOY  
Copy LOCOSPEL.DCT (160k) into  
group 0 on Drive M after  
loading



LOCOSPEL.JOY  
Keep LOCOSPEL.DCT (160k) in  
group 7 on a Drive B disc and it will be  
automatically loaded

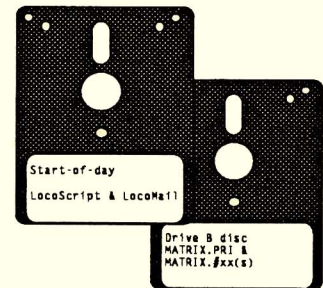
## ② LocoScript, LocoMail & LocoFont



LOCOMAIL.JOY  
You can have as many  
MATRIX.#xx files as will fit in  
group 0 and in Drive M, leaving  
you space to edit documents



LOCOMAIL.JOY  
Copy as many MATRIX.#xx files  
as you can't fit on the original  
Start-of-day disc to group 0 of  
Drive M after loading LocoScript



LOCOMAIL.JOY  
Keep MATRIX.PRI with as many  
MATRIX.#xx files as you need in  
group 0 on a Drive B disc

# Using the space in Drive M

Apart from the space taken up by the system files and any LocoSpell dictionaries and templates, you can use the space in Drive M as you like.

In general, you'll find moving around your documents in Drive M faster than editing documents on disc. Editing a document held on Drive M means LocoScript doesn't have to access the disc to find the information before displaying it.

As you COPY and CUT sections of text into blocks, you'll find that the number of hidden files in Drive M increases. LocoScript stores the blocks as a number of system files on Drive M. On a PCW8256 these files might use up all the space in Drive M. Unlike the other system files in Drive M you can remove these files. To do this, press f1 Actions and select the 'Show blocks' option. Then move the cursor over a block and press . This deletes the contents of

the block. If you erase all the blocks you'll get more space.

## Problems...

When you scroll backwards in a document, LocoScript puts a copy of the document in Drive M. On a PCW with 256k of memory, the LocoScript program uses up a lot of the memory so you may find that there isn't enough space for you to move backwards through long documents.

## ...and solutions

If you run out of space whilst moving backwards in a document on a PCW with 256k of memory, deleting the blocks may free enough space to allow you to finish editing your document.

However the best solution to this problem is to buy a 'memory upgrade' kit which increases the memory of a PCW8256 to 512k and leaves up to 300k of free space in Drive M after loading LocoScript.

Fitting a memory upgrade is a straightforward job. You simply take the casing off back of the computer and plug in a series of 'chips' in the slots already provided. Upgrading the memory in this way may invalidate the warranty on your computer. If you're in doubt, you should check with your dealer.

We know of some companies who will fit the upgrade for you in your own home, provided you buy the memory chips from them. You can contact us for more details.

If you're going to fit the upgrade yourself, you can order a memory upgrade from us using the enclosed order form. As you may know, there's currently a worldwide shortage of memory chips and so the price of the upgrade is continuing to rise. We recommend that you ring us to check the latest price before ordering this product.

# Letters

Please help. I have recently started using LocoScript 2 and nearly everything is working well. But I do have one recurring problem. I have made up a Start-of-day disc which suits me – it contains only the ‘hidden’ items plus the dictionary of LocoSpell.

I have recently been working on a large report, and for draft copies of this, I have used 11" continuous paper. Here is the problem: when I use my Start-of-day disc, I can get only the A4 paper option.

When I then reset the PCW with the original disc, I can get all three paper options. I have made repeated fresh copies from the original, formatting each time, and using two different and new discs. The problem remains. Even when I think I've won, the next day it's back to the problem again!

**Mr RB, Dudley**

*You only get the option for A4 paper because, in setting up your Start-of-day disc to use LocoSpell, you've erased the Settings file SETTINGS.STD from your Start-of-day disc.*

In your Issue 3 (Page 3) you state that LocoScript has a menu under “printer options” that allows users to set up a printer for the type of ribbon fitted to it.

All I get under Printer Options on v2.12 is a statement of the printer width and a choice of serial or parallel interface. I am using an Epson LQ800 printer. Does this mean that the ribbon option is limited to the PCW9512 or that I am using an out-dated version of LocoScript?

**Mr PN, Banbury**

*There's no problem with the version of LocoScript that you're using. You can't get the menu showing the options for different printer ribbons on your system because this menu is only available for the PCW9512's built-in printer.*

Though I have successfully installed LocoFont on my expanded 8256 and think it is a great advantage (particularly the 15 and 17 pitch version of Standard 2) there is one irritating problem that I have been unable to solve.

Though I have deliberately not transferred MATRIX.ST or MATRIX.#ST from the LocoFont disc (much preferring the new version), Standard still appears on “Document Set-up - Printing f6 - Character Set” in

*The Settings file holds information about the Paper Types that LocoScript knows about as well as details of different printers, Character Sets and fonts that you use. If you erase this file from the Start-of-day disc, LocoScript gives you its built-in settings which are just the built-in printer, the Standard Character Set and A4 single sheet paper.*

*To be able to use the 11 inch continuous Paper Type, you need to replace the Settings file on your Start-of-day disc.*

*The best way of doing this is to load LocoScript from your master disc and then replace the master disc with your Start-of-day disc in Drive A. Press 16 SETTINGS and select the option to ‘Write SETTINGS.STD’.*

*This updates your Start-of-day disc with the version of the file SETTINGS.STD that was loaded into memory from your master disc. You'll also need to update both your masters in future when you change settings.*

*The menu takes advantage of the fact that on the PCW9512 printer, LocoScript can control the distance the ribbon moves after each character is printed. The ideal distance depends on which type of printer ribbon you use, so you can get the best results by choosing the appropriate ribbon type from the Printer Options menu. This menu also lets you adjust the strength with which each character is printed.*

*On other printers, similar features are usually set by switches on the printer itself and can't be controlled directly by LocoScript itself. So, LocoScript just displays the options for setting the printer width and selecting the type of interface you're using.*

addition to Standard 2, and I can't get rid of it by the “Removing font(s)” procedure described on p. 14 of the LocoFont manual because it has no [?] against it.

This means, of course, that I have to sacrifice one of the new Character Settings. How can I remove all trace of STANDARD font from my Start-of-day disc?

**Mr AJ, Middlesex**

Why, when I set up both the printer and the document for A4 continuous do I get a message “Document and current Printer do not match : Current is A4 continuous, Intended is A4 continuous”? It does not always happen, so have I done something wrong with just some documents?

**Dr DF, Chorlton**

*You see this message because LocoScript has spotted that the details in the ‘intended’ A4 continuous Paper Type don't match the details in the ‘current’ A4 continuous Paper Type.*

*In checking whether the intended Paper Type (the paper your document is set up for) matches the current paper type (the paper the printer is currently set up for), LocoScript doesn't just compare the names – it also looks at the details, such as the Height and the Top and Bottom Gaps.*

*We suspect that you've changed your document's Paper Type by modifying the details in the Show Paper Type menu. You may for example have changed the Top and Bottom Gaps. If you change any of the details on this menu, LocoScript creates a new Paper Type specifically for use in that document and marks it with a question mark on the Paper Type menu to show that it doesn't match any of the Paper Types recorded in the Settings file.*

*As you only get this alert message occasionally, it suggests that you've changed the details of the A4 continuous Paper Type in some of your documents and that the rest are using the A4 continuous Paper Type recorded in the Settings file. You should consider changing the name of this special Paper Type or, if you didn't mean to make it different, reselect the Standard A4 continuous Paper Type on the Paper Type menu in Document Set-up.*

*It's not possible to remove ‘Standard’ from all the LocoScript menus. ‘Standard’ is built in to the LocoScript program as a safety net for you. If you erase your Settings file from the disc, you can still print documents using the Standard Character set. Unfortunately, we didn't make this clear in the early versions of the documentation. We've now corrected the omission and later versions explain why you can't erase ‘Standard’.*

# Letters

I am writing a book and I want to make sure I do not overload any given disc. I thought that the simplest way would be to distribute my text evenly over the eight groups. How many k should I allot to each group in order to avoid overloading? I need hardly say how much I enjoy using the word-processor, even though I am far from having reached what I call the higher flights of its procedure.  
**Mr DR, Watford**

*You can allocate documents to groups in any way you like. Groups don't occupy a fixed amount of space, so distributing documents over the groups doesn't give you more space than just using one group. We recommend that you spread your documents across the groups because you'll find individual documents more easily. You can also use templates when you create new documents. For more information on using groups, see our article in Issue 4.*

*If you're worried about running out of space on the disc whilst editing a document, you should remember that LocoScript always makes a back-up copy of your document. So when you edit a document, make sure there's enough space on the disc for the copy. If you're going to add a substantial amount of text, then you should allow for a document between one and two times the size of the document you're editing. This is only rough guideline and the space you need will depend on how much editing you plan to do.*

As I sometimes need to set up to 12 columns of decimal tabs I find it time-consuming doing this individually, is there a way of doing this like a standard setting of 'Set Tab Every...spaces'?  
**Mr GS, Ilford**

*The simple answer to your question is no. You can set a Simple tab every so many spaces using the f3 Tabs menu in the Layout editor but there's no equivalent for Decimal Tabs. However, there is a quick way of setting up Decimal Tabs in columns. First use the Set Tab Every feature to set up columns of Simple tabs. Then press **TAB** to move the cursor to the next tab position and press **⇧** 3 times. This replaces the Simple Tab with a Decimal Tab without having to use the f3 Tabs menu.*

I've been using two almost new data discs in my PCW8512 and they are beginning to come up with the dreaded message "Disc Data Error" when displaying the Limbo files or when copying the files.

The trouble appears to be intermittent, but is beginning to occur more often and is not removed by the option "Retry". But the trouble is removed by the option of "Ignore and Continue" but can occur again later, and is again removed when this option is repeated. Copying the discs afresh has not improved the situation, in that it can happen later, with the same result. Can you suggest a possible cause?  
**Mr HA, Peterhead**

*The message "Disc Data Error" means that either your disc is physically damaged in some way or that the information on the disc has become corrupted.*

I have been having some difficulty in using LocoChar to create my own Character Set. Whilst trying to load the MATRIX.#01 and a new MATRIX.#02 file the error code - 53 detected in 1/5010 - appeared. The following sequence of actions had taken place:-

CP/M loaded from Side 2

BASIC LocoChar loaded from Side 1

MATRIX.#01 loaded successfully from Side 2

Program failed during creation of MATRIX.#02 on Side 2

It may be relevant that the particular layout of files on the disc was necessary because despite the apparently adequate space on the disc with all files on the same side, the program returned an error message to create additional space.  
**Mr PB, Bringsty**

*When using LocoChar, you must have the Printer file you want to change alongside the LocoChar program - on the same disc and on the same side of the disc. The new Printer file is stored alongside the LocoChar program as well. You've got error number 53 because you've loaded LocoChar from Side 1 of your disc and then tried to change the characters in a MATRIX.xxx file on Side 2. As far as LocoChar was*

*Accepting "Ignore Error and continue" may allow you to continue with what you're doing but, unfortunately, it won't solve the problem. This option tells LocoScript to carry on working with the corrupt information it has found and so may give you unexpected results later on.*

*For example, when you select this option while making a copy of the disc, LocoScript simply picks up the incorrect information from the disc and copies it onto the new disc. So making a copy only duplicates the problem on the second disc.*

*If this problem occurs frequently on more than one disc, the most likely cause is a faulty disc drive and we suggest that you contact your local dealer to get the hardware checked.*

*concerned, you'd suddenly given it a totally strange disc - hence the error message.*

*However, the initial problem was the apparent lack of space on your LocoChar disc. There are two reasons why you might not have enough space on your disc.*

*Firstly, you may have files on your disc which have nothing to do with LocoChar and, if so, you should remove them.*

*The second and more likely reason is that you've got some 'limbo' files on your disc. When you erase a document in LocoScript, it becomes a 'limbo' file so that you have a chance to recover files that are deleted by accident. The only problem is that CP/M, which you run in order to use LocoChar, doesn't distinguish between 'limbo' and non-limbo files. So if your disc contains 'limbo' files, it may appear to be almost full to CP/M.*

*The solution is to erase the 'limbo' files yourself. First, select the option to 'Show limbo files' in the f8 Options menu in the Disc Manager Screen, then use the f3 Erase file option to erase them. You should then have enough space to keep your MATRIX.xxx files and LocoChar files together on one disc.*

# Letters

I have a query about LocoFont on a PCW8512. The manual recommends that the MATRIX.#XX files are stored on the dictionary disc so that they and the dictionary will all load into the M-drive on start-up.

Unfortunately they will not all load because the machine memory is too small to accommodate the 204k dictionary plus the font files.

One way round this is to keep the lesser used font files in limbo on the dictionary disc. They can then be recovered and copied across to the M-drive as required.  
**Mr CB, London**

*Our documentation is correct in stating that any one of the system dictionaries and all the fonts can be loaded into Drive M from a Drive B disc. When we wrote the instructions, we didn't anticipate that anyone would have added one or more user dictionaries to the supplied dictionary to increase its size by 44k!*

*We don't recommend that you keep your less used fonts as 'limbo' files as they could disappear when you save a document to the disc. You're better off renaming them, for example as MAT.#xx, as only MATRIX.#xx files are loaded from group 0 of your Drive B disc into Drive M when you start up. For more information about where to keep your files see the article on Start Up in this issue.*

I give my documents names made up of references and I'd like to separate the different parts of the name using '/'.  
**Mrs DK, Sevenoaks**

However LocoScript doesn't accept this. Is there any good reason why we can't use '/' in the file names. It's very common to use it in file references.  
**Mrs DK, Sevenoaks**

*We've limited the characters you can use in document names to those that CP/M will accept. This makes it possible for you to copy and move LocoScript files to CP/M or use files created from CP/M in LocoScript.*

*CP/M doesn't allow '/' in filenames so LocoScript doesn't either.*

I've just received LocoFont from you and am having some difficulty in using it. I want to make the Modern font my main one. I've copied the MO file onto group 0 of my Start of day disc and renamed it MATRIX.PRI. But when I load LocoScript, Standard is the only font available. What am I doing wrong?  
**Mr IW, Bridgewater**

*We think your problem arises because you've renamed the MATRIX.#MO file (from Side 2 of the LocoFont disc) as MATRIX.PRI instead of the MATRIX.MO file (from Side 1 of the disc).*

*There are two types of Printer file on the LocoFont disc: MATRIX.xx files (on Side 1) which are Printer drivers and MATRIX.#xx files (on Side 2) which are Character Sets. The difference between the files is picked out by the # in their names. Each MATRIX.xx file (without a #) holds information about the built-in printer and how to use it as well as*

Following your advert in Issue 3 of Script, I recently purchased a Thesis PS wheel for my PCW9512. But so far all I've managed to produce is complete gobbledegook. Do I need another disc before I can use the printwheel?  
**Mr CM, Acton**

*No, you don't need any additional software to use a Thesis PS wheel on your PCW9512 printer. What you need is a Character Style that tells LocoScript that you're using a printwheel with a pitch of PS. You can set up a new Character Style in the f6 Settings menu – you'll find the instructions to do this in Session 23 of the PCW9512 User Instructions.*

*The reason your text is printing incorrectly is because the Character Style you're using for this wheel is for a fixed pitch wheel and not for a PS wheel.*

*You get gobbledegook if LocoScript thinks you're using a fixed pitch wheel because the characters on a PS printwheel have a completely different arrangement to those on a fixed pitch printwheel. We believe this is to ensure that PS printwheels are correctly balanced. The pitch setting in the Character Style tells LocoScript which type of printwheel you're using – fixed pitch or PS.*

*information about LocoScript's characters and one typestyle or font. Each MATRIX.#xx file (with a #) only holds information about the characters and one typestyle.*

*You should use one of the MATRIX.xx files on Side 1 of the LocoFont disc to set up LocoScript with your main font. For any additional typestyles that you want to use, you should copy the Character Set files MATRIX.#xx from Side 2 of the disc to your Start-of-day disc. If you rename a MATRIX.#xx file as MATRIX.PRI, LocoScript will spot that the file doesn't contain any details of the printer and so won't copy the files at Start-up and won't let you print anything!*

*You can always check that you've renamed the MATRIX.PRI correctly by using the f5 Inspect feature from the Disc Manager Screen. This tells you whether the file is a Printer file or a Character Set file.*

I've recently noticed that I can't get LocoScript to print in bold when I'm using High Quality 15 or 17 pitch in the Standard 2 font. Is there a problem with the version of LocoScript that I've got or is there a more subtle reason for this apparent omission?  
**Mr JH, Hereford**

*There's no problem with the version of LocoScript that you're using.*

*LocoScript produces the bold effect by printing the character, moving the printhead a fraction of an inch horizontally and then printing the character again.*

*We can print 10, 12 and PS characters in bold in both Draft and High Quality. But in 15 and 17 the characters are too small for us to print in bold without distorting the shape of the character.*

*If the character was printed again with a slight horizontal offset it would appear as a smudge rather than a clear character shape.*

# PostScript

It's a year now since we introduced LocoScript 2. The day version 2.00 went out the door is difficult to forget (see Issue 0 of *Script*), but we've recovered now!

One thing we decided to do from the outset, was to keep LocoScript up to date. We realised that it was unrealistic to expect it to be error free – we've never encountered any computer software that is. But we did choose to reissue the program much more frequently than most software houses usually do.

In the first few months we zoomed through versions, culminating in version 2.12, which we introduced in September 1987. In fact 2.12 was a very significant change – we “built-out” a number of facilities originally built-in, such as the keyboard layout. We also completely revised the way we handled other printers.

Consequently, many of our add-on products require at least version 2.12 of LocoScript. In practice, we'd always advise using the latest version of LocoScript, and supply this free where it's necessary. Where it's not strictly needed, simple economics force us to make a £5 handling charge to cover our costs.

The pace has now slowed and although we have reached version 2.16, not all of the intermediate versions have been released. Occasionally, it was one step forwards and several backwards, and the problems only emerged during the testing we do after “finishing” the discs for release.

The other area where we've been working almost non-stop since releasing LocoScript 2 is in the support we offer to other printers. We try hard to get different printers to support all of LocoScript's features (different pitches, including PS, bold printing, italics and so on). Some printers are so dim that this is impossible (the laws of libel prevent the naming of names), and no printer can print with the same range of characters as the built-in matrix printer.

On the way, we've learnt quite a lot about the printers people actually use. Our initial assumption that most printers

were capable of being used as if they were a Diablo 630 daisywheel or an Epson FX80, was largely correct. However, whilst many printers responded to the 630 or FX80 commands the actions these produced were often completely different to the real thing! Even for the printers which responded accurately to these “standard” commands, we could often get superior results by using special commands.

Consequently, the number of printers we treat specially has grown substantially – at the time of writing it's well over 250, with others in the pipeline. We're also looking at some significant new features in this area, but we'll leave the details to next month's “News” and the Personal Computer Show in September.

From the outset we have encouraged you to write to us with your problems. We restrict phone support to a small portion of the day to give us the time to deal with letters thoroughly. We believe that this has allowed us to give superior support for our software.

Apart from providing much of the material for our letters column, giving priority to written reports has the advantage that every problem gets the attention it deserves. If it is a “standard” problem, we send a detailed information sheet (saving us time and hopefully giving you a better answer than one produced off the cuff).

If the problem is unusual, we can give it more detailed thought and if necessary change LocoScript to deal with different situations better. In fact, every new version of LocoScript has had improvements as a direct result of your letters.

Of course, there will always be problems – orders which get lost, bungled or multiply charged to credit cards. We hope these are relatively few in number and cleared up quickly. Only today a customer told us that she didn't bother to check the price any more as our service was always so good. Fairly ironic, in that when we launched LocoScript 2 it was (and still is) the cheapest word processor about!

## In future issues:

*A future LocoMail article will look at using data files produced by other word processing and database programs such as Wordstar and Cardbox. In the next issue we'll include an index for the first 6 issues of Script so that you can easily refer back to the topics we've covered when you want to. We'll also enclose a form for you to renew your subscription for next year's issues.*