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The variable can input or output values ranging from 0 to 255 as that is equivalent to a single byte value. As there are two variables 16 bits can be represented in the two 8 bit variables. If CRU input reads less than 8 bits, the unused bits in the byte are reset to zero. If CRU input reads less than 16 but more than 8 bits, the unused bits in the word will be reset to zero. The bits range from 1 to 16 for input or output.

#### AUTO-SOUND INSTRUCTION GROM/GRAM/VDP

Format           CALL IO(type,address[,...])

Control of the Sound Generator Chip (SGC) in the system console is through a pre-defined table in GROM/GRAM or VDP memory. Sound output is controlled by the table and the VDP Interrupt Service Routine (ISR). A control byte at the end of the table can cause control to loop back up in the table to continue, or end sound output. The format of the table is the same regardless of where it resides. The table consists of a series of blocks, each of which contains a series of bytes which are directly output to the SGC.

Since the VDP generates 60 interrupts per second, the interrupt count is expressed in units of one-sixtieth of a second.

When the IO command is called, upon the next occurring VDP interrupt, the first block of bytes is output to the SGC. The interpreter (Operating System) waits the requested number of interrupts (for example, if interrupt counts are 1, every interrupt causes the next block to be output). Remember that interpretation of XB continues normally while the SGC control is enabled.

The sound control can be terminated by using an interrupt count of 0 in the last block of the table. Alternatively, a primitive looping control is provided by using a block whose first byte is 0, and the next 2 bytes indicate an address in the same memory space of the next sound block to use. (That means one block points to another block only in the same type of memory).