Machine Shorthand Theory Development Timeline

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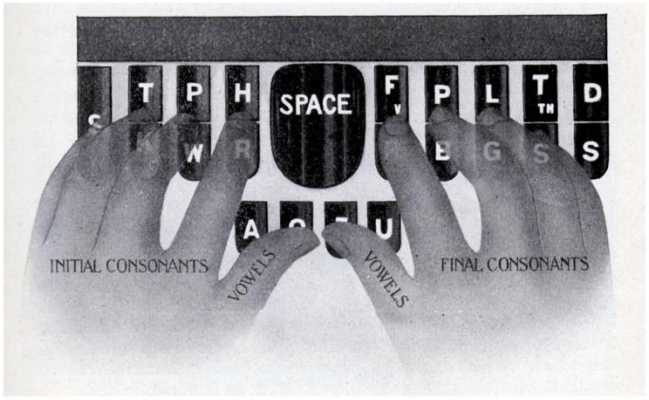
This research begins with the Ward Stone Ireland keyboard layout first embodied in the Stenotype machine that was manufactured by the Universal Stenotype Company of Owensboro, Kentucky. The keyboard layout patent and the machine patent were both applied for in 1910. The machine design patent was granted in 1911, and the keyboard arrangement patent was granted in 1913.

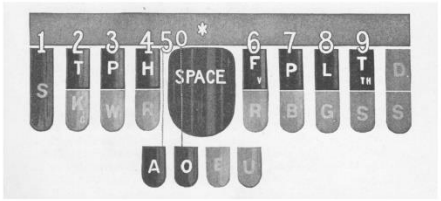
All theories mentioned in this document were written for this arrangement of the keyboard and its derivatives. There are other machines that utilize a different layout of the keys. Those are not a part of this document. In addition, I have chosen to omit textbooks that were written specifically for use at a particular school. If the book is available on the open market or for other schools to adopt, I have tried to include it. I'm sure I have missed some texts, so if you are aware of any, please let me know.

Major changes in the approach to theory or events that impacted the development of theory are indicated with a bold header.

Most of the texts mentioned in this document are in my possession and are the primary source of information provided. I don't own all of the texts ever printed, so if you happen to have an edition I haven't mentioned, I would love to know about it so this document could be updated.

1911 Ireland Stenotype Keyboard





Source: Stenotypy
Copyright 1912 by Ward Stone Ireland

Unique Features:
-Top, long bar is the asterisk bar
-Stroke asterisk with letter to indicate a number. Prints as S*/T*/P*/H*
-The 1911 Stenotype was the only machine to have the letters printed on the keys.

ORIGINAL STENOTYPE THEORY FOR IRELAND KEYBOARD LAYOUT

Stenotypy, published by The Universal Stenotype Company, Owensboro, KY
Copyright 1912; Ward Stone Ireland, author

Interesting details:

- One of the goals of machine shorthand was to have everyone write everything exactly the same so the steno notes could be passed off to any typist that reads Stenotype notes.
- Omit all silent letters.
- Write the consonants according to their sound. *sure*, SHUR
- Where one vowel occurs in a syllable, write it just as it occurs in the spelling. *store*, STOR
- If two vowels occur together in a syllable and only one of them is sounded when the word is spoken, write the sounded vowel. *treat*, TRET; *thread*, THRED; *crow*, KRO.
- In general, there is no conflict resolution of homonyms, stenonyms (an outline means more than one thing), or word boundaries. All resolution of conflict is done by analyzing context while transcribing the steno notes into a typewritten document. There are a few exceptions in the textbook such as writing *stair* as STAEUR to distinguish it from *star* and writing K-/PABG for *compact* and K-/PEUL for *compile* instead of using the shortcut KPABG and KPEUL to avoid conflicts with *exact* and *exile*.

Ward Ireland's initial theory utilized many shortcuts for writing such as:

  - Write KPW for imp, emp, imb, emb
  - Write K for com, con, col, cor, cog, cum
  - SPW for ent, int
  - Write -FRB for -rf or -rv
  - Write -LGTS for -tl
  - Write -LGDS for -dl
  - Write ABG for accom, accum
  - Write KR- for contra, contro, counter
  - Write -BL for able, ably, ibl, ibly
  - Write – BLT for bility, ability, ibility
  - Write TPH- for en, in, un, intra (but write ent and int as SPW-)
  - Write TPH-BG for incog, incom, incon, incor, incum, uncom, uncon, uncor, uncol

- Briefs and phrases were taught.
- The textbook exercises are primarily sentences and paragraphs at the end of the lesson with little-to-no practice on individual sounds, phrase groups, or briefs. No keys were provided for the exercises.
- There were no Q and A strokes taught. Shorthand at that time was primarily for business use.
- STKPWHR was an exclamation mark. -FRPBLGTS was the semicolon.
- 242-page book, minus the abbreviations listed at the back.

Sample words:

aisle	EUL	hoe	HO	sew	SO
apple	APL	hope	HOP	shifts	SHIFS
awl	AUL	howl	HOUL	sip	SEUP
eat	ET	ought	OT	so	SO
hail	HAL	pail	PAL	soup	SUP
haul	HAUL	path	PAT	tail	TAL
heal	HEL	pave	PAF	tall	TAL
heap	HEP	peep	PEP	thoughts	THOTS
heat	HET	pipe	PEUP	throat	THROT
high	HEU	sail	SAL	tool	TAOL
higher	HEUR	save	SAF	tough	TUF

Stenotypy, published by The Stenotype Press, Owensboro, KY
Copyright 1913, second edition; Ward Stone Ireland, author

Very similar to the first edition, but with minor outline changes suggested by teachers and stenographers.

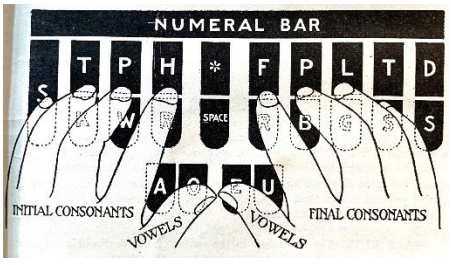
SIMPLIFIED STENOTYPE THEORY and A CHANGE TO THE KEYBOARD LAYOUT

Stenotypy, published by The Stenotype Press, Indianapolis, IN
Copyright 1915, revised edition; edited by B.T. Bryan, Instruction Manager at The Stenotype Company. "This manual…presents a simpler Stenotypy, more easily learned, written, read and taught."

The Universal Stenotype Company relocated from Owensboro, Kentucky, to Indianapolis, Indiana, changed its name to The Stenotype Company, occupied office space downtown and built a large factory in the suburbs. B.T. Bryan, with the input of teachers, students, and writers, completely overhauled the theory and its presentation. The long sentences and paragraphs were removed and replaced with short exercises over specific principles as they were introduced. In 1915 B.T. Bryan would also publish *The Stenotypists' Practice Book* which consisted of business letters and literary takes.

Interesting details:

- The illustration of the keyboard in this 1915 edition shows the long bar has been reassigned as the numeral bar, the upper middle key is the asterisk, and the lower middle key functions to space the paper up.



- Introduced finger exercises.
- More exercises, but much shorter and simpler to write.

- More systematic introduction of briefs and phrases.
- Much less vocabulary than Ireland's first two editions.
- Most of Ireland's key combinations that stood for multiple word beginnings or endings have been eliminated. This version of the theory was created for ease of learning rather than for saving strokes. Remember, shorthand was mostly used for taking dictation in office settings at this time. A speed of 150 words per minute was sufficient to complete the course.
- Practice material over multi-stroke and multisyllabic words is scant. Multi-stroke words are discussed in lesson 11; the book contains 15 lessons.
- 60-page book

THE STENOTYPE COMPANY OF INDIANAPOLIS GOES OUT OF BUSINESS

During World War I, The Stenotype Company entered into contracts with the US Government to manufacture munitions at its plant. The government was slow to supply materials and pay on its contracts and in 1918 creditors filed to have the company placed in receivership. In the spring of 1919, all assets of the company were sold to settle the debts.

LASALLE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY ACQUIRES RIGHTS TO PATENTS AND MATERIALS

LaSalle Extension University, a correspondence school based in Chicago, Illinois, acquired the patents and materials of The Stenotype Company and began manufacturing machines and selling a stenotype correspondence course in 1929.

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929

Interesting details:

- Instructions and illustrations for posture, hand and arm placement, and key combinations were added, along with more verbose instructions to compensate for the absence of a teacher.
- The theory is basically the same as the 1915 *Stenotypy* theory, but the order of presentation has been rearranged, and if anything, even less vocabulary is introduced in this book.

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929, 1935

NOT REALLY A THEORY, BUT A HUGE THEORY INFLUENCER

Stenotype Reporting, A Complete Course
Copyright 1937; Berry H. Horne, author
Revised editions 1941, 1952, 1969, 1970, 1973[i]

From time-to-time you will hear people mention "Berry Horne Theory." When the Stenotype machine first came on the market, it was primarily used for stenography work in businesses. It was many years later that the Stenotype machine entered the courtroom on a regular basis. Berry Horne wrote his course to bridge the gap of knowledge and skill that was needed to transition from secretarial-type work to courtroom work. That course included many new briefs, phrases, and expedients which eventually were incorporated into other theories as part of their beginner textbooks.

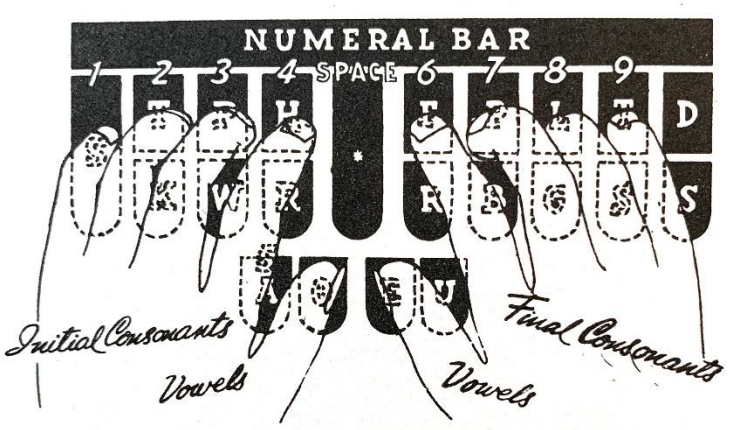
Here is a quote from the 1937 edition of *Stenotype Reporting*:

> *"This material is not for beginners, but only for those who have first completed the regular course in Stenotypy (by resident study in a business school or the LaSalle extension course), and have secured their 150-word-per-minute pins. Indeed, I strongly recommend that the Stenotypist, after passing his 150-word test, should use the Stenotype in a law or business office – preferably a law office – for a year or more before taking up any reporting course or attempting to enter the reporting field. Such person should, with the aid of this course in Stenotype reporting, be ready to enter the reporting field in about two years. Three hours of practice a day is the absolute minimum, but no definite amount of study and practice a day can be set inasmuch as the higher speeds will naturally come more quickly to some than others."*

STENOGRAPHIC MACHINES, INC. IS ESTABLISHED IN 1939

Up until this point, there has only been one company at a time making shorthand machines based on the Ireland keyboard: The Universal Stenotype Company, followed by The Stenotype Company, a division of LaSalle Extension University. As of 1939, there are now two companies in the shorthand machine market: The Stenotype Company and Stenographic Machines, Inc., now known as Stenograph, LLC.

Stenographic Machines, Inc. made a small change to the keyboard by designating both middle keys as an asterisk and enabling the asterisk and the number bar pushed together to function as a mechanism to space the paper up in the machine between takes.



Stenographic Machines, Inc. began publishing textbooks in 1940. Elise Price wrote the texts from 1940 through 1961. I am sure Stenographic Machines, Inc. published theory books between 1940 and 1946, but I have no specific information until 1947.

From this point forward, the history timeline will have publications from multiple companies intertwined.

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929, 1935, 1939

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929, 1935, 1939, 1940

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929, 1935, 1939, 1940, 1946

The Standard Stenograph Keyboard and Theory, published by Stenographic Machines, Inc. (Stenograph Text Series)
Copyright 1947; Elise Price, author

Interesting details:

- Vocabulary is geared toward secretarial/business use.
- No QA, no jury charge material
- The theory remains very simple to learn, and very similar to LaSalle's Stenotypy theory, mostly because it focuses on single-syllable and simple words.
- 50 pages of instruction

Sample words:

say	SA	it, the	Either T	wool	WAOL
so	SO	eat	ET	carpet	KAR/PET
see	SE	lunch	LUN/-FP	traction	TRABGS
Sue	SU	paying	PAG	policy	POL/SI
owe	O	do	DO	annual	AN/UL
owes	OS	doing	DOG	television	TEL/VIGS

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929, 1935, 1939, 1940, 1946, 1949

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1949, 1953

Stenotypy, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1929, 1935, 1939, 1940, 1946, 1949, 1953, 1958

Mid-1960s: After almost a decade of research and work, IBM has some success with its new mainframe computer in translation of Russian and Chinese technical documents to English.

Stenotype, Volume I, Introduction to Stenotypy Skill, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1966

With the introduction of this 86-page paperback book, LaSalle completely revamped their approach to teaching theory. Inside are seven lessons that are knowledge-based only, no steno machine needed. Each lesson had write-in exercises, reading exercises, self-quizzes, and an examination. Students were expected to complete the seven lessons and mail the examinations in for grading. They were to practice the reading exercises until they could read them fluently at 150 wpm. *Then* they could start on the machine lessons that were presented in the next book.

Interesting details:

- Lesson 1: Phonetic writing. Discusses phonetics in general.
- Lesson 2: Formation of words. General instructions are given on vowels, diphthongs, abbreviations, phrases, and punctuation. Exercises are reading exercises only, no writing on a shorthand machine yet.
    - Basic Rule: All words are written on the Stenotype as they are sounded in pronunciation. Examples: THRU, through; TRET, treat; and KOL, coal.
    - The single vowel exception: The single vowel in a word or syllable is written as it is spelled. Examples: DO, do; AL, all; and PROV, prove.
    - When two vowels occur together in a syllable, follow the Basic Rule and write according to sound. Remember to omit the silent letters. Examples: WAR, wear; SHUD, should; ROD, road; and HER, hear.
- Lesson 3: The division of words
    - Examples: U/WA, away; PRO/POS, propose; SUP/ER, supper; RA/THER, rather; RE/SORT, resort; RE/POS, repose; SEL/-F, self; RAT/-L, rattle; RAS/-P, rasp, SER/-F, serve (or can be stroked SER/*F to represent v sound). Additional examples: O/THER, other; SU/POS, suppose; PRO/POS/AL, proposal; SKED/UL, schedule, KAP/TUR, capture.
- Lesson 4: Combinations of letters (initial side and vowel i)
    - AI Rule – exception to the Basic Rule. When “ai” occurs together in a word, the “I” is always written, even though it is silent. Examples: HAR, hare; HAEUR, hair; STAR, stare; STAEUR, stair; FAR, fare; FAEUR, fair.
    - More abbreviations and phrases are introduced.
- Lesson 5: Devices for saving time
- Lesson 6: Final consonant combinations
- Lesson 7: Reviewing your work

Stenotype, Volume III, Theory and Application, published by LaSalle Extension University
Copyright 1966

Interesting details:

- This book covers the fundamentals of Stenotypy from body and hand position to how to write multisyllabic words.
- One could use this book to learn Stenotypy even if Volume I had not been completed.
- This is LaSalle’s first top-bound textbook.
- The lesson format and most of the writing exercises are completely different than the 1958 edition of Stenotypy.
- There is a Volume IV in this series. It contains reading exercises to supplement the theory book.

Touch Shorthand, published by Stenograph, a division of Stenographic Machines, Inc.
Book 1 Copyright 1967; Marion Nixdorf, Jon Dungan, and Robert Ruegg, authors
Book 2 Copyright 1968; Marion Nixdorf, Jon Dungan, and Robert Ruegg, authors

Interesting details:

- Entirely new lesson layout compared to the 1947 publication.
- Book 1 has 75 lessons.
- Plated notes and their keys are in every lesson.
- Basic theory is the same as previous theory. No long vowels other than AEU yet.
- More briefs and phrases are taught.
- Book 2 has 70 lessons.
- Book 2 lessons revolve around expanding vocabulary, writing short literary pieces, reading plated notes, and transcribing.
- English skill instruction is built into the exercises (such as how to transcribe numbers, capitalization, punctuation, etc.)

Mid-1970s: Development of computers that could translate steno notes into text.

Computers and CAT in the 1970s were very different from the computers and CAT we use now. The first computers for transcription were generally large, costly systems owned by a business that leased time on the computer or received notes via phone, translated them against the "universal dictionary," edited the transcript and sent it back to the reporter. StenoComp was the first company to develop this. As the systems evolved, personal dictionaries were built for each reporter using the service and the conflicts in theories quickly became apparent.

A bit of history from Mark Golden, former executive director of the National Court Reporters Association:

> *"In 1974 Frank Nelson and three other reporters made history. Using the StenoComp concept, the reporters sent their data over phone lines to the processing unit at StenoComp, where it was edited and sent back to the reporters for the final pass, then printed on a minicomputer at the reporting office (this minicomputer took up most of one wall!)."*

StenEd, published by Stentran Systems, Inc. (I am not sure that was the actual name of the book.)
Copyright 1973; Albert Gasdor, author[ii]

Beverly Ritter was Vice President and Director of Education at Stentran from 1973 to 1979. In 1979 Stenotype Educational Products was formed with Beverly as its president and the theory has been published under the name StenEd since.

I don't have any early editions of StenEd theory, however some of the conflict-resolution principles of the theory have remained the same through the years.

Interesting details:

- All inflected endings /-Z, /-D, and /-G are added in a separate stroke to avoid conflicts.
- Most medial and ending strokes for multistroke words conform to vowel spelling.
- Consonants are sometimes doubled even though they aren't spoken as a double sound.
- The most common ending sound of words, long e, is stroked multiple ways depending on the spelling of the word.

Herman Miller Orientation Book and Reader, published by The Stenotype Company of California
Copyright 1974; Herman F. Miller, author

Interesting details:

- The Stenotype Company of California is the name of a school.
- The introduction mentions they have been working on "computer compatible" text materials since 1959.
- Single vowel as spelled. love is LOV not LUV; done is DON.
- Teaches long vowel designations. AEU, AOE, AOEU, OE, AOU

Herman Miller Computer Compatible Stenotype Theory
1976, copyright Herman F. Miller

Basic Machine Shorthand, published by Philadelphia Clinic Reporting Course
Copyright 1975; Joseph A. Miller, Harry J. Foster, and Martin Fincun, authors

Interesting details:

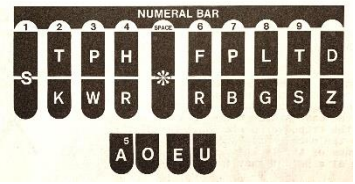
- 1937 was the first year machine writers were permitted to work in the courts of Philadelphia. "The education and training given to pen writers who had worked as court reporters' typists and assistants had not been available to these new reporter stenotypists, and they realized acutely their need for modernization of their writing techniques and information about the reporter's part in the judicial system. To meet that need they formed The Philadelphia Clinic. It met one evening a week to improve the simplified writing methods they had been taught, to practice for speed, and to engage in self-education in the nonshorthand phases of court reporting."[iii]
- In 1958 Miller, Foster, and Fincun published their first book, *Philadelphia Clinic Reporting Course: Advanced Machine Shorthand*. It was a compilation of principles and expedients they gathered and researched over the years, aimed at helping new stenotypists with basic office-oriented skills improve their writing, speed, and knowledge so they could enter into the court reporting profession. The 1979 edition of *Advanced Machine Shorthand* was edited to be more computer compatible.
    - The Philadelphia Shift is taught in the *Advanced Machine Shorthand* book rather than in the *Basic Machine Shorthand* book, but no theory discussion would be complete without explaining this concept that is still in use today by many reporters and at least one theory that I know of. I have the 1979 edition of *Advanced Machine Shorthand* and it mentions a wide -D keytop that covers the space between final T and final D. Here is what they say:

      "*Some reporters even roll their hands to the right and strike -TD with the side of the right little finger. A more effective method is 'The Philadelphia Shift,' whereby we throw off the chains which have shackled the fingers of the right hand to -FPLT and -RBGS and boldly strike -TD with the ring and little fingers just as we would write -LT or -GS.*"

      "*Bonus: -LTD When you have mastered the -TD shift, strike -LTD in the same manner (middle finger on final -L) for HALTED, TILTED, STILTED, BELTED, and so on.*"
- *Basic Machine Shorthand* is a complete theory course that incorporates principles from *Advanced Machine Shorthand* right from the start.
- *Basic Machine Shorthand* teaches discrete outlines for long vowels. The second edition resolved homonym conflicts and replaced briefs that are also words.

Stenograph Theory for Court Reporting, published by Stenograph Corporation
Copyright 1975

I think I have a copy of this book. It has no copyright information in the front, and it is nearly identical to the 1983 *Stenograph Theory for Court Reporting* that I own. The forward in each, when compared, leads me to think this particular book was written earlier than the 1983 edition.

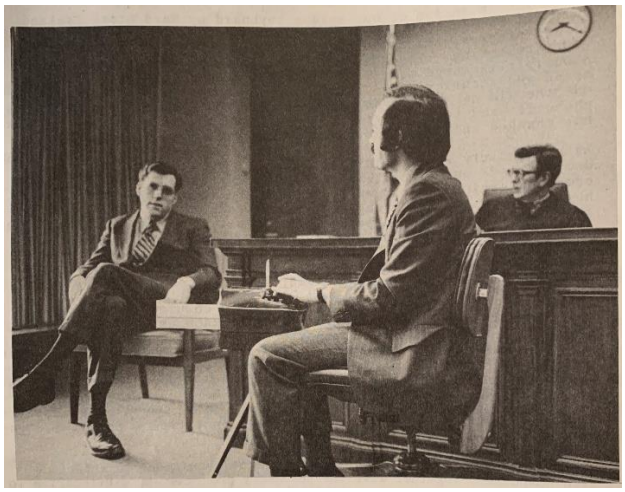


Excerpt from 1975 forward:
"*Stenograph Theory for Court Reporting is a completely new textbook that presents the very best principles of machine shorthand, designed to meet the needs of reporters today…The Stenograph Theory for Shorthand presented here can be read and transcribed instantly by any competent individual, or even by a computer that has been programmed to accept the output from a Computer Stenograph Machine.*

"Stenograph Corporation has developed special equipment to interface with computers, together with the necessary programs and dictionaries to transcribe this computer-compatible shorthand…The computer can now function as an electronic notereader to aid the court reporter by automatically transcribing and printing court transcripts at speeds up to 1000 lines per minute."

Interesting details:

- This book is sometimes referred to as the "green book." It has a dark green cover.
- The keyboard illustration shows -SZ instead of -SS.
- This edition has come a long way in conflict resolution by utilizing long-vowel designations and discrete outlines for most homonyms, but still retains arbitraries (briefs) that conflict with word beginnings and endings and has many word-boundary conflicts.
- There is a photograph after the forward that shows court reporter Richard Dagdigian on the job in the courtroom of US District Court Judge Prentice H. Marshall. Note the machine has a piece attached to the bottom for the computerized part. *"Mr. Dagdigian is using the Computer Stenograph Machine, a special model that records each keystroke automatiacally on a magnetic tape cassette simultaneously with imprinting the shorthand on the paper tape. The cassette is later processed through a computer for transcription."*



Hedman Stenotype System, published by Hedman Stenotype, Inc., subsidiary of The Hedman Company.
Copyright 1977; Helen Green and Margaret Morton, authors

Stenograph Theory for Court Reporting, published by Stenograph Corporation
Copyright 1975, 1983; Mildred Bryan, William Cohen, Mae Glassbrenner, Robert Lefler, Elise Price, Alton B. Smith, and Nathaniel Weiss, contributors

Interesting details:

- The lesson content is nearly identical to the 1975 edition of this book which makes me think that the same people listed above probably contributed to the 1975 edition. (I'm missing some pages in the front of the 1975 edition I own.)
- The forward of this edition mentions a computer-model Stenograph Machine, called a Steno-Data Writer and provides a photo of one in use. This model of the Data-writer was specifically designed as a computerized writer. The reporter is Gary Sonntag, reporting at a Conference on Energy Planning in the US Insular Areas, at the Longworth Building, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Basic Machine Shorthand, published by Philadelphia Clinic Reporting Course
Copyright 1978; Joseph A. Miller, Harry J. Foster, and Martin Fincun, authors

Basic Machine Shorthand, published by Philadelphia Clinic Reporting Course
Copyright 1983; Joseph A. Miller, Harry J. Foster, and Martin Fincun, authors

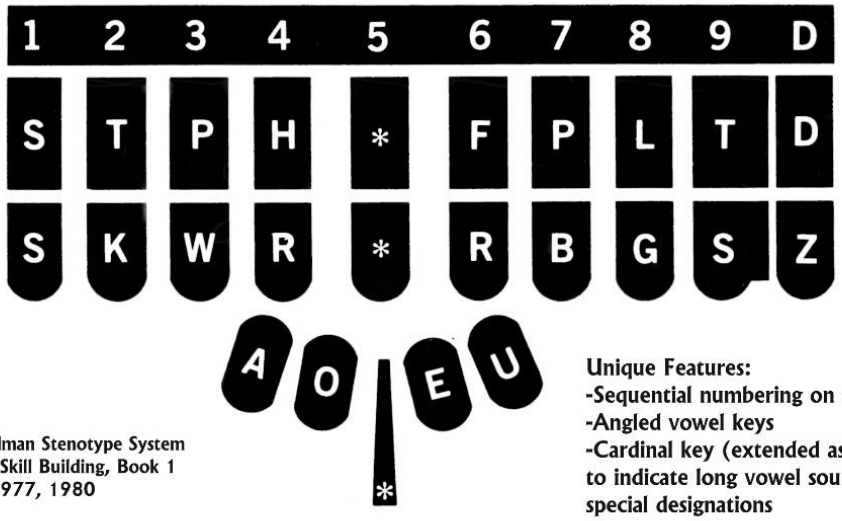
StenEd, published by Stenotype Educational Products, Inc.
Copyright 1984

Hedman Stenotype System, published by Hedman Stenotype, Inc., subsidiary of The Hedman Company.
Copyright 1980, second edition; Charles Hopkins and Margaret Morton, authors[iv]

The following may or may not have been present in the 1977 edition of *Hedman Stenotype System*
Interesting details:

- Rather than adopt the long vowel designations made with the vowel keys (AEU, AOE, AOEU, OE, AOU), the Hedman company added a long slender key, the cardinal key, that sticks out between the O and E vowel keys. Pressing the cardinal key with a vowel key indicates a long vowel sound. See keyboard chart on the next page.
- Note also that the keyboard chart shows -SZ instead of -SS on earlier keyboards.
- Pressing the asterisk key and the number bar at the same time produces the numeral 5.

Hedman Stenotype Keyboard



Source: Hedman Stenotype System
Theory and Skill Building, Book 1
Copyright 1977, 1980

Unique Features:
-Sequential numbering on number bar
-Angled vowel keys
-Cardinal key (extended asterisk), used to indicate long vowel sounds and other special designations

StenEd, published by Stenotype Educational Products, Inc.
Copyright 1986

Computer Shorthand: Theory and Transcription
Copyright 1984 by Alan Roberts, John P. Walsh, Jean Gonzalez

Digitext Theory, published by Digitext, Inc.
Copyright 1985, first edition; Jerry P. Lefler, author
Copyright 1986, 1987, 1988

Digitext Theory was updated and published as *ErgoFon'iks Theory* in 1997. The ErgoFon'iks Corporation was dissolved in 2004.

Interesting details:

- Digitext translation logic was built into machines that the Digitext company sold. The logic (software) was able to translate most strokes into words without a personal dictionary. It did so by creating a theory with discrete strokes for all word beginnings and endings,

homonyms, and root words. Words that were an exception could be programmed into a job dictionary.

- The translation logic was built into several different shorthand machines over several years.
    - ST Translator unit (learning unit, and alternative keyboard for computers)
    - Digitext Edge writer
    - Digitext Student Accuwriter
    - Impression Writer
    - ErgoFon'iks Writer
- The theory relied heavily on stroking words in increments of prefix + root + suffix.

Computer-compatible Stenograph Theory, published by Stenograph Corporation
Copyright 1987. Vol I and II. Reprinted 1989, 1990, and 1991

Interesting details:

- Sometimes referred to as the "yellow book."
- Has conflicts with briefs, phrases, and word boundaries.

Early 1990s: The National Court Reporters Association publishes guidelines that theories must meet to receive NCRA-approved Theory status. See Addendum I for more info.

With the digital revolution in full swing and the new availability of personal computers (still very expensive, though!), multiple companies developed CAT software. The majority of reporters and schools could see that CAT was here to stay, and it was time to work on updating the theories to be more compatible with the technology. The realtime feature of CAT also allowed us to start training students for jobs outside of the traditional freelance and official reporting markets. Text entry and medical transcription were new markets that were heavily explored in the early 1990s, especially because the reporting field was heavily saturated with workers in many areas of the country.

Computer Shorthand for Everyone, published by Stenograph Corporation
Copyright 1990; Alton B. Smith, author

Interesting details:

- Alton B. Smith consulted on *Stenograph Theory for Court Reporting,* published in 1983.
- This textbook is virtually identical to the 1987 *Computer-compatible Stenograph Theory* in content.
- From 1990-1992 Stenograph sold both books.

StenEd, published by Stenotype Educational Products, Inc.
Copyright 1991

NCRS Machine Shorthand Theory, published by National Court Reporting Systems
Copyright 1991, 1994, 1999, 2005
These publications are associated with Bryan College.

Computer-compatible Stenograph Theory, published by Stenograph Corporation
Copyright 1992, second edition, Vol I and II (Mauve color)

StarTran Realtime Theory, published by Santa Barbara Court Reporting Clinic
Copyright 1995; Marlene Struss, author

StenEd, published by Stenotype Educational Products, Inc.
Copyright 1996-2008, Revised Edition

Phoenix Theory, published by Stenograph LLC
Copyright 1996; Carol Webster Jochim, author

Interesting details:

- The author, a former official reporter for the state of Arizona, teacher, and owner of CompuScripts, a computer transcription service provider, tested her initial ideas for resolving conflicts in machine shorthand by defining every word and its derivatives found in Funk & Wagnall's New Collegiate Dictionary.
- CAT software was not capable of handling the original translation dictionary because of its size. (Not a problem now.) The first CAT dictionary had to be broken into two parts. The entries that started with a consonant were in the main dictionary, and the entries that started with a vowel were in a job dictionary.
- The first edition of *Phoenix Theory* was written with no two-voice testimony or jury charge vocabulary to meet a growing interest in expanding realtime writing skills into areas such as medical, legal, and insurance transcription. The translation dictionary supported a large vocabulary of briefs and phrases related to testimony and jury charge for those who chose a court reporter educational track. Students would be introduced to QA and jury charge briefs and phrases when they entered speedbuilding classes with those topics.
- The theory passed NCRA's Theory Task Force approval process on the first submission.
- The theory utilizes a patented vowel-omission principle for resolution of several conflict areas that require numerous rules in other theories. "Medial and ending strokes that have final-side consonants: Omit all schwa vowel sounds, which means all "uh" sounds and unaccented or difficult-to-distinguish "eh" and "ih" vowel sounds." Examples: cougar, KAOUG/-R; acre, AIK/-R; liquor, LIK/-R; vicar, VIK/-R; nature, NAIFP/-R; wonder, WUND/-R; vigor, VIG/-R; chauffeur, SHOEF/-R; femur, FAOEM/-R. Additional examples: forum, FOR/-M (pronounce a soft "uh" where the hyphen replaces the vowel); static, STAT/-K; baggage, BAG/-J; cherub, KHAIR/-B; balusters, /PWAL/ST-RZ.
- Contrary to popular belief, *Phoenix Theory* does not write all inflected endings in a separate stroke. It has a middle-of-the-road approach with principles about which endings can be incorporated without causing conflict.

Computer-compatible Stenograph Theory, published by Stenograph LLC
1996-1997, Third Edition; Mae Glassbrenner and G. Allen Sonntag, authors

Computer Shorthand Realtime Theory, published by Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Copyright 1996, Third Edition; Alan Roberts, John P. Walsh, and Jean Gonzalez, authors

Realwrite/realtime, published by Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Copyright 1998; Robert W. McCormick and Carolee Freer, authors
Copyright 2004, second edition

Realwrite/realtime takes a unique approach to conflict resolution based on the fact that when reading English, we can tell sound-alike words apart by their spelling. When forming a stroke, the student will consider both phonics and spelling.

Interesting details:

- *Realwrite/realtime* has a complete alphabet designated on both the left- and right-hand sides of the keyboard. Initial H is H-, final H is FD; initial Q is KW, final Q is -LGTS; initial W is W-, final W is -FRP, initial Y is KWR-, final Y is -FPL.

Sample words utilizing spelling:

stay	STAFPL	haul	HAFRPL
window	WEUPB/TKOEFRP	shawl	SHAFRPL
highway	HAOEUFD/WAEFPL	law	HRAFRP
Newport	TPHEFRP/PORT	awe	AFRP

- Differentiation of word beginnings and word endings: A silent "y" is written in the final stroke before a vowel. Examples: Ozark, OEZ/KWRARBG; coffee, KOF/KWRAOE; message, PHES/KWRAPBLG

Court Reporting at Home (CRAH) Self-training Program, published by Linda Bland, author

Copyright 2000 first edition
Copyright 2000, 2001 SSD Enterprises, Inc.

2003: NCRA Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) requires NCRA-approved schools to teach NCRA-approved theories.

Many schools had proprietary theories that had numerous conflicts. Overhauling a pre-computer theory to eliminate the conflicts is a HUGE job and can be quite daunting. Between the mid-1990s and 2003, many schools switched to an NCRA-approved theory rather than overhaul their own.

The StenoMaster Theory, published by StenoMaster, Inc., a Mark Kislingbury Company

Copyright 2004; Mark Kislingbury, author

Interesting details:

- *StenoMaster Theory* is founded upon the belief that machine shorthand should be just that – short.
- The theory teaches extensive brief and phrasing systems in families of words.
- The term "stroke-intensive" was, to the best of my knowledge, coined by Mark.
- Mark's entry into the theory market reignited an interest in writing shorter, both for students and reporters.

2005: The theory debates are on! NCRA hosts a theory panel at the midyear convention.

Are today's theories too stroke-intensive? Are they too key-intensive? Too memory-intensive? Should students be taught to write phonetically before adopting briefs? What are your thoughts on writing inflected endings separately versus incorporating them? Plus several more student-related topics.

Phoenix Theory published by Stenograph LLC
Copyright 2005; Carol Webster Jochim, author

- Added more briefs and phrases in response to teacher, student, and reporter feedback.
- Introduced one-stroke outlines for contractions.
- Introduced SKW option for "and" in phrases (rather than SKP as taught in first edition). The SKW option was suggested to us by a Phoenix Theory student who struggled with writing SKP- accurately.
- Introduced option for two-handed period (PH-FP instead of -FPLT)

By 2007: NCRA Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) no longer approves theories and simply requires "instruction in…a realtime translation theory."

Magnum Steno, published by StenoMaster, Inc., a Mark Kislingbury Company
Copyright 2008; Mark Kislingbury, author

The Moody Method for Beginning Students
Copyright 2010; Kay Moody, author

Interesting details:
- Lesson presentation is formulated with adult learners in mind
- Utilizes CAT artificial intelligence for some conflict resolution

Phoenix Theory 2.0, published by Stenograph LLC
Copyright 2011; Carol W. Jochim, author; edited by Sandra Natale, Teresa Gaudet, and Kathryn Dittmeier

Interesting details:
- Rearranged principles; new lesson format
- Added QA and jury charge briefs, phrases, and exercises to lessons
- Added more briefs, phrases, and writing shortcuts along with more drill material
- Created plated notes for every exercise

The Moody Method for Beginning Students
Copyright 2011, revised edition; Kay Moody, author
Copyright 2012, revised edition; Kay Moody, author
Copyright 2013, revised edition; Kay Moody, author

Phoenix Theory 2014 Edition, published by Stenograph LLC
Copyright 2014; Carol W. Jochim, author; edited by Sandra Natale, Teresa Gaudet, and Kathryn Dittmeier
2016: copyright and publishing transferred to Chicory Meadow, LLC, which is owned by Kathryn Dittmeier

Name change: The Moody Method becomes EV360 Educational Solutions Realtime Theory
Copyright 2015; Kay Moody, author

Addendum I: NCRA Theory Text Guidelines

Kathryn's Note: I began working as an Education Program Manager for Stenograph at the time when their theories were in the process of being reviewed by NCRA for compliance with these guidelines. I was privy to the evaluation results on four different theories. While NCRA's intentions were good, there were some problems with the guidelines and their application. Several of the guidelines target specific conflict areas that were known and of concern to those who drafted them. Many conflict areas – especially word-boundary conflicts – were missed. The guideline would be applied to a specific prefix or suffix but needed to be applied across the board to ALL prefixes and suffixes that fell in the same category. Reviewers would make suggestions for changes to an outline, not realizing they were making another conflict in that particular theory if they adopted that outline.

We do need to be gracious here, though. In the early 1990s, realtime was in its awkward teen years. Communication and collaboration on the internet was in its infancy; software features to help with some of the translation issues were being developed; and NCRA wanted students to learn systems that would allow them to partake of all of the wonderful things realtime was opening up for us. As I said, intentions were good. It was just a flawed process.

Theories were reviewed. Some received approval. Others had to go back to the drawing board and resubmit. Eventually NCRA-approved schools were required to teach an NCRA-approved theory. But after some of the issues with the reviews were submitted, and more importantly, issues with the process for continuing to stay in compliance were questioned, NCRA dropped the theory approval process and for a short time, offered vendor-supplied information about theories on their website.

Theory Text Guidelines

Any computer-compatible theory taught in an NCRA-approved court reporter education program should eliminate all conflicts in a consistent manner. The theory should also utilize uniform methods to create easy-to-learn outlines rather than relying on arbitrary memorization.

It is mandatory that a computer-compatible theory consistently:

Use long and short vowels.

Differentiate words ending in -ST and -S.
past pass
chest chess
mist miss

Resolution of this conflict must not create alternate conflicts, i.e., PAS/-T/ as a potential outline for "past, pass the, and pass it."

Differentiate words ending in -TH and -T.
both boat

Differentiate words ending in -NK and -NG.
rank rang

Differentiate words ending in -S and -Z.
rice rise
race raise
ice eyes

Differentiate words ending in -X and -KSHUN.
sex section
fix fiction

Differentiate words ending in -F and -V.
relief relieve
safe save
leaf leave
life live

Differentiate words beginning with S and Z.
sip zip

Differentiate words beginning with EXP and SP.
express suppress

Differentiate words beginning with EX and COMP.
exact compact

Differentiate between the article A and the syllable A.
a dress address
a long along

Differentiate sound-alikes.
threw through
blew blue
wrap rap
whole hole
whine wine
not knot
sale sail
road rode
sell cell
serial cereal
brake break
stake steak
right rite write
sent cent scent
sight site cite

Differentiate words beginning with SHR- and SL-.
shred sled
shrug slug

Differentiate contractions, two words, and single words.
your you're you are
yours yourself yourselves
there their they're they are
its it's it is itself
who's whose
can't cannot

Differentiate between briefs, phrases, and other words.
Ed he had
noboby knob
physical fizz

Differentiate between singular words and plurals.
tense tens
guise guys

tax tacks
pulse pulls

Differentiate common words from names.
ray Ray
bill Bill
fill Phil
done Don

Differentiate plurals from single and plural possessives.
houses house's houses'

Include punctuation symbols. . end-of-sentence period
. decimal point (Ex. 1.4%)
? question mark
" opening quotation mark
" closing quotation mark
-- dashes
- hyphen
: colon (Ex. Frank:)
, coma (Ex. one, two, or three)
(opening parenthesis
) closing parenthesis
; semicolon

Include alphabetic spelling of words.

Differentiate between the following words and suffixes:
Al all -al
necessary -ness
meant -ment
err -er
go -ing
had -ed
is -s

Differentiate between the pronoun I and the "y" suffix.
treat I treaty
room I roomy
bush I bushy

Differentiate between intial long "E" sounds and the "y" suffix.
class evaluation classy valuation

Differentiate between RE prefix and RY suffix.
fact remain factory remain
bake release bakery lease

Not use the same steno outline for more than one English translation

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In an effort to provide ongoing quality improvement in the area of computer-compatibility, the following theory suggestions are at this time merely recommendations (now to be included by April 2003):

Differentiate one- and two-word combinations.
takeover take over
sometime some time
maybe may be
pickup pick up

outcome out come
overall over all

Differentiate between the following words and suffixes.
less -less
or -or
full -full
able -able (-ible)
ability -ability (-ibility)

Differentiate between the following words and prefixes.
in in-
for fore-

Differentiate between the initial EN sound and the -en suffix.
threat encourage threaten courage

Incorporate a method for writing numbers that will result in proper translation.
1,458
$250 million
$1.75

Punctuation symbols.
/ slash mark (Ex. 3/4, and/or)
! exclamation point
. prefix decimal point (Ex. .22 caliber)
: colon (Ex. 8:25)
, comma (Ex. 1,750)
$ dollar sign

Approved Shorthand Theory

THE COUNCIL ON APPROVED STUDENT EDUCATION (CASE)

Has the theory you are using been approved by the CASE Theory Text Task Force?
NCRA-approved machine shorthand theories as of November 1, 2003. Check with the author/publisher of your theory to see if it is the approved edition.

Each of the NCRA-Approved Theories has undergone extensive review by the NCRA Theory Text Task Force. This evaluation process looks at each theory component to determine its compatibility within the theory as a whole, and to ensure that it will result in proper translation by realtime reporting and captioning software. Today's reporting graduates require solid realtime skills in order to enter the workforce, and the steno theory is the key component in developing and perfecting these skills.

The following theories have been reviewed and approved.

Realwrite/Realtime
2003 Revised Edition
800/223-1360

Roberts, Walsh, Gonzalez
Third Edition
800/995-5376

StarTran Realtime Theory
2.a. Edition
805/682-3176

Stenograph Computer Compatible
Third Edition
800/228-2339

Stenograph Phoenix
First Edition
800/228-2339

StenoMaster
First Edition
886/783-6662

Stenotype Educational Products Inc. (StenEd)
1998 Printing
888/783-6331

Proprietary Theories

Academy of Court Reporting Method of Machine Shorthand Theory
Edition II
330/668-3994

National Court Reporters Systems (NCRS)
Fourth Edition, 2003
Bryan College
213/484-8850

Realtime Reporting and Captioning
First Edition
877/253-0200

Realtime Translation Theory for Court Reporting
Sixth Edition
New York Career Institute
212/962-0002

If you have any updated information to add to this document, please contact me at kathryn@chicorymeadow.com.

[i] Berry Horne, 1969, 1970, 1973 edition information supplied by kensoffice.blogspot.com/p/stenograph-theories.html

[ii] kensoffice.blogspot.com/p/stenograph-theories.html

[iii] Introduction: Philadelphia Clinic Reporting Course, Advanced Machine Shorthand

[iv] https://fisher.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2272123075?active_tab=bib_info