

# Caretaker Plus



## Buffered automatic switch

Four or eight ports

Serial or parallel

Compatible with all serial and parallel devices

Up to 1MB buffer

## Features and Benefits

- Simultaneous input accepted from all computers
- Units can be linked for more than 8 computers
- Can automatically send a form-feed on each port
- Up to two megabyte buffer
- Serial units have programmable baud rate and flow control
- Noise protection feature prevents computers just being powered on or off from generating spurious data
- Mode, data, busy, and error LEDs show data activity and status
- Power-up self-test and error display show any hardware problems
- Comes with full year warranty and unlimited technical support
- Manufactured in the USA

## The Caretaker Plus™ Advantage...

The Caretaker Plus™ makes it possible for you to connect up to eight computers, or terminals to a common printer, plotter, or other serial or parallel device.

Designed with your needs in mind, the Caretaker Plus uses commonly available cables, is compatible with all computers, printers and plotters, and has buffer memory. The Caretaker Plus's buffer memory allows computers to simultaneously send data to the unit for fast, efficient printer sharing.

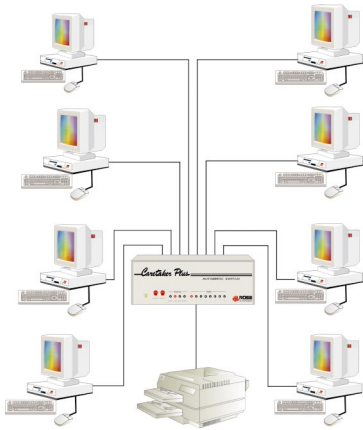
Accessing the shared device is simply done by sending data to the unit. The data is sent to the device in the order it was received. There is no easier way to share a common peripheral than with the Caretaker Plus.

Easy installation, easy expansion, and easy maintenance... everything you've come to expect in Rose Electronics products. Call us today to discuss your printer or device sharing application.



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## Typical Application



**Introduction** Caretaker Plus™ has been designed with advanced features for smooth, trouble-free operation. Here are some of the features that make it the best buffered automatic switch on the market.

**Basic Concepts** Caretaker Plus routes data automatically from many computers to a common printer or plotter. When you send a print job from your computer, the Caretaker Plus checks to see if the peripheral is available. If it is, it makes the port connection, sending your data immediately to the printer. When your job is finished, the switch disconnects your computer from the peripheral, making it available for another job. If you send a job while the peripheral port is busy, Caretaker Plus queues your job with any other pending jobs, storing all data in the buffer until the printer is available.

**Buffer Memory** The Caretaker Plus buffer is dynamically allocated, meaning that memory is allocated to each job as it is needed. As the data in the buffer is sent to its destination, the buffer is reclaimed to be used again, ensuring that all jobs have adequate memory available. This maximizes productivity by returning control of the computer to the operator quickly and by significantly reducing print time. Schools and offices that most commonly print one- or two-page documents typically need 16K or 64K buffers. For larger business and word processing environments, memory sizes of 256K or 512K are most common. CAD plotting, legal, or desktop publishing applications, on the other hand, require buffer memories of 1MB or 2MB.

**Cables** Caretaker Plus is connected to serial peripherals by null modem cabling and to parallel peripherals by Centronics-to-Centronics cabling. Normally, serial cabling in excess of 100 feet is not recommended, nor is parallel cabling over 25 feet. Caretaker Plus, however, has a very strong driving capability and can usually exceed these distances. The limitation is not in Caretaker Plus, but in your computer's driving capability. To break the 25-foot parallel barrier, you can rely on SuperCable, another quality Rose product that lets you extend parallel cabling up to 200 feet.

**Configuration** The initial settings of Caretaker Plus are usually sufficient for most applications. You simply connect the cables and print. If the initial settings need to be changed, you can do it easily by accessing the unit's Configuration Menu.

**Noise Protection** Although many people do not realize it, a computer often sends noise bursts out of its printer port as it is powered on or off. Computers that are turned off may also send false data. When this happens, spurious characters are printed, spoiling your print job. Because

Caretaker Plus, with its advanced filtering techniques, is immune to these transients, you can always count on quality printing.

**Front Panel and Diagnostics** LEDs located on the front panel display active and queued print jobs, busy information, data flow, and errors. A full set of diagnostics are executed upon power-up, and additional diagnostics, such as port loopbacks, test pattern printing, and memory tests, can also be executed.

**Advanced Features** The advanced features list allows you to configure the number of filter characters, unidirectional XON/XOFF, reverse channel data timeout, and, allow timeout on busy. These are not normally used but are used to access certain non-standard printers, mainframes, or computers. You can also disable the front panel switches where tampering is discouraged, such as in schools.

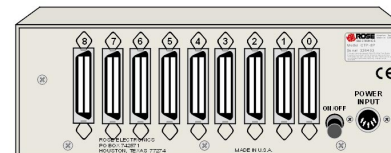
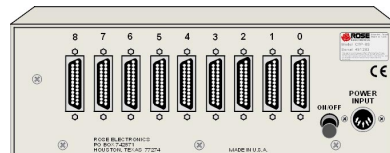
### Part Numbers

CTP-4S	4 serial in, 1 serial out
CTP-4P	4 parallel in, 1 parallel out
CTP-5P/25	5 parallel in, 1 out (DB25 connectors)
CTP-8S	8 serial in, 1 serial out
CTP-8P	8 parallel in, 1 parallel out

### Specifications

Size	10.5" W x 3.5" H x 5.0" D (26.7 x 12.7 x 8.9 cm.)
Weight	4 Ports: 6 lb.; 8 Ports: 7 lb.
Power	115VAC, 10VA wall adapter, 220 VAC optional
Connectors	Power: DIN5 Serial: DB25 Female Parallel: 36 pin Female Centronics
Memory	Field upgradable to 64K or 256K
Chassis	Electro-galvanized steel, painted
Control	Advance and Select switches Mode, Data, Busy, Error, Port 1-8 LEDs
Serial protocol*	EIA asynchronous RS232D
Parallel protocol	TTL Centronics
Serial flow control	DTR/DSR or XON/XOFF to buffer; DSR/DTR sent through for modem
Parallel flow control	STB/ACK/BUSY
Serial baud rate	50 - 19,200 BAUD*
Serial word size	5, 6, 7 or 8
Serial parity	None, odd, even, mark, space
Serial stop bits	1 or 2*
Environmental	0-55° C, 0-80% non-condensing rel. humidity

\* Each port is individually programmable



Rear View of Caretaker Plus, models CTP-9S and CTP-9P

### ROSE ELECTRONICS - US HEADQUARTERS

10707 Stancliff Road ■ Houston, Texas 77099 ■ USA  
Tel 281-933-7673 ■ Tel 800-333-9343 ■ Fax 281-933-0044

### ROSE ELECTRONICS - EUROPEAN OFFICE

Bourne Works High Street ■ Collingbourne Ducis  
Marlborough Wiltshire SN8 3EH ■ UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel +44 (0) 126 485 0574 ■ Fax +44 (0) 126 485 0529

### ROSE ELECTRONICS - ASIA PACIFIC OFFICE

PO Box 3184 ■ Robina T.C. ■ Queensland 4230 ■ AUSTRALIA  
Tel +617 5525 2714 ■ Fax +617 5525 2875

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