USING TURBO C++

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Herbert Schildt

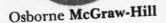
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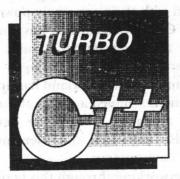
Using Turbo C++

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234567890 DOC 99876543210

ISBN 0-07-881610-6

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Introduction

As the 1980s drew to a close, a new way to approach the job of programming was beginning to take hold. This new method is called object oriented programming. Object oriented programming (OOP for short) embodies all features of structured programming (its predecessor), but provides the programmer with an exciting new way to analyze and solve programming tasks. In the course of this book, you will learn why OOP is important and how OOP is implemented in Turbo C++.

As you probably know, C++ is the object oriented version of C. C was the preeminent language of the 1980s and is still in wide use at the time of this writing. (In fact, it will most likely be a very long time before C is deemed obsolete.) C is known for its efficiency, power, and elegance. C++ preserves these important qualities but adds support for QOP. It is this combination that makes C++ the single most important object oriented programming language available today.

In 1988, Borland International, Inc. began secret work on Turbo C++. They started with their extremely powerful Turbo C and added to it the C++ OOP extensions. It was not an easy task. C++, although easy for the programmer to use, is a rigorous exercise in compiler construction. In fact, Turbo C++ is the largest and most ambitious language project Borland has undertaken. To create Turbo C++, Borland assembled a group of some of the best compiler programmers available. During the development of Turbo C++, Borland also enhanced the user interface to its interactive development environment.

As you will learn while working through this book, Turbo C++ provides a powerful yet flexible programming environment. It produces tight, efficient code and supports hundreds of library functions and classes. Although Turbo C++ was an ambitious project, it is fair to say that it lives up to its ancestor's reputation and deserves the title *Turbo*!

About This Book

This book teaches the Turbo C++ programming language, beginning with its base language, C. Because C++ is a superset of the C language, you need to know C before you can learn C++. Therefore, if you don't already know C, you can still use this book because it contains all the background information you need. The book also covers the Turbo C++ integrated environment, the editor, and many library functions. By the time you finish this book, you will definitely be able to call yourself a Turbo C++ programmer.

This book is based on the philosophy that learning is best accomplished by doing. Toward this end, the book contains many sample programs that you can compile and run. In fact, virtually every major feature of Turbo C++ has a sample program to demonstrate it.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is organized in such a way that it can be effectively used by two different types of programmers: those who already know C and just want to learn about the C++ extensions, and those who are new to both C and C++.

Part I presents an overview of Turbo C++, introduces the Turbo C++ integrated environment, and discusses the editor. In Part II, the C-like features of C++ are presented. If you don't already know C, be sure to carefully work through Part II. However, if you are proficient at C, you can skip to Part III, in which the C++ extensions to C are fully described.

Organizing the book in this fashion prevents the experienced C programmer from having to wade through reams of material he or she already knows, yet still provides the beginner with sufficient background material.

Conventions Used in This Book

In this book, keywords, operators, function names, and variable names are shown in bold when referenced in text. General forms are shown in italics. Also, when referencing a function name in text, the name is followed by parentheses. In this way, you can easily distinguish a variable name from a function name.

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The "Made Easy" series is also for beginners or users who may need a refresher on the new features of an upgraded product. These in-depth introductions guide users step-by-step from the program basics to intermediate-level usage. Plenty of "hands on" exercises and examples are used in every chapter.

The "Using" series presents fast-paced guides that quickly cover beginning concepts and move on to intermediate-level techniques, and even some advanced topics. These books are written for users already familiar with computers and software, and who want to get up to speed fast with a certain product.

The "Advanced" series assumes that the reader is already an experienced user who has reached at least an intermediate skill level, and is ready to learn more sophisticated techniques and refinements.

The "Complete Reference" books are a series of handy desktop references for popular software and programming languages that list every command, feature, and function of the product, along with brief, detailed descriptions of how they are used. Books are fully indexed and often include tear-out command cards. The "Complete Reference" series is ideal for all users, beginners and pros.

The "Pocket Reference" is a pocket-sized, shorter version of the "Complete Reference" series, and provides only the essential commands, features, and functions of software and programming languages for users who need a quick reminder of the most important commands. This series is also written for all users and every level of computing ability.

The "Secrets, Solutions, Shortcuts" series is written for beginning users who are already somewhat familiar with the software, and for experienced users at intermediate and advanced levels. This series provides clever tips and points out shortcuts for using the software to greater advantage. Traps to avoid are also mentioned.

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Diskette Offer

There are many useful and interesting functions and programs contained in this book. If you're like me, you probably would like to use them, but hate typing them into the computer. When I key in routines from a book it always seems that I type something wrong and spend hours trying to get the program to work. For this reason, I am offering the source code on diskette for all the functions and programs contained in this book, for \$24.95. Just fill in the order blank on the next page and mail it, along with your payment, to the address shown. Or, if you're in a hurry, just call 217-586-4021 (the number of my consulting office) and place your order by telephone. (Visa and Mastercard accepted.)

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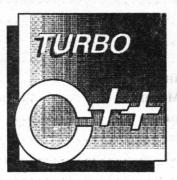


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