

- d** The date
- p** The current Default Drive and Directory
- v** The DOS version number
- n** The current Default Drive
- g** The > character
- l** The < character
- b** The | character
- h** A backspace (the previous character is erased)
- e** The ESCape character
- The CR LF (carriage return-linefeed) sequence (go the beginning of the next line on the display screen)

**Examples:**

**PROMPT Hello, User**

Sets the DOS prompt to the message

**Hello, User**

**PROMPT \$p \$g**

Sets the DOS prompt to the Current Drive and Directory followed by the > character. If the current directory of Drive C: is \123\BUDGETS, the prompt will display

**C:\123\BUDGETS >**

Any variant of the above example is the prompt that should be set in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. This way you will always know what directory you (and DOS) are in.

**PROMPT Hi, John. I'm in \$p \$g\$g**

Sets the prompt to the message

**Hi, John. I'm in C:\123\BUDGETS > >**

### 2.1.7.3 FORMAT - Prepare a Diskette For DOS Use

Format, like Copy, is a command with many options. Format takes 8 pages to explain in the IBM DOS manual. We will describe only the most common options, but ALL the warnings.

**Command:** **FORMAT**

**Syntax:** [*d:path*]**FORMAT** [*d:*] [/S /V]

**Purpose:** *Formats (initializes) the disk in the specified OR DEFAULT drive in a recording format acceptable to DOS; analyzes the disk for defective areas; and sets up a directory on the disk.*

**Type:** *External*

As **FORMAT** is an External command (a program file), *d:path* before the command tells DOS where to find it on the disk.

*d:* after the command specifies which drive contains the disk to be formatted.

All the switches are optional, and have the following meanings:

**/S** Copies the essential DOS files onto the newly-formatted disk, making it a system disk (i.e. the machine can be started with this diskette in Drive A: