

## CP/M 3 for the Altair 8800 with Altair 8" Floppy Drives

CP/M 3, also known as CP/M Plus, was released in 1983. CP/M 3 is the last version of CP/M written for 8-bit processors like the 8080 and Z80. By the time of this release, the IBM PC and MSDOS had been out for over a year and soon took over the personal computer marketplace. For this reason, CP/M 3 never reached the market penetration CP/M 2.2 achieved during the preceding years.

By 1983, about five years had passed since the last Altair 8800 was manufactured, so it's unlikely any commercial distributions of CP/M 3 for the Altair were developed. Further, I have not found a hobbyist with a CP/M 3 disk configured to run on the Altair, so I decided to create one myself.

The Altair CP/M 3 BIOS supports the DEVICE feature of CP/M 3 (very similar to the IOBYTE feature in CP/M 2.2). Valid port assignments include both ports on the 88-2SIO at I/O addresses 10h and 12h, the 88-SIO port at I/O address 0, and the cassette interface (ACR) port SIO at I/O address 6.

To learn more about CP/M 3, manuals are available at the link below:

[http://deramp.com/downloads/digital\\_research/Manuals/CPM3/](http://deramp.com/downloads/digital_research/Manuals/CPM3/)

## Creating Altair CP/M 3 Disks

Several CP/M 3 disk images exist in this directory. The disk image "cpm3\_v1.0\_56K\_disk1.dsk" is a good starting point and is sized for a system with at least 56K of RAM. The same disk image sized for a minimum of 48K of RAM is also in this directory. The file "README.TXT" on the CP/M disk tells you how to run GENCPM to resize CP/M for the amount of RAM in your system.

The disk image "cpm3\_v1.0\_56K\_disk2.dsk" contains more CP/M 3 utilities from the standard Digital Research distributions disks including the HELP system.

The disk image "cpm3\_v1.0\_56K\_build.dsk" contains all the files required to build CP/M from scratch including the BIOS and cold boot source files.

Use the PC2FLOP utility to write an Altair 8" disk from the disk images in this directory. PC2FLOP for the Altair 8" drives is located at the link below:

[http://deramp.com/downloads/altair/software/8\\_inch\\_floppy/Disk%20Image%20Transfer/](http://deramp.com/downloads/altair/software/8_inch_floppy/Disk%20Image%20Transfer/)

Note: Altair Clone users can also load the disk image using the Configuration Monitor.