9111A Graphics Input Tablet

by Brenda Hume Hewlett-Packard Company Desktop Computer Division

The new 9111A Graphics Input Tablet is designed for use in interactive graphics, graphics entry and menu selection applications.

Interactive graphics

The 9111 acts as the CRT's cursor mover. As the user draws on the tablet, the picture appears on the CRT. Drawing is as effortless as pressing down on the stylus pen.

In single mode, a program can interpret an entered point as the end of a line, center or circumference of a circle, corner of a rectangle or location of a drawing. Continuous mode makes it easy to sketch freehand and trace existing drawings, diagrams, charts or photographs.

Once the drawing is in a data base, it can be modified, rescaled and plotted. With these capabilities, designs, diagrams and layouts can be changed on the spot. Schematics, computer-aided design, printed circuit and integrated circuit layouts and office and industrial floor plans are among the applications where the flexibility of the tablet can be put to good use.

Picking from a menu

Users can create a customized keyboard or control panel through the 9111's menuing capability. Sixteen softkeys can represent any designated data or commands.

With a program to interpret, the user can enter words such as "enter" or "delete" or an entire phrase such as "quantity of units back ordered" with a press of the stylus pen to the appropriate softkey.

For additional softkeys, a menu can be designed on paper or HP



menu blanks, then placed on the tablet. The entire tablet can be converted into a menu/keyboard for additional entries.

Features

The graphics tablet has a durable, ceramic platen that will not easily scratch or pit. A pen-shaped stylus and inclined working surface provide operator comfort for long periods.

The pen can be fitted with either ink or non-ink ballpoint pen refills available though HP's worldwide supply centers. The data-transfer rate is programmable from 1 to 60 points per second, assuring smooth cursor movement.

A programmable beeper gives audio feedback when operations are complete. And two built-in self tests allow isolation of problems should they arise. The tablet accommodates letter-size documents.

The 9111 is fully compatible with the HP-85, 9800 series desktop computers and the HP 1000

technical computers through HP-IB and HPGL (Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language). The System 45B and 45C Graphics ROMs also provide easy access to the 9111A.

Software

Utility software is available for use with the tablet when linked to a System 45B Desktop Computer. The software, ordered as product number 88100A, includes:

- Drawing Utility to draw a picture, add text, create a data base and plot. Useful in creating graphics presentations.
- Graphics Editor to choose, place, delete, move, rotate and rescale elements. Useful in creating schematics, flowcharts, PERT charts and layouts.
- Menu Utility to create a program driver for interpreting a menu. All coding for the tablet is provided. Users need to add only application subprograms.