Atari interoffice memos & emails about the 1200XL

The document itself begins on the next page.

Document source:

Original backup tapes owned by Dutchman2000, obtained by Atarimania.
Documentary research and PDF layout by Laurent Delsarte.
Note that these backup tapes contain A LOT of information spread out in many folders, meaning it will take time to process the important bits.
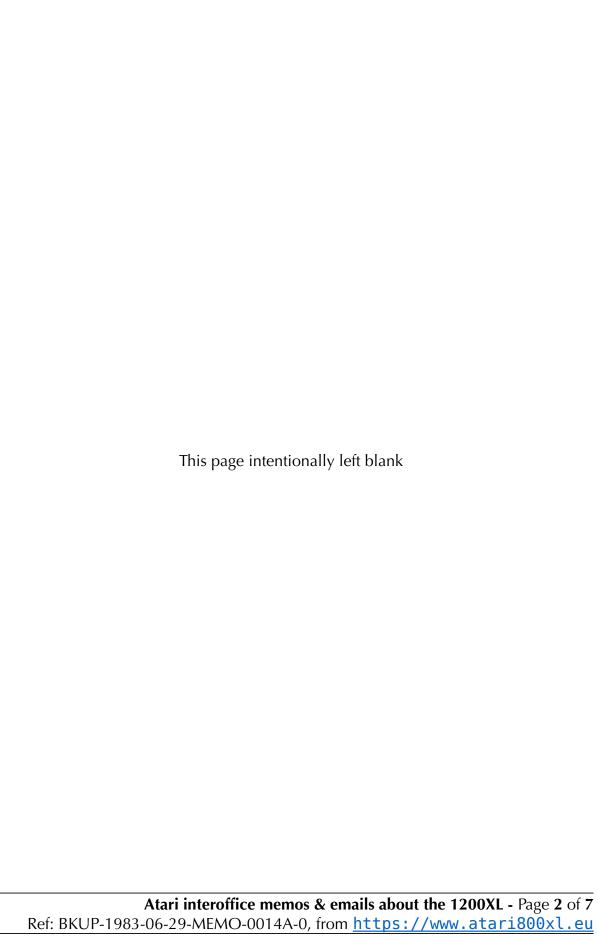
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Tags:	#Atari #8bit #6502 #1200XL

Comments:

The purpose of publishing these documents is to provide a better understanding of the history of Atari's 8-bit computers. Accordingly, any names that appear in the documents solely for the purpose of blaming someone have been concealed/redacted.

Obvious typos have been corrected.

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1200 composite video output correction

Unidentified author.
Undated document.
No attachment provided.

Due to Mr. ▮▮▮▮ miscalculation of the composite video and luminance resistors, the resistors values have to be changed to correct the composite and luminance video outputs from the present 700 mV to 1 V peak-to-peak. For calculation, see attached sheet.

The calculation shows that the composite video and luminance resistors should be 100 ohms (R23 & R24) and 300 ohms (R25 & R28) to ground.
The Q11 emitter resistor (R22) has changed to 5.1 K to obtain the same DC level of sync tip and peak white within the specification of the modulator.
The sync resistor (R188) has increased to 1.5K to obtain approximately 1/3 of the sync to picture ratio. The reason for not having exactly 1/3 of the sync to picture ratio is to keep buzz in the audio to a minimum.
With the new correct 1V peak-to-peak composite video and luminance, the software monitor was checked and performed satisfactorily. This should equally apply to any make of monitor.

The modification should be a running change in production.

1200XL Issues, 29 June 1983

From: Joe Miller
To: Dave Stubben
CC: D. Abel, L. Plummer, S. Scheiman, D. Sovey
No attachment provided.

Subject: 1200XL Issues
Date: 29 June 1983

This memo addresses some of the issues raised by John Ebbs concerning consumer and trade reactions to the 1200XL, specifically those which are software related.

I've attached Scott's detail of differences between REV. 10 and REV. 11 Operating Systems on the 1200. Indeed, some of the software issues raised by John Ebbs' memo have been addressed by REV. 11. The sooner we can get it into the field the better.

[SYSTEM RESET]

Problem

Pressing [SYSTEM RESET] intermittently causes a cold start, resulting in loss of a BASIC program in memory.

Current Status

We determined this was caused by excessive RESET key-bounce on some 1200 keysets, and we extended the de-bounce delay by 0.1 second in O.S. REV. 11. This solved the problem, but we will continue to hear about this one until REV. 11 actually makes it into the field.

[BREAK] Anomalies

Problem

Pressing [BREAK] while BASIC is performing a LIST is intermittently ignored.

Current Status

Fixed in SURELY REV. A, therefor the fix will not appear until the 600/800/1400/1450 line reaches the market. We have never received reports of the [BREAK] key causing a cold start, as indicated in John Ebbs memo.

Printer Errors

Problem

If a BASIC program makes a CIO call to disk drive #2 (or higher) immediately prior to a CIO printer request, the print request will fail. (This only occurs from a BASIC program.)

Current Status

Fixed in SURELY O.S. REV. B.

APX Compatibility

Problem

Many cassette-based APX titles were found to be incompatible with the 1200.

Current Status

This was due to 'illegal' use of Operating System entry points by the APX loader program. Changes were made in O.S. REV. 11 to resolve the problem.

3rd Party Compatibility

Problem

Many aren't.

Current Status

As you know, this is caused by blatant disregard of published guidelines for Operating System use by outside developers. Some of the APX titles were also caught by this one. We can help mediate the problem, somewhat, by releasing a RAM-based 800 Operating System on disk, switching off the 1200 O.S. ROM.

Technical Documentation

Problem

We have yet to produce any external technical literature describing how one uses the extended features of the 1200. And we're rushing head-long into the same situation with the entire XL line.

Current Status

A number of efforts are currently underway, but the recent RIF has devastated our in-house writing resource. I've suggested that we produce a series of 'Application Notes' covering specific technical areas, in lieu of a single, all-encompassing document. We're working with Jim Inscore and Jeff Belding to get this going. Focused efforts in this area by the Systems Software Group will, of course, affect our other work schedules.