

CPC464 COLOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER 64K

Using this user guide

Computing has come a long way in a very short space of time; Of all the technological advances in the twentieth century, computing is easily the most startling.

Features of computer hardware and software have advanced far more rapidly than even existing users are able to follow, and to attempt to show owners of the CPC464 all the available power and subtlety of its BASIC, operating system and hardware attributes **would** require several thousands of pages.

Thus this guide is a concise introduction to the CPC464 and its software. It will be supplemented by many more specific and detailed instruction courses and publications.

Users familiar with other dialects of BASIC will become familiar with the framework of AMSTRAD BASIC very quickly - and newcomers will quickly appreciate the direct and unambiguous nature of the terminology used - it has been specifically devised and written to avoid the **idiosyncracies** found in many non-standard interpretations of BASIC, as well as introducing several fundamental 'real time' features not previously available in a low cost computer,

The user guide is divided into three sections.

The first is the beginners Foundation Course, written specifically to introduce computing concepts and terminology to the novice. If you have not previously owned or used a personal computer to the point at which you have written a small program of your own, then we advise that you work through the Foundation Course.

Those of you with previous experience should enter at Chapter **1**. We have reiterated a number of essential items concerning setting up and **familiarisation**, but have concentrated on introducing the specific features of the CPC464 system, and made some assumptions about your familiarity with the terminology.

Each of the 'Primer' chapters has been written to provide a broad guide to the many exciting features of **the CPC464**. Some fundamental points **are** repeated **for** emphasis - and because many users will want to dive straight into sound and graphics after the briefest possible introduction to the keyboard and more methodical aspects of learning BASIC.

AMSTRAD's 'Guide to BASIC' training course is intended to provide a thorough and extensively illustrated approach to understanding the many facets of your CPC464 and its boundless potential as a combination of tutor, games console and 'pure' computer, and we strongly advise that if you want to learn in a thorough manner, then you invest in a copy - **if you** have not already done so!

Finally, an extensive Appendix section provides a broad overview of computing concepts, as well as the machine-specific points of reference.

We wish you every success - you could have not have chosen finer value for money, nor a **computer** with a greater potential for developing your understanding of all aspects of the subject. There is no finer way of finding out about computing than by using a computer - and the CPC464 is particularly 'user friendly'.



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Within this manual, the reference **Z80** is used with acknowledgement to Zilog Inc.

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IMPORTANT

When reading this user guide, you should watch out for the different type styles that indicate the different ways in which references are made to programs, [KEYS] which are present on the computer, but which do not result in a printed character on the screen, and (general descriptions) which are associated with the programming words, but are not to be typed in as part of the instruction.

1. Always connect the Mains Lead to a 3 pin Plug following the instructions contained in the first section entitled 'Setting Up'.
2. Never connect the computer keyboard, monitor or power supply/modulator to any piece of equipment or source of power supply other than that described in this guide. Failure to comply with this will result in serious damage, and invalidate the guarantee.
3. Keep flower vases, drinks, etc. well away from the computer keyboard, monitor or power supply/ modulator. If liquid is spilt into any of these units, serious damage will result. Under such circumstances, consult qualified personnel.
4. Do not block or cover the ventilation slots on the top or back of the computer keyboard, monitor, or power supply/modulator.
5. Turning off the power will lose all that is stored in the CPC464 memory. If you wish to save a program, read Chapter 2 after having first completed the 'Foundation Course'.
6. It is recommended that you use cassettes specifically designed for use with computers. However, it is perfectly acceptable to use good quality audio-type cassettes made by leading manufacturers, providing that they are not CrO₂ or 'metal' tape, and are no longer than 90 minutes (C-90).

To enable you to locate programs recorded on the tape more easily, we suggest that you use C-12 cassettes (6 minutes per side.)

7. Note that cassettes containing programs from other types of computer cannot be run or loaded on the CPC464.
8. If the cassette you are using has had the safety tabs removed to prevent accidental erasure of programs then the record button will not depress. Please do not use force on this button, otherwise the mechanism may be damaged. If you wish to re-record on a cassette where the safety tabs on the back of the cassette have been removed, this may be achieved by covering the holes on the back of the cassette with adhesive tape.
9. Remember to ensure that the tape in the cassette is wound beyond the first section (leader tape) before you start to save a program.
10. Take special care not to use or store any of the units in direct sunlight, in excessively hot, cold, damp or dusty areas, or places subject to any heavy vibration. Never store program cassettes near any magnetic fields, such as those that occur in loudspeakers or large electric motors.
11. General care of your cassettes and regular cleaning of your datacorder mechanism should lead to error free storage and retrieval of programs.
12. There are no user-serviceable parts inside the units. Do **not** attempt to gain access into the equipment. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.
13. Neither the whole or any part of the information contained herein, nor the programs or products described in this manual may be adapted or reproduced in any material form.

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