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23 September 1982 Vol 1 No 23

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How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 1000 words long.

All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

At present we cannot guarantee to return every submitted article, so please keep a copy.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

This Week



Cover illustration by Teoman Irmak

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Editorial

Aladdin's Cave is not a new type of adventure game. It is an aptly named treasure house of 'free' software games,' according to Prestel.

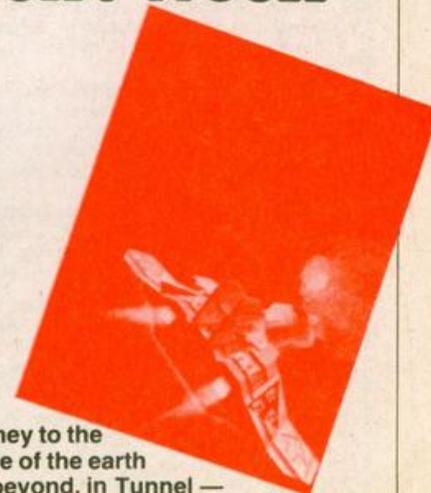
The idea behind the scheme is that, with the aid of a Prestel adaptor, you dial up Aladdin's Cave and see what programs are on offer. If any of the games take your fancy, you can download them directly into your micro.

On the surface, Aladdin's Cave is an excellent idea. But the services of the genie are not free. Apart from the cost of the adaptor, you must join Prestel's Micronet 800 scheme (*Popular Computing Weekly*, September 16) which costs about £50 a year.

In addition, the best programs are unlikely to be in Aladdin's Cave. They will be available elsewhere in the Micronet system, at commercial rates. Unlike Aladdin's Cave, you will be charged for downloading these programs.

Nevertheless, Aladdin's Cave and the Micronet 800 scheme could change the face of the software market in this country. It will certainly be easier to download a program than to go-out, buy a cassette and load it into your micro. Whether or not it will be cheaper remains to be seen.

Next Week



Journey to the centre of the earth and beyond, in Tunnel — a new game for ZX81.

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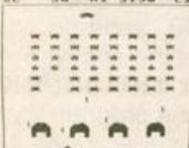
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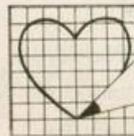
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New Rom for BBC micro in November

ACORN is to charge owners of the BBC micro for 1.0 operating systems to replace the present 0.1. The new Series 1 Roms should be available by the middle of November.

In the case of orders for the Acorn disc interface (which costs £70) the new operating system will be supplied free. Owners not wishing the disc interface will pay £11.50, says Acorn's Technical Adviser, David Simpson.

Several aspects of the present 0.1 operating system are causing problems for users: the 0.1 will not support paged Roms — including disc operating system teletext adaptor or Econet system; there are problems with the Save and Load facilities and with some of the Fx calls.

These difficulties have been corrected in the new Roms. David Simpson explains: "The new system gives extra operating system calls, irons out a bug in the Rom in the Print # statement and allows the input of serial data using simple Fx commands."

"The 0.1 operating system is adequate but the subject of many discussions. We have asked Acorn for a definitive answer on pricing," said John Radcliffe, Executive Producer of the BBC's Computer Programme.

Acorn's John Horton said "We don't consider that people need the 1.0 system unless they have a disc operating system to support. Problems arise when dumping large amounts of software on to tape, and are caused by machine faults in the 0.1 operating system, but there is a well-publicised machine-code patch to solve most of the problems."

Cut-price Pets

COMMODORE has cut the prices of its Pet range of products for use in education.

The cost of Pets in schools has been cut by between 20 and 33 percent for a three-month period which began on September 1.

This move is a reaction to the company's exclusion from the government's Micros in Schools grants scheme (August 12).



A window into summer for enthralled youngsters.

Cheap holidays for micro kids

THIS Summer over 200 boys and girls will have benefited from Tandy Computer Camps, a scheme organised by the North London based community resource group, Inter-Action.

Ed Berman, Inter-Action's founder, said: "The non-residential sessions help those kids who cannot afford to take advantage of the more expen-

sive residential Summer camps outside London.

"We are a charity. The camps are run as a service for kids who are really keen to learn and not as a money-making exercise."

Inter-Action sessions cost £4 per day. Those attending are taught to use the Tandy and Commodore microcomputers by six undergraduate tutors.

Z80 disc pack from torch

TORCH Computers has launched a Z80 Disc Pack for the BBC micro. The unit includes a Z80 card which enables the machine to run CP/M^R software.

The unit has a capacity of 800K, uses twin 5¼in double-sided 80-track discs and includes its own power supply.

The Z80 card fits inside the lid of the BBC machine and connects to the tube interface. The disc unit connects to the disc interface. A detailed instruction manual gives installation and operational advice.

Possible expansion options for the system include upgrading to a Winchester drive and addition of the Torch communications card which can be fitted inside the disc unit to provide Prestel, View-

data and auto-dial capabilities.

The disc unit is already available as part of the Torch microcomputer package — based around the BBC machine — and costing £3500.

The Torch Z80 Disc Pack costs £995. An Acorn disc interface is also necessary and costs £70. The Corresponding Acorn disc drive costs £235 for 200K. The Acorn Z80 card is not yet available but is expected to cost over £300.

Further information on the Torch Z80 Disc Pack is available from Torch Computers, Abberley House, Great Shelford, Cambridge.



Torch Z80 Disc Pack.

HP conference

PPC-UK, the British arm of the Hewlett Packard Programmable Calculator International Users Group, is holding its annual conference in London

on Saturday, October 9.

The cost of the PPC-UK meeting will be £15 (members) and £20 (non-members). More details from David Burch, PPC-UK, Astage, Rectory Lane, Windlesham.

Micronet 800 — a new deal from Prestel

PRESTEL has released more details of its Micronet 800 scheme, announced last week.

The scheme, due to be launched in January, will enable subscribers to buy a range of software and download it into their micros. An educational exchange library will enable schools and colleges to share programs written by teachers and students. Subscribers will also be able to exchange messages with each other, and any other Prestel user.

The Amateur Computer Club and other local groups will be able to use the system to keep their members up-to-date on club activities.

Aladdin's Cave is a collection of software, indexed by both subject and micro, that can be accessed for free.

Micronet 800 is a joint venture between Prestel/British Telecom; EMAP Computer & Business Publications Ltd/Telemap Ltd; ECC Publications Ltd and Prism Microproducts. Subscription to Micronet 800 will cost approximately £50 a year.

Further information is available from Micronet 800, Telemap Ltd, Bushfield House, Orton Centre, Peterborough PE2 0UW (telephone 0733-236113).

Move over Jaws — ET is on your trail

ATARI has signed a deal with MCA to produce a series of computer games based on the theme of Stephen Spielberg's new billion dollar film, *ET: The Extra Terrestrial*.

Graham Daubney, Atari's software manager, told *Popular Computing Weekly* "The games will use the *ET* characters and we hope to see them shortly after the film's UK launch at Christmas — definitely in the first quarter of 1983."

The deal is one of many being set up by Merchandising Corporation of America to produce spin-offs from the movie.

ET has been on general release in the US since July, and will be released in the UK later this year.

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Letters

write to Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2

Spelling out magic numbers

Glad to see that Sinclair have now reached the magic figure of 42 (*Popular Computing Weekly* July 29). I had thought, by the service and attention received from them, that they were at Milliways spending the year dead for tax reasons.

J Roberts
10 Bulrush Close
Hatfield
Hertfordshire AL10 8PE

3-dimensional graphics

I would like to congratulate you on achieving a good mix of interesting items in your weekly magazine. Of particular interest to me at the moment is Nick Hampshire's page on Spectrum graphics as I, along with others, await delivery of said machine.

Could you ask Nick Hampshire if it is possible to have a moving/rotating disc or wheel, as this could really be developed into some interesting graphics. In the meantime, I am saving all the articles ready to develop in my new Spectrum when it arrives.

Don Williamson
44 Sutton Park Drive
St Helens
Merseyside WA9 3TR

In answer to your query, see PCW July 8 for Nick Hampshire's rotating fan program.

Conspiracy of talents

One of your rival magazines recently gave the following quote: "It is better to know where to go and not how to get there than to know how to get there but not know where".

Unfortunately, many of your readers, including myself, fall into the latter category. We are capable of writing complex programs, but cannot think of original programs to write. Thus we are forced to reproduce arcade games such as *Puckman* and *Space Invaders*.

However, not only does this

mean that there is only a small range of programs available, but also that many programmers risk prosecution (re Copyright, *Popular Computing Weekly*, August 5).

I feel it would be a good idea if people could pool ideas for new games ie those people with imagination, but little knowledge of programming, could publicise their ideas for others to computerise. A small percentage of any money made selling the program would be paid to the originator of the idea as an incentive.

Unfortunately, this pooling of ideas would need a large database for storage, and printing facilities. At present, I have neither and thus cannot operate such a scheme.

However, I would like to hear from any company with these facilities who would be interested in running this type of scheme. Ideally, the company would also market the finished product, handling the payments to both the programmer and the originator of the idea.

John Hardman
65 Sandringham Drive
Welling
Kent DA16 3QZ

A philosophers life

I recently realised that I spend as much time watching a 32 x 24 matrix visualised at the end of a cathode ray tube as I do eating.

Is this part of the natural order of life, the universe and everything?

Simon Cross
6 The Avenue
Ipswich IP1 3SY

Leapfrogging in Street Alley

Re Street Alley (*Popular Computing Weekly*, August 12). Excellent game, but the frog has only one foot. To get two feet, the eighth number of 750 should be 199.

If a man is preferred, then 750 should read:

750 Data 60,60,24,255,189,
189,36,231,63

Alternatively, the first eight numbers can be any from A Blackham's character maker (July 15).

G. Foreman
82 Hazelton Road
Colchester
Essex CO4 3DY

Soldering on whirrs away

I ordered my Spectrum on May 10 and it arrived on August 5.

When I switched it on, I was surprised to hear quite a loud buzz from inside the case — it sounds like an electric motor whirring away. Using it with a Sony Trinitron, the set recommended by Sinclair, produced disappointing results with rolling bands of random colour. Trying it with a Sharp set was more successful with clean, steady colours although there was a pronounced shimmer on graphics. Yellow ink on green paper was virtually unreadable.

A chat with a friendly TV engineer threw some light on the problem with the Sony. He suggested I try adjusting a trimmer capacitor inside the Spectrum. Getting inside was much easier than with the ZX81, as there are no screws hidden under the feet. A small adjustment to the trimmer was all that was needed to make the Sony lock on.

I also found that very small adjustments affected the shimmer. I have been able to reduce it a little, but it is still far from perfect. The pixels now tend to pulse rather than wobble. Surely this must be a design fault?

After several hours of use, the internal temperature becomes disturbingly high (the heat sink is almost too hot to touch). It was during a cooking session when a bug developed, the *Beep* command caused the computer to New itself. Worse still, *Load* would not work and *New* *Newed* without having to press *Enter*. Switching off for a while restored everything to normal. Another look inside for dry joints etc, revealed a crack in a fine section of track, cured with a blob of solder.

Since then the computer has behaved itself and despite these problems, I like the machine.

S R Aizlewood
19 Brushfield Road
Holme Park
Chesterfield
Derbyshire

Doubled up on Vic20

Enclosed is a very simple and short method of obtaining double height characters on the Vic20. This method can be used with the basic Vic or with any expanded Vic. But, with cartridges that program the function keys, these have to be re-defined, eg, 'Key 1, "Graphic" '.

This program reproduces all the standard letters and graphics which appear on the right hand side of each key. The memory required to program the characters is just under 1.5K, leaving 2K of memory still intact.

It is advisable, after the characters have been programmed, to New the program used, as to get into the double height mode you have to type in the following — *Poke* 36867, (*Peek* (36867)) or 23, and, *Poke* 36869,254. The programmed characters cannot be written over by another program in memory, so a program of up to 2K can be entered safely without fear of deleting the characters.

The program: Line 1 — Sets various memory pointers to prevent 'writing over'. Lines 2 and 3 — Transfer characters from Rom into Ram. Line 4 — Changes screen colour/Puts Vic into double height mode. Line 5 — Changes character set to programmable one (254).

```
1 POKE 56,24:POKE 55,0:CS=6144
2 FOR I=CS TO 7678
3 STEP 2:Z=PEEK(32768+(I-CS)/2)
3 POKE I,Z:POKE I+1,Z:NEXT
4 POKE 36879,25:POKE
36867,(PEEK(36867))OR 23
5 POKE 36869,254:POKE 36881,24
```

Chris Groenhout
25 Kerferd Street
Watson ACT 2062
Australia

Kong's Revenge

A new game for Spectrum
by Jonathan Flint

This is an arcade style game for the Spectrum. The idea is to climb a layout of girders safely while collecting as many points as possible (as shown by your score at the top of the screen). Points are gained by taking the white parasols which are found at various locations.

For reasons which may escape you, a large gorilla is throwing barrels at you as you climb. These barrels should be avoided at all costs. If there is sufficient head room, you may jump over them as they pass. Your character (a little blue man) is moved using the following keys:

z..... LEFT
c..... RIGHT
x..... DOWN
s..... UP

Caps Shift together with one of the above keys enables your man to jump in the appropriate direction, ie *Caps Shift z* jumps you to the left. Jumps are required over barrels and across gaps in girders. Beware the *x* key — it moves you down whether or not there is a ladder beneath to support you.

The game has four stages. You receive a large bonus when progressing to each new stage. To reach a new stage you must climb to the highest point on the screen and then simply jump into thin air.

The first three levels can always be scaled if you choose your route carefully, but the fourth (with no ladders) is sometimes impossible. You may have to go out of your way to pick up a parasol but this must be done before a barrel rolls over them. If this happens the parasols will lose their *Brightness* and become worthless.

The program starts with a series of data statements. Lines 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16,

define the user defined graphics used in the game. When entering the program from the keyboard, you should Run lines 1 to 90 as soon as they have been written in order to define the graphics.

These graphics and the lines in which they appear are:

Graphic:	Lines:	
"p"	255,550,560,570	(Parasols)
"d"	1100,1126,2005	(Man)
	2030,2120,5010	
	5030,5050,5060	
"h"	5280	(Ladder)
"f" and "g"	5180	(Gorilla)

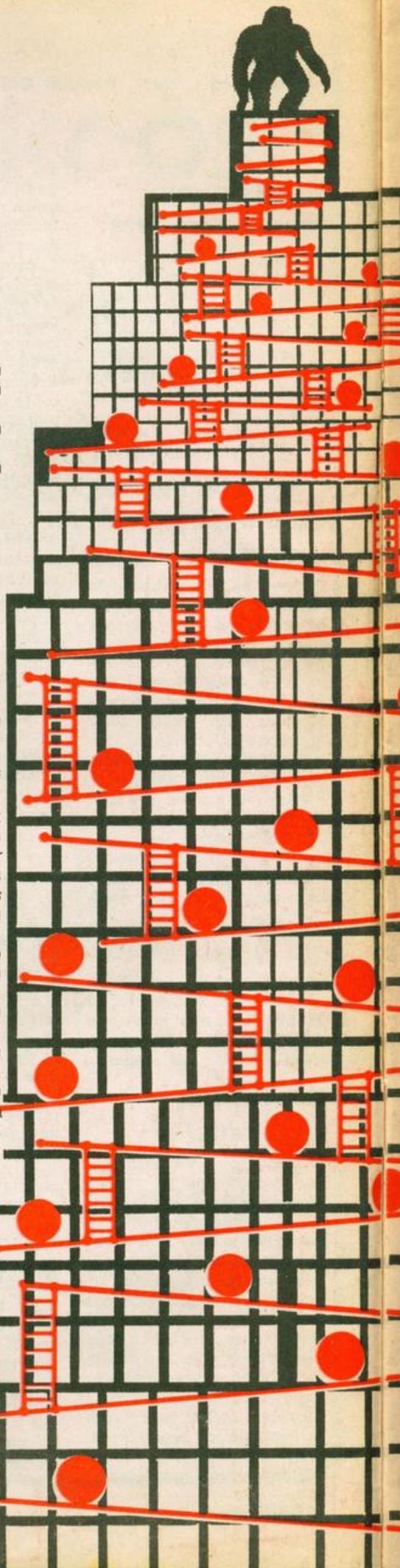
Lines 5190, 5200, 5220 use standard mosaic graphics.

The remaining data statements define the girder layouts and the ladder locations used in stages two and three. Lines 100 to 570 use this data to draw levels. The main playing loop lies between lines 1100 and 1500 and contains a minimum number of lines to keep things fairly fast.

Since the *screen\$* function does not recognise user defined graphics or high resolution pictures, I have used the *Attr* function where necessary to identify items on screen by their colour and *Brightness* status. Thus if you wish to add anything further to the game bear in mind:

- (a) The program as it stands will only stop and think about something it meets on screen if it is *Bright*.
- (b) You cannot jump through anything which is red.
- (c) You can stand on anything except an empty space.

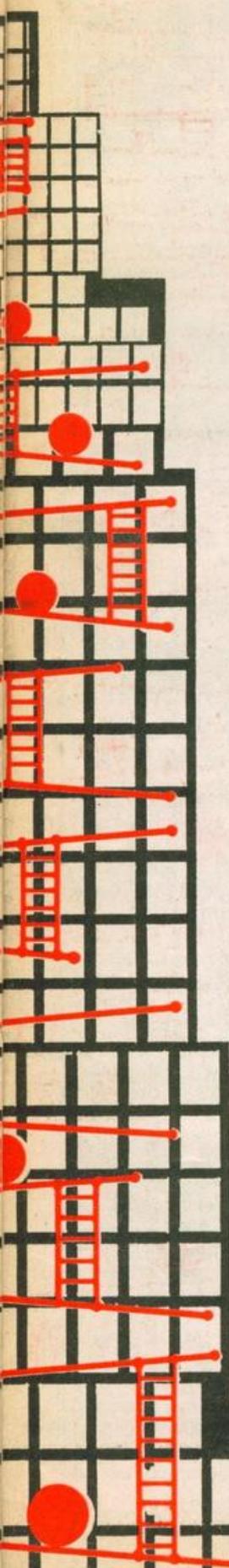
When satisfactorily entered simply Run the game. You may be killed by hitting a barrel or by falling too great a distance. Press "r" for another game.



```

1 REM Kong's Revenge
2 REM By J. Flint
3 REM
10 BORDER 6: INK 1: PAPER 6: C
-5
11 DATA "f",0,BIN 00001100,BIN
00001100,0,0,BIN 00001111,BIN 0
2001010,0
12 DATA "g",0,BIN 00110000,BIN
00110000,0,0,BIN 11110000,BIN 0
1010000,BIN 11110000
13 DATA "p",BIN 10001110,BIN 0
1110001,BIN 01100000,BIN 01010000
,BIN 10001000,BIN 10000100,BIN 1
3000010,BIN 01000100
15 DATA "d",BIN 00001000,BIN 0
1111110,BIN 10011000,BIN 0011110
0,BIN 00100100,BIN 00100100,BIN
20100100,BIN 00110110
16 DATA "h",BIN 01000100,BIN 0
1000100,BIN 01000100,BIN 0111110
0,BIN 01000100,BIN 01000100,BIN
21000100,BIN 01000100
18 DATA 18,17,6,28,14,2,25,16,
4,0,0,32,0,16,16,16,2,3,2,8,5,20
,4,12,0,4,10,11,6,9,21,8,3,24,12
,7,0,12,21
19 DATA 13,10,0,8,0,12,24,9,5,
0
20 DATA 0,16,20,21,15,10,0,12,
20,21,12,1,22,10,1,12,16,7,27,2,
4,24,1,2,29,0,0,2,8,3,0,0,32,2,4
,26,18,8,14
21 DATA 25,5,0,9,0,13,5,0,25,9
30 FOR g=1 TO 5
40 READ a$
50 FOR x=0 TO 7
60 READ a
70 POKE USR a$+x,a
80 NEXT x
90 NEXT g
100 LET sc=0: LET l=0
101 BRIGHT 0: BORDER 6: INK 1:
PAPER 6: CLS
102 OVER 0: INK 2
105 FOR x=1 TO 140 STEP 32-16*(
l>2)
110 PLOT 0,x
130 FOR n=1 TO 31
140 DRAW 4,0: DRAW 0,4: DRAW 4,
2: DRAW 0,-4
150 NEXT n
155 DRAW 0,6
160 DRAW -248,0
170 NEXT x
175 GO SUB 5170
250 FOR y=5 TO 19 STEP 4-2*(l>2)
255 PRINT AT y+1,RND*29; BRIGHT
1: INK 7;"X"
260 LET t=28*RND
261 LET s=26*RND
265 PRINT AT y,s;" "
290 IF l<=2 THEN GO SUB 5270
300 NEXT y
310 PLOT 200,143
320 DRAW 7,0
330 PLOT 216,159
340 DRAW 7,0
350 GO TO 1000
390 INK 2
395 FOR t=1 TO 13
400 READ a,b,c
410 PLOT a*8,b*8+5
420 FOR x=1 TO c-1
430 DRAW 4,-2: DRAW 4,2
440 NEXT x
445 DRAW 4,-2: DRAW 3,3
450 DRAW -6*(c-.1),0
460 NEXT t
500 FOR c=1 TO 5
510 READ t,y: GO SUB 5270
520 NEXT c
530 GO SUB 5170
540 BRIGHT 1: INK 7
550 PRINT AT 6,1;"X"
560 PRINT AT 12,3;"X"
570 PRINT AT 18,30;"X"
580 IF l=2 THEN PRINT AT 2,13;
INK 1;"000000"
1000 LET y=0
1010 GO SUB 4000: GO SUB 4010
1020 BRIGHT 0: OVER 1: INK 8: FL
ASH 8
1030 LET y=20: LET x=0
1040 PRINT AT 1,14; OVER 0; INK
7: BRIGHT 1;sc
1100 PRINT BRIGHT 8;AT y,x;"Z"
1104 IF SCREEN$ (y+1,x)="" THEN
GO SUB 2000
1105 PRINT BRIGHT 1;AT p,q;"0"
1110 PRINT BRIGHT 1;AT p1,q1;"0"
1120 BEEP (INKEY$("<"))/50,-y
1125 IF ATTR (y,x)>64 THEN GO TO
3000
1126 PRINT AT y,x;"Z"
1130 LET x=x+(INKEY$="c")-(INKEY
$="z")
1132 LET y=y-(INKEY$="s")+ (INKEY
$="x")
1140 IF INKEY$("<a") AND INKEY$("<A")
" THEN GO SUB 5000
1150 PRINT :AT p,q;"0"
1160 PRINT :AT p1,q1;"0"
1170 GO SUB 3510
1180 IF SCREEN$ (p+1,q)="" THEN
LET p=p+2
1200 IF SCREEN$ (p1+1,q1)="" TH
EN LET p1=p1+2
1500 GO TO 1100
2000 REM DROP
2005 PRINT AT y,x;"Z"
2007 IF y<1 THEN GO TO 6000
2010 FOR b=1 TO 2
2020 LET y=y+1
2030 PRINT AT y,x;"Z"
2040 IF SCREEN$ (y+1,x)="" THEN
BEEP .1,-12: RETURN
2060 GO SUB 3510
2120 PRINT AT y,x;"Z"
2125 NEXT b
2130 IF SCREEN$ (y+1,x)="" THEN
GO TO 2500
2140 LET y=y+1: GO TO 2130
2500 PRINT AT y,x-2: OVER 0; FLA
SH 1: INK 2;"SPLAT"
2530 FOR x=0 TO -30 STEP -1: BEE
p,.05,x: NEXT x
2540 IF INKEY$="r" THEN CLS: RE
STORE 18: GO TO 100
2550 GO TO 2540
3000 REM BRIGHT
3005 IF ATTR (y,x)(>119 THEN GO
TO 2500
3010 BEEP .2,36
3020 LET sc=sc+100
3030 PRINT AT 1,14; OVER 0; INK
7: BRIGHT 1;sc
3040 PRINT AT y,x; OVER 0; INK 1
" "
3050 GO TO 1130
3500 REM BARREL
3510 LET q=q+d: LET q1=q1+d1
3520 IF q1>30 OR q1<1 THEN LET d
1=-d1: IF p1>y THEN GO SUB 4010
3540 IF q>30 OR q<1 THEN LET d=-
d1: IF p>y THEN GO SUB 4000
3550 RETURN
4000 LET d=1: LET q=1: LET p=2*IN
T (y/3): RETURN
4010 LET d1=-1: LET q1=29: LET p
1=2*INT (y/3): RETURN
5000 LET g=(INKEY$="C")-(INKEY$=
"Z")
5005 BRIGHT 8
5010 PRINT AT y-1,x;"Z": BEEP .0
5,0
5020 IF ATTR (y-1,x)=50 THEN GO
TO 2500
5030 PRINT AT y-2,x+9;"Z": BEEP
.05,12
5050 PRINT AT y-1,x;"Z"
5060 PRINT AT y-2,x+9;"Z": BEEP
.05,24
5080 LET x=x+2*9: LET y=y-2
5090 BRIGHT 0
5100 IF ATTR (y,x)>64 THEN GO TO
3000
5120 RETURN
5170 REM GORILLA
5175 PAPER 2: INK 0: FLASH 1
5180 PRINT AT 0,9;" "
5190 PRINT AT 1,8;" "
5200 PRINT AT 2,8;" "
5220 PRINT AT 3,8;" "
5230 FLASH 0: PAPER 6
5240 RETURN
5260 REM Ladder
5270 FOR X=0 TO 3
5280 PRINT AT x+y,t: INK 1;"H"
5290 NEXT X
5300 RETURN
5000 REM Again
5020 LET sc=sc+2+100
5030 BEEP .3,12: BEEP .3,24: BEE
p,.3,12: BEEP .3,24: BEEP 1,0
5040 INK 1: CLS
5050 LET l=l+1
5060 IF l>2 THEN RESTORE 18: GO
TO 101
5070 GO TO 390

```



Street Life

Indoor garden party for ZX fans

David Kelly reports on the 4th London ZX Microfair and finds business is booming.

Over 6000 expectant ZX81 and Spectrum owners made their way to the 4th London ZX Microfair in Victoria on Saturday August 21. The New Horticultural Hall, built in 1928, proved to be far more popular than the previous venue, the Westminster Central Hall. By lunch-time all that could be seen of the hall was a seething mass of heads.

Mike Johnston, the show's organiser was clearly delighted. "My only worry" he said "was that the delay in production of the Spectrum would mean that none of the companies would have any Spectrum products to sell or display."

In the event, most of the companies at the fair managed to put some Spectrum wares on show. This was clearly necessary, since interest seemed to centre on products for the new machine.

Several of the 75 or so exhibitors commented that from the time of the Spectrum launch sales of their ZX81 stock were considerably reduced.

One software company even went so far as to say that its ZX81 stock 'died' with the announcement of the new machine.

It has been a lean time for companies this summer while they waited for their new Sinclair machines. Now, however, most of the companies have received their Spectrums and are frantically trying to stay in a market that has suddenly taken off at a tangent.

After several fairly dismal microfairs — including the last London and Manchester ZX Microfairs — the scene is once again alive.

There were at least eight Spectrums, and one Dragon 32, available on various stands. They proved to be a strong draw for those people still waiting for their own machines.

Kempston (Micro) Electronics demonstrated its new joystick for the Spectrum. The unit plugs into the Kempston I/O controller card which, in turn, plugs into the port at the rear of the machine. Up to four joysticks can be connected to the card at the same time and individually addressed from the Spectrum. The controller card is currently available for £16.50 and the joystick, together with demonstration tape and instructions, will be available by the



Avid micro enthusiasts, fingers poised at the keyboard.



Inside the New Agricultural Hall.

second week of September for around £9.50.

Stephen Adams displayed his £7 ZX81/Spectrum Ram converter. This device allows a ZX81 Ram pack to be fitted to the rear port of the Spectrum to convert a 16K machine into a 32K one.

Memotech showed a new Centronics printer interface for use either with the ZX81 or ZX Spectrum. A similar RS232 interface will be available by mid-September. Both interfaces cost £39.95.

East London Robotics had its 64K and

32K plug-in Ram expansion modules for the Spectrum for sale. The boards are available for £50 and £35, respectively. They are also available in kit form, although assembly by inexperienced constructors is not recommended.

Sir Computers had an 8-bit Spectrum I/O port on display, price £14.50, available in mid-September.

Nearly all of the main software companies at the fair had some Spectrum material to show.

Bug-Byte demonstrated its *Spectral Invaders* and Quicksilver had its *Space Intruders* and *Meteor Storm* on view — all for the 16K Spectrum.

Silversoft showed their new games for the 16K Spectrum — *Orbiter*, a version of *Defender*, and *Ground Attack*, a version of *Scramble* — each available for £5.95.

Macronics showed *Word-Pro* for the 48K Spectrum and a game called *Star Quest*. J P Gibbons had a 32K Spectrum *Personal Banking System* on display while Zedxta showed off its character programmer. C-Tech showed four new games including *Breakout* and *Fruit-Machine*.

Spectrum material was also in evidence from J W V Software and Silicon Software.

The impact of Atari's copyright actions against Commodore and Bug-Byte was being felt by many of the software companies. Concern centred, not so much on the Atari action itself, but on the general uncertainty of this area of the law. No one knows how different a program has to be from an original game before it ceases to be an infringement of copyright.

The next London ZX Microfair will be held on December 18. The venue has yet to be finalised.

Machine Code

Ian Stewart and Robin Jones present a new series for beginners

From the left by numbers

People normally think about numbers in terms of tens. If you write the number 3814 we all understand that to mean:
 $3 \times 1000 + 8 \times 100 + 1 \times 10 + 4 \times 1$

and we can see that to get a "place value" from the one on its right we simply multiply by ten. We say the number is in *base ten*.

Because we've been doing this for as long as we can remember, it's difficult to realise that there are other, perfectly sensible, ways of doing the same job. Early computer designers certainly didn't; they used base ten representations in their machines and hit some nasty snags. Most of these problems were caused by the fact that electronic amplifiers don't behave the same way for all the signals you want to input to them. For instance, an amplifier that is supposed to output double its input signal may well do so for inputs of 1, 2, 3 and 4 units; but then it starts to "flatten off" so that an input of 5 produces an output of only 9.6, 6 produces 10.8, and you can hardly tell the difference between the outputs for inputs of 8 and 9.

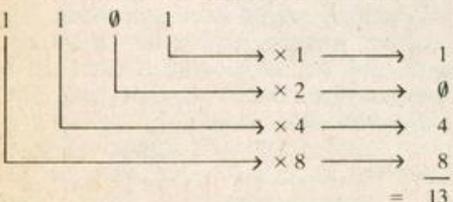
Put a music tape in a cheap cassette recorder and wind up the volume. Hear the distortion in the loud bits? It's the same effect.

The simplest thing you can do with an electrical signal is to turn it on or off; so you can represent the digits 0 (off) and 1 (on) satisfactorily. Distortion no longer matters. It's clear whether a signal is present or not regardless of how mangled it is. But can we devise a number system which only uses 0s and 1s?

Yes. In a base ten number, the largest possible digit is 9. Add 1 to 9 and you get 10—a *carry* has taken place. We can write any number using any other base we choose, and the largest possible digit will always be one less than the base. If the base is 2, the largest digit is 1, so a base 2 (or *binary*) number only contains 0s and 1s.

What about the place values? In the base ten case we got those by starting at 1 (on the right) and multiplying by 10 every time we moved left one place. For a binary number we still start at 1, but we multiply by 2 every time we move left.

So for instance the binary number 1101 can be converted to base 10 like this:



Converting the other way is easy as well. Take 25 for example. If you write down the binary place values:

32 16 8 4 2 1
 0 1 1 0 0 1

and work from the left, it's clear that you need a 16. Subtract 16 from 25 and you will be left with 9, and that's made up of an 8 and a 1, so 25 is:

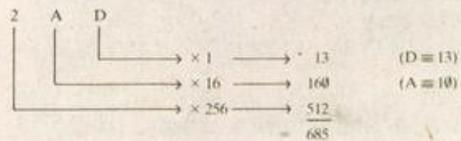
Hexadecimal code

This is fine for relatively small values, but a bit messy for large ones. There are a number of quick conversion techniques, and there are binary-to-decimal and decimal-to-binary conversion program listings in *PEEK, POKE, BYTE & RAM!*; but we want to examine a procedure which makes use of *hexadecimal* code, because it will stand you in good stead later.

A number in hex (nobody ever says "hexadecimal", except us, just now) is a number in base 16. So the place values are obtained by successive multiplications by 16. The first five are:

65536 4096 256 16 1
 "Hang about!" everybody's saying. "Those are nasty numbers, and anyway, in base 16 the largest digit has the value 15. Things are getting complicated."

Bear with us. We handle the problem of digits greater than 9 by assigning the letters A-F to the values 10-15. So the number 2AD in hex converts to decimal like this:



Now for the nice feature of hex. Because 16 is one of the binary place values (the fifth one) it turns out that each hex digit in a number can be replaced by the four binary digits which represent it. (By the way, "binary digit" takes almost as long to say as "hexadecimal" so it's normally abbreviated to "bit".) The following table shows the conversions:

Decimal	Hex	Binary
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	3	0011
4	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
10	A	1010
11	B	1011
12	C	1100
13	D	1101
14	E	1110
15	F	1111

Now suppose we want to convert 9041

to hex. First we extract two 4096s, then some 256s and so on like this:

9041
 $2 \times 4096 = 8192$
 849
 $3 \times 256 = 768$
 81
 $5 \times 16 = 80$
 1
 $1 \times 1 = 1$
 0

So the hex representation is 2351. Now we just copy the digit codes from the table:

0010 0011 0101 0001

and that's the binary equivalent of 9041 — just run the four blocks together to get 0010001101010001.

The hex-to-binary conversion is so easy that, more often than not, we leave numbers in hex even when, ultimately, we need them in binary.

Conversion by Computer

Here's a program to convert from decimal to hex. It successively divides the number by 16, looking at the remainder each time, so it extracts digits in the opposite order to that shown previously.

```

1 DIM HEX$(4)
2 LET P=4
30 LET HEX$="0000"
40 PRINT "ENTER DECIMAL NO. (MAX:65535)"
50 INPUT DN
60 LET N=INT (DN/16)
70 LET HEX$(P)=CHR$(DN-16*N+28)
80 LET DN=N
90 LET P=P-1
100 IF DN>0 THEN GOTO 60
110 PRINT "HEX VALUE IS"; HEX$
  
```

The result is always presented as a 4-digit number, with leading zeroes if there are fewer than 4 significant digits. The program won't work if the result should contain more than 4 digits, but that's ideal for our purposes, as you shall see.

Here's the code to convert in the opposite direction (hex to decimal):

```

140 PRINT "ENTER 4 DIGIT HEX NO."
150 INPUT HEX$
160 LET DN=0
170 FOR P=1 TO 4
180 LET DN=DN*16+(CODE(HEX$(P))-28)
190 NEXT P
200 PRINT "DECIMAL VALUE IS"; DN
  
```

We could tie these routines together with a little menu:

```

2 PRINT "DEC/HEX CONVERTOR"
3 PRINT "1)DEC->HEX"
4 PRINT "2)HEX->DEC"
5 PRINT "3)END"
6 PRINT "ENTER 1, 2, OR 3"
7 INPUT SEL
8 IF SEL=1 THEN GOSUB 20
9 IF SEL=2 THEN GOSUB 140
10 IF SEL=3 THEN STOP
  
```

and, of course, we'll need *Returns* at lines 120 and 210.

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Somewhere over the rainbow?

Boris Allan treads the yellow brick road, looking at the latest Spectrum software.

The ZX Spectrum is a far different machine to the old ZX81, but many software writers do not seem to have noticed.

I was rather disheartened to discover that at least two of the programs were being promoted by their length — a program may be long either because it is complex or because it is poorly written. In the case of two programs I suspect the main reason is the latter.

Some programs loaded the user-defined characters of cassette by use of the *Load "" Code* command which meant that 16K programs would not work on 48K (and *vice versa*). All that was needed was the simple command *Load "" Code Usr "a"* and the same program worked on either system. Little things like this suggested that the program writers did not know the Spectrum well enough to use it to the full.

Other hangovers from the past were the way in which programs were written to use graphics which — apart from the colour — were in no way superior to ZX81 programs.

Of the programs I review here, only some are worth examining in detail. For a change, I will first look at the three which are far and away the worst specimens.

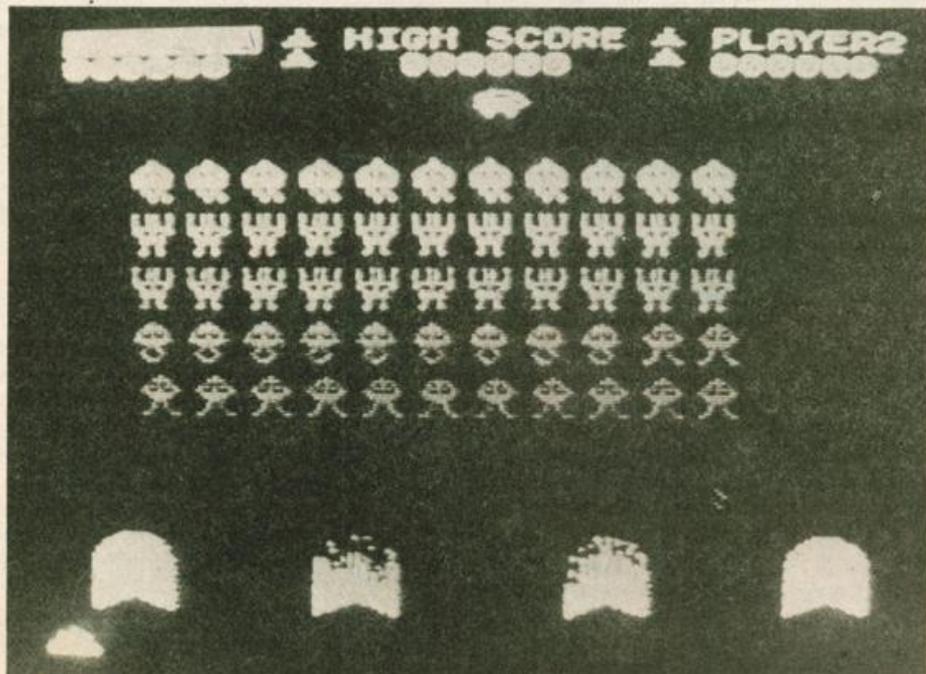


Boris Allan "the ZX Spectrum is a far different machine to the old ZX81".

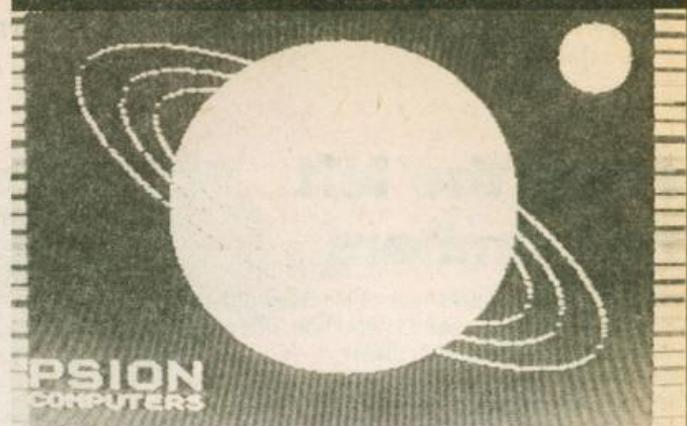
Inheritance is easily the worst program. For a program with such a long listing there seem to be no error traps — an example of inefficient programming. The game is in two sections, building up an inheritance on the stock market (with a bit of gambling) and then using the inheritance to run a business.

To win at the first section, all you have to do is place half your money on a good bet (or what seemed to be a good bet) and an equal, but minus, amount on a bad bet. For example, in Black-jack if your first card was low, bet a minus amount, so that when you lose you lose a minus amount (ie gain a positive amount). Using such tricks it was easy to win. Surely, no decent program with an 11 foot print out should allow this.

In the second section, all that was needed was to have a negative number of



Reviews



advertising outlets (—1E14 was popular) to succeed. A waste of time. I had more fun trying to trip it up than actually playing it properly.

Venture was little better — a ZX81 program masquerading as a Spectrum program — and again one for which claims were made regarding length. This was the

“ *Inheritance is easily the worst program. For a program with such a long listing there seem to be no error traps . . .* ”

program with copious ZX81-type graphics, and many superfluous *ifs*. Only capital letters were allowed for input, it would not accept lower case.

The program was a series of games on the way to a final maze, where one collected gold. Included were a bomber style game which made little use of the Spectrum's facilities and a Mastermind type game which gave you 14 attempts to find the solution when the most you need is eight. In the final maze, you could accumulate items simply by going over the same spot.

Supersoft supplied three programs — an *Editor*, *Lgame*, and *Graphics*. At first I thought that the *Graphics* program (it helps to construct user-defined characters) was over-priced at £5 — especially as it is so simple to define characters in any case — but later, when I found that a superior program was part of the free *Horizon* cassette, I was certain.

Lgame (also £5) is based on the original version by lateral thinker Edward de Bono. The program was not complex, though an attempt was made to disguise the structure by the use of *Goto* labels (and not line numbers).

The final offering, *Editor* (at £15), was a text editor — not a word processor. The program was so rudimentary it did not even use the screen, input was into a string at the normal input position. The program's author claims "*Editor* is a program that turns the ZX Spectrum into a true word processor" — but this is just not so. True word processors allow you to

change the formatting of the file, within the file as part of text, and this is not possible with this system. *Editor* is not easy to use, is far too easily crashed, and is not recommended.

Spectral Invaders from Bug-Byte was a distinct improvement, though I prefer Quicksilver's *Space Intruders* and Campbell System's *Gulpman*. *Spectral Invaders* is a rather sedate game of the invaders type, with large slow-moving aliens. Bands of colour are set across the screen and each invader takes the colour of the band, rather than being individually pigmented.

At the end, the increase in speed of the invaders was not significant. The game was also spoilt by having to enter the game each time a base was destroyed — much better the instant appearance of your next base.

All the offerings from Abacus were standard, usually maze-type, games. *Android Pit-Rescue* had a bug in it such that if your laser blasted the bottom of the pit, you had an out-of-range error.

The three games from Lomax were middling. Two (*Defender* and *Thezeus*) loaded defined characters from cassette and the loading program had to be modified to load at *Usr* "a". *Defender* was



Looking for a pot of gold?

rather tame — almost an introductory attempt to produce a game using graphics, and was of the blow-up-all-the-Klingon-space-ships-with-your-lasers-type. The instructions are not complex — they do not need to be — and are incorrect at one point (it is 0 to fire and not f). *Thezeus* was of the collect-the-goodies-from-the-maze-but-do-not-trigger-the-hidden-bombs-type. *Squash* was poor, without being terrible.

I will discuss the two disassemblers at this point, because they are not games and every program has to be somewhere — to paraphrase Spike Milligan.

Both utility programs worked. *SPDE* had instructions within the program and offered

Supplier	Program	Comment	Price
Bug-Byte, 98-100 The Albany, Old Hall Street, Liverpool	<i>Spectral Invaders</i>	Standard	£5
Artic Computing, 396 James Reckitt Avenue, Hull	<i>Spectrum Bug</i>	Useful utility	£6.95
Simon W Hessel Software, 15 Lytham Court, Cardwell Crescent, Sunninghill, Berks	<i>Inheritance</i>	Poorly written	£5.95
Campbell Systems, 15 Rous Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex	<i>SPDE</i>	Useful utility	£5.95
	<i>Gulpman</i>	An extraordinarily good program	£5.95
Lomax 25 Parkway Crowthorne, Berkshire	<i>Defender</i>	Average	£4.50
	<i>Squash</i>		for the three
	<i>Thezeus</i>		three
ZX-Guaranteed, 29 Chadderton Drive, Unsworth, Bury, Lancs	<i>Venture</i>	Thinks it's a ZX81 program	£6
Psion, Sinclair Research	<i>Horizons</i>	Excellent value	Free with Spectrum
Abacus Programs, 186 St Hellens Ave, Swansea, West Glamorgan	<i>Destroyer</i>	Subchase	£4.95
	<i>Battle</i>	Tankchase	£4.95
	<i>Iceberg</i>	Grippingly tedious	£5.95
	<i>Android</i>	And again	for the two
	<i>Pit-rescue</i>		
Supersoft, 6a Newlands Ave, Southampton	<i>Editor</i>	Must be joking at this price	£15
	<i>Lgame</i>	Poor	£5
	<i>Graphics</i>	Free in <i>Horizons</i>	£5

facilities to convert from hexadecimal to decimal and *vice versa* and other little treats. *Spectrum Bug* game with instructions on the insert and an instruction booklet is threatened.

There were little hiccups with both disassemblers. The Artic version (*Spectrum Bug*) was perhaps the more complete, but the Campbell Systems version (*SPDE*) was rather easier to use and modify. *Spectrum Bug* is in machine code, where-

“ There were little hiccups with both disassemblers. Artic was perhaps the more complete, but Campbell Systems-easier to use and modify. ”

as *SPDE* is written in Basic. There is little to choose between them, though my personal preference is for *SPDE*.

The *Horizons* cassette is now to be given away free with every Spectrum. Apart from one bug in the keyboard trainer (characters were selected at random and sometimes *Enter* was chosen, and appeared as a "?") *Horizons* seems fine.

Side A is explanatory — What is a computer, What is a Spectrum, and What is a keyboard? While it generated no great enthusiasm, the keyboard trainer was more fun than some of the other cassettes reviewed here.

Side B contained games and demonstrations, including the best *Break-out* version yet seen for the Spectrum, a

competent (perhaps even good) character generator, a line draw program, and an intriguing sine-wave addition program (very pretty). Also on the tape were other more mundane programs such as *Life*, *Bubblesort*, *Evolution*, and *Monte Carlo*. Easily the best value for money of all cassettes — it's free — and not bad either.

Gulpman

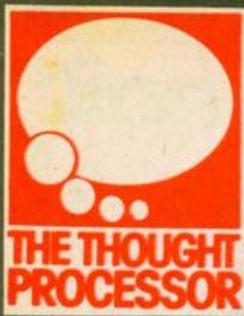
Gulpman is the one cassette that I would buy (given that *Horizons* is free). In *Gulpman* you go round picking up apples while being chased by nasties. You are protected only by lasers and your wits. You have nine lives.

It is possible to choose between nine speeds, nine "grades" (how fast the nasties are compared to you) and 15 different mazes (each requiring a different strategy). You can also choose which keys control your movements.

You can run a demonstration on any type of maze, and save that version of the game with *your* keys, plus reset high-score and other twiddly bits. An exceptional program. Given the work involved and the way the whole program is packaged it is well worth the £6 — and I do not often think that.

Summary

When are software writers going to realise that the Spectrum is a different machine from the ZX81? And when will people stop re-using all the same old ideas? Apart from the two disassemblers, only *Gulpman* and *Horizons* really stand out.



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PROGRAM OF THE WEEK

ADDRESS	HEX	INSTRUCTION	16641	00		16715	ED
16514	00	NOP-CRAFT MARKER	16642	0E	LD C,33	16716	51
16515	0A	LD A,(16514) MOVE	16643	0D	ADD HL,BC	16717	50
16516	03	CRAFT	16644	05	LD (HL),0	16718	00
16517	40		16645	06	DEC E	16719	0E
16518	3C	INC A	16646	0D	JR NZ (-6)	16720	00
16519	30	CP 30	16647	1D	LD A,(16615)	16721	00
16520	0E	JR NC (+21)	16648	00	INC A	16722	00
16521	0E	LD DE,(16396)	16649	40	LD (16615),A	16723	00
16522	00		16650	00		16724	00
16523	00		16651	00		16725	00
16524	00		16652	00		16726	00
16525	00		16653	00		16727	00
16526	00		16654	00		16728	00
16527	00		16655	00		16729	00
16528	00		16656	00		16730	00
16529	00		16657	00		16731	00
16530	00		16658	00		16732	00
16531	00		16659	00		16733	00
16532	00		16660	00		16734	00
16533	00		16661	00		16735	00
16534	00		16662	00		16736	00
16535	00		16663	00		16737	00
16536	00		16664	00		16738	00
16537	00		16665	00		16739	00
16538	00		16666	00		16740	00
16539	00		16667	00		16741	00
16540	00		16668	00		16742	00
16541	00		16669	00		16743	00
16542	00		16670	00		16744	00
16543	00		16671	00		16745	00
16544	00		16672	00		16746	00
16545	00		16673	00		16747	00
16546	00		16674	00		16748	00
16547	00		16675	00		16749	00
16548	00		16676	00		16750	00
16549	00		16677	00		16751	00
16550	00		16678	00		16752	00
16551	00		16679	00		16753	00
16552	00		16680	00		16754	00
16553	00		16681	00		16755	00
16554	00		16682	00		16756	00
16555	00		16683	00		16757	00
16556	00		16684	00		16758	00
16557	00		16685	00		16759	00
16558	00		16686	00		16760	00
16559	00		16687	00		16761	00
16560	00		16688	00		16762	00
16561	00		16689	00		16763	00
16562	00		16690	00		16764	00
16563	00		16691	00		16765	00
16564	00		16692	00		16766	00
16565	00		16693	00		16767	00
16566	00		16694	00		16768	00
16567	00		16695	00		16769	00
16568	00		16696	00		16770	00
16569	00		16697	00		16771	00
16570	00		16698	00		16772	00
16571	00		16699	00		16773	00
16572	00		16700	00		16774	00
16573	00		16701	00		16775	00
16574	00		16702	00		16776	00
16575	00		16703	00		16777	00
16576	00		16704	00		16778	00
16577	00		16705	00		16779	00
16578	00		16706	00		16780	00
16579	00		16707	00		16781	00
16580	00		16708	00		16782	00
16581	00		16709	00		16783	00
16582	00		16710	00		16784	00
16583	00		16711	00		16785	00
16584	00		16712	00		16786	00
16585	00		16713	00		16787	00
16586	00		16714	00		16788	00
16587	00					16789	00
16588	00					16790	00
16589	00					16791	00
16590	00					16792	00
16591	00					16793	00
16592	00					16794	00
16593	00					16795	00
16594	00					16796	00
16595	00					16797	00
16596	00					16798	00
16597	00					16799	00
16598	00					16800	00
16599	00					16801	00
16600	00					16802	00
16601	00					16803	00
16602	00					16804	00
16603	00					16805	00
16604	00					16806	00
16605	00					16807	00
16606	00					16808	00
16607	00					16809	00
16608	00					16810	00
16609	00					16811	00
16610	00					16812	00
16611	00					16813	00
16612	00					16814	00
16613	00					16815	00
16614	00					16816	00
16615	00					16817	00
16616	00					16818	00
16617	00					16819	00
16618	00					16820	00
16619	00					16821	00
16620	00					16822	00
16621	00					16823	00
16622	00					16824	00
16623	00					16825	00
16624	00					16826	00
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16629	00					16831	00
16630	00					16832	00
16631	00					16833	00
16632	00					16834	00
16633	00					16835	00
16634	00					16836	00
16635	00					16837	00
16636	00					16838	00
16637	00					16839	00
16638	00					16840	00
16639	00					16841	00
16640	00					16842	00

Bricks
by Peter Vincent

Golf

on Spectrum

Golf, as the name implies, is a game which places you on a golf course generated by the computer. Your task is to get round the course in as few shots as possible by missing the bunkers, dodging the rivers and the trees, keeping out of the rough and putting accurately when you get close to the flag.

When the program is on the computer type *Run* to start and enter the number of holes that you wish to play. After a short pause you will be asked to enter your handicap (between 1 and 3). If you enter your handicap as 1 then you will be able to hit the ball further but you will also have longer holes and you will also have a smaller par.

If you choose a handicap of 3 you will have slightly shorter holes and you will have a larger par but you will not be able to hit the ball as far. When you have entered your handicap the hole will be displayed using the following symbols: the flashing T on the left is the Tee; the dark green (a

chess board character of black and green) is the rough and landing in this will decrease the strength of your shot considerably.

The light green in the centre (a chess board character of cyan and green) is the fairway; the light green square on the right is the green with the flag in the centre; the black objects dotted about are trees and hitting one of these costs a penalty shot.

The yellow and black characters are bunkers and landing in one of these causes the strength of your shot to be cut considerably.

The blue characters are lakes and landing in one of these costs a penalty shot. The distance across the screen is displayed in yards in the top left. The par for the hole is displayed in the centre at the top and the number of shots you have taken is at the top on the right (if you have had any).

You are then asked to enter the strength of your shot (in yards), the direction of your shot (this is like a clock, eg 12 is up, 3 is right, 6 is down, etc, decimals, eg 1.5, are allowed), the computer then works out where your shot landed. **turn to next page**

Spectrum

Breaking up is always hard to do

David Hawkins explains how to disassemble Z80 instructions into mnemonics.

The ability of Sinclair Spectrum Basic to hold relatively complex data structures in a 'visible' form, ie, in the program listing, is well demonstrated by this Z80 disassembler. This is made possible by the new (to ZX Basic) commands: *Data* (with expressions as data), *Restore* (with a line-number pointer), *Read* and multi-statement lines for greater speed (less line-numbers for *Goto*, *Gosub*, *Return*, *Restore* etc to search through).

The program provides a disassembly of all Z80 instructions — indexed or otherwise — into mnemonics and, optionally into byte values (decimals and characters/keywords). Illegal instructions are *Beeped* and *Flashed*, whereupon the program goes into byte printing mode. *Jr* opcodes are printed with actual addresses. The program prints 2-3 lines a second.

The instruction relationships and mnemonics are held in *Data* statement tables as opcode (or pointer), arguments (or pointers) and brackets requirements. Some opcodes and arguments are contained in array tables, so certain *Data* lines hold pointers to the arrays — notice how an opcode can be built from two parts as in line 3271.

Each instruction byte is rearranged and split to form a pointer to a *Data* line. As certain instructions have a slightly different structure, the opcode is replaced where relevant by an indicator and pointer to a further line eg line 1001 points to line 4000 modified by variable *b*.

The lower-case letters *u* to *z* are used to indicate special editing requirements be-

Figure 1

45	RST	56
46	RST	56
47	RST	56
48	PUSH	BC
49	LD	HL, (23649)
52	PUSH	HL
53	JR	5790
56	PUSH	AF
57	PUSH	HL
58	LD	HL, (23672)
61	INC	HL
62	LD	(23672), HL
65	LD	A, H
66	OR	L
67	JR	NZ, 72
69	INC	(IY+64)
72	PUSH	BC
73	PUSH	DE
74	CALL	703
77	POP	DE
78	POP	BC

Address Bytes Bytes Continue

fore output ie insert Index registers, calculate displacements, double byte values, etc.

The program automatically determines the number of bytes in the instruction so printing the correct number of byte values is simple.

Variables used

- a* to *e* — components of split byte.
- f* — index register displacement.
- g* — indicates which argument is bracketed (0 = none) also used for byte printing.
- i* — used for index instruction validation.
- k* — indicates instruction classification.
- l* — instruction block pointer.
- m* — modifies 1 pointer, also indicates which argument is being edited.
- p* — address of byte being examined.
- p1* — address of first byte of instruction.
- q* — contents of byte being examined.
- s* — indicates if byte values are to be printed, 0 = no, 1 = yes.
- z* — Table initialisation *For* loop counter.
- a\$* to *c\$* — opcode and two arguments.
- c\$* — holds arguments for editing.
- \$* — holds "HL", "IX" or "IY" as required.
- n\$* — contains flashing "?" for errors.
- c\$* to *y\$* — Mnemonic tables.
- z\$* — holds "+" or null for index register displacement.

Detailed Description

- 1 Print title, set Caps Lock and initialise.

Main program

- 100 Input start address.
- 110 Get first byte, set class and index defaults.
- 120 'Half' opcode.
- 130 Determine class of instruction.
- 150-180 Index instructions.
- 200 Split byte and rearrange, set *Data* pointer to line and *Read* first item.

- 230 If extended structure read next two items (line no and modifier), reset *Data* pointer and read item.
- 240 Check for invalid opcode.
- 250 Read two arguments and brackets indicator.
- 260-270 Check/edit both arguments.
- 280 If index instruction check if index editing was done.
- 300-310 Insert brackets if necessary.
- 700 Print disassembled instruction.
- 720 Print byte values if required.
- 740 Check for interrupt.

Argument editing

- 920 "u" — displaced address.
- 930 "v" — single byte value.
- 940 "w" — double byte value.
- 945 "↑" — invalid argument.
- 950 Set index edit flag.
- 955 "y" — index register.
- 960-990 "x" — index register and displacement.

Tables

- 1001-1371 Instruction byte not equal 203 or 237.
- 2071-2371 Instruction byte = 203.
- 3071-3371 Instruction byte = 237.
- 4001-4048 Extended instructions.

Miscellaneous

- 4500-4560 Handle interrupts.
- 4900-6000 Determine mode and set up mnemonic arrays.

When the program is *Run* it will ask if byte values are to be printed — press B (bytes to be printed) or N (not printed). Next, it will ask for a start address for disassembly. Printing will continue until a key is pressed. The options are: A — new address, B — byte values, N — no byte values or C — continue.

Figure 1 shows the output address and mnemonics only, Figure 2 shows address, mnemonics and byte values. Figure 3 contains the program listing.

Possible enhancements

Use a 16K array to map and disassemble the Rom, marking addresses of *Calls*, *Jps*, etc. Follow only these established instruction addresses in the disassembly. Place these symbolics into a large array and write with address array to Microdrive files for subsequent searching/editing. Symbolic names can be given to many addresses eg system variables and commonly used subroutines.

Next requirement — editor/assembler. Watch this space!

Figure 2

4505	INC	B	4	?
4506	JR	Z, 4533	40	?
4508	LD	(23732), HL	34	"
			180	TAN
			92	\
4511	LD	DE, 16047	17	?
			175	CODE
			62	>
4514	LD	BC, 168	1	?
			168	FN
			0	?
4517	EX	DE, HL	235	FOR

Address Bytes Bytes Continue

```

1 PRINT AT 5,5;"Spectrum Disa
sembler": POKE 23658,8: GO SUB
4920
100 INPUT "Start address ?": p
110 LET p1=p: LET q=PEEK p: LET
p=p+1: LET k=1: LET i$="HL"
120 IF q=116 THEN LET a$="HALT"
: LET b$="": LET c$="": GO TO 70
130 IF q=203 OR q=237 THEN LET
k=2+(q=237): LET q=PEEK p: LET p
=p+1: GO TO 200
150 IF q=221 THEN LET i$="IX"
160 IF q=253 THEN LET i$="IY"
170 IF i$<>"HL" AND PEEK p=116
THEN GO TO 850
180 IF i$<>"HL" THEN LET q=PEEK
p: LET p=p+1: IF q=203 THEN LET
k=2: LET f=PEEK p: LET p=p+1: L
ET q=PEEK p: LET p=p+1
200 LET a=INT (q/64): LET b=INT
(q/8-a*8): LET c=q-b*8-a*64: LE
T d=INT (b/2)+1: LET e=b-2*d+3:
LET a=a+1: LET b=b+1: LET c=c+1:
RESTORE x=10000+a=100+c=10+e-111
: READ a$
230 IF a$<>">" THEN READ l,m: RE
STORE l+m: READ a$
240 IF a$(1)="↑" OR a$(LEN a$)=
"↑" THEN GO TO 850
250 READ b$,c$,g
260 LET i=0: IF CODE b$>90 THEN
LET d$=b$(1): LET m=2: GO SUB 9
00: LET b$=d$
270 IF CODE c$>90 THEN LET d$=c
$(1): LET m=2: GO SUB 900: LET c
$=d$
280 IF i$<>"HL" AND NOT i THEN
GO TO 850
300 IF g=1 THEN LET b$="("+b$+"
)"
310 IF g=2 THEN LET c$="("+c$+"
)"
700 PRINT p1,TAB 6;a$:TAB 11;b$
: IF c$<>" " THEN PRINT ":",c$,"
"
720 IF s THEN FOR z=p1 TO p-1:
LET g=PEEK z: PRINT TAB 21;g:TAB
25;CHR$(PEEK z AND (9<16 OR 9>
23)): NEXT z
730 PRINT "POKE 23692,255"
740 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN GO TO 45
00
800 GO TO 110
850 LET a$=n$: LET b$="": LET c
$="": BEEP .1,0: LET s=1: GO TO
700
900 REM edit arguments
920 IF d$="u" THEN LET q=PEEK p
: LET p=p+1: LET d$=STR$(p+q-25
6*(q>127)): RETURN
930 IF d$="v" THEN LET q=PEEK p
: LET p=p+1: LET d$=STR$(q): RETU
RN
940 IF d$="w" THEN LET q=PEEK p
: LET d$=STR$(q+256*PEEK (p+1))
: LET p=p+2: RETURN
945 IF d$="↑" THEN LET d$=n$: B
EEP .1,10: LET s=1: RETURN
950 IF i$<>"HL" THEN LET i=1
955 IF d$="y" THEN LET d$=i$: R
ETURN
960 LET g=m: IF i$="HL" THEN LE
T d$="HL": RETURN
970 IF k=1 THEN LET f=PEEK p: L
ET p=p+1
990 LET f=f-256*(f>127): LET z$
="↑" AND f>=0: LET d$=i$+z$+STR$(
f): RETURN
1001 DATA "LD",4000,b,"w",0
1010 DATA "LD",s$(d),"w",0
1011 DATA "ADD",y,s$(d),0
1021 DATA "LD",4010,b,"w",0
1030 DATA "INC",s$(d),"w",0
1031 DATA "DEC",s$(d),"w",0
1041 DATA "INC",r$(b),"w",0
1051 DATA "DEC",r$(b),"w",0
1051 DATA "LD",r$(b),"v",0
1071 DATA v$(b),"w",0
1171 DATA "LD",r$(b),r$(c),0
1271 DATA x$(b),r$(c),0
1301 DATA "RET",q$(b),"w",0
1310 DATA "POP",t$(d),"w",0
1311 DATA "JP",q$(b),"w",0
1331 DATA "JP",q$(b),"w",0
1341 DATA "CALL",q$(b),"w",0
1350 DATA "PUSH",t$(d),"w",0
1351 DATA "CALL",t$(d),"w",0
1361 DATA x$(b),y,"w",0
1371 DATA "RST",STR$(b*8-b),"w",
0
2071 DATA w$(b),r$(c),"w",0
2171 DATA "BIT",STR$(b-1),r$(c)
,0

```

```

2271 DATA "RES",STR$(b-1),r$(c)
,0
2371 DATA "SET",STR$(b-1),r$(c)
,0
3071 DATA "↑"
3101 DATA "IN",r$(b),"C",2
3111 DATA "OUT",C,r$(b),1
3120 DATA "SBC",HL,s$(d),0
3121 DATA "ADC",HL,s$(d),0
3130 DATA "LD",w,s$(d),1
3131 DATA "LD",w,s$(d),2
3140 DATA "NEG",o$(d),"w",0
3141 DATA "↑"
3150 DATA "RETN",o$(d),"w",0
3151 DATA "RETI",o$(d),"w",0
3161 DATA "IM",p$(b),"w",0
3171 DATA ">",4040,b,"w",0
3231 DATA u$(c)+y$(b),"w",0
3371 DATA "↑"
4001 DATA "NOP","w",0
4002 DATA "EX",AF,"AF",0
4003 DATA "DJNZ",u,"u",0
4004 DATA "JR",u,"u",0
4008 DATA "JR",q$(b-4),"u",0
4011 DATA "LD",BC,"A",1
4012 DATA "LD",A,"BC",2
4013 DATA "LD",DE,"A",1
4014 DATA "LD",A,"DE",2
4015 DATA "LD",w,"u",1
4016 DATA "LD",w,"u",2
4017 DATA "LD",w,"A",1
4018 DATA "LD",A,"w",2
4021 DATA "RET","w",0
4022 DATA "EXX","w",0
4023 DATA "JP",y,"u",1
4024 DATA "LD",SP,"y",0
4028 DATA "↑"
4031 DATA "JP",w,"w",0
4032 DATA "↑"
4033 DATA "OUT",v,"A",1
4034 DATA "IN",A,"v",2
4035 DATA "EX",SP,"v",1
4036 DATA "EX",DE,"HL",0
4037 DATA "DI","w",0
4038 DATA "EI","w",0
4041 DATA "LD",A,"A",0
4042 DATA "LD",A,"A",0
4043 DATA "LD",A,"I",0
4044 DATA "LD",A,"A",0
4045 DATA "RRD","w",0
4046 DATA "RLD","w",0
4048 DATA "↑"
4500 PRINT "Address Bytes nbyte
s Continue"
4510 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN GO TO 45
10
4520 IF INKEY$="A" THEN PAUSE 0:
GO TO 100
4530 IF INKEY$="B" THEN LET s=1:
GO TO 110
4540 IF INKEY$="N" THEN LET s=0:
GO TO 110
4550 IF INKEY$="C" THEN GO TO 11
0
4560 GO TO 4520
4900 PRINT AT 21,5;"Bytes or nbyte
s ?"
4910 IF INKEY$="B" THEN LET s=1:
GO TO 4940
4920 IF INKEY$="N" THEN LET s=0:
GO TO 4940
4930 GO TO 4910
4940 CLS
4990 LET n$=CHR$ 18+CHR$ 1+"?"
4995 LET o$="↑↑↑"
5000 LET r$="BCDEHLXA"
5002 LET p$="0↑12↑↑↑↑"
5005 DIM s$(4,2): DIM t$(4,2)
5010 FOR z=1 TO 4
5015 LET s$(z)="BCDEY SP"(2*z-1
TO 2*z)
5020 LET t$(z)="BCDEY AF"(2*z-1
TO 2*z)
5040 NEXT z
5050 DIM q$(8,2): DIM x$(8,3): D
IM v$(8,4): DIM w$(8,3): DIM y$(
8,2): DIM u$(8,2)
5055 FOR z=1 TO 8
5060 LET q$(z)="NZZ NCC POPEP M
"(2*z-1 TO 2*z)
5065 LET x$(z)="ADDADCSUBSBCANDX
OROR CP"(3*z-2 TO 3*z)
5070 LET w$(z)="RLCRRCL RR SLAS
RA↑↑SRL"(3*z-2 TO 3*z)
5075 LET v$(z)="RLCARRCARLA RRA
DRA CPL SCF CCF"(4*z-3 TO 4*z)
5076 LET y$(z)="↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑I D IRDR
"(2*z-1 TO 2*z)
5077 LET u$(z)="LDLCPINOT↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑
"(2*z-1 TO 2*z)
5080 NEXT z
6000 RETURN
9999 REM © Aug 82 David Hawkins

```

Classified

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Peek your problems to our address. Ian Beardsmore will poke back an answer.

INFORMATION, HELP ME

D McIlpatrick of Salloon, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, writes:

Q I was about to order a 48K Spectrum when I came across a company offering an 80K Spectrum, for the price of a 48K model. This was done by supplying a 64K add on, in place of the 32K offered by Sinclair, at the same price.

However, I have also read that the Z80a processor in the ZX81 can only address 64K, and 8K of that is used by the Sinclair Rom, so in fact the maximum available memory could only be 56K. Is this true of the Spectrum? I do not want to void my guarantee by having the 64K extra put in for no real gain, but if the claim is true it would be better for me to order a 16K Spectrum, and the 64K Ram extension.

A The Z80a processor in the Spectrum can only address 64K. In the Spectrum 16K of that memory is used by the Rom, so it does not take a mathematical genius to work out that you will be left with a maximum possible 48K of user Ram at any one time. This does not mean that you cannot have a memory capacity larger than 48K, as long as the balance is not being used.

What the advertisement does not say is that the spare Ram can only be switched in after a corresponding, or greater amount has been switched out to make room for it.

This is just one of the first of many such add-on memories of various sizes that will soon be available for the Spectrum. Extra Rams produced by independents are likely to be cheaper than the £50 or £60 that Sinclair will charge.

LOADING ONLY

M Haghsenas of Dunsmuir Grove, Tyne & Wear, writes:

Q I have written a few programs and would like to send them to your magazine, but I have no printer for my

Vic20. However, I have access to a Pet with a printer. I would be grateful if you could tell me how to Load my Vic programs onto a Pet, so I can get a proper printout.

A For the unexpanded Vic20, type the first line in on the Pet, followed by *Poke 4096,0 : Poke 41,16 :* then *Clr/Ret.* No changes need to be made for a Vic that has the 3K expansion. If you have more than 3K then use the following: *Poke 41,18 : Poke 4680,0 :* then *Clr/Ret.*

POSTING THE PRICE

Simon Young of Hermon Avenue, Blackpool, Lancashire, writes:

Q In the editorial of *Popular Computing Weekly*, July 22, you said that the Atari 400 could now be bought for under £200. I would be grateful if you could give me an accurate price, and an address where I could get one from.

Could you also clear up another question about the same machine. It was said that the 400 model could not have more than 16K user Ram, but I have seen an advertisement for 48K Ram. Which is right?

A The cheapest Atari that I can find is £199 from Deans of Kensington, 191 Kensington High Street, London W8. But, Deans do not say what postage and packing costs are.

As for your second question, the Atari 6502 chip is capable of addressing 64K, of which a block of 16K is allocated to memory. However, the 400 is designed in such a way that only 16K of this can be normally accessed.

The 48K extension is not recognised by Atari, whose technical department said that such an expansion will Void the warranty, as physical changes to the pcb are needed. However, Maplin assured me that they offer their own one year guarantee.

If you read our August 26 issue, you will see that Maplin chose to work with the Atari because it had so much poten-

tial. No one can doubt that the machine offers superb graphics. But it does strike me as odd that a company should develop a machine with so much potential, and then make it difficult for that potential to be fully realised by the average user.

... FROM SANTA

Andrew Morgan of Buscot Drive, Abingdon, Oxford, asks:

Q Could you please tell me if there is a machine code book available for the ZX Spectrum. Also do you know which tape recorders are compatible with ZX computers.

A As yet there are no Spectrum machine code books available that I know of. However, I know that at least one book is in preparation, and I would not be surprised if there were more.

There is going to be another ZX Microfair in November and I would suggest that you keep a look out around then. The run up to Christmas seems a logical time to release such a book.

As for tape recorders, Monolith makes a machine that is designed particularly for *Loading* and *Saving* on the ZX81. Data-Asstette sells a Ferguson model that is also meant to remove the trouble normally associated with the ZX machines.

The Spectrum's *Load/Save* facilities have been improved by the introduction of a Schmit trigger. As yet, I have come across no *Save/Load* problems on the Spectrum. All you have to ensure is that your recorder has jack sockets of the right size (3.5mm).

Data-Asstette is based at 44 Shroton Street, London NW1 6UG. Monolith's address is: 5-7 Church Street, Crewkerne, Somerset.

CAUGHT NAPPING

R S Guhra, of Alicia Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex, writes:

Q On Page 5 of *Popular Computing Weekly*,

June 17, you say that the Spectrum has a design fault, and in the review section you say that it is crude and bug ridden. Only yesterday I ordered a Spectrum, but I feel uneasy and unsure of my choice now. Are there any simple programs which I can use to Benchtest my Spectrum and check all its functions easily?

On receipt of my Spectrum, I am allowed two weeks to make up my mind as to whether I want to purchase it. It would be useful to use this time to test the Spectrum to see if it malfunctions. The most obvious is *Print 2+2* to see if it answers four. But there must be other programs to test it exhaustively.

A This is what happens when a company supplies a pre-production model for review. All the faulty Spectrums were caught before going out to the public (as far as we know). Only the computer press got the bad machines, and that has not done Uncle Clive's reputation much good.

You do not say whether you ordered a 16K machine or a 48K machine. Only the 16K machines were faulty, and these now have an extra Nand gate wired in. Our machine has had this modification and, apart from the fact that it looks messy, we have so far found no further bugs. It is thought that the later 16K machines will have the fault rectified on the pcb.

The 48K machines are late for the simple reason that Sinclair made the same mistake as Acorn in underestimating the demand for the larger machine. Far more people ordered the 48K version, and Sinclair Research were just not geared up to meet this demand.

● Stop agonising over that problem. Write to Ian Beardsmore. Peek and Poke, *Popular Computing Weekly*, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF.

Ian Beardsmore regrets that he cannot answer each question personally, so please do not enclose a SAE.

Competitions

Past your prime?

by Gordon Lee

It is useful to categorise numbers in convenient groups. For example, a number can be odd or even, positive or negative, high or low, rational or irrational or prime or composite.

The last two terms are particularly interesting. A composite number is one that is divisible by numbers, or factors, other than itself and 1 — 78 is a composite as it has the factors 13 and 6. Six is itself a composite, being 2×3 . However, 13, 3 and 2 cannot be subdivided any further, so these are said to be prime. We can therefore say that the prime factors of 78 are 2, 3 and 13. Any composite number has a unique set of prime factors.

Unfortunately, there is no easy way of telling if a number is prime or composite. Two is the only even prime number. If the last digit is a five then it is divisible by 5. After that, however, there is no way of telling — each number must be laboriously checked to see if it is prime.

The following program divides a chosen number by all the primes between 3 and the square root of the number. (In fact, for simplicity it divides by all odd numbers, but these must include all primes greater than 3.)

```
10 PRINT "ENTER AN ODD NUMBER"
20 INPUT T
30 IF T/2 - INT(T/2) = 0 THEN GOTO 20
40 FOR N = 3 TO (SQR T) + 0.5
50 IF T/N - INT(T/N) = 0 THEN GOTO 100
60 NEXT N
70 PRINT T; " IS PRIME"
80 STOP
100 PRINT T; " IS NOT PRIME"
110 PRINT "IT HAS FACTORS "; N; "AND "; T/N
```

The Greek mathematician Eratosthenes, in the third century BC, was the first to develop a technique for determining primes. First write out a list of all odd numbers from 3 up to as far as

we wish to go. Take the first number, 3, circle it, and then divide each number in the list by three. Cross out all the multiples of three.

At the end of the list, go back to the next number after 3 that is *not crossed out*. This is 5, the next prime. Circle it and repeat the process, crossing out all multiples of 5 in the list. Continue until all the numbers are either circled or crossed out. The circled numbers are the primes.

3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21
23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41
43	45	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61
63	65	67	69	71	73	75	77	79	81
83	85	87	89	91	93	95	97	99	101

This may be cumbersome, but it is one of the few methods by which primes and composites can be separated.

Since the turn of the century a large table of primes has been compiled and is housed in the Vienna Academy of Sciences. Unfortunately, the six-volume work containing all the primes between 1 and 100,000,000 has one volume missing. As a result there is a task awaiting anyone who is prepared to check the numbers between 13 million and 23 million.

Here is a problem that will be answered in two weeks time. Can you give a proof that it is impossible to construct a right-angled triangle with all the sides having a prime number of units?

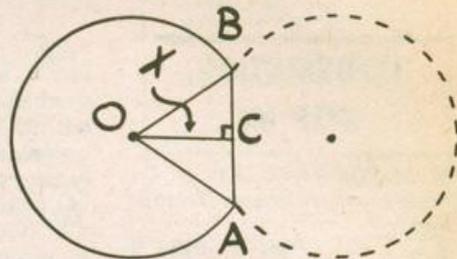
Puzzle No 23

Several early attempts were made to find a formula that would generate prime numbers only. One such attempt was: $p = z^2 + z + 41$, where z is a positive integer. When $z = 1$ the formula gives the prime, 43, and gives further primes for higher values of z .

Unfortunately, the formula is not infallible.

What is the lowest positive integer for which this formula fails to give a prime number?

Solution to Puzzle No 19



The areas of the two pools are the same. So, the area of half the Smith's pool is $\pi \times 12.5 \times 12.5/2$ which is the area of the larger sector AOB plus the area of the triangle AOB.

In the diagram, the area of the sector AOB = $(\pi \times 81 \times (360 - (\text{ACS}(X/9) \times 360\pi))/360)$ and the area of the triangle AOB = $(X \times \text{SQR}(81 - X \times X))$.

The program assigns a value to X which is used to find the area of the Smith's pond, A. This is compared with the area of the Jones' pond, J, and X is corrected accordingly.

```
10 LET X = 8
20 LET J = PI * 12.5 * 12.5/2
30 LET A = (PI * 81 * (360 - (ACS(X/9) *
360/PI))/360) + (X * SQR(81 - X * X))
40 IF ABS(A - J) < 0.000001 THEN GOTO 100
50 LET X = X + J/A
60 GOTO 30
100 PRINT "X = "; X
```

The distance apart of the centres of the two circles, 2X, is found, using the program, to be 15.224 ft.

Winner of Puzzle No 19

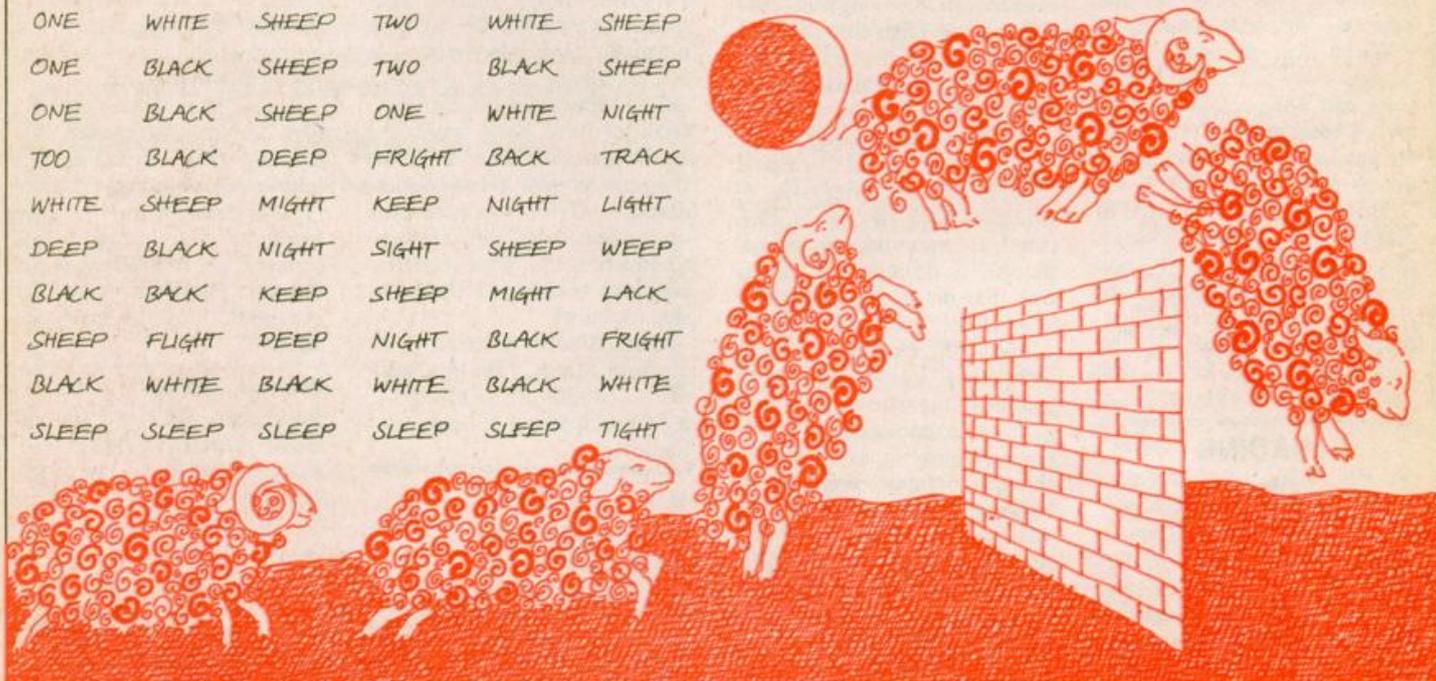
The winner is: Mark Chidlow, Mountbatten Avenue, Sandal, Wakefield, W Yorks, who receives £10.

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WHITE	SHEEP	MIGHT	KEEP	NIGHT	LIGHT
DEEP	BLACK	NIGHT	SIGHT	SHEEP	WEEP
BLACK	BACK	KEEP	SHEEP	MIGHT	LACK
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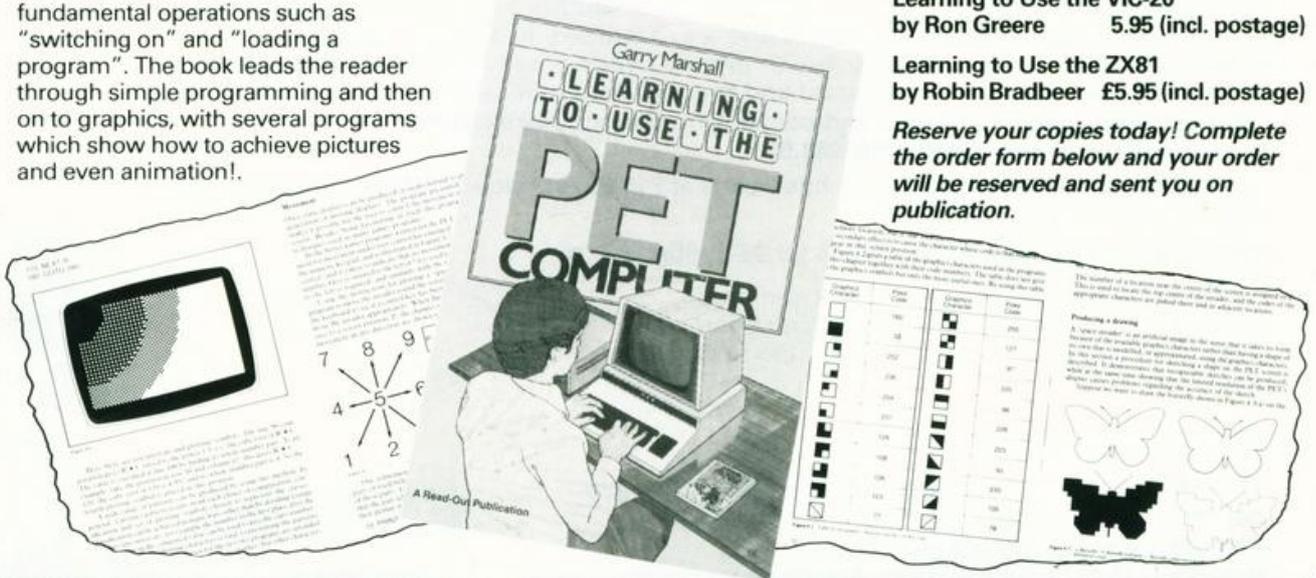
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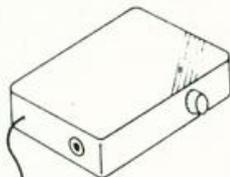
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