

LUCKY 13

I loved "The PortMaster Home-Automation System" (**Popular Electronics**, February 1991), but I noticed an error that a novice PC user might not "latch" onto. On page 61, it said to send an ASCII number 12 for a carriage return. It should read an ASCII number 13.

Here's a question for you: Do you have any device types recommended for either the Triacs (for AC control) or the D flip-flop?

Thanks for another great/simple project.

J.C.

Vancouver, BC, Canada

We're glad you liked the PortMaster so much. Even though it's easy to build, it's a

handy gadget to have. The point you've made is a valid one: A carriage return is character 13, not 12. Luckily, the mistake was made in discussing DOS's idiosyncrasies and shouldn't affect the operation of the unit or the software. Still and all, I like to be accurate. Thanks for your correction.

As far as recommending a Triac is concerned, it really depends on the current requirements of the AC device in question. Further, I can't recommend a particular flip-flop because any flip-flop configured to toggle will do.—John J. Yacono