PC2FLOP and FLOP2PC (for 1.5Mb Floppy Drives)

PC2FLOP writes an Altair 1.5Mb floppy disk with a disk image transmitted from a PC. FLOP2PC saves an image of an Altair 1.5Mb disk to a PC. The disk image is transferred through either serial port on a 2SIO board or through an 88-SIO port at I/O address zero. The XMODEM checksum or CRC protocol is used for the transfer.

These programs run standalone at 0x100 or under CP/M. Standalone operation may be required to create a bootable disk when no other bootable disk is available. There are a couple of ways to load PC2FLOP into a cold machine:

1) Use the front panel or Turnkey monitor to enter the octal bytes of the program listed in LOADER.PRN. Execute the loader by running from zero (no feedback is given), then send the file PC2FLOP.COM through the first 2SIO port. After transmission is complete, reset the computer and run PC2FLOP at address 100h.

2) If you have an Intel hex file loader in PROM, load the file PC2FLOP.HEX and then run from 100h.

When copying a disk image to the PC (FLOP2PC), the program attempts several retries including stepping off the track an back. If the read still fails, the error is noted and the copy process continues so that the remainder of the disk can still be recovered.

If you have the option for a 19,200 or 38,400 baud transfer (e.g., the 2SIO modified for 19,200 baud or the 2SIOJP set for 38,400 baud), that will reduce transfer time of the disk image significantly. Do not select a rate faster than 38,400 baud.