

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p 5-11 January 1984 Vol 3 No 1

This Week

BBC Buggy

Jeremy Ruston takes a user's eye view of the BBC Buggy from Economatics. See page 14.

Street Life

David Kelly talks to Gail Wellington, Commodore UK's software manager, about Commodore's future plans on page 13.

Formula 2

A racing car game against the clock for the Dragon 32 from Michael Blackburn. See page 22.

New releases

All the latest software programs including *Data Genie* from Audiogenic and *City* from Terminal Software. See page 60.

★ STAR
 Balloonist on BBC B. See page 10.
GAME★

News Desk

New micro from Amstrad

AMSTRAD, the British hi-fi manufacturer, is to launch a microcomputer.

The machine will sell for around £200 and be a direct competitor for the new Elan. Both are scheduled to arrive in late Spring.

The Amstrad machine features a built-in colour monitor and cassette deck. It is Z80-based, has 64K Ram expandable to 4M and includes a full-size full-travel keyboard with separate numeric pad. The computer will have similar graphics to the BBC machine and a 3-channel six-octave sound capacity. The micro has a Centronics interface, provision for an add-on disc interface, but no RS232.

The machine is currently being manufactured in Japan and will be sold through high street stores, and discount electronics shops. One of the stores evaluating the micro is Comet which already sells other Amstrad lines. Said Comet's Nick Leightowler, "We have yet to see a preproduction version but we will decide whether to take it when we do."

War of the Worlds for home micros

A COMPUTER game based on H G Wells' book *War of the Worlds* will be released on six home micros early this year.

This computer game is the result of a deal between software house CRL and ORP, the New York company owned by Jeff Wayne, which holds the video game rights to the book.

Jeff Wayne — one-time

member of the band ELO — has already concluded a number of projects based on the book including a double-record album which has sold 4m copies world-wide, four British chart singles, a concert at the Albert Hall and a stage-show.

The video game will be produced initially for the Spectrum, Oric, Commodore 64,

Continued on page 5



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VIC20. Swap Roadrace for other games cartridge. Tel: 0384 277945.

Continued on page 54

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How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 3,000 words long. The articles, and any accompanying programs, should be original. It is breaking the law of copyright to copy programs out of other magazines and submit them here — so please do not be tempted.

All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line. Please leave wide margins.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted article or program, so please keep a copy. If you want to have your own program returned you must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

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.

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Editorial

1984. Brave new world. Somehow it's all crept up on us sooner than expected.

George Orwell's version of the future, written in 1948, has proved to be both alarmingly prophetic and wildly inaccurate. But then 1984 was never meant to be taken as a literal forecast, unlike Nostradamus's prophecies.

The world of 1984 is not set in any particular year, rather it is a picture of life as it could develop. However chilling it may be, it is but one possible scenario among hundreds of others.

Computers and other technological advances, such as atomic power, offer immense possibilities for good or ill in almost equal measure. It is up to us to decide how we will use this knowledge, and thus determine our future.

Computers can be used as easily for governmental repression as for individual freedom. However, the massive distribution of computers in the UK is a powerful argument in favour of their being used for the benefit of all rather than just a few.

Winston Smith, Orwell's protagonist in 1984, had no defence against Big Brother "watching over" him. We are nowhere near that state, but there is little room for complacency. 1984 is always closer than you think.

Next Thursday

Can you find the winning combination at noughts and crosses? Find out in next week's classic star game for the 16 or 48K Spectrum by Barry Ashfield.

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BLASTERMIND! ★

At first glance this might seem to be just another version of a very popular game. How wrong can you be!!! True, the start is simple enough. The Spectrum picks a code of numbers or colours with a selection of levels of difficulty — and invites you to do the same. You then take it in turns to guess each others code from the clue supplied after each guess. An extremely well written, fast and very clearly displayed game, with almost inevitable defeat.

This was exactly as intended but unfortunately *something went wrong*. During the programming strange complimentary messages began to appear on the screen. At first they were so few they were not taken too seriously, but soon they could no longer be ignored. Somehow the Spectrum had been given a personality — a rather devious, supercilious, dislikeable, hateful, horrible mind.

SPECTRUM 48k £5.50



Side B contains a version of the game compatible with the excellent Currah µSpeech unit — even worse!!

The Quest of Merravid ★

VIC 20 (16k) £7.95 or Commodore 64 £7.95

A really challenging and enjoyable adventure, written by a confirmed adventure addict who grew tired of the ease with which he solved other adventures himself. Will accept and act on sentences containing up to nine words.

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Planetary war

Continued from page 1

BBC, Electron and Dragon computers. Sales of the program are expected to top 70,000 in the first 12 months.

A development version has already been written which runs on the Oric. The program will be structured as a 10-part arcade game. Explained CRL's Clement Chambers, "The book has 10 distinct events which we can turn into chapters in a multi-part game. It will be necessary to get through each part before going on to the next."

Each of the parts will be different, yet the whole program will fit into 48K. The *War of the Worlds* games will be written by CRL author Nigel Taylor. Previously he wrote *Escape from Manhattan* for the ZX81.

The Spectrum and Oric versions will be launched on March 1, with the Commodore 64 conversion following shortly thereafter.

CTA piracy files stolen

A NUMBER of documents have been stolen from the offices of the Computer Trade Association.

The 12 files which have disappeared contained information relating to organised software piracy, compiled over a period of six months by CTA



CTA secretary Nigel Backhurst

secretary Nigel Backhurst. He explained: "A number of individuals were mentioned in the papers in connection with piracy but there was nothing which could have been used as evidence."

The theft was discovered on Monday, December 19, and the police are now investigating the crime. Apart from the documents, a number of pirated tapes were also stolen. Nigel said: "We can rebuild about 80 percent of the material, but it will take us six months, by which time it will be out of date."

The Guild of Software Houses estimates that sales revenue lost in 1983 because of piracy could be over £100m.

Work on the game began in September. Said Clement: "Nigel sent in his game of *War of the Worlds* and I approached Jeff Wayne for the rights."

Coincidentally, Jeff Wayne had been considering the possibilities of producing a video game of *War of the Worlds*. He had talked to a number of companies including Sega, Coleco, Atari, Mattel and Psion. He said: "We have



Clement Chambers (centre) with Jeff Wayne (right) and Jerry Wayne

been very patient. Just as the music had to stand up as great music for the concept record album, so the game has to stand up as a great game.

"In parallel with Clement seeking us out we had been talking with computer companies for 18 months. Most of them wanted to pay outright for the rights to develop their own game based on the book. We would have had to relinquish creative control.

"Working with a company such as Clement's was the best seed to plant. The game will be marketed jointly by CRL and ourselves through CBS. Just as in the record industry, we will then have a master, and we will be able to go back to these interested companies with a finished product.

"What we are trying to do is different — we are trying to add a purpose to a video game by drawing in elements from the music of the record and a great story. If Clement can do this then it is a breakthrough."

● Jeff Wayne and Clement Chambers are also involved with Wonderland, a 1,200-acre theme park to be built, rather on the lines of Disneyland, in Corby. The first stage of the development should be complete in mid-1987 and the *War of the Worlds* themes will feature prominently. Wonderland will feature a computer park several acres in size and developments of the *War of the Worlds* video game into arcade machines and video-disc player technology are planned.

Games designer hitch

HURG, Melbourne House's games designer program for the 48K Spectrum has been delayed.

Although originally planned for sale in October, *HURG* is now scheduled to arrive later this month.

The problem has been caused by unforeseen difficulties with the program design. The main core of *HURG* is now written and it only remains for author, William Tang, to put the finishing

touches — score routines, number of lives.

The program, which will sell for £14.95, in many ways complements Quicksilva's existing *Games Designer* program. Both are menu-driven games-writing programs but, whereas Quicksilva's is ideal for scrolling games, Melbourne House's is for developing single display-type games with more complex backgrounds. *HURG* can be operated entirely using a joystick.

British micros at CES show

THIS week sees the start of the major US electronics trade fair in Las Vegas, the CES show.

Commodore is expected to display prototypes of its new home computer at the show. Apple will probably not reveal details of its new Macintosh micro, choosing to hold back until its official launch on January 24.

A number of British manufacturers will be at the show: Acorn will continue its attempt to push into the American education market, Dragon will show its Dragon 64 machine and Timex will try to regain lost ground with its Sinclair Spectrum derivative computer the 2048.

British software companies will also be to the fore with Virgin and Quicksilva planning to launch their products jointly in the US at the show.

Cheaper Dragons

DRAGON 32 prices are being forced down by shops undercutting the manufacturer's recommended price of £175.

Some retailers are now selling the basic machine for as little as £149 while Boots, the largest Dragon outlet, has cut the price to £159.95 which includes £43.80-worth of free software. The software on offer is Ampsoft's *Basic Tutorial* program and three Microdeal games titles.

Commented Boots' merchandising controller John Flatman, "The Dragon is finding its right level in the market — clearly there has to be a price differential between a 64K machine like the Commodore 64 and a 32K machine such as the Dragon 32."

Rom prices down

SINCLAIR has brought its Rom cartridge game prices down into line with Commodore.

Six of the 10 titles available so far come down to £9.95: *Space Raiders*, *Planetoids*, *Pssst*, *Cookie*, *Hungry Horace* and *Horace and the Spiders*. The remaining four — *Jet Pac*, *Tranz-Am*, *Backgammon* and *Chess* — stay at £14.95.

Chip problem for Elan

ELAN Computers has run into problems over the development of the ULA custom chip for its new Enterprise computer.



Elan Enterprise

Although Elan still promises machines in the shops in April, the difficulties have meant that the arrival of pre-production machines has had to be delayed by a month.

Software houses awaiting machines for software development purposes will not receive them until February 1984.

The Elan Enterprise — a Z80-based CP/M compatible micro with either 64K or 128K Ram — was first announced in September this year.

3D games

STEVE Turner follows his *3D Space Wars* game for Hewson Consultants with two more 3D games — *3D Seiddab Attack*, due in the shops in late December, and *3D Lunar Mission*, planned for January.

Both are for the Spectrum and cost £5.95.

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Deviant ways

Although I find your magazine greatly entertaining, I feel that it is being defaced somewhat by that odious *Losers* "cartoon". Far from being in the least funny, it insults even the most common intelligence.

Also may I add that it appears to show the less able computer users an alternative field which they may wish to undertake — namely scribbling on their favourite computer magazine. Without wanting to be overtly cynical, here is a scenario in keeping with those works published previously:

Stylish line-drawing depicts man playing game. Loosely-defined box bears title, "Raging Kong Beast". Man with pouting cigarette says, "That was good but where have all my bananas gone?"

Moving on, I wish to complain about the publication of fifth-rate "educational" programs like *Elements* for the BBC Micro. Abysmal structuring aside, this program can only take the place of the periodic table and encourages young people to delude themselves that they are revising when they type it in.

However, the incorrectly titled *Dual* (sic) is a commendable example of worthwhile programming. It offered inspiration to other beginners and had obviously given pleasure to its author.

Contrary to the views of my colleagues, I see the writing of games programs as more educationally viable than the writing of educational programs. Such an example is found in the programming column where a darts game was used to exemplify techniques in structuring.

Would you try to reduce the amount of material printed for the ZX Spectrum. I feel there are enough books, etc, to support this hideous little plug socket for many more months to come. Much of the articles are *déjà vu* while a lot of BBC information has yet to be revealed.

May I also add that I find it insulting to the Automata establishment to see the graffiti-like word "Advertisement" placed above their advert; I

hardly think anyone will mistake it for Ziggurat or the editorial.

Also, the idea of introducing a high score table with the intention of encouraging people to compete in their deviant ways seems ludicrous.

However, may I wish you a happy New Year.

L Hewelly
6 Ffordd Llanelli
Rhosych
Wrexham
Clwyd

Games cheaters

I have been buying your magazine regularly and enjoy it very much. I think the point of cheating with high scores is very important, but I think that giving away how to *Poke* extra lives into a program, or giving away what to do to get extra lives from a program is wrong! (*PCW* 17-23 and 24-30 Nov).

Some people enjoy playing these games and I don't think they would want to know how to cheat at their games. It takes a lot of skill to get a "megascoring" at *Jetpac* or *Planetoid* and cheating doesn't require much skill!

PS Keep the magazine just as it is. But an arcade corner would be nice!

Peter Jones (aged 13)
99 William Street
Dalbeattie
Scotland

Popeye the sailor man

Catherine French of Pontypool wrote (*PCW*, Volume 2, number 46) explaining that she had enjoyed playing the Arcade version of *Popeye*, and asking about its availability as a home video game.

I thought that I would write and give you and your readers an update on this fine arcade game. We at Parker Video Games hold the exclusive licence for *Popeye* on all formats, and our current plans include the launch of four video game systems and two home computer systems: Atari 2600, Colecovision, Intellivision, Philips G7000, Atari Home Computers and Commodore 64. Video game system formats are currently

available, and indeed *Popeye* was voted the number 2 video game, second only to *Donkey Kong* in a recent *Toys International* and the *Retailer* magazine chart.

I hope that some of your readers will soon be helping *Popeye* to escape the clutches of the evil Brutus and winning the heart of Olive Oyl!

Rae Potter
UK Product Manager
Parker Video Games
The Palitoy Company
Coalville
Leicester

Program protection

After spending £250 on a disc drive for my CBM-64 I was very frustrated to find that only about half of my tape based utility and game programs could be transferred onto disc because of the protection within the programs.

I understand that the software houses and publishers must protect their merchandise from the pirates; however, even with the most sophisticated protection it is still possible to make audio copies direct from tape to tape with two ordinary £15 cassette recorders.

The thing that puzzles me is why some software is fully protected and others have no protection at all, just compare *Hungary Horace* against *Monopole*.

Like 99.9 percent of your readers I am a law abiding citizen and have no interest of producing and selling pirate

software. I just wish to use my computer to its full capability and to me this means being able to transfer my tape based programs (on which I have spent a lot of hard earned cash) onto disc which loads 8-10 times faster and is less prone to load errors, leaving the originals for backup.

Do you feel that if someone like myself who wanted to transfer programs onto disc approached a software house and was willing to sign a declaration that copies would not be made for resale, hire or for friends for free, they would be willing to supply the necessary information? After all, more and more disc drives are being sold and the frustration among us is going to get much higher and this could result in the companies that use less protection becoming more popular than their competitors.

On the other hand, reasonably priced cartridges could be the answer; no loading time and almost impossible for copies to be made. Food for thought, software houses and publishers!

Paul H
Tonbridge
Kent

Cyborg information

I happen to know about the Cyborg system and since someone was requesting information about it (*PCW*, Vol 2, No 46) I thought I would let you know the details.

The system includes the disc drive, one personality module and one system nucleus. It has a capacity of 720K on a single floppy (320K per side) and is compatible with ZX81, Spectrum and Oric (and shortly for Atari, Vic20, 64, Dragon, BBC, etc).

The personality module translates control and data signals of the computer, so if you change your micro you only need to change the module. The price is £200 and you can order it from:

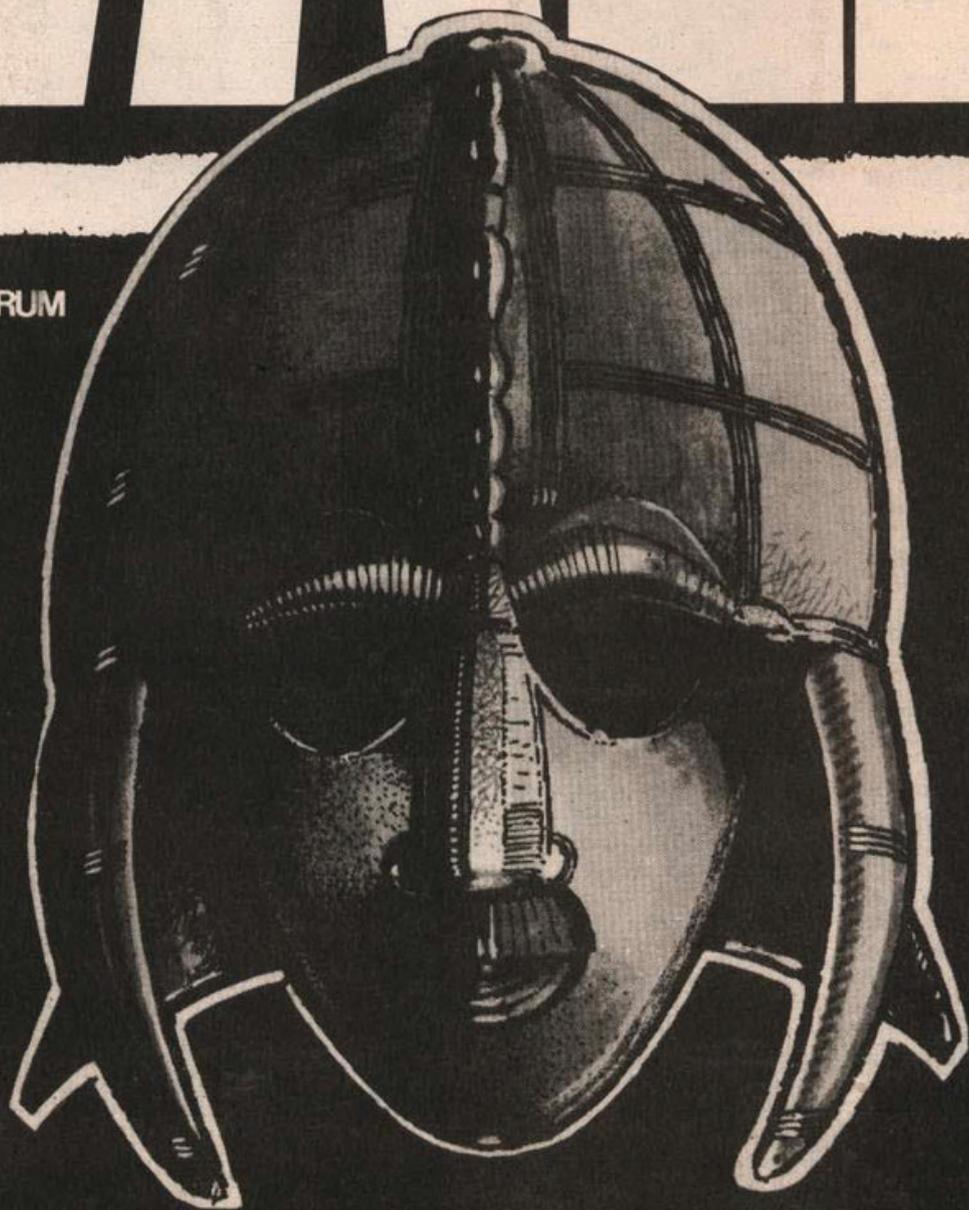
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Balloonist

A new game for the BBC B by James Morle

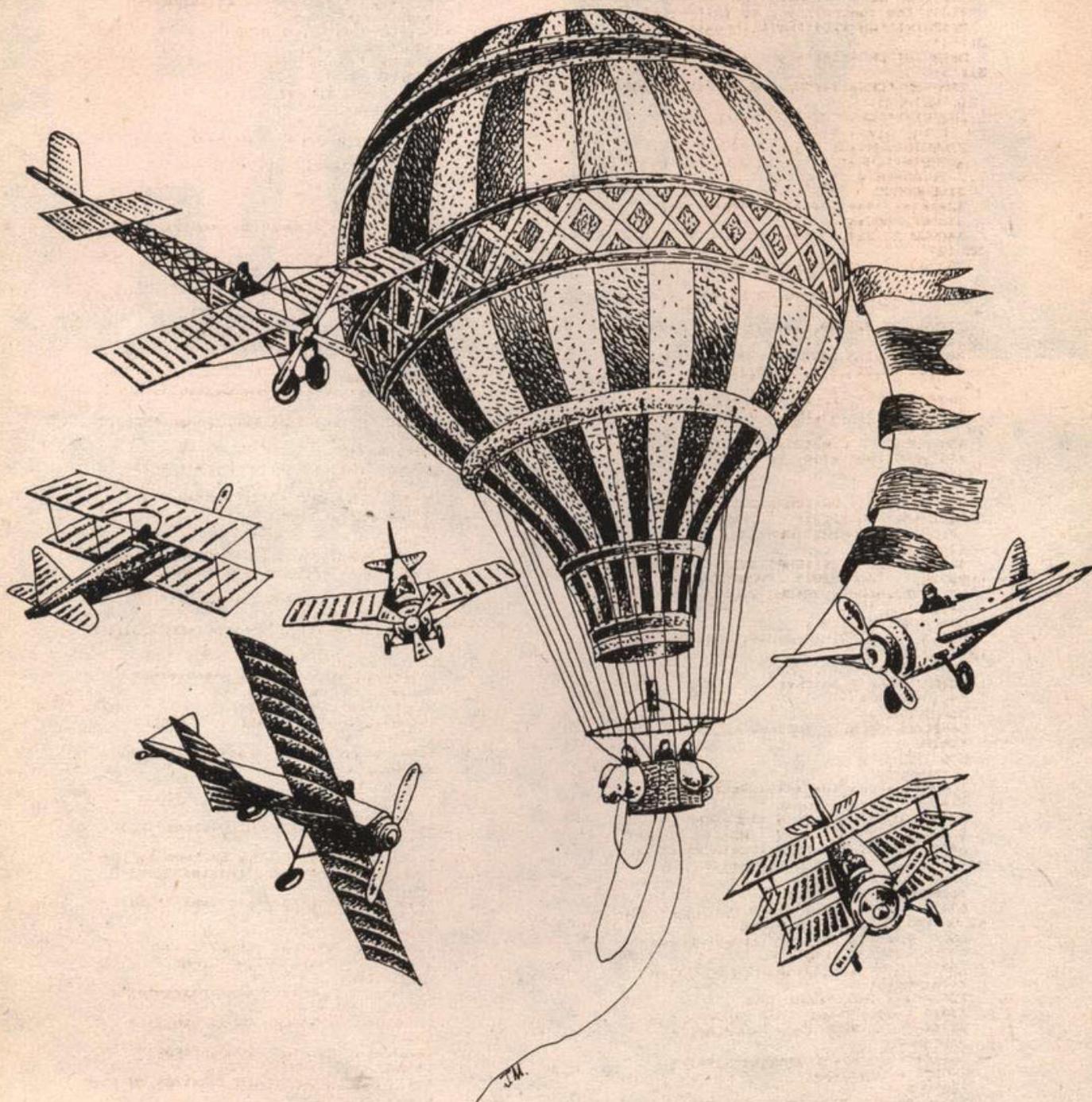
Balloonist runs on a BBC model B microcomputer and makes use of the machine's excellent graphics capabilities.

You are coming to the end of a pleasant day's ballooning and have found your

landing site, but there is one problem. The landing field is covered with trees and bushes and there is only one place to land

(which is marked with a red line).

To make your game even harder, there is an airport in the next field, and planes are frequently taking off at different heights. ■





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Super Chess	CP Software	7.95	6.99	Flight Simulation	Psion	7.95	6.95				
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Bridge Player	CP Software	8.95	7.99	Horace Goes Skiing	Psion	5.95	4.95	Pilot 64	Abbex	7.50	6.50
Handicap Golf	CP Software	6.95	5.99	Hungry Horace	Psion	5.95	4.95	Aztec Tomb	Alligata	7.95	6.99
Woods of Winter	CRL	6.95	5.99	Horace and the Spiders	Psion	5.95	4.95	Bat Attack	Alligata	7.95	6.99
Fifth	CRL	9.95	8.99	Gridrunner	Quicksilva	6.95	5.95	Brands	Alligata	7.95	6.99
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Arcadia	Imagine	5.50	4.50	Jetpac	Ultimate	5.50	4.50	Egbert	Games Machine	7.95	6.99
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Stonkers	Imagine	5.50	4.50	Android II	Ultimate	5.50	4.50	Frogger	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Alchemist	Imagine	5.50	4.50		Vortex	5.95	4.99	Spriteman	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Ah Diddums	Imagine	5.50	4.50	VIC20				Crazy Kong 64	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Splat	Incentive	5.50	4.50	Dark Dungeons	Anirog	5.95	4.95	Scramble	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
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Stock Control	Kemp	14.95	13.90	Fire Galaxy	Anirog	7.95	6.95	Cuddly Q-Bert	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Purchase Ledger	Kemp	14.95	13.90	Battlefield	Anirog	5.95	4.95	Defenda 64	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Valhalla	Legend	14.95	13.90	Arcadia	Imagine	5.50	4.55	Siren City	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
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Snowball	Level 9	9.90	8.99	Catcha Snatcha	Imagine	5.50	4.55	Assembler 64	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Harrier Attack	Martech	5.50	4.50	Wacky Waiters	Imagine	5.50	4.55	Vortex Raiders	Interceptor	7.00	6.00
Jungle Trouble	Martech	5.50	4.50	Falcon Fighters	Interceptor	6.00	5.00	Arcadia 64	Imagine	5.50	4.55
The Hobbit	Melbourne House	14.95	13.90	Crazy Kong	Interceptor	6.00	5.00	Matrix	Llamosoft	7.50	6.50
Melbourne Draw	Melbourne House	8.95	7.99	Lazer Zone	Llamosoft	6.00	5.00	Lazer Zone	Llamosoft	7.50	6.50
Mad Martha II	Microgen	6.95	5.95	Gridrunner	Llamosoft	6.00	5.00	Hover Bover	Llamosoft	7.50	6.50
Haunted Hedges	Micromega	6.95	5.95	Matrix	Llamosoft	6.00	5.00	Mutant Camels	Llamosoft	7.50	6.50
Death Chase	Micromega	6.95	5.95	Metagalactic Llamos Battle	Llamosoft	6.00	5.00	Gridrunner	Llamosoft	5.00	4.00
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Softly, softly approach

David Kelly talks to Gail Wellington of Commodore UK

Commodore used to ignore software. "We gave it lip-service and we talked about doing our own, but for a long time we never managed to get our act together," says Gail Wellington.

"Even in the early days of the Vic, we didn't have a real commitment to program development.

"Then, eighteen months ago, when we knew the Vic was a success and that the Commodore 64 was soon to arrive, the company decided to go ahead with an ambitious software publishing plan.

"If the 64 was to be a small business machine as well as a home computer, then we recognised we would have to be the aggressor to get the kind of software we wanted. Secondly, we reckoned there might be money in it. Maybe that should be number one!"

Having made the decision to attack the software market Gail Wellington was chosen as software manager.

Gail came to work for Commodore by a somewhat circuitous route. "I trained as a mechanical engineer at Boston and then I did things like get married, have children, get divorced, and go back to work.

"I worked first as chief engineer for a company that manufactured commercial dish washing equipment and then as a technical author.

"To cut a long story short I was going to travel and I came to the UK four years ago. Then my daughter decided to go to school here so suddenly I wasn't travelling any more.

50-50 chance

"When I saw a sign in a shop window for a computer technical author I didn't know it was Commodore. I reckoned I had about a 50-50 chance of getting it — if it was all to do with hardware I reckoned I didn't know enough about electronics."

Gail got the job. As a technical author for Commodore the first thing she had to do was write a manual about writing manuals. "Then I wrote a couple of manuals to prove the first one worked!

"They were looking for someone to head up the new UK software division and I proposed a reorganisation. They said: 'Fine — now do it.'" In April 1982, Gail became software manager and 18 months later her department employs 16 staff. "I may have an American accent but I am very much part of the UK software scene."

By June 1982 Gail was selling the concept of writing software for the 64 to software houses.

"When I started off with the 64 I made a shopping list of the software I wanted.

"We had to position the 64 in the market

so that the Vic was still a viable computer — we wanted to continue to sell them both. The idea was to use software as the tool to put the 64 in the position we wanted it. It would have been quite possible to have put the 64 somewhere else in the market — we could have made it a games machine.

"Certainly if we had not positively encouraged the writing of non-games software then it would have become a games machine by default.

"We knew we wanted *Introduction to Basic* and we acquired a wordprocessor — *Easy Script* — from Precision Software. Some of the other standard things — database and spreadsheet programs were being done elsewhere in the world."

The emphasis in the US is very much on arcade games on cartridge and the market for cassette software is practically non-existent. Commodore has an agreement with arcade game company Bally Midway to convert titles from the arcades to the Vic and 64. So far this arrangement has produced *Gorf* and *Lazarian*, soon to be followed by *Wizard of Wor* and *Blue Print*. "With luck we'll also see *Satan's Hollow* — it's a bit tricky, there are so many sprites in that one."

British software authors have an enviable reputation for writing non-arcade software. Gail commissioned for the 64: *Simon's Basic*, *Introduction to Basic*, *Easy Script*, *Gortek* and *the Microchips* and most recently the excellent *International Soccer*.

New titles include *High Flier* — a business simulation game and a programmer's package, *Assembler Tutor*.

In January, Commodore will announce *Club Manager*, a record-keeping program that links to the 64's word processor software and is capable of generating standard letters. *Future Finance* is a menu-driven financial planning package for the small businessman.

"I reckon I have now achieved my initial goals for 64 software" says Gail, "But there is so much still to do.

"We have a vast installed user base on both the Vic and 64 and peoples' tastes

change. All the time we are having to introduce new titles and retire old ones. As a fashion industry it fluctuates even more than men's neck-ties."

This month Commodore hopes to launch its *Magic Voice* speech module which will sell for around £50. To accompany the hardware Gail has commissioned a number of software titles. Two Rom talking-book cartridges to help teach reading and writing, written by Edata; *Magic Garden* and *Magic Toolbox*. And the BJ Bear early learning series on cassette or disc: *Get Ready to Read* in January and then at monthly intervals, *Get Ready for Numbers* and *Get Ready to Think*, all aimed at 3-6 year olds. Two other BJ Bear series will follow — three *Start to . . .* titles for 7-9 year olds. Each package will include a story/activity book and a parent/teacher manual, all for under £15.

"We are also working with ASK to



develop a range of Rom-based education games that combine an arcade game with some learning that will be previewed at the CES show in January.

Other new Commodore titles include *Plan Kit* critical path analysis and *Easy Stock* stock control, both for the 64.

Gail will also place more emphasis on disc software with future releases. In North America 60 percent of 64 owners have disc drives. In the UK the number is considerably less but growing fast.

Software put out by Commodore UK is submitted to Commodore either as a finished product or as an idea or is actually commissioned by Gail. *International Soccer* is one example of the latter approach. Gail specifically asked for it to be written by Andy Spencer — despite the fact he wasn't particularly interested in football. Andy is now working on the follow-up, *Basketball*, which should be out by Easter. "When he said it was even better I didn't believe him — but it is!"

Bumper to bumper

Jeremy Ruston takes a user's eye view of the Economatics buggy for the BBC model B

Most people who have seen my BBC buggy have muttered something about 'expensive toys'. In fact, the buggy is a lot more than that.

Physically, it is a sturdy cube made of aluminium Fischer-Technick, with two wheels and a castor on the bottom and a circuit board on the top. You can also fit two bumper detectors, a light dependent resistor and a bar code reader to the front of the frame, although the buggy operates perfectly without them.

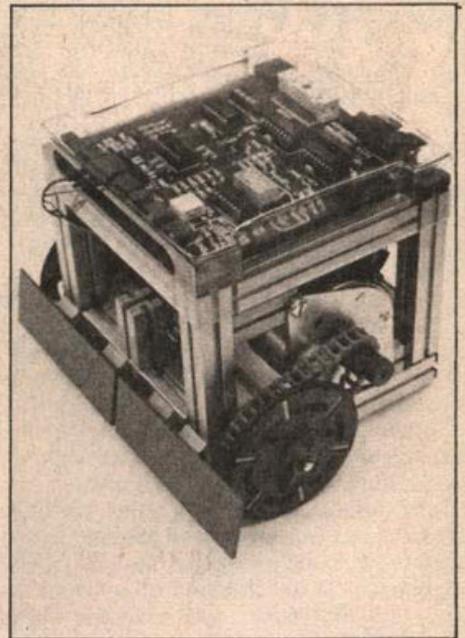
The buggy is connected, via a technicolour 20-way cable, to a small circuit board which buffers the signals coming out of the BBC micro. The circuit board plugs into the user port, controlling the motors and reading the bumpers, into the analogue port, reading the analogue sensors, and into the auxiliary power outlet to power the whole thing. If your auxiliary power outlet is being used to run a disc drive, an alternative unit can be purchased. A pen cradle is available as an option, which allows the buggy to leave a trail.

Each motor can be in one of three states

— idle, forwards or backwards. If both motors are idle, the buggy does not move. If they both turn forwards or backwards, the buggy travels in the appropriate direction. If the motors travel in opposite directions, the buggy carries out a turning operation.

Programming the buggy is really quite simple. If you don't feel up to doing your own programming, a suite of programs is supplied with the unit on cassette — they can be transferred to disc, either by laboriously loading and saving each one, or by using the *Tapedisc command of Computer Concepts' *Disc Doctor*. The programs are generally robust and well written, and should be suitable for classroom use.

Having got the wonderful buggy, what is it used for? Well, some people have used it for obscure industrial applications (I heard one group was investigating the possibility of using it to lay cables). However, at £189, including VAT, its main body of users will be in schools. Those who saw the *Horizon* program about turtle graphics



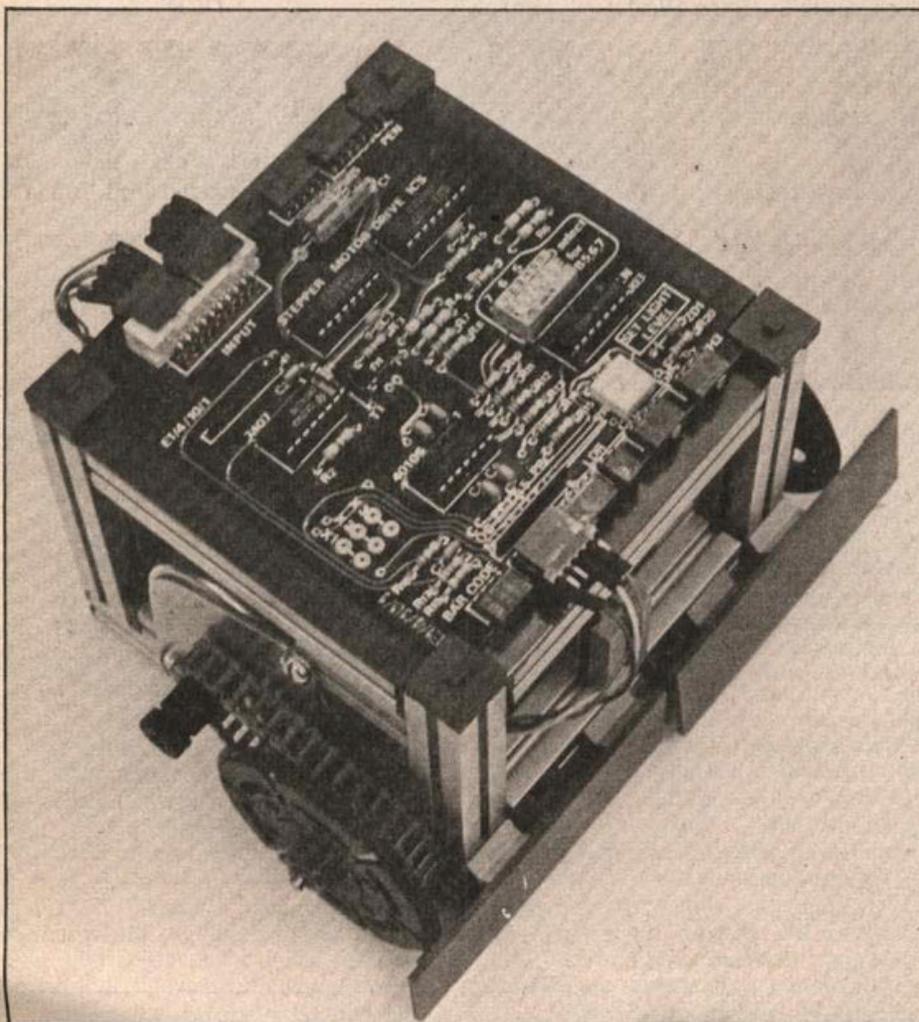
and logo will be able to visualise many of the ways it will be used in schools. However, there is not, currently, a version of logo which interfaces with the buggy.

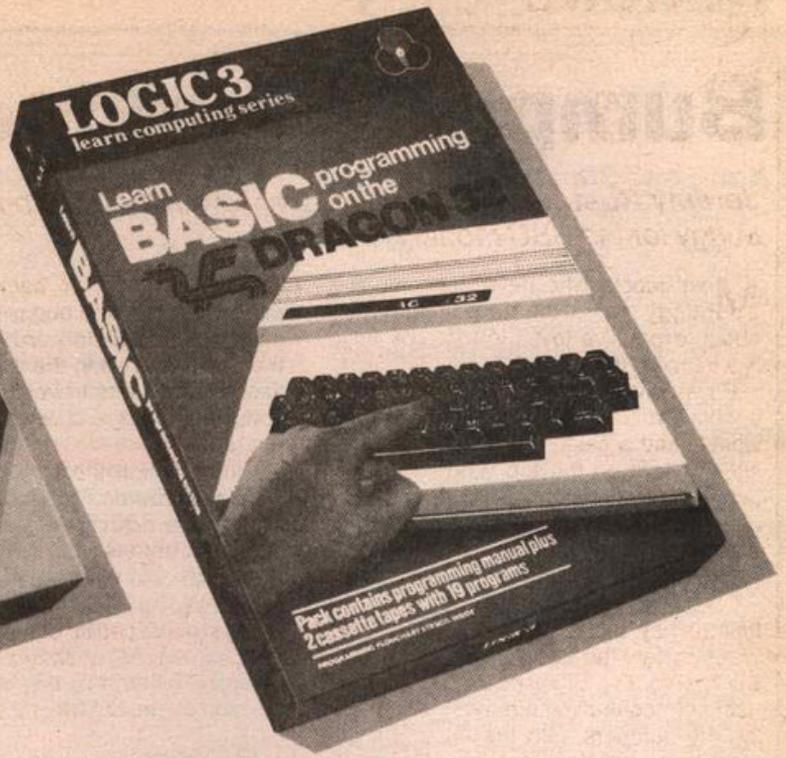
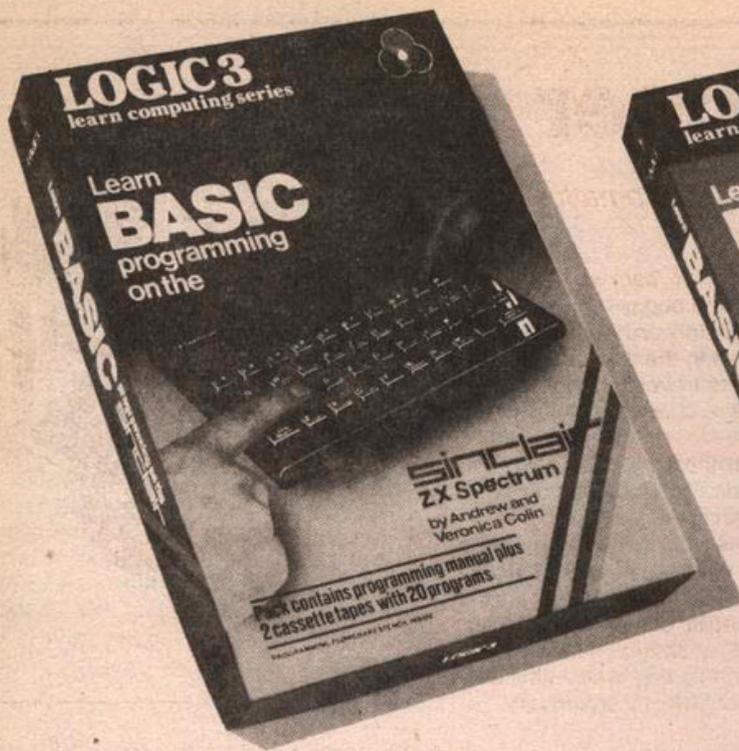
But a child will not need logo to grasp the spatial relationships of angles and polygons, which is the kind of application I see the buggy being used for. The beauty of the system is that once the five year olds have finished playing with it, it can become a tool for the older children to learn mechanics. For example, using extra Fischer-Technick parts, it is easy to extend the operations of the buggy, by adding extra limbs and experimenting with methods of driving the wheels (should you use a chain, cogs or direct drive?).

So, the product is nice, well supported in software, user-extensible, useful and fun. But, it is expensive. I doubt whether the government will share the cost of buying a buggy for schools, which will almost certainly limit the number available to any given school. Thus, I am afraid, that the buggy will become scarce. This will be catastrophic, since one or two buggies between a class of 20 or 30 are not going to do much good.

The final point is that the buggy is supplied as a kit (from Economatics, 4 Orgreave Crescent, Dane House Industrial Estate, Handsworth, Sheffield). The electronic parts are fully assembled, but the mechanical parts need to be assembled from scratch.

When I built my buggy, I was amazed at how lax the instructions were. Whenever the instructions became unclear, I just used common sense to elaborate on them. Luckily, I was correct most of the time, but I couldn't help feeling that someone in a similar position, who did not have the advantage of having played with an assembled buggy before, could have some problems.





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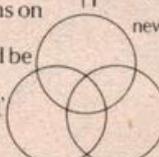
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PCW 51

Full speed ahead

Keith and Steven Brain demonstrate how machine code routines on the Aquarius can speed up animation

In *PCW*, Vol 2, issue 45 we explained how to use machine code on the Aquarius and gave examples of some simple useful routines. We will now expand on the use of machine code sub-routines by showing you how to use them to speed up animation in your Basic programs.

The following machine code routine instantly draws and erases a particular design on the screen. Of course, if you can keep drawing and erasing the design you can easily move it. If you try to move more than a couple of characters at a time using Basic, then you can actually see the whole thing being built up and broken down quite slowly.

On the other hand this routine fills all the points in a design virtually instantaneously and is much more impressive. The routine is laid out in detail in the table, but to load it you just need to enter the following Basic lines and Run.

```
10 PRINT CHR$(11)
20 DATA 33,0,0,17,0,0,25,229,17,0,0,26,19,193,
103,62,0
30 DATA 254,0,40,2,24,4,62,0,24,1,26
2,124,46,1,149,200,19,103
40 DATA 229,26,38,0,111,9,229,193,225,19,24,223
70 FOR N=16000 TO 16061:READ A:POKE N,
A:NEXT N
80 POKE 14340,128:POKE 14341,62
```

Using a data table

This routine is rather different to the *Fill* routine described earlier. Instead of loading the same character into a large area, you specify a very detailed design in a table as pairs of numbers defining the character required and the offset from the last character.

Data Table Format

1	2	3	4
1st CHR	1st offset	2nd CHR	2nd offset etc

These are loaded from a Data statement as for the main routine. As a very simple example we will consider a small lunar lander made up of seven characters. The top row contains only the nosecone (*CHR\$(143)*); the second character (192) is 39 bytes further on, as it is one line below and one column to the left, etc.

Character codes for lunar lander

```
143
192 243 193
202 212 218
```

The only other thing is that the first byte in the table must state the total number of characters to be placed (7 in this case).

```
40 DATA 7,143,39,192,1,243,1,193,38,20
2,1,212,1,218
```

Control values

A number of locations are used to store control values. We indicate where the picture is to be placed by means of *Screen Start (16001/2)* and *Screen Offset (16004/5)* values, and we also need to state where in memory the appropriate data table will be found as *Data Start (16009/16010)*.

If location 16016 contains 1 then the characters from the table will be loaded to the screen, but if it contains 0 then the number in location 16024 will be loaded into the same positions, using only the offset values. As location 16024 currently contains 32 then this will fill the positions with spaces (ie, selectively erase).

```
90 POKE 1600,40
100 POKE 16010,62
110 POKE 16002,48
120 POKE 16016,1
130 POKE 16004,20
140 POKE 16005,0
150 POKE 16009,176
160 Z=USR(Z)
```

If you Run this as it stands then the ship will appear in the centre at the top of the screen. To erase it all you need to do is alter the contents of location 16016 to 0.

```
170 AS=INKEY$:IF AS="" THEN 170
180 POKE 16016,0
190 Z=USR(Z)
200 AS=INKEY$:IF AS="" THEN 200
210 GOTO 120
```

Now each time you press a key the ship will appear or disappear:

Making a move

Of course we need to get the ship under cursor control, which we will do with Basic as usual. Notice that you only need to *Poke* values which are changing, but that things are a little complicated as we need to change both addresses 16004 and 16005 to move over the whole screen. Also note that the program is arranged so that the ship is not erased until after you have pressed a key.

```
1000 YP=20
1010 POKE 16016,1
1020 POKE 16004,Y
1030 POKE 16005,Y1
1040 Z=USR(Z)
1050 IF PEEK(14351)<>6 THEN 1050
1060 K=PEEK(14346)
1070 YU=(K=59)-(K=58)+40*(K-113)-40*(K=97)
1080 IF YP+YU<41 OR YP+YU>920 THEN 1010
1090 Y=YP-256*INT(YP/256)
1100 Y1=INT(YP/256)
1110 POKE 16016,0
1120 Z=USR(Z):GOTO 1010
```

Setting up different colours

As well as loading characters from location 12328 onwards we can specify the colour of each character individually by also using the same routine to load into the colour Ram area. The Data table is built up in the same way as before, but with colour codes in place of character codes. The *For/Next* loop will have to be extended to read in the extra data.

```
60 DATA 7,54,39,70,1,67,1,70,38,6,1,22
,1,6
70 FOR N=16000 TO 16075:READ A:POKE N,
A:NEXT N
```

We will need to switch the destination (*Screen Start*) and source (*Data Start*) addresses backwards and forwards, and to make the action as fast as possible we need the minimum number of *Pokes*. So the sequence should be:

```
DRAW CHARACTER
COLOUR CHARACTER
RESET COLOUR
BLANK CHARACTER
```

```
170 POKE 16002,52
180 POKE 16009,190
190 Z=USR(Z)
200 POKE 16016,0
210 POKE 16024,6
220 Z=USR(Z)
230 POKE 16002,48
240 POKE 16024,32
250 POKE 16009,176
260 Z=USR(Z)
```

Notice that the value 6 is *Poked* into location 16024 when the *Screen Start* points to the colour Ram to reset the default foreground/background colours.

We leave you to experiment further with these routines, but remember that the bigger the design the more speed advantage you gain over Basic.



PROGRAMMING

AQUARIUS ANIMATION ROUTINE

address	value	mnemonic			
16000	33	LD HL,NN			
16001		LOW BYTE SCREEN START			
16002		HIGH BYTE SCREEN START			
16003	17	LD DE,NN			
16004		LOW BYTE SCREEN OFFSET			
16005		HIGH BYTE SCREEN OFFSET			
16006	25	ADD HL,DE			
16007	229	PUSH HL			
16008	17	LD DE,NN			
16009		LOW BYTE DATA START			
16010		HIGH BYTE DATA START			
16011	26	LD A,(DE)			
16012	19	INC DE			
16013	193	POP BC			
16014	103	LD H,A			
16015	62	LD A,N			
16016		DRAW/ERASE (1/0)			
16017	254	CP			
16018	0				
16019	40	JR,Z			
16020	2				
16021	24	JR			
16022	4				
16023	62	LD A,N			
16024		ERASE CODE			
			16025	24	JR
			16026	1	
			16027	26	LD A,(DE)
			16028	2	LD (BC),A
			16029	124	LD A,H
			16030	46	LD L,n
			16031	1	
			16032	149	SUB L
			16033	200	RET Z
			16034	19	INC DE
			16035	103	LD H,A
			16036	229	PUSH HL
			16037	26	LD A,(DE)
			16038	38	LD H,n
			16039	0	
			16040	111	LD L,A
			16041	9	ADD HL,BC
			16042	229	PUSH HL
			16043	193	POP BC
			16044	225	POP HL
			16045	19	INC DE
			16046	24	JR
			16047	223	
			(16048		DATA START)

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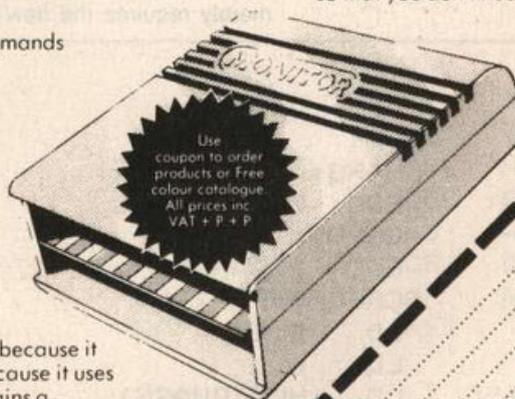
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Along the border

Trevor Toms converts the colour, attributes and border routines to machine code in part five of his series

So far, we've covered the normal printing aspects of the display, but this week I'm going to look at colour, attributes, the border and, if I can squeeze it in, routines to simulate *Screen\$(y,x)* and *Point(x,y)*.

Firstly, colour and attributes. The most convenient method of handling these items is to use the *Fst 10h* feature of the Rom to generate the appropriate conditions. Appendix A of the Spectrum handbook gives a list of the codes needed to alter ink, paper, or any of the attributes. Here's an example:

```
10 PRINT AT 10,0;INK 2;OVER 1;"Hello!"
```

Our machine code equivalent would become:

```
LD HL,PSTRING ;list to be printed
CALL PRINT$STRING ;see last week
....
PSTRING:
DEFB 13 ;length of following data
DEFB 22 ;AT
DEFB 10 ;row 10
DEFB 0 ;column 0
DEFB 16 ;INK ...
DEFB 2 ;... 2
DEFB 21 ;OVER ...
DEFB 1 ;... 1
DEFM 'Hello!' ;the text
```

As you can see, apart from the slog of converting the Basic commands into codes, it's almost as easy to write in machine code, and it's certainly a lot faster.

However, this method does have one drawback — all the colour and attribute settings are temporary. They will not apply to *Plot* or *Draw* routines. The solution to this problem is to use a Rom routine at address *1Cadh*. This handy little routine (which I refer to as *Xperm*) takes the current temporary attributes and copies them into the permanent settings. So, if this routine included an extra line:

```
LD HL,PSTRING
CALL PRINT$STRING
CALL XPERM
....
```

then the permanent values of *Ink 2*, *Over 1* would be established.

Of course, there will be occasions when you want to reset all the temporary values back to the permanent settings. This is accomplished by a routine (called *Xrtemp*) at address *0D4Dh*.

There are times when you can see something that would be extremely desirable in Basic — one of them is the ability to alter the colour of ink and/or paper without affecting the display, or even to alter the flashing and bright settings. If such a Basic command existed, I feel it should be called *Wash*, so that you would write *10 Wash Ink,2* which would instantly alter all ink on the screen to colour 2 (red).

Listing 1 gives just such a routine. You enter it with two parameters — register *B* contains the attribute byte values to be placed in each location of the screen, while register *C* should hold a mask which indicates the attributes to be altered. The bit pattern layout of registers *B* and *C* is:

```
7 0
FBPPPlll where F is the flashing status
           B is the brightness status
           PPP is the paper colour
           lll is the ink colour
```

For example:

```
LD B,82h
LD C,87h
CALL WASH
```

would turn all ink on the screen to red (2) and every square would be flashing. The mask value in register *C* should have a "1 bit" set on in each position of the appropriate attribute to be altered. So, to alter the paper attribute only, register *C* would hold *Bin 00111000*, or decimal 56. Register *B* then holds the new paper colour in bits 3-5.

The border colour is quite easy to alter. Although a simple *Out* instruction is sufficient to do the job, a Rom routine at address *229Bh* (*Xborder*) will additionally update the system variables in case you use further Rom features. This routine merely requires the new border colour in

register *A*, eg:

```
XBORDER: EQU 229Bh
LD A,2
CALL XBORDER ;turn border red
```

There are one or two more useful Rom routines before I move on — *Xcls* is a routine at address *0D6Bh* which will clear the screen, provided stream 2 has been opened in advance. Also, screen scrolling can be performed in two ways. First, the entire screen can be scrolled by calling routine *Xscroll* at address *0Dfeh*, while the lower *n* lines of the display can be scrolled by setting register *B* to hold *23-n* then calling routine *Xpscroll* at address *0E00h*.

I trust that I've not rushed too much in order to squeeze in Listing 2 — this listing gives two subroutines that you can use. The first simulates the *Screen\$(y,x)* function. You set register pair *HI* to hold the row number and *DE* to hold the column number. On return, registers *HI* (although *H* will always hold zero) contain the code number of the character on the screen. As with the standard *Screen\$* function, unrecognised characters reply with the value zero, but you can always set *Chars* to point to your own character set before you enter the routine.

Devotees of the Rom will notice that this code is almost exactly the same as a chunk of code at address *2538h*. The reason that the Rom cannot be used is that this section of code places its result on the internal floating point calculator stack rather than in registers, and no easy entry can be made which gives a suitable return to your machine code.

The second routine gives the equivalent of *Point(x,y)*, and here registers *HI* hold the *x*-co-ordinate, while *DE* hold the *y*-co-ordinate. On return, register *L* holds 0 or 1, indicating that the position contains paper or ink respectively, while register *H* is always set to zero.

This ends our look at screen features. Next week I'll turn to the keyboard and show how you can reproduce the *Input* command from machine code. ■

By Trevor Toms, author of *The Spectrum Pocket Book*, published by Phipps Associates.

Listing 1

Addr	Hex	Op	Operands
F900		CHARS:	F908 0F RRCA
F900		EQU 5C36H	F909 0F RRCA
F900		XGSP0S:	F90A E6E0 AND 0E0H
F900		EQU 22AAH	F90C A8 XOR B
F900		SCREEN\$:	F90D 5F LD E,A
F900	43	LD B,E	F90E 79 LD A,C
F901	4D	LD C,L	F90F E618 AND 18H
F902	2A365C	LD HL,(CHARS)	F911 EE40 XOR 40H
F905	24	INC H	F913 57 LD D,A
F906	79	LD A,C	F914 0660 LD B,96
F907	0F	RRCA	F916 SCRB:

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A race for time

Michael Blackburn presents Formula 2 – a racing car game against the clock

This is a program for the Dragon 32, using hi-res graphics, colour, sound, and auto-repeat for fast movement.

The race is on! You have beaten all your opponents, but now you have to race the clock. You have a choice of tracks, and from then on it's up to you. Track 1 is the easiest, but track 2 is the more challenging. Good luck and good racing.

Once the track is shown on the screen, nothing will happen until a key is pressed. Once a key is pressed your car will appear,

your time will start, and if you stop, there is a warning "sound" which slows you down even further. Please try to remember to go the right way round — clockwise!

If you wish, you may incorporate a third or fourth track of your own design. This is made simple because the main routing caters for all tracks, as long as the colours are not altered, as this is how the position of the car is checked.

Note before saving the program, it is a good idea to press the reset button in case

the processor is in fast mode which disables the cassette port.

Variables

- T = Time
- MS = Fastest time
- c = ARRAY for crashed cars
- LA = Laps completed
- CR = Number of mistakes
- L = Length of race
- Q = Choice of track
- X and Y = Position of car
- R = Radius of corner
- 10-180 Instructions
- 190-350 Choice of track/laps etc.
- 360-720 Draws track one
- 730-1140 Draws track two
- 1150-1330 MAIN ROUTINE: Checks keyboard and position of car
- 1340-1410 Crash routine
- 1420-1520 Flashing routine
- 1530-1620 High score/Author Go routine

LIST

```

10CLS
20PRINT@75,"FORMULA2"
30PRINT@107,"====="
40PRINT@161,"DRIVE YOUR CAR AROUND THE
  CIRCUIT."
50PRINT:PRINT"TRY TO AVOID THE KERB (RE
D) AND STAY ON THE TRACK (YELLOW)."
```

```

60 PRINT@460,"any key"
70 FOR N=1 TO 2000
80 IF INKEY#<>" THEN 100
90 NEXT N
100 CLS
110 PRINT@38,"MORE THAN ONE KEY MAY
  BE PRESSED AT ONCE"
120 PRINT@198,"arrow....movement"
130 PRINT@262,"key 1.....first gear"
140 PRINT@326,"key 2.....second gear"
150 PRINT@461,"any key"
160 FOR N=1 TO 2000
170 IF INKEY#<>" THEN 190
180 NEXT N
190 T=0:HS=500
200 PMODE 1,1:PCLS
210 DIM C(5,5)
220 DRAW"BM1,4;E3;F3;G3;H3;R2;D2;L2;U1"
230 GET(0,0)-(5,5),C,G
240 POKE &HFFD6,0
250 LA=0:CR=0:L=0
260 CLS
270 PRINT@67,"HOW MANY LAPS?"
280 INPUT L
290 IF L<1 THEN 280
300 PRINT@131,"WHICH TRACK (1/2)?"
310 INPUT Q
320 IF Q>2 OR Q<1 THEN 310
330 CLS
340 PRINT@234,"PLEASE WAIT"
350 ON Q GOTO 360,730
360 X=75:Y=20
370 PMODE 1,1:PCLS
380 FOR R=25 TO 40 STEP 15
390 CIRCLE(50,50),R,4,1,.5,.75
400 NEXT R
410 FOR R=15 TO 30 STEP 15
420 CIRCLE(190,40),R,4,1,.75,.25
430 NEXT R
440 FOR R=25 TO 40 STEP 15
450 CIRCLE(90,95),R,4,1,.25,.75
460 NEXT R
470 FOR R=5 TO 20 STEP 15
480 CIRCLE(120,115),R,4,1,0,.25
490 NEXT R
500 FOR R=5 TO 20 STEP 15
510 CIRCLE(145,113),R,4,1,.5,.75
520 NEXT R
530 FOR R=30 TO 45 STEP 15
540 CIRCLE(200,136),R,4,1,.75,0
550 NEXT R
560 FOR R=15 TO 30 STEP 15
570 CIRCLE(215,148),R,4,1,0,.25
580 NEXT R
590 FOR R=40 TO 55 STEP 15
600 CIRCLE(65,123),R,4,1,.25,.5
610 NEXT R
620 DRAW"BM50,11;R140;BD15;L140"
630 DRAW"BM190,55;L100;BD15;R100"
640 DRAW"BM90,118;R30;BD16;L30"
650 DRAW"BM145,92;R55;BD15;L55"
660 DRAW"BM230,138;D10;BR15;U10"
670 DRAW"BM215,162;L150;BD15;R150"
680 DRAW"BM25,123;U73;BL15;D73"
690 PAINT(70,20),2,4
700 PAINT(50,50),1,4
710 DRAW"C3;BM70,11;D15;R1;U15"
720 GOTO 1150
730 X=75:Y=15
740 PMODE 1,1:PCLS
750 FOR R=15 TO 25 STEP 10
760 CIRCLE(30,35),R,4,1,.5,.75
770 NEXT R
780 FOR R=20 TO 30 STEP 10
790 CIRCLE(170,40),R,4,1,.75
800 NEXT R
810 FOR R=50 TO 60 STEP 10
820 CIRCLE(250,50),R,4,1,.375,.5
830 NEXT R
840 FOR R=40 TO 50 STEP 10
850 CIRCLE(205,140),R,4,1,.875,.5
860 NEXT R
870 FOR R=15 TO 25 STEP 10
880 CIRCLE(140,60),R,4,1,.75
890 NEXT R
900 FOR R=5 TO 15 STEP 10
910 CIRCLE(40,50),R,4,1,.375,.75
920 NEXT R
930 FOR R=15 TO 25 STEP 10
940 CIRCLE(90,137),R,4,1,.875,.125
950 NEXT R
960 FOR R=25 TO 35 STEP 10
970 CIRCLE(40,152),R,4,1,.25,.5
980 NEXT R
990 DRAW"BM33,10;R138;BD10;L138"
1000 DRAW"BM190,40;D10;BR10;U10"
1010 DRAW"BM217,85;F20"
1020 LINE(210,92)-(230,112),FSET
1030 DRAW"BM165,140;U80;BL10;D80"
1040 DRAW"BM140,47;L100;BU10;R100"
```



```

1050 DRAW"BM40,55;F65;BG7;H68"
1060 LINE(98,147)-(68,177),PSET
1070 LINE(107,150)-(70,187),PSET
1080 LINE(68,177)-(40,177),PSET
1090 LINE(68,187)-(40,187),PSET
1100 DRAW"BM6,152;U117;BR10;D117"
1110 DRAW"BM70,12;C3;D7"
1120 PAINT(70,15),2,4
1130 PAINT(60,160),1,4
1140 DRAW"BM70,12;C3;D7"
1150 SCREEN 1,0
1160 IF INKEY#="" THEN 1160
1170 TIMER=0
1180 REM MAIN ROUTINE
1190 PSET(X,Y,0)
1200 IF PEEK(341)=223 THEN PSET(X,Y,2):Y=Y-2
1210 IF PEEK(342)=223 THEN PSET(X,Y,2):Y=Y+2
1220 IF PEEK(343)=223 THEN PSET(X,Y,2):X=X-2
1230 IF PEEK(344)=223 THEN PSET(X,Y,2):X=X+2
1240 IF PEEK(339)=254 THEN POKE &HFFD6,0
1250 IF PEEK(340)=254 THEN POKE &HFFD7,0
1260 IF Q=1 THEN DRAW"C3;BM70,11;D15"
1270 IF Q=2 THEN DRAW"G3;BM70,10;D10"
1280 IF PPOINT(X,Y)=1 THEN T=TIMER:PUT(X-2,Y-2)-(X+3,Y+3),C,PSET:FOR I=1 TO 1000:NEXT I:GOTO 1340
1290 IF PPOINT(X,Y)=4 THEN SOUND 10,2:CR=C R+1
1300 IF PPOINT(X,Y)=3 THEN LA=LA+1:SOUND 100,1
1310 IF LA=L THEN T=TIMER:GOTO 1420
1320 POKE 337,191
1330 GOTO 1180
1340 CLS
1350 PRINT@73,"YOU CRASHED!!"
1360 PRINT@133,"YOU LASTED";T/50;"SECONDS"
1370 PRINT@200,"YOU HIT";CR;"KERBS"
1380 PRINT@261,"YOU COMPLETED";LA;"LAPS"
1390 PRINT@428,"any key"
1400 IF INKEY#="" THEN 1400
1410 IF INKEY#="" THEN 1410 ELSE 1530
1420 CLS
1430 PRINT@74,"WELL DONE!!"
1440 PRINT@133,"YOU COMPLETED";LA;"LAPS"
1450 PRINT@197,"IT TOOK YOU";T/50;"SECONDS"
1460 PRINT@259,"YOU HIT THE KERB";CR;"TIME"
1470 PRINT@325,"AVERAGE LAP TIME: ";(T/50)/LA
1480 PRINT@428,"any key"
1490 IF INKEY#="" THEN 1490
1500 IF INKEY#="" THEN 1500 ELSE 1530
1510 FOR N=1 TO 1000
1520 NEXT N
1530 CLS
1540 T=T/50
1550 IF LA<1 THEN 1590
1560 T=1/LA
1570 IF T<HS THEN HS=T
1580 PRINT@101,"FASTEST TIME: ";HS
1590 PRINT@230,"ANOTHER GO(Y/N)?"
1600 IF INKEY#="Y" THEN 240
1610 IF INKEY#="N" THEN END
1620 GOTO 1600

```

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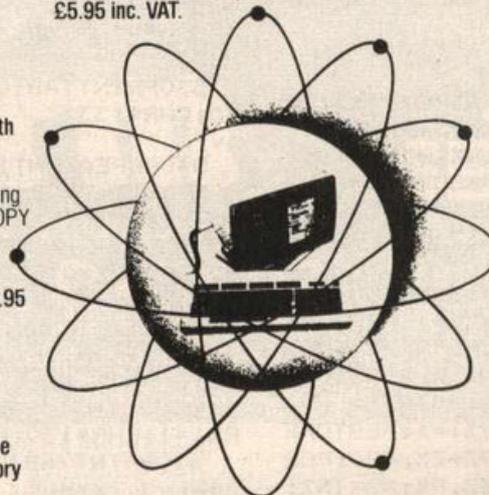
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Beetlemania

Barrie Heptonstall presents Beetle Drive for the BBC A or B

This is a computer version of the popular game *Beetle Drive*. You and the computer take it in turns to throw the dice — each score giving you another part of the beetle. The scores are as follows:
 1 for each eye
 2 for each feeler
 3 for each leg
 4 for the tail

5 for the head
 6 for the body

This version of the game is written for a model B. To convert it to a model A, change line 70 to mode 4 and leave out the *Gcols* and colour statements.

At the end of the game, the computer plays the popular Beatles tune *Eleanor Rigby*.

Notes

- 40-60 calls procedures PROCinit and PROCinst
- 70-80 call PROCmain
- 90-110 asks if you want to play again
- 120-180 PROCdice — rolls and draws the dice
- 190-350 PROCdraw — draws the appropriate part of the beetle
- 360-380 holds the data for PROCdraw
- 390-570 PROCinst — displays the instructions
- 580-640 PROCagain — displays the winner
- 650-820 PROCinit — sets up the variables and defines CHR\$
- 830-850 PROCcheck — checks if the whole beetle has been drawn
- 860-1000 PROCmain — calls PROCdice and controls the program
- 1010-1030 PROCTune — plays the tune

```

>L.
10REM"BEETLE DRIVE FINAL VERSION 6 "
20REM"COPYRIGHT BARRIE HEPTONSTALL "
30REM"20th TO 26th September 1983"
40MODE7
50PROCinit
60PROCinst
70MODE1
80PROCmain
90MODE7
100PROCagain
110RUN
120DEFPROCdice
130SOUND1,-15,10,3
140D%=RND(6)
150COLOUR0:COLOUR131
160PRINTTAB(T%,5);A$(D%)
170PROCdraw
180ENDPROC
190DEFPROCdraw
200IFD%=5 ORD%=6 THEN210 ELSEIFX%(1+Y%
)=0 ORX%(2+Y%)=0 THEN220 ELSE210
210OND% GOSUB230,250,270,290,310,330
220COLOUR1:COLOUR131:PRINTTAB(V%,3);"
NOTHING DRAWN ":ENDPROC
230COLOUR128:COLOURW%:IFX%(3+Y%)=0 THE
NX%(3+Y%)=1:PRINTTAB(8+V%,12);C$ ELSEIFX
%(4+Y%)=0 THENX%(4+Y%)=1:PRINTTAB(11+V%,
12);C$ ELSERETURN
240E$=" EYE DRAWN ":GOTO350
250IFX%(5+Y%)=0 THENX%(5+Y%)=1:GCOL0,W
%:MOVE288+Z%,672:DRAW288+Z%,736:DRAW256+
Z%,768 ELSEIFX%(6+Y%)=0 THENX%(6+Y%)=1:G
COL0,W%:MOVEZ%+352,672:DRAW352+Z%,736:DR
AWZ%+386,768 ELSERETURN
260E$=" FEELER DRAWN ":GOTO350
270IFR%(Q%)>=35 THENRETURN
280MOVE(S%(R%(Q%)))+Z%,S%(R%(Q%)+1):DR
AW(S%(R%(Q%)+2))+Z%,S%(R%(Q%)+3):DRAW(S%
(R%(Q%)+4))+Z%,S%(R%(Q%)+5):R%(Q%)=R%(Q%
)+6:E$=" LEG DRAWN ":GOTO350
290IFX%(7+Y%)=0 THENX%(7+Y%)=1:GCOL0,W
%:MOVE320+Z%,160:DRAW320+Z%,32 ELSERETUR
N
300E$=" TAIL DRAWN ":GOTO350
310IFX%(1+Y%)=0 THENX%(1+Y%)=1:RESTORE
370:GCOL0,W%:MOVE224+Z%,640:FORN%=1 TO8:
READE%,F%:DRAWEX%+Z%,F%:NEXTN% ELSERETURN
320E$=" HEAD DRAWN ":GOTO350
330IFX%(2+Y%)=0 THENX%(2+Y%)=1:RESTORE
380:GCOL0,W%:COLOURW%:MOVE192+Z%,480:FOR
N%=1 TO10:READE%,F%:DRAWEX%+Z%,F%:NEXTN%:
COLOUR128:FORN%=1 TO6:READE%,F%:PRINTTAB
(E%+V%,F%);CHR$241:NEXTN% ELSERETURN
340E$=" BODY DRAWN "
350COLOUR1:COLOUR131:PRINTTAB(V%,3);E$
:PROCcheck:ENDPROC
    
```

```

360DATA448,448,576,448,608,480,192,448
,64,448,32,480,448,352,576,352,608,352,1
92,352,96,352,32,352,448,256,576,256,608
,224,192,256,64,256,32,224
370DATA256,672,384,672,416,640,416,544
,384,512,256,512,224,544,224,640
380DATA256,512,384,512,448,480,448,256
,416,192,384,160,256,160,224,192,192,256
,192,480,11,17,7,18,8,20,11,21,7,23,10,2
5
390DEFPROCinst
400FORN%=1 TO2:PRINTTAB(9);CHR$141;CHR
$130;"Beetle Drive":NEXTN%
410PRINT'CHR$129;" This is a comput
er version of the"
420PRINTCHR$129;"popular game 'BEETLE
DRIVE'."
430PRINT'CHR$133;" You and the comp
uter must take it"
440PRINTCHR$133;"in turns to roll dice,
each throw gives"
450PRINTCHR$133;"you another part of th
e beetle."
460PRINT'TAB(8);CHR$131;" You need:"
470PRINT'CHR$134;" A one for each
eye"
480PRINTCHR$134;" A two for each
feeler"
490PRINTCHR$134;" A three for each
leg"
500PRINTCHR$134;" A four for the t
ail"
510PRINTCHR$134;" A five for the h
ead"
520PRINTCHR$134;" A six for the b
ody"
530PRINTTAB(0,21);CHR$136;CHR$157;CHR$1
50;CHR$133;" PRESS THE SPACE BAR TO PL
AY"
540REPEATUNTILGET=32:CLS
550PRINTTAB(4,10);CHR$134;"Do you want
to start? (Y/N)"
560G$=GET$:IFG$="Y" THENP%=1 ELSEIFG$="
N" THENP%=0 ELSEGOTO560
570ENDPROC
580DEFPROCagain
590IFV%<>0 THENE$="I WIN":V%=10 ELSEE$
="YOU WIN,WELL DONE":V%=6
600PRINT'':FORN%=1 TO2:PRINTTAB(V%);CH
R$141;CHR$130;E$:NEXT
610PRINTTAB(2,10);"Do you want to play
again? (Y/N)"
620PROCTune
630G$=GET$
640IFG$="Y" THENRUN ELSEIFG$="N" THENC
LS:END ELSEGOTO630
650DEFPROCinit:DIMS%(36),X%(26),R%(2),
    
```

```

A$(6):FINISH%=FALSE
660FORN%=1 TO2:R%(N%)=1:NEXTN%
670RESTORE360
680FORN%=1 TO36:READE%:S%(N%)=E%:NEXTN%
690FORN%=0 TO26:X%(N%)=0:NEXTN%
700B$=CHR$8+CHR$8+CHR$10
710C$=CHR$239
720A$(1)=CHR$224+CHR$225+B$+CHR$226+CHR$227
730A$(2)=CHR$228+CHR$255+B$+CHR$255+CHR$229
740A$(3)=CHR$230+CHR$225+B$+CHR$226+CHR$231
750A$(4)=CHR$232+CHR$232+B$+CHR$232+CHR$232
760A$(5)=CHR$233+CHR$234+B$+CHR$235+CHR$236
770A$(6)=CHR$237+CHR$237+B$+CHR$238+CHR$238
780VDU23,224,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,23,225,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,23,226,0,0,0,0,0,0,128,23,227,128,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,23,228,0,0,0,0,12,12,0,0,23,229,0,0,48,48,0,0,0,0,23,230,0,0,0,0,12,12,0,1,23,231,128,0,48,48,0,0,0,0,23,232,0,0,0,24,24,0,0,0,790VDU23,233,0,0,0,24,24,0,0,1,23,234,1,0,0,24,24,0,0,0,23,235,0,0,0,24,24,0,0,128,23,236,128,0,0,24,24,0,0,0,23,237,0,0,0,24,24,0,0,24,23,238,24,0,0,24,24,0,0,0,23,239,60,126,255,189,129,129,66,60,800VDU23,241,60,126,255,255,255,255,126,60,23,255,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,810VDU23;8202;0;0;0;
820ENDPROC
830DEFPROCcheck
840IFR%(Q%)<35 THENENDPROC
850FORN%=1+Y% TO7+Y%:IFX%(N%)=0 THENFINISH%=FALSE:ENDPROC ELSENEXT:FINISH%=TRUE:ENDPROC
860DEFPROCmain
870VDU19,2,6,0,0,0
880VDU23;8202;0;0;0;
890*FX15,0
900MOVE0,800:DRAW1280,800
910MOVE640,0:DRAW640,1023
920PRINTTAB(8,1);"YOU"
930PRINTTAB(29,1);"ME"
940IFP%=0 THENQ%=2:T%=29:W%=2:Y%=13:V%=20:Z%=640 ELSEQ%=1:T%=9:W%=1:Y%=0:V%=0:Z%=0
950COLOUR1:COLOUR131:PRINTTAB(V%,3);"PRESS 'D' TO ROLL"
960G$=GET$:IFG$<>"D" THENGOTO960 ELSEPROCdice
970IFP%=0 THENP%=1 ELSEP%=0
980IFFINISH% THENFORN%=1 TO10000:NEXTN%:ENDPROC
990GOTO940
1000ENDPROC
1010DEFPROCtune
1020RESTORE1030:FORN%=1 TO18:READE%,F%:SOUND1,-15,E%,F%:NEXTN%:ENDPROC
1030DATA129,5,137,5,145,5,129;10,117,15,129,5,137,5,145,5,157,10,153,5,145,5,157,10,145,5,137,5,145,10,137,5,129,5,137,25
    
```

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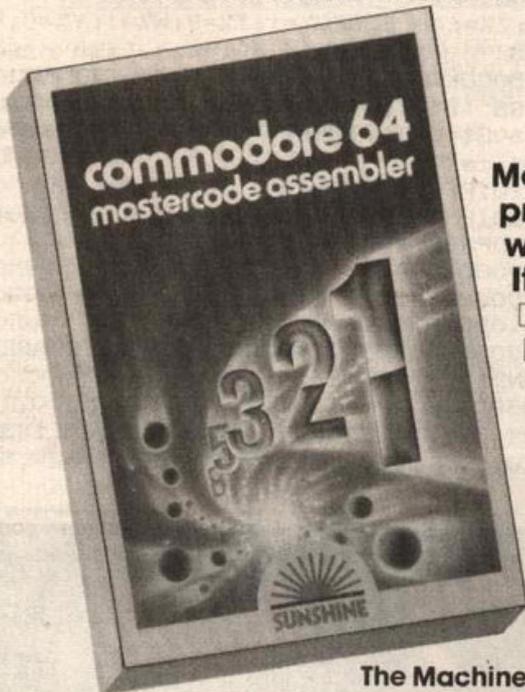
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Memory examiner

L Tanner presents a machine code monitor for use with Simon's Basic

My program *Mon-64* for the Commodore 64 and Simon's Basic, is a machine code monitor which enables you to examine the contents of memory and also write, debug and run machine code routines. It also has a hex-dec converter and the ability to load and save code to and from tape.

Commands are entered as single command characters, followed by one, or in some cases, two parameters. In all cases, the command and the first parameter must not be separated by any spaces.

The commands are as follows (n represents any integer in the range 0 to 65535):

Cn ... converts the decimal number to a hex number.

Ln or *L-n* or *Ln-* or *Ln1-n2* ... lists the contents of memory (displays hex address

followed by 10 hex bytes).

Mn or *M-n* or *Ln-* or *Ln1-n2* ... as for *List*, but first clears the screen and then allows you to alter or write to memory using the following keys:

Crsr keys to move the cursor.

0-9 and *A-F* to enter code.

Return to enter a line of code into memory.

To end, just press *Return* when next address appears.

On ... go to address *n* and execute machine code routine.

Wn1-n2 ... Write code to tape from address *n1* to *n2* inclusive.

When this command is entered, you will be asked to enter a name to save the code under. This name can be up to 15 characters long.

Rname ... read named code from tape.

X ... exit *Mon-64* and return to Basic.

Any errors made entering any command or in entering code in the memory mode will be detected and the error message *Come again?* will appear.

While entering the memory or the *Go* command, you cannot enter an address lower than 8192 decimal (2000 hex). The memory up to this address is used by the *Mon-64* program itself.

Notes

- 90-95 Clear screen and set up variables.
- 100-170 Command input.
- 180-195 Error messages.
- 200-230 Convert procedure.
- 300-590 List and memory routines.
- 600-650 Go routine.
- 700-790 Read named program from tape.
- 800-870 Write named program to tape.
- 900-999 Procedure to verify numbers entered as parameters for various commands.
- 1000-1090 Procedure to convert decimal numbers to hex numbers.
- 1100-1160 Procedure to convert hex numbers to decimal numbers (used for memory command).

```

90 PRINT "J"; :Q=0:M=0:SP=1024:CC=55296
95 P$="00000000000000000000000000000000"
100 PRINT "M"; :W$="": INPUT W$
110 IF LEFT$(W$,1)="C" THEN 200
120 IF LEFT$(W$,1)="L" THEN 300
130 IF LEFT$(W$,1)="M" THEN M=1:GOTO 300
140 IF LEFT$(W$,1)="G" THEN 600
150 IF LEFT$(W$,1)="R" THEN 700
160 IF LEFT$(W$,1)="W" THEN 800
170 IF W$="X" THEN PRINT "M":END
180 PRINT
190 PRINT "COME AGAIN ?M":GOTO 100
195 PRINT "ILLEGAL ADDRESS,BELOW 8192M"
:GOTO 100
200 PRINT "M";
210 EXEC NUMBER
215 IF Q=1 THEN Q=0:GOTO 190
216 IFF=0 OR C>F THEN 190
220 D=F:EXEC CONVERT
230 PRINT:PRINT "M";:GOTO 100
300 PRINT "M";:IF M=1 THEN PRINT "J";
310 EXEC NUMBER
315 IF Q=1 THEN Q=0:GOTO 190
316 IF M=1 AND F<8192 THEN 195
320 FOR I=FTOTSTEP 10
330 D=I:EXEC CONVERT
340 PRINT " ";:FOR J=ITOI+9:IF J>65535
THEN J=I+9:GOTO 350
345 D=PEEK(J):EXEC CONVERT
350 PRINT " ";:NEXT J:PRINT:NEXT I
360 IF M=0 THEN PRINT "M";:GOTO 100
370 M=0:R=0:C=6:IFF<256 THEN C=4
380 POKESP+R*40+C,PEEK(SP+R*40+C)OR 128:
POKECC+R*40+C,6
390 GETG$:IFG$="" THEN 390
400 IFG$="M" AND C<35 THEN POKESP+R*40+C,
PEEK(SP+R*40+C)-128:C=C+1:GOTO 380
405 IFG$="M" AND C>4 THEN POKESP+R*40+C,PEEK
(SP+R*40+C)-128:C=C-1:GOTO 380
410 IFG$="M" AND C<24 THEN POKESP+R*40+C,PEEK
(SP+R*40+C)-128:R=R+1:GOTO 380
415 IFG$="J" AND R>0 THEN POKESP+R*40+C,PEEK
(SP+R*40+C)-128:R=R-1:GOTO 380
420 IFG$=CHR$(13) THEN 450
421 IFG$="" THEN CH=32
422 IFG$="0" AND G$<="9" THEN CH=ASC(G$)
423 IFG$="A" AND G$<="F" THEN CH=ASC(G$)-64
430 IFG$<" " AND (G$<"0" OR G$>"9") AND (G$
<"A" OR G$>"F") OR C<34 THEN 390
431 IFG$="" THEN CH=32
432 IFG$="0" AND G$<="9" THEN CH=ASC(G$)
433 IFG$="A" AND G$<="F" THEN CH=ASC(G$)-64
440 POKESP+R*40+C,CH:C=C+1:GOTO 380
450 POKESP+R*40+C,PEEK(SP+R*40+C)-
128:N$="":N=0
460 NP=PEEK(SP+R*40+N):IF NP=32 THEN 380
465 IF NP=58 THEN 500
470 IF NP>0 AND NP<7 THEN N$=N$+CHR$(NP+64)
480 IF NP>47 AND NP<58 THEN N$=N$+CHR$(NP)
490 N=N+1:GOTO 460
500 EXEC BACK
510 AD=A:N=N+1:FOR BP=1 TO 10:N$=""
520 IF PEEK(SP+R*40+N)<32 AND AD<256
THEN C=4:GOTO 380
525 IF PEEK(SP+R*40+N)<32 THEN C=6:GOTO 380
530 N=N+1:NP=PEEK(SP+R*40+N):IF NP>47 THEN
N$=N$+CHR$(NP)
535 IF NP<7 THEN N$=N$+CHR$(NP+64)
536 IF NP=32 AND N<7 THEN PRINT:PRINT:GOTO 100
537 IF NP=32 AND AD<256 THEN C=4:GOTO 380
538 IF NP=32 THEN C=6:GOTO 380
540 IF LEN(N$)=1 THEN 530
550 EXEC BACK
555 B(BP)=A:N=N+1:NEXT BP
560 IF PEEK(SP+R*40+N)=32 AND PEEK(SP+R*40+N
+1)=32 AND PEEK(SP+R*40+N+2)=32 THEN 570
565 C=6:IF AD<256 THEN C=4
566 GOTO 380
570 FOR B=AD TO AD+9:POKEB,B(B-AD+1):NEXT B
575 D=AD+10:PRINT LEFT$(P$,2+R):EXEC CONVERT
580 PRINT "J":R=R+1:IF R>24 THEN R=24
585 C=4:IF D>255 THEN C=6
590 GOTO 380
600 PRINT "M";
610 EXEC NUMBER
620 IF Q=1 THEN Q=0:GOTO 190
625 IFF<8192 THEN 195
630 IFF=0 OR C>F THEN 190
640 SYSF
650 GOTO 100
700 PRINT "M";

```

```

710 P=2:F$=""
720 C$=MID$(W$,P,1):IFC$=""THEN740
730 F$=F$+C$:P=P+1:GOTO720
740 IFLEN(F$)>15THEN190
750 OPEN1,1,0,F$
760 INPUT#1,AD
770 INPUT#1,B:POKEAD,B:AD=AD+1
780 IFST=0THEN770
790 CLOSE1:GOTO100
800 PRINT"加";
810 EXEC NUMBER
815 IFQ=1THENQ=0:GOTO190
820 IFF=0ORT=65535ORF=TTHEN190
830 INPUT"NAME";F$:IFF$=""ORLEN(F$)>
15THENPRINT"加";:GOTO830
840 OPEN1,1,1,F$
850 PRINT#1,F
860 FORI=FTOT:PRINT#1,PEEK(I):NEXTI
870 CLOSE1:GOTO100
900 PROC NUMBER
910 P=2:F$="":T$=""
920 C$=MID$(W$,P,1):IFC$="-"THENP=P+1
:GOTO960
930 IFC$=""THENF$=F$:GOTO990
940 IFC$<"0"ORC$>"9"THENQ=1:GOTO999
950 F$=F$+C$:P=P+1:GOTO920
960 C$=MID$(W$,P,1):IFC$=""THEN990
970 IFC$<"0"ORC$>"9"THENQ=1:GOTO999
980 T$=T$+C$:P=P+1:GOTO960
990 F=VAL(F$):T=VAL(T$):IFT=0THENF=65535
995 IFF<0ORF>65535ORT<0ORT>65535ORT<FTHENQ=1

```

```

999 END PROC
1000 PROC CONVERT
1001 PRINT"加";
1010 X(1)=INT(D/4096):Z=D-X(1)*4096
1020 X(2)=INT(Z/256):Z=Z-X(2)*256
1030 X(3)=INT(Z/16):X(4)=Z-X(3)*16
1050 Z=1:IFX(1)=0ANDX(2)=0THENZ=3
1060 FORY=ZTO4
1070 IFX(Y)<10THENPRINTCHR$(X(Y)+48);:
ELSE:PRINTCHR$(X(Y)+55);
1080 NEXTY
1090 END PROC
1100 PROC BACK
1110 A=0:IFLEN(N$)=2THENN$="00"+N$
1120 IFLEFT$(N$,1)<="9"THENB=ASC(LEFT$(
N$,1))-48:A=A+B*4096
1125 IFLEFT$(N$,1)>="A"THENB=ASC(LEFT$(
N$,1))-55:A=A+B*4096
1130 IFMID$(N$,2,1)<="9"THENB=ASC(MID$(
N$,2,1))-48:A=A+B*256
1135 IFMID$(N$,2,1)>="A"THENB=ASC(MID$(
N$,2,1))-55:A=A+B*256
1140 IFMID$(N$,3,1)<="9"THENB=ASC(MID$(
N$,3,1))-48:A=A+B*16
1145 IFMID$(N$,3,1)>="A"THENB=ASC(MID$(
N$,3,1))-55:A=A+B*16
1150 IFRIGHT$(N$,1)<="9"THENB=ASC(RIGHT$(
N$,1))-48:A=A+B
1155 IFRIGHT$(N$,1)>="A"THENB=ASC(RIGHT$(
N$,1))-55:A=A+B
1160 END PROC

```

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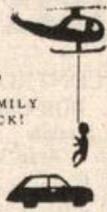
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The hardware programmable interface requires no additional software and accurately replicates the keys of the computer in a manner which is responsive to absolutely ALL key reading methods, both BASIC and Machine Code.

The interface does not interfere with key operation and can therefore be used simultaneously with the keyboard.

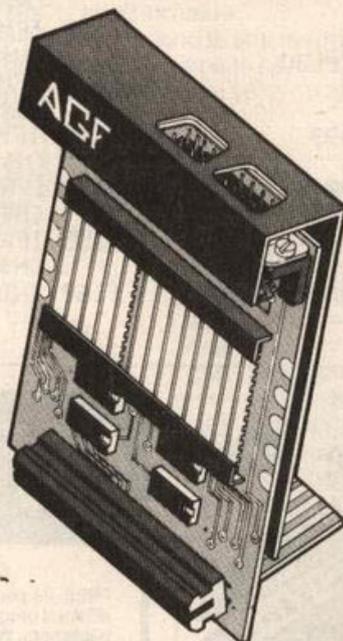
There is no need to remove the interface once fitted as the rear extension connector will accommodate further expansion, i.e. printers or RAM packs etc. This important feature avoids excessive wear to the expansion port.

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

Two joystick sockets are provided which share the same keys, for use with the majority of two player games. Several interfaces may be used on the same computer for multiple joystick applications.

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

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



KEY FEATURES

- ★ Programmable design gives TOTAL software support.
- ★ Accepts Atari, Competition Pro, Wico, Starfighter, Quick Shot, Le Stick etc.
- ★ Rear extension connector for all other add-ons.
- ★ Free demo program and instructions.

PACKAGE CONTENTS SUPPLIED

- Programmable Interface Module as illustrated, complete with clip-on programming leads.
- Self adhesive programming chart detailing how to define which key is simulated by UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT, and FIRE. This can be fixed on to the case of your computer or if preferred the protective backing can be left on. The chart is made of a very durable reverse printed plastic and is extremely easy to read.
- One pack of ten Quick Reference Programming Cards for at-a-glance setting to your games requirements. The card allows you to mark the configuration in an easy to read fashion with space to record the software title and company name.
- Video Graffiti demonstration program which is written totally in BASIC to illustrate how all eight directions and fire can be read. This is also a useful high resolution drawing program.
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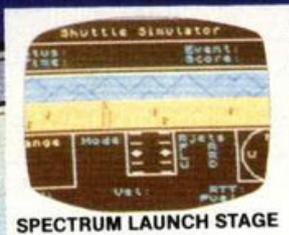
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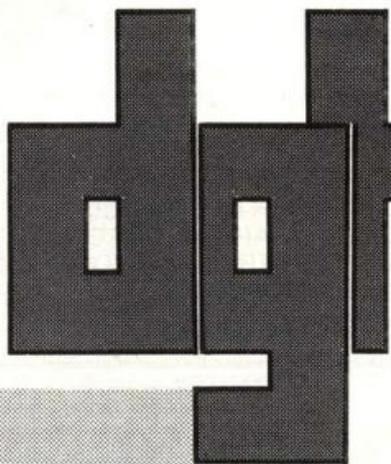
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Bumble Bee

on BBC

This program should expand your reper-

toire of tunes for your BBC micro (A or B). Although it uses only one voice to play 'Flight of the Bumble Bee' it still sounds good, and also creates a nice graphical display at the same time. The tune has

three speeds of flight. Instructions are included in the program. If you list the program after running (not in mode 7), all the "*" characters will have turned into bees!

```
10REM ***** ** FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE-BEE ***
*****
20 VDU23,ASC("*"),0,112,136,100,22,45,175,46
30MODE7
40FORF=0TO1:PRINTCHR$(141)CHR$(131)CHR$(157)" FLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE":NE
XT
50PRINT" by N.Rimsky Korsakoff"
60PRINT" Arranged by Tim Smith"
70PRINT" How fast do you want the bee to move ?"
80PRINT" 1. Dog after cat speed."
90PRINT" 2. Old mouse after cheese speed."
100PRINT" 3. Fast as possible with one wing."
110PRINT" Please enter your choice. <1,2 OR 3>"
120*FX15,0
130C$=GET$:IF C$="1" C=1 ELSE IF C$="2" THEN C=2 ELSE IF C$="3" C=3 ELSEPRINT"
"AWKWARD !!!":FORF=0TO5000:NEXT:C=2
140ONERROR GOTO390
150MODE2
160ON ERROR OFF
170B=1:D=0:A=0
180VDU12,23;8202;0;0;0;
190REPEAT:PROCbee
200DRAW (B-D)*20+10,A*5+50
210IF B MOD60=55 THEN D=B:MOVE0,0:GCOL0,RND(7)
220UNTILFALSE
230DEF PROCbee
240READA
250B=B+1
260IF A=0 THEN V=0 ELSE V=-15
270SOUND1,V,A,C:SOUND2,V,A,C:SOUND3,V,A,C
280 IF B=511 THEN A=INKEY(900):RUN
290ENDPROC
300DATA165,161,157,153,157,153,149,145,149,145,141,137,133,129,125,121,117,113
,109,105,109,105,101,97,101,97,93,89,85,81,77,73,69,65,61,57,61,57,53,49,69,65,6
1,57,61,57,53,49
310DATA69,65,61,57,53,73,69,65,69,65,61,57,53,57,61,65,69,65,61,57,53,57,61,65
,69,65,61,57,53,57,61,65,69,65,61,57,61,57,53,49,53,57,61,65,69,73,69,65
320DATA69,65,61,57,61,57,53,49,53,57,61,57,69,77,81,85,89,85,81,77,73,93,89,85
,89,85,81,77,73,77,81,85,89,85,81,77,73,77,81,85
330DATA89,85,81,77,81,77,73,69,73,77,81,85,89,93,89,85,89,85,81,77,81,77,73,69
,73,77,81,85,89,93,89,85,89,41,89,41,89,41,89,41,93,45,93,45,93,45,93,45,89,41,8
9,41,89,41,89,41,93,45,93,45,93,45,93,45,89,93,89,85,89,93,89,85,89,93,89,85,89
340DATA93,89,85,89,93,97,101,105,101,97,93,89,93,97,101,105,101,97,93,89,41,89
,41,109,61,109,61,113,65,113,65,113,65,113,65,109,61,109,61,109,61,109,61,113,65
,113,65,113,65,113,65,109,113,109,105,109,113,109,105,109,113,109,105,109,113
350DATA109,105,109,113,117,121,125,121,117,113,109,113,117,121,125,121,117,113
,109,105,101,97,93,113,109,105,109,105,101,97,93,97,101,105,157,153,149,145,149,
145,141,137,141,145,149,153,149,153,157,161,165,161,157,153,157,153
360DATA149,145,149,145,141,137,133,129,125,121,117,121,117,113,117,121,117,113
,117,121,117,113,117,121,117,113,117,121,117,113,69,73,69,65,69,73,69,65,69,73,6
9,65
370DATA69,65,61,57,61,57,53,49,53,49,45,41,37,33,29,25,21,21,0,0,117,0,101,0,89
,0,73,0,89,0,101,0,117,117,117,0,165,0,149,0,137,0,121,0,137,0,149,0,165,165,0,0
,37,41,45,49,53,57,61,65,69,73,77,81,85,89,93,97,101,105,109,113,117,121,125
380DATA129,133,137,141,145,149,153,157,161,165,173,177,181,185,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1
37,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,89,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,41,0,41,41,41,41,41,41,41,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
390MODE5:GOTO170
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Bumble Bee
by Tim Smith

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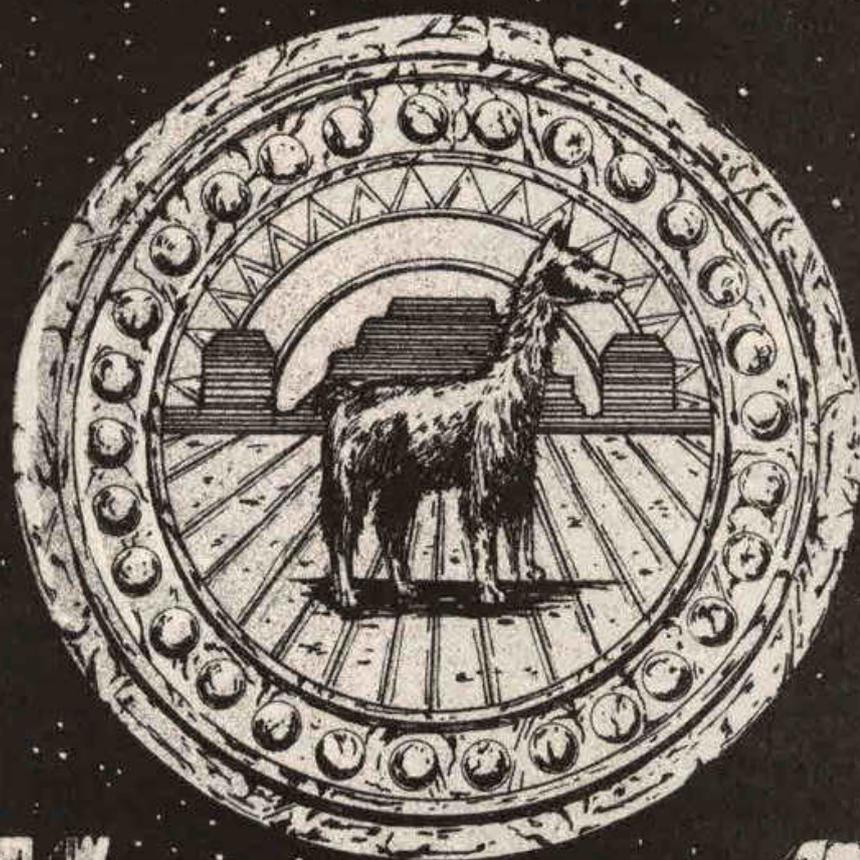
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Animator

on BBC

This program will only work on the model

B. The program allows you to draw up to 15 pictures on the screen and then animate them by displaying them one after the other.

Instructions on creating the pictures and storing them into memory are included in the program. To restart the program press *Escape* key.

```
1REM \ WRITTEN BY KEVIN BOYD
100NERRORRUN
20MODE7
30PROCintro
40MODE2
50*KEY2Q
60*KEY4A
70*KEY6F
80VDU23,1,0;0;0;0;
90*FX4,1
100SP=6
110M=5:COL=1
120X=600:Y=500
130VDU19,COL,7,0,0,0,0
140MOVEX,Y
150GCOL0,COL
160K=INKEY(0)
170IFK=65ORk=70ORk=82THEN390
180IFK=44THENSP=SP-1:SOUND1,-10,SP,3
190IFK=46THENSP=SP+1:SOUND1,-10,SP,3
200IFSP<1THENSOUND1,-15,100,2:SP=1
210IFK=136THENX=X-SP
220IFK=137THENX=X+SP
230IFK=138THENY=Y-SP
240IFK=139THENY=Y+SP
250IFK=87F THEN M=7
260IFK=87 THEN M=5
270IFK=32THENVDU19,COL,0,0,0,0:COL=COL+1:VDU19,COL,7,0,0,0,0:PRINTCHR#7
280IFK=81THEN:COL=COL+1:VDU19,COL,7,0,0,0,0:PRINTCHR#7
290IFCOL>15 THEN K=65:GOTO390
300IFX<0THENX=0
310IFX>1279THENX=1279
320IFY<0THENY=0
330IFY>1023THENY=1023
340PLOTM,X,Y
350PLOT69,X,Y
360GOTO140
370
380
390FORAN=1TOCOL:VDU19,AN,0,0,0,0:NEXT
400FORAN=1TOCOL
410VDU19,AN,7,0,0,0
420IFK=70THENA#=GET#
430IFK=65ORk=82THENFORD=1TO1000:NEXTD
440VDU19,AN,0,0,0,0
450NEXT
460IFK=82THEN390
470PRINTCHR#7:*FX15.1
480A#=GET#
490IFA#="R"THEN390
500CLS
510GOTO100
520DEFPROCintro
530PRINT"" INSTRUCTIONS"
540PRINT""CURSOR KEYS MOVE LINE"
550PRINT""DELETE KEY = DELETE MODE"
560PRINT""COPY KEY = LINE MODE"
570PRINT""< = DECREASE STEP. > = INCREASE STEP."
580PRINT""F2 = STORE FRAME BUT STILL DISPLAYED"
590PRINT""SPACE BAR = STORE FRAME AND PICTURE DISAPPEARS FORM VIEW"
600PRINT""F4 = ANIMATE AUTOMATICALLY"
610PRINT""F6 = ANIMATE MANUALLY. EACH FRAME IS DISPLAYED WHEN A KEY IS PRESSED."
620PRINT""AFTER ANIMATION IS FINISHED 'R' WILL REPEAT THE ANIMATION"
630PRINT"" PRESS ANY KEY TO START"
640A#=GET#:ENDPROC
```

Animator
by Kevin Boyd

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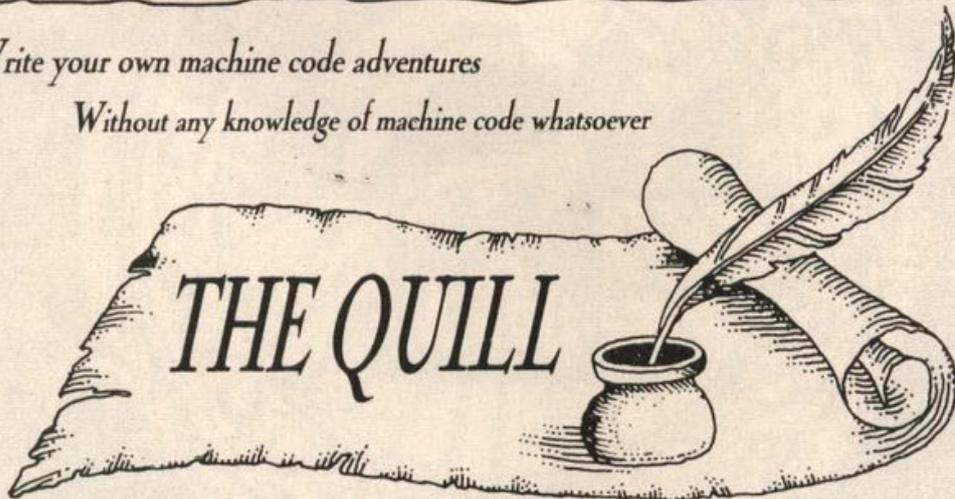
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on BBC

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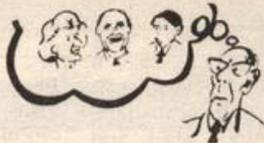
Program notes

10-40 Attributes
50-210 Main Program
210-540 Procedures

```
10 REM *** STOPWATCH ***
20 REM *** D. PRYKE ***
30 REM *** C. PRYKE ***
40 REM *** AGED 13 ***
50 MODE7
60 PRINTTAB(12)CHR$141;CHR$133"STOP WATCH"
70 PRINTTAB(12)CHR$141;CHR$133"STOP WATCH"
80 PRINT
90 PRINTTAB(7)CHR$130;"by DAVID & COLIN PRYKE"
100 VDU23;8202;0;0;0;
110G00=0
120PROCRESET
130 T = TIME
140 PRINTTAB(15,12);CHR$141;CHR$131;(TIME-T)/100
150 PRINTTAB(15,13);CHR$141;CHR$131;(TIME-T)/100
160A$=INKEY$(0)
170IF A$="" GOTO140
180IF A$="S" PROCSS
190IF A$="L" PROCLAP
200IF A$="R" PROCRESET
210GOTO140
220DEFPROCLAP
230REPEAT
240B$=INKEY$(0)
250UNTIL B$(">")""
260ENDPROC
270DEFPROCRESET
280PRINTTAB(15,12);" "
290PRINTTAB(15,13);" "
300PRINTTAB(15,12);CHR$141;CHR$131;"0.00"
310PRINTTAB(15,13);CHR$141;CHR$131;"0.00"
320REPEAT
330B$=INKEY$(0)
340UNTIL B$="S"
350G00=1
360GOTO130
370ENDPROC
380DEFPROCSS
390IF G00=1 THEN G00=0:GOTO 410
400IF G00=0 THEN G00=1
410IF G00=0 THEN PROCSTOP
420IF G00=1 THEN PROCSTART
430ENDPROC
440DEFPROCSTOP
450t i m e=TIME
460REPEAT
470B$=INKEY$(0)
480UNTIL B$="S"
490PROCSS
500ENDPROC
510DEFPROCSTART
520TIME=t i m e
530GOTO140
540ENDPROC
```

Stopwatch
by Colin Pryke

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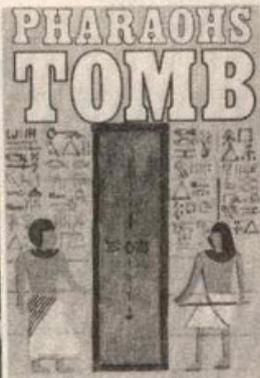
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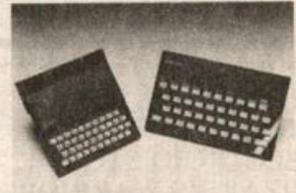
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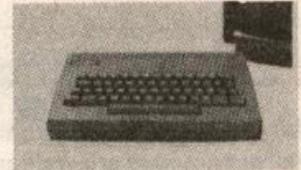
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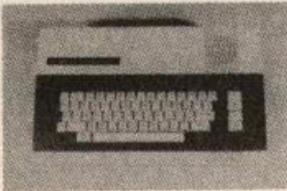
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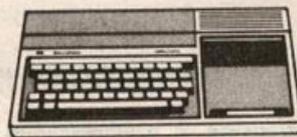
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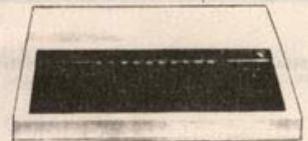
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on Vic20

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Round 1 starts by showing the share indicator, names the shares, their price and the change in price since the last round. On the same screen the current financial state of both players is also shown. Their cash, the number of shares held and value and the players total assets. Total assets is the figure to keep an eye on as this shows who is winning. The letter F must be pressed to leave this screen.

The screen changes to show the share indicator and the assets of Player A only. Player A hits any key to play except F

which finishes his round. Having pressed a key, he now selects which shares he wishes to deal in, and how many to buy. If he enters 10 this indicates he is buying 10 shares. To indicate that you are selling, you input -10. Player A can continue dealing in shares in this manner for as long as he wishes.

This process is now repeated for Player B. When Player B hits the letter F the shares are revalued at random and the screen is set for the next round. The number of rounds completed is displayed in the top left-hand corner of the screen.

Program notes

- 10 Screen and border both set to white. Volume turned on
- 20-40 Sets variables
- 100 Prints Share Indicator and assets of both players
- 110 Holds screen at 100 until "F" is pressed
- 120 Sets screen for player A

- 130-140 Player A must press a key if "F" his turn is finished
- 150 Which shares is player A dealing in
- 160 Names the selected shares and ask how many
- 170 Increases the number of the selected shares held
- 180 Deducts the purchase price from cash in hand
- 190 Returns player A to line 120
- 500-570 As lines 120-190 but for player B
- 700-750 Revalues the price of the shares 730 and 740 ensure that prices do not fall below 0 or above 20
- 760 Counter increasing the round in play
- 770 End of round
- 1000-1080 Prints the Share Indicator, Names, prices and change in prices of shares
- 1490-1580 Prints player A's assets. 1490 is the line that calculates total assets
- 2000-2080 Prints player B's assets. 2000 is the line that calculates total assets
- 3000 Sound sub-routine
- NB: If screen keeps scrolling and the words 'share indicator' leave the screen, delete line 1070 or 1570 or both.

```

10 POKE36879,25:POKE36878,15
20 CA=100:CB=100:AA=CA:AB=CB
30 FORR=1TO4:SV(R)=10:NEXT
40 A$(1)="STORES":A$(2)="MOTORS":
   A$(3)="HOTELS":A$(4)="ALLOYS"
100 GOSUB1000:GOSUB1490:GOSUB2000
110 GETF$:IFF$<"F"THEN110
120 GOSUB3000:GOSUB1000:GOSUB1490
130 GETB$:IFB$=""THEN130
140 IFB$="F"THEN500
150 PRINT"*****WHICH
   SHARES":INPUTT
160 PRINTA$(T):"HOW MANY":INPUTS
170 A(T)=A(T)+S
180 CA=CA-S*SV(T)
190 GOTO120
500 GOSUB3000:GOSUB1000:GOSUB2000
510 GETB$:IFB$=""THEN510
520 IFB$="F"THEN700
530 PRINT"*****WHICH
   SHARES":INPUTT
540 PRINTA$(T):"HOW MANY":INPUTS
550 B(T)=B(T)+S
560 CB=CB-S*SV(T)
570 GOTO500
700 FORW=1TO4
710 X(W)=INT(RND(1)*9)-4
720 SV(W)=SV(W)+X(W)
730 IFSV(W)<0THENSV(W)=0
740 IFSV(W)>20THENSV(W)=20
750 NEXT
760 L=L+1
770 GOTO100
1000 PRINT"J"
1010 PRINT"*****SHARE INDICATOR"
1020 PRINT"*****SHARES VALUE CHANGE"
1030 PRINT"1.STORES £"SV(1):
   PRINT"J","*****"X(1)
1040 PRINT"2.MOTORS £"SV(2):
   PRINT"J","*****"X(2)

```

```

1050 PRINT"3.HOTELS £"SV(3):
   PRINT"J","*****"X(3)
1060 PRINT"4.ALLOYS £"SV(4):
   PRINT"J","*****"X(4)
1070 PRINT"-----"
1080 RETURN
1490 AA=CA+A(1)*SV(1)+A(2)*SV(2)+
   A(3)*SV(3)+A(4)*SV(4)
1500 PRINT"*****PLAYER A*****
   *****"AA
1510 PRINT"*****SHARES*****NO*****VALUE"
1520 PRINT"1.STORES"|"A(1):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"A(1)*SV(1)
1530 PRINT"2.MOTORS"|"A(2):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"A(2)*SV(2)
1540 PRINT"3.HOTELS"|"A(3):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"A(3)*SV(3)
1550 PRINT"4.ALLOYS"|"A(4):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"A(4)*SV(4)
1560 PRINT"*****CASH*****"CA"
1570 PRINT"-----"
1580 RETURN
2000 AB=CB+B(1)*SV(1)+B(2)*SV(2)+
   B(3)*SV(3)+B(4)*SV(4)
2010 PRINT"*****PLAYER B*****
   *****"AB
2020 PRINT"*****SHARES*****NO*****VALUE"
2030 PRINT"1.STORES"|"B(1):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"B(1)*SV(1)
2040 PRINT"2.MOTORS"|"B(2):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"B(2)*SV(2)
2050 PRINT"3.HOTELS"|"B(3):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"B(3)*SV(3)
2060 PRINT"4.ALLOYS"|"B(4):PRINT"J"
   ,"*****"B(4)*SV(4)
2070 PRINT"*****CASH*****"CB"
2080 RETURN
3000 FORP=1TO20:POKE36876,225:NEXT:
   POKE36875,0:RETURN

```

Stock Market
by M. Dixon

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SPRITES FOR THE DRAGON

Merlin's Sprite Magic offers a whole host of new features for the Dragon

Up to 128 sprites. Size up to 40 x 40 in mode 4, even larger in other modes. Sprite magic uses the 256 x 192 grid for screen addressing. Sprites are programmable for joystick control and/or keyboard control. Sprites may be defined as missiles fired from other sprites in response to fire-button or keyboard. Sprites may be programmed to rebound (like a bouncing ball), or wrap round, or disappear automatically when they get to the edge of the (user defined) screen. A wide range of commands and functions offers comprehensive control of speed, direction, screen edge behaviour and collision detection.

Animation is easily implemented with DRWG function which swaps the drawings being used for sprites and they needn't even be the same size.

Some of the commands are exceptionally powerful . . . MOVEn moves a single sprite, MOVEn,n moves a block of sprites, MOVEM moves all the sprites. All the MOVE commands observe the individual direction, screen-edge, joystick and keyboard instructions for the various sprites. The REPORT function reports how many have crashed. The HIT function reports crashed sprite numbers.

Sprites are non-destructive i.e. they do not leave a "trail". They're fast and they're efficient and they're easy to use.

The Dragon now has its very own BEEP command. This one, however, offers a range of 16 pre-programmed gunshots, explosions, sirens, laser sounds and the like. You can also program your own . . . BEEP (six parameters) lets you generate the kind of noises you have heard on other high quality software.

Keyboard handling has had some attention too . . . optional auto-repeat, INKEY function returns ASCII code, KEY function does the same, but waits for a keypress. CLEAR key clears hi-res screen and homes the print cursor.

We have also included a couple of routines to provide text on the hi-res screen . . . in all 5 PMODES with enhanced cursor controls providing relative as well as absolute positioning, PAGE command, HOLD command (to fix headers or graphics), COLOUR command changes text foreground and background colours etc. The hi-res screen is used just like the Basic text screen, including editing. You can also re-define the character set using the friendly new command CHR(n)=eight row values.

Sprite Magic requires absolutely no knowledge of machine code. The comprehensive manual describes the new Basic commands in full, with lots of examples. As well as the documented demonstration program, the cassette includes Character and Sound Generators, Mate in two (yes you can!), Shooting Gallery and Breakout. Price £17.25 all inclusive.

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Balancer

on Spectrum

This program adds up credits and debits on a balance sheet and then gives you a percentage for VAT. Although created on

the Spectrum there should be no problems with running it on any 16K ZX machine.

```

1 LET wr=0
5 LET s=0: LET p=0: LET vat=0
10 PRINT TAB 12; "#BALANCER#"
20 INPUT "Do you need instructions on use"; a$
30 IF a$="n" OR a$="no" OR a$="" THEN GO TO 100
40 PRINT "This program is designed to balance amounts of money quickly and with precision"
50 PRINT "credits debits vat"
55 PRINT "Do you use these headings to work out the account normally y/n"
60 INPUT b$
70 IF b$="n" THEN PRINT "You are in the wrong program": LET a=1
72 IF b$="yes" OR b$="y" THEN GO TO 92
80 IF a=1 THEN INPUT "DO YOU WISH TO CONTINUE"; c$
90 IF c$="n" OR c$="no" OR c$="" THEN STOP
92 PRINT "Good. Now the computer will ask you the amount of debits you"
94 PRINT "have, you should type the amount there is then type in each one."
96 PRINT "Do the same with credits"
98 PRINT "Please do not confuse letters with numbers nothing has been done to prevent this from being possible -THANKYOU"
100 INPUT "Ready"; k$
110 CLS
120 INPUT "How many debits are there"; a
125 DIM b(50)
130 FOR i=1 TO a
135 CLS: PRINT "Enter debit "; i
140 INPUT d
142 LET s=s+d
145 LET b(i)=d
150 NEXT i
160 PRINT "NOW CREDITS .. PAUSE

```

```

100 PAUSE 100
165 CLS: INPUT "How many credits are"; t
175 DIM g(50)
180 FOR q=1 TO t
195 CLS: PRINT "Enter credit "; q
200 INPUT y
210 LET p=p+y
220 LET g(q)=y
230 NEXT q
240 IF t>i THEN LET z=t
245 IF i>t THEN LET z=i
250 PRINT "RUN-DOWN FOLLOWS": PAUSE 200
260 CLS
300 PRINT "CREDITS DEBITS VAT"
310 FOR x=1 TO z
315 PRINT "£";
320 PRINT g(x); " "; b(x)
400 NEXT x
405 LET v=p-.5
408 PRINT "without vat Total="; v
410 PRINT "what is the vat percentage"; vat
415 INPUT "what is the vat percentage"; vat
420 LET ty=v*vat/100
421 LET m=ty+tt
430 PRINT "with vat total is="; m
440 INPUT "Did the bank give a quote"; j$
450 IF j$="n" OR j$="no" THEN STOP
460 PRINT "How much including vat";
470 INPUT j
480 PRINT j
490 IF j=tt THEN PRINT "your balancing is correct"
500 IF j>tt THEN PRINT "you are £"; j-tt; " out."
510 IF tt>j THEN PRINT "you are £"; tt-j; " out."

```

Balancer
by L Fountain

Microradio

GW6JJN



Tapped out

A few weeks ago I reviewed Morse Tutor programs. They were very good but they lacked one feature that I would like to see. When learning Morse, it is one thing to learn the code and to receive it adequately, but it is quite something else to be able to tap it out on a Morse key. This is often the stumbling-block for many people.

One of the oddities of the radio amateur licence says that until one has passed the Morse Code test, then one cannot use Morse code on air — even on the bands that one is licenced

to use for voice, RTTY, Data, ASCII or whatever. Why it is that we can use such codes as RTTY and ASCII and not the dear old Morse Code is one of life's little mysteries. Because of this, the person learning Morse cannot try out his ability to tap the key, which isn't as simple as it sounds. Until now, that is.

Paul Newman has sent in a routine for any Spectrum which will allow you to tap out Morse using the *Enter* key on the Spectrum. The screen will then print out the dots and dashes that you have keyed. Until you are able to tap out the dots and dashes with reasonable timing, then the display will not make much sense.

```

10 CLS: BORDER 4
15 LET c=0: LET lastm=10: LET lasts=10
30 LET m=1: LET s=1
50 IF INKEY$="" THEN LET s=s+1: GO TO 50

```

```

80 IF INKEY$>>"" THEN LET m=m+1: GO TO 80
100 IF s>=2*lasts THEN PRINT "/";
110 IF m<=2*lasts THEN PRINT "-"; GO TO 30
112 PRINT "/";
115 IF s>=2*lasts THEN GO TO 30
120 LET lasts=s: LET lastm=m
130 GO TO 30

```

This routine can also provide the basis for a bigger program since the essential algorithm for converting key presses to Morse code exists within the routine. The output can be sent to the cassette port instead of the screen, for example, and on into the outside world.

Peter St James has written in asking anyone who knows how to get an RTTY system going on a 48K Atari to get in touch with him at: 36 Cleverley Estate, Wormholt Road, Shepherds Bush, London W12.

Ken Davies of Cardiff asks about buying a radio receiver

which might be used in conjunction with computing. The best advice I can give to anyone buying a receiver is to make sure that it has continuous reception up to 30 MHz and the ability to tune sidebands. This is a form of narrow band transmission used by amateurs. Both Yaesu and Trio are good makes. Information from SMC, S M House, Rumbridge Street, Totton, Southampton SO4 4DP or from Lowe Electronics, Chesterfield Road, Matlock, DE4 5LE. These are the Yaesu and Trio main dealers in the UK.

Ray Berry GW6JJN

This series of articles is designed for radio and microcomputer enthusiasts alike. If you have any queries that you want answered, hints and tips to share, or topics that you would like to see covered, write to: Ray Berry, Microradio, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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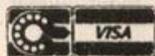
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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



Korth Trilogy

This week a look at something different: *The Korth Trilogy* is a set of booktapes, available separately, and written by one P K McBride. The books and tapes are for the 10 to 15-year-old age bracket. The books are slim volumes of, amazing coincidence, 64 pages each, with nicely executed drawings and large type. The stories concern three young space-travellers and their struggles against the Korth, a race of aliens threatening the peace of the galaxy.

You may wonder what these books are doing here, in the Adventure Corner. Well, on the front and back of the packages (which, incidentally, are shrink-wrapped, and thus sealed from the browser's gaze), they are described as adventure packs, with "science fiction adventure stories". This turns out to be a very loose description, but the word "adventure" ensured that the books would end up with yours truly!

The technical details are of the type that rewrite quantum mechanics in one line: "The ship accelerated to 100 times the

speed of light . . ." — and did you know that "speed has never been the problem with ultra-light travel. After all, if you keep going faster, then in the end you must finish up going faster than light itself!" Most confusing — you would then get to where you were going before you had set out, in which case, there would be no point in going . . .

Well, of course, it's easy to poke fun at this kind of book, but they are really not bad at all — and each of the three contains a tape of three programs, also written by Mr McBride.

The programs, each of which covers an event found in the book, are very stylish, and show a lot of charm. Are they Adventures? Unfortunately no. They are really strategy games, distantly related to the genus *Adventeramus Gamus*.

The instructions are always put on-screen first, so that the player can digest them while the main program loads. When the program itself starts, the graphics are, without exception, colourful and well-designed, without being over-complicated.

FOG, from Part 3, *Into The Empire*, has the player re-enacting a chapter in the book, called "Fight in the the Fog", Steering his hover-scooter, the player has to attempt to shoot down the Korth fliers, while avoiding hitting his own allies. There are one or two games, like *Alpha* from Part 2, *Besieged* and *Raid* from Part 1 and *Escape From Arkaron* which are board-game-like in play. Thus the play takes place on a grid, with the player issuing orders to his "pieces" — and then waiting for his opponent, the computer, to move his pieces.

In addition, there is a *Meteorite*-avoiding game, and a *Lunar Lander*-type game. Both are done with a refreshing kind of originality.

My favourite, however, is *Empire* from the last book in the trilogy. This is as stylish a version of the old Kingdom as you will see, with its bar charts to show the state of your Empire, and the detailed analysis of 30 planets, giving you a graphic representation of how your commands are affecting the day-to-day life of your subjects.

Not Adventures, then, but as little packages, they are very useful, and will be a hit with younger players, while providing a lot of fun for older kids. At £4.95 each (tape + book), they are great value.

And now for some more names to be added to the Hobbit Hall of Fame.

Mrs E Prescott, who actually managed to get herself cursed in the course of the program, for daring to answer back!

Peter Jakubski

Those are solutions run on the Spectrum version of *The Hobbit*, but now, after waiting for several months for a solution on another machine, at last we have four, all in the same postbag!

First, three solutions on the Commodore:

David Lloyd with a score of 45 percent — David would like to know how to cross the stream in *Aztec's Tomb*, can any fellow Commodore help?

Joshua Levine, with scores of 72 percent (in two days), and 90 percent — Joshua asks me when *Valhalla* will be implemented for the Commodore 64. Nobody knows, Joshua, but if you enjoyed *The Hobbit*, rest assured that you will enjoy *Valhalla*!

Alan Wiggins, who had an interesting score of 102.5 percent! Some months ago I had a letter from a reader who had managed to score over 200 percent, but that is the only other score I have seen over 100 percent. Thanks to Alan, who sent a printout of the final scene, we now know about Melbourne House's English (not ENGLISH!) lessons.

And our very first solution from a Beeb owner.

Alex Treacher. Congratulations, Alex, you're the first, but I hope not the last that we'll hear from. You haven't sent me a printout of the final paragraph, so we don't yet know if Melbourne House have learnt their grammar on the Beeb version. Alex's low score is 77.5 percent.

Finally, as a postscript, Alex says: "Never tell Gollum your phone number. He might give you a ring!" Thanks, Alex, don't call us . . .

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further, write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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COMPATIBLE MODEM

M Kloska, Westbourne Avenue, Acton, London W3, writes:

Q I wonder if you could tell me if the Tandy Model 1 acoustic modem by Prism is compatible with my Dragon 32 microcomputer? I am interested because I wish to use my Dragon with a modem.

A I cannot say absolutely yes it will be compatible, having never tried it. However, you will need an RS232 on the cartridge slot, and you will have to rewrite the terminal software. One RS232 interface for the Dragon that should be appropriate is made by Maplin for their own Dragon modem.

LARGE LETTERS

Yunis Patel of Castleton Road, Deepdale, Preston, Lancashire, writes:

Q Can you please tell me how to do big letters on the 16K ZX Spectrum. I have spent all my computing time on it, but I am still at a loss.

A To create large letters you have to look at where the ZX Spectrum character set is stored at the top of the Rom. This is dealt with partially in the manual in chapter 14.

The character set is stored in the Rom from 15616 onwards. As each character is made up of 8 x 8 pixels, each character uses eight addresses to store it (eight lines each of eight bits). What you have to do to get the enlarged characters is read each address of the character in turn. Where there is a binary 1 print a graphic square

and where there is a binary 0 leave a space. The following program will supply the basis of what you need.

```
100 Input a$
110 LET b = CODE a$
120 LET c = 15616 + (b*8) - 256
130 FOR d = c TO c+8
140 DIM e$(8)
150 LET f = PEEK d
160 FOR g = 7 TO 0 STEP -1
170 IF f-INT (f/2) *2 THEN LET e$(g) = ""
180 LET f = INT (f/2)
190 NEXT g
200 PRINT e$
210 NEXT d
```

At line 100, you *Input* the character you want enlarged. Lines 110 and 120 find it in the Rom and lines 130 to 160 store the character. Lines 170 and 180 do the important working out — they read the value that is *Peeked* and determine whether or not it is a binary 1. If it is a one, then a square is stored in e\$. If it is not a one, a space is stored.

Line 190 takes you back to the next value of g, which is the bit value. When all eight bits of the byte have been dealt with and stored in e\$(8), then line 200 prints it. Line 210 goes back to look at the next address.

SOFTWARE CONTROL

Albert Polovsteff of Kirby Road, Crosby, Liverpool, writes:

Q I have bought a second-hand Seikosha GP-100 printer from a friend who has moved abroad. However, he accidentally took the manual with him. As you can imagine, there are several things that are confusing me, and, though he says he will send the manual on when he finds it, I do not expect to see it until well after Christmas.

I can get by, but there is one thing I would like to know as soon as possible. How do I get double size characters under software control? By the way, my computer is a BBC B.

A All you need to do is send the correct code to the printer. This is done by using *VDU 1,x*. 'x' is the code of the character you want printed in double size. To find this, look up the Ascii value of 'Shift Out'. To return to normal you need to use *VDU 1, 15*, where 15 is the Ascii code for 'Shift In'.

WHICH INTERFACE?

Paul Harris of Winchcombe Road, Cheltenham, writes:

Q I have a ZX Spectrum which is quite new, so it will be a long time before Interface 1 is made available to me. I am thinking of adding a printer to my computer, but am wondering whether or not to get a Centronics or RS232 interface. What is the difference between them? Also, what does the IEEE 488 do? Is it worth getting one of them for my Spectrum?

A I would strongly advise that you go for a Centronics interface if you are thinking of attaching a printer. Many of the printers available only have a Centronics port, and an RS232 is far more expensive to add to a printer than a Centronics to your computer.

It would take an entire article to explain the differences between the three interfaces you mention. The RS232 is a serial port that transfers data one bit at a time, but can work in both directions. Thus, a peripheral can send data back to the computer, which is why it can be used for a modem. Unfortunately, the RS232 is a bastardised standard that can be, and is, implemented in a host of almost incompatible forms.

Originally, it called for a 25-way connection, but only three of the lines were actually specified. They are transmit data (TX) receive data (RX) and a common Return line. This leaves a mere 22 lines for every individual manufacturer to use. This explains the many different types of RS232 that are seen. In fact, the RS232C is the true standard because it can be used at +12v and -12v. It is only because certain of the extra lines such as RTS and CTS are so commonly used that the standard can be maintained.

The Centronics has 22 defined lines, and is called a parallel port because it sends its data eight bits, or one byte at a time. Because it can only send data in one direction, ie from the computer, the interface is excellent for use with such things as printers but not for modems. Indeed, the interface was designed by the Centronics company for just this purpose.

The defined lines are Strobe, 8 data lines, Acknowledge, and Busy. There are 11 common ground lines running between each of these, acting as shielding to stop interference. Various non-defined lines are quite commonly used, such as paper, empty, initialise, or logic ground which is an extra safety precaution.

The IEEE 488 is a more complex interface that can send data in both directions, one byte at a time, thus trying to combine both the Centronics and the RS232. It is mainly used with scientific instruments and is most usually found on Commodore's Pet series.

It is more complex because though it can control up to 16 different peripherals at once, and it uses data words — that is one byte where the upper four bits can carry a command, while the lower four carry the address of the device to which the command applies. Sixteen lines are defined. Besides the eight data lines, there are three handshaking lines and five control lines.

This is only a very brief look at interfaces. There is no point having a super 25 line full RS232 on a peripheral if your computer is only equipped to read five lines. Further, each of those five lines must have a corresponding line on the peripheral. If your computer needs to read a line that is not supplied, then it will most likely crash, unless one of the available lines can be rigged to pass the data the computer expects to see.

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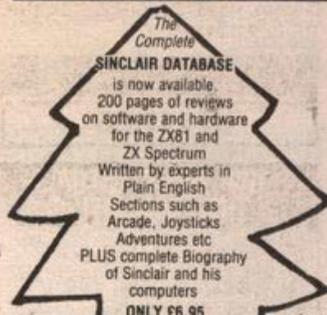
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DRAGON 32 for sale, £175 of software, including Donkey King, Dragon Trek and many others and joystick light pen and chess cartridge plus book. Worth £340, sell for £220. Tel: Leeds 685191.

DRAGON 32, manual, leads, joystick, software, worth £60+, magazines worth £50+, books worth £20+. Perfect condition, £175 ono. Software includes Ring of Darkness. Tel: Swansea 401823 after 4 pm. Buyer collects.

DRAGON 32 for sale, two joysticks, Donkey King, Frogger, two books and Dragon Users, £190 or swap for LBM 64 with tape recorder, in good condition. Tel: Romford 62968.

DRAGON SOFTWARE to swap. Leggit, Dragon Trek, etc. Tel: 0273 779295 evenings and weekends.

AMBER 2400 PRINTER, with cable for Dragon or BBC, £60 ono. Tel: 021-326 9501.

DRAGON 32, as new, for sale, only one month old, £30 ovno. Tel: 01-504 9406.

DRAGON 32, boxed, as new + 1 game, £120. Tel: 01-938 1467.

DRAGON 32, joystick, books, etc, also £400 of software, bargain price £135. Tel: 01-202 7386.

DRAGON 32 plus £300 of software, joysticks, manuals, leads, etc, £180. Tel: Peter, 0352 59884.

DRAGON 32, nine months old, complete, £120 ono. Tel: Bristol 294113 after 6 pm.

DRAGON 32 and software and magazines, £140 ono. Tel: 061-969 0690.

DRAGON 32, boxed plus all leads, plus £300 worth of programs. Microdeal, Dragon Data, Salamander, etc, plus books. All for £195 ono. Buyer collects. Tel: 0254 672068.

DRAGON SOFTWARE by Salamander Microdeal, etc, to swap or sell cheaply. Send SAE for free newsletter. Rebecca Brown, 70 Westfield Road, Woking, Surrey. All software at least half-price.

DRAGON SOFTWARE, many new titles to swap including: Ugh, most microdeal titles. Tel: Keith 031-339 5790.

DRAGON 32 COMPUTER, two joysticks, software, over 80 computer magazines, computer still boxed, total original cost £290, sell for £130. Call 01-902 1642, anytime, buyer collects.

DRAGON GAMES! Over ten titles including The King by Microdeal and The Ring of Darkness by Wintoreal, just £4 each. Phone Bath 21319, after 4 pm.

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Commodores for sale

VIC20 plus C2N cassette recorder, joystick, £200 of software, loads of listings, 16K Ram pack and books. Sell for £200 ono. Tel: 021-556 0775.

VIC20 COMPUTER, 16K Ram, C2N mastermind software, Jelly Monsters, Zorga, Asteroids, Adventure Land, computer books and other games. Superb condition, worth £320, sell for £190. Tel: (06333) 62330.

VIC20 plus C2N, 16K Ram, Gorf cartridge, matrix, Crazy Kong, Jetpac and lots more, three books and magazines, £150. Tel: Derry, 262955.

VIC20 Programmers Aid, £12; Television packs, physics and maths, £15. All three for £25. Tel: 01-579 2129.

VIC20 plus joystick and C2N, lots of software, £125. Tel: (Hemel Hempstead) (0442) 51372.

VIC20 16K SWITCHBOARD, 16K/3K or unexpanded. Tel: Hemel Hempstead (0442) 51372.

VIC20 CASSETTE UNIT, 16K, switchable, five cassette cartridges. Mint condition. Offers. Tel: 09273 70005.

COMMODORE 8K RAM PACK. Sell for £15. Tel: 041-778 5184.

COMMODORE 64 1520 printer-plotter for sale. Two months old, £145; also Simons Basic, one month old, £40 ono. Sell separately or together for £175. Tel: 01-650 6511 after 7 pm.

VIC20. Very good condition plus Introduction to Basic Part 1, plus software and 8K Ram cartridge, £100. Tel: 0480 67818.

COMMODORE PET 32K. Revision three Roms, green screen, cassette recorder, large keyboard, Disk-o-pro chip. Many cassettes, manuals. Just serviced. £280. Tel: Simon of 01-398 6963 after 6 pm.

VIC20 plus cassette, 16K Ram, super expander, joystick, £150 of software, Parts 1 and 2 Introduction to Basic, books, £300 ono. Tel: Paul Romford 60712 after 7 pm.

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VIC20 3K Ram Pack, £13 including p&p. Tel: Southport 33902.

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VIC20 + C2N, 32K Ram, switchable + Super Expander, motherboard + joystick, books + 30 programs on cartridge and cassette, worth £520 + offers. Phone 0272 711332 after 6 pm.

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COMMODORE VIC20, as new, £110. Tel: 01-593 2869.

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VIC20, cassette unit + Introduction to Basic Part I, sell for £100. Southend 77904.

COMMODORE Pet 3032, 32K, cassette recorder, 13 games' cassettes, King Kong and Acrobat + 3 good manuals, £350 ono. Tel: 01-959 5553.

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VIC20, 16K, excellent condition, cassette deck, joystick, dust cover, Night Crawler, Trogger, Scramble, Banker, Donkey King, Jupiter loader and Omega race cartridges, £190 ono. Tel: J. Chilton 0380 850238.

SPEECH synthesiser for Vic20, including instructions, cost £57.50, sell for £25. Tel: Stevenage (0438) 811634, after 7 pm.

VIC20 29K cassette, super expander machine code monitor, programmer's aid, 7-slot motherboard + books, £50 worth software, over £400, sell for £220. Call or write to: Mr S Buchan, 20 Common Road, Hemsby, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 4IT.

VIC20 programmer's aid cartridge £20, Stack 3K Ram (reproduces memory port) £18, Atari joysticks £4, software: Arcadia £3, Cosmiads £3. Tel: 0734 785690, after 4.30 pm

VIC20 cassette, 4-slot motherboard, 8K exp 16K, switchable expansion, total 27½K expanded, manual programmer's reference guide, joystick, superscreen, programmer's home office and many games, cost £325, sell for £180, original boxes. Tel: Colchester 0206 868109.

WANTED: Jupiter Ace 19K + extras for 20K, Vic20 + cassette, Commodore guide and software worth £200. Write with details to Mike, 5 Worthington Close, Runcorn, Cheshire.

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VIC20, willing to swap for CMB 64 with or without software, or preferably BBC. Tel: 01-992 0536.

MAPLIN speech synthesiser for Vic20, will swap for suitable Rom pac. Tel: Reading 302 131.

VIC20 + introduction to Basic, 14 games, including Blitz, sell. Offer? Tel: 01-521 1459, evening.

VIC20, guaranteed, will deliver to Central London, £60. Tel: Burgess Hill 41704.

VIC20 computer + 16K + 3K cartridge, C2N cassette, 2 cartridge games, books, joystick, IS/S/W cassettes, including Crazy Kong and new Flight Simulation (under guarantee), £150. Tel: Emmanuel 01-235 7233.

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ZX81, 16K, with file 60 keyboard, 35 games cassette + manuals + leads, cost as new £270, sell £85 ono. Tel: 0483 571802.

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ZX81, 16K + manual, software, magazines, books and tapes + ICL programming course for beginners (2 books and tape), sell for only £59. Tel: Thomas, 0990 21913.

ZX81, 16K, 6 months old, leads and manual, File sixty push-button keyboard, £35. Tel: Lynn on (0298) 3337.

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QUANTITY COMPUTER magazines available, all mint condition, mostly Your Computer and P.C.W. What offers. Tel: 0823 432909 (Taunton).

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SHARP MZ80 with built-in screen and tape recorder, £250 of software, manual and users guide and dust cover, you name the price. Tel: 01-455 6641 after 4 pm.

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STAR BATTLE CARTRIDGE for Vic20, £5. Tel: 0438 811634 after 7 pm.

DK'TRONICS light reference and tape, £17; three Spectrum books, £7.50; plus 40 Sinclair magazines for £20. Tel: 0555 71502.

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PET 32K with pickchip, Rom, monitor, cassette player, Sertronic 753 printer, 80/132 column, paper and stand. Business and games, software and accessories, £400 ono. Will split, first offer secures. Tel: 01-992 8249 after 5 pm.

LYNX, 48K, very good condition, includes leads, manual, Dungeon Adventure program, Lynx computing book, cassette recorder, £190. No offers. Tel: (0244) 372338.

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SWAP PHILIPS G7000 computer plus five games for faulty Spectrum or other computer or swap electric organ plus amplifier for Spectrum or ZX81 computer. Tel: Abingdon 834613.

SWAP COMMODORE 64, Annihilator, Pakacuda, Centropods, Escape MCP, Motor Mania for Temple of Apsia Rom or cassette. Tel: 0481 27469.

WANTED. BBC Model A, 16K or 32K, in very good condition. No software or Add-ons, pay up to £200. Tel: Isle of Wight 296417 before 5 pm.

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for swap, 60 titles including Hobbit, Scrabble, Atic-Atac, Zoom, Warlord, Maziacs, Kong, Manic-Miner. SAE with list for my list or call evenings. Eddie Early, 65 Anner Road, Dublin 8, Ireland.

WANTED. TI extended Basic module. Tel: Camborne 717693 evenings.

WANTED. Apple 11E computer system with drives and monitor and joystick. Tel: Helder, Swanage (0929) 422836.

WANTED. Disc drive system for Nascom including CP/M. Must be cheap but will repair if necessary, might consider complete Nascom system if price right. Cash paid. Tel: 01-735 1862.

WANTED. Seikosher GP100A printer for Dragon. Will pay £120. Tel: Upminster 25819.

DRAGON SWAP. Exchange your software for £1 each tape. Send SAE for list to: Robin, 101 Canterbury Way, Thetford, Norfolk.

SWAP SPECTRUM SOFTWARE. Many titles including All Ultimate, Imagine, etc. I am interested in Hi-soft, devpac assembler. Tel: New Mills 42443 (Derbyshire), ask for John, after 4 pm.

WANTED. ZX Spectrum 48K. Tel: 0603 610854 any time.

VAHALLA ADVENTURE for Spectrum in exchange for the Hobbit. Tel: 6206 577049.

WANTED. BBC Micro Model B, with software. Pay up to £320. Tel: 01-571 1615 after 4 pm, ask for Paramit.

WANTED. BBC Model B with tape plus software or Commodore 64 considered. Can collect. Tel: Stanford-le-Hope 677367 (Essex).

WANTED. Commodore C2N cassette recorder with leads. Will pay reasonable amount. Will collect from Manchester/Liverpool area. Tel: (day) Padgate 810646, ext. 287, ext. 296 or (evening) Culcheth 5255, ask for Gordon.

WILL SWAP ETX, Timegate, Ant Attack, Horace Goes Skiing, Horace and the Spiders, Centipede (worth £37), for Kempston joystick or printer. Tel: 0621-815533.

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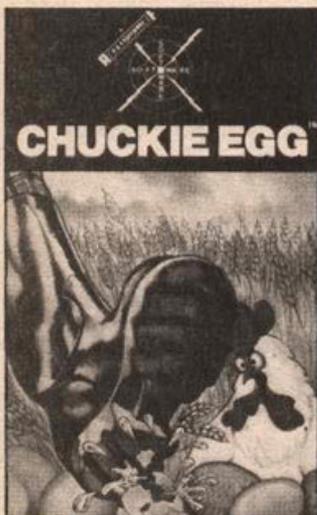
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NEW RELEASES

LADDERS



A+F's *Chuckie Egg* was an excellent program for the Spectrum that simply had the misfortune to come out at more or less the same time as *Manic Miner*. It was still a fine game.

The company has now issued a version of *Chuckie Egg* for the Dragon 32. The idea is to move a little man up and down a series of ladders and planks collecting eggs.

The eggs are guarded by a number of ducks — at first these are fairly easy to avoid as they march mechanically back and forth. However, in later stages of the game you have to jump on and off of a precarious lift and a particularly determined-looking, large yellow duck chases you around the screen.

It's very addictive and has dozens of levels — I don't know of anyone who has mastered all of those on the Spectrum version.

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 Lancashire OL16 5LB

VICIOUS PLANTS

The Birds and the Bees is the latest Spectrum game from Bug-Byte. The graphics for the game are by one Matthew Smith — sound familiar? He is the programmer responsible

for the amazing *Manic Miner* and so, to a certain extent, this game is a follow up.

Like *Miner*, the idea behind the game is very simple — move your bee around the screen collecting nectar whilst avoiding birds, vicious plants and centipedes.

The game is set apart by the quality of its graphics and little touches like the way it plays *Flight of the Bumble Bee* in the opening credits.

Naturally, after you have collected the nectar, your first impulse as a bee is to turn it into honey — the problem is this attracts a large brown bear who is very liable to steal it... a charming game.

Program *The Birds and the Bees*
Price £5.95
Micro *Spectrum 48K*
Supplier Bug-Byte
 Mulberry House
 Canning Place
 Liverpool L1 8JB

ALL-POWERFUL

Romik has recently issued a new language *Forth* for the Commodore 64 — the first I've seen on the machine.

The problem with Basic is that it is too slow for many purposes. Conversely, machine code is very difficult to learn. *Forth* is a language in which the word is all powerful. Programs are built up from simple subroutines which are named and simply called by reference to that name.

To be exact, Romik's *Forth* is a version of Fig *Forth* which is the one the purists approve of since it was the original one.

For those Commodore 64 owners who wish to experiment with other languages this could be a good bet. The program comes with a fairly large manual, which details the various commands available to you in *Forth*. But, if you have no previous experience with the language, you will certainly need to get a good beginner's guide in addition to the program.

Program *Fig Forth*
Price £19.99
Micro *Commodore 64*
Supplier Romik Software
 272 Argyll Avenue
 Slough SL1 4HE

3D SHAPES

Vu 3D was a surprising best seller on the Spectrum — it was basically a utility that enables you to construct three dimensional shapes and view them from different directions.

3D Graphics by New Dimension Software does the same thing for the Dragon 32. An object can be created and rotated about any of the three axes by pressing the keyboard.

Creating your shape is a matter of working out the design on paper and inputting figures which represent the distance of each point from an imaginary centre — it's tricky, but logical. You can then see your shape in all its glory on the computer screen.

A short manual is provided with the program which looks reasonably easy to understand.

Program *3D Graphics*
Price £7.95
Micro *Dragon 32*
Supplier New Dimension
 Software
 SL Rochester
 92 Owl Lane
 Sheffield S4 8GA

CAVALRY



Cases Computer Simulations has just issued *Battle 1917*. The game is loosely based on a campaign in the First World War. Unusually for a computer game, two players are required. It is played on a board divided up into 21 x 32 squares.

Each player has 29 pieces including infantry, cavalry,

tanks, artillery and a king. Like chess, the object of the game is to capture this piece.

In each turn you must move your pieces, avoiding mine-fields and lakes, and fire your artillery — if you leave this too late, you stand a reasonable chance of blowing yourself up. Fun for wargames fans.

Program *Battle 1917*
Price £5.90
Micro *Spectrum*
Supplier Cases Computer
 Simulations
 14 Langton Way
 London SE3 7TL

ENERGY PODS



Artic Computing has launched its first game for the increasingly popular Commodore 64 — a three screen arcade game called *Mothership*.

In the first screen the *Mothership* sends nasty drones to destroy you — in order to gain access to the ship you will have to destroy them all.

You are then transported to the inside of the *Mothership*, which allows you to take control and pilot it until you reach your home base. The final task is to break through the barrier of energy pods which surround the planet's generators.

It's an epic game, incorporating features from just about every other game you ever heard of as well as some original ideas of its own.

Program *Mothership*
Price £6.95
Micro *Commodore 64*
Supplier Artic Computing
 Main Street
 Brandesburton
 Driffield YO25 8RL

OVERLAPPING

There are any number of databases for the Spectrum available — all use some kind of menu option and there isn't very much to choose between them.

Data Genie is a database from Audiogenic and is a little different, in that it borrows some clever ideas from expensive business packages — in particular, the idea of a series of overlapping menus, each one a subset of the previous one.

Simply making the required choices from the menus, the user can build up the particular database he requires without (supposedly) needing to understand what's going on in programming terms at all.

The program includes all the usual commands for the creation of files, entering and printing of records.

Program *Data Genie*
Price £9.95
Micro Spectrum
Supplier Audiogenic
PO Box 88
Reading

BLOODSTONE



Terminal Software has proved it can do some pretty spectacular things on the Vic20 when it managed to cram a pinball game into the unexpanded machine.

Nosferatu, though, requires an extra 8K since it is an adventure of fairly large proportions. Your task is to enter, search and return home from *Nosferatu's* dark and forbidding castle having located a

precious bloodstone.

The game accepts the standard verb/noun format. The sleeve notes give nothing away about the actual words involved but the vocabulary is supposed to be fairly large.

Program *Nosferatu*
Price £9.95
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier Terminal Software
28 Church Lane
Prestwich
Manchester M25 5AJ

PUNCH & JUDY

Punchy is a multi screen arcade game from Mr Micro. As you might expect, the scenario involves Punch and Judy and various related characters.

You are brave policeman Bobby and must pass all kinds of obstacles to rescue Judy who has been locked away in the Punch and Judy booth (it is probably a step up from being beaten about the head anyway).

There are 16 different screens and some of the obstacles include dodging rotten tomatoes, landing on a flying carpet and rocking the baby.

An added feature of the game is speech output, without using any additional hardware, rather like *Meteor Storm*. The game looks excellent graphically, and is pretty original too.

Program *Punchy*
Price £6.95
Micro Spectrum
Supplier Mr Micro
PO Box 24
Swinton
Manchester M27 3AJ

LANGUAGE

As all we highly literate journalists know, grammar is a matter of skill and years of professional expertise. Should you wish to catch us up, you might find *The Grammar Tree* from Sulis Software a help.

This program covers all the basic features of language like sentences, phrases, articles, adjectives and clauses, giving you examples and exercises on each.

Program *The Grammar Tree*
Price £10.95
Micro BBC

Supplier John Wiley & Sons
Baffins Lane
Chichester
Sussex PO19 1UD

BOARD GAME



City is a computer moderated board-style game for one to four players, one of whom may be the computer.

The idea is to accumulate £1,000,000 by developing and selling or leasing property — taking rents from factories, shops, pubs, banks, and so on.

You are prevented from obtaining instant wealth, by nasty things like taxes and other people competing for the same sites.

The game uses hi-res graphics and sounds and a demo mode should help to get you started on your entrepreneurial career. You get a nice box as well.

Program *City*
Price £6.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Terminal Software
28 Church Lane
Prestwich
Manchester M25 5AJ

CREEPING HANDS

The House of the Living Dead is the latest arcade game from Phipps Associates who are perhaps best known for their adventures.

In this game you discover your holiday home is not all it seems and have to contend with the likes of vampire bats, skeletons and creeping hands.

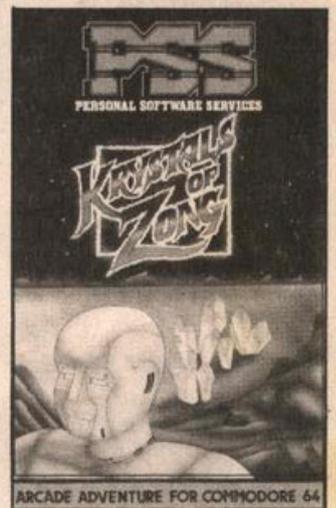
True to Hammer horror tradition, the only solution to this problem is to find a cross which has been divided into four pieces and scattered

around one floor of the house.

Assuming you manage to find all four pieces of the cross, you must then take them to the centre of the house. All is not yet over, however, for now you must ascend to the next storey.

Program *House of the Living Dead*
Price £5.90
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Phipps Associates
172 Kingston Road
Ewell KT19 0SD

MUMMIES



More arcventure in Personal Software Service's *Krystals of Zong*. In this game for the Commodore 64 you must gather treasures from various rooms, whilst avoiding the snakes, bats, spiders and mummies that pursue you.

There are nine rooms in the game, each containing a maze with treasure at its centre. To get at it you will have to find the right key.

It's very well done with plenty of thrills and spills.

Program *Krystals of Zong*
Price £7.95
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier PSS
452 Stoney Stanton
Road
Coventry CV6 5DG

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

This Week

Program	Type	Micro	Price	Supplier
23 Bricks	S	Spectrum	£2.00	Nethercot
3D Seiddab Attack	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Hewson
60 Check	Ut	Spectrum	£2.00	Nethercot
Areas/Sequences	Ed	BBC B	£5.95	Polarsoft
Bear Bovver	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Artic
Bomber Run	Arc	Commodore 64	£4.95	Soft Cell
Brag	S	Spectrum	£4.95	T Lebon
Budget Account	Ut	Spectrum	£3.00	Nethcot
Caterpillar	Arc	Texas	£4.50	Firefly
Cattell IQ Test	Ed	Spectrum	£12.95	Sinclair
Centipede	Arc	ZX81	£3.50	Genius
Chess Tutor 1	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Class List	Ut	Spectrum	£3.00	Nethercot
Cookie	Arc	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Cos Sin Tan	Ed	Spectrum	£3.00	Nethercot
Database	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Easi Ledger	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Eastwood Manor	Ad	BBC B	£5.95	Polarsoft
Exterminator	Arc	Spectrum	£5.50	Torg
Fuel Consumption	Ut	Spectrum	£2.00	Nethercot
Graph Plot	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Home Accounts	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Horace & The Spiders	Arc	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Hungry Horace	Arc	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Invoices & Statements	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Jetpac	Arc	Spectrum	£14.95	Sinclair
Magnets	Arc	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Mailist	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Missile Control	Arc	BBC B	£9.95	Gemini
Print Utilities	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Psst	Arc	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Purchase Day Book	Ut	Spectrum	£10.75	Transform
Reactor	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Gemini
Revenge of the Mutant Camels	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.50	Llamosoft
Russian	Ut	Spectrum	£1.00	Nethercot
SS Achilles	Arc	Atari	£19.95	Beyond
Salary	Ut	Spectrum	£2.00	Nethercot
Sales Day Book	Ut	Spectrum	£10.75	Transform
School Fund	Ut	Spectrum	£3.00	Nethercot
Screwball	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Polarsoft
Space Station Zebra	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Beyond
Spreadsheet	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Stock Control	Ut	Electron	£19.95	Gemini
Tic Tac Toe	3D	Commodore 64	£4.95	C P White
Tranz Am	Arc	Spectrum	£14.95	Sinclair
Ultimate Crossword S	Arc	BBC B	£9.95	Wheat Hey
Worm	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	Polarsoft
YHA Cost	Ut	Spectrum	£3.00	Nethercot
Zalaga	Arc	BBC B	£6.90	Papillon

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — education/
S — strategy-simulation/Ut — utility

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Book Ends



GOOD ON SID

Commodore 64 Getting the Most from it is one of several books designed to fill in all the gaps in the manual.

Although one of many, it also looks one of the best with extensive sections on the particularly difficult areas (since they tend to involve seemingly endless Pokes) of graphics and especially sprites.

The book is also good on the Sid chip, devoting a long appendix on the basic elements of sound construction. In fact all the appendices are useful, covering things like character set codes, hex/decimal conversion, memory addresses and so on.

Book *Commodore 64 Getting the Most from it*

Price £7.95

Micro *Commodore 64*

Supplier Prentice Hall
66 Wood Lane End
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 4RG

MICRO PRIMER

The Microcomputer and the Primary School is a book designed for teachers which explains the main advantages and uses of a micro in the classroom.

With photographs and screen shots it shows the kinds of educational programs that are currently available as well as talking about newer developments like Logo and the BBC Buggy.

The book is very nicely pro-

duced and might even be useful for non-professionals who want their children to use the machine in a fairly structured way.

Book *The Microcomputer and the Primary School*

Price £3.95

Micro *General*

Supplier Hodder and Stoughton
Mill Road
Dunton Green
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 2YD

VIC BASIC

It's annoying, but American computer books are often very good. The trouble is they are also very expensive.

Vic Basic is a typical case in point. In terms of ease of reading, clarity and plain common sense it leaves most of the other books I've seen on the subject standing.

All the fundamental features of the Vic are discussed with big diagrams illustrating which keys to press or what the screen display should look like.

For all those people likely to buy the Vic starter pack this Christmas the book could be very useful. One problem though, it costs a wacking £12.70. Can the price be entirely explained by its being imported?

Book *Vic Basic*

Price £12.70

Micro *Vic20*

Supplier Prentice/Hall
66 Wood Lane End
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 4 RG

Top 10

Dragon

1 (9) Frogger (Microdeal)
2 (—) Cuthbert in the Mines (Microdeal)
3 (—) Talking Android Attack (Microdeal)
4 (—) Cuthbert in the Jungle (Microdeal)
5 (—) Pinball (Microdeal)
6 (—) Glaxxon (Microdeal)
7 (5) Dragonfly 2 (Hewson)
8 (—) Franklin's Tomb (Salamander)
9 (10) Ring of Darkness (Wintersoft)

(Figures compiled by Boots and Co/Websters)

Top 10

Vic 20

1 (6) Gridrunner (Llamosoft)
2 (—) Catcha Snatcha (Imagine)
3 (1) Arcadia (Imagine)
4 (3) Wacky Waiters (Imagine)
5 (—) Alien (Commodore)*
6 (—) Flight 015 (Ferranti Davenport)
7 (7) Sky Hawk (Quicksilva)
8 (—) Abductor (Llamosoft)
9 (4) Lazer Zone (Commodore)*
10 (—) Avenger (Commodore)*

*Cartridge.
(Figures compiled by Boots and Co/Websters)

Top 10

Spectrum

1 (1) Atic Atac (Ultimate)*
2 (7) Lunar Jetman (Ultimate)*
3 (6) Ant Attack (Quicksilva)*
4 (5) Manic Miner (Bug-Byte)*
5 (—) Cookie (Ultimate)
6 (—) Death Chase (Micromega)
7 (—) Tranz-Am (Ultimate)
8 (—) Scrabble (Psion)*
9 (—) Oracle's Cave (Donic)
10 (3) Chequered Flag (Psion)*

*Requires 48K.
(Figures compiled by W H Smith, London)

Top 10

Commodore 64

1 Hover Bovver (Llamosoft)
2 Attack of the Mutant Camels (Llamosoft)
3 Gridrunner 64 (Llamosoft)
4 Caesar the Cat (Mirrorsoft)
5 Lazer Zone 64 (Llamosoft)
6 Frogger (Interceptor Micros)
7 Motor Mania (Audiogenic)
8 Introduction to Basic (Commodore)
9 Quintic Warrior (Quicksilva)
10 Arcadia 64 (Imagine)

(Figures compiled by Boots and Co/Websters)

ZX81*

1 (—) Flight Simulation (Psion)
2 (8) Invaders (Quicksilva)
3 (—) Chess (Psion)
4 (—) City Patrol (Sinclair)
5 (—) Sabotage (Psion)
6 (4) Mothership (Softsync)
7 (1) Defender (Quicksilva)
8 (—) Geography (ICL)
9 (—) History (ICL)
10 (10) ZX Forth (Artic)

*All 16K.
(Figures compiled by Boots and Co/Websters)

Books

1 (2) Advanced User Guide for the BBC Micro, Bray (Cambridge Micro Centre)
2 (1) Spectrum Microdrive Book, Logan (Melbourne House)
3 (4) Structured Programming with BBC Basic, Atherton (Horwood)
4 (6) Graphics on the BBC Micro, Cryer (Prentice/hall)
5 (—) Commodore 64 Programmer's Reference Guide, Commodore (Commodore)
6 (—) BBC Micro Book, Basic, Sound and Graphics, McGregor and Watt (Addison-Wesley)
7 (—) Supercharge Your Spectrum, Webb (Melbourne House)
8 (5) BBC Micro Disk Companion, Latham (Prentice Hall)
9 (—) Programming the Z80, Zaks (Sybex)
10 (3) Advanced Graphics for the ZX Spectrum, Angell and Jones (Macmillan)

(Figures compiled by Watford Technical Books, Watford 0923 23324 Prestel 28844)
(Last week's position in brackets)

BBC*

1 (7) White Knight Mk 2 (BBC)
2 (—) Snapper (Acornsoft)
3 (1) Rocket Raid (Acornsoft)
4 (—) Missile Base (Acornsoft)
5 (3) Killer Gorilla (Program Power)
6 (—) Starship Command (Acornsoft)
7 (2) Planetoids (Acornsoft)
8 (—) Arcadians (Acornsoft)
9 (9) Hopcar (Acornsoft)
10 (—) Meteors (Acornsoft)

*All model B.
(Figures compiled by Micro Management, Ipswich 0473 59181)



A vested interest

The home computer market has boomed. And, in its wake, has come a veritable avalanche of magazines which cover every conceivable aspect of the subject.

One feature which frequently astounds readers is the wide disparity in the opinions expressed in reviews on the same hardware or software in different magazines. How can it be that one magazine can hail a new machine as a "triumph of state-of-the-art microtechnology" whilst another dismisses it as "yet another ill-conceived attempt to cash in on the market"? It is not clear if this is the result of a deliberate outright bias, or of whether there is a more subtle explanation.

The greatest variation is seen between "specialist" publications, which are aimed at the products of a particular manufacturer and those covering a wider field of interest which have fewer axes to grind. It is a fact of life that certain magazines are actively supported by the manufacturer whose products they are describing, so it is unlikely that the editorial staff are going to rush lemming-like over the nearest cliff by slamming them! This assistance may be in the form of open financial support or more subtly by extensive advertising in the publication.

Whose interests should be considered, the producers or the users? Should a user magazine try to cover up the warts in a product to ensure that the manufacturer's market share, and ultimately its own, holds up, or should it try to help the poor

unfortunate who has already bought a lemon to squeeze the most out of it instead? Of course, if the manufacturer retires hurt then the user is left high and dry, so neither of these extreme views is satisfactory and a sensible compromise between the needs of all parties must be reached for an effective publication.

The main purpose of a review is to provide the reader with an appreciation of a product and in particular an assessment of how it compares with the competition. Of course the view presented will be personal, and to some extent subjective, but no reviewer should set himself up as some sort of omniscient Supreme Being and must try to be as objective as possible.

A bad review almost always makes the manufacturer unhappy. The most frequent complaint is that the reviewer was ill-informed and has not mentioned the important features or advantages of their product. It is often difficult though for the reviewer to get this information. Although competent reviewers are experienced micro users, we have yet to meet one who was psychic. The producer is the obvious source of information, but extracting anything from some companies is like trying to get blood out of a stone. If you insist on hiding your light under a bushel then you can hardly complain when only the bushel is mentioned.

On the other hand, some companies provide masses of technical data and it is disconcerting to see this reproduced parrot-fashion in the text without comment. Occasionally one sees reviews from which it was apparent that the nearest writer got to testing the equipment was looking at a picture and a specification sheet over lunch!

It is probably inevitable that people who take the trouble to ensure that reviewers have all the information and assistance they need get better reviews than the others. This may not be such a bad thing — it is probably also a good indication of how they treat their customers.

Keith and Steven Brain

A new year

Puzzle No 88

In celebration of the still fairly new New Year, here is a puzzle based on the number '1984'.

1	9	8	4
1	9	8	4

In the grid, the number has been entered twice. What you have to do is to fill in the rest of the grid so that every number down is a perfect square. Also, you should use every digit *except* for one, and the sum of the four squares should be as large as possible.

Solution to Puzzle No 83

As there are five digits in both the top line of the sum and the product, the first digit of the top line can only be a 1 or 2. (It cannot be a '3' as it isn't a bird symbol).

Similarly, we can see that the last digit of the top line cannot be a 0 or a 1 as this would involve a duplication of either this digit or the bird symbol in the bottom line.

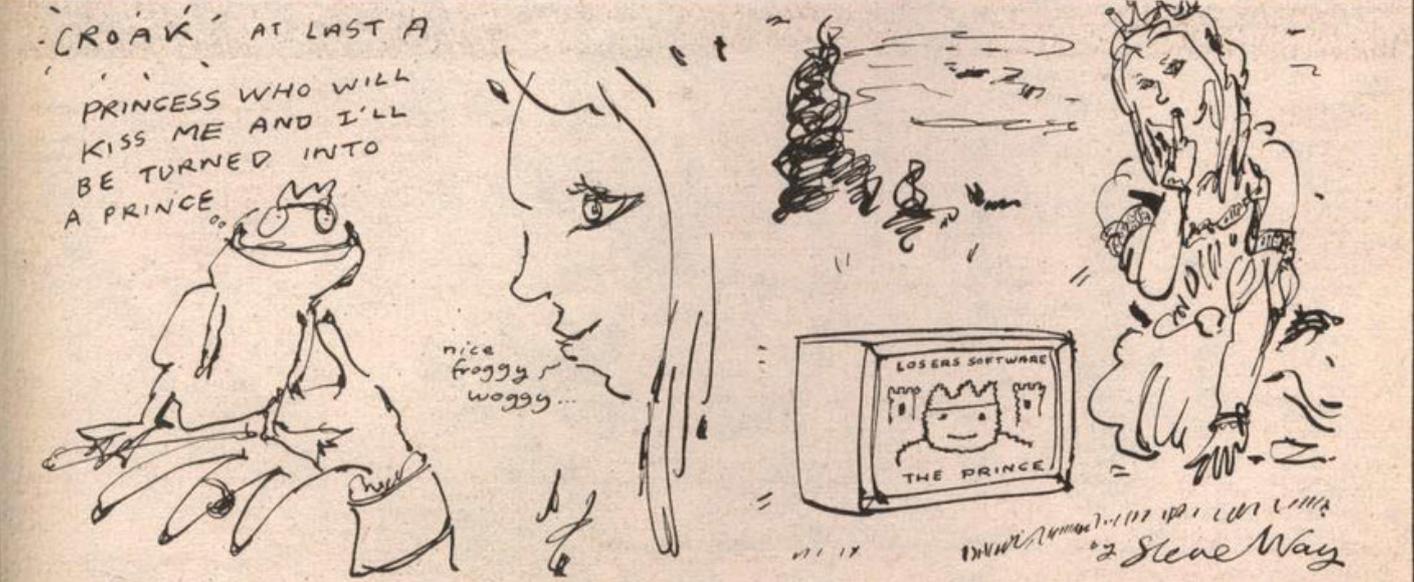
The program generates all possible sets of values and tests to see that no digits are duplicated (except for the '3' in the product).

```
10 FOR A = 1 TO 2 20 FOR B = 0 TO 9 30 IF A = B
THEN GOTO 280 40 FOR C = 0 TO 9 50 IF C = A OR
C = B THEN GOTO 270 60 FOR D = 0 TO 9 70 IF D
= A OR D = B OR D = C THEN GOTO 260 80 FOR E
= 2 TO 9 90 IF E = A OR E = B OR E = C OR E = D
THEN GOTO 250 100 LET P = (A * 10000 + B *
1000 + C * 100 + D * 10 + E) * 3 110 LET PS =
STR$ P 120 IF PS(2) <> "3" THEN GOTO 250 130
FOR M = 1 TO 4 140 FOR N = M + 1 TO 5 150 IF
PS(M) = PS(N) THEN GOTO 250 160 NEXT N 170
NEXT M 180 LET QS = STR$ (P/3) 190 FOR M = 1
TO 5 200 FOR N = 1 TO 5 210 IF PS(M) = QS(N)
THEN GOTO 250 220 NEXT N 230 NEXT M 240
PRINT PS, QS 250 NEXT E 260 NEXT D 270 NEXT C
280 NEXT B 290 NEXT A
```

This provides the only possible solution: 17694 * 3 = 53082.

Winner of Puzzle No 83

The winner is: Alan Turnbull, Vicarage Road, Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire, who receives £10. Although the solution given above is in Basic, Alan's winning entry was written in Pascal and run using the Hisoft Pascal 4T on the 48K Spectrum.



Automata U.K. Ltd.

presents:

PI-EYED

£6

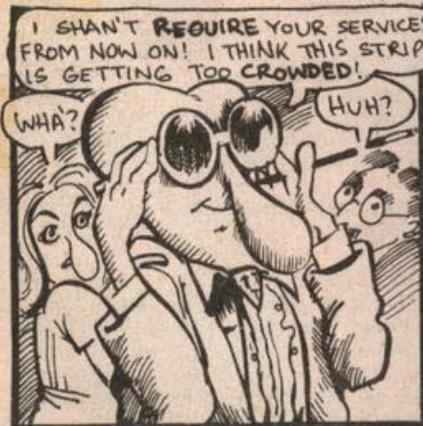
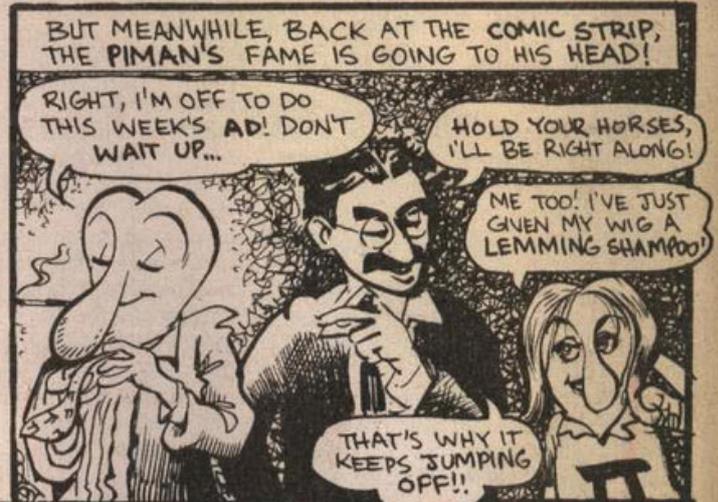
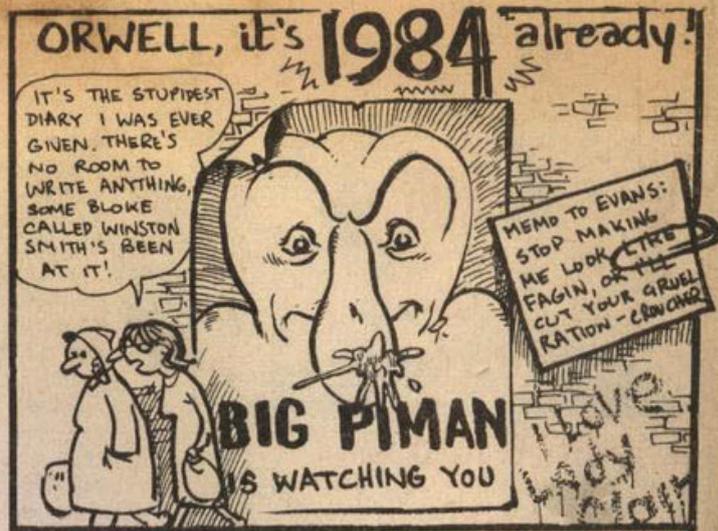
for 48K SINCLAIR ZX SPECTRUM
©AUTOMATA U.K. LTD. 1984

PI-EYED: program by Andrew Stagg, artwork by Robin Evans, vocals by Lurch the Office Parrot (at least we think he's a parrot)

THE STORY SO FAR ... Once, a long time ago in 1983, the PiMan was a pillar of society: a sober, boring little prude. "PIMANIA" & "GROUCHO" changed all that, as the PiMan shot to international megastardom on TV... he's a right little cult. It's all been so much, too fast. He's hitting the bottle .. weaving from pub to pub, causing mayhem & mess on the floor. AUTOMATA proudly gives the world our COMEDY ARCADE GAME "PI-EYED" and don't forget the heart-rending message of the FREE HIT RECORD on the flipside!

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thanks to everyone for christmas cards & solidarity over "GO TO JAIL"