

# Home Computing WEEKLY

An Argus Specialist Publication

**2 week Christmas special!**

No. 42  
Dec 20, 1983  
- Jan 2, 1984

38p



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## CBS plans its Adam strategy

CBS is talking to micro users both in the home and in business, to decide on exactly how its new Colecovision Adam computer should be marketed in the UK.

Philip Gibbs, marketing manager, explained: "We feel the Adam will be of interest to two markets — the serious home user and the small business employing about 10 people.

"There's a lot of evidence that home users are starting to upgrade to bigger, more powerful machines. And whereas at the moment small businesses thinking about buying a computer are faced with paying upwards of £300 for the micro alone, with the Adam, they'll get a complete system for around £700 — in-

*Continued on page 5*

## More moves cause upsets in Liverpool

In the latest round of musical chairs in Liverpool, club owner Tommy Barton has recruited the production manager of add-on makers Fuller Micro Systems.

Until now the recent comings and goings had been mainly confined to big software houses like Bug-Byte and Imagine and their smaller rivals.

Software Projects, Mr Barton's first venture into home computers, has now been joined

*Continued on page 5*

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Mastered the basics of BASIC and ready to move on? Structured Programs in BASIC is a book of programming techniques, algorithms, program modules, programs and ideas for those who want to make more better use of their micro. Written by Peter Bishop, author of four other computer books, it costs £4.95, and should be in the shops just after Christmas.

Thomas Nelson, Nelson House,  
Mayfield Road, Walton on  
Thames, Surrey KT12 5PL

Martech has brought out two new games, Quest of Merravid, an adventure game for the Commodore 64 or VIC (£7.95) and Blastermind for the Spectrum (£5.50), a game of logic in which you have to guess the hidden code. Martech say they "accept no responsibility for damage caused by anger, aggravation or temper loss" as a result of playing Blastermind, and plan to make it even more annoying soon by adding synthesised comments using the Currah Microspeech synthesiser.

Martech, 9 Dillingburgh Road,  
Eastbourne, Sussex BN20 8LY

Dual-game tapes — one side for the VIC-20 and the other for the Commodore 64 — have been brought out by Audiogenic. They are Cataclysm, a space shoot-'em-up game at £5.95, and a monsters and ladders game called Bonzo (£7.95). Also new from Audiogenic: Shifty, a maze game for the 8K VIC at £5.95, and four for the Commodore 64. Serpentine, Seafox and Choplifter are £29.95 on cartridge and David's Midnight Magic is £29.95 on disc.

Audiogenic, P.O. Box 88,  
Reading, Berks RG1 2SN

The first four titles in the Clear and Simple Home Computer Series of paperbacks are out this month. They are Introduction to Computing, by Peter Lafferty; First steps in BASIC; Games, Graphics and Sounds; and Learning with your Home Computer, all by Susan Curran and Ray Curnow. The four books cost £4.95 each.

WHS Distributors, St Johns  
House, East Street, Leicester  
LE1 6NE

# Home Computing WEEKLY

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Argus Specialist Publications Ltd.  
No.1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB. 01-437 0626

Home Computing Weekly is published on Tuesdays. Distribution by Argus Press Sales and Distribution Ltd, 12-14 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JS. Printed by Alabaster Passmore & Sons, Ltd, of London and Maidstone, Kent. Design and origination by MM Design and Print, 145 Charing Cross Rd., London WC2 0EE

## BUY THIS SPACE

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## A Happy Christmas to you



It's our first Christmas at Home Computing Weekly and we have put together a special seasonal issue.

We hope you have fun with the games inside.

And we would like to wish all of you a very happy Christmas as well as an enjoyable and successful New Year.

We are taking our Christmas break too. Home Computing Weekly will be back in the shops on Tuesday January 10.

As well as software reviews — more than any other magazine — the latest news, programming hints and listings to type in, there will be some great extras throughout 1984.

Our thanks go to all those who have helped to make HCW such a success in just 42 weeks.

*Paul A. Liptrot*

P.S. Please remember that we are now in new offices: No. 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB. Our new phone number is 01-437 0626.

## CALPAC LEARNING SERIES

Colour graphics and sound are used extensively to make learning more enjoyable.

**5. MULTIPLICATION TABLES.** This program with correction sequences enables you to test individual multiplication tables, or all tables up to a maximum that you choose. Carriages are added to a train as the score increases - see the train glide through the countryside when the test is finished.

**6. THE ROMANS.** Answer questions on the Romans to win a horse, chariot, viaduct and temple. Answer enough correctly and the horse will gallop away with its chariot.

**7. SPELLING TESTER.** The words in the test are initially displayed on the screen. Then short sentences are used as prompts for the words, which must be typed correctly to add stages to a space-ship.

Replace the words and sentences in the program with weekly spelling lists, save them on cassette, and you will rapidly create a whole library of programs.

**8. HOMOPHONES.** Sale or sail; bare or bear? Choose the correct word to complete the sentence. Extra motivation is provided by a coloured pot-plant, which grows with each correct response. The plant flowers in an unusually tuncful fashion at the end of the program.

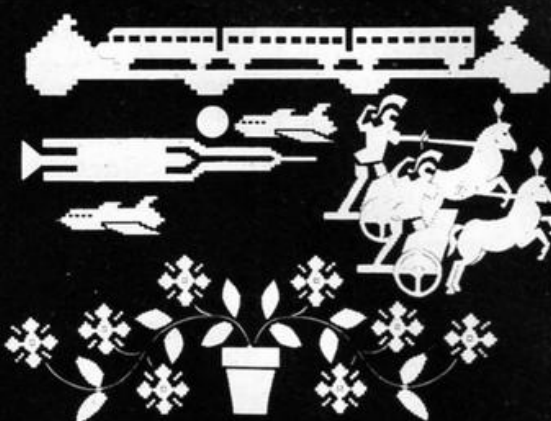
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Published by Calpac Computer Software, 108 Hermitage Woods Crescent, St Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 1UF

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CALPAC  
LEARNING SERIES  
SPECTRUM  
VOL. 2

## CALPAC LEARNING SERIES

PROGRAMS 5-8



5. MULTIPLICATION TABLES  
5. THE ROMANS  
7. SPELLING TESTER  
8. HOMOPHONES

SPECTRUM 16K  
FROM 7 YEARS 48K

## CALPAC LEARNING SERIES

Colour graphics and sound are used extensively to make learning more enjoyable.

**9. NOUNS, VERBS, ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS.** Sentences are displayed and you select the named parts of speech. Instant feedback and helpful comments ensure positive learning. Correct answers are rewarded by the creation of a coastal scene, which is animated at the end of the program.

**10. VERB PRACTICE.** You have to complete the sentences using the correct tenses of the verbs. The program concentrates on those irregular verbs that often cause difficulty. An underwater landscape is created as questions are correctly answered.

**11. THE STRUCTURE OF THE FLOWER.** This program explains how the parts of the flower are involved in the formation of seeds. This is a three part program which makes full use of high resolution colour graphics.

**12. LONG DIVISION.** This detailed program takes the learner through long division sums in easy stages. Correction sequences are automatically provided when they are needed. Sums with remainders can be chosen if required.

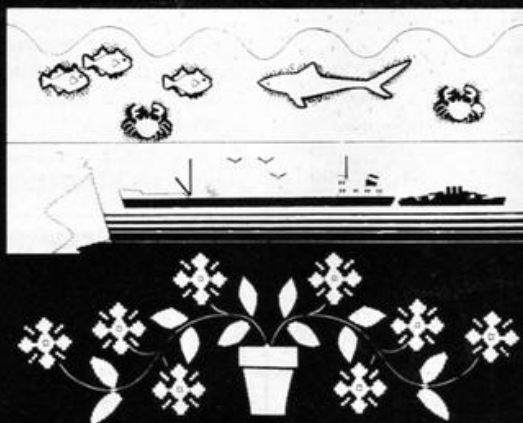
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CALPAC  
LEARNING SERIES  
SPECTRUM  
VOL. 3  
FROM 9 YEARS

## CALPAC LEARNING SERIES

PROGRAMS 9-12



9. NOUNS, VERBS, ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS  
10. VERB PRACTICE  
11. THE STRUCTURE OF THE FLOWER  
12. LONG DIVISION

SPECTRUM 16K  
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| 16K or 48K Spectrum | £9.50 |
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| 48K Spectrum        | £7.50 |
| 16K ZX81            | £6.95 |
| 16K ZX81            | £5.95 |



## Adam Strategy

From front page

cluding VAT.

"What we're trying to do is find out exactly what people are currently using their micro-computers for, and how they would like to use them. And then we hope to be able to pinpoint features of the Adam that will do those things.

"It's being promoted in the States as 'the first family computer'. But 'family' in this country suggests 'unprofessional'. We don't want to frighten off the business user, so we're thinking of calling it 'the complete computer system'."

For the price tag of £700 or so, Adam purchasers will get a keyboard unit, daisywheel printer, two games controllers/keypads and a mass storage/processor unit.

The computer has a Z80A processor and 80K of RAM, upgradeable to 144K. There's the CP/M operating system and a word processor built into ROM, but BASIC has to be loaded in from cassette.

Mass storage facilities will consist of a cartridge slot, which will take Coleco games cartridges, and a high-speed digital tape recorder which will take only special Coleco tape cassettes. The system cannot be split up.

As an alternative to buying the system from scratch, the 30,000 or so UK owners of Coleco games

tape, which will also have spare storage capacity, a blank tape, and a game, called Buck Rogers — The Planet of Zoom.

There are currently 17 games cartridges already available for the Coleco games machine, and Coleco is working on a selection of tape-based software, including a Smartfiler system which allows you, among other things, to build up mailing lists.

There will also be a number of "supergames" like the Buck Rogers tape, which will have lots of different screens which load in sections from the tape unit. Coleco is promising to unveil "a whole range" of these tapes at the Las Vegas computer show in January.

Also promised for the Las Vegas show is a disc drive interface. Because Adam has the CP/M operating system, by buying the disc interface and a disc drive, users would be able to run much of the disc-based software already written for CP/M-based machines.

For the UK launch, CBS will select software from Coleco's range, adapting programs for the UK market where necessary. But it is also talking to two independent UK software companies about developing a series of programs especially for the UK, taking into account the results of its discussions with UK users.

CBS hopes that the Adam will be on sale in a range of most of the High Street chains, but so far it has only spoken to two companies. According to Philip Gibbs, "nobody's yet made any

## Liverpool

From front page

by Hardware Projects.

Its first product — now at the prototype stage — is to be a joystick interface-amplifier for the Spectrum. It will have a volume control and will be compatible with Kempston joysticks.

Managing director is Keith Archer, from Fuller, who said: "I'm aiming for a range of products and I don't intend to stick just with the Spectrum."

Among his ideas: a programmable joysticks interface plus ROM cartridges for the Commodore 64, VIC-20 and Spectrum. All would be designed by a team for which he was advertising.

Mr Archer's former boss, Fuller managing director Roy Backhouse, said: "I would not like to throw cold water on it, but if any attempt is made to hype our ideas there will be writs flying about. We don't want to see our lead going down the drain."

"Obviously it's a good coup for Tommy Barton — Keith knows how Fuller works and the contacts. We have re-structured the company and we can live without him. It was no great loss."

Liverpool's home computer history starts in 1977 when Bruce Everiss, now an Imagine director, started a store called Microdigital. Mark Butler, his sales manager, left to join Bug-Byte at about the same time as his friend and self-taught programmer Dave Lawson. They later left to form Imagine.

Meanwhile Mr Everiss ran into cash flow problems and sold Microdigital to Laskys in a deal which obliged him to stay with the new owners for a time, during which more stores were opened. One source believes some of the money from the Microdigital sale went into Imagine.

Back at Bug-Byte, in October this year, Alan Maton and his secretary wife Soo decided they wanted to go it alone and formed Acme Software, with Mr Everiss as chairman and advisor.

Enter Mr Barton, well known

on the Liverpool club and pub scene. His best-known club is Toad Hall in nearby Ainsdale.

He is the money man behind Software Projects. Its best-known game is Manic Miner, and now a sequel featuring the same character, Jet Set Willy.

Both were written by Matthew Smith, 17, who had licensed the chart-topper Manic Miner to Bug-Byte. Now he is transferred it to Software Projects — Bug-Byte still has stock to sell — of which he will be a director on his eighteenth birthday in February.

He will own slightly less than a third of the company with Mr Barton and Mr Maton holding the remainder.

In a few days a Commodore 64 version of Manic Miner should be ready. It is being converted from the Spectrum by RAF corporal Chris Lancaster, author of Imagine's Spectrum game, Bewitched. There will also soon be a 64 version of Jet Set Willy.

Mr Maton says his company aims to be friendly and helpful to both trade and customers. But some senior software people in Liverpool are unhappy about the latest changes.

Mr Maton's Acme Software is now part-owned by Roy Butler, father of Imagine's Mark Butler, who also has another software house, Voyager.

Bug-Byte has just launched The Birds and The Bees — with graphics by Matthew Smith — which introduces a new cartoon character called Boris the Bee.

Latest products from Imagine are Atari and Dragon versions of Leggit — the name changed from Jumpin' Jack by agreement with a company already using the name — and two more Spectrum tapes: Alchemist, a graphic adventure, and a war game called Stonkers.

And, according to Mr Everiss, Imagine is looking to games by cable in which the adventure could be played by several people and huge games sold on laser disc.

● Other companies which play a part in Liverpool's home computer saga are U Microcomputers, DAMS, Stack, Lyversoft and Home Computer Centre.



Colecovision's new Adam — a complete system for an all-in-one price

machines can buy an expansion unit to turn their games players into a computer — but the interface may well set them back £400-£500.

CBS does not as yet know how much the special tape cassettes will cost, but the disadvantages of using non-standard tapes will to some extent be offset by faster and more reliable loading and saving. Each tape will also be able to hold a great deal of data — the equivalent of up to 250 pages of double-spaced typed text.

The Adam will come with three cassettes — the Smart BASIC

commitment and we haven't asked them to."

Before either the expansion unit or the complete Adam can go on sale here, a transformer has to be developed to allow them to work with UK TV sets, and the Adam itself will have to have a new PCB.

But CBS is pretty confident that Adam will be in the shops in April — and the expansion unit will probably arrive even sooner than that.

CBS, Headley Road East, Woodley, Berks



Customers queued outside Microage, in Edgware, waiting for opening time on Saturday last week — all waiting for Electrons, Acorn's £199 computer. The store had 98 and sold all of them on the day.



## Well done — 101 times

Congratulations to the winners of our Spot the Difference competition in issue No. 35 — all 101 of you.

We asked you to find the differences between two drawings of a monk sitting at his home computer.

New Generation Software offered a first prize of a Spectrum Microdrive, plus Interface 1. The 100 runners-up each receive two New Generation game tapes.

And the winner of the first prize is: Mr A. J. Markham, of Great Yarmouth.

His was the first correct entry drawn after the closing date.

He correctly identified the 10 differences between the two cartoons:

- Plane missing from window
- Flame omitted from candle
- Missing ear lobe
- Stone in wall deleted
- Character missing from screen
- One less key on keyboard
- No screws in hinge on desk
- Cable to screen deleted
- Larger ink spill
- Shading missing from sandal strap

The other 100 winners are:

A. Thorpe, of Birmingham; Nicholas Jackson, Halifax; Alan Aziz, South Shields; Lee Moorhouse, Deeside; Bryan Wills, Ruislip Manor; N. P. Carter, London NW1; Brian Christie, Belfast; Tomas Caulfield, Portmarnock; Garry Britton, Darlington; Miles Woodroffe, Coventry;

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deen; David Phillips, Cumbria; Miss S. L. Atkins, Loughton;

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Derek Alden, Manningtree; John Zimmerman, Holloway; Mark Pepperrell, Bedford; J. Alba, London SW1; Duncan Wigham, South Yorkshire; Stephen Haley, Islington; Jason Holt, Earsfield; Phil Coyne, Derby; Tim Prince, Kendal; Jeremy Johnson, Newmarket;

Marcus Prescott, Swadlincote; R. G. Allen, West Bromwich; D. Sewell, Farnborough; R. J. Pyle, Guernsey; Julian Farrow, London E2; David Latus, Hull; David Richardson, Leeds; C. H. Gardner, Newcastle upon Tyne; Francis Rumbold, Luton; Paul Meekings, Stowmarket;

Mark Johnson, Coventry; C. Barnsley, Dudley; M. Leitch, Hawick; A. Coombs-Hoar, Folkestone; J. Rhodes, Shipley; E. Tunstall, Crewe; Andrew Tillman, Leeds; Philip Hastie, North Shields; D. Mackay, Isle of Lewis; S. E. Williams, Barnsley.

Your prizes will arrive from New Generation Software within 28 days.

## Nice micros, shame about the drives

*I used to say that Commodore's worst enemy over here was its own marketing people. Thank goodness (for them) that that is no longer the situation.*

Both the VIC-20 and the 64 are now attaining sales figures that reflect the quality of these two fine machines. National price reductions have not exactly hurt sales either. Perhaps I shouldn't say this, but it is quite easy to buy a VIC-20 for about \$80 or a 64 for less than \$170 (both unexpanded of course).

Well, now that the marketing is going well, I can tell you that their product demand forecasting people are now Commodore's worst enemies along with their buyers. There is now a nationwide shortage of the Model 1541 floppy disc drives. It looks as though Commodore never anticipated the demand. Most selling dealers figure that about 80 per cent of all buyers will want the floppy disc system immediately. Well, too bad for them because there are virtually none to be found anywhere.

One manufacturer of software for the machines is rumoured to be developing a compatible disc drive that may be ready very soon. I suppose that if they do not do so, they will not be able to sell their software in significant volume.

To make matters worse, Commodore recently rejected shipment of 30,000 drives from Alps Electronics. The supposed reason for the rejection was an exceptionally high number of defective drives. Earlier in the year Commodore entered into an agreement with the Japanese firm Mitsumi to make drives, yet it appears that it will be at least one year before those products are marketable. The cost of this problem will be phenomenal, especially with the Christmas shopping season upon us.

One of America's largest retailers has so few units that most of its stores have only a demo drive, and many do not even have that! Several outlets have been back-ordered for two months or more.

The disc drive shortage has a doubly negative effect on software developers. First it makes them wonder if customers are willing to wait for an undetermined period of time before buying a competitively priced product for which disc drives are readily available, even if they are more expensive. Secondly, it is hard to develop software when you cannot even obtain a disc drive on which to develop the programs.

It will be extremely interesting to watch what develops. I am sure that Commodore has sent Santa a nice letter requesting lots of nice disc drives. By the time you read this we in the States will know if Commodore has been naughty or nice.



A firm called American Small Business Computer Inc. has announced the availability of a Tandy Colour Disc Kit that will expand the storage capabilities of the Colour Computer. The kit includes one 5¼in floppy disc drive which is a double density 40-track unit, a cable and plug-in program cartridge and a blank disc.

Each disc drive is capable of storing up to approximately 156K bytes, and a maximum of four drives can be supported. This would give your system up to a little over 626K of storage. In order to use the kit you must already have the Extended Colour BASIC package from Tandy. Each kit costs \$399. For more details, write to American Small Business Computer Inc., 118 South Mill Street, Pryor, Oregon 97361. (918) 825-4844.

See you next week.

Bud Izen  
Fairfield, California

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# Stell Software

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**Maths Invaders** - answer the questions correctly or the invaders will land on you. 4-12 yrs. (Spectrum 16/48k, BBC B, Electron.)



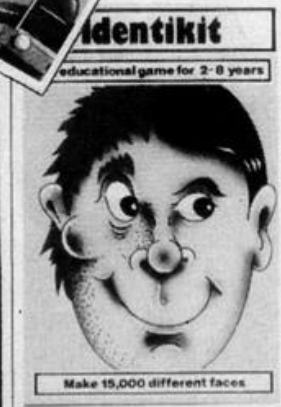
**Money** - an introduction to coins and notes and their use in shopping. 4-10 yrs. (Spectrum 48k.)



**Missing Words** - watch the train move forward when you type in the right word. 4-10 yrs. (Spectrum 48k.)



**Identikit** - choose from a range of features and build up a face on the screen. 2-8 yrs. (Spectrum 48k.)



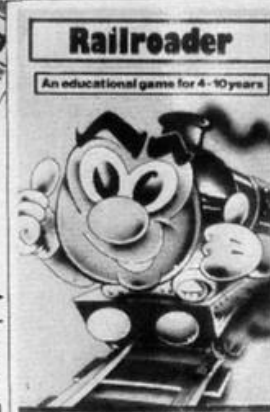
**Time** - learn to tell the time with this simple step by step guide. 3-10 yrs. (Spectrum 48k, BBC B, Electron.)



**Micros for Children 1** - a set of four educational games for children of 3-8 yrs. Excellent value. (Spectrum 16/48k.)



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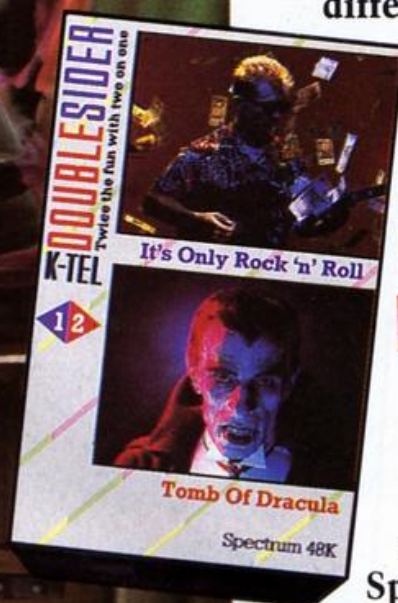
# Once you've got to grips with the Rock 'n' Roll game, flip-over and get your teeth into Dracula.

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**2** Tomb Of Dracula Darkness is falling...The vampires are hungry...You can't go back...Your only chance of survival lies ahead.

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from — three suitable for the ZX Spectrum and two for the Commodore Vic 20 — and there are more to come.

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Twice the fun with two on one.



# Rudolph is flagging — and there are more gifts to deliver

## How it works

20-100 set up variables, graphics and screen

110 PRINTs Santa, checks if he's about to bump into a chimney. If so, goes to End routine (500)

120 checks if Santa is at end of line. If so, blanks him out and resets x & y

130 checks for 0 pressed. If so, sets flag b and start position of px & py

140 GOes SUB to gift drop routine (400)

150 if flag b not set, PAUSEs to delay passage of Santa

400 PRINTs present dropping

405 checks if present misses chimney or hits stack. If so, resets flag b

410 checks if present hits pot. If so, resets flag b, increases score by 10, increments pot counter, decrements x, changes colour of pot

420 if all pots filled then new screen (4000)

500-560 end routine, best score, play again?

1000-1080 title, set graphics

4000- produce screen display

**He may be Chief Reindeer, but Rudolph gets tired just like the rest of the team. Give him a hand with the presents by playing Santa Post, a Spectrum game by Clyde Bish**

Have you ever collapsed into an armchair after Christmas lunch and thought that there must be more to life than waiting for mince pies at tea time?

Here's a nail-biting program to get the adrenalin running and shake off that brandy-after-the-sherry-before feeling.

You see, Santa has a problem.

There are still presents to deliver and poor old Rudolph is

getting tired — he's losing height fast. If you can help Santa by pressing zero to drop a present

## Hints on conversion

Colours: 1 blue, 2 red, 4 green, 5 cyan, 0 black, 7 white

Screen is 22 lines by 32 columns. ATTR(line, column) returns the colour attributes of that position (PAPER X 8 plus INK number). INKEY\$ reads the keyboard.

successful you are the higher the chimneys get.

Come on, Aunt Flo! Get a higher score than Grandad!

**Note:** The capital letters within quotes in lines 110, 400, 410 and 4010 must be entered in the Graphics mode.

## Variables

bs best score  
h height of chimneys  
s score  
x,y Santa's line, column position  
b drop present flag  
h\$ best scorer  
py,px gift column, line position  
pc pot counter  
g,f loops to set graphics  
t number of pots/screen  
r height of chimney  
f chimney draw loop  
n move chimney position counter

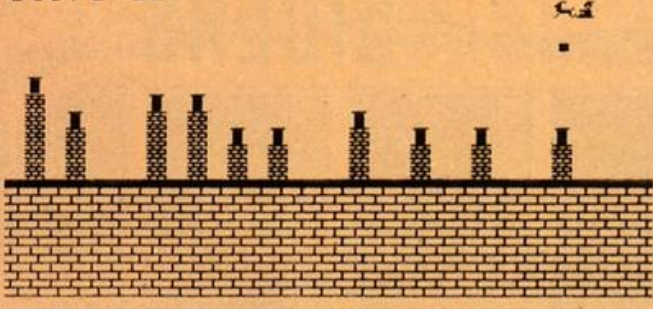
into a chimney pot Rudolph gets a new lease of life and rises in the sky.

The problem is, can you score hits fast enough to keep him from bumping his nose on the chimneys?

It's a thankless task. The more

```
20 LET bs=0: GO SUB 1000
50 LET h=0: LET s=0
60 GO SUB 4000: LET x=1
70 LET y=31: LET b=0
80 PRINT AT 0,0;"Score "s: IF bs=0 THEN GO TO 100
90 PRINT AT 0,10:bs: by "h$
100 PRINT AT 0,6:bs
110 PRINT AT x,y: INK 0;"A" INK 2;"B" INK 0: "I IF ATTR (x,y-1)<40 THEN GO
TO 500
120 LET y=y-1: IF y=0 THEN PRINT AT x,11: "I LET y=30: LET x=x+1
130 IF INKEY$="0" AND b=0 THEN LET b=1: LET py=y: LET px=x: LET r=INT (RND*5)+5
140 IF b=1 THEN GO SUB 400
150 IF b=0 THEN PAUSE 4
160 GO TO 100
400 LET px=px+1: IF px>31 THEN PRINT AT px-1,py: "I AT px,py: INK 2;"G"
405 IF ATTR (px-1,py)=44 OR ATTR (px-1,py)=16 OR ATTR (px-1,py)=22 THEN LET b=0
410 PRINT AT px,py: "I RETURN
415 IF ATTR (px-1,py)=41 THEN LET s=s+10: LET b=0: LET pc=pc+1: PRINT AT px,py:
" I AT x,y: "I AT px-1,py: INK 4;"C" LET x=x-(x<31)
420 IF pc=0 THEN GO SUB 600
430 RETURN
500 PRINT AT x,11: FLASH 1: BRIGHT 1:"Ouch!"
510 IF s>0 THEN INPUT BRIGHT 1: Name please "h$: IF LEN h$>12 THEN GO TO 510
520 IF s>0 THEN LET bs=s
530 PRINT #1: BRIGHT 1: Another go (y/n) ? "I PAUSE 0: IF INKEY$="y" THEN CLS
540 GO TO 50
560 STOP
600 LET b=0: LET h=h+1: GO SUB 4000: GO TO 70
610 RETURN
1000 PRINT AT 0,11: INVERSE 1:"SANTA-POST"
1002 PRINT "Help Santa deliver his parcels before Rudolph gets too tired - on e
each pass Santa moves one line down the screen. Press 0 to drop a parcel so
whn a chimney. If you succeed Santa moves one line up the screen, and you sco
re 10 points. Beware! The chimneys get taller each row!"
1005 PRINT "You can only drop one parcel at a time" "Good Luck!" "0: Press 0 t
o start"
1010 RESTORE 1: FOR q=1 TO 7: READ g: FOR f=0 TO 7: READ a: POKE USR g+f,a: NEX
T f: NEXT q: PAUSE 0: RETURN
```

Score 10



That's 10 presents safely delivered — and another on the way to a chimney pot. A screen dump of Santa Post





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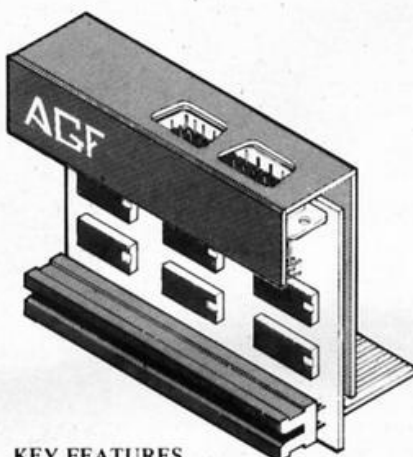
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Take a look at the selection of compatible games we have listed. More are being added all the time as a result of our contact with the various software companies.

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- \* Accepts Atari, Competition Pro, Wico, Starfighter, Le Stick, etc Joysticks
- \* Second Joystick facility
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| 3D Tanx             | : DK Tronics     | £4.95 |
| Splat!              | : Incentive      |       |
|                     | : Software Ltd   | £5.50 |
| Phenix              | : Megadodo       |       |
|                     | : Software       | £5.50 |
| Escape              | : New Generation |       |
|                     | : Software       | £4.95 |
| 3D Tunnel           | : " "            | £5.95 |
| Knot in 3D          | : " "            | £5.95 |
| Cyber Rats          | : Silversoft     | £5.95 |

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| Horace Goes Skiing  | † Pssst             |
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| Penetrator          | † Invaders          |

† Will require 48K Memory.

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**Go on — put your foot down**

You'll have to use all your skill and judgement to dodge them — especially on level two, when they'll swerve when you least expect it.

SO,W,AT,H,L, WX,NL control  
sound  
F(12),DS(12) 10 highest scorers'  
names and scores  
TIS the Commodore's built-in  
clock  
SP speed  
HA 0 for levels 5A-1A, 1 for  
levels 5B-1B

But from 5B to 1B, the speed gradually increases until your car is going flat out — or until you crash. See if you can stay the course long enough to get your name in the top ten hall of fame.

After you choose your skill level, you'll see the driver come down the screen and get into the car. After the titles, press the space bar, and you're off.

**There's no speed limit on the highway in Tony Kelly's Racer game. But there are some very strange drivers about...**

```

10 SO=54296 W=54276 AT=54277 H=54273 L=54272 LI=6 WX=54278 POKE650,0 RR=0 SI=0
20 H#0 B1IND(12):D1NF(12):S2=0 GOSUB980
21 POKE53281,0 POKE53280,0
22 PRINT "J" PRINT PRINT PRINT
23 REM [COMM/5] [CRSR LEFT]
24 PRINT "J" SKILL 1=NO SHERVING CARS":PRINT " SKILL 2=SHERVING CARS"
25 PRINT PRINT PRINT INPUT "J INPUT SKILL LEVEL (1/2) ":YIN
30 PRINT "J" W=53248:POKEV+21,7:POKEV+30,0
40 POKEAT,0:POKEW,0:POKEH,0
50 FOR=2080T0282:FORC=0T052:READB:POKEW*64+C,B:NEXT NEXT
60 A=28:FORC=0T052:POKEW*64+C,INT(1#1/28)
70 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
80 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
90 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
100 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
110 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
120 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
130 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
140 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
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240 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
250 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
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430 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
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480 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
490 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
500 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
510 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
520 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
530 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
540 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
550 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
560 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
570 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
580 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
590 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
600 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
610 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
620 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192,6,254,192,7,215,192,6,254,192,6,238
630 D190,56,0,0,134,0,6,254,192
```

- 10-40 set variables and sound and input skill level
- 50-60 poke sprite data into memory
- 70-160 sprite data
- 170-330 show rules and start game
- 340-430 set screen display and X,Y sprite locations
- 440-610 main program, moves cars
- 620-640 make car go faster
- 690-840 make crash screen at end of game
- 850-930 change level after every 60 seconds
- 980 sets D\$(12) to ? and F(12) to 0
- 990-1040 test to see if you have scored higher than the 10 highest scores
- 1050 print 10 highest scores

Watch out, though — when you're changing speed you cannot move, and while you're stationary, you can't get any points!

When the game ends, pressing the space bar will let you play again.

```

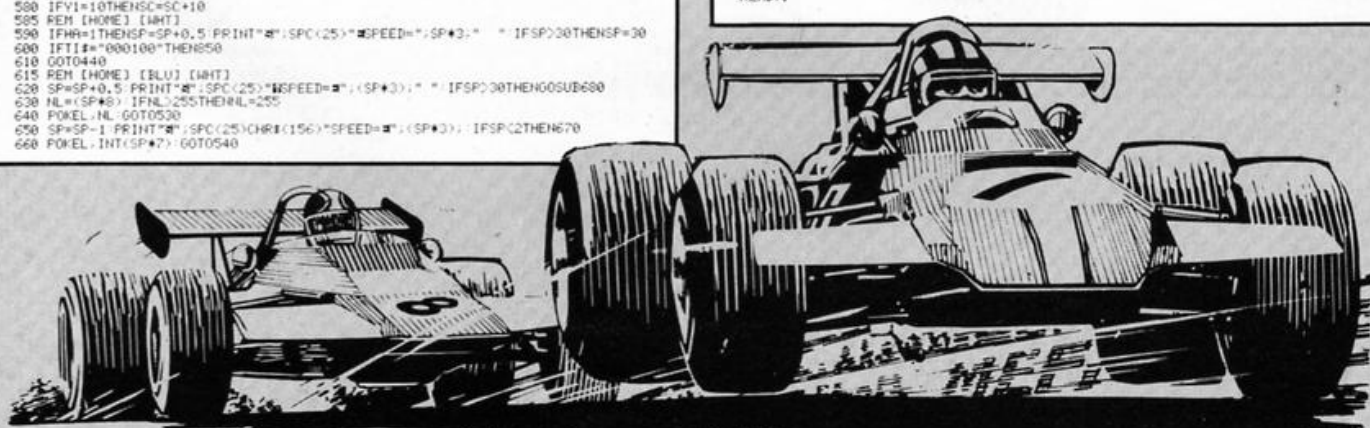
250 PRINT " *****"
260 PRINT " *****"
265 REM [GRN]
270 PRINT PRINT:PRINT"***** NOW YOU ARE IN YOUR MOTOR *****"
275 REM [COMM/1] [RVS OFF] [VEL]
280 PRINT"***** RULES***** PRINT PRINT:KEEP ON THE ROAD TRY TO REACH AS FAST"
290 PRINT"AS SPEED AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE SPEED "
300 PRINT"GETS POINTS DONT TOUCH THE CRPS YOU"
305 REM [RVS ON] [RVS OFF]
310 PRINT"OVERTAKE ON YOUR REAR*****"
315 REM [GRN] [RVS ON] [RVS OFF]
320 PRINT PRINT:PRINT"***** PRESS SPACE***** TO START"
330 IFPEEK(197)=60THEN330
340 PRINT"***** POKEV=21.7"
350 SP=0:POKES0.15:POKEAT.190:POKEK(248):POKEH.1:POKEI.5P#8:POKEW.129
360 SC=0
370 Y=150:Y=200:X1=110:Y1=10:X2=160:Y2=100:SP=1:FO=0
380 POKES3281.0:POKES3280.0
385 REM [RED]
390 FORA=1TO25:PRINTSPC(10);(A) " " NEXT
400 TI$="0000000" POKE2041.200
410 POKE(V+30).0
415 REM [HOME] [CPSR [WON]
420 PRINT"*****CPS*****PRINT"*****LEVEL***** (L1-1):A": IFHA=1THEPRINT"10"
430 POKEV.100:POKEV+1.200:POKEV+2.2:POKEV+3.2:POKEV+4.2:POKEV+5.2
440 POKEV.X:POKEV+1.V
450 POKEV+2.X1:POKEV+3.V1:POKEV+4.X2:POKEV+5.V2
460 PRINT"***** TIME=RIGHTS(TI$;2):PRINT"*****SC*****
470 IF(PEEK(V+31)/RND1)=1RND100THEN100
480 IF(PEEK(V+31)/RND1)=1RND100THEN198
490 IF(PEEK(V+30)/RND1)=1THEMGOOTO60
500 IFPEEK(197)=57THEMGO50
510 IFPEEK(197)=56THEMGOX10
520 IFPEEK(197)=60ANDHA=0THEMGO20
530 IFPEEK(197)=59ANDHA=0THEMGO50
540 V2=Y2+SP:IFV2>250THENV2=10:X2=INT(RND(1)*90)+100:POKEV+41.1:INT(RND(1)*15)+1
550 V1=Y1+SP:IFV1>250THEMV1=10:X1=INT(RND(1)*90)+100:POKEV+40.1:INT(RND(1)*15)+1
551 IFV1=THEMHE50
552 OC=INT(RND(1)*100):IFOC=50THEM1=1
553 IF1=1THEMGO2+5:IFX2>198THEM1=0:X2=198
554 IFOC=40THEMGO2
555 IF52=1THEMGO1:V1=5:IFX1<100THEM1=100:52=0
560 SC=SC+INT(SP)
570 IFV2=10THEMSC=SC+10
580 IFV1=10THEMSC=SC+10
585 REM [HOME] [WHT]
590 IFHA=1THEMSP=SP+0.5:PRINT"*****SPC(25)*****SPEED=***** (SP*3): " IFSP>30THEMSP=30
600 IFR1$="000100"THEMGO50
610 GOTO440
615 REM [HOME] [BLU] [WHT]
620 SP=SP+0.5:PRINT"*****SPC(25)*****SPEED=***** (SP*3): " IFSP>30THEMGOOSUB680
630 HL=SP#40:IFNL>255THEMHL=255
640 POKE HL.607050
650 SP=SP-1:PRINT"*****SPC(25)*****SPEED=***** (SP*3): IFSP<2THEMGO70
660 POKEL.1:INT(SP*7):GOTO540

```

```

665 REM [HOME] [V]EL]
670 PRINT "A:SPC(25);";STRAT10ARRY " " $P=0:GOTO660
675 REM [HOME] [PVS ON] [RVS OFF]
680 PRINT "B:SPC(25);";STOP SPEED=0 " RETURN
690 POKEV+6,X:POKEV+7,Y:POKEV+21,1$
700 FORH=1TO20:POKEV+23,H:POKEV+25,0:POKEV+27,0:POKEV+29,0
710 POKE0,15:POKE0,125:POKEAT,255:POKEH,40:FOEL,200
720 FOEH,0:FOEKAT,0:NEXT A
730 POKEV+21,7
740 POKEV,Y:POKEV+2,Y-30:POKEV+4,Y-70:POKEV+21,0
745 REM [CLR]
750 PRINT "Z:PRINT
755 REM [10 CRSP RIGHS] [BLU] [VEL]
760 PRINT "*****YOUR SCORE IS *";SC
770 IFSC<#F(2) THENI750
780 GOSUB900:GOTO800
790 GOSUB1050
800 PRINTCHR$(20);"*****PRESS *SPACE* TO GO AGAIN "
810 POKE2040,200:POKEV+1,95:POKEV+21,1
820 POKEV,X:POKEV+5,IFX<#50 THENC=50
830 IF PEEK(197)<#60 THENG20
840 POKEV+21,1:PRINT "Z:POKE2040,200:LI=1:RA=0:POKE650,0:RESTORE:GOTO30
850 LI=1-1:RESTORE:FORI=1TO1:FOEL,I:GOSUB50:RR=0
860 IFLI=4 THENPOKEV+29,2
870 IFLI=4 THENPOKEV+29,6
880 IFLI=3 THENPOKEV+29,2
890 IFLI=2 THENPOKEV+29,6
900 IFLI=1:RA=RA+0 THENRA=1:LI=C:POKEV+29,0:POKEV+23,0:GOTO30
910 IFLI=1:RA=RA+0 THENLI=1-1:GOTO30
920 IFLI=0 THENC=40
930 PRINT "Z:GOTO370
940 FORH=1TO20:POKEV+29,INT(RND(1)*15):NEXT:POKE520,1,0
950 PRINT " YOU MADE IT "
960 PRINT PRINT PRINT PRINT "HOW TRY AND BEAT IT "
970 FORH=1TO1000:NEXT:GOTO750
980 FORH=1TO12:DF(I)=?":F(I)=0:NEXT:RETURN
990 INPUT "INPUT YOUR NAME";D$(2):F(2)=SC
1000 K=0:FORI=1TO11:IFF(I)>F(I+1) THENI020
1010 GOTO1030
1020 T=(F(I)-C)+DF(I)-F(I)+F(I+1):DF(I)=DF(I+1):F(I+1)=T:DF(I+1)=C:F(I)=T+1
1030 NEXT I
1040 IF(C<0) THENI000
1050 PRINT FORM=12TO2STEP-1:PRINTSPC(10);DF(M); " " *F(M):NEXT:RETURN
END

```





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4

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# No nose is bad nose for Rudolph

Most computer games are aimed at older children, while the very youngest members of the family tend to be neglected. This game is for the very young children.

It is a variation on the party game Pinning the Tail on the Donkey, but in this game, the object is to place Rudolph's nose in the correct position.

The rules of the game are fairly straightforward, and any number of children may take part.

The program draws a picture of Rudolph with his bright red nose in position. After a few seconds the screen is cleared and the nose is left at the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

Using the cursor keys, the player must then replace Rudolph's nose in the correct position. Pressing the space bar

**In this variation on an old party game, it's Rudolph's nose rather than a donkey's tail that has to be put back in the right place. Geoff Turner tells you how to play**

## How it works

- 40-120 short machine code routine to check if sound channel buffer is full
- 180-390 form main loop of the program, passing control to various PROCedures
- 400-850 PROCedures to draw Rudolph and house
- 860-910 PROCedure to give short pause at various points of program
- 920-1180 PROCedure to allow player to place nose in position
- 1190-1390 DATA statements to draw Rudolph and house
- 1400-1660 PROCedures to display titles and instructions
- 1670-1930 allow input of number of players and their names. Unusual method of input is used to allow music to play continuously
- 1940-2060 initialise variables
- 2070-2200 keep track of scores and display highest score at end
- 2210-2230 error reporting
- 2240-2290 PROCedure to play continuous music. Machine code routine is used to check if there is room in sound buffer. If there is, then another note is added to queue. **Note:** there are several calls to PROCmusic at various points in program, to ensure continuous output
- 2300-2360 data for musical notes

terminates the movement, and then Rudolph is redrawn in his original position without his nose.

After each player has had his turn, the program calculates who was nearest, and displays the

winner's name



## Main variables

- VDU 240 Rudolph's eyes
- VDU 241 Rudolph's nose
- N\$ players' names
- SCORE each player's score
- P(-) pitch of each note
- D(-) duration of each note
- High highest score
- RX,RY Rudolph's position
- A,B position of nose

```
10REM RUDOLPHS NOSE
20REM By Geoff Turner
30ON ERROR GOTO 2210
35REM MACHINE CODE FOR MUSIC
40P%=&D00
50C
60OPT2
70LDA#128
80LDX#250
90JSR&FFF4
100STX#80
110RTS
120J
130MODE7
140PROCINITIALISE
150PROC MUSIC
160PROCTITLES
170PROCINSTRUCTIONS
175REM MAIN LOOP
180MODE1
190GCOL0,135
200FOR P=1 TO 1
210RX=RND(200):RY=RND(200)
```

```
220CLG
230RESTORE 1190
240PROC RUDOLPH(1)
250PROC MUSIC
260PROC HOUSE
270PROC PAUSE(500)
280CLG
290PROC PLACENOSE
300PROC SCORE
310RESTORE 1190
320PROC RUDOLPH(2)
330PROC MUSIC
340PROC HOUSE
350PROC PAUSE(500)
360NEXT
370MODE7
380PROC END
390GOTO 150
400DEFFPROC RUDOLPH(D)
410VDU4
420COLOUR1:COLOUR135
430PRINTTAB(1,1):N$(P);
440VDU29,RX,RY;
450GCOL0,0
460FOR LL=1 TO 15
470READ L,X,Y
480MOVE X,Y
490FOR I=1 TO L
500READ X,Y
```

```
510DRAW X,Y
520NEXT
530NEXT
540VDU5
550MOVE 280,410
560VDU240
570MOVE 330,410
580VDU240
590IF D=2 GOTO 630
600GCOL 0,1
610MOVE 296,260
620VDU241
630VDU4
640ENDPROC
650DEFFPROC HOUSE
660GCOL0,0
670READ X,Y
680MOVE X,Y
690FOR LL=1 TO 28
700READ X,Y
710DRAW X,Y
720NEXT
730READ X,Y
740MOVE X,Y
750FOR LL=1 TO 3
760READ X,Y
770DRAW X,Y
780NEXT
790READ X,Y
800MOVE X,Y
810FOR LL=1 TO 4
820READ X,Y
830DRAW X,Y
840NEXT
850ENDPROC
860DEFFPROC PAUSE(T)
870TIME=0
880REPEAT
890PROC MUSIC
900UNTIL TIME>T
```



# BBC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

910ENDPROC
920DEFPROCPLACENOSE
930VDU4
940COLOUR1:COLOUR135
950PRINTTAB(1,1);N$(P);
960VDU5
970VDU29,0;0;
980A=1247:B=32
990MOVE A,B
1000GCOL0,1
1010VDU241
1020*FX4,1
1030REPEAT
1040AA=A:BB=B
1050PROC MUSIC
1060IF INKEY(-58) THEN B=B+4:GOTO 1110
1070IF INKEY(-42) THEN B=B-4:GOTO 1110
1080IF INKEY(-26) THEN A=A+4:GOTO 1110
1090IF INKEY(-122) THEN A=A+4:GOTO 1110
1100IF NOT INKEY(-99) GOTO 1050
1110MOVE AA,BB
1120GCOL0,7
1130VDU241
1140MOVE A,B
1150GCOL 0,1
1160VDU241
1170UNTIL INKEY(-99)

```

```

1180ENDPROC
1185REM DATA FOR RUDOLPH AND HOUSE
1190DATA 6,380,60,500,60,480,80,470,140,470,200,480,26
0,500,280
1200DATA 4,380,60,400,80,410,140,410,200,400,260
1210DATA 6,360,270,380,260,420,260,440,280,460,280,480
,300,500,300
1220DATA 13,480,260,560,240,640,240,680,250,700,260,72
0,280,780,300,780,60,720,60,740,80,750,140,750,200,740,
260,720,280

```

```

1230DATA 14,780,60,840,60,820,80,810,140,810,200,820,2
60,860,340,870,370,870,400,860,420,840,460,820,480,440,
480,400,460,380,440
1240DATA 1,440,60,440,280,1,400,80,480,80,1,740,80,820
,80
1250DATA 12,320,320,350,320,360,280,360,240,350,220,32
0,220,310,240,300,220,270,220,260,240,260,280,270,320,3
00,320
1260DATA 10,280,320,260,380,260,400,240,400,200,380,18
0,380,160,400,160,420,180,440,240,440,280,420
1270DATA 10,340,320,360,380,360,400,380,400,420,380,44
0,380,460,400,460,420,440,440,380,440,340,420
1280DATA 49,240,440,260,460,240,520,180,520,140,540,14
0,560,160,560,180,540,240,540,240,580,220,600,160,600,1
60,620
1290DATA 220,620,220,680,180,680,200,700,240,680,260,72
0,280,700,250,660,250,620,260,580,260,520,280,480,340,4
80
1300DATA 360,520,360,580,380,620,380,660,360,680,360,7
00,360,720,380,680
1310DATA 420,700,440,680,400,660,400,620,450,625,450,6
05,400,600
1320DATA 380,540,440,540,460,560,480,540,460,520,460,5
20,380,520,360,460,380,440
1330DATA 1,180,420,240,420,1,380,420,440,420
1340DATA 7,820,480,880,440,940,380,960,380,960,400,900
,460,860,480,820,480
1350DATA 1020,600,950,600,950,650,970,650,950,670,970,
670,950,690,970,690,940,720
1360DATA 910,690,930,690,910,670,930,670,910,650,930,6
50,930,600
1370 DATA 800,600,800,700,820,700,800,720
1380DATA 630,720,630,740,620,740,620,720,600,720,580,7
00,600,700,600,600,500,600
1390DATA 630,600,630,650,650,650,650,600,700,640,700,6
80,750,680,750,640,700,640
1400DEFPROC TITLES
1410CLS
1420PRINT TAB(12,5);CHR$(141);"RUDOLPHS"
1430PRINT TAB(12,6);CHR$(141);"RUDOLPHS"
1440PRINT
1450PRINT TAB(14,8);CHR$(141);"NOSE"
1460PRINT TAB(14,9);CHR$(141);"NOSE"
1470PRINT TAB(9,11);CHR$(129);"By Geoff Turner"
1480PROC PAUSE(800)
1490ENDPROC
1500DEFPROC INSTRUCTIONS
1510CLS
1520PRINT:PRINT
1530PRINT"Rudolphs nose is a game similar to"
1540PRINT"pinning the tail on the donkey"
1550PRINT:PRINT
1560PRINT"Rudolph will be drawn on the screen "
1570PRINT"for a few seconds"

```

```

1580PRINT:PRINT
1590PRINT"When Rudolph disappears you must"
1600PRINT"move his nose into the correct position"
1610PRINT:PRINT
1620PRINT"Move Rudolphs nose using the arrow keys."
1630PRINT:PRINT
1640PRINT"Press the space bar when you have"
1650PRINT"finished moving the nose"
1660PROC PAUSE(1000)

```

```

1670CLS
1680*FX15,1
1690PRINT TAB(0,2);"HOW MANY PLAYERS ?";
1700I$=INKEY$(5)
1710PROC MUSIC
1720IF I$="" THEN 1700
1730I=VAL(I$)
1740PRINT I
1750FOR P=1 TO I:N$(P)="" :NEXT
1760PRINT
1770PRINT"Each player must enter their name "
1780PRINT"then press RETURN"
1790PRINT
1800FOR P=1 TO I
1810*FX15,1
1820PRINTTAB(0,P+7);"Player number ";P;
1830I$=""
1840REPEAT
1850PROC MUSIC
1860I$=INKEY$(5)
1870PRINT I$;
1880N$(P)=N$(P)+I$
1890UNTIL INKEY(-74)
1900REPEAT PROC MUSIC:UNTIL NOT INKEY(-74)
1910NEXT
1920PROC PAUSE(50)
1930ENDPROC
1940DEFPROC INITIALISE
1950ENVELOPE 1,8,1,-1,1,1,1,1,121,-10,-5,-2,120,120
1960VDU23,240,112,152,152,152,152,152,112
1970VDU23,241,126,255,255,255,255,255,126
1980DIM N$(10),SCORE(10)
1990DIM P(11),D(11)

```

```

2000HIGH=2000
2010RESTORE 2310
2020FOR note=1 TO 110
2030READ P(note),D(note)
2040NEXT
2050note=0
2060ENDPROC
2070DEFPROC SCORE
2080SCORE(P)=ABS(A-(296+RX))+ABS(B-(RY+260))
2090IF SCORE(P)<HIGH THEN HIGH=SCORE(P):HI$=N$(P)
2100ENDPROC
2110DEFPROC END
2120PRINTTAB(0,2);CHR$(141);"THE NEAREST TO RUDOLPHS N
OSE WAS"
2130PRINTTAB(0,3);CHR$(141);"THE NEAREST TO RUDOLPHS N
OSE WAS"
2140PRINTTAB(10,9);CHR$(141);HI$
2150PRINTTAB(10,10);CHR$(141);HI$
2160PRINTTAB(2,20);"PRESS SPACE BAR TO PLAY AGAIN."
2170REPEAT
2180PROC MUSIC
2190UNTIL INKEY(-99)
2200ENDPROC
2210MODE7:REPORT:PRINT" AT ";ERL
2220*FX4,0
2230END
2240DEFPROC MUSIC
2250CALL &D00
2260IF ?&80=0 THEN ENDPROC
2270note=note+1:IF note=111 THEN note=1
2280SOUND 1,1,P(note),D(note)
2290ENDPROC
2300REM MUSIC DATA
2310DATA 129,5,137,5,129,10,117,10,149,10,137,10,129,4
0,129,5,137,5,129,5,137,5,129,10,149,10,145,40,121,5,12
9,5,121,10,109,10,145,10,137,10,129,40
2320DATA 129,5,137,5,129,5,137,5,129,10,137,10,117,40,
129,5,137,5,129,10,117,10,149,10,137,10,129,30,129,5,13
7,5,129,5,137,5,129,10,149,10,145,40
2330DATA 121,5,129,5,121,10,109,10,145,10,137,10,129,4
0,129,5,137,5,129,5,137,5,129,10,157,10,149,40,137,10,1
37,10,149,10,137,10,129,10,117,10,129,20
2340DATA 121,10,137,10,129,10,121,10,117,40,109,10,117
,10,129,10,137,10,145,10,145,10,145,20,149,10,149,10,14
5,10,137,10
2350DATA 129,10,121,10,109,20,129,5,137,5,129,10,117,1
0,149,10,137,10,129,40,129,5,137,5,129,5,137,5,129,10,1
49,10,145,40
2360DATA 121,5,129,5,121,10,109,10,145,10,137,10,129,4
0,129,5,137,5,129,5,137,5,129,10,157,10,149,80
>

```

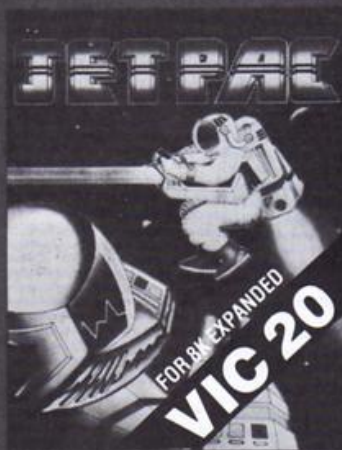


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## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

# Try our micro mind bender

Think you're pretty clever, do you? Think you know a lot about the man who designed the box of tricks on which you've been playing arcade games? About the industry that has grown up around it?

Well, here is a fun and festive quiz to test your knowledge. There are no prizes.

Without checking anywhere, answer a, b, c or d to the following questions.

If you have read every issue of HCW you should be able to easily complete the quiz.

### Your ratings

- 23 you are a genius or a cheat  
20-22 you should be on Sinclair's staff  
17-21 quite clever  
12-16 not bad at all  
7-11 haven't been paying attention, have we?  
2-6 are you sure you use a Sinclair computer?  
1 you'd be better off with an abacus!  
No-one could have score zero, could they? Could they?

### The man himself — Sir Clive Sinclair

- 1** When was he born?  
a 1962  
b 1954  
c 1940  
d 1943
- 2** Where was he mainly educated?  
a Cambridge  
b London  
c Weybridge  
d Dundee
- 3** For how many years was he a technical journalist?  
a four  
b six  
c two  
d 10
- 4** What are the conversion costs for Sir Clive's luxury new home in London?  
a £100,000  
b £200,000  
c £300,000  
d £400,000

### The company

- 5** When was Sinclair Research formed?  
a 1978  
b 1979  
c 1980  
d 1970

## How well do you know Sir Clive Sinclair and the home computer boom he helped to create? Our quiz will test your knowledge

- 6** What was the name of Sir Clive's first company?  
a Sinclair Research  
b Sincellectronics  
c Sinclair Electronics  
d Sinclair Radionics

- 7** What was the first product from Sinclair Research?  
a The pocket calculator  
b The Black Watch  
c The ZX80  
d cheap hi-fi equipment

### The computers

- 8** The ZX Spectrum is based around an advanced  
a 14-chip design  
b four-chip design  
c seven-chip design  
d Space Invaders Master Control Chip

- 9** What was the original price of the ZX80?  
a £100  
b £69.95  
c £99.95  
d £120.99

- 10** The ZX Spectrum can transmit information  
a five times faster than the ZX81  
b at the same speed as the ZX81  
c 10 times faster than the ZX81  
d six times faster than the ZX81

- 11** How many months before the Spectrum was the ZX81 launched?  
a 10  
b 12  
c 13  
d 14

- 12** On average, how much does the ZX81 starter pack now cost?  
a £65  
b £50  
c £45  
d £20

### The rest

- 13** The author of the classic ZX81 program Mazogs later went on to write:  
a Manic Miner  
b Spectral Invaders  
c Maziacs  
d Jetpac

- 14** Beam Software is an alliance between two software houses. Which two?  
a Melbourne House and Psion  
b Quicksilver and Bug-Byte  
c Quicksilver and Ultimate  
d Psion and Micro-Gen

- 15** What game or games is Beam Software credited for?  
a just Penetrator  
b just the Horace series  
c The Hobbit, Penetrator and the Horace series  
d the Horace series and Penetrator

- 16** Who wrote, among others, 3D Monster Maze and Corridors of Genon?  
a Malcolm Evans  
b J. K. Greye  
c J. K. Evans  
d Malcolm K. Greye

- 17** Who wrote the best-seller Manic Miner?  
a Mark Smith  
b Mark Page  
c Matthew Smith  
d Matthew Page

- 18** Which company markets a game called Dictator for the ZX81?  
a dk'Tronics  
b Bug-Byte  
c Richard Shepherd  
d Quicksilver

- 19** Quicksilver director Mark Eyles is writing a book about:  
a starting a software company  
b the ZX Spectrum's CPU  
c the chess-playing computer  
d the Falluvian Empire

- 20** Ocean markets several arcade-like games. Which of the following originals is not in its range?  
a Burgertime  
b Q\*Bert  
c Donkey Kong  
d Space Panic

- 21** Ultimate Play the Game is at The Green in:  
a Ashby  
b Zoucu  
c Zouch  
d Ashby de la Zouch

- 22** Who is the author of Imagine's Arcadia and Ah Diddums?  
a Eugene Evans  
b John Gibson  
c Mark Butler  
d Dave Lawson

- 23** Silversoft's Orbiter is a version of:  
a Defender  
b Scramble  
c Asteroids  
d Star Trek

- 24** Timegate is produced by:  
a Mogul  
b Bug-Byte  
c Quicksilver  
d C.R.L.

### Quiz answers

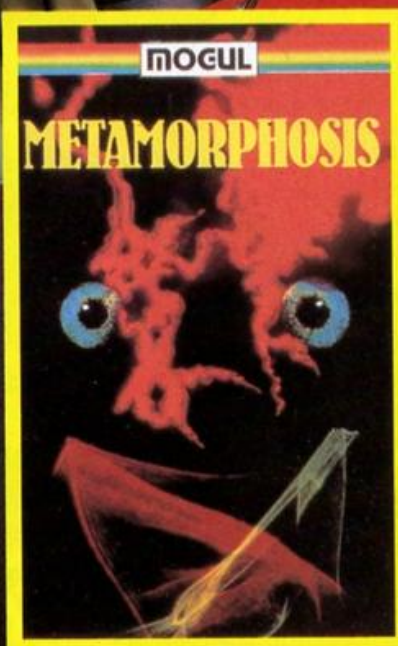
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|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| q 20 | p 51 | p 01 | q 5 | c 24 | b 18 | c 13 | c 6 | a 4 | p 22 | p 12 | a 16 | c 11 | p 9 | c 1 |
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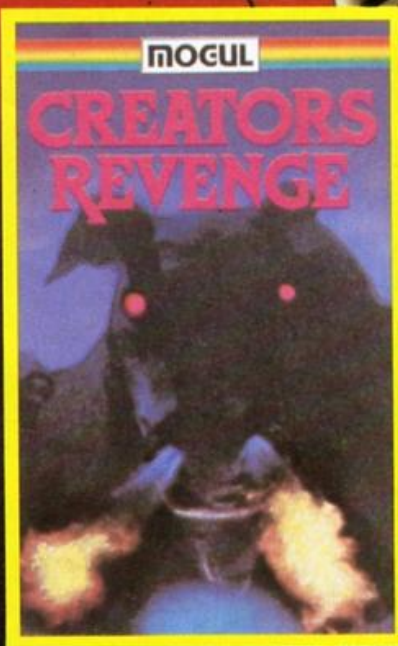
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£7.95

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MOGUL COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED



# Sort out Santa's present muddle

In this program for the Oric 1, Father Christmas has a problem in delivering his presents.

Santa loads up his sleigh with 10 presents. They are all carefully labelled with the recipient's name, and these are shown on the screen, with the contents of each parcel, at the start of the game.

You get 30 seconds to memorise the list (you'll need to remember this to help Santa later), then off you go on his sleigh.

## Main variables

A number of names and presents  
E(), D() indicator arrays  
K a random number  
NLS array holding 10 selected names  
NMS array holding all available names  
PL indicator array  
PLS array holding the 10 selected presents  
PRS array holding all available presents  
SC score  
T counter  
T() sleigh character codes  
W input variable  
X,Y column position of sleigh

The journey south is depicted on the screen. The sleigh and reindeer will appear at the top of the screen, and you must imagine that you are above the sleigh, looking down at it.

The journey starts quietly enough, then all of a sudden you run into a snow storm with giant flakes of snow.

You have to help Santa to guide his sleigh through the snow storm, avoiding the snow flakes. You use the left and right cursor control keys to move the sleigh.

Every time you hit a snow flake you'll hear a crash, and a point will be deducted from your eventual score. The sleigh won't be damaged by the snow, but the object is to minimise the number of collisions.

Once you are through the snow storm, Father Christmas has to deliver the presents. But this is where he runs into another problem.

On the rough journey south,

**A snowstorm has blown away all the labels on Father Christmas's parcels. David Nowotnik explains how you can help**



all the labels have been blown away, and he doesn't know which present to deliver to which house. You'll have to help him.

A list of all the presents appears on the screen. As you come to a house, Santa will tell you who lives there, you have to tell him which present to deliver by entering the number beside the present which you think should be delivered.

Once all 10 have been delivered, then you are shown your list, and the correct list. You'll get two points for every present delivered, and a point deducted for every snow flake you hit on the journey south.

The object, of course, is to achieve a maximum score of 20. The game is a test of memory with the snow storm acting as a distraction.

## How it works

10-110 initialise main variables for guessing game  
120-170 PRINT 10 selected names and presents on screen  
190 30 second delay  
1000-1070 initialise main variables for snow storm game  
1120-1130 check for valid key-press  
1140-1160 remove sleigh from screen  
1170 scroll screen  
1180-1200 check if hit by snowflake, and reprint sleigh  
1220-1250 print snowflakes  
1270-1350 print score of snowflake game  
1440-1460 start guessing game — initialise  
1470-1660 print name, present list, enter, check selection  
1670-1780 print player's selection, and correct list — award points

In the program listing, there are 16 names and presents in data lines 5000 and above. In every game, 10 of these are selected at random.

To increase the interest in the game, you should add more names and presents.

To do this, add more DATA lines, each containing a name and present, and replace the number in the DATA line 5000 with the new total of names and presents.

```
10 REM Christmas Snow Storm
20 REM by David Nowotnik
30 REM December, 1983
40 REM
50 REM Initialise
60 REM
70 READA
80 DIMNM$(A),PR$(A)
90 DIMPL(A),NL$(10),PL$(10)
100 POKE618,10:PAPER7:INK0
110 FORI=1TOA:READNM$(I),PR$(I):NEXT
120 CLS:PRINT:PRINT,"Santa's Present List":PRINT:PRINT
50 FORI=1TO10
140 K=INT(RND(1)*A)+1:IFPL(K)=1THEN140
150 PRINTNM$(K),PR$(K)
```

```
160 NL$(I)=NM$(K):PL$(I)=PR$(K)
170 PL(K)=1:NEXTI
180 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT,"You have 30 seconds to",,,,"remember this list"
190 PING:WAIT3000
200 PING:CLS
210 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" O.K. Off we go with those presents"
220 WAIT500
1000 REM Snow storm
1010 X=15:SC=0:T=0
1020 INK7:PAPER0:CLS
1050 FORI=1TO28:PRINT:NEXT
1060 DMT(3)
```



## ORIC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

1070 T(1)=160:T(2)=35:T(3)=35
1100 REPEAT
1110 Y=X
1120 IFPEEK(520)=172ANDX>0THENX=X-1
1130 IFPEEK(520)=188ANDX<38THENX=X+1
1140 FORJ=1TO3:REM Remove Sleigh from screen
1150 POKE48082+Y+40*X,32
1160 NEXT
1170 PRINT:T=T+1:REM Move up snowflakes
1180 FORJ=1TO3:REM Detect hit and reprint sleigh
1190 IFPEEK(48082+X+40*J)<>32THENS=SC+1:EXPLODE
1200 POKE(48082+X+40*J),T(J):NEXTJ
1210 IFT<100RT>90THENWAIT5:GOTO1260
1220 REM Print snowflakes
1230 FORI=1TO2+INT(4*RND(1))
1240 POKE49042+INT(RND(1)*37),42
1250 NEXTI
1260 UNTILT=115
1270 PRINTCHR$(30):PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
1280 PRINT,"You are through the storm"
1290 PRINT:PRINT
1300 IFSC>1THEN1340
1310 IFSC=1THEN1330
1320 PRINT,"You avoided all snowflakes":GOTO1350
1330 PRINT,"You struck just 1 snowflake":GOTO1350
1340 PRINT,"You struck ";SC;" snowflakes"
1350 WAIT500
1360 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" Now lets deliver the presents."
1370 PRINT:PRINT" Remember, Santa has forgotten which"
1380 PRINT"present belongs to which child. When"
1390 PRINT"you come to a house, Santa will give"
1400 PRINT"you the name, you have to select the"
1410 PRINT"right present."
1420 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" Press any key to start"
1430 IFPEEK(520)=56THEN1430
1440 PAPER7:INK0:CLS:PRINTCHR$(17)
1450 DIME(10),D(10)
1460 SC=SC:T=0
1470 FORI=1TO10
1480 CLS
1490 K=1+INT(RND(1)*10):IFE(K)=1THEN1490
1500 PRINT:PRINT" Child's name is ";NL$(K)
1510 E(K)=1
1520 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
1530 FORJ=1TO10
1540 IFD(J)<>0THEN1560

```

```

1550 PRINTJ,PL$(J)
1560 NEXT
1570 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" Enter the number of the toy
for"
1580 PRINTNL$(K)
1590 PRINT:PRINT
1600 INPUTW
1610 IFW<10RW>100RW<>INT(W)THEN1600
1620 IFD(W)<>0THEN1600
1630 PRINT:PRINT"Present ";PL$;" is delivered"
1640 IFW=KTHENT=T+1
1650 WAIT400:D(W)=K
1660 NEXTI
1670 CLS:PRINT:PRINT" Compare your list on the right w
ith"
1680 PRINT"the correct list in the centre."
1690 PRINT:PRINT
1700 FORI=1TO10
1710 N#=NL$(I)
1720 FORJ=1TOLEN(N#):A#=MID$(N#,J,1):PRINTA#;:IFA#=" "T
HEN1740
1730 NEXTJ
1740 PRINT:PRINTSPC(10);CHR$(11);PL$(I):PRINTSPC(25);CH
R$(11);PL$(D
(I))
1750 NEXTI
1770 PRINT:PRINT" You got ";T;" right"
1780 PRINT:PRINT" Your final score is ";SC+2*T
5000 DATA16
5010 DATAJohn Smith,Train Set
5020 DATAHarry Todd,Model Car
5030 DATADavid Carter,Bicycle
5040 DATARon Brown,Toy Fort
5050 DATACarol Daly,Fluffy Bunny
5060 DAT~Claire Roberts,Doll
5070 DATASylvia Black,Doll's Pram
5080 DATAAileen Gray,Noddy Book
5090 DATAHenry Forrest,Video Games
5100 DATAWilliam Batey,Scalextrix
5110 DATAKevin Vincent,Big Trak
5120 DATACharlie Knight,Home Computer
5130 DATAJackie Drummond,Typewriter
5140 DATAFrancis White,Tea Set
5150 DATAMarilyn Jones,Doll's House
5160 DATAKathy Morgan,Painting Set

```

## . MST ... MST ... MST ... MST ... MST ... MST ... MST .

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## BBC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**You wouldn't want anyone to go without presents, would you? Type in this game to give Father Christmas a hand. Martin Hollis, aged 12, wrote it for the 32K BBC Computer**

It's Christmas Eve and now is your chance to help Father Christmas deliver a pile of presents to one last house. Unfortunately the house is on the other side of a fir forest and his reindeer cannot get through the trees, so he has to walk.

He is so tired by now that he can only carry one present at a

### Main PROCedures

**PROCINST** displays instructions, title, plays opening jingle  
**PROCVDU23** defines all VDU23 statements  
**PROCSCR** draws screen  
**PROCHECK** checks to see if Santa's three lives gone or not and, if so, calls PROCsplat  
**PROCMOVE** moves and plots Santa and his present  
**PROCTUNE** plays random tune on delivery of present  
**PROCSPLAT** end if Santa has crashed into a tree or has run out of time

### How it works

10-50 initialisation, instructions  
 60 set up screen, give Santa a present  
 100 increment score for delivering present  
 120 finish if out of lives or all presents delivered  
 150 reset Santa and give him a present, draw more trees  
 160-240 instructions for PROCs  
 250 DATA for graphics  
 260-280 centre text  
 290-350 draw trees on screen  
 360-560 set up graphics  
 570-630 movement routines  
 640-670 check if Santa has hit tree and still has time  
 680-710 sound  
 720-780 end game routine

time and has to make endless journeys through the forest to deliver his presents.

The first present is quite easy to deliver. All he has to do is avoid bumping into the trees and when he enters the door of the house his present is safely delivered and he is whisked back to his base by magic.

However, the next time he makes the journey the forest is thicker and when he has delivered the present he finds his magic has run out. He has to return on foot to collect the next present and then trudge back to the house to deliver it (that is if he can do it all in the time allowed).

After delivering the second present he finds his magic has been restored and he is again back at base, ready for a new go.

Unfortunately he now has three presents to deliver and now his magic will only bring him instantly back to base after

delivering all three presents having trudged through the forest a total of five times... and so it goes on with more presents and thicker forests each time until eventually he loses all three lives.

How many presents can you help him deliver before he runs out of time or loses a turn by crashing into a tree?

He has a total of three lives in each game which are lost either by crashing into a tree which then becomes an impassable shrub or by running out of his bonus (time).

At the start of the game the title and instructions are displayed with an appropriate jingle. The operating keys — S and X for up and down, and the less than and greater than keys for left and right — are displayed and you are given the option of sound or silent running.

At the end of each journey the score is displayed, while a new bonus (time limit) starts running for the next journey. When all three lives are lost the hi-score is displayed.

The game will run on a 32K BBC micro only. Most of the memory is used as the game is in Mode 1 so when typing in the pro-

gram avoid all unnecessary spaces and do not add any extra ones.

Good luck. I hope you're not too tired to have a Happy Christmas!

### Main variables

**A%** general loop counter  
**B%** bonus or time left  
**C%, D%** counters for random tune  
**G%** true if Santa has present to deliver  
**H%** No. of presents to be delivered  
**I%** hi-score  
**L%** lives left  
**M%** true if greater than or less than keys pressed  
**P%** presents delivered  
**T%** loop counter for opening jingle  
**V%** volume setting (0 or -15)  
**X%, Y%** trees X, Y co-ordinates  
**S%** score  
**ED%** true if game is to end  
**P%** (DIMed 39 by 29) object at that position  
**Y%(0), Y%(1), Y%(2), Y%(3)** Santa's X, Y co-ordinates; old X, Y co-ordinates  
**GS** Y or N for sound on/off or another game  
**BS, MS, RS, TS** bottom floor, middle floor, roof, top floor of house

```
10 I%=0
20 CLEAR:DIMP%(39,29),Y%(3)
30 REPEAT
40 PROCINST:H%=0
50 ED%=0:Y%(0)=39:Y%(1)=28:Y%(2)=39:Y%(3)=28:B%=0:H%
=H%+1:P%=0:L%=3:G%=-1:B%=500
60 MODE1:PROCVDU23:PROCSCR:PROCSCR:PROCSCR
70 REPEAT
80 PROCHECK
90 PROCMOVE
```

# Help Santa to deliver those





# BBC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

100 IF Y%(0)=39 AND Y%(1)=298%=-1
110 IF Y%(0)=2 AND Y%(1)=4 AND G%$=S%+(B% DIV 20)+(H%*5)
PRINT TAB(0,0); "SCORE="; G%; P%+1; G%=0
120 P%(39,28)=0; UNTIL P%$=H% OR EDX
130 IF EDX THEN 770
140 PROCTUNE
150 Y%(0)=39; Y%(1)=28; H%=H%+1; P%=0; G%=-1; B%=(H%*200)+
300: PROCBCR: GOTO 70
160 DEFPROCINST
170 VDU22,7
180 PRINT "..."; PROCBCR(CHR$(141)+"FATHER CHRISTMAS"); PROCBCR
(CHR$(141)+"FATHER CHRISTMAS"); PRINT "..."; PROCBCR("BY MARTI
N HOLLIS"); PRINT TAB(0,23); "Press any key for instructio
ns"; G=GET:CLS
190 PRINT "...You have to go through the woods to the
door of the house to deliver your Xmas presents. If yo
u crash into a tree you "
200 PRINT "turn into a shrub which blocks your path and
also lose a life. You also lose a life when your Bon
us runs out. If you succeed you then have to deliver
two presents, returning to the start on foot to colle
ct the next present."

```

```

210 PRINT "..."; PROCBCR("S
DOWN"); PROCBCR("S
IGHT"); PRINT "...
220 PROCBCR("Sound Y/N?"); REPEAT: G=GET: UNTIL G$="Y" OR G
$="N": IF G$="Y" V%=-15 ELSE V%=0
230 IF V%=-15 RESTORE 250: FORT% = 0 TO 29: READ A%, B%: SOUND1, -
15, A%, B%: SOUND1, 0, 0, 1: NEXT
240 ENDPROC
250 DATA 101, 8, 121, 8, 121, 4, 129, 4, 121, 4, 117, 4, 109, 8, 109
8, 137, 8, 137, 4, 141, 4, 137, 4, 129, 4, 121, 4, 117, 8, 101, 8, 101,
109, 8, 129, 8, 117, 8, 121, 16
260 DEFPROC(M%)
270 PRINT TAB(M%)
280 ENDPROC
290 DEFPROCBCR: FOR A%=0 TO 5: P%(A%, 1)=2: P%(A%, 2)=2: P%(A%,
3)=2: P%(A%, 4)=2: P%(A%, 5)=2: NEXT: P%(39, 28)=3: P%(2, 4)=0
300 FOR A%=0 TO H%+1: 10
310 VDU19, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0: COLOUR2: REPEAT
320 X%=RND(39)-1: Y%=RND(29)-1: UNTIL P%(X%, Y%)=0 AND P%(X
%, Y%+1)=0 AND P%(X%+1, Y%)=0 AND P%(X%+1, Y%+1)=0
330 PRINT TAB(X%, Y%); VDU241, 242, 8, 8, 10, 243, 244
340 P%(X%, Y%)=1: P%(X%, Y%+1)=1: P%(X%+1, Y%)=1: P%(X%+1, Y
%+1)=1: NEXT: COLOUR1: PRINT TAB(0, 1); R$='T': M$='B'
350 P%(39, 28)=0: P%(3, 5)=0: FOR A%=0 TO 4: P%(5, A%)=0: P%(A%,
5)=0: NEXT: P%(5, 5)=0: ENDPROC
360 DEFPROCVDU23: VDU23, 8202, 0, 0, 0,
370 VDU23, 224, 28, 28, 8, 127, 8, 20, 34, 65
380 VDU23, 225, 0, 0, 0, 28, 28, 28, 0, 0

```

```

390 VDU23, 230, 60, 126, 255, 255, 255, 126, 24, 60
400 VDU23, 241, 0, 1, 1, 1, 3, 3, 7, 15
410 VDU23, 242, 0, 128, 128, 128, 128, 192, 224, 240
420 VDU23, 243, 15, 31, 63, 127, 1, 1, 1, 3
430 VDU23, 244, 240, 248, 252, 254, 128, 128, 128, 192
440 VDU23, 245, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 63
450 VDU23, 246, 0, 0, 0, 3, 31, 255, 255, 255
460 VDU23, 247, 0, 24, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255
470 VDU23, 248, 0, 0, 0, 192, 248, 255, 255, 255
480 VDU23, 249, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 224, 252
490 VDU23, 250, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255
500 VDU23, 251, 255, 255, 255, 0, 0, 0, 0
510 VDU23, 252, 255, 255, 255, 255, 255, 241, 241, 255
520 VDU23, 253, 255, 255, 255, 255, 143, 143, 143, 255
530 VDU23, 254, 255, 241, 241, 241, 255, 255, 255
540 VDU23, 255, 255, 143, 143, 143, 255, 255, 255
550 R$=CHR$(245+CHR$(246+CHR$(247+CHR$(248+CHR$(249: T$=STR
ING$(5, CHR$(250): M$=CHR$(252+CHR$(253+CHR$(251+CHR$(252+CHR$
253: B$=CHR$(254+CHR$(255+ " +CHR$(254+CHR$(255
560 ENDPROC
570 DEFPROCMOVE: M%=0: VDU5: GCOLOR, 0: MOVE Y%(0)*32, 1024-(
Y%(1)*32: VDU225: VDU4
580 PRINT TAB(0,0); "SCORE="; S%; TAB(15,0); "LIVES="; L%; T
AB(28,0); "BONUS="; B%; "
590 Y%(2)=Y%(0)+Y%(3)+Y%(1): IF INKEY(-103) AND Y%(0)>0 Y%
(0)=Y%(2)-1: M%=-1 ELSE IF INKEY(-104) AND Y%(0)<39 Y%(0)=Y%(0
)+1: M%=-1
600 IF INKEY(-82) AND Y%(1)>2 AND NOT M% Y%(1)=Y%(1)-1 ELSE IF
INKEY(-67) AND Y%(1)<29 AND NOT M% Y%(1)=Y%(1)+1
610 COLOUR1: PRINT TAB(Y%(2), Y%(3)); " "; TAB(Y%(0), Y%(1)
); CHR$(224)
620 IF G%VDU5: GCOLOR, 3: MOVE Y%(0)*32, 1024-(Y%(1)*32): VDU
225: VDU4
630 B%=B%-1: ENDPROC
640 DEFPROCCHCK: IF B%<1 B%=0: GOTO 670
650 IF P%(Y%(0), Y%(1))=0 ENDPROC
660 IF P%(Y%(0), Y%(1))=2 COLOUR1: PRINT TAB(0, 1); R$='T': M$
='B': Y%(0)=Y%(2): Y%(1)=Y%(3): ENDPROC
670 PROCBCR: ENDPROC
680 DEFPROC TUNE: IF V% = 0 ENDPROC
690 FOR A%=0 TO RND(2)+3
700 REPEAT: C%=RND(255): D%=RND(255): UNTIL D%>C%: FOR B%=
C% TO D% STEP SGN(D%-C%): RND(3): SOUND1, -15, B%, 0: NEXT: NEXT
710 ENDPROC
720 DEFPROCSPAT
730 SOUND0, V%, 4, 20: FOR A%=0 TO 100: PRINT TAB(Y%(0), Y%(1))
; CHR$(34+RND(4)): NEXT: L% = L%-1: IF L%<1 EDX=-1
740 COLOUR2: PRINT TAB(Y%(2), Y%(3)); CHR$(230); TAB(Y%(0)
, Y%(1)); CHR$(230): P%(Y%(2), Y%(3))=1
750 IF B%<1 B%=H%*200+300
760 Y%(0)=39: Y%(1)=28: Y%(2)=39: Y%(3)=28: ENDPROC
770 CLS: IF B%>1 I% = 8%
780 PRINT "YOU ARE DEAD! " "YOU WERE KILLED ON LEVEL
"; H% "YOUR SCORE WAS "; S% "HIGH SCORE IS "; I% "ANOTH
ER GAME Y/N?"; REPEAT: G=GET: UNTIL G$="Y" OR G$="N": IF G$="Y
" THEN 20

```

ast few presents





## Everest Ascent CBM 64 £6.50

Richard Shepherd, 3-25 Elmshott Lane, Cippenham, Slough

Not so much an adventure, more of a simulation. The idea of the game is to lead a team of sherpas on an ascent of Mount Everest.

You start off with £1,000 which is used to hire sherpas, and buy equipment and food. You may receive further funds during the game to put to a similar use.

A certain amount of mental acrobatics are necessary to ensure that you keep enough cash to pay your sherpas and buy enough food to feed them.

In keeping with any game worth its salt, there is more useful equipment on sale than you can afford.

Once equipped, you charge off

up the mountain, making camps as you see fit and negotiating crevasses, rock faces etc. You will generally need a particular piece of equipment to pass an obstacle.

As usual, the game is a race against time; do I reach the summit before running out of food, cash or equipment?

The use of graphics and sound were minimal and mediocre. There were certain weaknesses in display of data but overall it was tolerably sound. It won't drive you mad with excitement, but overall a nice complex game which will keep the brain twitching for some time. **A.W.**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 80% |
| playability     | 65% |
| graphics        | 40% |
| value for money | 75% |



## Spectrum Bowls 48K Spectrum £5

Lotus-soft, 43 Maes Road, Llangennech, Llanelli, Dyfed SA14 8UH

The program itself is quite clever, user-friendly and graphical.

The problem is, it is written in BASIC, so there are a few limitations: firstly speed, and secondly sound and vision. The program is full of BEEP commands which become very irritating after a short while.

In play you must first choose your direction to throw by moving a 'cursor' (which is in fact a line which points towards the jack), and pressing enter.

Then you must press b to bowl

and a 'weight' at which you wish to throw. A small pixel will rush up the screen and, with any luck, position itself next to the jack.

If it hits something then everything flies off in different directions as it would in a normal game.

If something hits something, which in turn hits something else, though, I suspect the program may not quite be doing what it is supposed to.

When the bowls have all stopped rolling, you can get an enlargement which shows more clearly what is happening at the other end of the screen. **P.S.**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 85% |
| playability     | 67% |
| graphics        | 58% |
| value for money | 60% |



# A breath of fake fresh air

After your Christmas dinner, what about some nice brisk exercise? No? Then fool yourself you're getting out and about with these simulation games

## Golf TI-99/4A £8

Stainless Software, 10 Alstone Road, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5AH

This is probably the best golf game that I have ever seen on a computer.

The course played on has 18 holes and, not surprisingly, is in Texas. It has a par of 72.

The player has a choice of 14 clubs — four woods, nine irons and a putter.

All the usual hazards are there: rough, trees, water and bunkers.

After you enter your handicap, the hole is drawn on the screen. The graphics used to do this are excellent.

The par of the hole, the number of shots that have been taken and the length of the hole are all

shown at the top of the screen. When the ball is hit, it can be faded down the screen, drawn up the screen or shot straight towards the hole.

My only criticism would be that when the ball has landed in a bunker, it cannot be seen. This is because both bunker and ball are white.

When you manage to hit the ball on to the green, the display of the fairway is cleared from the screen and is replaced by a larger scale picture of the green.

An indication of the speed of the green is also displayed. **J.J.**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 90% |
| playability     | 90% |
| graphics        | 95% |
| value for money | 95% |



## T.I. Cricket TI-99/4A £8

Dromeda, 56 Wells Street, Haslingden, Rossendale

This is a text-only game based on the rules of limited overs cricket.

Two teams are involved. England and the West Indies. However, one side of the tape contains an instruction programme with details of how to alter the teams and players so you can have your favourite county or test sides in the game.

Turning the tape over enables you to enter the game itself. You select which side bats first and how many overs are to be bowled in the match.

The list of players is shown together with numerical ratings indicating their batting ability against certain types of ball, i.e.

pace, spin or swing.

The two opening batsmen are then selected and are shown on a "cricket scoreboard" type of screen display.

You choose a bowler from a list of 11 and again their ability to bowl the three types of ball are indicated numerically.

You then decide whether to bowl a pace, spin or swing ball and where to place the ball, i.e. on wicket, leg stump or off stump.

The result of the selection is given by the number of runs scored or the batsman being given out. **D.B.**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 90% |
| playability     | 80% |
| graphics        | n/a |
| value for money | 80% |



## Soccer Supremo TI-99/4A £8

Dromeda, 56 Wells Street, Haslingden, Rossendale

You have a choice of managing one of eight fourth division sides and your job is to take your team from the fourth to the first division.

You start with £100,000, and this will vary as you play according to the gate money received each week, the players' wages and on whether you buy or sell players.

Numerical ratings are given for team spirit, overall performance and individual players' ability and fitness. These ratings are compared with your opponents', and your team may be selected from a squad of not more than 16

players. The ratings change throughout the season, so it is up to you to select your best team from the squad available.

At any time a player may be unavailable through injury or may need to be rested due to a low fitness rating.

You may sell a player at any time, and you are occasionally given the opportunity to buy.

If finances run low a loan may be obtained but must be paid back by the end of the season.

There are lots of things to think about, but thanks to a very detailed set of on-screen instructions you will soon get the hang of it. **D.B.**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 95% |
| playability     | 90% |
| graphics        | n/a |
| value for money | 90% |





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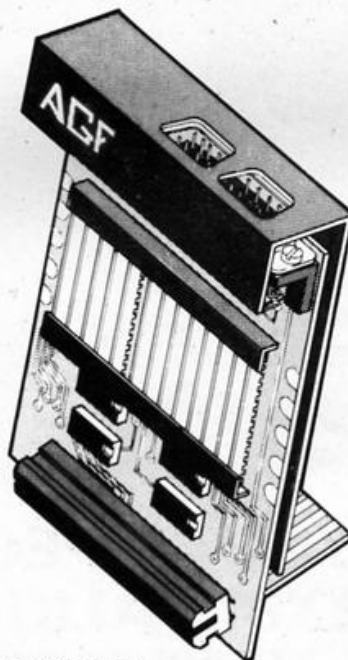
The key replication principle pioneered by AGF means that your own programs can use eight directional joystick movement by utilising simple key reading BASIC.

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The interface is programmed by a two digit code, which is looked up on a programming chart supplied, for each direction and firing button. The two numbers are then selected on a pair of leads which are clipped onto appropriately numbered strips on the interface.

Once configured this can be marked on a Quick Reference Programming Card for storing with the game. As the programming is not power dependent the interface retains the last configuration made and can be immediately used when next switched on.

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- One pack of ten Quick Reference Programming Cards for at-a-glance setting to your games requirements. The card allows you to mark the configuration in an easy to read fashion with space to record the software title and company name.
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## Monster Maths 32K BBC £6

Shards, 189 Eton Road, Ilford, Essex

This compilation cassette contains five subprograms, all of which can be selected from a menu without the need to load any further files.

The programs however leave something to be desired. The first is Rectangles, where you have to estimate the area of one rectangle in terms of another. This is not an easy skill, and not as useful as a simpler area calculation program might be.

Monster Maths, the title program, is quite good, with you or your friends being eaten by the monster depending on your performance in answering three problems in a set time span.

Both the Times Tables and Arithmetic programs are simple drills of no particular note or merit.

The final, Mystery Numbers, program is very like a certain TV quiz show, where you are given a target number and have to form that number from the other numbers given by combining them in any mathematical sequence.

The difficulty is that in this program, even Level 1 can give problems like finding 468 from 21, 18 and 12. This may be fine for adults but not for the target age group.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 50% |
| ease of use     | 80% |
| graphics        | 70% |
| value for money | 70% |



## Early Punctuation 48K Spectrum £9.95

Sinclair, 28 Stanhope Rd, Camberley, Surrey

Not knowing the age group that this rather expensive program was aimed at made it difficult to decide its usefulness.

It states that a full stop is used at the end of a sentence only, so I assume a lower primary level.

For young children it would be great fun to get all the sentences right to get to the shooting game that follows.

Graphics, colour and sound are good, with a little man running to correct the sentences at the player's command.

Each sentence correctly

punctuated lays down a row of bricks until the last two put up five bottles each.

Then the player shoots the bottles down with an on-screen tally being kept. The overall score can be printed out.

The beauty of such a program is that the sentences used can be changed. Any attempt by the player to complete the tasks by trial and error will show up in the final score.

I wonder if parents or teachers will really want to spend time putting in different sentences, when writing them on to paper or a blackboard is so much simpler.

T.W.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 90% |
| ease of use     | 90% |
| display         | 85% |
| value for money | 70% |



## Capital Letters 48K Spectrum £9.95

Sinclair, 28 Stanhope Rd, Camberley, Surrey

I had great trouble loading this program, but it was worth it in the end.

It starts with a teaching part, giving simple sentences as examples. Then a tree grows, to the accompaniment of sound effects. Below it are four bands of instructions that in a teaching program should be larger and much easier to read.

A sentence to be corrected appears on screen with a green apple that can be moved along above it. Key 6 changes the letter below the apple to a capital.

If you get it wrong, you're told

"try again", without any return to the teaching section. The score gives number of tries, thus showing up any trial and error attempts, but disappears too quickly unless you use a printer.

In the second game, an apple falling from the tree has to be stopped — impossible on the review copy — by pressing the key corresponding to the letter on the screen.

Animation, sound and graphics were excellent.

Both primary and remedial children would enjoy this way to learn and reinforce knowledge.

T.W.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 90% |
| ease of use     | 90% |
| display         | 85% |
| value for money | 70% |



# Play as you learn

Do primary teaching programs really work? Our reviewers find that some do, some don't

## Jungle Jumble 48K Spectrum £6.50

Computertutor, PO Box 3, St. Neots

The basic idea is simple and well executed, with the child — and parent — being welcomed by Clever Clogs asking their name.

A real or silly animal is chosen, which will be hidden behind a rectangle of 18 x 19 question marks.

Correct responses to questions make C.C. smile and some question marks disappear revealing the animal.

Wrong answers cause him to grimace and parts of the picture to black out.

Eventually the computer says 'well done' and exposes the animal and the Safari Game

starts.

A truck is driven to a tent, missing trees and entering the first letters of animals that momentarily flash up stopping the truck.

"The child that shines is the one whose parents take time to support classroom work" states the insert to this program, that will only be as useful as the quantity and quality of parental input.

So it is a shameful omission, on an otherwise useful aid, that it is impossible to alter the questions in the way stated.

"Press p for play" only appears at the start — it has to be reloaded to make alterations!

T.W.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 80% |
| ease of use     | 80% |
| display         | 75% |
| value for money | 70% |



## Amazing Ollie 32K BBC £6.95

Storm Software, Winchester House, Wootton Grove, Sherborne, Dorset

Subtitled 'Learning about Numbers', this is what the graded levels of the program are supposed to encourage.

Unfortunately there is a major flaw in the program's concept. I do not believe that children who could get the most from and indeed who need a program like this, will be able to master the complicated way the game is played.

The basis of the program is a maze which it generates when first run.

You then have to navigate this maze in order to count or collect the fish that Ollie the Octopus

needs to feed his children.

If you believe that a young child can cope with such problems while learning about numbers, then this may be of help. Otherwise, it is simply a game program for an older child.

The levels within the program are well chosen. They start with number recognition in Finding Fish, progress to simple addition in Counting Fish and then extend this to a Beat the Clock activity.

There is another advanced option where you don't even see the maze, only the possible directions.

D.C.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 80% |
| ease of use     | 30% |
| graphics        | 80% |
| value for money | 50% |





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A black and white photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair, looking over her shoulder towards the camera. In the foreground, there is a white Micro-Myte 60 modem with a black handset resting on top. To the left of the modem is a rotary telephone. To the right, a portion of a calculator is visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



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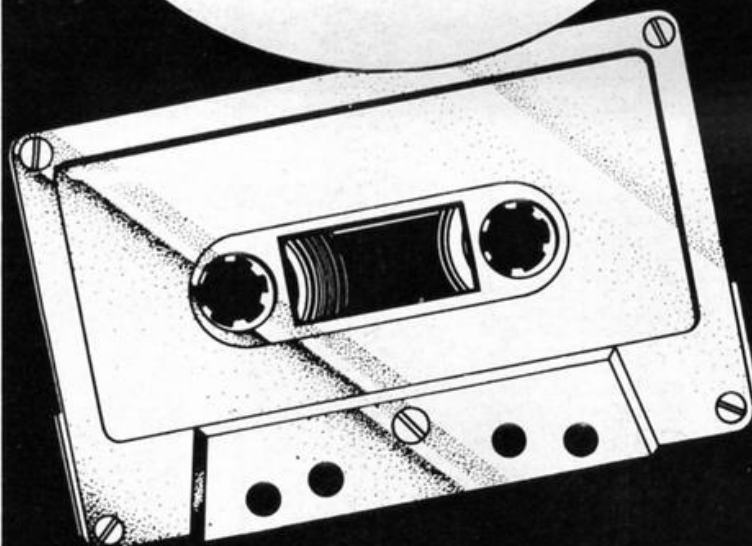
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10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.



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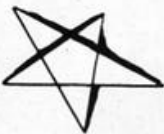
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## Mad Martha



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## Mad Martha II



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Time for the annual holiday and Martha decides to visit her half-cousin Manuel, who is a waiter in a plush hotel in Barcelona.

One afternoon, Martha sets out on a bus tour with her son, young Arbuthnot, leaving orders for Manuel to keep an eye on Henry. Unbeknown to Martha, crafty Henry has a Spanish pen-pal, and has planned a secret rendezvous. Henry leaves the hotel, brimming with enthusiasm and Manuel (who is totally wacky!) is hot on his trail. The adventure takes us through the thrills and spills of a madcap chase, taking in amongst other delights, a bull fight in which poor Henry is forced to play the leading role. Guaranteed laughs and fun for all the family!



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Author - Tony Churcher

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Author - Mike Howard

Spectrum 16/48K - £4.95.



**Jogger** Guide your joggers across a 4-lane motorway and crocodile infested river to reach their safe haven through the gap in the fence. Each time a jogger is safely home the next one will have to encounter more lorries and cars on the motorway but fewer crocodiles and logs in the river. Full on-screen instructions. Miccode. sound effects and full action colour graphics.

Author - Mike Howard

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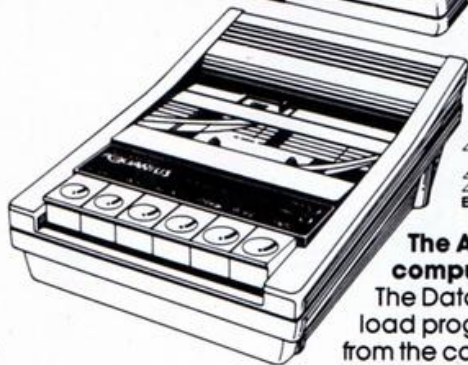
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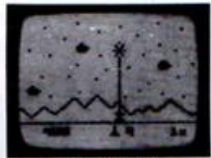
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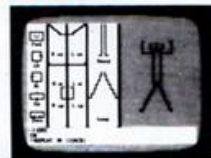
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## TI-99/4A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This distinctly festive game puts you in a difficult position.

You have been invited to a Christmas party at your boss's home. The mince pies have been made by his wife, and although they're the worst mince pies you've ever come across, your chances of promotion depend on eating as many as you can.

Unfortunately, the pies are so stodgy that you have to drink a glass of sherry before you tackle another one. The sherry has a predictable effect, and your hand becomes increasingly difficult to control.

You can regain control (usually — but not quite always) by drinking a cup of coffee. But asking for coffee is an admission that you've drunk too much — and that costs you an increasing number of points.

If you've eaten at least half the pies on the table, you can pull the cracker. This creates so much excitement that you earn a bonus (which depends on the screen you're on) and the hostess provides you with a new table of more pies which are each worth more than the last lot.

At the same time your "cheer-

fulness" increases, and it may not be so easy to guide your hand the way you want it to go.

There's another problem too.

Greedy grabbing all over the table is definitely not allowed, so your hand can't go back over its past tracks. If it tries to, or if it bumps into the border, you lose points.

It's possible to get trapped in your own tracks. If this happens, or if you cut yourself off from the cracker, you have three chances of asking your hostess to set a new table. The number of opportunities left to do this is shown at the bottom left of the screen, headed "Extras". When you press "H" the hostess pulls the cracker for you and gives you a new table of more challenging pies.

Trying to drink two sherries or to eat two pies in succession is possible but not very good for you. In either case you lose a life, and when you lose five lives the game is over. If this happens, you lose 500 points for not knowing when you've had enough.

Sooner or later your coffees will run out.

Then it's only a matter of time before you become so sodden

The mince pies are so horrible you need a drink to wash them down. And that's only one of the problems on the night your future is on the line. Type Tony Garner's game into your unexpanded TI-99/4A and see if your stomach can stand it

# You so p the Chr p

### How it works

1 array DIMensioned to hold values of objects plotted on screen  
2-3 call initialisation and start  
4-15 normal moves  
16-31 abnormal moves  
32-36 PRINT score or text on top line  
37-38 detect key-press and beep  
39-40 SAVE present positions of hand  
41-53 find desired direction of travel  
54-57 provide new screen if one is available and requested  
58 call "I've had too much to drink" routine  
59-73 provide coffee, empty cup, reduce effects of sherry and deduct penalty points  
74-86 adjust player's movements according to influence of sherry  
87-96 if player bumps into border or own track, beep and reduce score  
97-100 player can't grab cracker until he's eaten at least half the pies  
101-106 move hand into a clear space and plot trail  
107-125 add 1 to items consumed, remember previous and present item, move hand, decide what kind of trail to leave on next move. Increase sherry-count or score. PRINT new score  
126 give obstacle-value to present position  
127 call life-lost routine if item consumed is same as last item  
129-136 life-lost routine: noise, flashing, removal of token  
137-150 no-lives-left routine:

noises, penalty, severe message  
151-165 initialise variables  
166-171 call initialisation sub-routines: point of entry depends on whether this is the first game or a new game  
172-175 print cracker and give it a value  
176 prevent pies or glasses landing on player's starting square  
177-193 plot pies and glasses, with values. Print hand and initialise its coordinates  
194-197 first screen displayed  
198 instruction to generate "real" random numbers  
199-210 define graphics characters  
211-215 set up colours  
216-233 PRINT frame for game screen  
234-238 PRINT coffee-cups to show coffees left, and record highest print-position  
239-243 PRINT hands to show lives left, and record lowest print position  
244-251 give protective values to border  
252-255 PRINT number of extra screens available  
257-298 pull cracker, award bonus points, clear and renew array, alter relevant variables and set up new screen if hand has pulled cracker  
299-308 solemn routine if player admits he's had enough to drink. Bonus points and noises  
309-311 wait for key-press to play new game  
312-322 set up new game, adjust high-score and make witty computer joke





# must be olite at boss's istmas arty



## Variables

**MEM(R,C)** the array  
**F** graphics character (hand)  
**C** column coordinate  
**R** row coordinate  
**PL** initial print position (Text and score)  
**MS** score or text for printing  
**K** ASCII code for key pressed  
**S** status of key press (Same as before, different or none)  
**J** general purpose variable for loops  
**P** beep-pitch  
**V** store for R  
**W** store for C  
**FL** counter for extra screens requested  
**EX** original total for extra screens  
**COF** total coffees  
**CMAx** column to print new coffee-cup  
**SH** total sherries  
**SC** score  
**BS** bonus points  
**Z** total items consumed  
**TK** graphics character to plot trail  
**N** number of items to be plotted  
**D** value of last item consumed  
**E** value of present item consumed  
**LIVES** lives in hand  
**LMAx** column to print life-token  
**S1,S2,S3,S4** steps by which player's resistance is graduated  
**REP** flag to show a replay has been required  
**X,Y** variables to read numeric DATA  
**NS** variable for string DATA  
**AL** increasing effect of sherries  
**D** (at end of game) a delay counter  
**HSC** high score

with sherry that you lose all control of your hand and start losing points all over the place. There is a way out of this problem, so don't despair.

Press P (for "I've had too much to drink") and, after a short pause which allows you to reflect on the error of your ways, you're given 500 bonus points for honesty, and a chance to play a new game.

## Control keys:

**Cursor keys (E,S,D,X)** to move the hand. Left to itself it moves up the screen  
**C** to ask for coffee (which is deliberately awkwardly placed)  
**H** to go to a new screen by escaping from the present one  
**P** to admit you can't go on

**A few hints on tactics:** Each new game gives you a character with different powers of resisting the sherry. When the sherry begins to take effect the hand will slow down, and then start moving with a will of its own. Its early moves are down and left.

Unless you're losing too many

points try to get to a new screen before drinking coffee, because this will affect your condition on the next screen. Two or more coffees will have a longer lasting effect than one, but the more screens you survive the more valuable the pies are, so don't waste them on the early screens.

Try not to end up with a mass of coffees or "Extras" or lives left over. Sooner or later it's usually sensible to press P and take the credit.

At present my wife's high score is 18,600; mine is rather lower.

In early stages of the game it's worth going for the cracker when about half the screen is cleared, and then use your "Extras" with discretion. You can rest your hand underneath the cracker without penalty at any time before you've cleared the necessary number of pies.

You can start with a pie or a sherry — but you must remember the last thing you had when you go to a new screen, or else you'll lose a life.

**Note:** Since the generation of random numbers is not a process which produces real random numbers, it will be possible for players to compare performances directly by always BREAKing and RUNning after the first game. This will produce the same character to control, although his field of operation will be different. But this is a slow business.

**Graphics:** 152 & 153 holly, 144 berries, 136 & 137 pie and pie-crumbs, 128 & 129 full and empty glass, 120 & 121 full and empty cup, 112-115 hand, 105-108 parts of cracker.

## Hints on conversion

The array uses a lot of memory, so much less than 14K of user-available memory will not make conversion possible unless the program is rebuilt with multi-statement lines (which the Texas does not support).

**CALL CHAR**(number, hex-string) defines the ASCII-coded character with the values in the string

**CALL HCHAR**(number, number, number, number) plots by row and column as ASCII-coded character (a number of times) horizontally

**CALL VCHAR** is a vertical version of CALL HCHAR

**CALL SOUND** should be replaced with any appropriate noises

**CALL KEY** obtains the ASCII value of any key pressed in variable K

**CALL CLEAR** clears the screen  
**CALL COLOR** sets up colours by character-set, foreground and background

This program sets up a black background, red glasses, yellow pies, a magenta hand, green holly and a cyan cracker.



# TI-99/4A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

1 DIM MEM(24,32)
2 GOSUB 151
3 GOTO 37
4 F=115
5 C=C-1
6 RETURN
7 F=114
8 C=C+1
9 RETURN
10 F=113
11 R=R+1
12 RETURN
13 F=112
14 R=R-1
15 RETURN
16 F=113
17 R=R+1
18 C=C-1
19 RETURN
20 F=113
21 R=R+1
22 C=C+1
23 RETURN
24 F=112
25 R=R-1
26 C=C-1
27 RETURN
28 F=112
29 R=R-1
30 C=C+1
31 RETURN
32 CALL HCHAR(1,PL,32,LEN(M$)+2)
33 FOR J=1 TO LEN(M$)
34 CALL HCHAR(1,PL+J,ASC(SEG$(M$,J,1)))
35 NEXT J
36 RETURN
37 CALL KEY(3,K,S)
38 CALL SOUND(-75,P,0)
39 V=R
40 W=C
41 IF S=0 THEN 52
42 IF K<>83 THEN 45
43 K=1
44 GOTO 74
45 IF K<>68 THEN 48
46 K=2
47 GOTO 74
48 IF K<>88 THEN 51
49 K=3
50 GOTO 74
51 IF K<>69 THEN 54
52 K=4
53 GOTO 74
54 IF (K=72)*(FL<3) THEN 55 ELSE
55

```

```

55 FL=FL+1
56 CALL HCHAR(24,12,ASC(STR$(EX-FL)))
57 GOTO 268
58 IF K=80 THEN 299
59 IF (K=67)*(CDF>0) THEN 60 ELSE
52
60 CALL HCHAR(1,CMAX-2,121)
61 CDF=CDF-1
62 FOR J=220 TO 110 STEP -10
63 CALL SOUND(50,J,0)
64 NEXT J
65 CMAX=CMAX-2
66 IF INT(RND*15)+1=3 THEN 68
67 SH=SH-82
68 SC=SC-B8
69 IF SC>1 THEN 71
70 SC=0
71 M$=STR$(SC)
72 GOSUB 32
73 GOTO 37
74 IF SH>S1 THEN 77
75 ON K GOSUB 4,7,10,13
76 GOTO 87
77 IF SH>S2 THEN 80
78 ON K+INT(RND*1) GOSUB 4,7,10,1
3,16
79 GOTO 87
80 IF SH>S3 THEN 83
81 ON K+INT(RND*2) GOSUB 4,7,10,1
3,16,20
82 GOTO 87
83 IF SH>S4 THEN 86
84 ON K+INT(RND*3) GOSUB 4,7,10,1
3,16,20,24
85 GOTO 87
86 ON K+INT(RND*4) GOSUB 4,7,10,1
3,16,20,24,28
87 IF MEM(R,C)<>1 THEN 97
88 R=V
89 C=W
90 CALL SOUND(-100,2200,0)
91 SC=SC-50
92 IF SC>1 THEN 94
93 SC=0
94 M$=STR$(SC)
95 GOSUB 32
96 GOTO 37
97 IF (MEM(R,C)=2)*(Z<N) THEN 98
ELSE 101
98 R=V
99 C=W
100 GOTO 37
101 IF MEM(R,C)<>0 THEN 107
102 CALL HCHAR(V,W,TK)
103 CALL HCHAR(R,C,F)

```



# TI-99/4A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

104 TK=145
105 MEM(R,C)=1
106 GOTO 37
107 Z=Z+1
108 IF (MEM(R,C)=2)*(Z>=N) THEN 2
57
109 D=E
110 E=MEM(R,C)
111 CALL HCHAR(V,W,TK)
112 CALL SOUND(-250,-(3+MEM(R,C)
),0)
113 CALL HCHAR(R,C,F)
114 IF E<>3 THEN 117
115 TK=137
116 GOTO 122
117 IF E<>4 THEN 121
118 TK=129
119 SH=SH+1
120 GOTO 122
121 TK=145
122 IF MEM(R,C)<>3 THEN 126
123 SC=SC+BS
124 MS=STR$(SC)
125 GOSUB 32
126 MEM(R,C)=1
127 IF E=D THEN 129
128 GOTO 37
129 LIVES=LIVES-1
130 FOR J=1 TO 10
131 CALL SOUND(200,110,0,220,0,3
00,0)
132 CALL SCREEN(12-J)
133 NEXT J
134 CALL HCHAR(1,LMAX,32)
135 LMAX=LMAX+2
136 IF LIVES<>0 THEN 37
137 FOR J=1760 TO 110 STEP -10
138 CALL SOUND(-100,J,0)
139 NEXT J
140 CALL CLEAR
141 CALL SCREEN(7)
142 SC=SC-500
143 PRINT "SO THAT'S IT . . .":
". . . CHOKED ON A MINCE PIE":
144 PRINT "GREED HAS BEATEN YOU"
:"AND YOU'VE LOST 500 POINTS":
"FOR THE DISGRACE":
145 PRINT "YOUR FINAL SCORE IS":
SC:"POINTS":
". . .AND I HOPE YO
U'RE":
"ASHAMED OF YOURSELF":
146 PRINT "SOBER UP AND TRY TO D
O":
"BETTER NEXT TIME":
147 FOR J=880 TO 110 STEP -10
148 CALL SOUND(75,J,0)
149 NEXT J
150 GOTO 309
151 BS=50
152 CDF=7
153 FL=0
154 EX=3
155 LIVES=5
156 S1=INT(RND*4)+4
157 S2=INT(RND*5)+S1
158 S3=INT(RND*6)+S2
159 S4=INT(RND*7)+S3
160 P=1250
161 PL=17
162 SC=0
163 SH=0
164 TK=145
165 N=10
166 IF REP<>1 THEN 169
167 GOSUB 216
168 GOTO 170
169 GOSUB 194
170 GOSUB 172
171 RETURN
172 FOR J=1 TO 3
173 CALL HCHAR(13,15+J,103+J)
174 MEM(13,15+J)=2
175 NEXT J
176 MEM(21,5)=1
177 FOR J=1 TO N
178 GOSUB 190
179 CALL HCHAR(R,C,136)
180 MEM(R,C)=3
181 GOSUB 190
182 CALL HCHAR(R,C,128)
183 MEM(R,C)=4
184 NEXT J
185 MEM(21,5)=0
186 CALL HCHAR(21,5,112)
187 R=21
188 C=5
189 RETURN
190 R=INT(RND*22)+2
191 C=INT(RND*30)+3
192 IF MEM(R,C)<>0 THEN 190
193 RETURN
194 CALL CLEAR
195 CALL COLOR(2,16,1)
196 PRINT TAB(3);"THE BOSS'S XMA
S PARTY":
TAB(3);
"*****"
*****":
TAB(5);
"SETTING UP NO
W":
TAB(5);
"*****"
*****":
197 CALL SCREEN(8)
198 RANDOMIZE
199 DATA 152,01030F0F3E3E78F8,15
3,80C0F0F07C7C1F,144,000C0F333CC
CF020,145,0000180018,136,00007EF
FFF7E7E3C
200 DATA 137,000020A4000D200A,12
8,003E3E3E0808083E,129,0022223E0
808083E,120,003C3F3D3F3CBDF
201 DATA 121,002427252724BDF,11
2,082AAAAAFC3C3838,113,1C1C7C7F5
5555410,114,1C10FEF0FF303C

```



# TI-99/4A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

202 DATA 115,38087FOFFF0C3C,104,
0004030703070304,105,007E7EFFFF
F7E7E,106,0020C0E0C0E0C02
203 DATA 107,046242E7C3E34666,10
8,00464AC3C3C34272
204 DATA 16,13,15,7,14,12,13,9,1
2,16,11,14,10,8,8,16,7,16,6,16,5
,16,4,16,3,16,1,16
205 RESTORE 199
206 FOR J=1 TO 19
207 READ X,N$
208 CALL CHAR(X,N$)
209 CALL HCHAR(J,1,32,32)
210 NEXT J
211 RESTORE 204
212 FOR J=1 TO 14
213 READ X,Y
214 CALL COLOR(X,Y,1)
215 NEXT J
216 CALL CLEAR
217 CALL SCREEN(2)
218 FOR J=3 TO 30 STEP 3
219 CALL HCHAR(2,J,152)
220 CALL HCHAR(24,J,144)
221 CALL HCHAR(2,J+1,144)
222 CALL HCHAR(24,J+1,153)
223 CALL HCHAR(2,J+2,153)
224 CALL HCHAR(24,J+2,152)
225 NEXT J
226 FOR J=3 TO 21 STEP 3
227 CALL VCHAR(J,3,144)
228 CALL VCHAR(J,32,144)
229 CALL VCHAR(J+1,3,153)
230 CALL VCHAR(J+1,32,152)
231 CALL VCHAR(J+2,3,152)
232 CALL VCHAR(J+2,32,153)
233 NEXT J
234 FOR J=1 TO 2*CDF STEP 2
235 CALL HCHAR(1,3+J,120)
236 CALL HCHAR(1,4+J,32)
237 NEXT J
238 CMAX=3+J
239 FOR J=1 TO 2*LIVES STEP 2
240 CALL HCHAR(1,22+J,112)
241 CALL HCHAR(1,23+J,32)
242 NEXT J
243 LMAX=23
244 FOR J=3 TO 32
245 MEM(2,J)=1
246 MEM(24,J)=1
247 NEXT J
248 FOR J=2 TO 23
249 MEM(J,3)=1
250 MEM(J,32)=1
251 NEXT J

```

```

252 M$="EXTRAS="&STR$(EX-FL)
253 FOR J=1 TO LEN(M$)
254 CALL HCHAR(24,4+J,ASC(SEG$(M
$,J,1)))
255 NEXT J
256 RETURN
257 CALL HCHAR(V,W,TK)
258 CALL HCHAR(R,C,F)
259 SC=SC+(BS*2)
260 M$="BONUS POINTS! "
261 CALL SOUND(-1000,1760,0)
262 GOSUB 32
263 M$=" "
264 GOSUB 32
265 CALL SOUND(-1000,1860,0)
266 M$=" "&STR$(BS*2)
267 GOSUB 32
268 CALL HCHAR(13,17,107)
269 CALL SCREEN(15)
270 CALL SCREEN(11)
271 CALL SOUND(200,-2,0)
272 CALL SOUND(250,-6,0)
273 CALL SOUND(100,-5,0)
274 CALL SCREEN(7)
275 CALL HCHAR(13,17,108)
276 N=N+10
277 M$="MORE PIES SOON!"
278 GOSUB 32
279 CALL SCREEN(2)
280 FOR R=3 TO 23
281 FOR C=4 TO 31
282 MEM(R,C)=0
283 NEXT C
284 NEXT R
285 IF REP<>1 THEN 287
286 RETURN
287 AL=AL+2
288 SH=(7-CDF)+AL
289 Z=0
290 BS=BS+200
291 P=P+100
292 GOSUB 216
293 IF CDF>5 THEN 295
294 PL=15
295 M$=STR$(SC)
296 GOSUB 32
297 GOSUB 172
298 GOTO 37
299 FOR D=1 TO 1000
300 NEXT D
301 CALL CLEAR

```





## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

302 CALL SCREEN(7)
303 SC=SC+500
304 PRINT "SO YOU ADMIT IT..."::"
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH TO DRINK"::"FO
R BEING SO HONEST YOU GET"::"500
EXTRA POINTS"::
305 PRINT "SO YOUR FINAL SCORE I
S"::SC;"POINTS"::"WHY NOT SOBER
UP..."::"...AND TRY AGAIN?"::
306 FOR J=1760 TO 110 STEP -110
307 CALL SOUND(150,J,0)
308 NEXT J
309 PRINT ::"ANY KEY TO PLAY AG
AIN"::
310 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
311 IF S=0 THEN 310
312 CALL SOUND(150,1280,0)
313 CALL CLEAR
314 IF SC<HSC THEN 316
315 HSC=SC
316 PRINT TAB(2);"I'M CLEARING T
HE TABLE"::"::"(TOP SCORE SO F
AR=";HSC;")"::
317 REP=1
318 E=0
319 GOSUB 280
320 GOSUB 151
321 REP=0
322 GOTO 37
    
```

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# Strategic software

**Can you keep your head when all about you are losing theirs? If so, one of these games might be for you — but first, read our reviewers' ratings**

## Empire Dragon £6.95

Shards Software, 189 Eton Road, Ilford, Essex

Empire is a world wide conflict game, simple to operate and set up, in which the Dragon plays one power and you play the opposition power.

The aim is the usual megalomaniacal one of world domination, achieved by wiping the opposition off the face of the globe.

The game is fairly easy to set up with the powers taking turns to choose territory. Then you have to assign your armies, continent by continent, until all are deployed.

The maps are all high resolution and fairly accurate. The method of input is easy, though I can't say the instructions were very clear.

The fight begins. Victory means the chance to move armies and attack new targets; failure passes the attack to the other power.

This is a simple wargame simulation which should prove a gentle introduction, without too many variables to manipulate.

Good fun, and quite interesting, but do allow over 30 minutes for each game! D.C.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 60% |
| playability     | 80% |
| graphics        | 90% |
| value for money | 70% |



## Vampire Village 48K Spectrum £6.95

Terminal Software, 28 Church Lane, Prestwich, Manchester

If you though being Mayor of Vladsdorf was going to be all beer and skittles then you are in for a rude shock, because fangs ain't what they used to be.

The environmental nuisance in the area happens to be a vampire who has moved into the ruined castle and now threatens your villagers' lives (besides which, I bet he hasn't paid his rates).

Your job is to allocate public funds to the foolhardy volunteers who step forward to try to trap the undead pest, and to direct their efforts from your post high in the hills overlooking Vladsdorf.

The screen shows a bird's eye view of the village, and you move your volunteers around in search of food, equipment, lodgings and anti-vampire devices before setting across the river into vampire territory.

Don't forget to buy a canoe, or you'll drown! The game is interesting to start with but I found the pace rather too slow and the graphics are only ordinary.

The game is smartly packed in a superior style library case and operating instructions are straightforward. D.J.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 90% |
| playability     | 75% |
| graphics        | 75% |
| value for money | 70% |



## Galaxy Conflict 32K BBC £14.75

Martech, 9 Dillingburgh Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex

This game is hard to describe. The nearest I can get is to call it a Star-trek type game for two players, who are fighting for control of a solar system.

You have the twin problems of attack and defence of your territory (various planets and mineral moons), and must also build, maintain and command the powerful Eoncruisers which are your main weapon against your foe.

You cannot leave a cruiser and hope that it will remain static, as the crew are using energy and supplies all the time.

This is not a game for the

younger player — there are so many variables to be thought about and planned for that good strategic planning is essential.

The game is well laid out and the screen, using Mode 7, is very clean and tidy. The game is likely to take a long time, therefore the 'Save Game' facility is available to allow other essential matters to intervene.

Unfortunately there is no solo play option, nor is there a move limited game, both of which would have made the program that much easier to use. D.C.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 70% |
| playability     | 80% |
| graphics        | 60% |
| value for money | 80% |



## Ring of Power CBM 64 £9.95

Quicksilver, 13 Palmerston Rd, Southampton SO1 1LL

Ring Of Power is described on the inlay card as a text or full colour graphics adventure game. There are no instructions supplied — not even a vocabulary.

To enter the graphics mode you enter the command 'graphic' and 'text' to return to text mode. Although they may seem obvious, it took me quite a long time before I found these out by accident.

The graphics are fairly dull and straightforward. The scene is the same for all similar places, and not very impressive at that. As a text game I found it quite enjoyable.

I would not advise any adventuring experts to buy it — they

would find it too easy. For a newcomer to adventures, or someone who finds most adventures difficult, though, this game would be ideal.

You play Ring Of Power on a set of different levels. When one level has been explored you move up to the next. Unfortunately you can't move back down a level to recover an object you need — this was the only thing (apart from the lack of instructions) that I found annoying.

The game consists mainly of exploring and solving the odd problem. There are no creatures out to kill you or traps to fall into. K.I.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 0%  |
| playability     | 50% |
| graphics        | 10% |
| value for money | 55% |



## Jokers Wild Spectrum £9.99

Phoenix Software, Spangles House, 116 Marsh Road, Pinner

This is an absolute gem! An action/adventure game, with super graphics.

The twist in the concept lies in the action section, which is a plot-related maze game.

Master each one and gain vital clues to the adventure, and when you've mastered them all you gain the code which allows entry to the adventure. The action game is hard enough to keep you quiet for some time!

The adventure comes on a separate cassette with a non-graphics version for 16K owners on the other side. The plot is set in a funfair with a very evil air about

it. Each location is pictured, the Big Top, the Ghost Train, the Hall of Mirrors and the Big Wheel, to name but a few.

I'm not going to give the plot away, but if it weren't for the Bearded Lady who's a master-spy, the creeping Ghouls of the Ghost Train would have got me!

I suppose the standard by which graphics adventures are measured must be The Hobbit. True, you can't speak to the characters in Jokers Wild, but it has that tantalising mixture of predictability and randomness so beloved of true adventure freaks. D.M.

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| instructions    | 90%  |
| playability     | 95%  |
| graphics        | 95%  |
| value for money | 100% |







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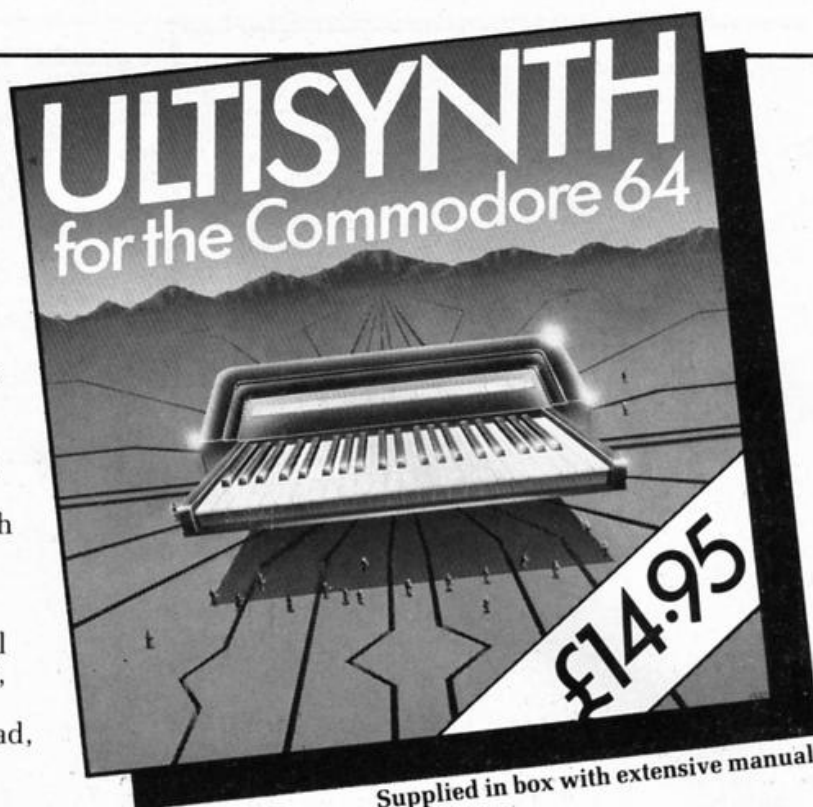
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## LETTERS

### Apathy that killed the TI

I was greatly dismayed to hear the news of Texas Instruments' withdrawal from the home computer market, and reading Stephen Shaw's letter in HCW 38 did little to light up the gloom.

Unlike many TI owners, I bought my machine fully aware of its limitation, with the belief that Texas would get their marketing act together, thus persuading more prospective micro purchasers to buy a TI-99/4A in order to make the computing press take more notice, software houses to write more software, with the final effect that hardware prices would drop.

Well, soon you'll be able to pick up a TI-99/4A for around £50; unfortunately I don't think anyone will benefit in the long run.

So, TI will honour servicing and repair commitments for the next year or so; that's fine, but anyone would expect as much. What worries me is that I'll never be able to get together the nice little home system that I once hoped to, because soon, the expansion box and card peripherals, never produced in large quantities, will all be snapped up by the more affluent Texas users, before people like me can save enough money.

Stephen Shaw tells us to take out a loan and buy while we can. Unfortunately, those of us who are unemployed (I include myself) are not regarded as good credit risks, for some reason which escapes me...

Seriously, the whole sorry affair leaves me angry. Angry at Texas' terrible marketing, angry at the apathy of TI owners, but I think I reserve my main ire for the computing press (exclude HCW).

I honestly believe that their cold-shouldering of the TI-99/4A is the overriding reason for its downfall; apathy breeds apathy.

I hope you print this, I'd be very interested to hear more views on the business from the many TI users who read your magazine.

Seg Gorham, Wakefield, West Yorks

### The invisible guy

In HCW 35 you printed a program about Guy Fawkes, but lines 510 and 520 had a blank space in the quotes. This should have been a graphic "A" so that it could be redefined as a user defined graphic.

I expect this happened because a proper printer was

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used instead of the Sinclair silver paper one.

HCW is the best mag about, I always get it.

A. Whalley, Potters Bar

### More praise of Things

I was made redundant last June, and the best buy I ever made was my Spectrum, which has had hours of constant use.

Just for the record, my payoff barely made the hundreds — a week's wages in lieu. I therefore have to count the pennies, and computing mags come well below essentials.

I picked a copy of Home Computing Weekly purely on the strength of a reasonable Spectrum game listing for 38p. It turned out to be nearly a best buy, except for one thing — the reviewer who wrote about Halls of the Things (HCW 39) can't possibly be talking about the game we bought.

Out of the dozen or so games we have begged, borrowed or bought, it is the only one to stay on the computer for more than half an hour. It is the most addictive, highly-competitive and difficult all-action game I have ever had the pleasure of playing.

Up to now, I have played for eight or more hours a day (in between the job-hunting), and my personal best score stands at 630 points. This includes four hard-won rings and 59 monsters spread through three of the eight levels.

I don't think I am alone in liking Halls of the Things. It highlights all the good points of the Spectrum's graphics display, and believe me, at times the little man doesn't move half as fast as I'd like.

One of my friends has bought a Spectrum mainly to play Halls, and another is considering making a pact with a credit shark because his scores are so bad (he doesn't yet own a computer).

My sister-in-law recently made the mistake of buying a 16K Spectrum. Guess what she wants to upgrade it for?

The only things missing from Halls are the screams of dying monsters, or the hiss of flying fireballs as they crisp a "thing". The basic Spectrum is not capable of producing those sounds, so better not try. Leave the silly tunes to the squashed frogs, and play Halls of the Things in silence.

Bill Fox, Matlock, Derbyshire

*This is not the first letter we've published in defence of Halls of the Things, and we can only reiterate what our reviewer said last time — our reviews aren't gospel, they're just a personal opinion, though usually a pretty well-informed one. If you disagree with something a reviewer has said, we're always pleased to hear your comments. Sometimes we'll even print them, too!*

### K-tel: two is better value

K-tel's two-on-one tape was reviewed as two separate products — It's Only Rock 'n' Roll and Tomb of Dracula — in last week's issue.

This was because the review copy arrived without a cassette insert, similar to review versions often sent to magazines, and without paperwork explaining that it was a dual-game tape.

Our reviewer, P.C., says that his opinions of the two games remain the same but points out that, of course, a single tape with two games for £6.95 is much better value for money.

May we repeat our plea to software houses: Send us only tapes in the form in which your customers will buy them.

Our reviewers can only comment on what they receive.

And one company's products will usually be divided among several reviewers. This is impossible if there are several programs on one tape.

Home Computing Weekly

### One for the road

I typed Robert King's 3D Road Game (HCW 34) into my VIC-20 and was immediately impressed by the standard of the graphics. I played it for hours. Keep up the good work, HCW!

David Warby, Bognor Regis, West Sussex



# Shut the box and keep them happy

## How it works

1-90 initialise variables and ask if instructions required  
 100-110 initialise human's go  
 120 check whether dice can be added together  
 130 check whether either of numbers thrown is still uncovered  
 140-150 cover number(s) thrown  
 210-230 give player option to add dice  
 240 cover number obtained by adding dice together  
 260 pause before next go  
 500-550 end human's go, calculate score and transfer play to computer. Line 540 checks for end of game  
 1000-1550 as for human's go  
 2000-2030 end of game and replay routine  
 8000-8070 display rules  
 9000-9040 compute score at end of go  
 9500-9590 roll dice  
 9800-9860 check to see if all numbers covered and end of game if so  
 9900-9940 reprint box. This is done after each roll of the dice

Shut the Box is based on an old board game for two or more players. My version is for two players only, and will probably appeal to children in the seven to 12 age range.

All the rules of the game are given in the program.

## Children will enjoy playing this computerised version of an old favourite, adapted for the Dragon by James Greenall

```

1 REM SHUT THE BOX
2 REM (C)1983 JAMES GREENALL
10 ME=0:YOU=0:AS="123456789":CLS
20 PRINT@10,"SHUT THE BOX":PRINT@68,"DO YOU WANT T
HE RULES";:INPUT R$
30 IF R$="Y" THEN GOSUB 8000
40 CLS
50 GOSUB 9900
90 IF RND(10)>5 THEN 1000
100 REM HUMAN'S GO
105 PRINT@0,"YOUR GO";
107 P$="YOU"
108 PRINT@416,"PRESS ANY KEY TO ROLL THE DICE
"
109 R$=INKEY$:IF R$="" THEN 109
110 PRINT@416,""
115 GOSUB 9500
120 IF D1+D2(10 AND MID$(AS,D1+D2,1)("<0" THEN 200
130 IF MID$(AS,D1,1)("<0" AND MID$(AS,D2,1)("<0" THE
N 500
140 IF MID$(AS,D1,1)("<0" THEN MID$(AS,D1,1)("<0"
150 IF MID$(AS,D2,1)("<0" THEN MID$(AS,D2,1)("<0"
160 GOTO 250
200 REM AGGREGATE DICE
    
```

## Main variables

ME computer's score  
 YOU player's score  
 AS uncovered numbers. Elements of the string corresponding to covered numbers are set to zero  
 RS general response to input prompts  
 PS current player (either ME (computer) or YOU (human))  
 D1, D2 value of dice rolls for dice 1 and dice 2 respectively  
 X general purpose FOR/NEXT counter  
 COUNT total of uncovered numbers as computed at the end of each go  
 I.S. 1.25 lines of box outline composed of block graphics characters

The purpose of each section of the program, as well as being explained in the How it Works section, is also outlined in REM statements in the listing.

The main focus of the programming algorithm for the game is the use of AS to store the value of each "box" and as the basis of printing the boxes.

```

210 PRINT@416,"";:INPUT "DO YOU WISH TO ADD THE DI
CE(Y/N)";R$
230 IF R$("<"Y" THEN 130
240 MID$(AS,D1+D2,1)("<"0"
250 GOSUB 9900
260 FOR X=1 TO 2000:NEXT
270 GOTO 100
500 REM END OF HUMAN'S GO
510 GOSUB 9000
520 YOU=YOU+COUNT
530 PRINT@354,"ME:";ME:PRINT@375,"YOU:";YOU
540 IF YOU=45 THEN GOTO 2000
550 GOTO 1000
1000 REM COMPUTERS GO
1005 PRINT@0,"MY GO ";
1007 P$="I"
1010 GOSUB 9500
1020 IF 6(D1+D2 AND 10)D1+D2 AND MID$(AS,D1+D2,1)("<
)"0" THEN 1100
1025 IF MID$(AS,D1,1)("<"0" AND MID$(AS,D2,1)("<"0" TH
EN 1500
1030 IF MID$(AS,D1,1)("<"0" THEN MID$(AS,D1,1)("<"0"
1040 IF MID$(AS,D2,1)("<"0" THEN MID$(AS,D2,1)("<"0"
1050 GOTO 1120
1100 REM AGGREGATE DICE
1110 MID$(AS,D1+D2,1)("<"0"
1120 GOSUB 9900
1130 FOR X=1 TO 2000:NEXT
1140 GOTO 1000
1500 REM END OF COMPUTER'S GO
1510 GOSUB 9000
1520 ME=ME+COUNT
    
```

```

1530 PRINT@354,"ME:";ME:PRINT@375,"YOU:";YOU
1540 IF ME=45 THEN 2000
1550 GOTO 100
2000 REM LOSE ROUTINE
2010 PRINT@352,"SCORE GREATER THAN 45:";P$;" LOST.
"
2020 PRINT:PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY TO PLAY AGAIN"
    
```

```

2030 R$=INKEY$:IF R$="" THEN 2030 ELSE RUN
8000 REM RULES
8010 PRINT@10,"SHUT THE BOX"
8020 PRINT@66,"SHUT THE BOX IS AN OLD BOARD GAME
INVOLVING DICE.";PRINT " THE BOARD CONSISTS OF A
GRID OF NINE NUMBERS. THE AIM OF THE GAME IS TO C
OVER THE NUMBERS ON THE BOARD WITH COINS (O) BY
THROWING THE APPROPRIATE NUMBERSWITH";
8021 PRINT " THE DICE. THERE ARE TWO DICE AND T
HE VALUES THROWN MAY BE TAKEN SEPARATELY OR ADDED
TOGETHER."
8025 PRINT:PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE...."
8026 R$=INKEY$:IF R$="" THEN 8026
8030 CLS:PRINT@2,"A PLAYER'S GO CONTINUES UNTIL HE
IS UNABLE TO COVER ANY NUMBERS WITH ONE THR
OW OF THE DICE. AT THIS POINT THE VALUE OF THE UN
COVERED NUMBERS IS ADDED TO THE PLAYER'S SCORE. I
F THIS BRINGS HIS SCORE TO 45 OR OVER";
8031 PRINT " THE PLAYER MUST RETIRE.";PRINT TAB(2
);"THE WINNER IS THE PLAYER WHO COVERS THE LAST N
UMBER":PRINT:PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE...."
8060 R$=INKEY$:IF R$="" THEN 8060
8070 RETURN
9000 REM COMPUTE SCORE
9005 COUNT=0
9010 FOR X=1 TO 9
9020 COUNT=COUNT+VAL(MID$(AS,X,1))
9030 NEXT
9040 RETURN
9499 STOP
9500 REM DICE THROW
9505 FOR X=0 TO RND(30)+1
9520 D1=RND(6)
9530 PRINT@462,D1
9535 SOUND X*5+89,4
9540 NEXT
9550 FOR X=0 TO RND(30)
9560 D2=RND(6)
9570 PRINT@464,D2
9575 SOUND 89+5*X,4
9580 NEXT
9590 RETURN
9800 REM CHECK FOR WIN
    
```

## Hints on conversion

The only parts of the program which might present conversion problems are the string slicing function (MID\$), which is standard to Microsoft Basic, and the block graphics character codes used in drawing the box (these will vary from machine to machine). However, the game can be played just as well without the box outline being drawn.



## DRAGON-32 PROGRAM

```

9810 FOR X= 1 TO 9
9820 IF MID$(A$,X,1) <> "0" THEN RETURN
9830 NEXT
9840 PRINT@384,"GAME OVER. ";P$;" WON."
9850 PRINT:PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY TO PLAY AGAIN"
9860 R$=INKEY$:IF R$="" THEN 9860 ELSE RUN
9900 REM PRINT BOX
9905 L$=CHR$(129)+CHR$(131)+CHR$(130)+CHR$(129)+CH
R$(131)+CHR$(130)+CHR$(129)+CHR$(131)+CHR$(130)
9906 PRINT@43,L$
9910 PRINT@75,CHR$(133);MID$(A$,1,1);CHR$(138);CHR
$(133);MID$(A$,2,1);CHR$(138);CHR$(133);MID$(A$,3,
1);CHR$(138)
9915 L2$=CHR$(132)+CHR$(140)+CHR$(136)+CHR$(132)+C
HR$(140)+CHR$(136)+CHR$(132)+CHR$(140)+CHR$(136):P
RINT@107,L2$
9920 PRINT@139,L$:PRINT@171,CHR$(133);MID$(A$,4,1)
;CHR$(138);CHR$(133);MID$(A$,5,1);CHR$(138);CHR$(1
33);MID$(A$,6,1);CHR$(138)
9925 PRINT@203,L2$:PRINT@235,L$:PRINT@267,CHR$(133)
;MID$(A$,7,1);CHR$(138);CHR$(133);MID$(A$,8,1);CH
R$(138);CHR$(133);MID$(A$,9,1);CHR$(138)
9930 PRINT@299,L2$
9935 GOSUB 9800
9940 RETURN

```

## Micro Tip

## VIC-20

### Any key saves time

This program will save you time while entering Hex code to your VIC.

If you make a mistake, you would normally DELETE the character, but that means feeling for a single small key. Using this program, if you make a mistake all you have to do is press any key but space and the program sends you back to enter the correct value.

The IF statement in line 160 just prints an extra line between, in this case, blocks of 10. It is a very simple matter to alter this to any size of block that you require, by altering the two 10s.

Line 0 sets screen colour and disables auto-repeat on the space bar, for safety.

As for the routines at lines 200 and 300 on, I have left these off as (a) so many programs using Hex in large quantities often set their own rules for these and (b) everyone has their own favourite method of putting data to tape. Mine is via a monitor.

To show how much time this routine saves, I entered over 3700 HEX codes in just over one hour using the above. That was with just one hand — the other was holding a ruler to the HEX codings!

```

0 POKE 36879,27 : POKE 650,255
10 PRINT "(CLS)(CD)(CD)(5CR) DR HEX LOADER"
20 PRINT "(CD)(CR)(BLK) 1 (GRN) ENTER CODE"
30 PRINT "(CD)(CR)(BLK) 2 (GRN) SAVE CODE"
40 PRINT "(CD)(CR)(BLK) 3 (GRN) LOAD CODE":
POKE 198,0
50 GETAS:IF AS>"3" OR AS<"1" THEN 50
60 A=VAL(AS):ON A GOTO 100,200,300
100 PRINT "(CLS)(CD)(CD)ENTER START.....":
INPUT SL:PRINT "(CLS)(CD)(CD)":
110 PRINT "(BLK)":SL;"(BLUE)(CR)":Z$=""
120 GET AS:IF AS="" THEN 120
125 PRINT AS:Z$=Z$+AS:IF AS="(F7)" THEN RUN
130 GET AS:IF AS="" THEN 130
135 PRINT AS:Z$=Z$+AS
140 GET AS:IF AS="" THEN 140
145 IF AS<>CHR$(32) THEN 110
150 A=ASC(Z$)-48:B=ASC(RIGHTS(Z$),1)-48:
N=B+7*(B>9)+16*(A+7*(A>9)):IF N<0 OR
N>255 THEN 110
160 POKE SL,N:SL=SL+1:IF SL/10=INT(SL/10)
THEN PRINT
170 GOTO 110
200 REM YOUR NORMAL SAVE TO TAPE CODE
ROUTINE
300 REM YOUR NORMAL LOAD FROM TAPE CODE
ROUTINE

```

David Shepherdson

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# Going by the board

**Board games are traditional family entertainment at Christmas, but these games break with tradition — you can play them on your micro**

## Reversi 48K Spectrum £4.50

Byteware, Unit 25, Handyside Arcade, Newcastle

You play Reversi on a board similar to that of draughts or chess.

Moves are made by placing a counter on a vacant square next to an opponent's piece — the idea being to have as many counters as possible showing your colour when the game ends.

So you must "reverse" your opponent's pieces — your opponent being the computer.

In this version you move by entering the row number, then the column — the board is numbered to help you. The computer then

acts on the move, and if you try anything illegal it will tell you to re-enter the move.

There are two ways to play. In one you can take your time to move. In the other, you have to make your move in four seconds or lose your go.

Be extremely careful when pressing keys to follow instructions. It's very easy to clear the program and end up loading it again.

As yet another computer version of a popular board game, this one should have been a lot better.

In short, nothing to get excited about.

C.McL.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 75% |
| playability     | 60% |
| graphics        | 60% |
| value for money | 40% |



## Advance TI-99/4A £9

Stainless Software, 10 Alstone Road, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5AH

Advance is a board game in which up to two players and the computer compete against each other.

A 7x10 board is drawn on the screen, consisting of different coloured squares.

The object of the game is to score a set number of points (you choose this number at the start of the game) by moving your marker up the board.

If you land on an orange square, and you have got enough points, you can buy it. This means that if another player lands on your square he must give you some of his points. The number of points varies from zero to 15.

If you land on a yellow square, your score will be either decreased or increased by a random number less than five.

Purple squares are very nasty. If you land on one, you lose all your points.

Another way to increase your score is to move off the top of the screen. If this happens, you will reappear at the bottom of the screen, and gain 10 points.

I found that the game soon ceased to hold my attention, as the computer took such a long time to move.

Overall, this is not a bad program, but in my opinion it lacks lasting appeal.

J.J.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 80% |
| playability     | 50% |
| graphics        | 65% |
| value for money | 50% |



## Dragon Chess Dragon 32 £9.95

Oasis, Lower North Street, Cheddar, Somerset

This is a well designed screen version of the game of chess with only very minor drawbacks. It's a machine code program that loads quickly and reliably, offering six levels of difficulty.

For me the winning feature was the on-screen menu which allowed so many options: you could get advice on your next move, change positions, set up problems, change level of play, take your move back, save and load games to tape, list your moves and have them printed. Even this list isn't exhaustive!

It was the sort of program that rekindled an interest in a classic game.

A small problem was the choice of colour mode, which produced one or two fuzzy pieces on the 'black' side. And my review copy didn't have any instructions, so I had to learn by trial and error that the M key enabled the cursor-driven menu.

Apart from these trifling matters I thought this was an excellent version of the game. Well worth buying.

M.P.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 0%  |
| playability     | 90% |
| graphics        | 80% |
| value for money | 90% |



## Conflict 32K BBC £14.75

Martech, 9 Dillingburgh Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex

The use of a computer to moderate war games has been with us for a long time now, but usually the machine takes over completely and the use of boards, counters etc is not required.

This game is different in that it comes with a playing board, counters and record sheets.

The idea is to march your army into the enemy city and you have to be a master of all trades to do so!

There is not only the command of the forces, but also the investment of your reserves on the metal exchanges, piracy and oil exploration, with their resulting profits or losses, to worry you too.

So I cannot really see this as a family game, as the rules and situations are far from simple and not always very well explained.

It is a two player game with no practice or computer opponent option, although discussion by more than one player could help your enjoyment.

If you have experience of wargaming and an interest in computers then this is probably for you. It would also be a good introduction to computer moderated games.

D.C.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| instructions    | 60% |
| playability     | 70% |
| graphics        | 60% |
| value for money | 80% |



## Othello TI-99/4A £4.95

Timeless Software, 3 Bridgend, Fauldhouse, West Lothian

Othello (alias Reversi) has been around for a long time, but the great advantage of the computer version is that you have an opponent who doesn't gloat when you lose!

Actually, this version can be played by two players or one player against the computer. Also available is a demo mode to explain the game.

When you choose to play against the computer you also select skill level from one to five — a chance to nobble the opposition!

At the easiest level the machine will use the first legal move it finds, while at the higher levels all possible moves are evaluated and

your reply considered too. Moves are easily made by use of a flashing cursor which also indicates whose turn it is by its colour.

Response is rapid at easy level, a bit slower in the higher levels but brisk enough to remain interesting. Score is updated after each move. At the end of each game a play again option is offered.

Instructions are given on screen if required and a booklet gives full instructions together with the rules of the game.

I enjoyed playing this game and recommend it as ideally suited to the TI machine.

C.E.

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| instructions    | 100% |
| playability     | 95%  |
| graphics        | 90%  |
| value for money | 100% |

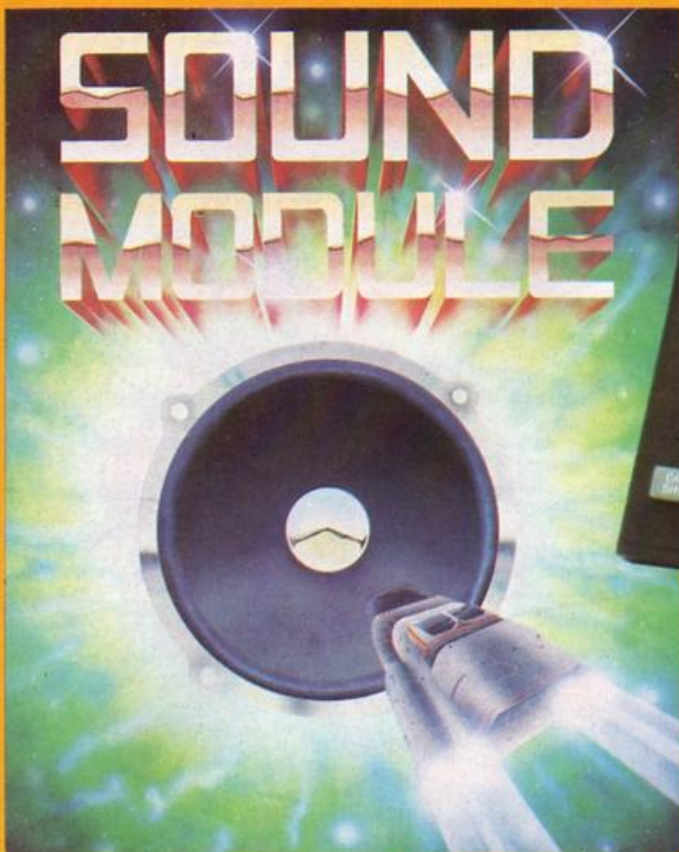




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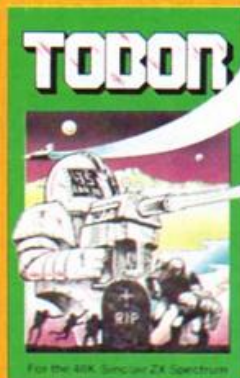
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Here's a great family game that defies all the laws of gravity.

I have made good use of the unexpanded VIC-20 by writing Floating Four as a two-part program.

Part one sets up the 60 or so graphics and automatically LOADs the second part. The graphics are quite effective and could easily be converted for other programs.

#### Hints on conversion

For use without joystick, simply make these changes:

```
21 P = PEEK(197)
22 IF P = 32 THEN 25
23 IF P = 64 THEN FORT = 1
TO20:NEXT:GOTO 12
```

Now both players use the keyboard.

To convert the program to another micro would require a lot of time and patience. The program consists almost totally of direct POKEs to animate the screen and make sounds.

Bearing in mind that the size of the VIC screen is 22 by 23 characters, the POKEs are as follows:

7168 to 7679 store hi-res graphics

7680 to 8185 screen char locations

Add 30720 to character locations to get screen colour locations.

646 changes char colour

36878 volume (15 is max)

36879 screen and border colour

(8 is black)

36874 to 36877 voices

36869,255 hi-res mode

The control characters are explained at the beginning of the listing.

The object of Floating Four is to connect a line of four counters in a straight line — vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

Floating Four is a two-player game in which one player uses the joystick and the second uses the

# Will you float to victory?

Family fun and sophisticated graphics are built into Peter Berrecloth's two-part two-player game. He's packed a lot into the unexpanded VIC-20

keyboard. But only three changes are needed to make it a keyboard-only game — see the Hints on Conversion section.

To move the counter anti-clockwise around the board, either hit any key or move the joystick.

Once in the desired position, the counter may be dropped either by pressing the space bar or the fire button. The counter will fall in the direction indicated at the bottom of the screen. It will

always fall away from the side from which it was dropped and will continue to fall until it meets another counter or the edge of the board.

Scoring and checking is done by the VIC, so it's easy to play.

All wins are displayed and the winner always starts the next game. If there is no winner then a random player begins.

If no-one can move and a stalemate occurs, keep on trying to

**Floating Four — listing one. Type in this listing first, SAVE it (for safety) and then type NEW before typing in the second listing**

```
0 REM *CONTROL CHARS*
1 REM *CURSOR HOME
2 REM *CURSOR DOWN
3 REM *PRODUCES NORMAL TEXT IN HI-RES MODE
4 REM *RETURNS TO HI-RES
5 REM *BLK *HNT *RED *CYN *PUR *ORN *BLU *VEL
10 POK36879,8:PRINT"?:F=36867:FF=36507
20 POK52,28:POKE56,20:REM RESERVE SPACE FOR GRAPHICS
30 Y=7168
40 READA:IF A=1 THEN POKEV,A:Y=Y+1:GOTO40
50 POK36869,255:PRINT"*****LOADING FOUR*":PRINT"*****PROGRAMMED BY P.A.B."
51 PRINT"*****HIT ANY KEY TO LOAD"
52 POK36876,200:FOR T=1 TO 200 STEP .2:POKE36876,T:NEXT:POKE36876,0
53 R=1:J=1:J1=1:J2=1:J3=1:J4=1:J5=1:J6=1:J7=1:J8=1:J9=1:J10=1:J11=1:J12=1:J13=1:J14=1:J15=1:J16=1:J17=1:J18=1:J19=1:J20=1:J21=1:J22=1:J23=1:J24=1:J25=1:J26=1:J27=1:J28=1:J29=1:J30=1:J31=1:J32=1:J33=1:J34=1:J35=1:J36=1:J37=1:J38=1:J39=1:J40=1:J41=1:J42=1:J43=1:J44=1:J45=1:J46=1:J47=1:J48=1:J49=1:J50=1:J51=1:J52=1:J53=1:J54=1:J55=1:J56=1:J57=1:J58=1:J59=1:J60=1:J61=1:J62=1:J63=1:J64=1:J65=1:J66=1:J67=1:J68=1:J69=1:J70=1:J71=1:J72=1:J73=1:J74=1:J75=1:J76=1:J77=1:J78=1:J79=1:J80=1:J81=1:J82=1:J83=1:J84=1:J85=1:J86=1:J87=1:J88=1:J89=1:J90=1:J91=1:J92=1:J93=1:J94=1:J95=1:J96=1:J97=1:J98=1:J99=1:J100=1:J101=1:J102=1:J103=1:J104=1:J105=1:J106=1:J107=1:J108=1:J109=1:J110=1:J111=1:J112=1:J113=1:J114=1:J115=1:J116=1:J117=1:J118=1:J119=1:J120=1:J121=1:J122=1:J123=1:J124=1:J125=1:J126=1:J127=1:J128=1:J129=1:J130=1:J131=1:J132=1:J133=1:J134=1:J135=1:J136=1:J137=1:J138=1:J139=1:J140=1:J141=1:J142=1:J143=1:J144=1:J145=1:J146=1:J147=1:J148=1:J149=1:J150=1:J151=1:J152=1:J153=1:J154=1:J155=1:J156=1:J157=1:J158=1:J159=1:J160=1:J161=1:J162=1:J163=1:J164=1:J165=1:J166=1:J167=1:J168=1:J169=1:J170=1:J171=1:J172=1:J173=1:J174=1:J175=1:J176=1:J177=1:J178=1:J179=1:J180=1:J181=1:J182=1:J183=1:J184=1:J185=1:J186=1:J187=1:J188=1:J189=1:J190=1:J191=1:J192=1:J193=1:J194=1:J195=1:J196=1:J197=1:J198=1:J199=1:J200=1:J201=1:J202=1:J203=1:J204=1:J205=1:J206=1:J207=1:J208=1:J209=1:J210=1:J211=1:J212=1:J213=1:J214=1:J215=1:J216=1:J217=1:J218=1:J219=1:J220=1:J221=1:J222=1:J223=1:J224=1:J225=1:J226=1:J227=1:J228=1:J229=1:J230=1:J231=1:J232=1:J233=1:J234=1:J235=1:J236=1:J237=1:J238=1:J239=1:J240=1:J241=1:J242=1:J243=1:J244=1:J245=1:J246=1:J247=1:J248=1:J249=1:J250=1:J251=1:J252=1:J253=1:J254=1:J255=1:J256=1:J257=1:J258=1:J259=1:J260=1:J261=1:J262=1:J263=1:J264=1:J265=1:J266=1:J267=1:J268=1:J269=1:J270=1:J271=1:J272=1:J273=1:J274=1:J275=1:J276=1:J277=1:J278=1:J279=1:J280=1:J281=1:J282=1:J283=1:J284=1:J285=1:J286=1:J287=1:J288=1:J289=1:J290=1:J291=1:J292=1:J293=1:J294=1:J295=1:J296=1:J297=1:J298=1:J299=1:J300=1:J301=1:J302=1:J303=1:J304=1:J305=1:J306=1:J307=1:J308=1:J309=1:J310=1:J311=1:J312=1:J313=1:J314=1:J315=1:J316=1:J317=1:J318=1:J319=1:J320=1:J321=1:J322=1:J323=1:J324=1:J325=1:J326=1:J327=1:J328=1:J329=1:J330=1:J331=1:J332=1:J333=1:J334=1:J335=1:J336=1:J337=1:J338=1:J339=1:J340=1:J341=1:J342=1:J343=1:J344=1:J345=1:J346=1:J347=1:J348=1:J349=1:J350=1:J351=1:J352=1:J353=1:J354=1:J355=1:J356=1:J357=1:J358=1:J359=1:J360=1:J361=1:J362=1:J363=1:J364=1:J365=1:J366=1:J367=1:J368=1:J369=1:J370=1:J371=1:J372=1:J373=1:J374=1:J375=1:J376=1:J377=1:J378=1:J379=1:J380=1:J381=1:J382=1:J383=1:J384=1:J385=1:J386=1:J387=1:J388=1:J389=1:J390=1:J391=1:J392=1:J393=1:J394=1:J395=1:J396=1:J397=1:J398=1:J399=1:J400=1:J401=1:J402=1:J403=1:J404=1:J405=1:J406=1:J407=1:J408=1:J409=1:J410=1:J411=1:J412=1:J413=1:J414=1:J415=1:J416=1:J417=1:J418=1:J419=1:J420=1:J421=1:J422=1:J423=1:J424=1:J425=1:J426=1:J427=1:J428=1:J429=1:J430=1:J431=1:J432=1:J433=1:J434=1:J435=1:J436=1:J437=1:J438=1:J439=1:J440=1:J441=1:J442=1:J443=1:J444=1:J445=1:J446=1:J447=1:J448=1:J449=1:J450=1:J451=1:J452=1:J453=1:J454=1:J455=1:J456=1:J457=1:J458=1:J459=1:J460=1:J461=1:J462=1:J463=1:J464=1:J465=1:J466=1:J467=1:J468=1:J469=1:J470=1:J471=1:J472=1:J473=1:J474=1:J475=1:J476=1:J477=1:J478=1:J479=1:J480=1:J481=1:J482=1:J483=1:J484=1:J485=1:J486=1:J487=1:J488=1:J489=1:J490=1:J491=1:J492=1:J493=1:J494=1:J495=1:J496=1:J497=1:J498=1:J499=1:J500=1:J501=1:J502=1:J503=1:J504=1:J505=1:J506=1:J507=1:J508=1:J509=1:J510=1:J511=1:J512=1:J513=1:J514=1:J515=1:J516=1:J517=1:J518=1:J519=1:J520=1:J521=1:J522=1:J523=1:J524=1:J525=1:J526=1:J527=1:J528=1:J529=1:J530=1:J531=1:J532=1:J533=1:J534=1:J535=1:J536=1:J537=1:J538=1:J539=1:J540=1:J541=1:J542=1:J543=1:J544=1:J545=1:J546=1:J547=1:J548=1:J549=1:J550=1:J551=1:J552=1:J553=1:J554=1:J555=1:J556=1:J557=1:J558=1:J559=1:J560=1:J561=1:J562=1:J563=1:J564=1:J565=1:J566=1:J567=1:J568=1:J569=1:J570=1:J571=1:J572=1:J573=1:J574=1:J575=1:J576=1:J577=1:J578=1:J579=1:J580=1:J581=1:J582=1:J583=1:J584=1:J585=1:J586=1:J587=1:J588=1:J589=1:J590=1:J591=1:J592=1:J593=1:J594=1:J595=1:J596=1:J597=1:J598=1:J599=1:J600=1:J601=1:J602=1:J603=1:J604=1:J605=1:J606=1:J607=1:J608=1:J609=1:J610=1:J611=1:J612=1:J613=1:J614=1:J615=1:J616=1:J617=1:J618=1:J619=1:J620=1:J621=1:J622=1:J623=1:J624=1:J625=1:J626=1:J627=1:J628=1:J629=1:J630=1:J631=1:J632=1:J633=1:J634=1:J635=1:J636=1:J637=1:J638=1:J639=1:J640=1:J641=1:J642=1:J643=1:J644=1:J645=1:J646=1:J647=1:J648=1:J649=1:J650=1:J651=1:J652=1:J653=1:J654=1:J655=1:J656=1:J657=1:J658=1:J659=1:J660=1:J661=1:J662=1:J663=1:J664=1:J665=1:J666=1:J667=1:J668=1:J669=1:J670=1:J671=1:J672=1:J673=1:J674=1:J675=1:J676=1:J677=1:J678=1:J679=1:J680=1:J681=1:J682=1:J683=1:J684=1:J685=1:J686=1:J687=1:J688=1:J689=1:J690=1:J691=1:J692=1:J693=1:J694=1:J695=1:J696=1:J697=1:J698=1:J699=1:J700=1:J701=1:J702=1:J703=1:J704=1:J705=1:J706=1:J707=1:J708=1:J709=1:J710=1:J711=1:J712=1:J713=1:J714=1:J715=1:J716=1:J717=1:J718=1:J719=1:J720=1:J721=1:J722=1:J723=1:J724=1:J725=1:J726=1:J727=1:J728=1:J729=1:J730=1:J731=1:J732=1:J733=1:J734=1:J735=1:J736=1:J737=1:J738=1:J739=1:J740=1:J741=1:J742=1:J743=1:J744=1:J745=1:J746=1:J747=1:J748=1:J749=1:J750=1:J751=1:J752=1:J753=1:J754=1:J755=1:J756=1:J757=1:J758=1:J759=1:J760=1:J761=1:J762=1:J763=1:J764=1:J765=1:J766=1:J767=1:J768=1:J769=1:J770=1:J771=1:J772=1:J773=1:J774=1:J775=1:J776=1:J777=1:J778=1:J779=1:J780=1:J781=1:J782=1:J783=1:J784=1:J785=1:J786=1:J787=1:J788=1:J789=1:J790=1:J791=1:J792=1:J793=1:J794=1:J795=1:J796=1:J797=1:J798=1:J799=1:J800=1:J801=1:J802=1:J803=1:J804=1:J805=1:J806=1:J807=1:J808=1:J809=1:J810=1:J811=1:J812=1:J813=1:J814=1:J815=1:J816=1:J817=1:J818=1:J819=1:J820=1:J821=1:J822=1:J823=1:J824=1:J825=1:J826=1:J827=1:J828=1:J829=1:J830=1:J831=1:J832=1:J833=1:J834=1:J835=1:J836=1:J837=1:J838=1:J839=1:J840=1:J841=1:J842=1:J843=1:J844=1:J845=1:J846=1:J847=1:J848=1:J849=1:J850=1:J851=1:J852=1:J853=1:J854=1:J855=1:J856=1:J857=1:J858=1:J859=1:J860=1:J861=1:J862=1:J863=1:J864=1:J865=1:J866=1:J867=1:J868=1:J869=1:J870=1:J871=1:J872=1:J873=1:J874=1:J875=1:J876=1:J877=1:J878=1:J879=1:J880=1:J881=1:J882=1:J883=1:J884=1:J885=1:J886=1:J887=1:J888=1:J889=1:J890=1:J891=1:J892=1:J893=1:J894=1:J895=1:J896=1:J897=1:J898=1:J899=1:J900=1:J901=1:J902=1:J903=1:J904=1:J905=1:J906=1:J907=1:J908=1:J909=1:J910=1:J911=1:J912=1:J913=1:J914=1:J915=1:J916=1:J917=1:J918=1:J919=1:J920=1:J921=1:J922=1:J923=1:J924=1:J925=1:J926=1:J927=1:J928=1:J929=1:J930=1:J931=1:J932=1:J933=1:J934=1:J935=1:J936=1:J937=1:J938=1:J939=1:J940=1:J941=1:J942=1:J943=1:J944=1:J945=1:J946=1:J947=1:J948=1:J949=1:J950=1:J951=1:J952=1:J953=1:J954=1:J955=1:J956=1:J957=1:J958=1:J959=1:J960=1:J961=1:J962=1:J963=1:J964=1:J965=1:J966=1:J967=1:J968=1:J969=1:J970=1:J971=1:J972=1:J973=1:J974=1:J975=1:J976=1:J977=1:J978=1:J979=1:J980=1:J981=1:J982=1:J983=1:J984=1:J985=1:J986=1:J987=1:J988=1:J989=1:J990=1:J991=1:J992=1:J993=1:J994=1:J995=1:J996=1:J997=1:J998=1:J999=1:J1000=1:J1001=1:J1002=1:J1003=1:J1004=1:J1005=1:J1006=1:J1007=1:J1008=1:J1009=1:J1010=1:J1011=1:J1012=1:J1013=1:J1014=1:J1015=1:J1016=1:J1017=1:J1018=1:J1019=1:J1020=1:J1021=1:J1022=1:J1023=1:J1024=1:J1025=1:J1026=1:J1027=1:J1028=1:J1029=1:J1030=1:J1031=1:J1032=1:J1033=1:J1034=1:J1035=1:J1036=1:J1037=1:J1038=1:J1039=1:J1040=1:J1041=1:J1042=1:J1043=1:J1044=1:J1045=1:J1046=1:J1047=1:J1048=1:J1049=1:J1050=1:J1051=1:J1052=1:J1053=1:J1054=1:J1055=1:J1056=1:J1057=1:J1058=1:J1059=1:J1060=1:J1061=1:J1062=1:J1063=1:J1064=1:J1065=1:J1066=1:J1067=1:J1068=1:J1069=1:J1070=1:J1071=1:J1072=1:J1073=1:J1074=1:J1075=1:J1076=1:J1077=1:J1078=1:J1079=1:J1080=1:J1081=1:J1082=1:J1083=1:J1084=1:J1085=1:J1086=1:J1087=1:J1088=1:J1089=1:J1090=1:J1091=1:J1092=1:J1093=1:J1094=1:J1095=1:J1096=1:J1097=1:J1098=1:J1099=1:J1100=1:J1101=1:J1102=1:J1103=1:J1104=1:J1105=1:J1106=1:J1107=1:J1108=1:J1109=1:J1110=1:J1111=1:J1112=1:J1113=1:J1114=1:J1115=1:J1116=1:J1117=1:J1118=1:J1119=1:J1120=1:J1121=1:J1122=1:J1123=1:J1124=1:J1125=1:J1126=1:J1127=1:J1128=1:J1129=1:J1130=1:J1131=1:J1132=1:J1133=1:J1134=1:J1135=1:J1136=1:J1137=1:J1138=1:J1139=1:J1140=1:J1141=1:J1142=1:J1143=1:J1144=1:J1145=1:J1146=1:J1147=1:J1148=1:J1149=1:J1150=1:J1151=1:J1152=1:J1153=1:J1154=1:J1155=1:J1156=1:J1157=1:J1158=1:J1159=1:J1160=1:J1161=1:J1162=1:J1163=1:J1164=1:J1165=1:J1166=1:J1167=1:J1168=1:J1169=1:J1170=1:J1171=1:J1172=1:J1173=1:J1174=1:J1175=1:J1176=1:J1177=1:J1178=1:J1179=1:J1180=1:J1181=1:J1182=1:J1183=1:J1184=1:J1185=1:J1186=1:J1187=1:J1188=1:J1189=1:J1190=1:J1191=1:J1192=1:J1193=1:J1194=1:J1195=1:J1196=1:J1197=1:J1198=1:J1199=1:J1200=1:J1201=1:J1202=1:J1203=1:J1204=1:J1205=1:J1206=1:J1207=1:J1208=1:J1209=1:J1210=1:J1211=1:J1212=1:J1213=1:J1214=1:J1215=1:J1216=1:J1217=1:J1218=1:J1219=1:J1220=1:J1221=1:J1222=1:J1223=1:J1224=1:J1225=1:J1226=1:J1227=1:J1228=1:J1229=1:J1230=1:J1231=1:J1232=1:J1233=1:J1234=1:J1235=1:J1236=1:J1237=1:J1238=1:J1239=1:J1240=1:J1241=1:J1242=1:J1243=1:J1244=1:J1245=1:J1246=1:J1247=1:J1248=1:J1249=1:J1250=1:J1251=1:J1252=1:J1253=1:J1254=1:J1255=1:J1256=1:J1257=1:J1258=1:J1259=1:J1260=1:J1261=1:J1262=1:J1263=1:J1264=1:J1265=1:J1266=1:J1267=1:J1268=1:J1269=1:J1270=1:J1271=1:J1272=1:J1273=1:J1274=1:J1275=1:J1276=1:J1277=1:J1278=1:J1279=1:J1280=1:J1281=1:J1282=1:J1283=1:J1284=1:J1285=1:J1286=1:J1287=1:J1288=1:J1289=1:J1290=1:J1291=1:J1292=1:J1293=1:J1294=1:J1295=1:J1296=1:J1297=1:J1298=1:J1299=1:J1300=1:J1301=1:J1302=1:J1303=1:J1304=1:J1305=1:J1306=1:J1307=1:J1308=1:J1309=1:J1310=1:J1311=1:J1312=1:J1313=1:J1314=1:J1315=1:J1316=1:J1317=1:J1318=1:J1319=1:J1320=1:J1321=1:J1322=1:J1323=1:J1324=1:J1325=1:J1326=1:J1327=1:J1328=1:J1329=1:J1330=1:J1331=1:J1332=1:J1333=1:J1334=1:J1335=1:J1336=1:J1337=1:J1338=1:J1339=1:J1340=1:J1341=1:J1342=1:J1343=1:J1344=1:J1345=1:J1346=1:J1347=1:J1348=1:J1349=1:J1350=1:J1351=1:J1352=1:J1353=1:J1354=1:J1355=1:J1356=1:J1357=1:J1358=1:J1359=1:J1360=1:J1361=1:J1362=1:J1363=1:J1364=1:J1365=1:J1366=1:J1367=1:J1368=1:J1369=1:J1370=1:J1371=1:J1372=1:J1373=1:J1374=1:J1375=1:J1376=1:J1377=1:J1378=1:J1379=1:J1380=1:J1381=1:J1382=1:J1383=1:J1384=1:J1385=1:J1386=1:J1387=1:J1388=1:J1389=1:J1390=1:J1391=1:J1392=1:J1393=1:J1394=1:J1395=1:J1396=1:J1397=1:J1398=1:J1399=1:J1400=1:J1401=1:J1402=1:J1403=1:J1404=1:J1405=1:J1406=1:J1407=1:J1408=1:J1409=1:J1410=1:J1411=1:J1412=1:J1413=1:J1414=1:J1415=1:J1416=1:J1417=1:J1418=1:J1419=1:J1420=1:J1421=1:J1422=1:J1423=1:J1424=1:J1425=1:J1426=1:J1427=1:J1428=1:J1429=1:J1430=1:J1431=1:J1432=1:J1433
```



## VIC-20 PROGRAM

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28 IFV=3THENH=-1:S=16
29 IFPEEK(H*W*2)<320RH=8140RH=77440RH=77240RH=8120THENGOTO58
30 POKE7683+12*2+C,4:POKEH,32:H=H+1:POKEID+C,1
31 B=PEEK(H):POKEH,2:POKEH+C,2+4:IFPEEK(H*W*2)<320THENGOTO58
32 H=H+1:POKEH-W,8:POKEH-W+C,7:GOTO31
33 POKES0,220:FORT=15TOSTEP-1,2:POKEV,T:NEXT:POKES0,0:POKEID+C,3:RT=0
36 0=H
37 IFPEEK(0+2)=ZTHEN0=0+2:GOTO37
38 IFPEEK(0-2)=ZANDPEEK(0-4)=ZANDPEEK(0-6)=ZTHENH=2:GOTO50
39 0=H
40 IFPEEK(0+44)=ZTHEN0=0+44:GOTO40
41 IFPEEK(0-44)=ZANDPEEK(0-88)=ZANDPEEK(0-132)=ZTHENH=44:GOTO50
42 0=H
43 IFPEEK(0+46)=ZTHEN0=0+46:GOTO43
44 IFPEEK(0-46)=ZANDPEEK(0-92)=ZANDPEEK(0-138)=ZTHENH=46:GOTO50
45 0=H
46 IFPEEK(0+42)=ZTHEN0=0+42:GOTO46
47 IFPEEK(0-42)=ZANDPEEK(0-84)=ZANDPEEK(0-126)=ZTHENH=42:GOTO50
48 POKEID,61:VV=0:IFZ=0THENZ=1:GOTO11
49 Z=0:GOTO11
50 GOSUB61:IFZ=0THENH(1)=((1)+1):GOSUB200:TT=7679:GOTO52
51 X(2)=X(2)+1:GOSUB200:TT=7692
52 POKE198,0:P0=1
53 FORT=1TOSTEP-1:POKE646,INT(RND(1)*7)+1:PRINT"*****IT ANY KEY TO PLAY"NEXT
54 GET#1:IF#C="":THEN
55 IF00THENFORT=1TOSTEP-1:POKE646,INT(RND(1)*7)+1:PRINT"*****IT ANY KEY TO PLAY"NEXT
56 FORT=1TOSTEP-1:POKE646,INT(RND(1)*7)+1:PRINT"*****IT ANY KEY TO PLAY"NEXT
57 POKEV,15:FORT=250TOSTEP-2:POKEH,T:NEXT:POKEH,0:RT=RT+1
58 IFRT=6THENP0=0:GOTO1
59 0=RT
60 GOTO12
61 FORT=15TOSTEP-1:POKEV,T:FORT=250TOSTEP-2:POKES0,TT:NEXTTT:T=POKES0,0:RE
TURN
63 PRINT"*****L=LEN(STR$(X(T))):X(T)=LEFT$("000",4-L)+RIGHT$(STR$(X(T)),L-1):N
EXT
201 PRINT"*****X(1)*****X(2):RETURN
202 POKEH,2:POKEH+C,4+2:RETURN
203 ONV+1GOTO211,213,215,217
211 IFH=77240THENH=H-1:GOSUB202:POKEH+1,32:RETURN
212 VV=1:POKEID,62:RETURN
213 IFH=8120THENH=H+22:GOSUB202:POKEH-22,32:RETURN
214 VV=2:POKEID,60:RETURN
215 IFH=8140THENH=H+1:GOSUB202:POKEH-1,32:RETURN
216 VV=3:POKEID,63:RETURN
217 IFH=77440THENH=H-22:GOSUB202:POKEH+22,32:RETURN
218 VV=0:POKEID,61:RETURN

```

### Micro Tip

VIC-20

### GET in the queue

Using a GET command to make an object change direction on the screen, or to go into a subroutine to fire a missile, is necessary in nearly every game you write or play. But it is not always convenient that the desired action should be repeated several times if the player accidentally, or in the heat of the moment, hits the fire button or movement controls more than once.

When a key is hit in the GET command, your VIC puts the instruction into a queue. However many times the key is hit, the instruction will always be added to the queue, and then carried out repeatedly until the queue stands at nil. You can find out how many instructions are held in the queue by using the command PRINT PEEK (198). If the game you are writing is likely to run more smoothly if operations such as shooting or changing course are carried out once each time, and all unintended key depressions are ignored, then simply include the command POKE 198, 0.

A. R. Jenns



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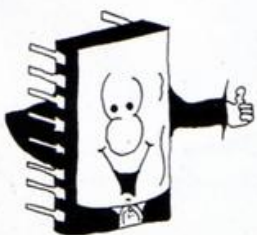
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# It's Christmas Eve... and Santa's reindeer have escaped

Just imagine this situation. Santa Claus is just about to set off on Christmas Eve to deliver many thousands of presents to expectant girls and boys throughout the world, when — horror of horrors — he finds someone has left a gate open, and all his reindeer have escaped.

## How it works

50-130 define UDG characters  
500-690 Subroutines: 510-520 PRINT trees, 530-570 check for keypress 600-690 Merry Christmas tune  
1000-1090 main title  
1100-1290 instructions  
1300-1360 initialise main variables  
1400-1580 set up the screen (pen, trees, reindeer, and Santa Claus)  
1590 set 'clock' to zero  
1600-1640 calculation of number of presents  
1650-1730 move Santa Claus  
1740-1800 move reindeer  
1810 has another reindeer arrived in the pen?  
1820-1870 if yes, increment score and play a tune  
1890-2050 end of game message

Of course, he can't start without his reindeer to pull his sleigh, and the longer he takes to round them up, the more children he'll disappoint by failing to deliver their presents.

This is the theme of my game for the 16 and 48K Spectrum. You have to guide Santa to help him get his reindeer back into their pen.

The scene is set in the snow covered forest of Greenland (we all know that's where Santa is

**There's thousands of Christmas stockings to fill, but first Santa must round up his reindeer. You can help by typing David Nowotnik's program into your 16K or 48K Spectrum**



based). The reindeer pen will appear on the left hand side of the screen, and trees will be 'scattered' on the remaining part of the screen.

```
10 REM Santa's dilemma
20 REM by David Nowotnik
30 REM December, 1985
40 REM
50 REM udgs
60 LET a=USR "a"
70 FOR i=0 TO 31: READ q
80 POKE a+i,q: NEXT i
90 DATA 24,60,24,126,60,255,126,255
100 DATA 24,24,24,24,24,24,60,60
110 DATA 10,10,14,142,124,124,60,60
120 DATA 24,24,60,90,109,60,126,126
130 BORDER 0: PAPER 7: INK 0: CLS
450 GO TO 1000
500 REM Subroutines
510 REM 1. Print trees
520 PRINT INK 4:AT y,x: "A": INK 3:AT y+1,x: "B": RETURN
530 REM Press a key
540 PRINT AT 21,1: INVERSE 1: " Press any key to continue "
550 IF INKEY="" THEN GO TO 550
560 IF INKEY="a" THEN GO TO 560
570 LET z=INKEY: RETURN
600 REM Merry Christmas
610 RESTORE 650
620 FOR i=1 TO 29
630 READ a: READ b: IF a=99 THEN PAUSE b: GO TO 630
640 BEEP a,b: NEXT i
650 DATA .5,0.,.25,.5,99,10.,.25,.5,25,7.,.25,.5,25,4.,.5,2,99,2.,.5,2
660 DATA 99,5.,.5,2.,.25,7,99,10.,.25,7.,.25,7.,.25,5,99,10.,.25,4,99,10
670 DATA .5,4.,.25,9,99,10.,.25,9,25,10.,.25,9,25,7.,.5,5.,.5,2
680 DATA .5,0.,.5,2.,.5,7.,.5,4.,.5,5
690 RETURN
1000 REM Print Title
1010 FOR i=1 TO 50
1020 LET v=INT(RND*20): LET w=RND*31
1030 IF ATTR (v+1,w)=60 THEN GO TO 1020
1040 GO SUB 510: NEXT i
1050 PAUSE 100
1060 PRINT AT 5,12: INK 6: PAPER 1: "SANTA'S"
1070 PAUSE 50
```

## Main variables

a start position of the UDG area of RAM  
sany,sanx row and column coordinates of Santa  
y,x row and column coordinates of trees or reindeer  
p number of presents it is possible to deliver  
tr total number of reindeer returned to the pen  
m() array which holds the relative coordinates for Santa's movements  
r() array which holds the relative coordinates for moving reindeer

The escaped reindeer are hidden among the trees, and a distraught Santa Claus will start the game in the empty reindeer pen.

The game instructions are included in the program. Your success is measured by the number of presents Santa has time to deliver. This is shown at the bottom of the screen.

Two tips for playing this game. Don't get the reindeer trapped in trees or at the edge of the screen, otherwise it will be impossible to direct them to the pen. Also, you have 10 reindeer on the screen, and Santa needs only six to pull his sleigh — so go for the most accessible reindeer.

Listen out for the tune played at the beginning and end of the game.

```
1000 PRINT AT 8,11: FLASH 1: " DILEMMA "
1090 PAUSE 100: GO SUB 600
1100 PAUSE 100: BORDER 2: CLS
1110 PRINT AT 2,9: PAPER 1: INK 6: " Santa's Dilemma "
1120 PRINT " It's Christmas Eve, and Santa wants to get under way to "
1130 PRINT " deliver sackfuls of super microgames to all those lucky girls "
1140 PRINT " and boys whose parents have bought them Spectrums, Orics, "
1150 PRINT " and other micros for Christmas. "
1160 PRINT " But someone has left his gates open, and all the reindeer have "
1170 PRINT " got out. You'll have to guide Santa to help him get 6 reindeer "
1180 PRINT " back into the pen at the left of the screen. "
1190 GO SUB 530: CLS
1200 PRINT AT 2,9: PAPER 1: INK 6: " Santa's Dilemma "
1210 PRINT " You guide Santa by using the cursor keys (5-8). The Reindeer "
1220 PRINT " will move away from Santa when he stands next to them. "
1230 PRINT " You have to get 6 Reindeer into the pen as fast as possible. The "
1240 PRINT " number at the bottom of the screen is the number of presents "
1250 PRINT " Santa has time to deliver. As you want to disappoint as few "
1260 PRINT " children as possible, aim to drive the Reindeer into the pen "
1270 PRINT " as quickly as you can. "
1280 PRINT " Good luck "
1290 GO SUB 530
1300 REM Initialise Variables
1310 LET sany=0: LET sanx=2
1320 RESTORE 5000: DIM m(4,2)
1330 FOR i=1 TO 4: READ m(i,1)
1340 READ m(i,2): NEXT i
1350 DIM r(10,2)
1360 FOR i=1 TO 6: READ r(i,1)
1370 READ r(i,2): NEXT i
1380 REM Set up the screen
1410 BORDER 0: INK 0: PAPER 7: CLS
1420 INK 3: PRINT AT 6,0: " "
1430 PRINT AT 14,0: INVERSE 1: " "
1440 FOR i=7 TO 13: IF i=10 THEN GO TO 1450
1450 PRINT AT i,5: INVERSE 1: " "
1460 NEXT i: INK 0
1470 FOR i=1 TO 60
1480 LET v=RND*20: LET w=RND*31
1490 IF ATTR (v+1,w)=60 THEN GO TO 1480
1500 IF ATTR (v+1,w)=60 THEN GO TO 1480
1510 GO SUB 510: NEXT i
1520 FOR i=1 TO 10
1530 LET v=INT(RND*17): LET w=INT(RND*27)
1540 IF v<10 AND (v>3 AND v<16) THEN GO TO 1530
1550 IF ATTR (v,x)<56 THEN GO TO 1530
1560 PRINT AT v,x: INK 1: "C"
1570 NEXT i
1580 PRINT AT 8,2: INK 2: "D"
1590 POKE 23672,0: POKE 23673,0
1600 REM Go get them!
1610 LET b=PEEK 23672+256*PEEK 23673: LET p=65000-b
```



# SPECTRUM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

```

1620 IF p>60000 THEN LET p=60000
1630 PRINT #1:AT 0,0: " Presents: "IP: "
1640 IF p<30000 THEN GO TO 2000
1650 REM Move Santa
1660 LET z=INKEY: IF z="" THEN GO TO 1600
1670 LET y=CODE z+52: IF z<1 OR z>4 THEN GO TO 1600
1680 LET y=sany+y:1: LET sany=s(z,2)
1690 IF ATTR (y,1)<55 THEN GO TO 1600
1700 IF y<0 OR y>21 OR s=0 OR s>31 THEN GO TO 1600
1710 PRINT AT sany,sany: "
1720 LET sany=y: LET sany=x
1730 PRINT AT y,x: IN: 2:"D": BEEP .01,-5
1740 REM Show reindeer
1750 FOR i=1 TO 5
1760 LET y=sany+(i,1): LET s=sany+(i,2)
1770 IF ATTR (y,x)<57 THEN GO TO 1800
1780 IF y<1 OR y>20 OR s<1 OR s>30 THEN GO TO 1800
1790 IF ATTR (y,1)<55 THEN GO TO 1800
1800 PRINT AT y,x: "IAT Yr(1,1),srr(1,2): IN: 1:"C": BEEP .01,5
1810 IF ATTR (10,5)<57 THEN GO TO 1600
1820 LET t=tr+1
1830 FOR i=1 TO 5
1840 BEEP .15,-5: BEEP .15,0: BEEP .15,5
1850 NEXT i
1860 NEXT i
1870 PRINT AT 10,5: "
1880 PRINT AT 6tr,0: IN: 1:"C"
1890 IF tr<6 THEN GO TO 1600

1890 PAUSE 100: GO SUB 600: PAUSE 200
1900 BORDER 2: CLS
1910 PRINT AT 4,0: "Santa can deliver "IAT 6,9ip: " presents."
1920 PRINT AT 10,0:
1930 IF p<40000 THEN PRINT "You've disappointed many children": GO TO 1
1940 IF p<55000 THEN PRINT "Not too bad, but Santa will have to miss quite alot of children": GO TO 1900
1950 PRINT "Well done! there won't be too many disappointments tonight."
1960 PAUSE 100: GO SUB 600
1970 STOP
2000 FOR i=20 TO -10 STEP -.5
2010 BEEP .05,1: NEXT i
2020 CLS
2030 PRINT AT 4,0: "Oh dear! You've failed to catch enough reindeer in time."
2040 PRINT AT 9,0: "How can you ever forgive your- self for all the broken heart s"
2050 PRINT "You have caused:"
5000 DATA 0,-1,1,0,-1,0,0,1
5010 DATA -1,0,-1,-1,1,0,1,1,-1,1,1,-1,0,1,0,-1

```

## Micro Tip

TI-99/4A

### Back to BASICS

In magazine bench tests, in which a computer's speed is measured with standard short programs, Extended BASIC appears to be much slower than TI BASIC.

In practice, a program will usually run in Extended BASIC much faster — often in only 70 per cent of the time of TI BASIC.

Some of the extra speed is due to faster screen handling and 'long' line transfers, neither of which features in the bench tests.

However, one program (The Pit), recently translated to TI BASIC from Extended BASIC, showed up something interesting. When READING a lot of DATA, you can hear Extended BASIC ticking over very very slowly. A considerable speed increase can be had in such circumstances by using TI BASIC.

**Moral:** If you must read a lot of DATA, try to only read it once, or try to use TI BASIC. Otherwise, Extended BASIC will probably be faster.

Stephen Shaw



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**Worcester WR5 3NB**



# It seemed like a bad dream. It became a Spritemare

**M**y computer beeped at me in a worrying way. I looked through the last part of my program for bugs, carefully comparing the lines on the TV screen with the notes scribbled in the book at my side. My eyes ached and my head felt as though someone had filled it with damp sand: the results of programming past one in the morning. The sound of my father snoring drifted, muffled, through the ceiling.

I glanced at my watch. The display read 2:34 and I felt dreams fighting behind my forehead, trying to take me from the world. Just another 10 minutes and I'll go up to bed I thought. I started to type in the last part of my program.

*Outside the house trees and fields stretched away from the house into a pall of black which rose up into the velvet sky where clouds hung like ogres. Christmas Eve was in the process of becoming Christmas Day and ancient forces strained against the luke warm light from the window behind which Richard worked on his program.*

*The house was old but the foundations on which it had been built stretched far back to men who worshipped the sun. Below those foundations there rests ageing bedrock, the roots of which go deep into the heart of the hills. And that bedrock had been stained in antiquity with the blood of sacrifices.*

*To the arcane forces which strained in on the house the computer was incomprehensible. Richard was not. People they understood and the tools and machines of people they could bend to their own evil purposes through those people. And so they reached out one cold shadowy hand, wining as the light washed through it. They caught at Richard's sleepy mind.*

My hand felt suddenly cold as I pressed the keys. I really must get off up to bed soon, I thought, and yawned. As I did so, a shiver ran down my spine like a frozen worm. I continued typing though I felt half asleep and as I typed, the screen blurred and letters ran together. As they ran together I felt my hands typing faster and faster, the screen a mass of dancing figures winking and twirling.

Somewhere in the back of my mind I thought in an oddly coherent way: "I am asleep and none of this is happening. How useful it will be to finish typing in the program while I sleep." After that I felt myself falling backward through the chair and down a long, long tunnel of whispering grey mist.

I awoke uncomfortably with my head lolling over the back of the chair. Aches crawled through every muscle as I sat up, my fingers still on the keyboard. I looked at my watch. It now read 3:23. I was about to SAVE the program and then go straight to

**Lock the doors,  
close the curtains,  
turn on all the  
lights, make sure  
you're not alone in  
the house. Now you  
can read Mark Eyles'  
Christmas ghost  
story. But don't say  
you weren't  
warned...**

bed when the comments on the screen caught my attention:

**666 REM DARK NIGHT: DARK SPRITE:  
SACRIFICE: KNIFE SLICE  
RUN**

The cursor flashed after the RUN, waiting for me to start the program. I had the impression that it was winking at me in a private way, daring me.

I must have been more sleepy than I thought; a cold sweat broke out on the palms of my hands as I imagined creatures of evil creeping into the room through the shadows. I shook myself. "This is silly", I whispered to myself. "I can't possibly be scared of a character generator program. This is 1983 after all, not the Dark Ages."

I looked at the screen again and small hairs at the back of my neck stirred. I decided to SAVE the program, to turn off the computer and go up to get some sleep. My small brother would be awake in another couple of hours, ready to open his presents. The household rarely slept past 6.30 on Christmas Day.

Then my curiosity took hold and, seemingly of its own accord, my hand went to the keyboard to RUN the program. My eyes widened as I pressed the key...

*The arcane forces had moved closer to the house and started to materialise into half men-half monster shapes... nightmares from the asylum of night. Their mouths twisted gleefully as Richard reached for the key. Plants around the house began to wilt. A wind blew crystals of crisp snow across the bare ground. Perhaps this Christmas would be white. The night creatures hoped it would be red.*

I was dragged up to semi consciousness from a deep and troubled sleep by the sound of my brother's door opening. A dull throbbing came from my left arm. "I've been sleeping on it", I thought as I drifted back to sleep.

The next instant a scream echoed into my dream. I stirred, but the scream didn't stop. It became more shrill, clawing at the back of my eyelids, which finally opened. I came awake quickly, feeling weak and groggy. My arm ached even more, I moved it. A sharp pain bit to the bone. Air hissed out of my mouth with a small whimpering cry.

I rolled out of bed clenching my teeth against the pain and looked at my arm. Three deep, ragged scratches stretched between my elbow and wrist. The world tilted to an improbable angle and I saw spots of blood, now dried to a crusty brown, scattered about me.

I stood, nearly falling, as a wave of vertigo once again tilted the world, then made my way to the stairs. My father's worried half asleep face was just appearing at my parents' door. Ignoring him, I ran downstairs, almost falling as I missed a step, towards the sobbing coming from the lounge.

My little brother stood in the doorway, quivering with fear. I came up behind him and looked into the room. At the window stood the table which held the small portable TV and my computer. Embedded in the computer's keyboard was a large carving knife. From the cut in the keyboard a dark red-brown stain spread over the computer, across the table, down the table legs and over the rug below. The dark stain was blood. A hole had been smashed in the window through which some snow had come to settle on the window sill. The snow was pink in places. I then remembered pressing that key three hours earlier.

As I had touched the key a deep foreboding came over me, my skin pricked by small needles of fear. The screen went black and then seemed to disappear altogether, leaving a gaping pit. In the bottom small shapes began to form and claw up toward me. I realised I should not have touched the key. Too late. The light in the room dimmed and blinked out. I stood rigid with terror in absolute blackness.

Before me two eyes climbed up out of a pit a thousand miles deep. The eyes were set in a shadowy figure whose flesh crawled as though trying to escape. A mouth cracked open and laughed displaying the stumps of unpleasant teeth. A fetid smell accompanied a voice. Sounding like the sifting of soil onto a coffin, it whispered:

**"In this Darkest Night  
In the Death of Light  
I am the Dark Sprite."**

The face came closer and I could not move. I would have been ill... if I could have controlled my body. Then a cold damp claw closed on my arm. The face crept closer and nothing else but myself and it existed. The rest was blackness. I felt I might be trapped inside a buried coffin. Maybe I was dead. I couldn't remember dying.



## GH0ST STORY

"Sacrifice, sacrifice. Knife. Get a knife. I must feed." He/it took his claw from my arm and as he did so he slashed into my flesh with three ragged claws. For some reason it was a though someone else were being cut. The face twisted into a "smile". I knew that it would be happy to feed on my soul and was promising no pain. Scared as I was, one part of my brain was working at fever pitch. This being was outside of science, far removed from my world, far removed from the things I understood. A being of evil from beyond time. Was this creature as ignorant of science as I was of magic?

Across the room a carving knife lay on a plate where it had been used yesterday to cut cake. I felt across the room in the dark, my eyes beginning to pick out objects in a blue-green luminescence which dripped from the creature's garments. I clutched the knife in my good right hand and moved back towards the monster.

"I'll give you your sacrifice," I whispered. I sank the knife into my computer. To my astonishment blood spurted from the gash. Then the world went crazy. The window cracked open soundlessly and a hundred dead spirits flew into the room, lighting it with their rotting glow. I was flung from my feet and crashed noiselessly across the room in slow motion. The beings fed, and I bled.

As I crawled from the room, obscene sucking sounds followed me up the stairs. By now I was half crazed with fear and not in control of what I was doing. I collapsed on my bed and fell into unconsciousness.



In that unconsciousness a handful of words fell:

"Never have we tasted meat like this before, so rich, so new, so different. We will return. We will return when hunger claws at us again. We will return to eat these new animals again."

My parents had arrived downstairs and

were staring speechlessly at the room. How would they believe my story? How would I be able to warn people of the terror stalking them late at night through their home computers? . . .

Mark Eyles is a director of Quicksilver, the Southampton-based software company.

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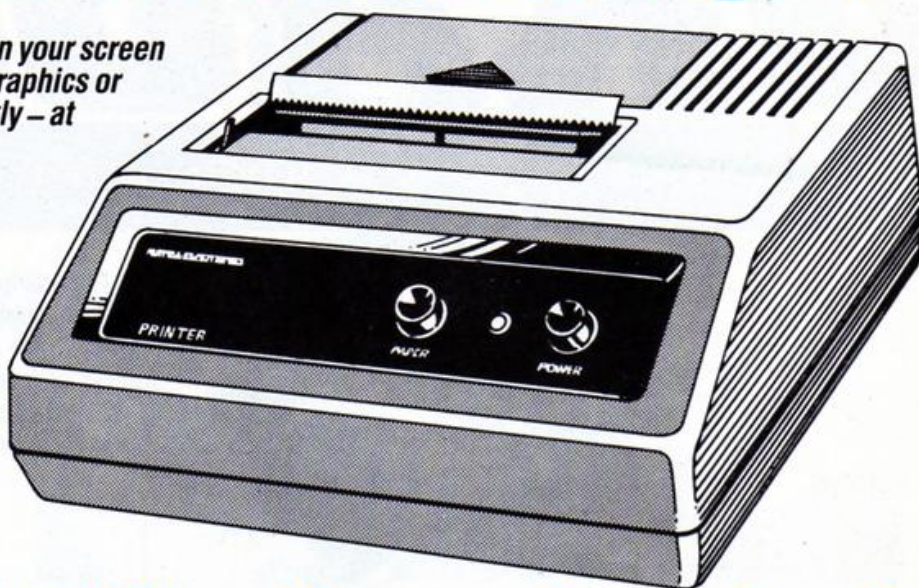


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### Top Ten programs for the Spectrum

|    |                   |                 |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Atic Atac         | Ultimate (2)    |
| 2  | The Pyramid       | Fantasy (3)     |
| 3  | Chequered Flag    | Psion (1)       |
| 4  | Flight Simulation | Psion (9)       |
| 5  | Manic Miner       | Bug Byte (7)    |
| 6  | Ant Attack        | Quicksilver (4) |
| 7  | Lunar Jetman      | Ultimate (6)    |
| 8  | Pool              | CDS (-)         |
| 9  | Kong              | Ocean (5)       |
| 10 | Splat             | Incentive (8)   |

Compiled by W.H.Smith. Figures in brackets are last week's positions

### Top Ten programs for the ZX81

|    |                 |                 |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Defender        | Quicksilver (6) |
| 2  | Scramble        | Quicksilver (1) |
| 3  | Asteroids       | Quicksilver (7) |
| 4  | Chess           | Sinclair (5)    |
| 5  | Space Raiders   | Sinclair (9)    |
| 6  | Fantasy Games   | Sinclair (8)    |
| 7  | Invaders        | Quicksilver (-) |
| 8  | Inca Curse      | Sinclair (-)    |
| 9  | ZX81 Forth      | Sinclair (-)    |
| 10 | Maths/Geography | Sinclair (-)    |

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### Top Ten programs for the Dragon

|    |                    |                 |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Mined Out          | Quicksilver (3) |
| 2  | Pettigrews Diary   | Shards (10)     |
| 3  | Night Flight       | Salamander (-)  |
| 4  | Ring of Darkness   | Wintersoft (1)  |
| 5  | Dragonfly II       | Hewson (-)      |
| 6  | Gridrunner         | Salamander (-)  |
| 7  | Champions          | Peaksoft (5)    |
| 8  | Lionheart          | Peaksoft (-)    |
| 9  | Frogger            | Microdeal (6)   |
| 10 | Morocco Grand Prix | Microdeal (-)   |

Compiled by Websters. Figures in brackets are last week's positions

### Top Ten programs for the VIC-20

|    |                       |                     |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | Arcadia               | Imagine (4)         |
| 2  | Wizard & the Princess | Melbourne House (1) |
| 3  | Wacky Waiters         | Imagine (2)         |
| 4  | Laser Zone            | Llamasoft (-)       |
| 5  | Matrix                | Llamasoft (10)      |
| 6  | Gridrunner            | Llamasoft (-)       |
| 7  | Skyhawk               | Quicksilver (5)     |
| 8  | Sargon II             | Commodore (-)       |
| 9  | Money Manager         | Commodore (-)       |
| 10 | Panic                 | Bug Byte (3)        |

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## BEST SELLERS

# Top 30

|    |                          |               |               |
|----|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1  | Atic Atac                | Ultimate      | Spectrum (-)  |
| 2  | Lunar Jetman             | Ultimate      | Spectrum (7)  |
| 3  | Kong                     | Ocean         | Spectrum (5)  |
| 4  | Jetpac                   | Ultimate      | Spectrum (2)  |
| 5  | Manic Miner              | Bug Byte      | Spectrum (3)  |
| 6  | The Hobbit               | M.House       | Spectrum (4)  |
| 7  | Valhalla                 | Legend        | Spectrum (1)  |
| 9  | Chuckie Egg              | A&F           | Spectrum (17) |
| 10 | 747 Flight Simulator     | Doctorsoft    | BBC           |
| 11 | Pool                     | CDS           | Spectrum (16) |
| 12 | Melbourne Draw           | M.House       | Spectrum (-)  |
| 13 | Falcon Patrol            | Virgin        | CBM 64 (25)   |
| 14 | Ostron                   | Softek        | Spectrum (-)  |
| 15 | Night Flight             | Microdeal     | Dragon (-)    |
| 16 | Killer Gorilla           | Program Power | BBC (10)      |
| 17 | Trans-Am                 | Ultimate      | Spectrum (8)  |
| 18 | Splat                    | Incentive     | Spectrum (-)  |
| 19 | Cookie                   | Ultimate      | Spectrum (9)  |
| 20 | Horace and the Spiders   | Psion         | Spectrum (13) |
| 21 | The King                 | Microdeal     | Dragon (18)   |
| 22 | Penetrator               | M.House       | Spectrum (22) |
| 23 | Hall of the Things       | Crystal       | Spectrum (14) |
| 24 | Cuthbert in the Jungle   | Microdeal     | Dragon (15)   |
| 25 | Snooker                  | Arctic        | Spectrum (-)  |
| 26 | Franklins Tomb           | Salamander    | Dragon (-)    |
| 27 | 3D Dimension Destruction | Arctic        | Spectrum (-)  |
| 28 | Crazy Painter            | Microdeal     | Dragon (-)    |
| 29 | Pssst                    | Ultimate      | Spectrum (20) |
| 30 | 3D Combat Zone           | Arctic        | Spectrum (23) |

Compiled by PCS Distribution (0254 691211) and sanctioned by the Computer Trade Association. Chart is for retail sales in individual outlets in the UK and Northern Ireland for the fortnight ended December 4

### Top Ten programs for the Commodore 64

|    |                 |                  |
|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 1  | Crazy Kong      | Interceptor (8)  |
| 2  | Frogger         | Interceptor (1)  |
| 3  | Laser Zone      | Llamasoft (-)    |
| 4  | Spritman        | Interceptor (10) |
| 5  | Motorman        | Audiogenic (6)   |
| 6  | Purple Turtles  | Quicksilver (2)  |
| 7  | Quintic Warrior | Quicksilver (4)  |
| 8  | Aquaplane       | Quicksilver (9)  |
| 9  | Renaissance     | Audiogenic (-)   |
| 10 | Caesar the Cat  | Mirrorsoft (-)   |

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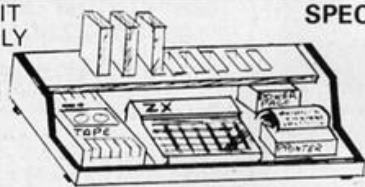
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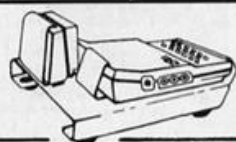
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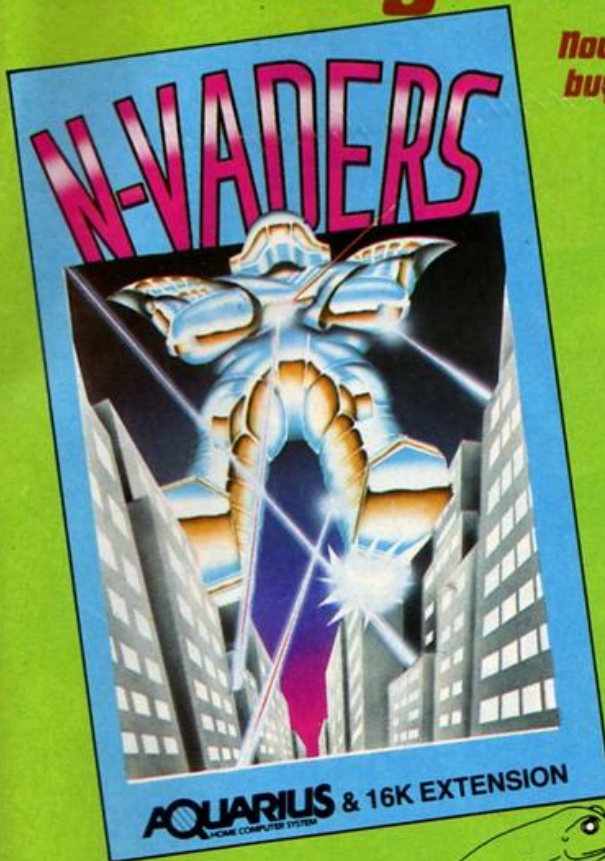
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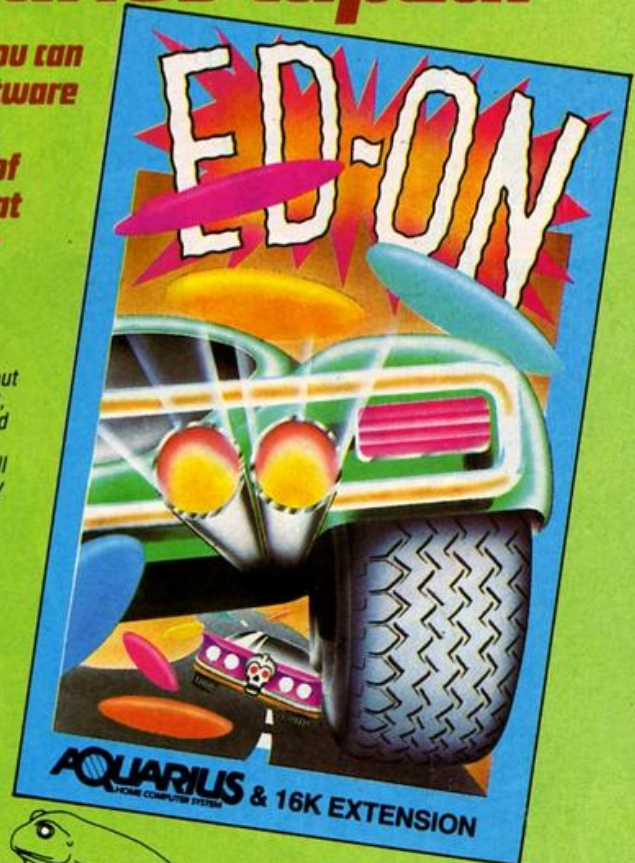
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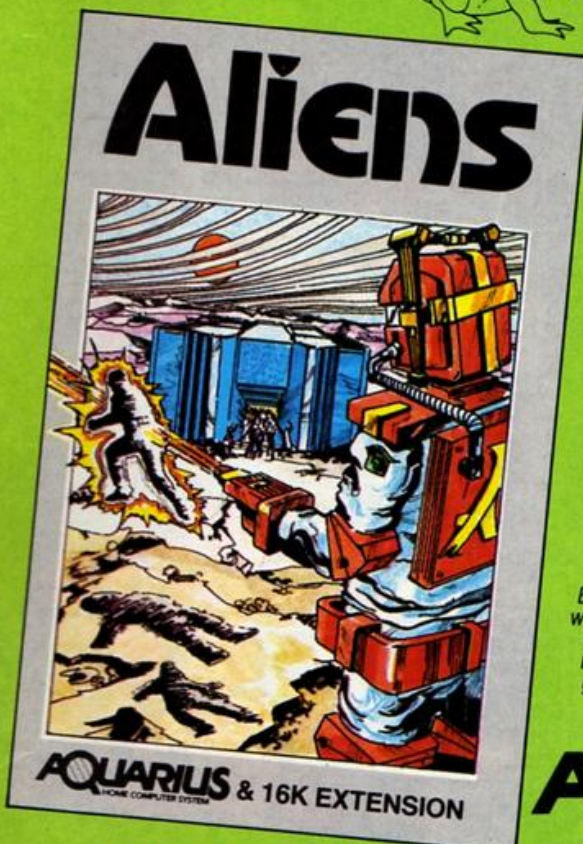
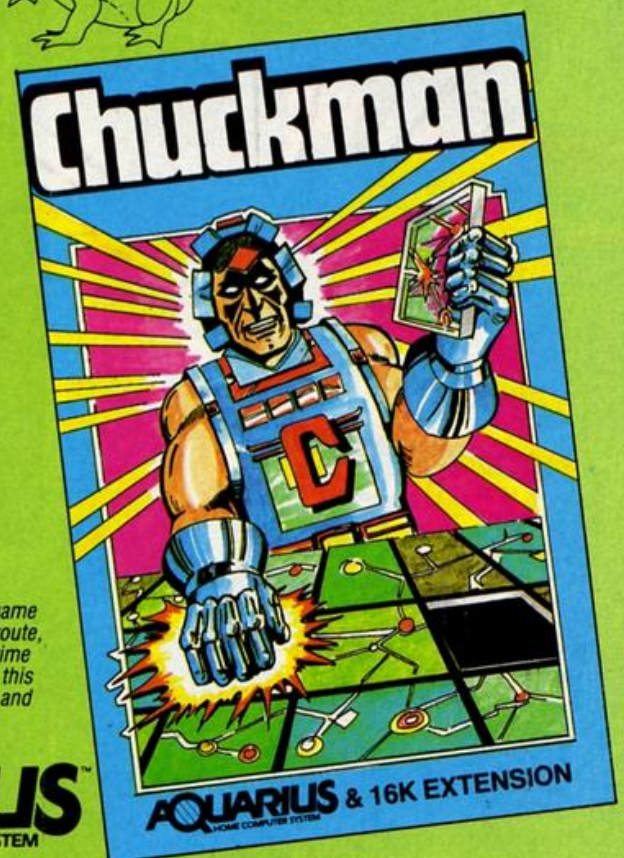
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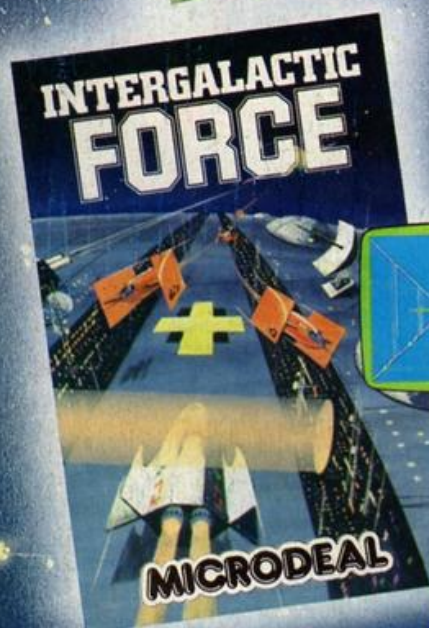
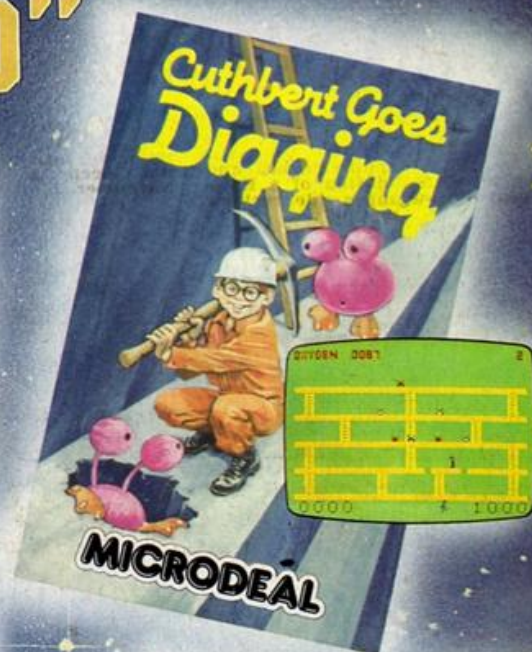
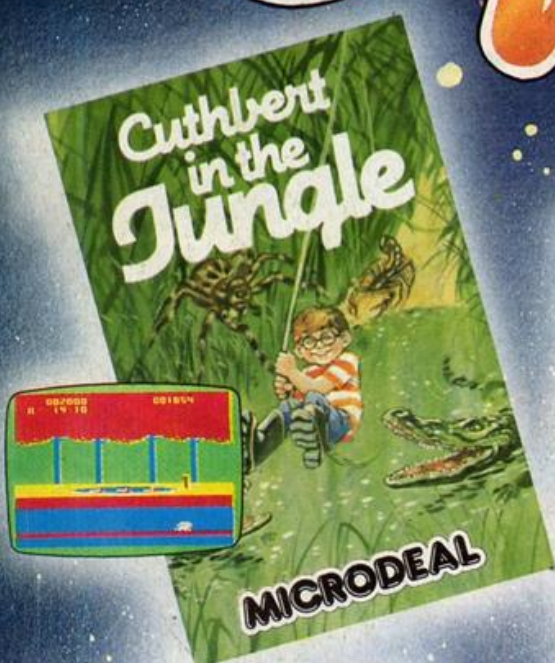
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