

# **USER MANUAL**

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## **MODEL 378P** Parallel Scanning Data Switch



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Part# 07M378P-A  
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## FEATURES LISTING

- **FULLY AUTOMATIC SCANNING** No operator controls, codes or switches are required.
- **"LOCK-ON" MANUAL SELECTION.** Users can override auto scanning to manually select ports and gain exclusive printer use.
- **256K INPUT BUFFER.** Unit will scan new ports while printing a document in memory from another PC.
- **LED's FOR EVERY PORT.** Red indicators show scanning in process and which port is printing.
- **VARIABLE TIME OUTS.** The user can select how long the switch waits between characters before it assumes the end of a document and resumes scanning.
- **MEMORY CLEAR BUTTON.** Convenient push button erases the buffer's memory.
- **VERY EASY TO USE AND INSTALL.** No complex set-up procedure, just connect the PC's and the Printer and it's ready to operate.

## DESCRIPTION

The Model 378 Parallel Scanning Switch is a simple way for any number of Personal Computers (2,3,4,5,6,7 or 8) to share a single parallel printer.

Here's how it works! The fully automatic scanner looks at each port, waiting for one of the PC's to send data. When data is sent from a PC to the 378, it is immediately loaded into the buffer and the printer begins to output. The unit resumes scanning for another PC sending data as soon as the first PC has finished entering data into the buffer. LED's on each of the PC ports lets you see the scanning action and observe when a PC has gained access to the printer.

The automatic scanning can be disabled to allow manual switching using a "manual step" button on the 378. This allows a single user to gain exclusive, uninterrupted use of the printer. Also, a convenient "buffer clear" button will let you erase the buffer's memory at will.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

**Interface:** Centronics/ IBM Parallel

### Scanning Priorities:

**Manual** - Step through operation by operator push button.

**Rotate** - The Model 378 continues scan after time-out, with the next in line.

**Linear** - The Model 378 returns to port 1 and continues to scan after time-out.

### Controls:

**Power** - On/Off

**Scan Mode** - Manual, Rotate & Linear

**Buffer Clear** - "Zaps" Buffer Contents

**Time Out** - 2, 8 or 30 Seconds

**Time Out:** Amount of time from last byte received until scanning resumes may be 2, 8 or 30 seconds.

**Buffer Options:** None, 64K, 128K or 256K.

### Indicators:

- **8 LEDs** monitor scanning operation. Glows steady when data is being transmitted to the 378 and from the 378 on the respective computer and printer ports.

- **1 LED** Blinking indicates that it is the next port to be scanned. The port LEDs flicker with data transmission.

- All 8 LEDs blink if a RAM failure is detected.

**Word Length:** 8 Bits

**Connectors:** DB-25 Female

**Power:** 9V DC, Wallmount transformer included.

**Scanning Rate:** Scans all 8 ports each second.

**Size:** 10"W x 5"D x 1"H

## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **A) CONNECTING THE CABLES!!**

1) Connect the printer to the Model 378 using a standard IBM PC Parallel Cable with DB-25 on one end and Centronics 36-Pin on the other. Order Patton Part Number 10-15/PC for our 15ft version.

2) Connect the computers to the Model 378 using standard DB-25 male to male cables with all 25 conductors wired straight through. Order Patton Part Number 10-X/25/25MM where X is the length of the cable.

### **B) CONFIGURING THE SWITCH.**

1) Set the "SCANNING PRIORITY" for Manual, Rotate or Linear Priority.

a) In "MANUAL" mode, the switch will not automatically scan. You must use the "STEP" button to manually switch from one port to another.

b) In "ROTATE" mode, each device connected to the printer has an equal priority, that is after the Model 378 has received a document it automatically begins scanning again starting with the next port.

c) In "LINEAR" mode, the port number represents a priority level where port number one has the highest priority for output to the printer and port number eight has the lowest priority. In this mode, each time the Model 378 connects to a port for printing it returns to port one and resumes scanning from there to give priority in descending order from port number one.

2) Set the "TIME OUT" for 2, 8 or 30 seconds. The "time out" is the amount of time the scanner waits after receiving its last byte before it resumes scanning.

3) Turn the "POWER" switch to the "ON" position and you are ready to operate. Note: Be sure to plug in the 9V wallmount transformer into a standard power outlet.

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