

NetMate

An ANSI graphic terminal program for the
Tandy Color Computer 3

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Table of Contents

Preface:	4
What is NetMate?	4
Using NetMate:	5
Configuring NetMate	6
Multi-Pak options	6
Telecomm Device	6
Modem type	7
Baud Rate -	7
Terminal Type	7
Word Size	7
Parity	7
Stop Bits	7
Keypad mode	8
Local Echo	8
Local Line Feeds	8
Line Wrap	8
Audio	8
Data Drive	8
Monochrome	8
Saving NetMate's configuration	8
Phonebooks / Dialers	9
Accessing NetMate's Phonebooks	9
Adding / modifying entries	9
Save COMM settings to an entry	9
Dial an Entry	9
Delete an Entry	9
Auto-dial / War-dial feature	9
Marking an Entry	9
Start Auto-Dial	9
Buffer commands	10
Capture	10
Read	10

Load.....	10
Save.....	11
Erase.....	11
File Transfers.....	11
Downloading.....	11
Uploading.....	12
Disconnecting from a host.....	13
Exiting NetMate	13
MatchBox CoCo.....	13
Status bar	13
Baud Rate.....	13
Troubleshooting.....	14

Preface:

NetMate was originally designed and written in the early 1990s for the Tandy Color Computer 3. Throughout the years much of the original source code was either lost and / or were on damaged / unreadable diskettes. At some point NetMate was written for use with CoCo 3s with the 6309 processor only. In recent years, NetMate has been rebuilt, bugs addressed, features added and the 6309 processor requirements has been removed to where NetMate 1.0 has been released.

What is NetMate?

NetMate is an ANSI graphic terminal application for the Tandy Color Computer 3 and also the Matchbox CoCo. NetMate can use a RS-232 pak, ZiModem / Wireless, or the "Forgotten Chip" upgrade to connect to hosts using either a Hayes compatible modem or telnet. At this time NetMate does not work with modems connected to the bit banger port on the Color Computer.

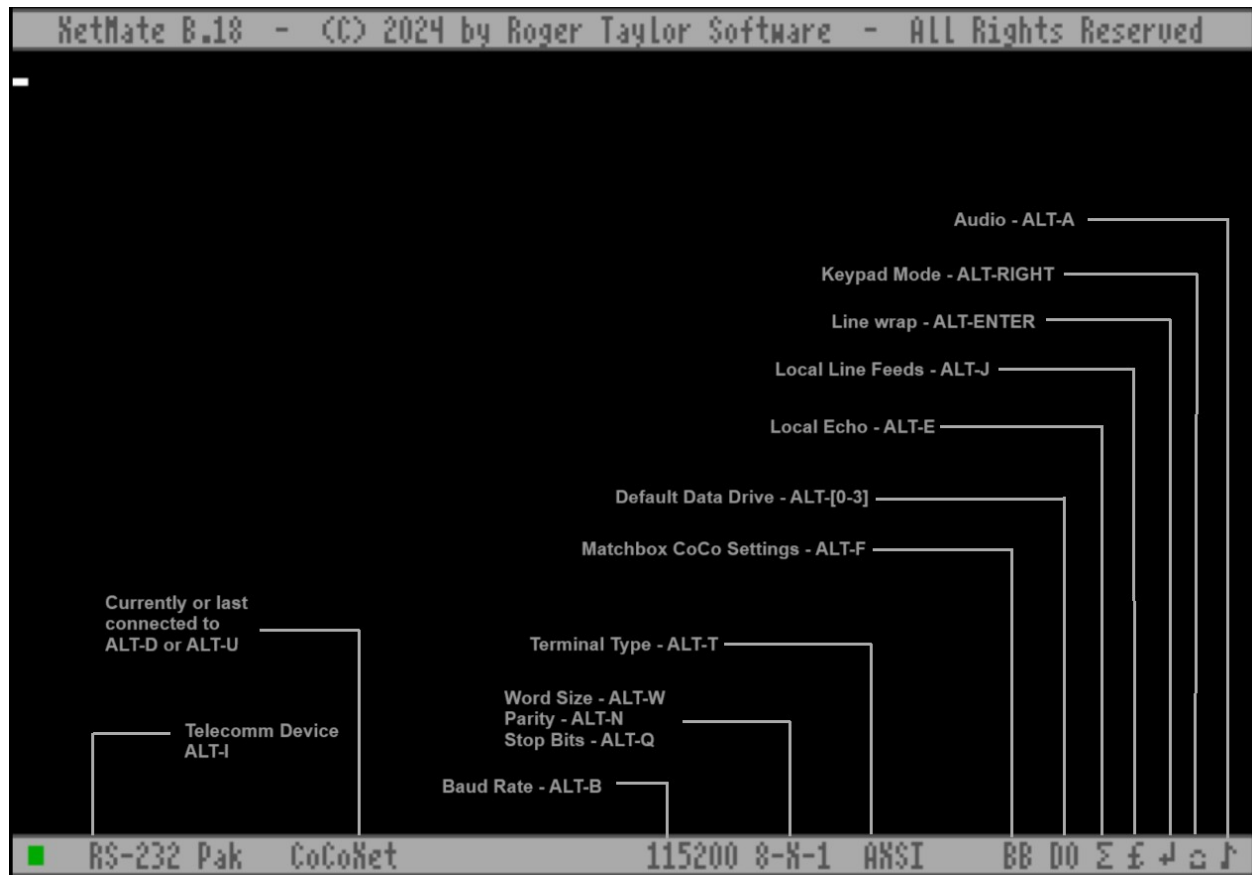
NetMate can use TTY, ANSI, VT-100 or VT-52 terminal types.

Using NetMate:

To load NetMate, insert disk or select the NETMATE.DSK file from the SDC menu. Type LOADM "NET.BIN". NetMate will auto execute, there is no need to add ":exec" to the end of the LOADM command.

```
      *   N E T M A T E   *  
    COPYRIGHT (C) 1991-2024  
      BY ROGER TAYLOR  
    ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
  FOR THE 512K+ COLOR COMPUTER  
  
  TO BOOT WITH DEFAULT CONFIG  
    HOLD DOWN SHIFT KEY  
  
  WWW.PAYPAL.ME/ROGERTAYLOR  
  
  . . . . LOADING . . . .
```

After NetMate loads, the status bar will be filled with icons. The image below describes each piece of the status bar.



Configuring NetMate

[Multi-Pak options](#) – Press ALT-M to configure the setup of the Multi-Pak slots. Although it is recommended to have the Floppy Disk Controller (FDC) or the Secure Digital Card Controller (SDC) in slot 4 and the Telecomm device in slot 1, NetMate can be configured in anyway the Multi-Pak is setup.

[Telecomm Device](#) - ALT-I opens Telecomm Device options. Telecomm Device options are:

- Deluxe RS-232 Pak
- Direct Connect Modem Pak
- 'Forgotten Chip' Upgrade.

Modem type - Press ALT-Y to choose which Modem type will be used. Modem Types options are:

- Standard / Hayes
- MisTer FPGA
- ZiModem / WIFI Modem

Baud Rate - Select ALT-B to choose the baud rate for the connected Telecomm Device. In most cases it is important to select the same baud rate as that configured with the connected Telecomm Device. With different baud rate selected between NetMate and the Telecomm device, unreadable graphics will appear in the terminal window.

The following settings will be determined by the host NetMate is connecting to

Terminal Type - Change the Terminal Type using ALT-T. The Terminal Type is displayed on the status bar. Choose from the following:

- TTY
- ANSI
- VT-100
- VT-52

Word Size, Parity and Stop Bits are displayed on the status bar together separated by a dashes

Word Size can be changed using ALT-W to either 7 or 8.

Parity setting can be changed using ALT-N. NetMate will cycle through the following:

- N – None
- O – Odd
- E – Even
- M – Mark
- S – Space

Stop Bits can be changed from either 1 or 2 using ALT-Q

Keypad mode. In ANSI mode this sends different codes for some keys such as the arrows. Sometimes it is required to choose menu items or play games. This is a feature of the VT-100 type terminals. This feature can be toggled on or off using ALT-RIGHT

Local Echo - Toggle Local Echo using ALT-E. Local echo, echoes the key strokes to the terminal window. If this setting is needed and not turned on, the terminal windows will not display any typed characters. If this setting is turned on when it is not needed, double characters will be displayed on the terminal. Ex: NNeettMMaattee

Local Line Feeds - Toggle Local Line Feeds using ALT-J. Local line feeds add a LF to the end of each line. If this setting is needed and not turned on, all text and graphics will display on a single line, overwriting existing characters. If Local Line Feeds are turned on and not needed, an extra / blank line will be displayed between each line of text or graphics.

Line Wrap - Toggle Line Wrap using ALT-ENTER. In most cases this is handled by the host that NetMate is connected to. In the event it is not this can be enabled. There is no side effects if Line Wrap is enabled and the host connected to handles the Line Wrap.

Audio for file transfers can be enabled and disabled using ALT-A. NetMate will play a sound after a successful file transfer with audio enabled.

For many of today's telnet BBS's the following setting will usually work:

- Terminal Type - ANSI
- Word Size – 8
- Parity – None
- Stop Bits – 1
- Keypad mode – Disabled
- Local Echo – Disabled
- Local Line Feeds – Disabled

Data Drive

Choose the default Data Drive using ALT-[#] where # is 0 - 3. The default data drive is displayed on the right hand side of the status bar as a **D#**, where the # is the drive selected.

Monochrome

ALT-V toggles monochrome mode on and off

Saving NetMate's configuration and settings

Using ALT-Z will save the configuration and settings for the next time NetMate is launched. The settings are saved to file on disk called CONFIG.SYS

Phonebooks / Dialers

Accessing NetMate's Phonebooks

NetMate has two phonebooks that are accessed using either ALT-D or ALT-U.

ALT-D uses the file AUTO1.DIR on NetMate's disk to store host entries. It has been pre-populated, mostly with BBS's that have been in service for several years.

ALT-U uses the file AUTO2.DIR on NetMate's disk to store host entries. This phonebook does not come pre-populated.

Adding / modifying entries in the phonebook

Using the arrow keys select the entry to add to or modify.

Press N to change the name of the entry

U to change the phone number or URL of the host that will be contacted

[Save COMM settings to an entry](#) Press S to save the COMM setting currently set at the terminal to the phonebook entry. Settings that are saved are the following: Baud rate, Terminal Type, Word Size, Parity, Stop Bits, Keypad Mode, Local Echo, Local Line Feeds, Line Wrap, and Audio. The COMM settings saved are those currently configured in the Terminal and not necessarily what is saved in NetMate's configuration. Each entry can have its own configuration parameters, these settings will be used when that entry is dialed.

[Dial an Entry](#) - Press ENTER to dial a phonebook entry

[Delete an Entry](#) - Press the CLEAR key to [delete a phonebook entry](#)

Auto-dial / War-dial feature

[Marking an Entry](#) - Press M to mark a site to be added to the auto-dial. When done selecting all entries to be dialed

[Start Auto-Dial](#) - Press SPACE to start the auto-dial. Once a site has been connected to, the auto-dial is canceled. If no entries are marked and the spacebar is pressed, the auto-dial will cycle through all entries, including blank entries looking for an entry to dial. The auto-dial can be exited with the BREAK key.

Note this feature does not work as expected when a URL connection cannot be connected to.

Buffer commands

Capture

ALT-C turns buffer capture on or off. When capture mode is enabled, the cursor turns to a flashing block -- █, when capture mode is off the cursor is a flashing underscore -- _. When capture mode is enabled, anything being sent to the terminal window is captured into NetMate's buffer until capture mode is turned off.

Read

ALT-R displays what is already in the buffer or can display the contents of an existing file on a disk. Pressing ALT-R will show the Read File dialog box.



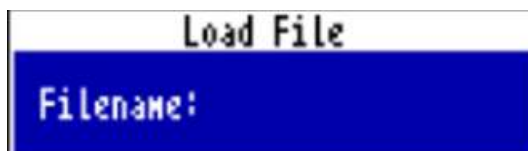
Pressing ENTER without a filename, NetMate will display the contents of the buffer.

A file can also be displayed onto NetMate's terminal by typing the file name in the Read File dialog box. EX: HELP.TXT:0 If the drive designation is omitted the data drive that is currently set is assumed.

Pressing any key will pause the scrolling display and pressing any key again will resume the scrolling display.

Load

A file can be loaded into NetMate's buffer using ALT-L and typing a file name in the Load File dialog box. EX: HELP.TXT:0 If the drive designation is omitted the data drive that is currently set is assumed.



Save

To save the contents of the buffer, use ALT-S. Type the name of the file name in the Save File dialog box. EX: MYBUFFER.ASC:0 If the drive designation is omitted the data drive that is currently set is assumed.



Erase

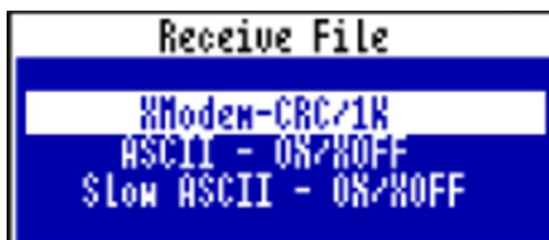
To erase everything in the buffer, use ALT-K.

File Transfers

NetMate transfers files using one of three protocols, XModem, ASCII and Slow ASCII. The XModem protocol can use either the original XModem or the XModem CRC / 1K.

Downloading

Press ALT-DOWN to begin receiving a file from a host. When ALT-DOWN is pressed, the protocol menu is displayed to choose which protocol to be used to receive the file.



After choosing the protocol, the Filename dialog box appears.



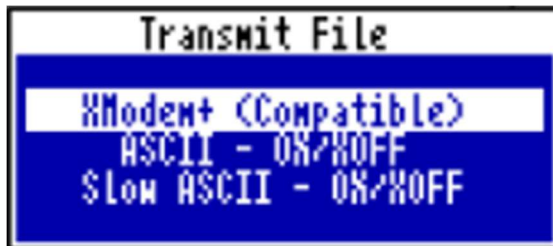
When downloading a file using NetMate, the downloaded file can be stored either in NetMate's buffer or saved to the disk.

To capture the downloaded file to NetMate's buffer, press ENTER without a filename in the Filename dialog box.

To save the downloaded file to disk, type the name of the file and press enter. EX: DOWNLOAD.FIL:0 If the drive designation is omitted the data drive that is currently set is assumed.

Uploading

Press ALT-UP to begin sending a file to the host. When ALT-UP is pressed, the protocol menu is displayed to choose which protocol to be used to send the file.



After choosing the protocol, the Filename dialog box appears.



When uploading using NetMate, what is uploaded can either be what is already in the buffer or an existing file on disk.

To send what is already in NetMate's buffer, press ENTER at the Filename dialog box to begin sending the contents of the buffer to the host.

To send a file on disk, type the name of the file and press ENTER. EX: UPLOAD.FIL:0 If the drive designation is omitted the data drive that is currently set is assumed.

Disconnecting from a host

To hang up the modem use ALT-H. This will almost always disconnect from a telnet connected host too.

Cutting the DTR signal can be accomplished with ALT-G

Exiting NetMate

Use ALT-X to exit NetMate

MatchBox CoCo

The MatchBox CoCo can communicate using either the HC-06 or ESP8266. Use ALT-F to configure NetMate to work with the Matchbox CoCo



Status bar - The status bar shows how the Matchbox CoCo will communicate. Matchbox status bar key:

- HC – HC-06
- ES – ESP8266
- UH – User Header
- BB – Bitbanger / HC-06 / ESP8266 Bridge Mode

Baud Rate - Change the baud rate of the HC-06 using ALT-O

Troubleshooting

If when starting NetMate, the application locks up or crashes the computer. The most common cause for this is the saved configuration is different than the current configuration. To resolve this, while loading NetMate, hold down the shift key, then reconfigure the setup. Alternatively, the CONFIG.SYS file can be deleted to achieve the same results.