



KELLER, RUBINSTEIN & JACOBS Advertising 275 Broadhollow Rd. Melville, N.Y. 11747 ☐ 516-293-9595

*Sheldon E. Keller
Eleanor I. Rubinstein
Richard L. Rubinstein
Steven R. Jacobs*

For: Astrocade, Inc.
6460 Busch Blvd., Suite 215
Columbus, OH 43229

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CONTACT: Ann Forman 516/293-9595 or
Wes Thomas 516/368-2609

CREATIVE CRAYON: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

CREATIVE CRAYON is an 8K ROM cartridge with a unique 1K RAM built in to allow for buffering of images in copy and brush modes and for operation of stacks and fill algorithms.

CREATIVE CRAYON takes full advantage of Astrocade's powerful custom chip set and 4K screen RAM, allowing for creation of complex images, a choice of 256 colors (four at a time), and 19 modes of operation: draw, line (rubber band), fill, circle, box, solid box, life, snap (specify an image area to be rubber stamped), copy (rubber stamp), brush (line thickness), stat (see modes set), text (two sets of upper and lower case letters), clear, and five modes that mirror images and allow for combining or overlaying images. There is also a "special" mode that allows for downloading special functions from audio cassette tapes into the 1K RAM. Menu selection of modes is accomplished by rotating the hand controller potentiometer

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and pulling the trigger to select the desired modes. The hand controller potentiometer is also used to select any of 64 characters, with two fonts provided.

Screen images can be stored on an audio tape recorder at 2000 baud, utilizing a mini-jack built into the cartridge. For greater reliability, the optional light pen uses a fiber optic cable rather than the usual photocell.

CREATIVE CRAYON was written in ForthWrite, a superset of the Forth language. ForthWrite was developed by CREATIVE CRAYON designer Tom Rust.

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