

(FOR TI 99/4A)

# YOUR IMPORTANT FIRST STEP . . .

## AN INTRODUCTION TO OSCAR AND BAR CODE SCANNING

CONGRATULATIONS! Using OSCAR to "read" or scan Bar Code Software puts you on the cutting edge of technology and lets you get the most use from your computer at the most affordable price. In addition, you'll find that Databar is adding to the usefulness and entertainment value of software with a familiar printed product: a colorful, informative magazine. Read "The World of OSCAR" in Databar Magazine for more about this unique merging of a magazine and software.

Before using the magazine's software and the other programs in this kit, you'll want to learn how to make OSCAR scan bar code lines quickly. That's the purpose of this brochure. You'll find several practice steps on the next three pages.

### ABOUT DATABAR SOFTWARE

The programs in the Premier Issue of Databar Magazine are much like the short printed programs in magazines that require many minutes of typing to enter. But, as you become skilled at using OSCAR after a little practice, you'll find that you can enter our programs in only a few minutes.

The content of these first magazine programs is designed to introduce you to the eight topics of future fun and useful Databar Magazine software. Beginning with the first monthly issue of the magazine, you'll find colorful and comprehensive programs that will provide hours of whole family use and enjoyment. You'll want to save many of these future programs on blank cassettes or diskettes, if your computer has the right accessories.

We've also included samples of some of the reasonably-priced Databar software programs you'll find for sale in your favorite retail store. Longer, enhanced bar code software programs also are available. You will want to add some of these to your collection of great Databar software.

**Now turn the page and practice using your new OSCAR!**

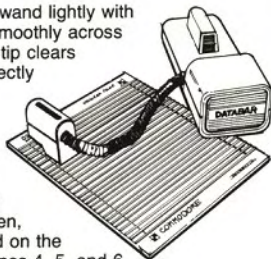


# DATABAR

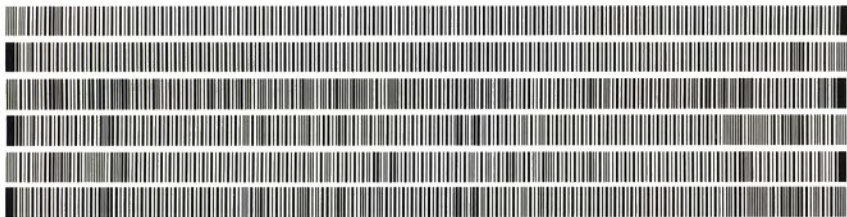
# PRACTICE USING OSCAR

The following instructions are designed to be used with the bar code on the opposite page, to give you some practice in using OSCAR before you attempt to enter an actual computer program. Follow these instructions:

1. Open the black OSCAR User's Manual booklet to page 4 and follow the instructions to install batteries in OSCAR.
2. The first three lines of bar code on the opposite page will allow you to practice using OSCAR and recognize the audible signals necessary to scan bar code. These signals are:
  - Line 1 - ERROR Prompt - An audible "buzz" tone that indicates an unsuccessful scan.
  - Line 2 - END OF LINE Prompt - A high-pitched "beep" tone indicating you have scanned the line correctly.
  - Line 3 - END OF LINE AND ENTER NEXT LINE Prompts - Two high-pitched "beep" tones indicating you have scanned the line correctly and may go on to scan the next line. These two prompts follow each other quickly. However, when scanning actual programs, there will be a short delay between the two after every few lines.
3. Place the grooved plastic piece (called a template) over the six lines of bar code on the opposite page, positioning the top six slots in the template over the lines, with equal white space at both ends of the lines.
4. With batteries installed but WITHOUT connecting OSCAR to your computer, pick up the small gray box (wand) marked OSCAR. A high-pitched beep will sound, and the red light next to the word OSCAR should light up (indicating OSCAR is powered up and ready to go). Note: If this does not occur, push the little black button on the large Databar box.
5. Place the wand tip on the left edge of the top slot (see illustration).
6. Grasp the lower rear area of the sides of the wand lightly with the thumb and index finger. Move the wand smoothly across the line of bar code from left to right until the tip clears the end of the line. Then slip the wand tip directly down into the second slot, and slide the wand right to left across the second bar code line. Then drop down to line three and scan from left to right again.  
  
With each of the lines scanned, OSCAR should generate the audible tones mentioned above for lines 1, 2, and 3. If that didn't happen, review the "Tips for Effective Scanning" listed on the following page. Then keep practicing, using lines 4, 5, and 6.



# SCANNING PRACTICE SHEET



## TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SCANNING

- Move the wand smoothly across the bar code lines.
- Maintain a constant speed as you scan across the line. And make sure you don't slow down or stop before the tip has cleared the end of the line.
- Experiment with different scanning speeds. You may be scanning too quickly, or more commonly, you may be moving the wand too slowly.
- Make certain the tip of the wand is lightly touching the bar code.
- DO NOT put downward pressure on the wand tip; grasp the sides of the wand lightly with the thumb and index finger. (See the photo on the front cover of the Databar Magazine for a good visual model of how to hold the OSCAR wand.)
- Use the template to practice scanning, and, if you wish, set the template aside and scan the bar code "free hand." Experiment with which method works easier for you, using or not using the template.
- Quickly complete the steps between scanning the first and second bar code lines. If you wait too long, OSCAR or your computer may "time out."

**Problems? Call our customer service department toll-free at  
1-800-672-2776 (612-944-5700 in Minnesota).**

# SCANNING A SHORT BAR CODE PROGRAM

Now that you've learned how to use OSCAR, let's actually enter and run the short bar code program printed below. Connect OSCAR to your computer with the cable, following the instructions on pages 5 and 6 of the User's Manual. Then follow the loading instructions below for both the practice program and actual programs. **NOTE: Disregard the loading instructions on page 10 of the User's Manual. Recent improvements in OSCAR make those instructions inaccurate.**

## TI 99/4A

1. Turn on your computer and scan the first bar code line successfully, getting the End of Line and Enter Next Line beeps. Leave the wand in place at the end of the line, or set it down next to the page. The screen will read:

**READY. PRESS ANY KEY TO  
BEGIN.**

2. Press any key. The screen will read:

**PRESS  
1 FOR TI BASIC**

3. Press the 1 key. The screen will read:

**TI BASIC READY**

4. Type:

**OLD CS1**

5. Press the ENTER key. The screen will read:

**\*REWIND CASSETTE TAPE  
CS1 THEN PRESS ENTER**

6. Press ENTER. The screen will add:

**PRESS CASSETTE PLAY CS1  
THEN PRESS ENTER**

7. Press ENTER. The screen will add:

**\*READING**

8. Place the wand to the right of the second line of bar code, and scan it successfully, right to left. Continue scanning the remainder of the bar code lines in the program. After every two lines, there will be a short delay between the End of Line and Enter Next Line beeps.

9. After you've successfully scanned the last bar code line, the screen will add:

**\*DATA OK  
\*PRESS CASSETTE STOP  
CS1  
THEN PRESS ENTER**

Return the wand to its cradle.

10. Press ENTER. Wait for the > symbol to appear on the bottom of the screen. Then type:

**RUN**

and press ENTER to start the program.

