

Corrections for the HP49G User's Guide by Eric Rechlin

Any cases of double spaces between words and British vs. American spellings/terms have been ignored in this errata list. I will mention a few grammatical errors and typos, but most are not listed as well. This is meant to fix incorrect information, not to make fun of the technical writer. I have provided them to HP, however, but I feel they aren't important enough to publicly mention.

Page 1-5

Row 1, [WIN] should say "Specify plotting window parameters" to make more sense

Row 2, the pipe key graphic (for the where function) should not be broken: it should be a solid vertical line. This affects both the key graphic (on the left) and the row graphic (on the right).

Page 1-6

[DEL] does not delete the last object in the history. When the stack is shown, it clears the whole stack (or entire history). When the command line is shown (and I think this is the definition you want to use) it deletes the character the cursor is on. A better definition would be "Delete the character the cursor is on."

Page 1-7

[int] does not simply enter the integration sign. It is for the integration function, and it should have a definition in a similar form as the summation key. I'm not a technical writer, so I'll leave this one to someone else to define.

Row 6:

"smaller-than-or-equals-to" should be "less-than-or-equal-to"

"smaller-than" should be "less-than"

"greater-than-or-equals-to" should be "greater-than-or-equal-to"

(at least that's how they teach the names in the U.S.)

Page 1-8

Row 7: [S.SLV] does not display a list of CAS commands but rather one would press it to "Display a list of all symbolic equation solver commands."

Page 2-5:

It is not "1USR" but rather "1US" to indicate that the user keyboard is active for one operation.

It is not "1US" but rather "USR" to indicate that the user keyboard is active until [LS] [USER] is pressed.

Also in this section, "keyboard" is misspelled as "keybaord".

The symbols shown to indicate the real and complex modes are not simply an R and a C. Take a look at the HP49 to see what the symbols look like exactly.

The minifont used to show the characters on the screen on this page should be updated as well. The font used was for the HP48; the HP49's minifont is quite different.

The tilde (~) for approximate mode is not shown in the HP48/HP49 screen font

Page 2-6

The information given under "Selecting a menu item" does not work unless the user has manually set flag - 117.

"than can be displayed on the one screen" should be "than can be displayed on the first screen"

Page 2-7

"type the number as if it was a positive number" should be "type the number as if it were a positive number"

Page 2-8

The definition for Standard mode isn't quite right. For example, if someone enters "7E2" it shows up as "700." in Standard mode, so it doesn't always display numbers exactly as they are entered. Also, it's not necessarily to 12 significant decimal places but to 12 significant digits or figures.

The definition for Engineering mode is also wrong. It doesn't just display a user-specified number of digits; it's more complex than that (I think).

Page 2-10

"press F4 to select ECHO1" should be "press F5 to select ECHO1"

"press F5 to select ECHO" should be "press F6 to select ECHO"

Also, the font in the 1 for ECHO1 is not in the small caps font, which implies that the 1 is not part of the label (it is).

Page 2-15

At the end of the paragraph under Modes there is a closing parenthesis with no corresponding opening parenthesis.

Page 2-16

The definition for Beep is not completely correct. It says it turns on/off the alarm beep, but that's flag -57. This checkbox controls flag -56, which turns on/off the system beep. I wonder if the person who wrote the manual has ever used an HP calculator.

Also: it says "Key beep" when it's actually "Key Click"

Page 2-17

Under Flags, the example is misleading. The mention of changing a flag to always yield approximate rather than exact answers does NOT need the System Flags window. A better example would be flag -90, which changes the CHOOSE font size, or flag -117, which switches to softkey menus rather than CHOOSE menus for the built-in menus.

Also, "Press [F3] to select CHECK" should be "Press [F3] to select CHK"

The screenshot shown is from a prototype ROM and should be updated.

Page 2-18

It's interesting that this manual says *algebraic* mode means entering numbers, etc, as one would write on paper when the HP48 quick start manual says *RPN* mode means entering numbers, etc, as one would write on paper. This change makes no sense...

Page 2-19

The example on RPN is flawed. You do *not* need to press [ENTER] after typing 30 and before pressing [SIN].

Page 2-20

Under Command line calculations, the listed keystrokes are for algebraic mode only (this should be indicated...).

Page 2-21

In example 5, the [ALPHA] key does not need to be pressed before pressing X. Also, the comma needs a right-shift to work. In example 6 it shows [pi] as being a right shifted character when actually it is a left-shifted character.

"Note that where a function takes more than one argument, the arguments must be enclosed in parentheses and separated by a comma."

This is not correct: the argument(s) of a function must ALWAYS be enclosed in parentheses, regardless of whether there is one or multiple arguments. The commas, of course, are needed when there is more than one argument.

Page 2-26

"Press] to highlight the" should be "Press [downarrow] to highlight the" (where [downarrow] is the graphic for the down arrow)

Page 3-2:

It says "To edit an existing expression, the calculator needs to be in textbook mode." This is not true. This paragraph, along with steps 1 and 2 for enabling textbook mode, may be removed because they have no effect on the Equation Writer. That only affects stack/history display.

Page 3-7:

In the tree structure diagram, the rightmost "3" should be a 5 to correspond with the expression given above.

Page 3-9:

In example 3, there are boxes around the numbers for keys. In no other section was this done, so the boxed numbers should be replaced with plain numbers for consistency.

Chapter 4:

Nearly all of the screenshots in this section are out of date, from a prototype ROM. These should be updated.

Page 4-7

All plot sections say "(Whether units or pixels is used depends on the setting in the Pixels field (see below)" in two places (for H-Tick and V-Tick). There are two opening parentheses but only one closing parenthesis, so remove the very first opening parenthesis on each one.

The second screenshot on this page looks funny.

Page 4-9

It says the independent variable is usually 't' for parametric plots, but in the example it uses 'T', so be consistent.

Page 4-14

"Init-Sol" should be "Init-Soln"

Page 4-15

"Soln The solution variable. It defaults to y." does not seem to apply here: where is the choice for it in the menu?

Page 4-19

The Fast3D plot type is not mentioned. It should be directly before Wireframe.

Page 4-26

"(namely, scatter)" should be "(in this case, scatter)"

"Namely" just doesn't make any sense in this context...

Page 4-27

"Wid" should be "Bar Width" to correspond to what is shown on the screen

Page 4-29

"Wid" should be "Bar Width" to correspond to what is shown on the screen

Page 4-31

"deactivated in you choose a ZOOM function" should be "deactivated if you choose a ZOOM function"

Page 4-34

Under "Function analysis tools list" the given directions for steps 2 and 3 do not seem to apply to the actual behavior of the calculator. These steps can for the most part be removed. This is one example of a place where the manual goes into too much (and, in this case, inaccurate) detail for a simple feature, when there are many other places (with more complex features) where it doesn't go into enough detail.

Page 4-35

Steps 3-5 under "Finding areas" are not quite accurate: this should be fixed to correspond to the calculator's actual behavior.

Page 4-36

Also, another example of inconsistency: one place shows [LeftShift] [TABLE] and another shows [LeftShift] [F6] for the same thing on the same page.

Page 4-38

TPAR, which sets table parameters, is not mentioned under Special plotting variables. A paragraph on this should be added.

Page 5-3

It says that the Step/Step option is checked to perform differentiations in step-by-step mode. Actually it does a lot more than that, including integration, matrix inversion, and linear algebra.

Page 5-6

This correction can apply to MANY other pages as well.

When giving sample input/output, use the HP49's syntax rather than some other syntax. For example, in the SUBST example, you list the "ln" and "arctan" functions when they are actually "LN" and "ATAN"

Page 5-9

In the EXPLN example, you have the x and i transposed in the sample output: it should be "EXP(i*x)" rather than "EXP(x*i)"

For LIN, the sample result is bad. It should be:

"-i/2*EXP(i*x)+i/2*EXP(-i*x)"

Page 5-10

In the LNCOLLECT example, the output is "LN(6)" not "ln(2x3)"

In the TAN2SC2 example, it should mention that the first substitution is when flag -116 is clear (Prefer cos()) and the second substitution is when flag -116 is set (Prefer sin())

Page 5-12

These three screenshots are out of date, plus the last one gives the *wrong answer* (well, it's right but not in the same form as the 49's answer: it should be $\sqrt{(2+\sqrt{3})/4}$). Please update these.

BTW, these six steps listed for performing the example in algebraic mode could have been done in three steps in RPN mode...makes you wonder why so many people prefer algebraic mode, doesn't it?

Page 5-14

"Press [RightArrow] [RightArrow] [RightArrow] to select STEP BY STEP"
should be

"Press [DownArrow] [DownArrow] [DownArrow] to select STEP BY STEP"

Page 5-15

These screenshots (at least, the fourth, fifth, and sixth screenshots, that is) are out of date and should be remade using a newer ROM.

BTW, what's a person to do if he/she doesn't have a computer with Internet access, when several pages per chapter (on average) say to check the HP web site for more information?

Page 6-3

Finance is not mentioned in the list of options (should be the last one)

Page 6-9

Nowhere does it mention what the INIT+ softkey does for differential equations.

Page 7-2

For the object delimiters, the smart quotes (the angled quotation mark and apostrophe) should be changed to straight quotes (" and ')

For variable names, it should also mention that although they can contain numbers, they cannot begin with a number.

In the keystroke list to create the variable named GRAV, the final [ALPHA] before the [ENTER] is unnecessary.

Page 7-5

In step 2, it forgets to mention that after pressing [F2] the user must press [ENTER] in order to enter the directory

Page 7-7

""Selecting a directory or variable" on page 7-4" should be "...7-5".

Page 7-8

"512 Kb" and "2 Mb" should be "512 KB" and "2 MB", respectively (Mb is megabits, MB is megabytes)
"1 Mb of port memory" should be "1 MB of port memory" (same thing), but actually it's over 1.5MB of port memory, to be more precise.

Page 8-1

The URL should be "http://www.hp.com/calculators/hp49" not "http://www.hp.com/calculators"

Page 8-2

"One of the numbers indicates magnitude and the others indicate direction." This is true in polar mode but not in the default, rectangular mode (unless my math is wrong...)

"Polar notation is not available as a separate option." is incorrect...just look at the MODE window. You'll have to rewrite this section to reflect this.

"R\<) indicates cylindrical notation" should be "R\<)Z indicates cylindrical notation"

Method 1 does not work on the calculator! I don't know if this is a calculator bug or an owner's manual bug!

Page 8-3

Spelling error: "gradians" should be "grads" according to my dictionary

Page 8-4

[3 <4] only looks like [2.99269 .20926] if you are in degrees mode. Because the default is radians, you should change this ([-1.96093 -2.27041])

Same thing for the next example: 53.13 should be 0.92730.

Now for a big cut: Under Absolute Magnitude, remove steps 1-5. They are unnecessary! Simply replace them with one new step: Press [leftshift] [ABS]. The key's on the keyboard, so you don't need to go into a menu.

In step 7, put [rightshift]'s in before each of the commas.

Page 8-5

Step 1: put a [rightshift] before the comma.

Steps 3-7 can be removed and replaced with "Press [leftshift] [ABS]."

Step 8: put a [rightshift] before the comma, and ignore the (unnecessary) right-arrow.

Under Dot product: "same number of rows and the" can be ignored: dot product is for vectors, not matrices.

Step 6: this is WRONG. Just ignore this step, or it won't work.

Step 8 and 12: you need [rightshift]'s before each of the commas

Page 8-6:

Ignore step 6: it causes the example to not work.

Page 8-7:

Under "Single-argument commands" step 2 is labeled as step 1.

Also, it says the "positive square root" is returned, but remove the unnecessary word "positive". I don't care what a few math instructors will say; square root is ALWAYS positive according to most math instructors.

Under "Multiple-argument commands" it says "to highlight PROB in the list" when it should be "to highlight PROBABILITY in the list"

Ignore step 6...again, it will cause the example to not work.

Between steps 7 and 8 you need to have a "Press [rightarrow]." in there somewhere or it won't work.

Page 9-7:

"Press [F2]" should be "Press [F3]"

Page 9-8:

I don't really understand this section so I won't proofread it closely. Sorry.

"CONFIDENCE INT" should be "Conf. Interval"

Page 9-9:

"HYPOTHESES TST" should be "Hypoth. Tests"

Page 9-11:

There is no mention of the Two-Sample T-Test. A section should be added on this.

Page 10-2

In step 2, the [LeftShift] should be a [RightShift]

Page 10-4

The section beginning with "To include comments in your program" does not apply to on-calculator programming. The @ sign is only for when typing the program on the PC, because when it is typed on the calculator, the comment is lost as soon as the ENTER key is pressed. I think it is best to remove this section (5 lines). If you do keep it, however, the [LeftShift] should be changed to a [RightShift] for entering the @ sign.

Page 10-12

In the example program in step 5, "A B" should simply be "A", as there is no use for a B in here.

Pages 10-14 and 10-16

The example programs do not work.

Page A-2

Double space: "cables that comes" should be "cable that comes"

The Transferring Data section is *all* wrong on steps 3 through the end. Here is a better way of putting it; it's not perfect but it's certainly more accurate than what is already written:

3. On the receiving calculator:

a. Navigate to the directory where you want to store the received data. See chapter 7, "Storing objects", for details of setting up and navigating to directories.

4. On the sending calculator:

a. Navigate to the port or directory that holds the data to send.

b. Select objects to send by highlighting the object with the arrow keys and pressing [ENTER]. A number appears next to each selected object to indicate the order in which it will be sent.

5. On the receiving calculator, press [NXT] followed by [F6] to choose RECV.

6. On the sending calculator, press [NXT] followed by [F5] to choose SEND.

Pages C-1 to C-5

There are a LOT of spacing problems here. Someone should make sure the same point size, kerning, number of spaces, etc, were used everywhere. (example: look at the value of the 'angstrom' versus the value of the 'barn')

For the 'farad' there is a period where there should be a multiplication dot

Page D-4

The second to the last step ("detaches all libraries...") is incorrect. Here are three possible solutions:

1. Remove it

2. Replace it with "attaches all libraries to the HOME directory" (technically incorrect as well, but mostly accurate and easy to understand)

3. Replace it with "runs the config routines for all installed libraries" (completely correct, but not the easiest to understand)

Page D-5

"Halting the system without using the keyboard" is wrong: the steps below tell the user to use the keyboard.

Hmmm...