

WRITE YOUR OWN PROGRAM

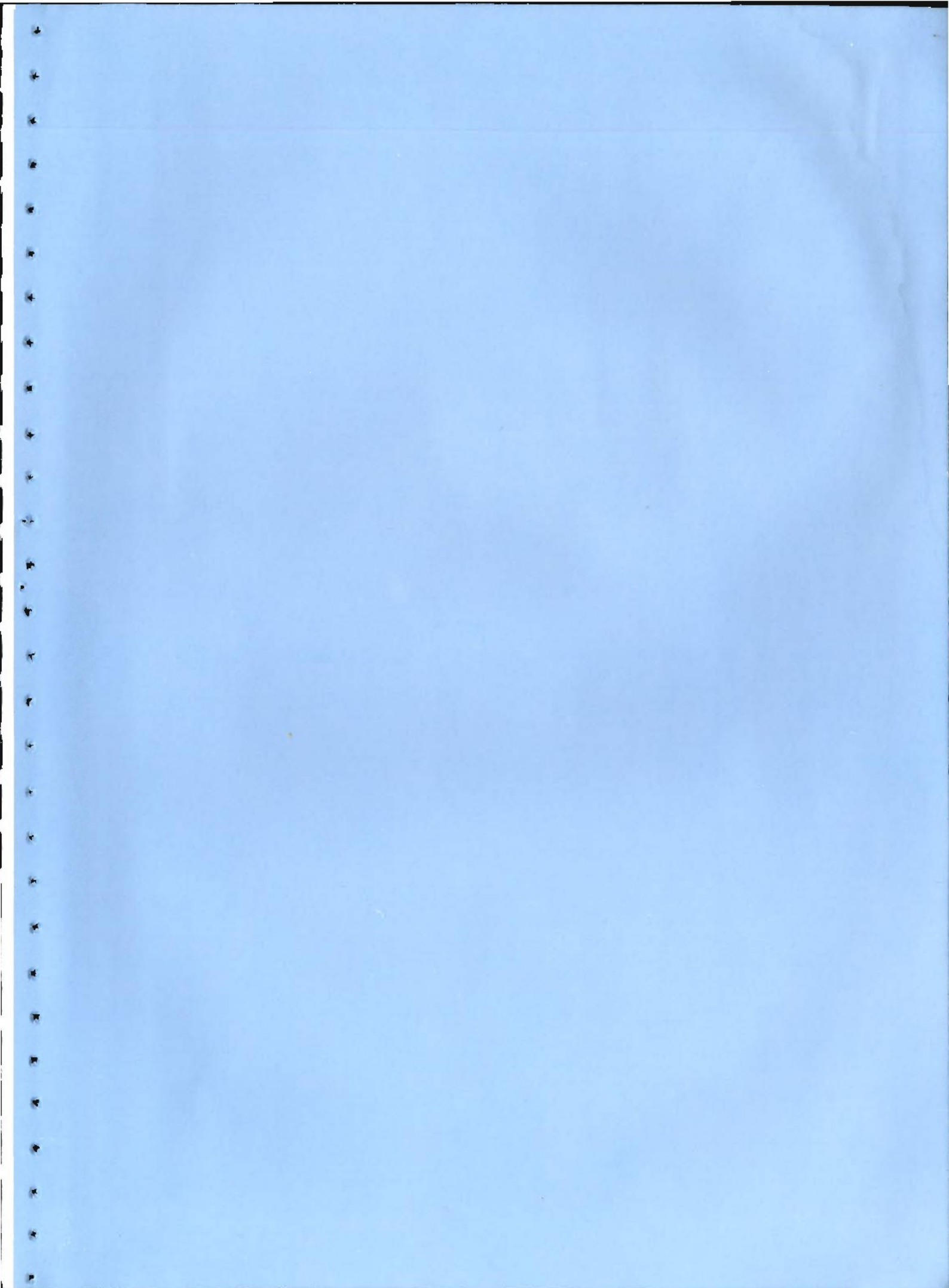
# BEGINNING BASIC

SPACE JOURNEY



FOR COMMODORE 64  
AND APPLE IIe  
COMPUTERS





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*WRITE YOUR OWN PROGRAM*

# BEGINNING BASIC



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The background of the page is a detailed illustration of a workspace. In the upper left, a spiral-bound notebook with lined pages is open. Below it, a sheet of graph paper is spread out. Three pencils—blue, pink, and orange—are positioned vertically on the right side of the graph paper. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a yellow floppy disk is visible, showing its black label area and a circular hole. The entire scene is set against a light green background.

# Foreword

Before a computer can perform a task it must have a program – a set of instructions which tells the computer exactly what you want it to do. You can buy programs on tapes and disks, or type in those published in books and magazines. But, before long, most people want to write their own programs. Once you know how to do this, you can make your computer do all sorts of things for you.

This book contains three games programs based on the theme of a space journey. Versions are given in full for the Apple IIe and Commodore 64 computers, and you should read the section relevant to your computer, because the exact instructions for any particular task often vary slightly for different machines. Each program is explained step-by-step, so that you can see exactly how it is built up and how it works. At the end of the complete program there are suggestions for changes and additions you can make yourself. At the end of the book there is a section showing how the three programs can be joined together to produce a single three-stage game and the complete program listing is given. There is also a glossary of the computer terms used in the book, so you can look them up and find out what they mean.



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```

20 D=18000:S=400:H=2000:F=5
30 C$=""
40 PRINT TAB(2,1)CHR#129"HEIGHT"CHR#132"DESCENT"
   CHR#131"SPEED"CHR#133"DISTANCE"
50 PRINT TAB(35,23)CHR#146CHR#255CHR#255CHR#255
60 X=0:Y=4
70 PRINT TAB(X,Y)CHR#150CHR#253CHR#252CHR#244
80 PRINT TAB(3,2)C$
90 PRINT TAB(13,2)C$
100 PRINT TAB(13,2)CHR#129:H
110 PRINT TAB(13,2)CHR#132:F
120 PRINT TAB(22,2)C$
130 PRINT TAB(22,2)CHR#131:S
140 PRINT TAB(30,2)C$
150 PRINT TAB(30,2)CHR#133
160 IF S<200 THEN

```

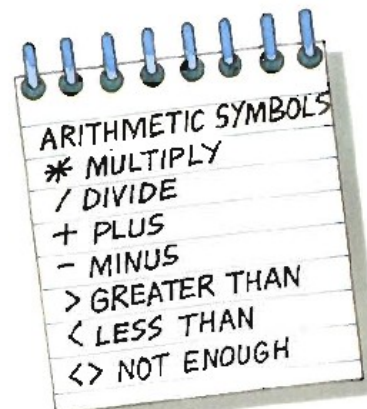


# Introducing BASIC

Most programs for home computers are written in a computer language called BASIC. Just like any other language, BASIC has rules that have to be followed if the program is to work. For example, the BASIC command **PRINT** causes information to be displayed on the screen. But text to be displayed must be enclosed between double quotation marks, as in the first line of program shown below. Try the other lines and see what happens. You'll notice lines two and three produce very different results because the computer treats figures differently from words. The BASIC arithmetic symbols are shown on the notepad below.

```
PRINT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"  
PRINT "15*2"  
PRINT 15*2
```

With a complete program, the computer must perform each instruction in a logical order. Also, a program wouldn't work if the computer performed each instruction as soon as it was typed in. By giving each instruction a line number, we tell the computer to store it in its memory until the program is **RUN**. Line numbers usually go up in steps of ten, so that the first three lines of program are often numbered 10, 20, and 30. The computer carries out each instruction in strict numerical order, and additional instructions can be added afterwards by giving them line numbers such as 15, 25 and so on, as appropriate. Try typing in the short program below. Notice that line 10 does not appear on the screen. The **REM** command is short for reminder, and the computer ignores anything placed after it.



```
10 REM "BIRTHDAY GREETING"  
20 PRINT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU"  
30 PRINT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU"  
40 PRINT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR COMPUTER"  
50 PRINT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU"  
60 PRINT  
70 PRINT "YOU ARE"  
80 PRINT "1"  
90 PRINT "YEAR OLD"
```

```
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR COMPUTER  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
```

```
YOU ARE  
1  
YEAR OLD
```




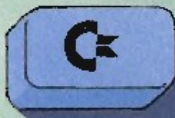







# Getting to know your computer

Before you begin to work on any of the programs, it is a good idea to experiment with your computer so that you get to know the keyboard. It doesn't matter what you type in – you can't do the computer any harm. Most often the computer will respond with "Syntax error" or "Illegal quantity." These messages – called error messages – are very useful when you know more about programming, but for beginners it's best to ignore them.

In particular, learn how to use the editing keys so that you can erase any mistakes you might make. The manuals that are supplied with the computer will help you to use these. Don't worry if there are certain keys you don't understand – you'll get to know what they do when you need them. Below some of the most important keys and instructions are highlighted

N.B. The keys colored red below are applicable to both the Apple IIe and Commodore. Blue Keys apply to the Commodore only.

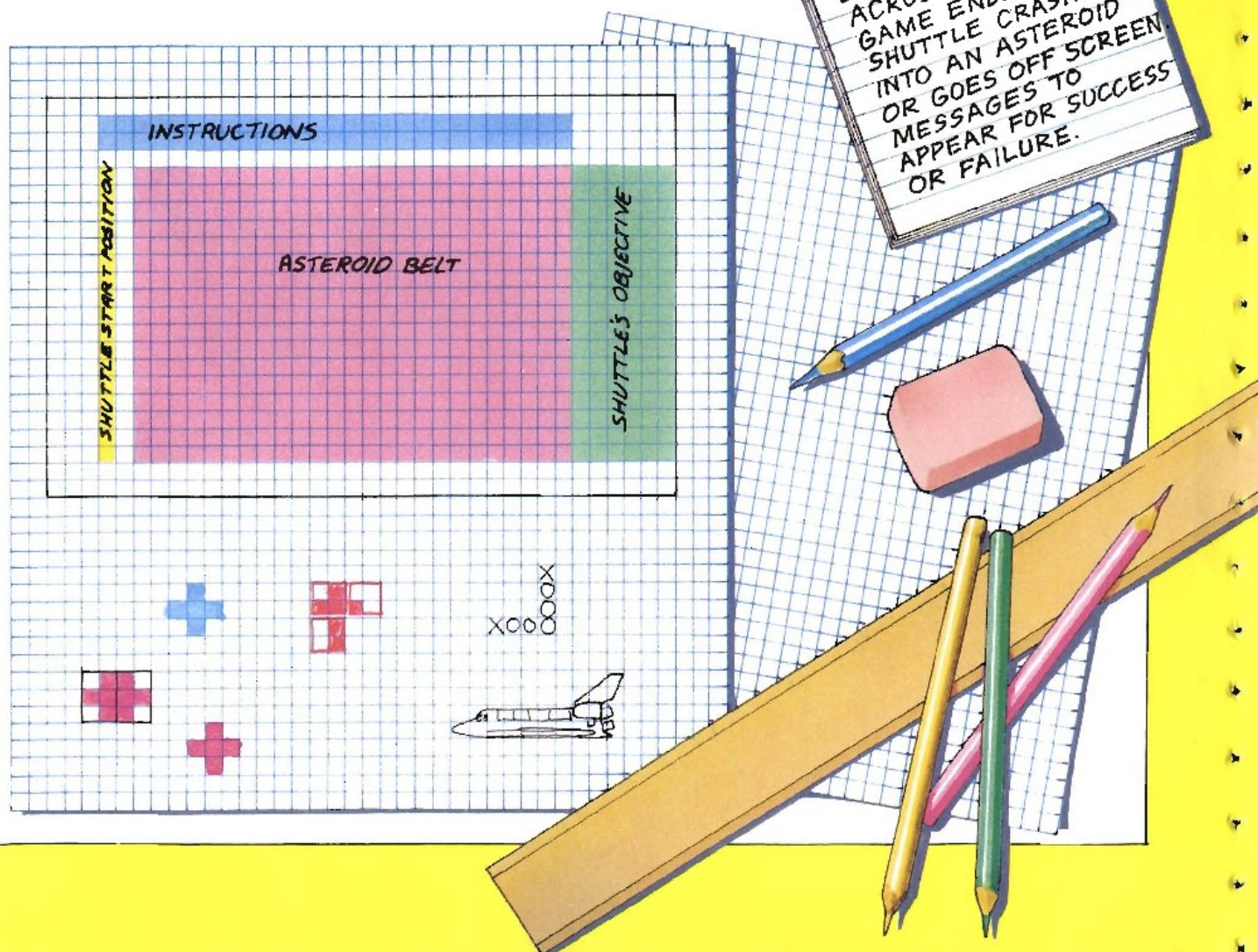
	This key (short for <b>CONTROL</b> ) has a number of functions on both computers. On the Commodore it is used to obtain the first eight colors available, and on the Apple, <b>CNTRL</b> used with the " <b>C</b> " key stops a program running. See the user's manuals for more detail on <b>CONTROL</b> functions.
	This is the Commodore logo key and has a number of functions. It gives access to the second eight colors available and to the graphics symbols on the bottom left of each key.
	This key on the Commodore stops a program while it is running. If the program is waiting for an <b>INPUT</b> , then you must press this key and then the <b>RESTORE</b> key to stop a program.
	On the Apple, the <b>DE</b> lete key is used in conjunction with the cursor keys to correct errors. On the Commodore, <b>INST DEL</b> deletes the character to the left of the cursor. Used with the <b>SHIFT</b> key, <b>INST DEL</b> inserts spaces into a program line.
	This selects either lower case or capital letters. Capitals are obtained when the <b>SHIFT LOCK</b> is down. All programming commands and instructions should be typed in in capital letters.
	This key must be used to enter program lines into the computer's memory after they have been typed in. It is also used to make the computer execute commands such as <b>RUN</b> , <b>LIST</b> and <b>SAVE</b> .
	This key positions the cursor at the top left-hand corner of the screen. Used with the <b>SHIFT</b> key, <b>CLR/HOME</b> clears the screen and places the cursor in this home position.



# Preparing a program

Before you begin writing a program in BASIC, you should know exactly what it is you want the computer to do. The first stage is to write an outline for your program in ordinary English. For example, the outline for the first program in this book might read: "Idea of game is to guess a random number. If guess is correct then computer shows a shuttle lift off display. No more than 10 guesses. Instructions for playing should be clearly displayed on the screen."

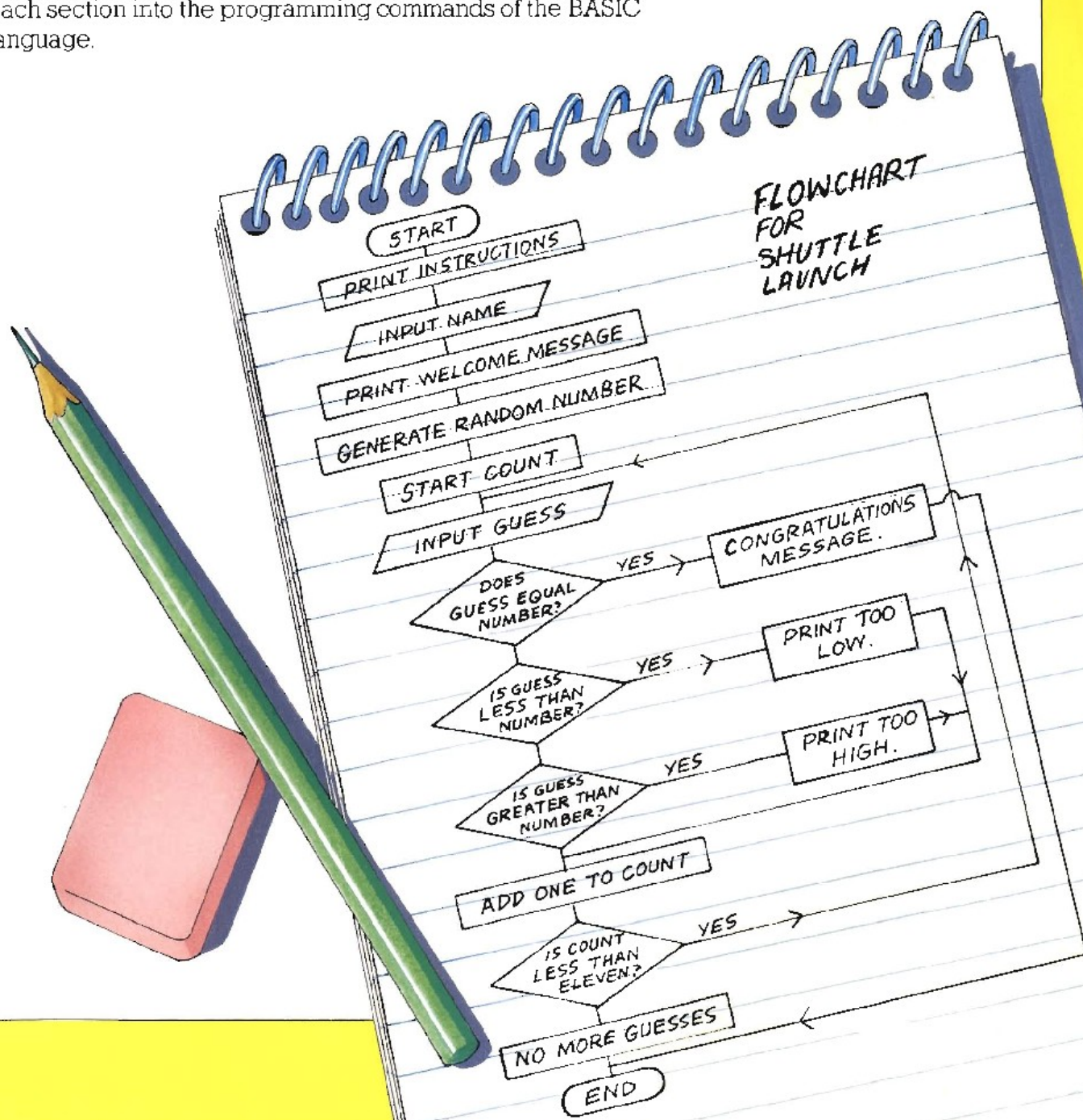
You should also plan how you want the screen to look so that any instructions are clearly displayed. Graph paper is useful for this, because the computer's screen is also divided into vertical and horizontal coordinates, although the exact number of these varies from machine to machine. The initial planning for the second game in this book, in which you have to pilot the shuttle through a field of asteroids, is shown on the notepad opposite and a basic screen plan is also given. Once these preparations are made you can go on to the next stage – drawing up a flowchart. The flowchart will enable you to break down your plan into each of the logical steps contained within the program you wish to write.





# Flowchart

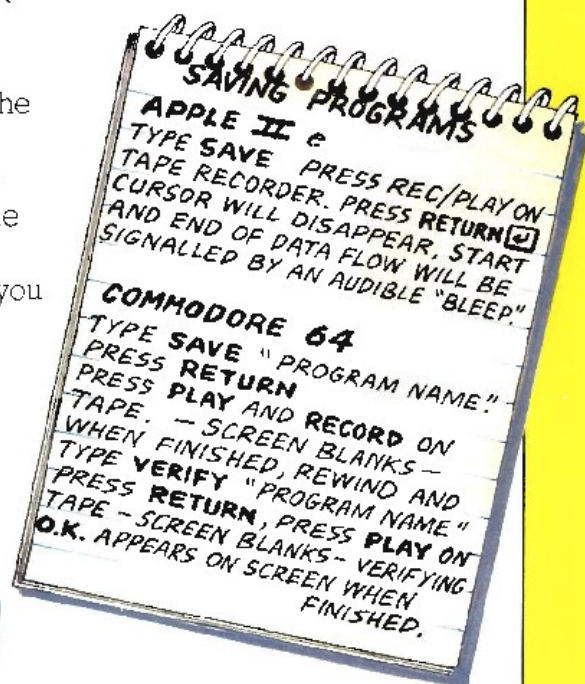
Flowcharts break problems down into sets of decisions and instructions. The flowchart shown below is for the first program in the book. The diamond-shaped boxes indicate points at which decisions are taken – is the guess too high, for example, or have you used up ten guesses? The questions are always answered yes or no and depending on the answer the next appropriate step is taken. Square boxes are used to indicate points at which operations are made, such as for the initial screen display. Flowcharts help you to ask the right questions, so that you can give the correct instructions to the computer. By carefully studying the flowchart it's possible to see if any stages have been left out. Once the flowchart works, all that remains to do is to convert each section into the programming commands of the BASIC language.





# Saving programs on tape

No matter how well you get to know a program, it is very time-consuming to type it into your computer, line-by-line each time you want to **RUN** it. And, quite probably, you'll make typing errors, so that the program will need careful checking and correcting, or "debugging," as it is called in computer jargon. So once you have the program working, you'll want to be able to store it on tape for future use. This is a simple procedure and the instructions for saving and loading programs are given on the notepads below. It's a good idea to save two versions of your program before switching your computer off, just in case the first one hasn't recorded properly, which sometimes happens. Make the first recording and then wind the tape on for, say, ten turns before the second recording. Label your tape with the program name and its position: "Takeoff 10" for the first version and "Takeoff 20" for the second and so on. For this reason, it's important to remember to set the counter on the tape recorder to zero before you begin. With properly labeled tapes, you can go straight to your program when you want to use it again.



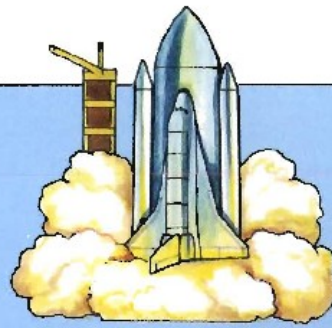
## LOADING PROGRAMS

**APPLE II e**  
TYPE **LOAD** PRESS **PLAY** ON TAPE RECORDER. PRESS RETURN CURSOR WILL DISAPPEAR. START AND END OF DATA FLOW WILL BE SIGNALLLED BY AN AUDIBLE "BLEEP"

## COMMODORE 64

TYPE "**LOAD**" PRESS RETURN. PRESS **PLAY** ON TAPE — SCREEN BLANKS — SCREEN REAPPEARS — "FOUND PROGRAM NAME" MESSAGE. PRESS **CBM** LOGO KEY, OR WAIT 30 SECONDS — SCREEN BLANKS — SCREEN REAPPEARS — **LOADED!**





# SHUTTLE LAUNCH

You are the commander of the space shuttle. To launch the shuttle, you must input the required power level to the shuttle's central computer. You have only ten attempts to guess the correct level or the mission is aborted. The computer will tell you if your guess is too high or too low. If you succeed, the shuttle's instrument panel will show your height increasing until orbit is achieved.

Good luck!

**WELCOME ABOARD CAPTAIN GORDON**

**TO LAUNCH THE SHUTTLE YOU MUST  
GUESS THE POWER LEVEL REQUIRED  
(ANY NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 100)**

**TYPE IT IN AND PRESS RETURN  
GO AHEAD, PLEASE**

**50**

**TOO HIGH, TRY AGAIN**



This program uses the computer's ability to generate random numbers. Most of the program lines consist of the instructions given to the player during the game. The first nine lines of program create the initial display.

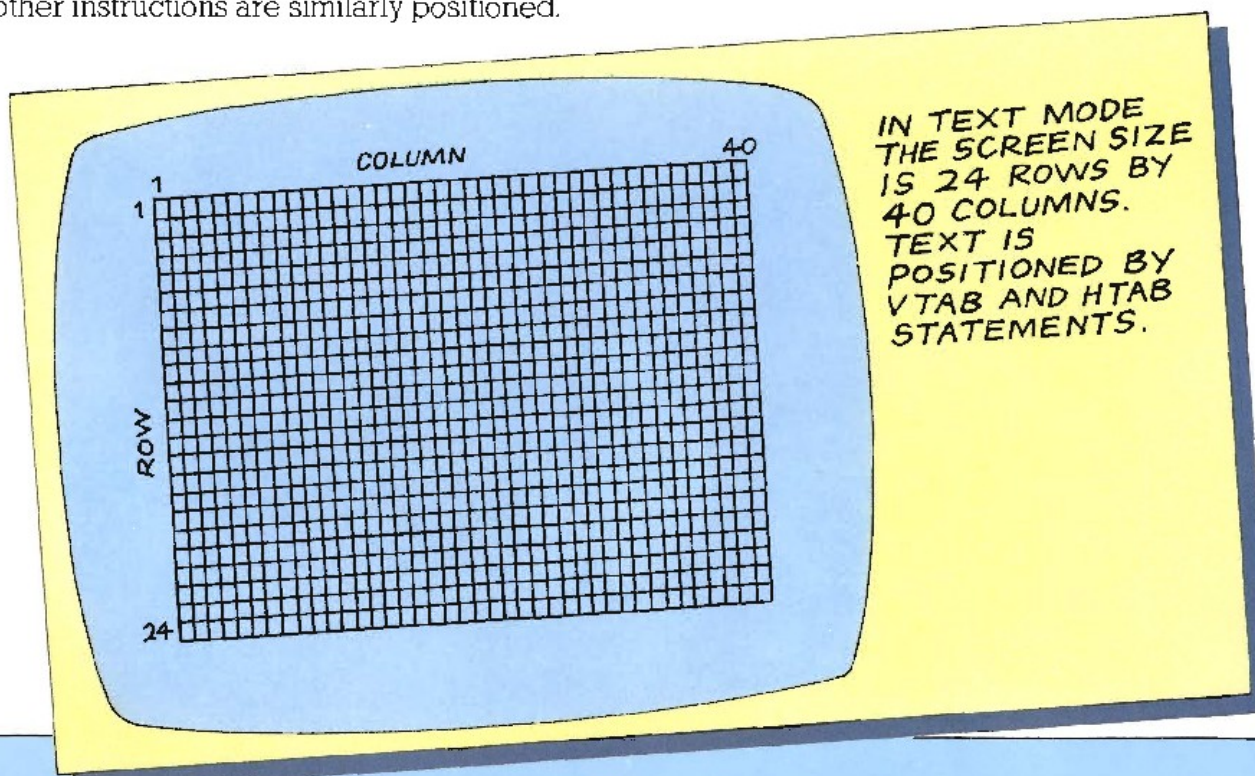
```

5  REM  SHUTTLE LAUNCH
10 TEXT : HOME
20 VTAB 4: HTAB 13: PRINT "SHUTTLE LAUNCH"
30 HTAB 13: PRINT "-----"
40 VTAB 8: HTAB 3: PRINT "THE SHUTTLE IS READY FOR
   LIFT OFF"
50 VTAB 10: HTAB 3: PRINT "YOUR TASK IS TO LAUNCH
   IT"
60 VTAB 13: HTAB 3: PRINT "YOU MAY HAVE ONLY TEN
   ATTEMPTS!!"
70 VTAB 16: HTAB 3: PRINT "PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME"
80 VTAB 19: HTAB 3: PRINT "BY TYPING IT AND PRESSING
   RETURN"

```

Line 5 gives the program its title, using the **REM** statement, **TEXT** mode is selected and the screen is cleared using the **HOME** command in line 10. **VTAB** and **HTAB** instructions are used to position the information on the screen. **VTAB** controls the vertical position, and is followed by a number ranging from 1 for the top line of the screen, to 24 for the bottom. **HTAB** controls the horizontal position, and should be followed by 1 for the left-hand side of the screen, to 40, for the right-hand side. So in line 20, "SHUTTLE LAUNCH" is positioned four lines down, thirteen spaces across. The other instructions are similarly positioned.

**VTAB 4**  
POSITIONS THE  
CURSOR ON THE  
4th LINE DOWN.  
**HTAB 13**  
POSITIONS THE  
CURSOR ON THE  
13th POSITION  
ACROSS.





```

85  VTAB 20: HTAB 3
90  INPUT NA$
100 HOME
110 HTAB 4: PRINT "WELCOME ABOARD, CAPTAIN ";NA$
120 VTAB 8: HTAB 5: PRINT "TO LAUNCH THE SHUTTLE YOU
    MUST"
130 VTAB 10: HTAB 5: PRINT "GUESS THE POWER LEVEL
140 VTAB 12: HTAB 5: PRINT "(ANY NUMBER BETWEEN 1
    AND 100)"
150 VTAB 14: HTAB 5: PRINT "TYPE 11 IN AND PRESS
    RETURN"
160 VTAB 16: HTAB 12: PRINT "GO AHEAD,
    PLEASE"

```

Next, line 90 enables the player's name to be entered while the program is running – line 85 places the cursor in a suitable position. The **INPUT** command causes a question mark to appear on the screen. Whatever is typed in will be placed in a *string variable* called **NA\$**. The string sign, \$, tells the computer to expect letters and/or numbers as input. The computer displays the **INPUT** when asked to **PRINT NA\$**, as in line 110. Notice that **NA\$** is outside the quotation marks. After the **INPUT**, the screen is cleared in line 100, and the second set of instructions is displayed.



```

170 LET LEV = INT ( RND (1) * 100) + 1
180 FOR A = 1 TO 10
190 VTAB 19: HTAB 18: INPUT GU
200 IF GU = LEV THEN GOTO 280
205 VTAB 21: HTAB 10
210 IF GU < LEV THEN PRINT "TOO LOW, TRY AGAIN "
220 IF GU > LEV THEN PRINT "TOO HIGH, TRY AGAIN"
230 NEXT A
240 HOME
250 VTAB 10: HTAB 2: PRINT "YOU HAVE FAILED AFTER
    TEN ATTEMPTS!!"
260 VTAB 12: HTAB 1: PRINT "TYPE 'RUN' AND PRESS
    RETURN TO TRY AGAIN"
270 STOP

```

In line 170, **RND(1)**, produces a random number between 0 and 1. This is multiplied by 100 and made a whole number using **INT** and is stored in the variable **LEV**. Line 180 sets up **A** to count from 1 to 10, to limit the number of guesses. Line 200 checks for a correct guess and lines 210 and 220 tell the player if the guess was too low or too high. After ten attempts, the program goes to lines 240 to 260 and the game ends.



```

280 HOME
290 LET HE = 0
300 LET TA = 10000
310 VTAB 5: HTAB 13: PRINT "LIFT-OFF!!!"
320 VTAB 10: HTAB 10: PRINT "HEIGHT"
330 VTAB 10: HTAB 20: PRINT HE
340 FOR DE = 1 TO 500
350 NEXT DE
360 LET HE = HE * 2 + 1
370 IF HE < TA GOTO 330

```

The liftoff display shows the shuttle's height on the "instrument panel" increasing as the shuttle accelerates to reach orbit. Line 290 sets the takeoff height at zero and line 300 sets the target for the orbit at 10,000. The next three lines display the words LIFT OFF and HEIGHT and the figure for height at the desired positions on the screen, to form the instrument panel. Line 360 calculates the changing height by doubling the old figure and adding one. Because the computer works so fast, the changing figures for the height would flash past on the screen too quickly to be seen clearly if the computer were allowed simply to make the calculations and display them. To slow the computer down, a delay loop is added at lines 340 and 350. These commands in effect tell the computer to count to 500 before doing anything else. Line 370 instructs the computer to go back to line 330, display the figure obtained for height and run through to obtain a new value for height. This is repeated until the figure obtained for height is greater than the target set for achieving orbit.

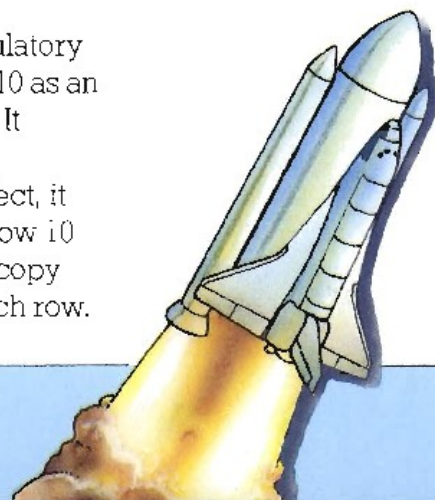
TAKE CARE WITH PUNCTUATION. IN LINE 420, A SEMI-COLON (;) TELLS THE COMPUTER TO PRINT NA\$ DIRECTLY AFTER THE MESSAGE.

```

380 HOME
390 FOR RO = 10 TO 15
400 VTAB RO: HTAB 11: PRINT "SHUTTLE IN ORBIT!!!!"
410 NEXT RO
420 VTAB 19: HTAB 2: PRINT "CONGRATULATIONS
CAPTAIN "; NA$
430 END

```

The final section of the program displays the congratulatory message. It uses a **FOR.....NEXT** loop in lines 390 to 410 as an easy way of printing "SHUTTLE IN ORBIT" five times. It works by using **RO** as a variable used in the **VTAB** instruction, having values ranging from 10 to 15. In effect, it tells the computer to print on each screen row, from row 10 to row 15. Without this loop, it would be necessary to copy line 400 six times, with a different program line for each row.



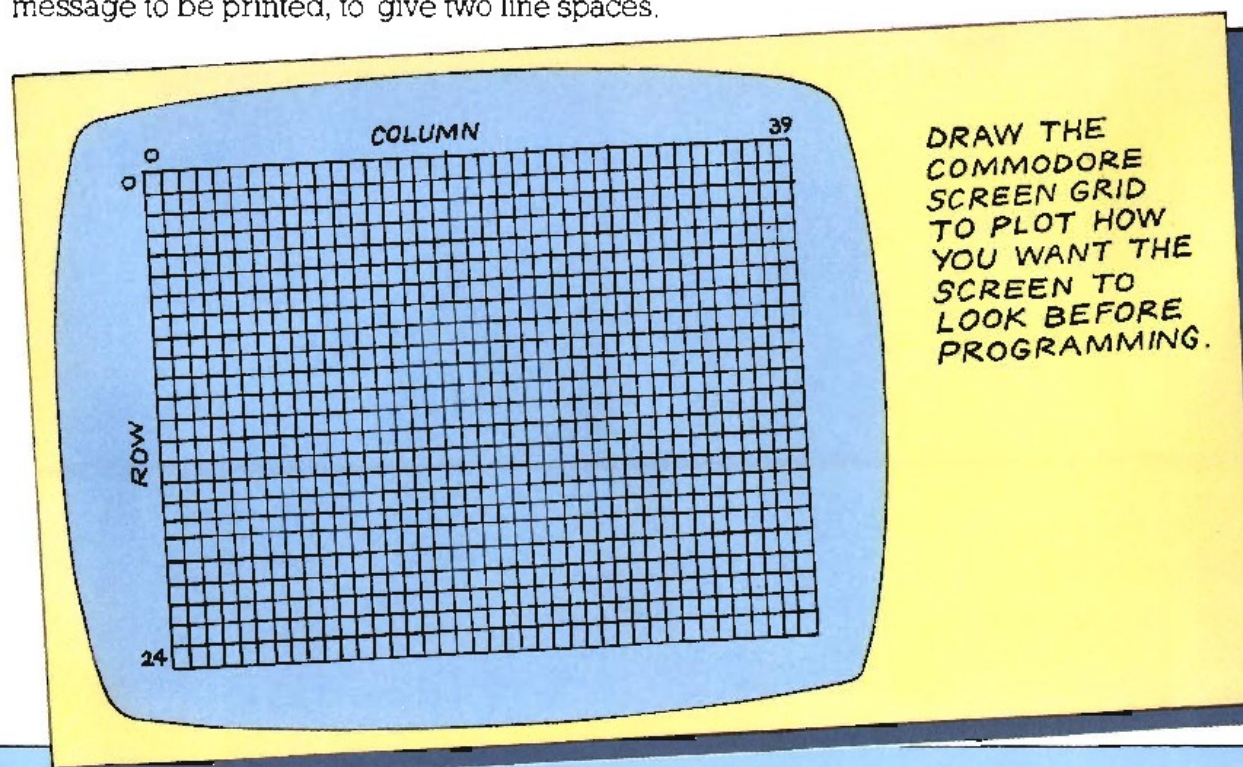
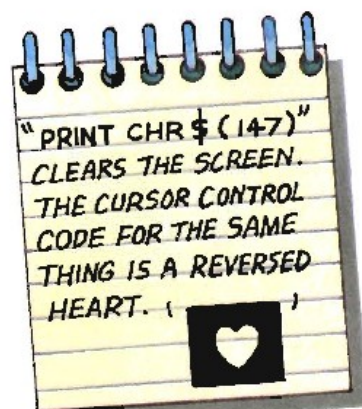


This program uses the computer's ability to generate random numbers. Most of the program lines consist of instructions to the player that will appear on the screen at appropriate moments during the game. The first nine lines of program create the initial display.

```

5 REM SHUTTLE LAUNCH
10 PRINT CHR$(147)
20 PRINT SPC(13);"SHUTTLE LAUNCH"
30 PRINT SPC(13);"-----"
40 PRINT SPC(3);"THE SHUTTLE IS READY FOR LIFT-OFF"
50 PRINT SPC(3);"YOUR TASK IS TO LAUNCH IT"
60 PRINT SPC(3);"YOU MAY HAVE ONLY TEN ATTEMPTS!!"
70 PRINT SPC(3);"PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME"
80 PRINT SPC(3);"BY TYPING IT AND PRESSING RETURN"
    
```

In line 10, the screen is cleared using **CHR\$(147)**. To make all the text appear near the middle of the screen, the **SPC** command (short for space) is used. **SPC** is always followed by the number of spaces that should appear before the printing starts, given in parenthesis. To position the information down the screen, cursor control codes are used. These are available by typing first a set of double quotation marks and then pressing the "up/down" cursor key. This causes a reversed "Q" symbol to appear on the screen, instead of moving the cursor. So in line 30, the three cursor control symbols place three line spaces between the underlining and the next message printed in line 40. In lines 50 to 80 the cursor control symbols appear before the message to be printed, to give two line spaces.



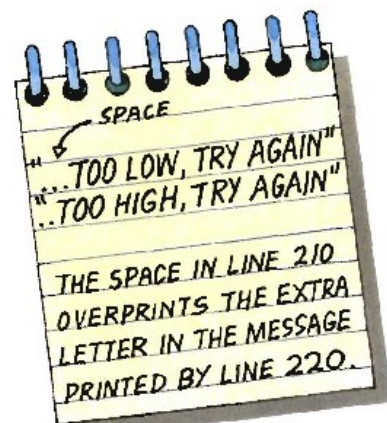


```

90 INPUT NA$
100 PRINT CHR$(147)
110 PRINT "WELCOME ABOARD, CAPTAIN ";NA$
120 PRINT SPC(5);"TO LAUNCH THE SHUTTLE YOU MUST"
130 PRINT SPC(5)"GUESS THE POWER LEVEL REQUIRED"
140 PRINT SPC(5)"ANY NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 100"
150 PRINT SPC(6)"TYPE IT IN AND PRESS RETURN"
160 PRINT SPC(12)"GO AHEAD, PLEASE"

```

Line 90 allows the player's name to be entered while the program is running. The **INPUT** command causes a question mark and flashing cursor to appear on the screen to prompt the user. The input typed in is placed in a *string variable* labeled **NA\$**. The string sign **\$** tells the computer to accept both letters and numbers as input. The computer displays the **INPUT** when asked to **PRINT NA\$**, as in line 110. Notice that the string sign lies outside the quotation marks and is preceded by a semi-colon. After the **INPUT**, the screen is cleared by line 100, and the second set of instructions contained in lines 110 to 160 is displayed.



```

170 LE=INT(RND(0)*100)+1
180 FOR AT=1 TO 10
190 INPUT "    ";GU
200 IF GU=LE THEN GOTO 280
210 IF GU<LE THEN PRINT SPC(7);GU;".. TOO LOW, TRY
    AGAIN"
220 IF GU>LE THEN PRINT SPC(7);GU;"..TOO HIGH, TRY
    AGAIN"
230 NEXT AT
240 PRINT CHR$(147)
250 PRINT SPC(20)"YOU HAVE FAILED AFTER TEN
    ATTEMPTS!!"
260 PRINT"TYPE 'RUN' AND PRESS RETURN TO TRY AGAIN"
270 STOP

```

The **RND(0)** command in line 170 generates a random number between 0 and 1. This is multiplied by 100 and made a whole number, or integer, using **INT**. Because **INT** rounds down to the nearest whole number, a 1 is added to make sure the figure can never be zero. This number is stored in the variable **LE** (short for level). Line 180 limits the number of guesses to ten. If the guess is correct, then the program goes to the success display at line 280, otherwise lines 210 and 220 tell the player if the guess was too low or too high. After ten attempts, the program goes through to lines 240 to 260 and the relevant messages are printed.

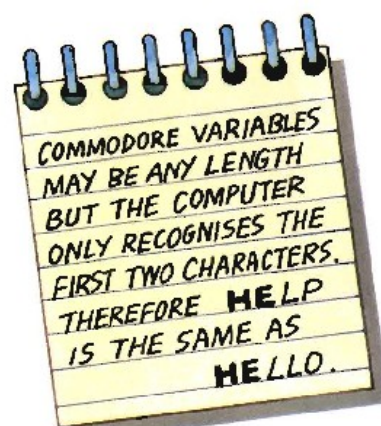


```

280 PRINT CHR$(147)
290 HI=0
300 TA=10000
310 PRINT SPC(14);"XXXXLIFT-OFF!!!!"
320 PRINT SPC(15);"XXXXHEIGHTXXX"
330 PRINT SPC(16);"7"HI
340 FOR DE=1 TO 500
350 NEXT DE
360 HI=HI*2+1
370 IF HI>TA THEN GOTO 330

```

The liftoff display shows the shuttle's height on the "instrument panel" increasing as the shuttle accelerates to reach its orbit. Line 290 sets the takeoff height at zero and line 300 sets the target for the orbit at 10,000. The next three lines display the words LIFT OFF and HEIGHT and the figure for height at the desired positions on the screen to form the instrument panel. Line 360 calculates the changing height by doubling the old figure and adding one. Because the computer works so fast, the figures for the height would flash past on the screen too quickly to be seen clearly if the computer were allowed simply to make the calculation and display it. To slow the computer down, a delay loop is added at lines 340 and 350. These commands in effect tell the computer to count to 500 before doing anything else. To make the display run more quickly, decrease the figure in the delay. Line 370 instructs the computer to go back to line 330, display the figure obtained for height and run through to obtain a new value for height. This is repeated until the value obtained for height is greater than the target set for achieving orbit.

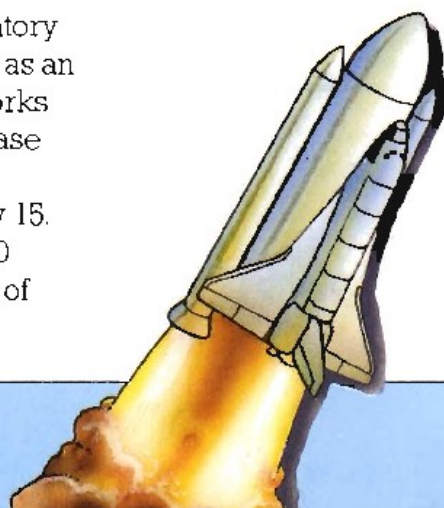


```

380 PRINT CHR$(147)
390 FOR RO= 1 TO 15
400 PRINT SPC(11);"SHUTTLE IN ORBIT !!!!"
410 NEXT RO
420 PRINT "XX CONGRATULATIONS CAPTAIN "CHR$(147)

```

The final section of the program displays the congratulatory message. It uses a **FOR.....NEXT** loop in lines 390 to 410 as an easy way of printing SHUTTLE IN ORBIT 15 times. It works by using **RO** (short for row) as its loop variable, in this case having values ranging from 1 to 15. In effect, it tells the computer to print on each screen row from row 1 to row 15. Without this loop, it would be necessary to copy line 400 fifteen times, with a different program line for each row of the display.





## Improve your program

One of the best ways of learning about programming is to experiment with the programs you type in. Try deleting the delay in lines 340 and 350 and see what happens. Change the number of guesses the player is allowed by altering lines 180 and 250. Always keep a note of the changes you make, so that you can restore the program to its original form when you want to.



## Adding sound

### APPLE IIe

The addition of sound to your program will make the game more exciting. However, the instructions for obtaining complex sounds are too complicated to be explained here. The simple **FOR. . . .NEXT** loop given below will give sounds as the shuttle takes off. The **PEEK** command in line 345 tells the computer to look into that part of the memory where sounds are controlled. The **FOR. . . .NEXT** loop instructs the computer to do this fifty times before going on to the next stage of the program.

```
340 FOR SOUND = 1 TO 50
345 LET S = PEEK ( - 16336)
350 NEXT SOUND
```

### COMMODORE 64

The Commodore can produce extremely interesting sounds, but the programming commands needed are very complex. Sound is available by using the **POKE** instruction, followed by two sets of figures. The **POKE** instruction is beyond the scope of this book, but try these additions to your program to add sounds to the liftoff display:

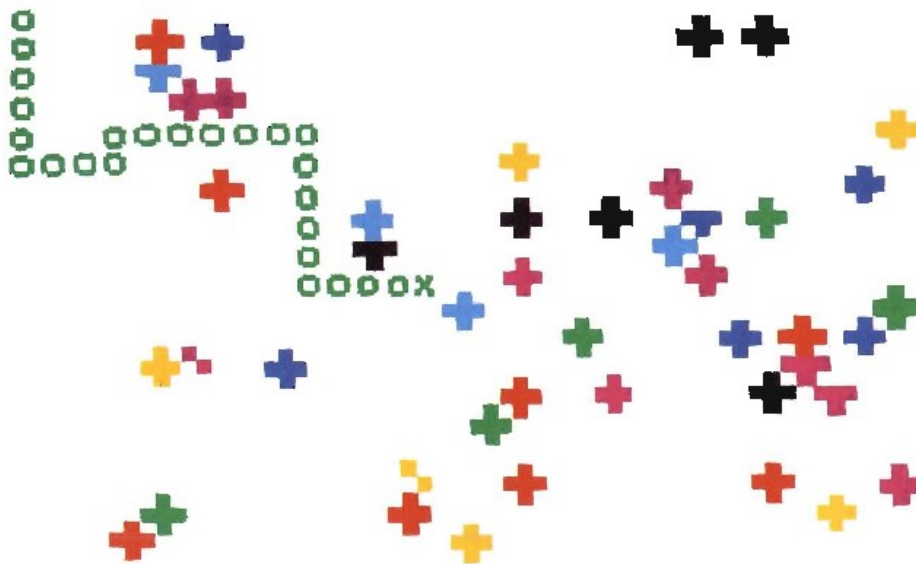
```
365 POKE54277,15:POKE54278,81:POKE54296,15:
    POKE54276,129
366 POKE54273,H1/65:FOR T=0 TO 60:NEXT
375 POKE54276,128
```





# ASTEROIDS

The shuttle is successfully in orbit. Suddenly, you run into a freak asteroid storm. You must give the shuttle's computer flight directions in order to pilot your craft safely through the storm. There's no going back, and a collision means certain destruction for you and your ship.



**DIRECTION** (up, down, right) "U"



This program displays asteroids and the shuttle on the screen, and enables the shuttle to move in the direction the player wants. In line 10, **GR** sets the computer to low resolution graphics mode, and **HOME** clears the screen

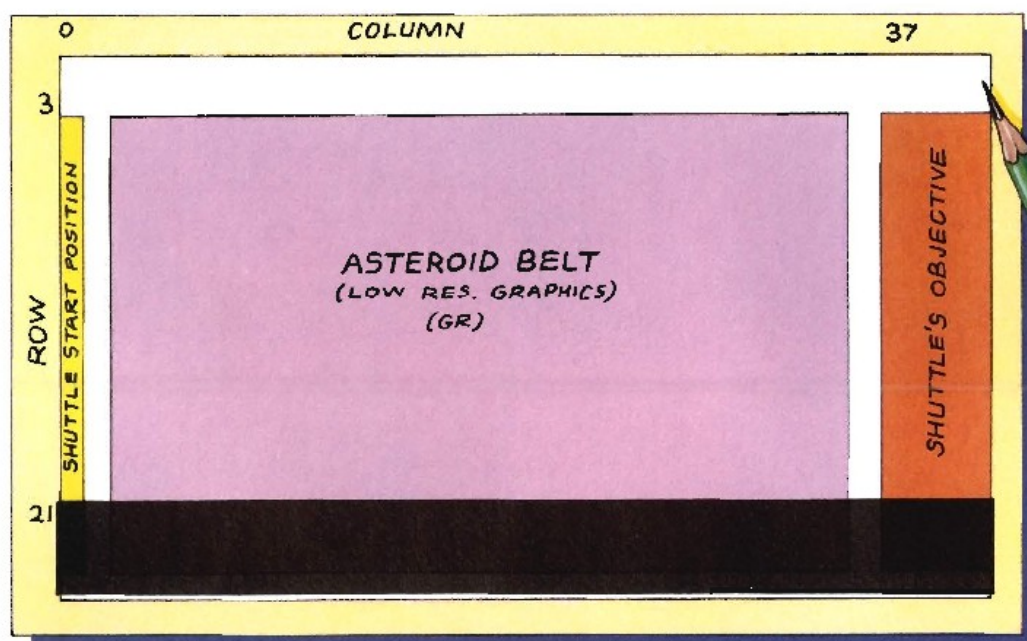
```

5  REM  ASTEROIDS
10 GR : HOME

```

The first section of the program draws the asteroids at random positions on the screen, so that there are different asteroid positions each time the game is played.

Before the asteroids' positions are actually plotted, you should plan how you want the screen to look. In **GR** mode there is space for four lines of text at the bottom of the screen. The graphics area is a grid with 40 vertical coordinates and 40 horizontal coordinates, each numbered from 0 to 39. The top left-hand corner of the screen has the coordinates 0, 0. Logically, the shuttle should begin its journey at the left-hand side of the screen – vertical column 0. The asteroid field will extend from column 2 to column 36 and the shuttle will have reached its objective if it gets past column 37 without hitting an asteroid. In addition, the shuttle should not be able to fly off the bottom of the screen to avoid the asteroids. Taken together, these considerations will produce the screen plan shown in the illustration below. You could have a different plan, in which case you'll have to change the figures in the **VTAB** and **HTAB** instructions of the program that plot screen positions accordingly.





```

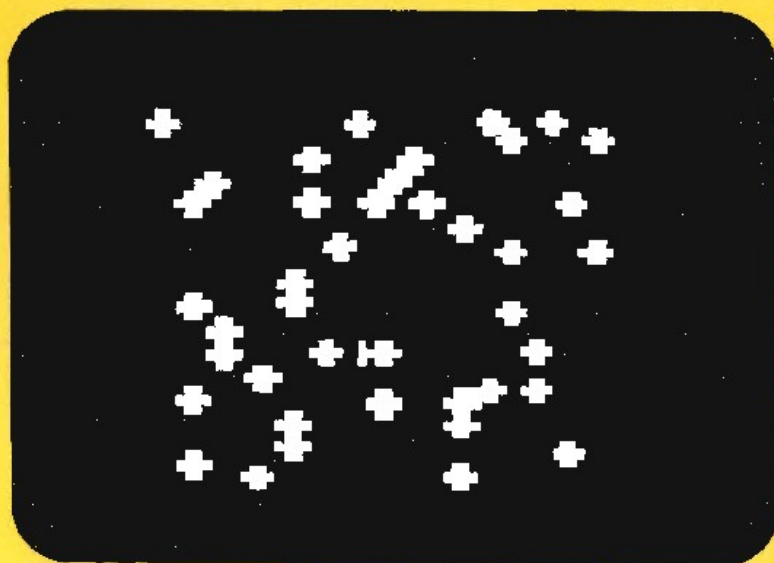
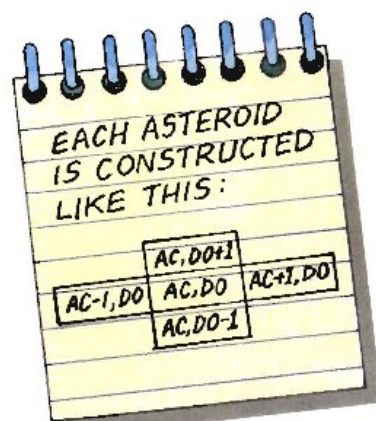
20  DIM AC(40),DO(40)
30  FOR AS = 1 TO 40

40  LET AC(AS) = INT ( RND (1) * 35) + 2
50  LET DO(AS) = INT ( RND (1) * 38) + 1
60  COLOR= 5
61  PLOT AC(AS),DO(AS) - 1: PLOT AC(AS) - 1,DO(AS)
62  PLOT AC(AS),DO(AS): PLOT AC(AS) + 1,DO(AS)
63  PLOT AC(AS),DO(AS) + 1
70  NEXT AS

```

In line 20, the **DIM** command opens two *arrays* in which the positions of the asteroids **ACross** and **Down** the screen are stored. The number in brackets which follows indicates the number of asteroids - 40 gives a good display. Lines 40 and 50 generate random row and column positions for the asteroids within the limits set for the display. Line 60 sets **COLOR** to 5 which gives graphics colored gray - until **COLOR** is changed, everything **PLOT**ed is in gray. The asteroid is actually built by lines 61, 62 and 63. Note that the asteroid shape is made up of five blocks. **AC(AS),DO(AS)** is the central position of the asteroid: line 61 **PLOT**s the block of color directly below, and the block directly behind this position. Line 62 **PLOT**s the central and the forward blocks, and line 63 **PLOT**s the block above. The notepad shows how each asteroid is built up from these **PLOT** instructions.

Lines 40 to 63 have generated a random position and plotted an asteroid there. The **FOR.....NEXT** loop of lines 30 and 70 do this for all forty asteroids in turn.



**AFTER LINE 70 TYPE RUN**  
AND THE ASTEROID FIELD  
SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR  
SCREEN.  
IF YOU GET AN ERROR  
MESSAGE CHECK BACK  
THROUGH THE PROGRAM  
LISTING.



```

100 LET CO = 0: LET RO = INT ( RND (1) * 38) + 1
110 COLOR= 15
120 PLOT CO,RO

```

In line 100, the horizontal starting position (**CO** – short for column) of the shuttle is set at 0: the vertical position (**RO** – short for row) is chosen by generating a random number between 0 and 1 using **RND(1)**. This is multiplied by 38 and made a whole number using the **INT** statement. One is added so that the value of **RO** can never be zero. **COLOR** is reset to 15 in line 110, ready to **PLOT** the shuttle in white at the coordinates **CO,RO** in line 120

Lines 160 to 220 enable the player to give the shuttle instructions for its journey through the asteroids. Three directions are enough – up, down and right – since the shuttle is moving from left to right across the screen. The direction is given by pressing the U, D, and R keys respectively. The **INPUT** is stored in the string variable **DI\$**. If a key other than U, D, or R is pressed, then line 200 sends the program back to 160 for a correct input. The shuttle's direction is changed by changing the values of **UP** and **RI** in lines 170 to 190. Line 210 asks for distance that the shuttle is to travel in this new direction to be **INPUT**. Notice that there is no \$ sign since the input will be given in figures. Line 220 gives a different color to represent the shuttle's course, to distinguish it from the shuttle's current position.

**VARIABLES**  
**AS** = ASTEROID.  
**AC(AS)** = ACROSS  
 POSITION OF ASTEROID.  
**DO(AS)** = DOWN  
 POSITION OF ASTEROID.  
**DI** = DISTANCE INPUT.  
**DI\$** = DIRECTION INPUT.  
**C** = COURSE.

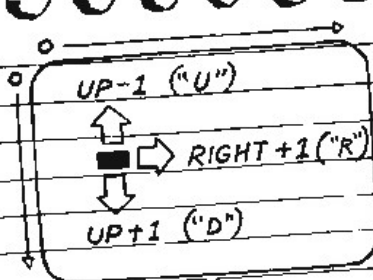
```

160 VTAB 22: HTAB 1: INPUT "DIRECTION (UP,DOWN,  

    RIGHT)";DI$
170 IF DI$ = "U" THEN UP = - 1:RI = 0: GOTO 210
180 IF DI$ = "D" THEN UP = 1:RI = 0: GOTO 210
190 IF DI$ = "R" THEN UP = 0:RI = 1: GOTO 210
200 GOTO 160
210 INPUT "DISTANCE";DI
220 COLOR= 12: PLOT CO,RO

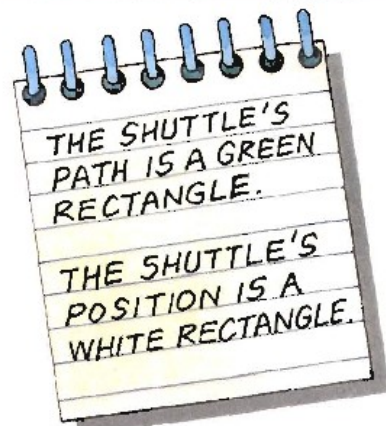
```

UP REPRESENTS THE  
 VERTICAL MOTION.  
 RIGHT IS THE  
 HORIZONTAL MOTION.





Lines 230 to 330 might be thought of as the heart of the program. They allow the shuttle to be piloted across the screen by the player and check that no collisions with any of the asteroids have occurred. This whole section is contained within a **FOR.....NEXT** loop which uses **C** (short for course) as its variable. This loop is repeated for as many times as the figure for distance input at line 210. What happens is that the shuttle's new position is found using **UP** and **RI** in lines 240 and 250. The shuttle moves to these new column and row coordinates one unit at a time. The lines that follow check each new position for success or failure.

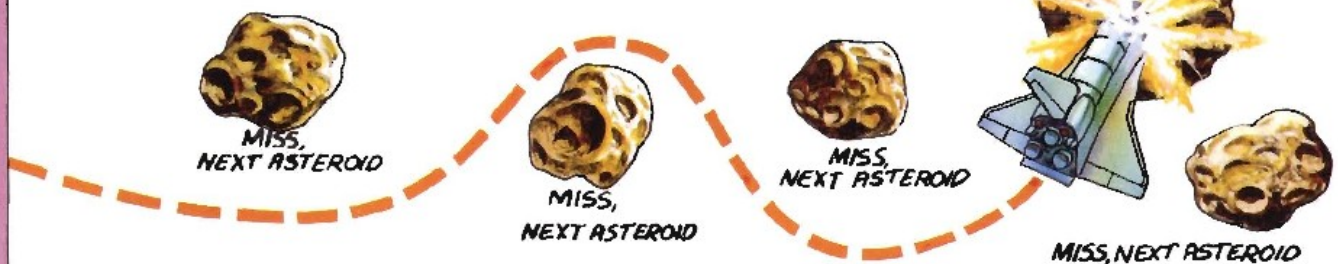


```

230 FOR C = 1 TO DI
240 LET RO = RO + UP
250 LET CO = CO + RI
260 FOR AS = 1 TO 40
270 IF CO = AC(AS) AND (RO = DO(AS) - 1 OR
    RO = DO(AS) + 1) THEN GOTO 370
280 IF RO = DO(AS) AND (CO = AC(AS) - 1 OR
    CO = AC(AS) + 1) THEN GOTO 370
290 NEXT AS
300 IF RO > 39 OR RO < 1 THEN GOTO 390
310 COLOR= 12: PLUT CO,RO
320 IF CO > 37 THEN GOTO 410
330 NEXT C
340 GOTO 110
    
```

In lines 260 to 290 another **FOR.....NEXT** loop is used to check to see if the shuttle has collided with an asteroid. The actual coordinates for an asteroid stored in the array in line 20 are for the center of the asteroid. The positions plotted on the screen also include the coordinates above, below and to the right and left of this position. So lines 270 and 280 compare the shuttle's coordinates with these coordinates, since the shuttle will collide with these first. The loop does this for all 40 asteroids in turn. Line 300 checks to see if the new position takes the shuttle "out of orbit." If all is well, the new position for the shuttle is plotted by line 310. The final check is to see if the shuttle has reached column 38 safely. Lastly, line 340 sends the program back to line 110 for the next course and distance to be input.

36 9-17

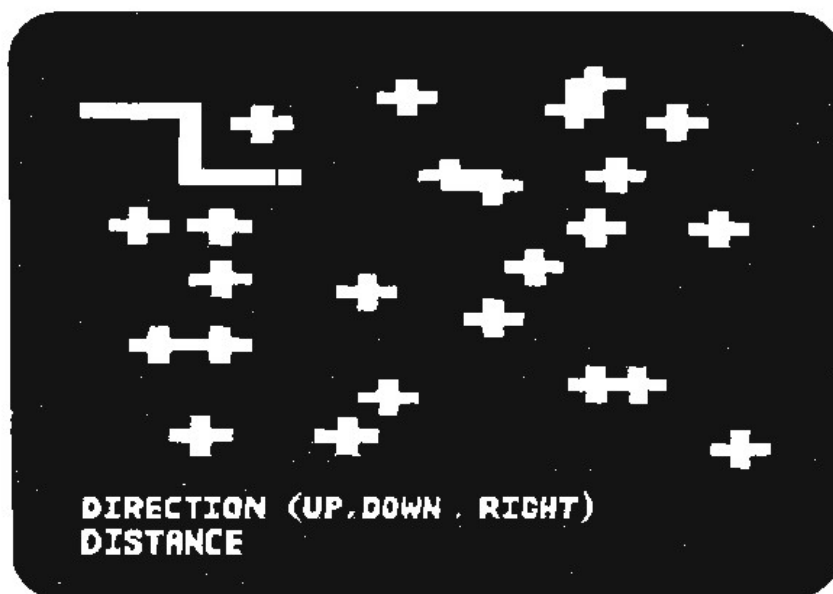




All that remains to do is to add the final messages for success or failure in the game – "YOU HAVE CRASHED INTO AN ASTEROID AND YOUR SHIP IS TERMINALLY DAMAGED!!!" and so on. The **HTAB** and **VTAB** instructions and the placing of the message on two lines simply give a better screen display. There are three end messages – one for collision with an asteroid, one for going out of orbit and one for success.

```

370 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU HAVE CRASHED
    INTO AN ASTEROID"
380 VTAB 22: HTAB 5: PRINT "AND YOUR SHIP IS
    TERMINALLY DAMAGED": END
390 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU HAVE GONE OUT
    OF ORBIT"
400 VTAB 22: HTAB 5: PRINT "AND ARE LOST IN SPACE":
    END
410 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "WELL DONE! YOU
    MISSED THEM ALL!"
420 VTAB 22: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU QUALIFY AS A SHUTTLE
    PILOT"
430 END
  
```



Don't forget to add the **END** instruction at the end of lines 380 and 400 – if you leave them out the computer will always run through to the final lines of program, and you would receive the congratulations message each time you played the game. **STOP** has the same effect, but if you use this the computer would report "BREAK IN 380" when the shuttle collided with an asteroid, for example.



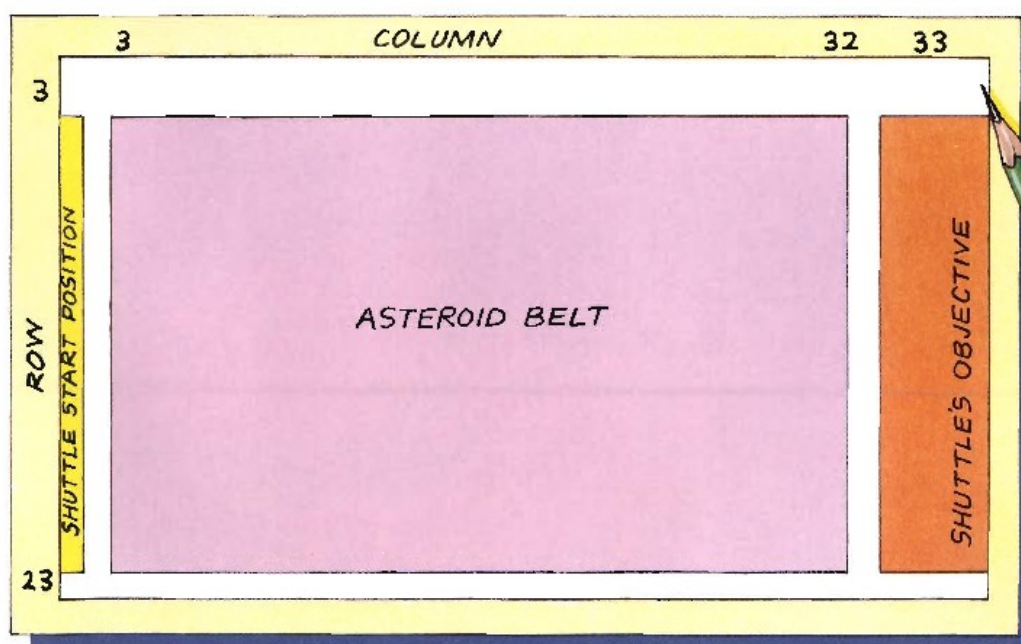
This program uses some of the block graphics available from the Commodore 64. It displays the asteroids and the shuttle on the screen and enables the shuttle to be moved according to the commands input during the game. As before, a **REM** statement gives the program its title and the screen is cleared using **PRINT CHR\$(147)**.

```

○ 5 REM  ASTEROIDS
  10 PRINT CHR$(147)

```

The first thing to do, before writing the section of program for drawing the asteroids at random positions on the screen, is to plan how the screen should look. The Commodore 64 has a screen width of 40 columns and a depth of 25 rows, numbered 0 to 39 and 0 to 24 respectively. The shuttle should travel from left to right across the screen, so its logical starting point should be in column 0. The asteroid field should occupy most of the screen—in this case it extends from column 3 to column 32. The shuttle will have reached its objective when it gets past column 33 without colliding with an asteroid. The top three rows of the screen should be reserved to display instructions for piloting the shuttle, progress messages and allow inputs to be given during the course of the game. In addition, the shuttle should not be able to fly off the top or bottom of the screen to avoid the asteroid field. Taken together, these considerations will produce the screen plan shown below. You could work out a different design for the game, but if you do so, you'll have to change some of the figures in the **PRINT** instructions.



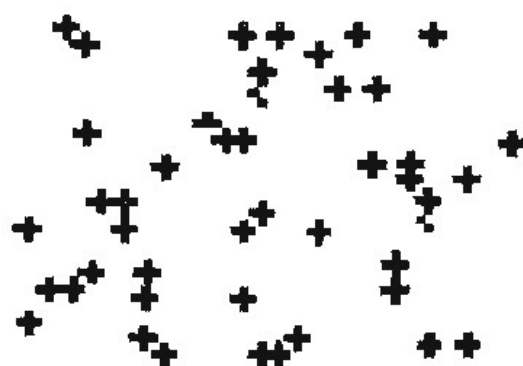
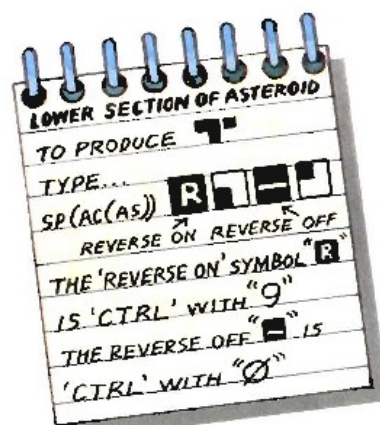


```

20 DIM AC(50) , DC(50)
25 UD$=" "
30 FOR AS=1 TO 50
40 AC(AS)=INT(RND(0)*30)+3
50 DC(AS)=INT(RND(0)*20)+4
60 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,DC(AS))SPC(AC(AS))" "
65 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,DC(AS)+1)SPC(AC(AS))" "
70 NEXT AS

```

In line 20, the **DIM** command opens two arrays in which the positions of the asteroids across and down the screen are stored. The number following in brackets indicates the number of asteroids and hence the size of the array required. Line 25 uses **UD\$** to store a string of cursor control codes. These are used later to move the cursor to the desired position down the screen for printing, as in line 110. Lines 30 to 70 are a **FOR.....NEXT** loop which allow the commands contained in lines 40 to 65 to be performed for each of the 50 asteroids in turn. The loop variable **AS** stands for asteroid. Lines 40 to 50 generate random column and row numbers which plot the position of each asteroid on the screen. Line 60 produces the top part of the asteroid using the graphics symbol on the "D" Key. To get the symbol, press the Commodore logo key and "D" together. Line 65 gives the bottom part, made from two characters. The first character is reversed – the symbol in the listing is the exact opposite of what appears on the screen. See the notepad opposite on how to obtain reversed characters. The second character is obtained by pressing the Commodore logo key and "V" together. **RUN** this section as shown below.



AFTER LINE 70 TYPE  
**RUN** AND THE ASTEROID  
 FIELD SHOULD APPEAR  
 ON YOUR SCREEN.  
 IF YOU GET AN ERROR  
 MESSAGE CHECK BACK  
 THROUGH THE PROGRAM  
 LISTING.



```

80 TI$="000000"
90 C$=" "
100 CO=0: RO=INT(RND(0)*20)+4
110 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,RO)SPC(CO)"X"
120 PRINT "00"C$
130 PRINT C$
140 PRINT "TIME TAKEN:"MID$(TI$,3,2)" MINUTES :";
145 PRINT RIGHT$(TI$,2)" SECONDS"
150 IF VAL(MID$(TI$,4,1))>2 THEN 350

```

In line 80 **TI\$**, the time, is set at zero and has six characters. The first two characters count hours, the second two, minutes, and the third seconds. In line 140, the **MID\$** command takes the third and fourth characters to display the minutes and in 145, **RIGHT\$** takes the last two characters of **TI\$** to display the seconds. Line 150 takes the program to line 350 where the run out of time message is displayed if the **VALUE** of the fourth character is greater than 2 – that is, when two minutes have elapsed. The string of 38 spaces stored in line 90 is used in lines 120 and 130 to overprint the old values displayed at the top of the screen. Lines 100 and 110 **PRINT** an "X" at a random position in column C, to represent the shuttle ready to begin its journey.

```

160 INPUT "DIRECTION (UP, DOWN, RIGHT)";DI$
170 IF DI$="U" THEN UP=-1:RI=0:GOTO 210
180 IF DI$="D" THEN UP=1:RI=0:GOTO 210
190 IF DI$="R" THEN UP=0:RI=1:GOTO 210
200 GOTO 120
210 INPUT "DISTANCE";DI
220 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,RO)SPC(CO)"0"

```

Lines 160 to 220 allow the shuttle to be given course and distance instructions for its flight. Three directions – up, down and right – are enough, since the shuttle is moving from left to right across the screen. The direction is **INPUT** using the U, D and R keys respectively. The **INPUT** is stored under the string variable **DI\$**. If an incorrect key is pressed, line 200 sends the program back to 120 until one of the valid keys is pressed. In line 220 the shuttle symbol will be changed to a "0" to represent its path.

SHUTTLE'S PATH

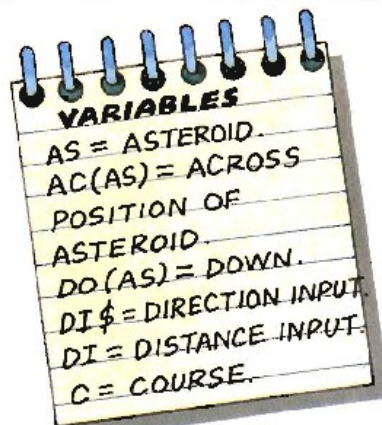


SHUTTLE'S PATH

SHUTTLE'S POSITION



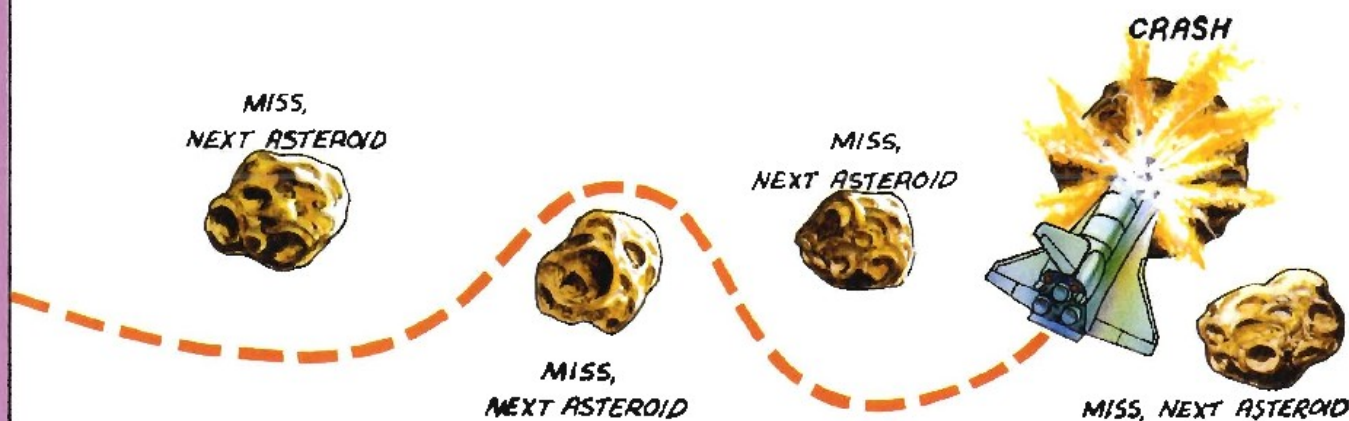
Lines 170 to 190 set the values for the change in the shuttle's course, by using **UP** to set the change in direction up or down, and **RI** to direct the shuttle to move to the right. The actual change in the shuttle's position only takes place after the distance has been input. This input is allowed by line 210. Notice that a string variable sign isn't needed for this **INPUT** because the distance given will be given in figures. Finally in this section, the shuttle symbol is changed from an X into a 0 so that the shuttle's path through the asteroids and the shuttle's current position don't get confused.



Lines 230 to 330 are really the heart of the program. They cause the shuttle to move across the screen and check that no collisions have occurred. This whole section is contained within a **FOR.....NEXT** loop which uses **C** (standing for course) as its variable. The loop is repeated for as many times as the figure for distance input in line 210. What happens is that the shuttle's new position is found in lines 240 and 250, using the values of **UP** and **RI** set in the previous section of the program. The shuttle moves to these new row and column coordinates one unit at a time.

```

230 FOR C=1 TO DI
240 RO=RO+UP
250 CO=CO+RI
260 FOR AS=1 TO 50
270 IF CO=AC(AS) AND RO=DO(AS) THEN 370
280 IF CO=AC(AS) AND RO=DO(AS)+1 THEN 370
285 IF CO=AC(AS)+1 AND RO=DO(AS)+1 THEN 370
290 NEXT AS
300 IF RO>24 OR RO<4 THEN 390
310 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,RO)SPC(CO)"0"
320 IF CO>33 THEN 410
330 NEXT C
340 GOTO 110
    
```





In lines 260 to 290 another **FOR.....NEXT** loop is used to check to see if the shuttle has collided with an asteroid. Lines 270 to 285 take the column and row positions of the shuttle and compare them with those for the asteroids stored in the array opened at line 20. Line 270 checks for collision with the graphics characters printed by line 60, and lines 280 and 285 check for the two characters printed by line 65. The loop does this for each asteroid in turn. Line 300 checks to see if the shuttle has gone out of orbit. If all is well, the shuttle is printed at the new position. The final check is to see if the shuttle has reached column 34. Lastly, line 340 sends the program back to 110 to ask for the next course and distance.

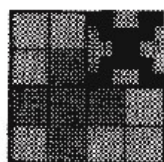
All that remains is to add the end messages. The cursor control codes and the placing of the messages on two lines simply give a better screen display. The reversed heart symbol before each message is the cursor control code for clearing the screen – it does the same as **CHR\$(147)**.

```

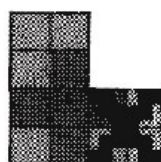
350 PRINT "YOU HAVE RUN OUT OF
    FUEL"
360 PRINT "AND WILL DRIFT IN SPACE FOR EVER"
    :STOP
370 PRINT "YOU HAVE CRASHED INTO AN
    ASTEROID"
380 PRINT "AND YOUR SHIP IS TERMINALLY DAMAGED"
    :STOP
390 PRINT "YOU HAVE GONE OUT OF
    ORBIT"
400 PRINT "AND ARE LOST IN SPACE":STOP
410 PRINT "WELL DONE! YOU MISSED THEM
    ALL!"
420 PRINT "YOU QUALIFY AS A SHUTTLE PILOT":STOP
  
```

When you play the game, you should keep in mind how the asteroids are made up. They are composed of three graphics characters. The graphics characters used are made up from a combination of three blocks as shown in the diagram below. If the shuttle occupies any of the three blocks of any of the three graphics characters, then the computer will report a collision.

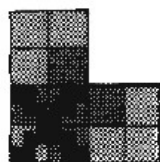
**MISS**



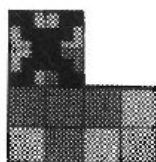
**CRASH**



**CRASH**



**CRASH**





### Improve your program

You can make the game harder to play by increasing the number of asteroids, but after 120 or so it is almost impossible to find a route through. Change lines 20, 30 and 260.



### Adding colour

#### APPLE IIe

In **GR** mode, there are a total of sixteen colors available on the Apple IIe, obtained using the **COLOR** instruction followed by a number from 0 to 15. By using the **RND** command to generate a random number in this range, the asteroids can be randomly colored. Add the line below to achieve this. Notice that 1 is added to the random number – this is to ensure that the **COLOR** figure can never be zero which would produce a black asteroid, invisible against the black screen background.

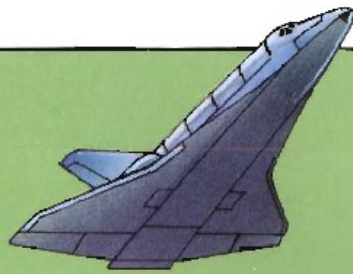
```
60 COLOR= INT ( RND (1) * 7) + 1
```

#### COMMODORE 64

To produce random colored asteroids for the Commodore, the **POKE** command must be used. 646 is the "address" for the area in the computer's memory which selects the printing color. The second figure in the **POKE** command gives the color selected. The section of program below chooses a random number between 1 and 8 to give randomly colored asteroids. This figure is not allowed to be six, as this is the color of the background and would produce an "invisible" asteroid.

```
55 XX=INT(RND(8)*8)+1:IFXX=6THEN55  
60 POKE646,XX:PRINT LEFT$(UD$,DO(AS))$POC(AC(AS))$"
```





# SHUTTLE LANDING

Because of the asteroid storm, your mission has been cut short and you must return to base. The landing point is in sight, but the shuttle's autopilot has malfunctioned. You must bring the shuttle safely to land using your manual controls. Key "A" increases your rate of descent and "D" decreases it. Your instrument panel will give you details of your flight path.

HEIGHT

1200

DESCENT

5

SPEED

400

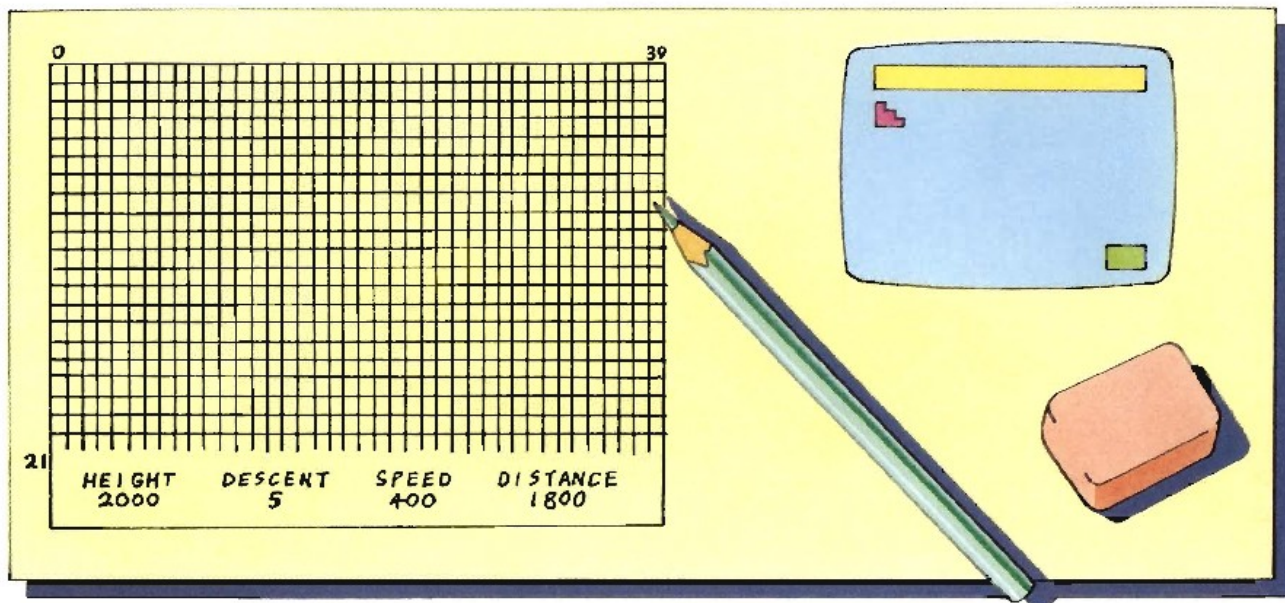
DISTANCE

11600





Once again, the shuttle will travel from left to right across the graphics screen. The bottom four text lines are used to display the instrument panel, showing the shuttle's height, rate of descent, speed, and distance from the runway, and their respective values. The shuttle's objective, the runway, is represented by a blue block in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. The shuttle and the runway are produced using **PLOT** statements. Once again, graphics mode is selected and the screen is cleared. The layout generated by the first lines will look like this:



```

5  REM  SHUTTLE LANDING
10  GR : HOME
20  LET D = 18000: LET S = 400: LET H = 2000:
    LET F = 5
30  LET C$ = "      "
40  VTAB 21: HTAB 2: PRINT "HEIGHT    DESCENT    SPEED
    DISTANCE"
50  COLOR= 2: PLOT 35,39: PLOT 36,39: PLOT 37,39:
    PLOT 38,39
  
```

Line 20 sets the initial values for the shuttle's distance from the runway, speed, height and rate of descent. The **VTAB** and **HTAB** instructions are used to position the instrument panel display – remember to include the three spaces between each heading. Line 30 stores a string of five spaces that will be used to overprint the old values on the instrument panel while the program is running. In line 50, **COLOR 2** gives a blue runway, made up of four graphics blocks, positioned by the **PLOT** statement on the 39th row of the graphics screen.

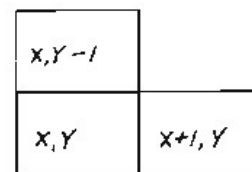


```

60 LET X = 0: LET Y = 1
70 COLOR= 1: PLOT X,Y: PLOT X + 1,Y: PLOT X,Y - 1

```

The shuttle's starting position on the screen is given by the coordinates X and Y in line 60, representing column and row positions across and down the screen which will be used to **PLOT** the shuttle later in the program. The shuttle is represented by the three blocks at positions X, Y: X + 1, Y and X, Y-1, colored green by **COLOR 1**.



THE SHUTTLE

```

80 VTAB 22: HTAB 3: PRINT C$;
90 HTAB 3: PRINT H;
100 HTAB 13: PRINT C$;
110 HTAB 13: PRINT F;
120 HTAB 22: PRINT C$;
130 HTAB 22: PRINT S;
140 HTAB 30: PRINT C$;
150 HTAB 30: PRINT D;

```

Lines 80 to 150 display the figures for height, rate of descent, speed and distance from the runway, using **VTAB** and **HTAB** instructions to place them under the appropriate instrument panel display. The string variable, **C\$**, in lines 100, 120 and 140 contains the series of five spaces stored in line 30 and is used to blank out the old values of the figures on the instrument panel before they are updated later in the program, giving the impression of a running display as the shuttle is piloted down to the runway.

```

160 IF S < 200 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 10:
    PRINT "SHUTTLE STALLED": END
170 IF D < - 800 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
    PRINT "SHUTTLE HAS OVERSHOT RUNWAY": END
180 IF H < = 0 THEN GOTO 290

```

Lines 160 to 180 check the values for the shuttle's speed, distance and height to see if they agree with the conditions placed on the game. Line 160 checks that the speed hasn't dropped below 200, and clears the screen and prints the appropriate message if it has. Line 170 checks that the shuttle has not overshot the runway. In line 180, the program goes to line 290 if the shuttle has reached the landing height of zero. At line 290, another check will be made to see if the shuttle has landed close enough to the runway – within a distance of 1000 from the runway.



```

190 GET R$
200 IF R$ = "A" OR R$ = "a" THEN F = F + 1
    S = S + 5
210 IF R$ = "D" OR R$ = "d" THEN F = F - 1
    S = S - 5
220 IF F = 0 THEN F = 1: S = S - 20
225 IF F > 10 THEN F = 10
230 LET H = H - F: LET S = S + (F - 5) * 3:
    LET D = D - INT (S / 10)
240 COLOR= 0: PLOT X,Y: PLOT X + 1,Y: PLOT X,Y - 1
250 LET X = 36 - INT (D / (18000 / 36))
260 LET Y = 38 - INT (H / (2000 / 38))
270 COLOR= 1: PLOT X,Y: PLOT X + 1,Y: PLOT X,Y - 1
280 GOTO 80

```

Lines 190 to 280 allows the player to control the shuttle's descent. At line 190, the **GET R\$** command tells the computer to go to the keyboard to see if a key has been pressed. Any key that is pressed is stored in the **R\$** – the program will wait until a key is pressed. Lines 200 and 210 check to see if **R\$** was A or D (A increases the rate of descent, D decreases it). If any other key is pressed the rate of descent remains the same – use the S key to do this when you play the game. Lines 220 and 225 limit the rate of descent to a minimum value of one and a maximum of ten. Line 230 calculates new values for the shuttle's instrument panel, and line 240 prints the shuttle in the old position, colored black by **COLOR 0**. This effectively blanks out the shuttle. The shuttle's new position is calculated by lines 250 and 260 and printed by line 270.

THE VALUES OF X  
AND Y IN LINES 250  
AND 260 WILL BE  
SUCH THAT THE  
SHUTTLE IS NEVER  
PRINTED OFF THE  
SCREEN.

```

290 IF D > 1000 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
    PRINT "LANDING SHORT OF RUNWAY" END
300 IF S > 300 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
    PRINT "LANDING SPEED TOO HIGH": END
310 IF F > 5 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
    PRINT "UNDERCARRIAGE HAS COLLAPSED": END
320 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
    PRINT "WELL DONE! A PERFECT LANDING"
330 END

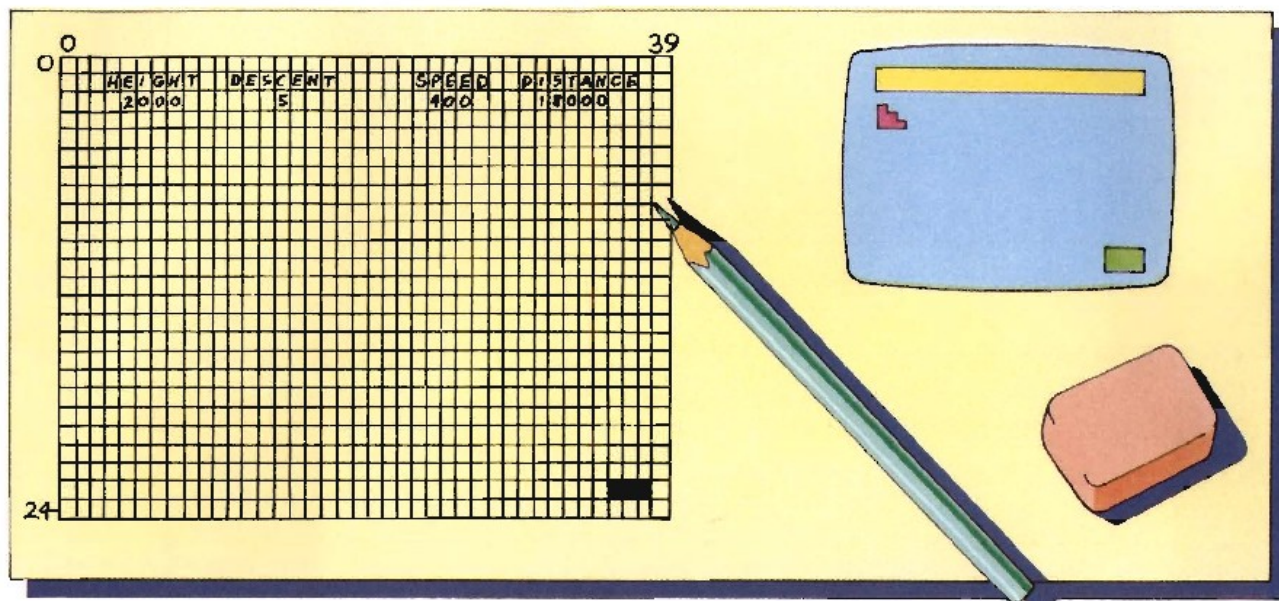
```

The final lines check that the landing is not short of the runway, or that the shuttle's speed or rate of descent is not too high. If not, the program runs to line 320 for the congratulations message.





As in the previous program, the first stage of preparation is to plan how the screen should look. Once again, the shuttle will travel from left to right across the screen starting from the top left-hand corner. The shuttle's objective, the runway, is represented by a block in the bottom right-hand corner. The top of the screen is reserved to show the shuttle's instrument panel, displaying the shuttle's height, rate of descent, speed and distance from the runway. These considerations result in a screen layout like the one shown in the illustration below.



```

5 REM SHUTTLE LANDING
10 PRINT" "
20 D=18000:S=400:H=2000:F=5
30 C$=" "
35 UD$=" "
40 PRINT"█ HEIGHT █DESCENT █SPEED █DISTANCE"
50 PRINTLEFT$(UD$,24)SPC(35)"█"

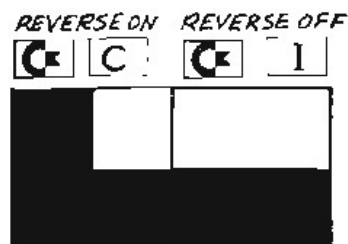
```

Line 20 sets the initial values for the speed, height, rate of descent, and distance from the runway for the shuttle. At line 30, a string of six spaces is stored in `C$`, to be used later to overprint the instrument panel. Line 35 stores a set of cursor control codes, used to position the display later in the program. The instrument panel is printed by line 40. Color text is available directly from the keyboard by pressing either the control or the Commodore logo key together with the numbers 1-8. For example, light red is given by the logo key with 3. In the program these colors are represented by color codes in lines 40 and 50. The code in line 50 colors the landing pad light green.



```
60 X=0:Y=3
70 PRINTLEFT$(UD$,Y+1)SPC(X)"  " "
```

The shuttle's starting position at the top of the screen is given by the coordinates X and Y in line 60. The shuttle is printed yellow using the reverse on and off codes, similar to those used to print an asteroid in the last program. The shuttle's tail is made using the logo key and "C", and the body is given by using the Commodore logo key with "I".



```
80 PRINT"Speed" "C$
90 PRINT"Descent" "H
100 PRINT"Altitude"SPC(13)C$
110 PRINT"Fuel"SPC(13)F
120 PRINT"Engine"SPC(20)C$
130 PRINT"Temperature"SPC(20)S
140 PRINT"Distance"SPC(27)C$
150 PRINT"Height"SPC(27)D
```

Lines 80 to 150 display the figures for speed, rate of descent, height and distance from the runway, placed under the appropriate headings on the instrument panel. Again, the same color control codes produce a colored display. The string variable **C\$** in lines 80, 100, 120 and 140 uses the string of six spaces stored in line 30 to blank out the old values displayed before they are updated. This will give the impression of a running display on the instrument panel as the shuttle moves downward across the screen towards the landing pad.

```
160 IF SC<200 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)SPC(12)"SHUTTLE
    STALLED":STOP
170 IF DC>999 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)"SHUTTLE HAS
    OVERSHOT THE RUNWAY":STOP
180 IF HC=0 THEN 290
```

Lines 160 to 180 check that the speed is not too low and that the shuttle has not overshot the runway by more than the figure of 999. Line 180 checks to see if the shuttle has reached the landing height of zero. If so, the program goes to line 290, where a final check will be made to see if the landing has met the other conditions necessary for success. The **LEFT\$(UD\$, 11)** instruction uses part of the string of cursor control codes stored in line 35 to position the messages down the screen.



```

190 GETR$
200 IF R$="A" THEN F=F+1:S=S+5
210 IF R$="D" THEN F=F-1:S=S-5
220 IF F=0 THEN F=1:S=S-20
230 H=H-F:S=S+(F-5)*3:D=D-INT(S/10)
240 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,Y+1)SPC(X)C$
250 X=35-INT(D/(18000/35))
260 Y=22-INT(H/(2000/19))
270 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,Y+1)SPC(X)"■"
280 GOTO80

```

From line 190 to 280, the program allows the player to control the shuttle's descent. At line 190, the **GET R\$** command tells the computer to go to the keyboard to see if a key has been pressed. Any key that is pressed is stored in the variable **R\$**. Lines 200 and 210 check to see if the key stored in **R\$** is an A or a D (standing for accelerate and decelerate respectively). If so, the descent and speed values are changed accordingly. At line 220, the program ensures that the rate of descent can never be zero - if it were, the shuttle would stop altogether. Line 230 calculates the new values of height, speed and distance to be displayed on the instrument panel. In line 240, part of the cursor control codes stored in **UD\$** is used to position the cursor appropriately, and the spaces stored in **C\$** are used to overprint the old position of the shuttle. The new positions of the X and Y coordinates for the shuttle are calculated in lines 250 and 260, using the new values of height and distance. Line 270 prints the shuttle at this new position, and at 280 the program returns to line 80 to continue the shuttle's descent.

THE VALUES OF X AND Y IN LINES 250 AND 260 WILL BE SUCH THAT THE SHUTTLE IS NEVER PRINTED OFF THE SCREEN.

```

290 IF D>1000 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)"■"      LANDING
      SHORT OF RUNWAY":STOP
300 IF S>300 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)"■"      LANDING
      SPEED TOO HIGH":STOP
310 IF F>5 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)
      "■"      UNDERCARRIAGE COLLAPSED":STOP
320 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)"■"      WELL DONE, A PERFECT
      LANDING!!!":STOP

```

Lastly come the end messages. These also check that the landing is not short of the runway, nor the speed or rate of descent too high. If all these conditions are met, then the program runs through to line 320 and the congratulations message is printed.





## Improve your programs

The final improvement is to link all three games together. Other changes have been made in the listing below, and the lines are indicated by an asterisk. Before the linking can begin you must renumber the program lines in the second and third programs.



## Linking the programs

### APPLE IIe

To make the link, a *subroutine* is added at line 3000. This gives an "ALERT!!" display plus sounds. Line 440 and 1440 take the program to the subroutine at the end of each section. Lines 430 and 1430 give the appropriate word to appear in the display in each case.

```

5 REM SHUTTLE LAUNCH
10 TEXT : HOME
20 VTAB 4: HTAB 12: PRINT "SHUTTLE LAUNCH"
30 HTAB 13: PRINT "-----"
40 VTAB 8: HTAB 5: PRINT "THE SHUTTLE IS READY FOR
  LIFT OFF"
50 VTAB 10: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOUR TASK IS TO LAUNCH
  IT"
55 FLASH
60 VTAB 13: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU MAY ONLY HAVE TEN
  ATTEMPTS!!"
65 NORMAL
70 VTAB 18: HTAB 3: PRINT "PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME"
80 VTAB 18: HTAB 5: PRINT "BY TYPING IT AND PRESSING
  RETURN"
85 VTAB 20: HTAB 3
90 INPUT NAME
100 HOME
110 HTAB 4: PRINT "WELCOME ABOARD, CAPTAIN ";NAME
120 VTAB 8: HTAB 5: PRINT "TO LAUNCH THE SHUTTLE YOU
  MUST"
130 VTAB 10: HTAB 5: PRINT "GUESS THE POWER LEVEL
  REQUIRED"
140 VTAB 12: HTAB 5: PRINT "ANY NUMBER BETWEEN 1
  AND 100"
150 VTAB 14: HTAB 5: PRINT "TYPE IT IN AND PRESS
  RETURN"
160 VTAB 16: HTAB 12: PRINT "GO AHEAD, PLEASE"
170 LET LEV = INT ( RND (1) * 100 + 1
180 FOR A = 1 TO 10
185 FLASH : VTAB 18: HTAB 5: PRINT "ATTEMPT NUMBER "
  ;A: NORMAL
190 VTAB 19: HTAB 18: INPUT GU
200 IF GU = LEV THEN GOTO 280
205 VTAB 21: HTAB 10
210 IF GU < LEV THEN PRINT "TOO LOW, TRY AGAIN "
220 IF GU > LEV THEN PRINT "TOO HIGH, TRY AGAIN"
230 NEXT A
240 HOME
250 VTAB 10: HTAB 2: PRINT "YOU HAVE FAILED AFTER
  TEN ATTEMPTS"
260 VTAB 12: HTAB 1: PRINT "TYPE 'RIN' AND PRESS
  RETURN TO TRY AGAIN"
270 STOP
280 HOME
290 LET HE = 0
300 LET TA = 10000
310 VTAB 5: HTAB 13: PRINT "LIFT-OFF!!!"
320 VTAB 10: HTAB 10: PRINT "HEIGHT"
330 VTAB 10: HTAB 20: PRINT HE
340 FOR SOUND = 1 TO 50
345 LET S = PEEK ( - 16384)
350 NEXT SOUND
360 LET HE = HE * 2 + 1
370 IF HE < TA GOTO 330
380 HOME
390 FOR RO = 1 TO 15
400 VTAB RO: HTAB 11: PRINT "SHUTTLE IN ORBIT!!!"
410 NEXT RO
420 VTAB 19: HTAB 2: PRINT "CONGRATULATIONS
  CAPTAIN ";NAME
* 430 LET FI = "ASTEROID "
* 440 GOSUB 3000: REM LINK
1000 REM ASTEROIDS
1010 BR : HOME

```

### COMMODORE 64

The Commodore linking subroutine is added at line 3000. It contains a short delay and then gives an "ALERT!!" display before the next section of the game begins. Lines 440 and 1440 call up the subroutine.

```

5 REM SHUTTLE LAUNCH
10 PRINT CHR$(147)
20 PRINT SPC(13);"SHUTTLE LAUNCH"
30 PRINT SPC(13);"-----"
40 PRINT SPC(3);"THE SHUTTLE IS READY FOR LIFT-OFF"
50 PRINT SPC(3);"YOUR TASK IS TO LAUNCH IT"
60 PRINT SPC(3);"YOU MAY HAVE ONLY TEN ATTEMPTS
  !!!"
70 PRINT SPC(3);"PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME"
80 PRINT SPC(3);"BY TYPING IT AND PRESSING RETURN"
90 INPUT NAME
100 PRINT CHR$(147)
110 PRINT "WELCOME ABOARD, CAPTAIN ";NAME
120 PRINT SPC(5);"TO LAUNCH THE SHUTTLE YOU MUST"
130 PRINT SPC(5);"GUESS THE POWER LEVEL REQUIRED"
140 PRINT SPC(5);"ANY NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 100"
150 PRINT SPC(5);"TYPE IT IN AND PRESS RETURN"
160 PRINT SPC(12);"GO AHEAD, PLEASE"
170 LE=INT(RND(0)*100)
180 FOR AT=1 TO 10
185 PRINT SPC(11);"ATTEMPT
  NUMBER ";AT:
190 INPUT
200 IF GU=LE THEN GOTO 280
210 IF GU<LE THEN PRINT SPC(7);GU;"... TOO LOW, TRY
  AGAIN"
220 IF GU>LE THEN PRINT SPC(7);GU;"... TOO HIGH, TRY
  AGAIN"
230 NEXT AT
240 PRINT CHR$(147)
250 PRINT SPC(2);"YOU HAVE FAILED AFTER TEN
  ATTEMPTS!!"
260 PRINT SPC(1);"TYPE 'RIN' AND PRESS RETURN TO TRY AGAIN"
270 STOP
280 PRINT CHR$(147)
290 HI=0
300 TA=10000
310 PRINT SPC(14);"LIFT-OFF!!!"
320 PRINT SPC(16);"HEIGHT"
330 PRINT SPC(16);"741"
340 FOR DE=1 TO 500
350 NEXT DE
360 HI=HI*2+1
365 POKE54277,15:POKE54278,81:POKE54296,15:POKE54276
  ,129
367 POKE54273,HI/65:FOR T=0 TO 60: NEXT
370 IF HI<TA THEN GOTO 330
375 POKE54276,128
380 PRINT CHR$(147)
390 FOR RO=1 TO 15
400 PRINT SPC(11);"SHUTTLE IN ORBIT!!!"
410 NEXT RO
420 PRINT "CONGRATULATIONS CAPTAIN ";NAME
* 430 FI="ASTEROID"
* 440 GOSUB 3000
1000 REM ASTEROIDS
1010 PRINT CHR$(147)
1020 DIM HU(50) : DO(50)
1025 UH$=" "
1030 FOR HS=1 TO 50
1040 HU(HS)=INT(RND(0)*30)+3
1050 DO(HS)=INT(RND(0)*20)+4
1055 XX=INT(RND(0)*8)+1 IF XX=6 THEN UH$
1060 POKE646,XX:PRINT LEFT$(UH$,DO(HS))$PC$(HU(HS))

```



```

1020 DIM AC(40),DO(40)
1030 FOR JS = 1 TO 40
1040 LET AC(JS) = INT (.5ND (1) * 35) + 1
1050 LET DO(JS) = INT (.5ND (1) * 35) + 1
1060 COLOR= INT (.5ND (1) * 7) + 1
1070 PLOT AC(JS),DO(JS) : 1: PLOT AC(JS) + 1,DO(JS)
1080 PLOT AC(JS),DO(JS) : PLOT AC(JS) + 1,DO(JS)
1090 PLOT AC(JS),DO(JS) + 1
1100 NEXT JS
1110 LET CO = 0: LET RO = INT (.5ND (1) * 30) + 1
1120 COLOR= 15
1130 PLOT CO,RO
1140 VTAB 22: HTAB 1: INPUT "DIRECTION(UP,DOWN,
RIGHT):";DI$
1150 IF DI$ = "U" THEN UP = -1:RI = 0: GOTO 1210
1160 IF DI$ = "D" THEN UP = 1:RI = 0: GOTO 1210
1170 IF DI$ = "R" THEN UP = 0:RI = 1: GOTO 1210
1180 GOTO 1160
1190 INPUT "DISTANCE";DI
1200 COLOR= 12: PLOT CO,RO
1210 FOR C = 1 TO DI
1220 LET RO = RO + UP
1230 LET CO = CO + RI
1240 FOR AS = 1 TO 40
1250 IF CO = AC(AS) AND (RO = DO(AS) - 1 OR
RO = DO(AS) + 1) THEN GOTO 1370
1260 IF RO = DO(AS) AND (CO = AC(AS) - 1 OR
CO = AC(AS) + 1) THEN GOTO 1370
1270 NEXT AS
1280 IF RO = 29 OR RO = 1 THEN GOTO 1380
1290 COLOR= 12: PLOT CO,RO
1300 IF CO = 57 THEN GOTO 1410
1310 NEXT C
1320 GOTO 1110
1330 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU HAVE CRASHED
INTO AN ASTEROID"
1340 VTAB 22: HTAB 5: PRINT "AND YOUR SHIP IS
TERMINALLY DAMAGED": END
1350 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU HAVE GONE
OUT OF ORBIT"
1360 VTAB 22: HTAB 5: PRINT "AND ARE LOST IN SPACE":
END
1370 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "WELL DONE! YOU
MISSED THEM ALL!"
1380 VTAB 22: HTAB 5: PRINT "YOU QUALIFY AS A
SHUTTLE PILOT"
1390 LET FI = "LANDING "
1400 GOSUB 3000: REM LINK
2000 REM SHUTTLE LANDING
2010 GR = HOME
2020 LET S = 18000: LET S = 400: LET H = 2000:
LET F = 5
2030 LET C$ = " "
2040 VTAB 21: HTAB 2: PRINT "HEIGHT DESCENT
SPEED DISTANCE"
2050 COLOR= 10: PLOT 35,29: PLOT 36,29: PLOT 37,29:
PLOT 38,29
2060 LET X = 0: LET Y = 1
2070 COLOR= 15: PLOT X,Y: PLOT X + 1,Y: PLOT X,Y - 1
2080 VTAB 22: HTAB 3: PRINT C$:
2090 HTAB 3: PRINT H:
2100 HTAB 13: PRINT C$:
2110 HTAB 13: PRINT F:
2120 HTAB 22: PRINT C$:
2130 HTAB 22: PRINT S:
2140 HTAB 30: PRINT C$:
2150 HTAB 30: PRINT D:
2160 IF S < 200 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 10:
PRINT "SHUTTLE STALLED": END
IF D < -800 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
PRINT "SHUTTLE HAS OVERSHOT RUNWAY": END
IF H < 0 THEN GOTO 2300
2170 GET R$
IF R$ = "A" OR R$ = "a" THEN F = F + 1:
S = S + 5
2180 IF R$ = "D" OR R$ = "d" THEN F = F - 1:
S = S - 5
2190 IF F = 0 THEN F = 1: S = S - 20
2200 IF F > 10 THEN F = 10
2210 LET H = H - F: LET S = S + (F - 5) * 5:
LET D = D - INT (S / 10)
2220 COLOR= 0: PLOT X,Y: PLOT X + 1,Y: PLOT X,Y - 1
2230 LET X = 36 - INT (D / (18000 / 36))
2240 LET Y = 38 - INT (H / (2000 / 30))
2250 COLOR= 15: PLOT X,Y: PLOT X + 1,Y: PLOT X,Y - 1
2260 GOTO 2080
2270 IF D > 1000 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
PRINT "LANDING SHORT OF RUNWAY": END
2280 IF S > 300 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
PRINT "LANDING SPEED TOO HIGH": END
2290 IF F > 5 THEN HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5:
PRINT "UNDERCARRIAGE HAS COLLAPSED": END
2300 HOME : VTAB 21: HTAB 5: PRINT "WELL DONE!
A PERFECT LANDING!"
2310 END
2320 REM LINK
2330 FOR BLEEP = 1 TO 20
2340 PRINT CHR$(17):
2350 NEXT BLEEP
2360 TEXT : HOME
2370 FOR LO = 1 TO 20
2380 VTAB LO: HTAB 1: PRINT "ALERT!":
F$: "FIELD AHEAD!":
2390 NEXT LO
2400 FOR DE = 1 TO 3000
2410 NEXT DE
2420 RETURN

```

```

1065 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,DO(AS)+1)SPC(AC(AS)+1)";
1070 NEXT AS
1080 TI$="000000"
1090 C$=" "
1100 CO=0 RO=INT(RND(0)+20)+4
1110 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,RO)SPC(CO)";
1120 PRINT "0000"
1130 PRINT C$
1140 PRINT "TIME TAKEN "TIME-TI$;" MINUTES "
1145 PRINT RIGHT$(TI$,21) " SECONDS"
1150 IF VAL(MID$(TI$,4,1))>2 THEN 1350
1160 INPUT "DIRECTION (UP,DOWN, RIGHT)";DI$
1170 IF DI$="U" THEN UP=-1 RI=0 GOTO 1210
1180 IF DI$="D" THEN UP=1 RI=0 GOTO 1210
1190 IF DI$="R" THEN UP=0 RI=1 GOTO 1210
1200 GOTO 1120
1210 INPUT "DISTANCE";DI
1220 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,RO)SPC(CO)";
1230 FOR C=1 TO DI
1240 RO=RO+UP
1250 CO=CO+RI
1260 FOR AS=1 TO 50
1270 IF CO=AC(AS) AND RO=DO(AS) THEN 1370
1280 IF CO=AC(AS) AND RO=DO(AS)+1 THEN 1370
1290 IF CO=AC(AS)+1 AND RO=DO(AS)+1 THEN 370
1290 NEXT AS
1300 IF RO=24 OR RO=4 THEN 1300
1310 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,RO)SPC(CO)";
1320 IF CO=53 THEN 1410
1330 MEZ :
1340 GOTO 1110
1350 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX YOU HAVE RUN OUT OF
FUEL "
1360 PRINT "XX AND WILL DRIFT IN SPACE FOR EVER"
STOP
1370 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX YOU HAVE CRASHED INTO AN
ASTEROID"
1380 PRINT "XX AND YOUR SHIP IS TERMINALLY DAMAGED"
STOP
1390 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX YOU HAVE GONE OUT OF
ORBIT"
1400 PRINT "XX AND ARE LOST IN SPACE" STOP
1410 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX WELL DONE! YOU MISSED THEM
ALL!"
1420 PRINT "XX YOU QUALIFY AS A SHUTTLE PILOT"
* 1430 F$="LANDING"
* 1440 COGUB3000
2000 REM Lander
2010 PRINT " "
2020 D=1500: S=400: H=2000: F=5
2030 C$=" "
2040 UD$="XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"
2050 PRINT "X HEIGHT DESCENT SPEED DISTANCE"
2060 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,24)SPC(35)";
2070 X=0 Y=0
2080 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,Y+1)SPC(10)";AS "
2090 PRINT "0000 "C$
2100 PRINT "5000 "H
2110 PRINT "0000"SPC(13)C$
2120 PRINT "0000"SPC(13)C$
2130 PRINT "0000"SPC(20)C$
2140 PRINT "0000"SPC(20)C$
2150 PRINT "0000"SPC(27)C$
2160 IF S<200 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)SPC(12)";SHUTTLE
STALLED" STOP
2170 IF D<-999 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)";SHUTTLE HAS
OVERSHOT THE RUNWAY" STOP
2180 IF H<0 THEN 2290
2190 GET R$
2200 IF R$="A" THEN F=F+1 S=S+5
2210 IF R$="D" THEN F=F-1 S=S-5
2220 IF F=0 THEN F=1 S=S-20
2230 H=H-F S=S+(F-5)*5: D=D-INT(S/10)
2240 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,Y+1)SPC(10)C$
2250 X=35-INT(D/(18000/36))
2260 Y=22-INT(H/(2000/30))
2270 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,Y+1)SPC(10)";AS "
2280 GOTO 2080
2290 IF D>1000 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)";
LANDING
SHORT OF RUNWAY" END
2300 IF S>300 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)";
LANDING
SPEED TOO HIGH" END
2310 IF F>5 THEN PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)";
UNDERCARRIAGE COLLAPSED" END
2320 PRINT LEFT$(UD$,11)"; WELL DONE! A PERFECT
LANDING!" END
* 3000 REM LINK
* 3010 FOR D=1 TO 3000
* 3020 NEXT D
* 3030 POKE54276,129
* 3040 PRINT " "
* 3050 FOR L=1 TO 20
* 3060 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"
* 3070 NEXT L
* 3080 FOR D=1 TO 3000
* 3090 NEXT D
* 3095 POKE54276,128
* 3100 RETURN

```



# Glossary

- Array** An array is a set of data, held together and identified by one variable name (see also the entry for *variable*). One way of imagining an array is as a series of boxes within the computer's memory, with each separate piece of data held in a separate box.
- CHR\$** All the symbols and numbers on the computer's keyboard have a numerical **CHR\$** code. You can find out what they are by asking the computer to "**PRINT CHR\$ 87**", for example.
- Delay** Delays are sometimes included in computer programs when it is necessary to slow the computer down. They are usually part of a **FOR.....NEXT** loop (see below) and look like this in a program:  
**FOR DE = 1 TO 1000: NEXT DE.**  
This would cause the computer to count to 1000 before going on to the next stage of the program.
- DIM** The BASIC statement for opening an array. It is followed by a number in brackets which tells the computer how big the array should be.
- FOR.....NEXT** This is a sequence of commands that are used to make the computer repeat an operation a certain number of times. For example, the command:  
**FOR x= 1 TO 5:PRINT 2\*x:NEXT x**  
would cause the computer to **PRINT** the two times table up to five.
- GET** This instruction is used to send the computer to the keyboard to check to see if any key has been pressed. The exact instruction varies between different models of computer.
- GOTO** This statement tells the computer to go to the specified line, missing out any lines in between. It is usually used with **IF.....THEN** (see below) and is only operated if certain conditions are true. Be careful when using **GOTOs**, as it's easy to have the program jumping backward and forward so much that it is impossible to read.
- IF.....THEN** This is used as a way of telling the computer to do something only when certain conditions are true. This instruction often looks something like this: **IF score= 10 THEN PRINT "WELL DONE, YOU'VE WON!!!"**



**INPUT** This instruction allows the computer to be given information while a program is running. When the computer comes to an **INPUT** instruction it prints a question mark (or, for some computers, a different symbol) to prompt the user, and waits for the input to be given.

**INT** **INT** is short for integer, and instructs the computer to make a whole number of a figure with decimal places in it. It is often used in conjunction with the **RND** command which instructs the computer to generate a random number (see below).

**LET** This is one way of giving the computer information. In some programs there may be statements such as: **X=10**  
This simply means that the number ten is stored under the label X. It is often clearer to write:

**LET X=10**

The **LET** statement also gives rise to something that at first sight seems illogical, if not impossible. In many programs you will see things like:

**LET X=X+1**

Of course, in mathematical terms X can't equal X+1. All this type of statement means is "increase the value of whatever is stored in X by one."

**LIST** This makes the computer display whatever program it has in its memory. You can **LIST** single lines, or parts of a program by following the **LIST** command with the appropriate line numbers.

**PRINT** This tells the computer to display something on the screen. Letters and symbols that are to be displayed should be enclosed in quotation marks, but numbers need not be.

**RND** This instruction makes the computer generate a random number. The precise instruction varies between different models of computer. Both the Apple IIe and the Commodore 64 generate random decimal numbers between 0 and 1. To make whole numbers between a desired range this is multiplied by a suitable figure and made a whole number using **INT**.

**STEP** The **STEP** statement is always used following a **FOR...** statement. It indicates the amount that the variable should be changed for each operation. For example: **FOR X=0 TO 20 STEP 5: PRINT X: NEXT X** Would mean that X would rise in steps of five, so that the computer would print 0, 5, 10, 15, 20.



## Variables

When you give the computer information you have to give it a label under which it is stored. This label is called a variable since the information it contains may change during the course of the program. When you want the computer to do something with the information, you must refer to it by its label - its variable name. For example, the statement **LET A=6** places 6 under the variable name **A**.

There are two types of variable. A *numeric variable* is one in which the information stored will always be numbers. If the data to be stored consists of letters or words then a *string variable* must be used. The variable name must then be followed by the string sign - \$. So, for example, if you wanted a name stored, the statement would read: **LET N\$="JAMES"**. String variable information must always be in quotes.

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**Design**  
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