



# Tech Info Library

## Applesoft BASIC: Displaying and printing text in 80 columns

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The Apple II permits input and output to only one device at a time, including the 80-Column Text Card in slot 3.

Here is a BASIC program that will send information to the printer, and then to the screen.

```
10 D$ = CHR$(4)
20 PRINT D$;"PR#1" : REM Turn on the printer in slot 1
30 PRINT "This sentence will be sent to the printer. Make it a long sentence,
so we can see if the printer uses 80 columns."
40 PRINT D$;"PR#3" : REM Turn off the printer; return to 80 column screen
50 PRINT "This sentence will appear on the screen."
60 END
```

If you find that the printer doesn't use 80 columns, then the interface card in the Apple IIe is set for 40 columns. Check the manual for that card, and change the DIP switches for 80 columns.

Use these techniques within any Applesoft BASIC program to turn a printer on and off, and still maintain disk drive access.

This short program shows how to print lines longer than 80 characters without overprinting. An explanation follows the listing.

```
10 D$=CHR$(4)
20 PRINT D$;"PR#1"
30 PRINT CHR$(9);"80N"
40 PRINT CHR$(9);"C"
50 LIST
60 S2$ = "We get a lot of calls regarding a problem with the Imagewriter I
and the Imagewriter II overprinting when using the PRINT command from
AppleSoft BASIC with lines that are longer than 80 characters. Here is a
workable solution."
70 PRINT D$;"PR#3"
```

In the statement `PRINT CHR$(9); "80N"`, (which sends Control-I 80N) the number

80 sets the printer card so that it sends a carriage return after sending 80 characters to the printer. The choice of the number, 60, 72, 80, or 132, to name a few options, depends on how you want to use the features of the printer and its interface card. This works for an Apple Super Serial Card, Apple Parallel Interface Card, and other popular interface cards.

After sending Control-I 80N to set the SSC to end its lines at 80 columns, it's still necessary to tell the SSC when that Control-I 80N command should work. That's what Control-I C does: it tells the SSC to issue a carriage return on column overflow.

Column overflow occurs when the SSC detects it has reached the end of the column as set by switches 2-3 and 2-4 or by Control-I 80N. The addition of a line like line 40 should correct similar overstriking problems, especially with listings of BASIC programs. If you run this program, it will correctly print S2\$ on an Imagewriter or an ImageWriter II.

On an Apple IIGS, the Control-I C would need to be a Control-I CE.

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