

PC2Flop and Flop2PC

(for Tarbell Single Density Controller in an Altair)

PC2Flop writes a SSSD soft-sectored 8" floppy with a disk image transmitted from a PC. The image is transmitted through a 2SIO at I/O address 010h or 12h, or an SIO at address 0, using the XMODEM protocol. Flop2PC does the opposite and transmits an image of a SSSD soft-sectored 8" floppy to a PC.

These programs talk directly to the Tarbell controller and do not require CP/M or an OS to function.

Since this is a soft sectored controller, PC2Flop requires the destination disk to have been formatted at some point. To allow PC2Flop to create a new disk for a "cold" machine, it offers a format disk option.

These programs run standalone at 0x100 or under CP/M. Any type of disk can be read or written even if running under CP/M. Disk images are available on the deramp.com website where this file was found.

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. A stand alone Intel hex loader that can be run from PROM is available at http://deramp.com/downloads/altair/software/roms/updated_roms.

When copying a disk image to the PC (Flop2PC), the program attempts several retries, including restoring the track both from zero and from past the current track. 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.