

- 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: