

WESTERN DIGITAL CORP. AT FORMAT ROUTINE

WDFMT 2.10

WDFMT can be used on any Western Digital AT Disk Controller to perform any of the following tasks.

- FORMAT do a low level format of the disk. This will remove all data from the drive!!!
- VERIFY verify the entire disk.
- BAD TRACK mark bad tracks that were found and/or enter the bad track map.
- SURFACE TEST perform a surface test of the disk. This will remove all data from the drive!!!

In order to format a drive, one must complete the following steps;

- 1) Enter drive parameters when prompted by the program or at the DOS command line as shown below.

WDFMT drive# #cyls #head #sectors interleave precomp-cyl skew

- 2) Select the FORMAT option from the main menu and press <CR>.
- 3) When the format is complete select the VERIFY option from the main menu.
- 4) When the verify is complete, select the BAD TRACK option from the main menu. The program will give a list of bad tracks found and ask if the tracks should be marked as bad. Next, the user is asked to enter the manufacturer bad track map.
- 5) If a surface test is desired this can be done now by selecting SURFACE TEST from the main menu. When the test is complete, the user should return to the BAD TRACK option to mark bad tracks found.

WDFMT can keep track of 300 errors at a time. If more than 300 errors are found and are to be marked bad, the user will have to repeat the VERIFY/SURFACE TEST followed by the BAD TRACK for each group of 300.

In the drive parameter list the user is asked about skew. Skew is the shifting of sectors in a track relative to an adjacent track in the same cylinder. Below is an example of a skew of 3.

```

head 0 :  1  2  3  4  5  6  .  .  . 13 14 15 16 17
head 1 : 15 16 17  1  2  3  .  .  . 10 11 12 13 14
head 2 : 12 13 14 15 16 17  .  .  .  7  8  9 10 11
head 4 :  9 10 11 12 13 14  .  .  .  4  5  6  7  8
    
```

In the drive parameter list the user is asked about alternate sector. If

alternate sector is enabled the formatter will create an alternate sector that will be used if one sector is found to be bad during the verify or surface test. When using this option one less sector per track will be available to DOS i.e. if you enter 35 sectors per track the formatter will format sectors 1 through 34 and sector 0.