

QL User appears each month within the pages of Your Spectrum. Look out too for the 'Complete Dossier' edition — in the shops this July.

The difference between the Z80 and 68008 processors is one of philosophy, contends Simon Goodwin, and not just a matter of a few extra bits

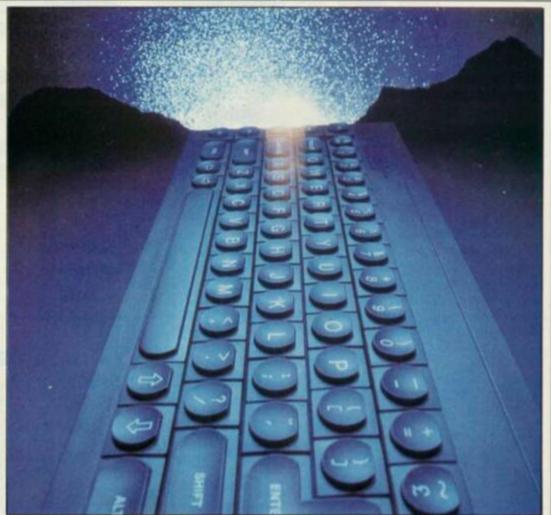
Eversince Sir Clive announced the launch of the QL there's been great fuss over the choice of processor for the new machine. Sinclair Research advertisements describe the 68008 as a '32-bit processor', while journalists rush to their fact-sheets and deduce that, with it's eight-bit data bus, the processor is in fact little more than an inflated Z80.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The first microprocessors were designed in a rather ad hoc manner, rather like the first computer programs. A few people thought for a while and came up with the bare bones of design — the internal timing of instructions, the internal timing of instructions in the internal timing of instructions in the internal timing of instructions in the i

Once the bare bones were established, the race was on to flesh them out as much as possible. In essence, the designers considered each part and tried to work out all of the useful things that could be done with it. In the process they added a few registers, took away an operation, and so on until the chip — the slice of silicon used as a base for the processorwas chock-a-block with transistors. Then they tested everything and produced a book listing the 'instruction set' of the device; if anything didn't work, they just didn't mention it at all!

This approach to processor design was appropriate to the first micros; they were squashed on to quite a small area of silicon, with no room for an elaborate design. The resultant chips were hard work but greatfun to program. Just because



A PROCESS OF PHILOSOPHY

an instruction worked in one circumstance didn't mean it would even exist in the next!

The Intel 8080 was the first really useful microprocessor; then a group of people left Intel, cut a bigger piece of silicon and came up with the Zilog Z80. Not surprisingly, this device turned out very similar to the 8080 — in fact, it would run 8080 programs quite happily. Zilog used its extra silicon to stitch on lots of extra instructions.

The 8080 had eight-bit increment instructions. The company added 16-bit equivalents, but there wasn't room to make them work, ie. exactly the same way so that the new instructions didn't 'flag' the result of the operation (zero, overflow or whatever).

Zilog added about 450 'official' instructions to the repertoire of the Z80, but in the process it created another hundred or so 'unofficial' ones which were never mentioned! A determined hacker can uncoverall sorts of oddities, like an 'eight-bit double and increment'—the missing SLL (shift left logical) instructions: CBH 30H to CBH 37H. These form a conspicuous gap on page 184 of the Spectrum manual!

The first processors were designed with hardware problems in mind—there was no point coming up with a super-whizzo useful set of instructions if they couldn't be built into a chip! In the last ten years these hardware problems have eased, while software problems have multiplied.

PROGRAMMING PHILOSOPHY

The Z80 was designed specifically for ease of wiring up. The 68000, on the other hand, was approached from the point of view of programming simplicity; part of this ease stems from the fact that you don't have to throw away your programs when you move from one modern processor to a

cheaper or faster one.

Motorola designed a range of processors, rather than a one-off. The original 68000 has spawned a number of versions with differing hardware requirements (including the so-called 'eight-bit' 68008 and the '32-bit' 68032) - but they can all run exactly the same software. This is what Sinclair Research is trying to say when it calls the QL 'future-proof'.

On a Z80, every register has its idiosyncracies; only the C register can be used to address ports, only the B register can be used in fast loops, only IX and IY can have an index, and so on. With the 68000 series, however, sets of registers work identically; each can be, for example, an index register, a stack pointer or a counter — the same instructions are available regardless of the register chosen. The data registers of the 68000 family are all 32 bits long, regardless of the way that data is passed back and forth between processor and memory (although this varies between members of the 'family').

This consistency makes it easy to learn the 68000 instruction set:

you don't have to cope with all the quirks of the Z80. The symmetry also makes it easy to fix bugs, alter programs and write compilers it's much more difficult to write a good Z80 compiler because of the vast range of special cases which must be allowed for before there's any chance of producing the best code.

A good compiler for the 68000 can produce code - from a highlevel language such as 'C' - which is very nearly as efficient as handwritten code. That's how QDOS and the most popular 68000 operating system, UNIX, can be written almost entirely with a compiler rather than an assembler. Compiled programs are much easier to write and test than assembled ones.

COMPLEX INSTRUCTIONS

In theory, a 16-bit micro is twice as powerful as an eight-bit machine it can process twice as much information in a single step. In practice, though, the difference is usually much greater, because intermediate steps are usually needed to convert two eight-bit answers into a 16-bit result. The 68008 produces the 16-bit result immediately

The 68008 incorporates complex instructions which do in one step what for a simpler processor would take many. For instance, the 68008 can perform 32-bit multiplication and division in a single and fast step. The equivalent process would take well over a hundred steps on a Z80. The 68008 doesn't sacrifice flexibility by using its 32-bit registers - each instruction can be used in a 32-, 16- or the more concise eight-bit

PIPELINE PERFORMANCE

Another big difference between the 68000 family and the Z80 lies in the way the 68000 reads values from memory. The 68000, like the humble 6502, uses a technique called 'pipelining'. A processor works by fetching instructions, decoding them and then performing the appropriate actions. Whereas the Z80 performs these three actions one-by-one, the uses a completely separate unit to read instructions so that it can get on with reading the next few instructions while the rest of the processor is working out what the last one meant.

The 68008 has often been criticised because it reads and writes data in small eight-bit sections; a 'true' 16-bit processor would use larger lumps. But the difference in performance between 68000 and 68008 is much less marked than you might expect because the pipeline allows the processor to get on with fetching the data piecemeal while the instruction is being decoded. So, by the time the data is needed, it's usually in the pipeline and the 68008 doesn't have to wait for it to be fetched, eight-bits at a time.



See us at

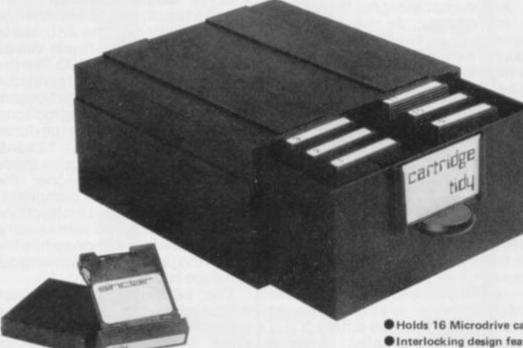
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QL GETS A SOFT SPOT **FOR THE** SPECCY

An emulator program for the Sinclair Research QL is currently being written by Manchester computer company, Joe The Lion, enabling owners of the mythical wonder machine to run the full gamut of Spectrum software. It'll come with a cassette interface to allow the user to save QL programs to tape - a cheaper alternative to the relatively expensive Microdrive cartridges. But how is JTL managing to produce such a package when there aren't any QLs available?

Well, spokesman Lawrence Holt reports that a team of programmers involved in the project are "working mostly on paper" which seems to suggest that a certain amount of testing has actually taken place. But Mr Holt would neither confirm nor deny this, saying only that he didn't possess a QL. However, he did imply that it wasn't beyond the bounds of possibility that he might have access to one. £25 all-in, the likelihood is it'll be in great demand. Enquiries to JTL, telephone 061-3667431.

RUMOURS-VILLE

Our spies report a couple of rumours currently circulating. First, a spokesman from a Midlands computer company tells us that a "private individual in the Birmingham area" is now the proud owner of one of Sinclair Research's new machines, and that this lucky laddie has been allowing a certain local manufacturer to work on the machine from time-to-time - giving a distinct commercial advantage over the rest.

The same source continued his revelations by disclosing that a close 'friend' employed on the QL project is claiming that plenty of the machines have been built and that they're just waiting for the ROMs to be completed and as soon as

SINCLAIRWATCH

IT'S HERE, BUT...

Only four months late, the QL has finally arrived. The latest official delivery date had been "the end of April", but Sinclair Research apparently meant that this was when its Camberley mailing house was to get its first deliveries—the early customers had their happy event a few days later, at the beginning of May. It's difficult to find out how many were delivered, but it was believed to be a few hundred at the most.

Although the number of QLs out there seems small, the number with problems occurring does not. Using the QL on a television—and even some monitors—has produced unstable pictures for many customers; some are also suffering a loss of colour. As everyone expected, the 32K ROM space has indeed proved insufficient, and an extra 9K or so (the so-called Kludge), is supplied hanging off the back.

After such delay, you'd have thought that at least the manuals would be finished—but not so. Although instructions for the Psion packages are supplied, the first customers recieved no details at all about SuperBasic or QDOS. Also missing is the page containing the pin-out for the monitor socket; so if you haven't got a TV—or the relevant page in the manual—you can't use your eagerly-awaited machine anyway. Presumably, delays with the documentation are as a result of a Basic which seemed to change almost

faster than the projected delivery dates.
Another long overdue event has been the arrival of Microdrive cartridges in the shops ... you'll find them in chemists, newsagents, computer outlets, etc. etc. However, for your £4.95, you don't just get a tiny black box with 5p worth of video tape—as you do mail order—buying retail gives you, in addition, a large cardboard box, a plastic inlay, and a little notebook. Guriously, the only thing missing from the overpackaging is any mention of a guarantee or 'returns' procedure, should the thing fail.

NEW ADS FOR OLD

It seems the Advertising
Standards Authority has
finally got through to Sinclair
Research and stopped the
company advertising mail
order products it cannot
deliver. Instead of the old fullcolour double-page ads, the
OL is now being pushed via
single-page black and white
spots.
And the wording has be

And the wording has been changed from that of its controversial predecessor.
Instead of extolling the virtues of the the machine, nine compliment quotes from the computer press (YS excepted) are reproduced. They made interesting reading, particularly when you consider the comments are based not on the machine, but on its published specifications.

specifications.
The fact is the QL doesn't conform very well to the original spec, and ever since

BYGUTTERSNIPE

the release of the machine, it's been difficult to find a good word for Sinclair Research in the computer press — partly because so few devices have been sent out for review. Some virtues are still extolled, but less excessively than before. No more are the Psion programs "more powerful than existing products costing up to £5000", and references to 'Windows' have now been reduced to plain old 'multidisplay capability'.

SPOT THE PRICE

When, in the dim and distant past, the QL was first launched, provisional manuals were given out in large quantities for the press to examine. And at the back of this tome was an order form — both for the QL itself, and some of its simpler addons. The price for the RS232 lead was put at £10.00, and the QL Microdrives £49.95. Since the RS232 lead has been specified as a 'free gift' for those suffering the long wait, the price has strangely risen to £14.95, and the cost of the QL Microdrive to £59.95.

In fact, the first QLs are supplied with another order form, this one giving a price of £49.95 for the 'drives. You get the impression that if you order by mail, you can claim the lower price, but if you phone-in your order, it rises a tenner for the privilege.

this has been done, they'll be plugged in and the completed units despatched - all of which sounds reasonable enough.

4 YOUR QL...

One of the on-going niggles about the QL is that it can't really be stuffed in a briefcase. So... Quantum Leap Systems has racked its corporate brain and come up with a thing called the 4QL System. It's a terminal that's specifically aimed at the executive and professional user, and it comes in a smart black unit reflecting the design of the QL. It can be used either as a desk-top peripheral base or a carrying case for the QL and its

accessories.

Incorporated in the flash design is storage for up to 30 Microdrive cartridges and it opens out to provide a monitor base with three storage compartments one for the QL when not in use, one for the cartridges (which has a drawer action) and one for the power unit and cables.

To match up with the 4QL, Quantum Leap Systems is also offering a matching black Brother HR5 printer and two 12-inch monochrome or RGB monitors in black cabinets. If you still need to be further convinced, the 4QL system will apparently be on display at The Computer Fair at Earls Court;

Mr H Hadid, the Director of the company, will be on hand to answer the difficult questions. As for prices, he said, "We haven't decided on that yet - because we don't know whether we'll be selling it as a complete package or as separates. Anyway, full details will be available on the day"

However, life's not all about waiting. For even now you can purchase a Microdrive Tidy from Quantum Leap Systems. This version holds 16 Microdrive cartridges and is priced at £6.99 (including VAT and postage). You can mail order it from QLS at 68 Foxwood Close, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 7DL

64-Page Upgrade For The QL-Available Soon!

From our Computing Correspondent

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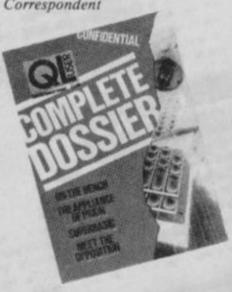
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For a microcomputer that's only now starting to filter through to customers, Sir Clive Sinclair's latest brainchild, the QL, has certainly managed to scoop up its share of editorial comment in the computing press. But where, one wonders, do they manage to get information from in a situation like this? With so few QL Computers available, magazine staff must have been tearing their hair out wondering where to look next.

And yet, somehow, the publishers of one of Britain's leading micro magazines, Your Spectrum, have done just that. QL User—the Complete Dossier is what its editor Bruce Sawford calls "a 64-page, no punches-pulled, appraisal of the micro everyone's talking about".

Tracked down to his West End editorial offices, amoungst an impressive array of computing equipment (including two of the much-coveted QLs) we found Bruce, who proudly claims "This will be the one you've all been waiting for — whether you're a QL owner or just thinking about it. We're not looking to add to the criticisms of the machine, we just want to give the public what they should have had from the beginning — the complete story".

Complete with exacting tests of the hardware, evaluations of the four Psion software packages, the latest details on the modestly entitled SuperBasic, programs and news, QL User — the Complete Dossier has tapped the major computing journalistic talent in the UK to produce a unique look at an innovative product. Following on from the successful Spectrum computer, there are many looking to see where Sir Clive is boldly going . . . and this could be where they'll find it.

Without question, the Ql must be one of the most rumoured of machines ever launched; but, adds Bruce Sawford "This magazine is not a rumour; when we say it will be available on the high street street shelves within 28 days, we mean it!".

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Rumour turns to fact-latest! Yes, I am convinced the QL is no longer copy/ies of the QL User - The Complete Dossier at £1.95 a mirage . . . each. I enclose a cheque/postal order A second made out to Sportscene Specialist Press chain is f of Prisr same m sophis' offerir Fill out the coupon below (or a photocopy if you don't want to deface for £ softw this issue) in CAPITAL LETTERS and M venti send it to QL User - The Complete Bush Dossier, 14 Rathbone Place, London with hunc Lone or 'F WIP IDE. A Inge Name hou bas in 1 it

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GETTING ATTACH

In order to overcome the software problems of attaching a 'grown-up' printer to your Speccy, Dilwyn Jones sorts out how you can produce the full character set on such diverse printers as the Star Gemini 10X and the Epson FX80.

STAR GEMINI OUTPUT

The character set produced on the Star Gemini 10X.

	5	*	п	5	×	4	*	4	3		+		-		1
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1		K	-	5	2
						F									
P	0	R	8	T	u	V	M	X	Y	Z	I	1	1	+	
-		b	-	d		+	0	h	1		K	1	m	n	a
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Even though the character codes of many printers are different to those of the Spectrum, it's still often possible to hard copy the entire Speccy set. Taking the Gemini 10X printer, first load the tape supplied with the interface, then make the following changes (as directed by that tape) and you'll find that the printer will be able to correctly print the entire character set and listings in the Spectrum's 32character screen format. The changes make the following changes: to make are as follows:

How many characters per line (80)? 32 What code for backspace (127)? "8"

Now modify the character codes for these characters when prompted:

1	(up arrow)	change to 164
3	(pound sign)	change to 195
0	(vertical bar)	change to 245
All I	(copyright symbol)	change to 203

User-defined graphics A to U Change the codes to 65 (A) up to 85 (U) so that user-defined graphics come out as upper case letters (as in their undefined state on the Spectrum) rather than

lower case letters.

Block graphics Fortunately, the Gemini 10X comes with Spectrumstyle block graphics in its standard characterset, but the codes are different to those of the Spectrum. You need to

Spectrum code	Printer code	
28	32	
29	227	
30	225	
31	231	
32	228	
33	234	
34	229	
35	236	
36	226	
37	230	
38	233	
39	235	
40	232	
41	238	
42	237	
43	239	

Newline characters You'll be asked how many codes - combinations of carriage return (CHR\$ 13), line feed (CHR\$ 10), and vertical tab (CHR\$ 11) - the printer needs. This depends on how the little dip switches, visible on the back of the printer, are set up. Look at the switch marked '4' - if you set it to 'on' then a line feed is performed automatically for every carriage return code received by the printer. It's up to you which to use - if it's 'on' reply 1 to the query, and if it's 'off', reply '2'. For '1' enter '13' as the code number'; for '2' enter '13' and '10'.

You've now completed this part of

STAR GEMINI SOFTWARE

The Basic program which sets the Star Gemini's facilities and loads the machine

193	REM Spectrum/Star Gemini10X
20	REM Kempston parallel
320	REM interface and software
40	POKE 23609,100: REM bleep
	CLEAR 64735
60	PRINT FLASH 1:" Please was
t	
	LOAD "printcode"CDDE 64736.
632	
82	CLS
99	PRINT BRIGHT I: FLASH I:"
	the tape "
100	PRINT USR 65150
118	REM get values to send to
	REM printer. End of data
130	REM 19 0.1
140	RESTORE
150	READ byte
166	IF byte=0.1 THEN LPRINT :
STOP	The second secon
3000000000	LPRINT CHR# 27: CHR# byte:
10000	GO TO 150

1.90	SAVE "GEMINX" LINE 40
200	SAVE "printcode"CODE 64736.
32	
210	GO TO 190
220	REM data to set up printer
	REM reset printer
240	DATA 27.64
250	REM skip over perforation
260	REM for 50 lines/page
278	DATA 27,78,16
280	REM left margin=20 chars
298	DATA 27.77.20
300	REM right margin=51 chars
310	REM (line length=32 chars)
320	DATA 27,81.51
330	REM emphasised print
340	DATA 27,69
350	REM select USA character
364	REM set, character 35=hash
370	DATA 27,55.0
388	REM signal end of data
390	DATA Ø.1

TO PRINTERS

the software and you should save it on tape as described in the instructions. Now type NEW to get rid of the Basic part, but do not switch off or do anything to erase the machine code in memory.

Now you have to enter the short Basic program which sets up several printer facilities and loads the machine code.

Having carefully checked that all numbers are correct, type GO TO 190, which will make as many copies of the software as you require. The program will auto-RUN on loading. It would of course be very naughty to break copyright law by making unauthorised copies of the Kempston machine code software.

When you type NEW, Stream 3 is reset to its default state to drive the ZX Printer. This is why you're told to use the RANDOMISE USR command to reinstate the printer driver software—so it's included here along with the POKE that sets up the keyboard bleep (that I find so indispensable).

When you run the program you may find that some of the characters are slightly different to those on the Spectrum; for instance, the zero is not slashed, although there is enough difference between '0' and 'O' to avoid confusion. The pound symbol looks rather weird but it's still a genuine pound sign, and the copyright symbol appears distinctly squashed. That, however, is a small price to pay for being able to print out the entire Spectrum character set on a printer of this price.

Those who are familiar with the Gemini 10X may ask why I've not made use of the 'download character set' facility. The answer is that only character codes 32 to 26 may be redefined in this mode and the other character codes above 26 cannot be used and are printed as spaces. Not all the character set can be squeezed into the 'download RAM' area.

Note that the Kempston software, like most others (including the ZX Interface 1), prints an extra space between THEN and any following keyword — it's quite normal and there's nothing yo can do about it.

Next we'll consider the case of the Epson FX80, which in its standard state is not capable of printing all of the Spectrum character set; it does, however, have full 'download character set' capabilities so a suitable set may be defined for use with the Spectrum. This has to be loaded into the FX80 every time it's switched on. As before, load the Kempston tape and make the following changes:

How many characters per line (80)? 32 What code for backspace (127)? "8"

Now modify this character code when prompted:

(copyright symbol)

change to 144

User-defined graphics A to U Change the codes to 193 (A) up to 213 (U) so that user-defined graphics are printed as upper case italic letters (userdefined graphics similarly appear as capital letters in their undefined state on the Spectrum).

Block graphics These are catered for by re-defining the printer's character set in the Basic program that follows.

Newline characters As before, these are to be set up depending on how you want the dip switches to be set up. Mine is arranged that only one code be sent to the printer, a CHR\$ 13.

Now enter the Basic program which sets up the printer every time you want to use it.

After carefully checking that all the many numbers are correct, type GO TO 190 which will save the software to tape until you press the Break key. The program will now autoRUN when you load it back into the computer. I've included a sample printout of the character set from the printer. You'll

notice the block graphics are different — personally I prefer them to be that way since this leads to less of a confusion on listings.

To alter them you'll need to change lines 470 to 620 of the Basic program as shown in the FX80 printer manual. ■ s

EPSON OUTPUT

The character set produced on the Epson FX80.

EPSON SOFTWARE

18 REM Spectrum/Epson FX88

The Basic program which sets up the Epson FX80's facilities and loads the machine code. As in the Star Gemini software, you can SAVE the program using the command GO TO 190 — both programs will autoRUN when re-LOADed.

```
28 REM | Kempston parallel
38 REM interface and software
   28 REM
  48 POKE 23689,188: REM bleep
58 CLEAR 64735
68 PRINT FLASH 1: " Please was
78 LOAD "printcode"CODE 64736.
  BØ CLS
   90 FRINT BRIGHT 1: FLASH 1:"
Stop the tape "
100 PRINT USR 65150
 118 REM get values to send to
 120 REM printer. End of data
 130 REM is 0.1
 140 RESTORE
 150 READ byte
 160 IF byte-0.1 THEN LPRINT :
 170 LPRINT CHR# 27: CHR# byte:
 188 GO TO 158
198 SAVE "EPSON" LINE 48
288 SAVE "printcode"CODE 64736.
 218 60 TO 198
 228 REM data to set up printer
 238 REM reset printer
248 DATA 27.64
 250 REM skip over perforation
260 REM for 50 lines/page
270 DATA 27,78,16
290 REM left margin=20 chars
 298 DATA 27,108,20
  300 REM emphasised print
  310 DATA 27.69
  328 REM copy ROM cg fonts
  330 REM into download set
 348 DATA 27.58.8,8,8
358 REM select download set
348 DATA 27.37,1,8
378 REM select ASCII 128 to 159
388 REM and ASCII 255 as
 398 REM printable characters
488 DATA 27,54
 410 REM data:character.attribut
```

```
e.pattern@...pattern10
420 DATA 27,38,0,35,35,136,36,0
.255,0,36,0,255,0,36,0,0
430 DATA 27,38,0,94,94,168,0,0
16,32,64,191,64,32,16,0,0
440 DATA 27,38,0,96,96,154,0,17
.0,127,128,17,128,1,128,65,1
450 DATA 27,38,0,124,124,123,0,0
460 DATA 27,38,0,124,124,183,0,0
460 DATA 27,38,0,128,128,138,0,0
460 DATA 27,38,0,128,128,138,0,0
460 DATA 27,38,0,128,128,138,138,25
5,0,241,0,241,0,129,0,129,0,255
500 DATA 27,38,0,138,138,138,25
5,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,131,131,138,25
5,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,133,133,133,138,25
5,0,129,0,129,0,255,0,255,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,134,134,134,255
5,0,241,0,241,0,143,0,143,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,134,134,134,255
5,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,135,135,138,25
5,0,241,0,241,0,143,0,143,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,135,135,138,25
5,0,241,0,241,0,143,0,143,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,135,135,138,25
5,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,241,0,255
530 DATA 27,38,0,136,136,136,25
5,0,255,0,255,0,255,0,255,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,137,137,138,25
5,0,255,0,255,0,241,0,241,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,137,137,138,25
5,0,255,0,255,0,241,0,241,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,137,137,138,25
5,0,255,0,255,0,241,0,241,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,137,137,138,25
5,0,255,0,255,0,241,0,241,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,138,138,138,25
5,0,255,0,255,0,241,0,241,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,143,0,143,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,141,0,241,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,143,0,143,0,255
590 DATA 27,38,0,143
```



...in the shops, now!

The unique ZX Microdrive system sets the ZX Spectrum apart from all other computer systems.

At a fraction of the cost of floppy discs, it gives fast access to 85K of program and data on Microdrive cartridges. And it opens up exciting possibilities through an RS232 interface and local area network.

ZX Microdrives – the fast way to save or load 85K of program and data. £49.95

ZX Microdrives are controlled by ZX Interface 1.

For their compact size, they're massively powerful. Each interchangeable Microdrive cartridge stores at least 85K of program and data!

You can create up to 50 files on the cartridge – identified by titles of your own choice.

And when you want to display the data again, Microdrives give you lightning-fast access:

- Just 3.5 seconds to access a typical file.
- Only 9 seconds to LOAD a typical 48K program.
 ZX Microdrives use the Spectrum's own power

Your first Microdrive is connected to Interface 1 by a Microdrive lead. Then, up to 7 more Microdrives can be added using Microdrive connectors. That gives you a minimum of 680K bytes of on-line capacity.

With memory like that, the possibilities are limitless – stock control, word-processing, even huge adventure games!

With each Microdrive, you'll receive a Microdrive connector and Microdrive demonstration cartridge. Blank Microdrive cartridges cost £4.95 each. They are available in packs of 4 (with a free cartridge wallet) or singly.

ZX Interface 1 – the multi-purpose controller. £49.95

ZX Interface 1 is a multi-purpose device. It controls up to 8 Microdrives. And it adds file-handling and communication facilities to your Spectrum.

So in one low-priced unit, you also get these two built-in features:

- RS232 interface This industry standard interface allows you to link your Spectrum with full-size printers, communicate with other computers employing RS232, and transmit data over telephone lines via modems.
- The ZX Net Now you and your friends can transfer programs and data on a local area network or even play computer games together.

The ZX Net makes it easy, and fast!
It links between 2 and 64 Spectrums, transmitting at 10,000 characters per second. (So a full screen is transferred in around 3 seconds!) With the ZX Net, only one person need type in a program. And a Microdrive or printer can be shared by everyone in the network!

ZX Interface 1 offers you all these facilities, and retains the same peripheral port as the Spectrum itself.

With each ZX Interface 1, you'll receive a connecting lead for the first Microdrive; a ZX Net lead with jack plugs; plus a comprehensive manual. An RS232 lead is available as an optional extra at £14.95.

Available from: larger branches of Boots • WH Smith Computer Stockists • Greens Computer Centres • Spectrum Computer Stores • and larger branches of John Menzies • Dixons • Laskys • Currys • John Lewis Partnership • Rumbelows • British Home Stores • House of Fraser and many other good computer stockists nationwide.

Find out more - in your local shop!

The best way to evaluate ZX Microdrives and Interface 1 is to see them for yourself.

There is a full range of ZX peripherals—including ZX Interface 2 for joystick and ROM Cartridge capability, alongside the only computer that supports them – the ZX Spectrum!

For more information, telephone Sinclair Research Ltd, on 0276 685311.

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