

Microsoft Press  
**Computer  
Dictionary**

Third Edition

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## modular jack

window on the screen. Because it is deliberately designed as a stand-alone unit that can work with other sections of the program, the same module might be able to perform the same task in another program as well, thus saving time in development and testing.

**modular jack** \mo`dyə-lər jak`, moj`ə-lər\ *n.* See phone connector.

**modular programming** \moj`ə-lər prō`gram-ēng, mo`dyə-lər\ *n.* An approach to programming in which the program is broken into several independently compiled modules. Each module exports specified elements (constants, data types, variables, functions, procedures); all other elements remain private to the module. Other modules can use only the exported elements. Modules clarify and regularize the interfaces among the major parts of a program. Thus, they facilitate group programming efforts and promote reliable programming practices. Modular programming is a precursor of object-oriented programming. See also module (definition 1), object-oriented programming.

**modulate** \moj`ə-lāt`, mo`dyə-lāt\ *v.b.* To change some aspect of a signal intentionally, usually for the purpose of transmitting information.

**modulation** \moj`ə-lā`shən, mo`dyə-lā`shən\ *n.*  
1. The process of changing or regulating the characteristics of a carrier wave vibrating at a certain amplitude (height) and frequency (timing) so that the variations represent meaningful information.

2. In computer communications, the means by which a modem converts digital information sent by a computer to the audio form that it sends over a telephone line.

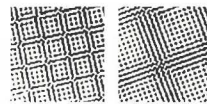
**module** \moj`ōōl, mo`dyōōl\ *n.* 1. In programming, a collection of routines and data structures that performs a particular task or implements a particular abstract data type. Modules usually consist of two parts: an interface, which lists the constants, data types, variables, and routines that can be accessed by other modules or routines, and an implementation, which is private (accessible only to the module) and which contains the source code that actually implements the routines in the module. See also abstract data type, information hiding, Modula-2, modular programming. 2. In hardware, a self-contained component that can provide a complete function to a system and can

## monochrome adapter

be interchanged with other modules that provide similar functions. See also memory card, SIMM.

**modulo** \moj`ə-lō`, mod`yə-lō`\ *n.* An arithmetic operation whose result is the remainder of a division operation. For example, 17 modulo 3 = 2 because 17 divided by 3 yields a remainder of 2. Modulo operations are used in programming.

**moiré** \mwär-ā`\ *n.* A visible wavy distortion or flickering in an image that is displayed or printed with an inappropriate resolution. Several parameters affect moiré patterns, including the size and resolution of the image, resolution of the output device, and halftone screen angle. See the illustration.



*Moiré.*

**molecular beam epitaxy** \mə-le`kyə-lər bēm ep`ə-tak-sē\ *n.* A process used in the fabrication of semiconductor devices, such as integrated circuits. A device employing molecular beam epitaxy creates thin layers of semiconducting material by vaporizing the material and then directing a beam of molecules at the substrate on which the layer is to be formed. This technique allows very precise and very thin layers to be created.

**monadic** \mə-na`dik`\ *adj.* See unary.

**monitor** \mon`i-tər`\ *n.* The device on which images generated by the computer's video adapter are displayed. The term *monitor* usually refers to a video display and its housing. The monitor is attached to the video adapter by a cable. See also CRT.

**monochrome** \mon`ə-krōm`\ *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or being a monitor that displays images in only one color—black on white (as on early monochrome Macintosh screens) or amber or green on black (as on early IBM and other monochrome monitors). The term is also applied to a monitor that displays only variable levels of a single color, such as a gray-scale monitor.

**monochrome adapter** \mon`ə-krōm ə-dap`tər\  
*n.* A video adapter capable of generating a video signal for one foreground color or sometimes for a range of intensities in a single color, as for a gray-scale monitor.