

INTRODUCTION

This documentation package describes the Altair Q70 printer system. The Q70 system includes the Q70 printer and the 88-Q70C Controller board for connecting the printer to an Altair 8800 series microcomputer.

The documentation package consists of three parts. The first part, the Operation Manual, describes the procedures for loading paper and ribbon cartridges, replacing printwheels, cleaning the printer and miscellaneous procedures. The second part, the Product/Interface Description Manual, is a detailed description of the electrical characteristics of the printer, including required signals, command sequences, etc. The final part of the package is the Q70 Printer Controller Manual which includes information on the Q70C controller board and on programming for the 8800 series microcomputers.

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altair Q70 Printer Operation Manual

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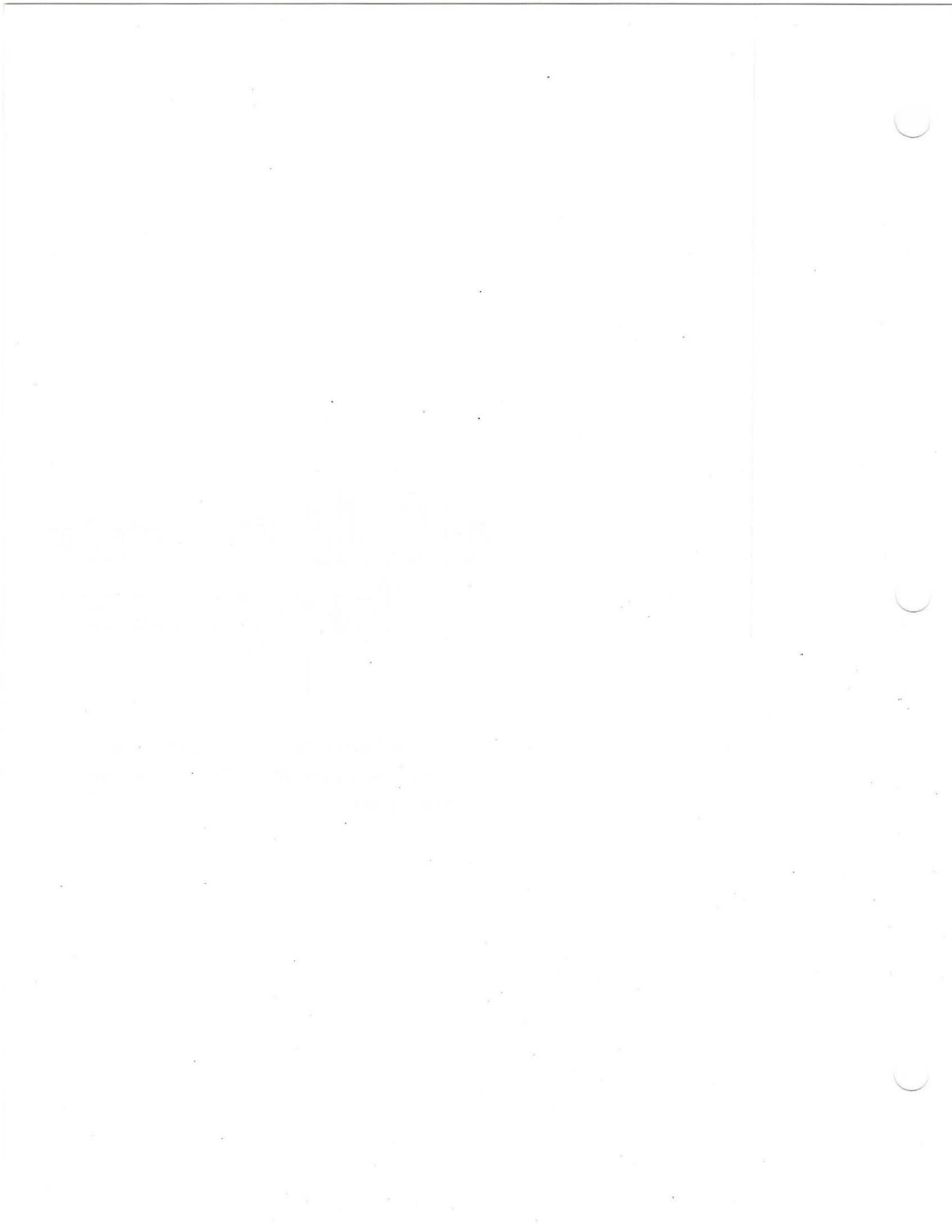


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MOUNTING THE FORMS TRACTOR

Some printers come equipped with an optional forms tractor. This accessory is mounted through slots in the top of a special cover which is installed on tractor-feed printers. Tractor feed provides a more positive method of paper control. To mount the forms tractor, refer to Figure 7 and instructions below.

- The first step in installing the forms tractor is to remove the top printer cover.
- Then pull the paper bail forward, out of the way.
- With both thumbs, depress the two spring-loaded locking levers on the forms tractor and clamp the unit to the platen shaft.
- The right stanchion engages a groove on the platen's shaft, and the forms tractor will appear to be centered on the printer when this position is correct.
- Release the locking levers and check to make sure that they pop all the way out. The right-hand lever may not click into place on the first try, and it will then be necessary to rock the mechanism a little to obtain the proper engagement. When the forms tractor is fully locked in place, the right-hand locking lever will be just as far out as the left.
- Now adjust the forms tractor for the width of the paper to be used. First loosen the two drive sprocket clamping screws and slide each of the two drive sprockets to the outside of the tractor support rail.
- Lift the paper gates on the drive sprockets and insert a sheet of paper behind the platen. Rotate the platen knob transporting the paper through to the front.
- Pull the paper release lever all the way forward, disengaging the friction feed mechanism.
- Position the holes in the edge of the paper over the pins of the right-hand drive sprocket, and lower the right-hand paper gate.
- Tighten the right-hand drive sprocket clamping screw.
- Now slide the left hand drive sprocket over to engage the holes in the paper's left margin. Make sure that the upper edge of the paper is parallel to the tractor support rail, and lower the left-hand paper gate.
- Finally, adjust the position of the left-hand drive sprocket and tighten the left-hand clamping screw to hold it in place. **The paper must not be under any tension.** At the same time, however, the adjustment should not be so loose that the paper buckles upward at the center of the platen. Once the forms tractor has been adjusted for the width of paper to be used, no further adjustment will be necessary unless the clamp screws are disturbed.

- Move the paper bail toward the platen, letting it rest against the tractor frames.
- Now carefully insert the printer top cover under the tractor and snap it into position.

NOTE

Check to be sure that the paper release lever is forward when the tractor is in operation.