HARD TIPS

by Mark Fellows & Doug Cotton

DISCLAIMER: Information in this column is presented for education purposes only. In no event will Commodore World or Creative Micro Designs, Inc. be liable for any direct, indirect or consequential damages resulting from the use or misuse of this information.

Since CMD's RAMLink was designed to allow either a Commodore REU or a GEORAM to be installed in the RAM Port, and because these two devices use different I/O pages, it was necessary to disable those I/O pages on the Pass-Thru port whenever DIRECT access to the RAM Port was selected to ensure against memory conflicts. Unfortuneately, this means that you can't use a SwiftLink in the Pass-Thru port while maintaining direct access to an REU in the RAM Port.
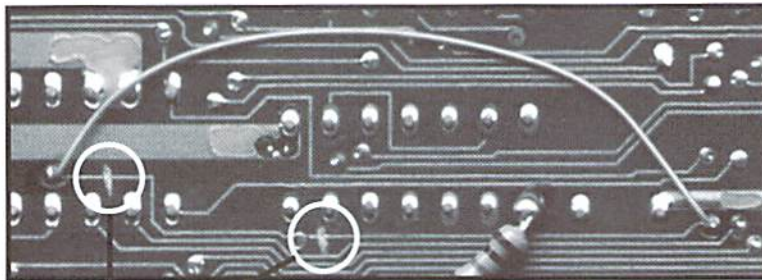
The modifications in the pictures below show how you can maintain operation of the $DExx I/O space on the Pass-Thru port while using a Commodore REU in the RAM Port in DIRECT mode. In lay terms, that means you can download to your REU directly while using a SwiftLink and RAMLink together. The 'down side' is that your RAMLink will no longer be compatible with a GEORAM, BBGRam, or RAMDrive.

To perform the modifications, you'll need a soldering iron, some solder, a utility knife, wire strippers, and some hookup wire (preferably solid wire-wrap type).
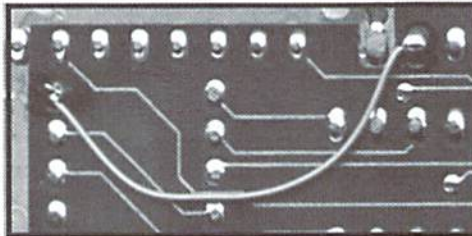
Since there are two versions of RAMLink, two sets of instructions are given. The revision number on the bottom of RAMLink determines the version; revisions beginning with a "2" are version 2. You'll have to disassemble your RAMLink and remove the main circuit board, since the modifications are done on the back of that board in the lower left quarter. Simply make the trace cuts shown in Detail 1, then install the jumper wires shown in Detail 1 and 2. Now reassemble your RAMLink. The DIRECT switch will no longer disable a SwiftLink (set for the factory default).

If you don't have the necessary skills to perform the modifications, CMD can supply a simple replacement chip (P/N: RLDIRECT) that does the same trick for $15.00 plus shipping. This chip will only work if your RAMLink is a version 2, or Revision I (version 1).
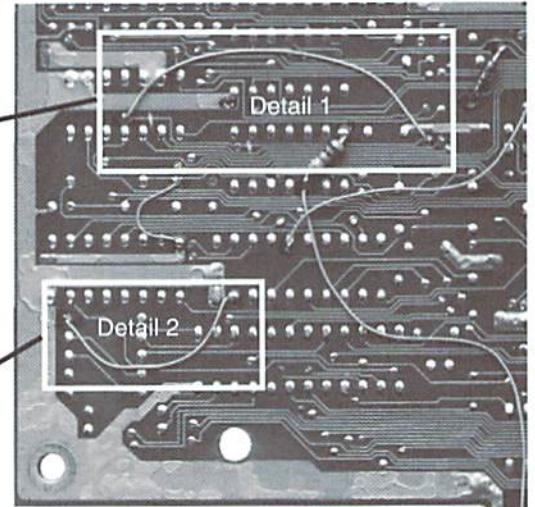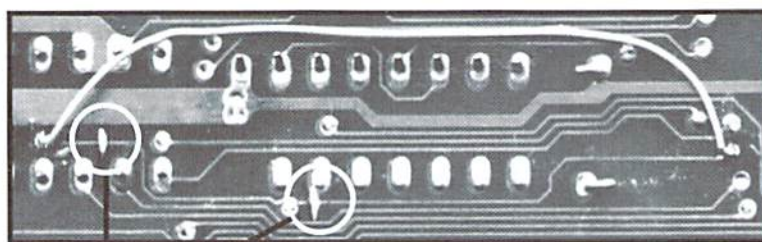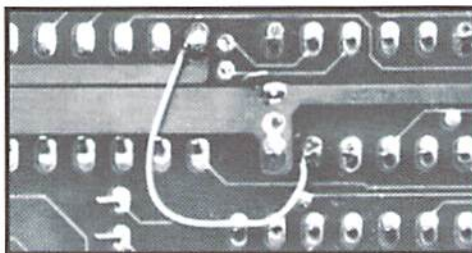

Detail 1

Detail 2

1. Cut these two traces, then
2. Attach the two jumper wires.

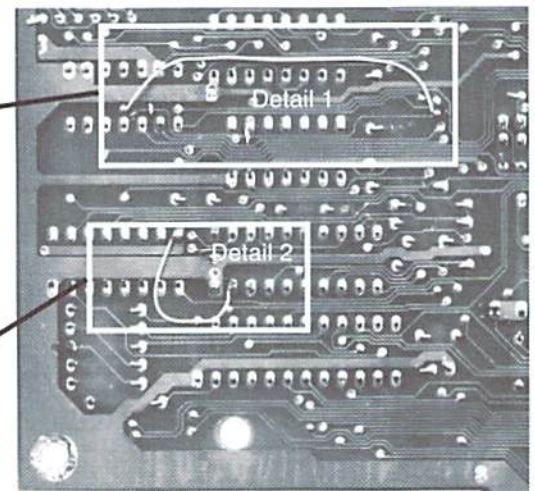**RAMLink Version 1 Modifications**

Detail 1

Detail 2

1. Cut these two traces, then
2. Attach the two jumper wires.

RAMLink Version 2 Modifications