

# Home Computing WEEKLY

An Argus Specialist Publication

Britain's leading weekly magazine for software reviews

No. 48  
Feb 7-13, 1984

40p



Heart-felt games to type in for: VIC-20, Spectrum, BBC/ Electron, Commodore 64

Software reviews for: BBC, Spectrum, Commodore 64, Dragon, Oric and Texas

PLUS: listings for Oric, Atari, Texas...

AND: your letters, U.S. scene, One Man's View, latest news, software charts

Win Arcadia, the chart-topper from **Imagine**. We've got 182 tapes to give away



## Bosses in COMX rescue mission

Two bosses from a Hong Kong computer makers made a flying visit to London to rescue the reputation of their micro, the COMX 35.

And they are also seeking a new distributor for a re-launch next month, following the collapse of Moranbrook, trading as Computers for All.

COMX was badly hit by a report in Home Computing Weekly that 55 per cent of the computers failed CFA tests and that 600 had been recalled from dealers.

On his UK visit, Thomas Yu, general manager of COMX World Operations, said: "The first we knew about it was when we saw the article."

Continued on page 5

## Micros make you vote

Micros can now help make sure you vote, thanks to a £10 program.

It was written by Norman Collins-Tooth and tested in a council by-election in Berkshire.

Mr Collins-Tooth, treasurer of Wokingham Liberals, set up two Orics with his Polling Day software.

He said it would not only replace the tedious manual work in party committee rooms but also provide up-to-the-minute predictions of the outcome.

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## NEW RELEASE



## The Guardian

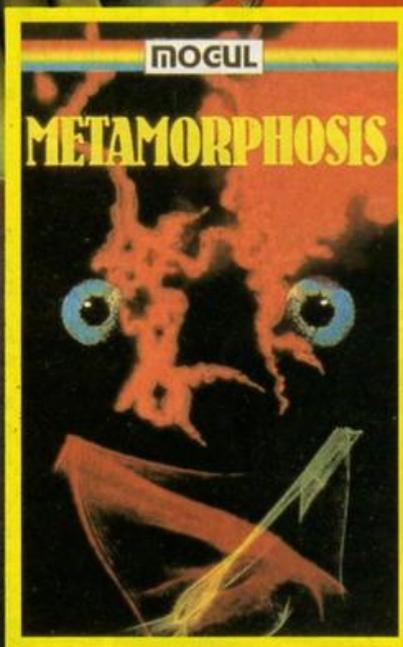
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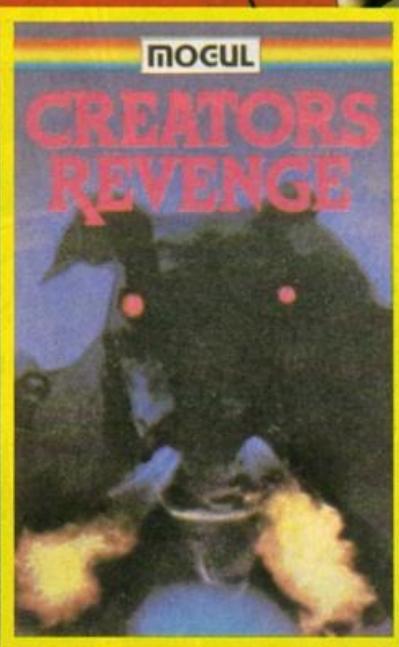
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## THE HOTWARE PEOPLE



### METAMORPHOSIS

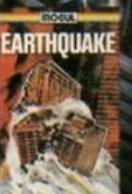
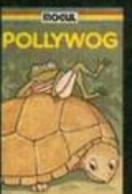
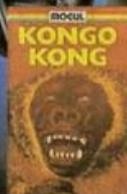
You stumbled into the nest of the **Cyglorx** and find yourself fighting off robot tanks guarding the **Cyglorx** eggs. You think you have everything under control and then the eggs start **hatching**. Commodore 64 version features 4 different screens.  
VIC 20 - COMMODORE 64  
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COMMODORE 64  
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### OTHER GAMES AVAILABLE



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Speakeasy, a speech synthesiser for most popular home micros, is the first product from Jamar, a new company formed to specialise in add-ons. Priced at £29.95, it is to be available now for the BBC micro, Commodore 64, VIC-20, Oric, Sharp, Colour Genie, Dragon 32 and Memotech with others to follow.

Jamar, 17 Station Rd, Mirfield, West Yorks WF14 8LN

A free membership club for owners of Aquarius computers has been set up. The Aquarius Users' Club says members will get a newsletter including special offers, advance information and programs. Membership is free until February 29.

Miss L. Leboff, Aquarius Users' Club, 4th Floor, Hyde House, The Hyde, London NW9 6LG

Adventure specialists Richard Shepherd Software has brought out Super Spy, originally written for the Spectrum, in a Dragon 32 version and Transylvanian Tower, already on sale for the Spectrum and Dragon, for the Commodore 64. Both cost £6.50.

Richard Shepherd Software, 23-25 Elmshott La, Cippenham, Slough, Berks

R.NEST, a new Commodore 64 game from Audiogenic, features a workman with toolbox who has to jump from cube to cube on a pyramid to change all the cube colours. Price: £6.95

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

A new company has been formed by Radofin, makers of the Aquarius computer, and Custom Cables International, which makes software and interfaces. Add-On Electronics is to supply support for the Aquarius in Europe and software and add-ons for all home micros. Its products include 26 Aquarius software titles, 24 for the Spectrum, 16 for the VIC-20 and five each for BBC, Dragon, Oric and Commodore 64.

Add-On Electronics, Units 2, 3, 4, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ

# Home Computing WEEKLY

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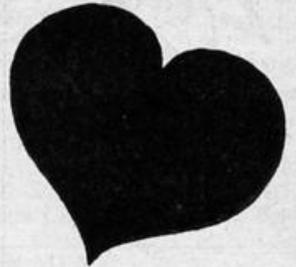
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I'm An  
**URBAN UPSTART**  
Are You?  
RICHARD SHEPHERD SOFTWARE



It's St Valentine's Day next week so we've included four specially-written fun games in this issue, giving you plenty of time to type them in. They start on the following pages: Commodore 64, page 10; BBC/Electron, page 17; Spectrum, page 22; VIC-20, page 34



Give your Atari programs titles to be proud of — just type in the program which starts on page 48



A maze game with a difference for Oric owners starts on page 42



There's seven pages of software reviews in this issue, including five for the Dragon on page 27



# TRACKS



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We stock a large selection for all ages. From Mr Men to 'A'-Level Maths! inc. Astro Maths/Jungle Maths, Mr T Tells the Time, Mr T Money Box.

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No. \_\_\_\_\_ for the following game for the  
\_\_\_\_\_ computer.

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|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**COMX mission**

*From front page*

He said they had traced the source of the problem in the first batch of 2,000 which Comx had produced.

The failures were caused by faulty hermetic seals on two ICs — supplied by an outside company — which allowed in humidity.

It was a fault which may not show for several weeks, so it was not spotted by quality control inspectors.

Mr Yu said: "We want to set the record straight and clear up the mess. The damage has been done, but we want the public to know what is happening."

"Ever since then everything has been back to normal."

Mr Yu said Comx now had less than two per cent returns. And technical director Dr Ken Tracton, who designed the COMX 35, said that only about .4 per cent had "true" faults.

Mr Yu spoke of the difficulty COMX had in getting information from Computers for All which had left them in the dark about the cause of the failures.

He said: "We are selling very well in other parts of the world — except the UK."

Among the 10 countries where the micro was on sale were Holland, Sweden, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, Greece, Turkey, India and China, where it was used as an educational tool.

Sales would soon start in Germany and Italy.

Production was running at 6,000-7,000 a month with a maximum output of 10,000 a month.

Mr Yu said: "Our mission is to tell our story. We want people to know that we are a responsible company which will look after them. We will replace any faulty computer without question. They can write to me in Hong Kong or wait until we have a U.K. distributor."

The COMX 35, named for its

35K of RAM, will be re-launched at £119, including free software.

It is unusual for two reasons: the keyboard has a small joystick to the right and the computer uses the 1802A processor.

Dr Tracton explained his decision to use it by saying that it was reliable — being used in satellites and the Space Shuttle — and used CMOS technology so it needed less power and could cope with power fluctuations.

It ran cooler and needed a much smaller power supply.

The COMX 35, with 31K available for programs, has a built-in editor and programs in Extended BASIC are semi-compiled on running which, said Dr Tracton, makes for faster operation.

It measures about 11½in by 6¼in by 1¼in, has 55 moving keys, built-in speaker and joystick. Display 40 columns by 24 lines text and 240 by 216 pixels. There are 64 upper case ASCII characters, 64 user-programmable graphics, eight colours and eight octaves of sound in 16 volume steps, plus special effects. ROM occupies 16K.

Comx has a list of 118 of its own software on cassette at present, including 74 games, 27 educational and six business and personal, plus FORTH and Pascal.

The company has its own 40-column thermal printer — using paper rolls about 4½in wide — and an interface for RS232 and Centronics devices.

Due in April is an interface for Shugart-standard 5¼in floppy disc drives, including disc operating system, and a drive for 3½in Hitachi discs is on the cards.

In the early summer Comx is planning a re-styled version of the COMX 35 with a typewriter-style keyboard and, to replace the joystick, four cursor keys.

Comx, which also designs business computers, has about 65 employees and the COMX 35 is produced by a sister company. Both are owned by the Wo Kee

Hong Group, which has more than 3,000 employees and a turnover of £60m a year.

● Southend-based solicitors Booth White & Co have called a meeting of creditors of Moranbrook for February 17 at the Civic Centre, Southend. A spokesman said the company was insolvent and had ceased trading and that there would be a proposal to liquidate the company.

*Comx World Operations, 15th Floor, Wo Kee Hong Building, 585-609 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung, N.T., Hong Kong*

**Micro votes**

*From front page*

This meant that not only would parties know how the opposition was doing but party workers could be directed to the right areas to call on their voters.

Polling Day is at present available for the 48K Oric-1, 48K Spectrum and BBC model B micros.

Mr Collins-Tooth sells Polling Day through his home-based business, CT Software (Wokingham), with his wife Margaret.

*CT Software (Wokingham), 1 Rook Close, Wokingham, Berks*

**ELECTION DAY MENU**

Actual turnout so far xxxxx (xx%)  
Number of definites xxxxx Number voted so far xxxxx

- 1 = TELLER RETURNS
- 2 = DEFINITES/POSSIBLES BY ROAD
- 3 = PRINT KNOCK UP LIST BY ROAD
- 4 = CALCULATE RESULT BASED ON CANVASS RETURNS
- 5 = PREDICT RESULT ON ACTUAL TURNOUT SO FAR
- 6 = PRINT A FULL REGISTER
- 7 = DISPLAY CAR CALLS
- 8 = KNOCK UP RETURNS

How Polling Day looks on the screen

**You could be on our pages**

We welcome programs, articles and tips from our readers.

**PROGRAMS must always be sent on cassette. Listings are helpful, but not necessary. Check carefully that they are bug-free. Include details of what your program does, how it works, variables you have used and hints on conversion.**

**ARTICLES on using home computers should be no longer than 2,000 words. Don't worry about your writing ability — just try to keep to the style in HCW. Articles most likely to be published will help our readers made better use of their micros by giving useful ideas, possibly with programming examples. We will convert any sketched illustrations into finished artwork.**

**TIPS are short articles, and brief programming routines which we can put together with others. Your hints can aid other computer users.**

Competitive rates are paid.

Keep a copy of your submissions and include an SAE if you want them returned. Label everything clearly and give a daytime and home phone number if you can.

Paul Liptrot, Home Computing Weekly, No.1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB



The COMX 35 — re-launch planned for next month

## Briefly

Pilot and air traffic controller Mike Male has added new features to his flight simulator program. Now called Nightflite II, publishers Hewson Consultants says it is even more realistic. Nightflite II runs on either model of the Spectrum and costs £7.95.

Hewson Consultants, 60A St Mary's St, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0EL

Two detective-type programs on one cassette are said by Widgit Software to be suitable for children from those just starting to read to the age of 10. In the Humpty-Dumpty Mystery the player has to find the culprit by questioning or observation and in the second, Who Killed Cock Robin?, logical thinking is needed to find out when, where and by whom the deed was done. The tape is for the 48K Spectrum and costs £6.25.

Widgit, 48 Durham Rd, East Finchley, London N2 9DT

Did you know gweeps were over-worked computer fanatics or that moby mublage is important chatter? These are two of the definitions in The Hacker's Dictionary, a glossary of computer jargon compiled in America by Guy L. Steele Jr. Price is £3.50 from Harper and Row.

Harper and Row, 28 Tavistock St, London WC2E 7PN

Magazine columnist Tony Bridge has written a two-part book on playing and writing adventure games. Atari Adventures looks at the history of adventures — from text only to computer versions — and the second part gives a listing for a graphic-text adventure called The Eye of the Star Warrior, which will run on any Atari. Due out in 10 days, the book costs £5.95 from Sunshine.

Sunshine, 12/13 Little Newport St, London WC2R 3LD

Scope, a computer graphics language for the 48K Spectrum, is being launched for the Commodore 64. Designed for graphics animation and sound, Scope uses 31 plain English words and programs are then converted into machine code. Publishers ISP say several companies are, by agreement, using Scope to help produce arcade-style and adventure games.

ISP Marketing, Crown House, 38B High St, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1DZ

Some copies of Imagine's new graphics adventure, Alchemist, have gold coloured cassettes and cases to emphasise the theme of the game — turning base metal into gold. Written by Ian Weatherburn, the task is to find a scroll which is in four separate pieces. Stonkers is a new arcade strategy game featuring military strategy written by John Gibson, author of Molar Maul and Zzoom. Computer and player start with equally-balanced forces in an area similar to the north European coast. Both games run on the 48K Spectrum and cost £5.50.

Imagine, 5 Sir Thomas St, Liverpool L1 6BW

TV's Chris Tarrant, of Tiswas and OTT, is to present a new documentary on video tape called The World's Greatest Computer Games. It is to include extracts from 20 games with hints on how to play them and demonstrations. It is due on sale in the spring from TVC Video.

TVC Video, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP

Skull, a 3D maze adventure, has been released for the 48K Spectrum by Games Machine. Price: £6.95.

Games Machine, Bessemer Dr, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2DX

Microsoft's Multiplan, claimed to be the world's best-selling spreadsheet program, is now available for the Commodore 64 at £99.95.

Kobra Micro Marketing, 1-7 Broomfield Rd, London W13 9AP

Two cross compilers for serious Commodore programmers have been brought out by Oxford Computer Systems. Portspeed compiles source programs on the 8000 series to run on the 64 and X-64 is an integer compiler which compiles on the 8000 series giving machine code executable on the 64. OCS says an average program will cross compile in about two minutes. Price: £125 each.

Oxford Computer Systems, The Signal Box, Hensington Rd, Woodstock, Oxford OX7 1JR

Oric-Calc, a spreadsheet program at £14.50, is now available for the Oric-1 and Atmos computers.

Tansoft, Techno Park, Newmarket Rd, Cambridge

## All that glitters...

If you set out to buy an LP and the sales assistant hands it over in a package the size of a car wheel, you might be less than happy — particularly if you are travelling by bus.

Why is it, then, that no-one seems to blink an eyelid at the equally generous packaging methods of some software companies?

Recently I purchased a cartridge which was presented in a box with a volume some 15 times larger than its contents. Why all the extra space?

To be fair to the company concerned, in this case, an explanatory manual was also included which accounted for some of the redundant dimensions. However, the whole thing could have been packaged more efficiently.

Turning my measuring stick to another recent purchase, I see that a games cassette arrived in a flashy display box which is exactly 10 times too large by volume. This turns out to be particularly galling, as no instructions or explanations of how to play the game are included. Presumably the marketing budget ran out after paying for all the expensive artwork on the carton.



And talking about artwork, isn't it time that software producers and magazine editors began to toe the line? Some of the pictures on cassette covers or in journals bear little resemblance to the contents of the game. Surely this is blatant misrepresentation, if not outright fraud?

Now, no-one wishes to stifle creative licence. Using semi-clothed models to promote sales is all part of accepted commercial practice. Even T-shirts which encourage the world and his wife to "Byte Me" amuse as well as promote. However, everyone knows that the girl doesn't come with the modem, or that the T-shirt invitation shouldn't be taken too literally. But in the case when barely discernible screen characters display no resemblance whatsoever to the clear-cut images in the glossy artwork, the public is being conned. Cassette covers and articles should always show a picture from the actual game. By all means let's continue with the creative illustrations, but if, for instance, a photograph of a cowboy accompanies a game then a screen dump should also be shown (HCW take a bow).

Perhaps it is no coincidence that more advertisements by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) are appearing in home computer magazines. Anyone who feels that they have been ripped off by a company using over-imaginative methods of presentation should write to the ASA at Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN, and complain.

With the introduction of Top 30 charts, the software producers move ever closer to the pop-music industry. Let us hope that they adopt only the good things such as enterprise, innovation and energy, but leave behind the less savoury practices like payola and chart rigging which have done so much to tarnish the image of music producers.

Mike Hussey  
Birmingham

• This space is for you to sound off about the micro scene, to present bouquets, to hurl brickbats, or just to share your opinions or experiences. Send your contributions to Paul Liptrot, Home Computing Weekly, No. 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB.

# COMPETITION

Three top names in computer games wrote Imagine's chart-topper, *Arcadia* — and now we're giving away 182 tapes in this week's competition.

It was designed by Imagine directors Dave Lawson and Mark Butler and coded by head programmer Eugene Evans.

*Arcadia* is available for the Commodore 64, either Spectrum and the unexpanded VIC-20, and we've got all three versions as prizes.

Imagine is one of the best-known names in home computer software and its games live up to its reputation.

Here's a taste of what you can expect if you're among the winners:

*You are in command of the starship Arcadia, which means you have the most sophisticated space technology under your control — including the mind shattering Ion Thrust and the awesome power of dual Plasma Disrupter guns.*

*The Atarian empire has been growing — engulfing smaller planets — and is now poised to enslave the entire galaxy.*

*Only you and your starship can repel the Atarian hordes. Wave after wave, they attack the Arcadia, each wave lasting a set period.*

*If you manage to destroy the entire fleet within the time limit another will attack. If an alien race fails to destroy the Arcadia during this time a different race will resume the attack.*

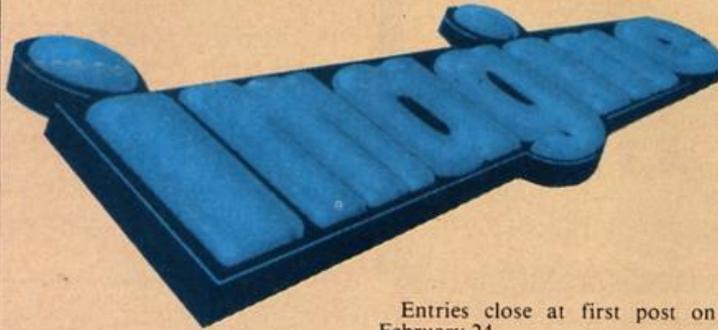
*Each new onslaught is by more sophisticated and deadly craft than the last. Can you save civilisation?*

Can you spot all the differences between our two cartoons?

Like all competitions in *Home Computing Weekly*, entry is easy and free — just follow carefully the guidance in the *How to Enter* section.

Closing date is first post on February 24 and the winners will be

## 182 chances to win a great chart-topper from



you wish, but each entry must be on the official coupon and cartoon — not a copy — and sealed in a separate envelope.

The winners will be the first 182 correct entries opened at random, regardless of computer.

The prizes will arrive from Imagine within 28 days of the publication of the issue containing the names of the winners.

Important: please follow carefully the guidelines above. Any entries which are not complete cannot be considered.

### The rules

The first 182 correct entries opened after the closing date, first post on February 24, 1984, will win the prizes. They will be selected at random, regardless of computer owned.

Entries which do not follow the guidance in the *How to Enter* section cannot be considered.

Entries will not be accepted from employees of Argus Specialist Publications, Imagine Software and Alabaster Passmore & Sons. This restriction also applies to employees' families and agents of the companies. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Entries close at first post on February 24.

You may enter as many times as

the first 182 correct entries opened at random and regardless of which computer is marked on the coupon.

### How to enter

Examine the two cartoons carefully — there are several differences between them.

Circle the differences on cartoon B and then fill in your name, address, the number of differences you found and the computer you own — Commodore 64, Spectrum or VIC-20.

Seal the coupon and cartoon B in an envelope and write clearly on the back of the envelope the number of differences you found.

Post your entry to Imagine competition, *Home Computing Weekly*, No. 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB.

## Imagine competition

### Entry Coupon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

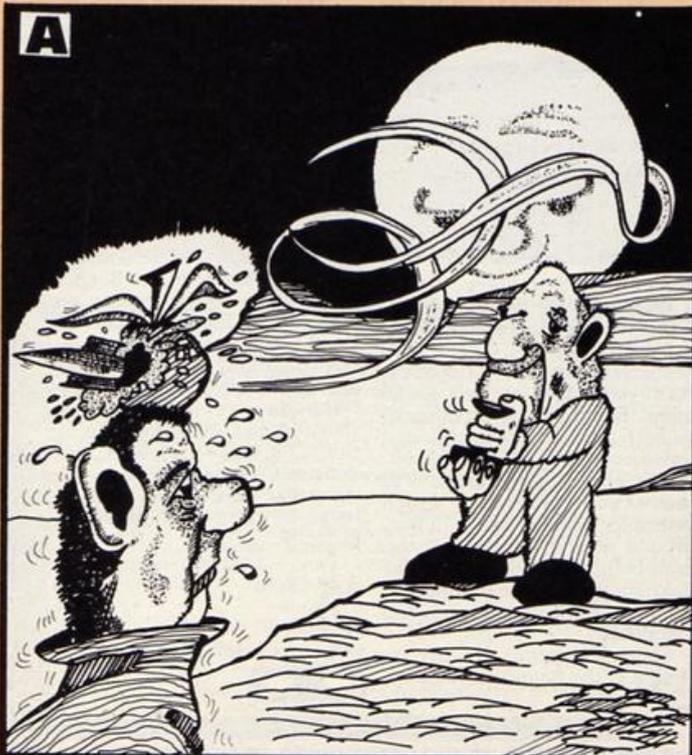
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ post code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of differences found \_\_\_\_\_

Computer \_\_\_\_\_

Complete clearly and fully — if you are a prizewinner, this will act as a label. Post to: Imagine Competition, *Home Computing Weekly*, No. 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB. Closing date: first post, February 24, 1984. Do not forget to follow carefully the guidelines in the *How to Enter* section.



**Goodness Gracious**  
**CBM 64 £6.95**

Beyond, Farndon Rd, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9NR

A very tame game, reminding me of Duck Shoot. The plot has been dressed up a bit, though. You are a dinosaur guarding a gem from creatures which appear the other side of the screen. To kill them you spit fireballs by pressing the space bar.

The time held down determines the length of the shot when released. You have three chances to hit the creature before it snatches the gem. If you hit the creature another appears.

The inlay says there are six screens of creatures, but I lost interest after killing three or four. I did not like the way the

fireball went up on a gentle arc but on reaching its zenith fell vertically. In this respect it's worse than Duck Shoot. With practice and counting in time to the background noise with the space bar held down scoring became routine.

Graphics were not outstanding and animation slowed whenever the space bar was down. It is by no means a classic and will rank near the bottom of my list.

L.C.

instructions	50%
playability	40%
graphics	50%
value for money	40%



**Gold Rush Spectrum**  
**£6.95**

Thorn EMI, Upper St., Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9ED

Your mission in this novel game is to mine gold. However, goldmining is a little unusual in the planet Oron, where you have unaccountably arrived, because Oronian mines are bottomless caverns with gold falling from the roof!

There is a large supply of girders which you can place on the playing grid to deflect the gold into one of your two pots. You must avoid the demons of the mine, who move the girders around, and the falling gold. I found it safest to place the girders at the base of the grid, but since you get points for every girder hit

by the gold you score more points if you spread girders around the grid.

The difficulty in striking a balance between security and scoring adds greatly to the game's interest.

The graphics are smooth, but surprisingly no sound is used. Even the easiest of the five skill levels is difficult, particularly because the keyboard control is so awkward — all the control keys are on one line.

This game is recommended, if you are able to take advantage of the Kempston or Sinclair joystick option.

S.E.

instructions	100%
playability	60%
graphics	75%
value for money	80%



**Cosmic Combat**  
**32K BBC £6.95**

Program Power, 8/8a Regent Street, Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 4PE

A two-player space combat game using high-resolution mode 4, which offers only two colours, so you have the choice of black and white or two-colour display.

There are six battle scenes to choose from. The player who zaps the other's ship the most number of times in 100 seconds wins. You choose the effective range of the bullets, thus giving the option of long or close range combat. The option of a border or wrap-around is also available. Action is smooth and sound effects (reminiscent of

Acornsoft's Planetoids) good.

Control keys could have been better chosen, and a joystick option would be useful. The twinkling stars are an irritation as stars do not twinkle in space, and having to go through the instructions to start each game is annoying. A more serious fault allows bullets to pass harmlessly straight through ships on occasions. The game could also be improved by a choice of skill levels controlling the speed of the ships and an option to play against the computer.

D.H.

instructions	80%
playability	70%
graphics	80%
value for money	70%



**Another trip to the arcade**

**These games challenge you to mine gold, repair robots, hurl fireballs, rescue sunken treasure and bounce around. Our reviewers tell how they performed**

**Diver**  
**TI-99/4A Ex**  
**BASIC £4.95**

Warwick, 40 Kingsway, Newby, Scarborough YO12 65G

You have to recover treasure from the seabed in the least possible time. As each item is retrieved it must be carried up to the salvage vessel, continually traversing the surface. Control of diver is keyboard or joystick.

Like all divers you have limited oxygen. When this falls to 20 kg a helicopter drops a new bottle. Other hazards include two white sharks which swim across the screen, and an octopus which disappears and reappears in different locations.

One peculiarity is the way the diver is equally able to "swim" in

the sky as the water. This may not be used to advantage as you will be penalised by a dramatic reduction in oxygen and a time.

There are five skill levels. On each the ship moves faster and the predators become more aggressive.

Having struggled to win you may, however, be disappointed. You "best time" is not updated from 999, the maximum.

J.W.

Note: Warwick says this bug does not appear in production versions.

instructions	100%
playability	55%
graphics	75%
value for money	60%



**Bouncer**  
**TI-99/4A Ex**  
**BASIC**  
**Joysticks £7.95**

Extended Software, from Timeless, 3 Bridgend, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9HF

If you're the owner of TI joysticks then you might as well forget about Bouncer — it promises to be both a waste of your time and money.

The object of the game is to move your Bouncer, which resembles a rubber ball with legs, around a series of trampolines, each bounce gaining points. The configuration of the trampolines varies with each screen completed.

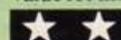
Success depends on precise timing of the Bouncer's jumps so

as to avoid arrows continually shooting across the screen. Should an arrow pierce your little Bouncer he gradually disintegrates, whereupon you start again.

The movement of the Bouncer relies heavily on diagonal positioning of the joysticks. With the TI models not only is this difficult, to say the least, but they are additionally disadvantaged by being slow to respond. These shortcomings are admitted at the end of the supplier's instructions, American by the way, which also state that third party hardware tested by them performed satisfactorily.

J.W.

instructions	90%
playability	25%
graphics	70%
value for money	40%



BEHIND THIS SCREEN THERE'S A WHOLE

# MICROSPHERE

WAITING TO GET

OUT



\* **WHEELIE** (48K Spectrum)

As proud owner of the ultimate racing motorbike, you find yourself in a strange world — a world full of double-decker buses to leap and where even the hedgehogs are out to get you! Your only hope of escape is to find the elusive ghost rider and then beat him in a life-or-death race.

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CBM 64 and BBC owners — **WHEELIE** and **THE TRAIN GAME** will soon be ready for your micros.

Items marked \* are available from selected branches of



\* **THE TRAIN GAME** (16/48K Spectrum)

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" . . . an excellent game which is original, well thought-out and full of action" (S. User Nov 83)

"Fun, fun, fun to play . . ."  
(Home Computing Weekly 27/9/83)

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The best Spectrum spreadsheet you can buy. Written in machine code, to be faster, to give you more space for data, and to include more features, it is guaranteed uncrashable. Complete with comprehensive manual £9.95

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(Home Computing Weekly 3/6/83)

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## COMMODORE 64 PROGRAM

A prince/princess has given you a task to perform to win his/her hand in marriage.

As it is St Valentines' Day, you must cross the pits of hell and risk being struck by Cupids' arrows (he's shortsighted and is firing oversized arrows) to catch one of the lonely hearts before they break.

### Hints on conversion

This program uses sprites and sound to good effect, and gives the game extra interest. Without its colour, sound, speed and fine resolution movement, it simply becomes a catch the blocks game that a beginner could program on a ZX81. Thus it is best to use the game concept adapted to your own machine, with fine movement, interesting figures and colour as a bonus.

If you want to use my graphics DATA, it is set out for sprites with three bytes per line, and one bit giving a visible pixel.

You must then brave the pits of hell again to return and kiss the prince/princess. You are then married, and have to repeat the process all over again (let's face it, this is a weird kingdom!) until you lose all your lives.

To move your player, use keys K and L. If you want to cross one of the pits, press J, and it will automatically jump up a certain distance in the direction you last moved.

A good tip for this screen is to move as fast as you can, as more holes appear with time, pausing only when facing several closely spaced pits.

Screen two contains hearts and arrows falling at different speeds. To catch a heart — or an arrow if you are feeling suicidal — simply stand at the position where you think it is going to land.

# Will you risk the arrows and pits of hell for love?

You face twin dangers and a test of your reactions to win the hand of your loved one. Type in David Rees' Lonely Hearts program for the Commodore 64 and see if you're ready for a royal wedding

### How it works

10-30 set variables  
40 if DATA already POKEd  
GOTO game  
50-220 POKE code and sprites  
300-410 set screen, sprite and code registers  
420-440 set sound registers  
500 code positions  
600-630 main routine  
700-770 if player reaches screen edge...  
800-898 PRINT screen one and set registers  
900-960 PRINT screen two and set registers  
970-995 music DATA  
1000-1720 code DATA  
1900-2170 sprite DATA  
3000-3100 returned a heart  
3200-3380 lost a life  
3400-3460 end of the game

If you are in the correct position when it arrives, a heart will appear above your head. Then make your way back to the royal figure in screen one, to gain a point and a tune!

As always, be careful with the machine code when typing it in, and save a copy before RUNNING the program, just in case there is a mistake. The code may seem long, but the result is fast and worthwhile.

Don't be discouraged by the pits. They are hard to cross, and even with practice, you can lose a life, but there is satisfaction in overcoming this challenge.

Finally, happy Valentines Day!

Note: as usual, the control characters are explained in lines above. These REM lines should not be typed in.

### Main variables

V start of video chip registers  
S start of sound registers  
FS 10 spaces for screen one

```

1 REM*****
2 REM*LONELY HEARTS*
3 REM* BY *
4 REM* DAVID REES *
5 REM* *
6 REM* 1984 *
7 REM*****
10 K=16384:FS="
15 DIMA%(19),B%(19),D%(19)
20 POKE52,48:POKE56,48
30 FORN=0T019:READA%(N),B%(N),D%(N):NEXT
40 IFPEEK(K)=165THEN290
50 FORM=0T012
60 FORN=0T0255
70 READA:IFA=-1THEN85
80 POKEK+N*M*64,A:NEXT
85 NEXTM
150 FORM=0T09
160 FORN=0T063
170 READA:IFA=-1THEN190

```

```

180 POKE15744+N*M*64,A:NEXTN
190 FORJ=NT063
200 POKE15744+J*M*64,0:NEXTJ
210 NEXTM
290 U=1
300 V=53248:POKEV+32,6:POKEV+33,8:L=3
305 IFU=1THENU=0:GOTO3430
310 POKEV+21,253:POKEV+16,0:POKE254,0
320 FORN=4T014STEP2:POKEV+N,249:NEXT
330 H=0:GOSUB800
340 POKEV+39,0:POKEV+40,2
350 FORN=0T02:POKEV+41+N,2:POKEV+44+N,1:NEXT
360 POKE2041,247:POKE2043,246:POKE2044,246
370 POKE2045,255:POKE2046,255:POKE2047,255
380 POKEV,32:POKEV+2,32
390 POKEV+16,PEEK(V+16)AND252
400 POKE2040,252:POKE858,4:POKE859,0
410 POKE860,0:POKE861,32:POKE862,0
420 S=54272:POKES+14,255:POKES+15,255
430 POKES+18,129:POKE781,0
440 POKES+24,15
500 P=64+66*256:Q=67*256:R=17024
600 SYSP:ONPEEK(781)GOSUB700
610 SYSQ:IFPEEK(780)<0THEN3200
620 SYSR:IFPEEK(780)>0THEN3200
630 GOTO600

```

```

700 IFPEEK(863)=0THEN750
710 X=PEEK(V+16)AND1:IFX=1THENRETURN
720 POKE863,0
730 FORN=6T015:POKEV+N,0:NEXT
740 GOTO800
750 X=PEEK(V+16)AND1:IFX=0THEN3000
770 GOTO900
790 REM*SCREEN1*
799 REM*[CLR][BLUE]
800 PRINT "SCORE="H"HEARTS",L"LIVES";
803 REM*[CRSR LEFT]*5
804 IFL=1THENPRINT"#####LIFE ";
807 REM*[CRSR DWN]*3
808 PRINT "###"
809 REM*[RED],[RVS ON],[RVS OFF],[RVS ON],
810 PRINTTAB(16)"###"
819 REM*[RVS ON],[RVS ON]
820 PRINTTAB(16)"###"
829 REM*[RVS ON],
830 PRINTTAB(16)"###"
839 REM*[RVS ON],[RVS ON],
840 PRINTTAB(17)"###"
849 REM*[RVS ON],[RVS ON],[DWN]*14
850 PRINTTAB(18)"#####"
854 REM*[BLACK][RVS ON]
855 PRINT "###F$:F$:F$:F$:F$:F$:F$";
856 REM*...[HOME]

```

## COMMODORE 64 PROGRAM

```

857 PRINT"          8"
860 POKEV+16,(PEEK(V+16)OR3)AND251
870 POKEV,72:POKEV+2,72:POKEV+1,222
875 FORN=6TO15:POKEV+N,0:NEXT
880 POKEV+3,214:POKE863,0
885 POKE861,76:POKE862,1
890 POKE2023,160:POKE56295,0
895 POKE2042,251:POKEV+4,22:POKEV+5,222
898 RETURN
899 REM*SCREEN 2*
900 POKE2042,246:POKE863,1
910 FORN=4TO14STEP2:POKEV+N,249:NEXT
919 REM*[CLR][BLUE].
920 PRINT"X"
930 POKEV+16,PEEK(V+16)AND252
940 POKEV+1,238:POKEV+3,232
950 POKEV,28:POKEV+2,28
960 POKE861,24:POKE862,0:RETURN
970 DATA4,180,90,4,180,60,4,180,30,4,180
975 DATA90,5,152,60,5,71,30,5,71,45,4
980 DATA180,45,4,180,60,4,180,30,4,180,90
985 DATA9,104,60,12,143,40,12,143,20
990 DATA12,143,60,,20,9,104,60,14,24,30
995 DATA11,48,30,12,143,30
1000 DATA165,197,201,64,208,16,169,
1010 DATA141,96,3,169,1,141,92,3,169,3
1020 DATA141,91,3,96,201,34,208,35
1030 DATA238,96,3,173,96,3,201,7,208,14
1040 DATA169,,141,92,3,141,91,3
1045 DATA169,6,141,96,3,96
1050 DATA169,2,141,91,3,169,1,141,92,3
1060 DATA96,162,,142,96,3,201,37,208,19
1070 DATA169,,141,90,3,173,91,3,41,1
1080 DATA141,91,3,169,,141,92,3,96
1090 DATA201,42,240,1,96,169,4,24
1100 DATA144,229,-1,-1
1110 DATA162,,173,92,3,240,26,173,91,3
1120 DATA201,3,208,6,169,251,141,248,7
1130 DATA96,169,250,24,109,90,3,24
1140 DATA141,248,7,24
1150 DATA144,23,173,91,3,24,105,1,24
1160 DATA41,1,141,91,3,24,105,248,24
1170 DATA109,90,3,24,141,248,7,162,
1180 DATA173,90,3,240,50,173,93,3,24
1190 DATA105,4,144,15,24,141,93,3
1200 DATA173,94,3,73,1,141,94,3,24
1210 DATA144,72,141,93,3,173,94,3
1220 DATA240,64,173,93,3,56,233,78
1230 DATA144,57,24,169,76,141,93,3
1240 DATA162,1,24,144,43,173,93,3,56
1250 DATA233,4,176,14,141,93,3,173,94,3
1260 DATA73,1,141,94,3,24,144,23
1270 DATA141,93,3,173,94,3,208,15
1280 DATA173,93,3,56,233,24,176,7
1290 DATA169,24,141,93,3,162,1,24
1300 DATA173,93,3,141,,208,141,2,208
1310 DATA173,16,208,41,252,24
1320 DATA109,94,3,24,109,94,3,24
1330 DATA109,94,3,24,141,16,208,96
1340 DATA-1,-1,-1,-1
1350 DATA173,95,3,208,1,96,169,4
1360 DATA133,251,169,1,133,252,160,4
1370 DATA185,1,208,24,101,252,24
1380 DATA153,1,208,56,233,250,144,44
1390 DATA24,169,,153,1,208,173,27,212
1400 DATA24,105,70,144,15,24,153,,208
1410 DATA173,16,208,5,251,141,16,208
1420 DATA24,144,15,153,,208,173,16,208
1430 DATA5,251,56,229,251,24,141,16,208
1440 DATA230,252,24,6,251,24,200,200
1450 DATA192,16,208,185,96,-1,-1
1460 DATA173,95,3,240,1,96,173,27,212
1470 DATA41,31,24,105,158,24,133,251
1480 DATA169,7,133,252,169,32,160,,145,251
1490 DATA160,40,145,251,173,27,212,41,31
1500 DATA24,105,158,24,133,251,169,160
1510 DATA145,251,160,,145,251,200
1515 DATA145,251,160,41,145,251,96,-1
1520 DATA32,,64,32,128,64,224,,240,3
1530 DATA169,255,96,32,128,65,230,254
1540 DATA165,254,41,31,208,3,32,,66
1545 DATA169,,96,-1
1550 DATA173,95,3,208,1,96,160,4,169,4
1560 DATA133,251,185,1,208,41,248
1570 DATA201,240,208,47,173,16,208
1580 DATA37,251,240,2,169,1,205,94,3
1590 DATA208,33,185,,208,41,248,133,252
1600 DATA173,93,3,41,248,197,252,208,17
1610 DATA152,56,233,10,144,3,169,1,96
1620 DATA173,21,208,9,2,141,21,208
1630 DATA24,6,251,200,200,192,16
1640 DATA208,191,169,,96,-1,-1
1650 DATA173,95,3,240,3,169,,96
1660 DATA173,93,3,24,74,24,174,94,3
1670 DATA224,,240,3,24,105,128,56
1680 DATA233,12,24,74,24,74,24,105,152
1690 DATA24,133,251,169,7,133,252
1700 DATA160,,177,251,201,160,208,3
1710 DATA169,,96,173,91,3,201,2,240,246
1720 DATA169,1,96,-1
1900 DATA49,128,,123,192,,255,224,
1910 DATA255,224,,127,192,,127,192,
1920 DATA63,128,,31,,14,,4,-1
1930 DATA20,,62,,62,,28,,8,-1
2000 DATA12,,12,,4,,12,,30,,
2010 DATA101,,12,128,,20,,18,,33,,
2020 DATA32,128,,97,-1
2030 DATA12,,12,,4,,12,,12,,30,,
2040 DATA45,,12,,12,,18,,18,,55,-1
2050 DATA12,,12,,4,,63,,204,192,
2060 DATA12,,179,,64,128,,1,-1
2070 DATA28,,28,,8,,28,,62,,62,,
2080 DATA93,,85,,20,,20,,20,,54,-1
2090 DATA12,,12,,8,,12,,30,,
2100 DATA45,128,,76,,10,,18,,33,,
2110 DATA65,,33,128,-1
2120 DATA12,,12,,8,,12,,12,,30,,
2130 DATA45,,12,,12,,18,,18,,27,-1
2140 DATA12,,12,,8,,63,,204,192,
2150 DATA12,,51,64,,64,128,,32,-1
2160 DATA68,,40,,84,,56,,16,,16,,
2170 DATA16,,16,,124,,56,,16,-1
3000 X=PEEK(V+21)AND2:IFX=0THENRETURN
3009 REM*[BLUE][HOME].
3010 H=H+1:PRINT"SCORE="H"HEART";
3020 IFH<>1THENPRINT"S";
3030 PRINT" "
3040 FORN=11TO19
3050 POKES+4,0:POKES,B%(N):POKES+1,A%(N)
3060 POKES+5,11:POKES+4,33
3070 FORT=0TOD%(N)*8:NEXT
3080 NEXTN
3090 POKEV+21,PEEK(V+21)AND253
3100 RETURN
3199 REM*[HOME]
3200 PRINT"X",,"DAD LUCK!"
3230 FORN=0TO10
3240 POKES+4,0:POKES,B%(N):POKES+1,A%(N)
3250 POKES+5,11:POKES+4,33
3260 FORT=0TOD%(N)*8:NEXT
3270 NEXTN
3290 IFPEEK(863)=1THEN3340
3300 FORN=222TO255STEP0.5
3310 POKEV+1,N:NEXT
3340 L=L-1:IFL=-1THEN3400
3350 GOSUB800:POKEV+21,PEEK(V+21)AND253
3360 POKEV+16,PEEK(V+16)AND254
3370 POKE861,32:POKE862,0
3380 POKEV,32:GOTO600
3399 REM*[CLR]....[RED]..
3400 PRINT"YOUR SCORE WAS"H"HEART";
3410 IFH<>1THENPRINT"S";
3419 REM*[CURSR DWN]*2[BLUE]
3420 PRINT:POKEV+21,0
3430 PRINT"DO YOU WANT ANOTHER GO(Y/N)?"
3440 GETA$:IFA$="N"THENEND
3450 IFA$<>"Y"THEN3440
3460 GOTO300

```

### METAGALACTIC LLAMAS BATTLE AT THE EDGE OF TIME

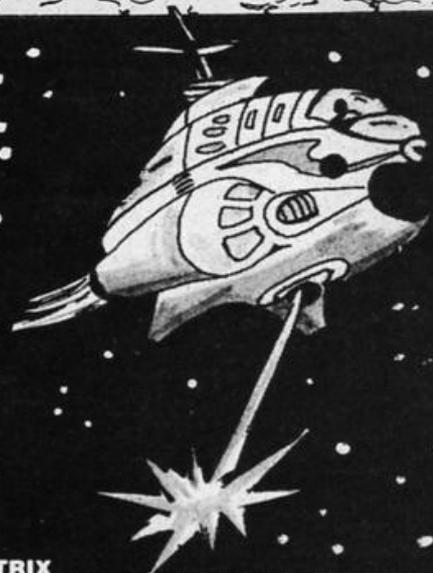
A fast and original game for the unexpanded VIC. Challenging and colourful, with good sonics and a unique game action and design, this promises to be the most exciting new 3.5K VIC game since the introduction of GRIDRUNNER nearly a year ago. £5.50



### LASER ZONE

Experience Laser Zone - an utterly NEW totally ORIGINAL masterpiece of Video games design. Learn to control two spaceships at once. Feel the EXHILARATION as, after long hours of practice, you control the two ships so that they function as a smooth, co-operative team! Feel the raw POWER as you lunge for the electro button and BLAST your enemies into expanding clouds of SPACE JUNK!! Feel the humiliation as a carelessly aimed BLAST slams into the side of your last remaining ship!! 8K expansion required.

Available for Commodore 64 £7.50 and VIC-20 £6.



### MATRIX

Jeff Minter has taken Gridrunner - the game that topped bestseller charts in USA and UK - and created an awesome sequel. Graphically superb, it features multiple screens, new aliens and attack waves, mystery bonuses, renegade humanoids, deflexor fields, diagonal tracking, countdown/panic phase and much, much more. Packed into 20 mind-zapping zones and accompanied by incredible sonics. 8K expansion required. Available for Commodore 64 £7.50 and VIC-20 £6.

### HOVER BOVVER

A totally original arcade game for C64 featuring outstanding graphics and a sound track created by a professional Piano Wizard. Gordon Bennet has borrowed his neighbour's Air-Mo lawnmower. Mow your way through as many of the 16 lawns as you can before the pursuing neighbour retrieves his mower. Set your dog onto the neighbour to help you out of tight spots and don't annoy the gardener. Try not to plough through the neat flower beds or overheat your mower! £7.50



### ATTACK OF THE MUTANT CAMELS

Planet earth needs you! Hostile aliens have used genetic engineering to mutate camels from normally harmless beasts into 90 foot high, neutronium shielded, laser-spitting death camels!! Can you fly your tiny, manoeuvrable fighter over the mountainous landscape to weaken and destroy the camels before they invade the humans stronghold! You must withstand withering laser fire and alien UFOs. Game action stretches over 10 screen lengths and features superb scrolling, scanner 1/2 player actions and unbelievable animation! Play this game and you'll never be able to visit a zoo again without getting an itchy trigger finger! Awesome m/c action!

Available for Commodore 64 £7.50.

### ABDUCTOR

A classic new space game! ZAP the swirling alien hordes before they ram you - and abduct your humanoids! Survive the assault for long enough and you'll get an extra stage on your spaceship with double firepower! Awesome unexpanded VIC Action. £5.00



### GRIDRUNNER

Finally true arcade quality on the unexpanded VIC! Shoot down the segmented DROIDS invading the grid. Beware of the pods and zappers! The awesome speed, sound and graphics gives you the best blast available for unexpanded VIC. Available for VIC-20 £5.00 Commodore 64 £5.00 Atan 400/800 £7.50

All orders add 50p postage and packing



# REVENGE

## OF THE MUTANT CAMELS

At last the long awaited sequel to Attack of the Mutant Camels is available. You are controlling a ninety foot high, neutronium shielded, lazer spitting death camel; leading a rebellion against your evil Zzyaxian overlords. The game features beautiful smooth scrolling graphics and no less than 42 different attack waves, more than any game in video history. The challenge of play will last for months as you battle to see what's on the next wave.

£7.50



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# Make more use of your micro

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## Synther 7 Dragon 32 £10.95

Dragon Data, Margan, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

As this is written for a computer with precious little for a budding musician — only one sound channel and no real envelope control — I had very few expectations. But this tape is amazing!

The aim appears to be to turn the Dragon into an organ-type synthesiser of quite remarkable range. I refer to it as organ-like because the various controls of type of note are called stops and measured in feet giving a wide range of sound. There are also several voices.

You also have control over the attack and decay of the note besides the target volumes. The whole range of possible controls is very well laid out on screen and generally easy to use.

The only quibble I have is that it is extremely easy to enter an endless note which you have to press the panic key to clear away. I suppose I asked for it, but at least the program could cope once I found the panic button.

All told a very capable program which shows how good programming can overcome even severe hardware restrictions.

	D.C.
instructions	70%
ease of use	80%
display	80%
value for money	90%



## Dancing Feats CBM 64 £6.95

Artic, Main St, Brandsburton, Driffield, Yorks

By using a joystick it is possible to play music in various styles, accompanied by a splendid display of coloured bars that match the notes.

After loading the computer will play a demonstration tune automatically unless bypassed by use of the function keys. It is then possible to choose from various menu options the style of music you wish to play.

Menu options include bass, beat, style, tempo and an ending. And within each category and five or six options, chosen using the joystick button. In normal format a musical accompaniment

	V.R.
instructions	85%
ease of use	85%
display	90%
value for money	75%



## Cattel IQ Test 48K Spectrum £12.95

Sinclair, Stanhope Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BR

Have you ever wondered how intelligent you really are? If you are aged over 12½, this tape — based on a test devised by Prof. R. B. Cattel — is devised to assess your intelligence quotient.

Your age is one of the factors used, so there is no excuse if you are 40-plus and want to compete against your offspring. You can always say they got their brains from you!

The test is in six parts: synonyms, pick the odd one out, opposites, analogy, replace missing words and inferences

which is to test reasoning. It is designed to last 90 minutes. If your result is above a certain level you are deemed suitable to apply for Mensa membership (Sir Clive belongs!). However, presumably as a sop to your vanity, if your score is lower the booklet says you shouldn't take the results too seriously! This test will not prove conclusively that you are a genius . . . or otherwise. You should have no problems with loading and I found no bugs. No . . . I'm not going to tell you what I scored.

	B.B.
instructions	100%
ease of use	100%
display	100%
value for money	85%



## Composer 48K Oric £6.50

Sector 7, PO Box 8, Newton Abbot, Devon

Composer is a remarkable package in several ways. It is fundamentally a music processor enabling you to write music for the computer to play in a most versatile fashion. It comes with three demonstration tunes which reveal the Oric's tremendous musical capabilities in a way that has to be heard to be believed. I knew Oric sound was good, but it takes software like this to bring it out to the full.

The three-part score can be displayed in hi-res graphics and the music is entered as bars using the three sound channels. Various options are available to build up to 80 bars. Each channel is

separately programmable for volume and decay rate and special options can be set globally, although I seemed to find a bug in controlling the volume of channel two.

Tunes can be saved and loaded separately from the main program which is written in — you need no additional software — showing the versatility of that language for this type of program.

There is also a competition offering £100 and £50 for the best two productions.

	P.S.W.
instructions	85%
ease of use	80%
display	85%
value for money	90%



## Print utilities Spectrum £9.95

Sinclair, Stanhope Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BR

Although there were no problems with the actual loading of this tape, there was a problem once the tape had loaded.

The message on the screen asked me if there was a printer attached to the computer. On entering "no" the program immediately came to a halt. However, after taking out the offending line, a quick examination of the program showed me where to start again.

Apart from the normal 32 characters per line the utility provides 16,21 or 42 characters per line, with a choice of normal

or double height. Apart from the bug mentioned above, and the fact that the booklet's statements that CHR\$ 8 to move a character left, and CHR\$ 9 to move a character right are exceptions from the manual, I could find no other bugs.

However, this does not enhance the fact that is not a very useful utility as such, and certainly not worth the price charged. I have seen very similar routines printed in computer magazine.

	B.B.
instructions	75%
ease of use	80%
display	100%
value for money	40%



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29, West Hill, Dartford, Kent. (0322) 92513/8



This game features Cupid's younger and, of course, less intelligent brother, Stupid.

After watching the way his brother can, using a single arrow, join the hearts of star-crossed lovers, he decides to have a go himself.

He has rather missed the point, however, and delights in simply shooting the hearts that Juliet throws, as they fall to be caught by her lover below the balcony.

Your aim is to steer Romeo to catch the hearts and so build up his lover's name on the ground below him. To do this you use the Z and X keys and for every heart you catch an extra letter is added to the name.

**How it works**

Line numbers are followed by names of PROCedures and their purpose.

- 160-440 INIT set up variables, characters etc
- 450-510 MOVEMAN move catcher
- 520-550 KEYS checks for key pressed and acts accordingly
- 560-640 MOVEHEART drops heart a line at a time
- 650-690 RESET sets heart to start from top again
- 700-720 CHECKHEART checks to see if caught
- 730-840 CATCHHEART adds to score, etc
- 850-900 BREAKHEART prints broken heart
- 910-980 FAIL failure message and offer of another go
- 990-1140 LOVE success message
- 1150-1250 GETNAME takes name of lover and checks it for length
- 1260-1340 ARROWS prints arrows across screen
- 1350-1660 BACKGROUND sets up screen
- 1700-1770 TUNE plays wedding march
- 1790-2040 INSTRUCTIONS first screen
- 2050-2120 EXPLODE explode heart if hit by arrow
- 2130-2210 PEOPLE sets up user defined characters and title message
- 2220-2280 READ(Z%) part of above routine
- 2350-2390 TITLE(Z%) prints title on each screen

# Hearts will name your loved one, if you foil Stupid Cupid

**Cupid's younger brother, Stupid, has got it all wrong. He's out to break hearts instead of joining them. Type this game into your 32K BBC or Electron micro and have some innocent fun, thanks to authors Dave Carlos and Jon Revis**

You can type your own beloved's name into the program. If your lover is called DI then you have an easier task than one called ESMERELDA. This provides a method of increasing difficulty, too.

Then you must decide how earnest your love has become. If it is very earnest then you will work harder to catch the hearts, so less are thrown before failure strikes.

I suggest you should not be too earnest to begin with.

For those ladies who would like to try catching the hearts of

their gallant gents it is very easy to change the program so that the men throw the hearts.

The modifications involve replacing four lines in the program with the following amended versions given.

The program has been tested on the BBC model B and Electron micros. On the Electron the progress is rather slow but the game is actually no easier.

If you BBC has discs then you should set PAGE=&1200 before loading.

The program has no REMarks in order to save memory and to

**Main variables**

- Integer:
- AY% arrow Y co-ordinate
- AX% arrow X co-ordinate
- CH% number of caught hearts
- CO% heart counter
- HY% heart Y co-ordinate
- HX% heart X co-ordinate
- LM% left margin of screen
- LO% loop counter
- LE% game level
- OX% old X co-ordinate
- OAX% old arrow X co-ordinate
- duration% length of note
- note% pitch of note
- reply% answer to another go?
- x% screen X co-ordinate
- y% screen Y co-ordinate
- String:
- DEVILS Cupid character
- DEWIPES wipe out Cupid
- HIMS male character
- HERS female character
- MES program title
- NAMES name of lover
- WIPES wipe out moving person
- aS multipurpose string
- Real:
- N loop counter

make things as fast as possible but the PROCedure names are supposed to be self explanatory and should help you to see what is happening.

The use of strings to change both graphics colours and to move around the screen is a little unusual.

They were used to make it easy to print the multi-coloured people, some of whom need seven actual characters to be printed. This technique can save a lot of memory if used wisely.

You will also search in vain for the program title. It is held as ASCII codes and read into the MES

Greatest care needs to be taken over typing the DATA lines — a single mistake here can be very hard to find and can have highly unpredictable results.



```

1 REM *****
2 REM      STUPID CUPID
3 REM      By Jon Revis &
4 REM      Dave Carlos
5 REM      For Home Computing
6 REM      Weekly
7 REM      January 1984
8 REM *****
10 MODE2
20 PROCINIT
30 PROCPEOPLE
40 PROCINSTRUCTIONS
50 PROCGETNAME
60 PROCBACKGROUND
70 PROCMOVEMAN
80 REPEAT
90 PROCKEYS
100 PROCARROWS
110 PROCMOVEHEART
120 UNTILCOX>LE%*LEN(NAME#)
130 PROCFAIL
140 GOT010
150 END
160 DEFPROCINIT
170 VDU24,0,0,1279,1023,5
180 LM%=284: X%=236: OX%=X%: Y%=316: HY%=775: CH%=0: HX%=RN
D(29)*32+LM%: CO%=0: AY%=456: AX%=220: OAX%=AX%
190 ENVELOPE1,4,90,-15,-15,10,20,20,126,0,0,-126,126,
126
200 VDU23,224,0,40,108,124,124,56,56,16
    
```

# BBC/ELECTRON PROGRAM

```

210 VDU23,225,0,34,99,115,103,50,38,20
220 VDU23,226,0,0,4,2,63,2,4,0
230 VDU23,227,144,20,198,22,44,106,6,192
240 VDU23,228,0,32,32,33,192,0,104,0
250 VDU23,229,0,0,40,60,60,24,0,2
260 VDU23,230,2,0,0,0,0,0,0,28
270 VDU23,231,0,0,0,0,0,0,24,28
280 VDU23,232,28,24,24,24,28,62,62,0
290 VDU23,233,56,120,80,64,192,0,0,0
300 VDU23,234,0,24,20,28,56,24,0,0
310 VDU23,235,14,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
320 VDU23,236,0,0,0,0,0,0,24,24
330 VDU23,237,16,24,24,0,0,0,0,0
340 VDU23,238,56,32,40,32,0,0,0,0
350 VDU23,239,1,1,0,24,24,24,24,28
360 VDU23,240,212,234,20,42,20,8,0,0
370 VDU23,242,0,0,56,52,60,48,48,48
380 VDU23,243,62,48,48,48,16,24,24
390 VDU23,244,108,40,0,8,0,128,128,128
400 VDU23,245,128,128,128,192,0,0,0,0
410 VDU23,246,0,0,0,0,2,1,5
420 VDU23,247,1,5,1,2,0,0,0,0
430 VDU23,255,255,255,255,255,255,255,255
440 ENDPROC
450 DEFPROC MOVEMAN
460 MOVEDX%,Y%
470 PRINTWIPE#
480 MOVEX%,Y%
490 PRINTHIM#
500 DX=X%
510 ENDPROC
520 DEFPROC KEYS
530 IF INKEY-98 AND X% > LM% X%=X%-32: PROC MOVEMAN
540 IF INKEY-67 AND X% < 1104 X%=X%+32: PROC MOVEMAN
550 ENDPROC
560 DEFPROC MOVEHEART
570 MOVEHX%,HY%
580 VDU18,0,4,255
590 HY%=HY%-32
600 IF HY% < 340 PROC CHECKHEART
610 SOUND1,-15,HY%/4,1
620 MOVEHX%,HY%
630 VDU18,0,1,224
640 ENDPROC
650 DEFPROC RESET
660 HY%=775
670 HX%=RND(29)*32+LM%
680 CO%=CO%+1
690 ENDPROC
700 DEFPROC CHECKHEART
710 IFOX%=HX%-80 PROC CATCHHEART ELSE PROC BREAKHEART
720 ENDPROC
730 DEFPROC CATCHHEART
740 *FX15,0
750 SOUND1,-15,300,5
760 CH%=CH%+1
770 VDU4
780 COLOUR11
790 PRINTTAB(10-(LEN(NAME#)/2),30)LEFT$(NAME#,CH%)
800 VDU5
810 IF CH%=LEN(NAME#) PROC LOVE
820 PROC RESET
830 VDU5
840 ENDPROC
850 DEFPROC BREAKHEART
860 SOUND0,-15,4,2
870 MOVEHX%,256
880 VDU18,0,1,225
890 PROC RESET
900 ENDPROC
910 DEFPROC FAIL
920 VDU4:COLOUR132:COLOUR3:CLS:PROCTITLE(960)
930 VDU4
940 PRINT""It appears that your love is doomed to
fail. I would go and get some rest now all this unrequited
love is very tiring.""You could have another go if you
really want too!"
950 PRINT"Press SPACE for another go""or any other
key to END"
960 *FX15,1
970 reply%=GET:IF reply%<>32END
980 ENDPROC
990 DEFPROC LOVE
1000 *FX15,0
1010 VDU4,23;8202;0;0;0;
1020 COLOUR132:CLS:PROCTITLE(960):VDU4
1030 PRINTTAB(5,5)"Heartiest";TAB(2,7)"congratulations";
TAB(7,9)"to you";TAB(8,11)"and";TAB(5,13)"your love"
1040 PROC TUNE
1050 VDU30
1060 COLOUR1
1070 FORN%=0T031
1080 PRINTSTRING(20,CHR#224);

```

```

1090 NEXT
1100 PROCTITLE(960)
1110 VDU4:COLOUR3
1120 PRINTTAB(1,12)"PRESS SPACE FOR A";TAB(5,14)"NEW GAME"
1130 reply%=GET:IF reply%=32RUNELSEEND
1140 ENDPROC
1150 DEFPROC GETNAME
1160 VDU4:COLOUR132:COLOUR3:CLS:PROCTITLE(960)
1170 VDU4
1180 PRINT""What is the name of your true love""
1190 INPUTNAME#
1200 IF LEN(NAME#)>18 THEN COLOUR9:PRINT""Sorry but you
can't carve that on an apple tree."":COLOUR3:PRINT""What
nickname do you usually use"":GOTO1190
1210 IF LEN(NAME#)<3 THEN COLOUR9:PRINT""That's just a
little too easy!""":COLOUR3:PRINT""Type a longer name please"":
GOTO1190
1220 COLOUR6:PRINT""How earnest is your love on a scale of
1 to 5""
1230 REPEAT:LEX%=GET-48:UNTIL LEX%>0 AND LEX%<6
1240 VDU(LEX%+48),5:LEX%=6-LEX%
1250 ENDPROC
1260 DEFPROC CARROWS
1270 MOVEDAX%,AY%
1280 VDU18,0,4,255
1290 MOVEAX%,AY%
1300 VDU18,0,3,226
1310 IF ABS(AX%-HX%)<40 AND ABS(AY%-HY%)<20 THEN PROC EXPLODE
1320 OAX%=AX%
1330 AX%=AX%+32:IF AX%>1216 AX%=220
1340 ENDPROC
1350 DEFPROC BACKGROUND
1360 RESTORE1670
1370 MOVE0,0
1380 GCOLOR,2
1390 MOVE0,256:PLOT85,1280,0:PLOT85,1280,256
1400 GCOLOR,4
1410 MOVE0,256:MOVE0,1024:PLOT85,1280,256:PLOT85,1280,
1024
1420 GCOLOR,7
1430 MOVE0,944:MOVE208,224:PLOT85,0,128:PLOT85,96,128:
MOVE208,224:MOVE0,944:PLOT85,208,656:PLOT85,48,992:PLOT
85,224,880:MOVE208,656:PLOT85,224,672
1440 MOVE0,128
1450 GCOLOR,0
1460 FORN%=1T019
1470 READx%,y%
1480 DRAWx%,y%
1490 NEXT
1500 MOVE144,680
1510 FORN%=1T010
1520 READx%,y%
1530 DRAWx%,y%
1540 NEXT
1550 MOVE144,784:MOVE144,710:PLOT85,176,848:PLOT85,195,
740:PLOT85,195,825
1560 MOVE145,775:PRINTHER#
1570 GCOLOR,0
1580 MOVE112,358
1590 FORN%=1T010
1600 READx%,y%
1610 DRAWx%,y%
1620 NEXT
1630 MOVE112,480:MOVE112,388:PLOT85,152,544:PLOT85,182,
428:PLOT85,182,522
1640 MOVE120,460:PRINTDEVIL#
1650 PROCTITLE(992)
1660 ENDPROC
1670 DATA96,128,208,224,208,656,224,672,224,880,48,992,
0,944,0,835,128,832,48,992,128,832,224,880,128,832,128,
608,208,656,128,608,0,608,96,608,96,128
1680 DATA144,784,176,848,210,816,210,720,144,680,144,7
10,195,740,210,720,195,740,195,825
1690 DATA112,480,152,544,192,512,192,408,112,358,112,3
88,182,428,192,408,182,428,182,522
1700 DEFPROC TUNE
1710 RESTORE1780
1720 FORN%=1T024
1730 READnote%,duration%
1740 IF note%=0 THEN SOUND1,0,0,duration%:NEXT
1750 SOUND1,-15,note%,duration%
1760 NEXT
1770 ENDPROC
1780 DATA129,12,149,2,0,5,149,3,0,4,149,18,129,12,157,
6,145,6,149,18,0,4,129,12,149,9,169,3,0,2,169,12,165,9,
157,3,149,9,157,3,149,3,145,9,149,3,157,18
1790 DEFPROC INSTRUCTIONS
1800 VDU4,23;8202;0;0;0;
1810 COLOUR132
1820 CLS
1830 COLOUR1

```

## BBC/ELECTRON PROGRAM

```

1840 FORN%=1T018
1850 PRINTTAB(N%,1)CHR#224;TAB(N%,30)CHR#224
1860 NEXT
1870 FORN%=2T030
1880 PRINTTAB(18,N%)CHR#224;TAB(1,N%)CHR#224
1890 NEXT
1900 PROCTITLE(768)
1910 MOVE320,512:PRINTHIM#
1920 MOVE960,512:PRINHER#
1930 MOVE160,256:PRINT"Z=Left X=Right"
1940 a$=INKEY$(200)
1950 FORN%=896T0512STEP-32
1960 SOUND0,-15,N%/4,1
1970 MOVE632,N%
1980 PRINTDEWIPES#
1990 MOVE632,N%
2000 PRINTDEVIL#
2010 NEXT
2020 PROCTUNE
2030 a$=INKEY$(200)
2040 ENDPROC
2050 DEFPROCEXPLODE
2060 SOUND0,1,5,10
2070 MOVEHX,HY%
2080 VDU18,0,4,255,8,18,0,1,227,8,18,0,5,228
2090 TX=TIME:REPEATUNTILTIME-TX>10
2100 VDUB,18,0,4,255
2110 PROCRESET
2120 ENDPROC
2130 DEFPROCPPEOPLE
2140 RESTORE2290
2150 PROCREAD(29):DEVIL$=a$
2160 PROCREAD(6):DEWIPES#=a$
2170 PROCREAD(30):HIM$=a$
2180 PROCREAD(24):HER$=a$
2190 PROCREAD(7):WIPE$=a$
2200 PROCREAD(11):ME$=a$
2210 ENDPROC
2220 DEFPROCREAD(Z%)
2230 a$=""
2240 FORLOX=0TOZX
2250 READCX
2260 a$=a$+CHR$(CX)
2270 NEXT
2280 ENDPROC
2290 DATA18,0,5,242,8,18,0,1,244,8,18,0,3,246,10,8,18,
0,5,243,8,18,0,1,245,8,18,0,3,247
2300 DATA18,0,4,255,11,8,255
2310 DATA18,0,5,234,8,18,0,0,238,8,18,0,6,236,10,8,18,
0,5,235,8,18,0,6,237,8,18,0,0,239,240
2320 DATA18,0,5,229,8,18,0,3,233,8,18,0,2,231,10,8,18,
0,5,230,8,18,0,2,232
2330 DATA18,0,4,255,10,8,255,255
2340 DATA83,84,85,80,73,68,224,67,85,80,73,68
2350 DEFPROCTITLE(Z%)
2360 VDUS
2370 GCOL0,1:MOVE240,Z%:PRINTME#
2380 GCOL0,3:MOVE260,Z%:PRINTME#
2390 ENDPROC

```

### Amendments for women players

```

2170PROCREAD(30):HIM$=a$
2180PROCREAD(29):HER$=a$
2310DATA18,0,5,229,8,18,0,0,233,8,18,0,6,231,10,8,18,0,5,230,8,18,0,6,
,232,8,18,0,0,32,248
2320DATA18,0,5,234,8,18,0,3,238,8,18,0,2,236,10,8,18,0,5,235,8,18,0,2,
,237,8,18,0,0,239

```



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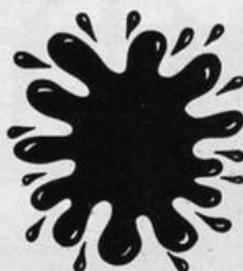
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## Jump Jet Dragon 32 £7.95

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

It would be very easy to assume from the title that this is yet another flight simulator but not so. It is a strategic flying and shooting game where you take off in your Harrier jumpjet then increase altitude to attack enemy fighters and bombers which appear over the horizon to shoot you or your planes on the ground.

A fair amount of manoeuvring is possible with control for speed and height, though I tended to stay at one altitude and let the planes come to me, firing my cannon all the time!

This I found to be one of the

best plays especially if you could stay to the left of the screen.

The screen is well laid out and there are enough levels for a range of ages to enjoy the game, including a very simple level for children (or reviewers!). The side scroll action is a little slow but this may be due to hardware rather than software difficulties.

The only quibble I do have is that the jumpjet can accelerate off the right of the screen to reappear on the left. I would have expected the scroll routine to move faster. Exciting and quite addictive.

D.C.

instructions	70%
playability	80%
graphics	80%
value for money	80%



## Naanas Spectrum £5.95

Mikro-Gen, 24 Agar Cres, Bracknell, Berks

I think the name Naanas is based on that long yellow fruit, eaten by chimpanzees. This suspicion is confirmed when the game begins.

Your pet chimp is knocking fruit down from the trees above and you are dashing about below trying to catch it in your bag, while avoiding coconuts and jumping the fallen bananas.

The skill level is variable, the graphics are good, as is the sound. In addition, there is a hall of fame feature, but I could find no way of user defining the keys as advertised on the cassette insert.

This simple game plot can cause some hoots of laughter

when played in a group.

But for solo play, I would have thought that something a little more sophisticated would be needed to sustain the interest of the dedicated games player.

Really, this game is more suitable for younger players who would appreciate the simplicity of operation and the hilarious cartoon characters, together with the wacky sound effects.

In conclusion, I would be surprised if this game found its way into the list of "arcade classics".

M.B.

instructions	80%
playability	75%
graphics	90%
value for money	75%



## Spude TI-99/4A £4.95

Christine Computing, 6 Florence Close, Watford, Herts

This game is let down, as usual, by the slowness of TI BASIC, and some poorly-thought-out keyboard routines. There is also the additional irritation that even if you are successful you don't get anywhere; the machine still tells you "Bad Luck". There is no documentation and all instructions are in the program — which can be exasperating where there's a lot to remember. The aim is to go "tater-pickin'" at various seasons and to see how many points you can amass.

You are advised to start with summer, as the days are longer. As the sun sets, a shadow is cast gradually over your potato field, and it is curtains for you if it falls

on you or you walk into it. On top of this if you try to retrace your steps at all, you fall into a trench and die.

There are two kinds of potato, one worth extra points, and a timer ticks away at the bottom of the field. You can slow this timer down and gain valuable minutes. There seems little purpose to this game and players will soon tire of it.

P.B.

instructions	90%
playability	60%
graphics	75%
value for money	30%



# Follow the stars for good games

**Bananas, a Harrier jump-jet, potatoes and assorted insects — they are all in this batch of new games.**

## Beetle TI-99/4A £6

Stainless, 10 Alstone Rd, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5AH

An original game in which you play the unusual role of a beetle. The local gardener has carelessly stuck his spade through your nest. It is your job to collect the eggs and take them to a second nest.

You start off in a cavern with several articles of food, as well as rocks and eggs. There are also invisible spider traps which, when trodden on, cause a spider to spin a web that may trap you to cut off your escape.

As you move around you run out of energy. This is why you must eat the food. The eggs must be pushed to the next level underground. This is done by

landing on them. When you have pushed as many eggs as you want onto the next level you must crawl through a hole at the top of the screen to join them.

Although this game is enjoyable to play at first, it loses its lasting appeal quite quickly due to the slow speed of TI BASIC.

It is a great pity that the TI-99/4A is not equipped to use this original idea to the full.

J.J.

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



## Creepy Crawler Spectrum £5.95

Mikro-Gen, 24 Agar Cres, Bracknell, Berks

After it had constantly crashed on the instructions screen, I established that my Cambridge Computing Intelligent Joystick was not compatible with the program.

It was a relief to finally see the Giant Centipede rattling its way through the mushroom forest. With the offending unit unhitched, loading was error-free.

After selecting keyboard, or Mikro-Gen joystick, instructions alternated with scoring until the game is started by choosing one or two players. The player moves to

and fro, halfway up and down shooting mushrooms and the centipede, with the score kept bottom left.

A spider bounces around placing more mushrooms, helped by a bug — both attempting to eat the player. If the centipede is removed all colours change and a new centipede appears.

Graphics, colour and movement are pleasingly simple and the response to the keys very good — though no user defined keys as the insert promises. Each animal has its own sound when moving and when killed. I found it simple, pleasing and addictive!

T.W.

instructions	75%
playability	85%
graphics	65%
value for money	70%



# Roses for your true love. But beware... evil Harry is out to stop you

"How could I forget that today is Valentine's day? My true love will never forgive me if I don't get her a dozen red roses. Now I've left it so late all the shops are shut; she'll probably reject me, and go with that awful Harry. Oh what can I do?"

That's the problem facing our hero in this piece of old-fashioned melodrama for all Spectrum owners.

## How it works

70-120 define UDG's  
500-750 title  
1005 set level of difficulty  
1010-1110 set the scene  
1120-1150 place Harry on screen  
1170-1190 set clock and score to zero  
1200-1210 print score and time  
1215-1260 move Harry  
1300-1400 move "our hero" if a key is pressed and check if a rose is picked  
2000-2020 end check  
2500-2520 Harry has caught you!  
3000-3020 play a tune subroutine  
3200-3230 you ran out of time message  
3500-3520 "Well done" message  
3800-3850 "another game?"  
4000-4010 print Harry subroutine  
4200-4220 set a direction for Harry  
4400-4410 print "our hero" subroutine  
6000-6260 data for the tunes  
8000-8070 select difficulty subroutine

The solution our hero decides upon is to visit his local park, where red roses are in abundance.

While taking roses from a public park isn't the sort of thing normally expected of a hero, if it smooths the path of true love, then we should excuse him that slight indiscretion just this time.

Unfortunately, our hero's rival, the evil Harry has got wind of his plans, and is lying in wait in the park to thwart his ideas. Like all good villains, he is the character dressed in black, at the bottom right of the screen at the start of the game.

As it is after dark, and the gates to the park are closed, our hero has to leap over the wall; this he will do moments after the scene is set on the screen.

You control the movements of our hero by pressing the cursor keys (5 to 8) to guide him round the park, trying to collect a dozen red roses; there are 20 roses scattered around the park.

**You forgot it's St Valentine's Day. Now all the shops are shut where are you going to get red roses for your true love? That's the challenge in David Nowotnik's program for either model of the Spectrum**



```

10 REM Valentine's Day
20 REM Chase
30 REM
40 REM by David Nowotnik
50 REM January, 1984
60 REM
70 REM Initialise
80 FOR i=0 TO 23: READ a
90 POKE USR "a"+i,a: NEXT i
100 DATA 8,28,62,28,8,8,8,16
110 DATA 62,62,54,54,54,54,119
120 DATA 28,62,28,127,93,93,93,93
130 LET w$=""
140 LET roses=20
500 REM Title
510 BORDER 2: INK 0: PAPER 7: CLS
520 PLOT 80,100
530 DRAW 40,20,-PI
540 DRAW 40,-20,-PI
550 DRAW -40,-50
560 DRAW -40,50
570 FOR i=1 TO 2
580 LET x=225-64*i: LET y=205-64*i
590 FOR j=1 TO 3: PLOT x,y
600 DRAW -30,-30: LET x=x+1
610 LET y=y-1: NEXT j: NEXT i
620 LET x=68: LET y=46
630 FOR i=1 TO 6
640 PLOT x,y: DRAW 2,10
650 PLOT x,y: DRAW 10,2
660 LET x=x+1: LET y=y+1
670 NEXT i
680 LET x=160: LET y=140
690 FOR i=1 TO 6
700 PLOT x,y: DRAW 0,6
710 PLOT x+3,y-3: DRAW 6,0
720 LET x=x-1: LET y=y-1
730 NEXT i
740 PRINT AT 2,6: PAPER 1: INK 6:" VALENTINE'S DAY "
750 PRINT AT 17,12: INK 2: FLASH 1:" CHASE "
760 RESTORE 6000: GO SUB 3000

```

## Main variables

a,b READ variables  
in, st indicator flags  
x,y co-ordinates to print roses  
rivx, rivy Harry's co-ordinates  
xdir,ydir Harry's direction  
hx, hy hero's co-ordinates  
xd, yd hero's direction  
wS park wall  
roses number of roses printed  
diff degree of difficulty  
score score (what else!)  
tim time, in seconds  
x1, y1 temporary co-ordinates,  
used to check that Harry and  
'hero' are about to step on!  
att, att1 attributes, denoting  
what they have stepped on!

However, the evil Harry is out to stop you. The horrid man will trample on any roses he finds, limiting your choice, and he may chase after you. If he catches you, he'll knock the flowers from your hands, and destroy them.

You are also limited by time — you have two minutes to collect all 12 roses before the park keeper discovers your ploy, and removes you from the park.

There are five levels of difficulty with this game. At level one, Harry has great difficulty seeing you in the gloom of the night, and he will wander around at random. By level five, his eyesight will have improved to an extent that you will find it very difficult to shake him off.

As you play the game, you'll notice three tunes. Lara's Theme introduces the game, to set a romantic tone to the program. The tunes played if you win or lose will reflect our hero's feelings on the outcome!

My apologies to female Spectrum owners who may think this game a little sexist.

But, in these days of equal opportunity, there is no reason why it should not be a girl who is collecting roses for her boyfriend! So, if you want to change the sex of the characters, substitute these numbers in the data line 110 in the program:

28,28,62,62,127,127,20,54

Note that user defined graphic characters appear in lines 1100, 4000, and 4400.

# SPECTRUM PROGRAM

```

1000 REM Park chase
1005 GO SUB 8000
1010 PAPER 4: INK 7: BORDER 4: CLS
1020 PRINT INK 3;w#;AT 21,0;w#;
1030 FOR i=1 TO 20
1040 PRINT INK 3;AT i,0;" ";AT i,31;" ";
1050 NEXT i
1070 FOR i=1 TO roses
1080 LET x=INT (RND*30+1): LET y=INT (RND*20+1)
1090 IF ATTR (y,x)=34 THEN GO TO 1080
1100 PRINT AT y,x; INK 2;"A"
1110 NEXT i
1120 LET rrvx=30: LET rrvy=19
1130 IF ATTR (rrvy,rrvx)=34 OR ATTR (rrvy+1,rrvx)=34 TH
EN LET rrvy=rrvy-1: GO T
0 1130
1140 GO SUB 4000
1150 GO SUB 4200
1170 POKE 23672,0: POKE 23673,0
1180 LET st=0: LET score=0
1190 LET hy=1: LET hx=1
1200 LET tim=INT ((PEEK 23672+256*PEEK 23673)/50+.5)
1210 PRINT AT 0,8; PAPER 3; INK 0;"Score=" ;score;" "
;tim;" secs"
1215 IF RND<diff THEN LET ydir=SGN (hy-rrvy): LET xdir
=SGN (hx-rrvx)
1220 LET y1=rrvy+ydir: LET x1=rrvx+xdir
1230 LET att=ATTR (y1,x1): LET att1=ATTR (y1+1,x1)
1240 IF att=35 OR att1=35 OR y1<1 THEN GO SUB 4200: GO
TO 1300
1245 IF att=38 OR att1=38 THEN LET in=1: GO SUB 2500
1250 PRINT AT rrvy,rrvx;" ";AT rrvy+1,rrvx;" "
1260 LET rrvy=y1: LET rrvx=x1: GO SUB 4000
1270 IF tim<2.5 THEN GO TO 1200
1280 IF st=0 THEN LET st=1: GO SUB 4400
1300 LET z#=INKEY#: IF z#<"5" OR z#>"8" THEN GO TO 200
0
1310 LET z=VAL z#
1330 LET xd=0: LET yd=0
1340 IF z=5 THEN LET xd=-1
1350 IF z=6 THEN LET yd=1
1360 IF z=7 THEN LET yd=-1
1370 IF z=8 THEN LET xd=1
1380 LET x1=hx+xd: LET y1=hy+yd
1390 LET att=ATTR (y1,x1): LET att1=ATTR (y1+1,x1)
1400 IF att=35 OR att1=35 OR y1<1 THEN GO TO 1200
1410 IF att=34 OR att1=34 THEN LET score=score+1: GO T
0 1420
1415 IF att=34 AND att1=34 THEN LET sc=sc+2
1420 IF att=32 OR att1=32 THEN LET in=2: GO SUB 2500
1430 PRINT AT hy,hx;" ";AT hy+1,hx;" "
1440 LET hy=y1: LET hx=x1: GO SUB 4400
2000 IF score>11 THEN GO TO 3500
2010 IF tim>120 THEN GO TO 3200
2020 GO TO 1200
2500 REM He got you!
2510 FOR i=20 TO -5 STEP -.5
2520 BEEP .05,i: NEXT i
2530 LET score=0
2540 PRINT AT 0,6; PAPER 3;" "
2550 PRINT AT rrvy,rrvx;" ";AT rrvy+1,rrvx;" "
2560 IF in=2 THEN LET rrvx=30: LET rrvy=19: IF hy>18 A
ND hx>28 THEN LET rrvy=1
2565 IF in=1 THEN LET y1=19:: LET x1=30: IF hy>18 AND
hx>28 THEN LET y1=2
2570 GO SUB 4000: RETURN
3000 READ a: IF a=99 THEN RETURN
3010 READ b: IF a=98 THEN PAUSE b: GO TO 3000
3020 BEEP a,b: GO TO 3000
3200 REM Out of time
3210 PRINT AT 12,4; FLASH 1; INK 0;" You ran out of ti
me "
3220 RESTORE 6200: GO SUB 3000
3230 GO TO 3800
3500 REM You did it!
3505 PRINT AT 0,8; PAPER 3; INK 0;"Score=" ;score;" "
;tim;" secs"
3510 PRINT AT 12,2; INK 0; FLASH 1;" Well done - you d
id it! "
3520 RESTORE 6100: GO SUB 3000
3800 BORDER 2: PAPER 7: INK 0: CLS
3810 PRINT AT 12,8;" Another game (y/n) "
3820 LET z#=INKEY#: IF z#="y" THEN GO TO 3820
3830 IF z#="y" THEN GO TO 1000
3840 IF z#="n" THEN CLS : STOP
3850 GO TO 3820
3990 STOP
4000 PRINT INK 0;AT rrvy,rrvx;"C";AT rrvy+1,rrvx;"B"
4010 RETURN
4200 LET xdir=INT (3*RND)-1: LET ydir=INT (3*RND)-1
4210 IF xdir=0 AND ydir=0 THEN GO TO 4200
4220 RETURN
4400 PRINT INK 6;AT hy,hx;"C";AT hy+1,hx;"B"
4410 RETURN
5000 INK 0: PAPER 7
6000 REM Tune 1

```

```

6010 DATA 1,-3,.5,0,.25,8,.5,9
6020 DATA 98,20,.25,4,.25,7,.25,5
6030 DATA .5,0,.25,-1,1,-2,98,20
6040 DATA 1,-2,.5,0,.25,2,1,4
6050 DATA 98,20,.25,2,.25,0,.25,-1
6060 DATA 1,-2,1,7,2,5
6070 DATA 99
6100 REM Tune 2
6110 DATA 1,0,.5,5,98,5,.25,5
6120 DATA 98,5,1,5,98,20,1,0
6130 DATA .5,7,.5,4,1,5,98,20
6140 DATA 1,0,.5,5,.5,9,1,12
6150 DATA .5,9,.5,5,1,10
6160 DATA .125,9,.125,10,.5,9
6170 DATA .5,5,1,7,2,5
6180 DATA 99
6200 REM Tune 3
6210 DATA .5,-1,98,5,.5,-1
6220 DATA 98,2.5,.25,-1,98,2.5,1,-1
6230 DATA 98,5,.75,2,98,5,.25,1,98,1,.25,1
6240 DATA 98,10,.25,-1,98,2.5,.25,-1
6250 DATA 98,5,.5,-3,98,2.5,1,-1
6260 DATA 99
8000 BORDER 1: PAPER 7: INK 1: CLS
8010 PRINT AT 12,1;" Select level of difficulty"
8020 PRINT AT 14,12;"1 to 5"
8030 LET z#=INKEY#
8040 IF z#="" THEN GO TO 8030
8050 IF z#<"1" OR z#>"5" THEN GO TO 8030
8060 LET z=VAL z#: LET diff=(z-1)/20
8070 RETURN

```



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## Top Ten programs for the Commodore 64

- |    |                        |                 |
|----|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1  | International Football | Commodore (-)   |
| 2  | Hungry Horace          | M. House (-)    |
| 3  | Forbidden Forest       | Centresoft (-)  |
| 4  | Space Shuttle          | Microdeal (-)   |
| 5  | Cosmic Convoy          | Tasket (-)      |
| 6  | The Hobbit             | M. House (-)    |
| 7  | Frogger                | Interceptor (9) |
| 8  | Escape MCP             | Rabbit (-)      |
| 9  | Road Toad              | Audiogenic (-)  |
| 10 | Poo Yan                | Centresoft (-)  |

Compiled by Websters

## Top Ten programs for the Spectrum

- |    |                   |                |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Chequered Flag    | Psion (-)      |
| 2  | Atic Atac         | Ultimate (1)   |
| 3  | Death Chase       | Micromega (-)  |
| 4  | Lunar Jetman      | Ultimate (8)   |
| 5  | Manic Miner       | Bug Byte (-)   |
| 6  | Ant Attack        | Quicksilva (5) |
| 7  | Flight Simulation | Psion (-)      |
| 8  | Stonkers          | Imagine (-)    |
| 9  | Alchemist         | Imagine (7)    |
| 10 | Kong              | Ocean (4)      |

Compiled by W. H. Smith

## Top Ten programs for the ZX81

- |     |                     |                |
|-----|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 = | Asteroids/Defenders | Quicksilva (-) |
| 3   | Invaders            | Quicksilva (-) |
| 4   | Skramble            | Quicksilva (-) |
| 5   | Centipede           | Dk'tronics (-) |
| 6   | Invaders            | Bug-Byte (-)   |
| 7   | Krazy Kong          | PSS (3)        |
| 8   | ZX D.B.             | Bug-Byte (10)  |
| 9   | Hopper              | PSS (7)        |
| 10  | ZX Forth            | Sinclair (8)   |

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## Top Ten programs for the Dragon

- |    |                       |                |
|----|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Eight Ball            | Microdeal (-)  |
| 2  | Dragonchess           | Oasis Soft (-) |
| 3  | SAS                   | Peaksoft (-)   |
| 4  | Space Shuttle         | Microdeal (-)  |
| 5  | Devil Assault         | Microdeal (-)  |
| 6  | Cuthbert goes Digging | Microdeal (-)  |
| 7  | UGH                   | Softek (4)     |
| 8  | Dreambug              | Kemfig (-)     |
| 9  | Intergalactic Force   | Microdeal (-)  |
| 10 | Tiger Grand Prix      | Tiger (-)      |

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## BEST SELLERS

# Top 30

- |    |                        |                            |               |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1  | Hunchback              | Ocean                      | Spectrum (5)  |
| 2  | Manic Miner            | Soft Projects/<br>Bug-Byte | Spectrum (1)  |
| 3  | Harrier Attack         | Durrell                    | Spectrum (15) |
| 4  | Lunar Jetman           | Ultimate                   | Spectrum (8)  |
| 5  | Jetpac                 | Ultimate                   | Spectrum (4)  |
| 6  | The Hobbit             | M.House                    | Spectrum (2)  |
| 7  | 3D Ant Attack          | Quicksilva                 | Spectrum (6)  |
| 8  | Kong                   | Ocean                      | Spectrum (7)  |
| 9  | Zzoom                  | Imagine                    | Spectrum (9)  |
| 10 | Falcon Patrol          | Virgin                     | CBM 64 (13)   |
| 11 | Penetrator             | M.House                    | Spectrum (-)  |
| 12 | The Hobbit             | M.House                    | CBM 64 (10)   |
| 13 | Atic Atac              | Ultimate                   | Spectrum (19) |
| 14 | Valhalla               | Legend                     | Spectrum (3)  |
| 15 | Horace goes Skiing     | Psion                      | CBM 64 (14)   |
| 16 | Cuthbert in the Jungle | Microdeal                  | Dragon (18)   |
| 17 | Chequered Flag         | Psion                      | Spectrum (26) |
| 18 | The King               | Microdeal                  | Dragon (17)   |
| 19 | Digger Dan             | Ocean                      | Spectrum (-)  |
| 20 | Chuckie Egg            | A&F                        | Spectrum (28) |
| 21 | Arcadia                | Imagine                    | VIC-20 (21)   |
| 22 | Mini Kong              | Anirog                     | VIC-20 (-)    |
| 23 | Hunchback              | Superior                   | BBC (12)      |
| 24 | Hover Bover            | Llamasoft                  | CBM 64 (-)    |
| 25 | Jetpac                 | Ultimate                   | VIC-20 (29)   |
| 26 | Skramble               | Solar                      | VIC-20 (-)    |
| 27 | Mined Out              | Quicksilva                 | BBC (-)       |
| 28 | Crazy Kong             | Interceptor                | CBM 64 (-)    |
| 29 | Twin Kingdom Valley    | Bug-Byte                   | CBM 64 (30)   |
| 30 | Snooker                | Visions                    | VIC-20 (-)    |

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 February 21

## Top Ten programs for the VIC-20

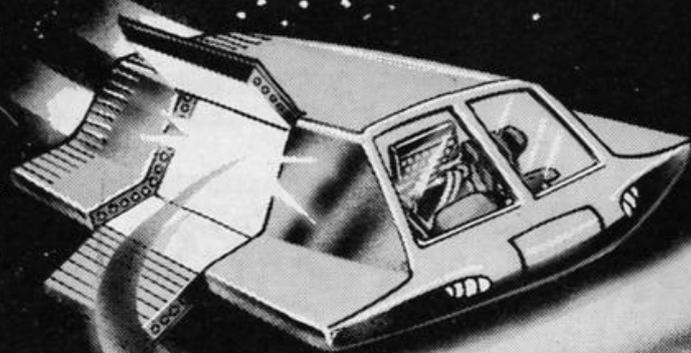
- |    |                            |                |
|----|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Wizard and the princess    | M. House (3)   |
| 2  | Snooker                    | Visions (-)    |
| 3  | Amok                       | Audiogenic (-) |
| 4  | Computer Wars              | Thorn (-)      |
| 5  | 4 Gates to Freedom         | Phoenix (-)    |
| 6  | Arcadia                    | Imagine (1)    |
| 7  | Sargon II Chess            | Commodore (-)  |
| 8  | Lazer Bone                 | Llamasoft (-)  |
| 9  | Supervaders/<br>Bomber run | K-Tel (-)      |
| 10 | Escape MCP                 | Rabbit (-)     |

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### JUNIOR ARITHMETIC

(For any ZX Spectrum)

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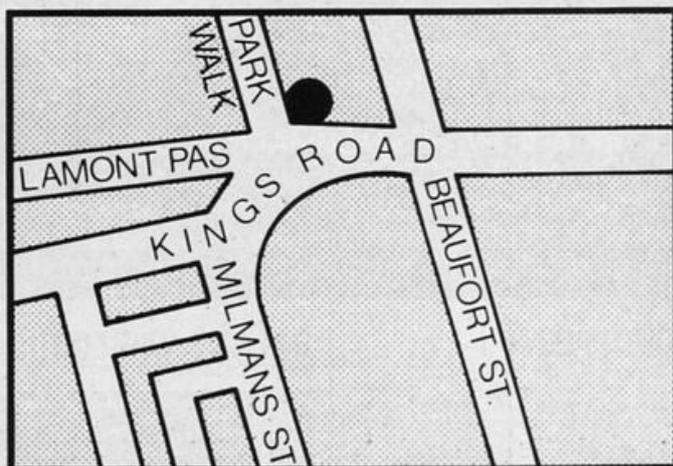
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**Bloc Head  
£7.95**

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

For those who frequent the arcades, this is a little like Q-Bert, involving a little man with a large nose jumping about a pyramid. Here the pyramid is missing. Instead there is simply a rectangle of the familiar hexagonal prisms for Bloc Head to jump on.

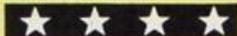
As usual, however, the shapes change colour and the aim is to colour them all in before you are squashed by bouncing balls or caught by springs. There are also Bus Stops which, if jumped upon, transport you to the top of the screen. As this is rectangular the effect can be unpredictable.

The screen is fairly attractive, though I found the figures shapes indistinct on TV. The spring was almost invisible. Control was not all it might have been, either. The joysticks were very slow to respond, spoiling many of my best moves! The other features were all fairly standard.

Originality is very hard to come by but should be encouraged. Here Dragon has done the opposite.

D.C.

instructions	70%
playability	80%
graphics	80%
value for money	80%



**Ultrapede  
£7.95**

Softek, 12/13 Henrietta St, London WC2E 8LH

No prizes for guessing what kind of arcade game this is. It has all the features you expect: mushroom fields, spiders, snails and a large and fleet footed Ultrapede. Each mushroom takes three shots to clear and, as the pede cannot go through them, it has to change direction.

What is rather unexpected, and also a biological impossibility, is that a pede segment which has been hit by your missile changes into a mushroom. Thus the game is somewhat livelier than other versions, as this often causes the rest of the insect to descend upon

you from a great height, with consequent loss of a life.

The game plays well and has enough levels for beginner and expert to enjoy. One suggestion is that restart should be easier. At present you have to press either three keys or fire button and two keys. This is a pain if you are some way from the console with a joystick and is a design fault. A good basic game but with few surprises.

D.C.

instructions	80%
playability	70%
graphics	90%
value for money	75%



**Shaft  
£7.95**

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

One of the most original game ideas I have seen for some time. The scenario is for you, a secret agent, to get to the top of a building to solve the case. Simple enough, until you see the killer elevators (OK, lifts to you and me) whose shafts you have to cross to ascend each level. If the lift cage touches you in any way you are squashed.

This means there are elements of planning, speed, skill and dexterity. Survival is not simple. Graphics are good and have enough speed to make the game interesting. There could have been more colour — the screen is

too bright. Control, via joysticks, is fairly precise but it is possible to make mistakes accidentally. Movement gets more difficult the higher you climb due to the lessening room and time for manoeuvre.

There is little in the form of extra diversions. I could have imagined invisible lifts or safe ones flashing for short periods and, most galling of all, you are not allowed to get into one for a ride.

D.C.

instructions	70%
playability	70%
graphics	70%
value for money	60%



**Have fun  
with your  
Dragon**

**Our reviewers are hard to please. Read what they thought of these five arcade-style games for the Dragon 32**

**Android  
Invaders  
£5.95**

Lyversoft, 66 Lime St, Liverpool

What can one say? This is a game of space invaders. Just in case any Dragon owner has spent the last 10 years in Antarctica, you have to try to shoot down the aliens before they land or shoot you.

What is different about this version is that the aliens are robot-like creatures, hence Android Invaders. What is even more surprising is that the author is so unsure about you wanting to kill his electro-mechanical inventions that he actually gives you the chance to change them to the standard characters at the beginning.

Control can be either joystick or keys and there are eight levels of difficulty each of seven screens. These comprise combinations of visible/invisible invaders and shields/no shields, besides speed.

Being written in machine code the game is fast and furious but has little in the way of new twists or originality. For that reason it will appeal to those who want a Space Invader game but won't attract those who have another version already.

D.C.

instructions	60%
playability	70%
graphics	90%
value for money	60%



**Shuttlezap  
(joystick)  
£12.95**

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA23 2PE

The insert says this is a fast-action game that talks. If this is the sort of game you are after then keep on looking.

The object is to launch your shuttle from its underground silo and destroy as many sputniks as possible before returning to base. You have no weapon although the sputniks can shoot at you. The way to capture them is to land on them or to boost up from below. Avoid the cosmic cloud.

At the start there is a shuttle control display when you can test

your joystick. There are two difficulty factors of time and fuel. Once you have successfully launched your shuttle and after each screen an in-flight report shows such things as height, speed fuel and time left.

I have not yet managed to translate all the speech that is generated during the game. I can only distinguish simple phrases such as ready and OK.

Adequate instructions are included in a booklet and I had no difficulty in loading. This is not a game that appeals to me.

J.E.M.

instructions	60%
playability	25%
graphics	60%
value for money	20%



## LETTERS

### Apeman's too fast

I typed in the Apeman program for the Spectrum (HCW 41) but it failed to run. It appears line 1301 FOR n=1TO20 should be 1TO16. The program will run perfectly with this alteration. Up to now I have failed to get any shipwrecked mariners anywhere near the village — Apeman is much too fast.

M. H. Mottram, Beeston, Nottingham

### Slow? It's anything but

I would like to correct a mistake in your review of our BBC/Electron Maths Invaders (HCW 45).

Your reviewer comments several times on the slowness of this program. Didn't he notice the choice of 50 speed levels? I challenge him to last more than two minutes at level 50.

Our tests in schools and exhibitions have shown that children find this program anything but slow and boring — they love it, and it is one of our best sellers. Neil Stelling, Stell Software, Whalley, Lancs

### Turtle's tremendous

I am the proud owner of a VIC-20 and I also have your magazine delivered every week (what more could anyone want?).

If first started taking your magazine when the issue numbers were still very much into single figures. I chose it because of the quality of the programs and the excellent software reviews.

However, I too have noticed the latter becoming less and less frequent for the VIC. Thank you for explaining (HCW 44) why this is so.

I would like to recommend two excellent games: Gridrunner for the unexpanded VIC and Star Defence, by Anirog, for the 16K VIC.

Back onto the subject of program listings; I must confess that I often wait for someone else to write in, praising a program, before typing it in myself.

But I couldn't resist typing in the Turtle Graphics program, by Alan Wilburn, in HCW 41. It was fantastic! I found designing hi-res pictures, drawing graphs and circles just as addictive as any arcade games. Congratulations!

**Send your letter to Letters, Home Computing Weekly, No. 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB. Don't forget to name your computer — the best letter could win £5-worth of software. Got a problem with your micro? We'll soon be starting a queries page, so send your technical questions to Queries at the above address**



Please keep up this quality of program and don't forget the software reviews.

Justin Saunders, Macclesfield, Cheshire

*Forgive our blushes!*

*We pointed out to another reader that our reviews reflect what is being released and that software companies seemed to be turning their attention to the Commodore 64.*

*Our statement then still stands: VIC-20 software is welcome for review from software houses, as are programs for all other home computers.*

### Aquarius sounds good

I am a proud owner of a Mattel Aquarius computer and have recently bought the mini-expander to go with it.

Having previously been told that the expander gives you two extra sound channels, I was surprised to be told by one of the technical advisors at Mattel in London that in fact what you get is not two extra sound channels, but two extra octaves of sound.

I had originally telephoned Mattel to ask if they could tell me what the command was to obtain the other two sound channels. The reply I got was that they didn't know themselves, but they recommended a book by Ian Sinclair called How to get the Most from your Aquarius, which explains all about the sound channels.

I have now obtained this book and I must say it is as good as Mattel said it would be and has helped me tremendously with the sound channel and I would recommend it to all Aquarius owners.

I am at present having difficulty finding the command to use my joypads on my programs instead of the keyboard. So if any Aquarius-owning readers can help me I would be very grateful.

All in all, I have enjoyed every moment with my Aquarius and I think it is one of the best computers on the market.

John Wilson, Bilton Grange, Hull

### Games Pak pricing

Your reviewer (HCW 43) asked if the Games Pak III package for the TI-99/4A had been broken down and if so why?

The answer is no, Extended Software Company of Cincinnati U.S.A. market the three programs mentioned separately at \$15 each and the complete Games Pak III for \$27. The packaging for each separate program is the same as that for the Games Pak III, but is clearly labelled with the name of the program supplied. This is due to the expense of the multi colour artwork.

Finally, at the time "Kong" was submitted for review the price was £8.95. This has now been lowered to £7.95 as it is now produced in the U.K. Games Pak III is now available for £14.95 from Timeless Software. Considering the U.S. prices quoted above we feel that our prices represent a considerable saving.

Ian Martin, Timeless Software, West Lothian, Scotland

### Commodore owes it to us

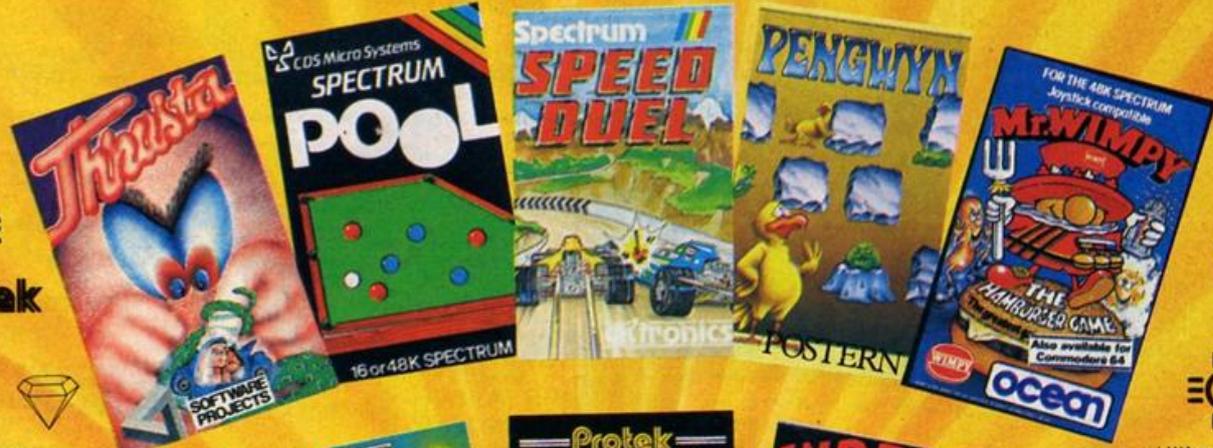
With reference to F. E. Wilke's letter, After-Sales Shock, regarding the strange attitude of Commodore towards things going wrong outside its "warranty" period. While I'm not an expert on consumer law, correct me if I am wrong, but doesn't the purchaser deal only with the retailer and not the manufacturer?

Also, I think the law infers that an item must be in functioning order for a reasonable period of time, which for most things is taken as being a year. An electronic component such as a RAMpack, unless it is "abused", should last and be expected to last for longer than the 12 month "warranty" period. As only a "few" (perhaps only 10 per cent) have been returned to Commodore as being faulty surely it could be magnanimous and exchange the item in question, as its warranty is not legally binding.

P. M. Volsing, St Neots



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# Venturing into some adventures

You are alone in a castle / a forest / a space ship . . . . That's how adventures begin. Our reviewers freed themselves to bring you these reports

## Cimeeon Moon Dragon 32 £7.95

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

A 3-D graphic adventure set in space. You are in an alien slaveship and are at last freed from your cell. Your object is to leave the ship. The crew has disappeared but there are Fembots' roaming around whose aim is to prevent you from escaping. An assortment of objects has left behind. You must discover those you need as you search the levels and chambers.

Movement is by the arrow keys. There are several commands, most of which can be reduced to a single letter.

Most of my travels have so far ended in rooms I cannot leave as the door is locked — most frustrating.

Graphics are fairly pleasant and the cassette is well presented in a video type box. The booklet of instructions is adequate.

If you enjoy frustrating adventures you may find this to your taste. I must confess that I abandoned hope after being trapped in a locked room for the umpteenth time. It will be a long time before I try again.

J.E.M.

instructions	60%
playability	50%
graphics	70%
value for money	50%



## Star Trek Adventure 32K BBC £7.95

Superior, Dept BMI, 69 Leeds Rd, Bramhope, Leeds

A text adventure set on the Starship Enterprise. You take the place of Captain Kirk, alone on the deserted and damaged ship. Your mission is to rescue Mr Spock from the evil Klingons.

The usual set of commands is available and, again, you work out the rest. Looking at the listing commands are hidden. The display is in mode 7, and has a scrolling lower area for commands and an upper window for descriptions.

Unfortunately, in the review

copy there was a bug which caused the program to crash after several turns. Assuming later editions will be bug-free, the adventure is fairly complex and includes sound effects and a range of problems.

One intriguing feature was a command SWIM. Not the sort of thing you would expect to find a space! If you are unlucky enough to be killed, you are given a score and rating.

This would probably suit more experienced adventures as it is slightly removed from the usual style.

instructions	50%
playability	65%
graphics	n/a
value for money	65%



## Lost City 32K BBC £7.95

Superior, Dept BMI, 69 Leeds Rd, Bramhope, Leeds

A text adventure set in a valley in the wilderness. The object game is to find the Diamond of Zandor which is in a city hidden somewhere in the valley.

Mode 7 is used for the display, and it makes good use of colour for a clear display. There are even several Teletext-style graphic pictures and sound effects scattered throughout. The standard set of commands — North, South, etc — are used. The rest must be picked up as you go along. A function key label is provided for the basic commands.

Some short sentences are

allowed, such as Walk North to the trees, and there is even a help command for times of trouble. If necessary, it is possible to cheat by examining the listing, but this may spoil your enjoyment as there are many puzzles to solve and obstacles to overcome.

Objects are scattered around to help in your quest, including such unlikely things as a teddy bear and a workman's drill. To say more would give the game away.

Easy for experienced adventurers, but novices will find it a challenging and absorbing game which will take days to solve.

instructions	70%
playability	85%
graphics	n/a
value for money	90%



## Castle Frankenstein 32K BBC £7.95

Epic, 10 Gladstone St, Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicester LE8 0HL

Your task: seek and destroy Frankenstein's monster and return to the inn — in one piece.

Display is in mode 7, colour is used to good effect and machine code makes responses very fast.

Like all adventures, it helps to make a map which is quite easily done. A few tunnel mazes need a care but are not difficult. After a few hours I had scored over 2,000 out of an 8,000 total and had made four maps.

There were a few frustrating aspects — you are not given any obvious exits and need to try all possibilities which, in some cases,

leads to death. So save the game before moving when you reach such stages.

Some responses are annoying by not allowing you to remove articles which, in normal circumstances, would be perfectly accessible. Such quirks are often found in adventures. There are not bugs but inconsistencies in the logic.

The insert says it is disc compatible but downloads itself in memory before running so the save game feature defaults to tape — a minor inconvenience for disc users.

instructions	90%
playability	85%
graphics	n/a
value for money	90%



## Crystals of Zong CBM 64 + Joystick

PSS, 452 Stoney Stanton Rd, Coventry CV6 5DG

This is what could be called a real time arcade adventure, although it ends up being a kind of glorified Pac-man.

There are nine inter-connected rooms, each occupying one screen. They resemble a Pac-man maze, complete with snakes or spiders or whatever to chase you.

In each there is a key and a sword. Picking up the sword means you can kill whatever is chasing you, picking up the key means you can open the treasure chest that corresponds to its colour.

Some treasures have particular properties. When you have collected all the keys and some treasure you go up a level where there are different things chasing you, but the things are basically the same.

The graphics are reasonable and there are comprehensive instructions. I found the game did not have the addictive appeal of some that will draw you back time and time again.

instructions	80%
playability	40%
graphics	80%
value for money	60%



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HCW48



# Another boom year for home computers

As my regular readers will know, I recently reported from the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. What you don't know is that I got home with more than three shopping baskets full of product literature and press information, and am still in the process of sorting it out. It always takes a while to recover from the big shows, and this one was no exception.

In the meantime, here are a few tit-bits:

- Richard Thomas, head economic correspondent for Newsweek magazine, feels that consumer electronics is in for another boom year so watch for expansion in all areas. He feels it is safe to expect the entire market to expand by 10 per cent, which means that home computers should do far better than that.

- Koala Technologies, manufacturers of low cost high quality graphics input tablets, has gone into the low cost high quality light pen business. By using the light pen in conjunction with the graphics tablet, many people who do not have the time, ability, or inclination to learn programming in order to do computer graphics will be able to do so. As expected, the light pen will first become available for the Apple IIe, but other versions have been announced including those for the IBM PC and PCjr and the Commodore machines. The price is expected to be under \$300 with full support and all peripheral/interface devices included.

- Hoping it will take them where no software company has been before, HES has signed Leonard Nimoy, better known as Mr. Spock, to be their spokesman. Beam me up HESware.

- Feeling the pinch in the entertainment software market, Datasoft has introduced eight new products for home computers. These include versions of the arcade games Nibbler and Lost Tomb, both of which were based on the cinematic adventures of Bruce Lee, the martial arts legend. The firm is also planning to market a game based on the (in)famous TV show Dallas and on the cartoon character Heathcliff the cat. These games are said to feature more detailed play and graphics and better sound.

- A form called Chalk Board has just announced a graphics tablet and a host of assorted related software. The tablet is called the PowerPad, and consists of a square foot of touch-sensitive material that connects directly to your Commodore, Atari, IBM or Apple. Accompanying the pad is a group of software called Leonardo's library. There are about 35 programs or so in the library, including such programs as PowerPad Programming Kit, a set of utilities in BASIC, Leo's Links, a game in which you design and then play on your own electronic golf course, Leonardo's LOGO, which is designed to make LOGO TurtleGraphics even easier to use, and Leonardo's 'Lectric Paintbrush, the electronic equivalent of finger-painting. The company has indicated that not all programs will be available for all computers, but it seems to me that they are making a wide range of useful educational and graphics packages available. You can write to them for more details: Chalk Board Inc., 3772 Pleasantdale Road, Atlanta, Georgia, (404) 496-0101.

- The Basicare Persona, originally scheduled to be first available for the Sinclair 1000, has been made to run on the Commodore 64. This stand-alone expansion device should be available in April for a retail price of approximately \$200. The device provides four cartridge expansion slots as well as software additions to BASIC and the assembler. It also allows the user to apply any of the other Basicare modules of which 11 are currently available. These include a three-voice synthesizer, a unit that can control devices attached to the house mains wiring, and a memory mapping device. No word yet on pricing of the individual program modules.

In this business, the difficult is done instantly while the impossible takes a bit longer — about two years in this case.

This example of "they said it couldn't be done" relates to the introduction of a low cost ink-jet printer by Docutel-Olivetti. The Model PR 2300 is a small, fast, and extremely quiet ink-jet printer, the first such to be decuded for the micro market at less than \$600.

Ink-jet printers, for those of you who are unfamiliar with the concept, produce a print-out in a unique manner. The head moves across the paper, moving, in some cases up to seven times, across and back to produce a single line.

Each time a point is to be produced, a jet of dry ink is literally blasted onto the paper by a tough piezoelectric sparking mechanism made of tungsten.

Because of this mechanism, sound is virtually eliminated, except for a slight crackling noise. Use of this mechanism also eliminates the need for ribbons.

The new printer will handle single sheets, rolls, or standard computer paper. The quality rivals that of a daisy wheel, and the head is adjustable, allowing the use of carbon copy forms.

The dry ink comes in low cost snap in tubes which are completely leak proof. Ink is available in a wide variety of colors and grades. For example, a black letter quality grade ink cartridge is expected to retail for approximately \$3 in single quantities.

This would amount to about half the cost of an equivalent ribbon for a daisy wheel and about a three quarters savings compared with many dot-matrix ribbons.

An ink cartridge can be expected to print about 50,000 characters. At the user's option, a wet-ink cartridge can be purchased which will offer letter quality print which cannot be told apart from a standard daisy wheel output.

The throughput of the printer, which can print in both directions, varies between 90 and 110 cps, depending on type style. Switches inside the printer allow settings for normal, compressed or expanded, double height or width characters and single or double underlining. On board hardware also allows the selection of reserve image and double image printing.

The unit has a built-in power supply but does not need a fan or any special cooling. Type spacing can be set for 10, 12 or 15 pitch, and vertical spacing can be set for one sixth or one eighth inches or can be controlled by the software.

The unit comes with a large 1 K buffer and performs hand-shaking. It uses the standard Centronics parallel interface. Graphics-wise, the unit prints 110 points per inch horizontally and 216 vertically. This exceeds the graphics resolution of most dot-matrix printers.

It weighs only about 12 pounds, is about 5 inches high, 11 inches deep, and 15 inches wide. Display lights indicate on/off; open case, low ink, and on/off line status.

Keys are offered for on/off line, setting the top of the form, and line feed, all of which are also available under software control as expected.

The alarm, indicative of failure modes, is a buzzer. Use of the off line switch to halt operations in order to change a cartridge or for some other reason will not result in any data loss.

The maker indicates that versions are now available for North American and European power supplies, and can be purchased with different font ROMs including French, German, Japanese, italics, and even British (!) at extra cost.

Speaking of cost, the printer is now being offered free of charge if purchased with an Olivetti computer, but it is also being sold separately for the incredible price of \$560, including the unit itself, the interface hardware, the pin feed mechanism, and all other necessary paraphernalia. I'm contemplating purchasing one myself.

Bud Izen  
Fairfield, California



## VIC-20 PROGRAM

```

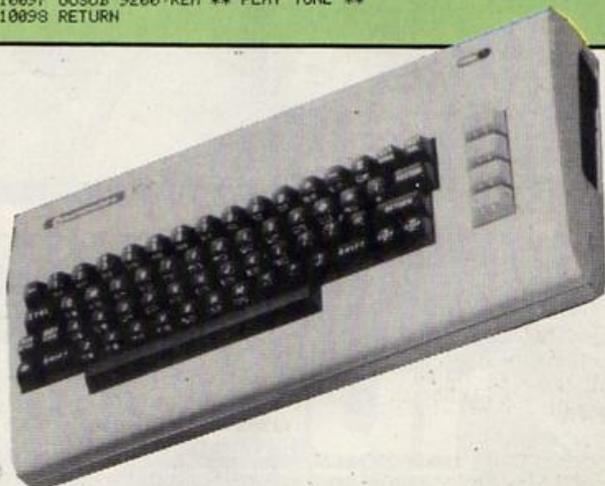
2077 REM ** [HOME][5 CURSOR DOWN] **
2080 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXX"
2085 NEXT I
2086 REM ** [HOME][6 CURSOR DOWN] **
2087 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXX";
2090 GOTO 5000
5000 REM
5003 REM ***** ANOTHER GAME ?*****
5005 REM
5010 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
5015 REM ** [YELLOW][RVS ON] **
5020 PRINT "ANOTHER GAME (Y OR N)?";
5030 POKE 198,0:REM ** CLEAR KEYBOARD BUFFER **
5040 GET A$:IF A$="Y"AND A$="N"THEN 5040
5050 IF A$="Y" THEN CLR:GOSUB 9000:GOSUB10000:GOTO 100
5055 REM ** [BLUE] **
5060 PRINT CL$: " ";
5070 POKE 36879,27
5080 END
9000 REM
9003 REM ***** INITIALISE *****
9005 REM
9006 RESTORE
9007 POKE 36878,15:REM ** FULL VOL **
9010 LET CL$=" ":REM ** CLS **
9015 LET DO$="M":REM ** CURSOR DOWN **
9020 PRINT CL$:DO$:DO$:DO$:DO$:
9022 LET FM=0:LET VM=0:LET WM=1
9023 LET SC=0:LET LI=3:LET NC=0
9025 LET F=8143:LET Y=8162:LET W=7733
9027 LET H=0
9030 POKE 36879,8:REM ** SCREEN = BLACK **
9040 PRINT " ":REM ** GREEN **
9045 PRINT TAB(5):"PLEASE WAIT!"
9046 PRINT " ":REM ** PURPLE **
9047 PRINT TAB(5):"-----"
9050 REM ***** SET UP USER CHARS *****
9060 POKE52,28:POKE56,28
9065 FOR I=7168 TO 7679:POKEI,PEEK(I+25600):NEXT I
9070 FOR C=7168 TO 7168+(7*9)-1
9075 READ A:POKE C,A:NEXT C
9080 PRINT CL$
9090 RETURN
9100 REM ** DATA FOR CHARS **
9110 DATA 54,127,127,127,62,62,28,8:
9120 DATA 0,16,56,56,16,56,124,186:
9130 DATA 186,186,40,40,40,40,108:
9140 DATA 186,186,56,56,56,56,108:
9150 DATA 0,255,4,8,16,32,64,255:
9160 DATA 0,146,186,186,146,186,124,56:
9165 DATA 56,56,56,56,56,56,108:
9170 DATA 170,170,85,85,170,170,85,85:
9180 DATA -1:REM END OF DATA **
9200 REM
9203 REM ***** PLAY TUNE *****
9205 REM
9210 POKE 36878,15:REM ** FULL VOL **
9222 REM ** FIND TUNE DATA **
9223 RESTORE
9225 READ A:IF A<0 THEN 9225
9230 FOR I=1 TO 18
9240 READ N,D
9250 POKE 36875,N
9260 FOR R=1 TO D:NEXT R
9265 POKE 36875+8
9270 FOR R=1TOS:NEXT R
9280 NEXT I
9290 RETURN
9300 REM ** DATA FOR TUNE **
9310 DATA 195,640,209,400,209,140,209,1080,195,580
9320 DATA 215,380,207,140,209,980,195,580,209,400
9330 DATA 221,160,221,680,219,420,215,200,209,680
9340 DATA 207,360,209,160,215,860
9500 REM
9503 REM ***** INSTRUCTIONS *****
9505 REM
9510 PRINT " ":REM ** YELLOW **
9515 PRINT " VALENTINE CAPERS."
9520 PRINT " ":REM ** PURPLE **
9525 PRINT "
9527 PRINT
9530 PRINT " ":REM ** GREEN"
9540 PRINT "YOUR GIRL FRIEND IS"
9542 PRINT DO$:"DROPPING HEARTS TO YOU"
9544 PRINT DO$:"BUT HER FA THER DOSN'T";
9548 PRINT DO$:"WANT YOU TO GET THEM."
9555 PRINT "▲":REM ** CYAN **
9560 PRINT DO$:"YOU MUST CATCH FIVE"
9562 PRINT DO$:"BUT YOU ARE ALLOWED"
9563 PRINT DO$:"TO DROP THREE OF THEM.";
9564 PRINT DO$:"YOU ARE THE BOTTOM MAN";
9566 PRINT DO$:"ON THE RIGHT ."
9570 GOSUB 9900:REM ** PRESS A KEY **
9680 PRINTCL$
9690 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
9700 PRINT"CONTROL YOUR MAN WITH"
9705 PRINT
9710 PRINT"THE KEYS : "
9715 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
9720 PRINT " ":REM ** WHITE **
9730 PRINT:PRINT
9735 PRINT"A = LEFT AND L = RIGHT"
9740 GOSUB 9900
9800 RETURN
9900 REM
9903 REM ***** PRESS A KEY *****
9905 REM
9910 REM ** [HOME] [22 CURSOR DOWN] **
9920 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX";
9930 PRINT " ":REM ** YELLOW **
9940 PRINT " ":REM ** PURPLE **
9950 POKE 198,0:REM ** CLEAR KEYBOARD BUFFER **
9960 GET A$:IF A$=" "THEN 9960

```

```

9970 POKE 36876,220
9975 FORR=1T0100:NEXT R
9980 POKE 36876,0
9990 RETURN
10000 REM
10003 REM ***** SET UP SCREEN *****
10005 REM
10010 PRINT CL$:
10012 REM ** [RED] [HOME] **
10015 PRINT " ";
10020 POKE 36869,255
10030 PRINT:PRINT
10035 REM ** [PURPLE] **
10040 PRINT "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX";
10050 FOR I=8164 TO 8165
10055 POKE I,4:POKE 38720+I,4
10060 NEXT I
10070 FOR I=38422 TO 38465
10075 POKE I,1:NEXT I
10080 FOR I=38840 TO 38883
10085 POKE I,7:NEXT I
10090 FOR I=38488 TO 38839
10095 POKE I,2:NEXT I
10097 GOSUB 9200:REM ** PLAY TUNE **
10098 RETURN

```



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**Cranky Dragon 32**  
**£10.95**

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

Unlike ASK's other education programs, I am less than satisfied that this is worthy of the title educational. It is a computer implementation of a reasonably good number puzzle of a long history.

You chose, or have given, two single digit numbers and have to form a whole range of other numbers from them in order to save Cranky's circuits from the rain.

The idea has been used in schools for some time but not with such a range of numbers to find. There are just too many to

provide interest for younger children.

There is very little teaching or error correction, although it is very well error trapped. I really cannot see how anyone would want to subject a child to such a boring treatment of such a simple idea. Mathis is an exciting subject and should be taught as such.

I would advise parents to be very sure their children need plenty of number crunching practice before using this program. Very disappointing from such a forward-thinking software house.

D.C.

instructions	80%
ease of use	60%
display	70%
value for money	30%



**Let's Count Dragon 32**  
**£10.95**

Dragon Data, Margam, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 2PE

A suite of four nicely graded programs for the three-six age group although they could be used by others.

Pirate Ships is simple one-to-one matching. Key presses are very simple, usually involving only the space bar. Space Stations is number recognition — matching windows on the rocket to the number on the station to which it flies. Roll a Ball needs number sequencing skills too and has no margin of error. A single mistake means starting again. In Which Way the child must

compare groups of objects and see which is the larger to decide which track to send them down.

In all, very well thought-out and programmed, both educationally viable and progressive. Unfortunately, it is seriously let down by documentation. ASK, which wrote the program, usually has excellent colour manuals, but this is not true of the Dragon package.

At least two pages of instructions are missing making it rather difficult to use. This should be dealt with by Dragon immediately!

D.C.

instructions	30%
ease of use	90%
display	90%
value for money	90%



**Cassette 10**  
**BBC 32K £11.95**

Schoolsoft, 62 Middle Lane, Headly Heath, Birmingham B38 0DY

This set is also available individually at £3 each. The compilation is very good value for money and the best way to buy. All use a standard form of presentation and teacher (parent) control which make them very easy to use.

Titles are: **Monster**, basic mental arithmetic practice; **Wordsort**, practice in alphabetisation of word lists; **Shoot, Shoot 2 and Shoot 3**, all use the same format of a space invader game to cover the four rules of number; **Signs**, practice in greater than, less than and equality of equations; **Whichword**, recognition of

homophones; **Estimate**, involving estimate of length against a standard; **Hangman** a rather poor graphic version; **Treasure**, a very flexible co-ordinate game.

All have some educational merit through I feel they could be more exciting. I am still searching for the educational program that children beg to play. These they will appeal to parents, however, and form a good first purchase for most parents and cover a wide range of skill and abilities.

D.C.

instructions	85%
ease of use	90%
display	60%
value for money	80%



# Class will come to order . . .

**Five new educational programs are give their marks by our examiners. Are they worthwhile for use in your family?**

**Time BBC 32K £7.95**

Stell, 36 Limefield Avenue, Whalley, Lancs BB6 9RJ

Claimed to be a step-by-step guide to learning to tell the time, there are three steps, starting with hours, then minutes and finally the time on a digital clock. Each is further divided into demonstration and then at least one type of question: typing in time shown, stopping the clock at a particular time and adding an hour onto the time when stopping the clock.

Screen displays are pleasant if uninspiring although on occasions they seem a little cluttered. There are nursery tunes at the beginning and you collect mice for each right answer.

Stopping the clock on a particular time is not all that easy, however, and tolerance is not adjustable, so very young children could become frustrated easily.

My other major criticism is that the examples are too long and lack variety. One expects a program like this to be used with a parent or teacher for at least the first few sessions, so there is no real need for long explanatory sections. Adults should have read the documentation and tried the program themselves first.

D.C.

instructions	85%
ease of use	70%
display	60%
value for money	70%



**Magnets 48K Spectrum**  
**£9.95**

Sinclair, Stanhope Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BR

The aim is to give an understanding of the basic principles of magnetism. That's as maybe, but the result is a very playable game too.

Each player starts with 10 'pawn' magnets on the grid, each having a magnetic strength of 1, with a reserve bank of 25 'pawns' of the same strength. Each also larger magnets, A,B,C,D and E, with magnetic strengths of 2,3,5,9 and 13 respectively. The north pole of one set is green and the other magenta, with the south pole of each set in white. Each 'pawn' can be moved up, down,

left or right, and rotated 90 degrees at a time through 360 degrees.

This means poles can be orientated for either attraction or repulsion and if another magnet is attracted the two strengths are added. If you repel your opponent's larger magnets off the board then that adds to your collection.

I am certain younger players will find it fascinating. Instructions are given in a booklet supplied. Compared with games of a similar calibre this one is overpriced, but it's unique. **B.B**

instructions	100%
playability	100%
graphics	80%
value for money	75%





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# Ready for some more zapping?

We asked our reviewers to exercise their zapping fingers and thumbs on your behalf. Here are their verdicts on five new games

## Fairground 32K BBC £7.95

Superior, Dept BM1, 69 Leeds Rd, Bramhope, Leeds

An original and amusing variation on conventional shooting games. Instead of aliens dropping from space, cartoon shapes move across while a fairground tune plays.

You control a base at the foot of the screen and have a limited supply of bullets with which to hit all the target shapes which move to and fro. Hitting certain numbered targets gives extra bullets, and it is also possible to gain bonus points by spelling out the game title from letter targets hit in the correct order.

Purple faces called Smileys hop about at the top of the screen,

and will sometimes drop down and steal vital bullets. However, it is possible to shoot them in the act for more points.

There are five stages of difficulty, with a bonus stage between each in which the object is to hit a golliwog figure and prevent it from reaching the edge.

Graphics and sound are used very well, but the sound can be irritating after a while. It is possible to reduce it slightly at the cost of a bullet.

Anyone looking for an amusing and slightly different arcade style game need go no further. D.A.

instructions	80%
playability	75%
graphics	80%
value for money	75%



## TNT TI-99/4A EX BASIC £7

SP Software, from Stainless, 10 Alstone Rd, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5AH

A fast-moving action game in which a bomb must be defused before time runs out.

The screen displays an 11 by 11 grid on which appear skulls, flags, the bomb and your man. Using the keyboard to control movements the man may be moved up, down, left or right. As out and may not be crossed again unless "slid" over. Sliding, however, may only be done left or right. Landing on a square with a flag scores bonus points, on one with a skull loses a life.

As the game starts a digital

display on the TNT square begins the countdown. When a total of five have been disarmed a bonus screen is entered. Here your man zooms rapidly across and down a grid, on the bottom line of which are skulls, except for one square where there's a flag. This must be reached to save a life.

The game continues on a different "sheet" which has even more skulls and on the fifth avoid!

A sufficiently high score qualifies you to enter the Hall of Fame, among those other greats such as Popeye and — Bagpuss?

instructions	J.W.
playability	100%
graphics	80%
value for money	80%
	75%



## Devil Assault Dragon 32, joystick £8

Microdeal, 41 Truro Rd, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 5JE

If your trigger finger's getting a little rusty, here's an excellent new shoot-'em game to give it exercise.

The concept is simple — if it moves, shoot it, before it bombs, burns or crushes you. You start with a couple of screens of bomb-laden vultures, which at higher levels have a nasty habit of splitting into two when hit, then move on to trigger-happy robots. And if you've been quick enough on the draw the final delight is Microdeal's answer to Zebedee, the Springs. Oh, and there's the

Devil himself, armed with a cauldron of flaming oil.

Graphics and sound are very good, joystick control excellent and instructions clear and comprehensive, though a magnifying glass would be handy for the small print. You have a choice of three screen colours and six levels of difficulty, the lowest of which was quite hard enough for me.

The one slight bug I found was that the high-score has a habit of disappearing, but that's very minor fault. If you enjoy this kind of game then I can thoroughly recommend this one. M.N.

instructions	80%
playability	95%
graphics	90%
value for money	90%



## Cruise Attack 48K Spectrum £6.95

Mikro-Gen, 24 Agar Cres, Bracknell, Berks

A "missile command" game, that loaded quickly, auto-ran and displayed basic instructions, but would have benefited from improved instructions and insert information.

The latter says our city is under torpedo and bomb attack, an unknown, but limited number of missiles can be fired from two bases, and that user defined keys are used (untrue).

Key "s" started the game, with outline diamond torpedoes and lines falling from screen top to six cities between two bases. These are destroyed by manoeuvring cross-sights in front of them, so a

missile explodes as the enemy reaches it.

Upon game completion a screen of missiles appears momentarily — part of the Hall of Fame appears. It was eventually apparent that destroyed bombs score 50 and torpedoes with bonuses for destroying a wave.

Control reaction is good, but graphics and sound are dull and basic. Much fuller instructions and better use of the Spectrum's potential could be expected at the price. A very flat game.

T.W.

instructions	40%
playability	70%
graphics	40
value for money	45%



## Mothership CBM 64 £6.95

Artic Main St, Brandesburton, Drifffield, Yorks

A game for one or two players requiring a joystick. Different levels can be set for each player.

The scenario has three phases. The aim is destroy the Mothership which in the first phase sends 12 drones towards you. You must destroy them before entering the Mothership.

Here you must reach the control pod, avoiding mutant meenies, jumping over breaks in the floor, and using an elevator. A further hazard, a scanner, may also appear. But, like the meenies it cannot harm you. Shooting them adds to your points.

When you reach the pod you move onto the third phase, the Mothership's home base, where you have to destroy the planet's generators. Energy pods must be disposed of first. Beware of energy torpedoes! If successful, you return to first phase at a higher difficulty level.

Good use is made of sound, graphics and movement but essentially this is an amalgam of all the old favourites.

V.R.

instructions	80%
playability	75%
graphics	75%
value for money	70%



## SPECTRUM PROGRAM

### How it works

10-40 print title, instructions  
 50 screen colours  
 74 sets user graphic A  
 80 print planet surface  
 110-142 plays first tune  
 150-220 main loop  
 2000-2100 plays second tune  
 2200-2400 print score, replay option  
 9999 DATA

Lander is a game which calls for careful movement. One slip will result in disaster.

You are in control of 24 spaceships and you have to land as many as possible on the craggy, cratered planet surface.

### Variables

z counter for graphics, current spaceship, score  
 a row position of ship, also used in playing tunes  
 p column position of ship  
 B number of times opening tune is played  
 a\$ check if ship has landed or crashed, also used to hold DATA for tunes  
 W,Q used in playing second tune

# Move with care around the rugged rocks...

**Gently does it... that's the way to win with William Mitchell's game of Lander for either Spectrum. There's 24 spaceships to bring down, and it's not easy**

### Hints on conversion

The program should run on a 16K ZX81 if the following alterations are made:

Delete lines 10, 50, 74, 105, 110, 120, 130, 140, 141, 142, 180, 190, 200, 2000, 2100 and delete the colour commands in line 20.

Add:  
 160 PRINT AT a,p;  
 161 IF PEEK (PEEK 16398 + 256 \* PEEK 16399) = CODE "=" THEN GOTO 5000  
 162 IF PEEK (PEEK 16398 + 256 \* PEEK 16399) less than or greater than CODE "=" THEN GOTO 2000  
 5000 PRINT AT a, p; "A"  
 5100 NEXT Z

Control is by the 5 and 8 keys and the game will work on either Spectrum.

Note: solid square in line 80 is achieved by pressing A in graphics mode.

```

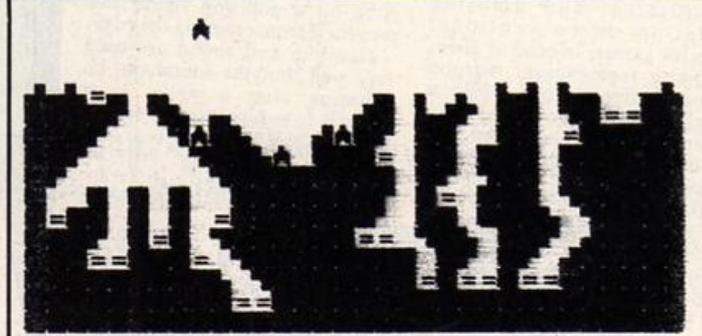
1 REM ++++++
2 REM +
3 REM + W MITCHELL +
4 REM +
5 REM + HISCORE=15 +
6 REM +
7 REM + by GOEY +
8 REM +
9 REM ++++++
10 REM
11 REM
12 REM
13 REM
14 FOR a=0 TO 7: READ b: POKE
USR "b"+a,b: NEXT a
15 PAPER 2: BORDER 0: CLS
20 PRINT PAPER 1: INK 4:
    
```

# LANDER

The object of the game is to pilot your fleet of rockets to the landing pads. The game is over when a ship crashes the control

```

35 are "5" and "8"
40 PRINT AT 21,9: "PRESS ENTER"
50 PAUSE 0
50 INK 6: PAPER 1: BORDER 0: C
LS
74 FOR z=0 TO 6: POKE USR "a"+
z,255: NEXT z: POKE USR "a"+7,BI
N,01111111
80 PRINT AT 10,0: "
    
```



Lander in action, with three spacecraft already safely down

```

90 LET p=15
105 FOR b=1 TO 2
110 LET a$=".0511,0511,8 16,021
1,0216,0211,02161 20"
120 FOR a=0 TO 7: BEEP VAL a$(1
TO 3),VAL a$(4 TO 5): LET a$a$(
6 TO ): NEXT a
130 NEXT b
135 FOR z=1 TO 24
140 BEEP .03,40: PAUSE 10
141 BEEP .03,40: PAUSE 10
142 BEEP .03,40: PAUSE 30
150 FOR a=0 TO 20
160 LET a$=SCREEN$(a,p)
170 PRINT AT a,p: INK 5: "A"
180 IF a$="" THEN NEXT z
190 IF CODE a$<>32 THEN GO TO 2
000
200 BEEP ((25-z)/300),a
210 PRINT AT a,p: "
211 LET p=p+(INKEY$="8")-(INKEY
$="5")
220 NEXT a
2000 LET a$="4 1 9 1 9 .759
.259 1 13 .7511 .259 1 8
.756 .254 1 5"
2100 FOR a=0 TO 10: LET q=VAL a$(
1 TO 3): LET w=VAL a$(4 TO 6)/4
: BEEP w,q: LET a$a$(7 TO ): NE
XT a
2200 CLS: PRINT AT 10,7: "PLAY A
GAIN(y/n)",AT 15,9: "score=";z
2300 IF INKEY$="y" THEN GO TO 80
2301 IF INKEY$="n" THEN STOP
2400 GO TO 2300
9999 DATA BIN 00011000,BIN 00011
000,BIN 00111100,BIN 01111110,BI
N 01111110,BIN 01111110,BIN 0110
0110,BIN 01000010
    
```

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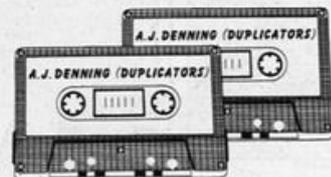
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## TI-99/4A PROGRAM

Are you ready to save the world again? Texas Invaders' Revenge is a more sophisticated follow-up to my earlier program, published in HCW and called Texas Invaders (what else?).

### How it works

10-20 clear screen, colour it black  
 30, 410-580 define characters  
 40-160 define colours  
 170-370 set up title screen  
 380-400 830-850 set up variables  
 590-660 instructions?  
 670-820 clear screen, position characters  
 860 randomise  
 870 position laser base  
 880-1070 detect key presses, randomise invader movement and mother ship firing  
 1080-1120 1130-1170 move laser base up, down  
 1180-1280 invader hit routine, reset variables for invader movement and laser range, print score  
 1290-1330 shorten laser range if invader moves forward, check if invader is same column as you  
 1340-1370 sound if invader is in same column, go to game end routine  
 1380-1450 mother ship fire routine  
 1460-1610 hit by mother ship routine, go to end routine  
 1620-1690 another mothership fire routine  
 1700 stop until "break" encountered  
 1710-1800 another game?  
 1810-1880 sound for negative answer, end  
 1900-2100 instructions, return to main program

It runs on the standard TI-99/4A.

You control a laser base at the extreme left of the screen and you can only move up and down.

The invader starts off on the right and moves up and down at random, slowly advancing on you.

It is under the protection of its mother ship which occasionally takes pot shots at you with one of its two powerful lasers.

# It's your turn to save the world... again

Do you remember Eric Liddell's Texas Invaders program in HCW? Here's the follow-up, a more sophisticated program called (guess what?) Texas Invaders' Revenge. It runs on the unexpanded TI-99/4A

```

10 CALL CLEAR
20 CALL SCREEN(2)
30 CALL CHAR(128,"30082425599A100C")
40 CALL COLOR(1,5,2)
50 CALL COLOR(2,10,2)
60 CALL COLOR(3,6,2)
70 CALL COLOR(4,6,2)
80 FOR I=5 TO 8
90 CALL COLOR(I,14,2)
100 NEXT I
110 CALL COLOR(9,3,2)
120 CALL COLOR(10,5,2)
130 CALL COLOR(11,5,2)
140 CALL COLOR(12,16,2)
150 CALL COLOR(13,7,2)
160 CALL COLOR(16,10,2)
170 A$="          TEXAS"
180 P=4
190 GOSUB 290
200 A$="          INVADERS"
210 P=6
220 GOSUB 290
230 A$="          REVENGE"
240 P=8
250 GOSUB 290
    
```

### Hints on conversion

TI BASIC is fairly standard with two main exceptions. Single statement lines are used and sub-routines for graphics and sound are available, prefixed with CALL, as detailed below.

CALL CLEAR clears screen  
 CALL SCREEN defines screen colour

CALL CHAR defines a character with a 16-digit hex string from an eight by eight grid. Other machines will use a different method

CALL COLOUR (character set, foreground, background) sets colour of character

CALL HCHAR (row, column, character code, number of repeats) places character on screen at co-ordinates specified and optionally repeats character horizontally

CALL VCHAR similar to HCHAR but repeats character vertically

CALL GCHAR (row, column, variable) similar to a screen PEEK on other machines. Gives the ASCII code at the given screen co-ordinates

CALL SOUND (D,F,V) gives sound of duration D, frequency F and volume V. Three sounds can be produced at once

If you get in its way it's tough luck, the world's doomed. But you can always play again.

Your laser has an automatic range adjuster so the invader is never out of range.

If you score a hit you get 10 points and the invader returns to its side of the screen and starts again. If you allow it to reach the same column as you then it's tough luck for you.

Keys E and X move up and down respectively and you fire with the full stop or greater than symbol keys.

### Variables

SC score  
 R your position on screen  
 A,F variables for laser range  
 C column of invader  
 X row of invader

```

260 FOR I=1 TO 400
270 NEXT I
280 GOTO 390
290 FOR I=1 TO LEN(A$)
300 CALL HCHAR(P,I,ASC(SEG$(A$,I,1)))
310 NEXT I
320 FOR I=1 TO 30 STEP 3
330 CALL SOUND(-1,110,I,220,I)
340 CALL HCHAR(20,I,128)
350 CALL HCHAR(20,I,32)
360 NEXT I
370 RETURN
380 SC=0
390 X=12
400 R=16
410 CALL CHAR(33,"1C3E63F8F8633E1C")
420 CALL CHAR(96,"000000FFFF")
    
```

```

430 CALL CHAR(97,"0000000000FF")
440 CALL CHAR(98,"0000FF")
450 CALL CHAR(104,"070F1F3D30C")
460 CALL CHAR(105,"0000C0303D1F0F07")
470 CALL CHAR(106,"C070F0F8FC7E3F1F")
480 CALL CHAR(107,"1F3F7EFCF8F0E")
490 CALL CHAR(108,"1F0F0707070F0703")
500 CALL CHAR(109,"03070F0707070F1F")
510 CALL CHAR(110,"80C0F0F1FCFFFFFF")
520 CALL CHAR(111,"FFFFFFFFCF1F0C08")
530 CALL CHAR(112,"FF7F3E1C1C3E7FFF")
540 CALL CHAR(120,"0000001818")
550 CALL CHAR(121,"00003C24243C")
560 CALL CHAR(122,"007E424242427E")
570 CALL CHAR(123,"FF818181818181FF")
580 CALL CHAR(152,"F80C0E0F0F0E0C08")
590 A$=" DO YOU WANT INSTRUCTIONS[Y/N]?"
    
```

## TI-99/4A PROGRAM

```

600 FOR I=1 TO LEN(A#)
610 CALL HCHAR(12,I,ASC(SEG$(A#,I,1)))
620 NEXT I
630 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
640 IF S=0 THEN 630
650 IF K=ASC("Y") THEN 1890
660 IF K=ASC("N") THEN 670 ELSE 630
670 CALL CLEAR
680 CALL HCHAR(1,8,83)
690 CALL HCHAR(1,9,67)
700 CALL HCHAR(1,10,79)
710 CALL HCHAR(1,11,82)
720 CALL HCHAR(1,12,69)
730 CALL VCHAR(2,1,152,23)
740 CALL HCHAR(10,30,104)
750 CALL HCHAR(10,31,106)
760 CALL HCHAR(11,31,108)
770 CALL HCHAR(11,32,110)
780 CALL HCHAR(16,30,105)
790 CALL HCHAR(16,31,107)
800 CALL HCHAR(15,31,109)
810 CALL HCHAR(15,32,111)
820 CALL VCHAR(12,32,112,3)
830 A=28
840 C=28
850 F=25
860 RANDOMIZE
870 CALL HCHAR(R,2,33)
880 CALL KEY(0,K,S)
890 CALL HCHAR(X,C,40)
900 CALL HCHAR(X,C,32)
910 X=INT(RND*24)+1
920 IF X=12 THEN 1290
930 IF X=13 THEN 1380
940 IF X=22 THEN 1620
950 IF X<1 THEN 910
960 CALL HCHAR(X,C,128)
970 CALL SOUND(-1,X+8000,0,7000,0)
980 IF S=0 THEN 880

990 IF K=ASC("E") THEN 1080
1000 IF K=ASC("X") THEN 1130
1010 IF K=ASC(".") THEN 1020
1020 CALL HCHAR(R,3,96,F)
1030 CALL SOUND(-10,-1,0)
1040 CALL HCHAR(R,3,32,F)
1050 CALL GCHAR(R,A,S)
1060 IF S<>32 THEN 1180
1070 GOTO 880
1080 IF R=3 THEN 880
1090 R=R-1
1100 CALL HCHAR(R,2,33)
1110 CALL HCHAR(R+1,2,32)
1120 GOTO 880
1130 IF R=23 THEN 880
1140 R=R+1
1150 CALL HCHAR(R,2,33)
1160 CALL HCHAR(R-1,2,32)
1170 GOTO 880
1180 FOR I=3 TO 16
1190 CALL COLOR(13,I,2)
1200 CALL SOUND(-200,110+I,I)
1210 NEXT I
1220 SC=SC+10
1230 CALL HCHAR(X,C,32)
1240 S$=" "&STR$(SC)
1250 FOR I=1 TO LEN(S$)
1260 CALL HCHAR(1,I,ASC(SEG$(S$,I,1)))
1270 NEXT I
1280 GOTO 830
1290 C=C-2
1300 F=F-2

```

```

1310 A=A-2
1320 IF C=2 THEN 1340
1330 GOTO 880
1340 FOR I=1100 TO 110 STEP -110
1350 CALL SOUND(-200,I,0)
1360 NEXT I
1370 GOTO 1710
1380 CALL HCHAR(10,3,97,27)
1390 CALL SOUND(-200,110,0)
1400 CALL SOUND(-200,113,0)
1410 CALL SOUND(-10,120,0)
1420 CALL GCHAR(10,2,S)
1430 CALL HCHAR(10,3,32,27)
1440 IF S<>32 THEN 1460
1450 GOTO 880
1460 FOR I=3 TO 16
1470 CALL COLOR(1,I,2)
1480 CALL SOUND(-90,900+I,0)
1490 NEXT I
1500 FOR I=120 TO 123
1510 CALL HCHAR(R,2,I)
1520 FOR D=1 TO 20
1530 NEXT D
1540 NEXT I
1550 CALL HCHAR(R,2,32)
1560 FOR I=1100 TO 110 STEP -110
1570 CALL SOUND(-200,I,0)
1580 NEXT I
1590 FOR I=1 TO 100
1600 NEXT I
1610 GOTO 1710
1620 CALL HCHAR(16,3,98,27)
1630 CALL SOUND(-200,300,0)
1640 CALL SOUND(-200,305,0)
1650 CALL SOUND(-90,310,0)
1660 CALL GCHAR(16,2,S)
1670 CALL HCHAR(16,3,32,27)
1680 IF S<>32 THEN 1460
1690 GOTO 880

1710 CALL CLEAR
1720 SC=0
1730 A$=" DO YOU WANT ANOTHER GAME(Y/N)?"
1740 FOR I=1 TO LEN(A$)
1750 CALL HCHAR(12,I,ASC(SEG$(A$,I,1)))
1760 NEXT I
1770 CALL KEY(0,K,S)

```



## TI-99/4A PROGRAM

```

1780 IF S=0 THEN 1770
1790 IF K=ASC("Y") THEN 670
1800 IF K=ASC("N") THEN 1810 ELSE 1770
1810 CALL CLEAR
1820 FOR N=1 TO 3
1830 FOR I=0 TO 4
1840 CALL SOUND(-200,110,I,110+N,I)
1850 CALL SOUND(-9,110,I,220,N)
1860 NEXT I
1870 NEXT N
1880 END
1890 CALL CLEAR
1900 I$="      I N S T R U C T I O N S"
1910 P=1
1920 GOSUB 2060
1930 I$="      USE E TO MOVE UP"
1940 P=5
1950 GOSUB 2060
1960 I$="      USE X TO MOVE DOWN"
1970 P=7
1980 GOSUB 2060
1990 I$=" USE THE FULL STOP KEY TO FIRE"
2000 P=10
2010 GOSUB 2060
2020 FOR I=1 TO 200
2030 NEXT I
2040 CALL CLEAR
2050 GOTO 670
2060 FOR I=1 TO LEN(I$)
2070 CALL HCHAR(P,I,ASC(SEG$(I$,I,1)))
2080 NEXT I
2090 CALL SOUND(-1,5000,0)
2100 RETURN
    
```

### Micro Tip

### TI-99/4A

#### Secrets of the system

Here are some little-known system variables for the Atari.

POKE 82,0 gives you a full 40 column editing screen.

POKE 77,0 inside a main program loop stops the Atari going into attract mode in a joystick control program.

POKE 580,1 causes SYSTEM RESET to cold start the computer when pressed.

POKE 559,47 gives interesting results.

Before saving a program to tape, it is advisable to LPRINT beforehand, as there is a bug in the tape operating system similar to the one in early BBC operating systems.

Instead of using SETCOLOR to alter colour on the screen, altering the contents of COLOR0 to COLOR4 (708 to 712) using the formula

colour number \* 16 + hue

will provide the desired results.

Mark Bullen

### Micro Tip

### Commodore 64

#### Cursor control

Owners of the Commodore 64 may find the following few POKES useful for controlling the cursor.

POKE 204, 0 before a GET will produce a flashing cursor (which is turned off with POKE 204, 1).

POKE 207, 1 before an INPUT will switch off the cursor until a key is pressed.

A repeat on all keys (not just the cursor keys and space bar) can be achieved with POKE 650, 128, POKEing this location with zero will return things to normal.

David Gristwood

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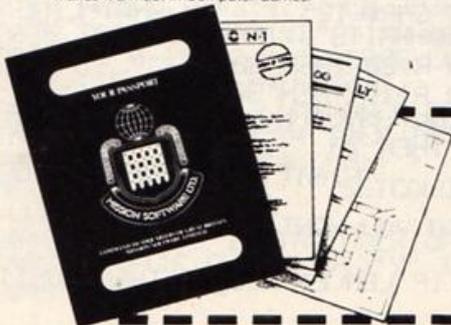
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CVG 2

Have you ever wanted to write a simple title page to your program and just couldn't remember how many letters across or how many lines down graphics 1 or 2 has, and you couldn't visualise where to start the first line? Then this program is for you.

It will allow you to select graphics 1 or 2. The selected screen is then displayed with text window for prompts and the lines numbered.

### Hints on conversion

**POKE #,X.** The # is the memory address and X = COLOR\*16+LUM

In GRAPHICS mode 1 and 2 the following POKEs apply:

- 708 colour register 0 (SETCOLOR 0)(CAPITALS)
- 709 colour register 1 (SETCOLOR 1)(lowercase)
- 710 colour register 2 (SETCOLOR 2)(inverse CAPITALS)
- 711 colour register 3 (SETCOLOR 3)(Inverse lowercase)
- 712 colour register 4 (SETCOLOR 4) (Background)

Take for example a statement SETCOLOR 1,5,8. This would equal COLOR 5\*16+LUM which in this instance is 8. So 5\*16+8=88, therefore POKE 709,88 would be the same.

You can then choose the background hue and brightness. You can do the same with each setcolor-uppercase, lowercase, uppercase inverse, and lowercase inverse.

At this point the computer asks what you wish to write to the screen. If the text is within the range of the graphic mode it will be printed, and you can delete it if you wish.

# Give your program a title to be proud of

**Smarten up the title pages of your programs with Writline, which makes it easier to handle graphics and colour. It was written by Terry Davies for any Atari**



### How it works

- 1-3 title page (I used WRITLINE to write it)
- 4 sound routine
- 6 rotates colours
- 7 checks to see if START has been pressed
- 9-11 asks which GRAPHICS you wish to write your title page
- 30-37 displays requested GRAPHICS and DIMensions strings
- 38 GOSUB to set colours
- 39-1100 requests and displays text

At each stage the correct instructions are displayed under the title, program line, for you to make a note of and incorporate into your own program.

This program is fairly well trapped so anyone would have to work pretty hard to make it fail, except for one thing, SETCOLOR 1 luminance setting also sets the text window. Writing brightness, SETCOLOR 3, luminance, also sets the brightness of the text window.

So if both are similar the text won't show, if this occurs press N and RETURN to reset SETCOLOR 3, luminance.

The program itself is a fairly simple one, not using very sophisticated routines.

But, for all that, I believe it will be a very useful one, especially for those starting to write programs requiring a title page and for beginners to grasp the working of the SETCOLOR command.

### Variables

- ES text
- ANS answers
- R line to write on
- ST start position of text
- CO colour
- LUM luminance
- G graphics

```

1 REM **WRITLINE BY TERRY DAVIES OCT 198
2 GRAPHICS 1+16:SETCOLOR 4,3,3:SETCOLOR
0,15,12:SETCOLOR 1,3,12:SETCOLOR 2,6,6:S
ETCOLOR 3,10,8
3 POSITION 5,4: ? #6;"WRITLINE":POSITION
8,7: ? #6;"by":POSITION 3,10: ? #6;"terry
davies":FOR W=1 TO 700:NEXT W
4 FOR T=0 TO 30:SOUND 0,30,6,8:FOR W=1 T
O 70:NEXT W:SOUND 0,0,0,0:NEXT T
5 POSITION 4,16: ? #6;"PRESS START"
6 POKE 708,PEEK(709):POKE 709,PEEK(710):
POKE 710,PEEK(711):POKE 711,PEEK(708)
7 FOR W=1 TO 500:NEXT W:IF PEEK(53279)X>
6 THEN 6
8 TRAP 10
9 GRAPHICS 0:SETCOLOR 2,4,6:SETCOLOR 1,6
,0
10 ? CHR$(125): ? : ? : ? "WHAT GRAPHICS
DO YOU WANT TO WRITE YOUR TITLE PAGE
IN, GRAPHICS 1 OR 2":INPUT G
    
```

```

11 IF G<1 OR G>2 THEN 10
30 GRAPHICS G:SETCOLOR 4,2,0:DIM E$(20),
AN$(5):W=0:Q=0:POKE 710,32
35 POSITION 0,Q: ? #6;W:Q=Q+1:W=Q:IF G=1
THEN D=20
36 IF G=2 THEN D=10
37 IF Q<D THEN 35
38 GOSUB 2000
39 POSITION 5,2: ? #6;" "
40 TRAP 300: ? CHR$(125): ? "ON WHAT LINE
DO YOU WANT TO WRITE":INPUT R
50 IF G=1 AND R>20 THEN 300
60 IF G=2 AND R>10 THEN 300
70 ? "WHAT START POSITION 0-19 "":INPUT
ST:IF ST>19 THEN 70
100 ? " " RIGHT OH!":FOR T=1 TO
100:NEXT T
200 ? "WHAT DO YOU WANT TO WRITE
":
210 INPUT E$:IF LEN(E$)>20-ST THEN POSIT
    
```

## ATARI PROGRAMMING

```

ION ST,R: ? #6;E$:GOTO 1000
250 ? CHR$(125):? CHR$(253):? "OUT OF RA
NGE OR INVERSE":FOR T=1 TO 500:NEXT T:GO
TO 200
300 ? CHR$(125):? CHR$(253):? "OUT OF RA
NGE OR INVERSE":FOR T=1 TO 500:NEXT T:GO
TO 40
1000 ? "          PROGRAMME LINE "
1001 ? "POSITION ";ST;";";R;":PRINT";E
$;"":? "IS THAT ALRIGHT? (Y/N)";:INPUT
AN$
1002 IF AN$(1,1)="Y" OR AN$(1,1)="y" OR
AN$(1,1)="Y" OR AN$(1,1)="y" THEN 40
1100 POSITION 0,R: ? #6;
      ":POSITION 0,R: ? #6;R:GOTO 40
2000 TRAP 2000: ? :? "WHAT COLOUR BACKGRO
UND 0-15 ":INPUT CO:IF CO>15 THEN 2000
2010 TRAP 2010: ? "WHAT LUMINANCE 1-14":I
NPUT LUM:IF LUM>14 THEN 2010
2012 SETCOLOR 4,CO,LUM: ? "          PROGRAM
ME LINE ":? "          ** SETCOLOR 4,";CO;","
;LUM;" **"
2015 ? :? " IS THAT ALRIGHT? (Y/N)";:
INPUT AN$:IF AN$(1,1)<>"Y" THEN 2000
2020 E$="A b c d":POSITION 5,2: ? #6;E$
2021 TRAP 2021: ? :? :? "WHAT COLOUR OF L
ETTER A 0-15":? "(UPPER CASE)":INPUT CO:
? :IF CO>15 THEN 2021
2022 ? :? "WHAT LUMINANCE OF A 0-14"::IN
PUT LUM:IF LUM>14 THEN 2022
2023 SETCOLOR 0,CO,LUM: ? "          PROGRAM
ME LINE ":? "          ** SETCOLOR 0,";CO;","
;LUM;" **"
2024 ? :? " IS THAT ALRIGHT? (Y/N)";:
INPUT AN$:IF AN$(1,1)<>"Y" THEN 2021
2026 TRAP 2026: ? :? :? "WHAT COLOUR OF L
ETTER b 0-15":? "(LOWER CASE)":INPUT CO:
? :IF CO>15 THEN 2026
2027 ? :? "WHAT LUMINANCE OF b 0-14"::IN
PUT LUM:IF LUM>14 THEN 2027
2028 SETCOLOR 1,CO,LUM: ? "          PROGRAM
ME LINE ":? "          ** SETCOLOR 1,";CO;","
;LUM;" **"
2029 ? :? " IS THAT ALRIGHT? (Y/N)";:
INPUT AN$:IF AN$(1,1)<>"Y" THEN 2026

```

```

2030 TRAP 2030: ? :? :? "WHAT COLOUR OF L
ETTER C 0-15":? "(INVERSE UPPER)":INPUT
CO: ? :IF CO>15 THEN 2030
2032 ? :? "WHAT LUMINANCE OF C (0-14)"::
INPUT LUM:IF LUM>14 THEN 2032
2034 SETCOLOR 2,CO,LUM: ? "          PROGRAM
ME LINE ":? "          ** SETCOLOR 2,";CO;","
;LUM;" **"
2035 ? :? " IS THAT ALRIGHT? (Y/N)";:
INPUT AN$:IF AN$(1,1)="N" THEN POKE 710,
0:IF AN$(1,1)<>"Y" THEN 2030
2036 TRAP 2036: ? :? :? "WHAT COLOUR OF L
ETTER d 0-15":? "(INVERSE LOWER)":INPUT
CO: ? :IF CO>15 THEN 2036
2038 ? :? "WHAT LUMINANCE OF d (0-14)"::
INPUT LUM:IF LUM>14 THEN 2038
2040 SETCOLOR 3,CO,LUM: ? "          PROGRAM
ME LINE ":? "          SETCOLOR 3,";CO;","
;LUM
2049 ? :? " IS THAT ALRIGHT? (Y/N)";:
INPUT AN$:IF AN$(1,1)<>"Y" THEN 2036
2055 RETURN

```

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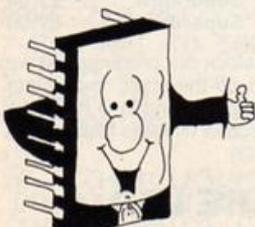
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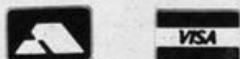
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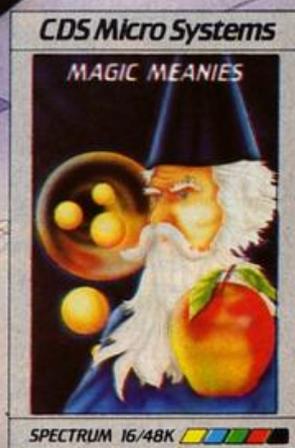
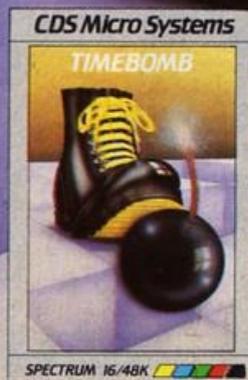
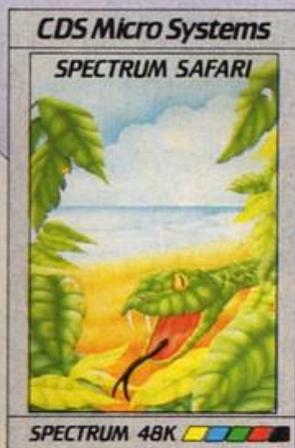
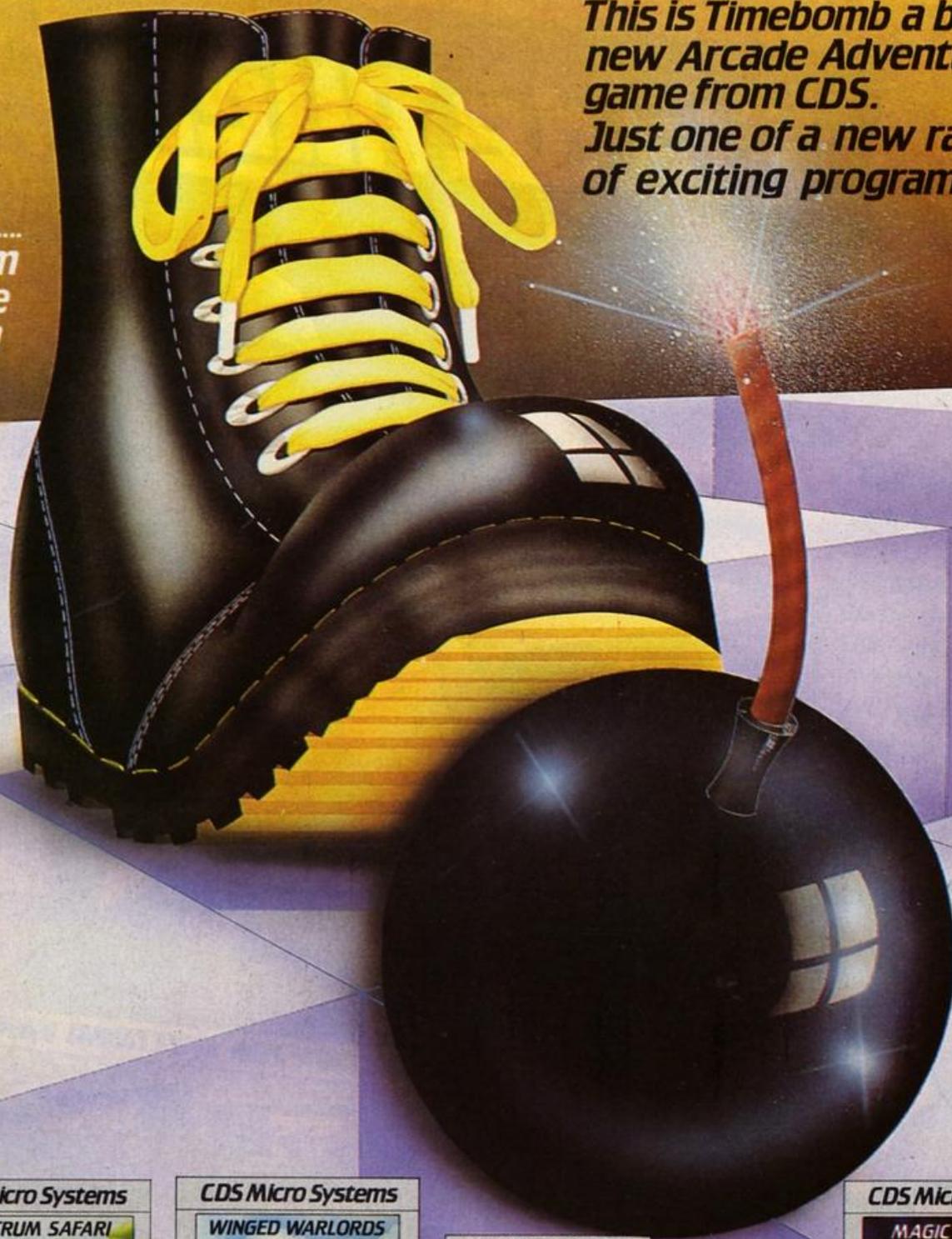


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