

# HHC 2009 HP Calculator Display Contest Results

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Oops. When I wrote this I was confused on the date; not only the date of the end of the contest, but the actual date. I guess that is what happens when you retire. 😊 The effect was closing the contest a few days early. That in of itself wasn't a disaster, but I also copied information about the conference to an old HHCer, Roger Hill. I did this because as far as I know Roger has never passed up a challenge. Because of this I have modified this file and the file of submittals. Roger's submittal is #7 and he contributes to the body of knowledge that may be applied to this universal "problem." The results haven't changed as described below because of the situation, for which I apologize.

The purpose of the contest was to answer the question of what number is best to put into a calculator display when you want to photograph it. This "issue" came up with me at the end of March when HP requested a copy of an HP-35A photograph to use at a special ceremony at HP Labs whereby the IEEE would present a special award to HP for its work on the HP-35A. The idea was to use a photograph and cut it so that it appeared as if it was an HP-35A and use it as an invitation for the event.

I sent HP two photos as explained in the file on the HHC 2009 website (*HP Calculator Display.pdf*). At that time I was presented with the "problem" and it started me thinking. I put a few words to paper and sent HP two photographs. They used the one that I took as my response to the "problem."

One photo had  $\pi$  in the display and the other had  $\phi$  in the display. I presume HP found  $\phi$  "more interesting."

The goal of the contest was to get ideas for such numbers and the majority of the six submittals focused mostly on "the number." The idea was to suggest a solution to the problem as outlined in the guidelines listed. Knowing that this would happen I accepted two entries and I received a second entry from some of the participants after I clarified that the "reason" for choosing the number was equally as important as the number itself. In other words what made the number interesting?

The Update also clarified why the number had to be simple, easy, and fast to enter. This was based on my personal experience of photographing HP calculators and is illustrated with an example in Appendix A of the above referenced file.

The following people submitted entries: Jim Horn, Gene Wright, Martin Cohen, Christian Carey, Frank Travis, and Joseph Horn. As I mentioned in the Contest Update #1 I was not looking for the "perfect" number that would meet the criteria specified. I don't believe that there is such a number.

Joseph Horn clearly submitted the "best" solution to the problem. However, in terms of a normal contest entry I also have to say that Christian Carey is also a winner.

I will send a prize to each of these people picked from the list below (Joseph gets first pick if I have only one).

1. Unused first production HP33s.
2. Older (Up to HP-48) HP Calculator Owner's manual of your choice.
3. One box (6) unused 82175A thermal paper.
4. HP-71 FORTH/Assembler ROM Internal maintenance Specification (IMS) and HP-71 Assembler Internal Design Specification (IDS), 8-1/2"x11", 523 pp.
5. Older HP accessory owner's manual of your choice.
6. HP-65 Pac of your choice.
7. HP-67/97 Pac of your choice.
8. HP-67/97 Use's liberty solutions booklet of your choice.
9. Tandy 200 Portable Computer. Condition unknown.
10. Half dozen unused Mini Data Cassettes.
11. Copy of Wlodek's book, *Tips and programs for the HP-32S*
12. HP 82059B AC adapter.

Joseph and Carey should email me three choices – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thanks for your participation. X <> Y, Richard