

PC2Flop and Flop2PC (for Altair Minidisk)

PC2Flop writes an Altair Mindisk with a disk image transmitted from a PC. Flop2PC saves an image of an Altair Minidisk to a PC. The disk image is transferred through either serial port on a 2SIO board. The XMODEM checksum or CRC protocol is used for the transfer. The image is read or written directly from/to the floppy in raw format (137 bytes per sector, 16 sectors per track, 35 tracks).

These programs run standalone at 0x100 or under CP/M. Any type of disk (e.g., BASIC, Altair DOS) can be read or written even if running under CP/M. Numerous disk images are available in the Altair Yahoo group files section, and at <http://deramp.com/downloads/altair/software/minidisk/>, and also at <http://AltairClone.com/support.htm>. Disk images for the Altair Mindisk have a file size of 75K and typically end in ".dsk"

Standalone operation may be required to create a bootable disk when no other bootable disk is available. There are a couple of ways to load PC2FLOP into a cold machine:

- 1) Use the front panel or Turnkey monitor to enter the octal bytes of the program listed in LOADER.PRN. Execute the loader by running from zero (no feedback is given), then send the file PC2FLOP.COM through the first 2SIO port. After transmission is complete, reset the computer and run PC2Flop at address 100h.
- 2) If you have an Intel hex file loader in PROM, load the file PC2FLOP.HEX and then run from 100h. A stand alone Intel hex loader that can be run from PROM is available at http://deramp.com/downloads/altair/software/roms/custom_roms/

When copying a disk image to the PC (Flop2PC), the program attempts several retries, including restoring the track both from zero and from past the current track. If the read still fails, the error is noted and the copy process continues so that the remainder of the disk can still be recovered.