>> Falcon™

DOS PORTABLE TERMINALS

User's Guide

PERCON

Falcon DOS Portable Terminals
User's Guide
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PERCON

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About This Book

This book provides information about Falcon DOS portable data terminals for first-time users. It explains how to start using the Falcon, how to enter data from the keypad and from bar codes, and how to insert and remove RF cards. It also includes information about the Falcon Dock and 4-Slot Dock.

For additional information about Falcon DOS portable terminals, including instructions on transferring files from a Falcon to a PC, see the *Falcon DOS Portable Terminals* ***Advanced User's Guide****.*

NOTE: *When used in this book, the word "Falcon" generally refers to any or all of the DOS portable models identified on page 2. Where information applies to specific models, those models are clearly identified, as in the following example:*

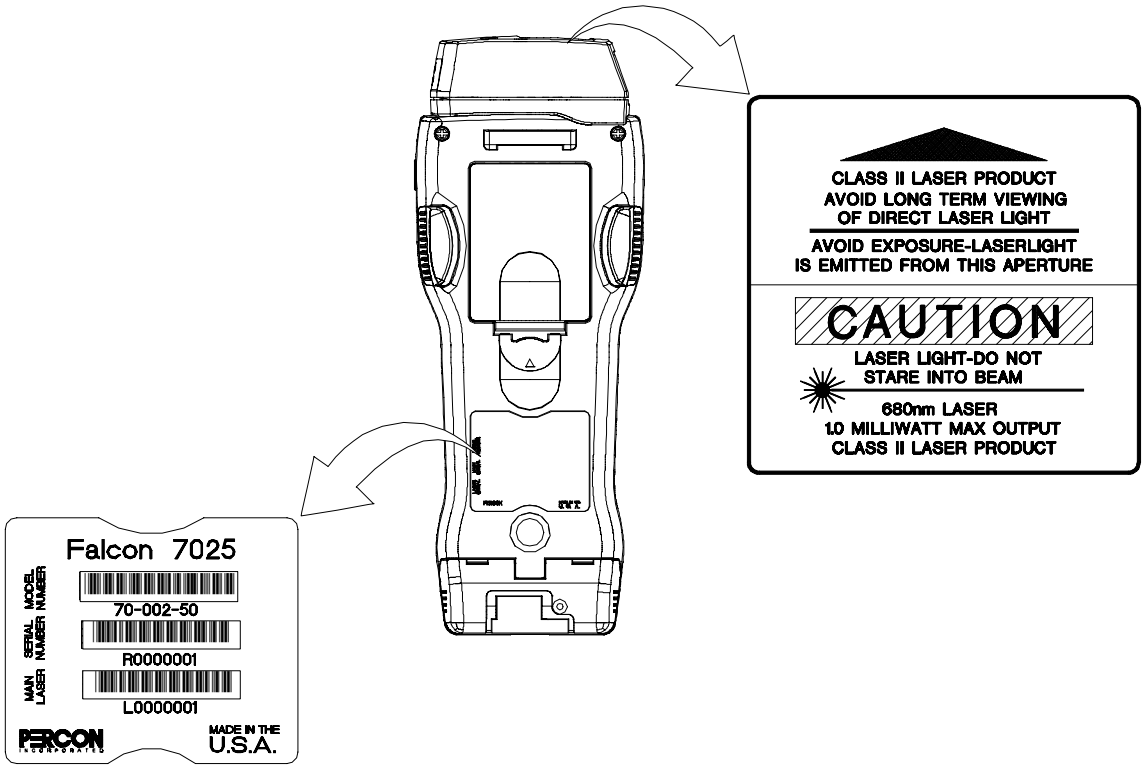
Getting Help

The most comprehensive source for technical support and information for Percon products is the Percon web site, at www.percon.com. The site offers answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), software updates, patches, demos, product documentation, and instructions for returning products for repair.

Another excellent source for technical assistance and information is your authorized Percon reseller. Your reseller is directly acquainted with your type of business, application software, and computer system and, therefore, is in the best position to provide individualized assistance.

If you cannot find a solution to your technical support questions through our Web site or your reseller, you may contact Percon technical support directly via e-mail at tech@percon.com.

Product Labeling and Safety Information



Advisory Statement

CAUTION: Use of controls, adjustments, or performance of procedures other than those specified herein may result in hazardous visible or invisible laser light exposure.

FCC Information

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Contents

>> Chapter One

About Falcon DOS Terminals

This chapter provides an overview of the Falcon line of DOS portable data terminals. It identifies the various model configurations and accessories and describes some of the features of the Falcon models.

CHAPTER CONTENTS

>> Overview

Falcon DOS portable data terminals are handheld computers designed for data collection. The Falcon DOS portable line includes 8-line and 16-line models.

Some Falcons have integrated laser scanners, making them high-performance bar code readers as well. Models without integrated lasers accept input from most industry-standard bar code readers.

Both the 8-line and the 16-line Falcon models are available in batch and wireless (radio frequency, or RF) configurations. Wireless models provide instant communication of data between the unit and a host computer.

>> Model Numbers

Table 1-1 lists the model numbers of the Falcon DOS portables and describes their configurations.

Table 1-1: Falcon Models

Model Number	8-Line	16-Line	Batch	RF
310	X		X	
315	X			X
320		X	X	
325		X		X

>> Optional Accessories

Falcon Dock

The Falcon Dock is a handy docking station for the Falcon. It has two primary uses:

- ❑ It recharges the Falcon's NiCD or NiMH battery pack.
- ❑ It provides a connection for serial communications between the Falcon and the host computer or terminal.

See chapter 3 for more information about the Falcon Dock.

Falcon 4-Slot Dock

The Falcon 4-Slot Dock provides battery recharging and serial communications for up to four Falcon units at a time.

See chapter 4 for more information about the Falcon 4-Slot Dock.

Portable Battery Charger

If you do not have a Falcon Dock or a Falcon 4-Slot Dock, you can use the optional portable battery charger to recharge the Falcon's batteries. Rechargeable batteries that have lost all power can be fully recharged in about 2 hours.

NOTE: *To purchase accessories, or for additional information, contact your Percon representative, or visit the Percon Web site at www.percon.com.*

>> Care and Cleaning

With normal use, your Falcon DOS portable terminal should require no maintenance. If it gets dirty, wipe it with a damp cloth.

Do not immerse the Falcon in liquid.

Do not use any abrasive cleaners on the display screen.

>> Chapter Two

Using the Falcon

Although the Falcon is a DOS computer, it works differently from most computers you may be familiar with. Your Falcon unit may also contain one or more applications that let you collect bar code data or other information. This chapter will help you get started using the Falcon.

Finding Out More: *For more information (including instructions on transferring files to and from a Falcon), see the* Falcon DOS Portable Terminals **Advanced User's Guide**.

CHAPTER CONTENTS

>> Turning the Unit On and Off

Press the Power key to turn the unit on or off.

First-Time Use

The first time you turn the Falcon unit on, you may see the following message:

```
Initial power-up or
critical data loss.
Drive D formatted.
Press any key...
```

This message appears with normal operation and does *not* indicate a problem. Just press the ENTER key, and the Falcon will continue to boot up.

NOTE: *This message will also appear when you place new or re-charged batteries in the unit after the backup battery has been drained. Again, this is normal and not a problem.*

"Please Wait" Messages

With certain types of PC cards installed in the Falcon, the unit performs various operations on the card whenever you turn it on or off. While these operations are happening, the unit displays a message in reverse video indicating that it is powering on or off. When turning the unit on, wait until the message disappears before using the unit. When turning the unit off to replace the batteries, wait until the message disappears before removing the batteries.

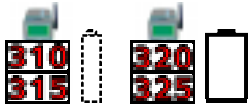
>> Batteries

The Falcon uses three standard AA alkaline batteries or rechargeable nickel cadmium (NiCD) or nickel metal-hydride (NiMH) batteries. The NiCD and NiMH batteries are available in battery packs that are easy to replace in the Falcon.

NOTE: *For models*  *and*  *, only NiMH batteries are recommended.*

The Falcon also has a built-in lithium backup battery that temporarily saves data when the other batteries lose their charge.

Low-Battery Warning



When the batteries have lost most of their charge, an icon of a battery appears at the top right corner of the Falcon viewport. (See the icons at left.) The Falcon also may be programmed to emit a beep at intervals when the battery is low. When you see the battery icon or hear the warning beeps, you should turn off the Falcon and recharge or replace the batteries as soon as possible. The backup battery will retain all data in memory while the other batteries are out of the unit.

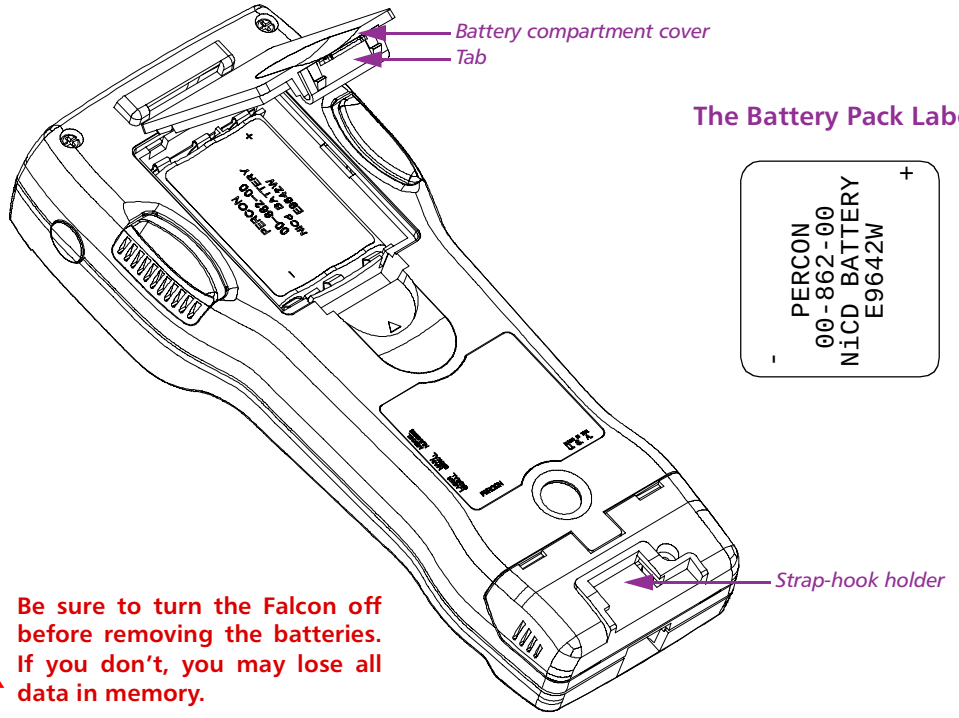
After you recharge or replace the batteries and turn the Falcon back on, it returns to wherever you were in your application when you turned it off.

Replacing the Batteries

The Falcon's batteries (except for the lithium backup battery) are located in a compartment on the back of the unit (see figure 2-1). To replace the batteries, complete the following steps:

1. Turn the Falcon off.
2. Detach the elastic hand strap on the back of the Falcon by pulling its hook out of the holder near the base.
3. The battery compartment cover has a tab on one edge. Firmly press the tab toward the top of the Falcon unit with your thumb until the cover is released from the body of the unit. (A symbol on the body indicates the direction in which to press the tab.)
4. Pull the end of the plastic ribbon sticking out of the battery compartment toward the batteries until they pop out.

Figure 2-1: A NiCD Battery Pack in the Falcon's Battery Compartment



Be sure to turn the Falcon off before removing the batteries. If you don't, you may lose all data in memory.

5. Lay the plastic ribbon along the bottom of the battery compartment with the end sticking out of the compartment.
6. **Alkaline Batteries** Insert the batteries in the positions indicated by the diagram inside the compartment.

   NiCD or NiMH Battery Pack Find the positive (+) and negative (-) symbols on the battery pack's label (see figure 2-1). *With the label facing you*, tilt the positive end of the pack into the upper end of the battery compartment, and then firmly press the negative end until it is fully inserted into the battery compartment.
7. Replace the battery-compartment cover by sliding it into place. (Be sure the plastic ribbon is tucked underneath the cover.)
8. Replace the hand-strap hook in its holder.

NOTE: *The Falcon will not turn on unless the battery-compartment cover is in place.*

Auto-Shutoff

The Falcon has an automatic-shutoff feature that helps conserve battery life while you are not using it. When a specified amount of time has passed since you pressed a key or a trigger, the Falcon turns itself off. All data in memory is maintained. Press the power button to turn the unit back on.

>> The Keypad

The Falcon keypad is made up of 41 keys (models 310 and 315) or 57 keys (models 320 and 325). The keypads are shown in figure 2-2. Used individually or in combination, these keys provide equivalents to almost all the keys found on a standard keyboard. The Falcon also has a few keys not found on a standard keyboard. Table 2-1 shows which standard keys are not included and which keys are unique to the Falcon.

Figure 2-2: The Falcon Keypad

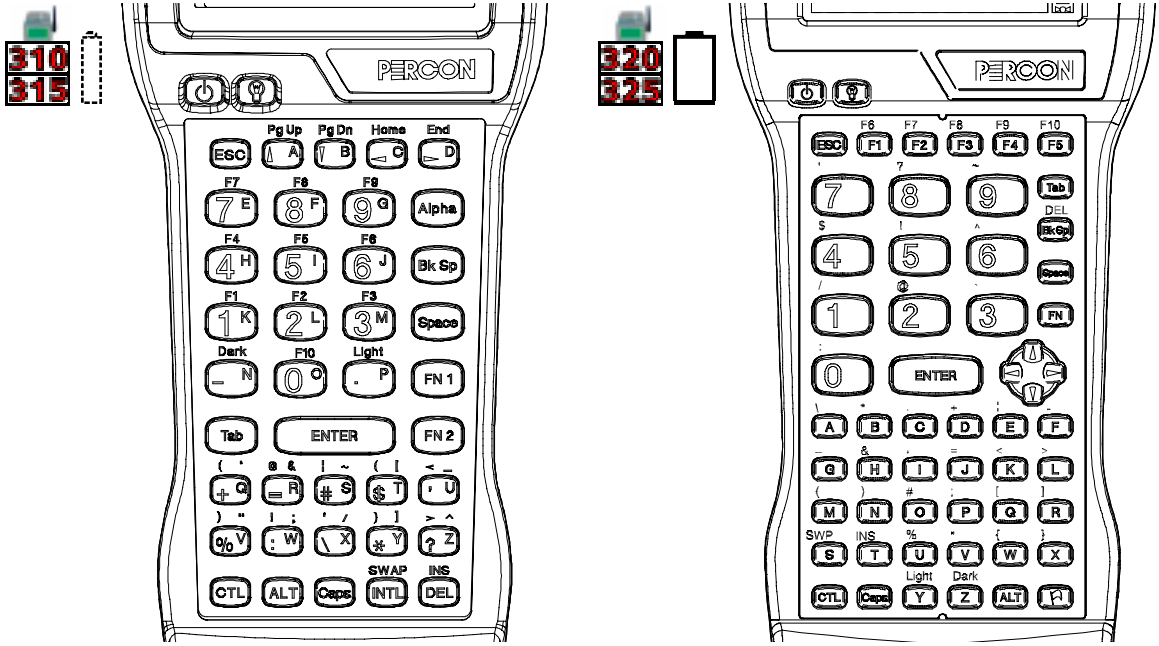


Table 2-1: Standard Keyboard Keys Not Found on Falcon Keypad

F11	Right Alt	Scroll Lock
F12	Right Ctrl	Pause/Break
Left Shift*	Numeric keypad keys	Print Screen/SysReq
Right Shift*	Caps Lock*	Num Lock

**The Caps key on the Falcon provides the function of this key.*

Table 2-2: Falcon Keys Not Found on Standard Keyboard

Models	Key	Default Use
	Power	Turns the Falcon on and off
	Caps	When pressed and released, toggles Caps mode on and off; when held down, acts equivalently to the Shift key on a standard computer keyboard
	Lamp ()	Turns the viewport backlight on and off
	Light	Lightens the background of the viewport
	Dark	Darkens the background of the viewport
	Left laser trigger	Operates the Falcon laser module or an attached bar code reader; can be reprogrammed as a keypad key
	Right laser trigger	Same as the Alpha key; can be reprogrammed as a key-pad key
	Alpha	Toggles the Falcon between Alpha mode and Normal mode
	FN 1	Outputs the blue symbol above the next key pressed, or activates the function (F1–F10) key pressed
	FN 2	Outputs the black symbol above the next key pressed
	INTL	Outputs an international character generated by the combination of the next two keypresses
	Swap	Switches the assigned actions of the right and left laser triggers
	FN	Outputs the black symbol or function (F6–F10) above the next key pressed
	 (International)	Outputs an international character generated by the combination of the next two keypresses
	SWP (Swap)	Switches the assigned actions of the right and left laser triggers

Learning to Use the Keypad

The best way to learn how to use the keypad on Falcon model 310 or 315 is to play with it. The color coding of the keys and characters should help you.

- The yellow Alpha key works with the yellow letters on the other keys.
- The blue FN 1 key works with the functions (F1–F10) and the blue characters printed above some of the keys.
- The black FN 2 key works with the black characters or operations printed above some of the keys.

For most applications, you will not need anything but the letters and numbers. Input letters by pressing the Alpha key to turn on Alpha mode and pressing the keys for the letters you want. Use the Caps key with the Alpha key for uppercase letters. Input numbers and some other frequently used characters by pressing the Alpha key again (to return to Normal mode) and pressing the appropriate keys.

Input Modes

When you press a key on the Falcon keypad, the result depends upon the input mode of the keypad. The input modes are described in table 2-3.

Table 2-3: Keypad Input Modes

Models	Input Mode	Result of Keypress
	**Type 1—remains in effect after each keypress until manually discontinued**	
	Normal	Outputs the white number or symbol on the key, or performs an action (e.g., moves left)
	Alpha	Outputs the yellow letter on the key (lowercase unless used with Caps mode)
	Caps (can be used only with Alpha mode)	Outputs the uppercase yellow letter on the key
	Type 2—affects only a single keypress or combination of keypresses	
	Base	Outputs the default letter, number, or symbol for the type-1 input mode
	Function 1	Outputs the blue symbol or function above the key
	Function 2	Outputs the black symbol above the key
	Control	Outputs the control meaning for alphanumeric or function keys

table continues

Models	Input Mode	Result of Keypress
	Alternate	Outputs the alternate meaning for alphanumeric or function keys
	International	Outputs a character from the international character set (see page 13)
	**Type 1—remains in effect after each keypress until manually discontinued**	
	Normal	Outputs the character or function on the key, or performs an action (e.g., moves left)
	Caps	Outputs the uppercase letter on the key
	Type 2—affects only a single keypress or combination of keypresses	
	Base	Outputs the default letter (uppercase or lowercase), number, or symbol on the key
	Function	Outputs the symbol or function above the key
	Control	Outputs the control meaning for alphanumeric or function keys
	Alternate	Outputs the alternate meaning for alphanumeric or function keys
	International	Outputs a character from the international character set (see page 13)

You can temporarily override a type-1 mode without actually changing the mode. For example, if you are entering numbers in Normal mode and want to type a letter, hold down the Alpha key while pressing the key for that letter. When you release the Alpha key, the Falcon will still be in Normal mode. You can use the Caps key the same way to enter an uppercase letter without changing to Caps mode.

Cursors and Icons

The shape of the Falcon's cursor in the viewport is a key to the current input mode. Table 2-4 identifies the various input modes and the corresponding cursors.

Icons located along the right side of the viewport indicate the current input mode. Table 2-4 identifies the various input modes and the corresponding icons.

Table 2-4: Cursors, Icons, and Input Modes

310 315 Cursor	320 325 Icon	Input Mode
—	*None*	Normal
a	*N/A*	Alpha
A		Caps
N/A	FN	Function
↖	*N/A*	Function 1
↗	*N/A*	Function 2
C	CTL	Control
A	ALT	Alternate
I		International

During operations that require use of a disk drive, a disk icon ( ) appears on the right side of the viewport. This indicates that the unit is busy. Wait until the icon disappears before continuing to use the unit.

International Characters

The international character set contains letters and symbols commonly used in Western European languages. You can enter international characters by using the following key sequence:

Intl *accent* *letter*

where ***accent*** is a character from the "Accent" column of table 2-5 and ***letter*** is a character from the "Letter" column in the same row.

320 325

NOTE: *The* Intl *key is the orange one with the flag:* .

Table 2-5: Key Combinations for International Characters

Models	International Characters	Accent	Letter
	á, é, í, ó, ú, É	‘ (apostrophe)	a, e, i, o, u, E
	à, è, ì, ò, ù	`	a, e, i, o, u
	â, ê, î, ô, û	^	a, e, i, o, u
	ä, ë, ï, ö, ü, ÿ, Ä, Ö, Ü	:	a, e, i, o, u, y, A, O, U
	å, Å	@	a, A
	ç *or* Ç	c *or* C	<None>
	ñ *or* Ñ	n *or* N	<None>
	ñ *or* Ñ	~	n *or* N
	ß	s	s
	æ	a	e
	Æ	A	E
	¿	?	?
	¡	!	!
	£	FN 1 + $	<None>
	¥	FN 2 + $	<None>
	ç *or* Ç	, (comma)	c *or* C
	¢, £, ¥	$	c, l, y
	æ *or* Æ	!	e *or* E
	ç *or* Ç	‘ (apostrophe)	c *or* C

Repeating Keystrokes

The Falcon keypad features support for repeating keystrokes. To repeat a keystroke, press and hold the key. After a brief pause, the keystroke will be automatically repeated until you release the key. This feature can be particularly useful with such keys as Bk Sp and the cursor keys.

>> The Viewport

The Falcon's viewport is a backlit liquid crystal display of 21 characters in 8 rows (models 310 and 315) or 20 characters in 16 rows (models 320 and 325). If you enter more than the maximum number of characters, the text in the viewport will scroll to the left to display the additional characters in the line.

Moving the Viewport Display

To view long lines of text, you can move the viewport display to the left or right by half screens.

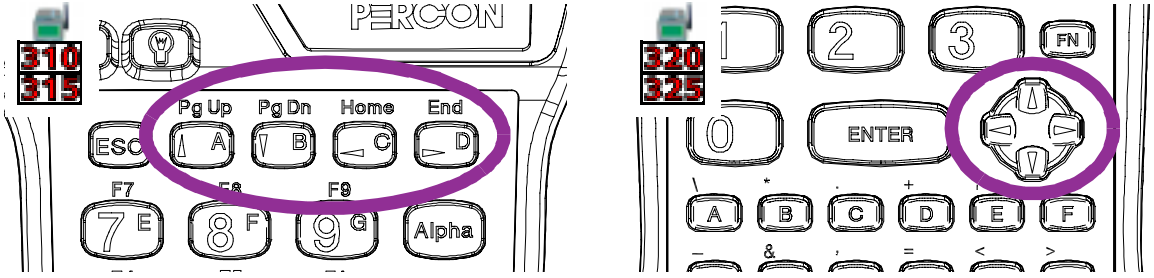
310 315

Hold down the FN I key, and use the cursor keys (see figure 2-3) to move the display up, down, to the left, or to the right. When you release the FN I key, the display will snap back to make the current cursor position visible. You can also press and release the FN I key and then move the viewport several times in one or more directions. When finished, press and release the FN I key again to return to the current cursor position.

320 325

Hold down the FN key and use the cursor keys (see figure 2-3) to move the display up, down, to the left, or to the right. The viewport panning icon ( ) will appear on the right side of the display. When you release the FN key, the display will snap back to make the current cursor position visible. You can also press and release the FN key and then move the viewport several times in one or more directions. When finished, press and release the FN key again to return to the current cursor position.

Figure 2-3: Location of the Cursor Keys



Adjusting the Contrast

When working in dim or bright light, you can adjust the contrast between the text and the background in the viewport.

Hold down the FN 2 key, and press the Dark key to make the display background darker or the Light key to make it lighter. Press the FN 2 key again when you are done. You can also press and release the FN 2 key and then use the Light and Dark keys to adjust the contrast. When finished, press and release the FN 2 key again.

Hold down the FN key, and press the Dark key to make the display background darker or the Light key to make it lighter. Press the FN key again when you are done. You can also press and release the FN key and then use the Light and Dark keys to adjust the contrast. When finished, press and release the FN key again.

Using the Backlight

When using the Falcon in dim light, you can turn on the backlight to see the viewport better. Press the Lamp () key below the viewport to turn the backlight on or off. To save battery power, the backlight will shut off automatically if you do not press a key within a certain amount of time. The backlight will turn back on when you press any keypad key.

>> *The Falcon Laser*

Some models of the Falcon come with a built-in high-performance laser scanner. To use this scanner, just point the laser window at a bar code and press the trigger that activates the laser. A red light-emitting diode (LED) on the scanner module indicates when the Falcon is scanning, and a green LED indicates when a scan is successful.

Some Falcon models are equipped with a long-range scanner. See page 18 for information on using the long-range scanner.

The Laser Triggers

Normally, the left trigger (as seen from the front) operates the Falcon laser or another bar code reader attached to the Falcon, and the right trigger toggles the Falcon in and out of Alpha mode (models 310 and 315) or Function mode (models 320 and 325). If you wish, you can swap the operation of these triggers. This will allow you to use the right trigger as the laser trigger and the left trigger as the mode toggle. To swap the trigger operations:

Press the FN 2 key, and then press the SWAP key.

Press the FN key, and then press the SWP key.

Repeat to swap them back.

Changing the Laser Module's Orientation

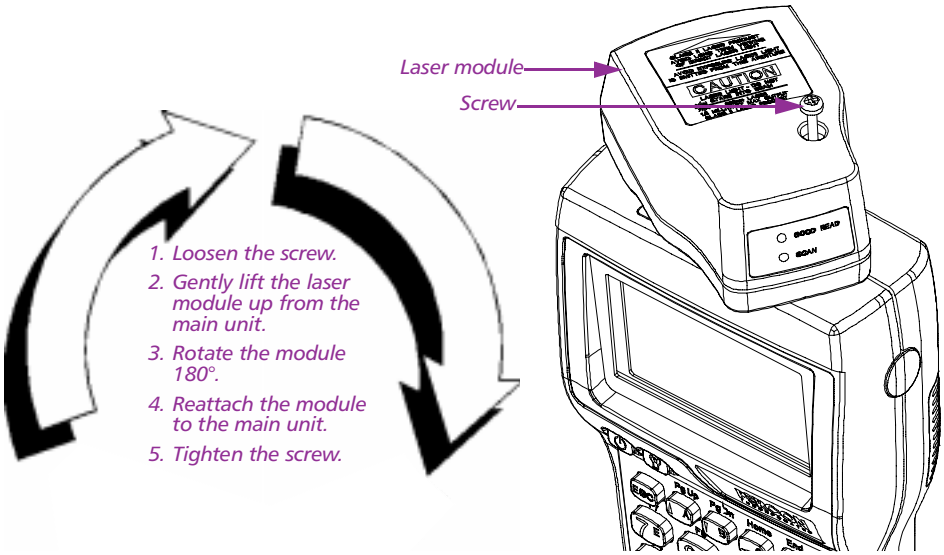
Normally, the laser window faces the left side of the Falcon for easy right-handed scanning. If you prefer to hold the Falcon in your left hand while scanning, you can turn the laser module around.

To rotate the laser module, complete the following steps:

1. Unscrew the screw that secures the module to the main part of the Falcon (see figure 2-4). The screw will come loose but will not come out of the laser module. Do not try to force it out.
2. Gently lift the laser module away from the top of the main part of the Falcon. The module will not completely separate from the rest of the Falcon. Do not try to force the units apart.
3. Swivel the module around until the laser window faces the opposite direction. The module can rotate in only one direction. Do not try to force it the other way.
4. Press the laser module back into the main part of the Falcon, and tighten the screw.

NOTE: *After changing the laser module's orientation, you may want to swap the operations of the triggers (see above).*

Figure 2-4: Rotating the Laser Module



Using the Long-Range Laser

The Falcon's optional long-range integrated laser uses a spotting beam to help you scan bar code labels from a distance. With the spotting beam aimed at the center of the bar code, the Falcon unit is positioned to read the bar code with its scanning beam.

Figure 2-5: Long-Range Laser Operation

The long-range laser may be operated in either of two trigger modes:

- **Spot Beam Timeout** This is the default mode of operation. When you press the laser trigger and hold it down, the laser emits a spotting beam. Aim this beam at the center of the bar code you wish to scan. After a short timeout period (the default is one-half second), the laser switches to a full scanning beam and reads the bar code.

❑ **Release Scan** This mode provides greater control over the spotting beam. When you press the laser trigger and hold it down, the laser emits a spotting beam, as with the Spot Timeout mode. In Release Scan mode, however, the spotting beam stays on, for up to 5 seconds, until you release the trigger. Then the laser switches to a full scanning beam and reads the bar code. (You can turn off the full scanning beam by pressing and releasing the trigger.)

To prevent accidental scanning, both modes require you to hold down the laser trigger to activate the spotting beam.

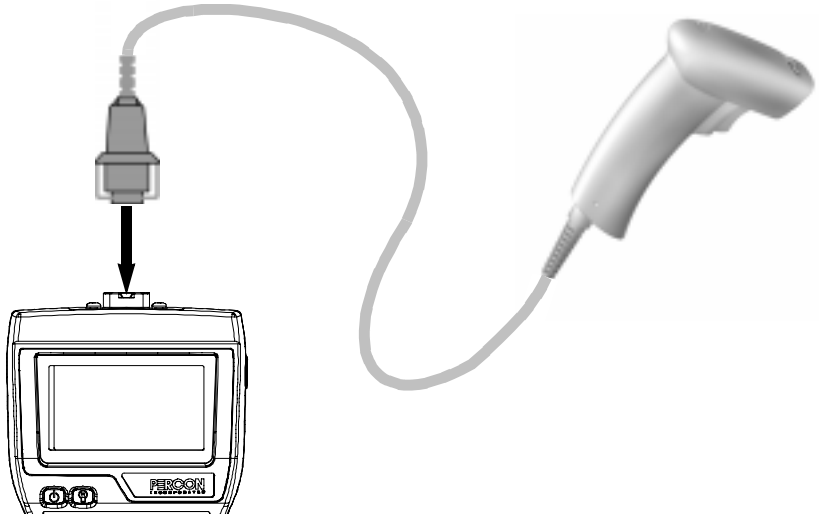
>> Attaching a Bar Code Reader

If your Falcon does not have an integrated laser scanner, you can attach a bar code reader to the connector at the top. The reader's cable must have a standard nine-pin squeeze connector at the end.

To attach the bar code reader, match the orientation of the holes on the squeeze connector with the pins on the Falcon's connector. Then press the squeeze connector onto the Falcon's connector until it is firmly in place (see figure 2-6).

To disconnect the bar code reader from the Falcon, press the sides of the squeeze connector and pull it away from the Falcon's connector.

Figure 2-6: Attaching a Percon SnapShot to a Falcon



>> The Falcon Applications

When shipped from the factory, each Falcon unit is programmed with several applications collectively known as PAL2. If your Falcon has been customized, it may be programmed with other (or additional) applications.

For information on using PAL2, see the *Falcon Portable Applications Library User's Guide*. If you are using another application, contact your system administrator for instructions.

>> Chapter Three

The Falcon Dock

The Falcon Dock is specially designed for use with the Falcon DOS portable terminal. The dock provides a connection between the Falcon and your computer without sacrificing the convenience of portability. Instead of attaching a cable each time you want to transmit data to or from the Falcon, simply place the unit into the dock. To use the Falcon for data collection again, just remove it from the dock.

This chapter describes how to use the Falcon Dock.

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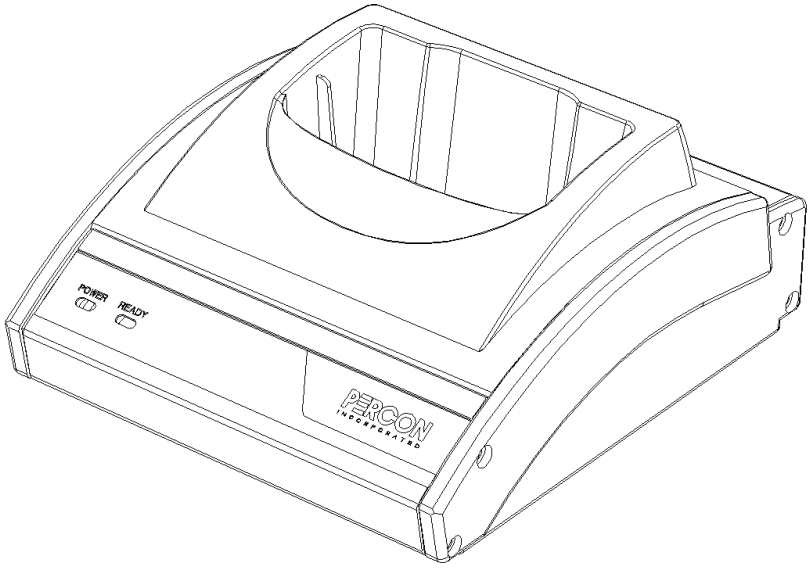
>> About the Falcon Dock

The Falcon Dock is a handy docking station for the Falcon. It has two primary uses:

- ❑ Recharges the Falcon's NiCD or NiMH battery pack
- ❑ Provides a connection for serial communications between the Falcon and the host computer or terminal, as well as other serial devices, such as printers or modems

Figure 3-1: The Falcon Dock



A cable and a power adapter for the Falcon Dock are available separately. To make your own cables, see the *Falcon DOS Portable Terminals* ***Advanced User's Guide*** for pin assignments.*)*

>> Attaching the Falcon Dock to Your Computer

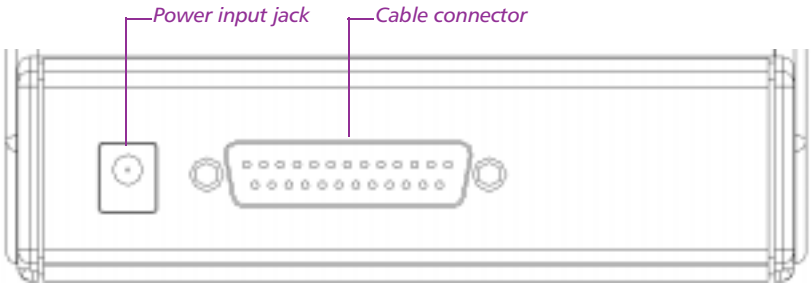
Complete the following steps:

1. Attach the 25-pin end of the cable to the cable connector on the back of the Falcon Dock (see figure 3-2).
2. Attach the other end of the cable to a serial port on your computer.

3. If you ordered the optional power adapter, attach it to the Falcon Dock (see the next section).

NOTE: *You do not need a power adapter to use the Falcon Dock with a serial device.*

Figure 3-2: Back Panel of the Falcon Dock



>> The Power Adapter

You can use a 9-volt power adapter with the Falcon Dock to recharge the batteries in the Falcon. Power adapters are available from your Percon dealer.

Attach the small, round plug of the power adapter to the power input jack on the back of the Falcon Dock (see figure 3-2). Plug the other end into an outlet or power strip. The red light-emitting diode (LED) labeled **POWER** on the front panel of the Falcon Dock should light up.

The power adapter is used only to recharge the batteries in the Falcon. However, if you do not use it, the LED indicators on the Falcon Dock will not light up. (The **READY** light indicates that the Falcon is properly inserted in the dock. The **READY** light will appear red when charging and green when fully charged.)

NOTE: *Use only a 9-volt power adapter supplied by your Percon dealer. Using another adapter can damage the dock.*

>> Using the Falcon Dock

Set up the Falcon Dock as described in the preceding sections. Place the Falcon into the dock, with the keypad facing the front. If you are using a power adapter with the serial configuration, the green LED labeled **READY** on the front panel of the Falcon Dock should light up.

NOTE: *If the READY light does not come on, make sure the POWER light is on and the Falcon is fully inserted into the dock, with the keypad facing out. If it still doesn't work, make sure the Falcon Dock adapter is securely attached to the Falcon and that the contacts in the dock are clean. (If you are using the serial configuration without a power adapter, the light will not come on.)*

While the Falcon is in the Falcon Dock, you can download programs to it or upload data from it just as if it were connected directly to your computer. You can even leave the Falcon in the dock while you use an attached bar code reader.

If you are using a nickel-cadmium (NiCad) or nickel metal hydride (NiMH) battery pack in the Falcon, you can use the Falcon Dock to recharge the batteries. Simply leave the battery pack in the Falcon when you place it in the dock. The battery pack and the lithium backup battery will be recharged while the READY light is on. The charging time is 8 to 15 hours, depending on the type of battery pack and the current charging level.

>> Maintenance

With normal use, the Falcon Dock should require no maintenance.

>> Chapter Four

The Falcon 4-Slot Dock

The Falcon 4-Slot Dock is specially designed for use with Falcon DOS portable terminals. It provides serial communications capabilities and convenient battery recharging for one to four Falcons. This chapter describes how to set up and use the Falcon 4-Slot Dock.

Finding Out More: *See the* Falcon DOS Portable Terminals **Advanced User's Guide.**

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>> About the Falcon 4-Slot Dock

Use the Falcon 4-Slot Dock to:

- ❑ Provide a connection for serial communications between one to four Falcons and a host computer.
- ❑ Recharge the Falcon's nickel cadmium (NiCD) or nickel metal-hydride (NiMH) battery pack.

You can form a dock network by connecting two or more 4-Slot Docks to each other and connecting just one dock to the host. A Falcon in any slot on any dock in the network can exchange data with the host. While a slot is busy, all other slots in the network must wait for that one to become free.

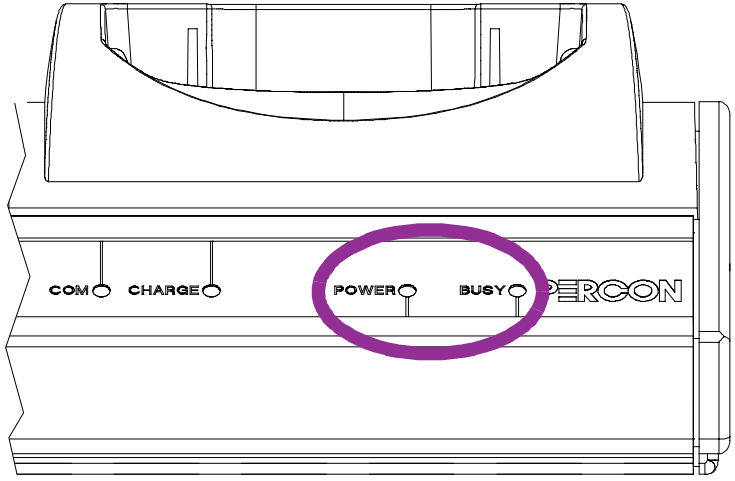
Front Panel

The front panel of the 4-Slot Dock has two light-emitting diodes (LEDs) that indicate conditions for the entire 4-Slot Dock unit (see figure 4-1).

POWER Green indicates that the dock is receiving electricity through the power adapter.

BUSY Red indicates that another 4-Slot Dock in the network is communicating with the host.

Figure 4-1: LEDs for Status of Falcon 4-Slot Dock

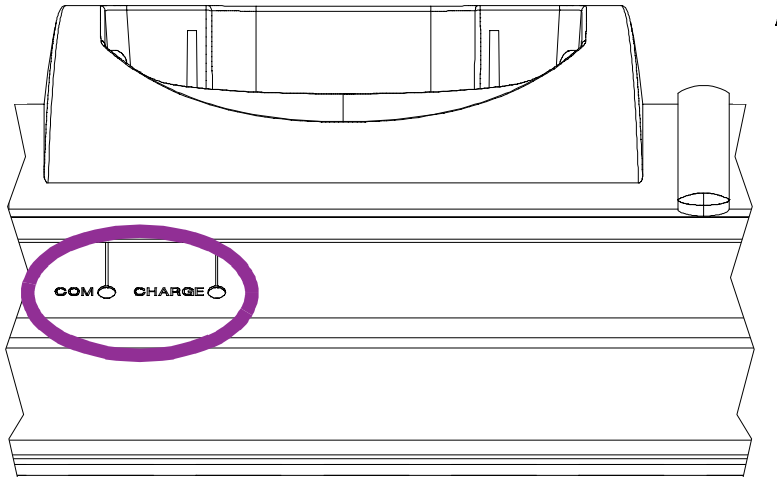


Two LEDs for each slot (see figure 4-2) show the status of the Falcon in that slot.

COM Green indicates that the Falcon has control of the communications line to the host.

CHARGE Red indicates that the Falcon's batteries are being charged. Green indicates that the batteries are fully charged.

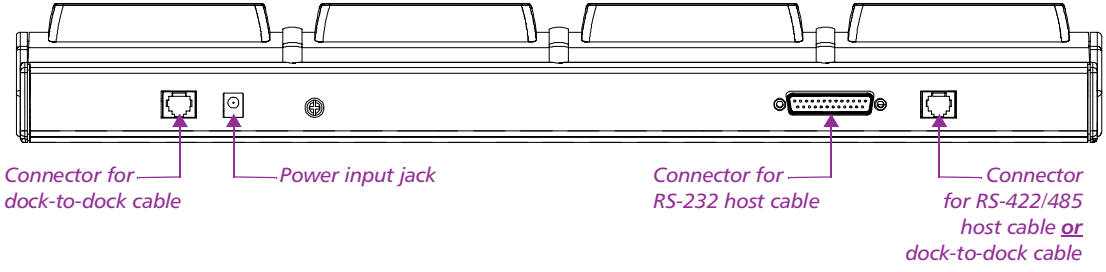
Figure 4-2: LEDs for Status of Falcon in Slot



BACK PANEL

The back panel of the 4-Slot Dock has cable jacks for connections to the host computer and other 4-Slot Docks (see figure 4-3). The power input jack is also located there. (For information about connecting docks, see "Creating a Dock Network" on page 29).

Figure 4-3: The Back Panel on the Falcon 4-Slot Dock



>> Installation

Power Adapter

Use one of the following:

- ❑ **US:** US style 110VAC plug (Percon part number 00-850-00)
- ❑ **International:** 100–250VAC 47–63Hz input with IEC320 (part number 00-851-00; includes power cord)

Cables

To connect the 4-Slot Dock to a host computer, use one of the following:

- ❑ **RS-232 cable** (Percon part number 00-884-32)
- ❑ **RS-422/485 cable** (custom-built for your application)

To form a network of multiple 4-Slot Docks, connect the docks to each other with either of the following Percon cables:

- ❑ **2-foot cable** (00-884-36)
- ❑ **10-foot cable** (00-884-37)

NOTE: *See the* Falcon DOS Portable Terminals **Advanced User's Guide** *for pin assignments.*

Connecting the Dock to the Host

Complete the following steps:

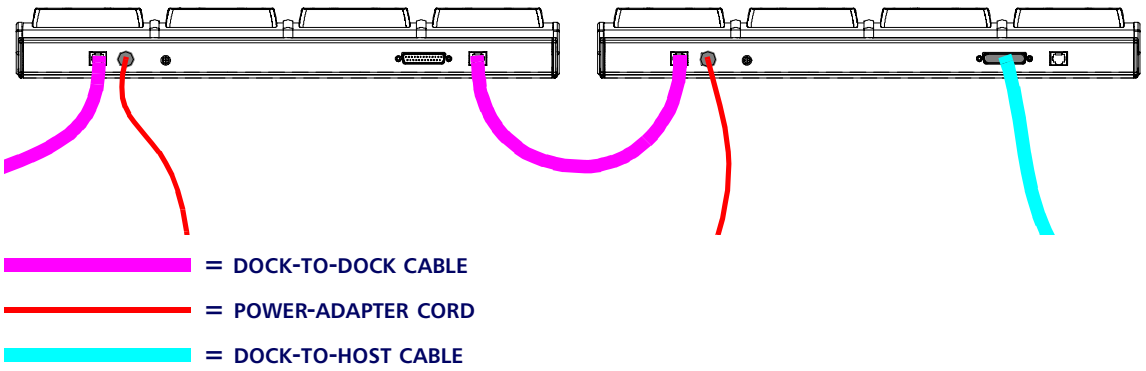
1. Plug one end of the serial cable into the appropriate connector on the back of the 4-Slot Dock.
2. Attach the other end of the cable to an available serial port on your computer.
3. Attach the power adapter cord to the power input jack on the back of the dock. If you are using the international power adapter, plug one end of the power cord into the power adapter.
4. Plug the power cord into an outlet or power strip (preferably one that has surge protection). The **POWER** LED on the front panel of the dock should light up.

Creating a Dock Network

Figure 4-4 shows the back of two docks in a network. The dock on the left is connected to a third dock (which may be connected to another dock). The dock on the right is connected to the host with an RS-232 cable. To use an RS-422/485 connection to the host, you would use the jack at the far right. (The RS-232 connector would not be used.)

Each 4-Slot Dock unit in the network must be connected to a power supply.

Figure 4-4: Connections for Falcon 4-Slot Docks in a Network



>> Using the 4-Slot Dock

Charging a Falcon's Batteries

To charge the rechargeable batteries in a Falcon, place the Falcon into any slot of a 4-Slot Dock that is connected to a power supply. The dock does not need to be connected to a host computer.

Transferring Data

To transfer programs or data files between a Falcon and a host computer through a 4-Slot Dock, you can use Percon's XFER utility, the Falcon Configuration Utility, or any standard serial-transfer program.

NOTE: *For information about using XFER or the Falcon Configuration Utility, see the* Falcon DOS Portable Terminals **Advanced User's Guide**.

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