

A Keyboard for Macro Commands
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It's ironic that programmable macros, those that streamline your data processing and eliminate repetitive tasks, are themselves laborious and repetitive to create. First you've got to get into the Macro Editor. Press (Home), Macro Define (Ctrl-F10), type the name of the macro, press (Enter), type a description, then press (Enter) again.

Once you're in the Macro Editor, any time you want to insert a macro command, you need to press Macro Commands (Ctrl-Pg Up) to see a list of the commands, cursor around, look for the one you want, press (Enter), then try to figure out where the tildes (~) go. This is the procedure for just about every command.

There's a better way. If you use macros, you can learn a few tricks that can help make macro creation as streamlined as macro execution.

Many people have favorite macro commands – commands they use in almost every macro. For instance, many people use {ASSIGN}, {IF} and {END IF} in just about every macro. It seems tedious to go through the manual process of pressing Macro Commands (Ctrl-Pg Up), highlighting the necessary command, pressing (Enter), then typing in the necessary tildes every time you use them.

For often-used commands, you ought to be able to just fill in the blanks between the tildes. So why not make a macro that does that?

A macro that runs while making a macro? Yep, that's it exactly. Macros can be run while you're in the macro editing screen, as long as they're Alt-key macros or keyboard macros. When you're making several macros to create an easily accessible list of your favorite commands, use keyboard macros. That way you can use Ctrl keys, which leaves your Alt keys free for other non-keyboard macros.

This user-defined keyboard is included as COMMANDS.WPK. The keyboard allows for Ctrl-key commands as follows:

KEY	COMMAND
Ctrl-A	{ASSIGN}
Ctrl-B	{BELL}
Ctrl-C	{CANCEL OFF}
Ctrl-D	{DISPLAY ON}
Ctrl-E	{END IF}
Ctrl-F	{FOR}
Ctrl-G	{GO}
Ctrl-I	{IF}
Ctrl-K	{KTON}

Ctrl-L	{LABEL}
Ctrl-M	{MID}
Ctrl-N	{NEST}
Ctrl-O	{ON CANCEL}
Ctrl-P	{PAUSE}
Ctrl-Q	{QUIT}
Ctrl-R	{RETURN}
Ctrl-S	{SYSTEM}
Ctrl-T	{TEXT}
Ctrl-W	{WAIT}

As you work with this macro commands keyboard, you'll get used to using the Ctrl keys. You'll find yourself entering commands faster and faster. You'll be able to stop worrying about how to enter macro codes, and begin concentrating on building brilliant macros.