This document was formatted for US Letter paper on an Apple LaserWriter.   The documentation can actually be printed on either US Letter or A4 paper, but be sure to set the Page Setup… dialog box to show US Letter.

Introduction.

Star Gate is a file transfer utility capable of moving files between two personal computers via a serial cable.   It can be used with both Macintosh and Windows operating systems.   I was prompted to write Star Gate when I needed to routinely move source files between a Macintosh and a PC.   An off-the-shelf ethernet solution was available for $600 but I decided to save my money and produce an affordable easy to use serial solution.

Star Gate transfers data files and can perform text translation if desired.   Hence text files arriving on a Macintosh will always have Macintosh line endings and text files sent to a PC will always be translated to MS-DOS text format.

Star Gate does not transfer the resource fork of Macintosh files.   Macintosh users wishing to archive resource files on a PC should convert the files to a format that does does not use a resource fork, for example a Compact Pro archive (.cpt).

Hardware Requirements for Star Gate.

Star Gate requires a free serial port on each computer.   On a Macintosh either the printer or modem port may be used and on a PC any COM port can be used.   You will also require a null modem cable to connect the serial ports of the computers.
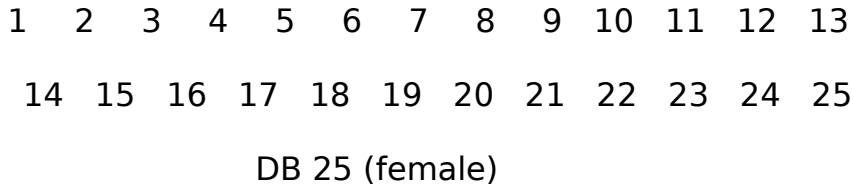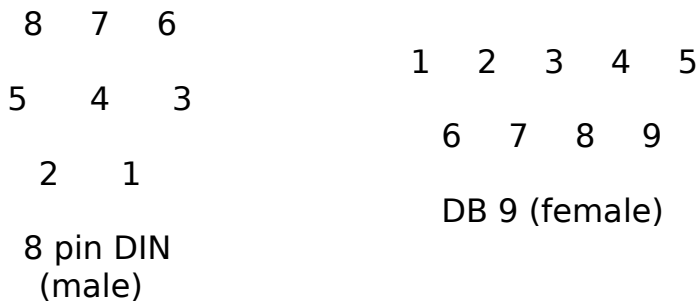
Macintosh users may have difficulty finding a null modem cable with a mini DIN plug at one end and a DB9 or DB25 plug at the opposite end.   If you decide to make your own cable the pin connections are given below.

```
8 pin DIN          DB 9
---------          ----
1...................8
2...................4
3...................2
4...................5
5...................3
6 (not connected)
7 (not connected)
8...................5


8 pin DIN          DB 25
---------          -----
1...................5
2...................20
```

```
3....................3
4....................7
5....................2
6 (not connected)
7 (not connected)
8....................7
```

Note the connectors usually have numbers moulded into the plastic, however they are pretty tiny. The diagrams below show the pin numbers.   Note that this is the view you see as you solder onto the plug.

```
  8   7   6
                        1   2   3   4   5
  5     4     3
                          6   7   8   9
    2     1
                          DB 9 (female)

  8 pin DIN
   (male)
```

```
  1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   13

   14   15   16   17   18   19   20   21   22   23   24   25

                DB 25 (female)
```

Software Requirements for Star Gate.

The software package consists of three programs, a Macintosh application and both 16- and 32-bit Windows executables.   The Macintosh application is a fat binary and requires System 7.0 or higher.   The 32-bit Windows executable runs under Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.5 or higher. The 16-bit Windows exectuable runs under Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups 3.1.