There are "RTTY sounding" stations that you cannot copy. Some use the Cyrillic alphabet or special encryption. Weather stations and the military often use special characters and five letter groups. Also a number of stations transmit in foreign languages. There are even strange signals like twinplex that may sound like RTTY but are really something else. Never-the-less there are a large number of RTTY stations that can be copied on CODE*STAR.

Another point to remember is that it is easy to copy code from a keyboard at 20-30 WPM but copying RTTY at 60 WPM or higher does require concentration. If you are interested in hard copy or a video display, you should inquire about the ASCII serial/parallel output port option which can provide the required interface.

KEY INPUT-MORSE CODE PRACTICE. CODE*STAR makes an excellent code learning and practice device when used with a telegraph key or keyer. The jack on the back panel labeled "KEY" is for this purpose. Grounding the center terminal of this jack should key CODE*STAR and produce a tone from its speaker. In other words "ground" corresponds to key-down and "open" corresponds to key-up. Use either M1 or M2 modes.

CODE TAPES. You can practice your Morse code by playing your pre-recorded tapes through CODE*STAR. (Tapes should produce a tone of about 800 Hz.) Simply connect your recorder's speaker (using the external jack) to the CODE*STAR RECEIVER input with a shielded audio cable. Select either M1 or M2 modes.

RADIO STATIONS. There are literally thousands of CW and RTTY stations on the air daily. One excellent source of code material is amateur radio station W1AW operated by the American Radio Relay League. The station transmits several code practice sessions daily as well as ham news bulletins, propagation forecasts and satellite information. Morse code is sent on 3.58, 7.08, 14.08 and 21.08 MHz while RTTY is sent on 3.65, 7.095, 14.095 and 21.095 MHz. For complete W1AW schedule send a SASE to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

Amateur radio operators can be found on the same frequencies noted for W1AW. In addition some commercial CW stations can be found near 4.3, 8.5, 13.0 and 16.9 MHz. RTTY stations can be found near 4.0, 4.8, 5.4, 6.3, 7.4, 8.1, 9.0, 10.2, 12.2, 14.5, 16.37 MHz and other frequencies.

OPTIONAL ASCII OUTPUT PORT. An optional ASCII serial/parallel output port kit can be added to CODE*STAR. The kit parts mount on the main PC board and derives all signals and power from it. The port produces standard ASCII code at 110 Baud and can directly drive an ASR33 teleprinter, TV terminal or home computer. It can be configured for 20 ma current loop or TTL. Contact factory for more details.

LIMITED 90 DAY WARRANTY.
KITS. All parts (except the microcomputer IC) are warranted to be free of defect for 90 days after purchase. Parts found defective within this period will be replaced promptly without charge upon receipt for inspection at the factory. DO NOT SEND entire unit. Send defective part only with note of explanation. (The custom microcomputer IC in the kit is 100% tested and burned-in. However, it can be damaged by mishandling and incorrect voltages and therefore is not included in the warranty.) Microcraft Corporation cannot be held responsible for faulty workmanship during assembly or damage/harm caused by construction or installation errors. Units misused or modified are not covered by this warranty.