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ADVENTURE

YOUR

COMPUTER

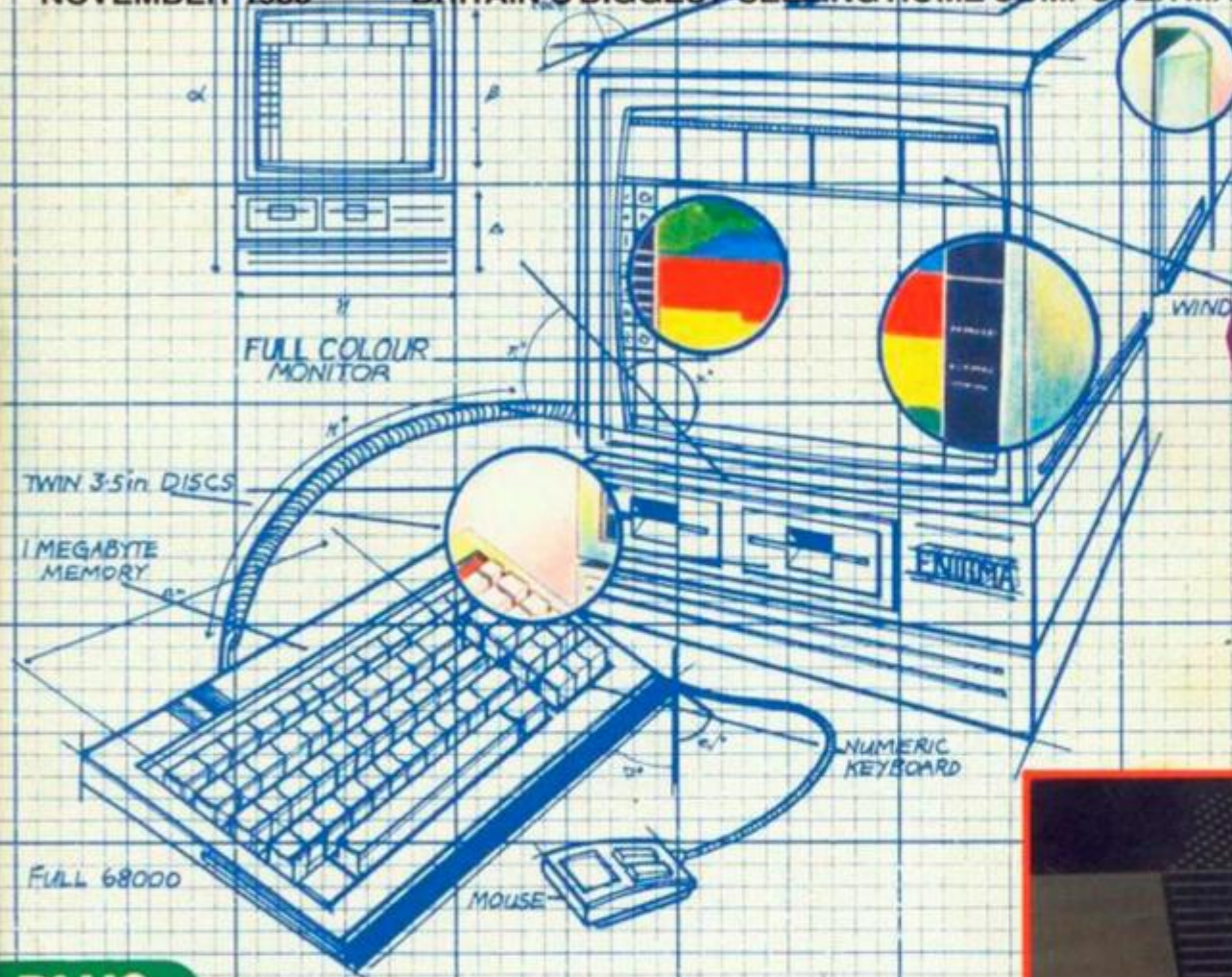
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NOVEMBER 1985

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST-SELLING HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE

Vol.5 No.11



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78 HOTSHOTS: Hints, tips, features and bugs. Hotshots is here to help you. We provide a map to help you rid the village of the plagues — yes, Nightshade.

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Most home computers.

As you can see, the Amstrad CPC 464 is no ordinary home computer.

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Put the 464 to work and it will take care of a number of business-like functions, such as wordprocessing and spreadsheet.





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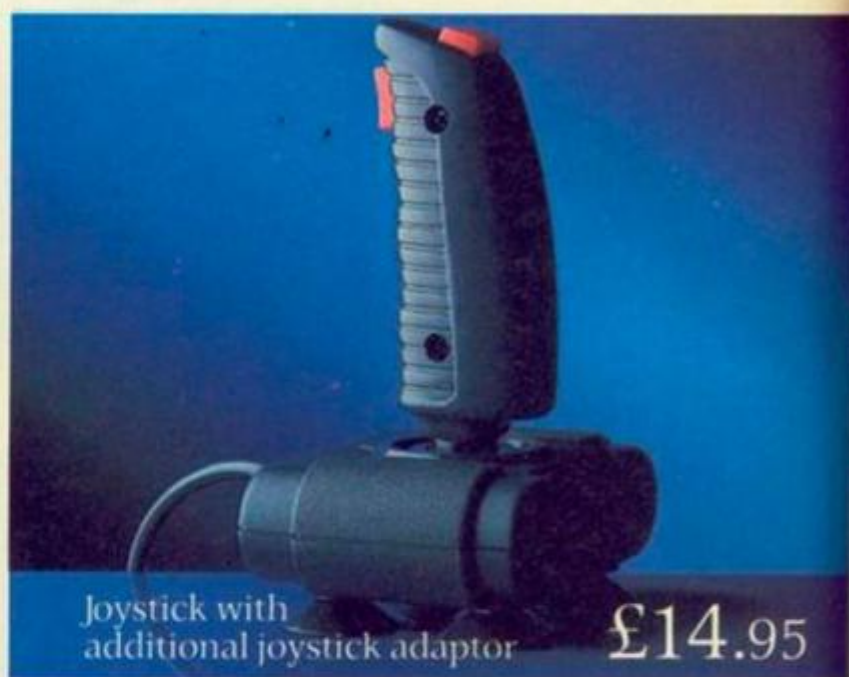
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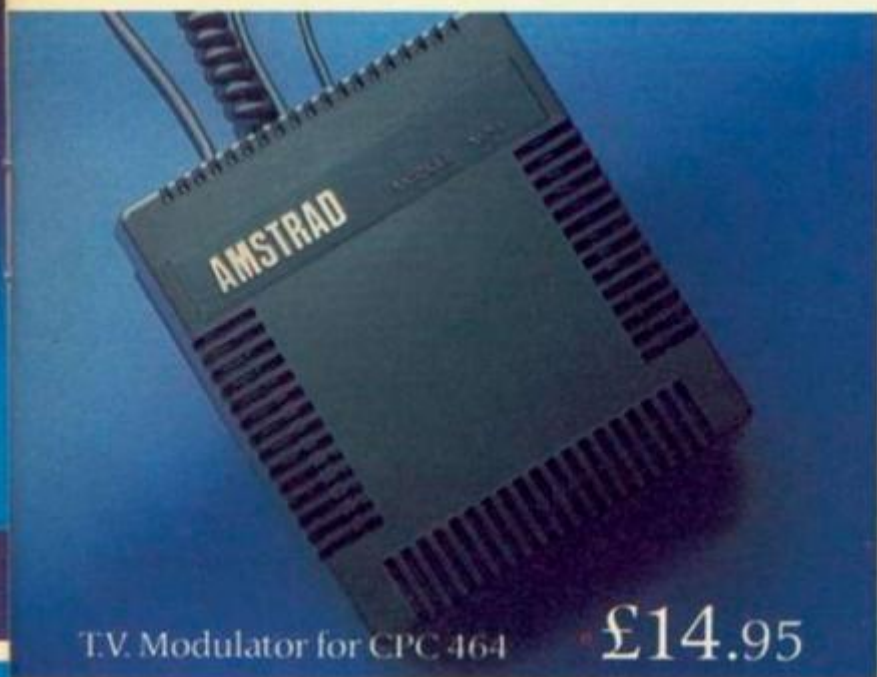


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But Amstrad owners can become even more attached to their computers with the simple addition of the peripherals featured here.

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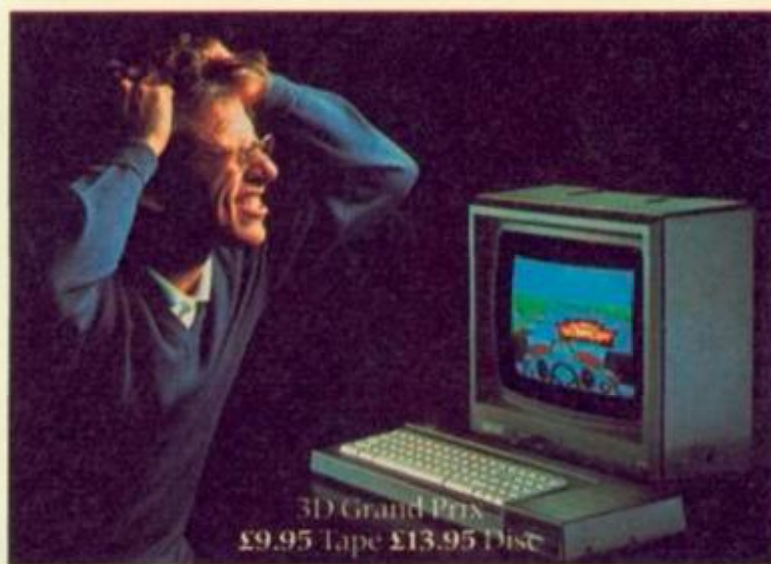
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Commodore 64

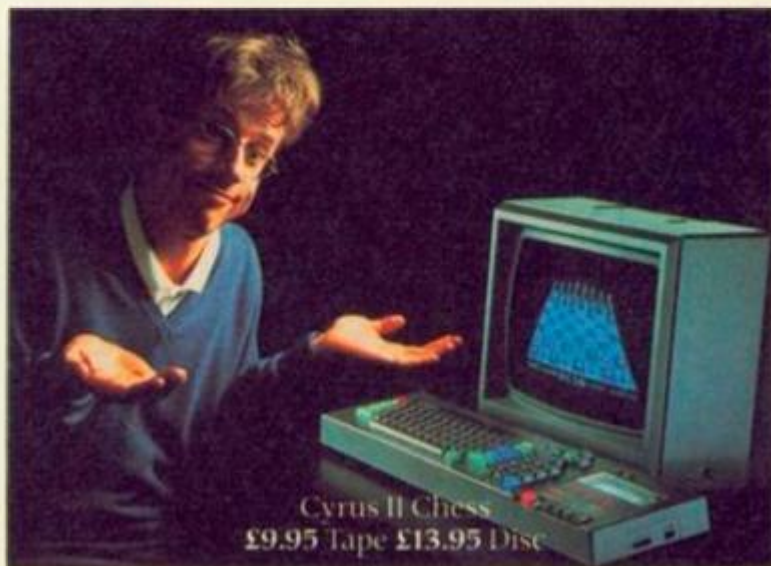
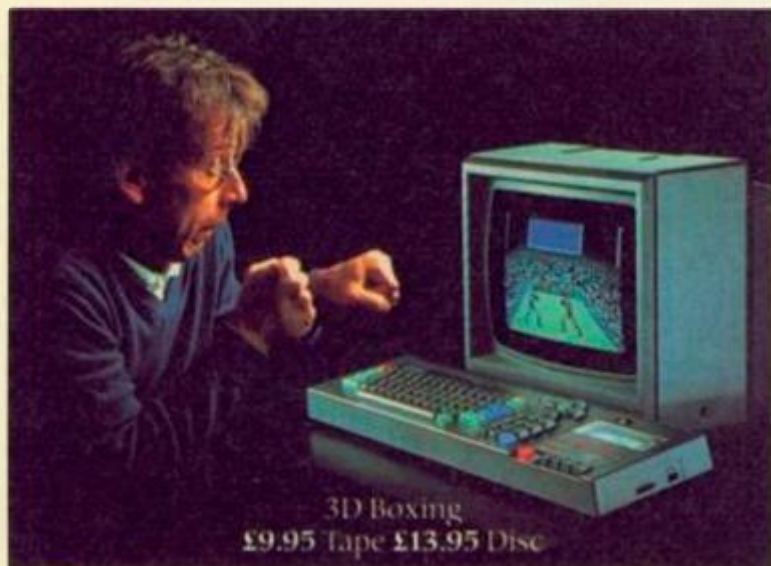
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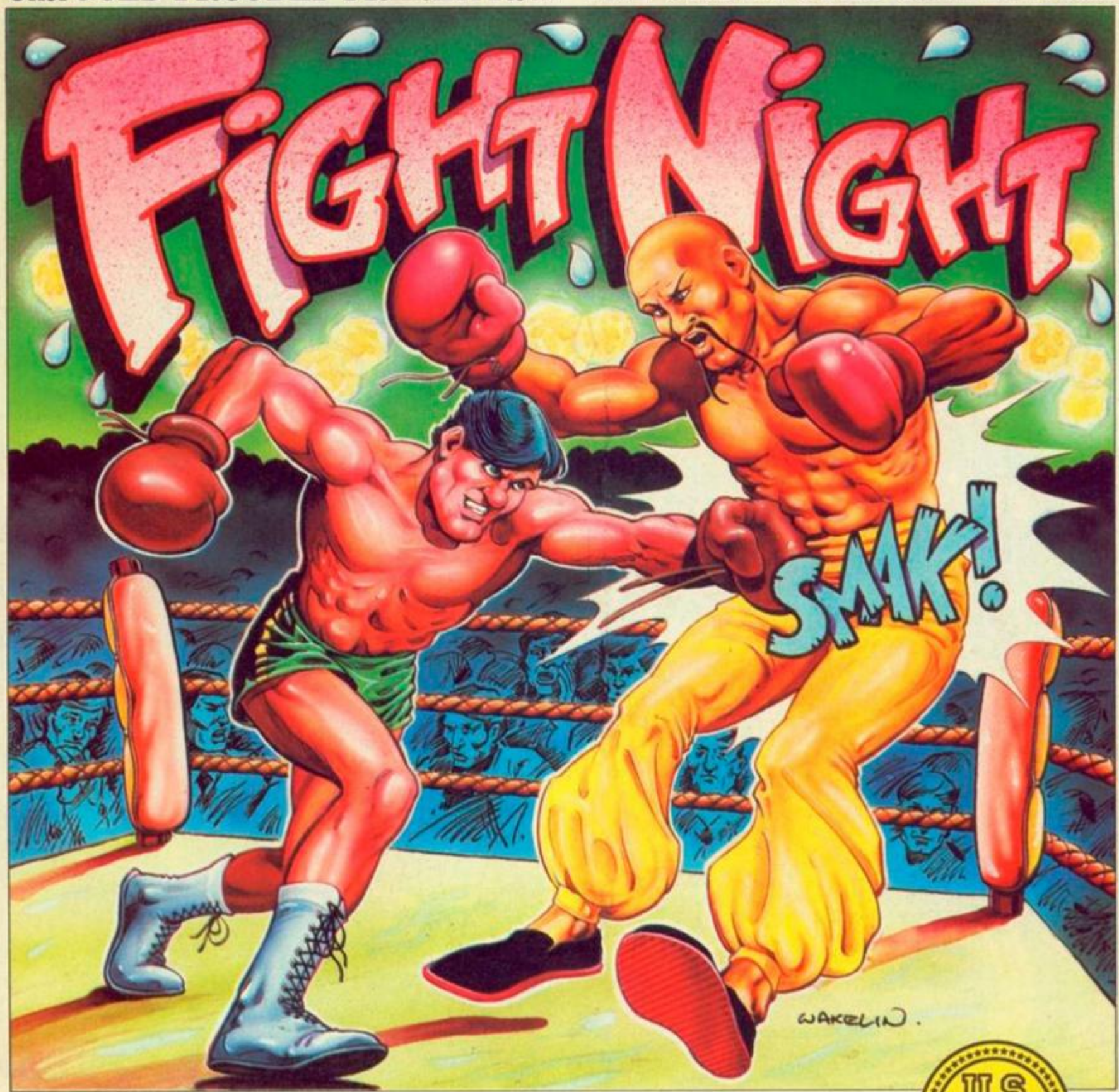


Feudal England, 1200 AD. In these days you are not elected to anything. What you want, you take. Do unto others before they do it unto you is the motto which you, as Baron, live by. The path to success is an easy one to travel — total self-interest is all that is required. Starve the peasants, amass a personal fortune and overthrow the King. The killing of a few opponents in the jousting tournament can only enhance your notoriety. One more thing you should know — if you try and fail in your quest for the Evil Crown, you will be executed for treason. Fair enough?

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— Tony Takoushi Computer & Video Games/Computer Trade Weekly.

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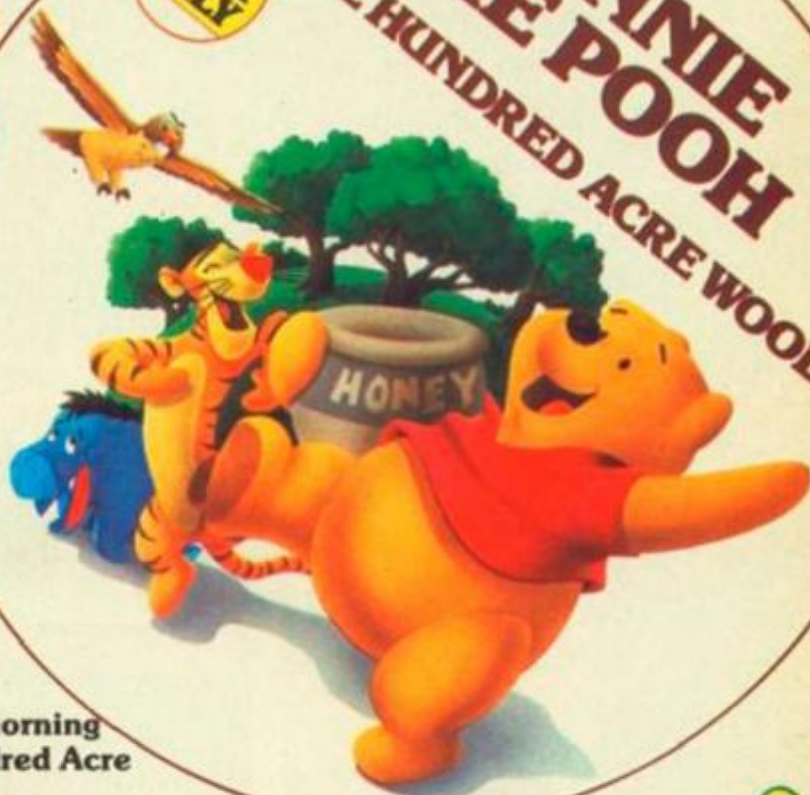
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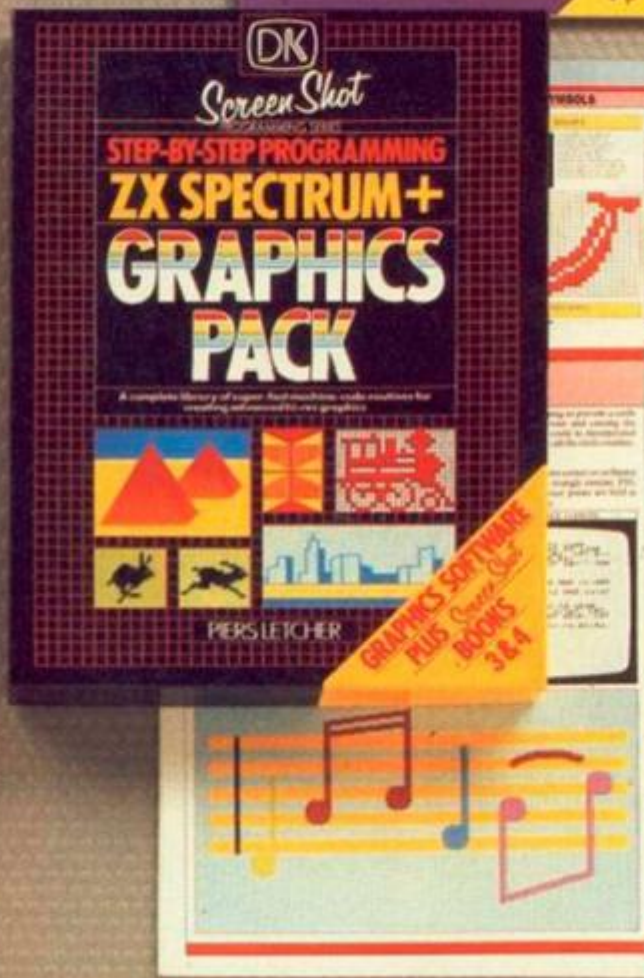
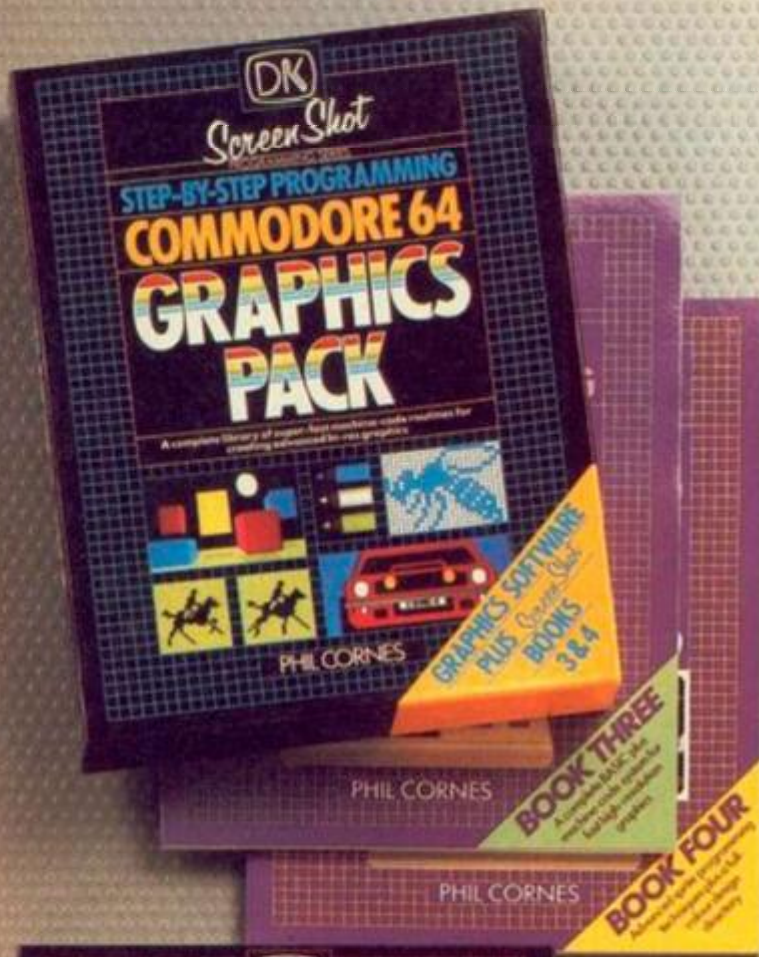
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The Starter Packs for the Commodore 64, ZX Spectrum+ and BBC Micro get you going quickly with BASIC programming.

The accompanying software offers carefully graded exercises leading to rapid keyboard familiarity.



PACKS



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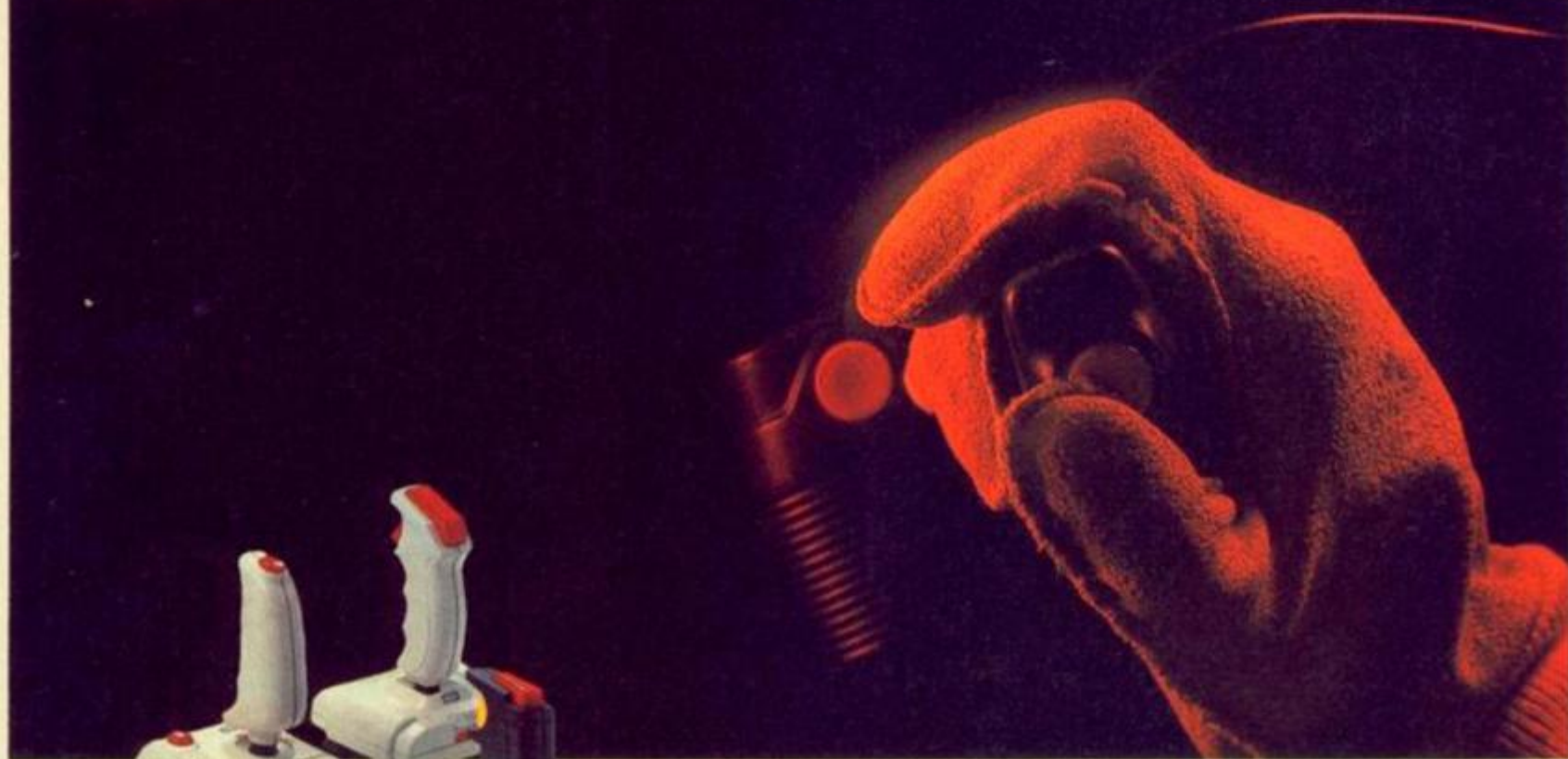
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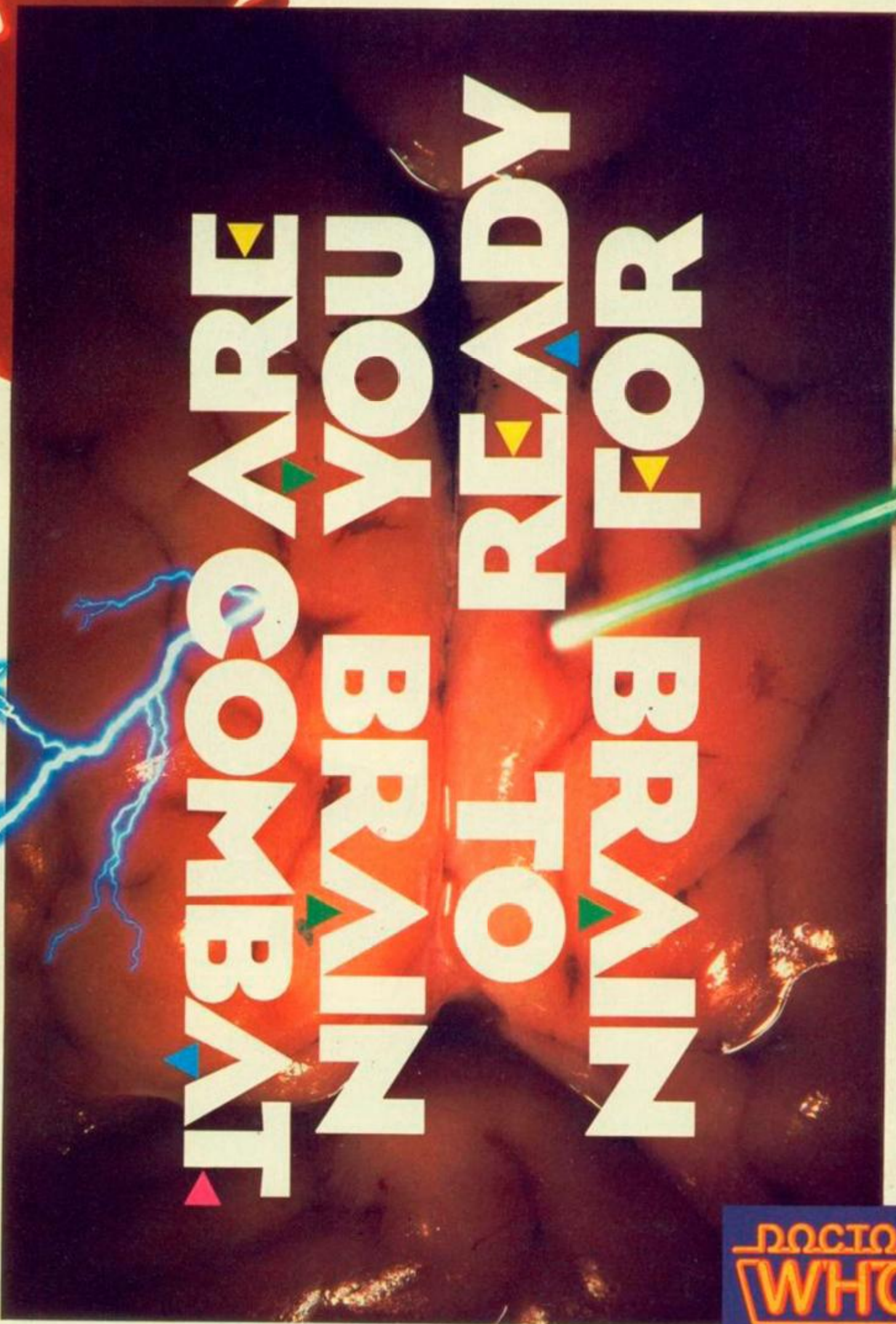
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But Cumana's range now covers much more than just disk drives; there's a growing range of exciting new

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THE LAMPS ARE GOING OUT...

THE PULL OF profit and prestige sucked Britain's biggest computer manufacturers Sinclair and Acorn into their great American disasters. If only they had looked closer to home. There, right on their dorsteps waited the huge and largely untapped European markets.

At least Sinclair and Amstrad seem now to have cottoned on. Amstrad's impressive £20 million profit figures owe much to very healthy overseas sales — it's pushing its computers hard in West Germany under the Scheider marque, chosen to appeal to the Teutonic sensibility. Ironically the name Amstrad in this country scores with its overtones of Scandinavian efficiency.

Sinclair on the other hand has gone Spanish. Granting Investronica of Madrid the right to build a 128K machine may prove to be one of the most intelligent moves the company has made since the launch of the Spectrum itself back in 1982. Spain may not be in the same league as the U.K. in terms of computers per capita, but then that's the perfect reason for going there. Potentially it also opens up the vast Spanish-speaking South American market.

The Spaniards have already proved their skills in the car-building business: they took on contracts from major automotive manufacturers to build cars under licence. Now they are among the biggest car builders in Europe and are selling their own models into other countries.

Even British products written off as failures in the U.K. have been eagerly scooped up by other Europeans. Now alongside the Camembert factories you'll find Orics being churned out in Normandy, or Dragons being bred in Spain by Eurohard.

Two years ago Britain was a long way ahead in terms of volume and sheer variety of computers. If more energy had been spent then in spreading the risks and making a mark in Europe and less on the notoriously volatile U.K. scene, many of the financial disasters of 1985 could have been avoided.

The sun may never set over the British computer Empire, but that's because it never rose in the first place. If companies are to survive it must be on a broader footing. Europe may be the last chance they get.

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"Take that, Fion the Magic Circle."

BATTLE OF WIZARDS

BRITAIN'S WIZARDS are locked in battle over who shall control the market for micro magic. One man, David Hambly from Knights Way (yes seriously) Ilford is taking on the whole power of the Magic Circle. The Magic Circle is releasing a book and tape which will allow you to perform 15 different tricks on your Spectrum, Commodore or Amstrad. "When you learn from

this book and software the secrets of magic, remember that you must keep them to yourself." says John Salisse, Secretary of the Circle "They are not yours to give away". But despite John's claims that the Circle suite is unique David Hambly can show micro magin books and software that he has produced over the years. Contact Sardi's Software (01) 551-5908 for details.

Future plot

FLAT BED plotters are no longer the play things of the idle rich.

Future Music is selling Roland DXY100 A3 sized plotters at the remarkable price of £259. The plotter is connected to the computer via the centronics port, so, theoretically could be used with most home micros. However, the company only supplies

software for the BBC. Supplied with the plotter is a ROM as well as some examples of 3D plots on cassette. The ROM routines include music and graph plotting, arcs and hatching. Resolution is to .1mm with a plotting speed of 70mm/s. You can find out further details from Future Music on (0245) 352490.

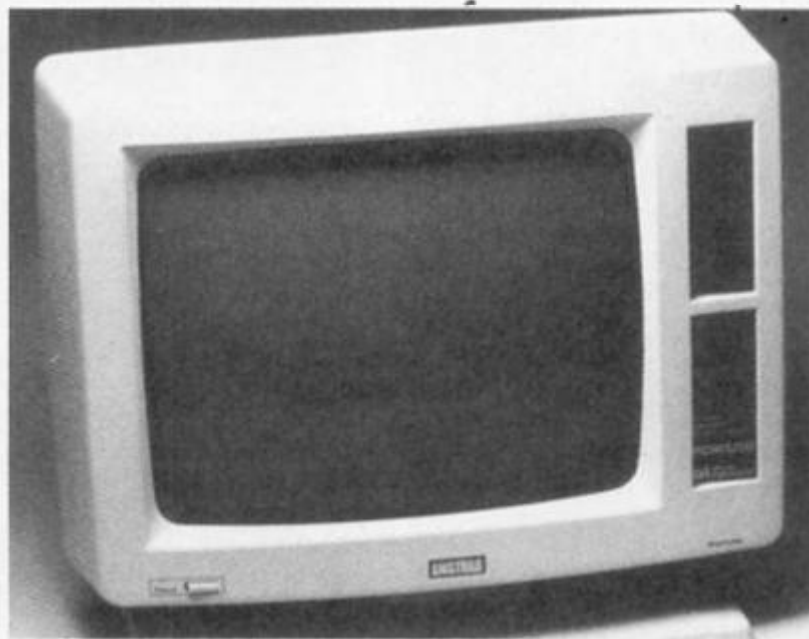
AMSTRAD BOOM

664 problems solved

AMSTRAD CONTINUES to confound the prophets of doom in the micro industry by announcing record turnover and profits up to £20 million compared to Commodore's announcement that it is losing \$1 million a day and Acorn and Sinclair's dismal results. What is more Amstrad's boom is based almost entirely on computer sales. When the British market started to flag Amstrad just sold them abroad instead.

The PCW 8256 all-in-one word processing package is selling briskly. Unfortunately companies like Dixons had neglected to stock up with the 3 inch discs it uses, leading to shortages in many areas.

Another problem for Amstrad 664 owners who found themselves ditched by the rapid introduction of the 6128 has been solved by DK'tronics. DK will sell an £50 64K extra memory unit for the 664 which will work with



PCW 8256 sells too fast for Dixons.

switching and system calls but not from Basic since the 664 Rom has not been overlaid. DK will also introduce a 256K expansion pack for £100 — the same price as a

16K expansion for the ZX-81 four software which uses bank years ago. A 256K silicon disc is also on the way.

DIARY

WHICH COMPUTER is "the BMW of the home computer business" and who called it that?

HERE'S A CLUE for the BMW question. the designer of one of the chips inside it "Dave" also designed the three-wheeler which won the Euromouse 1985 micromouse merge race in Brussels last month.

SMELLYVISION will hit your screens on October 20. Brother, the computer printer makers, are launching a scratch and sniff TV promotions for their high speed cookers. The idea is that you will pick up copies of TV Times impregnated with the smell of roast beef, pies and bread. If you live in the Granada or TVS areas and see a Bother commercial starting the idear is that you will race to your paper rack and then wait for a "scratch now" caption to appear as the oven door is opened. That could be fun with computer games, we could have scratch 'n sniff pads in *Your Computer*. A prize for the best suggestion.

BRITISH TELECOM is enjoying what it is learning from the home computer market. The little birds, which we diarists use in preference to those nasty leaky phones, tell us that Firebird tasted so nice that BT is buying Beyond as well.

STEVE JOBS, who gets the credit as co-founder of Apple with Steve Wozniak for starting the home computer revolution, has left the company on acrimonious terms. Apple is suing Jobs for stealing information and employees now that he has left to set up a company making educational computers.

MEANWHILE that once-mighty school micro maker Acorn has turned out to be a participant in the "Euro-rival to MSX" project. Olivetti is of course involved but the third participant is not Philips as expected, but Thomson which dominates educational computing in France.

BMW Enterprise of course. Who said it? Enterprise's Mike Shirley. Dave Woodfield, who designed the chips and the mouse works for Intelligent Software.

Elsie Dee

SECRET DIARY OF SIR CLIVE, AGED 45¹/₄



No grey 128s here, please.

SINCLAIR SAYS Spectrum Plus and QL sales are booming — selling at twice the rate of Commodore and Acorn put together.

But Commodore is now fighting back hard with an Adrian

Mole promotion for the 64, delivery at long last, of the 128 and announcement of the Amiga's official launch in January.

Behind the scenes neither company is having an easy time with Commodore announcing

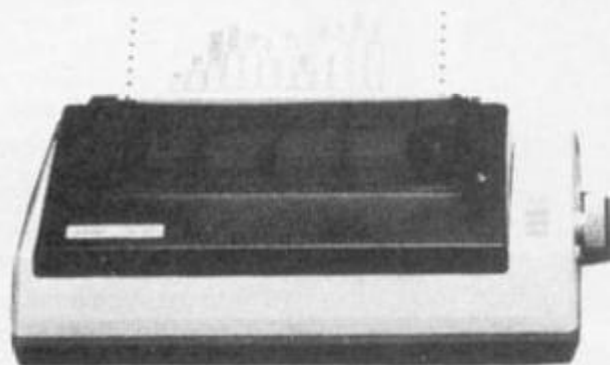
\$124 million losses for March, April and May while Sinclair is moving out of its prestige headquarters in Willis Road, Cambridge, sacking 20 of its 120 employees and losing the likes of Robb Wilmot and Nigel Searle.

Rumours that the Spanish Investronica-built Spectrum 128 would be unofficially imported to Britain have been quashed. The only "grey imports" will be to software houses preparing products for the British launch next February. Commodore's Christmas promotion meanwhile will bundle a 64, cassette recorder, Music Maker, Designer's Pencil and the book and game of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*.

The Commodore 128 is now on sale as a standalone but because the cost of the original 128 including 1571 double-sided drive looked prohibitive it will now be bundled with the 1570 single-sided 0.5 Mbyte drive for \$450.

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UPDATE

Better late than never, but sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference. Digital Integration, who rocketed to obscurity after over-night success, look like finally releasing *Tomahawk*, a helicopter simulator after keeping the punters waiting for over a year.

Despite this, they might be forgiven if it turns out to be as wonderful as they say it is. Air combat, vector graphics, ground targets, lots of instruments, it may well have the same impact as *Fighter Pilot* did when it came out in what silicon archaeologists like to call the early durasic period. Novagen still insists

Mercenary is on the way, leaving the answer phone to cope with the calls of anxious punters. Novagen assures us the delay is simply due to wanting to make it even better!

Spectrum Elite nears completion. Unfortunately, *Firebird* have had to leave out most of the missions that other, less scrupulous magazines reported were in their "review copy" due to memory restraints. However, it still promises to be wonderful. Apparently *Firebird's* Gyron team has virtually re-written the structure so that it won't slow down when a lot is happening. A new launch sequence and revamped display is promised.

Activision has forsaken the humdrum world of the shoot-em-up, for the philanthropic pursuits. Apparently, they discovered the presence of **Little Computer People**, and unlike you or I, would simply have given the thing a violent shake and hoped the little debugger would fall out. Activision, gave it a house, coaxed him out of the innards and on to the screen. Of course, they are all different, Activision just give you the house, and the little chap takes on his own individual character. Not only that, **Hacker** is an attempt to spare NASA's blushes, and many parent's phone bills by diverting code breakers from the real thing to a game with the highly laudable task of saving the world.

ARIOLLAMA

Minter joins Zombies

MINTER IS back with a vengeance — the label may have changed but the psychotropic dreamer maintains his firm commitment to fast-scrolling all-action shoot-'em-ups that leave the player with much deeper comprehension of the traumas of shell-shock. *Batalyx* — not so much released as allowed to escape — from Ariolasoft is obviously Jeff's compilation album, sitting well on his shelves next to the *Pink Floyd Relics* cassette, no doubt.

Six games for £12.95 on Commodore 64 disc, £9.95 on cassette: kick off with *Hallucin-O-Bomblets*, a freaky asteroid derivative; then *AMC II*, a dub version of *Attack of the Mutant Camels*; next, the very abstract *Activation of Iridis Base*. This gives you a driver's-eye-view of a mutant camel approaching a pyramid. When the base is activated a —



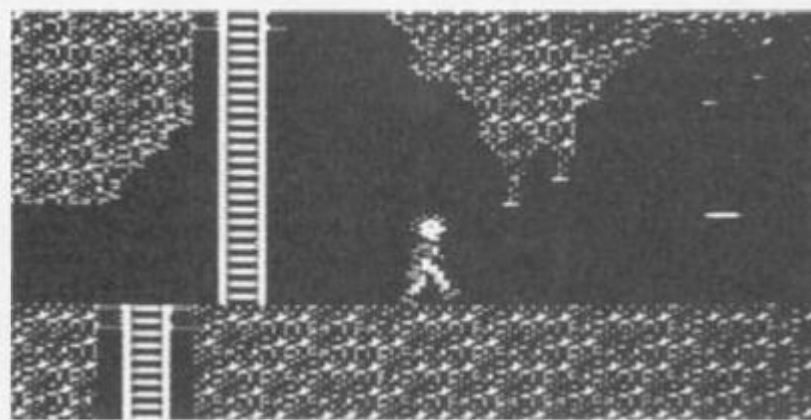
Recognisable Jeff Minter.

you guessed it — *Dark Side Of The Moon* album cover effect is generated. The *Ancipital* returns in *Cippy on the Run*, followed by a geometric puzzle called *Syncro II*. Finally a re-run of *Psychedelia*. Review next month.

Scarabeus sees Ariolasoft's phalanx of Hungarian pro-

grammers producing good graphics, great sound and an absorbing arcade adventure. Aim of the game: find the fabulous Emerald jewel of the Pharaohs by zooming around a 3D maze in *Scrollerama*. On each of the three levels you must assemble or find a key to get to the next level by capturing ghosts or entering places of information. *Zombies* and spiders conspire to prevent you getting into the Pharaoh's tomb. This ranks with Ariolasoft's *Skyfox* as an attempt to market good original material, rather than the older US games. *Wizard*, the third release, includes a screen construction set, so if you get tired of jumping the climbing through 40 dazzling screens as you reach for diamonds, gold and pearls, you can change the game. Both *Wizard* and *Scarabeus* are £12.95 on C-64 disc, and £9.95 cassette.

DOCTOR WHO AND THE MICRO ROMS



"The Daleks are off but can I recommend the TARDIS".

ROM chips have got cheaper — some EPROMs are reportedly available for a quarter of their January price — which has literally created ROM to move for claustrophobic programmers sweating away trying to produce epics in 32 or 48K of memory. At least two software houses are using sideways ROMs to expand the memory of a specific computer so it can run a specific games program. Means you have to dig a little deeper into the piggy-bank, but they claim it's

worth your while. At £14.95, *Mikro-Plus* (alias *Mikro-Gen*) are confident that *Shadow of the Unicorn* is value for money. Not only do you get 64K of program on you Spectrum and a 120-page illustrated book, but you also get a built-in joystick port, and back-up to microdrive or tape facility, plus a diagnostic checking and tape alignment routine for trouble-free loading.

Shadow of the Unicorn is the tale of an unwitting farmer who opening an old tomb he has

discovered releases evil forces. There are 10 fully-animated characters all with their own part to play in helping you to reseal the book. There are 2,800 locations and 11,500 views according to *Mikro-Gen's* Tony Bentley. "It's a very deep and complex adventure — it will definitely appeal to people who like *Valhalla* or *Lords of Midnight*."

Dr Who and the Mines of Terror is *Micro-Power's* foray into the land of the sideways ROM. For your £18.95, you get another 16K of memory (19.95 for disc version) and very large platform game. The aim of the game is to recapture the plans of the TARDIS time machine and destroy the Master's factory. Based on the popular sci-fi TV series, it lacks Daleks, but has plenty of problem-solving.

Mikro-Gen see a future for ROM: two more expanded games are under development. *Battle of the Planets*, licensed from BBC TV, and the ultimate *Wally* game, *Wally in Paradise*.

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POP★ TOPS

TOP 20

1	The Way of the Exploding Fist	Melbourne House	Sp/64/Am
2	Frank Brunos Boxing	Elite	Sp/64/Am
3	Nightshade	Ultimate	Sp
4	Hypersports	Imagine	Sp/64
5	Barry McGulgans Boxing	Activision	64
6	Hyway Encounter	Vortex	Sp
7	Summer Games II	US Gold	64
8	Frankie goes to Hollywood	Ocean	Sp/64
9	Sky Fox	Ariolasoft	64
10	Arnhem	CCS	Sp/AM
11	That's the Spirit	The Edge	Sp
12	Death Star	Superior	E1/Bc
13	Impossible Mission	US Gold	64
14	Southern Belle	Hewson	Sp
15	Cyru	Firebird	Sp/64
16	Chopper	Sparklers	64
17	Nodes of Yesod	Odin	Sp/64
18	Booty	Firebird	Sp/64
19	Desert Burner	Sparklers	Sp
20	The Red Arrows	Database Software	Sp/Am

Source: WH Smith

TOP 3 BY MACHINE

1	Crazy Cavey	M. Tronic	Vc
2	King Tut	M. Tronic	Vc
3	Rockman	M. Tronic	Vc
1	Now Games	Virgin	64
2	Sky Fox	Ariolasoft	64
3	Summer Games II	US Gold	64
1	Now Games	Virgin	Sp
2	Way of the Exploding Fist	Melbourne House	Sp
3	Frank Brunos Boxing	Elite	Sp
1	Match Day	Ocean	Bc
2	Terminolinos	Melbourne House	Bc
3	Beachhead	US Gold	Bc
1	On the Ball	Thorn EMI	At
2	Bounty Bob Strikes Back	US Gold	At
3	Pole Position	US Gold	At
1	Formula One Simulator	M. Tronic	16
2	World Cup	Artic	16
3	BMX Racers	M. Tronic	16
1	Repton	Superior	E1
2	Overdrive	Superior	E1
3	Football Manager	Addictive	E1
1	Frank Brunos Boxing	Elite	Am
2	Syrus II Chess	Amsoft	Am
3	3D Stunt Rider	Amsoft	Am
1	Killer	M. Tronic	Ms
2	G. Busters	Activision	Ms
3	Pitfall II	Activision	Ms

Source: Websters Software

Write to: Your Letters, Your Computer, Room L221, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. Our Prestel mailbox number is 019991800.

YOUR Letters

Dear Sir Keith,

I would like to paint a small scenario. There you are early one morning eating your third Shredded Wheat. Your complimentary Daily Maxwell lies open on the kitchen table. The teachers pickets outside are still in their tent. Suddenly the peace is broken. A bulky figure plods up the garden path. It is none other than Chief Superintendent Robert Hay coming to feel your collar. Why?

This Conservative government, of which you are quite rightly a senior member, is responsible for many great achievements. The sinkings of the Belgrano and Arthur Scargill perhaps being the best known. Our concern however is two lesser known successes. The micros in schools scheme and the Copyright, Computer Software, Amendment Act 1985. It is the combination of these that will attract the attention of the aforementioned Chief Super.

The micros in schools scheme made two Cambridge based trainee businessmen unfairly rich. It also made our schoolchildren the most computer literate in the world. So far so good. The downside is that it has made our schools hotbeds of criminal activity. The problem is that the scheme has provided plenty of money for hardware and very little for software. Without lots of good software a computer is only useful as a paperweight.

It is not that teachers condone copying software. It is not even that they approve. The fact is that it is the teachers who are doing the copying. On the grand scale. Copying software is theft of intellectual property. Stealing. Just think of the effect on the moral judgment of our schoolchildren when they see that. Here are their elders and supposed betters, their peers in society, to look up to and emulate. Criminals.

These schoolchildren may be the most computer literate but do they know the right things? The fact is that the educational software market is a complete mess. The combination of lack of money and mass copying makes writing software for schools a waste of time. All the talent that could be writing educational software, raising our national educational standards, are writing games. They have to earn a living. Software piracy has led to the formation of the Federation Against Software Theft (FAST). The Federation has lobbied parliament and the result is the new Copyright Act. To enforce the act FAST has employed the gentleman from the scenario, Robert Hay. Anyone he catches copying software is liable to an unlimited fine or up to two years in jail. Surely as Secretary of State for Education there must be a degree of vicarious liability for the actions of your teachers?



Hence the scenario.

The solutions are straightforward. To provide hardware and not software is like providing text books with nothing but blank pages. For every pound spent on hardware at least two pounds must be spent on software. This might result in less hardware but it will definitely produce better educated children. Teachers must be sent directives not to copy software and those that do should be severely disciplined. If only to provide the correct moral example to their charges. The directive must extend to school computer clubs, where school equipment is used to copy the latest games under teacher's supervision.

This country needs a computer literate population to face the future successfully. This is the responsibility of you and your government. The above action is merely a step in exercising that responsibility.

Bruce Everiss
Bruce Everiss.

ALIENATING!

IT IS WITH growing concern that I note the ever-increasing popularity of the so-called "shoot-em-up" type of arcade game.

A craze which started with Space Invaders has now progressed to a cult dedicated to playing far more addictive and complex games. Why, you might ask, am I so concerned about this seemingly harmless pursuit? Well, let me elucidate...

During man's exploration of space, it is inevitable that, sooner or later, he will encounter extraterrestrial civilizations. It is imperative to man's survival that

he realises the only way to approach these aliens would be peacefully, preferably followed by a scientific and/or cultural merger.

But when we are instilling into our populace the innate urge to destroy anything alien — through the aforementioned games, — we are simultaneously placing an ominous black cloud over man's very survival. An even more worrying facet of the shoot-em-up cult concerns terrestrial monitoring by alien beings.

We have absolutely no way of knowing whether the Earth is being monitored by a technically-superior civilization, but let's suppose for one moment that it is.

Now, assuming that they haven't gone through a similar "shoot-em-up" phase in their past, and that the very concept of a "game" is incomprehensible to them, then what do you think they will think when they see half the Earth's population squatting over VDUs and zapping pixelized aliens with an apparently insatiable gusto?

My guess is that they would be unlikely to permit the continued existence of the human species. Perhaps we could provide the answer to the problem by persuading computer firms to stop manufacturing these games.

However, I'm realistic enough
(continued on page 29)

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IN ★ TOUCH

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The article must be submitted exclusively to *Your Computer*. We pay £35 per published page — that's as it appears in the magazine and includes illustrations.

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Telsoft is *Your Computer's* software downloading service. Any program for the Spectrum or the BBC — and soon the Commodore — which has a telephone symbol next to it is available on the service. Both 1200 and 300 baud speeds are catered for. For more details call Colchester (0206) 8068. No more lonely nights typing in endless pages of hex digits.

Message service

You can get messages to us in two ways. Either use the Prestel Telex Link to 892084 BISPRES G or you can use our very own modem, day or night on 01-661 8978. The modem is V21, 300 baud, even parity, 10 bits per character. You simply transmit in upper case "YRC" — our address code, and wait for the acceptance code "+++ STF GO". Then off you go. Don't forget to tell us who it's for. Sign off with "NNNN" — again in upper case.

(continued from page 27)

to know that they won't, and hence the reason why I'm writing this letter. I'm pinning my hopes on two things: i). the aliens can read English, and ii). they subscribe to this magazine. If so, and they read this letter, then humanity will be able to breathe a sigh of relief, and once again continue on its weary path to eternity.

Harry Seldon,
Grimsby.

SCREEN DUMP

SCREEN DUMP — YC Software File, August 85 — will be welcome by ZX Spectrum/Interface 1 users as Basic screen dump routines take some 30 minutes to copy a screen. In fact, Brother HR-5 control codes do not fully match Epson ones so a half-height overprinted copy results from the unaltered code.

HR-5 owners need only change one byte at address 32829 from 04 to 08 hex to correct the routine for this popular printer.

A. J. Torlesse,
Helensburgh,
Dunbartonshire.

AMSTRAD ANGER

SO AMSTRAD have finally blown it! After introducing a strong influence of confidence and stability into the home computer market they have withdrawn the CPC-664 after just three months.

I am one of the unfortunate many who purchased the 664 and, after I read of the 6128 introduction, I thought that Amstrad would at least offer some means of upgrading the 664 to a 6128. Then I wondered what support would be available for the 664 in the future.

I wrote to Amsoft asking these questions and received a reply full of sales waffle which totally avoided answering these questions and seems to typify Amstrad's attitude to 664 owners. I would not be at all surprised if Amstrad had seriously miscalculated the date on which the 6128 development would be complete, which it almost certainly was when the 664 was released, and went through with the 664 launch in order to recover its development costs from the unsuspecting 664 purchasers.

I was amazed to hear Alan Sugar on *Database* stating that the 664 would be supported as it is compatible with the other Amstrad computers. What rubbish! I have already

YOUR Letters



encountered compatibility problems with 464 programs, and 6128 programs will aim to use the extra memory so they certainly will not run on the 664.

Amstrad owes it to 664 purchaser to offer an upgrade or trade in on the 6128 and I hope other 664 owners and magazines like *Your Computer* continue to pressure Amstrad until they do.

Prospective purchasers of the PCW-8256 beware. What will you do if this is dropped after such a short period and after the 664 experience, can you be sure that Amstrad won't?

J. F. Palmer,
Cratley,
Sussex.

'BRAVE GAMBLE'

ON READING Stephen Meadows' letter in October's *Your Computer*, I was amazed at its content.

Mr Meadows explains to us that the TMS 9900 has an eight bit data bus, it does in fact have a 16

bit data bus. Its major handicap is that it has a 15 bit address bus which only allows it to access 32K of Rom/Ram directly.

He also claims petty reasons for the machine's failure, such as the position of the power switch. There are quite serious reasons for the lack of popularity:

the machine was initially over priced, due partly to the high chip/discrete component count and partly to the bad marketing strategy.

early models needed a special American monitor.

the software was overpriced and I personally have never seen any third party software for the machine.

the TMS 9900 chip was marvelously suited to control systems but not suited for a micro.

the expansion was
a) all supplied by Texas.
b) expensive.

the Basic was, to put it politely, double-plus-mega-slowwww — not to mention the dreaded Call extension.

I am not a fan of the QL or Uncle Clive, I crack up if someone says 28 days. However the QL was a brave gamble which would have paid off if the designers had used 3.5 inch drives instead of the Microdrives.

Sinclair is a pioneer but a little eccentric, though not completely incompetent.

6800 v 9900 ??????

For me its a 68000 every time.

D. M. Platt,
Maltby,
Rotherham.

Line 64504 in Listing 3 of October's *Spectrum* game, *Impulse*, was left out. It should read:

```
501617DCQAD718B1 = 711
```

In the same issue line 55 in Listing 2 for *Midnight Express* should read:

```
Q=0:FOR T=1 TO 39 STEP  
2:X5=MID$(Z$,T,2):GOSUB 90
```

To increase the number of lines available in BBC *Pikchacharja* it is not enough just to alter the value of NUMLN as suggested in the article. Instead, replace every occurrence of C2 with C1+6*L, and delete the fourth statement in line 80. If you also replace BOO in line 750 with DOO you can have up to 80 lines.

ATARI COMPUTERS



Atari 520ST computer with 3.5" disc drive, mouse, monitor and software £675 (€670) £730. Atari 130XE computer £158 (€163) £183. Atari 800XL computer + recorder £118 (€123) £143. Atari 800XL computer + disc drive £229 (€230) £260. Atari data recorder £34 (€37) £47. Atari disc drive £172 (€171) £191.

SINCLAIR COMPUTERS



Sinclair pocket TV £97 (€95) £101. Sinclair QL Computer £194 (€193) £214. QL Floppy disc interface £107 (€103) £109. 3.5" disc drive to suit this interface £177 (€176) £196. Sinclair Spectrum Plus Computer 48K £123 (€127) £147. Spectrum Plus + cassette + 4 games + joystick with interface £139 (€139) £169. Original 48K Sinclair Spectrum £89 (€95) £116. Kit to upgrade the Spectrum to Spectrum Plus £30 (€30) £40. Microdrive £49 (€50) £60. RS232 interface 1 £49 (€50) £60. Special offer: Microdrive + Interface 1 + 4 cartridges £97 (€99) £107. Blank microdrive cartridges £2-50 (€3) £4. Spectrum floppy disc interface (see Cumana disc section for suitable disc drives) £97 (€89) £99. Interface 2 £20-45 (€20) £24. 32K memory upgrade kit for 16K spectrum (issue 2 and 3 only) £31 (€28) £30. Spectrum Centronics printer interface £46 (€42) £47. ZX printer has been replaced by the Alphacom 32 £61 (€59) £72. ZX81 computer £29 (€29) £39.

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AMSTRAD, ENTERPRISE AND MSX COMPUTERS

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ACORN COMPUTERS

Acorn Electron £119 (€119) £139. New 128K BBC Computer £497 (€499) £529. 64K BBC Model B Plus with double density disc interface £457 (€441) £471. BBC Model B £299 (€279) £319. Acorn disc if + DNFS £97 (€95) £100. See below for suitable disc drives. Colour monitor £168 (€168) £218.

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PRINTERS

New Epson LX80 £249 (€249) £282. Tractor for LX80 £25 (€33) £53. Brother HR5 £148 (€152) £184. Brother M1009 £201 (€203) £234. Shinwa CTI CP480 £218 (€222) £258. Cannon PW1080A £309 (€306) £356. Microperipherals MP165 £284 (€283) £333. Brother EP22 £125 (€114) £134. Brother EP44 £224 (€220) £240.

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Simple to use menu driven software for tape or disc that works in Mode 1 in 4 colours and Mode 0 in 16. Line drawing, box, circle and triangle facilities are provided as well as zoom and copying screens can be saved at either speed but dumping to printer is only on Amstrad's DMP1. A strategy game and use of the lightpen in your own programs instructions are included.

AMX Mouse

Graphics Package
Amstrad
£79.95

A conversion of the highly acclaimed BBC package for the Amstrad. For your money you get an art package, an icon designer, and Basic extensions to allow you to use Mouse control in your own programs. Advanced Memory Systems are on 0925 602959/602690.

Delta

Second Processor
BBC
£115

This board consists of a 65C2 processor and 64K Ram. Watford claim that the board doubles the speed at which any program will run, and is 50 per cent faster than the official Acorn version. They also claim complete software compatibility. Tel 0923 3774/40588.

Pacesetter

Interface/Controller
Spectrum
£14.95

Space Invaders still zap you? Just can't get through that room in Jet Set Willy, well this could be the product you're looking for. You stick the Pacesetter in the back, and as well as a Kempston interface you have a control which allows you to slow a game down virtually to a standstill if desired. Any game which doesn't mess around with the interrupt procedures will respond to the treatment. Nidd Valley Micro are on (0423) 864488.

HARDWARE

Camel Polyprint

■ Spectrum
■ Cambridge Microelectronics
■ £44.95

NOT ANOTHER parallel interface! Yes, but this one's different. It will allow the usual LList, LPrint and small screen copy — bit image, somewhat oval circle — like the well-tried Kempston but without the option to copy using the printer's character set.

The customary and rather insubstantial add-on box with through port has eight 1K banks on Eprom, any 1K displacing the 15-16K area of the Spectrum Rom containing English, French, German, Danish, Swedish, Italian and Spanish, and a bank to change Tasword 2's character set to any of these.

It is specifically designed to be used with Epson's FX80, and Cambridge Microelectronics provide information to software switch the printer in conjunction with the character set changes. A list of addresses in Masterfile could thus be printed each in an appropriate character set. The unit is not cheap at £44.95 plus VAT.

However, for the specialist who wants a number of foreign languages and who doesn't relish poking Tasword 2 — I've done it and it takes a very long time — it's very handy. And the nicely mapped bits of Eprom can be used for other purposes — instructions are given for saving the character sets first. Not a hack interface, then, but rather one for the professional user or enthusiast. Cambridge Microelectronics is on 0223 314814.

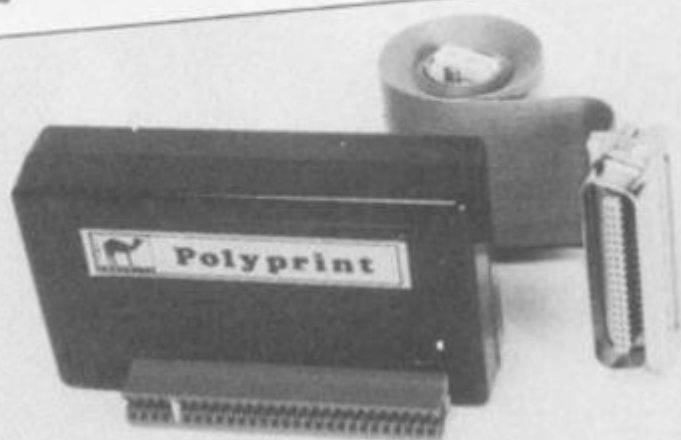
Lightpen

■ CPC-464 or 6128
■ DK'tronics
■ £24.95

WITH THE right software, a lightpen is one of the most useful add-ons you can buy. Graphic design, control of games or business packages are all possible. So how does this offering from an established Spectrum hardware specialist measure up?

On loading the screen uses Mode 0 to display the five main menu's which you can step forwards and backwards through

hitlist



Polyprint interface from Cambridge Microelectronics.

to select the various functions shown as small pictures or "icons". Screen's can be loaded or saved to cassette or disc although no catalogue function is provided.

The graphic software is not protected so that you can transfer it to disc or alter the speed screens are saved at. Drawing on screen is possible in one of 10 colours and four thicknesses as well as a nice air brush facility, although the lightpen flickers slightly fine movement of the cross on screen can be filled with any of the 10 colours but dark areas or backgrounds are best left till last as the pen has to be moved by the cursor keys across them.

Other facilities allow you to draw curves, boxes and circles and place text horizontally or vertically. Areas of the screen can be duplicated, reduced or enlarged in four set sizes. Fine detail can be achieved using the scratch pad which enlarges an area of the screen for editing of single pixels.

A comprehensive and well written manual gives full details of printing screen's using them in your own programs and writing programs to use the lightpen.

In conclusion a good hardware, software package that will appeal to most users especially the younger ones because of the use of icon's.

The lightpen is available from computer dealers or direct from DK'electronics on 0799 26350.

Rom card

■ CPC-464 and 6128
■ Arnor Ltd
■ £10.39

IT'S A BUMPER month for Amstrad add-ons as independent manufacturers realise there is a serious market out there. Perhaps Alan Sugar's truck driver's do a little word processing on the side. This Rom board takes four Roms and plugs into Arnor's Maxam assembler board; it's useless without it, but cheaper than the Micropower board.

To go with the Rom board, Arnor has launched two packages: Utopia, a utility package, and Protex, yet another word processor. Utopia might not transport you to paradise, but it does seek to patch up a few holes in the Amstrad operating system and the DOS.

Many of the commands will be familiar to Beeb owners, with Help, Spool, Printon, Romoff and many more, it therefore comes as no surprise it is from the author of Toolkit for the Beeb.

A particularly useful command is Romoff which allows any Roms you choose to be switched out. This saves you removing disc interfaces or other add-on's.

Utopia is £26.04 for a 16K Rom, and Protex £34.74. Protex is a comprehensive word processor, with the usual formatting and printer control functions.

In October's Hardware Hitlist page, Robcom was wrongly referred to as Robocom, a totally unrelated computer company. Robcom can be contacted on 01-209 0118.

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WHAT TO BUY FOR CHRISTMAS

THIS CHRISTMAS may well be a bonanza for manufacturers and consumers alike. Competition is likely to be extremely fierce with attractive deals on offer from most micro makers. Next month, we'll examine budget micro's making a bid for pride of place in the christmas stocking, this month we turn the spotlight on some more up-market machines in the price range of £180 and upwards which loosely come under the heading of home micro.

These range from the QL at its new highly competitive price of £199 all the way up to the ACT F1E and the recently announced Atari ST.

The table gives an outline specification of the 10 contenders. When talking about price, you must bear in mind what you get for your money. Many micros in this price range come complete with some form of storage, and perhaps a monitor or mouse. Next comes the amount of read only memory (Rom), random access memory (Ram), the type of processor and the speed at which it runs.

The amount of Rom gives some idea of the power of the machine's operating system and resident language, although it must be stressed that in the case of the Einstein and the PCW8256, the language is loaded in from disc after power-up.

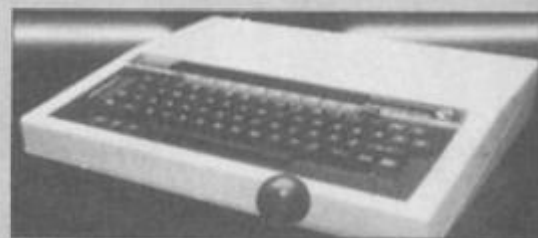
Lee Padden tests possible Xmas presents.

The figure for the Atari ST is provisional as the operating system is still being finalised at the moment, so it is only available on disc and not in Rom. Atari intend to produce a 260ST in the new year once the operating system has been sorted out, and this may well be around the £600 mark.

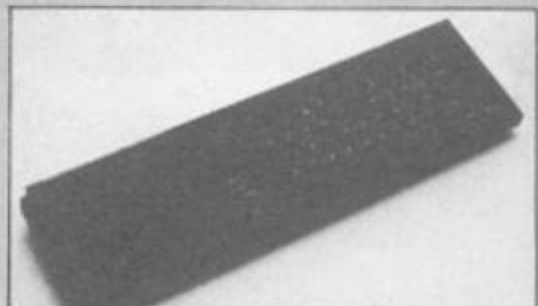
The processor and speed give some idea of the raw power of the system, although this is only a very approximate guide, ie despite the QL running a more advanced processor at twice the speed, its Basic is still slower than the BBC 128.

Graphics are still harder to be objective about. The figures given are the maximum in all cases. Usually, in order to get very high resolution graphics, colour or memory has to be sacrificed. It is also impossible to read 80 column text on a domestic TV.

The QL, F1E and 8256 have no sound save a very basic beep, usually to indicate a mistake of some variety. The rest either go with the ever popular General Instruments chip, which has a large, if not terribly subtle repertoire, or go



BBC 128



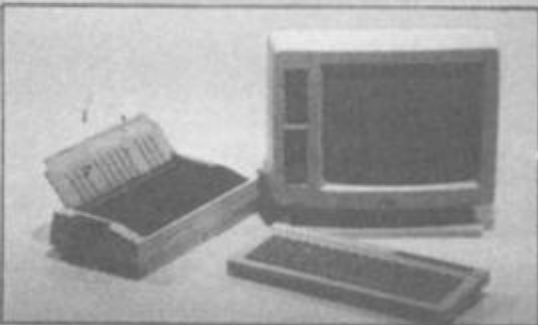
Sinclair QL



Amstrad CPC-464



Commodore C128



PCW-8256

Machine	Price	Memory & processor	Display	Sound	Ports	Keyboard	Peripherals	Software
Amstrad PCWS256	£460 inc mono monitor printer & 3" disc drive	256K Ram — Z80A at 4Mhz	80 x 32 Text 720 x 256 Graph Mono	Beep		Full travel 4 function + WP keys	RS232	CPM, WP, and G5X bundled
Amstrad CPC6128	£399 inc colour monitor printer & 3" disc drive	128K Ram 48K Rom Z80A at 4Mhz	80 x 25 Text 640 x 200 Graph 16 Col	Voices	Joystick, printer, disc sound.	Full travel 10 function/ number keys	RS232, speech light pen, TV modulator	Games, utilities and business progs. Quality much improved recently
Amstrad CPC464	£299 inc colour monitor & cassette	32K Rom 64K RAM Z80A at 4Mhz	80 x 25 Text 640 x 200 Graph 16 Col	3 voices	Joystick, printer, sound	Full travel 10 function/ number keys	RS232, speech light pen, TV modulator	ditto
Acom BBC128	£499	128K Ram 48K Rom 6502 4Mhz	80 x 32 Text 640 x 256 Graph 16 Col	3 voices filtering & modulation	Printer, RGB joystick	Full travel, 10 func keys	Modem, speech 2nd processor mouse, net. Disc drive	Lots of utilities and business, few games. Very little, mostly poor conversions.
Enterprise	£249 + Joystick	128K Ram 96K Rom 6502 at 4Mhz	80 x 25 Text 672 x 512 Graph 256 Col	3 voices filtering stereo	Printer, RGB joystick, net type, 8 func cartridge	Membrane type, 4 func. keys	Disc, modem printer, joystick	Bundled business software, some languages, few games. CPM compatible and can run most C64 software
Sinclair QL	£199 inc microdrives	128K Ram 48K Rom 68008 at 8Mhz	80 x 25 Text 512 x 192 Graph 16 Col	Beep	RGB, Net Cartridge 2 x RS232	Full Travel, 4 Func, number keys	Disc drive, modem light pen, mouse	Business and games software in preparation.
Commodore C128	£269	128K Ram 64K Rom 6502 1 or 2 Mhz 16 Col	80 x 25 Text 640 x 200 Graph 16 Col	3 voices filter modulate	Video, cart, serial, user joysticks	Full travel 10 Func + number keys	Hard disc modem	Not much good software.
Atari 520 ST	£750 inc 3 1/2 disc + mouse + mono monitor	512K Ram 192K Rom 68000 at 8Mhz	80 x 25 Text 640 x 400 Graph 512 Col	3 voices + midi in, out & thru	Printer, RGB joystick, disc, cartridge	Full travel 7 func keys	80 column display	Mainly business, runs MS-DOS, and BBC basic progs.
Talung Einstein	£499 inc 3" disc + mono mon.	80K Ram 8K Rom Z80A at 4Mhz	40 x 24 Text 256 x 192 Graph 16 Col	3 voices	Net, disc, printer, a/d RS232	Full travel 10 func + number keys	Hard disc modem	
Apricot F1E	£685 inc 3 1/2" disc	256K Ram 32K Rom 8086 at 5 Mhz	80 x 24 text 640 x 256 graph 16 Col	Beep	Printer RS232, RGB	Full travel 10 func + number keys	Hard disc modem	

for something a little more upmarket in the way of filtering and modulation.

Ports are a problem. Most peripherals such as disc drives, joysticks, printers and modems have a recognised standard port, which it seems micro makers do their best to avoid. Still, at least this is some progress from the "leave part of the circuit board hanging out the back" approach common in cheaper machines.

The much maligned RS-232 interface is a case in point. Only the Atari has a "proper" 25 way connector. The BBC uses an RS-423 interface, which does the job, given the appropriate lead, but the QL uses a totally non-standard format, using phone-type plugs. Most joystick ports are of the "Atari" style nine pin format, the Enterprise needs an adapter. All except the Einstein, QL and Apricot have a cassette interface. Most machines also have an expansion port, but this is of little use to the average user.

You should certainly approach claims that these ports are standard with a fair degree of scepticism, and work out the real cost of attaching any gadgets you've got your eye on.

Keyboards are not usually a problem in this price range. With the possible exception of the Enterprise, the Einstein and the QL there should be few complaints. The BBC in particular has attracted warm praise from key bashers everywhere. The table mentions extra functions keys available over and above the Qwerty set, the obligatory shift, delete and escape keys. A numeric keypad can often speed up data entry.

One unique problem with the F1E is the keyboard is coupled to the main unit not by a cable, but by an infra red link, so you have to keep a nice tidy desk for this one.

Peripheral availability is rarely a problem with established micro's like the BBC, and most manufacturers give their machines hardware support.

If an RS-232 add-on is available, the machine should be able to use most modems, assuming suitable software is available.

One of the most important factors when choosing a micro is software. After all, unless you're going to get down to programming the thing yourself, how good the machine seems to be to you will largely depend on how good the available software is. Many a potentially good machine has ended up on the scrap heap for want of good software. It is always difficult to gauge how good software support is likely to be for a new machine.

PCW8256: A specialised word processor rather than a true home Micro, amazing value for money, no resident Basic, monochrome low res graphics. Bundled software includes Dr Logo, CP/M+, and GSX — a graphic system.

CPC6128: Possibly the best all round buy this Christmas for someone who wants to get into computers, has a bit of word processing or data handling to do and is not averse to playing the odd game. Hard to fault at the price. Easy to use, fast Basic, rather rudimentary disc system, and a flood of interesting peripherals arriving.

BBC 128: Looking a bit long in the tooth now, Beeb has changed little since its launch over three years ago. It has a massive cult following among hardware freaks. Software is rather patchy with the odd really stunning title among the froth. Perhaps the sudden expansion



Above: Atari 520 ST. Below: Enterprise 128. Below right: Amstrad CPC 128.



in memory will stimulate the software market a bit. The best machine for communications.

Enterprise 128: First rumoured to be on the way in 1983, after a long gestation, it was virtually stillborn. May still recover given a stiff transfusion of good software. Technically superb, it probably represents the end of the line in the evolution of the eight bit home micro.

Act F1E: A cut down version of Apricot's highly successful F1 business machine, it will not only run Apricot's range of business software, but also most programs written in BBC Basic in a bid for the education market. Runs MS-DOS, the most widely used PC operating system.

Einstein: While by no means a bad machine, the Einstein has been unable to make much of an impression on the market and has little third party software support. A bit bulky, it runs CP/M but needs an add on 80 column graphics board to give it full compatibility. Disc software on the pricy side.

Atari 520 ST: Very much an unknown quantity at this stage, possibly a better bet for next christmas. Still, if you must have the best set of wheels on the street, this is definitely the



micro getting the most column inches devoted to it at the moment. If it's all true, with a user friendly operating system, MIDI and superb graphics, it'll be a huge hit.

Commodore C128: As yet it isn't certain this will be around in time for christmas. Compatible with all CBM-64 software, with CP/M thrown in for good measure, it has superseded the C64 in the States, and presumably will do here as well, once Commodore have got rid of their stocks of CBM-64's. May well be a good compromise between a business and games machine.

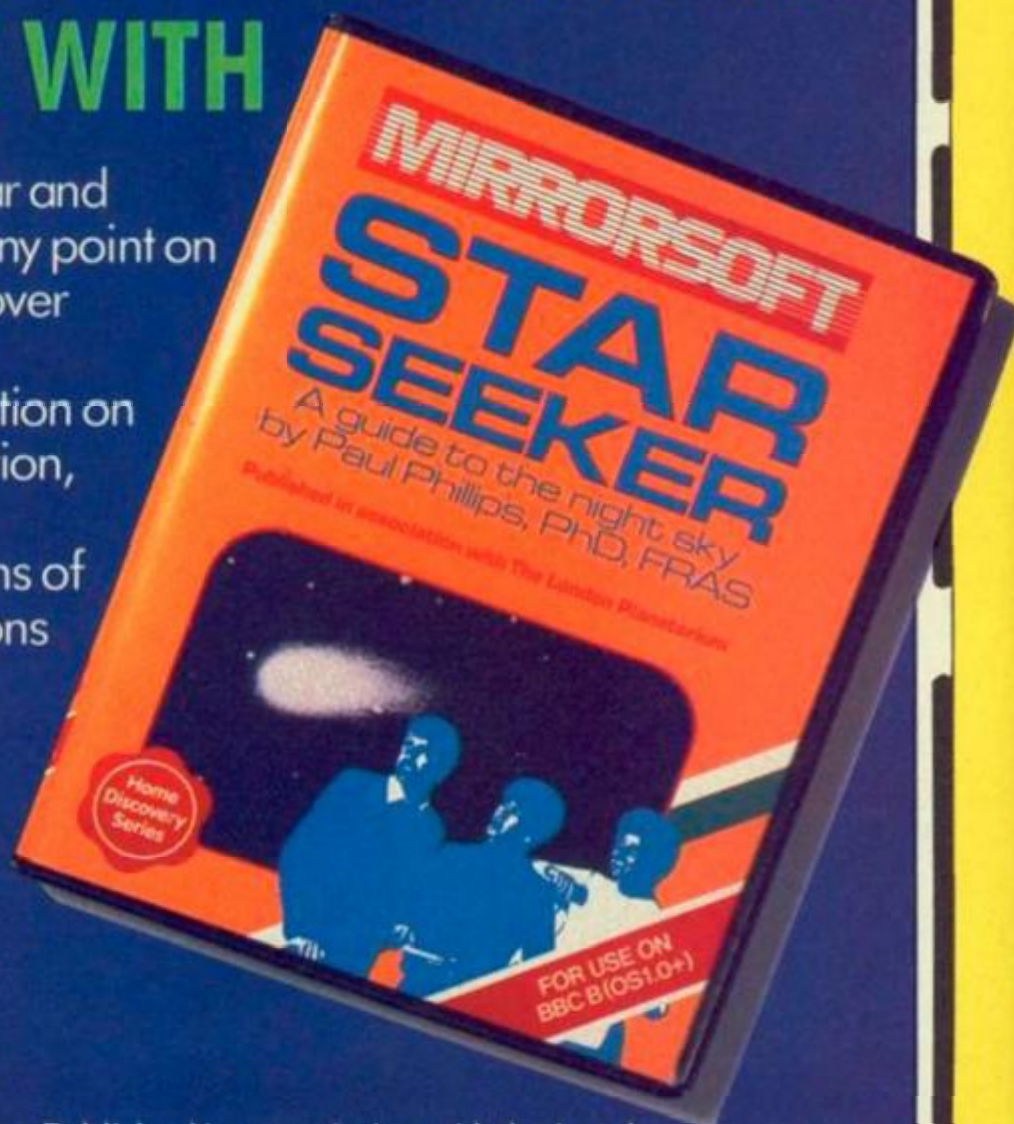
Sinclair QL: Virtually given up for dead after an apparently never ending series of teething troubles, the price cut and the new improved versions of the bundled software might just rescue this one from the realms of academic curiosity piece. Slow and cumbersome Basic, awful keyboard, and of course Microdrives. Monitor is specially adapted.

Amstrad CPC464: Older brother of the 6128, it suffers in comparison. But if £300 is your absolute limit, and you're happy with cassettes, you could do a lot worse. If you want a printer, make sure its the new 2000 rather than the awful DMP1.

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BEHIND THE SCREENS



Andrew Braybrook.

Andrew Braybrook, author of Paradroid, first started games programming the hard way — in Cobol on a mainframe, when working as an accounting packages analyst/programmer at Marconi in Chelmsford. Pioneering real-time computer games with Space Invaders built out of greater-than/less-than signs was good schooling for getting the best out of the Commodore 64. "On the mainframes there were no real graphic facilities, and the action only took place when you tapped a key. That Space Invaders game as the first one at Marconi that went on playing by itself."

Initially the Paradroid backdrop was planned to be a plain blueprint, but Hewson decided this would look too primitive. Having experimented with a pressed metal title screen, Andrew extended the concept to one deck, then to the whole ship.

How did the game's transfer sequence come about? "I couldn't think how to show the takeover so I thought of making a little game out of it. Steve (Turner) was playing about with one of those logic circuit designing programs on the Spectrum and I thought I can use this."

And the smooth-etc scrolling? "It doesn't scroll the screen as such. You would need to access all the screen area. We found that's OK if you just go up and down or left and right but if you go diagonally you get a sort of step effect. So we refresh the whole of the screen all of the time, 17 times a second."

SOFTWARE

Paradroid

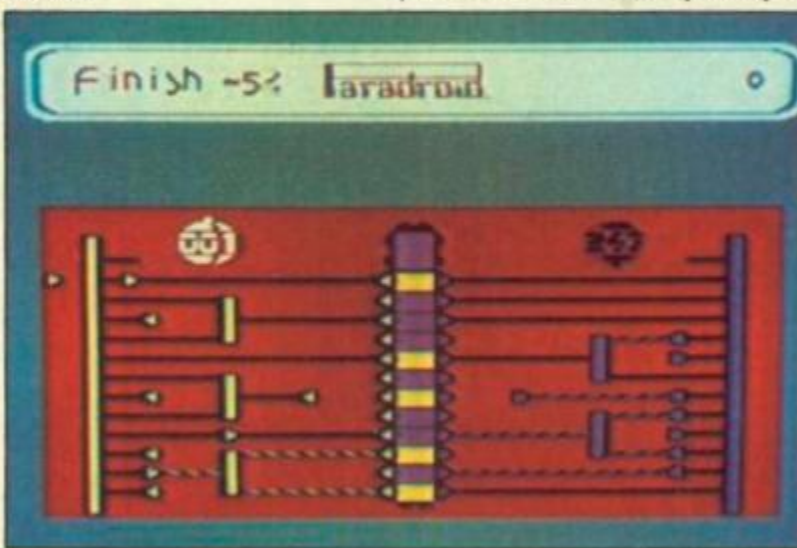
■ CBM-64
■ Hewson Consultants
■ Shoot-'em-up
■ £7.95

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THIS IS PROBABLY the most original and striking game to appear from a dark horse software house since Llamasoft released Gridrunner. And it is far more than just a shoot-'em-up, though a certain amount of zapping is essential to survival in this highly addictive game.

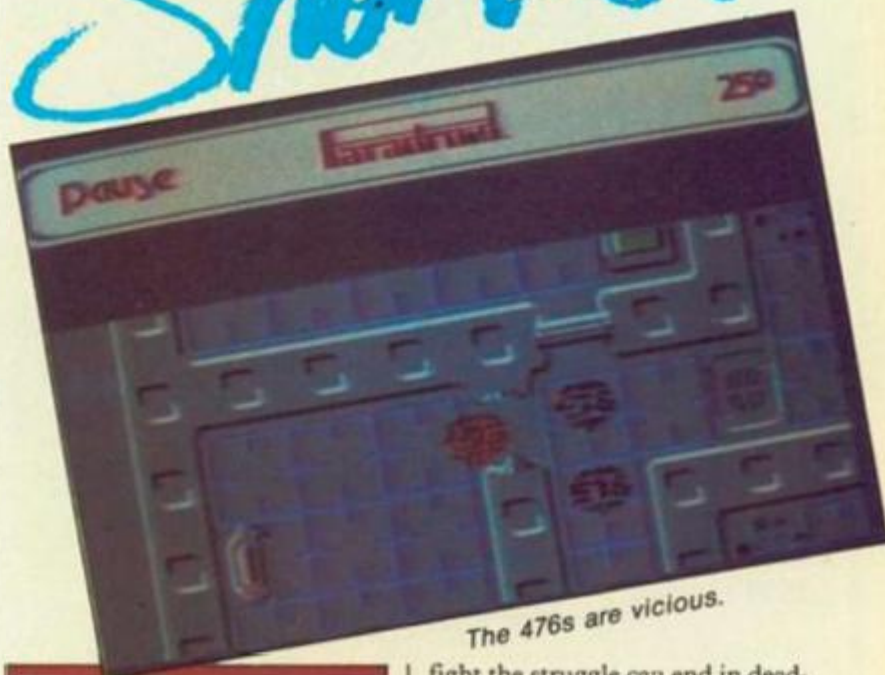
Your paradroid materialises on board a space freighter where mutiny is rife among the robots. Your job is to clear each deck of the dissident droids. You can either shoot them in the traditional way or take them over. You start out as a humble 001 influence device but you can work your way up through the social scale by taking over insignificant 123 disposal droids, 249 servants all the way up into the eight or nine hundreds. All the different types of droid are represented on the main screen as floating numbered globes, but when you taken one over you get a portrait of the machine you are and the one you are about to become together with specifications.

The takeover sequence is highly original and calls for a deal of quick thinking and pattern recognition. First you centre your joystick — your current host changes colour, then crash into your proposed victim. The description screen appears, followed by a screen depicting the logic circuits of the two machines divided by a central segmented column.



Takeover sequence — you'll need to think fast.

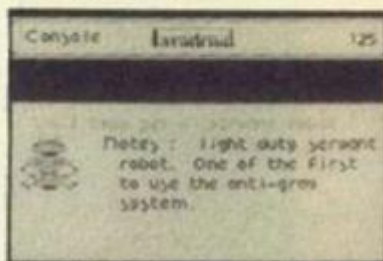
Shortlist



The 476s are vicious.



The deck plan.



Portrait and specification.

By moving the joystick up and down and firing charges along the circuits the aim is to turn the central column to the colour representing your side of the screen. If the victim puts up a

fight the struggle can end in deadlock, rejection or burnout. If you die, a whole load of static comes up on the screen followed by the message "Transmission terminated". Another nice touch of sophistication in this program.

There are 24 classes of robot. Each has its own personality — the 476s are very aggressive and hang round in gangs quite often shooting each other if they get carried away — but they are nowhere near as mean as the 711s which pack disrupters capable of blowing up everything in the vicinity.

The toughest robot of all is the 999. The only way to take this out is to take it over. It is, however, very resistant to your influence so transfer to another robot before it rejects you — there is no lonelier feeling than turning back into a 001 on a deck full of 716s, except possibly catching a train from Shrewsbury which turns out to be full of West Ham supporters.

When the last droid on a deck is eliminated the deck lights go out and the strange background warbling noise — which sounds like someone calling "here, kitty-kitty" dies away and you score bonus points.

With over 400 screens of playing area and 20 decks at £7.95, there are eight spaceships, plenty for your money. Hewson has come up with the goods just when some of its fellow little league colleagues seem to be nightshades of their former selves.

Paul Bond.

(continued on page 39)

Star★ chart

KEY

- ★★★★★ Best of its type
- ★★★★ Very good
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Average
- ★ Below par

Interactive Basic Programming

ZX Spectrum
Eigen Software
Educational
£9.95

★ ★ ★

A very useful set of four cassettes which instead of letting books blow your mind, allow your computer to do it for you. Permitting you to type in and program normally while IBP is resident in the machine, it tries very hard to be a blow-by-blow introduction to hands-on home computing.

I think you would have to hang on to your manual — I'm sure most real novices need to have it pointed out to them that there actually is a Beep key, and if you try to type in Beep, all you get is Border BBB, because there are so many other keys to press first.

But common sense permitting, this looks like a very useful guide for beginners provided they can find a human to help them out when they're really stuck.

Seventh Cavalry

ZX Spectrum
Strategy game
Black Knight
£3.50

★ ★

For only £3.50 you don't expect to get wonderful moving graphics. This gives you basic map screen display with very slow-responding commands. Your troop units are represented by letters of the alphabet.

Watch out for the letter I as this stands for, guess what, Indians: it streaks across the screen and massacres all the Bluebellies. Good luck to 'em, I say.

(continued from page 37)

Stealth

■ CBM-64
■ Ariolasoft
■ Strafe-'em-up
■ £9.95

★ ★ ★ ★

BUCK ROGERS, EAT your heart out. Broderbund's Stealth, now available from Ariolasoft in the United Kingdom, takes the fast-scrolling-flying-straight-down-a-corridor-shooting-at-things format and turns it into quite an addictive scenario. The screen display depicts the rear view of your fighter as it hares at zero feet across the hostile landscape.

In the distance the dark tower casts gloom over the future of your once-proud people. You must blow it up so that they can go back to their former cultural pursuits of bean-eating and watching "V" instead of cowering in the bunker.

You can bank left and right but you cannot change altitude. Nevertheless, the sensation of speed and manoeuvre is exhilarating. You can despatch bunkers, tanks and scouts with gusto and a well-placed rocket. Past the third level you come under attack from heat-seeking missiles which you can dodge by veering to port. At the fourth level, fighters come at you and dormant volcanoes start to figure prominently as features of the landscape. On the elusive fifth level these spew forth lava and present a general traffic hazard.

The scouts are particularly interesting. They bounce down from the sky, accompanied by a ground shadow and then zoom up again, adding a bit more perspective to what might otherwise be rather flat visually.

A couple of rather pale attempts at this kind of thing appeared on Dragons and Commodores 18 months back, followed by the release of the actual Buck Rogers game by which they were inspired. I am sure the concept could be stretched a little further but this is one of the most playable variations I have encountered.

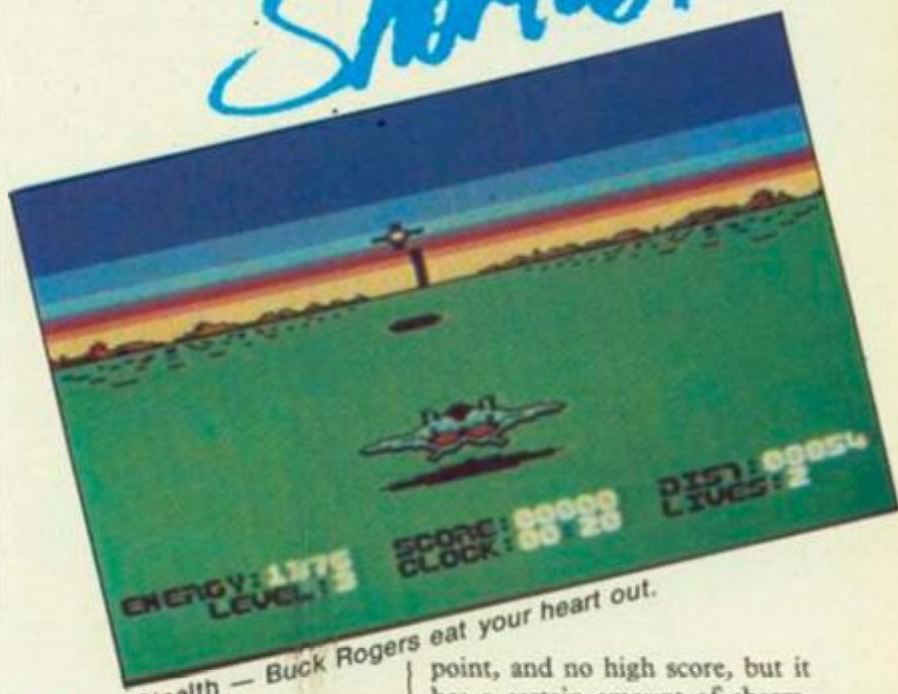
Paul Bond.



Donald goes shopping.

SOFTWARE

Shortlist



Stealth — Buck Rogers eat your heart out.

Donald Duck's Playground

■ CBM-64
■ Transatlantic Simulations
■ Educational
■ £9.95

★ ★ ★

THOSE BOYS at Centresoft again, cunningly launching a new label to cover up the fact they're taking over the entire software market. The spurious reason behind this is that the new label is aimed at a younger market.

This game sets out to teach youngsters the basic ideas of work, money, and buying things with money to build a playground — all good sound stuff which will doubtless come in handy in Reaganite America. There are four different jobs to try your hand at, fruit packing, cargo handling, stacking shelves and signalman. You book Donald in for a shift from one to five minutes, and perform the various tasks. You get paid on a strict productivity basis — with no tea breaks.

After that, its off to Goofy's junk store, or Minnie's hardware store, to buy slides, ropes, ladders and so on for the Playground. After you've picked the item you want, you have to proffer the correct change.

All this is done with pretty 3D graphics showing the various cartoon characters strolling around the screen. There is no real aim, in the sense of finishing

point, and no high score, but it has a certain amount of charm, and will doubtless appeal to the 5-7 age group it is aimed at, and might actually teach something, like if you vacuum the living room, you might get a pocket money raise. Could this be the start of education programs which actually keep their audience switched on long enough to teach them something?

Lee Paddon.

Blast Compiler

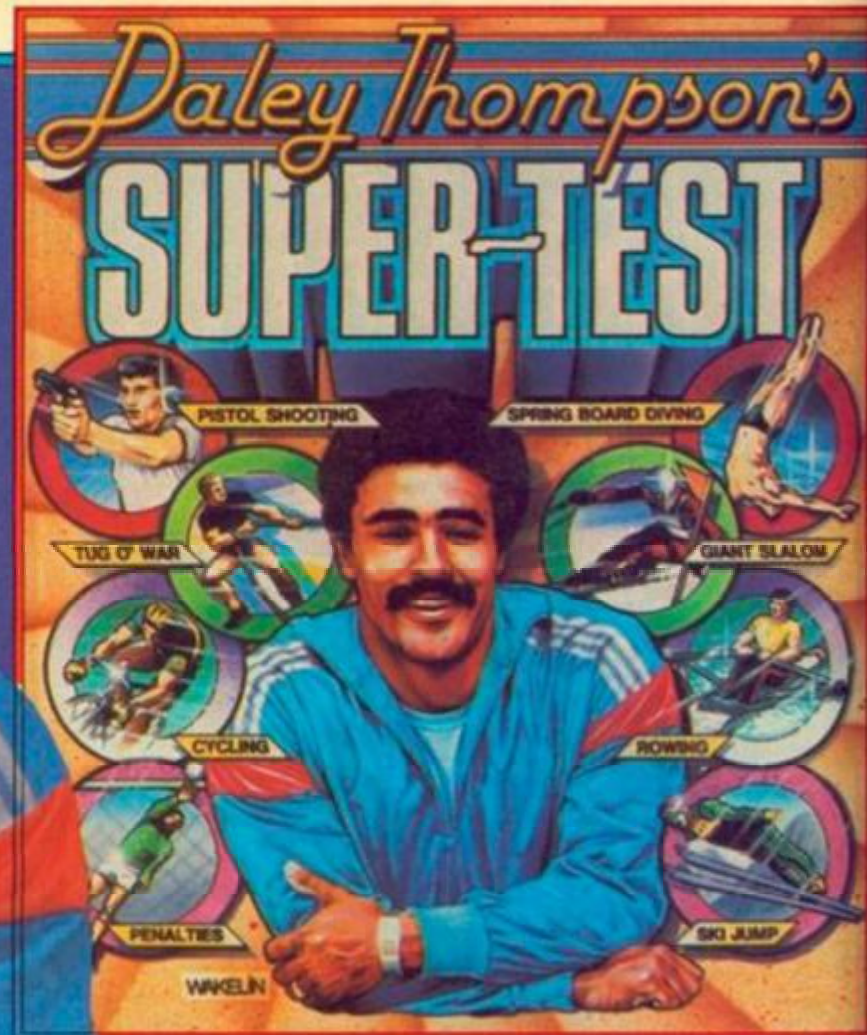
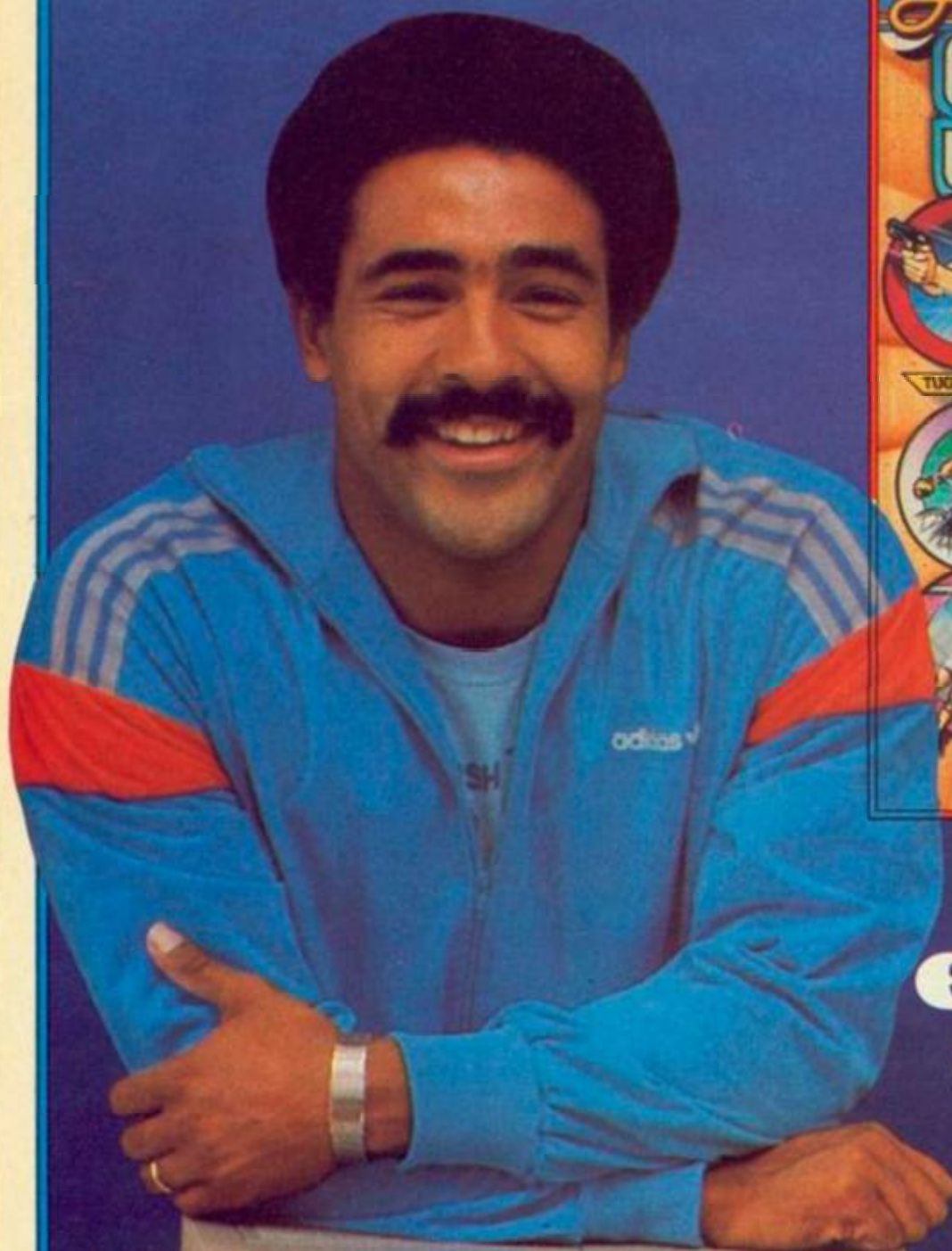
■ Spectrum 48K
■ OCS
■ Utility
■ £26.95

★ ★ ★ ★

THE IDEA of writing a game in Basic and then getting some dumb compiler to speed it up for you is enough to make some machine code purists take to the veil. But, for the rest of us, this utility could put an end to long nights hunting for an elusive bug which resets the machine when you shoot the fifth invader from the left on the third screen. There have been several Spectrum compilers before, but none have claimed to be as comprehensive as this.

On loading up, you are greeted with the cheery message that around 2K of the memory is free. So, any program to be compiled must be loaded section by section, compiled, and then saved; Microdrives are a must here. You can either compile into machine code, or p-code. P-code has the advantage

(continued on page 41)





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Star★ chart

Elevator

ZX Spectrum
Platform game
Black Knight
£3.50

★ ★

The horrible Turling dromes have planted 15 time bombs in the kind of architecture you only find in platform games. Defuse the bombs in the correct order and in the specified time.

A faithful recreation of the early days of home computer gaming at a not appreciably reduced price. You have been warned.

Highway Encounter Amstrad CPC-464

Amstrad CPC-464
Vortex
Arcade adventure
£8.95

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Brilliant Spectrum game re-implemented for the 464, enough to make you hang on to the old machine instead of rushing out and buying a complete wordprocessing system. You guide a crocodile of demented dalekoids up a Zaxxon-esque 3D highway through zones of increasing hostility from totally indescribable things.

As lead droid you must defend the rest of them until you get your ultimate weapon into the final zone and drive these monsters from the planet's surface.

Lords of Midnight

Amstrad
Amsoft
Adventure
£9.95

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Even a year after the launch of the Spectrum version, this game still looks state-of-the-art. You have to defeat the forces of evil by either going on a quest or recruiting a huge army and defeating them in battle.

(continued from page 39)

of being more compact than machine code, or even sometimes Basic, and, as an undocumented language, may be fairly secure against hacking.

However, it is slower; for this reason, sections of the program can be compiled into machine code. Obviously there are some things which are best done in machine code, and Blast allows users to call machine-code subroutines, and will compile user extensions to Basic. The package is supposed to contain extra Basic commands, but these have been left out due to space; but you do get a useful toolbox of editing commands.

It is difficult to gauge the performance of this program. OCS claim that speed improvements of up to 40 times are possible. This obviously depends on the length of the program, the amount of calculation, and the way the program is written. The manual is currently undergoing revision, but the version with the review copy was hard work. Despite this, it seems that Blast has lived up to expectations, and is by far the best Spectrum compiler on the market. OCS is on 0993 812700.

Lee Paddon

Astro-Clone

■ Spectrum
■ Hewson Consultants
■ Arcade adventure
■ £7.95

★ ★ ★ ★

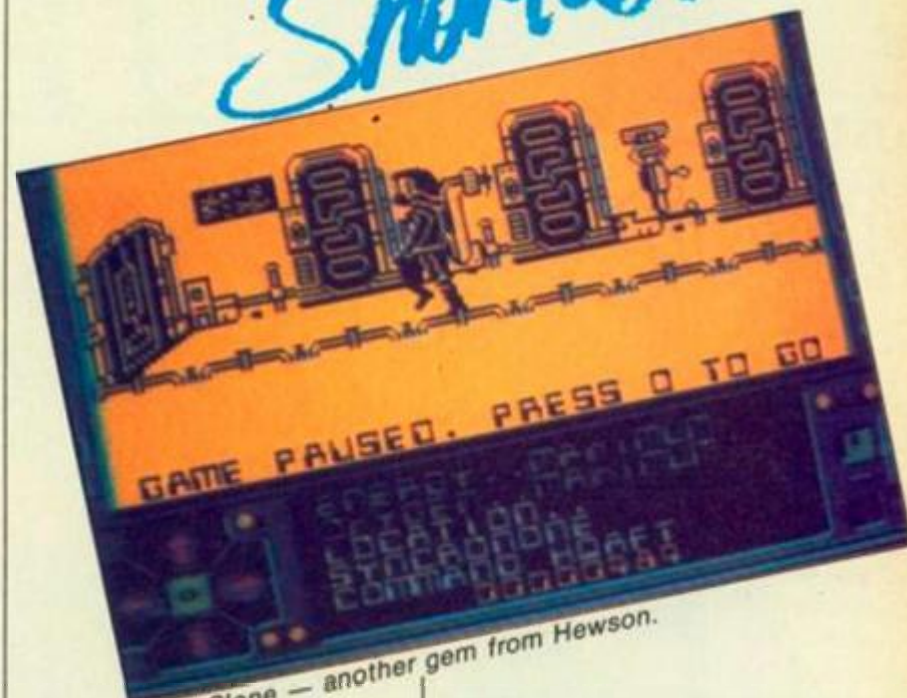
ANOTHER GEM from Hewson matches variety of gameplay with excellent animated graphics. Supposedly the third part of Steve Turner's Dragontorc trilogy, it is obviously something quite different, but is none the worse for that. The game is split into strategic, space combat and ground combat phases. The ground combat phase is where you are on the opening screen, with your Astro-Clone in his two-room spaceship.

On the lower part of the screen lies the control panel. To the left is an icon panel; this tells you what effect the joystick has at any point in the game. There is a message screen next to this, and to the right of this two square alert lights. The top one goes red to draw your attention to the message screen. The lower one goes yellow if those old Hewson bugbears the Seiddab are in the next room, red if they join you.

Your mission is to destroy the main launch computers in all the Seiddab bases to gain control of the stargate sectors shown on the strategic map. But before you access the strategic phase you

SOFTWARE

Shortlist



Astro-Clone — another gem from Hewson.

must take off, enter the space phase — a Defender-style sequence and either dock with a Seiddab starbase or slip through the pulsing diamond stargate to another sector. Either way you have to destroy all the Seiddab cruisers first.

If you fly through the stargate, you enter the strategic phase. If you dock with a starbase, you enter the ground combat phase again. In ground phase you have four modes, selection, movement, arm and laser. The arm mode is quite a nifty bit of programming which allows you to control and throw objects in a way unique to this game.

The game requires tortuous problem-solving capabilities — you need to be able to figure out that if you pass the Gravimag over the grating in room 8 a sonic key appears, for starters. And since the location of seven of the starbases change every time the game is played, the game is always slightly different. Publishing a solution for this game is going to be a bit more complicated than it is for something like Nodes of Yesod.

Hewson have excelled themselves once again — full credit to Steve Turner for producing a game that is destined to become one of the cult non-Ultimate adventure games at Christmas. If only because they've actually brought the game out, unlike some of their more flashy big brothers who are good on hype but slow on delivery.

Paul Bond.



Get your kicks with Karateka.

Karateka

■ CBM-64
■ Ariolasoft
■ Martial arts game
■ £9.95

★ ★ ★

WAY OF the Exploding Fist it isn't, but Karateka has plenty of Oriental charm. Of particular note is the film-like narrative technique: a kind of story is told in the preamble to each fight sequence — we see Princess Mariko thrown into the dungeons by the evil Akuma, and in later sequences we see Akuma sending his henchmen out to work you over as you try to rescue the unfortunate girl.

As rescuer and henchmen approach each other the hypothetical camera cuts between them until they appear on the same screen. You can shorten this process by running forward but it's not advisable as a good kick in the running mode floors you completely.

And here we encounter a major gripe concerning this program. Obviously not wishing to endure the blood, sweat and tears not to mention time consumed in

(continued on page 43)

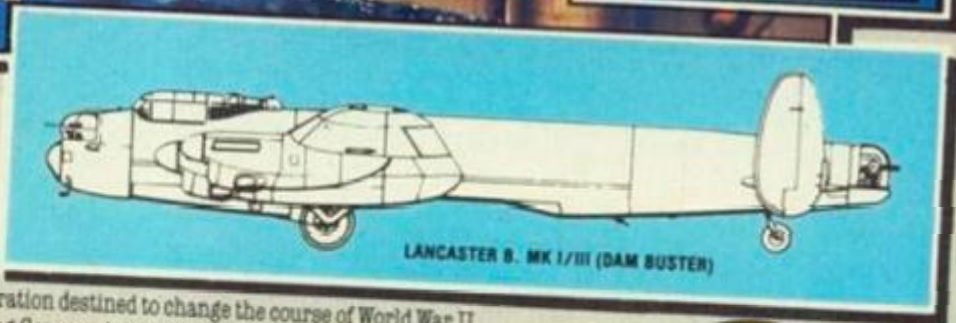
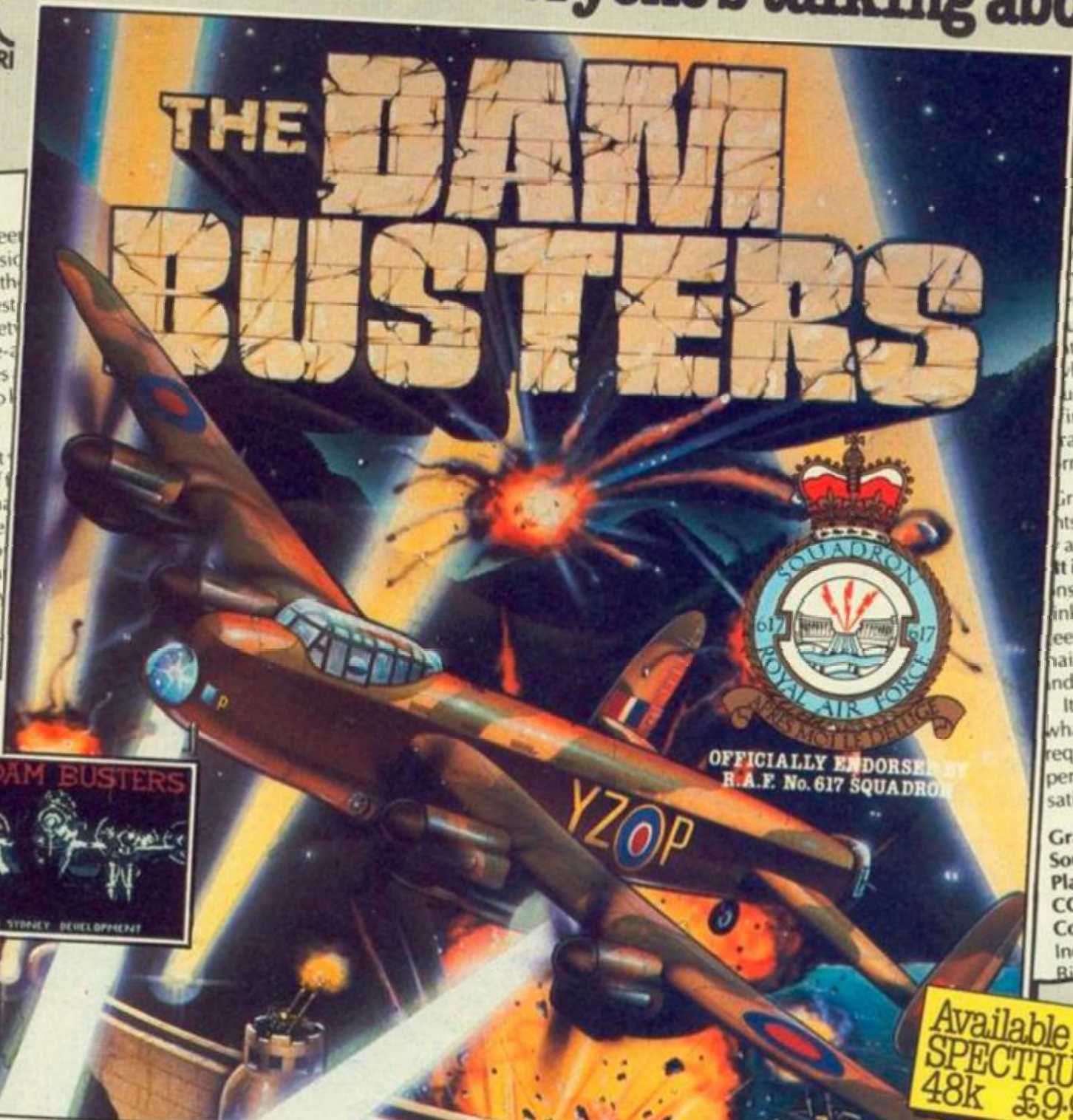
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It only do you pilot take on the roles of pilot, bomb aimer, navigator, and second engineer. Squadron Leader option monitoring the status of the plane! As you can see from the screenshots, each of these options can be a



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want number between your 64. also have the choice in (starting near the action), Flight Lieutenant the English Channel, or (taking off from Scampton) substantial accompanying reading if you wish. In addition to the actions, it includes briefing documents, information and other additional information.

Graphics add to the points below, searchlights and splashes if you are. It is a very complex game constantly be on the lookout ahead to plan to clear you clear of enemies maintaining the correct speed of your aircraft. It will take a while to get what and the speed required for various maneuvers you will find a satisfying game.

Graphics: ****
Sound: ****
Playability: ****
CCI Rating: ****
Company: US Gold
Industrial Estate, Birmingham. Tel: 021-359 8881

It's 21.15 hours on the evening of May 16th, 1943. A flight of specially prepared Lancaster bombers is leaving R.A.F. Scampton for Germany. After months of planning No. 617 Squadron are at last embarking on an operation destined to change the course of World War II. Your objective is to destroy the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe dams, thus crippling Germany's industrial heartland. This detailed and authentic simulation allows you to play the part of **PILOT, NAVIGATOR, FRONT GUNNER, REAR GUNNER,**

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You fly at low altitude over Europe, on the lookout for deadly ME110 night fighters, dodging barrage balloons, searchlights and flak. At the target you'll need all your nerve and skill to control the aircraft and release your deadly payload whilst under enemy attack.

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Game Package includes: Comprehensive flight instructions, maps and confidential documents including authentic material by Barnes Wallis and Wing Commander Guy Gibson. Designed and Developed by Sydney Development Corporation. Licensed in conjunction with International Computer Group. Manufactured in the U.K. by U.S. Gold Limited, Unit 10, Parkway Industrial Centre, Heneage Street, Birmingham B7 4LY. Telephone: 021-359 8881. Telex: 337268.



Star★ chart

Duckworth Highway Code

ZX Spectrum
Duckworth
Educational
£11.95

★★
Competent enough question and answer program, though questions along the lines of is it a good idea to drive with badly-maintained brakes? tend to rather lead the user to the correct answer.

The package contains two programs to test and improve your knowledge of the highway code, from the points of view of pedestrian and road user, together with special rules for cyclists. Prepared with the co-operation of Thames Valley Police

The Castles of Doctor Creep

CBM-64
Platform game
Ariolasoft
£9.95

★★
House hunting is no fun anywhere, let alone in Transylvania. You've made an appointment to visit 13 of evil landlord Dr Creep's castles with a view to purchase. Not a wonderfully original setting for a standard platform game. But if you like roaming acres of haunted east wings then this game will certainly give you value for money.

The only catch is that it's unexciting to play — mapping out a whole castle so that you can escape requires a lot of to-ing and fro-ing and repetition.

Mummies and Frankenstein monsters hamper progress, together with plenty of very un-supernatural-looking ray guns and force fields.

Despite the large number of castles to choose from all the rooms are made up of the same components — trapdoors, ladders, doors and sliding poles.

Marginally more enjoyable than moving house in real life.

(continued from page 41)

producing the excellent tape version of Ariolasoft's Skyfox, the cassette version of the game is rather hastily implemented. Every time you lose, you must reload. A highly depressing experience — especially if you do something really dumb, like walk backwards off the cliff at the beginning of the opening sequence. I was only testing the joystick, guv. It takes two and one quarter minutes to reload the game — enough time to play a track off your latest Durutti Column album.

Anyway, if you manage not to fall off the cliff, a member of the local meat-squad turns up and starts chopping away at you. The animation of the figures is slower and more graceful than that in Melbourne House's Fist, but they are smaller, and there is less in the way of sound. The type of blow is restricted to kick and punch, controlled by how you squeeze the joystick button; the stick itself controls altitude of kick — high, middle, low.

You can withstand only a limited number of hits from your opponent. The row of red arrows across the base of the screen indicates how much stamina you have left. Every time he hits you, you lose an arrow. Conversely, the blue arrows on the left of the screen gauge his strength. Each guard wears different headgear and has a different fighting style.

Once you cross the porch the scenario shifts indoors. This also means loading a new section of the game. Here more of the same goes on except that the warlord's pet eagle has a go at you as well. So the moral of the story here is — watch the birdy.

Paul Bond.

Fight Night

■ CBM-64
■ US Gold
■ Boxing Game
■ £9.95

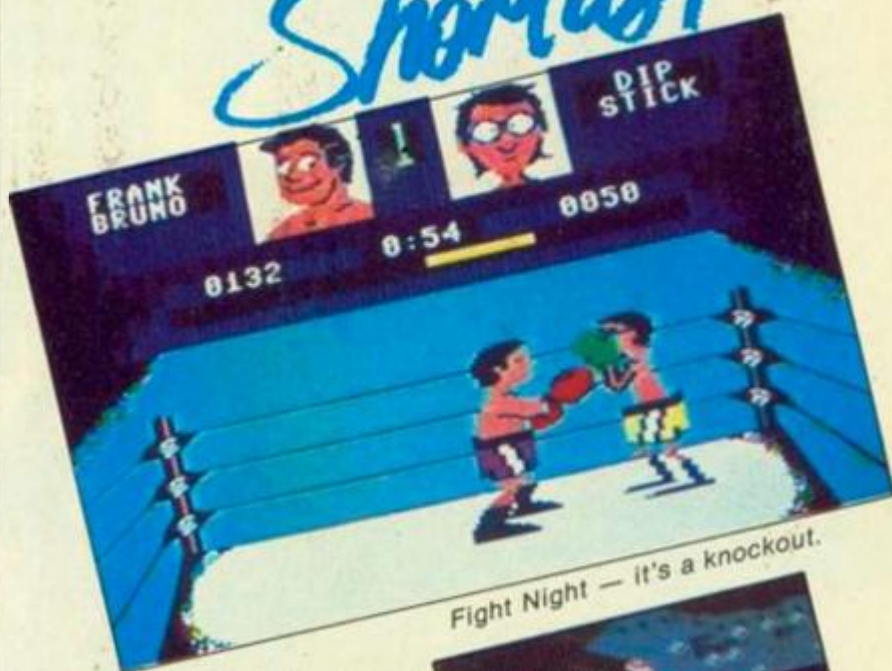
★★★

THE WELTER of boxing games continues unabated. First the crisp job of Rocco, then the swinging upper cut of Frank Bruno, but US Gold reckons it can deliver the knock out blow with Fight Night, despite the rather punch drunk nature of the market.

Once the game loads, you are faced with a menu. You can "construct" a boxer, train him, do a bit of sparring, take on a series of progressively tougher challenges, or fight a tournament, several players taking one boxer each.

SOFTWARE

Shortlist



Fight Night — it's a knockout.



Racing Destruction Set.

The important part of construction is to decide whether to make your jab or body blow hardest, and which part of your body can take the most punishment. You also get to choose the colour of your trunks and even skin (including blue, presumably to cater for any aliens who might care for a bout or two).

The actual fight simulation is probably the pick of the bunch. From the ring side seat view, the boxers move back and forth, move their guard up and down, punch and jab. This is no slugfest either, timing is all important. Landing a blow has a number of important effects, it scores you points, it decreases your opponent's endurance, and it puts him off his punch, so a flurry of punches can have a devastating affect, each new punch sending the opponent reeling. Obviously the punch has far less effect if blocked by the opponent's guard, and it is also affected by what the opponent was doing at the time, stepping out, moving in or punching.

There are three three minute rounds, and if no one can deliver a knock out in that time, a decision is given on points. The animation is very nice, with boxers reeling from the punches, and the computer controlled characters have a "special" punch which is great fun to watch (from a safe distance).

Well, Harry, perhaps not a knock out, but I'd say that I've got this one winning all the later rounds after getting away rather slowly and coming out on top in the end. A real contender for the title.

Lee Paddon.

Racing Destruction Set

■ CBM-64
■ Ariolasoft
■ Race Game
■ £12.95

★★★

REMEMBER SCALEXTRIC? You probably had more fun designing and building the track than actually racing. The cars kept coming off and ending up as a pile of twisted plastic against the skirting board, or worse, you'd get a short circuit and the transformer would blow up. Well, this game is rather similar, most of the effort goes into designing the track, with curves, cross overs, jumps, flyover and so on. You can also customise the car, anything from a fully fledged racing machine to a Morris Traveller.

But then you get to the actual racing bit. A split screen, one or two players, a plan view of the road! I'm afraid this will take a lot of selling to the Pole Position fraternity, used to an over-the-shoulder view. Despite this, it's quite fun, with the usual accelerate, brake and steer.

The jumps are a nice feature, you have to approach these at just

(continued on page 45)

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Star★ chart

Xcel

Spectrum 48K
Program Techniques
Shoot-'em-up
£7.95

★ ★ ★

After one of the prettiest loading screens in Spectrum history, you would expect a pretty devastating game. A log zaps in from both sides of the screen, wow, this must be some game, you start orbiting a planet ready to whiz down onto the surface for a dazzling 3D shoot-'em-up, right? Sorry, wrong.

As long as you don't actually try to play this game, you might think it was something pretty special, but underneath it all is a sort of cross between Zalaga, Galaxians, and every other shoot-'em-up all the way back to Space Invaders. There is a spurious plot and a lot of spurious alien writing which you're meant to pick up clues from, but the guts of the game are to shoot anything that moves, or, on other screens, avoid the trees — simple really.

Ace

Commodore 64
Cascade
Fight emulator
£9.95

★ ★ ★

When Air Combat Emulator was released for the C-16, it filled a need for software, let alone flight simulators for that machine. It's up against tougher competition on the CBM-64, so a few more goodies have been injected into this fight and fly scenario. You can brush up your in-flight refuelling and choose different weather conditions. There are ground and naval targets as well as hostile fighters. It has a co-pilot option and synthesised speech which keeps the crew informed as to their status. One guy does all the flying and the other does weapons control. Tanks, helicopters, SAM sites, all the fun of a serious deterioration in East-West relations is here.

(continued from page 43)

the right speed to come down on the reverse slope of this or the next jump. If racing soon loses its appeal, then you can always shoot the opposition off the road! This does tend to make the races rather short, but fun.

While this game has got plenty of chrome, with loads of different tracks and cars, it doesn't grab you the way Taledaga did.

Lee Paddon.

Adrian Mole

■ Various
■ Level 9
■ Adventure
■ £9.95

★ ★ ★ ★

SEPTEMBER 30: Adrian Mole computer game arrived today. Looks really great. All the old characters there, Pandora, Rat Fink Lucas, Stick Insect, Barry Kent and the rest of the gang. The idea is to make Adrian popular.

October 1: Still playing Mole. Editor starts making noises about deadlines. I said that with over 20k of text loading in four parts, it really needs a long review to get to the bottom of it. He seemed pretty impressed. Managed to get through the game without getting beaten up and scored 55 per cent which makes me a spotty school boy. Its got a load/save option so it didn't matter when the cleaners threw me out at 9 o'clock.

October 2: The editor came to find out how the Mole review was going. I said I was seriously thinking about getting down to it. The game uses a tree structure you see. You make decisions and these affect your rating, and also what happens next in the game. So in one game you'll probably only see about a third of the text.

October 6: The editor just doesn't understand me. Here am I trying to write a masterpiece that will live for ever and all he can think about is his deadline. He just doesn't appreciate that I am a great writer and not just another hack. Even if you've read all the books and stuff, there are still plenty of new situations you can get in. I have now managed to score 78 per cent which makes me a gifted poet.

If you don't know the books, there's a Help system, which gives you some background.

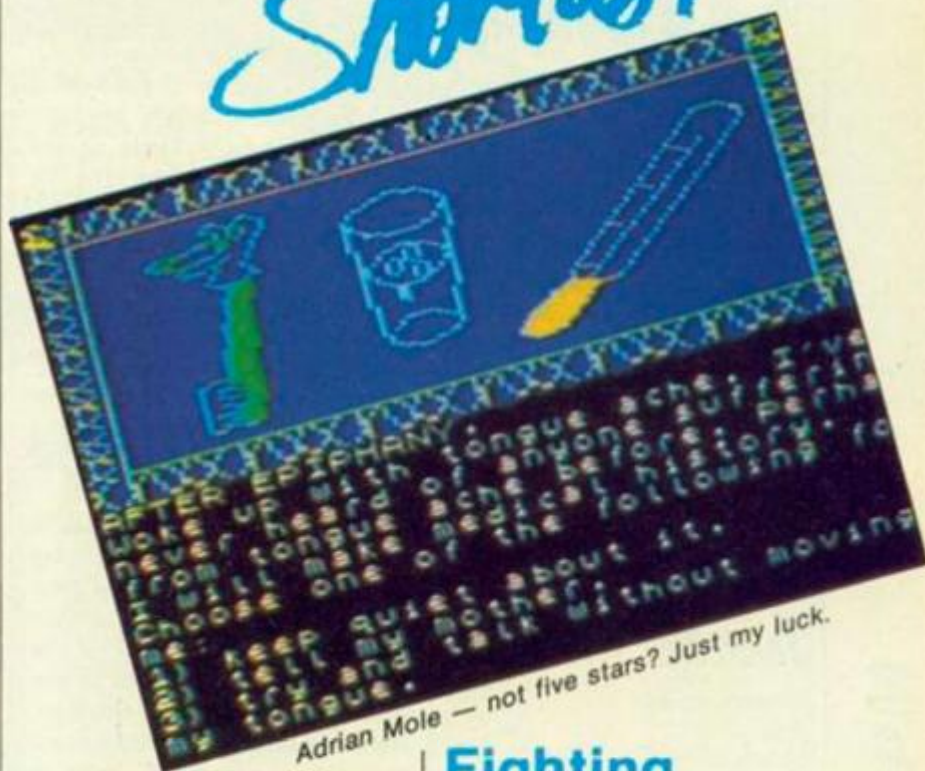
October 9: Magazine going to the printers but, unfortunately, I feel the review still needs a little polishing.

October 10: Get the sack. How ungrateful can you get.

Lee Paddon (aged 13½).

SOFTWARE

Shortlist



Adrian Mole — not five stars? Just my luck.



Fighting Warrior — state-of-the-art graphics.

Daley Thompson's Super-Test

■ ZX Spectrum
■ Sport simulation
■ Ocean
■ £9.95

★ ★ ★

WHEN DALEY Thompson was momentarily dethroned as the world's top decathlete he is rumoured to have said "I lost my world record and took it like a man — I only cried for 10 hours."

Whether or not Ocean's follow-up to the enormously successful Daley Thompson's Decathlon will bring tears to your eyes, it will wreak havoc on your joystick and/or keyboard. Yes, it's another joystick waggler.

The program features eight events only — and suffers strong competition from other sports simulations like US Gold's Summer and Winter Games, not to mention Activision's old Decathlon and the Tour de (continued on next page)

Fighting Warrior

■ Spectrum 48K
■ Melbourne House
■ Beat-'em-up
■ £7.95

★ ★ ★

"THE BEST graphics ever seen on a Spectrum", a familiar line in publicity blurbs. But now there is no excuse. Stephen Cargill has upped the stakes once again with cartoon style animation of stunning smoothness and detail.

You have to rescue a princess again (groan). In order to do this you've got to fight your way through a veritable army of monsters, who, being honourable types, come at you one at a time. Just to add to the fun, arrows come hurtling at you as well. You have three sword strokes, walk forward, back, jump and duck. The controls are easy to get the hang of.

The screen scrolls right to left as you attempt to make your way to the cave where the Princess is incarcerated. In the background, a landscape of Pyramids, temples and sphinxes scrolls past.

The fight sequences are beautifully animated, easily surpassing those in "Fist" or "Frank Bruno". Unfortunately, the process of fighting your way through the local heavy mob is a shade boring. Still, perhaps we can hope for the same sort of technique to be used on more complex and absorbing games.

Lee Paddon.

Star★ chart

Sorcery +

Amstrad
Amsoft
Arcade adventure
£13.95

★ ★ ★ ★

One of the prettiest games for your Amstrad has been improved by the addition of some new screens and a whole new section.

After you've released all the sorcerers, in the old version, you put your feet up for a well earned rest; now, I'm afraid you go on to confront the necromancer himself.

Mcoder III

Spectrum 48K
PSS
Compiler
£12.95

★ ★ ★

A compiler of the old school. Good but not flashy. Copes with most Spectrum Basic, except Microdrive commands. It can cope with floating point arithmetic, produces fairly compact code, and speed increases in the order of 10 to 20 times depending on the sort of commands being used. If you don't need all the flashy extras of the Blast Compiler, or your pocket isn't that deep, this looks like a good second best.

High Rise Horror

BBC
Platform
Rabit Software
£3.99

★ ★

Nasty, brutish and noisy — would be a grossly unfair way of describing High Rise Horror. The game certainly has a crude addictive quality, but not much more.

Armed with only a balloon you must make your way from the bottom of the screen to the top, avoiding or destroying the assorted nasties which whizz mindlessly to and fro at high speed.

Then you can pass to the next stage where the landscape is the same but more crowded.

(continued from previous page)

France. But it has just as much potential appeal as its predecessor.

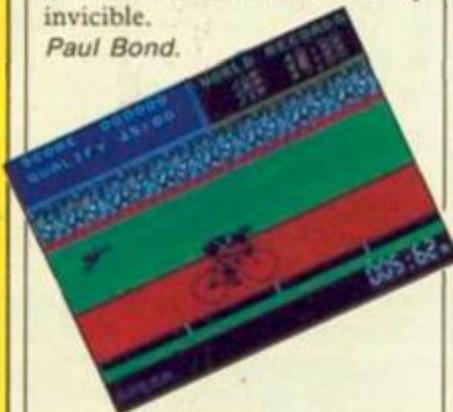
Spread over two days and two sides of a cassette, the events include pistol shooting, cycling, springboard diving, rowing, tug o' war, taking football penalties and two ski-ing events: the ski-jump and the giant slalom.

No time for the blade on the feather lark with the rowing section. Start pumping away to build up your speed shown at the bottom left of the screen. The display shows an overhead view of two kayaks zipping down the river. World records, i.e. hi-scores, are shown at the top right of the screen to encourage the spirit of competitive joystick destruction.

You stagger from you kayak to the football field — the display shows an overhead view of your footballer as he runs up to slam the leather into the back of the reticule. Your player runs as you either use the alternate left/right keys or pound away at the joystick to build up power for the shot. You control the ball's direction by timing the kick — the angle (or elevation) is controled by the amount of time that the firebutton is depressed. You get five shots.

You won't find many footballer's ski-jumping, you may reflect as the pistol signals the gate to open. However, many of them are used to being on the slippery slope or for the high jump. Again continuous left/right movement builds up your momentum, but you must hit the joystick fire-button at the right moment as you come to the lip of the jump. The tug o' war is impossible. You have a choice of 10 opponents, the weakest of which is totally invincible.

Paul Bond.



Daley Thompson's Super-Test — brings tears to your eyes.

SOFTWARE

Shortlist



Winter Games

■ CBM-64
■ Decathlon
■ US Gold/Expyx
■ £14.95

★ ★ ★ ★

"BREAK OUT the silly hats" was the enthusiastic cry the moment Winter Games hit the office. Up to eight players can choose from 18 countries, and then under their borrowed flags and anthems battle through seven events. Although speed skating and biathlon use the time honoured decathlon — sorry heptathlon — skills of rhythmic joystick waggling, the ski-jump and indoor skating are games in their own right.

The freestyle and figure skating look a little like Exploding Fist on Ice as different joystick movements allow you to carry out Camel and Sit Spins and Double and Triple Axel and Lutz jumps. "Figure" is used figuratively (that's enough figures — Ed) since you keep skating along the same direction for one or two minutes. With bush hat firmly on head Lynn "Call me Sheila" Dawson was moved to twang "She'll be out in the car park soon".

Toby put down his accordion, wiped the sweat off his brow with his beret and proceeded to win France's first ski-jump gold medal by a convincing display of balance and timing just beating Danneberg, of East Germany. Touch the jump button too soon and you just have to keep your balance in the air and land safely

— did I say just! Hot Dogging again uses Fist-like controls to try Daffies, Swans and other stunts off a short ski-jump.

Winter Sports is great family fun — it should appeal to women more than most programs — and looks like being a winner this Christmas.

Meirion Jones.

Chop Suey

■ English Software
■ Atari
■ £11.95

★ ★ ★

KUNG FU seems to be the recipe for success in computer games today, and Chop Suey is English Software's takeaway version for Atari owners. The introductory music is a bit of Bach (Brandenburg control) after which one or two players can get on with kicking each other's heads in.

The two figures appear on a three-dimensional stage, with a few rows of audience in the foreground. The animation is both detailed and colourful. You control your figure with a joystick, though as both figures are identical, it is hard to tell which you're controlling in the melee. The eight joystick positions provide an assortment of jabs, kicks and movements. Blows have to be on target to score. Two "pain-gauges" at the bottom provide a guide to your physical conditions (deteriorating).

The actual fighting seems to be pretty much the same as The Way of the Exploding Fist, so as King Fu games go, this is well done. However, it has few frills (scorpions to jump over; slow and fast modes) so it lacks variety.

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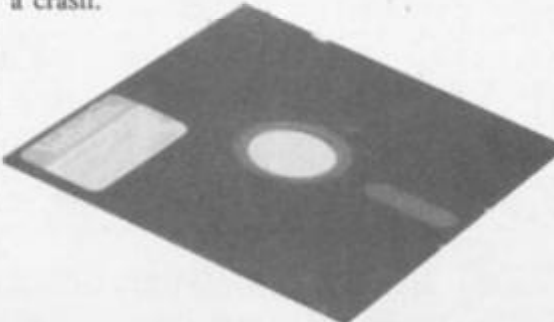
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A YEAR AGO a disc drive for your micro might have been looked upon as an expensive luxury, but now, with the price of drives dropping all the time, they come within the price range of many people looking to get more out of their machine. So what are the benefits and possible pitfalls of disc systems, and how do you cope with the conflicting claims and jargon?

A disc is much more than a fast cassette recorder, because, like an audio record, you can get to any track instantly. This means that you can virtually use your drive as an extension of the computer's memory. So databases and spreadsheets are no longer limited to 30K or so work space within the computer. To use a

cassette like this would be tedious in the extreme.

Even if you don't use such heavyweight programs, a disc drive is reliable, and discs less cumbersome to store, although disc based software can be expensive. Also, when developing your own software, you can rapidly back up each new version, and so speedily recover from a crash.

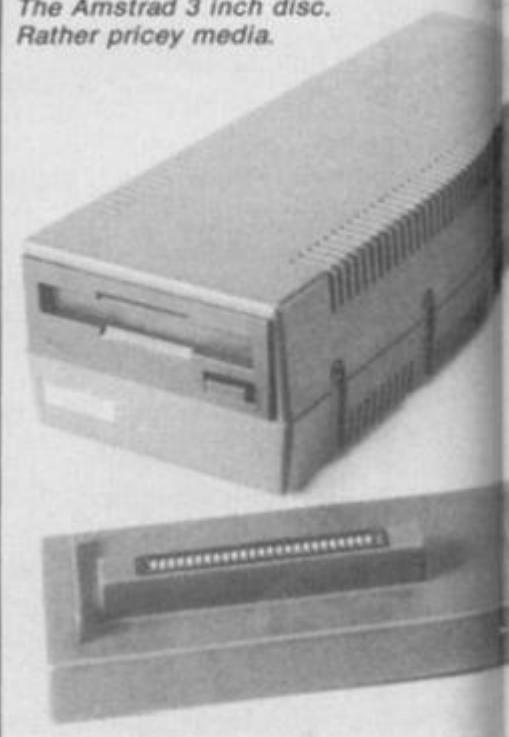


There are three components of any disc system. The drive, which is simply a mechanism which rotates the disc, moves a head across the disc, reads and writes data on the magnetic surface. Then there is the disc interface or controller, which makes the computer electronically compatible with the drive, and the operating system (DOS), the software which drives the interface.

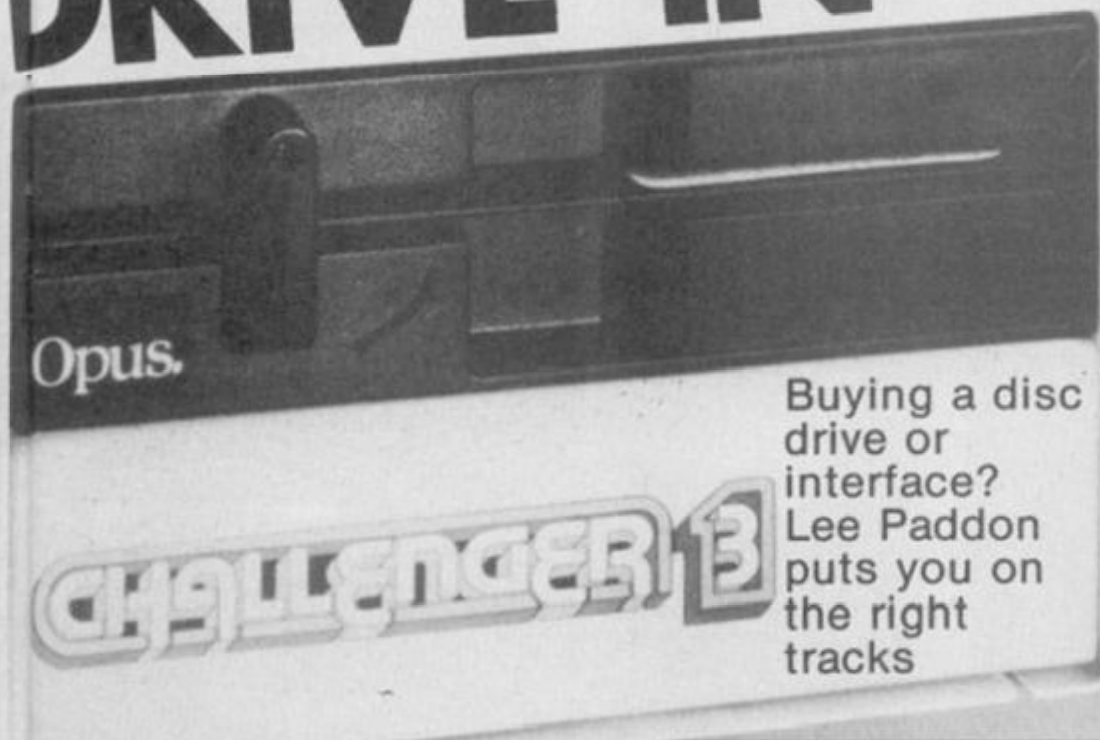
Disc drives come in a number of types and sizes. Most drives not specifically designed for one micro use a Shuggart bus. So you should ensure that any interface you buy conforms to this standard — almost all do. The drive mechanism will either consist of one or two

The Opus Challenger 3, includes Ram disc and power supply

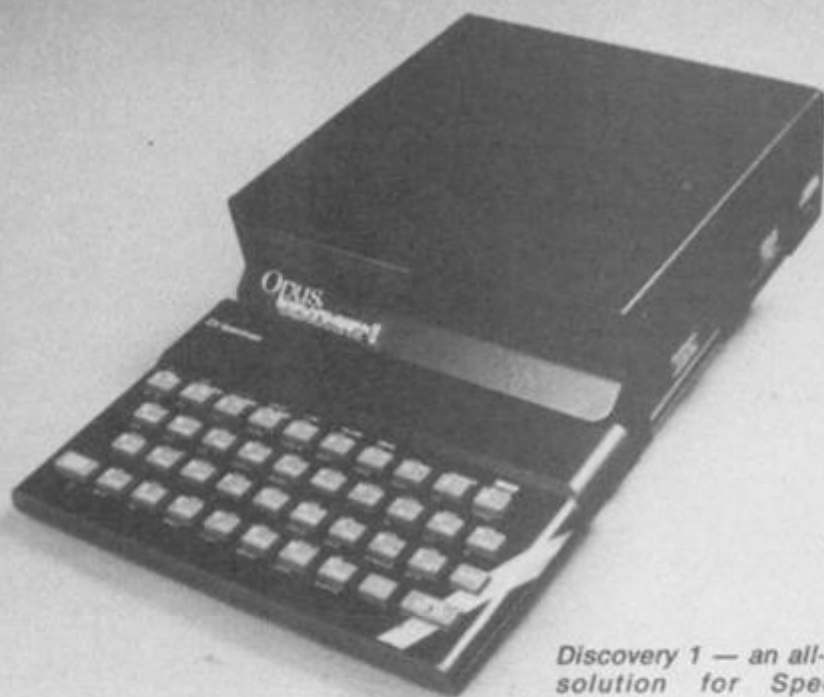
The Amstrad 3 inch disc. Rather pricey media.



DISC DRIVE-IN



Buying a disc drive or interface? Lee Paddon puts you on the right tracks



Discovery 1 — an all-in-one solution for Spectrum owners.

read/write heads, ie either capable of reading only one or both sides of the disc at once. Whereas once 40 tracks per side was standard, the quality of disc mechanisms means that 80 tracks is fast becoming the norm. Better still are switchable drives so they can read and write to 40 or 80 track discs. Drives come in a variety of sizes. First came 8inch monsters, then 5¼inch, now 3inch and 3½inch are bidding to become the new standard.

Each have their advantages. 8inch is now obsolete, 5¼inch are cheap, reliable and readily available. 3inch discs are electrically identical to 5¼inch and can be substituted at will. 3inch discs come in a rigid packaging, and so will last

longer, but are about three times the price of 5¼inch discs.

3½inch is a relatively new innovation, but since its adoption by Atari for its ST, it may become the front runner. It offers half as much space again as its main rivals, and is just as rugged but a good deal cheaper than 3inch.

Dual drives are a nice luxury, it allows you to protect yourself from disaster by regularly backing up your working disc to prevent a careless error ruining hours of work.

A final consideration is whether you get a built in power supply. If you have to rely on your micro for juice, it will seriously limit the number of drives or other gadgets you can add

on.

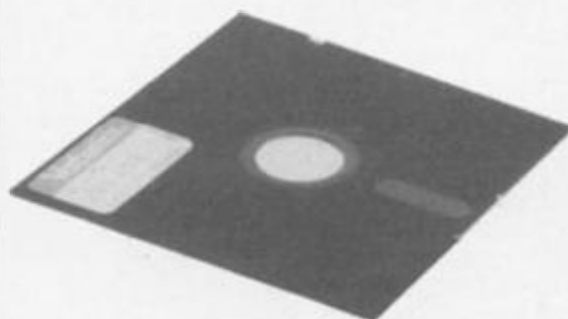
The electrical interface and the operating system are usually purchased as a package. Although each has a clearly defined function, most disc operating systems are designed around the interface hardware. This is where the jargon jungle is at its most impenetrable, and what you get is largely determined by how much you are prepared to pay. So make sure you get the facilities you really need.

Certain terms crop up time and time again. Each track on a disc usually has 10 sectors each holding 256 bytes. So, if storage is a prime consideration, 80 track double sided double density is going to give you 400K storage per drive.

Single versus double density is probably the most important factor. Double density operating systems are quite expensive, but they do give you twice as much room on the disc.

They do this by leaving out synch bits on the disc, and to cope with this, error checking must be more rigorous. One word of caution, you should find out what the formatted capacity of your system will be, unscrupulous dealers might try to tell you the unformatted capacity of the drive which is of no practical value at all.

Random access files are a must for serious



business applications. In a random access file, you can dig out the particular piece of information you need from a particular file and update it without loading and saving the whole file taking up precious time and memory. It is a sad fact that not many budget operating systems offer this facility.

It can, however, be fudged if a system supports serial access files where records can be read in order, and a new file created with the updated record — a poor second best.

Speed is not perhaps the most important consideration in a disc system, since most systems, with the glaring exception of the Commodore 1541 system are fast enough. However, hope is at hand, a new drive, the 1572 is promised. Speed is a function of both the speed of the drive and the efficiency of the DOS software. Whether this is important to you will depend on what you want a disc drive for. Try running two opposing systems side by side, ideally running the program you intend using most.

Operating system compatibility is another term often banded around. The Amstrad DD1 claims to be CP/M compatible, but will only run cut down versions of the standard packages. It claims to use IBM format files, but the IBM PC usually runs under a different operating system: MSDOS. Speaking of which, the new Enterprise disc system claims to run MSDOS and read IBM files, but this is rather pointless when the computer uses a Z-80 processor rather than the 8080 chip needed.

So treat all claims for "compatibility" with a good deal of caution. Another aspect of the (continued on next page)

DISC DRIVE SUPPLIERS

Akhter, 28/29 Burnt Mill, Harlow, Essex CM20 2HU. Tel 0279 443521. Full range of 5¼ inch drives.

Advanced Memory Systems, Green Lane, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5NG Tel 0925 62907. 3 inch drives.

Chase Data, Unit 2, Crabtree Road, Thorpe Industrial Estate, Egham, Surrey TW20 8RN. Tel 0784 38487. Double Sided 5¼ inch drives.

C Tech Computers, 184 Market Street, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 1EX. Tel 061 366 7794. Double Sided 5¼ inch drives.

Cumana, Pines Trading Estate, Broad Street, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3BH. Tel 0483 503121. Full range of 5¼ and 3½ inch drives.

GCC, 66 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4BG. Tel 0223 835330 some 5¼ double sided and 3 inch drives.

Keyaki, 44 Terrace Road, Walton-upon-Thames, Surrey. KT12 2SD 3½ inch drives.

Midwich, Gilray Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22, 3EU Tel 0379 4131. Twin, double sided 5¼ inch drives.

Opus, 55 Ormside Way, Holmthorpe Industrial Estate, Redhill, Surrey. Tel 0737 65080. Full range of 3 and 5¼ inch drives.

Pace, 92 New Cross Street, Bradford BD5 8BS. Tel 0274 488211. Full range of 5¼ inch drives.

Solidisk, 17 Swayne Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6JQ. Tel 0702 354674. Some 80 track 5¼ inch drives.

Technomatic, 17 Burnley Road, London NW10 1ED. Tel 01-208 1177. Some 5¼ inch drives.

Twilstar, 17 Regina Road, Southall, Middx UB2 5PL. Tel 01-574 5271. Full range of 5¼ inch drives.

Vigelin, Unit 7, Trumpers Way, Hanwell W7 2QA. Tel 01-843 9903. Full range of 5¼ inch drives.

Watford Electronics, 250 High Street, Watford. Tel 0923 40588. Full range of 5¼ inch drives.

DISC INTERFACE SUPPLIERS

Micro Peripherals, Intec Building 2, Units 2-3&4, Hassocks Wood, Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 0NE. Tel 0256 473232.

Kempston Microelectronics, Singer Way, Woburn Road Industrial Estate, Kempston, Bedford NK42 7AW. Tel 0234 856633.

Technology Research Ltd. (Beta), Unit 18, Central Trading Estate, Staines, Middx TW18 4XE. Tel Staines 63547.

Medic Data Systems, Hackwood Lane, Cliddesden, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 2NH. Tel 0256 460748.

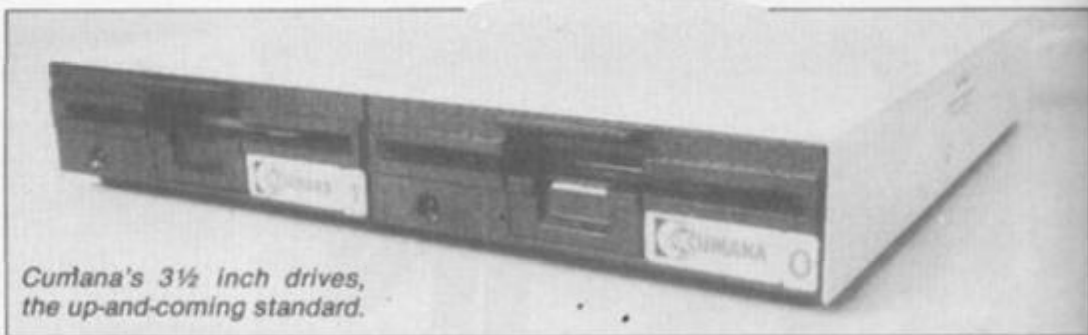
Gordon Micro Ltd., 3 Callender Road, Heathfield Industrial Estate, Ayr KA8 9DJ. Tel 0292 280467.

Watford Electronics, 250 High Street, Watford, Herts WD1 2AN. Tel 0923 37774/40588.

Acorn — Any Acorn dealer.

Enterprise Computers Ltd., 31-37 Hoxton Street, London N1 6NJ. Tel 01-739 4282.

Dudley Langmead Enterprises, (Oric), 93 Bedford Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2UA. Tel 0462 31225. Available from end of October.



Cumana's 3½ inch drives, the up-and-coming standard.

(continued from previous page)

same problem is that if you buy a DOS from a third party, it must be compatible with the standard operating system of the micro manufacturer.

Thus any proper disc system for the QL for instance must be compatible with microdrive commands or you won't be able to use the new drive to run the bundled software. Next on your list of questions should be how much of your micro's precious Ram is taken up by the disc DOS and does the DOS support a ram disc.

Pinches over 2K of Ram

The Acorn DFS for the BBC micro pinches over 2K of Ram from the machine's already inadequate supply. Many Spectrum owners encounter problems with their interface 1's due to yanking them out every time they want to load up their favourite games, and a similar problem occurs to Amstrad owners.

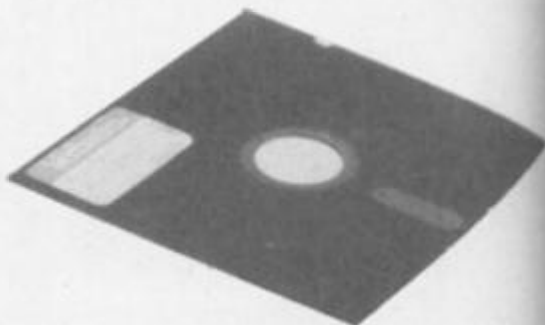
A Ram disc is a data structure which sets aside an area of Ram which, in the eyes of the DOS, looks like a disc, with a directory and files, but with far quicker access times. A new idea is to incorporate Ram into the drive itself as in the new Challenger 3 from Opus, an idea which should become increasingly popular as memory prices continue to plummet.

Next we come to what is perhaps the guts of an DOS: the commands it offers, and their format. A bad example of syntax is the Sinclair system for interface 1. This is mainly due to the fact that you have to specify everything in an inflexible syntax, a good DOS will assume certain default values if the user fails to specify them. It should also be possible to specify files by "Wildcards". A file name normally has two parts, a name and an extension, wildcards allow a disc command to apply to all files with a certain name or extension, or those which start with a particular string.

Most disc systems can list the files on a disc, but ideally they should give more information than this. File size, type, and execution address are all helpful, although in some DOS, this

information is provided by "help" or "info" commands. Obviously it must be possible to save blocks of memory, machine code programs, arrays, and variables as well as Basic.

Another point to watch is some systems limit the number of files you can have per side of the disc. If you intend using a lot of short files, this is obviously going to mean a lot of fumbling around with discs. Rename might seem a rather trivial command, but is vital if random access is not supported. This means that after an updated version of an old file has been created, the old file is erased and the new file renamed



so that when the file next needs to be updated, the name will be the same. Compact tells the DOS to tidy up a disc.

After a time, gaps appear in a disc where programs have been deleted, this can decrease the amount of space available, compact crushes all the files up, freeing more space. Merge allows a large datafile to be created out of two smaller ones, with either one file in Ram, and the other on disc, or both programs on disc.

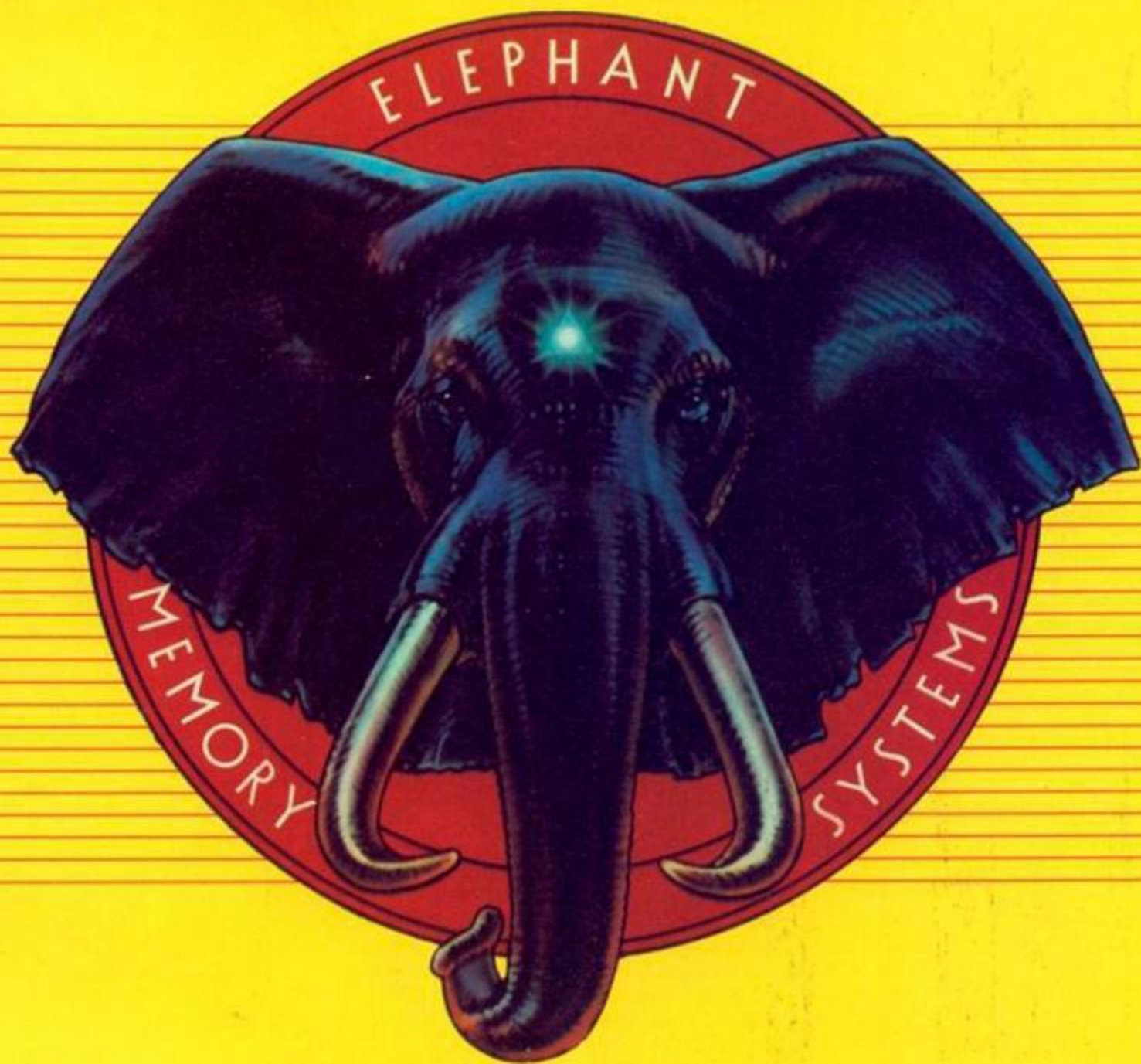
Make sure you shop around

It is obviously impossible to make any definitive recommendations about which system to go for, much depends on what you want and how much you are prepared to pay for it. The main thing is to shop around and make sure the system you go for in the end can actually deliver everything it promises. Apart from the actual purchase of a micro itself, the choice of a disc system is one of the most fraught decisions you can make, and mistakes can be costly.



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Tel. Réseau de Distribution: 605 98 99, Administration des Ventes: 605 70 78, Telex: EMS 206 436 F

Germany: Marcom Computerzubehör GmbH, Podbielskistr. 321, 3000 Hannover 51, Tel: (0511) 647420, Telex: 923818

Italy: King Mec SPA, Via Regio Parco 106 BIS, 10036 Settimo Torinese, Tel: (011) 800.93.93, Telex: 211467 KINMEC I

Other Countries: Dennison International Company, 4006 Erkrath 1, Matthias-Claudius-Strasse 9, Telex: 688 6600

SPECTRUM

WHAT DO YOU GET if you cross a mouse with a telephone?

Good taste, the Animal Liberation Front, and the Official Secrets Act prevent me from telling you what I have seen in the Government's genetic engineering laboratories. All I can say is that Sinclair has come close with the weird numeric keypad which is the Spectrum 128's most distinctive feature.

A white 128 badge and an external aluminium heatsink — that looks like it might be a constructivist memorial to all those who perished in the computer wars — are the only other signs that this is a Spectrum Plus Plus. The 128 goes on sale in Spain now, four months before it hits these shores, but if you are thinking of popping over to the Costa Investronica to bring back a new Sinclair and an autumn tan don't bother.

Devil worship

If you wait till the U.K. launch next spring the 128 will cost around £150 whereas a Spanish Sinclair will set you back £100 more, including tax but not including a dictionary to translate error messages such as "Entero fuera de rango". So why is Sir Clive making good old blighty play second fiddle (or maybe that should be Fidel, since Investronica plans to export to Latin America) to Spain?

In short this summer's financial problems have forced Sinclair to sell his soul to the Devil, or rather Dixons. They agreed to take the mountainous drifts of surplus QLs and Spectrum Pluses off his hands if he agreed not to launch any new products here, which might damage their sales, until well after Christmas. But Sir Clive still desperately needed to show he had new products on the way. Hence the Spanish 128 deal.

A close inspection of the 128 shows that the Plus keyboard has survived intact apart from a few cosmetic changes made to satisfy new Spanish government standardisation regulations — the word video in black out of white to show true video and reversed on the inverse video key for instance. The Mic and Ear sockets have been moved from the back of the Plus to the

left hand side next to a new RS-232 port to take the interfacing out of connecting up a printer, or modem to your Sinclair.

The RS-232 claims to double up as a MIDI music connector. But then what's in a name? Everyone knows that Sinclair is a corruption of St Clare — the patron saint of televisions — but no-one takes seriously Sir Flat Screen Clive's claim to be a major producer of bent tellies.

The whole point of MIDI is supposed to be a single standard to make interfacing music machines and micros easy so you can control instruments from the computer, modify pices of music and interpret them on screen. So the 128's non standard MIDI connector will have to be carefully examined on a full production machine before it can be recommended to musicians.

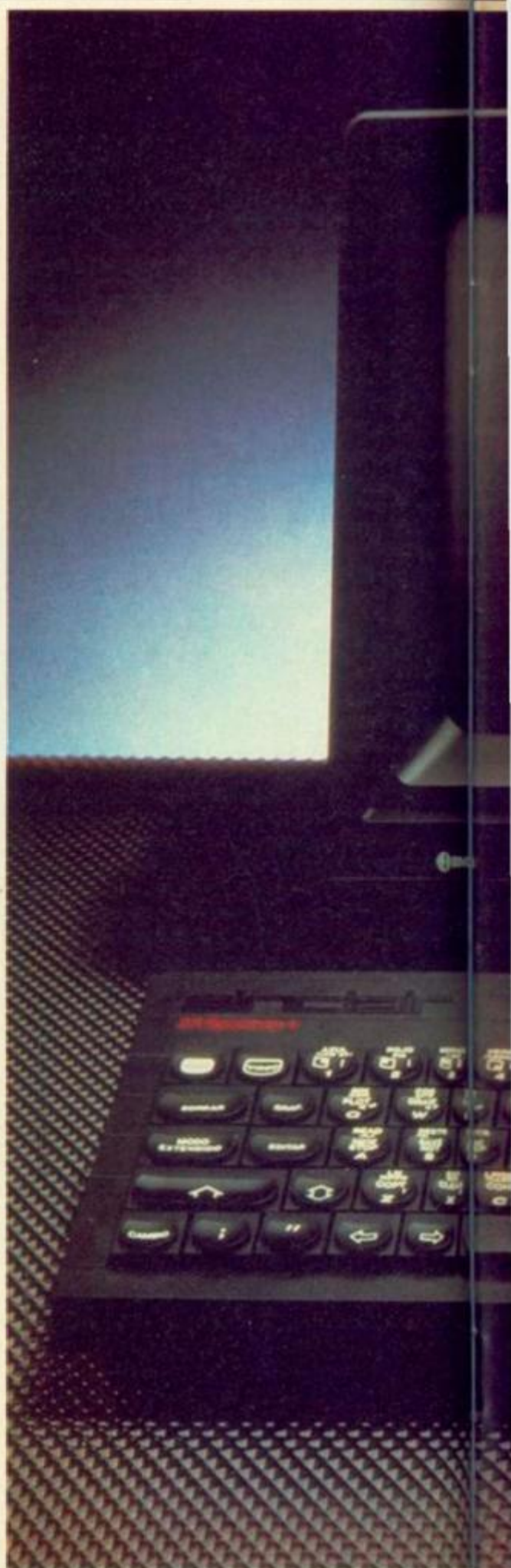
At the back the expansion slot is still where it was and all peripherals are still compatible except perhaps those that initialise system variables. An RGB/composite video port has now taken the place of the Mic and Ear sockets. Because the 128 incorporates an AY-38910 sound chip like the Amstrad et al the internal loudspeaker that was happy enough beeping and purring its way through the death march which every other Spectrum game features, shows its shortcomings. Now like other micros a new modulator feeds the TV socket sound as well as vision. At last turning up the noise is a simple matter of sliding up the TV volume button.

Search as you may you still will not find a joystick port on the 128 — an unforgivable omission — although some software houses will doubtless use the 128's numeric keypad as a touch pad controller.

This numeric keypad is a strange looking creature, like a calculator attached to the front of the computer by a curly telephone cable. If it had a track ball in the base to allow you to spin a pointer around on screen you would call it a mouse — but it doesn't so we'll call it a hamster. You can use this 15 button rodent as a simple calculator which displays the answers on the screen or for entering numeric data into programs — it might make typing in *Your Computer* listings a little less tiresome or in 128 mode as a full screen editor. At last you can edit programs at will including renumbering sending the cursor straight to the area that needs correction.

When you turn on the machine it defaults to 128 mode with a white or blue cursor instead of all the "Ks" and "Es" of the original. If you enter the command Spectrum it changes to 48K mode without losing the contents of memory but the only way to make it revert once again to 128 is by resetting — losing everything.

Basic programs can transfer from one mode to the other easily. If you Peek 80000 in 128 mode you will still get an out of range message because the additional 64K of memory is only accessible from machine code. The 32K Rom includes the old 16K Spectrum as well as the separate 128 operating system. The extra 64K



Ram is paged in 16K blocks.

Memory maps are already in the hands of those software houses that have not had prototypes. Ocean is already demonstrating a 128 version of Match Day which takes advantage of the improved sound with cheering crowds, referee's whistle and so on. Supertest 128 is also near completion as well as the load-in-one version of the three part NeverEnding story

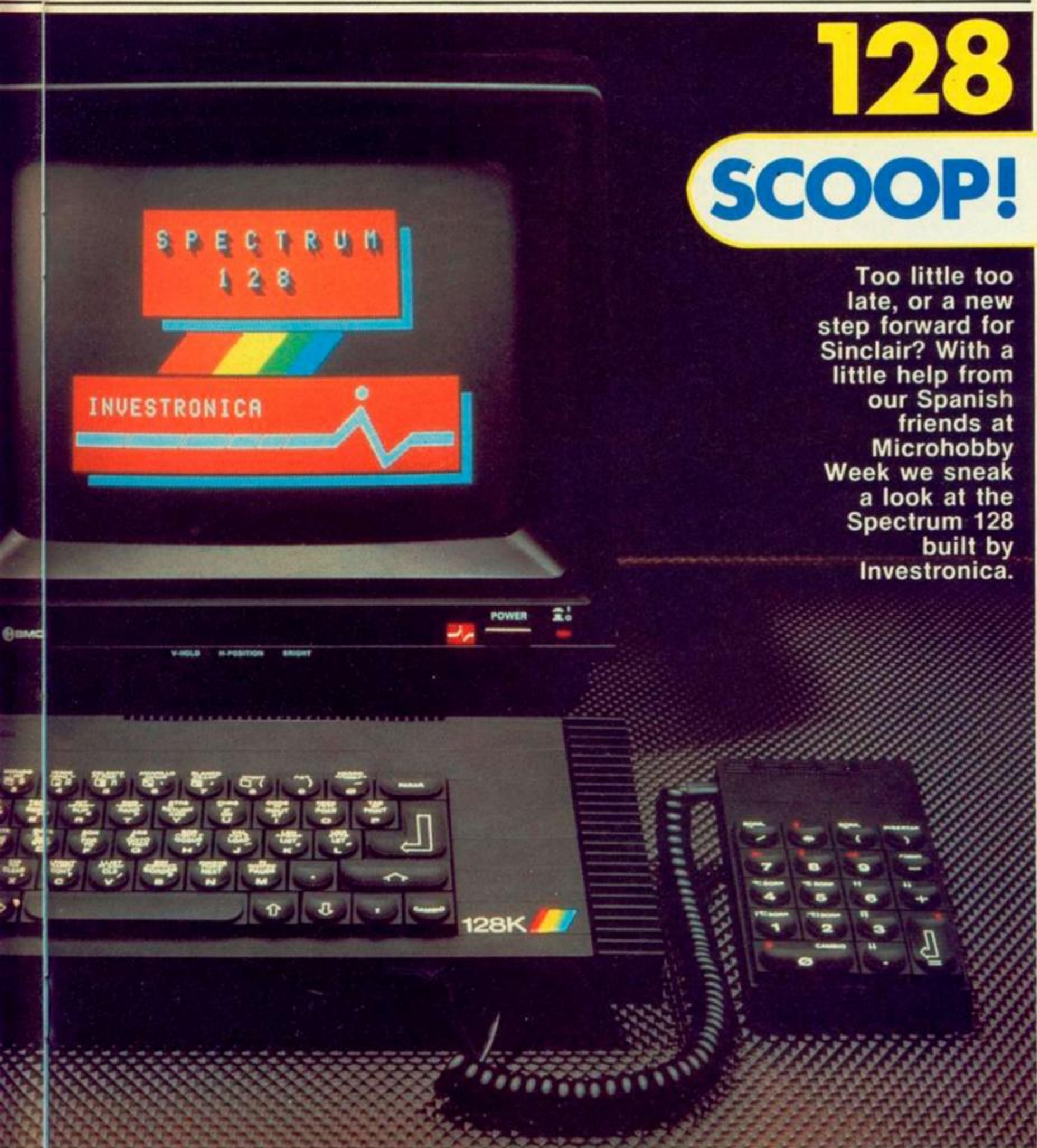
128 COMPARISONS

- Commodore 128. Better graphics, sound, software. £275.
- Amstrad 6128. Includes CP/M, monitor and disc. Less games. £300.
- Enterprise 128. Includes word processor, joystick. Almost no software. £250.
- Atari 130XE. Brilliant games but not as many as for Spectrum. Still tops for sound and vision. £170.

128

SCOOP!

Too little too late, or a new step forward for Sinclair? With a little help from our Spanish friends at Microhobby Week we sneak a look at the Spectrum 128 built by Investronica.



epic. Ocean's David Collier says he has had no loading problems with the Sinclair 128 unlike the Commodore 128 which has a variant of the 6502 processor "which is not as robust" as that in the 64. Ocean has now rewritten its fast loader to avoid crashing the Commodore 128.

The Sinclair 128 has the same ULA as the Plus so resolution, colours and screen management are all the same — 256 × 192, 8 colours.

A Play command gives access to the new sound facilities. Text can be stored as separate pages by storing in the form of variables — AS, BS and so on.

Spring offensive

Of course the machine we have seen is still a prototype, one which Domingo Gomez of Microhobby-Weekly magazine in Spain could

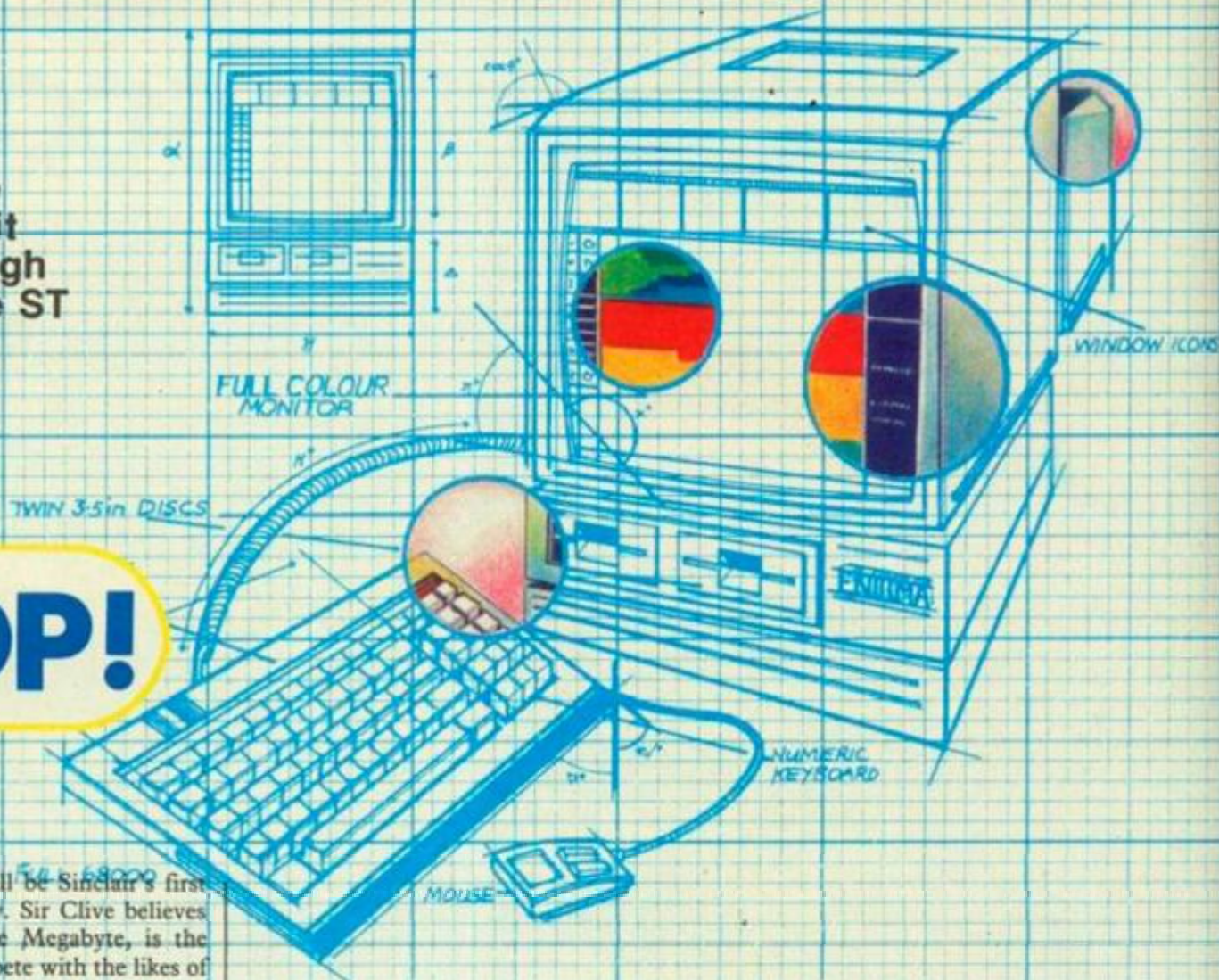
only inspect at the headquarters of Investronica in Madrid but this is not a one-off special aimed only at Spain.

There may be some changes before it appears on the British market next spring but despite its faults the 128 looks like it will be a strong base model for Sinclair's new 1986 model range which will include the portable Pandora and the desk-top Enigma (see over page).

SINCLAIR ENIGMA

Next year's model from Sinclair is the Enigma. Can it be good enough to take on the ST and Amiga on their own ground?

SCOOP!



NEXT YEAR'S Enigma will be Sinclair's first Mega-machine — literally. Sir Clive believes that 1024K of Ram, one Megabyte, is the minimum needed to compete with the likes of Atari's ST and Commodore's Amiga.

He has also bowed to the inevitable and abandoned the Microdrives for a pair of built-in 3.5 inch disc drives. But the portable Spectrum-based Pandora also planned for early next year will still use Microdrives to keep down costs and weight. If Sinclair goes ahead with a portable QL that too may stay with the stringy floppies.

The Enigma is planned for launch in May '86 somewhere in the vague £500 — £1,000 price band. It will have a version of the Psion Quill, Abacus, Archive and Easel suite of programs but on Rom rather than the QL's Microdrive cartridges. The Enigma will also have a full Window, Icon, Mouse environment, probably Gem as used on the Apricot, since Digital Research has been having talks with Sinclair for some time and has publicly claimed that Gem could be ported straight across to the QL. The big question is whether Sinclair can compete with the Supermicros without going for a full 16-bit Motorola 68000 like the Amiga, Macintosh and ST rather than the cut-down 68008 in the QL.

The Enigma will be sold as a complete package; computer, software, two drives, mouse, colour monitor and printer. It might also develop with the addition of a phone and communications into a colour replacement for the Sinclair developed monochrome ICL One Per Desk — which because it was only black and white was known during its development as "Work Station Zebra".

Sinclair is also working on a "personal communicator" a £99 cigarette packet-sized portable phone that would allow you to make and take calls on the already established cellular radio network at any time or place. With the 128, Pandora and Enigma all lined up for launch in the first half of next year there would seem to be no place for the much-rumoured QL-2 as such. This now seems to have grown into the Enigma.

Sinclair's plans look ambitious at a time when the company is making 20 of its 120 staff redundant and such senior personnel as Nigel Searle and Robb Wilmot are being kicked off the Sinclair board. The company is also losing

its bottle — or at least its converted bottle factory headquarters at Willis Road — where development work on new computers used to be concentrated and moving the entire operation to Milton Hall, country mansion of of Sinclair's Metalab.

Nigel Searle had been head of Sinclair's computer side before he was sent on a none too successful trip to America to boost Sinclair sales over there. Searle now loses his position on the board but stays on as Sinclair's top dog in the States. Robb Wilmot, Mr ICL, long-time associate of Sir Clive, was brought in six months ago to develop the Sinclair/Catt wafer scale technology which promised to produce failsafe single-chip mega computers by the 1990's. Now Wilmot leaves the board and the company.

Can Sinclair's Enigma be ST, Amiga beater?



ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL HOME OF THE HEROES

FINDING THE headquarters of Adventure International UK is a bit like solving an adventure in itself. The clue is the company sticker in the window of an otherwise nondescript warehouse in Birmingham 19.

"We don't mind being hard to find", says Mike Woodroffe, managing director and general co-ordinator of programmers and projects. "We're happy to talk on the phone, but we couldn't do with hordes of crazed adventure fanatics hanging about outside".

Life in the Handsworth area has been exciting enough without that: "Most of the rioting was only a mile away from the unit, but it affects the locals less than it affects people reading the national newspapers".

Seas of Blood, AI's next release, has nothing to do with urban unrest, but plunges us into a life on the ocean wave. Based on one of the Fighting Fantasy series of books by Steve Jackson and Ian Livingstone and published by Puffin, the game puts you in charge of a pirate ship. Together with your band of seasoned cutthroats you must scourge the Inland Sea, searching for gold and slaves and defeat your rival Abdul the Butcher in the race to become King of the Pirates. Setting off from Tak, the greatest den of thieves the world has ever known outside of a computer fair, you journey through 180 locations at sea and 83 ports —

Paul Bond goes in search of adventure.

all with graphic illustration. There is a mini-adventure at every stop with 20 treasures to find all defended by gruesome monsters.

"We've taken the basic scenario of the book, changed some of the puzzles and objectives. The book and the game are different, but we've kept the scoring and stamina system. For instance, you don't just Fight Galley — you work out relative strengths to decide the outcome". Other FF games are planned — the next release looks like being Appointment with F.E.A.R. "The Fighting Fantasy books have sold over eight million copies — that's a lot of potential buyers".

A Jand-based outlaw is the subject of AI's Robin of Sherwood series of adventures, notable for their excellent graphics (see Quest Corner, this issue). Touchstones of Rhiannon's sequel, Seven Swords of Wayland, features the Hounds of Lucifer — sounds like Mike Woodroffe would like to unleash them on some nefarious characters in the industry; while the Robin Hood games are officially licensed and based on the books of Richard Carpenter, like the TV series. "There seem to be a couple of other



Robin games about. We've sent copies of the ads to the licensing company. It's up to them — otherwise there's no point in our paying the licensing fee in the first place".

Adventure International also plans an assault on the arcade adventure market. Davy Jones' Locker is a joystick-based arcade adventure featuring Pegleg Bob, the lighthouse keeper. He must row to the lighthouse to rescue survivors of a shipwreck. In this sequence he is attacked by a whale, a swordfish and a shark which he has to beat off with his oars. Seagulls also fly about dropping unmentionable things on him. Next he runs across the rocks as the sea rises and waterspouts erupt around him. Now he must find the survivors and put them in a cave, while under attack from crabs. The final sequence is the wreck itself. He must row survivors to safety before being engulfed by a

THE FANTASTIC FOUR



SEAS OF BLOOD



Ian Livingstone and Steve Jackson.

NATIONAL

tidal wave.

This is a long way from American Adventure International's founding father's original vision. Does Scott Adams, the man who originally crammed Crowther and Woods' Colossal Adventure into a TRS-80, let the UK operation have a free hand?

"We're totally different companies, both from the ownership and the financial point of view. We have the licence for Scott Adams' product in the UK and Europe — at the time we got it Tricia (Mrs Woodroffe) and I were importing American software for the Atari 400/800. We did more business with Scott than anyone else."

It struck Mike Woodroffe that the American packaging was unnecessarily large: "We were paying to fly blocks of polystyrene over the Atlantic. Scott suggested that we set up our own duplication operation here — so Adventure International UK was born. We went over to Florida, spent the week in Disneyland — it was great".



Nigel Bamford, Michael Woodroffe and Patricia Woodroffe.

AI-UK also plan an arcade-style Gremlins game (not to mention a second Gremlins adventure proper). More Gremlins? Is this wise?

"Well, the first Gremlins by Brian Howarth, our ace programmer, outsold all our other stuff

by double. It's been translated into Spanish and German with great success, and there's a French version on the way. A new Gremlin movie is due for release at the end of 1986."

The company implements American products like the forthcoming Quest Probe III game, featuring the Fantastic Four in the following way. Scott Adams writes the main story and Marvel comics in New York draw up the artwork. This is then sent to Ken McNair in Florida who codes it all onto an Apple. "Then we take the plot and the disc and convert it to Spectrum, Commodore and so on".

The Fantastic Four game stars the Thing and the Human Torch. It has a revolutionary new method of play for a Scott Adams game. You can switch identities and there are far more Marvel characters featured than in recent games. "The US market is disc-based. Sometimes our cassette versions appear before they get the game over there". Anomalies are common in the adventure market. Adventurers buy strange things and the games can sit on the shelf for a long time. This puts off wholesalers.

"Would you believe, one chain store wouldn't take Robin of Sherwood — it has some of the best graphics I've seen in any computer game, not to mention publicity from the books and the TV series", says Woodroffe. The new series will star Sean Connery's son incidentally. "Only Centresoft carries our whole range."

To solve this, AI created the concept of the Scott Adams Adventure Centre — basically dealers don't need to pay for units until after they've sold them. "We haven't pursued the concept very energetically — there are about 15 Adventure Centres at the moment — we plan on 80 or 100, but we'll get down to that after Christmas". One thing is sure, AI have plenty of new releases planned — apart from Fighting Fantasy, Robin of Sherwood, Gremlins and Quest Probe, they have the rights to Buckaroo Banzai (who is he? — Ed).

Take Indiana Jones, mix a little popstar, throw in some super-hero and space-ace and you've got a Twentieth Century Fox movie awaiting release. "They've actually got the film in stock over here, but it's not being released yet". Could be another first for Adventure International. You've played the game, now see the movie.

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD



INTER ADVENT

PROGRAMMING TEXT-ONLY adventures in Basic is really quite easy, and lots of people tend to have a bash at it at some time during their programming careers. The funny thing is, though, that although an adventure is meant to be a program that interacts with the player, there's one feature that's almost always missing from a Basic adventure game — and that's interactive characters.

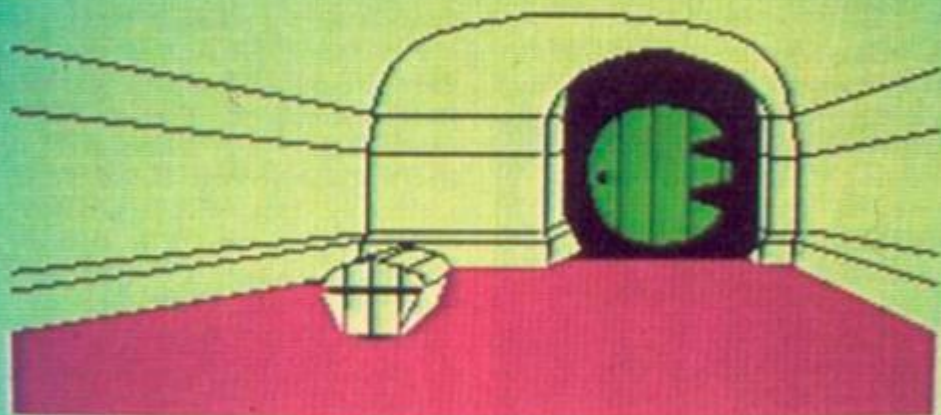
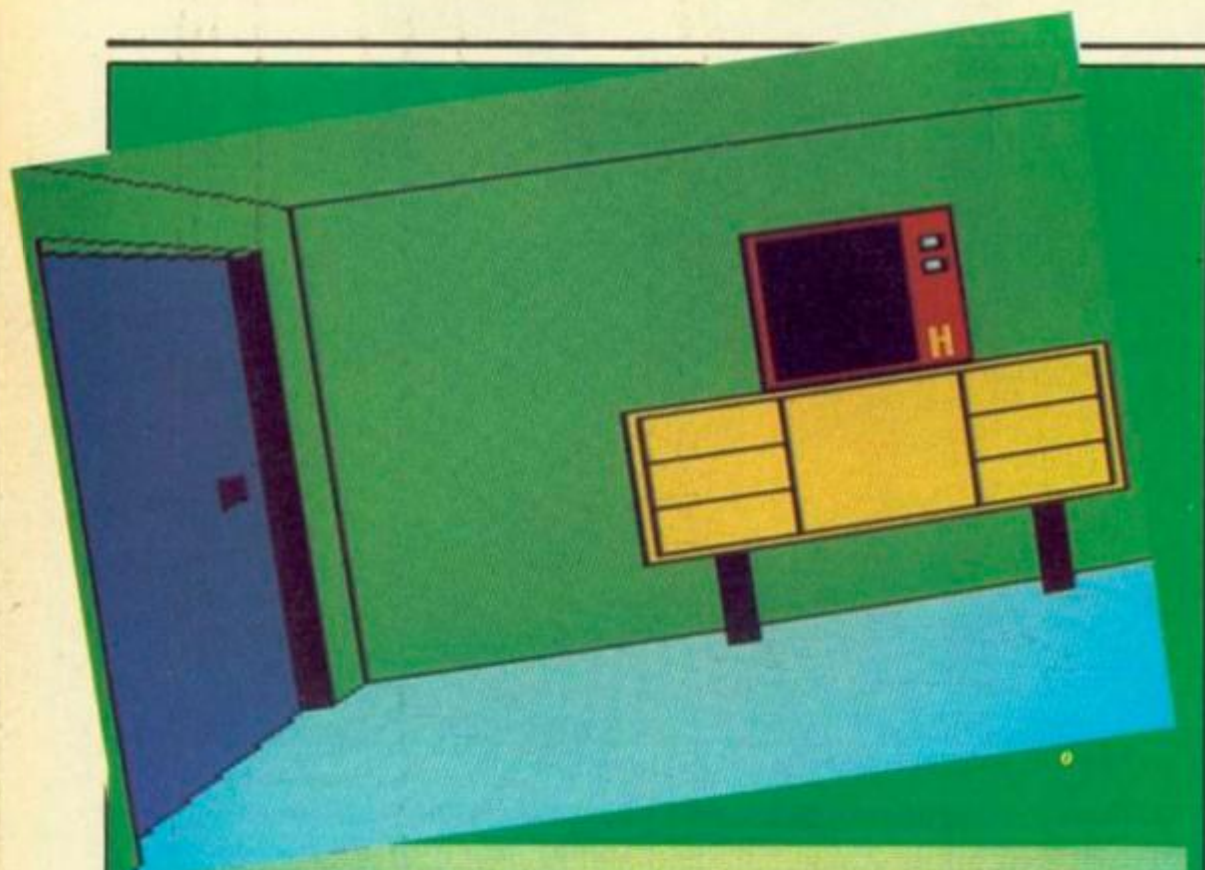
An interactive character is someone like Thorin in the *Hobbit* — a computer-controlled personality who appears to have a mind of his own. You may even, if he or she has been well-programmed, be able to sit down at the keyboard and have a limited conversation together. This particular feature can add enormously to any adventure game, be it of the simple home-brewed Basic variety, or a fully-fledged commercial game. Unfortunately, it's often either badly implemented or left out altogether.

The reasons why so few games have good characters in them may seem obvious. If you're going to include other people in the game, you're also going to have to include a whole load more data for messages — either speeches for them to deliver, or descriptions to tell the player what they're up to. On top of that, you'll also need to test hundreds of conditions to determine when these messages should be output. Obviously all this is going to take up loads of Ram, which you probably can't spare, because adventures tend to take up loads of Ram anyway.

Well, the good news is that there are ways of programming "intelligent characters" into your Basic adventure games, and these methods don't necessarily take up much space. You'll still need to set aside data storage areas for messages, but you can fit an awful lot of messages into, say, 3K — and that still leaves you with lots of room for other things like location descriptions and so on.

In this, and the two issues of *Your Computer* that follow, we're going to let you in on the secret of how it's done, and leave you with a type-in listing that will have characters interacting away to their hearts' content, or until you press the Escape key.

First, for those who may be a little unclear about the subject, let's define exactly what an interactive character is — and what it isn't. An interactive character should have three main attributes: the ability to move from location to location without help from the player; the ability to get, carry, and drop objects; awareness of his/her surroundings. These three main attributes will enable the character to play a significant role in the game. We've already mentioned Thorin as an example of such a character — another example would be one of the characters in *Valhalla*.



You are in a comfortable tunnel like hall

> LOOK
> LOOK
+



VALHALLA

Enter any command to continue.

Top: Hewson Consultants' *Fantasia Diamond* is a typical 'post-Hobbit' program featuring a number of interactive characters, some of whom — the Toy Robot in particular — assume quite significant roles in the game. Middle: The

Hobbit was one of the first popular games to feature true 'interactive characters'. Bottom: *Valhalla* was notable for its interactive characters, one important function of which was their ability to 'remember'.

INTERACTIVE CHARACTERS

MAKE
IT LIVE

Some games do, of course, include characters but include them in such a way as not to qualify for the term "interactive". Such characters are really just objects, which are described in human terms. They can still be quite effective, but the point is that such "pseudo-characters" are 100 percent predictable. Once you've met "the old man by the crossroads", you know that you'll meet him again at the same point in the game every time you play.

If, however, the old man was a real interactive character, you might meet him in the pub, on the street, at the hotel, or even catch him stealing up behind you and pinching your purse — whereupon you can chase him and try and get it back.

All these actions can, in an adventure program, be set in motion by a routine which from now on we shall call the character handler. This is a routine that can accept the data for any character in the game, process it, decide what action (if any) to take — such as moving the character — and then return to the main adventure program. There are two sorts of character handler — asynchronous and synchronous. All this means that in the first case the routine is called independently of the player's actions.

In other words, whatever may be going on in the main program, a call is suddenly made to the character handler to update all the characters. Both the Hobbit and Valhalla use this technique — if you sit back and do nothing, you'll see the characters continue to act out their own pre-programmed lives, with perhaps a message such as "You wait ..." or "Time passes ..." flashing up on the screen every few seconds. This system is rather difficult to implement in Basic, unless you have an MSX or Amstrad computer provided with Basic interrupt commands.

An asynchronous system can appear more lifelike, because the pace of the game doesn't depend on the player, but a synchronous system is easier to program. Using this system, the character handler is called regularly at a certain point in the program — usually when the player enters a command. This is the system we shall be using here.

Before we actually get down to the nitty-gritty of bringing our characters to life, there are just two more possible attributes for characters that need to be mentioned. The first is speech — they should ideally be capable of addressing the player without being prompted, and — even better — answer back if spoken to.

The second is "history" — which means that a character should have some idea not just of what is going on around him/her, but also of what has happened previously. The best example of this is Valhalla, where characters

James Hartley meets interesting people.

like Thor took note of our actions and this influenced their behaviour later in the game.

Allowing the player to address characters does not just involve the character handler routine — it also involves the parser, that bit of your program that accepts input from the player. For this reason, we shall not be including it in our program, but you will find that the techniques illustrated will make it simple to implement in your own games. We will, however, be giving our characters something to say. So much for the background. Now, how's it done?

The first problem we have to solve is how to test conditions, because we're going to have to do it a lot and we need an efficient method. If you look at any book on programming Basic adventures you'll see that there are lines upon lines of If statements, since this is the easiest way of testing a condition in Basic. Here are a couple of examples:

IF (the player is in the dungeon) AND

IF (the rats are hungry) THEN PRINT (Aaaaaagh!!!)
IF (the player is in the dungeon) AND
IF (the rats are dead) AND IF (the player is hungry) THEN PRINT (Mmmmm! Revenge is sweet!)
IF (the player is not in the dungeon) THEN PRINT (Freedom is slavery) and so on ...

This is all very well, but you could soon find yourself writing a line full of Ifs for every message you want to print on the screen. However, the good news is that we can do without Ifs altogether! The first step is to look at the problem in a completely different way. Let's take the example above and represent the decision-making process as a "tree" — see diagram 1.

A structure like this is called a decision tree. It is composed of different nodes (the rectangles) connected. The nodes fall into two types —
(continued on next page)

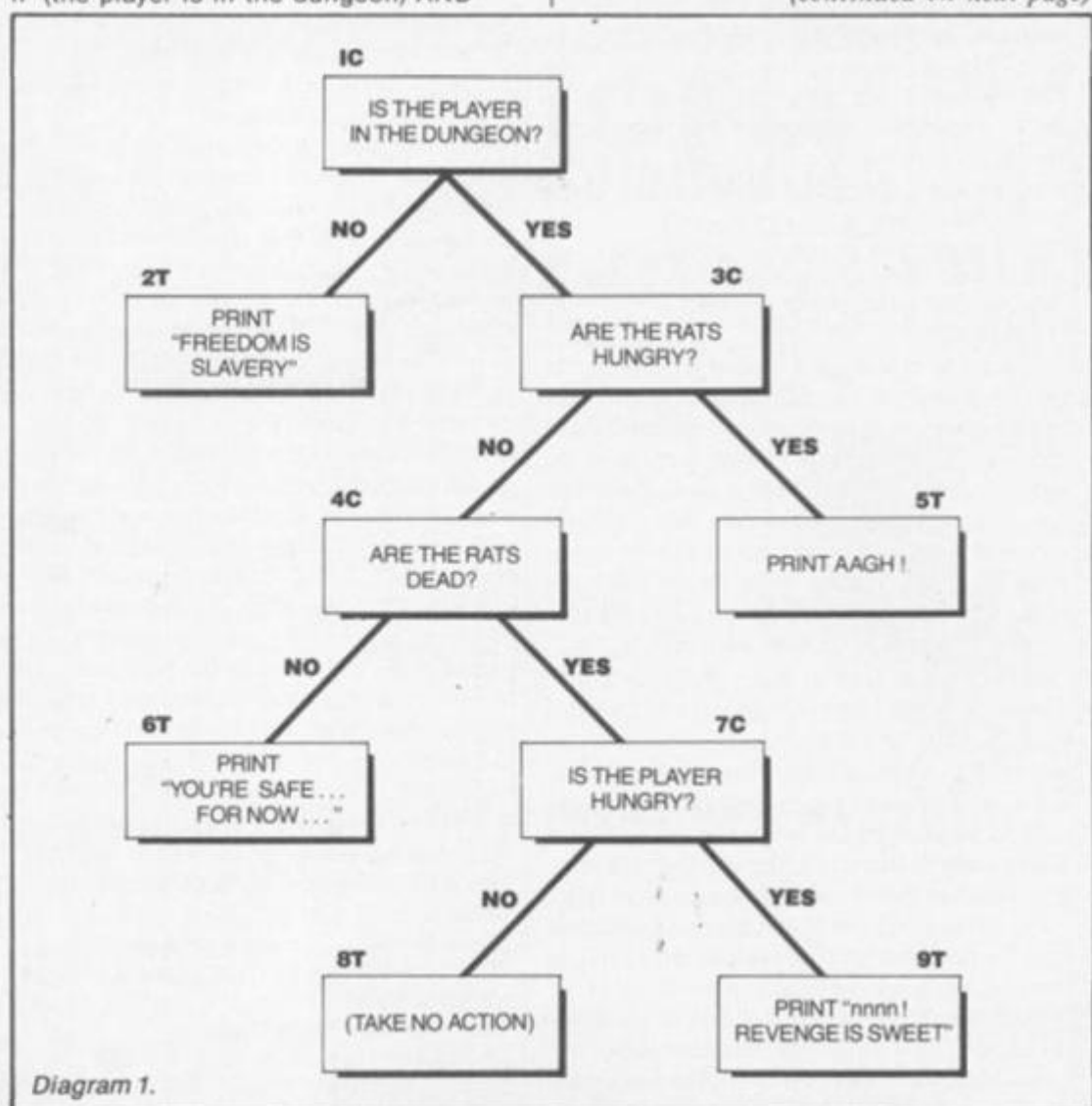
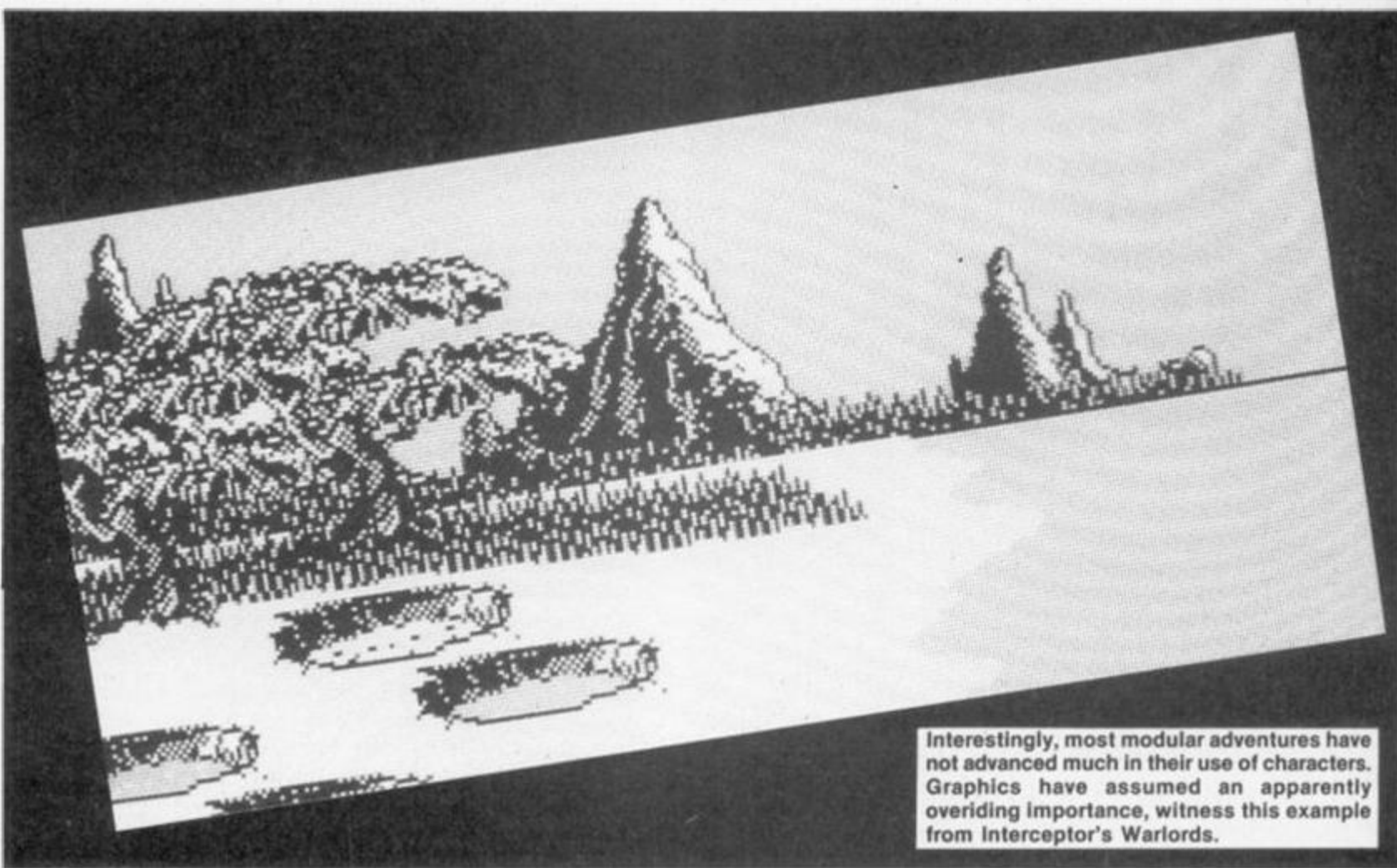


Diagram 1.



Interestingly, most modular adventures have not advanced much in their use of characters. Graphics have assumed an apparently overriding importance, witness this example from *Interceptor's Warlords*.

(continued from previous page)

choice nodes, which test a condition (such as "Is the player in the dungeon?") and terminal nodes, which do not test a condition and have no further branches leading from them. In this diagram, each node has been numbered and given a letter corresponding to its type — C for choice, and T for terminal. The conditions tested correspond to those in our If examples above, though you should be able to see that we have made a simple addition, which could be expressed as:

```
IF (the player is in the dungeon) AND
IF (the rats are not hungry) AND IF (the
rats are not dead) THEN PRINT
(You're safe . . . for now)
```

Instead of executing a load of If statements, we can enter a tree like this into a Basic program as a set of data, and then traverse it using a short routine. Traversing a tree means starting at the top and working our way down along the different branches until we arrive at the right terminal code, since when we arrive at one of these we know that we have reached the end of the decision process, and can take whatever action is indicated by that particular node.

Let's look at how a Basic program might traverse our rats-in-the-dungeon tree. In order to do this, all our Basic program needs to know is what type each node is — terminal or choice. If it's a choice node, the program will also need to know what condition is to be tested, and both which node to jump to if the condition is true, and which to jump to if the condition is false.

For the moment, we'll assume that our player is in the dungeon and the rats are alive but not hungry. Let's see what happens . . . Starting at node one, the program will first check to see if the node is a choice or terminal node. It's a choice node, so next we check the associated condition, and find that it is true.

The program looks up the data for node 1, result true, and finds that the new node to jump to is node 3. The process is repeated and the program jumps to the node associated with node 3, result false. Again the process is repeated for node 4, with the program ending up at node 6. This is a terminal node, so the program stops here and prints the message "You're safe . . . for now".

The tree we've just shown is very simple, but trees like this can develop into enormous baobabs of programming complexity, testing hundreds of different conditions, but still — remarkably — taking up very little Ram. The secret is in the way such a structure can be translated into a Basic program, and this is very easy. The first step is to store all the conditions to be tested in an array, so that we can refer to them by numbers.

So, for example, the condition "Is the player in the dungeon?", which like all conditions can evaluate either to zero (false) or non-zero (true), will have its value stored in conditionarray(1); the value of "Are the rats hungry?" will be stored in conditionarray(2), and so on.

All we need to do then is set up an array holding the information for each node. Let's suppose that this array is called the t array. For our example tree, we should Dimension it as follows:

```
DIM t(9,4)
```

The first subscript, 9, is the number of nodes. The second subscript, 4, is the number of different data items we need to store for each node — these are:

- (1) node type — choice (indicated by a 0) or terminal (indicated by a 1)
- (2) for a choice node, the number of the condition to be tested
- (3) for a choice node, the node to branch to if the condition is false
- (4) for a choice node, the node to

branch to if the condition is true. In the case of terminal nodes, elements 2 and 3 are set to zero, and element 4 holds a number used to select the relevant message from a data store.

As an example, then, the data for node one could be read into the t array from a Data statement as follows:

```
10 FOR n=1 to 4: READ t(1,n): NEXT
20 DATA 0,1,2,3
```

We could extend this to read data for each of the nine nodes into our array.

Now comes the magic — we can traverse the tree simply by setting a variable 'nodenumber' to one and then using the following routine:

```
IF t(nodenumber,1) = 1 THEN (exit tree
because we've reached a terminal
node) ELSE
nodenumber = t(nodenumber,t
(nodenumber,2) + 3): GOTO (beginning
of line and do again)
```

The first part of the routine simply checks to see if we've reached a terminal node and, if so, jumps out of the traversal process. All you really need to pay attention to is the second part, and the way in which the new node number is assigned to the variable nodenumber.

This is done by getting the relevant record for the current node, and selecting from the array the appropriate node number to branch to next by adding the value of the condition number held in t(n,2) to the number 3, giving us either t(n,3) (if the condition was false) or t(n,4) (if it was true). The routine simply calls itself repeatedly until it finds a terminal node and exits.

In next month's issue, we'll show this technique in action, and begin the process of bringing our characters to life.

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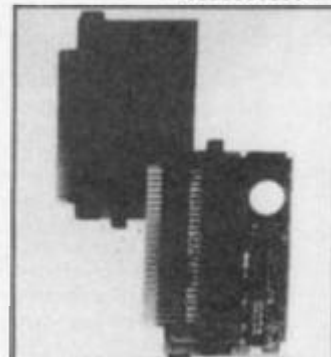
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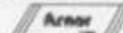
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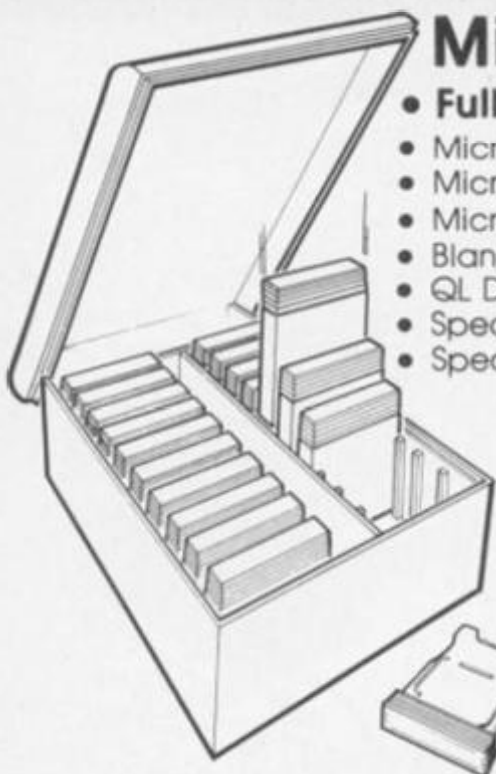
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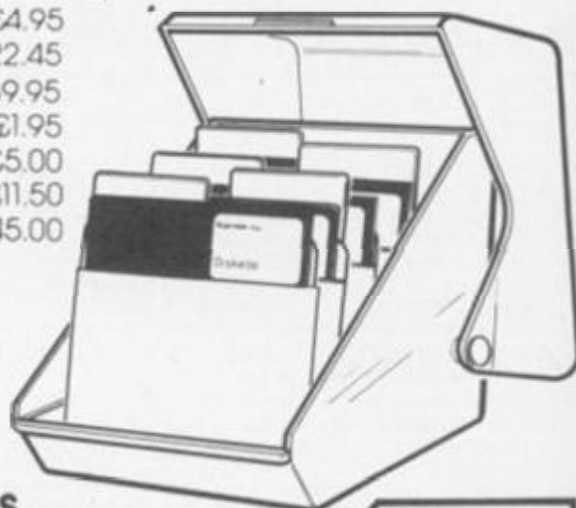


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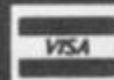
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The crystal ball

Windham Classics is the title of a new series of text and graphics adventures based on famous children's books. The series is being marketed on disc for Commodore 64 owners by W.H. Smith Distributors.

There are two types of game. Alice in Wonderland — reviewed this issue — and Below the Root — based on the Green-Sky trilogy — are mainly animated graphics with added text. The more traditional type of adventure can be found in Swiss Family Robinson where text plays a greater role.

Others planned for release include Treasure Island, Robin Hood and The Wizard of Oz. The Worm in Paradise, Level 9's sequel to Snowball and Return to Eden, should be with us any time now.

A helping hand

Dean Cooper of Dudley has found Scott Adams' Secret Mission — formerly Mission Impossible — a trifle tough.

Can't get the yellow key?
WODN IWHG UORH TRED
ROCE FWOR HT
Bomb going off?

WODN IWNE KORB YBEG
DABS RUET OBAS ESU
Still no joy?

SNOT TUBE TIHW NEHT
WOLL EYNE HTDE RHSU
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Where's the blue key?
POME HTEK AHS



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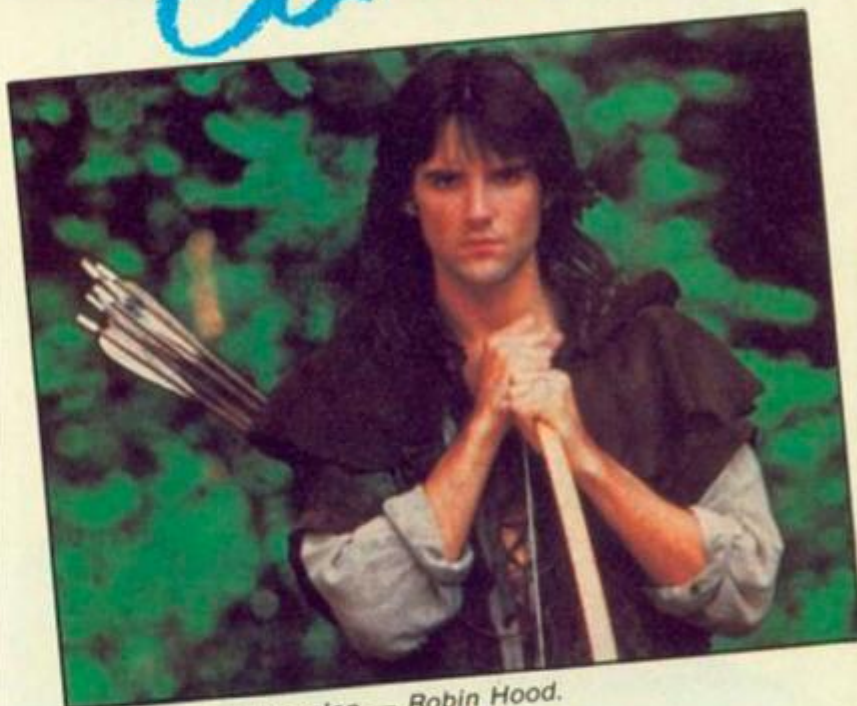
IN THE DAYS of the Lion spawned of Devil's Brood, the Hooded Man shall come to the forest. There he will meet Herne the Hunter, Lord of the Trees, and be his son and do his bidding. The powers of Light and Darkness shall be strong within him. And the guilty shall tremble.

Or, to use prose of a slightly less purple hue, Robin Hood and his merry men are up and about again and all set to duff up the baddies in this new text and graphics adventure.

If the mention of the aforesaid Hooded Man and Herne the Hunter twanged your memory's bowstring, that's probably because this adventure is based on the popular TV series and has been officially licensed from Goldcrest.

Mike Woodroffe has joined forces with programmer Brian Howarth and graphics supremo Teoman Irmak to produce an adventure that is both mentally challenging and visually stirring. If you're a BBC or Electron owner, you'll have to be content with a text-only version at the lower price of £7.95.

Like many of Adventure International's recent releases — Gremlins, Hulk, Spiderman, Sorcerer of Claymorque Castle, etc — Robin of Sherwood boasts superb graphics, the best you'll see in any adventure. The only others I've seen that come near to A.I.'s standard are those by Terry Greer of Interceptor but you don't



Riding through the glen — Robin Hood.

get many pics per adventure with theirs.

Subtitled Touchstones of Rhiannon, the adventure not only casts you as the bold Robin but also casts you straight into a dungeon at the start of the game. Although the opening parallels one of the TV scripts, you may find it a shade difficult to escape from this early predicament. Despair not — A.I. have thoughtfully given some coded clues on the packaging to get you out of the pit. Before you rush off to Sherwood Forest, you might care to explore the castle. The Lady Marion's in there somewhere and it might pay you to chat her up before you belt off.

Once in the Greenwood, you're sure to meet up with Herne the Hunter, he of the funny headgear. Hatrack-head will tell you that your quest is to find the six Touchstones of Rhiannon and return them home.

Sherwood Forest sure is a large place and you're likely to get lost quite quickly. Keep plugging away though and you'll be rewarded with a stunning animated picture of a waterfall. Elsewhere, you might be lucky enough to stumble across a bewitched John Little, Kirklees Abbey and a grange.

Robin of Sherwood is a visual treat coupled with a testing mission.

Alice in Wonderland

■ Commodore 64
■ Windham Classics
■ Disc £14.95

CURIOUSER AND curiouser! Windham have combined traditional interactive text with command menus, graphics, sound and elements of arcade action.

The result is a charming adventure, offering something for the whole family. The game is based on the Alice books with some new ideas and characters added. You guide an animated Alice through some 250 screens, meeting over 60 different characters.

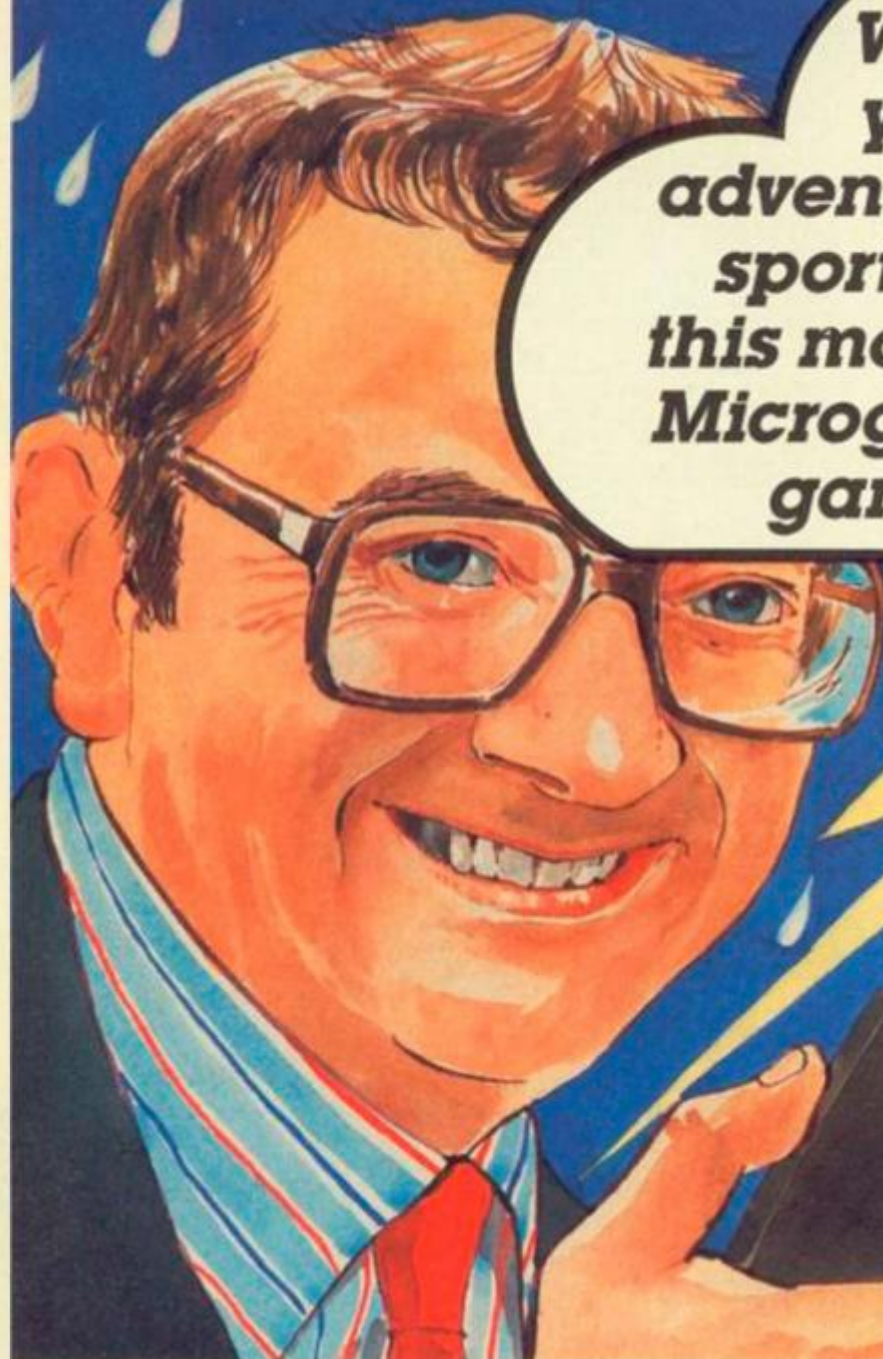
With the aid of a joystick, Alice can be made to walk, run, climb, crawl, stand, swim, and jump.

Part of the screen is reserved for entering commands and for receiving textual information. However, you don't have to type a thing — all input is done by means of option menus controlled by your joystick.

Most of the famous characters are there — all are animated — including the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Walrus — but no carpenter — and the White Rabbit.

Alice is a large, engaging and often humorous game. While it is undoubtedly aimed at younger children, many adults will enjoy this entertaining revisit to Wonderland.

**Weather
you like
adventure, intrigue,
sports or arcade,
this month's mystery
Microgamer has the
game for you!**



'High

"My two sun spots"

1. Souls of Darkon

by Taskset

Sorry about the summer – a wee bit disappointing I'm afraid, but here's something to cheer you up. A super game sizzling with excitement!

2. Scooby Doo

by Elite

This game is full of ghosties and ghoulies and mysterious happenings. Good old Scooby is back and so is my dear friend Mrs McUrioch. (Her name is almost as difficult as mine!)

*"Press the magic button
and the picture changes"*

GEOFF CAPES STRONG MAN

by Martech

Let's hear it for Geoff Capes. The World's strongest man. Did you know he is World Highland Games Champion too? Can you beat that? Well, with this game you can try. Six major challenges in all, and always a blue sky above so no chance of rain stopping play. Versions for most machines.

Cassette

£7.95 and £8.95

Disk

£14.95

ARNHEM

by CCS

1944 all over again, and what's this – a strong front advancing over Holland? Um, yes, of course it's the Allies attacking the Germans and they need your help. With bridges to capture and strategy to work out, it's as complicated as weather forecasting – but much more fun! (Sorry Michael).

Spectrum 48K

£8.95

Amstrad

£9.95



by Mirrosoft

What's faster than a hurricane and more devastating than a tornado? You've got it in one. Strike Force Harrier – the flight simulator that streaks through the skies like lightning. You are loaded with bombs to destroy the enemy – but watch out for the clouds of enemy fighters on the horizon.

BBC B and Electron

£9.95

MARSPORT

by Gargoyle Games

This large dome on your screens is a force sphere protecting the Earth from attack by Sept Warriors. It's a wee bit scary as the sphere is weakening and the strengthening plans are in an occupied town. All in all a gloomy outlook. Can you change that?

Spectrum 48K and Amstrad

£9.95

THORN EMI Computer Software

International Micro Software Division

"Look what my charts are showing"

HIGHWAY ENCOUNTER

by Vortex

Temperatures are rising fast. But it's not a heatwave, I'm afraid. The Aliens have landed. To save the globe from domination you have to activate the 5 Vortons and the deadly Lasertron. Dodging hailstorms of bullets you must boldly go forth to save the planet. (I think I'd rather stay at the Met office.)

Spectrum 48K and Amstrad **£7.95**

SCOOBY DOO

by Elite

The team of top sleuths is back. This lot could sniff out a sunbeam! Stunning graphics and super smooth action give this game a touch of class.

Spectrum 48K **£6.95**
Commodore 64 **£7.95**
Amstrad **£8.95**

WORLD CUP

by Arctic Computing

This league table reads MUCH better than my round the world temperature chart. But then top teams are involved, and you get the chance to pick the players and score the goals. Och, what could be fairer than that, ref?

Spectrum and C16 **£6.95**
Commodore 64 and Amstrad **£7.95**

ScreenShot

GRAPHICS PACK

by Dorling Kindersley
Are you interested in really good value? I am too, and this books plus software pack has loads of routines for

creating lovely graphics. There are over 200 sprite designs alone! Gosh, it's um well unbelievable - top class graphics, super fast speeds and hi-res results. Spectrum, Commodore 64 and Spectrum+ **£15.95**

Games for Autumn

COMPUTER HITS

by Beau Jolly

A summary chart of all that's the best in computer games. But on this chart not a depression in sight! Every one is guaranteed to keep you smiling rain or shine. There are sports, simulations, arcade and adventures. Oh, and yes, I almost forgot, a version for most machines.

10 games **£9.95**
6 games **£6.95**

GANDALF

by Tymac

Two great games now on Spectrum. Gandalf - a man after my own heart - throws thunderbolts from his fingertips.

FLYER FOX

by Tymac

It's not raindrops falling on your head but fireballs from a Mig fighter.

Spectrum 48K **Each game £7.95**

"Super plays for rainy days"

Souls of DARKON

by Taskset

Not for the faint of heart this one. You must venture beyond the sun and through the gof - oops sorry fog (no, not to Lanzarote) to Megron, where the trick is to free the people from the curse of Darkon. Oh dear, quite a challenge, but YOU can succeed.

Amstrad **£8.90**

Old Scores

by Global Software

Solving this is like finding a snowflake in July (or deciphering one of my maps). Private Investigators will love it, and if you have never been lost around London's South Bank, here's your chance. Solve the mystery, explore the theatres, and become famous!

Spectrum 48K **£6.95**
Amstrad and Commodore 64 **£7.95**

Graham Gooch's TEST CRICKET

by Audiogenic

A super game for all seasons. Complete with googlies, silly mid-offs, authentic scoreboards and starplayers - relive the highlights of summer!

Commodore 64 (Cassette) **£9.95**
Commodore 64 (Disk) **£11.95**

Paintbox

by Audiogenic

The graphics package which gives you much more than squiggly lines and cloud shapes. It has everything you need to produce high resolution pictures. Do you think the beeb would be interested?

Spectrum, Commodore 64 and 16 **£9.95**

The Secret DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE aged 13½

by Mosaic

It's no fun being me. What with the sun turning to snow overnight and always having to look on the bright side. Now if I was a budding intellectual and poet like Adrian all my problems could be turned into great fun. And maybe they'd make me into a game too. (Well, I can dream.)

Versions for most machines.
Cassette **£9.95**
Disk **£12.95**

"Games to bring you Winter cheer"

BLADE RUNNER

by CRL

Gosh, here's a chance to be a bounty hunter and save the world. Scattered showers of Replidroids have run amok. These human look-alikes have to be pinpointed, tracked down and 'retired' if the outlook is to be at all sunny.

Commodore 64 **£8.95**

Win



SPOT THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY MICROGAMER AND WIN A FANTASTIC PRIZE. TEN 2-PACK PROGRAM PRIZES MUST BE WON PLUS SINGLE GAME PRIZES FOR THE FIRST 100 RUNNERS UP.

If you think you know the answer, send this coupon to us, no later than 14 November 1985. The first ten correct entries will each receive SCOOBY DOO and SOULS OF DARKON. 100 runners up will each receive a super game for their machine type.

I say the Mystery Microgamer is:

Send me your latest full list of software programs.

Name _____

Machine _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ YC3

Send to: THORN EMI Computer Software Mystery Microgamer Competition
Thornson House, 296 Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7NU

Prizewinners
David Cook,
London
M Patel,
Manchester
Lee Gardner,
Norbury
Mike Davies,
Llandeilo
Sarah Tansley,
Uxbridge
Billy Marshall,
Leeds
William Clark,
Kingsthorpe
David Morris,
Weston Super Mare
Mary Dolan,
Preston
Amil K Seth,
Wantage



Last month's mystery Microgamer was Tracy Ullman. 10 prizes are on the way.

KEY CHOICES

Choosing electronic instruments can be as confusing to the newcomer from the world of computing as choosing a computer is for the musician.

MIDI-equipped instruments and accessories come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with price-tags from under £200 to £40,000 or more.

The first instrument you are likely to want is a synthesiser. Two years ago you would probably have had to spend at least £1,000 for a MIDI-equipped synth. Now you have a choice of models retailing at under £500.

Of these, probably the most attractive from the computer user's point of view is Casio's £345 CZ-101 synthesiser.

The CZ-101 is the smallest of a family of fully programmable digital synthesisers, but the sounds it produces are as powerful as those of synthesisers many times its price. The one noticeable compromise is that its keyboard is smaller than standard, but for £150 more you can get the electronically identical CZ-1000 with a full-size keyboard.

One particular attraction of the CZ-101 for the computer user is that it is "multitimbral". What this means is that in addition to its normal eight-note polyphonic operation (with each note producing a similar sound at a different pitch), it can also operate as four monophonic synthesisers, each with its own sound, responding to different MIDI channels.

Another synthesiser of interest to the computer user is Siel's £399 Expander 80. This is a synthesiser without a keyboard which can only be driven by MIDI signals.

Siel have also just introduced a range of keyboard instruments with preset voices, designed for connection to computers. The smallest of these, the £169 MK370 includes a non-standard interface to link it to the Commodore 64/128 computers. The more powerful £250 MK490 and £325 MK610 instruments also include RS-232 interfaces. Siel also markets a £26 RS-232-to-MIDI converter.

If your budget is big enough, you might look at the recently-introduced DX21 synthesiser from Yamaha. This is a £699 brother for the £1,299 DX-7 synthesiser.

Once you have a synthesiser, the next MIDI instrument on your shopping list will probably be a drum machine. Yamaha could help here as well with its £250 RX-21, a rhythmic companion for the DX-21. Although it has fewer drum sounds and facilities than most other drum machines it is also less than half the price.

Even if you play an instrument other than a keyboard, MIDI can still help you. For example, there are several devices for converting a guitarist's actions into MIDI signals although, at present, these cost well over £1,000.

More affordable is an ingenious Canadian development called the Pitchrider which analyses musical sounds such as those produced by the human voice or woodwind instruments and translates these into MIDI codes. This device, expected to retail for around £200, could open up the world of MIDI to musicians who have previously felt excluded because their instruments operate without an electrical supply.

IF — OR, IN the case of Spectrum owners, when — you tire of the music-making capabilities of your micro's internal sound system, don't despair. There are still two avenues you can explore with your micro to extend your musical horizons.

The first of these is to hook an external sound-making device onto your micro. The second is to use the computer's memory to store a digitised version of a real sound which can later be regurgitated in a more-or-less musical fashion. This is known as sampling.

The former option can be divided further into dedicated micro add-ons such as Acorn's Music 500, Siel's Sound Buggy and Commodore's Music Expander and the stand-alone music synthesisers and electronic percussion instruments, commonly known as drum machines, that are a vital ingredient in much of today's music.

The modern synthesiser or drum machine is essentially a computer dedicated to making musical sounds. All that is needed to allow your computer to converse with an electronic instrument is an interface and communication protocol. This exists in the form of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface — MIDI, for short.

MIDI emerged a few years ago when musical instrument manufacturers got together to draw up a standard way for their instruments to talk to one another. As we explained last year — *Your Computer*, September 1984 — MIDI is a serial link operating at 31.25kbaud — more than 60 per cent faster than the RS-232 — along which digitised information about the operations of electronic instruments is transmitted.

At its most basic level, this data defines which notes are being played, when they start and stop, and, sometimes, other factors such as the force with which they are struck and held down. These last two parameters — velocity and pressure sensitivity — can be used by some synthesisers to modify the sound produced thus giving the player more musical expression.

MIDI can also be used to transmit information about the parameter values used to define particular sounds or "voices".

MIDI information is transmitted on up to 16 software "channels" each controlling one or more instruments. This allows complex multi-part musical arrangements to be performed in real time.

Physically, MIDI manifests itself as two or more five-pin DIN sockets without which the modern electronic musical instrument would be incomplete. Separate MIDI In and Out sockets are used to transfer data to and from an instrument, and many instruments have a third, Thru, socket which passes the information fed into the In socket on to other instruments.

Most musicians probably either ignore the MIDI sockets or use them only to link one synthesiser with others. MIDI allows synths with differing or complementary voices to be linked together and played simultaneously from a single keyboard, thus providing a fuller, more interesting sound.

But MIDI also opens up exciting possibilities for linking electronic instruments with computers. Using a simple interface costing as little as £20 and suitable software, your computer can start to talk to synthesisers and drum machines. The resulting conversations

MAG MIDI



can be mind-blowing.

Already there are more than 20 MIDI packages on the UK market and the numbers are growing by the month. Software writers have so far concentrated on the Spectrum, BBC and particularly the Commodore 64 machines, but Amstrad and MSX owners will soon be able to experiment with MIDI when interfaces become available for their machines.

To date, most MIDI software packages have fallen into one of three categories; real-time recording; step-time recording; and voice editing and storage for specific synthesisers.

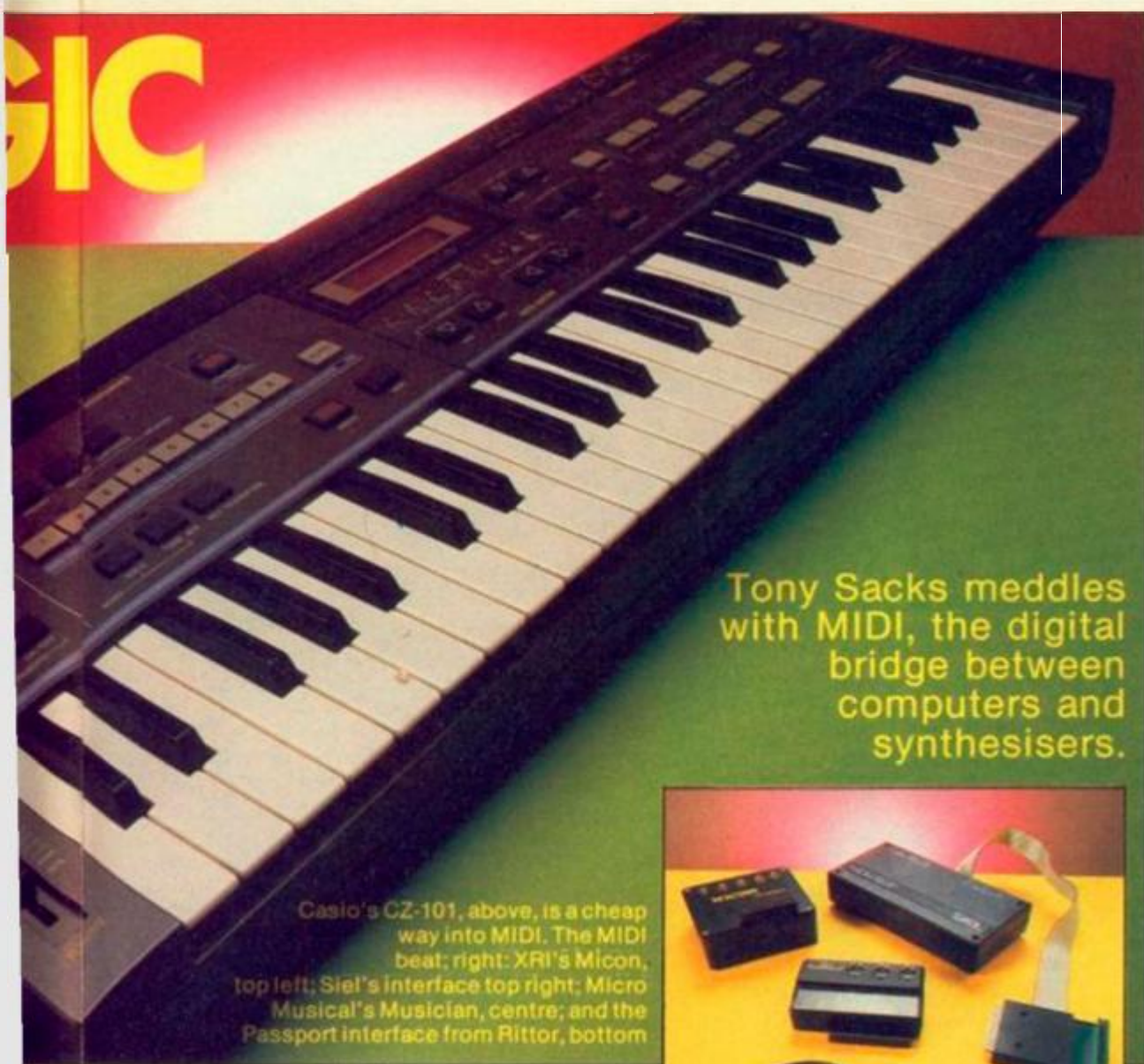
In all cases the hardware set-up is similar. A MIDI interface is plugged into the appropriate orifice of the micro and is, in turn, connected to a "master" electronic instrument by a pair of DIN leads, one for each direction of MIDI data flow.

In real-time recording, the micro is used to

MIDI Sophistication from Joreth.



GIC



Tony Sacks meddles with MIDI, the digital bridge between computers and synthesisers.

Casio's CZ-101, above, is a cheap way into MIDI. The MIDI beat; right: XRI's Micon, top left; Siel's Interface top right; Micro Musical's Musician, centre; and the Passport interface from Rittor, bottom



simulate the operations of a tape-recorder — usually multi-track — except that instead of audio signals, MIDI information is recorded.

As the instrument is played, it transmits a stream of MIDI data which can be stored on one "track" of the simulated recorder. This track can then be "played back", re-transmitting the MIDI signals to drive the same — or other — synthesisers while the musician records accompaniments on other tracks. Software packages with up to 16 such tracks are available.

Each track can be assigned to a different MIDI channel and can thus play separate parts on up to 16 instruments or groups of instruments simultaneously. Although it is dangerous to take the tape recorder analogy too far, it is worth remembering that a 16-channel tape machine could cost tens of thousands of pounds and still not offer all the editing facilities of a good MIDI real-time recorder.

For example, some real-time recorders offer a facility unique to MIDI, known as "auto-correct" or "quantisation". What this does is that if, after recording a track, a musician feels that the timing of some of the notes played was not quite right, the MIDI software can be used to shift all the offending notes automatically so that the timing becomes spot-on.

The second type of package, the step-time recorder, again stores MIDI information, but not in real time. In this case, information about the pitch and timing of each note is specified separately, either from the Qwerty or musical keyboard. A major attraction of the step-time package is that it allows the user to compose

and edit pieces that would normally be beyond their technical ability on the musical keyboard.

The third type of package is designed to make the programming of synthesisers sounds easier. On some synthesisers more than 100 parameters have to be specified when programming a sound.

To cut costs, synthesiser manufacturers often build just one multi-function variable control into an instrument. This is used in conjunction with a digital read-out to alter a single parameter at a time, a time-consuming and often confusing process.

However, if the parameter values are MIDI-encoded and sent to a computer running the appropriate software, almost all of the variables can be displayed simultaneously and graphically on the computer's screen, and adjusted using the computer's keyboard, making the programming process much easier. There are software packages designed to do this for several popular synthesisers.

A variation on this theme is to use the micro to build up a "library" of parameters defining various voices. A synthesiser's limited internal voice memory can usually only be expanded using expensive plug-in Ram packs. MIDI offers musicians the much cheaper option of storing their voice data on floppy discs or data

cassettes via a micro.

In addition to the three main program types, other micro applications for MIDI are emerging. The Italian Siel company, for example, has developed a digital delay program which takes in MIDI information and spews it out again after a predetermined period to produce echoes and similar effects.

A graphic example of the possibilities opened up by MIDI comes from Electromusic Research (EMR), the most prolific British producer of MIDI software and hardware. EMR's £24.95 Vu-Music package for the BBC interprets MIDI data visually in the form of a kaleidoscopic display on the computer screen.

Pressure of space does not allow us to examine individual MIDI packages but there are some general points to bear in mind when looking at MIDI packages for micros.

First there is a confusing bit of MIDI terminology. The capacity of most MIDI recorders is specified in "events" rather than "notes". In MIDI, switching a note on is one event, switching it off is another. So a recorder with a 24,000 event capacity will only record a maximum of 12,000 notes.

But, if you are also recording extra information such as velocity and pressure sensitivity, the note storage capacity is cut back further. More valuable memory is eaten up if you store information which will tell the synthesiser to change voices at certain points in a composition.

The design of any MIDI recorder program is thus a compromise between the amount of memory available for event storage and the facilities offered by the program. The screen displays tend, therefore, to be rather rudimentary compared to games software. Every byte counts.

Another point to watch for in multi-track recorders is whether there is a fixed amount of memory allocated to each track or whether the memory is divided according to the number of tracks being used and the number of notes in each.

You may have noticed that MIDI hardware and software tends to be rather more expensive than other home micro packages. This is partly because there is not yet a mass-market for MIDI packages, and partly because many existing buyers are professional musicians who are prepared to pay extra for what are, to them, tools of their trade.

This price structure is beginning to break down with the entry of companies like Island Logic and Commodore into the market. On the hardware front, for example, there is Commodore's £19.95 MIDI interface. Admittedly, it is more basic than other interfaces but it will meet the needs of most MIDI novices at less than a quarter of the cost of rival products.

There is still, however, a problem with software prices, Commodore's £14.95 Sound Studio and Island's £34.95 TMS represent extremely good value but offer only a few of the facilities included in the up-market MIDI packages.

A more annoying barrier to the wider use of MIDI with micros is that most of the MIDI software now on the market will only operate with a MIDI interface from the same supplier. The suppliers are, in effect, using the interfaces as dongles to deter would-be software pirates.

(continued on page 71)

AMSTRAD 48-95
ZX SPECTRUM 17-95
COMPTON 64 18-95

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of the game

The officially endorsed version
of the No.1 arcade game by

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Continuing the challenge
where 'Track and Field' left off.

Available
NOW

Imagine Software is available from: WHSMITH, WOOLWORTH, LASKYS, Rumbelows, Greens, Spectrum Shops and all good dealers.

(continued from page 69)

This leads to the absurd situation that if you like one supplier's real-time recorder but prefer another's step-time recorder you will have to buy two costly interfaces, performing almost identical functions, to run the two packages.

Some suppliers compound the problem by bundling the interface with an item of software which you may not need and selling separate programs which may interest you but which can only be used with the interface which is not available as a separate item.

A final word of advice if you are thinking of buying MIDI software. If at all possible, you should test the software with the synthesisers or drum machines you are planning to use. Trials with similar machines are not good enough because instrument manufacturers have a nasty habit of revising their MIDI firmware without telling anyone.

MIDI has its critics in the music industry. Some would have preferred a faster, parallel link to the serial format. Others feel that the DIN plug is not up to the job. But the present format was chosen because it offers a relatively simple and cheap way of linking instruments with each other and with micros.

Two recent developments in the micro world could help to spread the MIDI gospel. First, the trend towards 128K as the standard home micro Ram capacity could prove extremely important. It will boost event storage capacities and allow software writers to extend the facilities offered by their packages and to enhance screen displays.

But more significant is the arrival of the first general-purpose micro with a built-in MIDI interface, Atari's ST. Atari boss Jack Tramiel's decision to add \$10 or \$20 to the cost of the ST by including the MIDI interface shows how important he believes MIDI will become.

Next month we will look at the other method for expanding the micro's musical role — sampling.

ADDRESSES

Commodore Business Machines, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 1BR (0536-205252).

EMR (Electromusic Research), 14 Mount Close, Wickford, Essex SS11 8HG (0702-335747).

Hybrid Technology, Unit 3, Robert Davies Court, Nuffield Road, Cambridge CB4 1TP (0223-316910).

Joreth Music, PO Box 20, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 5EG (0386-831615).

LVL, Scientific House, Bridge Street, Sandicare, Nottingham NG10 5BA (0602-394000).

London Rock Shop, 26 Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 8AG (01-267 7851).

Micro Musical, 37 Wood Lane, Shilton, Coventry CV7 9LA (0203-616760).

Rittor Music Europe, 24 Broomgrove Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex (01-952 5302).

Rosetti, 138-140 Old Street, London EC1V 9BL (01-253 7294).

Sequential Circuits, PO Box 16, 3640 AA Mijdrecht, The Netherlands (02979-6211).

Siel (UK), Ahed Depot, Reigate Road, Hookwood, Horley, Surrey RH6 0AY (0293-776153/4)

XRI Systems, 10 Sunnybank Road, Wyde Green, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 5RE (021-382 6048).

MIDI MAGIC

Machine	Supplier	Package	Price	Interface	Comments
Spectrum	EMR	Performer	£39.95	£79.90	8-track polyphonic real-time recorder, 7,960 event capacity (with or without velocity), tracks can be merged.
	Micro Musical	MIDI Musician	£69.00	included	Monophonic step-time recorder, based on Romantic Robot's Music Typewriter (included), microdrive convertor.
	Siel	Live Sequencer	£21.30	£87.95	Simple 1-track polyphonic real-time recorder
	XRI Systems	Micon	£108.00	included	2 programs: 8-track monophonic step-time recorder, helpful stave display, up to 2,900 events/track; and simple 1-track polyphonic real-time recorder, auto-correct.
		Real-time Multitracker	£27.95	uses any interface	8-track real-time polyphonic recorder, 9,000 event capacity, over-dubbing.
BBC	EMR	Composer	£44.95	£79.90	6-track step-time recorder, 5,100 events, dynamic memory allocation, joystick option. 8-track polyphonic real-time recorder, capacity up to 7,960 events, track merging, auto correct. Extra editing facilities for Performer, links it with Composer allowing data transfer. Provides graphics display modulated by MIDI data, choice of type of music to be depicted. MIDI hardware module for use with Music 500 system or independently, requires £35 Nucleus ROM.
		Performer	£49.95		
		Editor	£34.95		
		Vu-Music I	£24.95		
	Hybrid Technology	Music 600	—	£129.00	MIDI hardware module for use with Music 500 system or independently, requires £35 Nucleus ROM.
	LVL	—	—	£ 39.95	Interface for use with LVL's keyboard and music ROM.
London Rock Shop	UMI-2B	£495.00	included	ROM-based 16-track polyphonic real-time and step-time recorder, auto-correct, voice storage for DX7 synth.	
Siel	Multitrack Composer	£36.95	£99.00	6-track monophonic step-time recorder.	
CBM-64 /128	Commodore	—	—	£19.95	Simple MIDI interface for use with Commodore packages including Music Studio, Music Expander and Sampler.
	EMR	Performer	£49.95	£79.90	8-track polyphonic real-time recorder, 18,000 event capacity, auto correct, track merge.
	Joreth	Music Composer System	£250.00	included	8-track step-time and real-time recorder, music composition language, auto-correct, score display.
	Rittor	Passport MIDI/4 +	£79.99	£109.99	4-track polyphonic real-time recorder, 12,000 event capacity, dynamic memory assignment, auto-correct.
		Passport MIDI/8 +	£119.99		8-track polyphonic real-time recorder, 12,000 event capacity, dynamic memory assignment, auto-correct, impressive demo pieces.
		Passport MIDI player	£64.99		stores music created on MIDI4+, real-time graphic display during playback.
	Rosetti	Scorewriter	£340.00	£90.00	ROM-based 12-track real-time recorder, produces detailed score print-out of real-time playing.
		12-track recording studio	£99.95		12-track real-time recorder, 7,600 event capacity, auto-correct, track merge.
	Siel	Multitrack Composer	£36.95	£87.95	6-track monophonic step-time recorder.
		16-track sequencer	£67.25		16-track real-time polyphonic recorder, 9,000 event capacity, provides delays of 5-200ms between MIDI In and Out signals, up to 14 "echoes" possible.
Digital Echo Delay		£54.35	6-track polyphonic real-time recorder, 8,000 events, auto-correct.		
Sequential	Sequential 964	£74.95	£99.00		
MSX	JVC	—	—	£TBA	Software similar to EMR's Performer 8-track real-time recorder (see above).
Amstrad	EMR	—	—	£79.90	Interface supplied with Introduction to MIDI program on cassette.

Richard Taylor improves the Spectrum's sound

THIS PROGRAM adds a further four commands designed to enhance its musical and sound capabilities to Spectrum Basic. They start where Beep left off, providing a Play instruction which allows tunes to be played by just specifying the notes rather than having to labouriously convert them into the numerical form required by Beep. Secondly, the program facilitates the use of tone envelopes whereby the pitch of a sound varies with time to produce the laser sounds and zaps that are all too popular in commercial games. Random "noise" can also be produced and, when used in conjunction with envelopes, can be made to create some convincing effects.

The program occupies about the top 2.5K of memory just below the UDG graphics area. When run the program lowers Ramtop and proceeds to poke the machine code into memory. After a couple of minutes the computer should respond with a message informing you that the data was OK. At that point the machine code can be saved to cassette or Microdrive etc. If, however, you are presented with a message informing you of a data error in a certain line then its necessary to go back to that line and check it against the original, correcting any mistakes as you go, and re-run the program. This process should be repeated until you get the data OK message.

The machine code can be saved to tape using:
SAVE "SOUND EXT"CODE 62683,1885

Remember to VERIFY!

To reload use:

CLEAR 62682: LOAD ""CODE

The new commands are used in a similar fashion to those which are standard except that the commands have to be typed out in full — in either upper or lower case — there's no lazy single key entry system. However, before any of the commands will be accepted by the Spectrum the machine code must be initialised with:

RANDOMIZEUSR 62683

This instruction completely resets the program and introduces the new commands to the Spectrum so that when Basic comes across them they'll be accepted without any quibbles. Because of the somewhat obscure manner in which it operates, any errors reported by Interface 1 disconnect the sound commands so that they are no longer part of Basic's vocabulary. To reinitialise use:

RANDOMIZEUSR 62686

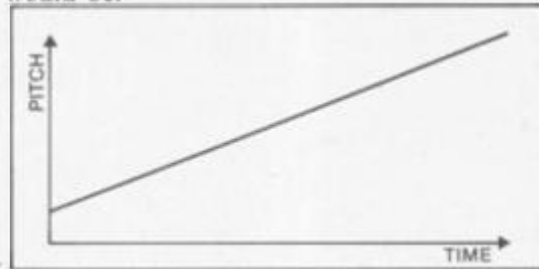
The most mundane of the new instructions

is *Sound. In its simplest form it can be used as a substitute for Beep. In an analogous manner to Beep the command needs two arguments, the first being the length of the sound (in units of 1/100 of a second — so 300 means three seconds) and the next argument is the pitch of the sound. The pitch is described in a completely different way to that expected by Beep — the smaller the number the higher the pitch! The best way to produce a certain tone is by experimentation — there's no easy method of getting a pitch number for a specific frequency. If the pitch of a sound is made negative then noise is produced with a pitch of very approximately what it would have been if it wasn't negative e.g.

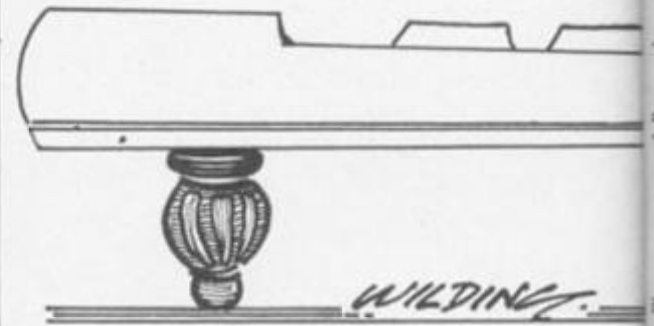
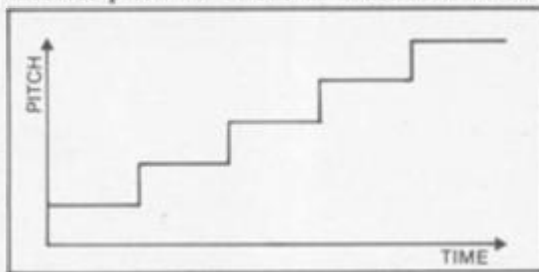
*SOUND 200, - 300

produces noise for two seconds. In fact the sound may not last exactly two seconds, when generating noise the duration you specify is only followed approximately — the sound may last much longer. If this is a problem then you'll have to compensate for it when defining sound lengths.

The *Env command is used to define the envelopes I mentioned. The definition of an envelope describes how the pitch of a sound varies from its initial value as time progresses. These tone changes give rise to the laser/zap effects which were previously unobtainable from Basic without enlisting the help of machine-code routines. A helpful aid in producing envelopes is to illustrate its effect graphically with the aid of a graph. For instance, the graphical form of a steadily increasing note would be:



Notice how the graph shows the pitch undergoing a continuous, smooth change from the initial to the final pitch value. In reality the computer cannot manage this but has to break the change down into a number of small, discrete pitch variations as illustrated below:



You decide how long each individual step will last and by how much the pitch then "jumps" at the culmination of each of the steps.

Say you wanted to create an envelope similar to the one above, we have to specify three quantities, namely the total number of steps, the size of pitch variation after each of them and the length of each step. From these values the following can be calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total pitch change} &= \\ &= \text{number of steps} \times \text{size of step} \\ \text{Total length of env} &= \\ &= \text{number of steps} \times \text{length of step} \end{aligned}$$

Consider that the envelope is to last a total of one second and produce an increase in pitch of 100 units. Because of the weird way in which the pitch is measured an increase is represented by a decreasing pitch number — *Env uses the same method of pitch representation as *Sound. If we wanted to have a total of five steps in the effect then each would have a length of 1/5th second and a step of -20. To define the envelope:

*ENV 0.5, - 20,20

is used. The first expression after the command is the number of the envelope, in this case 0. Up to 16 completely independent envelopes can be stored in the Spectrum's memory at one time, each one being specified by a number between 0 and 15. The second expression is the number of steps, the third the pitch variation per step and, finally, the 20 is the step length in 1/100th's of a second. Since each step lasts a comparatively lengthy 1/5th second its quite easy to hear the individual steps composing the envelope. To hear the envelope type:

*SOUND - 1,250,0

Notice how a third argument has been tagged onto the end of *Sound to specify the envelope to be used. The length of the sound is given as -1. This means that the envelope should be played only once. Similarly if it was -2 then the envelope would be repeated twice. Try

```
110 REM BASIC SOUND EXTENSION
20 REM By Richard Taylor
30 REM 48K Version
40 REM
50 CLEAR 62682: LET a=62683
60 FOR l=0 TO 29
70 LET t=0: READ v,a#
80 FOR c=1 TO LEN a# STEP 2
90 LET x=CODE a#(c)-48-7*(a#(c)
)>="A")
100 LET y=CODE a#(c+1)-48-7*(a#
(c+1))>="A")
110 POKE a.16*x+y
120 LET t=t+PEEK a
130 LET a=a+1: NEXT c
140 IF v<t THEN PRINT "ERROR 1
n line":8000+1*10: STOP
150 NEXT l
160 PRINT "Data OK - Now save m
achine code to tape."
170 STOP
```

```
8000 DATA 7192,"CDE8F42A3D5C11FD
F4732372C92138FCAF06101121007719
10FC130608771910FC93A3A5CFE0BCA
6CF676FDCB01AEFDCB304EC4CD0E3A3A
5C3CF5210000FD75"
8010 DATA 6300,"37FD7526220B5C21
010022165CCDB016FDCB37AECDE0DFD
CB02EEF147FE0A3002C607CDEF153E20
D778119113CD0A0CAF113615CD0A0CED
4B455CCD1B1A3E3A"
8020 DATA 5904,"D7FD4E000600CD1B
1ACD97103A3A5C3C20DFE092004FE15
2003FD340001030011705C21445CFDCB
0A7E200109EDB8FD360AFFDCB019E10
0AFD363102CD9517"
8030 DATA 6891,"CDB016AFCD0116CD
2C0FCD171BFD0B07E20143A3A5CFE0B
CA6CF62A59CCDA711FD3600FF18DC2A
595C225D5CCDFB1978B1200DFD360000
CD5D15FD3600FF10"
8040 DATA 9115,"C9DFFE0D20B3FDCB
```

```
3046C4AF0DCD6E0D3E19FD964F320C5C
FDCB01FEFD3600FFFD36001CD8A1BC3
FDF4736F756EE4E2F9706C61F9BEF765
6EF693F665666665"
8050 DATA 6655,"63F41DF7001105F6
DF1AE67F4F7E23FE0D2006FE2030F6F6
20B9200E1A131730E0225D5CEB5E2356
EBE91A131730FB13131AA7203ED7B3D
5CE12A5D5C225F5C"
8060 DATA 7619,"CDC516FD36000BFD
CB017EC205F5C306F521FDF4CD302520
0321A0F5E521761BE5FD3600FFFD3606
002A5D5C2B7FE2038FAFE2A20BF100D
CB021CCD30252013"
8070 DATA 8063,"CD941EFE10D29F1E
CD11F71138FC19E5360023AFF5E5DFFE
2C2057CD791CDFFE2C2002CF00CB11C
E1CD30252037E5CD941EE1E523232A7
CA9F1E77CDA22DDA"
8080 DATA 6709,"9F1E00CB78C29F1E
002007792F4F782F4703E1E523712370
```

```
CD941EE1A7CA9F1E7723232323F13CFE
0030A9CD3025CBE177C9E1F110F56F26
005D542929292929"
8090 DATA 8384,"19C9CD021CCD3025
2010CD941EFE00D29F18CD11F7191148
FE19E5DFFE2CC2BEF6CD011CCD3025E1
200FE53600CD941EE1A7CA9F1E7723E5
23AFF5E5DFFE2CC2"
8100 DATA 7829,"0DF7CD791CDFFE2C
C2BEF6CD011CE1CD30252046E5CDD52D
DA40F92004FE1030023EFFF1E577CDA2
2DDA9F1E00CB78C29F1E002007792F4F
78294703E1E52323"
8110 DATA 7600,"712370CDD52DDA9F
1EF5CB7FC29F1EF12002ED44E1237723
2323F13CFE00309AC306F7CD0C1CCD30
25C0CDF12B70B12002CF000ED432EFC
ED5330FC21140022"
8120 DATA 7775,"32FC3E033236FCFAF
3237FCD4CF0211EF0CD0D2C3002F620
4F7EA720D4B9201E235E23562A2EFC2E5
```




BASIC SOUND EXTENSION

*SOUND - 5,250,0

The pitch value given in *Sound is the initial pitch which is decreased down to 150 by the envelope. If an envelope is being repeated then the pitch commences from its initial value at the start of every recital of the envelope. There is nothing to stop noise being enveloped in a similar fashion, try:

*SOUND - 5, - 250,0

Note that when using enveloped noise the pitch is varied as though the negative sign in front of it didn't exist (although noise is produced), otherwise decreasing -250 by 100 would produce -350 instead of -150 which is what we're after. Enveloped noise is the basis of many of the sound effects to be found in games, especially those of the "space-war" genre. In order to produce a much smoother envelope the step length has to be drastically reduced. Redefine envelope 0 with:

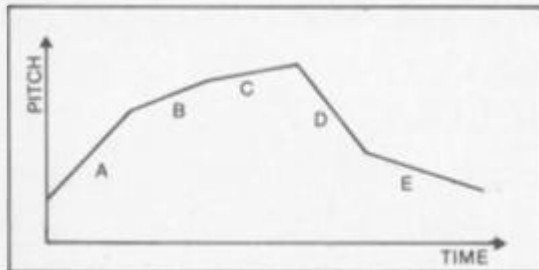
*ENV 0,100, - 2,1

If you try

*SOUND - 8,250,0

a greatly improved effect will be heard.

So far the envelopes that have been utilised are relatively simple in that they consist of only a single type of pitch change. In reality we may wish to use more complex envelopes such as:



The envelopes can be subdivided into five discernable different sections, A-E. We could define a separate envelope for each of A-E and play them together using a string of *Sound commands. This method, as well as being

unelegant and cumbersome, is further complicated because we need to calculate the value envelope A, say, leaves the pitch at when it terminates so that we know what to use as the starting pitch for envelope B. Thankfully the *Env command allows an envelope to be composed of up to eight individual sections. We could define the above envelope as follow:

*ENV 1,20, - 4,2,20, - 1,2,10, - 1,4,20,4,2, 20,2,2

Each of the five sections are 2/5th second in length, making the whole thing two seconds in duration. Try:

*SOUND - 1,300,1

As you can hear such an envelope provides a much more complex sound.

The Beep instruction was designed for playing music rather than making explosion sounds etc. However, life still isn't easy if you're converting music since all the note values have to be converted into the relevant numbers required by the somewhat awkward Beep. The *Play command enables music to be converted without the need for any number crunching. It has a string argument which is used to contain the notes you wish to play and other associated information. Any letter from A to G found is the string played as that particular musical note - so:

*PLAY "abcdefg"

plays all the seven notes available. Of course it would be extremely limiting if you only had seven notes to play with so there is a facility to change octave.

Although the program supports eight octaves

those at the extreme levels of pitch are of little use for musical purposes. In fact the upper few notes in the top octave will produce an error if you try to play them for the simple reason that the computer can't manage to produce such a high pitched sound. To change octave an O is simply put in the string followed by the new octave number - 1 to 8. all subsequent notes in that string are then played in the new octave. At the start of every new *Play the octave is reset to 3. To further increase the quantity of notes available sharps are also supported. A sharp note has a pitch slightly above - one semitone in fact; whatever that is - its ordinary value. To play a sharp note simply suffix the note with a hash character (#)

*PLAY "c#"

gives C sharp.

```
10 FOR a = 1 TO 7
20 *PLAY "o" + STR$ a + "cc# dd# eff#
   gg# aa# b"
30 NEXT a
```

This short program demonstrates the full scope of the notes available in the lower seven octaves. The O "directive" - or any other directive that needs an argument, you'll meet some more in a moment - must be followed by a number, no variables or expressions are allowed. You can, however, circumvent this difficulty by using STR\$ to construct the numerical part of the string - as in the above program - out of an expression, variable or whatever.

You can play noise instead of plain notes by
(continued on page 74)

```
EB0D18F83A2FFC3CE1C87CB5C8CD541F
D27B1B18CEE92323"
8130 DATA 8977, "2318D63A54F83B54
F86142F96242F96342F96442F96542F9
6642F96742F9799BAF86EAAF86F9AF86C
D0F87089F8782CFA82A38FC7E0D68F8
D02A30FC232230FC"
8140 DATA 9056, "ED4B2EFC78B1CACC
F70BED432EFC18E4FE21D0FE10D8FE18
3FD823ED4B2EFC78B1CACC70BED432E
FC2230FC37C9CD00F947A7C82142052B
7CB520FB10FC9C9D"
8150 DATA 9058, "00F9A7CA6C04FE09
D26C043236FC9CD00F9FE02D26C0421
37FCB886B677C9CD00F9FE11307FFE10
20023EFF322DFC2137FCB886B677C9CD
E52A2EFC85CD54F8"
8160 DATA 9069, "C1E1FE2D28072230
FCED432EFC9CD00F9A728516F2600F1
FE2D20057DED446F252232FCC9CD54F8
CD1B2DDACCF7210000CD1B2D38292938
```

```
2C5D542938272938"
8170 DATA 7190, "24193821D63005F16
00193819E52A2EFC7CB52006CD54F8E1
18D72B222EFC17CA720027DC9CF0AD6
633002C60787F52A32FC2234FC2A2EFC
7CB5203CCD54F8FE"
8180 DATA 7529, "232000F13CF52A2E
FC7CB52025CD54F8FE2E20242A34FC0B
7CC2CFC775054CB2CCB1D192234FC2A2E
FC7CB52005CD54F8180621FFFF222EFC
F1076F26001100FC"
8190 DATA 6722, "195E2356EBCD6433
2A655C11FBFF193A36FC06038677EF34
8043559F8001053435710338C0991EED
5B34FC2137FC3EFFCB4E20033A2DFCCB
46200900792F4F78"
8200 DATA 7277, "2F470300C365FACD
7A1CDFFE2C2011CD811CCD3025C8CD94
1E1E18029F1E1806CD3025C83EFFF5CD
A22DDA9F1E00CB78C29F1E002007792F
4F782F4703C5CD05"
```

```
8210 DATA 7314, "2D5F1600DA6CB8428
04ED445F15C1F118B3CD00F9FE08D240
F9CD11F7191148FE197EA7C84723C5E5
4623C5E54E235ECCB039FCB005779234E
2346CD65FAE12323"
8220 DATA 7511, "2323C110E5E1C118
DDC9DD2137FCDDCB00BEDDCB00B66FCB
7A280BDDCB00FE7A2F577B2F5F13CB78
200BDDCB00F6792F4F782F47037DDA6
00173002CF09CB7D"
8230 DATA 8090, "2039D5C57DCD11F7
1138FC197EA723E5DDE1E1D12025473A
37FC173E0130017BF5C505E521000022
2BFCE1E5DDE5CDDAFADDE1E1D1C1F13D
20E6C969601874ED"
8240 DATA 7652, "5329FC05DD4600DD
5E01DD5602DD4E03C5D5E5591600CD4E
FBCD541FD27B1BE1D1D5CB7A20031918
0A7A2F577B2F5F13B7ED52DA40F91130
75ED5219D240F9D1"
8250 DATA 8423, "C1D53A37FC17381D
```

```
E52A2BFC78060009473004E1E1E1C9ED
5B29FCB7ED521938F2222BFCED1D118A8
C1D5118400DD19D11091C97CB5C87A83
C8DDE5CDB8FB3A37"
8260 DATA 7807, "FCCB772006CDB503
DDE1C9F33A485CE6380F0FF6804FD5
DDE1C93CC1DCB3CCB1DCB3CCB1DE5E0
5FCB77CB75F1600200ACB2319300E21
FFFF1809CB23ED52"
8270 DATA 6992, "300321000023132B
7CB520FAE179EE184FD3FECB6720CPDD
7CDB5DD2B20C7FB0DE1C9E5E5424B21
17110B78B1032817EBDD2E102100007C
290FCB11CB103003"
8280 DATA 5837, "19CE00DD2D20F14D
44DD2E18E1111E0019EB21000037CB11
CB1017ED6AED52300119DD2D20F0CB11
CB10792F5F782F57E1C96E0473047804
7D04820482048704"
8290 DATA 1100, "8C04910496049804
A004A504A50400000000000000000000
0000000000"
```

(continued from page 73)

utilising the n directive, n0 turns noise off while n1 switches it on. To hear the effect try the above program with n1 preceding the 0 in the string.

The pause (p) directive enables a silent gap, equivalent to a musical "rest" to be placed in a tune. The number following p is the length of the pause measured in 1/100ths of a second. The pause can be up to 2.55 seconds.

It is possible to modify the duration of each note using the L directive. The L is succeeded by a number between 1-255 representing the new length, in 1/100ths of a second, of each note. At the start of each new *Play command the note length is reset to 0.2 seconds. Dotted notes are also supported by the program. A dotted note is played for 1.5 times longer than an ordinary note. To make a dotted note simply put a full stop after the letter in much the same way as you would with a #.

*PLAY "L100c#."

plays c# for 1.5 seconds. If you require a dotted sharp note then the full stop should come after the #.

To add a little more interest to a tune it is possible to use an envelope. So far all the notes have kept the same tone value throughout their duration, like the sound produced by Beep. To turn envelopes on a Y directive is used. The number following the Y is the envelope you wish to use, or 16 to turn envelopes off. All subsequent notes are played using that envelope. By experimenting with a number of different envelope effects it is often possible to enhance the sound of a tune considerably from



its flat, unenveloped beginnings.

To summarise these are the directives available in a *Play string — actually, there is still one to come — I'll mention that one soon.

- A-G = The notes.
- # = If placed after a note will make it a sharp.
- . = If placed after a note will play it 1.5 times longer.
- On = Lets you play subsequent notes in octave n.
- Pn = Pauses for n 1/100ths of a second.
- Nn = If n = 0 then noise is turned off. If n = 1 then its switched on.
- Ln = Makes the duration of subsequent notes n 1/100ths of a second.
- Yn = Makes following notes to be played in envelope n (or normal if n = 16).

If a certain sequence of sound commands are always used together then they can be made into a single unit called an effect. An effect is a

construction of up to eight separate "sounds" strung together. Like envelopes, effects can be defined and stored in the Spectrum's memory for later, and repeated, use. You can have up to eight effects defined at any one time.

*EFFECT 0,1,100,200,16,100,150,16

This effect is equivalent to

*SOUND 100,200:*SOUND 100,150

The first value in an *Effect is the effect (0-7) and the next is the number of times the whole effect is to be repeated when used. Every block of three expressions from there onwards represents one of the maximum eight individual sounds that compose the effect. They are given in the same format as that expected by *Sound, i.e. length, pitch and then envelope number.

In an effect sequence it is mandatory to specify an envelope number, it cannot simply be left off. If no envelope is required then "16" should be specified. The only way to play an effect is by using the *Play command. An X directive, followed by an effect number, will sound the appropriate effect.

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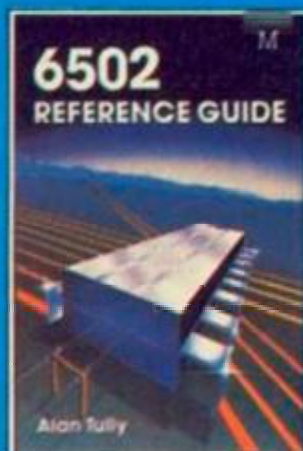
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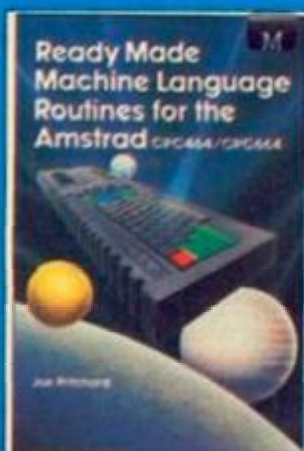
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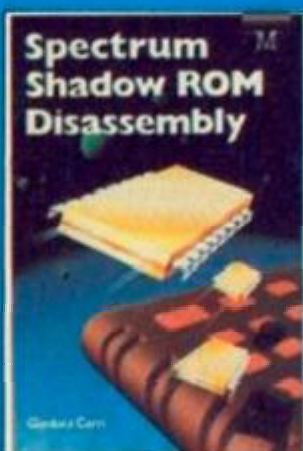
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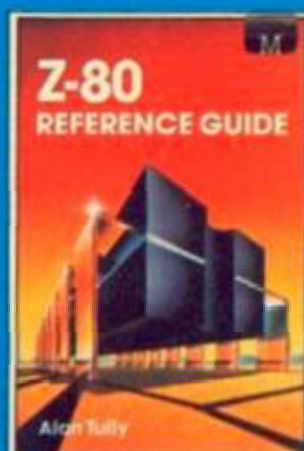
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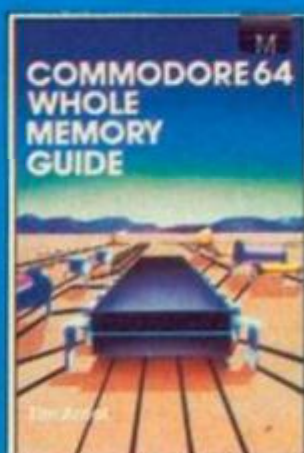
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Listing 1.

```
10 N=100 P=49152:GOSUB 50
20 N=N-57 P=P+12250:GOSUB 50:END
30 PRINT "PLEASE WAIT (1)"
40 Z=48 X=L:Y=7:Y=Y+1
50 READ Z:IF Z="M" THEN RETURN
60 PRINT "Z:"TAB(14) Z:PRINT "X:"TAB(14) X
70 GOSUB 100:PRINT "Y:"TAB(14) Y:PRINT "S:"TAB(14) S
80 PRINT "M:"TAB(14) M:PRINT "R:"TAB(14) R
90 GOSUB 100:PRINT "Z:"TAB(14) Z:PRINT "X:"TAB(14) X:PRINT "Y:"TAB(14) Y:PRINT "S:"TAB(14) S:PRINT "M:"TAB(14) M:PRINT "R:"TAB(14) R
100 GOSUB 100:PRINT "Z:"TAB(14) Z:PRINT "X:"TAB(14) X:PRINT "Y:"TAB(14) Y:PRINT "S:"TAB(14) S:PRINT "M:"TAB(14) M:PRINT "R:"TAB(14) R
110 IF C=C THEN PRINT "YOU FOUND DATA CR"
120 IN LINE "PEEK(63)+256*PEEK(64)"
130 END
140 GOTO 1
150 H=N-X:GOTO 1
160 H=ASC(X)-2:W=ASC(RIGHT(X,H))-2:LN=(H+1)*W+(H+1)*W
170 RETURN
180 DATA 4C5F5CAAD1590C90FF054C
190 DATA 1204C33004A93390F20A
210 DATA 1204C1104401104C3300F3
220 DATA 2002C9939001004C9F0A
230 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
240 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
250 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
260 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
270 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
280 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
290 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
300 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
310 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
320 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
330 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
340 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
350 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
360 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
370 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
380 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
390 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
400 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
410 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
420 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
430 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
440 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
450 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
460 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
470 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
480 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
490 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
500 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
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600 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
610 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
620 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
630 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
640 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
650 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
660 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
670 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
680 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
690 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
700 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
710 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
720 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
730 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
740 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
750 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
760 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
770 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
780 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
790 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
800 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
810 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
820 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
830 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
840 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
850 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
860 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
870 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
880 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
890 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
900 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
910 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
920 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
930 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
940 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
950 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
960 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
970 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
980 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
990 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
1000 DATA 0300A90F80100040000110
```

TOWER OF ANTICS

WELCOME TO the Tower of the Antics. Here is a fast and smooth arcade-style game, written in machine-code, for the Commodore 64. It utilizes multicoloured sprite graphics, and the smooth action is due to the raster interrupt which displays the sprites 50 times a second, so no flicker.

You are Willy and you find yourself at the bottom of a tall, dark tower — the Tower of the Antics — named after the strange assortment of creatures which inhabit its depths. Regardless of how you got there, you decide to make your way to the top in search of an exit. However, your route is blocked by moving holes in the platforms which speed up after the sixth level, and the Antics themselves, who multiply, the higher you go. Don't get too disheartened, Willy is quite an agile little man, and can jump over the Antics and the holes with a bit of practice.

On your journey to the top, you will meet an assortment of weird and wonderful creatures. The green Wirly Birrd is the most dangerous, as it flies all over the screen in order to catch you. All the others — Trumbles — furry creatures with big ears, snakes, mutant chinese teapots and strange, blue, dog-like creatures — Mugdags — move along the platforms,

occasionally jumping through the moving holes to get you. Each Antic has its own peculiar way of moving — e.g. the teapot waves its lid up and down, and waggles its spout.

Reach for the top

To reach the top of each screen you must guide Willy out of the lift at the bottom of the screen, and into the lift at the top of the screen. If an Antic catches you, you will be thrown to the bottom of the screen and you will lose one life, of which you have three. If you fall through a hole, you will be dazed for a couple of seconds, allowing the Antics to get closer.

Meanwhile, your oxygen supply is running out and, when it runs out, Willy will die three deaths all at once. He will, though, collect a bonus on completion of each screen which depends on the amount of oxygen Willy has left, and the number of screens so far

completed. There are three transporters on each side of the screen which Willy can use to take him to the other side. When the Antics reach the bottom of the screen, they go up the elevator on the right of each screen to attack you again.

There is a Top 10 high score table to record the best scores. 120,000 is a good score. To see the table press f7 after start until it comes up automatically.

Now to the process of typing the game in. There are two programs. The first includes all the sprite and machine-code data, as well as a check routine. Both programs should be typed in and saved. From now on, every time you want to load the first program, and following must be entered directly after switching on: POKE 64,64:POKE 44,64:POKE 46,120: POKE 48,120:POKE 16384,0

This raises the bottom of memory available to Basic to avoid it overwriting the sprite data.

Listing 2.

```
100 H=0:W=0:GOSUB 10:PRINT "W:"TAB(14) W:PRINT "H:"TAB(14) H
110 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
120 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
130 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
140 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
150 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
160 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
170 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
180 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
190 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
200 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
210 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
220 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
230 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
240 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
250 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
260 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
270 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
280 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
290 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
300 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
310 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
320 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
330 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
340 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
350 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
360 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
370 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
380 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
390 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
400 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
410 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
420 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
430 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
440 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
450 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
460 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
470 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
480 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
490 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
500 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
510 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
520 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
530 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
540 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
550 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
560 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
570 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
580 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
590 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
600 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
610 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
620 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
630 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
640 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
650 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
660 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
670 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
680 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
690 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
700 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
710 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
720 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
730 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
740 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
750 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
760 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
770 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
780 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
790 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
800 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
810 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
820 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
830 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
840 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
850 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
860 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
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890 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
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920 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
930 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
940 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
950 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
960 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
970 IF W<0 THEN W=W+1
980 IF H<0 THEN H=H+1
990 IF W=0 THEN GOTO 1
1000 IF H=0 THEN GOTO 1
```

```

AC38C807E2887C8A9288884D4C88C
958 DATA A0684AC32708834C43C1C93
A88834C43C1A08884C3278883F888
968 DATA 4C43C1C93A88834C43C1A4C8
5C5A9288884D4A8C888882C8888288
978 DATA 8AC8A8888888887C8A888C81D
48C8884C817ACE81888821888A88A
988 DATA 84D42887C8A9288884D48C
82C8882A888888888888888888888
998 DATA C88888888888888888888888
008772887C8A92888888888888888888
1088 DATA 8A8888888888888888888888
00888888888888888888888888888888
118 DATA 888888888888888888888888
128 DATA 888888888888888888888888
138 DATA 888888888888888888888888
148 DATA 888888888888888888888888
158 DATA 888888888888888888888888
168 DATA 888888888888888888888888
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898 DATA 888888888888888888888888
908 DATA 888888888888888888888888
918 DATA 888888888888888888888888
928 DATA 888888888888888888888888
938 DATA 888888888888888888888888
948 DATA 888888888888888888888888
958 DATA 888888888888888888888888
968 DATA 888888888888888888888888
978 DATA 888888888888888888888888
988 DATA 888888888888888888888888
998 DATA 888888888888888888888888

```



This program is available on Telsoft.

David Swinnerton with a smooth and colourful program for the CBM-64 utilising sprites.

Listing 1 can now be loaded and run in the usual way. Listing 2 can now be loaded and run, and the game is ready. I suggest that listing 1 is saved just before listing 2 so that no swapping of tapes is needed. Every time you wish to play the game, the line of pokes must first be typed in. Then both programs can be loaded and run in quick succession.

To play the game, a joystick is needed in Port 1. The directions are:
 pressing left — move Willy left
 pressing right — move Willy right
 pressing up — makes Willy jump over hole or an Antic



pressing Fire — makes Willy jump up to new level

Obviously, pressing up and left at the same time results in Willy doing a running jump to the left, a very handy manoeuvre.

If you don't relish the thought of typing the game in yourself, then send £3.50 to David Swinnerton, 15 Bifrons Rd, Bekesbourne, Kent CT4 5DE. I will send you a fast loading version of Tower of the Antics on one side of the tape, and my other game, Auto 64 — see June issue — on the other side.



```

3+CHR$(8));POKE(182)+7,8 NEXT
740 RETURN
750 REM ***** HI-SCORE SCREEN *****
760 N=0 PRINT:GOTO 770
770 PRINT:GOTO 770
780 PRINT:GOTO 770
790 PRINT:GOTO 770
800 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
810 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
820 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
830 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
840 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
850 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
860 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
870 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
880 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
890 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
900 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
910 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
920 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
930 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
940 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
950 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
960 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
970 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
980 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770
990 N=N+1 PRINT:GOTO 770

```

It's the dead of night — no one can hear you scream. No one, that is, except David Williams, our adventure expert. Call him on 041-770 9599 after 9pm for help with your adventure problems — or nightmares . . .

HOT SHOTS

Heard any good pokes lately? Smashed any high-score barriers? Or perhaps you've just put the finishing touches to a game map that will put thousands out of their misery. Publish and be damned — and paid! Send in your secrets, high scores and maps to Hot Shots, *Your Computer*, Room L221, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.

TO SURVIVE YOUR QUEST, COLLECT THE ANTIBODIES FROM THE ROOMS AND HOUSES. THESE WILL KILL THE CREATURES OPPOSITE, AND WILL KILL OR MUTATE THE DEMONS BELOW.

SPIT 10/10	DEAD	MUTATE	MUTATE
DEAD	SPIT 8/10	MUTATE	MUTATE
MUTATE	MUTATE	DEAD	SPIT
MUTATE	MUTATE	SPIT 5/10	DEAD

IN ORDER TO LIFT THE CURSE OF DARKNESS FROM NIGHTSHADE VILLAGE, COLLECT THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS TO KILL THE . . .

NIGHTSHADE THE MAP
BY SHILL/WELSH.

GRAHAM GOOCH'S CRICKET

The following tip will allow owners of Graham Gooch's Test Cricket on the 64 to save teams.

1. Load and run the Select program, and enter the teams as normal.
2. At the end when the program exists to Basic, enter the following . . .
POKE43,0:POKE44,192:POKE45,40:POKE46,194:
POKE56,200:CLR:SAVE"TEAMS" (,8 if using disc)
3. When the teams have been saved, switch the 64 off and then on again to reset the pointers, and load the teams by entering the following . . .
LOAD"TEAMS",1,1 (or ,8,1 if using disc)

4. When the teams have loaded, enter New and then load the main game program.
D A Henry Smithson.

WIZARDRY

Rewind tape to beginning and type: Load (return) — First small bit will load. Poke 1011,248:Poke 1012,252 (return). Run (return). 'Nova' section will now load and '64' will reset. Poke 2969,0 (return).
Sys 2816 (return). The four slow sections will now load.
POKE 3216,255:POKE 50766,255 (return)
POKE 3264,234:POKE 3265,234 (return)
POKE 27214,234:POKE 50151,234 (return)
POKE 50152,234:POKE 50153,234 (return).

The above pokes will give you more energy and will stop most nasties from depleting your energy.
Sys 2970 (return). Start Game.
Jason Hattrell.

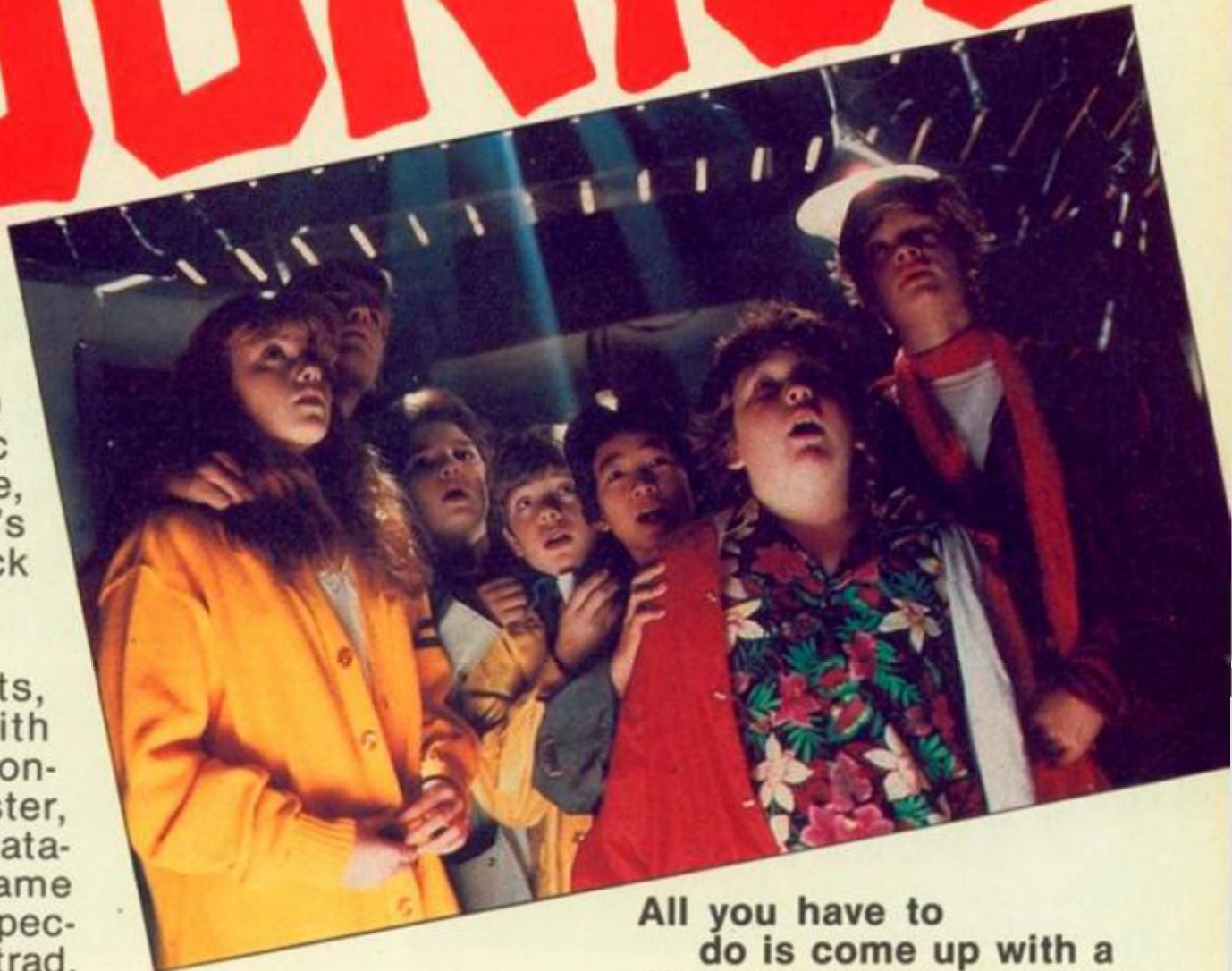
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WIN

A fabulous £400 Philips CD-150 compact disc music system as first prize, plus Cyndi Lauper's Goonies Soundtrack

WIN

25 treasure chests, each crammed with doubloons, two goonies film tickets, poster, and a copy of Data-soft's Goonies game for the CBM-64, Spectrum, Atari or Amstrad.



COMPETITION RULES

- The winners of the competition will be the people who, in the view of the editor, come up with the most interesting or amusing suggestions for books or films to be translated into computer games.
- The names of the winners will be printed in the January issue of *Your Computer*.
- All entries must arrive at the *Your Computer* offices by the last working day in October 1985.
- Each person may enter the competition only once.
- Entries to the competition cannot be acknowledged.
- No employees of Business Press International or their relatives may enter the competition.
- The decision of the editor is final.
- No correspondence on the result of the competition will be entered into.
- Business Press International assumes no responsibility or liability for any complaints arising from this competition.



All you have to do is come up with a film or a book you think would make a good computer game. Send us your reasons in writing or draw a sample screen to back your claim.

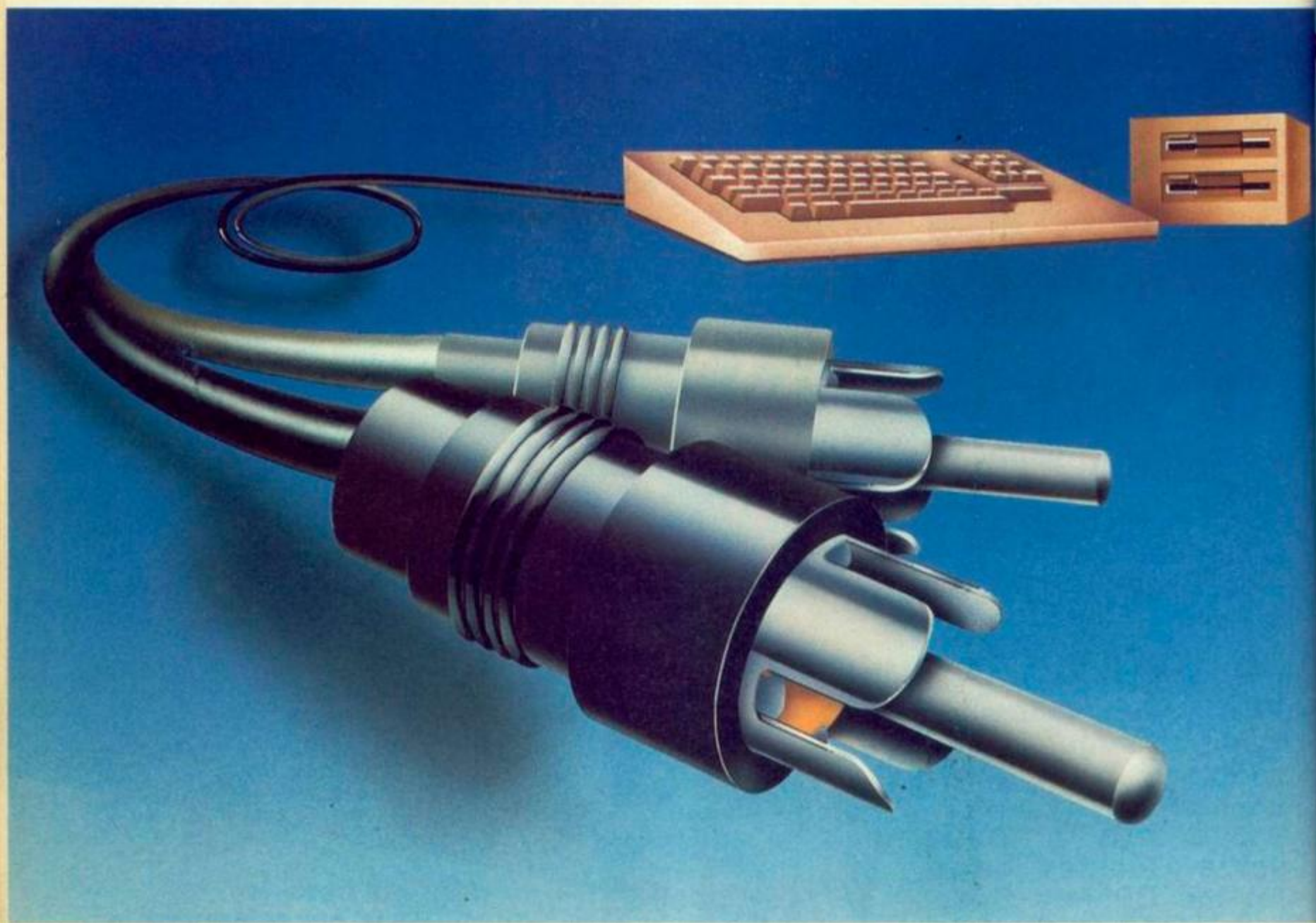
YOUR COMPUTER COMPETITION

Don't forget to enclose this coupon, or a photocopy of it, when you send in your entry to Goonies Competition, *Your Computer*, Room L221, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.

Name _____

Address _____

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City House, 420/430 London Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 3QR

NAME _____ Tick if trade enquiry

ADDRESS _____

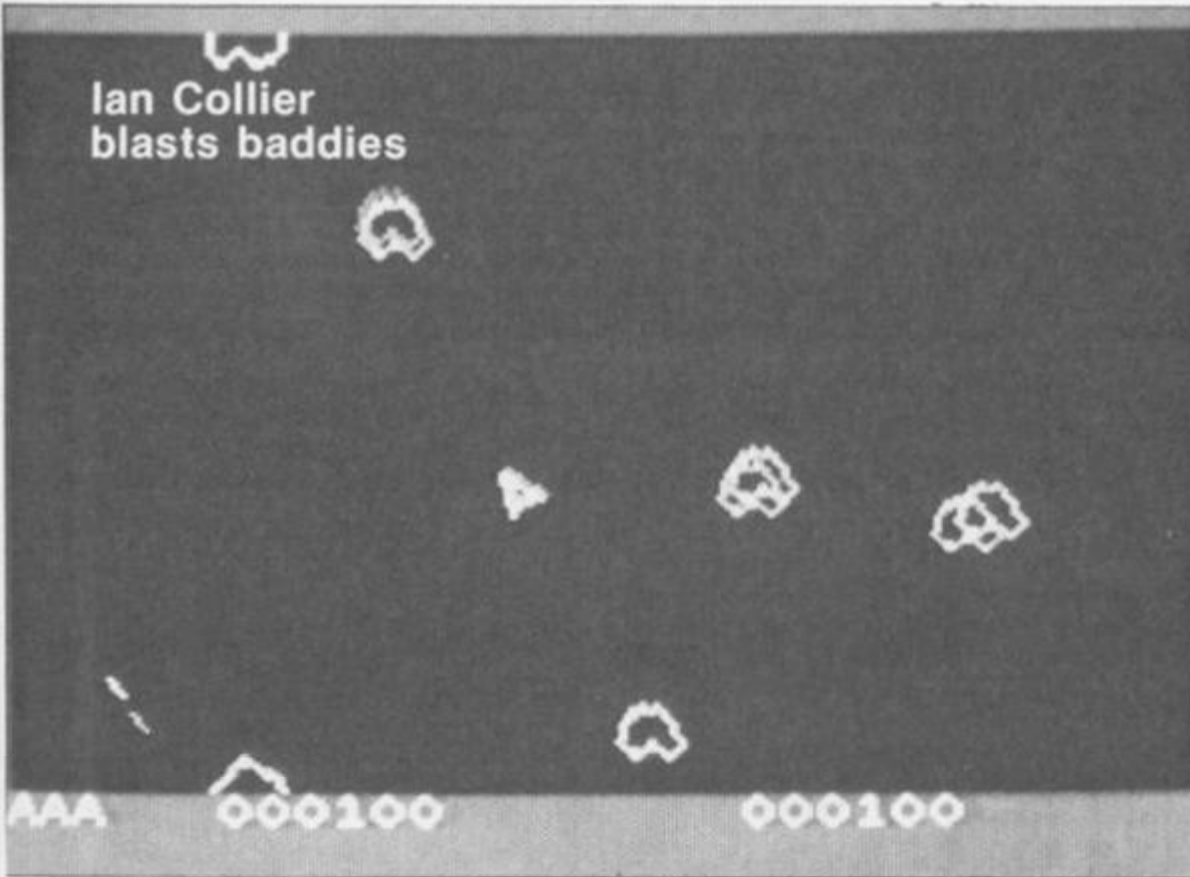
POSTCODE _____ YC1

PHILIPS



ASTEROID ATTACK

Ian Collier
blasts baddies



Pokes above from the program, also omit lines 120 to 200 inclusive of Data program 1 and change:

LET a = 16384

in line 70 to:

LET a = 17104:LET x = 20

You can also shorten typing by omitting the fast-poke code, though the program will take ages to poke the data. To do this, omit lines 100, 110 in Data program 1, also omit 30, all but the first statement of line 70, and change 10 to:

RESTORE: LET a = 16384 (17104 to omit the character set): FOR x = 120 (210 to omit the character set) TO 400 STEP 10
Also omit 3 and 30 of Data program 2 and add all the lines which in the listing start with Rem, but do not type Rem — (except line 1). However the fast-poke code greatly reduces poking time and can be used in other programs where hex has to be poked into memory and a checksum is provided. The syntax is:

PRINT USR 23296, destination, hex
— either a string name eg. a\$ or a sum of digits eg. "01ed2f"), checksum — (the sum of all the bytes in the string).

Having saved a copy of the finished program onto tape (with or without character set and/or fast-poke), you are now ready to clear the computer and load it.

You are given the option to play the game or redefine the keys — no joystick option, I'm afraid; Interrupt mode 2 on a 16K machine crashes with certain peripherals attached. If you do not redefine the keys they are X-left, C-right, L-fire, P-thrust, Z-Hyperspace, and Space-Abort. You will appear in the centre of the screen. The object is to avoid being killed by the rocks hurtling towards you by blasting them out of space. These large rocks, on being hit, will split up into two smaller asteroids, which in turn split up into two small ones.

These are destroyed when you hit them. If
(continued on next page)

```
fdfe78fc307000001c62818182814638
lc7efffffeff7e380000000003c00420
05a005a004203ffc4002924992494002
3ffc00000000000000000003c007e0
07e007e007e03ffc"
```

```
240 DATA "054887ffeffffffff7ffe
3ffc000000000000000000001c00220
02a002200ff81004255210040ff80000
000000000000000000000001c003e0
03e003e00ff81ffc3ffe1ffc0ff80000
0000000000000000"
```

```
250 DATA "090391101d9e5d9cb79
2805af914f1effcb782805af904716ff
79b8300669d5af5f1800b1202a6841d5
160060781f853803bc3807944fd9c1c5
18044fd5d9c12a7d5c78844779854fd
8d6dd97910dfd1d9"
```

```
260 DATA "09624e1d9c978feb0d4ae
6ded437d5ccdaa2247043efe0f10fd47
7ea0fdbcb57562002a82f77c9fed83804
c6b047c9d6b047c91e01cb7928041eff
cbb9cb7128043e80914f692600d51126
6e19d14e2600af2e"
```

```
270 DATA "1008508cb1117b8380190
3fcb142d20f36f1dc8af9467af956fc9
c579d6404fcdaba6dclcd0b6ee5c5cdba
6dclcd0b6e44e14cc97cb5cb7f20077d
a717b8d824c9af95a717b8d825c9cdf2
6dc33a6d00060c12"
```

```
280 DATA "13064181f252b31373d44
4a4f555b61676d72787d83888d92979c
ala6abafb4b8bcc1c5c9ccd0d4d7dadd
e0e3e6e9ebddf0f2f4f5f7f8fafbfcd
fdfeffeff3ae46eed4be56ecb45282e
c5c6e04f063cdf2"
```

```
290 DATA "099226de1e57c80477d81
```

```
4fcd8d6d3ae46ec6a04f063ccd206e3a
e46ec6604f063ccd206e13ae46ec506
3cc6404fcd26de17884477d814fc5cd
8d6d3ae46e061ac6b04fcd206e13ae4
6e227d5c061ac6d0"
```

```
300 DATA "080674fcd206e3ae46e06
80c6504fcd206e3ae46e062bc6804fc3
206e00805809760000000cd6b0dcdf6
77cdb2773a4f6f3c324f6f32d87687c6
36672e1022d6763ad8764721697b7023
360123cd6076cb2f"
```

```
310 DATA "07955cb2fcb2f774f23cd
6076cb2fcb2fcb2f5ffeb03802d65077
2379cb2fcb2f774f237bc2fcb2fcb2f
77b12001342310c622d976c90a05018e
030000ed73d476af3241713e0332506f
3e02324f6f324e6f"
```

```
320 DATA "0800210000221a742251
6f221874cded6e21805822e56e210000
22e96e22eb6eaf32e46e3240713e06ed
47ed5ec38570760184030b78b120fbfd
cb57d63a99706fcd676eaf47cd607878
ce0047cd6a7878de"
```

```
330 DATA "079210047a720073e0332
9870180f3a9870a728093d3298707880
801806788787878780473ae46e8032e4
6e3efedbfecb4f2014212823110500cd
b503cd60766fcd60766722e56e214071
7ea72801353ebfdb"
```

```
340 DATA "10366fecb4fccb5703a99
701f30353ae46e4f0604c5cdba6dc1e5
79c6404fcdaba6ded4be96e54e15c2aeb
6ecd9a7078c60ffe1e300e79c60ffe1e
300722eb6eed43e96e2ae56eed4be96e
78844779854fed5b"
```

```
350 DATA "10037e76e2aeb6ecd9a70
```

```
22e76e78feb0380afed83eb030023e50
8047ed43e56ecd7e7820083e3eed56ed
```

```
47fbc9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9
cd676ec3986f03007c82e2a670043002
0505d680677d83e2"
```

```
360 DATA "08378b3700c30020d0dd6
806fc97ea73e0277c02ae56e22667a3a
e46e32687a21417146f3347887878780
6f2600114471193610232242713a607a
4f0619c5cdba6dc1e579c6404fcdaba6d
c1dd2a4271dd7004"
```

```
370 DATA "07932dd7405dd7106dd75
07ed5b667a3e41711f380a78cb2f835f
7ccb2f8257dd7300dd7201dd360200dd
3603002132000604c5e5110a00c503
f3e1c1110a001910ef214071fbc90001
4571004c44e9ebf6"
```

```
380 DATA "12198fffdfa63c9fe53c0
fdbcb015663c9fe53c0fdbcb015663c9fe
53c0fdbcb015663c9fe53c0fdbcb015663
c9fe53c0fdbcb015663c9fe53c0fdbcb01
5663c9fe53c0fdbcb015663c33463f1f5
210000c0c33463f1"
```

```
390 DATA "10054f5210000e5e5e530
18060011e37f1afdcdb0146200cfdcb01
f6cdad753e07da777afe3bcab872cdc9
772d687ecd4d74211f7be51600d521e9
7f18080dd8743e02dab871dde5e5d5c5
f52e7d5ce53e915c"
```

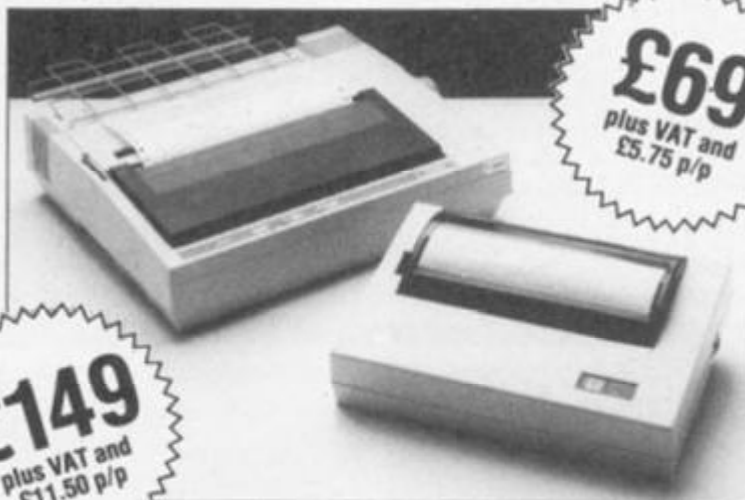
```
400 DATA "09134f508f5d9c5d5d9ff
f321d676352009237e2b77218813180b
7e872396fe02300a218e12110200db5
03f3cd54793a4171a7ca057347dd2144
71c5f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9f9
dd4e05dd4606cb29"
```


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Creating Arcade Games on the Commodore 64 by Robert Woolford (ISBN 0 907563 75 9) is £7.95, and is available at most book and computer stores, or directly from the publishers, post free: *

Interface Publications Ltd., Dept YC,
9-11 Kensington High Street,
London W8 5NP

(Trade only; WHSD Leicester)

Interface

Listing 1.

```

100 P=52992:T=18680
110 FORX=PTOP+153:READB:T=T-B:PO
KEX,B:NEXT
120 IFTHENPRINT"CHECKSUM ERROR:
"-T:STOP
130 R1=INT((P+128)/256):R0=P+128
-R1*256
140 POKEP+1,R0:POKEP+2,R1:POKEP+
6,R0:POKEP+7,R1
150 R1=INT((P+138)/256):R0=P+138
-R1*256
160 POKEP+72,R0:POKEP+73,R1:POKE
P+123,R0:POKEP+124,R1
200 DATA 32,128,207,132, 2, 32,
128,207
210 DATA192, 50,176,125,169, 79,

```

```

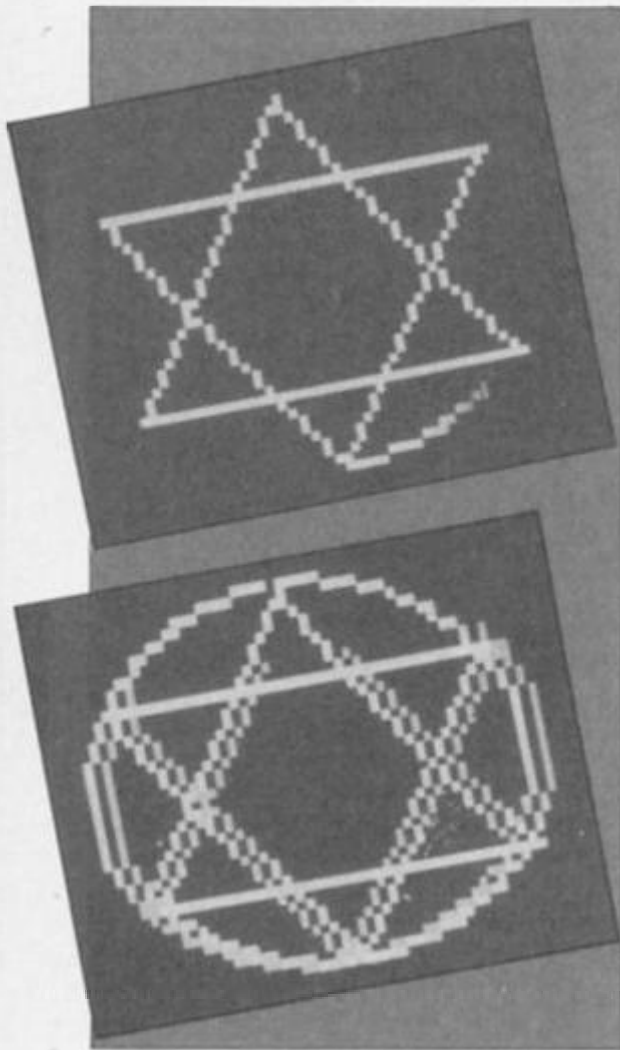
197, 2
220 DATA144,119,152,162, 0,134,
252, 74
230 DATA 8, 10, 10, 10,133,251,
10, 38
240 DATA252, 10, 38,252, 24,101,
251,144
250 DATA 2,230,252, 70, 2, 8,
164, 2
260 DATA133,251,133,253,165,252,
72, 24
270 DATA109,136, 2,133,252,104,
24,105
280 DATA216,133,254,177,251,162,
0,221
290 DATA138,207,240, 7,232,224,
16,144
300 DATA246,162, 0,169, 1, 40,

```

```

144, 1
310 DATA 10, 40,144, 2, 10, 10,
134, 2
320 DATA174, 52, 3,240, 11,202,
240, 4
330 DATA 69, 2,144, 8, 5, 2,
144, 4
340 DATA 73,255, 37, 2,170,173,
134, 2
350 DATA145,253,189,138,207,145,
251, 96
360 DATA 32,253,174, 32,138,173,
32,247
370 DATA183, 96, 32,126,124,226,
123, 97
380 DATA255,236,108,127,225,251,
98,252
390 DATA254,160

```



ALTHOUGH THERE are many clever and complicated graphics utilities available for the 64 I have not come across one that allows the use of a simple "plot" facility without the bother of going into bit-map mode. Double density plotting is a method that can be used to do this and Blocks is a short and simple machine code routine that will allow double density plotting.

It utilises the fact that within the Commodore 64's built in character set are a range of block characters — quarter squares and a half squares, so that in conjunction with reverse video it is possible to display all the 16 variations of quarter squares within one character position. To put it another way, these characters can effectively double the resolution of the screen from 40 by 25 to 80 by 50.

Usual restrictions apply

Of course they are only blocks and the usual colour restrictions of the 64's display apply, but they can be very useful and because they do not need bit-map mode to be used, they can mixed freely with text on a normal screen from Basic.

The machine code routine is quite short — just over 150 bytes — and is intended to be located at 52992 (hex CF00) which is the top page of the much used 4K block of Ram from 49152 upwards. However, by changing just eight bytes you could relocate it anywhere in Ram, in the cassette buffer, for example. Listing 1 does this for you.

Listing 1 is a Basic loader program which will install the machine code routine in memory, in addition should you wish to relocate the routine then the Basic program will do this for you — simply change the value of P in the first line. The loader can very easily be made part of another program.

Once the routine is in memory it can be called from Basic by a Sys command in the following format:

SYS P,X,Y

Where P is the start address of the routine — 52992 as listed — X is the x co-ordinate (0-79) and Y is the y co-ordinate (0-49). X and Y may be any valid Basic expressions, any values out of the ranges shown will be ignored.

The only other information required by the routine is the type of plot that you want it do. This is controlled by the contents of location 820 in the following way: a zero will cause unplotting, a one — plotting and anything else will cause Exclusive-or plotting — to change whatever is there already. Any plotting will be done in the current cursor colour so changing the cursor colour will change plot colour.

Listing 2 is a demonstration program which will plot a few things using the Blocks routine and listing 3 is a version of biorhythms which uses Blocks to plot the charts. The biorhythms program accepts date in the format 1.1.85, any reasonable character may be used to separate the numbers and an asterisk will end the program.

Listing 3.

```

1 POKE53200,B:POKE53201,B:GOSUB2
900
10 PRINT"DATE"TAB(13)
20 PRINT"WHAT IS YOUR NAME"
30 PRINT"WHAT IS YOUR DATE OF
BIRTH"
40 PRINT"WHAT IS YOUR DATE OF
BIRTH"
50 GOSUB1000:DS=LS:IFDS=""THEN11
55 IFLS=""THEN10
60 D=INT(VAL(LS)):LS=MIDS(LS,LEN
(STRS(D))+1)
70 M=INT(VAL(LS)):LS=MIDS(LS,LEN
(STRS(M))+1)
80 Y=INT(VAL(LS)):IFYC100THENY=Y
+1900
100 IFM0.ANDM13THENIFD.AND0<=(
L(M)-FNL(Y))THEN120
110 PRINTTAB(27)"
120 SX=ASC(MIDS(ES,D))-65
130 PRINT"NAME:"NS:PRINT"OR
N ON "D"SS(SX)"MS(M)"IN"Y
140 Z=FNM(M-D)Z(M):ZS=ZS(Z):I
FD=Z(M)THENZS=ZS+"ZS(FNM(M+1)

```

```

)"CUSP"
150 PRINT"ODIAC SIGN: "ZS:GOT
0200
200 PRINT"WHAT DATE WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HAVE YOUR -
210 PRINT"BIORHYTHMS CALCULATED
FOR "M:MX=10
220 GOSUB1000:DS=LS:IFLS=""THEN
310
225 IFLS=""THEN10
230 DD=INT(VAL(LS)):LS=MIDS(LS,
LEN(STRS(DD))+1)
240 MM=INT(VAL(LS)):LS=MIDS(LS,
LEN(STRS(MM))+1)
250 YY=INT(VAL(LS)):IFYV100THEN
YY=YY+1900
300 IFMM.ANDMM13THENIFDD.AND0<=(
L(M)-FNL(Y))THEN320
310 PRINTSPC(27)"
320 IFYY<YTHEN310
330 IFYY=VANDMM<MTHEN310
340 IFYY=VANDMM=MANDDD<DTHEN310
400 PRINT"THE MOMENT PLEASE..."
410 N=(YY-Y)*365-D+DD+(M2)ANDF
NL(Y)+(M3)ANDFNL(Y)
420 FORX=YTOYY:N=N-FNL(X):NEXT
430 IFM1THENFORX=1TOM-1:N=N-L(X)
:NEXT
440 IFM01THENFORX=1TOMM-1:N=N+L
(X):NEXT

```

```

450 IFM<36500THEN500
460 PRINT"ODS", THAT'S"MM"
DAYS OLD ???
470 PRINT"WHO DO YOU THINK YO
U ARE - PETER PAN ?
480 PRINTTAB(14)"TRY AGAIN
490 GOTO200
500 SX=ASC(MIDS(ES,DD))-65
510 PRINT"NAME:"MS:PRINT"IN
"DD"SS(SX)"MS(MM)"IN"VY
520 PRINT"YOU WILL BE"MM"DAYS OL
D."
530 PRINT"YOUR BIORHYTHMS WILL
BE SHOWN AS FOLLOWS-
540 PRINT"RED # :SHOWING Y
OUR PHYSICAL CYCLE,
550 PRINT"GREEN # :FOR YOUR
EMOTIONAL CYCLE AND
560 PRINT"BLUE # :YOUR INTE
LLECTUAL CYCLE.
570 PRINT"THE CHARTS SHOW 2 WE
EKS BOTH BEFORE ANDAFTER THE DA
TE SHOWN.
580 PRINT"PRESS # :WHEN YOU ARE
READY..."
590 GETK:IFKS<CHR(13)THEN590
600 PRINT"NSTAB(19)"TAB(22)
M"DAYS OLD
610 PRINT"ORN ON "DSTAB(23)"ON
"ODS
620 PRINT"FORX=1T023:PRINTTAB

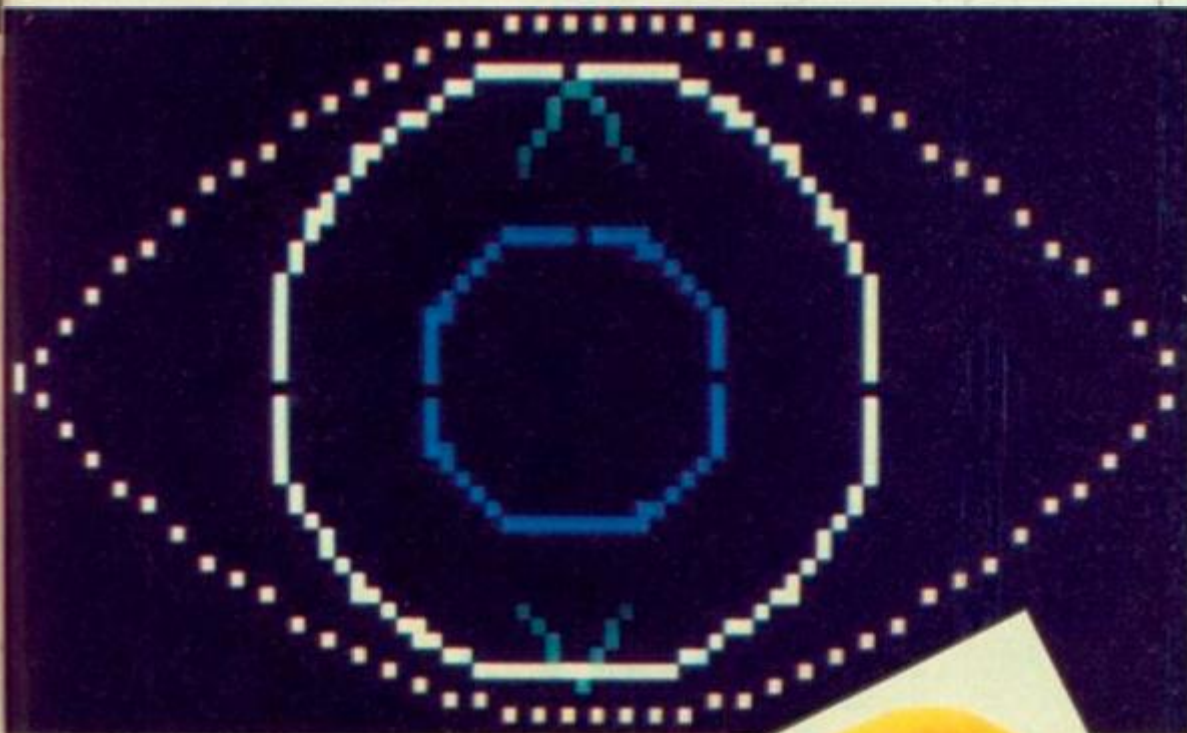
```

```

(19)"I":NEXT
630 PRINT" (1 DAY/DIVISION)
640 PRINT"
650 PRINT"
700 PRINT"
710 FORG=0T02:PRINT"
720 M=M(G):FORX=0T07:MM=M+X/2-1
9.5
730 SYS$PLOT,X,25-20*SIN(MM/4*2*
) :NEXT NEXT
740 PRINTTAB(24)"PRESS # :
750 PRINTTAB(27)"TO EXIT..."
760 POKE190,
790 GETK:IFKS<CHR(13)THEN790
850 PRINT"
860 IFLEFTS(LS,1)="*"THENPRINT"
".END
870 IFLEFTS(LS,1)="Y"ORLS="OK"OR
LS=""THEN10
880 GOTO850
1000 PRINT" :LS=""
1010 GETK:IFKS=""ORKS=CHR(34)T
HEN1010
1020 IFKS=CHR(13)THENPRINT"

```

DOUBLE DENSITY BLOCKS



Keith Suddick simplifies the extensive but complex graphics facilities of the CBM-64 using block characters with a short and simple machine-code routine.



Listing 2:

```

10 REM DOUBLE DENSITY EXAMPLES
15 REM FOR % READ PI
20 PRINT "U": POKE53280, 0: POKE5328
  1, 0
30 P=52992: XX=80: YY=50: MX=79: MY=
  49: X2=40: Y2=25
40 POKE820, 1: REM PLOT
100 C$="*****": FORZ=0T020STEP4
110 PRINTLEFT$(C$, 1): C$=MID$(C$,
  2)
120 FORX=ZTOMX-Z: SYSP, X, Z: SYSP, M
  X-X, MY-Z: NEXT
130 FORY=ZTOMY-Z: SYSP, Z, Y: SYSP, M
  X-Z, MY-Y: NEXT
140 NEXT
150 FORX=0T0100: POKE199, XAND1
160 PRINT "*****"TAB(13)
  "DOUBLE DENSITY"
170 NEXT
180 FORD=1T0500: NEXT
200 PRINT "U": A=23: D$="U"
210 FORX=1T024: D$=D$+"U"+CHR$(20
  )+CHR$(13): NEXT: D$=D$+"U"+CHR$(2
  0)+"U"
220 FORX=0T0159
230 SYSP, X/2, Y2+A*SIN(X*M%/X2)
240 SYSP, X/2, Y2-A*SIN(X*M%/X2)
250 NEXT: PRINT "U";
260 FORX=0T079: PRINTD$
270 SYSP, 79, Y2+A*SIN(X*M%/X2)
280 SYSP, 79, Y2-A*SIN(X*M%/X2)
290 NEXT
300 PRINT "U": FORA=20T010STEP-10
310 FORX=0T02*M%STEP%/ (A*3)
320 SYSP, X2+A*SIN(X), Y2+A*ICOS(X)
330 NEXT: PRINT "U": NEXT
340 FORD=1T0700: NEXT
400 PRINT "U": A=1.5
410 FORY=0T031
420 SYSP, 40-Y/A, Y+5: SYSP, 40+Y/A,
  Y+5
430 SYSP, 40-Y/A, 45-Y: SYSP, 40+Y/A
  , 45-Y
440 NEXT
450 FORX=19T061
460 SYSP, X, 36: SYSP, X, 14
470 NEXT
500 A=24
510 FORX=0T02*M%STEP%/72
520 SYSP, X2+A*SIN(X), Y2+A*ICOS(X)
  * .85
530 NEXT
600 FORX=1T040: PRINTD$: FORD=1T05
  0: NEXT: NEXT

```

```

RETURN
1030 IFK$="U"ORX$="U"THEN1090
1040 IFK$=CHR$(20)ORX$="U"THEN10
  70
1050 IFLEN(L$)=MXOR(ASC(K$)AND12
  7)<32THEN1010
1055 IFK$="" THENK$=""
1060 L$=L$+K$: PRINTK$ "U" : GOT
  01010
1070 IFL$="" THEN1010
1080 L$=LEFT$(L$, LEN(L$)-1): PRIN
  TCHR$(20): GOT01010
1090 K$=CHR$(20): IFL$="" THEN1010

1100 FORD=1TOLEN(L$): PRINTK$: M
  EXT:L$="" : GOT01010
2000 DIMM$(12), L(12), Z(12), Z$(12
  ), B(12)
2020 FORX=1T012: READM$, L(X), Z, Z
  (X)
2030 M$(X)=CHR$(ASC(M$)+128)+MID
  $(M$, 2): Z$(X)=CHR$(ASC(Z$)+128)+
  MID$(Z$, 2)
2040 NEXT
2050 DEFFNM(X)=X+12*(X)12)
2060 S$(0)="ST": S$(1)="ND": S$(2)
  ="RD": S$(3)="TH"
2070 DEFFNL(X)=((X-1980)AND3)=
  1)
2080 DEFFNM(X)=X+12*(X)12)
2090 M(0)=23: M(1)=28: M(2)=33: T=2
  : FT=40: U=1: S$=1024: C$=55296: CC=6

```

```

46: PLOT=52992
2200 FORX=0T07: READC(X): V(C(X))=
  X: NEXT
2300 FORX=0T0153: READB: POKEPLOT+
  X, B: NEXT
2400 E$="ABCDEFGHIJKLNMOPQRSTUVWXYZ
  ABC
  DDDDDDDA"
3000 PRINT "*****"TAB(13)
3010 PRINT "U" : SPC(2
  6) : " U I U U I I I U U U"SPC(26) "
  U"

3020 PRINT "U" : WITHIN THE HUM
  AN BODY, VARIOUS
3030 PRINT "U" : CHARACTERISTICS
  ARE KNOWN TO
3040 PRINT "U" : VARY IN A REGUL
  AR MANNER OVER
3050 PRINT "U" : PERIODS OF TIME.

3060 PRINT "U" : THESE CHARACTE
  RISTICS CAN BE
3070 PRINT "U" : THOUGHT OF AS RE
  PRESENTING THE
3080 PRINT "U" : LEVELS OF PHYSIC
  AL, EMOTIONAL
3090 PRINT "U" : AND INTELLECTUAL
  ACTIVITY AND
3100 PRINT "U" : ALTHOUGH NEVER
  EXACTLY RIGHT,
3110 PRINT "U" : THEY CAN BE CALC
  ULATED FOR ANY

```

```

3120 PRINT "U" : PERSON AT ANY TI
  ME.
3130 PRINT "U" : THIS PROGRAM WI
  LL CALCULATE A
3140 PRINT "U" : SET OF THESE 'U
  U I I U U' GIVEN
3150 PRINT "U" : YOUR DATE OF BIR
  TH.
3230 PRINT "U" : PRESS U U I I /
  U U TO BEGIN...
3900 GETK$: IFK$(C)CHR$(13)THEN390
  0
3999 RETURN
9000 DATAJANUARY, 31, CAPRICORN, 20
  , FEBRUARY, 28, AQUARIUS, 19
9010 DATAMARCH, 31, PISCES, 20, APRIL
  , 30, ARIES, 20
9020 DATAMAY, 31, TAURUS, 20, JUNE, 3
  0, GEMINI, 21
9030 DATAJULY, 31, CANCER, 23, AUGUS
  T, 31, LEO, 23
9040 DATASEPTEMBER, 30, VIRGO, 23, 0
  CTOBER, 31, LIBRA, 23
9050 DATANOVEMBER, 30, SCORPIO, 22,
  DECEMBER, 31, SAGITTARIUS, 21
9100 DATA0, 6, 2, 4, 5, 3, 7, 1
9200 DATA32, 128, 207, 132, 2, 32, 128
  , 207
9210 DATA192, 50, 176, 125, 169, 79, 1
  97, 2
9220 DATA144, 119, 152, 162, 0, 134, 2

```

```

52, 74
9230 DATA0, 10, 10, 10, 133, 251, 10, 3
  8
9240 DATA252, 10, 30, 252, 24, 101, 25
  1, 144
9250 DATA2, 230, 252, 70, 2, 0, 164, 2
9260 DATA133, 251, 133, 253, 165, 252
  , 72, 24
9270 DATA09, 136, 2, 133, 252, 104, 2
  4, 105
9280 DATA216, 133, 254, 177, 251, 162
  , 0, 221
9290 DATA138, 207, 240, 7, 232, 224, 1
  6, 144
9300 DATA246, 162, 0, 169, 1, 40, 144,
  1
9310 DATA10, 40, 144, 2, 10, 10, 134, 2
9320 DATA174, 52, 3, 240, 11, 202, 240
  , 4
9330 DATA69, 2, 144, 0, 5, 2, 144, 4
9340 DATA73, 255, 37, 2, 170, 173, 134
  , 2
9350 DATA145, 253, 109, 138, 207, 145
  , 251, 96
9360 DATA32, 253, 174, 32, 138, 173, 3
  2, 247
9370 DATA103, 96, 32, 126, 124, 226, 1
  23, 97
9380 DATA255, 236, 100, 127, 225, 251
  , 90, 252, 254, 160

```

SPECTRUM



This program is available on Telsoft.

THIS IS A complex draw program for the ZX Spectrum with many advanced facilities usually found only on expensive commercial packages. These include a fill routine that can handle even the most complicated shapes, patterned fill, filled-in and empty circles, solid and dotted lines, variable cursor speed, screen magnify — magnifications — and two screen stores.

To enter the program, you should first type in the control program — listing 1 — and save it to tape or Microdrive with auto-run Line 500. You should make no changes to the program, except to the Load command in line 500 if you wish to use the program on Microdrive, as memory is tight and line numbers are important. If you do not have Microdrives, then you will be unable to enter the Microdrive Save/Load lines, so type in lines 200 and 201 again in place of lines 202 and 203.

Next:

CLEAR 24999

and type in the hexloader. If you are going to use your own hexloader, then you will have to enter the Pokes and Save command at the end of the program — line 80 — yourself after you have typed the hex in. Enter the hex from the listing, eight bytes at a time with no separating spaces, entering the checksums when prompted.

When you have finished the program will automatically save the code to tape. If you want to save it to Microdrive, you must New the hexloader first, as otherwise there will not be enough memory for the "m" channel. It is best to start off by saving everything to tape, then

transfer to Microdrive later.

To test the program, first type:
PRINT USR 0

to clear the computer, then Load the control program. This will automatically Load the code and print up a menu on screen. If this does not happen, press 0 then r. If you get a menu now, then you must have forgotten to enter the Pokes at the end of the hexloader. If you do not, then you have made an error in typing in the code.

The menu has six options, numbered 0-5. Option 0 allows you to use the drawing program, option 5 will quit the program and return to Basic, and the others will bring up a sub-menu asking what you want to save or load.

When you press 0 you should be presented with a blank screen, except for a small information window in one corner. Assuming that there was nothing in memory before you loaded the program, the screen attributes will be set to 0, so you will be unable to see your cursor. Press Caps Shift V, then select option 3 from the Clear Screen menu.

How to use the program

I will now explain how to use the program. The first thing you will need to know is how to move the cursor. The keys Q, W, E, A, D, Z, X and C are the cursor control keys — these will be familiar to users of Melbourne Draw. When used in conjunction with Symbol Shift, these keys will scroll the screen, and with Caps Shift they can be used to move the magnification window — more of which later.

The cursor can be used in any one of the four plot modes, Set — plots point, Res — resets point-equivalent to Inverse 1, XOR — inverts pixels-equivalent to Over 1 and Skip — allows you to move the cursor without plotting. These modes are selected by the keys P, O, I and U respectively.

To change the colours on the screen you must change from the pixel cursor — indicated by SCRN in the information window — to the attributes cursor — ATTR. The L key will switch between the two cursors. The attribute cursor behaves exactly like the pixel cursor, except that it is character-sized. In Set mode,



it will draw with the ink, paper, bright and flash values indicated at the bottom of the information window. These can be altered using the number keys. Keys 0-7 will change the ink — unshifted — or paper — with Caps Shift — colour, keys 8 and 9 will change the bright — unshifted — and flash — with Caps Shift — values.

Note also that, when using the attribute cursor, Symbol Shift with the movement keys will scroll the attributes. It is important to remember, with both pixel and attribute cursors, that the point underneath the cursor is not plotted until you move the cursor from it. If you wish to plot/change the attributes at the cursor position, press Enter — this will plot in the current mode, so obviously will have no effect in Skip mode. Finally, on this subject, if you wish to speed up or slow down the cursor, you can use Symbol Shift together with the number keys to select a speed. There are nine speeds (1-9) and also a special "no repeat" mode (0).

For the line and circle drawing routines, you have to specify two points — these will be the two ends of the line, or of a radius of the circle. To set one end of the line, or the centre of the circle, press Caps Shift and Enter. This defines the cursor position as the "last point". Next, move the cursor to the other end of the line, or a point on the circumference of the circle.

See "last point" flashing

If you press Symbol Shift and Enter together, and hold them down, you will see the "last point" flashing. This can be useful when you wish to remind yourself of its position. To draw a line — select the appropriate mode first — it is pointless drawing a line in Skip mode! — press Caps Shift and J. To draw a circle, press Caps Shift and H. Symbol Shift and H will draw a filled circle, Symbol Shift and J gives a dotted line. To change the mask for the dotted line, press Caps Shift and K — the mask is initially set to 10101010.

It is important when drawing a picture in colour to be able to see the positions of the edges of character squares, so as to avoid "attribute clashes". To help you do so, the program can superimpose one of two grids over the screen. Press G for a black-on-white grid, or Caps Shift

DRAWER

Hex loader.

```

1 DEF FN b(a$)=CODE a$-48-7*(a$>"9")
2 DEF FN h(a$)=FN b(a$(1))*16+FN b(a$(2))
3 DEF FN b$(a)=CHR$(a+48+7*(a>9))
4 DEF FN h$(a)=FN b$(INT(a/16))+FN b$(a-16*INT(a/16))
5 POKE 23658,8
10 FOR a=25000 TO 30448 STEP 8
20 PRINT a;" "; LET c=0; LET a$=""
30 FOR q=0 TO 7: IF a$(1)="" THEN INPUT LINE a$; LET a$=a$+" "
60 LET z=FN h(a$); LET a$=a$(3 TO ); POKE a+q,z; PRINT " ";FN h$(z);LET c=c+z
70 NEXT q; INPUT "Checksums";k; IF c<>k THEN PRINT "Error"; BEEP .5,50; GO TO 20
80 PRINT : NEXT a; POKE 30456,128; POKE 30457,96; SAVE "DRAWCODE"CODE 25000,55

```

12

S EXTENSIONS

same manner as circle.

{FILL, integer.} FILL,0 turns fill off. {FILL,1} turns fill on. FILL responds to the stipple command.

{GPAPER, graphics paper colour.} The background graphics paper is set to the colour specified.

{GPEN, graphics pen colour.} The foreground graphics pen is set to the colour specified.

{INVERSE, integer.} INVERSE,0 turns the inverse mode off and text is printed in the current pen colour on the current paper colour.

{INVERSE,1} turns the inverse mode on and text is printed in current paper colour on the current pen colour.

Paint responds to stipple

{MASK, integer.} Sets ink mask: {MASK,0} Force mode. Pixel plotted over background. {MASK,1} XOR mode. Pixel XORed with background pixel. {MASK,2} AND mode. Pixel ANDed with background pixel. {MASK,3} OR mode. Pixel ORed with background pixel.

{PAINT, x co-ordinate, y co-ordinate[, ink].} Paints an enclosed area of the graphics window around the point x,y. This command can be terminated by pressing Ctrl and C keys together. Paint responds to stipple, however the results are unpredictable.

{STIPPLE, pen 1, pen 2, pen 3, pen 4, pen 5, pen 6, pen 7, pen 8.} Sets the order of pixel colour While stipple is activated the current graphics pen colour is ignored. Text will be printed in current stipple colours.

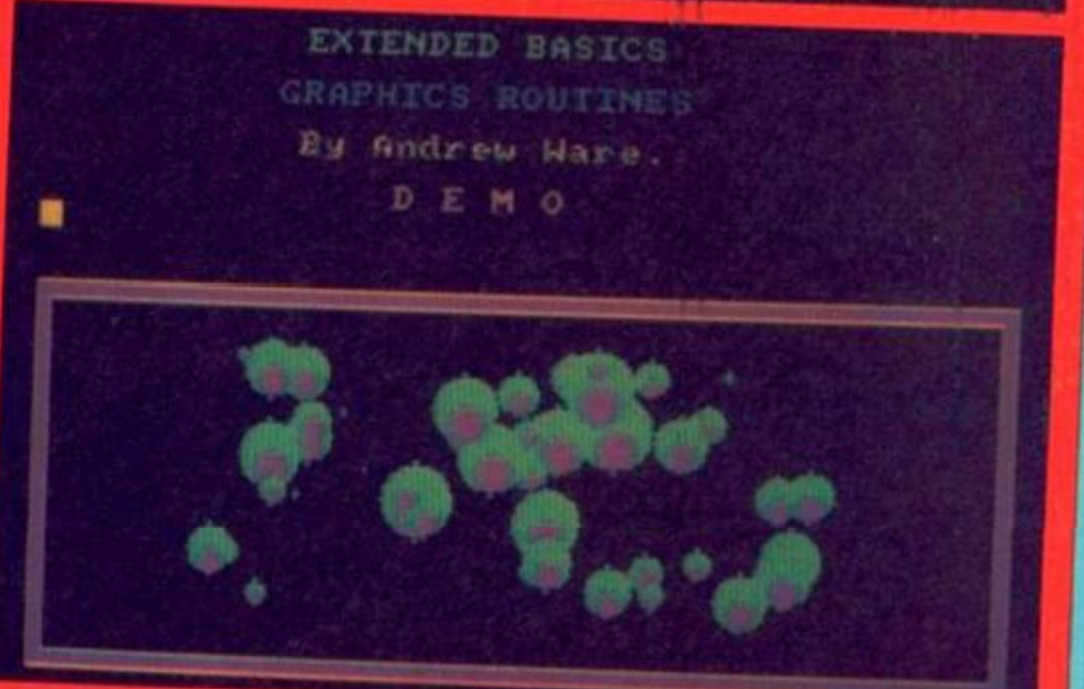
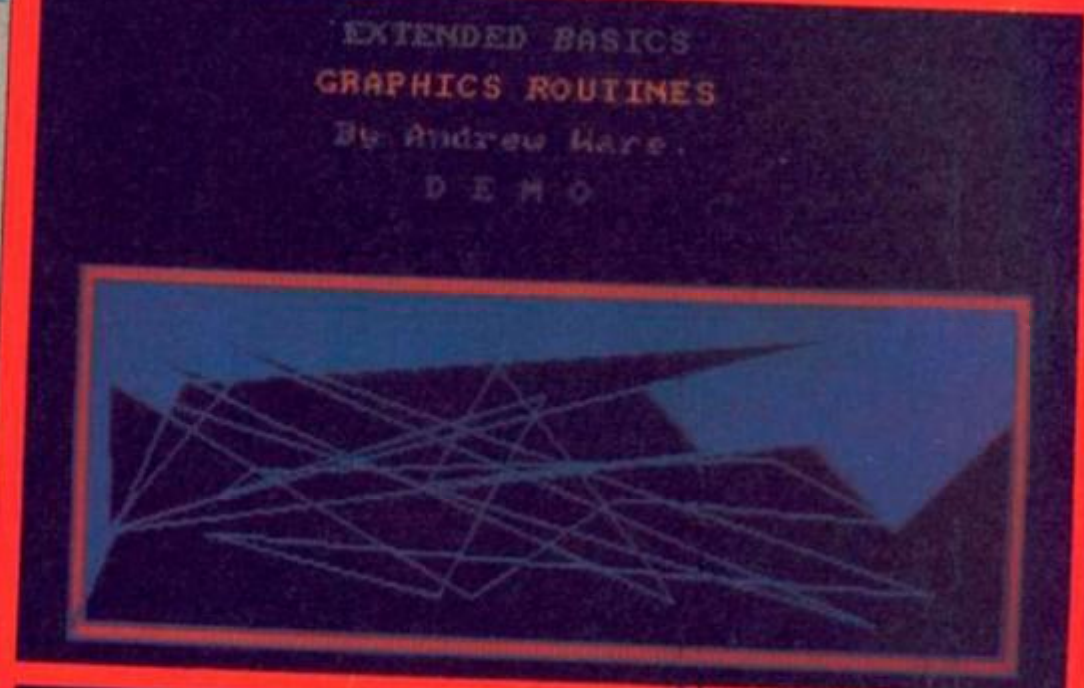
{STOFF.} Turns stipple off.

{STON.} Turns stipple on.

Terms in brackets are optional and all co-ordinates are relative to the current graphics origin.

Program 2.

```
100 {MASK,0} INK 0,0: BORDER 0: INK 1,24: INK 2,6: INK 3,4: 1
101 INK 4,15: INK 5,18: MODE 1: {STIPPLE,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2} STON
102 LOCATE 12,1: PRINT "EXTENDED BASICS" : {STIPPLE,2,3,3,3,3
103 .1,2,2,3} LOCATE 11,3: PRINT "GRAPHICS ROUTINES" : {STIPPLE
104 .1,2,1,1,2,3,3,1} LOCATE 12,5: PRINT "By Andrew Ware."
105 .1,2,1,1,2,3,3,1} LOCATE 14,7: PRINT "D E M O"
106 {STIPPLE,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2} LOCATE 16,7: PRINT "D E M O"
107 {STOFF
108 {FILL,0} {BOX,0,0,639,239,1} {BOX,10,10,619,219} : PAINT
109 7,5,5,3
110 {FILL,1} FOR f=0 TO 50: {RND+400+120} y={RND+150+50} * f
111 {RND+25} : {CIRCLE,x,y,r,2} : {CIRCLE,x,y,r,2} / 2,3 NEXT
112 FOR f=0 TO 20: INK 2,RND+24: INK 3,RND+25: FOR g=0 TO
113 RND NEXT NEXT
114 INK 2,24: INK 3,6: INK 1,5: {FILL,1} FOR g=1 TO 3: INK
115 .1 FOR f=0 TO 4: {BOX,12,12,615,215} g
116 {MASK,0} {BOX,12,12,615,215} g
117 FOR f=0 TO 25: DRAW RND+600+20, RND+200+10, 1 NEXT
118 FOR f=0 TO 28: {RND+600+20} y={RND+200+10} IF TEST(x,
119 y) THEN CRT MOD 3) * 1: PAINT,x,y,0
120 NEXT
121 {IMAGE,0} MODE 1: STON: {STIPPLE,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2} PRIN
122 " Rotating Planets" : {STIPPLE,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,2} FOR f=0
123 TO 180: PLOT RND+640, RND+400, 1 NEXT: STOFF
124 {FILL,1} : {CIRCLE,320,200,100,0} : {ELLIPSE,320,0,320,
125 50} : {FILL,0} FOR f=5 TO 180 STEP 10: {ELLIPSE,320,0,320,
126 50} : (f/18) MOD 3 = 1 NEXT
127 FOR f=5 TO 180 STEP 5: {ELLIPSE,320,0,320,f,(f/5) SIN 60
128 3=1 NEXT
129 FOR f=0 TO 50
130 INK 1,6: INK 2,24: INK 3,24: OOSUB 190
131 INK 1,24: INK 2,4: INK 3,24: OOSUB 190
132 INK 1,24: INK 2,24: INK 3,6: OOSUB 190
133 NEXT: GOTO 200
134 FOR g=0 TO 180: NEXT: RETURN
135 CLS: STON: PRINT "EXAMPLE OF STIPPLE"
136 FOR f=0 TO 3: FOR g=0 TO 3: FOR h=0 TO 3: PRINT "STIPPLE",
137 {STIPPLE,f,g,h,1,1,f,g,h,1} PRINT "STIPPLE",
138 NEXT NEXT NEXT NEXT
139 MODE 0: {STIPPLE,1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4} PRINT "In mode 0 up
140 to 6 stipple colours can be defined."
141 {STIPPLE,1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15} PRINT "In mode 1 all fo
142 ur colours may be used to make up the eight parameters
143 of the stipple command."
144 {STIPPLE,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2} PRINT "In mode 2 both
145 colours can be used to make up the eight colours of th
146 e stipple command."
147 * stipple command
148 FOR f=0 TO 10000: NEXT: INK 0,26: INK 1,5: BORDER 26 1
149 INK 2,6: INK 3,18: MODE 0: {STIPPLE,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8} AS "15
150 TIPPLE,1,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8" PRINT "In mode 0" FOR
151 f=0 TO 2000: NEXT
152 MODE 1: PRINT "In mode 1" FOR f=0 TO 2000:
153 EXT: MODE 2: PRINT "In mode 2" FOR f=0 TO 2000:
154 NEXT: END
```



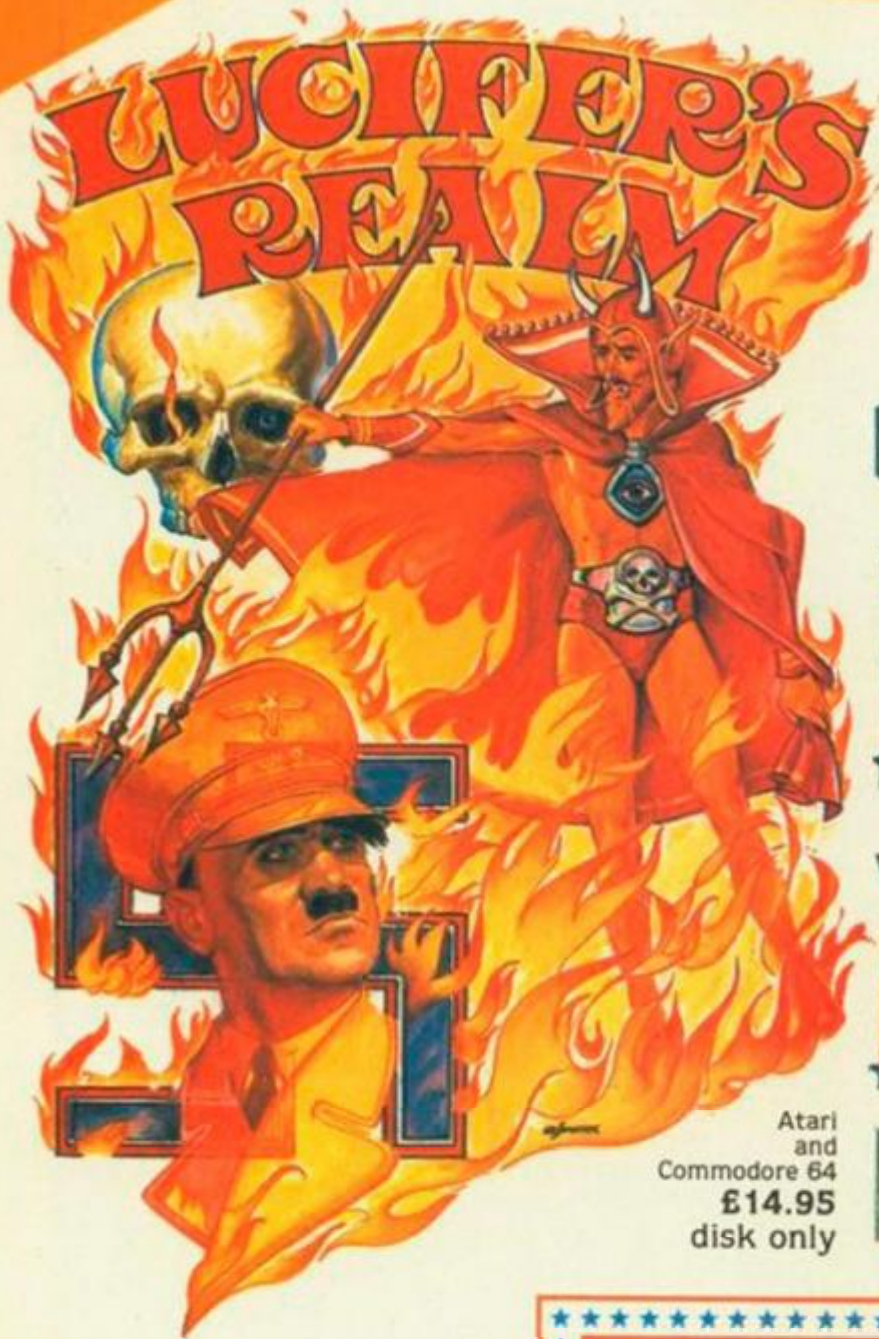
ATARI 128

TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE...

AMERICAN EAGLE SOFTWARE, INC.

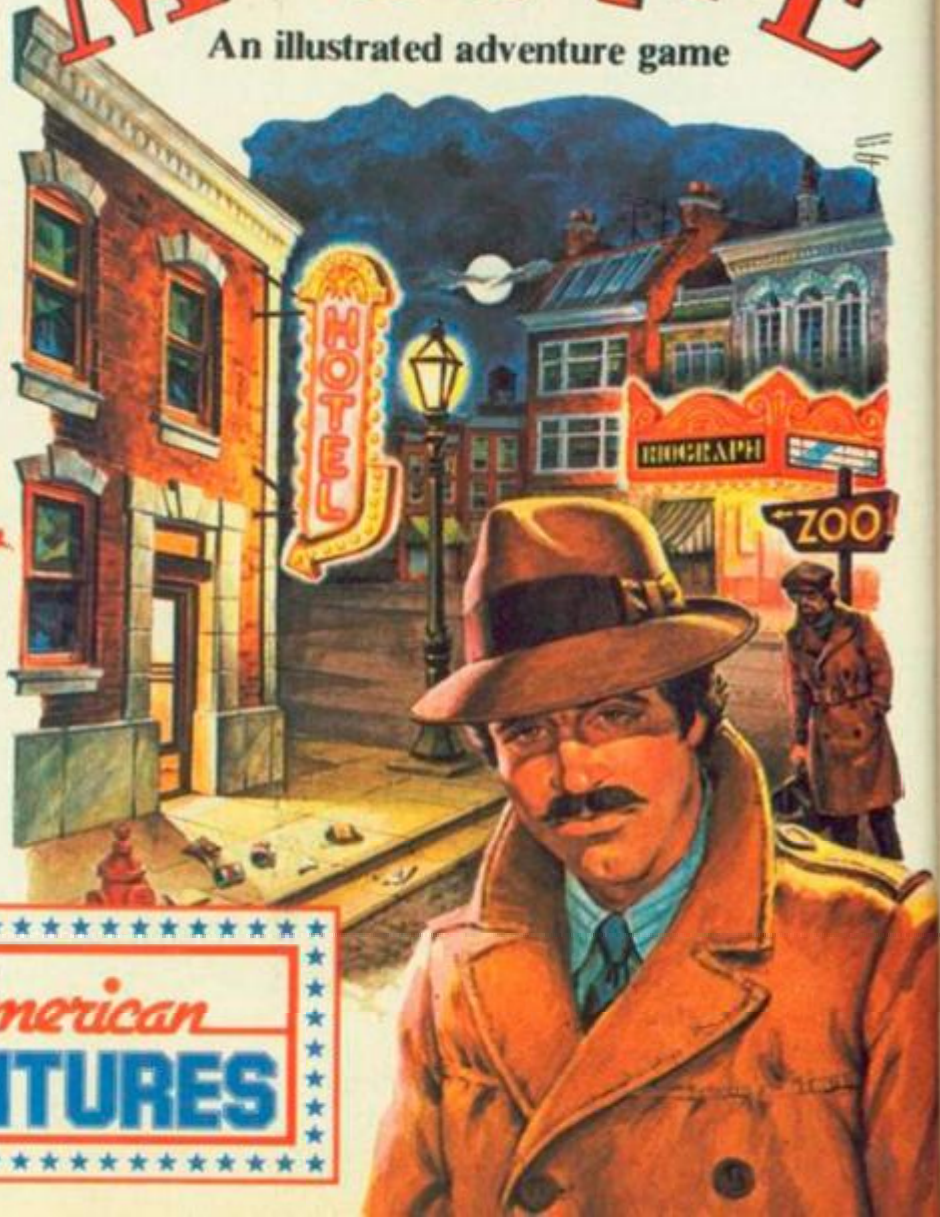


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CHANGERS

WHEN LECTURING I often include informal definitions of computing terms to make them more memorable to students. My informal definition of a utility is a program which makes life easier for an operator or a programmer. The utility presented here falls into the latter category. This machine-code program does nothing that cannot be done from Basic; but it does it much faster and with much less bother to the programmer.

The utility is designed to manipulate the colour attributes of a BBC's mode 7 screen. A simple call is included to invert the colours — excluding black and white; a more involved series of calls will select an area of the screen to be affected, and allow a more precise exchange of attributes. All of this could be done

from Basic; but would involve the program keeping track of the position and nature of teletext control codes. The memory involved for this may be greater than the memory occupied by this utility; and it would certainly execute more slowly.

Teletext — mode 7 — screens have colour and other attributes set and controlled by character codes in the range 129 to 159 Ascii. A control code on a line will control the manner in which succeeding characters on that line are presented by the hardware. Such codes only affect the current line up to either the end of the line or an overriding code on the same line.

An example may make this clearer; suppose the message "HELLO!" is required to be presented in red text. The red text control code is given in the user guide as Ascii 129 (page

486). This can be incorporated into a string by the command

```
string$ = CHR$(129) + "HELLO!"
```

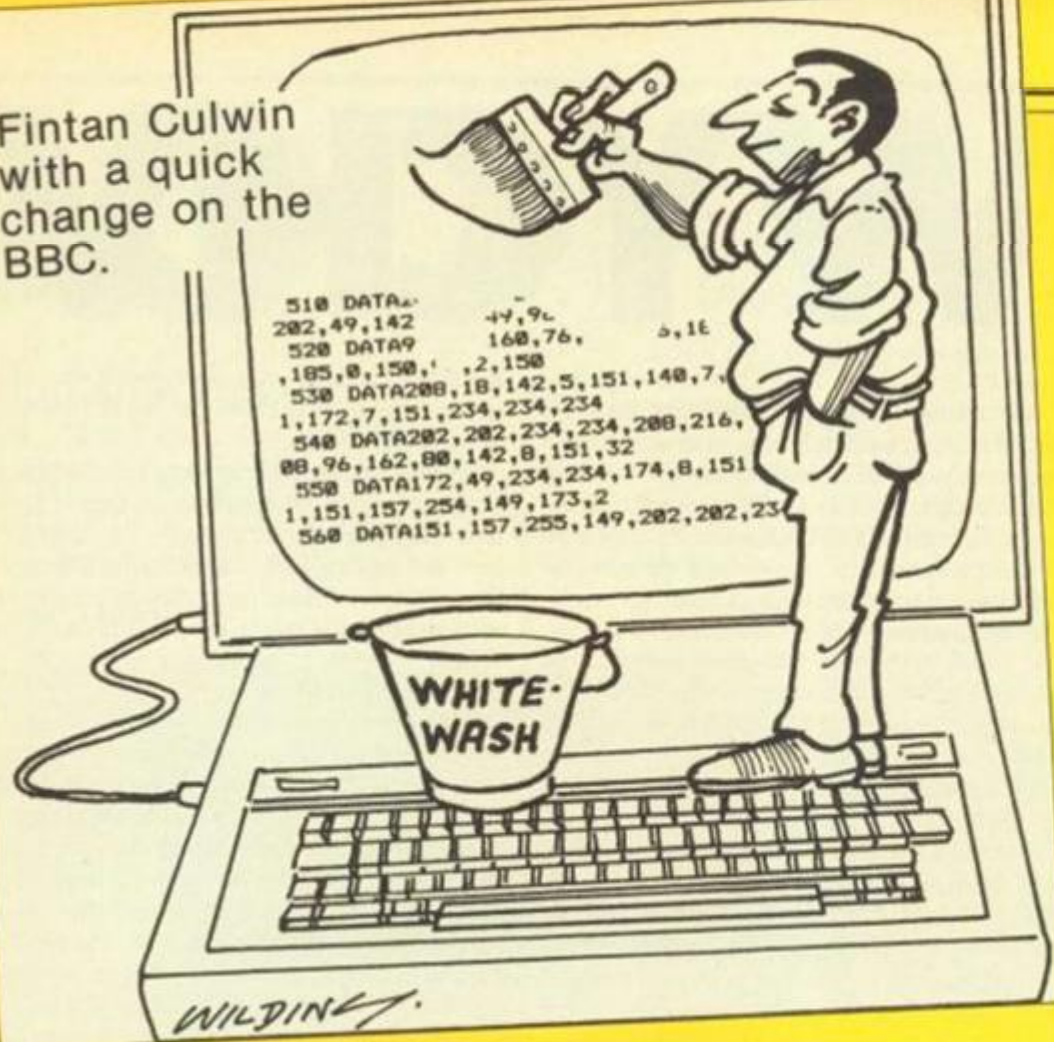
When this string is printed onto a mode 7 screen the control code will occupy one character position and the text will follow it in red. The colour will be changed by a following colour code or by the end of that line. If it is wanted to change the colour from red to blue; it is only necessary to change the control code from red text — 129 — to blue text — 132. It is not necessary to rewrite the text itself.

The utility presented here, if called without any parameters will cause a predefined change in text and graphic colour attributes. These predefined changes are red to green and vice versa, yellow to blue and cyan to magenta and vice versa. White codes are not affected.

```
100 MODE 7
110 REM EDGE 7 CHANGER
120 REM PINTAN CULMIN
130 REM VERSION 1.0
140 version = ADDR
150 FOR out = 1 TO 3 STEP 2
155 PA = ADDR
160 PROC prepare
170 PROC checkit
180 PROC dest
190 NEXT out
200 PROC test
210 PROC save
220 END

1000 DEF PROC prepare
1010 serop = 870
1020 tabin = 872
1030 tabout = 885
1040 tabin% = 63 : REM address of *40 table
1100 I OPT opt
1110 vhi : NOP
1120 vlo : NOP
1130 vleft : NOP
1140 vright : NOP
1150 vflag : NOP
1155 address : NOP : NOP
1170 temp : NOP : NOP
1180 from : NOP
1190 to : NOP
1200
1210 ENDPROC
2000 DEF PROC checkit
2010 I OPT opt : invert
2020 LDA #155
2030 CMP #7
2040 BNE wally
2050 LDA #0
2060 STA flag
2070 LDA #600
2080 BNE default
2090 CMP #2
2094 BEO two
2098 CMP #4
2100 BEO four
2104 CMP #6
2108 BEO six
2110 wally : BKK
2114
2118 PA = 817
2120 (PA+) = " wally "
2124 PA = 802
2128 PA = PA + 11 : REM ERROR MESSAGE
2200 OPT opt
2210 default : default parameters
2220 JSR setdefaults
2230 JMP main
2300 four : get four parameters
2310 JSR outfour
2320 JMP main
2400 six : get six parameters
2410 JSR outsix
2420 LDA #600
2430 STA serop
2440 LDA #602
2450 STA serop+1
2460 LDA (serop),Y
2470 STA from
2480 LDA #610
2490 STA serop
2500 LDA #611
2510 STA serop+1
2520 LDA (serop),Y
2530 STA to
2540 INY
2550 STY flag : set flag for change
2560 JMP main
2590 two : get two parameters
2600 JSR setdefaults
2610 LDA #601
2620 STA serop
2630 LDA #602
2640 STA serop+1
2650 LDA (serop),Y
2660 STA from
2670 STA serop
2680 LDA #604
2690 STA serop
2700 LDA #605
2710 STA serop+1
2720 LDA (serop),Y
2730 STA to
2740 INY
2750 STY flag : set flag for change
2760 JMP main
2800 setdefaults : set default parameters
2810 LDA #0
2820 STA vleft
2830 LDA #39
2840 STA vright
2850 LDA #39
2860 STA vtop
2870 LDA #0
2880 STA vbottom
2890 LDA #0
2900 STA vserop
2910 LDA #0
2920 STA vstrin
2930 LDA #0
2940 STA vstrip
2950 LDA #0
2960 STA vstar
2970 LDA #0
2980 STA vstripe
2990 LDA #0
3000 STA vstar%
3010 LDA #0
3020 STA vstripe%
3030 LDA #0
3040 STA vstar%
3050 LDA #0
3060 STA vstripe%
3070 LDA #0
3080 STA vstar%
3090 LDA #0
3100 STA vstripe%
3110 LDA #0
3120 STA vstar%
3130 LDA #0
3140 STA vstripe%
3150 LDA #0
3160 STA vstar%
3170 LDA #0
3180 STA vstripe%
3190 LDA #0
3200 STA vstar%
3210 LDA #0
3220 STA vstripe%
3230 LDA #0
3240 STA vstar%
3250 LDA #0
3260 STA vstripe%
3270 LDA #0
3280 STA vstar%
3290 LDA #0
3300 STA vstripe%
3310 LDA #0
3320 STA vstar%
3330 LDA #0
3340 STA vstripe%
3350 LDA #0
3360 STA vstar%
3370 LDA #0
3380 STA vstripe%
3390 LDA #0
3400 STA vstar%
3410 LDA #0
3420 STA vstripe%
3430 LDA #0
3440 STA vstar%
3450 LDA #0
3460 STA vstripe%
3470 LDA #0
3480 STA vstar%
3490 LDA #0
3500 STA vstripe%
3510 LDA #0
3520 STA vstar%
3530 LDA #0
3540 STA vstripe%
3550 LDA #0
3560 STA vstar%
3570 LDA #0
3580 STA vstripe%
3590 LDA #0
3600 STA vstar%
3610 LDA #0
3620 STA vstripe%
3630 LDA #0
3640 STA vstar%
3650 LDA #0
3660 STA vstripe%
3670 LDA #0
3680 STA vstar%
3690 LDA #0
3700 STA vstripe%
3710 LDA #0
3720 STA vstar%
3730 LDA #0
3740 STA vstripe%
3750 LDA #0
3760 STA vstar%
3770 LDA #0
3780 STA vstripe%
3790 LDA #0
3800 STA vstar%
3810 LDA #0
3820 STA vstripe%
3830 LDA #0
3840 STA vstar%
3850 LDA #0
3860 STA vstripe%
3870 LDA #0
3880 STA vstar%
3890 LDA #0
3900 STA vstripe%
3910 LDA #0
3920 STA vstar%
3930 LDA #0
3940 STA vstripe%
3950 LDA #0
3960 STA vstar%
3970 LDA #0
3980 STA vstripe%
3990 LDA #0
4000 STA vstar%
4010 LDA #0
4020 STA vstripe%
4030 LDA #0
4040 STA vstar%
4050 LDA #0
4060 STA vstripe%
4070 LDA #0
4080 STA vstar%
4090 LDA #0
4100 STA vstripe%
4110 LDA #0
4120 STA vstar%
4130 LDA #0
4140 STA vstripe%
4150 LDA #0
4160 STA vstar%
4170 LDA #0
4180 STA vstripe%
4190 LDA #0
4200 STA vstar%
4210 LDA #0
4220 STA vstripe%
4230 JSR onechar
4235 STA (serop),Y : return to screen
4240 INY
4250 TYA
4260 CMP vright
4270 BCC nextchar : do each character
4280 RTS : from oneline
4290 onechar
4300 LDA flag
4310 BNE switch : branch for change
4320 BCC #681
4330 BCC #697
4340 BCC #697
4350 BCC #697
4360 BCC #697
4370 PHA
4380 AND #68F
4390 CMP #67
4400 BCC notout : low nibble > 7
4410 AND #1
4420 BNE up
4430 PLA : TAX : increase byte
4440 DEX
4450 TXA
4460 STA
4470 AND #67F
4480 STA
4490 AND #67F
4500 STA
4510 AND #67F
4520 STA
4530 AND #67F
4540 STA
4550 AND #67F
4560 STA
4570 AND #67F
4580 STA
4590 AND #67F
4600 STA
4610 AND #67F
4620 STA
4630 AND #67F
4640 STA
4650 AND #67F
4660 STA
4670 AND #67F
4680 STA
4690 AND #67F
4700 AND #67F
4710 AND #67F
4720 AND #67F
4730 AND #67F
4740 AND #67F
4750 AND #67F
4760 AND #67F
4770 AND #67F
4780 AND #67F
4790 AND #67F
4800 AND #67F
4810 AND #67F
4820 AND #67F
4830 AND #67F
4840 AND #67F
4850 AND #67F
4860 AND #67F
4870 AND #67F
4880 AND #67F
4890 AND #67F
4900 AND #67F
4910 AND #67F
4920 AND #67F
4930 AND #67F
4940 AND #67F
4950 AND #67F
4960 AND #67F
4970 AND #67F
4980 AND #67F
4990 AND #67F
5000 AND #67F
```


Fintan Culwin
with a quick
change on the
BBC.



```

518 DATA 202,49,142
520 DATA 168,76, 5,1E
,185,8,150, 2,150
538 DATA208,18,142,5,151,148,7,
1,172,7,151,234,234,234
548 DATA202,202,234,234,208,216,
88,96,162,88,142,8,151,32
558 DATA172,49,234,234,174,8,151
1,151,157,254,149,173,2
568 DATA151,157,255,149,202,202,23

```

The default of the whole screen can be modified by adding four integer parameters to the call. These parameters define an area of the screen in the order leftX, rightX, topY and bottomY. Only the codes in this area will be changed; but the effects of the codes may extend

to the right of the area.

More selective control of the changes can be made by specifying two or six integer parameters. Two parameters indicate a code to be found and a code to replace it. These codes are not limited to teletext control codes; any



This program is
available on Telsoft.

Ascii characters can be exchanged. Two integer parameters will effect the whole screen; six will select an area of the screen. The first four define the area as before; the last two specify the codes to be found and replaced respectively.

Only a limited error checking is provided. A check is made that the machine is in mode 7; and a check is made that the correct nns only. The left/right and up/down should be in the correct order and within the confines of the screen. If these conditions are not adhered to unexpected and possibly disastrous results will be obtained.

For the non technical all that is necessary is to copy out the listing. It is configured for tape based systems to occupy memory from &D00 onwards; it extends beyond the normal start of user memory &E00; so it will have to be protected or assembled for a different area. When run the code is first assembled and then tested with all four possible types of command. Once tested the start, end and execution addresses are displayed allowing a working copy to be saved.

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Figure 1.

```

10 REM WYCHWOOD - Plotter control program for the ORIC-1
20
30 GOTO 70
40 GOTO 70:01 REM Instruction to program error routine
50 GOTO 70:02 REM Instruction to PROCPL0T error routine
60
70 DRIVE = "1": F# = "Default"
80 #FOL:1
90 MODE:3
100 CLOSE#
110 APPRSIZE = 150
120 DIM #ARRAYSIZE#
130 CLS
140 PRINT SPC(15); "WYCHWOOD - Plotter Control Program"
150 PRINT: PRINT SPC(15); "(c) John Dawson 1985"
160 PRINT: PRINT SPC(15); "Version 1.10"
170 PRINT: PRINT SPC(15); "For the ORIC-1 plotter"
180 FOR DELAY% = 0 TO 7000: NEXT DELAY%
190 CLS
200
210 REPEAT
220 ON ERROR GOTO 40
230 #DRIVE =
240 PROCINSTRUCTS("COMMAND")
250 F# = GET#
260 IF F# = "N" THEN DS = 0: PROCWRITE
270 IF F# = "E" THEN PROCEDIT: PLOT
280 IF F# = "C" THEN PROCWRITE
290 IF F# = "R" THEN PROCLOAD
300 IF F# = "D" THEN PROCWRITE: DRIVE
310 IF F# = "F" THEN PROCSTART: UP: PROCPL0T: VOUT
320 IF F# = "L" THEN PROCPL0T: PLOT
330 IF F# = "S" THEN PROCSTART: INK
340 IF F# = "T" THEN PROCPOOL: TEXT
350 UNTIL F# = "X"
360 VOUT#
370 VOUT#
380 END
390
400 DEF PROCATALOGUE
410 PROC#_WINDOW
420 CLS
430 PRINT "CATALOGUE of the current data drive"
440 PRINT STRING$(48); " "
450 PRINT: PRINT
460 IF DRIVE# = "1" THEN #L:0
470 IF DRIVE# = "2" THEN #L:1
480 IF DRIVE# = "3" THEN #L:2
490 IF DRIVE# = "4" THEN #L:3
500 PRINT
510 ENDPROC
520
530 DEF PROCWRITE: DRIVE
540 PROC#_WINDOW
550 CLS
560 PRINT "DATA - after the drive number for data storage"
570 PRINT STRING$(48); " "
580 PRINT TAB(10,5); "Current drive number is "; DRIVE#
590 PRINT TAB(10,7); "ENTER new drive number or"
600 PRINT "press (Return) to leave unchanged ";
610 F# = GET#
620 IF F# = CHR$(13) THEN #L:0
630 IF F# = "1" THEN DRIVE# = 2:GOTO 640
640 IF VAL$(F#) < 1 OR VAL$(F#) > 3 THEN VOUT#; GOTO 590
650 DRIVE# = F#
660 CLS
670 ENDPROC
680
690 DEF PROCWRITE: LINE#
700 VOUT: DS:0: F#
710 PRINT SPC(70)
720 ENDPROC
730
740 DEF PROCRETURN
750 PRINT "Press (Return) to continue ";
760 #L = GET#; IF #L <> CHR$(13) THEN #L:0
770 ENDPROC
780
790 DEF PROCSTART: UP
800 PROC#_WINDOW
810 CLS
820 PRINT "PL0T current array"
830 PRINT STRING$(48); " "
840 PROC#_W#
850 #FOL:1
860 #FOL:1
870 VOUT:2
880 VOUT:1,12,1,19,1,17
890 PRINT "1"
900 ENDPROC
910
920 DEF PROCLOAD: WINDOW
930 VOUT: 28,1,0,24,30,0
940 ENDPROC
950
960 DEF PROC#_W#
970 VOUT: 28,1,24,79,1
980 ENDPROC
990
1000 DEF PROC#_WINDOW
1010 VOUT: 28,71,24,79,0
1020 ENDPROC
1030
1040 DEF PROCWRITE
1050 PROCINSTRUCTS("ELEMENT")
1060 PROC#_WINDOW
1070 CLS
1080 CS=#L
1090 REPEAT
1100 PRINT STRING$(4); " ";
1110 INPUT LINE: " " #L
1120 IF #L = "0" THEN #L:0
1130 #L:CS+1
1140 CS = CS+1
1150 UNTIL CS = APPRSIZE OR #L = "0"
1160 CS = CS-1
1170 ENDPROC
1180
1190 DEF PROCINSTRUCTS(X#)
1200 PROC#_WINDOW
1210 CLS
1220 X = OPEN#(X#)
1230 REPEAT
1240 INPUT#; X#
1250 PRINT #X#
1260 IF NOT EOF# THEN PRINT
1270 UNTIL EOF#
1280 CLOSE#
1290 ENDPROC
1300
1310 DEF PROCPL0T
1320 ON ERROR GOTO 50
1330 CLS: Err# = F#
1340 FOR DL = 0 TO CS
1350 Err# = DL: Err# = Err#+1
1360 IF LEFT$(ERR$(DL),1) = "1" THEN NEXT DL
1370 IF LEFT$(ERR$(DL),1) = "-" THEN PROC#_W# ELSE
PRINT #X#
1380 NEXT DL
1390 VOUT#
1400 CLS
1410 ENDPROC
1420
1430 DEF PROCWRITE
1440 CLOSE#
1450 PROC#_WINDOW
1460 CLS
1470 PRINT "SAVE plot array to disc"
1480 PRINT STRING$(48); " "
1490 PRINT TAB(10,5); "CHECK data disc is in drive "; DRIVE#
1500 PRINT TAB(10,5); "ENTER file name"
1510 INPUT: " " #L
1520 IF LEN(#L) > 7 THEN VOUT#; GOTO 1500
1530 F# = "1": DRIVE# = "1": #L:1
1540 F# = "2": DRIVE# = "2": #L:1
1550 F# = "3": DRIVE# = "3": #L:1
1560 F# = "4": DRIVE# = "4": #L:1
1570 PROC#_WINDOW
1580 CLS
1590 PRINT "Loading "; F#
1600 CLS:0
1610 REPEAT
1620 INPUT#; #L:0

```

WYCHWOOD

SOME PEOPLE make a fetish out of "good" programming. Computer academics run riot with the idea that any Goto instruction in a program should be erased as though it were a manifestation of the Devil himself. Other people have more laid back attitudes which do not necessarily help to produce tight, error proof, well documented programs that can be used by someone other than the author.

As usual, a sensible mid-point between the poles of opposing arguments seems to produce a good outcome; there are solid advantages in structuring a program so that the logic of the steps that the computer needs to follow is set out clearly and simply; while an occasional Goto, with a local destination and not crossing any exits from the segment of the program in which it is used, produces no confusion and can save space and effort.

I tend to write programs out of my head and the tidying up gets done later on when I have some idea that I can achieve what I want to do. That's the opposite of what you might be taught about "proper" computing but it's human and the end result may not be so bad. What you do need is a sense of the good structure at which you are aiming finally.

Figure 1 is a listing of Wychwood; a plotter control language for the BBC micro. I wrote the program originally because I wanted to control the sophisticated features of an Epson HI-80 plotter and that's quite difficult to do using Basic, spreadsheet programs or a word processor. The version listed here is adapted for the Oric-1/Tandy four colour plotter.

All computer languages allow you to construct a series of steps, or program instructions, that the computer will follow when the program is run. If you are writing a

language in Basic you need some way of inputting and storing the steps that the computer is to carry out.

It would be possible to enter each step at the keyboard, store the sequence on tape or floppy disc and then run the program by starting the tape and reading each instruction as it occurred. One obvious difficulty of this method is that all programming languages provide facilities to repeat a series of operations until a desired result is achieved.

With the program steps stored on tape you'll have to rewind the tape each time the program went round the loop. That seems a bit slow and perhaps boring — but it could be done.

Another method of holding the instructions that your language must follow is to place the program steps into a Basic array. Finding the start of the program is easy, to find the next instruction you need only increment a counter by one, and loops are easy to establish and run as you can alter the value of the counter to point to the instruction after the label that marks the start of the loop.

For example, Wychwood uses the array A\$ to hold the series of instructions that form a Wychwood program.

The idea of using an array to store the instructions that are to be carried out by Wychwood is fine so far as it goes. But first of all the program you have written to control a plotter will be lost when the power to the computer is turned off, and second, the BBC computer is comparatively short of space for very large arrays.

In fact, the second objection is a good thing because it leads to a neat solution which removes all practical limitations on the size of plotter control program you can write and gives

Figure 2.

```

WRITE      a new plot sequence
EDIT       the current plot array
STORE     the plot array to disc
READ      a plot array from disc

PLOT       the current array
LIST      the current plot array

CATALOGUE the current disc
DRIVE     alter the data drive

TEXT       spool array to text file

EXIT <X> to BASIC
Which C D E L P R S T W X

```

WYCHWOOD - Plot array editor

-
- APPEND instructions to array
- DELETE instruction
- INSERT instructions into the array. Enter <Q> to exit the insert mode
- MODIFY an instruction
- EXIT <X> the editor to return to the MCL

```

1430 DEF PROCLOAD
1440 CLOSE#
1450 PROC#_WINDOW
1460 CLS
1470 PRINT "READ plot array from disc"
1480 PRINT STRING$(48); " "
1490 PRINT TAB(10,5); "CHECK data disc is in drive "; DRIVE#
1500 PRINT TAB(10,5); "ENTER file name"
1510 INPUT: " " #L
1520 IF LEN(#L) > 7 THEN VOUT#; GOTO 1500
1530 F# = "1": DRIVE# = "1": #L:1
1540 F# = "2": DRIVE# = "2": #L:1
1550 F# = "3": DRIVE# = "3": #L:1
1560 F# = "4": DRIVE# = "4": #L:1
1570 PROC#_WINDOW
1580 CLS
1590 PRINT "Loading "; F#
1600 CLS:0
1610 REPEAT
1620 INPUT#; #L:0

```

```

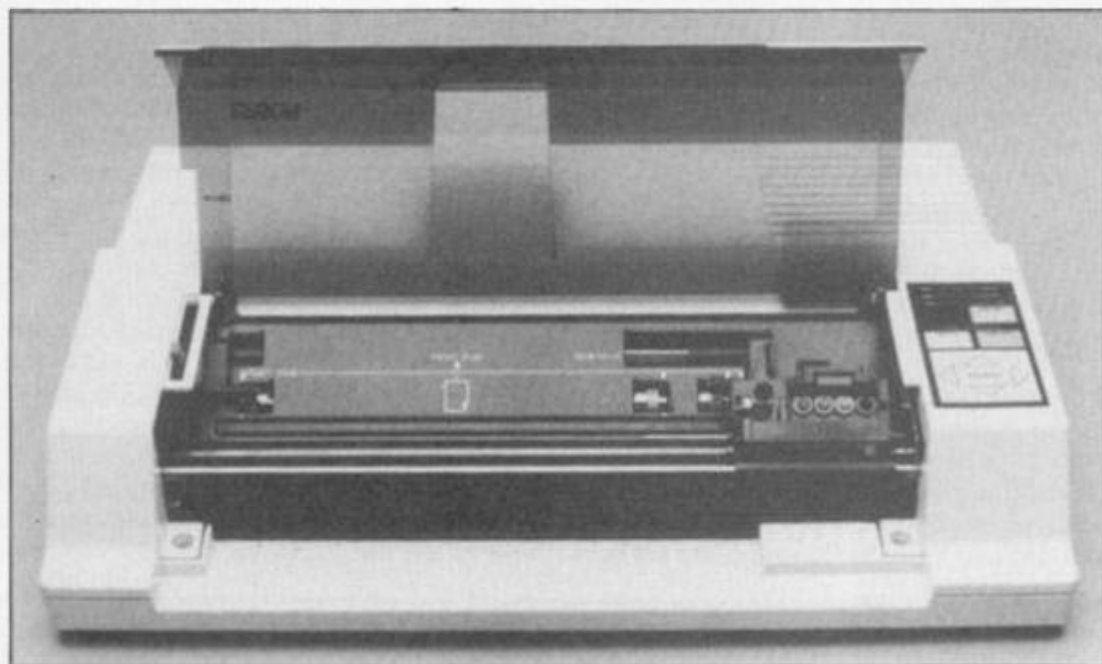
1640 PRINT #L:0
1650 CS=#L+1
1660 UNTIL EOF#
1670 CLOSE#
1680 CS = CS-1
1690 CLS
1700 ENDPROC
1710
1720 DEF PROC#_W#
1730 X = INPUT#; #L:0:GREEN,RED,BLUE,BLACK, TITLE, SIZE#;
SIZE#%#; #L:0:0:1
1740 IF X = 0 THEN 2000
1750 IF X = 1 THEN RESTORE #L:0: PROC#_W#
1760 IF X = 2 THEN PRINT "E"
1770 IF X = 3 THEN PRINT "C"
1780 IF X = 4 THEN PRINT "D"
1790 IF X = 5 THEN PRINT "R"
2000 IF X = 24 THEN RESTORE #L:0: PROC#_W#
2010 IF X = 25 THEN PRINT "0"
2020 IF X = 42 THEN PRINT "1"
2030 ENDPROC

```

WOOD

John Dawson with Wychwood, a plotter control language for the BBC micro to control the features of the Oric-1/Tandy.

- array
 - D Change the current data disc — default '1'
 - P Send the contents of A\$ to the plotter
 - L List the A\$ program array to a parallel printer
 - C Display a catalogue of the current data disc
 - T Produce a text file from the current A\$ array
 - X Exit the Wychwood program to Basic
- For my own education, I decided that I wanted to show different prompt messages and instructions on screen at various places in the program. It is inefficient to try to store these as part of the Basic program because the relatively large amounts of textual information seriously detracted from the data you can hold

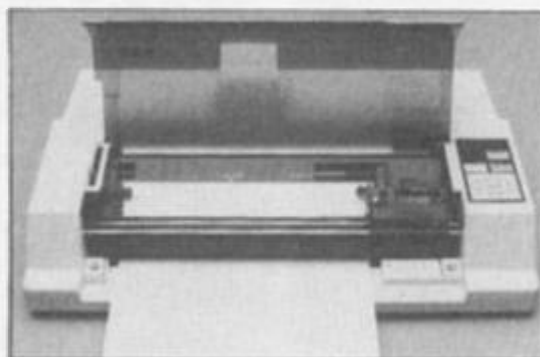


your programs a tidy, easy to understand structure. The solution does depend, however, on the use of a floppy disc drive.

In theory, you could use the program with one or two cassette decks but you lose the ability to find one out of a collection of files in a few milliseconds and that will make the program very frustrating to use.

Before you can "run" a Wychwood program, you need to be able to enter the instructions into the program array, save the program on a floppy disc and read it back into the computer. Nobody writes correct programs in one go and Wychwood has an editing facility that allows you to Modify, Delete, Insert and Append instructions to those already in the array. The functions available from the Main Command Level (lines 210-350) are:

- W Write a new program
- E Edit the contents of the A\$ program array
- S Store the A\$ array on disc
- R Read a program from disc into the A\$



in the machine at any one time.

This is a key difference between a program written for the BBC using cassette tape as its mass storage facility and the same machine fitted with disc drives. A cassette tape based program must hold the whole program in Ram at once unless you intend to Chain one section of the program after another. With floppy discs you can ready one file or another from disc just as often as you want.

(continued on next page)

```

2480 CLS
2490 FOR HL = PSTARTS TO PSTARTS+PDL
2500 PRINT STR$(HL); " "; TAB(40);
2510 NEXT HL
2520 ENDPROC
2530
2540 DEF PROCEDIT_COPYING
2550 #FFA,1
2560 #MODE,71,28,79,19
2570 CLS
2580 PRINT STR$(HL); " ";
2590 PRINT "Delays - A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z";
2600 IF DL = PSTARTS THEN DL = PSTARTS
2610 IF DL = PSTARTS+PDL THEN DL = PSTARTS+PDL
2620 PRINT TAB(10,21) SP$(DL);
2630 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); " "; TAB(40);
2640 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); " "; TAB(40);
2650 ZL = GET
2660 IF ZL = 136 THEN DL = DL+1 GOTO 2600
2670 IF ZL = 137 THEN DL = DL+1 GOTO 2600
2680 ZL = CHR$(ZL)
2690 PRINT ZL
2700 ENDPROC
2710
2720 DEF PROCDELETE
2730 FOR EL = DL TO ARRAYSIZE-1
2740 #A(EL) = #A(EL+1)
2750 NEXT EL
2760 #ARRAYSIZE = **
2770 CL = CL-1
2780 ENDPROC
2790
2800 DEF PROCINERT
2810 FOR EL = ARRAYSIZE TO DL STEP -1
2820 IF EL = 1 THEN 2840
2830 #A(EL) = #A(EL-1)
2840 NEXT EL
2850 CL = CL+1
2860 #A(EL) = **
2870 CLS
2880 PRINT STR$(HL); " ";
2890 PRINT "ENTER new instruction";
2900 IF DL = 1 THEN 2920
2910 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); " "; TAB(40);
2920 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); " "; TAB(40);
2930 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); INPUT LINE " "; #A(EL)
2940 IF #A(EL) = "Q" OR #A(EL) = "X" THEN PROCDELETE
2950 ENDPROC
2960 DL = DL+1
2970 GOTO 2810
2980
2990 DEF PROCMODIFY
2990 CLS
3000 PRINT STR$(HL); " ";
3010 PRINT "COPY or MODIFY the current instruction";
3020 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); " "; TAB(40);
3030 PRINT TAB(10,21) STR$(DL); " "; TAB(40);
3040 INPUT LINE " "; ER
3050 IF ER = ** THEN ENDPROC ELSE #A(EL) = ER
3060 ENDPROC
3070
3080 DEF PROCLIST_PLOT
3090 PROCIN_WINDOW
3100 CLS
3110 IF #A(1) = ** THEN 3290
3120 PRINT TAB(10,21) "Enter page header (40 chars max)";
3130 INPUT LINE " "; TH
3140 IF LEN(TH) > 40 THEN VDU; GOTO 3160
3150 #FX,1
3160 #FX,0
3170 VDU 2
3180 #PL, #DL; PPS = 1
3190 FOR EL = 0 TO DL STEP PLS
3200 PRINT SP$(EL); TH;
3210 PRINT TAB(10,21) "Page "; PPS
3220 PRINT, PRINT
3230 FOR ZL = 0 TO PLS-1
3240 PRINT SP$(ZL); STR$(ZL+ZL);
3250 PRINT TAB(10,21) #A(EL+ZL);
3260 IF #A(EL+ZL) = ** THEN 3370
3270 NEXT ZL
3280 VDU 1,1,2
3290 VDU 3
3300 CLS
3310 #PS, #PPL;
3320 PRINT TAB(10,21) "Press (RETURN) to continue";
3330 V# = GET#; IF V# = CHR$(13) THEN 3350
3340 CLS
3350 VDU 2
3360 NEXT EL
3370 VDU 3
3380 GOTO 3420
3390 CLS
3400 VDU; PRINT "PLOT ARRAY EMPTY ";
3410 FOR DELAYS = 0 TO 10000 NEXT DELAYS
3420 PROCIN_WINDOW
3430 ENDPROC
3440
3450 DEF PROCPOOL_TEXT
3460 #DELETE, #DEFAULT
3470 PROCIN_WINDOW
3480 #POOL, #DEFAULT
3490 PROCPLIST
3500 #SPool
3510 ENDPROC
3520
3530 DEF PROC_ELEMENT
3540 CLOSE#
3550 #R = " "; #H = #H+1; **#A(EL)
3560 # = #SPENP(#R); #R = #R; #R = 0
3570 REPEAT
3580 Char# = #DELETE#
3590 Char# = CHR$(Char#)
3600 PRINT Char#;
3610 #R = #R+1
3620 UNTIL #R = #R
3630 CLOSE#
3640 ENDPROC
3650
3660 DEF PROCX
3670 READ ZL
3680 FOR HL = 1 TO ZL
3690 READ COPM#
3700 PRINT COPM#
3710 NEXT HL
3720 ENDPROC
3730
3740 DEF PROC_UNTIL
3750 Loop# = Loop#-1
3760 IF Loop# < 0 THEN DL = Repeat#; ELSE ENDPROC
3770 ENDPROC
3780
3790 VDU 3
3800 VDU 26
3810 VDU 12
3820 PRINT TAB(10,21) "PROGRAM FAULT "; VDU 7
3830 PRINT TAB(10,21) "Fault in line number "; DL
3840 PRINT TAB(10,21) "Fault number "; #R
3850 PRINT, PRINT; PRINT
3860 PROCIN_WINDOW
3870 CLOSE#
3880 CLS
3890 GOTO 250
3900
3910 VDU 2
3920 VDU 26
3930 VDU 12
3940 PRINT "A fault has occurred while
entering a file";
3950 PRINT, PRINT "The filename is: "; #R#
3960 PRINT, PRINT "The fault occurred in line number: "; #R#
3970
3980 PRINT, PRINT; PRINT
3990 PROCIN_WINDOW
4000 CLOSE#
4010 CLS
4020 GOTO 250
4030
4040 REM Commands for Oric-1 plotter
4050 DATA 5,1,70,0,1,73,15,0,1,70,0,1,70,0,0,1
4060 DATA 4,1,1,1,70,0,1,71,15,0,1,70,0,1,70,0,0,1

```

```

2040
2050 K = INSTR("INCL,INCY,DETA,DETY,LOOP", LEFT$(A$(DL),5))
2060 IF K = 0 THEN 2170
2070 VS = LEN(A$(DL))-5
2080 V# = INSTR(104(10),VS)
2090 V# = INSTR(104,VS)
2100 IF K = 1 THEN X1 = X1+V#
2110 IF K = 2 THEN Y1 = Y1+V#
2120 IF K = 3 THEN X1 = X1+V#
2130 IF K = 4 THEN Y1 = Y1+V#
2140 IF V = 21 THEN Loop# = V#
2150 ENDPROC
2160
2170 K = INSTR("REPEAT,UNTIL", #A(EL))
2180 IF K = 0 THEN PROC_ELEMENT
2190 IF K = 1 THEN Repeat# = DL
2200 IF K = 2 THEN PROC_UNTIL
2210 ENDPROC
2220
2230 DEF PROCEDIT_PLOT
2240 PROCINSTRUCTS("EDITOR")
2250 PDL = 15

```

```

2260 PSTARTS = 0
2270
2280 REPEAT
2290 PROCEDIT_COPYING
2300 IF ZL = 136 THEN PSTARTS = PSTARTS+10; DL = DL+10
2310 IF ZL = 137 THEN PSTARTS = PSTARTS+10; DL = DL+10
2320 IF PSTARTS = ARRAYSIZE THEN PSTARTS = ARRAYSIZE-10; DL = PSTARTS
2330 IF PSTARTS < 0 THEN PSTARTS = 0; DL = PSTARTS
2340 IF ZL = "A" THEN DL = CL+1; PROCWRITE, PROCINSTRUCTS("EDITOR")
2350 IF ZL = "D" THEN PROCDELETE
2360 IF ZL = "I" THEN PROCINERT
2370 IF ZL = "M" THEN PROCMODIFY
2380 UNTIL ZL = "Q" OR ZL = "X"
2390 ZL = **
2400 ZL = **
2410 PROCIN_WINDOW
2420 CLS
2430 ENDPROC
2440
2450
2460 DEF PROCDISPLAY_PAGE
2470 PROCIN_WINDOW

```

(continued from previous page)

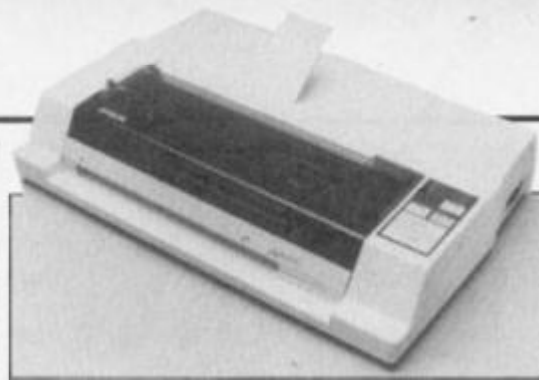
Procinstructs (lines 1190-1290) sets up a text window on the left hand side of the VDU, clears the screen and then reads a sequential text file, printing it to the screen until the End of File marker is reached.

Having loaded the instruction file, the remainder of the procedure to write a new Wychwood program is pretty straightforward. The program line number is printed by line 1100 and line 1110 accept into Z\$ any alphanumeric characters that you type on to the keyboard. This is important because many plotter commands contain commas which will terminate the normal Basic Input instruction — pages 277 and 278 in the BBC User Guide.

Wychwood has the facility to turn the contents of the A\$ Basic array into a text file. The Wychwood Main Command Level loop will go (if you press T — line 340) to Procpool_Text. Procpool_Text deletes the old file 'T.DEFAULT' on the program disc and then prints the program instructions currently held in memory to a new text file 'T.Default' in lines 3480 and 3490.

The plotter is not turned on because Procstart_Up is not called before Procplot. The next stage has to be done manually when you copy the default file from the program disc to the data disc, if you are using two disc drives, and then rename the file to the name of whatever element it will form in the final program.

Because Procpool_Text calls Procplot, which will read existing element text files in the course of printing out a plotter program, it is possible to repeat this process more than



once, increasing the size of the text file each time.

My BBC micro is fitted with version 2 of the Basic interpreter and that means that the Openup instruction should be replaced by Openin for those people working with Basic 1.

Wychwood has changed since last month and the interpreter procedure — Procplot — has grown as I have added new commands to the Wychwood repertoire. In order to make the program easier to adapt to different plotters I have written a new procedure — Proccx — which reads the low level commands that are to be sent to the plotter when a high level program instruction is encountered.

AXIS-1

for example, restores the data pointer to line 4050 and then reads five commands from the data in the line. This method concentrates the data that will need changing when the program is adapted to a different plotter, in one place.

The program is incomplete and must be structured to some extent to suit the particular needs of an individual. Nevertheless, the procedures for writing and editing the contents of a single dimension array, and storing and retrieving the array on floppy discs are complete and working well. Additionally, the program

can display large quantities of information to guide the user when Wychwood is operating.

An interpreter of this sort can be used for many purposes, not just for controlling a plotter, and, because it is written in Basic, it is very easy to extend or modify the actions that will be carried out when a particular instruction is executed. The speed of execution should be entirely adequate for many domestic tasks as well as some applications in school laboratories.

Extracting parameters from the text strings in a single element array is not impossible but tends to be a clumsy business using Basic. If the machine you wish to control, an astronomical telescope or an automatic heating and watering system in a greenhouse, for example, requires a fixed number of parameters associated with each instruction, you may find life far easier if you use a multi-dimension array to store the program.

You could use a single dimension string array to store the instruction name and a two or three dimension integer or real array to hold the parameters. The program pointer will identify the current elements in each array, linking the instruction name to its associated parameters or values.

If, to save typing and additional work to create the Command, Element and Editor files, you would like a copy of Wychwood as it is listed in this article with the additional files, write to me at *Your Computer* enclosing your return address in block capitals, a note of whether you want the program on a 40 or 80 track disc and a cheque for £5.75 to cover the cost of the disc, post, packing and copying.

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I could do that...

In support of his one man campaign against the structuralists John Ransley asked you to design a haywire program for September's competition. It had to combine a loop with a liberal sprinkling of Gotos and Gosubs; and, most importantly, there were to be no elaborate modules. M. Wright, 2 Rye Lane, Halifax, HX2 0QB, wins the £15 prize for his Spectrum Ducksheet program. While the program may not be as messy as John Ransley would like, the author has successfully managed to avoid any suggestion of a logical structure. This month's competition continues our policy of reviving the arcade classics. A Basic version of Space Invaders is in the pipeline. We would like you to follow it up with Breakout in Basic. Remember that the program should be as compact as possible — no more than 20 lines long, and don't worry about sacrificing non-essential features.

```

100 GO TO 140
110 REM ** FUTURE **
120 LET #8=#8+1:GOTO 10:IF #8<#8
130 PRINT #8:GOTO 120
140 REM ** 1178 **
150 FOR #10 TO 3 STEP -1
160 PRINT #10:IF #10/2=1
170 THEN GOTO 140
180 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
190 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
200 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
210 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
220 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
230 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
240 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
250 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
260 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
270 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
280 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
290 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
300 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
310 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
320 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
330 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
340 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
350 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
360 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
370 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
380 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
390 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
400 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
410 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
420 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
430 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
440 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
450 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
460 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
470 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
480 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
490 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
500 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
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830 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
840 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
850 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
860 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
870 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
880 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
890 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
900 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
910 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
920 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
930 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
940 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
950 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
960 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
970 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
980 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
990 PRINT #10:GOTO 150
1000 PRINT #10:GOTO 150

```

And next, for the dim...

ONE OF THE main uses of a micro, or any other type of computer, is the manipulation of large volumes of data, as a single mass, or split up by any given criteria. In Basic, there are several simple commands which are at the heart of any data handler — arguably the most useful are Dimension, For, and Next.

Dim allows a user to set up an array of similar variables, so that,

BEGINNERS

First bytes

Starting out in home computing? First Bytes is for you. Just write to Your Computer with any hardware or software problems, no matter how small or simple.

A bluffers' guide to micros

REMEMBER THE computer-book boom, with each new machine followed by enough "instant books" to start a paperchase to Alpha Centauri? *The MicroGrot Explained ... Revealed ... Unzipped ... Hit With A Sledgehammer.*

Bluff reigned supreme. Some of these books managed to be less useful than the supplied manuals, which generally takes some doing. A programmer's idea of a manual opens with several chapters describing special and incomprehensibly powerful features: only experienced users know to turn to Appendix F, section VI, subsection 3.14, to find the footnote on how to switch the machine on and load programs.

And those were people who knew about the wretched gadgets. In computer publishing's days of glory, *The MicroGrot Explained* could be written by anyone, and usually was. The following bluffer's tales are true, but names are omitted to protect the innocent (me) from the guilty ...

"Why not write a *Basic For The Very Stupid* book for your computer?" asked a friend who'd written two. "Money for old rope."

instead of using, say, A to Z for the first 26 variables entered, e.g.:

```

10 INPUT A
20 INPUT B ...
260 INPUT Z

```

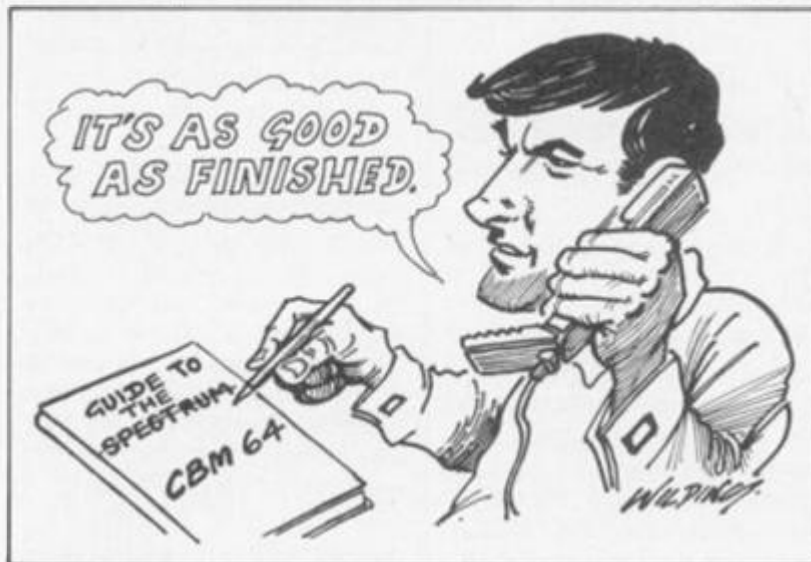
it is possible to have each variable as a different point on the "number line" of the *one-dimensional array*, A:

```

10 DIM A (26)
20 INPUT A (1) ...
270 INPUT A (26)

```

(continued on next page)



"I've only had it a month," I said evasively.

He gave me a look. "I haven't even got one, and I've sold two books on it. Haven't written them yet, but it should be a doddle. It's all in the other books."

Far off, you could hear the crash of mighty pines being felled.

Another pal gloated over lucrative video commissions, with masterworks to be delivered within the week. With gritted teeth I quote: "It's great fun though — and rather silly — we've only had the Spectrum for a fortnight and we have to appear both wonderfully knowledgeable and highly skilled. This is difficult to put over when you have to spend five minutes searching for the word "or" or "to" or whatever ..."

Something snapped inside me when the author of *A Moron's Guide To The Spectrum* dropped in to research his *Moron's Guide To The Commodore 64*. Conscientiously he spent whole minutes researching my 64; meanwhile I flipped through his hideously matrix-printed draft introduction. "Ha ha," I quipped, "it says *Spectrum* here — anyone would think this was your Spectrum introduction again, and you missed that one when you changed the name to CBM-64."

"Er yes well um," he said

sheepishly. "That's right."

After this it seemed quite possible to believe people had published authoritative, hands-on explanations of the QL before ever seeing the machine. Like lifelong nuns writing sex manuals.

It's harder now to flog easy-to-read, easy-to-forget works titled *Rearranged Bits From All The Other Books On The Spectrum*. I've given the thumbs-down to a couple myself: because I'm a world authority on not writing computer books, publishers occasionally ask me in to sneer at submitted manuscripts. My favourite was a book of CBM-64 graphics programs — none of which worked on my 64. There are three variants of the machine, distinguished by what happens when you reach page 64:

POKE 1524,81

The resulting blot was once white, is now cursor coloured.

The dwindling boom is familiar news to SF fans. Decades ago, a dreadful outfit called Badger Books found any SF would sell, and published 159 hackworks by a single author (R.L. Fanthorpe) who wrote one each weekend. It would be libellous to identify the Fanthorpes of computer publishing — but just as Badger poisoned the 1960s SF market, the exploiters have made home-micro books a bit of a joke.

(continued from previous page)

Line 10 sets up the array of variables, and from there onwards, they may be treated as independent variables. The advantage of this system only really comes to light when the array is used in conjunction with a loop. A simple loop can be set up using Goto, with a counter and decision to get out of it at the right time. This principle is used in the program below, which does just the same as the previous one, but in 22 less lines:

```
10 LET COUNT = 0
20 DIM A (26)
30 LET COUNT = F COUNT + 1
40 INPUT A (COUNT)
50 IF COUNT < 26 THEN
  GOTO 30
60 ...
```

Using a For . . . Next loop, the program can be simplified still further:

```
10 DIM A (26)
20 FOR C = 1 TO 26
30 INPUT A (C)
40 NEXT C
```

The two programs function identically, but with the second version, the programmer does not have to bother keeping count himself; nor does he have to remember which line the original For command is on: the computer works out where to go to itself.

The same principle can be used for strings of letters, but, on the Spectrum, the length of the string must be defined, as though, on another computer, a two-dimensional array was being created:

```
10 DIM A$(20,10)
```

will, on the Spectrum, create an array of 20 words, each 10 letters long. This is, in effect, the same as creating a two-dimensional array of characters, and, due to the string splicing commands, can be treated exactly as that. In most Basics, A\$(20) is all that is required for a string array, and the variables can be of any length. Although the Spectrum's approach is more logical, and requires less memory, the latter system is more suited to data comparison and retrieval.

Once an array is set up, the component variables may be manipulated in the same way as any variable, but they may also be treated as a group, e.g.:

```
10 FOR X = 1 TO 26
20 LET A(X) = A(X) + 1
30 NEXT X
```

will add one onto each number in the array A. Using Step, every second value, for example:

```
10 FOR X = 1 TO 26 STEP 2
20 LET A(X) = A(X) + 1
30 NEXT X
```

. . . or only the second 13:

```
10 FOR X = 14 TO 26
20 LET A(X) = A(X) + 1
```

30 NEXT X

So far, arrays of only one "dimension" have been looked at; but any number of dimensions is possible: Dim A (10,10) creates a 2-D array of 10 numbers by 10 numbers (100 in all), and Dim A (10,10,10) will create a 3-D array. In practice, most programs seldom use more than two dimensions, so, to turn back to the 10 by 10 array:

Each of the primary "columns" has another 10 sub-rows: there are numbers ranging from A(1,1) through A(1,2) . . . A(1,10) . . . A(2,1) . . . A(10,10). This capability is important when sets of data must be processed: e.g. when programming a "Monopoly" card. The dimensions needed for "Rent — six values for each card, of which there are 22 — would be R(22,6).

Every card is referred to by a number (1 to 22), and each house state by a number from one to six, where one is "site only", two is "with one house", etc. up to six, which is "Hotel". The rent, then, for three houses, on property 18 is in R(18,4). The names of the properties could be stored in a string array, e.g. P\$(22), so P\$(1) would be "Old Kent Road".

In practice, it would be extremely tedious to enter all these values each time a game was to commence, or to write a program where the data are given on a one-to-one basis with their variable's name, and to alleviate this chore, there exists the Data command set to do this automatically.

After the command Data in a program, there exists a storage place for numbers or strings, e.g. 10 DATA "Old Kent Road",2,10,30,90,160,250,"Whitechapel Road",4,20,60,180,320,450 (etc)

The program below reads this data line in the same basic way as the previous programs inputted data, but as there are two dimensions, it uses a "nest" of two loops, X and Y.

```
10 DATA (as above)
20 DIM R(22,6): DIM P$(22)
(P$(22,20) on the Spectrum)
30 RESTORE
40 FOR X = 1 TO 22
50 READ P$(X)
60 FOR Y = 1 TO 6
70 READ R(X,Y)
80 NEXT Y: NEXT X
```

Restore resets the Data market so that data is read from the beginning of the line onwards. Read reads the data into the specified variable, and moves the market on one "data element", so that the next item is read next time. Note that, as there is only one string element to be read for each property, the Read P\$(X) command is outside the inner nested loop.

BEGINNERS

first bytes



How to come forth

FORTH IS very different from Basic and, indeed, most other high-level languages. It was originally developed by Charles Moore to control radio telescopes at the Kit Peak National Observatory, Arizona, in the early 1970s.

Described as a "high-level" language, Forth is effectively an extensible "macro language". It comes with a standard dictionary of words — i.e. macro definitions — which can be used and expanded to create the user's program. Each new word can be made up of those already in the dictionary or with assembly language mnemonics.

A macro definition is a collection of similar, or lower, level commands which make up a higher level function. This creates a language on a higher level than machine code but with very nearly the same execution speed.

Since each word can be used in successive words the user ends up with a program which is executed by typing one single word. The outcome of all this is that the user creates virtually a new language based around the original dictionary, so you can tailor the language to meet your requirements.

What really makes Forth a high-level language is that fully structured programming methods are employed as a fundamental feature. This is done through the use of control structures such as If . . . Else . . . Endif and Begin

. . . While . . . Repeat. They give it many advantages over Basic such as the ability to support recursive structures.

Another major difference between Forth and Basic is the way in which the former evaluates arithmetic expressions.

Forth employs the use of a stack on which data are held and operated on. All access is to the top of the stack. Therefore, the last number on is the first off.

Operations upon the data use a convention called Reverse Polish Notation (RPN). As an example: 1 2 + 3 x is the RPN equivalent of (1+2)x3. As can be seen the operators are input after the data upon which they operate.

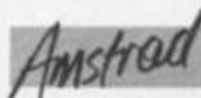
The 1 and 2 go on to the stack where they are added together. The result is placed at the top and the 3 is placed on the stack and then multiplied by the previous result. The final result is again left at the top of the stack.

Unlike nearly all implementations of Basic, standard Forths use integer arithmetic for their operations. In most cases they can handle up to 32-bit precisions if required. Floating-point routines can be incorporated but these would result in a reduction in execution speed.

Debugging a Forth program can be a real headache. This is mainly because of the way in which a Forth program is built up.

Patch On

M K Mostowyj,
Peterborough.



ANYONE WHO owns a DMP1 Printer should already know that the character matrix used is only 5 by 7. Whilst the printout is reasonably good, it could be improved by using a larger character matrix. This program does just that. It works by inserting a patch in the appropriate jump block to redirect the printer routine to a new one in memory.

The new routine provides the DMP1 with a matrix of 8 by 7 with a maximum width of 60 characters in normal mode and 30 characters when printing double width. Although the width is reduced the clarity is increased considerably, and this ability to redefine the complete printer character set is included. Also the # and £ symbols can be mied without the need to alter the Dip switches on the printer.

When the routine is in memory and has been called two RSX commands are logged on. These are:

:PATCHON to turn on the routine
:PATCHOFF to turn it off

All RSX commands must be preceded with the : symbol. Shifted @?;

First of all type in listing one, and save it before running in case of any errors you may make. When this is run, if all is well, you will be given the opportunity to save the resultant code to tape.

SOFTWARE

Programs for Software File should be fairly compact and sent on a cassette.

Please include clear instructions and say what computer it's for. We pay between £6 and £36 for programs published. They must be double-checked and submitted



Once this is done you can reload it any time with:
MEMORY 41659:LOAD"PATCH":CALL 41660

This can either be a direct command or a line within your basic program.

Now enter listing two and save it on a separate tape. When this program is run you will be asked for the name of the character set you wish to load. The original is saved as patch. Once you have loaded the set various options are open to you.

Menu 1.

N — New Character. If pressed the prompt enter character is issued. Enter any Character from the keyboard and press enter. Menu 2 is Then displayed.

S — Save driver and code. Saves Character set and driver complete with any Alterations you may have made. A Library of different set can be compiled.

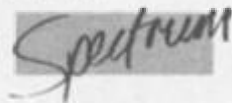
Menu 2.

ARROWS — Moves cursor around grid.
COPY — Sets/resets bit Occupied by curso.
ENTER — Large enter key stores character as defined in grid.
C — Clear grid.
I — Inverse character.
Q — Quits character Without Storing it and returns to menu 1.

```
>10 MODE 1
20 MEMORY 41659
30 sum=0:RESTORE 130
40 PRINT"PLEASE WAIT!!"
50 FOR n=41660 TO 41660+950
60 READ a$:POKE n,VAL("&"+a$)
70 sum=sum+VAL("&"+a$)
80 NEXT
90 IF sum<>60007 THEN CLS:PRINT"ERROR IN DATA!!!!":END
100 CLS:PRINT"Insert tape to save bytes"
110 SAVE "PATCH",b,41660,951
120 END
130 DATA 01,C9,A2,21,C5,A2,C3,D1,BC,00,00,00,00,D1,A2,
C3,E1,A2,C3,F3,A2,50
140 DATA 41,54,43,48,4F,CE,50,41,54,43,48,4F,46,C6,00,
2A,F2,BD,22,69,A3,21
150 DATA FF,A2,22,F2,BD,3E,3C,32,24,AC,C9,2A,69,A3,22,
F2,BD,3E,50,32,24,AC
160 DATA C9,E5,D5,FE,0E,20,17,3A,24,AC,CB,3F,32,24,AC,
3E,02,32,57,A3,17,17
170 DATA 17,32,4F,A3,AF,C3,66,A3,FE,0F,20,0C,3A,24,AC,
CB,27,32,24,AC,3E,01
180 DATA 18,E3,FE,20,38,36,FE,A3,20,02,3E,80,21,6B,A2,
47,11,08,00,19,10,FD
190 DATA 3E,1B,CD,68,A3,3E,4B,CD,68,A3,AF,CD,68,A3,3E,
08,CD,68,A3,06,08,C5
200 DATA 06,01,C5,7E,CD,68,A3,C1,10,F8,23,C1,10,F1,3E,
0F,D1,E1,C3,00,00,00
210 DATA 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,5F,5F,00,00,00,
00,07,07,00,07,07,00
220 DATA 00,14,7F,7F,14,7F,7F,14,00,00,24,2A,7F,7F,2A,
12,00,46,66,30,18,0C
230 DATA 66,62,00,30,7A,4F,5D,37,7A,48,00,00,00,04,07,
03,00,00,00,00,00,1C
240 DATA 3E,63,41,00,00,00,00,41,63,3E,1C,00,00,08,2A,
3E,1C,1C,3E,2A,08,00
250 DATA 08,08,3E,3E,08,08,00,00,00,40,70,30,00,00,00,
00,08,08,08,08,08,08
260 DATA 00,00,00,00,60,60,00,00,00,60,30,18,0C,06,03,
01,00,3E,7F,51,49,45
270 DATA 7F,3E,00,00,40,42,7F,7F,40,40,00,00,72,7B,49,
49,6F,66,00,00,22,63
280 DATA 49,49,7F,36,00,18,1C,16,53,7F,7F,50,00,00,2F,
6F,49,49,79,33,00,00
290 DATA 3E,7F,49,49,7B,32,00,00,03,03,71,79,0F,07,00,
00,36,7F,49,49,7F,36
300 DATA 00,00,26,6F,49,49,7F,3E,00,00,00,00,6C,6C,00,
00,00,00,00,40,6C,2C
310 DATA 00,00,00,08,1C,36,63,41,00,00,00,24,24,24,
24,24,24,00,00,41,63
320 DATA 36,1C,08,00,00,00,06,07,51,59,0F,06,00,3E,7F,
41,5D,5D,5F,1E,00,00
330 DATA 7C,7E,13,13,7E,7C,00,41,7F,7F,49,49,7F,36,00,
1C,3E,63,41,41,63,22
340 DATA 00,41,7F,7F,41,63,3E,1C,00,41,7F,7F,49,5D,41,
63,00,41,7F,7F,49,1D
350 DATA 01,03,00,1C,3E,63,41,51,73,72,00,00,7F,7F,08,
08,7F,7F,00,00,41,41
360 DATA 7F,7F,41,41,00,30,70,40,41,7F,3F,01,00,41,7F,
7F,08,1C,77,63,00,41
370 DATA 7F,7F,41,40,60,70,00,7F,7F,0E,1C,0E,7F,7F,00,
7F,7F,06,0C,18,7F,7F
380 DATA 00,1C,3E,63,41,63,3E,1C,00,41,7F,7F,49,09,0F,
06,00,3C,7E,43,51,33
390 DATA 6E,5C,00,41,7F,7F,09,19,7F,66,00,00,26,6F,49,
49,7B,32,00,00,03,41
400 DATA 7F,7F,41,03,00,00,3F,7F,40,40,7F,3F,00,00,1F,
3F,60,60,3F,1F,00,7F
410 DATA 7F,30,18,30,7F,7F,00,61,73,1E,0C,1E,73,61,00,
00,07,4F,78,78,4F,07
420 DATA 00,47,63,71,59,4D,67,73,00,00,00,7F,7F,41,41,
00,00,01,03,06,0C,18
430 DATA 30,60,00,00,00,00,41,41,7F,7F,00,00,00,04,06,7F,
7F,06,04,00,40,40,40
440 DATA 40,40,40,40,40,00,00,01,03,06,04,00,00,20,74,
54,54,3C,78,40,00,41
450 DATA 7F,3F,44,44,7C,38,00,00,38,7C,44,44,6C,28,00,
38,7C,44,45,3F,7F,40
460 DATA 00,00,38,7C,54,54,5C,18,00,00,48,7E,7F,49,03,
02,00,00,4C,5E,52,52
470 DATA 7E,3E,00,41,7F,7F,08,04,7C,78,00,00,00,44,7D,
7D,40,00,00,00,20,60
480 DATA 40,44,7D,3D,00,41,7F,7F,10,38,6C,44,00,00,00,
41,7F,7F,40,00,00,78
490 DATA 7C,0C,38,0C,7C,78,00,04,7C,78,04,04,7C,78,00,
00,38,7C,44,44,7C,38
500 DATA 00,42,7E,7C,52,12,1E,0C,00,0C,1E,12,52,7C,7E,
42,00,44,7C,78,4C,04
510 DATA 0C,00,00,00,48,5C,54,54,74,20,00,00,04,3F,7F,
44,64,20,00,00,3C,7C
520 DATA 40,40,7C,7C,00,00,1C,3C,60,60,3C,1C,00,3C,7C,
60,38,60,7C,3C,00,44
530 DATA 6C,38,10,38,6C,44,00,00,4E,5E,50,50,7E,7E,00,
00,4C,64,74,5C,4C,64
540 DATA 00,00,08,08,3E,77,41,41,00,00,00,00,77,77,00,
00,00,00,41,41,77,3E
550 DATA 08,08,00,02,03,01,03,02,03,01,00,55,55,2A,2A,
55,55,2A,2A,48,7E,7F
560 DATA 49,49,63,62,00
```

Rotate 'N' Roll

Dave Millen
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire.



ROTATE 'N' ROLL is an intriguing program for any Spectrum written in Basic, which enables the operator to produce three-dimensional wire frame images of prisms or polyhedrons. The number of sides is optional as is the size of the drawing. The shapes can be shown as a series of single frame movements or can be superimposed to create patterns. Apart from the fascination of the patterns produced, the program can be a valuable aid to secondary school teachers of technical graphics to help pupils to visualise objects in movement.

The rotate facility turns clockwise around a vertical axis and the roll turns the object clockwise around a horizontal axis. The size increase give the impression of movement towards the viewer. A combination of superimposed images using all three facilities simulates a solid moving in space, showing the loci of the sides for specified movements.

The program can be paused at any stage of drawing by holding down M. To continue or abort the drawing, follow the instructions on the screen.

Watching the Demo mode will give the operator an idea of what can be achieved. In Run mode the operator is required to program in his/her instructions. Here is a brief explanation of each input in turn. Each input must be terminated with Enter. Mistakes can be rectified

by pressing Caps Shift and Delete.

Polyhedron — a 3D shape with a flat base, number of sides optional, and lines from each corner joining in a point. Example: pyramid.

Prism — a 3D shape with a flat base and top, number of sides optional. Lines from each corner join the base and top. Example: Cube.

Enter number of sides — This is self-explanatory.

Enter Size(0-140) — Each unit represents one pixel on the vertical axis at 0 rotation and roll. 140 units is the maximum size, otherwise the program will stop drawing with the message "figures too big" when the roll approaches 45.

Enter initial rotation — To establish the starting position of the object in degrees. 0 degrees rotation gives a side view with a flat face towards the viewer. 45 deg. rotation of a cube would give a corner towards the viewer.

Enter initial roll — Again establishing the starting position of the object in degrees. 0 degrees rotation gives a side view of the object with the face towards the viewer determined by the rotation. The top of the object rolls towards the viewer. 90 deg. roll will give a top view of the object.

Repeat (Y/N) — If the viewer wishes just a drawing of the object already entered then N should be entered. If a sequence of drawings is required then enter Y.

How many! — Number of drawings required in the sequence.

Enter size inc/dec — To increase or decrease the size of the object during a sequence. To avoid exceeding the maximum size the initial size

should be subtracted from 140 and the result divided by the number of repeats previously entered.

When decreasing in size, enter a minus number in response to the prompt. If the size reaches 0 before and end of the sequence it will continue but start increasing in size.

Enter rotation increase — The number of degrees by which the object must rotate each time, in a sequence. 360 deg. gives a complete rotation and would give no change. A minus number causes the object to rotate anticlockwise.

Enter roll increase — The number of degrees by which the object must roll towards the viewer each time, in a sequence. 360 deg. gives a complete roll. A minus number causes the object to roll away from the viewer.

Superimpose? (Y/N) — If drawings are required as separate images one after another then enter N. To overlay each successive drawing onto the previous drawings, in the sequence, enter Y.

Enter paper colour — Use keys 0 to 7 to enter your desired paper colour.

Enter ink colour — Use keys 0 to 7 to enter your desired ink colour.

The program will now proceed to follow the instructions entered. Details of each drawing are printed on the left of the screen display. Rotate 'n' roll is very easy to use and provides endless fascination for young and old alike.

For those who do not like typing in listings, I can supply copies on cassette for £3, including postage and packing. Send a cheque or postal order to Dave Millen, 28, Well Garth, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL 3AX.

```

5 GO SUB 8000
10 GO SUB 5000
20 GO SUB 6000
30 IF a3=1 THEN GO TO 4000
2000 FOR u=1 TO d+1
2002 LET j=172
2004 LET j1=j
2006 LET s=b
2010 LET k=88+a/1.4+COS ((c+PI/18
0)
2015 LET k1=k
2017 FOR i=1 TO a
2019 LET x=j+a+SIN (b+PI/180) : L
ET y=k+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c+P
I/180) : IF y>175 OR y<0 THEN GO
TO 7000
2025 PLOT X,Y : LET XX=X : LET YY=
Y
2030 FOR b=b TO b+365 STEP 0
2032 LET x=j+a+SIN (b+PI/180) : L
ET y=k+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c+P
I/180) : IF y>175 OR y<0 THEN GO
TO 7000
2032 DRAW X-XX,Y-YY : LET XX=X : L
ET YY=Y
2034 NEXT b
2036 LET k=88+a/1.4+COS ((c+PI/18
0)
2040 NEXT i
2042 LET x=j+a+SIN (b+PI/180) : L
ET y=k+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c+P
I/180) : PLOT X,Y : LET XX=X : LET
YY=Y
2044 FOR b=b TO b+365 STEP 0
2046 LET x=j+a+SIN (b+PI/180) : L
ET y=k+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c+P
I/180) : PLOT X,Y
2048 LET XX=j1+a+SIN (b+PI/180) :
LET YY=k1+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c
+PI/180) : DRAW XX-XX,Y-YY
2050 NEXT b
2052 IF d$="1" THEN GO TO 2310
2054 IF t$="n" OR t$="N" AND r$="
n" OR r$="N" THEN GO SUB 9000
GO TO 10
2056 IF t$="n" OR t$="N" THEN GO
TO 2370
2058 IF INKEY$="M" OR INKEY$="B"
THEN GO SUB 9000
2060 IF u=d+1 THEN GO TO 2360
2062 IF r$="n" OR r$="N" THEN CL
S
2064 LET a=a+1/2 : IF a>70 THEN
GO TO 7000
2066 LET b=b+b1 : IF b>360 THEN L
ET b=b-360
2068 LET c=c+c1 : IF c>360 THEN L
ET c=c-360
2070 GO SUB 5000
2072 NEXT u
2074 IF d$="1" THEN RETURN
2380 GO SUB 9000
2385 CLS
2390 GO TO 10
4000 FOR u=1 TO d+1
4002 LET j=172
4004 LET j1=j
4006 LET s=b
4010 LET k=88+a/1.4+COS ((c+180)
+PI/180)
4015 LET k1=k
4020 LET x=j+a+SIN (b+PI/180) : L
ET y=k+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c+P
I/180) : IF y>175 OR y<0 THEN GO
TO 7000
4025 PLOT X,Y : LET XX=X : LET YY=
Y
4030 FOR b=b TO b+365 STEP 0
4032 LET x=j+a+SIN (b+PI/180) : L
ET y=k+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c+P
I/180) : IF y>175 OR y<0 THEN GO
TO 7000
4032 DRAW X-XX,Y-YY : LET XX=X : L
ET YY=Y
4034 NEXT b
4036 LET j=172
4038 LET k=88+a/1.4+COS ((c+PI/18
0)
4042 FOR b=b TO b+365 STEP 0
4044 LET x=j1+a+SIN (b+PI/180) :
LET y=k1+a+COS (b+PI/180)+SIN (c
+PI/180) : PLOT X,Y : DRAW X-X,K-Y
4046 NEXT b
4048 GO TO 2300
4050 STOP
5000 INK 0 : PAPER 6 : BORDER 6 : C
LS : INPUT "Polyhedron(1) or Pri
sm(2) ? " : a3 : IF a3>2 OR a3<1 THE
N GO TO 5000
5002 LET u=0 : LET d=1 : LET a1=0
LET b1=0 : LET c1=0 : LET r$="n" :
LET t$="n"
5004 DIM c$(8,7) : LET c$(1)="Bl
ue" : LET c$(2)="Red" : LET c$(3)
="Green" : LET c$(4)="Magenta" : LET
c$(5)="Cyan" : LET c$(6)="Yellow" :
LET c$(7)="White"
5006 IF a3=1 THEN PRINT "Polyhed
ron."
5007 IF a3=2 THEN PRINT "Prism."
5010 INPUT "Enter No. of sides."
:h : PRINT "Sides....." : h
LET bb=(INT (h/2)+h/2)
5012 LET o=360/h
5014 INPUT "Enter size (0-140)."
:a : PRINT "Size....." : a
LET a=a/2 : IF a<-70 OR a>70 THE
N GO TO 5030
5016 INPUT "Enter initial rotati
on.(0-360) " : b : LET bb=bb+(360
/h+2) : PRINT "Rotation....."
b-bb+(360/(h+2))
5110 INPUT "Enter initial roll.(
0-360) " : c : PRINT "Roll....."
c
5120 INPUT "Repeat?(y/n) " : LINE
t$ : IF t$="n" OR t$="N" THEN GO
TO 5360
5200 IF t$="y" AND t$="Y" THEN
GO TO 5190
5240 INPUT "How many? " : d : PRINT
"Repeats....." : d : LET u=0
5280 INPUT "Enter size inc/dec."
:a1 : PRINT "Size inc/dec...." : a
1
5320 INPUT "Enter rotation incre
ase." : b1 : PRINT "Rotation inc..
" : b1
5330 INPUT "Enter roll increase."
:c1 : PRINT "Roll increase...."
c1
5340 INPUT "Superimpose?(y/n) " :
LINE r$ : IF r$="y" OR r$="Y" TH
EN PRINT "Superimpose" : GO TO 53
60
5350 IF r$="n" AND r$="N" THEN
GO TO 5340
5360 INPUT "Enter paper colour (
0-7) " : p : IF p<0 OR p>7 THEN GO
TO 5360 : BRIGHT (p=0)
5370 PRINT "Paper....." : c$(
p+1)
5375 INPUT "Enter ink colour (0-
7) " : q : IF q<0 OR q>7 THEN GO T
O 5375
5378 PRINT "Ink....." : c$(
q+1)
5378 FOR l=1 TO 100 : NEXT l
5380 BORDER p : PAPER p : INK q : C
LS
5390 RETURN
6000 IF a3=2 THEN PRINT AT 0,0 :
INK 9 : "Prism."
6010 IF a3=1 THEN PRINT AT 0,0 :
INK 9 : "Polyhedron."
6020 PRINT AT 2,0 : INK 9 : "Sides="
:h : AT 4,0 : "Size =" : a+2, : AT
6,0 : "Rot. =" : b-bb+(360/(h+2)) - (3
60 AND b+bb+(360/(h+2)) : 360) :
" : AT 8,0 : "Roll =" : c : " : AT 10,0
: "How many=" : u
6025 PRINT #1, AT 1,0 : "
M" : PAUSE
6030 RETURN
7000 PRINT #1, AT 0,0 : FLASH 1 : "F
IGURE TOO BIG."
7010 GO SUB 9000
7020 GO TO 10
8010 BORDER 1 : PAPER 1 : INK 2 : C
LS

```

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

erased by an open, ie they don't have to be defined for every channel if the channels have the same settings for any of them. Hence, in the program above, "video x" is defined once and this setting is used for both pages.

At the top of Ram is a block of memory that the video chip uses to display a screen. this is like a program, telling the chip what mode the next line is to be in etc, but more importantly, it holds a palette for every single line it has to display. If we could change this, we could change the palette for a given line within the same channel ie, Colour 1 could be red on the first line of channel 1, in which case anything drawn in colour one appears as red; and also, colour 1 could be blue on the next line.

The only problem is how to access this block of memory, but luckily, it is quite easy with the Speek and Spoke commands in IS Basic. Firstly, you need to know where the Line Parameter Block is so:

```
A=SPEEK(255,49140)+SPEEK(255,49141)*256.
```

An address will be put into A that is the beginning of the block of memory we want. A will usually be equal to 47872 in Basic. The format of this table is:

Disp Contents

00 Two's complement of scanlines in this modeline.
01 The video display mode for this line
02 See Technical manual
03 See Technical manual.
04 Lo byte of address of screen memory for this modeline.

05 Hi byte of address of screen memory for this modeline.
06 Lo of graphic memory in attribute mode or address of character definitions in text modes.
07 Hi of above.
08-15 Palette definition. (Colours 0-7)

The address of the screen memory (04-05) can be used to Poke the display in Basic or machine code — the format of the screen memory for the various modes is detailed in the Technical Manual. Moreover, the data we want is there at 08-15. All that is needed is a small program to change the palette definition to what we want - here is a simple one. Put the colours wanted for colours 0-7 in the Data statement and run it.

```
5 LET num =5
10 FOR A=47872 TO 47872 + num*16-6 STEP
16
20 FOR B=08 TO 15
30 READ C
40 SPOKE 255,A+B,C
50 NEXT B
60 NEXT A
70 END
100 DATA 15,25,35,45,55,65,75,85,
110 DATA 95,105,115,125,135,145,155,165
120 DATA 175,185,195,205,215,225,235,245
130 DATA 49,59,69,79,89,99,109,119
140 DATA 58,46,112,195,237,247,168,249
```

...etc for number of lines wanting to be changed...Just set 'num' to however many lines you want changing. Notice that the first line is the Status Line, and to miss this out change line 10 to:

```
10 FOR A=47872+16 TO 47872+16+...etc..
```

With the knowledge of what is in the Line

Parameter Block, I'm sure you can think of many interesting things to do — scrolling is easy, for example: just change the address of the screen memory on every line to equal the address of the line above or below it. Sideways scrolling can also be done but with a bit more difficulty.

One interesting project would be to install a new device driver so that a channel could be opened that simulated say a Spectrum screen (attribute mode is the obvious choice!) or BBC screen(s). The driver would have to be able to interpret control codes sent to it and act on them as the BBC or Spectrum would do.

This wouldn't be too difficult with a knowledge of machine code since the way to install device drivers is outlined in the Technical manual. If a BBC screen was simulated like this (but beware of the different modes, especially teletext — ignore colour control codes), then conversion from BBC Basic to IS Basic would be simple — procedures and functions are defined in similar ways (though the IS versions are more powerful with parameter passing by reference — including other functions and arrays).

You have probably noticed that you can't use FOR...NEXT loops in immediate mode! This can be very useful while editing to test the contents of memory, so to do this, type EDIT 200 to create a work space for program 200 (!) and type your For loop in as a separate program, eg:

```
EDIT 200
10 FOR A=1 TO 10
20 PRINT PEEK (A);
30 NEXT A
```

This can be run and then Newed. Type EDIT 0 or whatever to get to your real problem.

Turboload

R Grzasko,
London SE15.

Vic 20

THIS UTILITY program will load, save and verify programs six times faster than normal.

First of all type in program one save it then run it. This will move the start of basic above the part of Ram where the Turboload program is located.

Save in case of error

Next type in program two and save it in case of an error. Then run the program.

If all is well after a short time a message will appear on the screen — "You are now ready to Turboload programs". Type:

```
SYS5120
```

to activate the Turboload program. The Turboload program will not load programs that have not been saved by the Turboload program, also normal programs will not load with the Turbo-loader activated.

Press Run Stop and Restore

To overcome this problem press run stop and restore together. You can now load normal programs. Then you can type:

```
SYS5120
```

and save your program at turbo speeds.

When programs using the Turbo-loader are loading the border will turn blue. A more colourful display may be obtained by changing line 2000 to:

```
2000 DATA90,29,FC,EA,EA,49,04,8D,1123
```

If you experience load, verify and save problems try using a good quality computer tape.

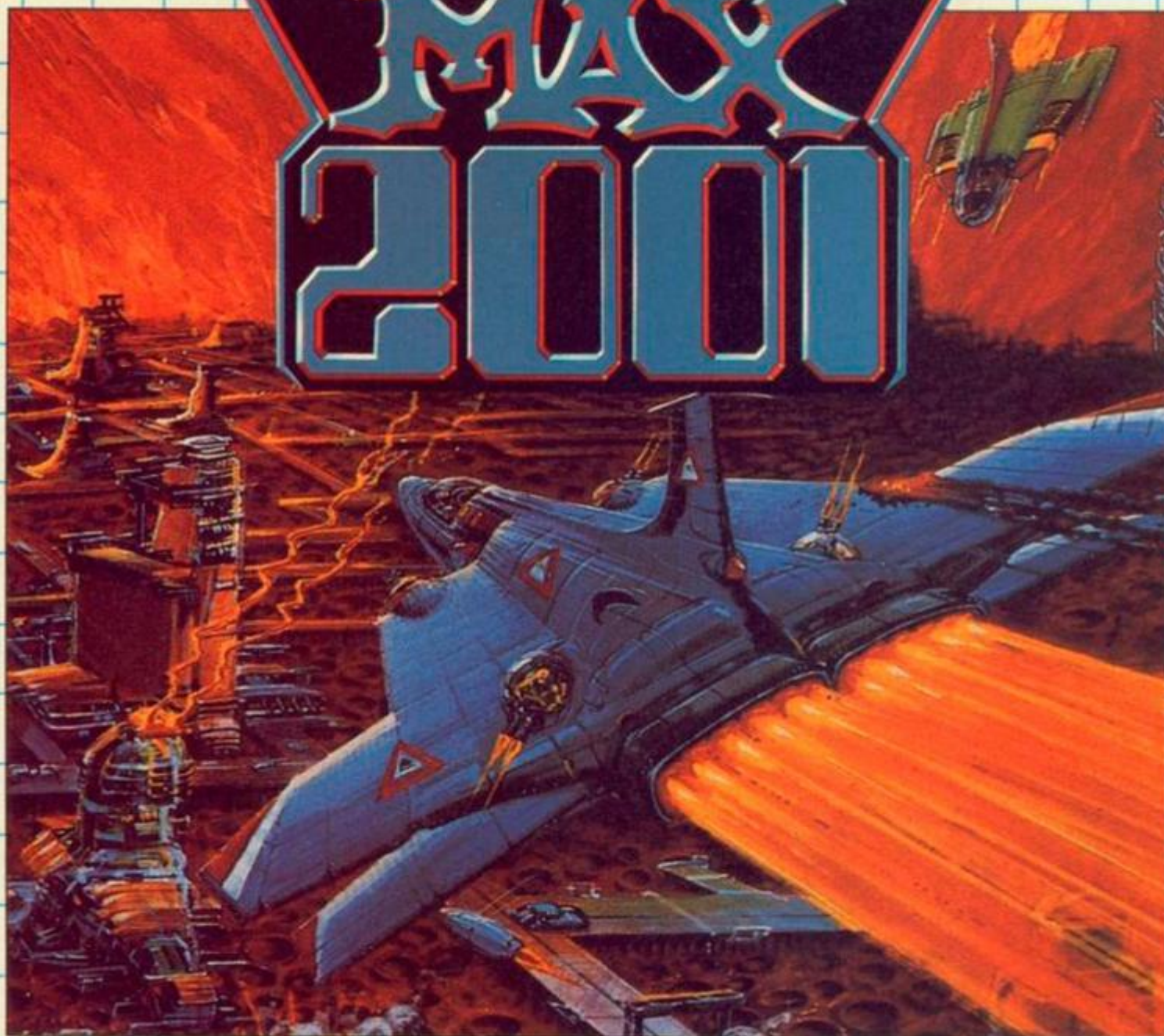
```
100 PRINT"THE FAST LOAD PROGRAM WILL TAKE A SHORT TIME TO LOAD SO PLEASE WAIT"
```

```
140 S=5120:N=0:AD=0
150 T=0
160 READR$:IFR$="END"THEN480
170 H=ASC(R$)-48:L=ASC(MID$(R$,2))-48
180 V=16*(H+7*(H>9))+L+7*(L>9)
185 T=T+V:AD=AD+V
190 IFRIGHT$(R$,1)="*"THENV=V+INT(S/256)
200 POKES+H,V:N=N+1
210 IFNAND7THEN160
220 READTT:IFTT=TTHEN150
480 READTC:IFTC=ADTHEN500
500 READTN:IFTN=NTHEN520
520 SYS5120
530 PRINT"YOU ARE NOW READY TO SAVE OR LOAD PROGRAMS USING THE FAST LOAD"
540 PRINT"WHEN YOU WISH TO LOAD THE NEXT PROGRAM YOU MUST PRESS RUN/STOP"
550 PRINT"RESTORE THEN PRESS LOAD"
1000 DATA9,83,8D,30,83,A9,01,8D,851
1010 DATA31,83,A9,22,8D,32,83,A9,618
1020 DATA00,8D,33,83,A2,00,8D,9A,700
1030 DATA01,8D,06,EA,EA,EA,EB,D0,1389
1040 DATAF5,68,A5,BA,C9,01,F0,83,1137
1050 DATA4C,85,F6,A9,00,85,90,A2,1063
1060 DATA1E,20,AB,F8,F0,07,20,B7,943
1070 DATAF8,80,E6,A2,B4,86,A5,20,1327
1080 DATA20,F7,A0,00,A5,B9,91,B2,1120
1090 DATAA5,C1,C8,91,B2,48,A5,C2,1312
1100 DATACB,91,B2,48,A5,AE,C8,91,1279
1110 DATA92,48,A5,AF,C8,91,B2,48,1185
1120 DATA20,54,F8,A5,B7,A0,85,91,1022
1130 DATA82,A2,00,A9,20,E4,B7,80,1120
1140 DATA0C,88,88,88,88,88,B1,8B,1056
1150 DATAC8,C8,C8,C8,C8,91,B2,1523
1160 DATAE8,C0,BF,90,E6,A5,A5,A2,1481
1170 DATAF0,20,A4,00,68,85,AF,68,952
1180 DATA85,AE,68,85,C2,68,85,C1,1168
1190 DATAB0,07,A9,14,A2,0F,20,A4,745
1200 DATA00,A9,00,68,85,A5,86,AA,867
1210 DATA20,60,01,85,C1,85,C3,A5,990
1220 DATAC2,85,C4,A9,64,8D,16,91,1100
1230 DATA9,00,8D,15,91,A9,FF,8D,1041
1240 DATA26,91,8D,25,91,A9,FF,8D,1071
1250 DATA25,91,A9,0F,20,28,01,80,615
1260 DATA49,AD,2D,91,29,40,F0,F2,1023
1270 DATAAD,24,91,C6,A5,D0,E6,A2,1317
1280 DATA0F,8A,20,28,01,CA,10,F9,693
1290 DATAA5,AA,20,28,01,A9,00,85,710
1300 DATABD,A5,C3,C5,AE,D0,06,A5,1299
1310 DATAC4,C5,AF,F0,18,A0,00,B1,1169
1320 DATAC3,48,20,28,01,68,80,12,638
1330 DATA65,8D,85,8D,E6,C3,D0,E1,1470
1340 DATAE6,C4,18,90,DC,A5,8D,20,1200
```




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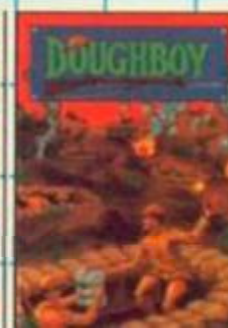
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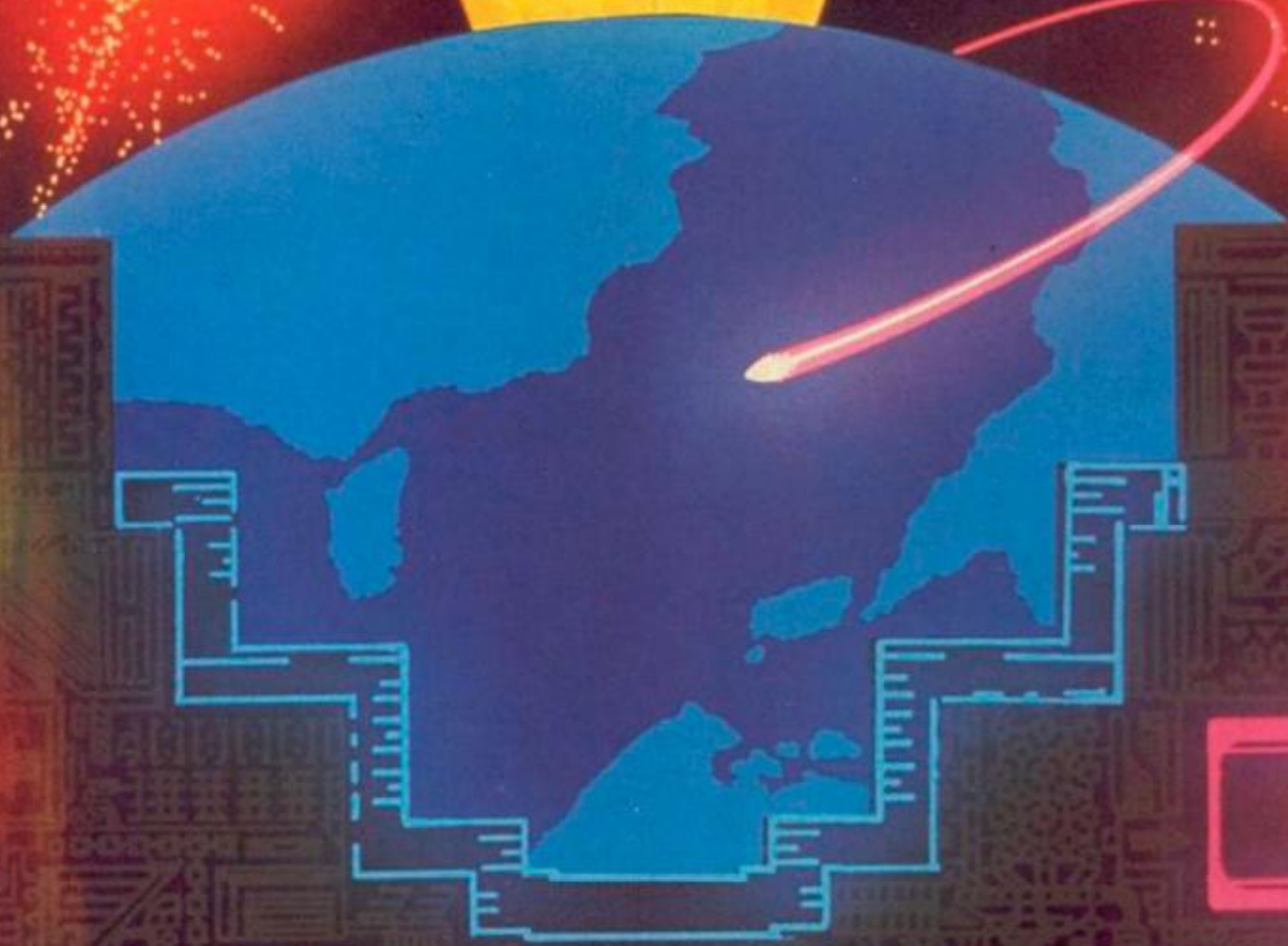
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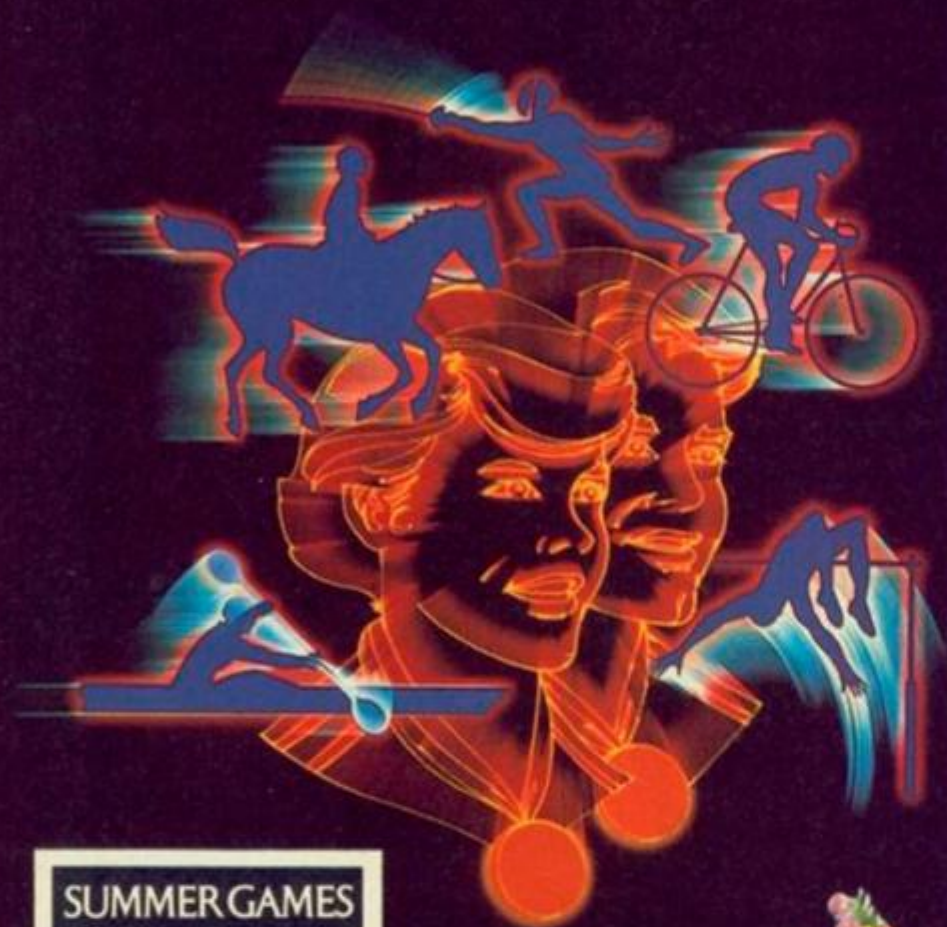
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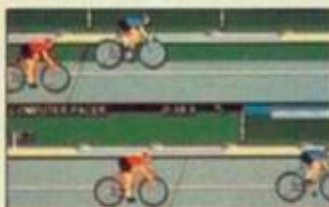
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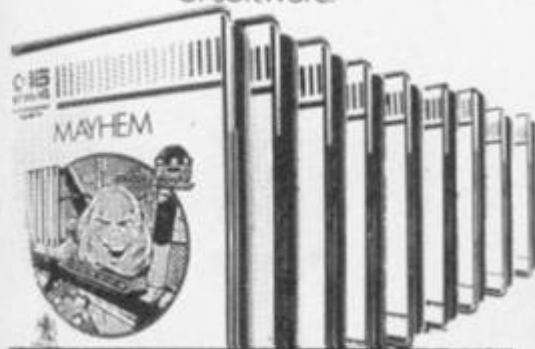


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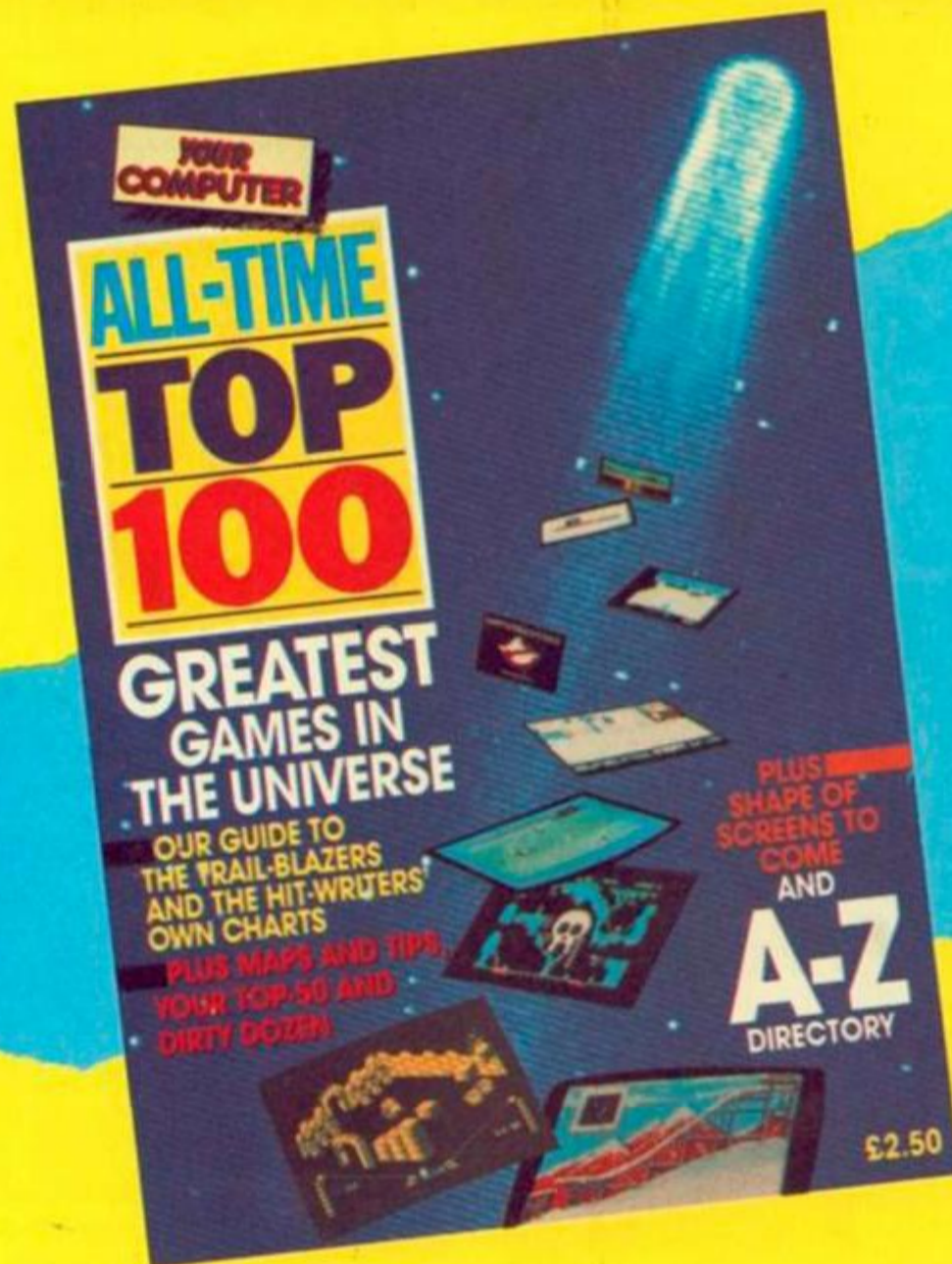
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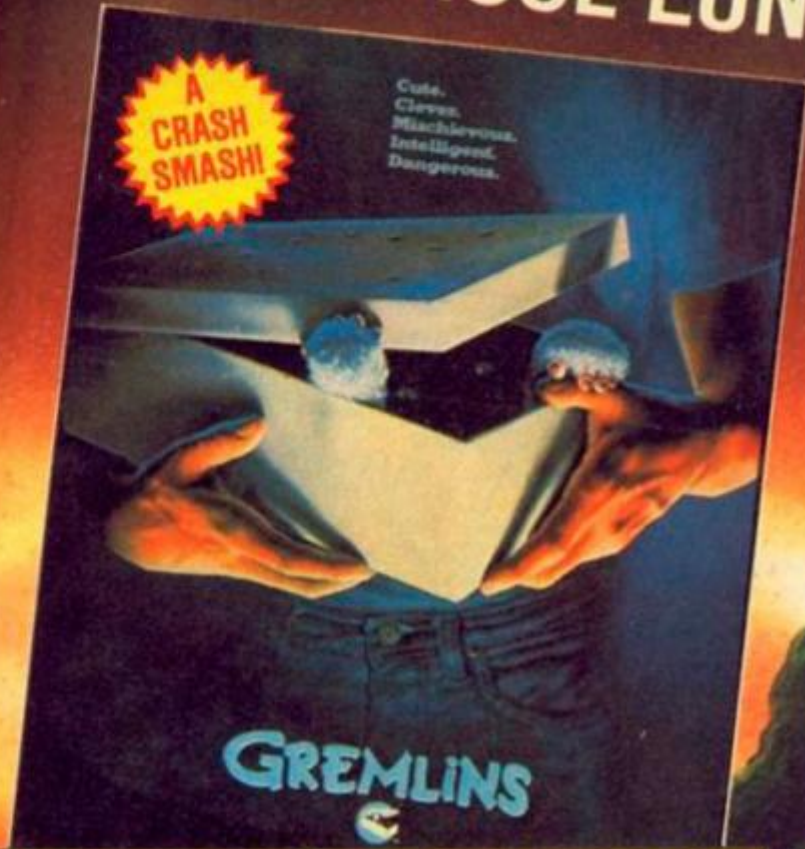
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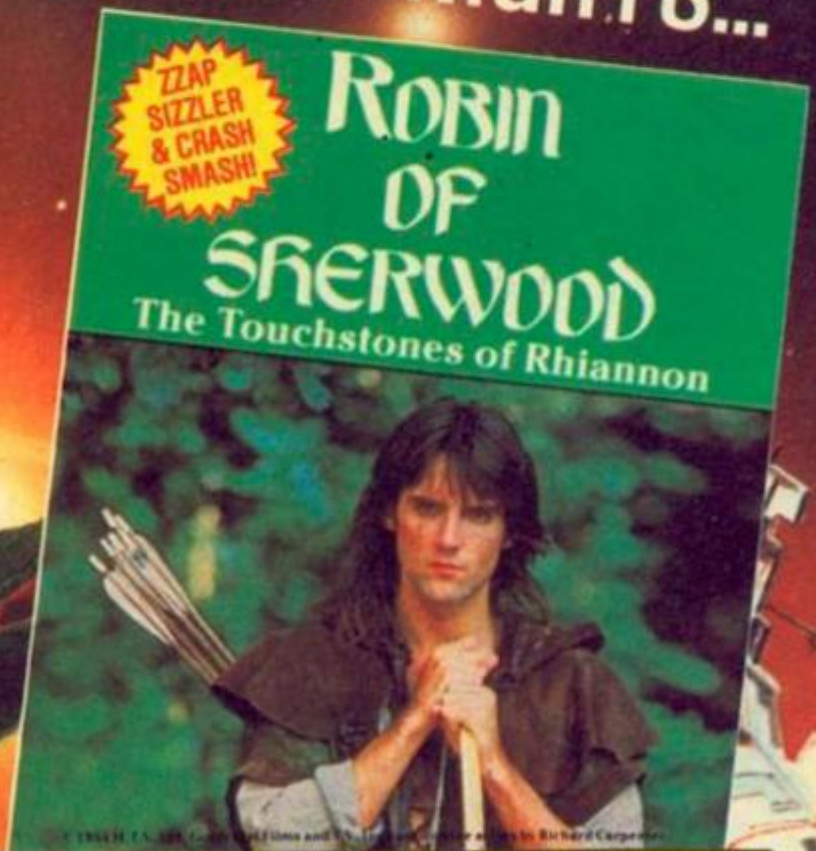
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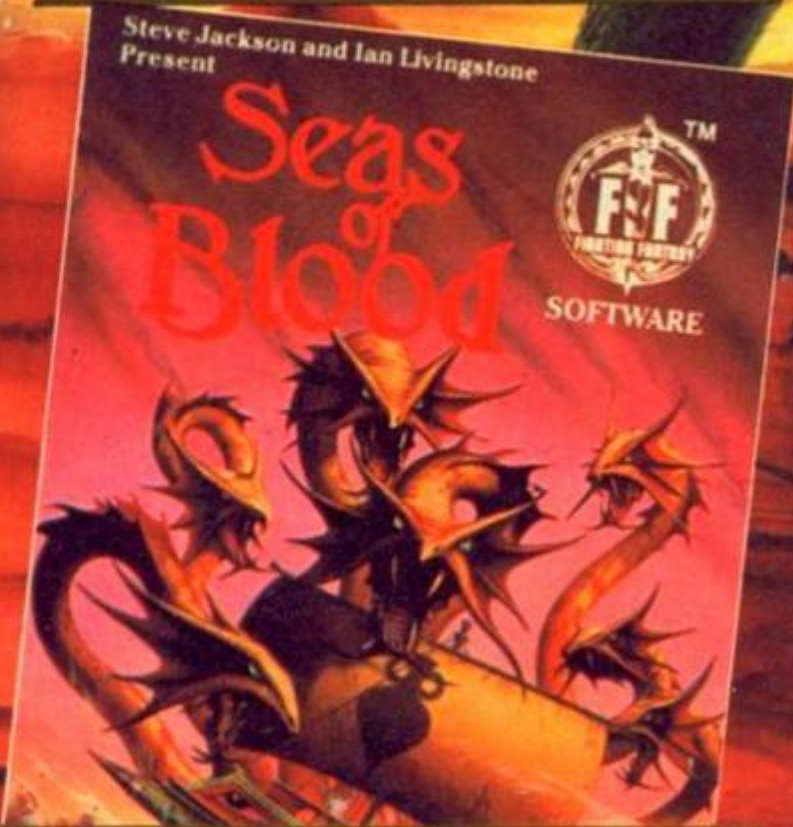
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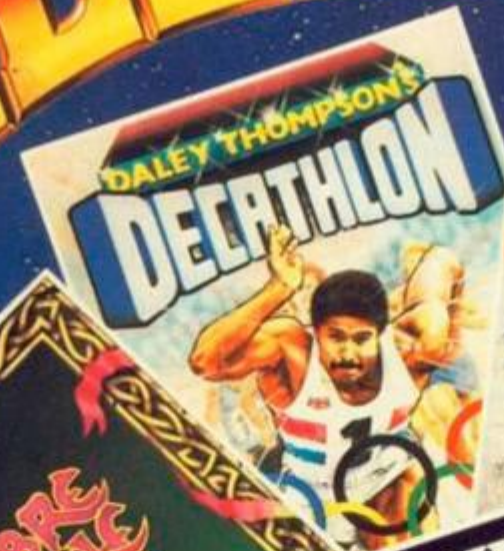


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