ASHTON-TATE REMOVES COPY PROTECTION FROM MASTER-GRAPHICS SERIES

TORRANCE, Calif., April 2, 1987 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation today announced the removal of copy protection from its MASTER-GRAPHICS Series of business graphics software.

Copy protection has been removed from Ashton-Tate's CHART-MASTER, DIAGRAM-MASTER, MAP-MASTER and SIGN-MASTER. Ashton-Tate's other products, including dBASE III PLUS, Framework II, RapidFile and the MultiMate line of word processing products, are already non-copy protected.

"Last August, we announced removal of copy protection from all of our products for all of our customers. Now that we have acquired Decision Resources and consolidated the MASTER-GRAPHICS Series into our product line, we are removing copy protection from these products as well," said Roy E. Folk, executive vice president and general manager of the Software Products Division.

New non-copy protected versions of the MASTER-GRAPHICS Series began shipping today in packages containing both 3 1/2- and 5 1/4-inch disks. The new, non-copy protected versions of CHART-MASTER and MAP-MASTER also include program enhancements.

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CHART-MASTER, the flagship product in the MASTER-GRAPHICS Series, allows users to create presentation-quality bar, area, scatter and pie charts, and line graphs. Major benefits and new features of CHART-MASTER Version 6.21 (also included in Version 6.20) include:

o   Multiple Chart Plotting. Users with a hard disk are now able to store charts created with CHART-MASTER, and set up a list that will batch-plot these charts unattended. Also, plotter speed has been increased.

o   Floating Labels and Symbols. CHART-MASTER now enables users to highlight important information anywhere on a chart with explanatory text and graphics symbols.

o   Improved DataGrabber Feature. The enhanced DataGrabber feature is able to import up to 700 rows of data.

o   Versatility With New Devices. CHART-MASTER now directly supports additional devices, including HP 7510A film recorders and the Calcomp ColorMaster, a thermal printer.

MAP-MASTER is the first full-function mapping software product that allows business users to create vivid, presentation-quality, data-driven maps for use in reports, overheads and slides. Users can view data by country, state, county, ZIP code, Designated Market Area (DMA), Area of Dominant Influence (ADI), or define their own custom regions.

The enhancements to MAP-MASTER Version 6.01 include an improved DataGrabber feature for importing files created in a spreadsheet or database program, and a feature that will allow MAP-MASTER data to be exported from spreadsheet and database programs via ASCII files.

The non-copy protected versions of the MASTER-GRAPHICS Series will be available at the company's more than 5,500 authorized dealers at their new suggested retail prices, which reflect the addition of 3 1/2-inch disks in each package. CHART-MASTER has a suggested retail price of $395; DIAGRAM-MASTER, $365; MAP-MASTER, $415; and SIGN-MASTER, $265.

Registered owners of the most recent version of MASTER-GRAPHICS products purchased on or before April 1, 1987 can upgrade to non-copy protected 5 1/4-inch versions for $25. All registered users of CHART-MASTER Version 6.20 will automatically be sent upgrades to Version 6.21 free of charge. Any users who have purchased SIGN-MASTER, DIAGRAM-MASTER or MAP-MASTER after January 1, 1987, and registered the product, will automatically receive upgrades free of charge. Those who purchased the products after April 1 can upgrade to non-copy protected 5 1/4-inch versions at no charge. All registered owners can upgrade to non-copy protected 3 1/2-inch versions for $35.

Unregistered users can call 1-800-367-8126 for further information.

Ashton-Tate also announced today it has begun shipping software products that are compatible with IBM Corporation's new Personal System/2 line of personal computers.

Ashton-Tate markets leading products in four major categories: database management systems, with dBASE III PLUS and RapidFile; word processing, with the MultiMate product line; graphics, with the MASTER-GRAPHICS Series; and integrated software, with Framework II.

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As part of its Systems, Service and Information Division
(SSID), Ashton-Tate also markets comprehensive support and service
programs for individual users and corporations, including the
Custom Support Plan and the Corporate Support and Services
Program.

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