

IMSAI 8080 Refresher

by Bruce E. Hall, [W8BH](#)

I set aside my IMSAI for a whole year. Now I forgot how it works! Does that sound familiar? Here is a one-page cheat sheet to get you back on track.



Connect.

First, attach the Imsai to your computer via a USB cable and power it on. Recall there are two easy ways to connect: via USB with a PC-based terminal program, or via Wi-Fi and the browser interface. Assuming you've used both methods in the past, connecting is straightforward:

1. To connect via TeraTerm, determine which port is active. Then, set your serial port configuration to **115200 baud** and **no flow control**.
2. To connect via Wi-Fi, type `//imsai8080` into your browser window.

Refer to my [Assembly Language Programming article](#) for more detailed instructions.

Do basic stuff.

The browser interface is a convenient environment to work in. Review the article section on the Desktop user interface, concentrating on how to mount disks from the library (a mouse drag and drop from LIB:), and how to unmount disks via the small disk eject icon.

Now mount the XYBasic disk onto an available drive. Then, from the TTY interface, switch to that drive, run BASIC, enter a small program, and return to CP/M via <ctrl>B. If you get stuck, read the section about XYBasic.

Advanced stuff: boot to the Montor vs CP/M

- To enter the Monitor: eject the disk in drive A:, then toggle <Ext. Clr.>.
- To return to CP/M: mount a CP/M disk on Drive A:, then toggle <Ext. Clr.>.

Last updated: 15 July 2026