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# HP 38G

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Keystrokes in this document are shown in two different formats. Commands accessible on the keyboard are shown as symbols, such as  $\square$ , or within square brackets, such as [SPACE]. Commands accessible through menus are shown between vertical bars, such as |CHOOS|.

Several of the commands and variables may be entered in one of two ways: either spell the word or recall it from a built-in menu. For example, to enter the variable TIME:

1. Press and hold the [A...Z] key.
2. Press the letters  $\overline{T}$   $\overline{I}$   $\overline{M}$   $\overline{E}$ .
3. Release the [A...Z] key.  
OR
1. Press the  $\square$  key.
2. Use the  $\blacktriangledown$  key to highlight the "Modes" title.
3. Press  $\blacktriangleright$   $\blacktriangleup$  to highlight "Time."
4. Press the |OK| menu key to enter the command.

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**Q:** Why does the (( )) annunciator stay on, even after the calculator is turned off?

A: This indicates a low battery condition in the calculator. The HP 38G uses three AAA batteries.

**Q:** Where can I find **batteries** for my calculator?

A: The batteries should be available at most convenience or department stores. Select three AAA batteries of any brand, but *make sure they are all of the same brand and type. NiCad batteries are not recommended because of their low capacity and short low-battery warning time.*

**Q:** How do I change the number of **decimal places** the calculator displays?

A: Press  $\blacksquare$  [MODES] to enter the input form, then  $\blacktriangledown$  to highlight the "Number format" field. Press |CHOOS|, then use the arrow keys to select the desired format. If Fixed, Scientific, Engineering, or Fraction is selected, a number indicating the number of displayed digits will appear to the right of the "Number format" field; simply arrow to this number and type in the desired amount (up to 11).

**Q:** What does an "E" in a number (for example, 2.51E3) mean?

A: The "E" stands for exponent of ten. In the example 2.51E3, the number is  $2.51 \times 10^3$ , which equals 2510.

**Q:** How do I adjust the **contrast of the display**?

A: Simultaneously press  $\overline{ON}$  and  $\oplus$  to darken the contrast, or simultaneously press  $\overline{ON}$  and  $\ominus$  to lighten the contrast.

**Q:** How do I **set the date and time**?

A: To set the date and time, store the correct settings in the date and time variables. Use the format M.DDYYYY for the date and H.MMSS for the time. For example, to set the date as May 6, 1996:

1. If necessary, press  $\overline{HOME}$  to enter the stack environment.
2. In the command line, key in 5.061996, press the |STO>| menu key, then enter the variable DATE (which is accessed by pressing  $\square$  |HOME|, then scrolling to the "Modes" title).
3. Press  $\square$ .

**Q:** How do I **display the current date and time**?

A: After setting the date and time as described above, enter the command DISPTIME. The day, date, and time will be displayed in a message box. The message may be removed by pressing the |OK| menu key or  $\square$ .

## HP 38G FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** How do I check the **amount of available memory**?

A: The amount of memory available may be displayed by using a SYSEVAL command, *which is not supported by Hewlett-Packard*. Use this feature carefully:

1. If you are not at the Home screen, press [HOME].
2. On the edit line, key in: SYSEVAL 535863.
3. Press  $\square$ . On the right side of the screen, the bytes of available memory will be displayed.

**Q:** How do I **reset a built-in Aplet** after I have made changes?

A: Resetting a built-in Aplet clears all of the User-entered data for that Aplet and restores the default settings:

1. Press [LIB] to display the Aplet Library.
2. Use the  $\blacktriangledown$  key to highlight the appropriate Aplet, then press the [RESET] menu key. A message box will appear asking whether the Aplet should be reset; press the [YES] menu key.

**Q:** How do I **print the display of a plot**?

A: While viewing a plot (or any) display, you may send a copy of the display to the optional HP 82240B Infrared Printer:

1. Press [SYMB], then highlight and check the function(s) desired.
2. Press [PLOT] to view the graph.
3. Press and hold the [ON] key, press and hold the [PLOT] key, then simultaneously release both keys. This procedure will perform a "screen capture" and store it in variable G0 (G zero).
4. Place the HP 38G and the infrared printer no farther than two inches apart. Align the HP 38G and the infrared printer such that the arrow mark (near the Hewlett-Packard logo just above the display) on the HP 38G is aimed at the center of the printer's infrared window (located just below the Hewlett-Packard logo).
5. If necessary, turn the infrared printer on.
6. Press [HOME] to return to the stack environment, then enter the command PRVAR (under the "Print" title of the PROGRAM COMMANDS menu, which is accessed by pressing [MATH] [CMDS]). Press [A...Z]  $\square$   $\square$  to execute the command.

**Q:** Why do trigonometric functions give me **unexpected results**?

A: The angle mode may be wrong for the particular problem. Check the angle mode annunciator in the upper left corner of the display screen; DEG means degrees, RAD means radians, and GRD means grads. To change the angle mode:

1. Press  $\blacksquare$  [MODES].
2. While highlighting the "Angle Measure" field, press the [CHOOS] menu key.
3. Highlight the desired mode, then press the [OK] menu key.

**Q:** When I take the **sine of  $\pi$ , I do not get zero**; why not?

A: There are two possibilities. First, the calculator may not be in radians mode. If the RAD annunciator is not displayed in the upper left corner of the screen, change the angle mode as described in the previous question. Regardless, the HP 38G, like all calculators, can only compute using a finite number of decimal places. Because  $\pi$  contains an infinite number of decimal places, any results involving  $\pi$  must necessarily be rounded. In this case, the rounded number differs from the theoretical answer by approximately one part in  $10^E-12$ .

**Q:** How do I **reset the calculator**?

A: To erase everything you have stored in the calculator and restore the factory-default settings:

1. Press and hold [ON].
2. Press and hold the leftmost top-row key and the rightmost top row key so that all three keys are pressed simultaneously.
3. Release all three keys.

**Q:** How do I **program** the HP 38G?

A: The programming chapter of the HP 38G User's Guide discusses creating and editing programs, lists various program commands, and contains some short examples. For more information, please visit our Web site on the Internet at: <http://www.hp.com/calculators>.

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** How can I take the **LOG** of a base other than 10?

A: If  $Y = \text{LOG}_X(Z)$ , then  $Y = \text{LOG}_{10}(Z) \div \text{LOG}_{10}(X)$ . For example, the  $\text{LOG}_2(8)$  is  $\text{LOG}_{10}(8) \div \text{LOG}_{10}(2)$ , which is 3. The same formula applies to natural logarithms.

**Q:** What if my calculator requires **repair service**?

A: Before submitting your unit for repair, please contact our Calculator Support representatives at 970-392-1001 for trouble-shooting assistance. Our phone lines are open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

**Q:** How can I get answers to **other questions**?

A: For further assistance, please visit our Web site at <http://www.hp.com/calculators>. If you do not have Internet access or prefer to speak with a support representative, please contact our Handheld Product Support department at 970-392-1001. Our phone lines are open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

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