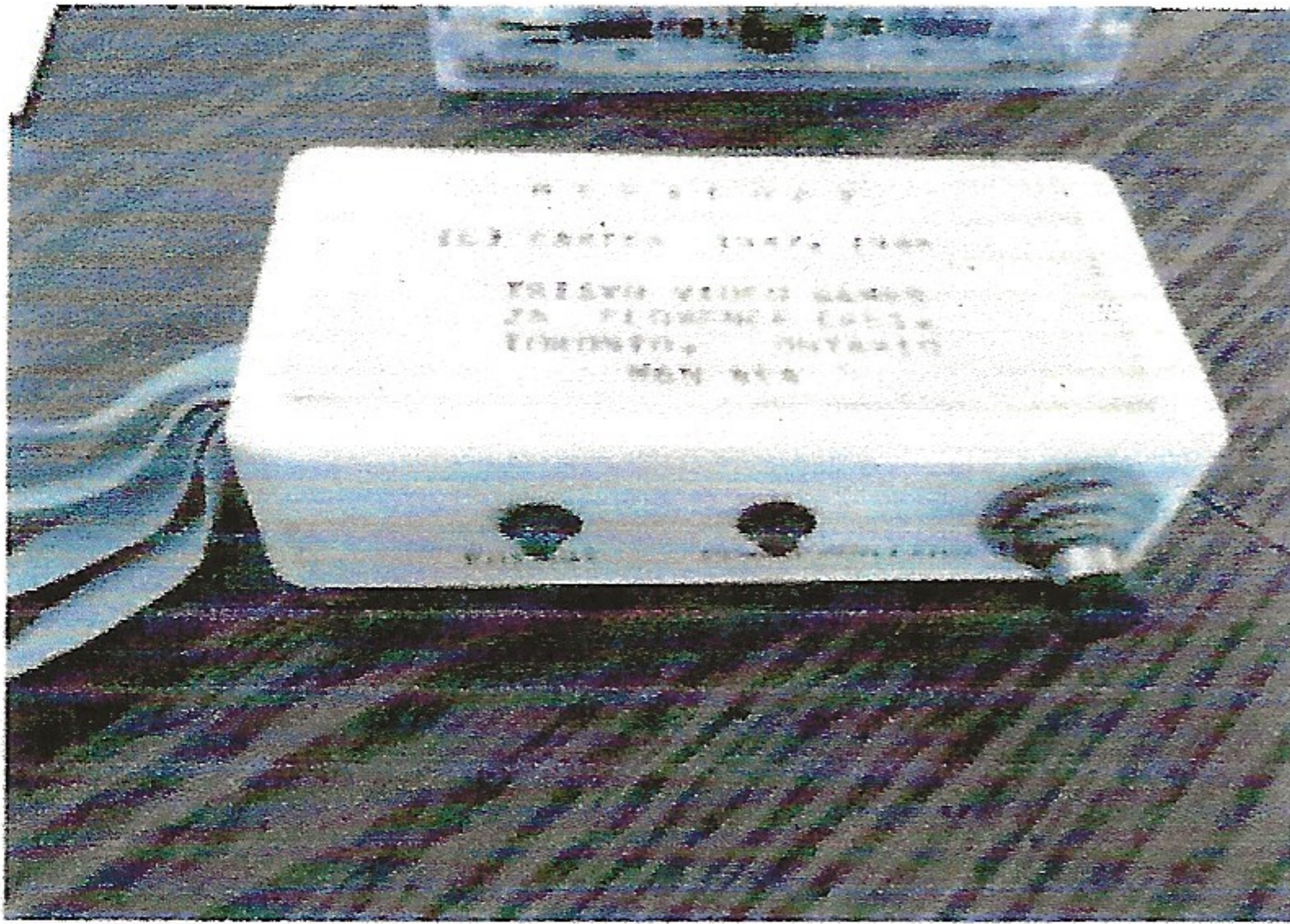
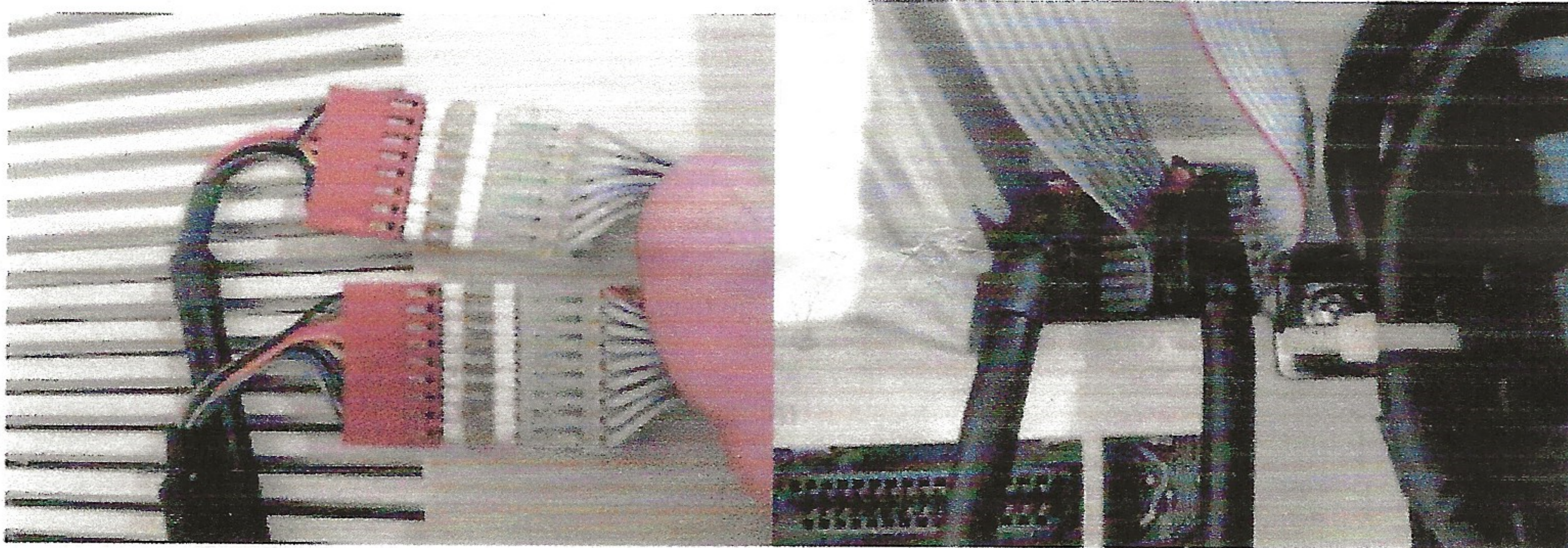


How to connect a Mega Copy



Here is a quick post on how to plug one of the rare Mega Copy devices into your Adam. A Mega Copy was a device that was plugged into your Adam in between the Adam and the second data drive. When it was used it allowed you to copy a data pack onto a blank audio tape. A very useful thing to be able to do! Below are pictures of how you connect it. Look closely to determine the alignment of the cables, do not plug them in backwards, you may end up ruining the device.



Once connected, turn on the Adam and boot the Mega Copy tape or disk.

M E G A C O P Y D O C U M E N T A T I O N
(c) 1987 Trisyd Video Games

Thank you for purchasing the MEGACOPY interface. You are now on your way to a more independent Adam computer. MEGACOPY is assisting you by allowing the creation of customized formatted tapes from ordinary drilled audio cassettes.

MEGACOPY consists of a hardware interface and driving software. Your interface configures the second tape drive to accept format code being sent to it from the first drive. The accompanying software controls the interface and tape drives to work together and thus produce an excellent quality digitally formatted tape.

Typical formatting time takes about six minutes depending on the type of tape being created. There are currently 10 different format options available. Each of these options requires either a centre or right directory type Adam tape as the source tape to be placed into drive #1. The software will instruct you as to which of these two types are required to produce the requested format. These formats are listed on the screen of the Adam when you arrive at that point of the program. Typically you would chose option #0 which is to create a centre directory full blown 256K Adam tape. However, you can choose the option that best suits your needs.

GETTING STARTED:

First off you will require to install the interface into your Adam. This is a very simple task and should only be required once. After the MEGACOPY interface is installed, it can remain as a permanent part of your Adam. Both of your tape drives will be able to still function as they normally did when the interface is set to normal mode. Then all that is required is to have a pre-drilled audio cassette ready for formatting.

To install MEGACOPY you must first lift the lid covering your tape drive / expansion socket area. Next remove tape drive #2 connectors from their connection spot in the Adam console. Locate the two connectors coming from MEGACOPY that have the male type pins sticking out from them and connect the tape drive connectors to them. Be sure that the ridge on both connectors is on the same side as they plug together. The nine pin connector plugs with the nine pin connector and the eight pin to the eight pin. Secure the connection with some type of tape. Just to describe the part about the ridge facing the same side, imagine placing the connected connectors flat on a table. Both ridges are facing in the same direction wheather it be the ceiling or the table top. If you do not understand this part then re-read it or else allow someone else to assist you with my meaning. This is a very important connection and must not be done wrong.

Now connect the remaining two connectors into the Adam console originally intended for tape drive #2 connectors. Be sure to plug the connector into the console in the same fashion that the tape drive connectors were. Note that these connectors also have a ridge that

faces the back of the Adam, the same as your tape drive #1 connectors and as did your tape drive #2 connectors. Now place the ribbing cable to the right of the open area: thus it is exiting the pre-moulded indentation on the console. Your MEGACOPY interface is installed. Do not replace the lid as of yet, you will be instructed to do so later.

INSTALLATION TEST:

Make sure that all tape/disk drives are empty and there is no cartridge in your game slot. Carefully turn on your Adam. If at this point you notice that your Adam does not display the smartwriter then immediately turn the Adam off and recheck your connections. If you do so and still are having difficulty then i suggest that you contact the person who sold you the interface and he/she will be able to assist you from there. Assuming now that smartwriter is up and working, note the indicator lights on the interface. There are three lights to indicate the mode of operation currently in effect. These are power, normal and format. The interface should be in normal mode as indicated by the normal light. The power light should also be lit to indicate that power is being supplied to the interface. If you see the format light lit then press the switch on the MEGACOPY case to change to normal mode. Once in normal mode you are ready to proceed.

SOFTWARE STARTUP:

Insert the MEGACOPY program tape into drive #1 and pull the reset switch. MEGACOPY will now begin to automatically load into Adam. Note that you can only boot MEGACOPY from tape drive #1 and so never attempt to boot from drive #2 even if you are just testing. Once MEGACOPY is loaded, you will notice an opening screen that asks you if you wish to test your tape drives. At this point you should select (Y). Subsequent uses of megacopys you can select (N).

TESTING TAPE DRIVE SYNCHRONIZATION:

Both of your tape drives must be set to run at the same speed for correct operation of MEGACOPY. Once (y) is selected, a screen will be displayed which contains a brief set of instructions. Each of the two tape drives are to be checked while using the same tape. This will eliminate errors caused by tapes with different speeds. When you press y on this screen, another display will appear with a speed scale on it. Near the bottom of the screen will be the instructions to running this part of the program. Pressing the joystick * and # keys will start and stop the selected drive, using the keyboard will select which drive you wish to test or return to MEGACOPY. Always stop your tape drive before making a keyboard selection. Also you must keep your selection pressed for at least five seconds to allow Adam to register the command.

CALIBRATING YOUR DRIVE SPEED:

There is a small screw located in a blue moulding inside your tape drive back area. This screw should be easily identified in tape drive #1 but may not be apparent in your newer tape drive. It is the speed adjustment screw and if you cannot locate it then you may need to

remove your tape drive to look underneath it. Turning this screw clockwise will speed your drive up and counter clockwise will slow it down. Do not attempt to turn this screw unless the drive is running under the normal speed check portion of MEGACOPY. It is possible to adjust the tape drive out of normal range and thus make it impossible for your Adam to write to the tape. Adjustment should be done in 1/10th turn increments. Adjust the screw and wait for five seconds for Adam to register the change, re-adjust until you are close to 0% error. Repeat for tape drive #2. If you cannot locate tape drive #2 adjustment screw then adjust tape drive #1 to tape drive #2 speed. Once completed, you can replace the lid cover.

RETURN TO MEGACOPY:

Now that you are back in the MEGACOPY process, you will see a minor bulletin, then your option screen comes up. Please be sure that MEGACOPY is set to normal mode at this point.

FORMAT OPTIONS:

Currently there are 10 options supported. Select the one that most suits your needs. As previously mentioned, option #0 will be the tape most selected for MEGACOPY to create. From here on everything will proceed with menu's such as this to coach you along with the format.

COPY OR FORMAT:

Here you are asked if your created tape is to contain format code or to be a valid copy of your source tape. The actual process will copy as it formats yet your end blocks will have invalid data. Format is the faster of the two options. If you are making a backup that you know has program data on the end blocks then select the copy option. If you format a tape by using the format option then do not expect to be able to read any data from the end blocks until you actually write some data to them. This holds true when verifying them with some type of verifier program.

LONG OR SHORT TAPE:

If you are using a c-60 tape MEGACOPY will now ask if you are using a long or short tape. In most cases you will be using long tapes and should select the (l) option. If however your source tape is the same type as your destination tape, then select short. If you select (l) then Adam will have to generate some printer line feed action to assist in the control of your tape drives. This extra linefeeds generated is unavoidable in the long tape but can be permanently silenced by use of a printer gender changer interface. Another trisyd video games exclusive product. This device is very useful as it will remove the linefeeds generated everytime the reset switch is pulled yet will not inhibit the normal use of the printer.

TAPE CONTROL:

By now you should have satisfied all the requirements of MEGACOPY to

begin formatting. A bulletin will appear to ask you to put the interface in format mode and press a key to begin then you can sit back for three or so minutes. Don't worry about burning up your tape drives at this point as MEGACOPY will stop the drive automatically when it is done and at that time you will be visually and audibly alerted. MEGACOPY will then either ask you to reconfigure it to another mode to continue or you will enter the initialization screen.

INITIALIZATION SCREEN:

This option can be skipped if you wish. If you selected the copy option earlier then it is best to skip this option as it would destroy your copies initialization. Another reason to not initialize is if you wish to use your tape to put a super game onto. If you have selected an odd type of format such as a single sided tape then it is strongly suggested that you initialize your tape. This will keep Adam from getting confused when using it.

IN CLOSING...

Now you should be ready to either format another tape or end the program. If you decide to end then please wait for the message to scroll to the screen. There are quite a few interesting Adam support groups that are using MEGACOPY to inform you about their services. Their own message will be displayed at this point.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Creating a good quality Adam tape requires that you select a good tape as your source. Always be sure that your tape heads are kept clean from dirt and grime. There are various liquid cleaners available that will assist you. When creating a tape that is smaller than your Adam tape ie (c-45, c-30 if supported), your best bet is to create a right directory style. Although the centre directory format is available, you will not readily get the stated kilobytes of free space. They are there but your Adam catalog command will not readily recognize them. This is because the directory has a blank file which is used to lock out the missing blocks thus allowing you to conform to Adam's tape format structure. You would have to find some way to shift the blanking file directory entry ahead of the file directory entry that you wish to save. Then Adam will release the free space. Do not change the block numbers that are set in the blanking file as they must remain locked out. Always boot MEGACOPY from drive #1, never boot from drive #2. Be sure that MEGACOPY is set to normal mode when not in use. If you attempt to use tape drive #2 when MEGACOPY is set to format mode then there is the chance of erasing your tape.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DISTRIBUTOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION IF NECESSARY.

--END--