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**“A Few Years Ago,  
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BIG COMPUTER PERFORMANCE  
FROM A POCKET COMPUTER

# THE **WIDE** PRINTOUT

*A simple interface and some software added to a Pocket Computer enable it to "talk" to the larger TRS-80 Model I, producing easy-to-read hard copy at low cost*

BY CASS AND DAN LEWART

**T**HE handheld computer, programmable in BASIC, brought portable computing power to us in late 1980. Called the TRS-80 "Pocket Computer" from Radio Shack (also Sharp's PC-1211), it has a wide repertoire of instructions and is user friendly. Although an accessory printer is available, it prints only 16 characters per line on

narrow adding-machine paper. This is fine for portable use, but is obviously deficient for serious work at home since the format is so difficult to read.

Hardware/software information presented here enables anyone with a TRS-80 Model I with two disk drives and a standard printer to transfer list-



## wide printout

ings from the Pocket Computer to the big machine. The result is hard copy in conventional width that can also be viewed on a video screen. And the cost should be less than \$50.

**Description.** When a program is CSAVED from the Pocket Computer, instead of being fed into the cassette interface and tape recorder, it outputs to an inexpensive "black box" that plugs into the expansion interface of the TRS-80 Model I. When CSAVEing, the Pocket Computer sends binary pulses representing "tokens" corresponding to the BASIC statements and line numbers. The TRS-80, in turn, reads the characters off the data bus, groups them into tokens, and translates these tokens into line numbers and BASIC statements. The BASIC program can then be formatted, printed, or stored for future use. (Statements could possibly be executed on the Model I if the user can resolve differences between the two BASICs.)

Reading and interpreting the output of the Pocket Computer then becomes a purely software problem. A machine-language program reads the binary pulses off the bus, a BASIC program does the token conversion and formatting, and listings are displayed on the screen. Hard copy can then be produced by a standard printer.

```

10:"Z"PAUSE "DE
MONSTRATION
PROGRAM"
20:PAUSE "SPECI
AL NON-ASCII
CHARACTERS"
:PAUSE "π, ^,
↓, ¥ AND E"
30:FOR I=1TO 10
:INPUT "HOW
MANY $?" ; Z
40:B=Z*3E2:
PRINT "EQUAL
S ";B;" ¥":
NEXT I
    
```

```

10:"Z"PAUSE "DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM"
20:PAUSE "SPECIAL NON-ASCII CHARACTERS":
PAUSE "π, ^, ↓, ¥ AND E"
30:FOR I=1TO 10:INPUT "HOW MANY $?" ; Z
40:B=Z*3E 2:PRINT "EQUALS ";B;" ¥":NEXT I
    
```

Fig. 1. A demonstration program printed on the regular Radio Shack/Sharp printer is shown at left. The same program printed on a Paper Tiger IDS440G printer using the circuit described in this article is below.

### PARTS LIST

C1—220- $\mu$ F, 35-V electrolytic  
 C2—100- $\mu$ F, 35-V electrolytic  
 C3, C4,—0.1- $\mu$ F disc capacitor  
 D1, D2—50-V, 1-A silicon rectifier  
 D3—3-to-6-V zener diode  
 F1—0.5-A fuse with holder  
 IC1—74LS02 quad NOR gate  
 IC2—74LS367 hex tri-state buffer  
 IC3—7805 5-V regulator  
 P1—2-by-20-pin edge connector Radio Shack (276-1558)

Q1—Npn silicon transistor (Radio Shack 276-2014 or similar)  
 R1—2.7-k $\Omega$  resistor  
 R2—10-k $\Omega$  resistor  
 R3—1.5-k $\Omega$  resistor  
 R4, R5, R7—270- $\Omega$  resistor  
 R6—47- $\Omega$  resistor  
 S1—Spst switch  
 T1—12-V, 1-A center-tapped transformer

**Note:** The following is available from C&R Electronics, P.O. Box 217, Holmdel, NJ 07733: a drilled, glass-epoxy, silk-screened pc board for \$12.95, and a 5 1/4" single-density disk (without DOS) with PCREAD/CMD and three BASIC driver programs for \$16.95. Add \$1.00 postage and handling. New Jersey residents add 5% sales tax. If you have a single-drive system, enclose a disk with TRSDOS, NEWDOS+ or NEWDOS80 and deduct \$2.50. Your disk will then be returned with the PCREAD programs.

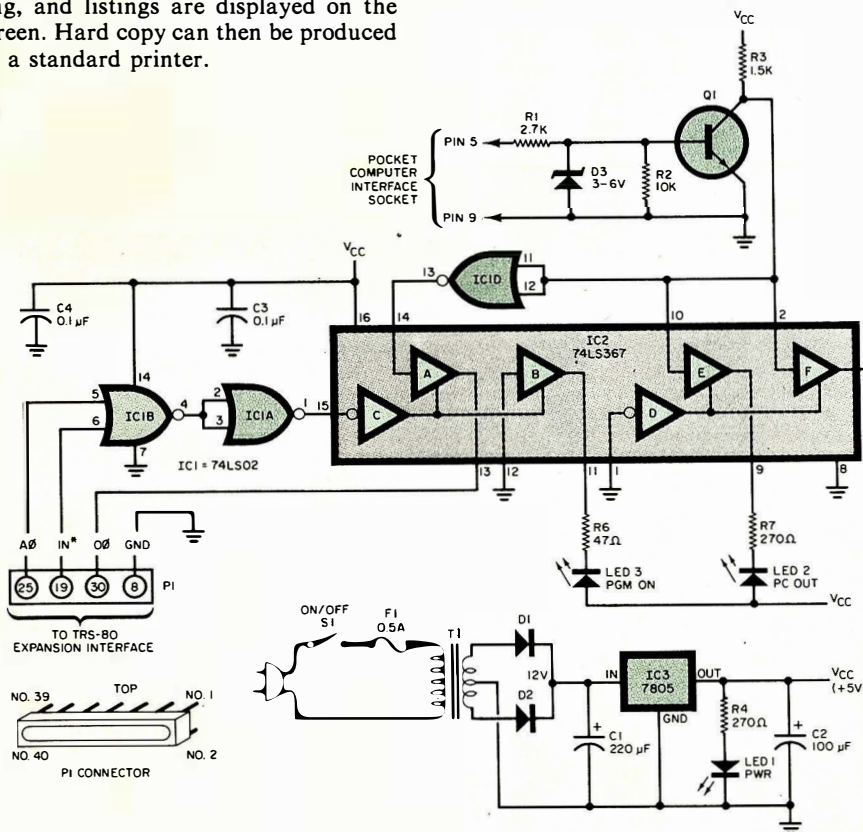


Fig. 2. Schematic of the interface circuit. Included is a regulated power supply.

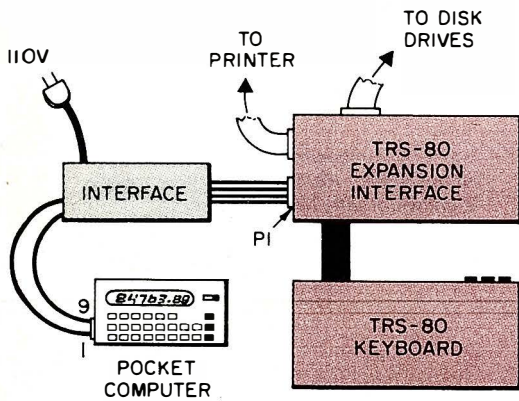


Fig. 3. Use this arrangement to connect the interface circuit between the Pocket Computer and the TRS-80. Keep the four leads between the new circuit and the TRS-80 Expansion Interface as short as possible.

The printer the authors used normally operates in the character (ASCII) mode. However, when a token describing a special non-ASCII or graphics character is encountered, the printer switches from ASCII to the graphics mode, where each matrix dot can be individually addressed. Thus, the printer can create a replica of such a character. If your printer does not provide a graphics mode, then  $\pi$  could be printed as  $\sqrt{\quad}$  as Sqr, etc. An example of a listing obtained with a Paper Tiger IDS440G printer is shown in Fig. 1.

The Pocket Computer tokens can be saved on tape or disk with the DOS DUMP command for future listing. The BASIC statements can also be saved as ASCII files for formatting with a word processor. (Using the low-cost circuit with appropriate software allows the Pocket Computer to communicate with the Model I, but not vice versa. This would require a more complicated interface and software.)

**Circuit Operation.** The circuit shown in Fig. 2 interfaces the Pocket Computer with the TRS-80 Model I.

Data pulses from the Pocket Computer, representing BASIC tokens, are amplified by *Q1*, buffered by *IC1D*, and applied via pin 14 to one three-state buffer within *IC2*. The output of this buffer (pin 13) is applied to the *D0* (data-zero) line of the TRS-80 via a 40-pin connector or plugged into the TRS-80 Expansion Interface. The *A0* address line and the *IN\** line from the TRS-80 are also coupled via this connector to the inputs of *IC1B*. When these two inputs go low simultaneously, which happens when the TRS-80 issues an *IN A* (port) command, the output of *IC1B* goes high. This signal is inverted by *IC1A* and

TABLE I—PCREAD/CMD MACHINE-LANGUAGE PROGRAM

00100	BREAK	EQU	2	;BREAK KEY BIT
00110	CORNER	EQU	3C3FH	;CORNER OF SCREEN
00120	EOF	EQU	0F0H	;END CODE OF RECORDING
00130	FIRST	EQU	0F100H	;FIRST BYTE OF BUFFER
00140	NEWDOS	EQU	402DH	;ENTRY TO NEWDOS
00150	PORT	EQU	00H	;CASSETTE INPUT PORT
00160	RETARG	EQU	0A9AH	;RETURN HL TO BASIC
00170	ROW7	EQU	3B40H	;KEYBOARD ROW 7
00180	ORG		0F000H	;61440 DECIMAL
00190	PCREAD	DI		;DISABLE INTERRUPTS
00200	LD	IX,0		;ZERO IX
00210	ADD	IX,SP		;SAVE SP IN IX
00220	LD	HL,FIRST-1		;POINT TO BUFFER-1
00230	CALL	RDBYTE		;READ CHECKSUM BYTE
00240	LD	E,0		;ZERO CHECKSUM
00250	CALL	RDBB		;READ PASSWORD
00260	RDB0B	LD	E,0	;ZERO CHECKSUM
00270	LD	B,10		;READ 10*8 BYTES
00280	NXT8	CALL	RDBB	;READ 8 BYTES
00290	DJNZ	NXT8		;READ NEXT GROUP
00300	JR	RDB0B		;ZERO CHECKSUM
00310	RDBB	PUSH	BC	;SAVE BC
00320	LD	B,8		;READ 8 BYTES
00330	RDBYCK	CALL	RDBYTE	;READ BYTE
00340	LD	(CORNER),A		;DISPLAY ON SCREEN
00350	INC	HL		;MOVE BUFFER POINTER
00360	LD	(HL),A		;PUT BYTE IN BUFFER
00370	CP	EOF		;IS IT END CODE?
00380	JR	Z,DONE		;YES, BRANCH
00390	AND	0FH		;LESS SIGNIFICANT NIBBLE
00400	LD	C,A		;SAVE IN C
00410	LD	A,D		;SWITCHED BYTE
00420	AND	0FH		;MORE SIGNIFICANT NIBBLE
00430	ADD	A,E		;ADD MSN TO CHECKSUM
00440	JR	NC,NOOV		;SKIP ON NO OVERFLOW
00450	INC	A		;INCREMENT CHECKSUM
00460	NOOV	ADD	A,C	;ADD LSN TO CHECKSUM
00470	LD	E,A		;UPDATE CHECKSUM
00480	DJNZ	RDBYCK		;READ NEXT BYTE
00490	CALL	RDBYTE		;READ CHECKSUM BYTE
00500	CP	E		;IS IT CORRECT?
00510	JR	NZ,ERROR		;NO, BRANCH
00520	POP	BC		;RESTORE BC
00530	RET			;RETURN
00540	ERROR	LD	HL,-1	;BAD LOAD
00550	JR	RSTSP		;BRANCH
00560	DONE	LD	HL,0	;GOOD LOAD
00570	RSTSP	LD	SP,IX	;RESTORE SP
00580	EI			;ENABLE INTERRUPTS
00590	JP	RETARG		;RETURN HL TO BASIC
00600	RDBYTE	PUSH	BC	;SAVE BC
00610	LD	C,0		;ZERO BYTE
00620	CALL	RDNIB		;READ HI NIBBLE
00630	CALL	RDNIB		;READ LO NIBBLE
00640	LD	D,A		;SWITCHED BYTE
00650	RRCA			;SHIFT UNTIL CORRECT
00660	RRCA			;BY
00670	RRCA			;ROTATING
00680	RRCA			;FOUR TIMES
00690	POP	BC		;RESTORE BC
00700	RET			;RETURN
00710	RDNIB	LD	A,(ROW7)	;READ PORT
00720	BIT	BREAK,A		;IS BREAK KEY PRESSED?
00730	JR	NZ,ERROR		;YES, BRANCH
00740	IN	A,(PORT)		;READ PORT
00750	BIT	0,A		;IS BIT 0 OFF?
00760	JR	NZ,RDNIB		;NO, TRY AGAIN
00770	LD	D,A		;SAVE PORT DATA
00780	LD	B,4		;READ 4 BITS
00790	NEWBIT	CALL	RDBIT	;READ BIT
00800	RR	C		;SHIFT CARRY INTO C
00810	DJNZ	NEWBIT		;READ NEXT BIT
00820	CALL	RDBIT		;DELAY FOR ONE BIT
00830	LD	A,C		;SWITCHED DATA BYTE
00840	RET			;RETURN
00850	RDBIT	PUSH	BC	;SAVE B
00860	LD	B,65H		;LOOP 101 TIMES
00870	SAME	IN	A,(PORT)	;READ PORT
00880	CP	D		;HAS IT CHANGED?
00890	JR	NZ,CHANGE		;YES, BRANCH
00900	DJNZ	SAME		;NO, CHECK AGAIN
00910	CHANGE	LD	D,A	;SAVE PORT DATA
00920	RRCA			;SHIFT BIT INTO CARRY
00930	POP	BC		;RESTORE B
00940	RET			;RETURN
00950	END	NEWDOS		;BY DANIEL S. LEWART

passed to pin 15 of IC2 to "open" gates A and B via gate C. Gate A then passes the Pocket Computer data to the D0 bus of the TRS-80. Gate B, in turn, sinks current from LED3 (PGM ON) which, when glowing, indicates that the TRS-80 is ready to accept data from the Pocket Computer.

Gates E and F of IC2 are always "open" due to control gate D being kept "on" by the ground at its input. Thus, gate E allows LED2 (PC OUT) to glow as data flows from the Pocket Computer, while gate F, after inversion by IC1C, drives test point 1 (TPI).

Power is derived from a conventional full-wave rectifier (D1 and D2). The rectifier output is filtered by C1, and regulated to 5 V by IC3. An indication that power is applied to the circuit is provided by LED1 (PWR).

**Construction.** The circuit can be fabricated on a small piece of perf board using point-to-point wiring, or a small pc board can be made. Use sockets for IC1 and IC2.

The pc board and the small associated power supply can be mounted within almost any desired enclosure. The four leads going to the TRS-80 Expansion Interface (Fig. 3) should be as short as possible, and terminated in a suitable connector. The two leads that connect to the Pocket Computer can be fabricated from #22-gauge tinned copper wires. Strip about 1/4 in. of insulation from the ends of two #22 leads and they will fit perfectly into the socket of the Pocket Computer.

The power line cord can exit through its own hole in the enclosure. The power switch (S1) and the three LEDs (suitably identified) mount on the upper surface of the selected enclosure.

After construction, turn S1 on and note that LED1 glows. Using a dc voltmeter, make sure that there is 5V on pin 14 of IC1 and pin 16 of IC2. Temporarily short input leads A0, IN\*, and GND together. This should cause LED3 to glow. If it does, remove the short. The interface is now ready for connection to the TRS-80.

**Software.** The heart of the project is the machine-language program PCREAD/CMD (Table I). This software detects the beginning and end of transmissions from the Pocket Computer, interprets the binary pulses, and stores them as hexadecimal numbers in the Model I memory. The program also performs the timing function necessary to read the 500-baud signals from the Pocket Computer, (and sets a blinking display block in the upper-right corner of the video monitor screen to indicate when the data is being read). Detailed

**TABLE II—PRINTER DRIVER PROGRAM FOR MX-80**

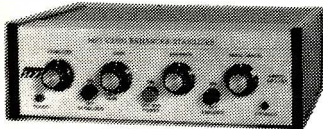
```

100 POKE &H40B2,&HEF:POKE &H40B1,&HFE:CLEAR 2000
110 DEFINT A-Z:DIM D$(255),P$(255):DEFUSR=&HF000
120 CMD"PCREAD/CMD"
130 FOR I=1 TO 11
140   READ A,B
150   FOR J=A TO B
160     IF I<7 THEN READ D$(J):ELSE READ T$:D$(J)=T$+" "
170     NEXT
180   NEXT
190 D$(0)=CHR$(13)
200 D$(18)=CHR$(34)
210 A$=CHR$(27)+CHR$(75)+CHR$(5)+CHR$(255)
220 '23=YEN,25=FI,26=SQR,57=CARET,75=EXP
230 P$(23)=A$+CHR$(168)+CHR$(104)+CHR$(82)+CHR$(104)+CHR$(168)
240 P$(25)=A$+CHR$(130)+CHR$(252)+CHR$(128)+CHR$(252)+CHR$(130)
250 P$(26)=A$+CHR$(8)+CHR$(4)+CHR$(254)+CHR$(128)+CHR$(128)
260 P$(57)=A$+CHR$(24)+CHR$(32)+CHR$(84)+CHR$(52)+CHR$(24)
270 P$(75)=A$+CHR$(254)+CHR$(254)+CHR$(146)+CHR$(146)+CHR$(146)
280 INFUT"HOW MANY CHARACTERS PER LINE";W
290 IF W<11 THEN 280
300 PRINT"1)PC LOAD 2)DISK LOAD 3)LIST ";
310 INPUT"4)PRINT 5)DISK SAVE 6)EXIT";G
320 ON G GOTO 350,420,470,470,870,900
330 GOTO 300
340 'LOAD FROM PC
350 IF (INF(0) AND 1)=1 THEN 360
360 PRINT"TURN ON POCKET COMPUTER"
370 IF (INF(0) AND 1)=0 THEN 370
380 PRINT"CSAVE PC PROGRAM"
390 IF USR(0) THEN PRINT"BAD LOAD" ELSE PRINT"GOOD LOAD"
400 GOTO 300
410 'LOAD FROM DISK
420 LINEINPUT"LOAD FROM WHICH FILESPEC? ";F$
430 CM$="LOAD "+F$
440 CMD CM$
450 GOTO 300
460 'LIST (OR PRINT)
470 M=&HF100
480 C$="" :N=0:K=0
490 FOR I=1 TO 7
500   GOSUB 820
510   IF B>0 THEN C$=D$(16*L+H)+C$
520   NEXT
530 M=M+1
540 CLS:PRINT C$
550 B=PEEK(M):M=M+1
560 IF B<<(&HE0) THEN 630
570 IF B=(&HF0) THEN 300
580 IF B>(&HE0) THEN C$=CHR$(B-&HB0) ELSE C$=""
590 GOSUB 820
600 IF (C$<>" " OR H>0) THEN C$=C$+CHR$(H+&H30) ELSE C$=""
610 C$=C$+CHR$(L+&H30)+": "
620 GOTO 650
630 C$=D$(B)
640 C1$=P$(B)
650 PRINT C$;
660 IF G=3 THEN 550
670 IF C$=CHR$(13) THEN LPRINT S$:S$="" :N=0:K=0:GOTO 550
680 E=LEN(C$)
690 IF C1$>" " THEN C$=C1$:C1$="" :E=1
700 N=N+E
710 IF N>W THEN 750
720 S$=S$+C$
730 IF (C$=":" OR N=4) THEN LPRINT S$:S$="" :K=N-4:S$=""
740 GOTO 550
750 IF K=0 THEN 790
760 LPRINT:LPRINT " ";
770 N=N-K:K=0
780 GOTO 720
790 LPRINT S$:LPRINT " ";
800 S$=C$:N=4+E:K=0
810 GOTO 730
820 B=PEEK(M)
830 H=INT(B/16):L=B-16*M
840 M=M+1
850 RETURN
860 'SAVE TO DISK
870 LINEINPUT"SAVE TO WHICH FILESPEC? ";F$
880 M=&HF108
890 IF PEEK(M)<240 THEN M=M+1:GOTO 890
900 IF M>(&HF698) THEN PRINT"NO PROGRAM LOADED":GOTO 300
910 CM$="DUMP "+F$+" F100H,"+RIGHT$(STR$(65536+M),5)+",402DH"
920 CMD CM$
930 GOTO 300
940 'EXIT
950 END
960 DATA 17,29," ",QUOTE,Y,I,*,%,YEN,$,FI,SQR,"",",;,:!"
970 DATA 48,57,(,)>,<,>,<,>,+,-,*,/,E
980 DATA 64,75,0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,,EXP
990 DATA 81,93,A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M
1000 DATA 94,106,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z
1010 DATA 130,132,>=<,>=<,>
1020 DATA 144,146,TO,STEP,THEN
1030 DATA 160,173,SIN,COS,TAN,ASN,ACS,ATN,EXP,LN,LOG,INT,ARS
1040 DATA SGN,DEG,DMS
1050 DATA 176,183,RUN,NEW,MEM,LIST,CONT,DEBUG,CSAVE,CLOAD
1060 DATA 192,197,GRAD,PRINT,INPUT,RADIAN,DEGREE,CLEAR
1070 DATA 208,222,IF,FOR,LET,REM,END,NEXT,STOP,GOTO,GOSUB,CHAIN
1080 DATA PAUSE,BEEP,AREAD,USING,RETURN

```

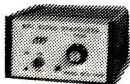
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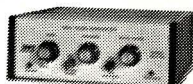


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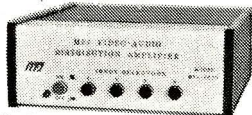


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## wide printout

CODE	TOKEN		
17	SPACE	100	T
18	QUOTE	101	U
19	?	102	V
20	!	103	W
21	#	104	X
22	%	105	Y
23	YEN	106	Z
24	\$	130	>=
25	PI	131	<=
26	SDF	132	<>
27	,	144	TO
28	;	145	STEP
29	:	146	THEN
48	(	160	SIN
49	)	161	COS
50	>	162	TAN
51	<	163	ASN
52	=	164	ACS
53	+	165	ATN
54	-	166	EXP
55	*	167	LN
56	/	168	LOG
57	^	169	INT
64	0	170	ABS
65	1	171	SGN
66	2	172	DEG
67	3	173	DMS
68	4	176	RUN
69	5	177	NEW
70	6	178	MEM
71	7	179	LIST
72	8	180	CONT
73	9	181	DEBUG
74	.	182	CSAVE
75	+	183	CLOAD
81	A	192	GRAB
82	B	193	PRINT
83	C	194	INPUT
84	D	195	RADIAN
85	E	196	DEGREE
86	F	197	CLEAR
87	G	208	IF
88	H	209	FOR
89	I	210	LET
90	J	211	REM
91	K	212	END
92	L	213	NEXT
93	M	214	STOP
94	N	215	GOTO
95	O	216	GOSUB
96	P	217	CHAIN
97	Q	218	PAUSE
98	R	219	BEEP
99	S	220	AREAD
		221	USING
		222	RETURN

Fig. 4. Token equivalents for converting hexadecimal number characters into BASIC statements.

function of the program is shown in the "Remark" column in the listing.

A BASIC driver program (PC-READ/BAS) then takes the hexadecimal numbers characters stored in the Model I computer memory (equivalent to the Pocket Computer program listing), forms them into tokens, and translates the tokens into BASIC statements according to Fig. 4. (This was first derived by Norlin Rober.)

Three versions of a printer driver program were written in disk BASIC for Epson MX-80 with Grafrax, Paper Tiger IDS/440G, and for printers without graphic capabilities. The version for the MX-80 is listed here (Table II). Minor modifications would be required for other graphic printers. These programs are available on diskette (see Parts List). The BASIC programs give the option to specify the maximum number of characters per line. The text will

break at whole tokens when the maximum number of characters per line is exceeded (again see Fig. 1).

**Checkout and Operation.** Connect the Pocket Computer to the interface as shown in Fig. 3. With both units powered up, CSAVE a program and note that LED2 on the interface blinks. If you have a scope, observe the rectangular pulses at TP1 as the Pocket Computer outputs in the CSAVE mode.

Now turn everything off and plug the interface P1 connector into the Model I Expansion Interface as shown in Fig. 3. Turn on the power for the TRS-80 Model I, the interface, and the pocket computer, run a BASIC driver program that calls PCREAD/CMD. When prompted, CSAVE a program from the Pocket Computer. You then have the options of displaying, printing, or saving the program. ◇