

## 6. DISK INPUT AND OUTPUT

You already worked with disk files when you saved and loaded programs in Chapter. 1. This chapter deals with disk data files. Advan BASIC uses essentially the same file structure as ATARI DOS 2.0; you can use that DOS to copy files, delete files, rename files, etc. The Advan disk commands, however, differ from those used by ATARI BASIC.

### OPEN

Before you can work with any disk file, you must first give an OPEN command. Here is the general format:

OPEN stringexpression,integerexpression,stringexpression

The stringexpression immediately following the OPEN command must be I, O, A, or R.

I--inputs data only from the file to the computer

O--outputs data only from the computer to the file. If a file with the same name already exists on the disk, using an O will destroy that file. If you want to add to a file, use A (append).

A--sends data from the computer and adds it to the file specified in the file name.

R--opens a file in the so-called random mode. I, O, and A are essentially sequential modes. They transfer data only in sequence, from the beginning to the end. In the R mode, however, you can get and put data anywhere in the file. Unfortunately, the ATARI disk format makes the R mode somewhat difficult to use; more on that later in the chapter.

The integerexpression is used to assign a channel number to the file. This number must be 0, 1, 2, or 3. All the other Advan BASIC commands use this channel number when working with the file. Note that two files may not have the same file number simultaneously.

The last stringexpression gives the filename, which has three parts:

1. A 'D' followed by the disk number (1 to 4) that the file is on or will be on, and then a colon. If the file is on disk 1, you can omit this part.
2. The main file name, which must be 1 to 8 characters long.
3. An optional filename extension, which is a period followed by 1 to 3 characters.

The following are valid file names: ADDFIL ADDFIL.DAT D3:BETA

D2:NEWFILE1.C13

The following are legal OPEN statements: OPEN "I",0%,"ALPHA.DAT"

OPEN "O",1%,"D2:B"      OPEN "R",3%,"C.DT"      OPEN "A",2%,"D3:BETAONEA.FIL"