Instructions for Form 1040X
(Revised October 1981)

Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return

If you want more details, please get Publication 559, Tax Information for Survivors, Executors, and Administrators.

When to File

File Form 1040X after you filed your original return. Generally, Form 1040X must be filed within 3 years after the date the original return was due or 3 years after the date you filed it, whichever was later. A Form 1040X based on a net operating loss carryback, investment credit carryback, WIN credit carryback, or jobs credit carryback generally must be filed within 3 years after the due date of the return for the tax year of the net operating loss or unused credit.

Preparer Information

If you file in your own return, the Paid Preparer's space should remain blank. If someone prepares your return and does not charge you, that person should not sign your return.

Generally, anyone who is paid to prepare your tax return must sign your return and file any state or local tax returns with the return. If you use the Preparer's Use Only area of your return, you must contact an IRS office.

The person required to sign your return must complete the required preparer information and:

- Sign it, by hand, in the space provided for the preparer's signature (signature stamps or labels are not acceptable).
- Give you a copy of your return in addition to the copy filed with IRS.

The return preparer should be familiar with their responsibilities. Publication 1045, Information and Order Blanks for Preparers of Federal Income Tax Returns, lists some of the preparer's other responsibilities and penalties for which he or she may be liable.

Purpose of Form 1040X

Use Form 1040X to correct your income tax return, Form 1040A or Form 1040. Also use Form 1040X to claim a refund of individual income taxes. If you are changing your Federal return, you may also have to change your State return. Please note that it often takes 2 to 3 months to process Form 1040X. We will figure the interest and will either include it in your refund or bill you for it.

You should use Form 1045, Application for Tentative Refund, instead of Form 1040X in some cases. Use Form 1045 if:

- you are applying for a tentative refund resulting from a net operating loss or credit carryback or credit carryforward.
- less than one year has elapsed since the end of the year in which the loss or credit arose.

Information on Income, Deductions, etc.

If you have questions, such as what income is taxable or what expenses are deductible, the instructions for the return you are amending may help you. Be sure to use the Tax Table(s) or Tax Rate Schedules for the right year to figure the correct tax. The related schedules and forms may also help you. If you need more information, contact an Internal Revenue Service office.

Death of Taxpayer

If you are claiming a refund as surviving spouse filing a joint return with the decedent, write "deceased" and show the date of death in the name and address space of Form 1040X. Also write "Filing as surviving spouse" in the area where you sign the return. If someone else is the personal representative, he or she must also sign. No other form is needed to have the refund issued to you. However, all other filers requesting a refund due a decedent must file Form 1310, Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer, to claim the refund.

Column C.—Add the increase in column B to the amount in column A or subtract the column B decrease from column A. Show the result in column C. For any item you do not change, enter the amount from column A in column C.

If your Amended Return Changes Only Credits Or Other Taxes, Skip Lines 1–7 and Start With Line 8. If It Changes Only Payments, Skip Lines 1–18 and Start With Line 12.

Line 1—Total Income.—On page 2, Part II, explain any changes you make on this line. To figure this amount, add income from all sources, such as wages, interest, dividends, and business income. For 1978 use the total reportable on line 21 of Form 1040 or line 10 of Form 1040A. For 1979 and 1980 use line 22 of Form 1040 and line 11 of Form 1040A for 1979 and 1980 use lines 22–23 of Form 1040 and line 10 of Form 1040A.

If you are correcting wages or other employee compensation, attach the first copy or Copy B of all additional or corrected forms W–2 that you got after you filed your original return.

Line 2—Adjustments to Income.—Enter on this line all adjustments to income such as deductions, exclusions, moving expense, employee business expenses, etc. For 1978 use the amounts reportable on lines 22–27 and 30 of Form 1040. For 1979 and 1980 use lines 22–23 of Form 1040A. For 1981 use lines 22–29.

Line 4—Deductions.—For 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981: Make adjustment on this line only for the excess, if any, of your total itemized deductions over:

- $3,400 ($3,200 for 1978), if you are married filing a joint return or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child.
- $2,300 ($2,200 for 1978), if you are single or head of household.
- $1,700 ($1,600 for 1978), if you are married filing a separate return.

If you do not itemize, enter zero.

If you made an entry on Schedule TC (Form 1040), Part II, line 4, for 1978, 1979, or 1980, or line 4 of the worksheet on page 12 of the Form 1040 instructions for 1981, enter that amount on line 4, Form 1040X. If you are instead of subtracting, and enter the result on line 5.

Line 8—Tax.—Enter your income tax before subtracting any credits. Indicate on this line the method you use in column C to figure your tax. For example, if you use the tax rate schedules, write "TR" if you use income averaging in "Sch. 7." If you figure your tax on the income you reported in column C, attach the appropriate schedules. Include on line 8 any additional taxes from Form 4970, Form 4972, Form 5544, and Form 5405. Also include any section 720 excise taxes. The forms you use and instructions for the right year will help you with line 8.

Line 9—Credits.—Enter your total credits. Examples are credit for the elderly, credit for child and dependent care expenses, or investment credit. For 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981, the additional credits reported on lines 38 through 46 of Form 1040. Also report on this line your general tax credit for any year before 1979, but first see the note under line 5 of Form 1040X.

If you filed Form 1040A, enter on line 9 your credit for contributions to candidates for public office.

Line 11—Other Taxes.—Include other taxes, such as tax from recouping prior-year investment credit, minimum tax, self-
employment tax, advance earned income credit payments, etc. On Form 1040 for 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981, they were on lines 48 through 53. If you filed Form 1040A, use the amount from line 14b for 1979 or 1980, and the amount from line 15b for 1981.

Lines 13-17.—Enter on the applicable lines your payments and credits. For 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981, they were on lines 55 through 62 of Form 1040.

On Form 1040A they were on lines 11 b–11c for 1978. For 1979 and 1980, use lines 12b and 12c. And for 1981, use lines 13b and 13c.

Line 13—Federal Income Tax Withheld, Excess FICA and RRRA Tax Withheld.—If you change these amounts, attach the first copy or Copy B of all additional or corrected Forms W–2 that you got since you filed your original return.

Line 14.—Enter the estimated tax payments you claimed on your return. If you filed Form 1040C, include the amount you paid as the balance due with the return.

Line 18.—Enter the amount you paid on the “Balance Due” reported on your original return. Also include any additional tax that may have resulted if your original return was examined. Do not include payments of interest or penalties.

Line 20—Overpayment Shown on Original Return.—Enter the overpayment from your original return. On Form 1040A this is called “amount to be refunded”. On Form 1040 it is called “amount overpaid.” That amount must be considered in preparing Form 1040X since any refund you have not yet received from your original return will be refunded separately from any additional refund claimed on your Form 1040X. Also include in the amount on line 20 any additional overpayment of tax that may have resulted from an examination of your original return. Do not include any interest you received on any refund.

Lines 21 and 22—Caution: If line 21 results in a minus figure, add it to line 12, instead of subtracting. Enter the result on line 22.

Line 23—Refund.—If you are entitled to a larger refund than you claimed on your original return, show only the additional amount due you. This will be refunded separately from the amount claimed on your original return. See instruction for line 20.

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Part I—Exemptions.—Complete lines 1 through 5 in all cases as they apply. Com-