
Solace Debugger

While Solace is running, if the user hits <F5> (function key 5), the following debugger window will pop up. In the diagram below, each of the subwindows of the debugger is labeled, and will be described in more detail in subsequent sections. The five subwindows are

- [register subwindow](#)
- [stack subwindow](#)
- [disassembler subwindow](#)
- [log subwindow](#)
- [command subwindow](#)

At the end there is a [brief note on breakpoints](#).

The scrollbars that appear in three of the subwindows behave like normal Win32 scrollbars, except as noted. The thumb of a scrollbar can be dragged to reposition the window contents; clicking on the up/down arrows of a scrollbar scrolls the window by one line; clicking above or below the scrollbar thumb causes the window contents to scroll up or down by a screenful. If a given subwindow has input focus, achieved performing some mouse command (such as clicking) in the window, the keyboard interface to the scrollbar also works. That is, the up/down arrows scroll the window by one line; the page up/page down keys scroll the subwindow by one page.

Note that although the entire window can be resized, the only window divider that can be moved is the one between the disassembler subwindow and the log subwindow.

Register subwindow

Disassembler subwindow

Sol Debug

Register subwindow:

```

A=83=131
F=80
BC=3EFF=16127
DE=0000=00000
HL=D000=53248
SP=CBF9
PC=C030
TICK=00000000

CBDF: 7676
CBE1: 7676
CBE3: 7676
CBE5: 7676
CBE7: 7676
CBE9: C139
CBEB: C0F7
CBED: C14A
CBEF: C06E
CBF1: C09B
CBF3: C06E
CBF5: 3EFF
CBF7: C02E
CBF9: C1E7
CBFB: C1DA
CBFD: 0044
CBFF: 2076
CC01: 2020
CC03: 2020
CC05: 2020
CC07: 2020
CC09: 2020
CC0B: 2020
CC0D: 2020
CC0F: 2020
CC11: 2020
CC13: 2020

```

Disassembler subwindow:

```

C029 85      ADD    L
C02A 6F      MOV    L,A
C02B C3 27 C2 JMP    C227h
C02E DB FA   IN     FAh
C030 2F      CMA
C031 E6 01   ANI    01h
C033 C8      RZ
C034 DB FC   IN     FCh
C036 C9      RET
C037 00      NOP
C038 C3 01 C0 JMP    C001h
C03B E5      PUSH   H
C03C 21 92 C2 LXI    H,C292h
C03F C3 26 C0 JMP    C026h
C042 DB F8   IN     F8h
C044 E6 40   ANI    40h

```

Stack subwindow:

```

DW <start_address> [<end_address>] --

The Dump Words command produces a listing of 16b hex
byte pairs in the inclusive memory range specified.
If the optional second address isn't supplied, it assumes
the value of the first argument, and only one word is
printed.

Note that words are printed in little endian order.

Eight words are printed per line.
bpc c02b
OK. Breakpoint #1 defined.
bpc c034
OK. Breakpoint #2 defined.
bdisable 2
OK.
help brb

```

Command subwindow:

```

help brb

```

Stack subwindow

Command subwindow

Log subwindow

Register subwindow

The register subwindow shows the current state of all the 8080 registers any time the emulation is halted. It is automatically updated after each single step or other state change. This subwindow is grayed out while the emulator is running the 8080 processor.

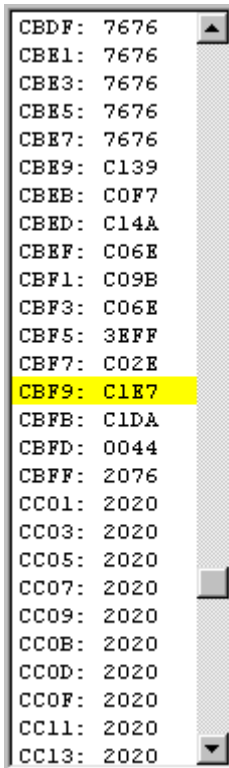
The value for each register is given in two forms. The first form lists the register contents in hex (either 8b or 16b), the second form after the second '=' is the value in decimal. The flags register is somewhat different, in that the second form shows which flags are set mnemonically: S=sign, Z=zero, H=half carry, C=carry, P=parity.

A=83=131
F=80=8
BC=3EFF=16127
DE=0000=00000
HL=D000=53248
SP=CBF9
PC=C030
TICK=00000000

Tick is the current emulated 8080 cycle count; it currently is not working.

This window is read-only. To modify the contents of a register, use the SET command via the command subwindow.

Stack subwindow



CBDF:	7676
CBE1:	7676
CBE3:	7676
CBE5:	7676
CBE7:	7676
CBE9:	C139
CBEB:	C0F7
CBED:	C14A
CBEF:	C06E
CBF1:	C09E
CBF3:	C06E
CBF5:	3EFF
CBF7:	C02E
CBF9:	C1E7
CBFB:	C1DA
CBFD:	0044
CBFF:	2076
CC01:	2020
CC03:	2020
CC05:	2020
CC07:	2020
CC09:	2020
CC0B:	2020
CC0D:	2020
CC0F:	2020
CC11:	2020
CC13:	2020

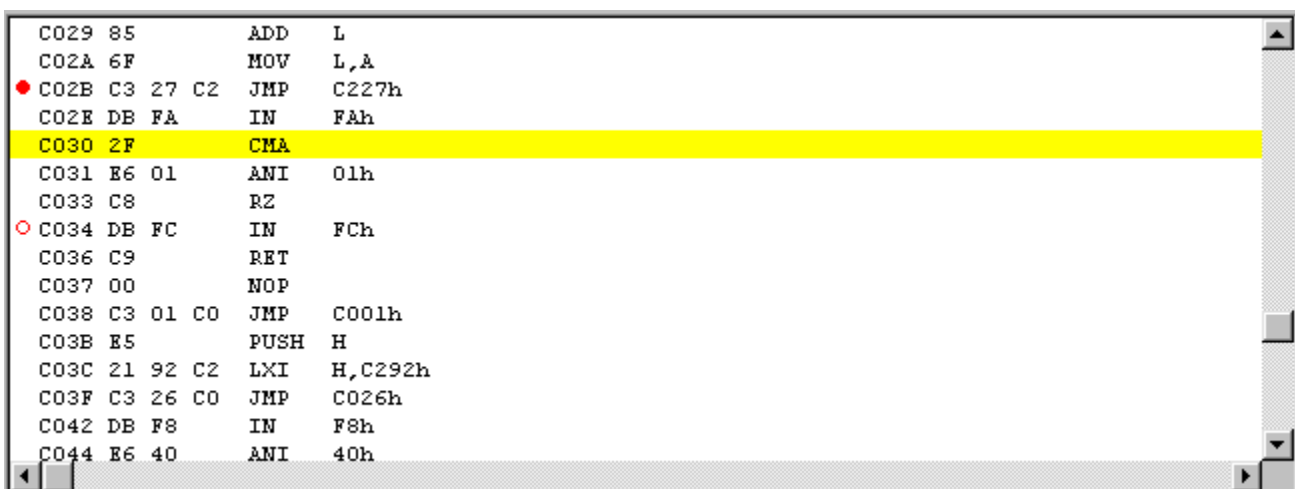
The stack subwindow shows the region of memory surrounding the stack pointer, SP. The display shows 16-bit words, all even/odd aligned with the current SP value. The entry that corresponds to the top of stack (TOS) is shown highlighted in yellow. This subwindow is grayed out while the emulator is running the 8080 processor.

The region of memory being viewed can be manipulated in the usual ways via the scrollbar, or if the window has input focus, by the standard keyboard interface. As an extension of normal behavior, the HOME key can be used to scroll the window such that the TOS is visible.

Although this window automatically centers the display on the current TOS when the debugger is invoked, the window can be scrolled to any location in the 64K memory space. To make the scrolling fast, when the thumb is dragged, the window isn't updated; instead a small 4-digit hex number is shown, and the display is updated when the thumb is released.

The window is read-only. To modify the contents of the stack, or more generally any memory location, use the ENTER, EB, or EA commands via the command subwindow.

Disassembly subwindow



C029	85	ADD	L
C02A	6F	MOV	L,A
● C02B	C3 27 C2	JMP	C227h
C02E	DB FA	IN	FAh
C030	2F	CMA	
C031	E6 01	ANI	01h
C033	C8	RZ	
○ C034	DB FC	IN	FAh
C036	C9	RET	
C037	00	NOP	
C038	C3 01 C0	JMP	C001h
C03B	E5	PUSH	H
C03C	21 92 C2	LXI	H,C292h
C03F	C3 26 C0	JMP	C026h
C042	DB F8	IN	F8h
C044	E6 40	ANI	40h

The disassembly subwindow is used to display the program in memory using standard Intel 8080 mnemonics. If the instruction corresponding to the current PC is in the window, it is displayed with yellow highlighting, as shown above. This subwindow is grayed out while the emulator is running the 8080 processor.

Using standard windows scrollbar behavior, the user can change the region being displayed in the window. As an extension of normal windows scrollbar behavior, if the window has input focus, hitting the HOME key causes the display to scroll such that the line containing the current PC is positioned in the window.

Because updating the display is slow, dragging the thumb on the vertical scrollbar doesn't immediately scroll the display. Instead, a four-digit hex display is shown of which area of memory will be displayed when the thumb is released.

Note that scrolling backwards or jumping to an arbitrary starting location is problematic. This is because 8080 instructions can be one, two, or three bytes long. For example, when scrolling back one line, going back one byte might be a valid one byte opcode, or it might be the immediate data of a two-byte or three-byte instruction. Solace uses a heuristic to try and get a reliable "sync"; it goes back 10 instructions or so and disassembles forward. If the address of interest falls in the middle of an instruction in the resulting stream, it is assumed that the immediately preceding instruction start is the true instruction boundary. Although it works in most cases, the heuristic isn't foolproof, so be warned that this may happen if the disassembly seems goofy.

Note that two of the instructions have a red circle in the left column. A solid red circle (at \$C02B, above) means that there is an active breakpoint on that instruction. A hollow red circle (at \$C034, above) means that there is a disabled breakpoint on that instruction.

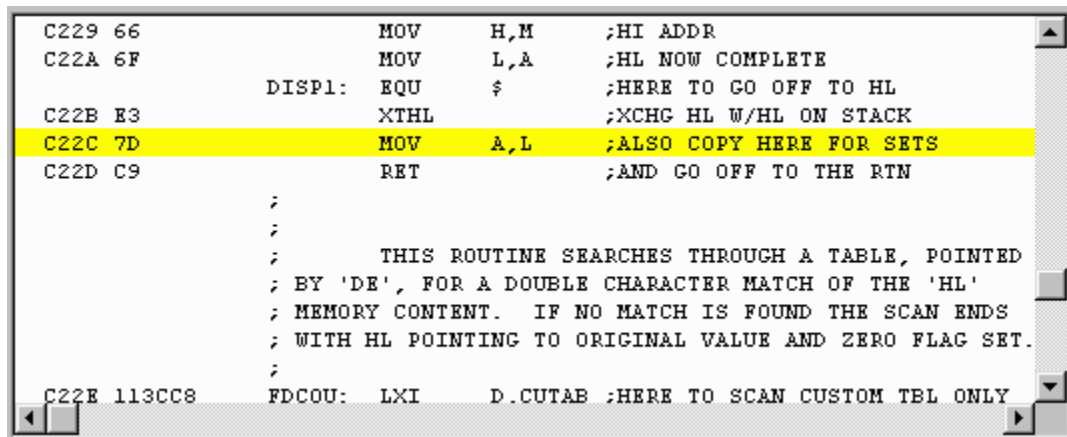
Breakpoints can be entered, listed, and manipulated via the command line interface, but this window provides a few shortcuts as well.

- Holding down the CTRL key and left-clicking on a line causes a breakpoint to be set on that line. If there is already an active breakpoint on the line, it is disabled; if there is already a disabled breakpoint on that line, the breakpoint is killed (deleted).
- Double left clicking on a line causes a temporary breakpoint to be set on the line and 8080 execution is resumed until the line is reached or another breakpoint is encountered, whichever comes first.
- Right clicking on a line causes a pop-up menu to appear with a few choices; some choices will be grayed-out based on context:
 - Add breakpoint
 - Disable breakpoint
 - Enable breakpoint
 - Kill breakpoint
 - Run to PC
 - Home current PC

The integrated Solace 8080 debugger supports source code overlays. These are simply the .PRN files that are output by the standard CP/M ASM and MAC assemblers. Whenever a .ENT or .HEX file is loaded from the main menu, Solace looks in the same directory for a file with the same root name but with a .PRN suffix. If it is found, it is "autoloaded" as a source code overlay. Optionally, a user can manually load a source code overlay via the debugger command line interface via the "OVERlay" command. In either case, the OVERlay command has many forms which can be used to control how overlay information is managed and used.

Below appears three snippets of the disassembler window with different overlay modes enabled. In the "on" mode, whenever Solace needs to disassemble at a given instruction, it checks to see if there is a source code overlay matching that address. If there is a match, then the source code file is displayed. If there is no match, the line is just mechanically disassembled. In the "off" mode, it is as if there is no overlay in memory. In the "both" mode, if there is a source code overlay for a given address, it is displayed (but in gray) and the line is also mechanically disassembled.

In either "on" or "both" modes, the bytes of memory corresponding to the source line are compared against the actual memory contents. If they don't match, the source line is still printed, but it appears as red text instead of black.



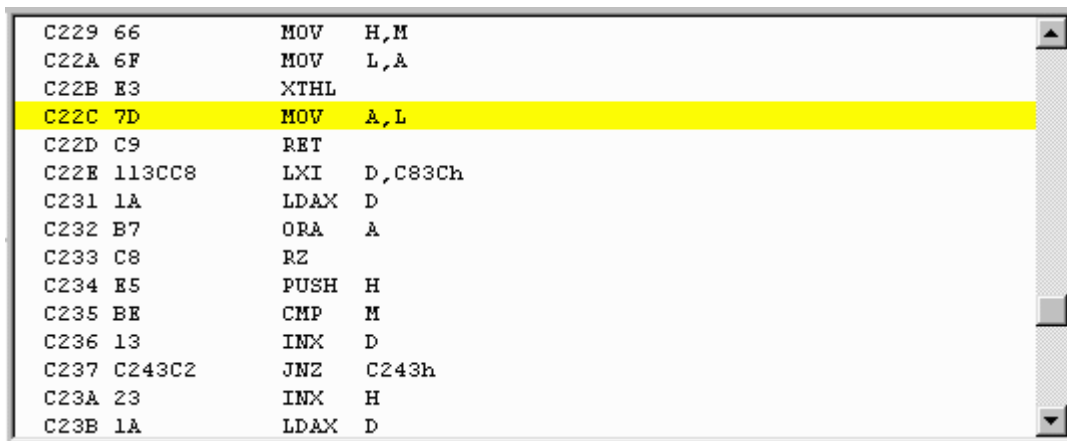
```

C229 66      MOV     H,M      ;HI ADDR
C22A 6F      MOV     L,A      ;HL NOW COMPLETE
                DISPL: EQU     $      ;HERE TO GO OFF TO HL
C22B E3      XTHL             ;XCHG HL W/HL ON STACK
C22C 7D      MOV     A,L      ;ALSO COPY HERE FOR SETS
C22D C9      RET              ;AND GO OFF TO THE RTN

;
;
;      THIS ROUTINE SEARCHES THROUGH A TABLE, POINTED
; BY 'DE', FOR A DOUBLE CHARACTER MATCH OF THE 'HL'
; MEMORY CONTENT. IF NO MATCH IS FOUND THE SCAN ENDS
; WITH HL POINTING TO ORIGINAL VALUE AND ZERO FLAG SET.
;
C22E 113CC8  FDCOU: LXI     D,CUTAB ;HERE TO SCAN CUSTOM TBL ONLY

```

Above: "overlay on"

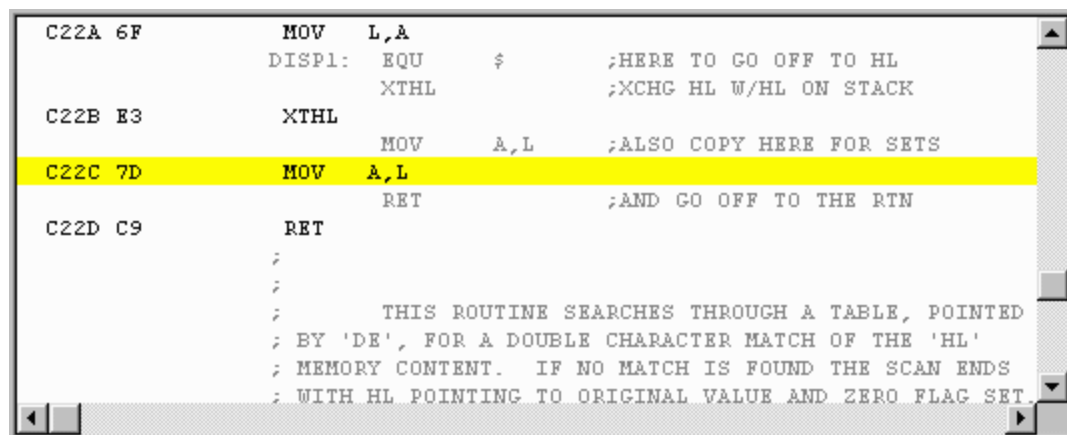


```

C229 66      MOV     H,M
C22A 6F      MOV     L,A
C22B E3      XTHL
C22C 7D      MOV     A,L
C22D C9      RET
C22E 113CC8  LXI     D,C83Ch
C231 1A      LDAX   D
C232 B7      ORA    A
C233 C8      RZ
C234 E5      PUSH   H
C235 BE      CMP    M
C236 13      INX    D
C237 C243C2  JNZ     C243h
C23A 23      INX    H
C23B 1A      LDAX   D

```

Above: "overlay off"



```

C22A 6F      MOV     L,A
                DISPL: EQU     $      ;HERE TO GO OFF TO HL
                XTHL             ;XCHG HL W/HL ON STACK
C22B E3      XTHL
                MOV     A,L      ;ALSO COPY HERE FOR SETS
C22C 7D      MOV     A,L
                RET              ;AND GO OFF TO THE RTN
C22D C9      RET

;
;
;      THIS ROUTINE SEARCHES THROUGH A TABLE, POINTED
; BY 'DE', FOR A DOUBLE CHARACTER MATCH OF THE 'HL'
; MEMORY CONTENT. IF NO MATCH IS FOUND THE SCAN ENDS
; WITH HL POINTING TO ORIGINAL VALUE AND ZERO FLAG SET.

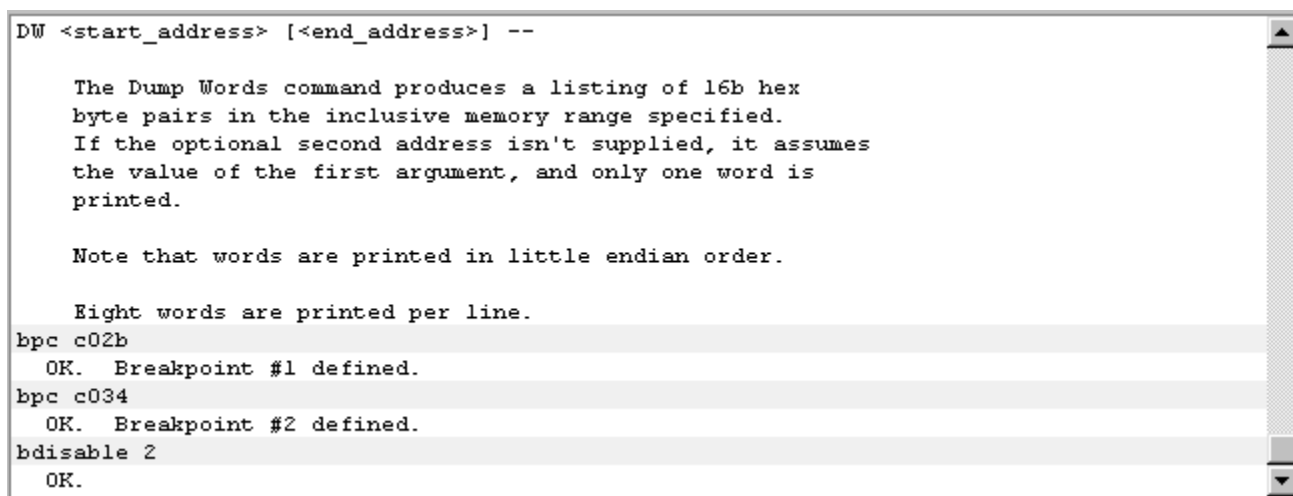
```

Above: "overlay both"

More than one overlay can be in memory at one time. If one address has a match in more than one overlay, the most recently loaded or refreshed overlay is the one shown. In the cause of autoloaded overlays (i.e., those loaded implicitly as the result of loading a .hex or .ent file from the main menu), the overlay system can elect to dispose of an overlay if too little of the overlay is meaningful. Manually loaded overlays stay in memory until explicitly purged.

The overlay command takes many form so it is best to type "help overlay" in the debugger to get the rundown.

Log subwindow

A screenshot of a debugger's log subwindow. The window has a title bar and a scroll bar on the right. The text inside shows a sequence of commands and responses. The first part is a help message for the 'DW' command. Then, three commands are entered: 'bpc c02b', 'bpc c034', and 'bdisable 2'. Each command is followed by a response: 'OK. Breakpoint #1 defined.', 'OK. Breakpoint #2 defined.', and 'OK.' respectively. The commands are on a gray background, while the responses are on a white background.

```
DW <start_address> [<end_address>] --

The Dump Words command produces a listing of 16b hex
byte pairs in the inclusive memory range specified.
If the optional second address isn't supplied, it assumes
the value of the first argument, and only one word is
printed.

Note that words are printed in little endian order.

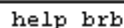
Eight words are printed per line.
bpc c02b
OK. Breakpoint #1 defined.
bpc c034
OK. Breakpoint #2 defined.
bdisable 2
OK.
```

The log subwindow shows a history of commands that the user has typed in and the debugger responses. The user input is echoed with a grayed background to help distinguish commands from responses.

500 lines of history are maintained; lines older than that simply vanish. There is currently no way to log the output to a file, nor to copy a selection from the window.

The vertical scroll bar appears whenever there are enough lines in the command history to warrant it. The scrollbar responds to the typical scrollbar behavior: the window may be scrolled up/down a line/page at a time by clicking on the up/down arrows above/below the thumb; the thumb can be dragged. If the log subwindow has input focus, which is achieved by clicking in the window or by manipulating the scrollbar, then the scrollbar responds to standard keyboard scrolling behavior. The up/down arrow keys move the display up/down one line; the up/down page keys scroll the display a page at a time. Typing the HOME key causes the window to scroll such that the last entry becomes visible.

Command subwindow

A screenshot of the command subwindow, which is a simple rectangular box with a thin border. Inside the box, the text 'help brb' is displayed in a monospaced font.

```
help brb
```

The command subwindow accepts debugger commands from the user; a command is interpreted when the ENTER key (carriage return) is hit.

50 lines of command history are maintained; commands older than this are simply discarded. The user can access older commands via the up/down arrows; up-arrow corresponds to moving to older commands. To

prevent tediously scrolling past commands which have been repeated, the command history mechanism will show a given command only once when scrolling up or down through the command history.

Note that some of the mouse command shortcuts in the disassembler subwindow "stuff" phantom commands into the command subwindow to cause the specified actions to happen.

A brief rundown of the debugger commands can be had at any time in the debugger by typing

help

without any arguments. Here is a key to interpreting the following table of commands:

- `<foo>` means that `foo` isn't literal, just descriptive of what the argument is.
- Things in square brackets, like `[foo]`, means it is an optional argument.
- Ellipses (...) means that there can be a number of subsequent arguments.
- Command names can be abbreviated in many cases; below the necessary part is shown in caps, while the optional part is in lower case and inside parentheses.
- Numeric arguments are hex by default, but this can be overridden to be decimal by starting the number with a "#" character.
- The command line is case insensitive except for the string arguments to the EA and LA commands.

Here, then, is the list of commands:

memory commands:

DB	<start> [<end>]	dump bytes
DW	<start> [<end>]	dump words
DA	<start> [<end>]	dump ascii
EB	<start> aa bb ...	enter bytes (also EN(ter))
EA	<start> abcde...	enter ascii
FILL	<start> <end> <bb>	fill block
LB	<start> <end> aa bb ...	locate bytes
LA	<start> <end> abcde...	locate ascii
MM	<start> <end> <dest>	move memory
CM	<start> <end> <dest>	compare memory
SM	<start> <end> aa bb ...	show matching bytes
DASM	<start> [<end>]	disassemble
LOAD	<fname>	load .ent or .hex binary file
SAVE	<start> <end> <fname>	save binary to .ent file
SAVEH	<start> <end> <fname>	save binary to .hex file

execution commands:

RESET		reset uP
N(ext)	[<nnnn>]	step over n ops
S(tep)	[<nnnn>]	step in n ops
EX(ecute)	[<nnnn>]	continue execution
C(ont)	[<nnnn>]	synonym for EX
SET	<reg> <nnnn>	modify register
INC(lude)	<filename>	perform a file of commands

breakpoint commands:

TO	aaaa	run to PC=aaaa
BP(c)	aaaa	break PC=aaaa
BR(b)	aaaa [dd [mm]]	break read byte addr=aaaa, data=dd, mask=mm
BRW	aaaa [dddd [mmmm]]	break read word addr=aaaa, data=dddd, mask=mmmm
BW(b)	aaaa [dd [mm]]	break write byte addr=aaaa, data=dd, mask=mm
BWW	aaaa [dddd [mmmm]]	break write word addr=aaaa, data=dddd, mask=mmmm
BI(n)	aa [dd [mm]]	break in port=aa, data=dd, mask=mm
BO(ut)	aa [dd [mm]]	break out port=aa, data=dd, mask=mm

BL(ist)	[<nn>]	breakpoint list	all/nn
BD(isable)	[<nn>]	breakpoint disable	all/nn
BE(nable)	[<nn>]	breakpoint enable	all/nn
BK(ill)	[<nn>]	breakpoint remove	all/nn

misc commands:

OV(erlay)	[<file[.prn]> <id>]	[OFF ON BOTH REFRESH KILL]	source code overlay
KEY	<nn>		force a keystroke
H(elp)	[<cmd>]		command summary
EXIT	X(it)		close debugger

There is a detailed command description for each debugger command, accessed by typing

help <command>

Brief note on breakpoints

There are two types of breakpoints: PC breakpoints, and data breakpoints (read byte, read word, write byte, write word, in, and out). It should be noted that PC breakpoints are triggered before the instruction at the specified address is executed, while data breakpoints occur after the instruction that triggered the breakpoint is executed.

Back to [Solace](#) main page.

Last update: May 1, 2002