Do-It-Yourself Panic Button

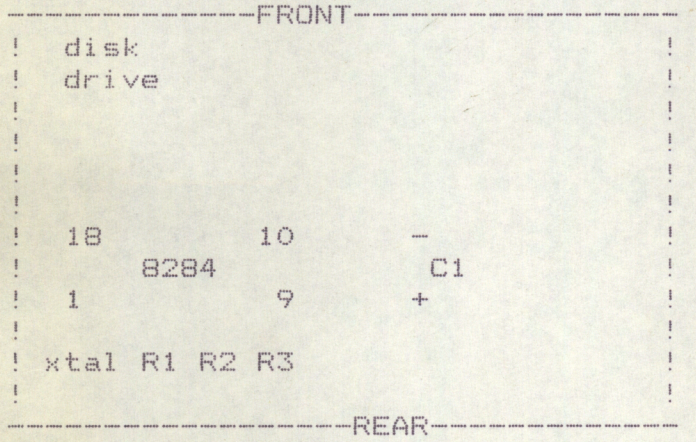
All that is needed is a momentary push button, single pole single throw (spst), normally opened, hole mounted switch, 2 ea. 24 inch pieces of 20 gage wire, a soldering iron and solder, needle nose pliers, diagonal cutters, a small screwdriver, and a drill and appropriate bit.

Next select a suitable location for your switch and carefully drill a hole. I decided to put mine on the front panel above the infra-red reciever opening. Mount the switch securely in the hole, and solder a wire to each of the terminals. Twist the wires together to form a twisted pair cable.

Route the cable to the rear of the chassis, and then position the chassis so that the rear of the computer is facing you. Refer to the drawing below, and locate the 8284 integrated circuit in the left corner of the chassis, nearest you. Below this IC you will see the Crystal (XTAL) and three resistors (R1, R2, R3). R1 and R2 are the same value, 510 ohms (green, brown, brown) and one end of this pair (the end facing the rear of the chassis) is connected to each other. Solder one wire to this connection of the resistors.

Next, locate the capacitor (C1) to the right of the IC. The leg of the capacitor that faces the front of the chassis should be maked with a stripe and is the negative (-) terminal. The remaining leg of the capacitor should be facing the rear of the chassis and is the positive (+) terminal. Solder the remaining wire to the positive terminal.

This completes the installation of the reset switch.



Note: An alternative to installing the above is to simply partially remove a cartridge in the PCjr cartridge slot. This will cause the computer to reset. But if you plan to do this often for some reason, you might be better off with the installed reset button, since the cartridge pins may be damaged with extensive use.