

TSAVE. (Size 512 bytes).

TSAVE will enable you to produce core-image dumps on cassette, typically backup copies of machine-language programs. The tapes produced are "SYSTEM" files, i.e. they can be loaded using

SYSTEM (enter)

*? filename (enter)

A system file consists of a number of memory image segments, i.e. the byte values from address A1 to address A2 inclusive. TSAVE allows you to specify up to 8 separate segments, whose lengths may be from 1 to 32767 bytes. When the tape is reloaded using the SYSTEM command these ranges are written straight back onto memory without any checking. You can usefully save and restore control values such as the MEMORY SIZE setting, or a special USR value. Of course to do this you need to know the addresses in which they are held. You will also have to know the start and end address of any machine-code program you may have purchased, in order to make backup copies. Southern Software programs are self-relocatable to any chosen starting address, and their length is given, so you can easily make backs to protect against loss or damage to the original.

Load the TSAVE tape supplied, according to the instructions on the separate sheet entitled RELOC. Once you have relocated TSAVE, you can use it to save its own core-image on a backup tape, and you can use this in the future. To invoke TSAVE, branch to its first location. For example:

SYSTEM

*? /address-of-TSAVE

FILE NAME? ffffff

RANGE? aaaa,bbbb

RANGE? cccc,dddd

RANGE? (enter)

START? ssss

R This causes the file to record.

C This will check the file (after rewind).

Q Quit

1) ffffff is the filename, used after the SYSTEM command, It can be 1 to 6 characters.

2) aaaa to bbbb is the first memory range to be saved. bbbb must be greater than or equal to aaaa, cccc to dddd is the second range. Up to 8 ranges are allowed.

3) Null input (i.e. just enter) after RANGE? means there are no more ranges to be saved.

4) ssss is the address at which execution is required to start after the file is reloaded. Null input will give a default start address of 1740, which gives BASIC "READY".

5) Any of the addresses specified may be preceded by an "H", in which case it is interpreted as a h0=X address, e.g. H4080, or HABCD. HEX addresses must be four digits long. Decimal addresses can be any length, but their values must not exceed 65535.

6) Any of the addresses specified may be followed by an upward arrow (ESCAPE key on the Video Genie). This means that the value used will be the content of the address, not the address itself.

7) Once the RANGES and the START have been specified, then TSAVE enters a simple "command" mode. The letters R, C, and Q stand for Record, Check, and Quit. Any other input is ignored. You can enter R or C as many times as you like, (e.g. to produce multiple tapes) or you can enter multiple Rs or multiple Cs on one line, to record or check multiple contiguous copies of the file on the same tape.



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How to Load and Relocate a Southern Software Machine-Language Program.

You choose the location of the program in memory, to suit your machine size. This MUST be in protected memory, or the program will not run. So, taking account of your machine size, allow enough space for the program itself, plus any other machine-language subroutines you may need, either above or below the program you are loading.

As an example, suppose you are loading Southern Software DLOAD (size 160 bytes). You have already loaded, or are going to load, TRS KBFIX at the top of memory, and Southern Software TSAVE below DLOAD. Plan your memory use as follows, working out the values (T) and (A) for your situation:

	PROG SIZE (bytes)	MACHINE SIZE			
		4K	16K	32K	48K
Memory limit		20480	32768	49152	65536
Space for KBFIX	56	20424	32712	49096	65480
Space for DLOAD	160	20264	32552	48936	65320 (T)
Space for TSAVE	512	19752	32040	48429	64808 (A)

- 1) Turn on the computer. If you have a DISK system, enter Level2, not DISK BASIC.
- 2) answer the MEMORY SIZE question with your value of (A). (On Video Genie, this value is used after READY?).
- 3) prepare the cassette player to load the self-relocating program.

	TRS-80	You type:
4)	>	SYSTEM (enter)
5)	*?	DLOAD (enter) or your program name
6) After tape has loaded	*?	/ (enter)
7)	TARGET ADDR?	Your value of (T)
8)	READY	

Notes:

- 1) At step 5 the tape will load and a pair of asterisks will blink on the display. If there are no asterisks, or two unblinking asterisks, or C*, then there has been a loading error. Stop the recorder, reset, and retry with a new volume setting.
- 2) At step 7, the program will relocate itself to address T. If instead of typing a value you just hit enter, then the program will relate itself to A, the answer to the MEMORY SIZE question.
- 3) Under Level2, after relocation, the program is ready to be invoked with a USR(n) call, since the USR address is automatically primed. However this does not work under DISK BASIC (or Level3), and you must additionally set DEFUSRn to inform the system of this routine's address.
- 4) Once a program has been loaded and relocated, it can be dumped to a new tape using Southern Software TSAVE, or TRS TBUG. Then it will load directly to its final location. Use of TSAVE has the advantage that several programs can be dumped on a single file, which can also preprime the USR address.
- 5) During step 5, the program is temporarily load into locations 18944 and up. This means that
 - a) You must perform all necessary relocating loads before loading a BASIC program, or entering DISK BASIC.
 - b) The final location, T, of the self-relocating program can never be lower than 18960. (Hex 4A10).
- 6) If you run under DISK BASIC, then perform the initial self-relocating load under Level2, as described. Then reenter TRSDOS (or NEWDOS, etc) and use the DUMP command to save the core image directly from its relocated position. Subsequently you can LOAD the core image directly, under TRSDOS. But when you enter DISK BASIC, remember to set MEMORY SIZE to leave this area of core protected, and remember that the top 64 bytes of memory are corrupted by the DISK BASIC loader, and should not be used for programs.



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Hints on Tape Loading.

- 1) Listen to the tape to establish exactly where the data starts. Note this on the tape label.
- 2) Turn the volume down to zero, and "attempt" a tape load, very slowly increasing the volume until you get asterisks on the screen. Stop the tape (not the computer), note the volume level, Reboot.
- 3) Turn the volume up to maximum, and "attempt" a tape load, very slowly decreasing the volume until you get asterisks on the screen. Again, stop the tape, and note the vole,
- 4) Set the volume to slightly above the mid-point of the two extremes of volume, and attempt a real load.

Possible Tape or Recorder Faults.

- 1) Kink or fold in the tape. Even a minor fold may render the tape unloadable, (Southern Software tapes carry a second copy of the file, in case the first gets damaged).
- 2) Noise caused by RESET when tape is running, Always stop the tape before hitting RESET.
- 3) Being small, all the plugs are prone to intermittent error and should be protected against movement.
- 4) Inconsistent tracking of the tape over the head.

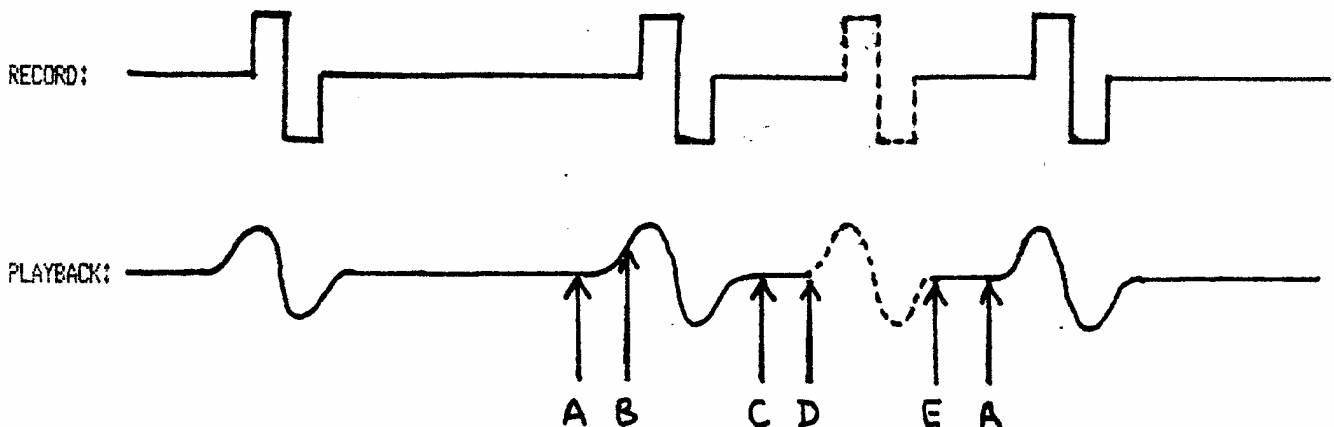
This list does not include poor tape quality, since it is very unlikely to be a problem, at the frequency bits are recorded. However, you may have found that one make of cassette seems much better than another. This is probably due to the construction of the cassette, rather than the tape. Generally more expensive cassettes run more smoothly, and therefore reduce the chance of poor tracking of tape over the head.

How DATA is Recorded and Read.

The computer contains hardware to generate an "above-and-below-zero" pulse, as shown below. This is fired by direct program control. The output routine produces one such clock pulse every 500th of a second (by looping). Data ones and zeroes are recorded as pulses halfway between these clock signals, A zero is the absence of a pulse, a one is the presence of a pulse.

The playback logic is analogous to a keyboard "debounce" routine. To read a single bit, start somewhere near (A). Loop, until the hardware recognises a signal, at (B). This is a clock pulse. Now loop until that signal is bound to have died away, and reset the hardware latch, at (C). Now wait an exact length of time, till (D), and listen for another signal, YES, then it's a one, NO, then it's a zero. In either case reset the latch after the sampling time, at (E), and loop again until the next time (A).

As you can see, the TIMER must not be running during either record or playback, since exact looping times are vital. Nor does the logic take time off to test the keyboard for the BREAK key. However tape speed is not ultra-critical, since there is a resynchronisation wires at (A) on every bit.



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