



the "Dumb Keyboard"

for smart designs



"Dumb" can be smarter than "intelligent"

In 1975 Cortron developed and released a new keyboard principle of design that has given many design engineers a very real competitive edge. It is so simple we call it the "ABC" principle (Address Binary Code). If you haven't heard of it we suggest you read on to find out what many of your competitors are already doing. There is an alternative to the expensive "intelligent" keyboard design. We manufacture both, but we feel dumb is generally smarter.

"ABC" principle An address encoded keyboard simply outputs a unique 8 bit binary code for each key station. This code directly enters the main system which, through various software routines, determines what each specific key switch is and does. This provides a keyboard that is both simple and versatile. Cortron has various subsets of this principle to give the designer "trade-offs" between system and keyboard such as PROM conversion, etc. Call us before you design, so these "trade-offs" can be discussed and your information bank complete before costly designs are finalized.

Upstroke/downstroke We also supply a unique "ABC" for both key depression and release. Thus, not only can you determine what character, function, etc. you want, you can also control which keys auto repeat — any or all — and also which keys are mode control.

Advantages *Lower keyboard cost:* Eliminates electronics on board with little or no added cost to system.

Versatile: One basic keyboard can be customized for virtually any customer configuration with only software or PROM conversion and key top change.

Inventory savings: Now you can satisfy all those special foreign language and function requirements with one keyboard and a stock of key tops.

Fast turnaround: No more 20 week wait for a new LSI mask for the special requirements. Virtually "off-the-shelf" availability.

Reliability: Less electronics on keyboard means improved reliability and long term cost savings to your system.

Call us today to find out why most new designs utilize the "ABC" principle. We will explain the various "trade-offs" and costs of keyboard design and even help with your software routines, if required.

Of course, if you feel intelligent is smarter for your system, we can also aid you in those design decisions. Cortron has developed and manufactured microprocessor based keyboards using the most popular single chip microprocessors. We have the modern system development aids and staff capability which has allowed us to write the highly flexible keyboard handling routines for the cases when "intelligent" is intelligent. For full details and literature, call or write: CORTRON, A Division of Illinois Tool Works Inc., 6601 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, Illinois 60634. Phone (312) 282-4040. TWX 910-221-0275. Toll free line: 800-621-2605.



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THE KEYBOARD PROFESSIONALS