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**We are Friendly People**

## SHOULD YOU DOUBLE-SIDE YOUR NOTEBOOK PAPER?

by Reggie Ramloose

The good news is that, due to the rising sales of computers, the price of diskettes is falling. The bad news is that the near future is likely to bring higher prices for paper supplies. However, if you still use the old No. 2 bonded lead word processor, I have some useful information: you can double side your notebook paper!

Although paper manufacturers only certify the "front side" of a piece of paper, it is a little-known fact that the back side is capable of holding the same amount of written information. You, too, can use the back side of your paper, but before you do, I must inform you that there are mixed feelings about doing so.

Paper manufacturers are quick to warn that writing on the back side can cause problems for the data on both sides of the paper, and will not honor warranties if the back side has been used. The biggest problem is "write-through". This occurs if the wrong pencil or pen is used, or if too much pressure is applied during the writing process. There is a problem with standardization, also, with some users turning the paper upside-down when writing on the back, and others leaving it right-side-up (If the paper is held upside down during the reading process, it will be in the wrong orientation to the "head", and a read error will occur). Also, many public school teachers, publishers, and governmental officials frown upon the practice of using the back of the paper, and will not accept material if both sides of the paper have been used.

Students and other paper users, however, claim that they have used the backs of many thousands of pages with little or no loss of data. A few go so far as to claim that there is a conspiracy among paper manufacturers, merchandisers, and public officials to discourage the use of the backs.

You must yourself decide if you will use the back side of your paper. But if you decide to give it a go, here's how:

Look at a sheet of paper. You can tell the front by several methods. First, the row of alignment holes goes toward the left. Secondly, the watermark can be read if you hold the paper up to a light. To double-side a sheet, turn it over. Examine the back, looking especially for obvious flaws and defects. If the overall appearance is satisfactory, then with a ruler and pen mark locations on the left side corresponding to the holes which are now on the right side (You should try this initially with paper containing no valuable data). Use a regular hole-punch to make the holes (You can purchase one at a department store, but I don't recommend that you tell them what you intend to use it for).

Your paper is now double-sided. Good luck, if you decide to try it.