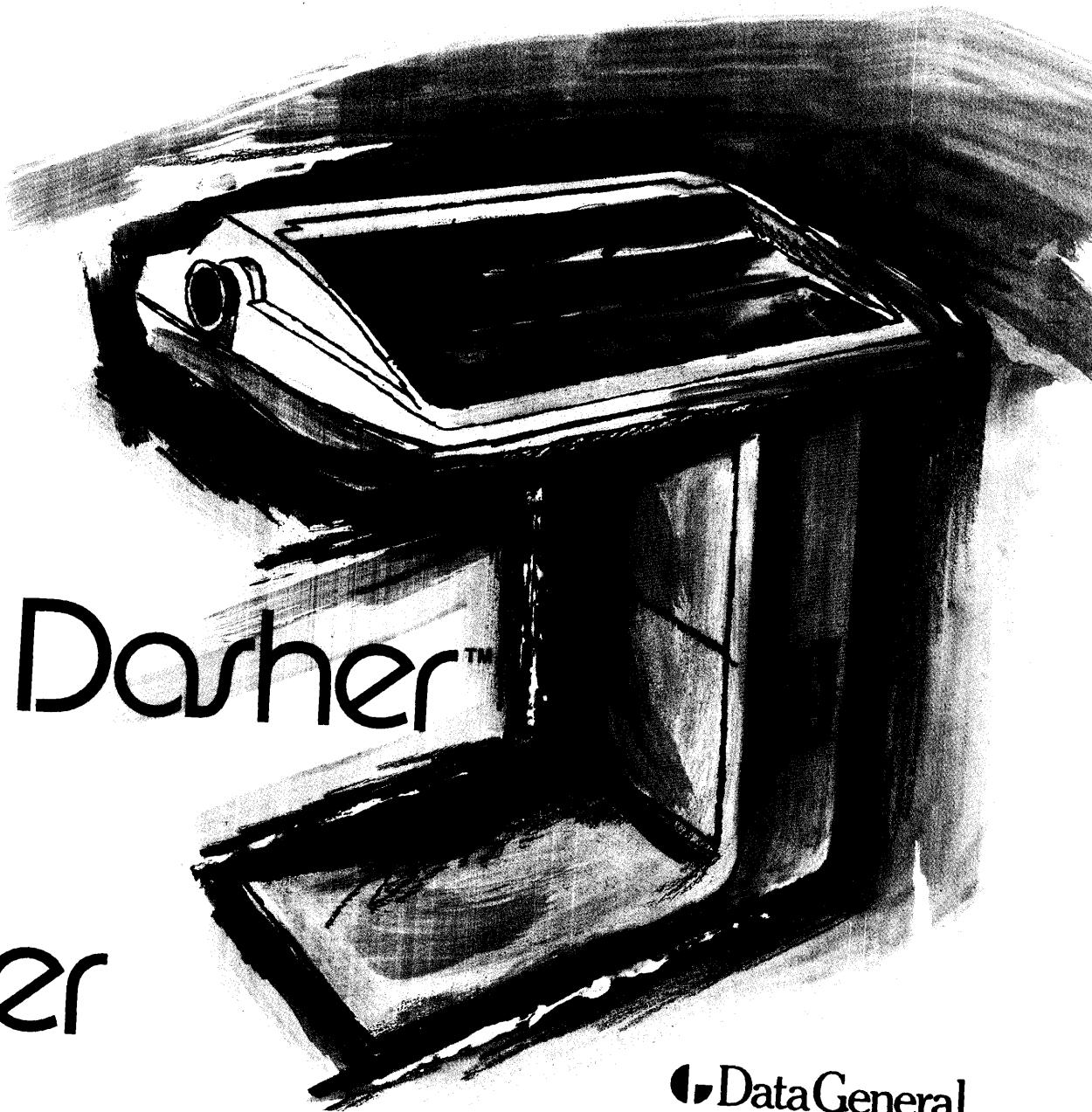


# The Dasher™ TP1 Printer



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# The Dasher™ TP1 Printer

**055-028-00**

A Small Business Systems Publication

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**Data General Corporation, Westboro, Mass. 01580**

## THE BUSINESS USER'S SERIES

*Documents in the Business User's Series are designed to accompany Data General CS hardware. Each one explains how to operate and care for the equipment named. You'll want to keep them near your equipment for handy reference.*

TITLE	ORDER NUMBER
THE DISK DRIVE	055-024
THE CARTRIDGE DISK DRIVE	055-025
THE MAGNETIC TAPE DRIVE	055-027
THE DASHER™ TP1 PRINTER	055-028
THE DASHER™ LP2 PRINTER	055-029
THE LINE PRINTER	055-030

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## **FEATURES**

**Speed:** 30 or 60 characters-per-second

**Type:** Upper- and lowercase characters at 10 characters per inch

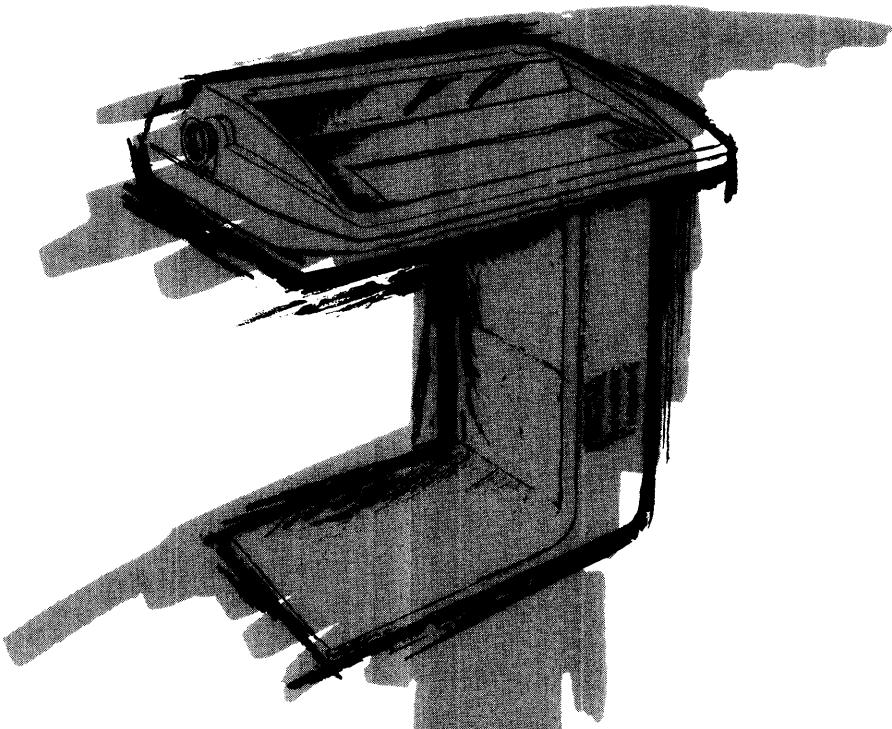
**Line Length:** Up to 132 characters

**Page Length:** From 1 to 99 lines

**Page Width:** From 4 inches (10.1 cm) to 15 inches (38.1 cm)

**Multi-part Forms  
and Copies:** 1-6 copies printed simultaneously

**Optional Features:** Automatic Form Feed which can be set for varying form lengths

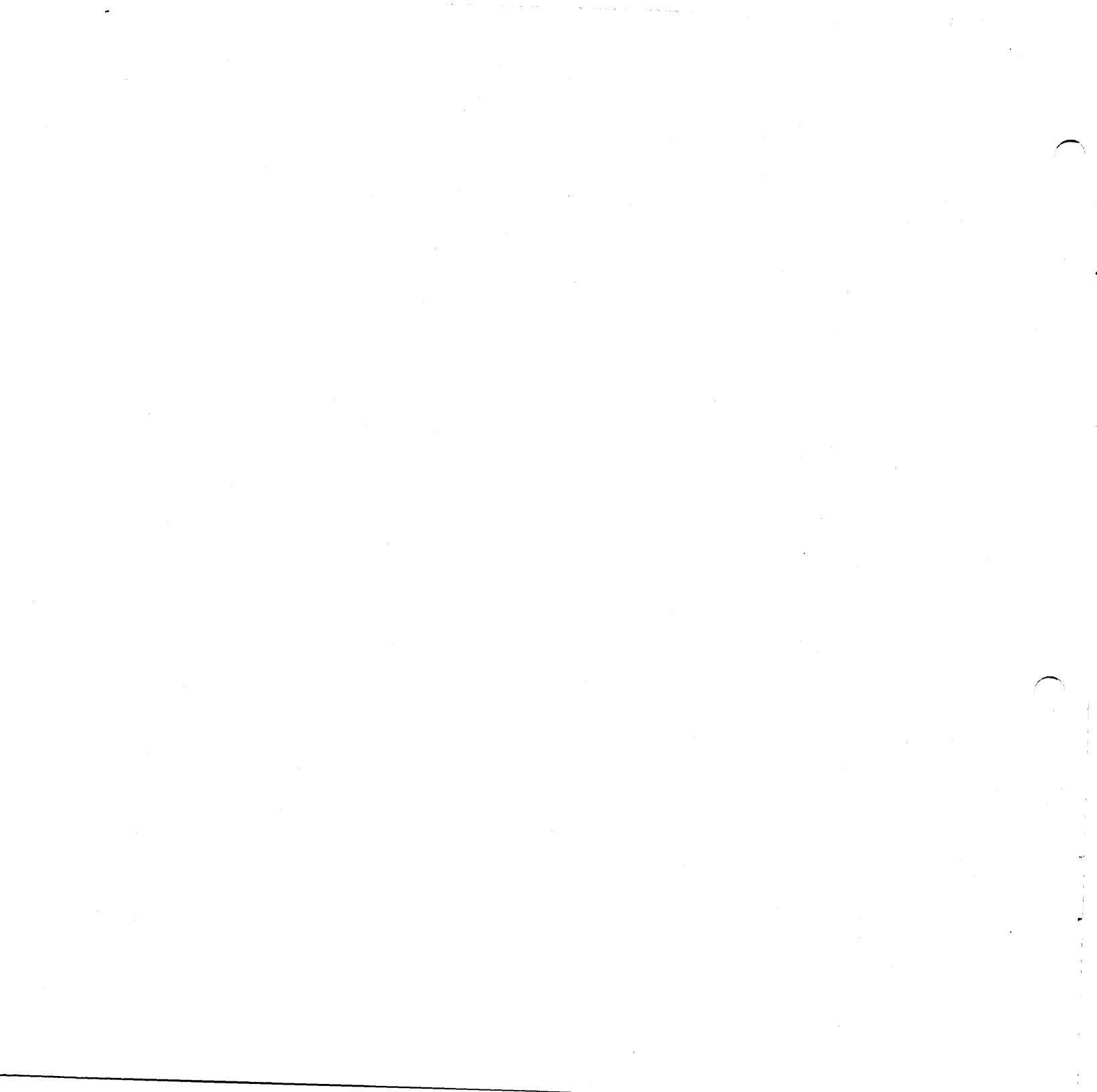


## THE DASHER™ TP1 PRINTER

The DASHER™ TP1 Printer prints reports or other documents generated by the computer and can be used with any of the CS Commercial Systems.

It is easy and convenient to use.

This manual explains how to operate the DASHER™ TP1 Printer, how to keep it in peak operating condition, and how to correct some of the common problems that can arise while it is operating.

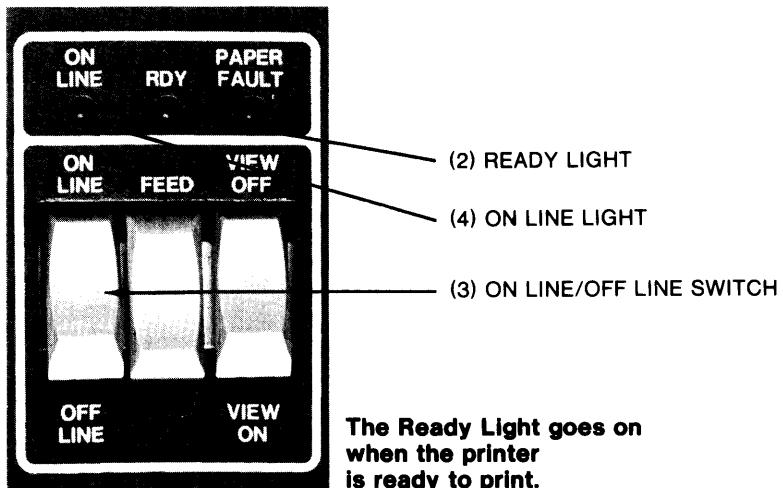


# 1. OPERATING PROCEDURES

Operating the DASHER™ TP1 Printer is easy. Fold out the back cover of this manual while you study the procedures for operating it. Note that each part of the printer is numbered on the diagram. When the text refers to that part, it will give its number to help you locate it on the diagram.

## Preparing the Printer

1. **Turn the Printer On.** When ready to start printing, first be sure that the computer is turned on. Then press the On/Off switch on the pedestal (1) to the On position. After about five seconds, the Ready light (2) will go on. If it does *not* go on, refer to the "Troubleshooting Guide" for instructions.

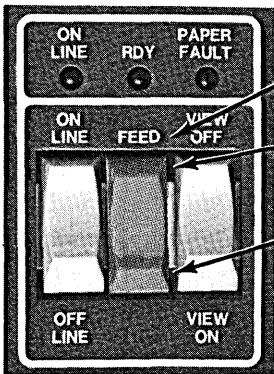


### NOTE

If the printer has already been turned on, make sure that it is switched off line so that it is disconnected from the computer and can't do any printing. The printer must always be off line before you adjust it in any way.

When you finish working with the printer, always be sure to press the On Line switch (3) to reconnect it to the computer so that it can begin printing when instructed to do so. When the printer is on line, the On Line light (4) will go on.

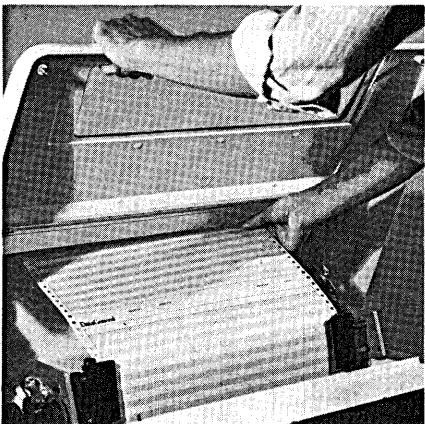
- 2. Check the Paper.** Raise the cover by lifting up on the lower edge and raising it until it latches, exposing the inside of the printer. Replace and align paper or forms, if necessary, using the procedure in the "Loading Paper" section.
- 3. Advance the Paper.** With the cover still open, press the bottom of the Feed switch (5) to advance the paper to the first printing line on the page. Do this whether you changed paper or not. Check the position of the printhead (11) to be sure printing will start at the top of the page. If necessary, adjust the paper one line at a time by pressing the top of the Feed switch. Then press the Top of Form Initialization (TOF INIT) button (15) to set the form feed.



(5) FEED SWITCH  
TOP = FEED 1 LINE  
BOTTOM = FEED TO  
TOP OF FORM

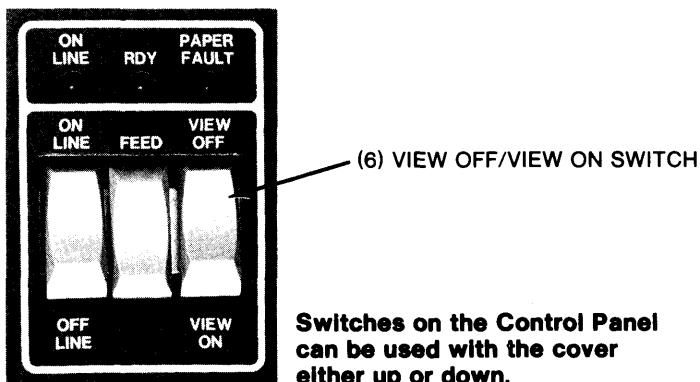
Pressing the top of the feed switch advances the paper one line at a time.  
Pressing the bottom advances it the length of an entire page.

- 4. Close the Printer Cover.** Close the cover, carefully bringing the paper up through the slot in the cover, over the top of the printer, and down the back. It's a good idea to feed enough paper through the printer to form a neat pile. This assures that your printing will stack itself instead of falling unevenly.



Paper must be brought  
through the large slot  
on the printer's cover.

- 5. Set the View Off/View On Switch (6).** When this switch is in the View On position, the printhead automatically moves aside a few spaces every time there is a pause in the printing so that you can see the last few characters that have been printed. When the switch is in the View Off position, the printhead remains in printing position. Set this switch to the desired position before putting the printer on line.



- 6. Put the Printer On Line.** Press the On Line switch (3) to connect the printer to the computer, permitting printing to begin.

**NOTE**

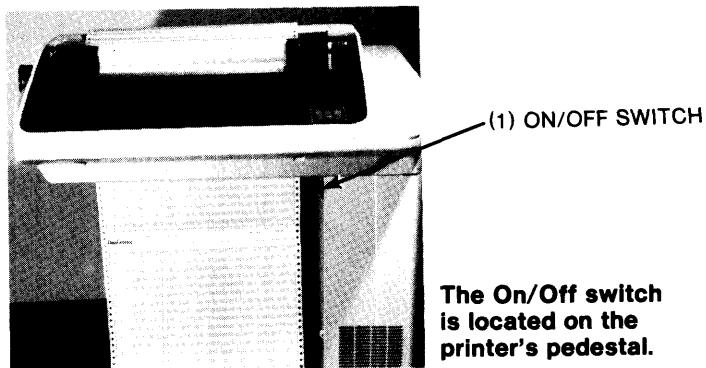
*When you press the On Line switch, the On Line light (4) will go on. If the printer malfunctions during operation, this light will go off, indicating that the printer is off line — even though the switch may still be in the on line position. When the malfunction has been corrected and the On Line switch pressed, the light will come back on.*

## Removing the Printed Copy

- 1. Put the Printer Off Line.** Press the Off Line switch (3) to disconnect the printer from the computer so that no new printing can start while you are removing paper.
- 2. Advance the Paper.** Press the bottom of the Feed switch (5) to advance the printed copy out through the slot on top of the printer. (You may need to press it more than once to be sure that all of the printed pages have been brought through the slot in the cover.)
- 3. Tear Off the Printed Paper.** Hold it on both sides to prevent uneven tearing or jamming of the paper. It is easier to tear if you approach it from the back of the printer. Be sure that paper still extends through the slot on top of the printer when you are done so that it won't get jammed inside the cover when printing starts again.
- 4. Put the Printer Back On Line.** Press the On Line switch to reconnect the printer to the computer.

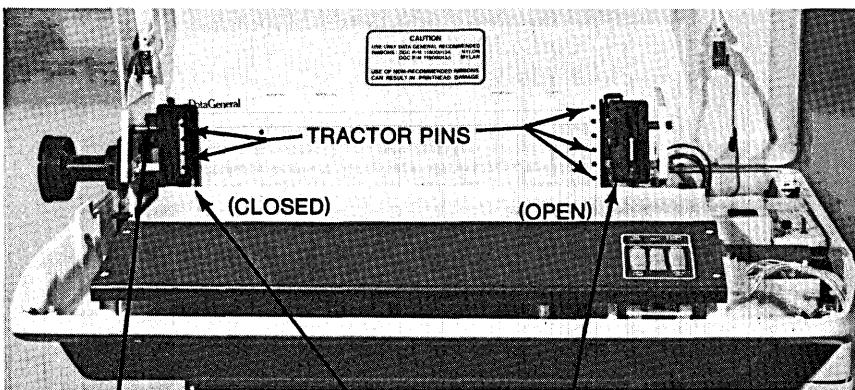
## Turning Off the Printer

1. **Put the Printer Off Line.** Make sure that printing is finished, then press the Off Line switch (3).
2. **Turn the Printer Off.** Press the On/Off switch (1) to the Off position.



## Loading Paper

1. **Put the Printer Off Line.** Always disconnect the printer from the computer when loading paper so that it can't start printing again before the paper is properly loaded.
2. **Open the Cover.** Swing the cover up until it latches.
3. **Open the Tractor Gates (8).** If there is paper in the printer, remove it from the tractor pins and let it slide through the bottom of the printer. If you're going to use different-width paper or forms from those you had been using, move the tractors farther apart or closer together by unlocking the Tractor Locking levers (9) which hold them in place. When they are approximately in position, release the levers.

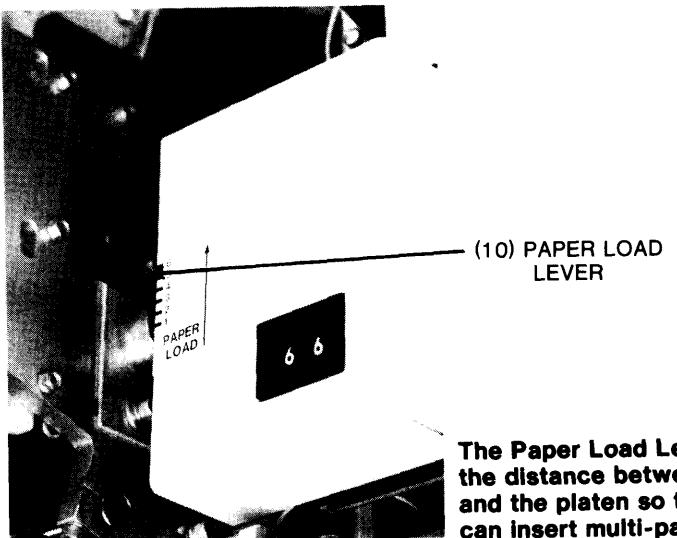


(9) TRACTOR LOCKING LEVER  
(RIGHT LEVER NOT VISIBLE  
BEHIND OPEN TRACTOR GATE)

(8) TRACTOR GATES

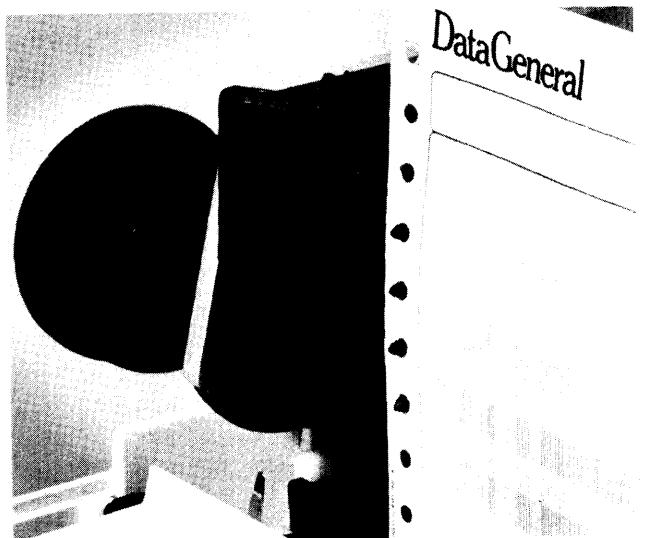
The tractor gates hold the paper in place.  
The tractor pins feed the paper through the printer.

- 4. Open the Paper Load Lever (10).** Set it at its widest setting (past number 6) so the paper can slide into place easily.



The Paper Load Lever adjusts  
the distance between the printhead  
and the platen so that you  
can insert multi-part forms.

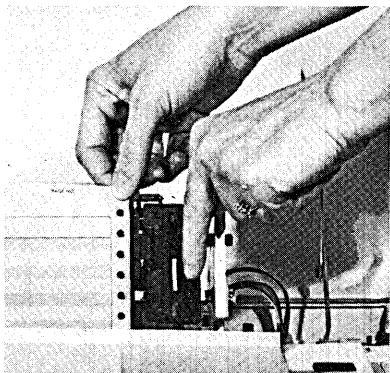
- 5. Load the New Paper.** Put the paper under the printer. Then, with print side facing the front of the printer, bring the paper up through the opening in the bottom of the printer and place the holes in the left side over the tractor pins. Close the left tractor gate.



The holes in the  
side of the paper  
fit over the tractor pins.

- 6. Fit the Paper on the Right Tractor Pins.** Line up the paper horizontally so that the corresponding holes on the right side of the paper fit over the right tractor pins, then close the tractor gate to hold it in place.

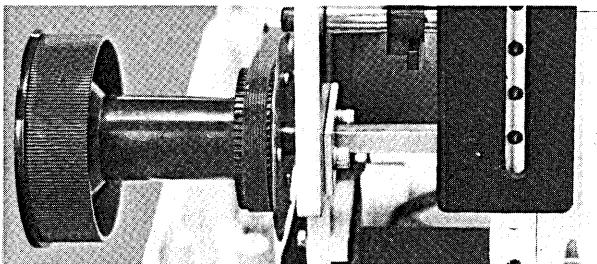
If you have changed the size of the paper, adjust the right tractor to fit the new paper. There should be slight tension on the paper, but it should not be stretched so tightly that it buckles. Too much tension can cause the paper to jam. Move the right tractor to the right for more tension, to the left for less. When the paper fits smoothly, release the Tractor Locking lever and close the right tractor gate.



Adjust the tractor gates  
so that the paper fits smoothly  
without too much tension.  
Be sure to align  
the paper horizontally  
on the tractor pins.

- 7. Set the Paper Load Lever (10).** Set the Paper Load lever to correspond to the number of copies in the form (1 to 6).

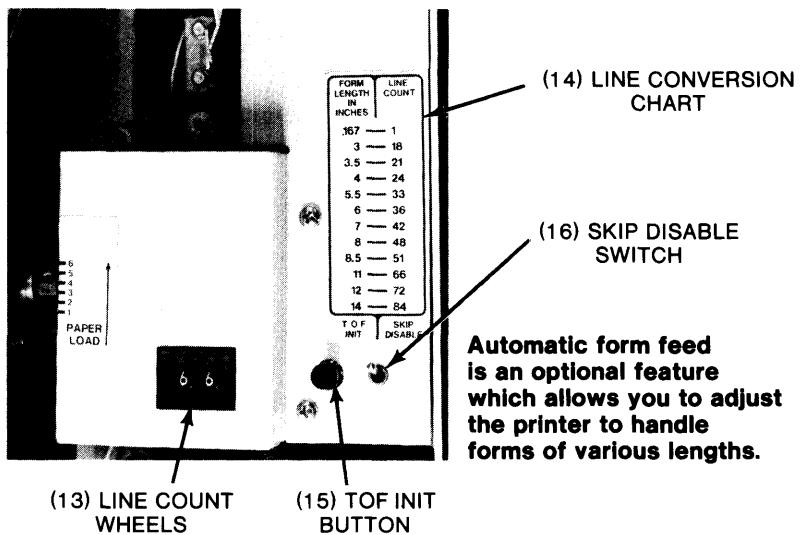
- 8. Advance the Paper to Printing Position.** The first line of print will be even with the top of the printhead (11). To line up the paper, press the bottom of the Feed switch (5) to advance the paper to the top of the next page. Then, if necessary, press the top of the Feed switch to advance the paper one line at a time until the paper is lined up properly. You can also line up the paper by using the Paper Feed knob (12). Pull it out (toward the left), then turn it in either direction until the paper is correctly positioned. Then press the TOF INIT (Top of Form Initialization) button (15) to set the form feed.



You can use the  
Paper Feed Knob  
to adjust the vertical position  
of the paper.

**9. Optional: Set the Automatic Form Feed.** If your printer is equipped with an Automatic Form Feed, it must be reset whenever you change the length of paper or forms being used. (If it has been set already and you're using the same length paper, it isn't necessary to reset it.)

- a. Set the Line Count wheels (13) with your thumb to the total number of lines between perforations on the paper. Use the Line Conversion chart (14) to convert form length to line count.
- b. Press (and release) the Top of Form Initialization button (TOF INIT) (15) to set the line count registered on the Line Count wheels.
- c. Set the Skip Disable switch (16). If you want the printer to advance the paper between forms (at the perforation), turn off the Skip Disable switch by flipping it toward you. When this switch is on (pointed toward the back of the printer), it won't advance the paper between forms.



**10. Close the Cover.** Feed the paper carefully through the large slot in the cover. Arrange the paper so that it feeds over the top and down the back of the printer. It's a good idea to feed enough paper through the printer to form a neat pile. This assures that the rest of your printing continues to stack itself instead of falling unevenly.

**11. Press the On Line Switch.** Reconnect the printer to the computer so that printing can begin.

## Changing the Ribbon

**NOTE**

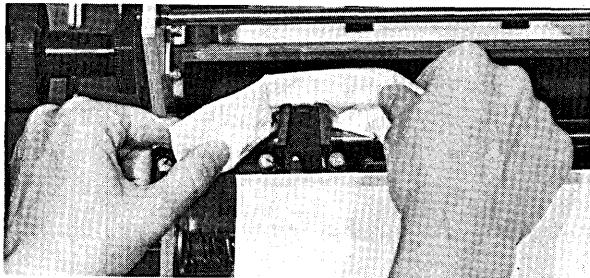
*Replace the ribbon with Data General ribbons: DGC P/N 119-A (fabric) or DGC P/N 119-B (mylar).*

1. **Put the Printer Off Line.** Press the Off Line switch (3) to disconnect the printer from the computer.
2. **Open the Cover.**
3. **Open the Paper Load Lever (10).** Set it at its widest setting (past number 6).
4. **Remove the Paper.** Open the tractor gates (8) and let the paper slide out of the printer.
5. **Rewind the Ribbon.** Use the Ribbon Advance switch (17) to rewind the ribbon onto one spool.
6. **Remove the Ribbon.** Lift the ribbon spools off the spindles and take them out of the printer. If the ribbon is worn out, discard it.

**NOTE**

*The printer only uses the top half of the ribbon. You can double the life of your ribbon by turning it over and using the other half.*

7. **Clean the Printhead (11).** Wipe it with a dry, folded, lint-free tissue. Repeat, using clean tissues, until it's clean.



**Use a folded tissue  
to clean the printhead.**

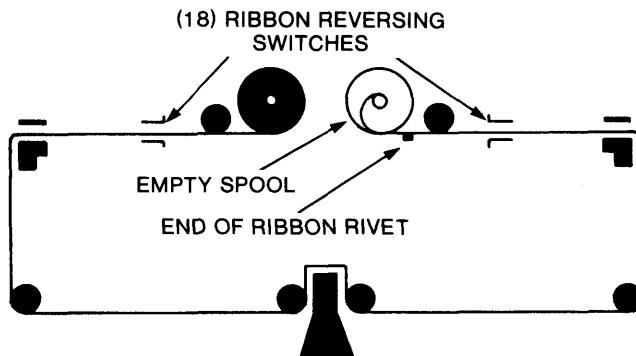
**CAUTION**

*Don't push or try to move the printhead while you're cleaning it.*

8. **Clean the Platen.** Wipe it with a dry, lint-free tissue.
9. **Put the New Ribbon on the Spindles.** Put the full spool on one of the spindles and the empty spool on the other. It doesn't matter which spool is put on which spindle. Be sure that the two pins on the spindles go into the holes in the spool.
10. **Thread the Ribbon.** Thread it carefully through the ribbon guides and switches as shown in the ribbon path diagram below. This diagram is also printed on the inside of your printer next to the right spindle. It is extremely important that you follow it exactly. Any deviations from the proper path will cause the ribbon to jam.

**CAUTION**

*There is an end-of-ribbon rivet at each end of the ribbon used to signal the Ribbon Reversing Switch (18). The end-of-ribbon rivet must be placed between the spindle and the Ribbon Reversing switch, as shown in the ribbon path diagram. Thread the ribbon on the empty spool so that the rivet is located between the spindle and the Ribbon Reversing switch.*



**A new ribbon  
must be threaded properly  
through these guides and switches.**

- 11. Take up Slack in the Ribbon.** Wind one of the spools gently to take up any slack.
- 12. Reload the Paper.** Use the procedure described in the "Paper Loading" section to reload paper in the printer.
- 13. Reset the Paper Load Lever (10).** Set it to the number of thicknesses you're printing (1-6).
- 14. Close the Cover.**
- 15. Press the On Line Switch.** Reconnect the printer to the computer so that printing can begin.

## 2. CARE AND HANDLING

The DASHER TP1 printer is easy to care for, and should give you efficient, trouble-free service if you observe the following rules.

- 1. Keep the Printer Cover Closed.** This reduces the noise of operation and keeps foreign objects and dirt out of the printer. Don't put anything on top of the printer cover.
- 2. Clean the Cabinet.** Use a soft, lint-free cloth dampened in soap and water solution. Don't use cleaning solutions or alcohol. Be careful not to get liquid into the printer. When finished, wipe the cabinet with a damp cloth and buff dry.

### 3. TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Many problems with your printer are easily corrected. This section provides instructions for correcting the most common problems. If these procedures don't solve the problem, call for technical assistance.

**CAUTION**

*Always switch the printer off line and turn it off before attempting to make any adjustments!*

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
The Ready light won't go on.	The power cord isn't plugged into either an electrical outlet or the printer.	Make sure the electric power cord is plugged into the printer and an electrical outlet. If all connections are secure and the Ready light still doesn't go on, call for technical assistance.
The Fault light is on.	The printer is out of paper. The paper isn't feeding properly.	Load paper. Correct the installation of the paper.
The printer is on but won't print.	It isn't on line. The printhead is too far from the platen.	Press the On Line switch. Adjust the Paper Load Lever.
The paper is tearing, bunching, or not advancing; or the lines of print are bunching.	The paper is too taut.  The printhead is too close to the platen.  The paper isn't aligned horizontally on the tractor pins.  The paper isn't loaded properly.	Move the right tractor slightly to the left to ease the pressure.  Adjust the Paper Load Lever.  Realign the paper on the tractor pins.  Correct the installation of the paper.

<b>PROBLEM</b>	<b>CAUSE</b>	<b>SOLUTION</b>
<b>The print is dark and smudged.</b>	<p>The printhead is too close to the platen.</p> <p>The ribbon mechanism isn't working properly.</p>	<p>Adjust the Paper Load Lever.</p> <p>Check the ribbon path and reload the ribbon, if necessary. If the problem continues, change the ribbon.</p>
<b>The print is too light.</b>	<p>The printhead is too far away from the platen.</p> <p>The ribbon is worn.</p>	<p>Adjust the Paper Load Lever.</p> <p>Change the ribbon.</p>
<b>The paper isn't advancing automatically to the top of the next form. (This can only happen if your printer has the Automatic Form Feed option.)</b>	The Line Count Wheels aren't set for the correct number of lines on the form.	Reset the Line Count Wheels, press and release the TOF INIT button, and advance the paper to the top of the next form, by pressing the bottom of the Feed Switch.
<b>Something falls into the printer.</b>		Switch the printer Off Line, turn the power off, unplug the power cord, then remove the object.

notes

# GLOSSARY

**Carriage Assembly.** The mechanism that supports the printhead.

**Control Panel.** A panel containing three switches and three lights used frequently during normal printer operation and accessible with the cover either up or down.

**End-of-Ribbon Rivet.** Rivet located near either end of the ribbon which triggers the Ribbon Reversing switch.

**Feed Switch (5).** Two-position switch which advances paper through the printer, either one full form at a time (bottom) or one line at a time (top).

**Line Conversion Chart (14).** Chart used to convert form length (in inches) to line count. This is part of the optional Automatic Form Feed function.

**Line Count Wheels (13).** Wheels which must be set to the number of lines per form as part of the optional Automatic Form Feed function.

**On Line/Off Line Switch (3).** Switch which connects the printer to the computer. When the switch is in the on line position, the printer is controlled by the computer and the On Line light will go on. When off line, the computer has no control over the printer's operation.

**Paper Fault Light (7).** Light which goes on when the paper is not feeding properly through the printer.

**Paper Feed Knob (12).** Knob used to adjust the vertical alignment of the paper.

**Paper Load Lever (10).** Lever which adjusts the distance between the platen and printhead to allow insertion of paper or forms of varying thicknesses (up to 6).

**Pin Feed.** The printer's paper feed mechanism, which uses "pins" fitting into holes in both sides of the paper. As the pin feed revolves, the paper advances through the printer.

**Platen (19).** The surface struck by the printhead during printing.

**Printhead (11).** The mechanism containing the character set which strikes the ribbon to produce printed copy.

**Ready Light (2).** Light which goes on when the printer is ready to be switched On Line for printing. It will blink on and off during normal operation of the printer, and stay off if the printer isn't working properly.

**Ribbon Reversing Switch (18).** Switch which automatically reverses the direction in which the ribbon is moving.

**Skip Disable Switch (16).** Switch which determines whether or not the printer will advance the paper at the perforation between forms. This feature can be used to create a top and bottom margin when desired.

**Top of Form Initialization Button ("TOF INIT") (15).** Button which registers the top line of a form. From this point, the printer counts lines until it reaches the number set in the line count wheels. It then performs a form feed. The variable line count is optional. On printers without this feature, form feed occurs at a fixed interval.

**Tractor Gates (8).** Braces which hold the paper in position on the tractor pins.

**Tractor Pins.** The pins which fit into the holes in the paper and feed it through the printer.

**View Off/View On Switch (6).** Switch which determines whether the printhead moves aside to permit inspection of printed copy (View On position), or remains in place over the last character printed (View Off position).

# reader comment form

## The Dasher TP1 Printer

055-028-00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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  - Complete
  - Accurate
  - Well organized

- | YES                      | NO                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
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## The Dasher TP1 Printer

055-028-00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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| • Well illustrated   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Easy to read       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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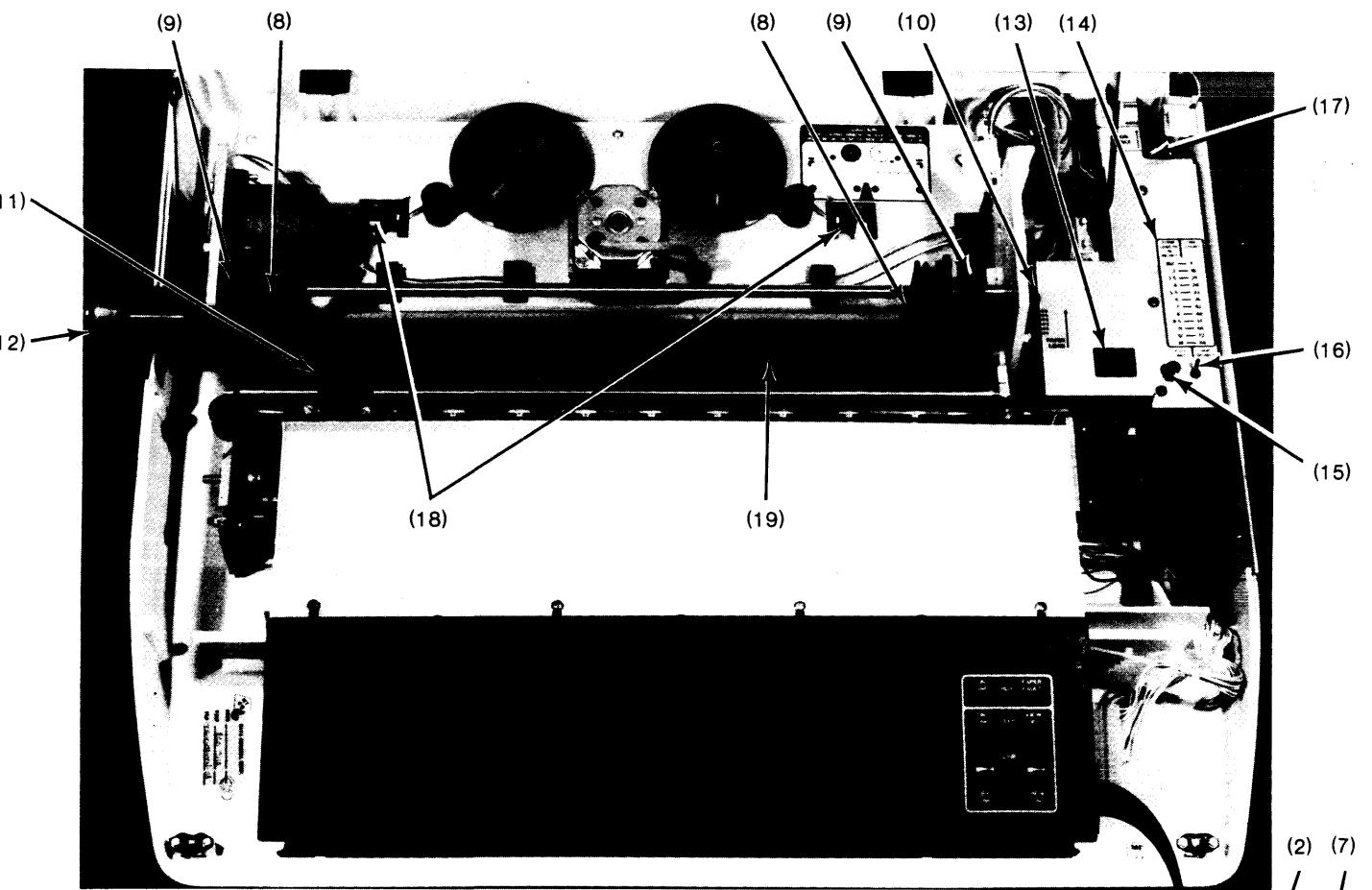
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**PRINTER PARTS**

- (1) ON/OFF SWITCH
- (2) READY LIGHT
- (3) ON LINE/OFF LINE SWITCH
- (4) ON LINE LIGHT
- (5) FEED SWITCH
- (6) VIEW OFF/VIEW ON SWITCH
- (7) PAPER FAULT LIGHT

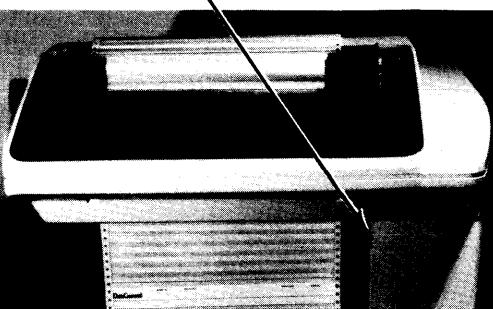
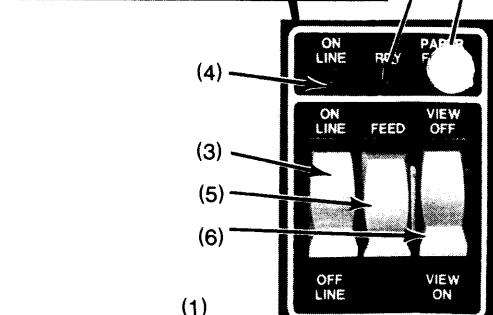
**CONTROL PANEL**

- (8) TRACTOR GATES
- (9) TRACTOR LOCKING LEVERS
- (10) PAPER LOAD LEVER
- (11) PRINthead
- (12) PAPER FEED KNOB
- (13) LINE COUNT WHEELS
- (14) LINE CONVERSION CHART
- (15) TOF INIT BUTTON
- (16) SKIP DISABLE SWITCH

**PAPER**

- (17) RIBBON ADVANCE SWITCH
- (18) RIBBON REVERSING SWITCH
- (19) PLATEN

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