

Computer GAMER

WORLD
CUP

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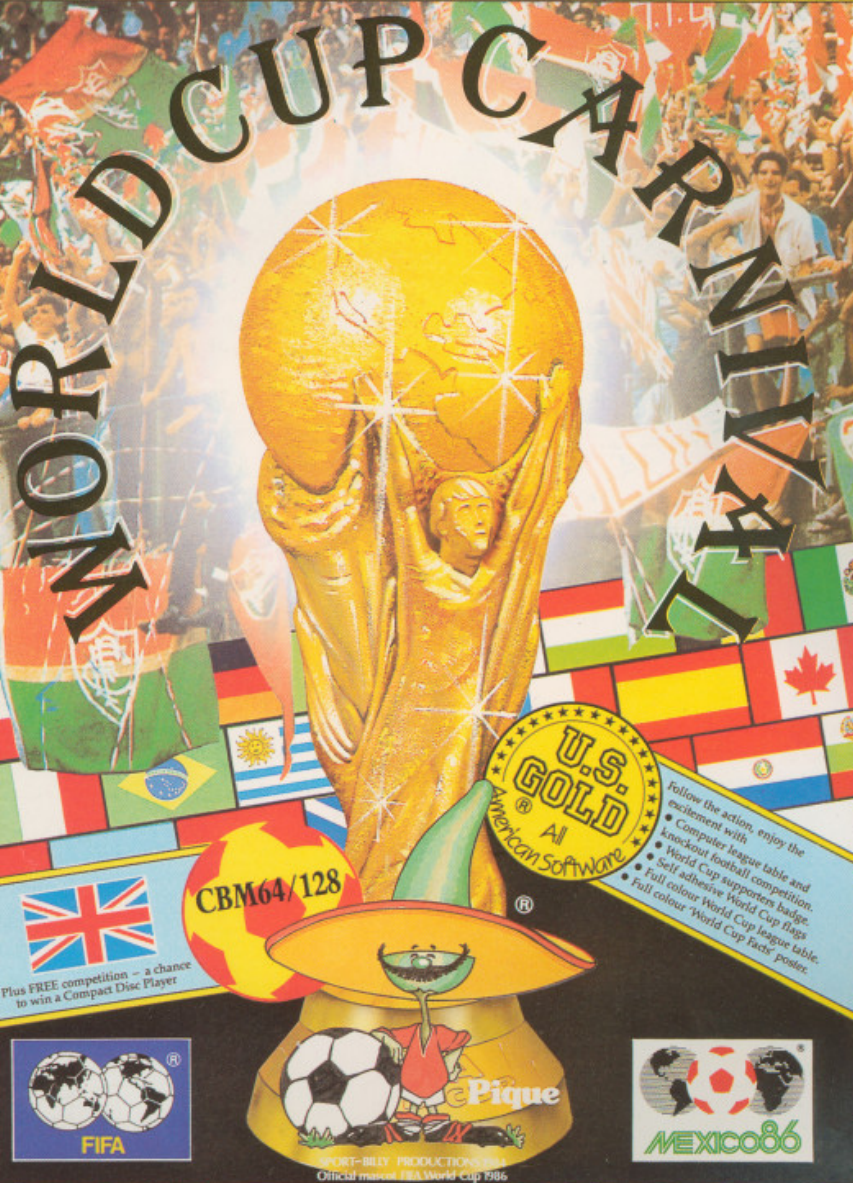


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Stardate June 1986

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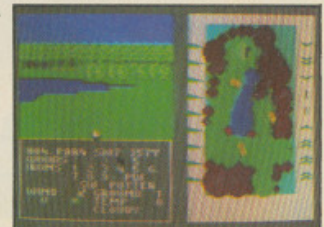
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NEWSNEWSNEWS

Breakdance now a budget game



US Gold's Americana

US Gold is to bring out a series of budget games.

Released under the new Americana label the games will cost £2.99 and include titles written by US giants Synapse, Datasoft and Epyx.

The first releases are Slamball (C64), New York City (64, Atari), Shamus (64, Atari), Scooter (64, Atari) and Ollice Follies (64, Atari).

US Gold plan to extend the range with titles for C64, Spectrum, Atari, Amstrad and MSX computers including a Golden Oldies series rereleasing titles such as Breakdance from Epyx.

New for the C64 is a compilation tape aptly called Arcade Classics.

The tape contains four Datasoft arcade games for the price of one (£9.95).

So if you want a copy of Mr Do, Dig dug, Pole Position or Pacman to complete your collection, then this is for you.

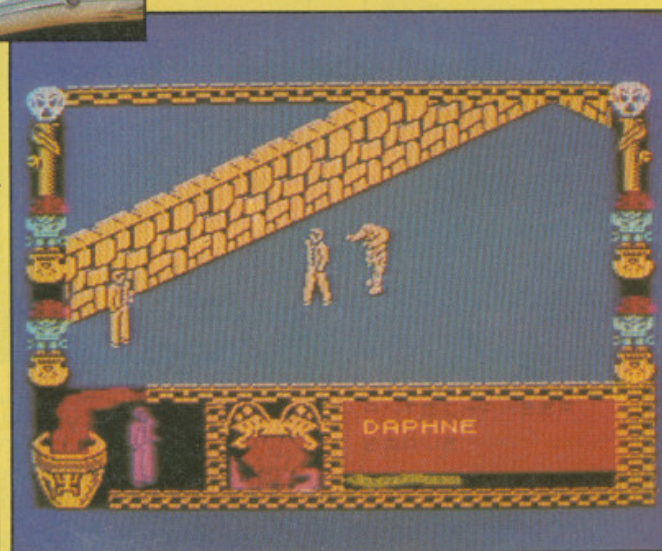


42 screens from the Price of Magik

Here are just 42 of the 200+ pictures featured in Level 9's next adventure.

This mammoth adventure is the sequel to Red Moon and will be available soon for Amstrad, C64, MSX and Spectrum computers.

The game features your attempts to defeat an evil Sorcerer and save the dying Red Moon in an adventure containing over 1,000 commands



Pyracurse

A 3D Arcade adventure for the Spectrum is to be the next game from Hewson.

The game stars Legless O'Donnell, reporter at large for the Daily Excess who is assisted by archaeologist Professor Rodger Kile, Frobbize the dog as they try to save the delicate Daphne Pemberton-Smythe from the curse of 'Xipe Totec, an ancient South American god.

The game is the result of developing techniques used to create Hewson's Spectrum chart-toppers Avalon and Dragonfire.

However the "adventure movie" rooms of these games have gone and are now replaced by what Hewson describe as "an isometric 3D projection with full hidden object removal and high speed multi-directional scrolling".

The screenshot not only shows this (I think) but also our hero fleeing from the clutches of a deadly Robo-Guardian.

Hewson Consultants seem to be able to do no wrong. Their latest Spectrum game Quazatron is featured in an in depth review in this month's Gamer along with a players guide to their chartbusting C64 game, Uridium.

Splitting Image

According to Demark it's next game has absolutely nothing to do with TV's Spitting Image.

It is in fact an updated version of a sliding block puzzle.

By sliding blocks around a square board the players must

bund up pictures of people such as Maggie and Reagan.

However, you will also have to fight off nasties that are out to get you but there is also the opportunity for bonuses. These can be earned by, for example, guiding Dennis to a bottle.

Splitting Images will be available soon for Spectrum, C64 and Amstrad computers.

PLAYERS



Players

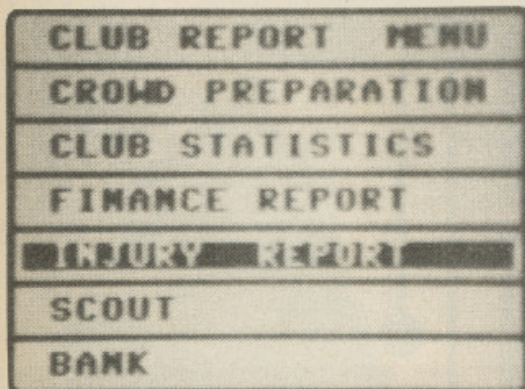
Players is the latest entry into the expanding budget software market and is a part of Interceptor micros.

All Players games cost only £1.99 and the initial 16 releases include titles for C64, Amstrad,

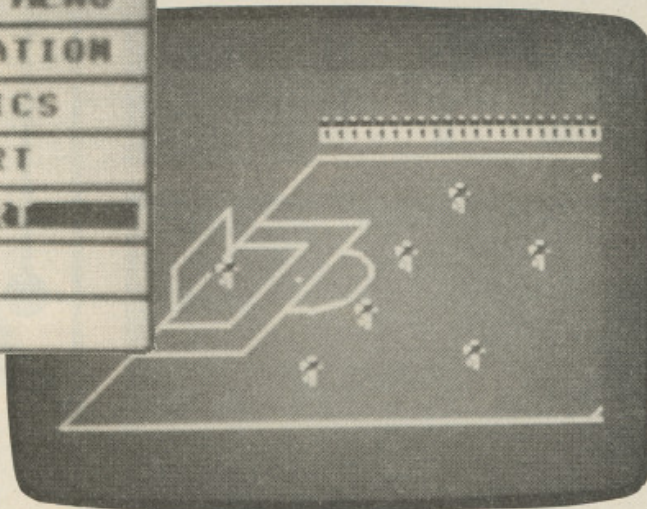
Spectrum, BBC, Vic 20 and C16 computers and feature games such as "Hunchy", "Claws of Despair", "Nuclear Heist" and the intriguing "Journey to the Centre of Eddie Smith's Head!"

Interceptor themselves are selling three old games also for £1.99 which includes "Heroes of Kahn", "Tales of Arabian Nights" and the recently released "Wild Ride".

For a full roundup of all budget software see next month's Gamer.



The Double



The Double is the latest football challenge for C64 owners and is set for release in time for the World Cup.

The game is the first from a new company, Johnson Scanatron and is a football management simulation endorsed by Everton's Boss, Howard Kendall.

The first difference that football addicts will notice with this game is that you don't start off with your favourite club! Instead you are offered a job with a third division side with which you must try for promotion.

If you're successful with your first club then perhaps you'll be offered the job of managing one of the big clubs. There you can aim for glory in both the league and the FA Cup — The Double.

Before you can order the champagne there's a lot of work to be done. You have to hire staff and buy and train players for your own club as well as scout the opposition for tactics to avoid and good players to poach. All this while worrying about players' wages, ground improvements and policing for matches.

The Double is a massive game, featuring 66 teams and 1130 individual players (each with separate tackling, passing, kicking and shooting skills), that will challenge C64 owners for £10.95

Domark's Peripherals

Following an agreement between Domark and peripheral manufacturer Nidd Valley, Domark will be releasing a series of add ons for home computers.

The Slomo speed controller is a hand held device that allows you at the touch of a button to slow down or freeze a games action. This invaluable aid will help gamers plan routes through difficult screens. The Slomo plugs into the expansion ports of Amstrad and Spectrum computers and costs £12.95.

The Slomo Pacesetter Joystick Interface also costs £12.95 and combines the Spectrum Slomo with a Kempston compatible joystick interface.

Finally the new Domark "Periware" range include a Digimouse for Amstrad, Spec-

trum, C64 and BBC computers that can be used in games in place of any joystick.



5

NEWS NEWS

Alter Ego

Would you like to start your life all over again? Perhaps you'd like to skip a few years or maybe even be someone totally different? Now all this is possible — thanks to Activision.

Alter Ego is a 3 disk roleplaying adventure for the C64 that allows you to play life!

The program was written by a clinical psychologist and is based on interviews with hundreds of Americans about their most memorable life experiences. You play some of these experiences as you progress through life.

You begin the "game" by answering some true/false questions which the program uses to decide your characteristics. These are marks for factors such as calmness, confidence and happiness that referee your responses to the life "experiences". For example, you won't be able to get a date if your social behaviour is appalling.

Luckily you can build these factors up during the game so there's hope for you yet.

Although you can start at any level, it's best to play it all the way through from birth to death.

Obviously the problems and challenges facing you at each age differ but they all have the same format. Each presents an adventure style situation and a number of options from which you can choose with these leading to more and more options.

When you're an infant you spend your time working out the best way to get attention, later at school you discover girls! Adolescence brings its own problems (how to date girls with a face full of spots) as does young adulthood (finding a job), adulthood (starting a family), middle adulthood (the kids are growing up) and finally old age, where you try to do as much as possible before you finally keel over.

Alter Ego is available in both male and female versions and is very American so be prepared to have a "Mom" and to "play ball" for the "Senior Sluggers"!

After that lot your own life should be easy!

Tubular Bells

After a hard gaming session you can now relax to a digitised version of Mike Oldfield's classic Tubular Bells.

Released under CRL's Nu-Wave label this program allows you to watch or draw pretty patterns on the screen in time to the music.

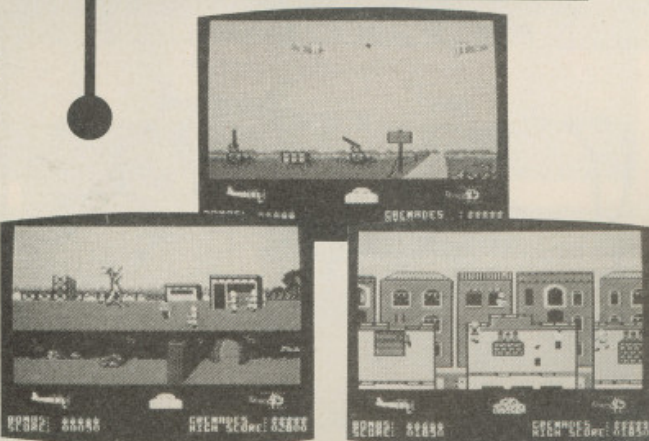
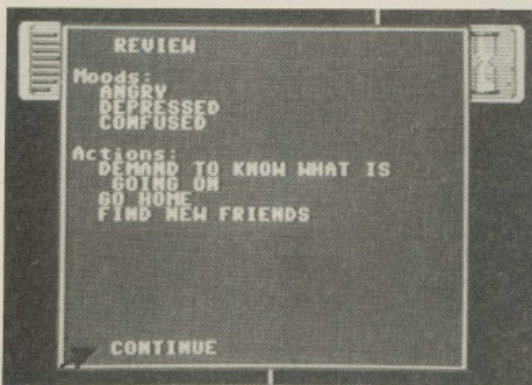
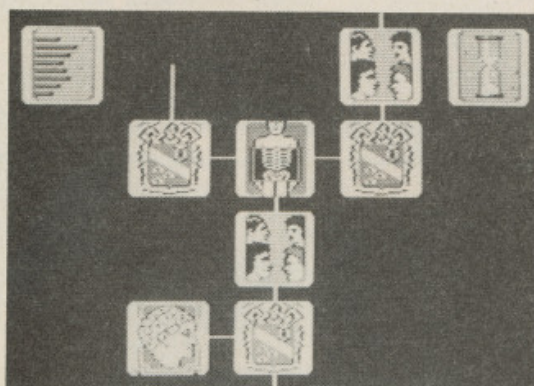
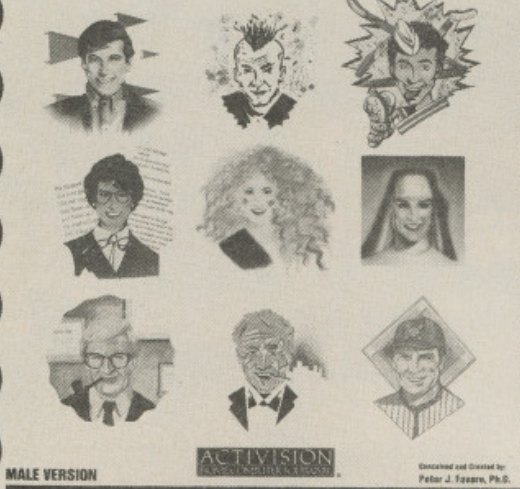
CRL themselves are just adding the final touches to C64 Tau Ceti.

Meanwhile Pilgrim author Rod Pike is getting his teeth into his next CRL adventure which is based on the original Bram Stoker Dracula.

No it's not the usual Christopher Lee/Peter Cushing battle but the classic tale in which you will have to control several characters in your fight against the Count.

ALTER EGO¹

Make a new life for yourself! Just for fun, start over! Take a different path. Create a new personality. Live life to remember you're always wanted to be. Explore a lifetime of experiences. Live life to the fullest. It's entertaining, fascinating, funny and, sometimes, quite revealing.



Biggles almost ready for take-off

Mirrorsoft are just adding the final touches to their multi-part arcade game based on the film hero Biggles.

The three parts to the game are linked to sequences in the film and all must be completed if you are to complete the game.

If you are killed or reach a crucial part in one of the games you are transported to another where a new challenge awaits.

In the first part you must pilot your biplane behind enemy lines, your mission, to locate and photograph the enemy's secret weapon while avoiding ground and air attacks.

In part two you're dodging your way through treacherous trenches and a secret network of tunnels to photograph the secret weapon test site.

Then it's on to a deadly rooftop race to escape with the pictures before flying back in a modern police helicopter to destroy the weapon and rescue your captured friend.

Biggles will be taking off in C64, Spectrum and Amstrad computers.

Also coming soon from Mirrorsoft under its Medusa label is a ball game called Action Reflex. Originally for the Spec-



trum but being converted for the C64, the game tests your skill and reflexes as you guide a ball through 25 screens of a fiendish course including such obstacles as crushing machines, bottomless pits and vacuum tubes that suck you up. Completing a course within the time limit leads you onto another of the game's 4 courses.

NEWS NEWS

Archon II — Conversions

The superb arcade strategy game Archon II, which was featured in last month's Gamer, is to be converted by Ariolasoft for Atari and Spectrum computers.

The game features a magical battle between four adepts of good and evil in which they summon creatures and demons

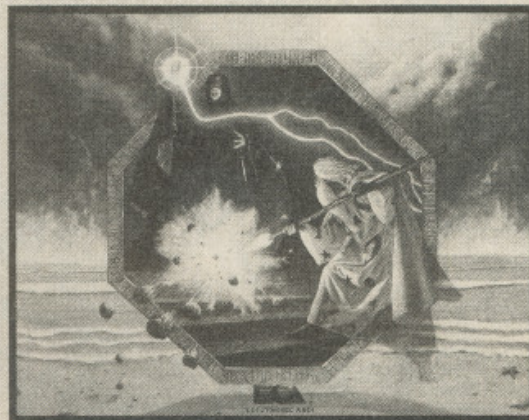
to fight in the four planes of Fire, Earth, Air and Void.

Atari Archon II will be available in May on cassette and the Spectrum version is expected this summer.

Other forthcoming Ariolasoft releases include Spectrum Terrors of Trantoss, Toadrunner and 3 Days in Carpathia as well as the latest game from Electronic Arts, for the C64, titled Standing Stones.

ARCHON II: ADEPT

from Electronic Arts



ariolasoft



Game Killer

Have you ever wanted to walk straight through a game without being killed by the enemy? Now C64 owners can do just that with the help of Robtek's Game Killer.

The Game Killer is a cartridge that allows you to block the games sprites that form missiles and nasties that would normally

kill you. You can even select an option that allows you to blast them while you can walk through unharmed.

The Game Killer costs only £14.95 and is best used to see a game's screens or levels before you start playing it.

Details from Robtek on 01-209 0118.

Ultimate BBC Battlezones

Ultimate have released a compilation of three of their best games for the BBC.

The tape, titled Battlezones, features two classic shoot 'em ups, Lunar Jetman and Jetpac, as well as the 3D arcade adventure Knight Lore.

Cosmic Battlezones is marketed by US Gold and costs £9.95.

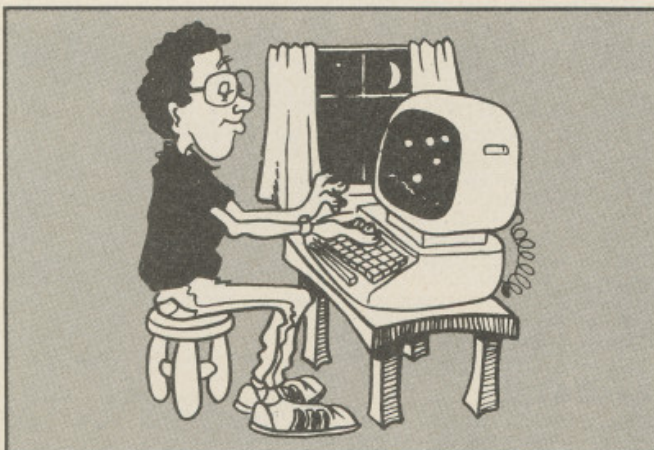
Superior Tips for Games Authors

Superior Software have launched a major campaign to find programmers for all of the major micros. Part of the drive is the publication of a free booklet called "Top Tips for Games Authors" that includes invaluable aid for budding programmers.

Chapters in the book cover selecting the computers you should write for, how to present your work to software houses and how to get the best deal out of them. Later sections deal with thinking up games ideas and tips on writing the code and designing graphics.

Finally there is a section about Superior themselves and their games.

Superior's existing team of programmers are working on the Amstrad and C64 conversion of Speech and the sequel to the award winning Repton II (—



Best BBC Game — 1985 Gamer Awards) which is to be the aptly named Repton III.

This new expanded version will contain more fiendish features as well as an icon driven screen and character design. The additional problems include a

fungus that must be blocked in before it spreads throughout the whole screen and a timebomb that will explode if you run out of time. Superior hope to release BBC, Electron, Amstrad and C64 versions of Repton II in time for Christmas.

Mini-Vac

Now at last a present for the computer owner who has everything. A vacuum cleaner for their computer!

£16.95 gets you a handheld, battery powered vacuum cleaner complete with reusable dust bag and two extension pipes that will get all the dust and fluff from around your keys and out of your joystick ports.

If you want to beat the Christmas rush contact Authenticity on 021-337 3352.





Once more we track throughout the courses of the planets and the interstellar wastes, to chart the progress of your celestial lives. Read on to discover what fortunes await you.

Aries the Ram

Summer is approaching and your woolly coat will no longer be needed. You deserve a holiday in the sun and this seems to be indicated in the movements of the celestial bodies. May be a quick game of Terrormolinos is in order or perhaps you should venture outside the jumbled jungle of your computer room and steal a glimpse at the sun to refresh your memory.

8

Taurus the Bull

Your native wit and charm will make this month a red letter occasion for you if play your cards right. Look out for rivals who will try and match your prowess or even exceed your outstanding skills in intellectual pursuits. Don't lend anyone your copy of Ultima IV, they're very likely to steal your limelight and your game.

Cancer the Crab

Beware, the savage beasts, the green and hairy monsters and the hooded fiends. They are all around you and there seems to be no escape. But wait! Perhaps there is a gleam of light on the horizon. Yes, a door opens, the comforting glow of an electric light bulb casts its glory over your surroundings and dims the eerie glow of your monitor's screen.

Leo the Lion

Your qualities of courage, fortitude and magnanimity will hold you in good stead this month as the conflicting influences of several planets tug your fortunes from pillar to post. Fickle friends may desert you but new ones are in store for you who will share common interests and be at your side when the zapping gets too tough.

Virgo the Virgin

I am the bearer of greetings to you from the one who calls himself the All Powerful, Overmighty, King of the Far horizons and Lord of the Interstellar acts. To you he sends this message: "The Forces of the Gloomy Territories will harm you if they can. But sleep tight for one who is omnipotent bestows upon you lives without number."

Libra the Scales

Anxieties weigh upon you. I know that you feel you are financially embarrassed. Why do all your friends seem to have those things which you desire most? Copies of the latest games spill from their overflowing cassette racks and litter the carpet. Enter a Gamer competition, luck may yet smile on you.

Scorpio the Scorpion

Light streams into your life, all aspects of your charts are benign and your way ahead is clear. Obstacles will disappear almost miraculously and you will discover unsuspected reserves of strength and perseverance which will lead you to even greater heights of success.

Sagittarius the Archer

Shake off that mood of gloom and despondency, they're not really out to get you it just seems like that. It doesn't suit your sparkling personality for you to be so gripey and irritable. Perhaps you should try a soothing pursuit in your spare time, something quiet with pretty graphics and lilting music.

Capricorn the Goat

Aha! I see contradiction in your life. One moment you are genial and calm, the next you transform into a screaming dervish hunched over a computer yelling inanities at bright moving figures flitting speedily before your eyes. You should try and moderate these moods they show instability which is reflected in your aggressive behaviour.

Aquarius the Water Carrier

For you, little drippy one, I have a prediction. Look to the future and don't dwell so on the past, then, and only then will you achieve your ultimate wish. Put those past failures behind and wipe the slate clean, you will find yourself a changed person.

Pisces the Fish

The wet planet of Venus is drifting out of your chart and the dry aridity of Mars will take a grip on your future. Emerge from your aqueous surroundings and look about you with your bulging eyes. There is more to life than a glass aquarium.

Gemini the Twins

It's your birthday, a new year is beginning and with it, it brings a new era. Your strangely dual personality leads you to make some odd decisions in this particular stage of your life. You ally yourself with unlikely associates but perhaps this will bring a sharp upturn in your fortunes which seem to have declined dramatically in the last 12 months.

Hope springs eternal and success could be within your grasp but it's not a certainty, so take care.

♦ I N C E N T I V E ♦



THE GRAPHIC ADVENTURE CREATOR

The amazing, combined text and graphics adventure generator enables you to produce fast, compact adventure games with the minimum of effort and the maximum of creativity. Stunning graphics can be created quickly and easily with the powerful picture generator that has many features including:— dot, circle, elastic line, ellipse, fast fill, shading, step by step review, easy editing and the ability to merge pictures.

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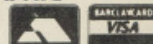
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WORLD

To celebrate the impending football feast, Tony Hetherington rounds up the highlights of the computer football action



World Cup 2 — The goalscorers leap for joy

The World Cup is here at last. A month of solid football action in which three British teams take on the rest of the world in the scorching heat of Mexico.

How England, Scotland and Northern Ireland actually do in June depends a lot on the weather, the standard of refereeing and a fair amount of luck. One thing is certain, every football fan will be glued to the screen and most will claim that they could do better. Now with the aid of your trusty micro you can prove your ability without getting muddy.

World Cup Games

Qualsoft's aptly named **Mexico 86** actually begins in February 1984. The England manager has been sacked as England fail to qualify for the European Championships. You have been offered the job and have just five matches before the first qualifying game for the 86 World Cup.

The first game is against France in Paris and as a start you pick your team from the existing squad of sixteen players. Unfortunately you get trounced 4-1 but at least you can see how the players did.

You experiment with the next match, Russia at Wembley, with a completely new side and surprisingly you win, 2-1.

Next it's off to South America for a tour against Brazil, Uruguay and Chile.

Here you must experiment further and soon you'll be coming out with all the standard clichés such as "We have to experiment" and "You can't expect to win every game". In one match I even played two keepers, changing over at half

time just to give "Everyone a game"!

By now the pressure in mounting as the qualifying matches begin as you have to win them but you still need to try out new players.

The program allows you a

squad of 36 and as I ran out of recognised England players, names such as Robbo, Blobbo and Twaddle started creeping in as well as most of the 1986 cup winning side.

If you qualify, you then have to pick a squad of twenty players to battle through a preliminary group then hopefully onto the final itself.

Mexico 86 is a football management simulation reminiscent of *Football Manager*. However the problems and atmosphere take this game further as you have to deal with not only injuries, but also players with inconsistent form while trying to balance your team not only up the field but also across it. For example, are all your defenders left sided players?

If you're truly masochistic you can also add the distinction between defenders that are good in the air or on the ground, ball winning or play making midfield players and goal making and scoring forwards. Add all that together and you begin to appreciate the problems facing Bobby Robson.

The games graphics are crude but effective (particularly on the Spectrum) but they allow you to follow the match and let you identify problems, such as a weakness in defence, that can be rectified either by pushing some players further up (or pulling some back) or by a substitution.

Mexico 86 is an excellent simulation that will challenge all budding Managers.

Artic's **World Cup 2** (also available on C64 *Now Games 2*) is for players who want to get straight onto the pitch, and is a 3D game in which up to 8 players can compete with a team of their choice.



Mexico 86 — World Cup management

CUP

SPECIAL

The tournament is a straight knockout with draws being decided by the first goal to be scored in extra time.

The matches are played at a furious pace with the joystick controlling one on your team. However if you are going to defeat the computer opponents who move faster than you will have to learn how to pass the ball while transferring control to that player.

This is a little difficult to perfect but once you have, the World Cup is yours.

The graphics are marvellous especially when a goal is scored as the scorer literally leaps with joy. Highly recommended.

World Cup2 is only available for the C64, but it's predecessor (with similar game play) is available for Spectrum, C16 and Amstrad computers.

One to be avoided at all costs is Macmillan's **World Cup Football**.

It is in fact a package containing an easy quiz and a database of World Cup facts which tells you little more than a book. Although the accompany-

ing booklet is excellent the game, **World Cup Manager**, is appalling.

In the first half you just stare at the screen and wait for goals to be scored. In the second half you get to affect the score, not by playing football, but by playing two mindless games. The first is a variation of breakout in which you control a giant boot which you move like a bat as you try to knock the ball in the opponents goal.

In the second game you get to move a player! unfortunately all you have to do is intercept a corner and try to head the ball.

All this, if you're still interested produces a final score and the opportunity to play another match!

Typically US Gold have acquired the rights to do the official World Cup game and they are busily working on it.

It is to be a full pack called **World Cup Carnival** containing not only a management game but also a wallchart and adhesive flags to follow the real thing and a sew on badge featuring the World Cup mascot Pique.

Football Action Games

Away from the World Cup itself there is a wealth of games that you can use to recreate World Cup action.

Commodore's own **International Soccer** reigns supreme and is even used to demonstrate C64's.

It uses the technique by which you control one player while the computer deals with the rest swapping control to you whenever another player touches or is nearer the ball.

Again passing is the key to success as well as learning how to use the goalkeeper.

International Soccer wasn't the first of this type of game. that honour belongs to the now defunct **Intellivision Soccer** which was just one of the cartridges available for the Intellivision games machine.

This sadly is no longer sold, however you might still be able to find one second hand through your local paper. You'll find it worth the effort.

Ocean's **Matchday** which has now been expanded into **International Matchday** for the

128k Spectrum is a similar game and provides Spectrum and BBC owners with a good version of this type of game.

The same is unfortunately not true of Glen Hoddle's Soccer (Amstrad) and Spectrum Indoor Soccer from Magnificent Seven. Both games are spoilt by appalling graphics that make the games almost unplayable.

Glen Hoddle is just too difficult and I don't know many people that would persevere with a game that regularly thrashes you 28-0.

Kick-off from Bubblebus was released a few years ago and is a simulation of table football!

Now repackaged as part of the new Minibus budget range it is excellent value for money.

In a one or two player game you must use your joystick to move between and control the bars of players that form the familiar table football table.

As usual the play centres around the middle bars of 5 midfielders who try to push the ball through to their forwards who outnumber the defence 3 to 2 and soon only have the keeper to beat



Unfortunately when I play, the ball seems to whizz from one end of the table to the other leaving me spinning my players at empty space. Perhaps it's too accurate a simulation.

Football Management Games

Once the heat of Mexico has cooled you may want a change of pace and try your hand at managing your favourite club.

The first and most popular of football management games is, of course, **Football Manager** from Addictive Games.

Beginning in Division 4 you must guide your favourite team to promotion and then onto cup and league glory.

It has now appeared on nearly all computers and has sold over 100,000 copies.

The game itself is relatively simple as you study your players skill and stamina to pick your side to win. The game is then played while you sit helplessly watching the highlights.

This formula obviously worked as many of its players tried "just one more season" until late into the night.

F.A. Cup from Virgin Games successfully transfers this atmosphere to the FA Cup.

Up to eight players can control the fortunes of ten teams spread throughout the divisions in an attempt to get them to Wembley.

The control you actually have over your team's future is limited as you can only decide the team's formation and whether or not to send on a substitute with 20 minutes to go.

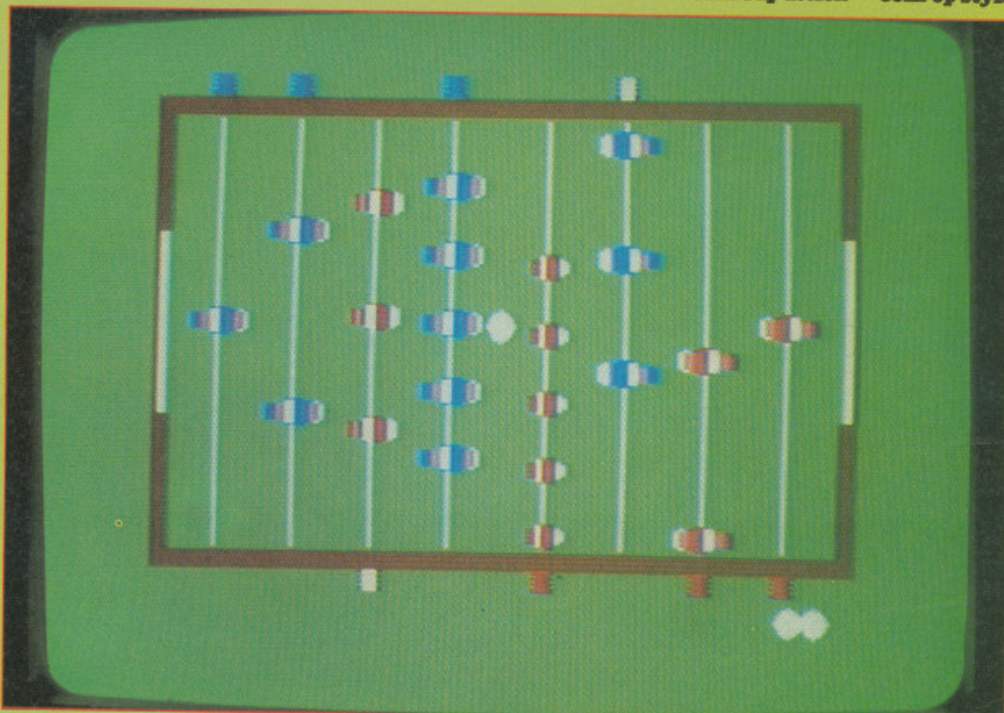
United from CBS is in fact a computer version of the PBM game of the same name that has been running in amateur magazines for over 5 years.

During the game you must choose your team for matches from your growing squad of players. However **United** doesn't stop there as you can also train your team to improve their skill and tactics, scout the opposition and dabble in the transfer market.

There are many postal leagues currently playing **United** in this



World Cup action — Coin-op style



Kick-off — a table football simulation?

country and the game includes the address of the author who you can write to, to join a league.

Coin-op Connection

During our travels to find the latest in arcade action we found three excellent football games.

Tatsumi's **World Cup Soccer** is a two player game which uses trackballs to control the footballers. Only about a third of the pitch is shown on the scrolling display at any one time but there is a map on the side to show the position of your players.

International Football is a football game that gives each of the human players two joysticks each!

Each joystick directly controls a player on the pitch and to avoid confusion, the white joystick controls the white player and the black joystick controls the black player.

Add to that the problems of pressing buttons to shoot, tackle and control the goalkeeper and the result is a confusing game. Against another human (who has the same problems) you might stand a chance but against a machine...

Finally, table football looks like staging a comeback in a game called **Kick**.

LED scoring, a cheering and booing crowd and astroturf add life to this old classic. If you're in an arcade, have a go.





WORLD CUP SPECIAL

AE Addictive Games FOOTBALL MANAGER



Intellivision Soccer

Computer: Intellivision console

Supplier: Intellivision

Price: £???

Comment: The game and the machinery now defunct but you can still find them. Pick one up if you can.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ★★★★
 Graphics ★★★★
 Use of machine ★★★★
 Value for money ★★★★

STAR RATING

Bright Star ☉

Football Manager

Computers: Spectrum, C64, Amstrad, BBC, C16

Supplier: Addictive

Price: £7.95

Comment: The classic football management game. If you're not one of the 100,000 people who have already bought this game get it now.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ★★★★
 Graphics ★★★★
 Use of machine ★★★★
 Value for money ★★★★

STAR RATING

Nova ☼

Kick Off

Computer: C64

Supplier: Bubblebus

Price: £2.95

Comment: Now cheaper as part of the new Minibus range Kick-Off is an intriguing simulation of table football.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ★★★★
 Graphics ★★★★
 Use of machine ★★★★
 Value for money ★★★★

STAR RATING

Nova ☼

FA Cup

Computers: C64, Amstrad, Spectrum

Supplier: Virgin

Price: £7.95

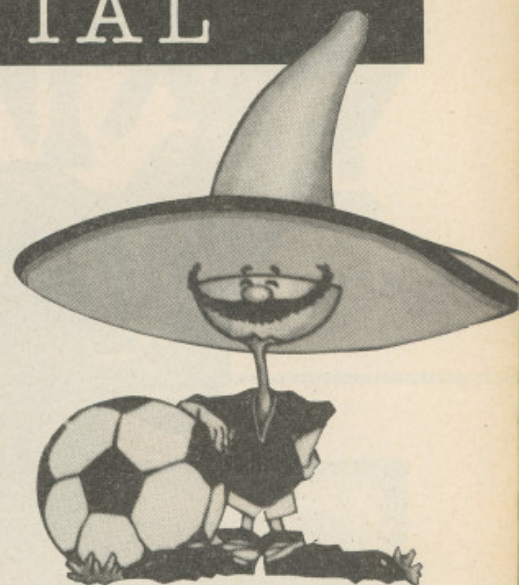
Comment: Although control over your teams is limited the game captures the excitement of the FA Cup.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ★★★★
 Graphics ★★★★
 Use of machine ★★★★
 Value for money ★★★★

STAR RATING

Bright Star ☉



Glen Hoddles Soccer

Computer: Amstrad

Supplier: Amsoft

Price: £7.95

Comment: Unbalanced gameplay and sticklike graphics make this game almost unplayable.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ★
 Graphics ★
 Use of machine ★
 Value for money ★

STAR RATING

Black Hole ⬤

Matchday

Computers: BBC, Spectrum

Supplier: ocean

Price: £9.95

Comment: A good football action game which is similar to Artics World Cup.

PLANET RATINGS

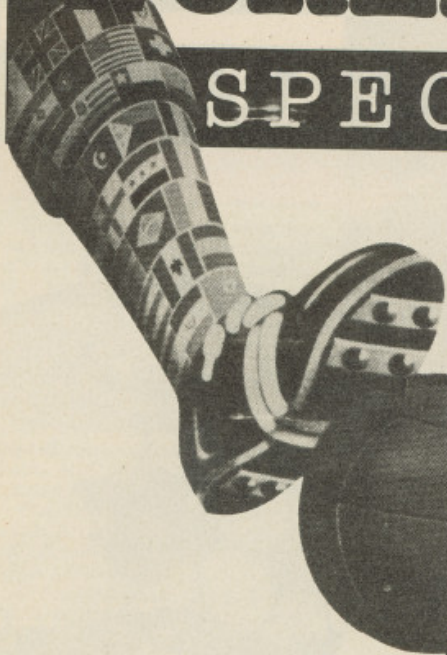
Originality ★★★★
 Graphics ★★★★
 Use of machine ★★★★
 Value for money ★★★★

STAR RATING

Red Giant ☼

13

WORLD CUP SPECIAL



Mexico 86
Computers: Spectrum/Amstrad/C64/BBC/Electron
Supplier: Qualsoft
Price: £9.95
Comment: Excellent football management game but suffers slightly from poor graphics

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

Nova ☀

World Cup 2
Computer: C64
Supplier: Artic
Price: £7.75

Comment: A good second it International soccer. The inclusion of international teams adds a lot to the atmosphere.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

Red Giant ☀

World Cup
Computers: Spectrum, Amstrad
Supplier: Artic
Price: £6.95

Comment: The forerunner to World Cup 2 still available for these machines. The actions a little slower but that's down to the hardware.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

Bright Star ☉

United
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: CCS
Price: £???

Comment: Derived from a PBM game in which you build a team to win the league.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

Bright Star ☉

World Cup Football
Computer: C64
Supplier: Macmillan
Price: £7.95

Comment: Part of a World Cup information pack, the book is excellent, unfortunately the game is dreadful.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

Black Hole ☉

International Soccer
Computer: C64
Supplier: Commodore
Price: £11.95

Comment: The king of football action games, so good that it is used to demonstrate C64's

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

Nova ☀

Indoor Soccer
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Magnificent 7
Price: £7.95

Comment: A poor game spoilt by smudging of players due to colour clashing

PLANET RATINGS

Originality ■■■■
 Graphics ■■■■
 Use of machine ■■■■
 Value for money ■■■■

STAR RATING

White Dwarf ☉



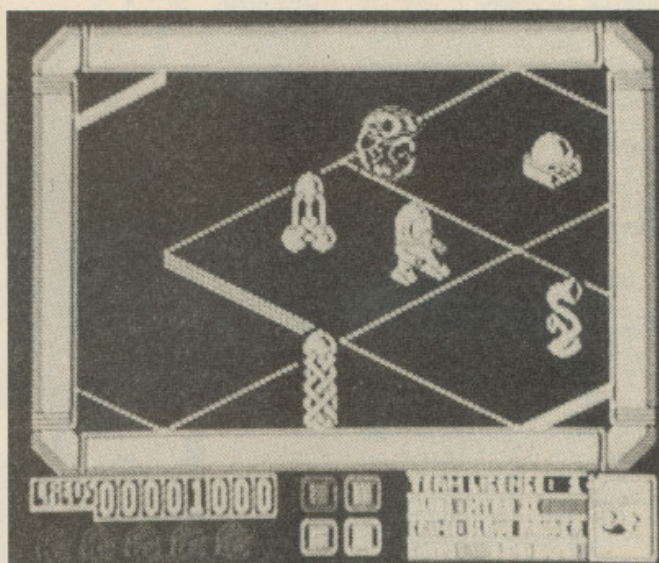
MANTRONIX

The year is 2001 (strains of 'The Blue Danube' start to be heard) and you are a bounty hunter pursuing four alien criminals. Shades of Elite meets Blade Runner? Perhaps not, but Mike Roberts turns mercenary for the occasion just in case.

'Bounty Hunter' — the dramatic name conjours up images of Steve McQueen riding out to right wrongs — as long as the pay is right.

Now Probe Software gives you the chance to do the same — but removed to the not so far future. 2001 is the year, and your newly acquired status of bounty hunter is still (uncrumpled) in your pocket. Off you trek to Zybor — the bounty hunter's happy

hunting ground, an entire planet designed to protect criminals hiding from justice. Suddenly a wanted message flashes to you. Xtro II (the famous and extravagant slave trader) has gone to ground on the planet Zybor accompanied by three other arch criminals. Xtro II's price is 100,000 Cr, Ariel Head's is 250,000 Cr, and the other two you don't really need to know because as a fledgling bounty



hunter you are unlikely to get that far.

The bad guys are wandering around the planet — but bounty hunters get a pretty bad press in most parts of the galaxy and you are barred from leaving your ship (criminals couldn't give a monkey's and meander around to their hearts content).

So this means you must send down your newly acquired (with your recent promotion you also get a 6.7% pay rise — yippee!) Mantronix unit.

Your mantronix is a humanoid robot created in your image. He has a sophisticated pulse laser and a Mk I autoscan camera that lets you see what he is doing. So there you are, on your own (well, your Mantronix unit is hanging around an' all I suppose) against the four most dangerous criminals that the universe has ever seen.

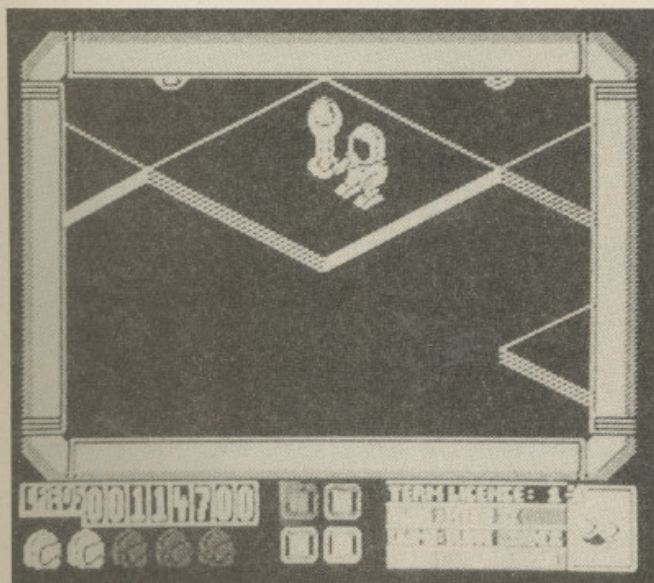
The Game

Mantronix gets its roots from the 3D isometric games that are in vogue at the moment, but the gameplay is significantly different. The view you see isn't based on rooms. You see a view of the surface of the planet that shifts along as you approach one side

of the screen. The switching between screens is exceptionally fast and can almost be disregarded. Too many of these games, whilst being fairly quick at screen swaps, are just that slight bit slow in moving around. So instead of a smooth progression along the game, it is more of a hop, step and jump. Mantronix suffers from none of these problems.

The idea of the game is to shoot the four bad guys to get lots of luvverly money. They appear in various places and can be despatched quite easily. The difficulty comes when you have to try and find them, for the planet is populated by four different types of defence droid. All of which are extremely dangerous (Sir Adrian Dangerous please note!) and pursue you like a lovestruck ZX81 out for a bit of attention when its owner has just gotten himself an Amiga.

All over the planet are various objects and useful items. Most of the objects serve no useful purpose and are just there to hinder your progress, but some of them are really evil. Black holes are the worst as they will whisk you off into oblivion.



Useful objects include bags of money, diamonds, rockets, and laser guns. These last two let you blast the pulsators: these are devices used by the evil criminals to sustain their life force. Also on the planet are the mysterious power cubes: these provide vital fuel for your return home — assuming that you get that far of course.

Power cubes also reverse the direction of the conveyor belts. The conveyor belts are dotted all over the planet and whizz you off in whatever direction that it sees fit. The main problem with this is that you don't know which direction that they start in. In fact the only time that you know that there is a conveyor belt there is when you zip off into the wild blue yonder.

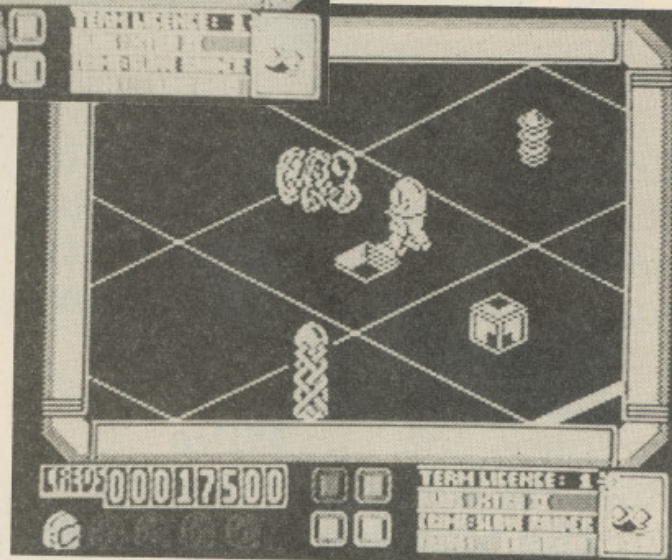
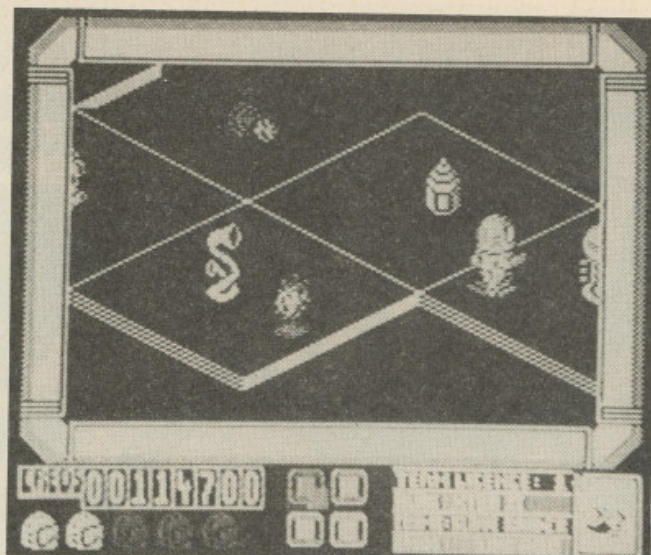
How to Play

A bit tricky this one. The first priority is to map it out, without a map it is very difficult to play the game. Remember to mark the positions and start directions of the conveyor belt, without that knowledge you might as well not leave the ship as you will be wandering around aimlessly.

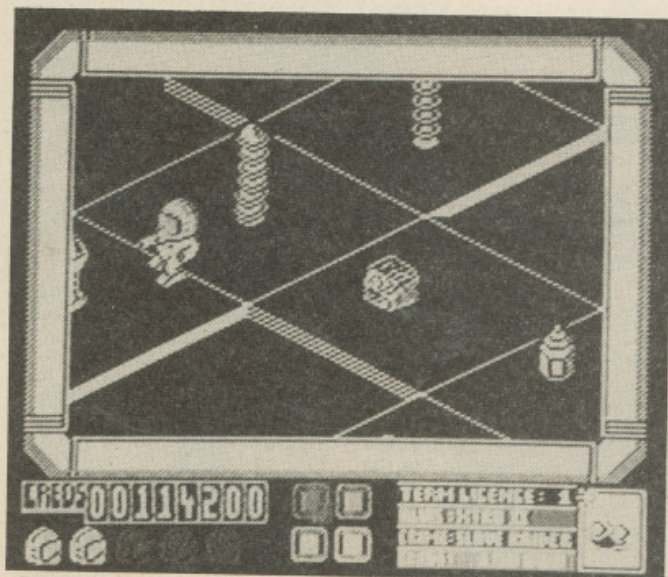
Remember that everything that moves is totally deadly. Walk into it and you die. This includes the alien criminals, the defence robots, and anything else that is even slightly suspicious. All the enemies home in on you in straight lines, and all go at the same speed that you do, run in a straight line and they won't gain on you — but then, neither will you escape from them.

If one is getting a bit close, make sure that it is directly behind you and not on a parallel track — if it is this manoeuvre will kill you! When on an in-line track, turn, fire and turn again. Do this in one continuous movement and you won't have any problems with all the other belligerents.

If a bad guy is really close and on a parallel track you have a few problems. Try to line him up and you will almost certainly die in a particularly gruesome manner. The technique here is to



MANTRONIX



'rub' the chaser off.

If the alien is on your left, then run past an object on its right. The alien will then bash into the object and lose interest (well, wouldn't you?). The same can be repeated on the other side.

When navigating and you get stuck behind a conveyor that isn't going in your direction, look for an alternate route, there is usually a conveyor travelling in the other direction (ie. your way). Either that or a normal walkway (which means that you have to walk — hard luck, you probably need the exercise, being stuck behind a computer all day).

To Conclude

Mantronix is a very good game. It comes from the 3D isometric stable, but is unlike any other game of that type that I have seen — ie. it is eminently playable, and not just a game showing off some pretty graphics.

The plot is interesting and is maintained throughout the game, with your score being counted up in credits and a little wanted poster appearing in the bottom of the screen with a picture of the baddie concerned and some relevant information. Rather like the warrants in the 'Strotinum Dog' series about a futuristic bounty hunter.

Mantronix will be available in a few days from Probe Software and costs only £7.95.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Red Giant



B.B.B. BOUND TO BE A HIT.

"10 levels of fun make this torture excellent value for money. Nova rating. Definitely one of those 'just another go' games. Game of the month February" - Computer Gamer

"The most compulsive game I've ever played. If you don't buy it you'll never know what you've missed." says Gary Penn, Zzap! 64. Gold Medal Award. 97% overall.

CBM 64/128 SPECTRUM 48K

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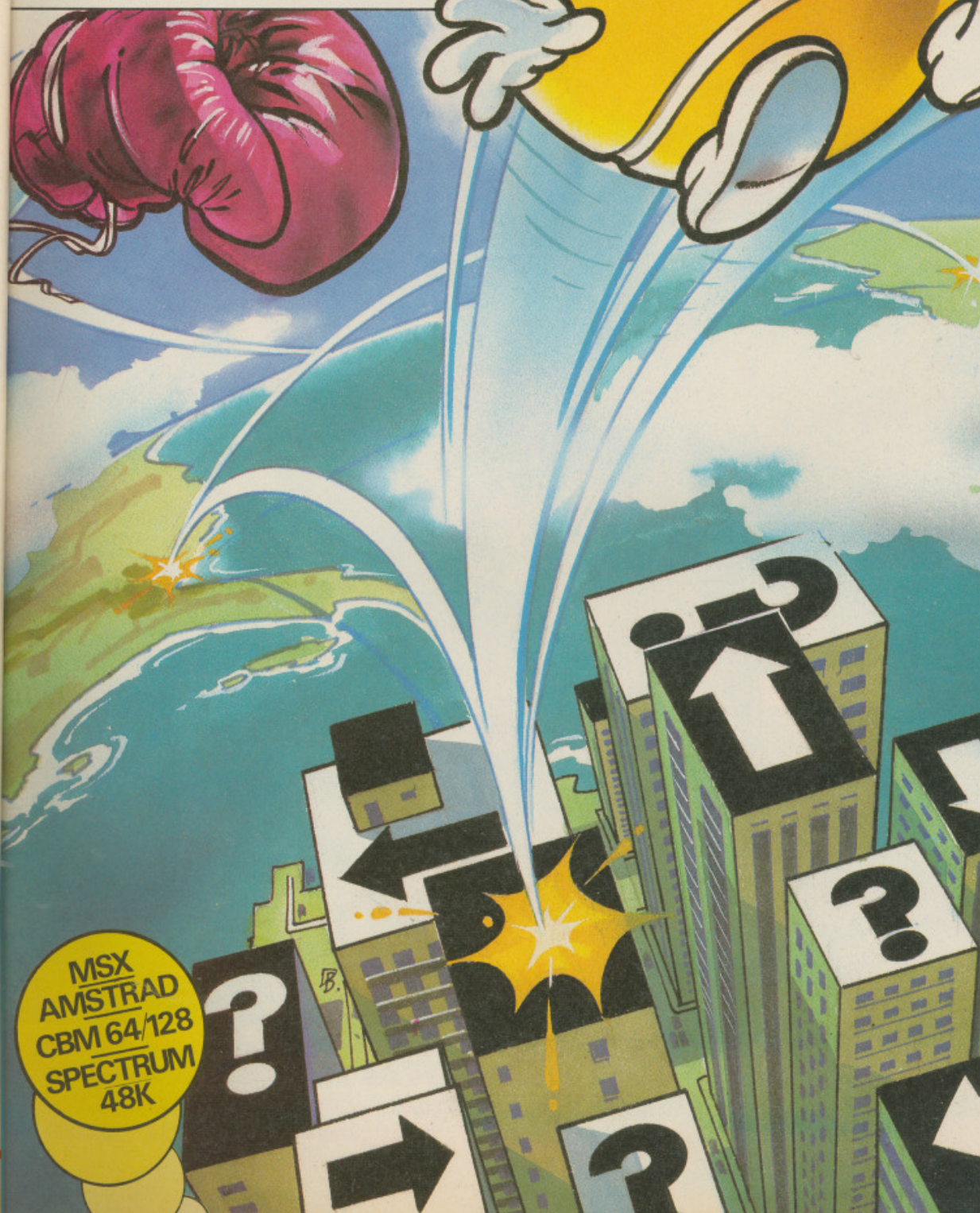
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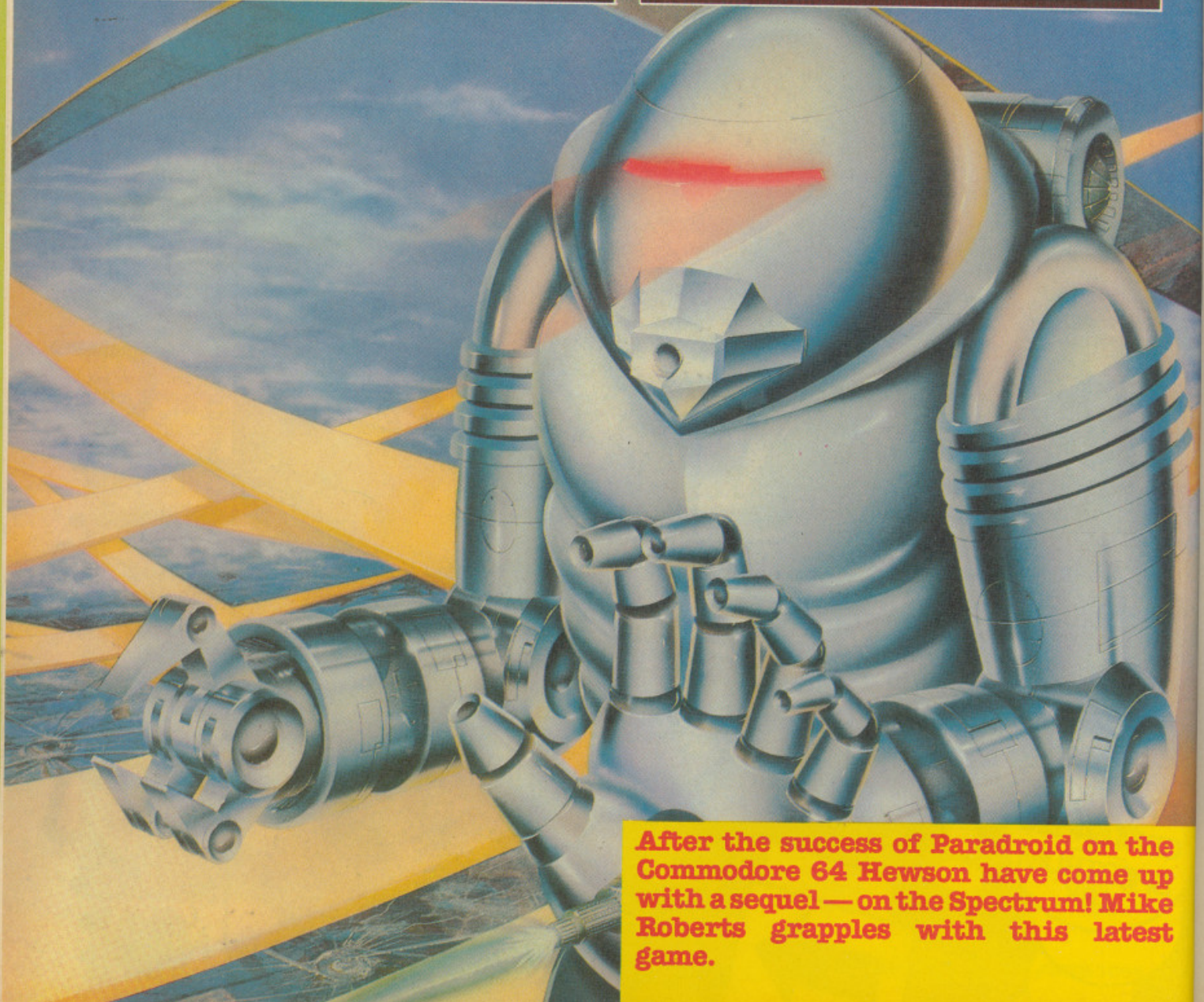
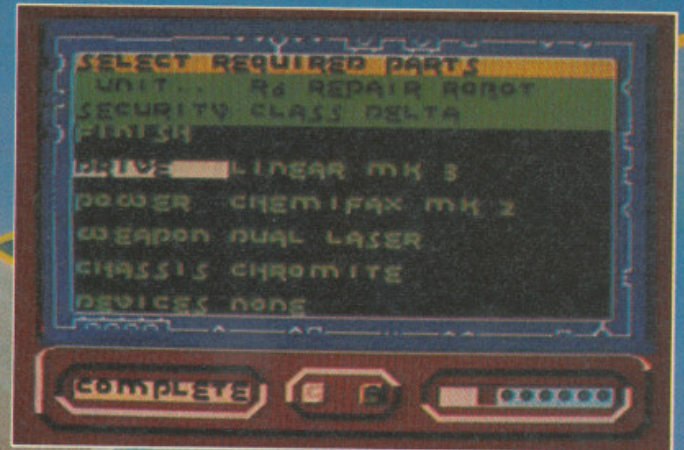
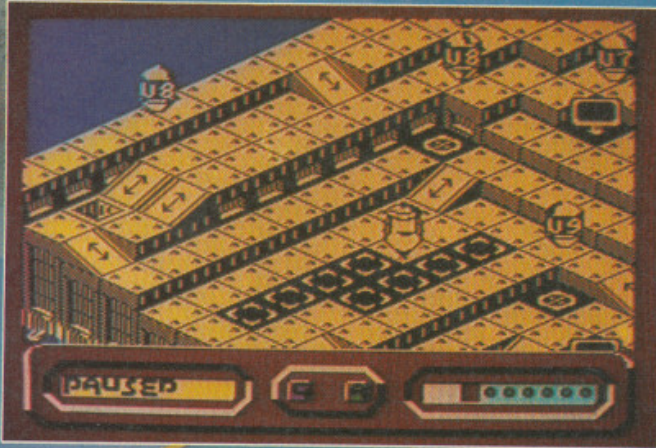
B.B.B. BOUNDER...

Gremilin Graphics Software Limited, Alpha House, 10 Carver Street, Sheffield S1 4FS. Tel: (0742) 753423



MSX
AMSTRAD
CBM 64/128
SPECTRUM
48K

QUAZATRON



After the success of Paradroid on the Commodore 64 Hewson have come up with a sequel — on the Spectrum! Mike Roberts grapples with this latest game.

Deep inside the planet Quarteck lies the underground city of Quazatron. A Paradroid assault team was sent in — but was wiped out. The droid influencing device was ineffective, however information received during the final report from the team resulted in the development of a close quarters grapple unit.

Where a whole paradroid squad failed, can one droid succeed? This is up to you to find out. As KLP 2, you must destroy all the robots in the robot city and cause it to power down.

The city is on various levels — connected by lifts — each level has a number of lifts, which will connect with a different set of levels.

The levels are populated with many different types of robot at different levels of sophistication and with different jobs. These are indicated on the front of them by an identification letter and a number. The number ranges from 1 to 9 where 1 is the most sophisticated.

There job varies, medical, menial, battle, security, repair, programmer, control etc. are all featured. Some of these jobs are unrated. Medical and Programmer droids have no numbers. Each robot also has a security code — but more of that later.

Each robot carries certain types of equipment. A drive unit, a power cell, a weapon, a chassis, and perhaps an auxiliary device that can vary in effect. Usually it is a shield, detector or booster of some kind.

Varying types of robot have different levels of equipment. Drives can be more reliable, weapons more powerful, chassis tougher, and power cells (the most important item) are prone to wearing out and need changing often. The special auxiliary items also vary according to level.

To obtain all this extra equipment you have to 'grapple' with the enemy robot. For those people who have played Paradroid, this will be a familiar exercise as it is similar to using the influencing device. What happens is that you switch to grapple mode and ram an opposing robot. You then gain access to its security circuit. With this you get a picture of a chip on the screen. On either side of this chip is a number of PCB tracks with various joins, pulsers, inverters, and splitters on it. Both you and the robot have a number of 'pulsers' on whatever side of the screen that you have selected. Depending on your, and your opponent's relative level, you will have more or less pulsers than your opponent. The idea behind this

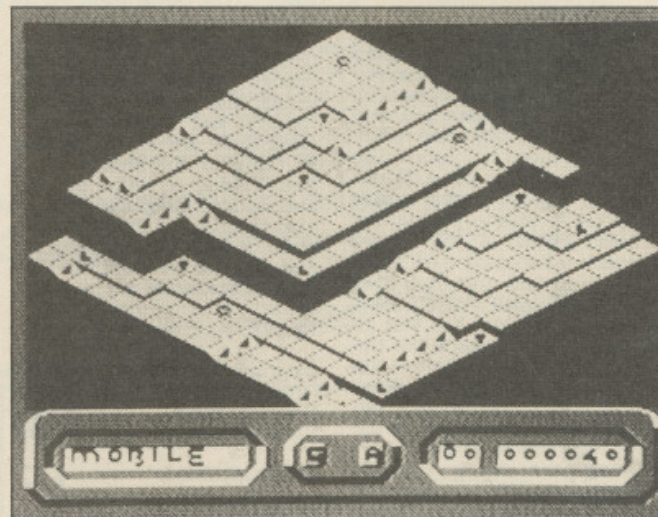
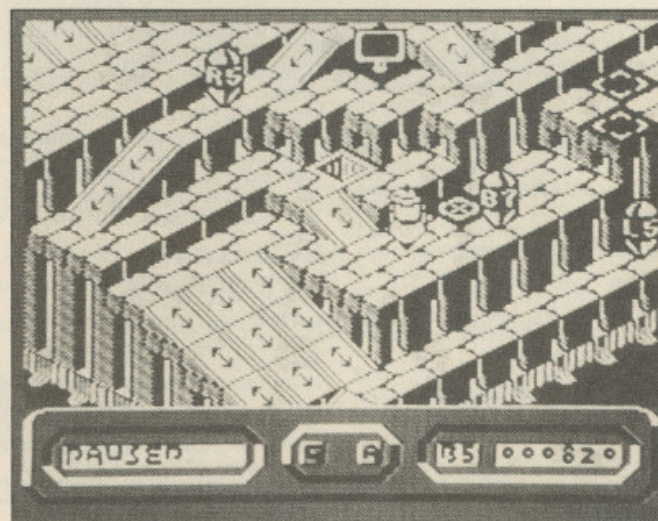
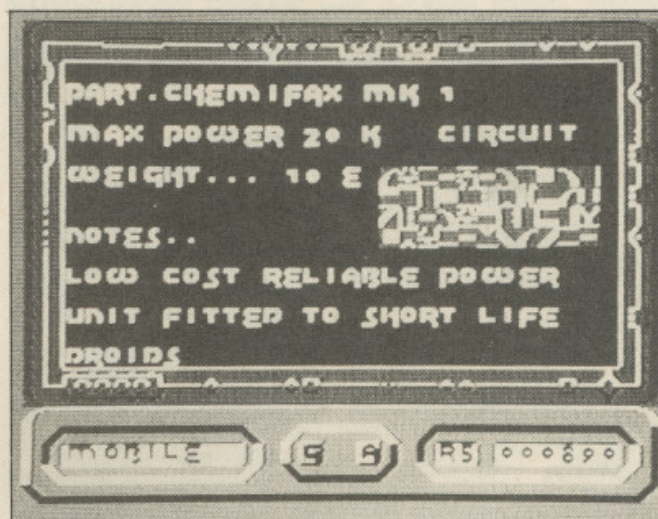
section of the game is to take over your opponent by changing by majority of the cells in the central chip. To do this you move your pulsers up and down the PCB tracks. Firing will inject a current of your colour. Depending on the order that you do it in, the pattern of the tracks, the pattern of the modifiers on the tracks, and your particular strategy against the computer.

With a bit of luck — and an awful lot of thought — you will turn seven or above of the available 12 cells to your colour. If so then you will have your choice of the parts from the robot. You don't have to have all of the parts, in fact, some of the parts may be detrimental to your current configuration. Of course, if an exceptionally powerful piece of equipment is causing you to drain your power too fast then you could always downgrade. It is also in this section that your performance in the grapple is recalled. Depending on how overwhelming your victory is, the equipment will either be interfaced directly or damaged. With a 12-0 win everything can be interfaced. However with a 7-5 narrow squeak, you can expect most of the equipment to be faulty.

Other things that you will encounter in the game apart from lifts are power points — these are squares that will re-energize your droid, providing his power pack is up to it and providing the power point is willing to give him power. Power levels are indicated by the expression on the droid's face (smiling = lots of power, frowning = about to expire), and the speed at which his 'hat' rotates.

These points are also useful if you are attacking one of the alien robots. Normally losing the battle of wits that goes with a grapple results in your demise. But, if you are on a power point (and you are able to charge up) you will stay alive. This also goes for ramming robots and jumping on low power.

The other things that you will find are computer terminals. These let you examine the lift system, give an overall map of the level that you are on, and examine details of equipment. This is where the security code business comes in. When you successfully grapple a droid you effectively take over its status and security code. The status level is significant in the grapple sequence as mentioned earlier and detailed below. The security code, however, is more useful as it allows the user to access information regarding the parts that you are likely to get from



scavenging enemy droids. The problem comes with the codes, as you can only access that information that is rated at the same level as you or lower. And as you are generally scavenging above, rather than below, your current level it gets a bit frustrating. However the information gleaned, is helpful when digging power packs out of lower class droids (it ends up like a 'Which Powerpack' review, comparing different input and output rates and general features).

The playfield itself is based around an isometric 3D-ish moving map. This bears a passing resemblance to Spindizzy, which itself is more than slightly influenced by the current crop of madness-type games. The area that you see on screen appears to be one section of a three by three area. You jump from area to area by touching the side of the screen. The whole thing then slowly scrolls over. This is better than the more common screen to screen format, which can disorientate you something rotten. At least with this you can assimilate the new screen as it appears.

Each level can be on different levels (if you know what I mean), with ramps between them. Small ledges can be jumped off with a small reduction in power. Larger ledges tend to kill you, and on a number of sections, it is impossible to move between levels. To do this you must use a lift, cross over to the other side of another level, and then come up another lift. The alternative is to stack yourself up with bags of power and then jump off, if you land near to a power cell you might be able to make it if the ledge is not that high — I never have, but I'm sure that it's possible.

When trying to build up your defences it is wise to start at the bottom and work upwards. Your level dictates the number of pulsers that you will start with. If you are at a high level and are wiping out lower level droids, then this is a lot safer than shooting droids. Shooting droids uses up energy, but grappling with them only uses up time.

The higher grades of robot can be taken out with your weapon, though the more heavily defended droids need some care. When using the lower powered weaponry, aiming can be a problem due to, say, the narrowness of the laser. To use one of these lower grade weapons it means positioning yourself with a bit more precision when cornering. Why? Well, it means that you can orientate yourself with the dead centre of a square. You can go anywhere on a square, but the droids can only travel along the dead centres of squares. So if you are not lined up well enough, you might as well not bother as the laser bolts will whizz by.

Using the more advance weaponry like the auto-cannon (my personal favourite) seems to be a bit easier, though your

power levels seem to be reduced at high speed. Another note is to never use the autofire option — this wastes power like it was going out of fashion!

N.B. side note (bug) if you die with autofire selected, you will restart with it selected — usually the result is an early demise due to the energy drain.

Weaponry is also level dependent, that's why I like the autocannon — it can knock out almost anything, and is ever so much fun to use.

Grappling

Grappling technique is one of personal preference — so here's mine. Use your initial minute or so to pick which side you are going to take. Pick the one with the most pluses and the least minuses. Plus points are the lines that have the bits on them that improve your chances such as splitters (one to two or three), repeaters that will keep your signal going until long after your original pulse has faded, cells that don't have lines from the enemy side of the screen attached to them, lines that have inverters (on the opposite side of the screen). Minuses are terminators (i.e. a line that never gets to the cell), splitters (i.e. two into one), inverters on your side, and too many pluses on the enemy side.

When the contest starts proper hold off, you have 90 seconds to play the game. A pulse will fade after a few seconds, so leaving off until 25 seconds before the end and then going for it is much better, because a lot of the enemy's pulses will have faded.

Then avoid all inverters, unless one is pointing at an already lost cell, and is part of a splitter. Go for all repeaters, these count heavily in your favour at the end. Obviously terminators have to be avoided. Avoid enemy lines with terminators on them — it's a waste of pulsers. If an enemy pulse goes onto an enemy line that is contestable (i.e. nothing of any great interest on it) pulse onto it, but just after the enemy. That means that when his pulse fades yours will still be in evidence and win the cell.

To conclude, Quazatron is a truly excellent game. It has enough interest to sustain any games player from the simple Ladders and Platforms addict (well there are some platforms in this), to the ardent action freak (plenty of action in this), and the strategy gamer (anyone who thinks that grappling is a piece of cake needs seeing to). Excellent job Hewson, let's have more of the same.

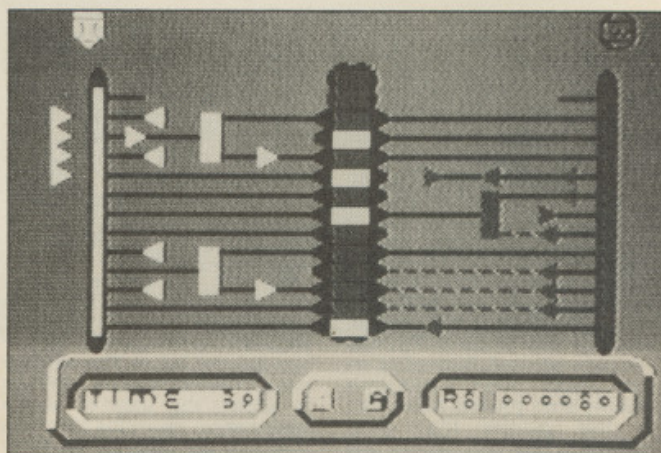
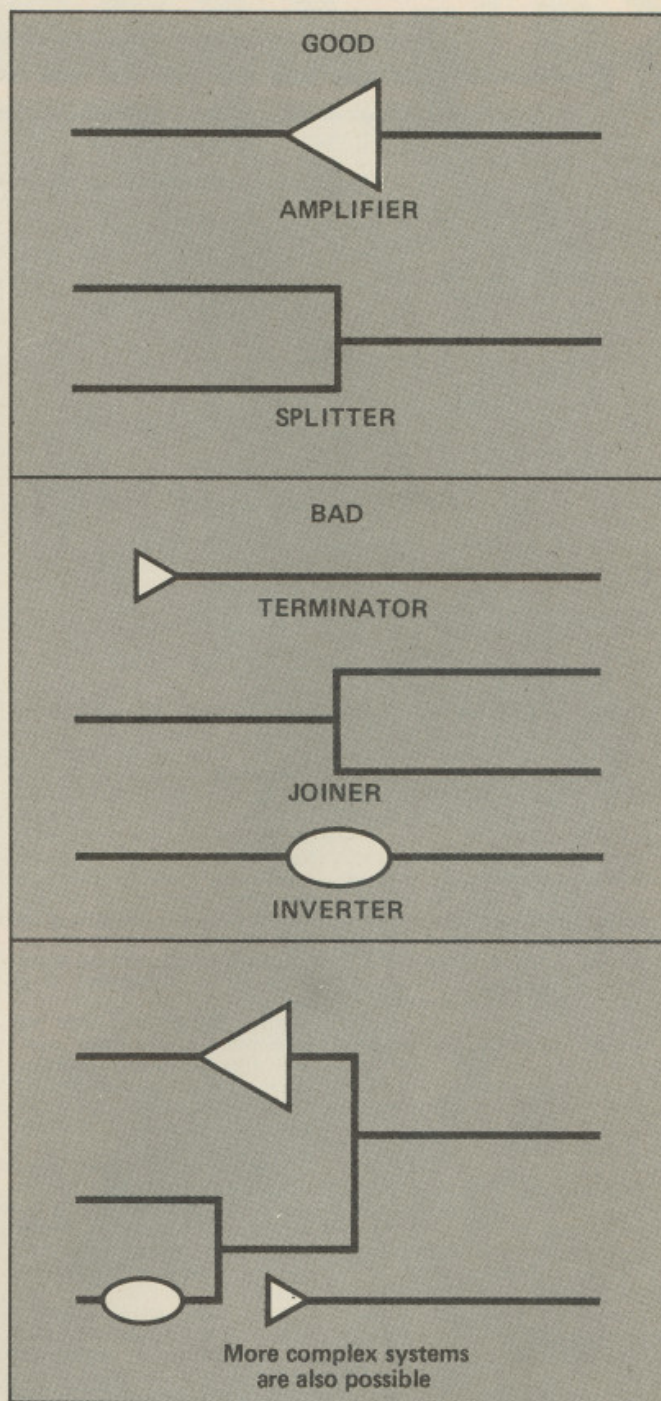
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Nova



JJB

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All you have to do to enter the competition is solve our puzzle. In the picture are the pieces that make up Commodore 64, and Amstrad 464 and one or two others. We've numbered the pieces to make things a little easier for you and if you own a C64 all you have to do is tell us which pieces form the C64. Similarly, if you own an Amstrad you have to tell us which pieces were once a picture of a 464.

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Once you've solved the puzzle, complete the entry form by thinking up the name of a character to star in Fergus McNeill's next adventure, Star

Bored. It's another parody, this time of not only Star Wars, but also all science fiction films and TV shows. So anything from Captain Scarlet to Captain Kirk is allowed.

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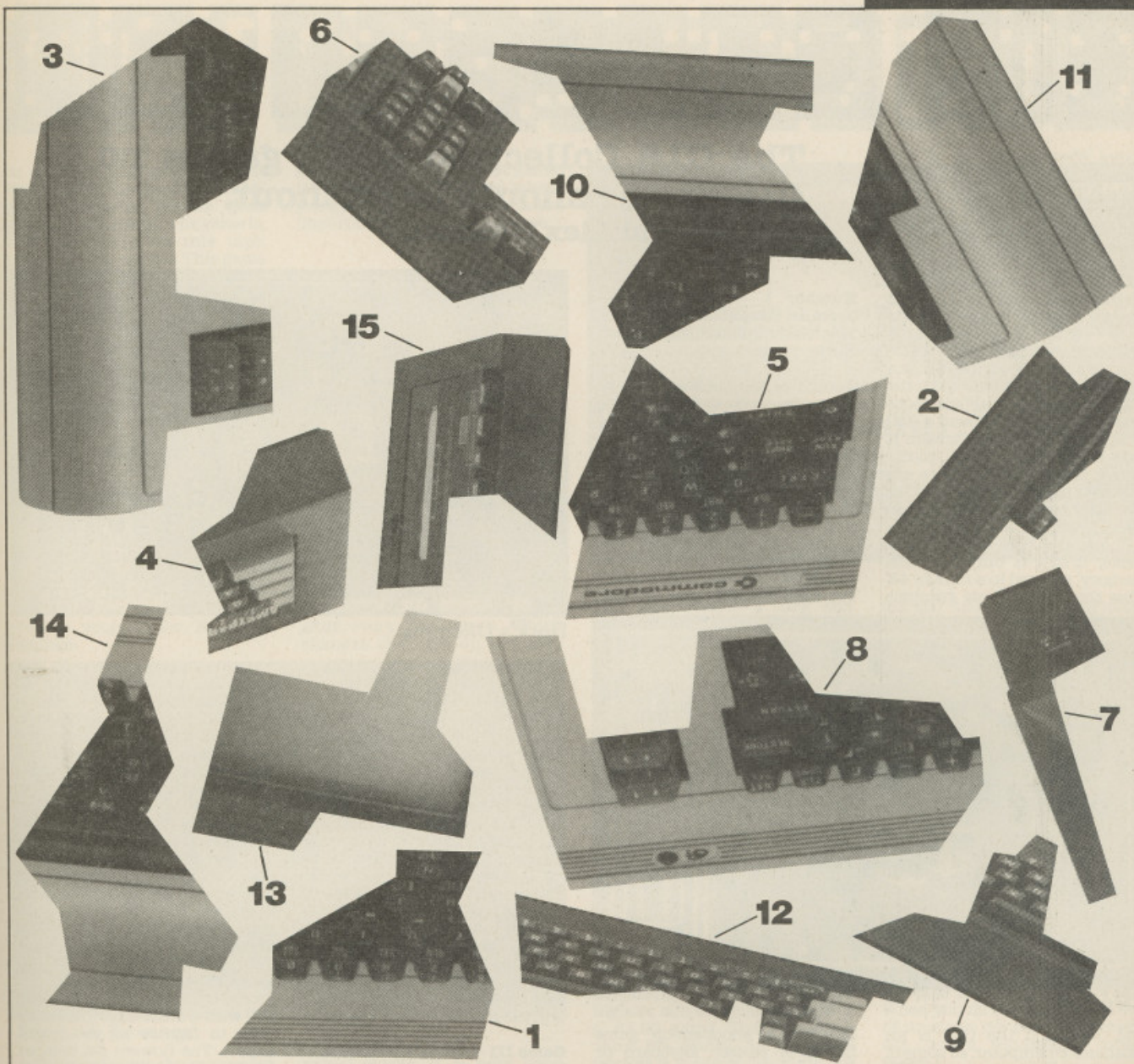
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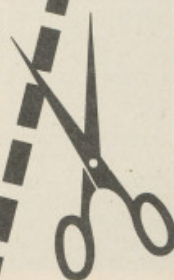
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25

C16

COLLECTION

Hello! This month is a C16 owner's dream—a top ten of C16 greats. The C16 has been out a while now and lots of software has been released. Originally, there were the conversions, but due to the ingenuity of Gremlin Graphics and the budget price of Mastertronic, the C16 has become a games machine in its own right, as well as a programmer's paradise. The C16 is a very good machine; it has a beginner's basic better than the BBC, a built-in machine code monitor, good sound and a 320 x 200 hi-res graphic screen. It also has a 160 x 200 multi-colour hi-res screen. There are 128 colours and good sound, so it's little wonder there are so many great games for it.

There are, however, two setbacks; firstly, it only has 16K memory, reduced to a minute 4K after the use of hi-res graphics

The C16 Collection — 10 games no C16 owner should be without.

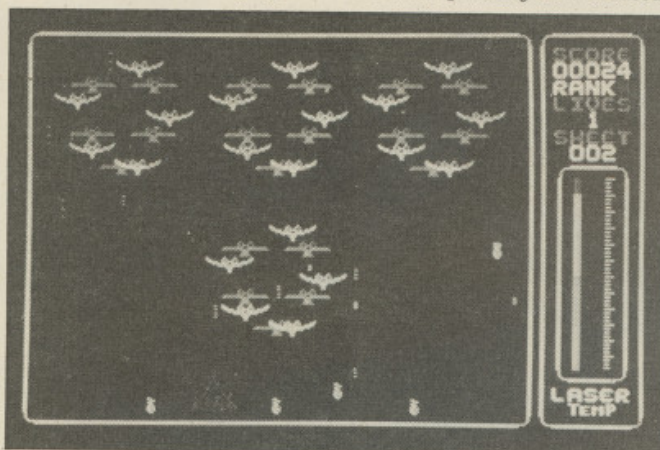
by Rory and Alex Newman

Number 1 — Classics I — Gremlin Graphics £9.95

This is a compilation tape which has four games on it.

Game 1 — Xargon Wars

A battle spectacular in the classic mould. Defend your mother planet against alien hordes. Put to the test your skills as gunnery commander as the space invaders launch wave after wave of laser bombs. Will your nerve last out and reflexes quicken as each success you attain is met by an even faster attack at the following level? You have probably now deduced



Xargon Wars

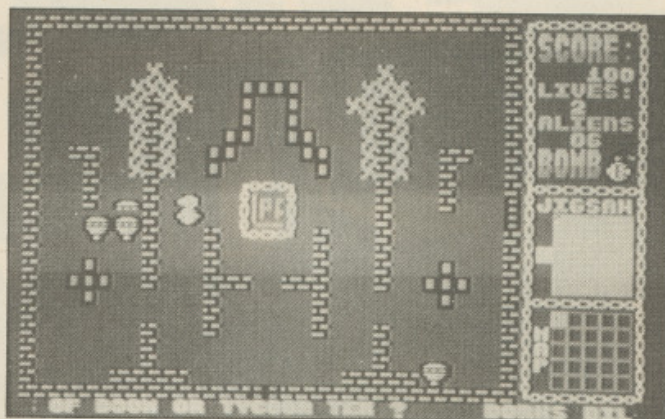
and, secondly, the C64 is an established computer, so some of the major software companies, such as US Gold have, as yet, taken no real interest in it, although it is said that they will bring out some titles for it. Let us hope that it is true and they bring out such classics as Blue Max and Spy Hunter.

Commodore actually surprised me; some of their games are good — for instance, Space Sweep, Harbour Attack and Treasure Island. These games are great but due to fancy packaging, are over-priced and £7.95 each. If you buy them cheaply, or secondhand, they are very worthwhile, but, unless you have a special liking for one of their games, there are many better buys at that price.

that it is a "shoot-em-up" game but it is perfect: keyboard or joystick option, a six place high score table, demo mode, 16 screens, choice of number of lives. It is extremely responsive and also has a sound on/off option. One feature is laser temperature. This is in the box at the side that contains score lives, rank etc. and has three sections; green, yellow and red. Every time you fire, it goes up and slowly cools back down. If it reaches the red section, then your laser becomes inactive until it has cooled down to the green section. This changes the games from an auto fire/fire button firmly held down type of game to a strategic one. As the stages go by, you will see how to make sure you're not caught out by the laser temperature. The game is superbly laid out and is a No. 1 in its very own right.

Game II — Tycoon Tex

The inlay to this makes interesting reading. "Tycoon Tex is a rootin', tootin', oil tycoon in true wild west tradition. Guns blazin', eyes glazin', the faster he can make his pipe petrol, the



Dork's Dilemma

quicker he can add to his bank balance. Sand, ice or snow can't hold Tex's speedy draw as he fights off the dangers of falling bombs, arrows, surface missiles and crash explosives. And, if he's a second too slow — "!!?? Boom — one more leak, one less barrel to add to his sticky hoard". What rubbish!! Gremlin Graphics have two very good but totally different ideas and have tried to make them mix. It doesn't work. You're walking along in Texas in the 19th century, jumping the gaps in your pipeline when a jet tries to bomb you! Then if you complete that stage, you move to Iceland. There's a 21st century background on all stages. It's an enjoyable but very screwy game.

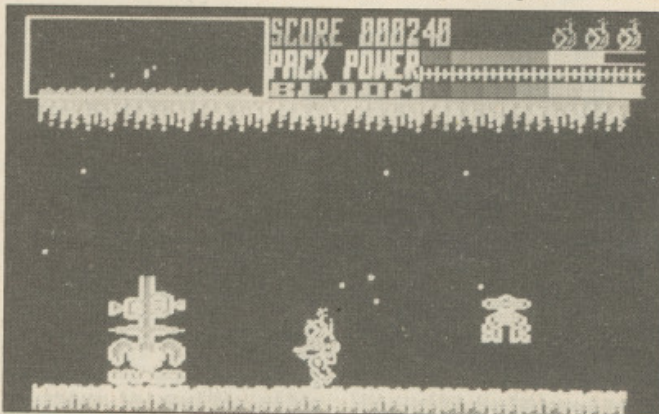
Game III — Dork's Dilemma

This is a totally unique game and as far as I know there are no other version available for any other computer. Dork must collect the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle which are contained in a force field all over the planet. The force field will collapse when all the guards have been killed. To kill them you must drop short-fused bombs, which Dork is not

immune to, so he has to run away. The game this seems to be to get as many of the guards together as possible, then dropping the bomb thus taking out as many as you can with one bomb. After a piece has been obtained, you go after the next piece, leaving via the side door. By pressing ESC you can go on to the jigsaw screen at any time. You can move the pieces about and, if they are in the right place, they will turn white, if not, black. Graphics and sound are quite good and it is a very interesting and enjoyable game.

Game IV — Petals of Doom

Petals of Doom is a "shoot-em-up" with a difference. The Petals refer to flowers as you might expect. The flowers get bombed by the nasties which you must destroy. You must save the flowers by flying around in your jetpac, shooting the nasties. When your jetpac runs out of energy, you can hide under the flowers for protection. Your energy decreases when you fly or fire. If the plants grow to their full height, the force field at the top will open and you can exit on



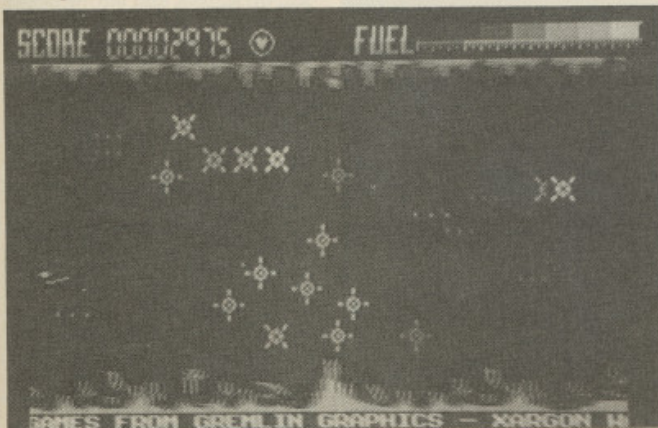
Petals of Doom

C16 COLLECTION

to another and more difficult screen. With the usual keyboard/joystick option. It has good graphics and sound. The game is, like the others on this tape, enjoyable and unique. This game really boosts the tape and makes it more worthwhile. The game proves that playing with flowers can be lethal!

Number 2 — Classics II — Gremlin Graphics £9.95
Another compilation tape of four games.

Game I — Xargon Revenge
The sequel to Xargon Wars and in comparison slightly disappointing. "The people of Xargon have never forgotten Xargon Wars and their humiliating defeat. They know your plan is to destroy them completely along with their four satellite planets. The bait has been set — so prepare yourself for Xargon's Revenge!



Xargons Revenge

The game lacks the enjoyment of Xargon Wars as it is just a poor defender. It is not as well laid out as Xargon Wars and is just a defender in which you only have UP, DOWN and FIRE. It has many screens which are just different graphics coming towards you. The inability to move left and right is most infuriating and is the main cause of loss of life. Rather disappointing after Xargon Wars.

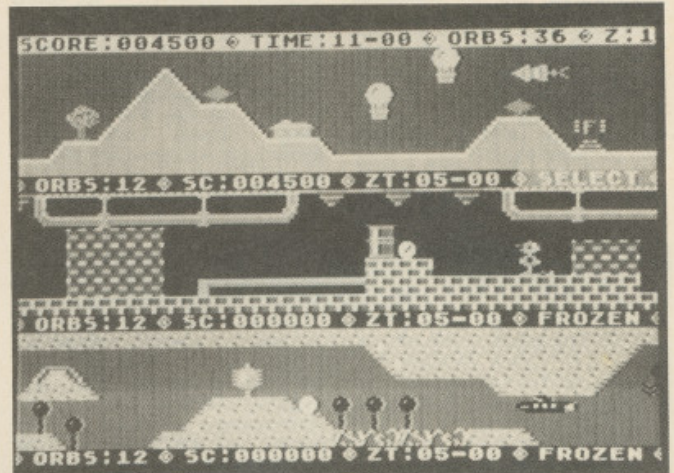
Game II — Bagger

Bagger, or the Famous Bagger Goes to Hollywood, is a thief. He has to move around the screen collecting keys, negotiating hazards such as conveyor belts, poisonous plants, collapsing walkways, trains, and other such nasties. When you have all the keys, you must go the safe door. Meanwhile, your energy is gradually ticking away. It's like the Perils of Willy and has many stages. I confess I have only got on to stage 2, which has a giant Commodore logo amongst other things. The other stages promise to be just as good and this is another fun game. The graphics

are not stunning and that game is slow (notably it stops when you pick up a key) but it is an important addition to this tape.

Game III — Time Slip

A totally amazing game, the screen is split into three sections and you control one section at a time. The sections are called Zones. Zone 1 is the Planet surface with a starfighter at your disposal. Zone 2 is an underground cavern. Zone 3 is a mini sub. Each zone incorporates different hazards. To succeed you must destroy 12 orbs in each zone. You can interchange between zones after losing a life or if you use the "Fire" function. There is an overall timer which decreases from 24 hours. If you hit fuel pods or oil barrels you gain time, but if you are hit you will lose it. A time-slip occurs after every five losers. Which changes the time on the indi-



Timeslip

This will involve a long and perilous journey on his magic cloud. High in the air you will encounter many evil forces. Use your magic staff to fire at and destroy the evil creatures of the universe."

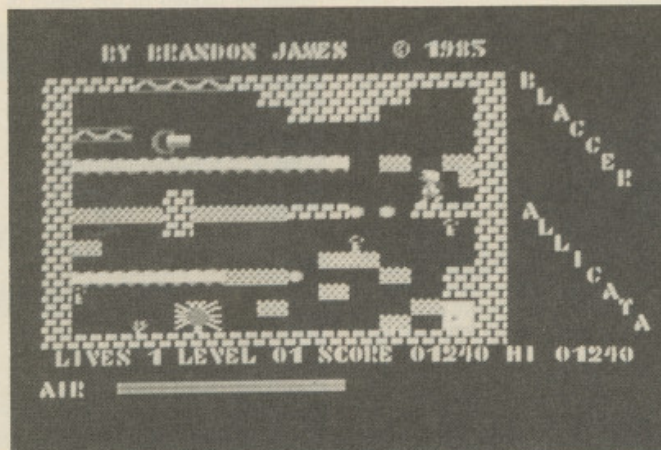
All this is a defender where your spaceship is a pink cloud. Fairly amusing, it's the sort of game to turn to on a rainy day when you've played some of the others and have run out of ideas. An important fact is that all the games on this tape NOVALOAD, which means you only have to wait two minutes for it to load as compared to ten.

Number 3 — Formula One Simulator — Mastertronic £1.99

Surprising to think that the highest non-compilation tape is a £1.99 game. This is superb value for money. As the name implies it is one of the multitude of racing games. It is to see what has been put into 16K of memory. It has a scenic landscape comprising mountains, bridges, castles and trees, beautifully laid out at the top of the screen that smoothly scrolls as you turn corners, giving a very realistic view. The track is

marked out in posts, giving more of a rally car look. You accelerate quickly in low gear up to a speed of 128 mph, then press the fire button and you're in high, joystick forward and you're at 240 mph. The red blob on the horizon comes nearer and increases in size and clarity — a car! Over to the other side of the road, one more successfully negotiated. The wheels screech as you slow down braking round the corners — very realistic. At the bottom of the screen is your score, time left, lap time, gear and high score as well as a wheel which turns as you do. This takes your mind off the fact that you're holding a joystick. The first lap you have 90 seconds in which to complete it and thereafter 60 seconds per lap plus the time you have left. When you do eventually run out of time you get points for every car you've successfully overtaken.

The inlay reads "Based on Formula One, levels of acceleration, braking and road holding, this program has been developed for the ultimate in realism. Get your braking points and line the rough corners in right, hold the car on the tyre squeaking limit, overtaking the other cars if you can and experience all the speed and excitement of motor racing." And for once it's not far wrong. It is the ultimate racing game for the C16 and, although it's not cluttered with dials and billboards, its simplistic beauty is a match for any other version. At £1.99 a definite MUST for all C16 owners. It has only one setback — loading time — but don't all good games?



Bagger

C16 COLLECTION

Number 4 — Bandits at Zero — MAD £2.99

"Defences are low and the bitter war continues. Alone in the skies you must survive by fighting off endless attacks from the enemy. Your perilous mission is to destroy the enemy aircraft carrier based at sea!"

Well, that's your mission but it doesn't sound much like the title does it? Anyway, about the game. MAD stands for Mastertronic Added Dimensions and so I assume that these games are better than the normal Mastertronic £1.99 games, well sort of. The scene is out at sea with you flying above the mountains, the sea is made to look 3D by a series of dots spreading further about as they get lower. You are a red plane speeding along after fuelling quite happily, when suddenly you're attacked by other planes that enjoy firing black dots at you from their rear end and seem to get their kicks from ramming straight into you for no apparent reason, some just like firing at you. After a few minutes night begins to fall and the joyful music dies down. Then you notice on your scanner a small dot approaching but, be warned, do not attempt to blast it away because, if you glide slowly up behind it, you begin to refuel; if the refuelling process is completed then an extra shield is gained (shields are used instead of lives — you get 7). Then it's back to day with a different screen. Icebergs, tankers and mountains are just some of the hazards; your main aim is to get to the enemy aircraft carrier and blow it out of the water, but, alas, I have not got this far. Joystick is optional but is easier than keyboard. Anyone know Falcon Patrol for 64? Well, that is roughly what Bandits at Zero is and a promising version at that.

This has a high score table feature and makes good use of the 16's colour. A promising start. Let's hope MAD produce more games for the C16.

Number 5 — The Berks Trilogy CRL £6.96

Game I — Berks

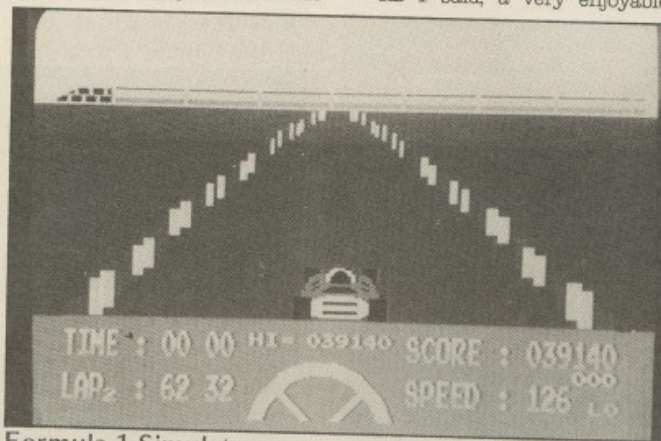
If you like simple but addictive games, then Berks is the one for you. The Berks have invaded earth protected by the homing drones. You are a lone fighter in the new HI-TEC Terror Tank created to seek and destroy all

the Berks. The Terror Tank must move around the screen blasting everything around him but beware, when a Berk is destroyed it will begin to fade, so do not ram full speed into the poor fading creature as you will be blown away. There are walls generously scattered around the screen, these can be useful but also fatal. So far the game sounds pretty normal doesn't it, so what makes it a chart topper? Well, I would say the fact that the drones can only be stunned for around 10 seconds certainly makes things more interesting. So does the energy level which proves very frustrating when you are doing so well and suddenly BOOM you've wasted all your energy — tough! I have never actually finished this game but I can say that there are

gun mounted at your waist. There is no diagonal movement in this game because the passage ways are only large enough for one character to move through so don't stun drones all around you 'cause it's bound to end in tears and the drones don't cry easily. There is an endless number of screens and they all have their different scrolling system, but the complete object of this game is to paint as much as possible and stay alive for as long as you can.

The game itself is a very enjoyable one and the graphics are good. I especially liked the teddy bears which wear sunglasses! Major Blink is a kind of goose (honest!) that is wearing a sort of star trek space suit and again the drones are diamonds.

As I said, a very enjoyable



Formula 1 Simulator

a fair number of screens; to finish one screen you have to blast a certain number of Berks which gets higher as you progress.

Although joystick is optional it is far easier because of the diagonal movement and firing. The graphics are not of a very high standard, with you being a pulsating blue and white cross, the Berks colourful little men who look like they're wearing pyjamas and, lastly, the drones just diamonds that flicker when stunned.

Game II — Major Blink

Now I've heard of sequels being different to the original, but Berks 2 has gone too far, in fact the only similarity is those pestering drones that again can only be stunned, but let's look at the game. Now, instead of playing a human bent on destroying every living Berk you play Major Blink the creator of the Berks, trying to lead a normal life by painting, but, of course, there's always one thing that tries to upset you and this time it's super cool, colourblind teddy bears who try to unpaint your work. But you can sort them out by giving them a nasty shock by blowing them away with your double barrelled laser

game that proves good, addictive arcade play.

Game III — Berks 3: They're Angry

At a quick glance Berks 3 looks rather like Berks 1, but take a closer look and you'll see there is a lot more to Berks 3 than meets the eye. Once again you take the form of the Terror Tank blasting through every known Berk (still protected by the dreaded drones) but this time you are in the Berks City searching for their sacred treasure hidden in the heart of the inner sanctum. The Berks have reinforced their walls with energy which will drain your points if you smash into them. This game is a kind of arcade adventure, in other words, you don't have to finish one screen at a time, you can go through any number of exits and entrances. Firstly, you must find 21 keys to open a force field; the keys are put behind blocks which must be blasted away before you can gain the key. After the force field is opened you enter the inner sanctum where you must get four keys to open another, smaller field. Then you enter the treasure chamber where you must find another ten keys to gain access to the treasure, then just ram into it and you have

won! Joystick is optional and, as in Berks 1, using one is far easier. The graphics are the same as in Berks 1 except some drones are different, some even have faces! This is undoubtedly the best of the three by far and full marks to CRL for a brilliant arcade game.

Number 6 — Mr Puniverse — Mastertronic £1.99

At last! A truly brilliant arcade adventure for the 16. Big Mac 2 (Mr Puniverse) is THE arcade adventure for the C16. Of all the Mastertronic games I have played and thought were good, this beats them all. In the game you are the wimpiest of wimps, Mr Puniverse, tottering around 25 fun-filled rooms avoiding plungers and missiles. The object is to collect 25 power pills, essential for all wimps to survive, but beware, apart from the plungers and missiles, there are clear destruction boxes that kill on impact and falling clocks can put you in a sticky situation as well. Every room can be entered at will except if you get on a ladder when you could end up anywhere.

You have an energy level which, as in most other games, cause problems. For some unapparent reason you have an exploring time. When you find a pill, enter the next room and the energy level will go up and there is a rest room where your energy automatically goes up.

The graphics fit perfectly to the game and there is a nice feature that allows you to kill yourself by pressing "D" if you are stuck where you cannot move.

Overall this is an amazingly colourful game that makes good use of the 16's ability. It's certainly a must for 16 owners.

"The More Adventures of Big Mac" is another one in the series where you must complete one screen at a time. It is virtually the same, but it has a new "Y"ing feature to move on to another screen if you wish. Another good game.

Number 7 — Tutti Frutti — Mastertronic £1.99

Looking at the cover of this game you'd think you played an ice-cream seller but this is not so. You play super Strawberry avoiding acid apples and falling ones. The object of the game is to eat up all the cherries, or kill all the acid apples. When you fire it will continue flying around until it hits one living thing (including you!). It is difficult to know which of the two you will have to do, as there is nothing to tell you, so you might end up having to do both.

There is a spritely tune played in the background and there is a novel way of high score as well; scores are printed up the side and your score goes up as you

C16 COLLECTION

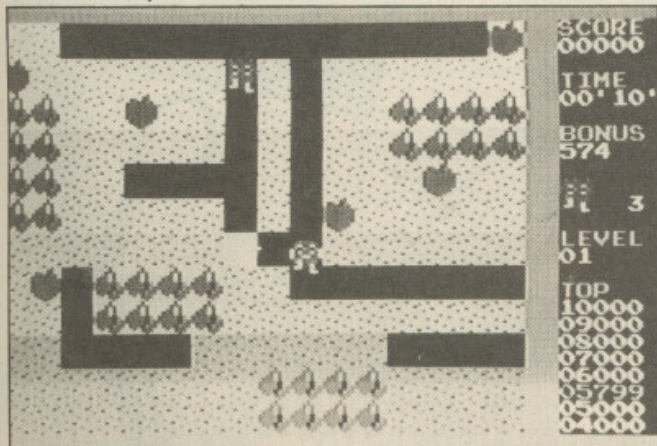
gain points. Joystick is needed. The graphics are very good. You, as super Strawberry are exactly like one and acid apples are green round things with white limbs. The game reminds me very much of another Mastertronic game, Rockman, but it is simpler and more addictive. However, when you buy this game do not be deceived by the cover, as this has nothing to do with the game.

A very worthwhile game that should prove very successful with C16 owners — well anyway I liked it.

Number 8 — Death Race 16 Atlantic £2.99

"You have seconds to overtake as many cars as you can. Drive at up to speeds of 300 mph trying to avoid other cars as they swerve across your path. If you manage to overtake 70 cars without losing three lives, play is extended but this time you only have 60 seconds. Each extended play gives you an extra life and a bonus score. The game features many different screens, day and night driving and a high score", or so the inlay says and it's true. I was almost put off buying it because of the title. Death Race indeed. Normally games with titles like that are useless, but I forked out the £2.99 and wow! — a great game. Think back six to eight years ago — the "in" arcade game was Demon Driver. It's like that except it's 3D with the buildings, trees, lamp posts etc, coming towards you. The cars are the same, like a racing car. The graphics are simplistic but suit the game down to the ground. My favourite is the lamp posts, they are so realistic. The game is another cheap great for the C16 and is well worth buying. Great value for money and a game I've been wanting to get my hands on since the days of Demon Driver. It is another definite must and alternative to Formula One Simulator, which doesn't have corners, but stunning side line graphics.

Tutti Fruitty



Number 9 — Hustler — Bubble Bus £7.95

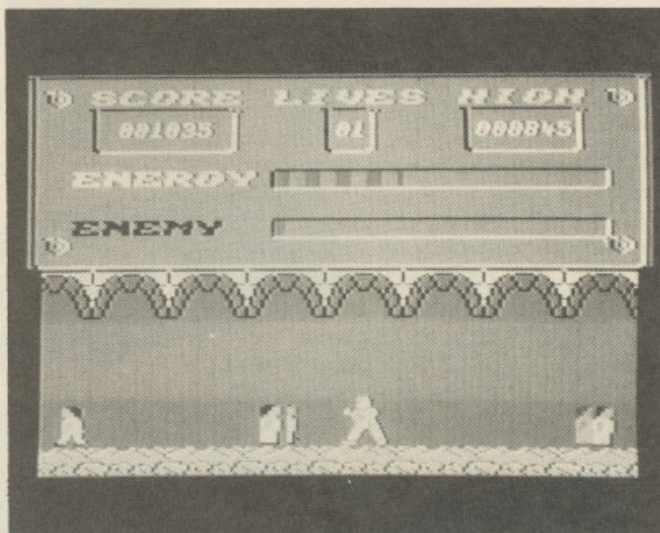
Hustler is a good game. It is limited in the fact that, apart from the cue ball, there are six balls to pot. This limitation is due to the fact that balls and pockets are a reasonable size, unlike Steve Davis' Snooker. There are six games you can play:

- 1) 1 player — pot any ball in any pocket
- 2) 1 player — pot the balls in order
- 3) 1 player — pot each ball in its own pocket
- 4) 2 players — pot each ball in its pocket and score the pocket
- 5) 2 players — Mini pool: similar to the game played on Shoot Pool. Each player plays until one player pots a ball, either a spot or a stripe. He continues to pot that one (either spots or stripes) until one person finishes by potting all his balls. This is probably the best game and is easy to understand.
- 6) 2 players — one player pots in order 1-6 the other plays in order 6-1. There is a high score table for games 1-4. To play the game, move a cross round the screen. The cue ball will pass over this spot. The best idea is to position the cross against the ball you want to hit in the appropriate place. At the bottom of the screen is a marker continually changing, this represents how hard you hit the ball. It can be a bit tricky because, if you try to hit the ball at full pace and just mistime it, you hit it at the weakest velocity and play a foul. You also have top spin, back spin, left spin and right spin. You can use none, just one or two. Score and fouls are controlled by the computer. The music is superb — the best I have ever heard on the C16. It is the theme tune to Pot Black. It's extremely good. The graphics are perfectly adequate with well-sized balls and shaped pockets. The cushions work perfectly, making a truly wonderful simulation. In my view, it outclasses Steve Davis' Snooker. A much better buy.

Game 10 — Football Manager — Addictive £6.95

This conversion features transfer market, full league tables, injury problems, save game facility, promotion and relegation, FA matches, managerial rating, four divisions, as many seasons as you like, pick your team for each match and 7 skill levels. In fact the only things the C16 version

graphics. At the end of the season the final league table is printed. The top two teams are promoted and the bottom two relegated. The skill ratings change, so, if you have a team full of players skill 4 and 5, at the next season they may be only skill 1 and 2 (as I found to my cost). In all, this is a very good version of the C64 hit and well worth buying.



Kung Fu Kid

lacks compared with the C64 is the graphics (which are boring) and the renaming of the players (which is tedious). You have a choice of teams to manage, but whichever one you choose, you'll start in Division 4. The seven skill levels are (1) Beginner, (2) Novice, (3) Average, (4) Good, (5) Expert, (6) Super Expert and (7) Genius. I find a good way to work is to start on Beginner and, if you manage to win the Division 1/FA Cup double move up one level. In the game you get 12 players; 4 defenders, 4 midfield, and 4 attackers. When you see the players you will see the player's name, his number (used for picking the team) his skill rating (1-5) energy (1-20). The energy rating is important because, if a player has only 1 energy rating he may become injured if played, but if rested, his energy will increase by 10. Also displayed are the player's value which relates to skill and division only and whether he is playing, injured or available. Loans are available but are directly related to your division.

Division 1: you can loan up to £1,000,000 but it decreases by 1/3 million every division to only £250,000 in Division 4. 5% is paid back every week plus 1% on the outstanding amount. You can buy players but you cannot have more than 16 players in your squad at any one time.

Instead of the graphics there is a running match commentary, which is almost as boring as the

Well, there you have it. 10 games no C16 owners should be without. Other games to look out for are by Gremlin Graphics: Search for the Sky Gullwing Falcon Jetbrix Kung Fu Kid

From Atlantis: Space Escort Panik

From Mastertronic: Spectipede Rockman Squirm

Also all Anirog/Anco games are good and for a true fighting game "Thai Boxing" is worth a look in. "ACE" is a good flight/fight game but a bit over-priced. But those ten games are the ones to buy. They give a wide range and will hopefully, give many enjoyable gaming hours.

S·U·B·S·C·R·I·P·T·I·O·N·S

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Last month I spent some time talking about The Quill and The Illustrator, and I mentioned various companies which released Quilled adventures in the past.

One of them was Eighth Day Software, and I'm glad to say that they are still very much alive and kicking — in fact, they're about to release two new titles for the Spectrum.

One of them is called HRH — which, as no doubt you all know, stands for Her Royal Highness. Mike White, one of Eighth Day's directors, says that HRH is a pretty topical title, and I can't argue with that, with the Queen's sixtieth birthday falling at the end of April.

"It's a satirical game about the Royal Family," he says. "All of the major members are in it — and a corgi as well."

The second new game from Eighth Day is called Ronnie Goes to Hollywood. It has nothing to do with rock bands with similar names, and a lot to do with a certain American president who seems to be much in the news at the moment.

In Ronnie Goes to Hollywood, you, as Ronnie Reagan, have to get to Hollywood, make a film, and then get back to the White House in one piece — all in the space of a week.

Mike White says of both the new games, "we were fed up writing Middle Earth type games, so we thought we'd do something different." Ronnie Goes to Hollywood, he explains, is "a Spitting Image type kind of game — a British image of Ronald Reagan."

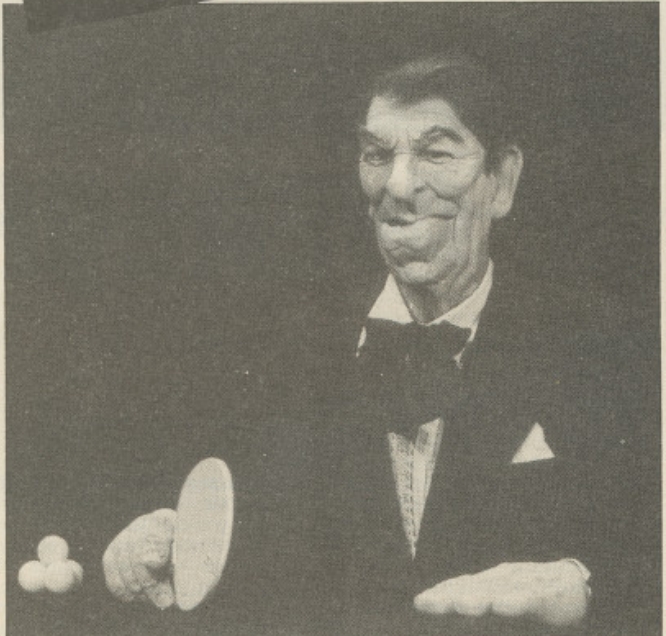
Both games are text and graphic adventures, the graphics being provided by courtesy of The Illustrator — and retail at £6.95 each. This is a departure from Eighth Day's previous pricing policy — their games have been £2.50 in the past (and more than half a dozen adventures still are available from them at that price). Mike White is honest about the reason for this change in policy — "there's no future for us in budget software — the overheads are too high."

Well, Eighth Day is one company being forced to move out of the budget field — and down south in Hampshire, another company is moving into budget games. The newcomer is Interceptor Micros, which has been offering a number of its very popular — and challenging — adventures at £1.99 for some time, the list of cut-price games includes classic titles like Heroes of Karn, Empire of Karn, Message From Andromeda, Forest at World's End and Jewels of Babylon — all very highly regarded when they first came out, although getting perhaps a bit long in the teeth now.

These games, however, are still being sold under the Interceptor label; but now the company is also going to be producing games at £1.99 under a new label called Players.

THE TROLLS TAVERN

Martin Croft reports on the latest adventure news.



Ronnie Goes to Hollywood - coming soon from Eighth Day Software.

According to Interceptor's Mark Norsworthy, "these are products which were originally designed for sale at £7.00, and we are selling them at £1.99." Apparently, there are a number of graphical text adventures included in the Players range.

In addition to the new Players range, Interceptor is to release two adventures under its own label.

The first is a conversion of Warlord for the Commodore 64. It is a graphical text adventure, previously available on the Spectrum and Amstrad, in which the player takes the role of a Celtic warrior in Roman occupied Britain. The objective is

to overthrow the Roman yoke and drive the invaders out of the island — shades of Boudicca's revolt!

The other game is an as yet unnamed adventure which at present is known as Earthquake. Again it's a text and graphic adventure, but apparently the graphics will be unanimated.

Warlord for the Commodore 64 will sell for around £7.00 (it's available at £1.99 for other micros). Earthquake has as yet, no fixed price, and will be available for the Spectrum and Amstrad.

Meanwhile, up in Scotland, Talent Computing, which has released a couple of adventures

for the QL, Commodore 64 and other machines; one of them, West, is a bit run of the mill — but the other one, Zkul, is very good indeed.

Unfortunately, though, like many other companies, Talent has put adventures on the back burner for a while, and is concentrating on utility programs for 68000 based machines.

Don't despair completely, as Talent spokesman John Tweedy says, "we're still working on adventures for the Atari and Amiga — they're still going to be coming." In fact, he admits, Talent has an adventure "half written by the author of Zkul. It has been waiting for a while, and it can be picked up and finished pretty soon."

Another company with plans for putting adventures on to 68000 based machines is Rainbird, sister company to Firebird and also part of British Telecom's burgeoning interest in the fields of software publishing.

Rainbird has released The Pawn, which was previously available from Sinclair for the QL, for the Atari ST (which is the version reviewed elsewhere); conversions will also be done for a very impressive list of other machines — the Amiga, Commodore 64/128, Apple II, Amstrad 6128, BBC B, Atari 800XL and 130XE and Spectrum 128; the IBM PC is also a possibility.

In addition to that little list, Rainbird may well be buying the rights for the QL version off Sinclair, which would give the company just about a clean sweep.

Prices for the various different versions will range from a minimum of £14.95 to a maximum of £24.95 — the actual price for each different machine will depend on whether The Pawn is on disk or cassette and how many disks are needed.

Magnetic Scrolls, the company which originally wrote The Pawn, is working on all the conversions, and is also designing another adventure for Rainbird, although very little more than its name is known at present, and that's only a working title. Right at the moment though, it's known as 'Guild of Thieves'. This will be released on about ten machines, a Rainbird source says, although exactly which won't be decided finally until the company can see how the conversion of The Pawn do.

Anyway, that's about it for now — but there should be a lot of news coming out of the Consumer Electronics Show which is coming up soon, so hopefully I'll have much more news for you next time around.

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PYRAMID



OF THE WEREJACKAL

Explore an ancient tomb in our latest paper and pencil adventure

Welcome to another Heroic Warrior Adventure! All you need to play is paper, a pencil and two six sided dice. Make your choices and follow the numbered paragraphs as directed. Combat is resolved as follows:— Every creature is represented by two numbers, a strength rating and some life points. This is shown in the text as SR/LP. In a battle, roll one die and add the number to your SR. Now do the same for your opponent. Whoever has the **lower** total loses that particular round and must subtract two from their LP total. When the LP total reaches zero, the character dies. You start with an SR/LP of 8/20.

You are Arkansas Smith, the famous archaeologist. For a long time now, you have been searching for the fabled pyramid of the Werejackal — an obscure Inca God. After a tip off, you are searching in a rainforest high up in the Andes.

Go to — 22

30

1. The passage opens out into a large chamber. In the centre is a statue of a man with a leopard's head. The only exit is south.

To go S — 17

To examine the statue — 53

2. You are in a small chamber with passages east and south. In the NW corner is a small spring trickling with a thick, blood red liquid and staining the floor where it splashes.

To drink — 50

To go E — 15

To go S — 33

3. There are two torches above a picture of a large monkey. Do you want to get:—

The left hand torch — 19

The right hand torch — 61

Both together — 38

4. The doors are carved with pictures of strange creatures such as half man, half leopard. The doors swing

open at your touch revealing a wide corridor. At the far end you can make out a pair of ornately carved ebony statues — large figures of upright jackals, inlaid with gold and large rubies for eyes. In the foreground is a skeleton, pierced through the chest by a spear.

To go in — 39

To go out — 22

5. Whilst you were spending time examining the treasures, you activated a sandtrap in the antechamber behind you. Fine grained sand is pouring through slits at the top of the room. How many treasures have you got on your list? Subtract that number from six to give you a total. Now roll one die. If the number on the die is equal to or less than your total, you succeed in escaping e.g. if your picked up three treasures, $6 - 3 = 3$. If your

die roll is 1, 2 or 3, you escape.

If you get out — 41

If not — 57

6. Taking a closer look at your surroundings, you are in a large chamber extending away to the east. The walls are covered with pictures of jungle animals and there is a feeling of fresh air although you cannot detect where it is coming from. The door through which you entered is now permanently shut.

To get a torch — 3

To go E — 24

7. You need the flint knife. If you have it, collect as much hair as you want.

Go to — 23

8. You manage to grab hold of the handles and swing into the passage to the north. You will not be able to return this way.

Go to — 23

9. You are in a small antechamber. To the west is a locked door. To the north is a short passage.

To go N — 17

To try the door — 35

10. Only the hair will do. Do you have it?
Yes — 66
No — 1

11. You are in the treasure room. In front of you are piles of various gems, statues and furniture. The main items are a golden leopard, a huge ruby, an onyx and ebony stool, a gem encrusted jackal and a carved ivory monkey. Make a list of the treasure you pick up.
Go to — 5

12. You are in an altar room with passages north and east. In the centre is a large stone slab with a skeleton on top of it — obviously a sacrificial victim. A flint dagger lies embedded in the victim's chest. Do you try to pick it up?
Yes — 21
No — 47

13. The chamber is empty apart from a stone sarcophagus in the shape of a human with a jackal's head. Do you try to open it?
Yes — 28
No — 52

14. Do you have an appropriate item to cut the hair with?
Yes — 7
No — 23

15. The passage continues east and west. As you walk down, you set off a pressure plate and six darts fly out of the wall. Roll one die for each. If the result is a 1, that dart hits and does 2 points of damage.
To go E — 52
To go W — 2

16. You bounce off the door, which is false, doing four LPs of damage.
Go to — 22

17. You are at a T-junction. Three short passages open into three chambers.
To go N — 1
To go S — 9
To go W — 47

18. The skeleton has an SR/LP of 8/7
If you win — 26
If you lose — 29

19. The torch is fixed but its holder pulls towards you. The monkey picture slides up revealing a passage to the north
To go N — 23
To go E — 24
To pull the other torch — 61

20. Do you have the hair?
Yes — 60
No — 32

21. You grab the dagger but as it is removed, the skeleton animates and makes to attack you. You can stop it by putting the dagger back into it, but if you want to keep the dagger, you must fight. Do you attack?
Yes — 18
No — 47

22. The jungle opens out into a clearing without warning. In the centre is a large, stepped pyramid grown over with moss and lichen. You walk all round it examining it for entrances. There are three, all in the west side. In the centre is a large set of bronze double doors. In the northwest and southwest corners are smaller stone doors.
To go NW — 40
To go W — 4
To go SW — 37

23. You are in a N/S passage. There is a chamber off to the east.
To go N — 2
To go S — 19
To go E — 33

24. The chamber is featureless apart from the inclined cavity at the end where the stone came from.
To examine the cavity — 42
To go W — 34

25. You are at the east end of a chamber
To go S — 36
To go W — 3

26. You get your dagger and return to the corridor
Go to — 47

27. The panel closes before you can get out. Starvation is not a very pleasant way to die.

28. You have your first misgivings when you see the end of a bandage at the bottom of the tomb and sure enough a mummy comes out and attacks you. It has an SR/LP of 10/14. How do you wish to attack it?
With your hands — 58
With a weapon — 65
Strangle it — 20

29. Now no-one will ever know about your amazing discovery — unless some other explorer recognises the bloody remains of your body at some stage in the future.

30. With mummy dead, you take a leisurely look at the sarcophagus. Inside is a key
Go to 52

31. You make a grab for the ruby at the same time, hurling yourself towards the door. You get the ruby but nothing else happens. You've been watching too many Indiana Jones films.
Go to — 25

32. The mummy attacks doing 2 LPs of damage as you realise that you don't have the appropriate item
Go to — 28

33. The chamber contains many low slabs with bodies on them. The main feature of the bodies is their incredibly long braided hair, do you want to cut the hair?
Yes — 14
No — 23

34. As you move into the passage, the door swings silently shut behind you. The passage is eerie, lit by a couple of flickering torches. Before you complete your examination, you are disturbed by a rumbling sound and more than slightly worried to see a large stone sphere rolling quickly towards you. Which way do you throw yourself?
To the left — 45
To the right — 63

35. Do you have the key?
Yes — 59
No — 67

36. The room is a small antechamber containing a stone table. On the table is a stone fist clutching a huge ruby. Do you try to get it?
Yes — 31
No — 25

37. The door is unmarked and seemingly blocked. Do you wish to shoulder charge it?
Yes — 56
No — 22

Random Numbers.

If you don't have any dice with you then use these random numbers to decide your fate. Start anywhere in the list and cross one off whenever you are instructed to roll a die.

1	3	6	1	5	2
3	2	5	3	4	5
4	3	2	3	5	3
6	5	1	5	1	6
2	4	2	4	4	4
2	3	6	4	6	2
2	4	6	3	1	4
6	2	3	2	1	6
2	6	1	4	5	2
6	4	3	1	4	3
1	5	3	2	1	6
6	5	4	2	5	5
1	1	6	2	3	6
6	5	3	5	6	4
4	5	3	4	6	5
3	4	6	3	4	2
6	1	2	3	1	1
2	5	3	3	1	6
2	1	1	5	5	6
2	1	1	2	6	6
6	3	3	1	6	2
6	1	4	4	2	4
2	3	6	6	5	1
1	1	5	4	2	3
5	1	4	6	4	3
4	1	6	5	5	2
3	4	5	3	1	1
3	4	4	4	4	5
4	4	3	3	6	4
3	4	6	3	3	6
3	3	4	5	5	1
1	6	2	2	6	4
3	3	5	2	6	4
2	1	1	3	6	6
4	3	5	5	1	2
5	3	1	3	6	4
4	4	3	3	4	5
5	2	5	3	5	4
6	4	3	5	4	4
5	4	4	2	4	4
5	4	4	6	4	6
3	5	3	1	1	3
4	2	1	4	3	3
6	3	1	1	1	3
4	6	6	2	5	3
5	1	3	5	6	6
6	3	2	5	6	4
1	1	2	5	1	3
3	3	1	3	2	3
4	3	6	6	3	2

Pyramid of the Werejackal Character Sheet.

Name

Strength Rating 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Life Points 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

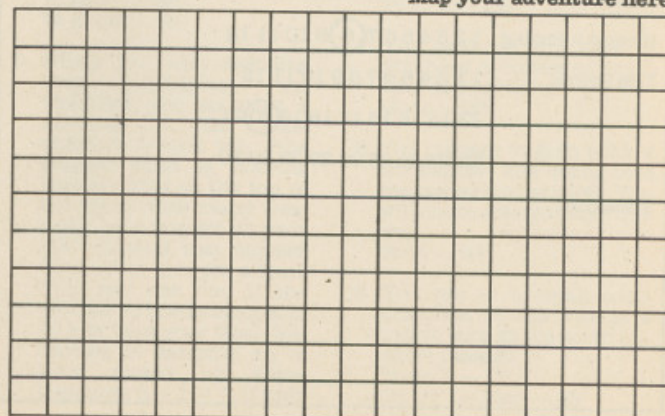
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Treasure



38. The torches are fixed but both boulders swing towards you. There is a grating noise as a passage and a pit appear. Throw two dice. Is the result a double?
Yes — 8
No — 48
39. You walk some five paces into the room when you feel something give under your feet. The doors swing shut behind you. Rushing up to them, you see that there is no way of opening them from within. Continuing towards the statues, this quickly becomes irrelevant as another pressure pad releases a spear trap and you too become impaled. Hopefully you will be dead before the rats start eating the flesh off your bones.
40. The door is unmarked and seemingly blocked. Do you want to shoulder charge it?
Yes — 16
No — 22
41. You force your way through the sand and back to the T-junction, although there is no longer a way south.
To go W — 12
To go N — 1
42. There is a small lever here. Do you want to pull it?
Yes — 64
No — 24
43. You make it just in time. A second secret panel has opened revealing a small room off to the south. Do you want to go in?
Yes — 36
No — 25
44. Two poisoned needles spring out and embed themselves in your wrist. The poison is strong and your death will not be long in coming.
45. Your luck is in. There is a small hollow that you squeeze yourself into as the ball smashes into the door.
Go to — 6
46. Do you wish to stab with dagger or throw it?
Stab — 51
Throw — 55
47. You are in the altar room.
To go N — 52
To go E — 17
48. Sorry but your luck just ran out and you plunge to your death on the spikes below
49. Roll two dice. Is the result a double?
Yes — 59
No — 44
50. The liquid is poisonous. Roll two dice and subtract that many life points from your total.
Go to — 2
51. Add 1 to your SR.
Go to 58
52. You reach a T-junction in the corridor. A passage leads west and there are chambers to the north and south.
To go N — 13
To go S — 12
To go W — 15
53. The statue is large and unmoveable. Instead of eyes there are two sockets where it appears something has been prised out. Do you want to try putting something in the sockets?
Yes — 62
No — 1
54. You take a deep breath and let yourself go. the journey is short but bruising — you bounce off several jagged rocks suffering two LPs of damage. you get washed ashore downstream, back in the jungle and set off to tell your colleagues in the archaeological world of your amazing discovery. One thing is certain, it is unlikely that anyone else will pinch the rest of the treasure while you are gone!
55. You hurl the dagger but the mummy steps out of the way. Fortunately as the flint dagger smashes into the wall, it sparks and sets fire to a trailing bit of bandage. The mummy burns horribly. The dagger is smashed to smithereens.
Go to — 30
56. The door springs open although not without doing two points of damage to your shoulder. A corridor stretches out in front of you. Do you wish to enter?
Yes — 34
No — 22
57. You will never go hungry because of all the sand which is here but seriously, choking on sand is not a pleasant way to die.
58. If you win — 30
If you lose — 29
59. The door opens revealing the treasure room to the west.
To go W — 11
To go N — 17
60. You fashion the hair into a garotte and attack the mummy. Unfortunately, it has no effect whatsoever. The mummy attacks doing four LPs of damage whilst you are trying this.
Go to — 28
61. The torch is fixed but its holder pulls towards you. suddenly a pit opens up under you and you hurtle down onto a particularly nasty set of spikes.
62. Only the large rubies will fit. Do you have them both?
Yes — 68
No — 1
63. You hit the floor and find a chocolate orange. But before you can tap it and unwrap it, you get crushed to death by the stone ball.
64. You hear two independent grating noises. Your immediate problem is that the panel that held the ball is now coming down. You throw yourself at the gap. Roll two dice. Is the result greater than 5?
Yes — 43
No — 27
65. Do you have the flint dagger?
Yes — 46
No — 32
66. You plait the hair into a rope which you tie round the statue and lower yourself down. At the bottom is a fast flowing river. Your hands are getting tired. Do you want to:
Climb back — 1
Drop off — 54
67. Do you want to try and pick the lock?
Yes — 49
No — 9
68. As you place the second ruby, they glow and melt into the statue which swings aside revealing a tunnel beneath it. You drop a stone down and hear a splash a few seconds later. You will need a rope to descend. Do you have one or something similar?
Yes — 10
No — 1

Map your adventure here.



Gordon Hamlett brings back
the art of conversation to
your adventures.

ADVENTURE

Dungeon Dressing

When adventures were young, if you met a dwarf, the chances are that he would throw an axe at you, curse when it missed and then run away. In these times of added sophistication, mindless violence is on the decrease (apart from slaying orcs which is mere occupational therapy) and you are much more likely to have to resort to the gentle art of conversation in order to progress further.

Most adventurers will be acquainted with The Hobbit and Bilbo's plight in trying to escape from the Goblin's Dungeon and this demonstrates very well the most usual form of talking to other characters; namely asking for help. Provided Thorin is with you, you can summon his aid to help you get out of a tricky situation. This theme can obviously be well developed. Characters can carry objects for you, help fight your battles and use their specialist skills to further your cause.

The type of character interaction that I want to consider further though involves the gaining of information. Originally, this was seen in detective adventures in the form of "Mister Jones, tell me about the gun" but recently, some of the same ideas have been cropping up in fantasy games. In the superb Ultima IV, you can hold limited conversations with

literally hundreds of characters. Initially, you can ask a character about his name, job and state of health. From the answers given, you can then question that person further by asking about certain key words revealed in the initial answer. For example, a fighter might tell you that he searches the dungeons. When you ask him about the dungeons he will tell you that he was looking for the green stone. He will then ask you if you have the green stone. If you answer no, he will tell you to ask a certain paladin about it. So off you go looking for the paladin who may well be in a totally different town. You may have met him before but the information about the stone never occurred in your original conversation, it's only when you are told the right question to ask.

Obviously, conversation will never take place on any great intellectual level but with a bit of careful planning, an exciting atmosphere can be created. The following ideas could all be

worked into a story although I concede that to do the job properly, you would need a disk based system.

Any creature or character will have a certain knowledge of his surroundings. What information you can glean depends on two factors — what he **can** tell you and what he **will** tell you. As a person goes about his daily life, he learns about his environment and also hears various rumours and gossip. Exactly what he learns will depend on his intelligence and how much he travels. For example, a shopkeeper may have heard about evil goings-on in the ruined abbey whilst a recently returned warrior should be able to give more specific details. You can have a lot of fun with rumour. Some will be true. Some will be based on fact but wildly exaggerated and others will be downright lies. Working out which is which could keep a player worried for ages.

What information a person will impart to you depends entirely on his disposition towards you. In other words, you stand a much better chance of learning something useful if you adopt a friendly approach rather

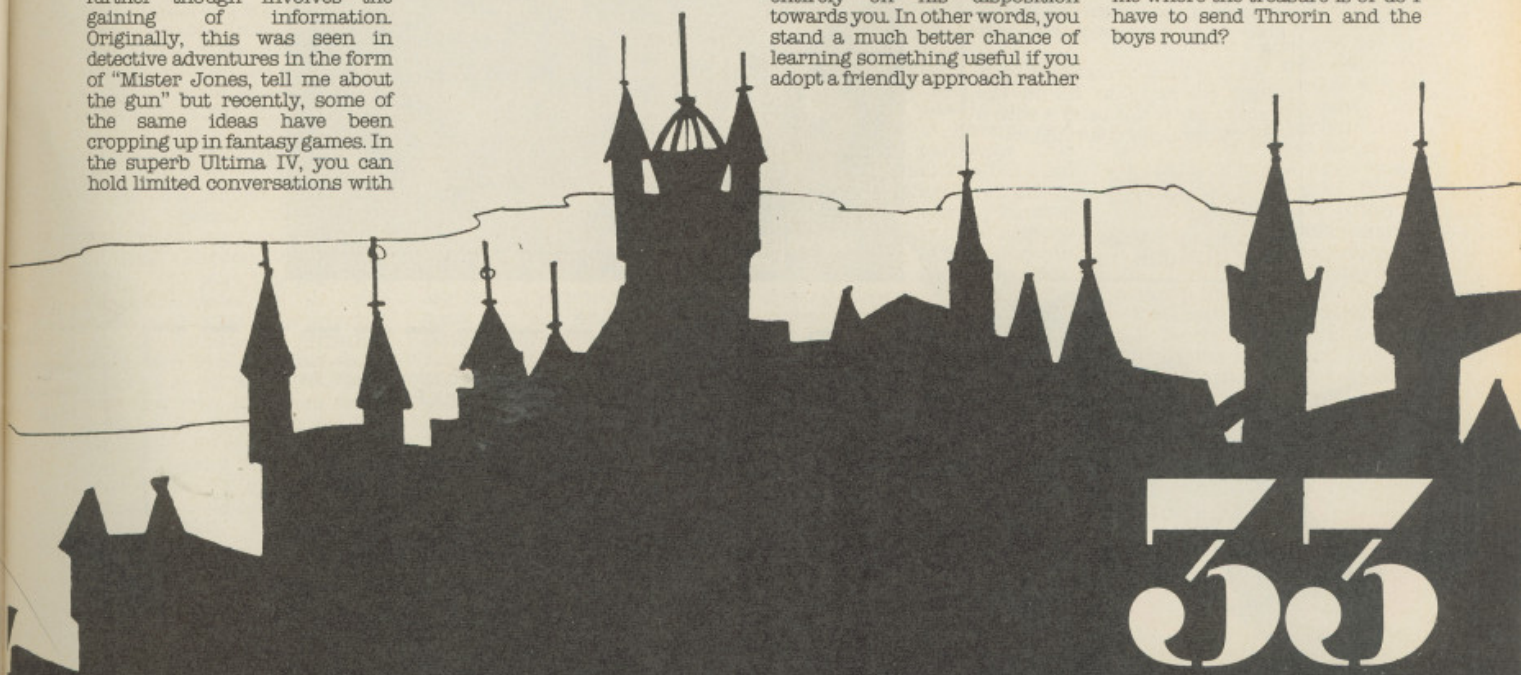
than threatening all kinds of dire misfortune if they don't co-operate. Taking this to extremes, torture will eventually reveal everything a person knows but adventurers don't go in for torture — do you? So, if you must have a torture chamber in your game, have the player rescue someone from it who would then willingly offer help.

The exchange of information does not have to be a one way affair — in fact very seldom should it be so. On a purely mercenary theme, every man has his price although you will find things easier to handle if you restrict bribing to ordinary townsfolk such as innkeepers, merchants and guards.

Frequently, you will have to give something to get something — a password maybe or performing a useful service, e.g. you find my long lost magic ring and I'll give you some information necessary to solving your quest.

Other ways of gaining information would be by spying — either by yourself or through a hired third party or through research — sitting down in a library for a couple of weeks — although this is hardly conducive to exciting gameplay!

Information should be sold dearly. Make your players work for a small, insignificant clue. Make them pay through the nose in the form of gold, magic spells (allowing access to previously closed areas) and expensive skeleton keys for locked doors (one use only of course!). People will require hefty bribes. They might even lie to you and send you off on wild goose chases. There are many ways of parting an adventurer from his ill-gotten gains. Now, are you going to tell me where the treasure is or do I have to send Thorin and the boys round?



LEVEL ~9

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PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Some readers have occasionally expressed surprise that Gamer should cover PBM. What they may not realise is that computers play a major role in postal gaming. In later issues I shall be looking at the ways that the players use their Spectrums, Amstrads etc. to assist them but this month I am focusing on how the companies have enlisted computers to help them in running the games. In particular I am examining the two latest games from our old friends at K&J.

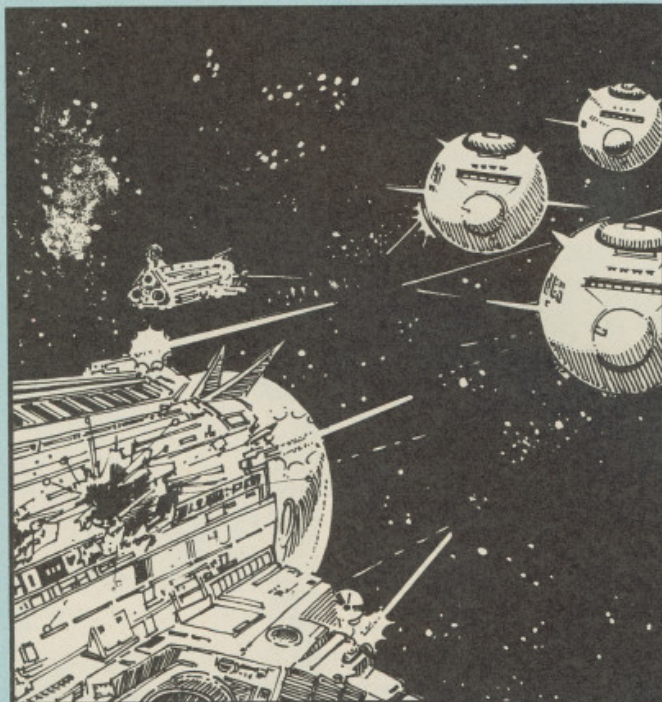
Computer moderated games have one big advantage for the companies; they are much cheaper to run than their hand moderated counterparts. For the players there are limitations to the actions that can be taken but in general they require more thought and clearly the games master is seen to be totally impartial. In the past some excellent games have been designed but have been let down by inept programmers or by attempts to run the games on machines with severe memory limitations. Often the flaws became obvious and the games collapsed.

K&J are, arguably, the biggest name in PBM. Their reputation was based initially on the hand moderated Crasimoff's World, which was the brainchild of their founder: Kevin Cropper. A fantasy role playing game, it still sets the standards by which other games are judged. Having established their position, they took the gamble of buying the hardware and imported their first computer game from the USA: the fantasy epic Earthwood. Their two latest games, Capitol and It's a Crime, are both American computer games but there the similarity ends.

It's a Crime is a game that will be well known to many Gamer readers who took advantage of our special starting offer. There were a few hiccups with the program at first but it is now up and running and is proving to be a great success. In fact, the latest word is that it may have already established itself as the largest game in Europe, an amazing feat after only a few short months and one that is probably due to the cheapness of the game and the reputation of K&J. It's a Crime is a simple game with limited options (too limited some might say) and as such is an ideal introduction to the hobby. You take the part of a gangland leader in a large American city and your eventual aim is to become the godfather and control that city. This seems a long way off when you start with few men and even fewer weapons. At first your options will be limited to simple actions such as arming yourself a little better and recruiting some thugs but as you progress they become more varied. My tip for beginners with no conscience (it helps in this game) is to try drug pushing as a means of earning enough money to equip your gang properly.

PBM UPDATE

Mike McGarry brings you the latest PBM news and includes some hints for It's a Crime players.



Capitol is a totally different type of game. It runs on an IBM computer using 512K memory and is very complex though the rule book is surprisingly easy to understand. It is a space game and adopts the standard 'conquer the galaxy' format but has several features that sets it apart. Mapping is an integral part of the game and the computer produced maps are excellent. In addition you receive some overlays to keep overall records of your positions. Your first few rounds are likely to consist of designing and planning your ships, bases etc and feeling your way around but soon you will find yourself in some minor battles and then the action starts coming thick and fast. My advice to novices playing Capitol is to read the rule book thoroughly and to start writing to other players immediately; you will find that you are one of about 35 players so there is ample opportunity for diplomacy.

It's a Crime is a very cheap game and costs £5 for the starting pack including the first eight rounds. Capitol comes into the medium to high price range

and will set you back £26 for the basic material and included two rounds, further rounds are £1.75 each. Further details can be obtained from K&J Games, PO Box 11, Cleveleys, Lancs, FY5 2UL.

On the newsfront, I have heard that the larger companies are forming an association to promote PBM in general and themselves in particular. This seems like a good idea but I am surprised that they do not intend to involve the players by forming a PBM association similar to the one that is flourishing in America. Perhaps some enterprising players could show the companies the errors of their ways and organise it themselves.

Last month our featured game was Saturnalia and I hear from my spies in that game that there could be bad news for players in the Southern Isles. The rumour is that an unknown hand has removed the sword of Haquar from the body of Lord Storm and the demon has been set free to walk the land again. An ancient prophecy foretells that darkness will cover the lands and the signs are bad as the servants of Renchu, god of Death, are seen



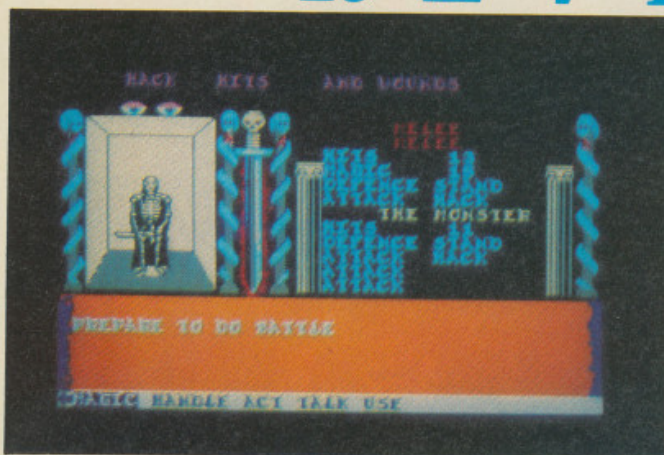
everywhere. It is a time for men of true heart to join together and to fight for the light.

We are looking for another Gamer reader to join our playtest team. If you are interested in playing a PBM game absolutely free and reporting back later on, just drop me a line and tell me why. The writer with the most original or witty reason will be invited to join the team. This month's playtest game is Where Lies the Power from Vengeance Games. It is a new game that I have heard some good things about. You control a powerful family in an interstellar empire. It is a game where ingenuity on the part of the player is paramount.

Next month the featured game will be Tribes of Crane from Mitregames and we will be looking for playtesters for two of the most expensive games on the market.

35

ADVENTURE R•E•V•I•E•W•S



Combat in Amstrad Swords and Sorcery

Title:	Swords and Sorcery
Computer:	Amstrad
Supplier:	PSS
Price:	£9.95/£14.95 disk

Imagine a fantasy role playing game that involves combat, conversation, magic, treasure and quests. With a display that includes a 3D picture and a map of your immediate surroundings and various boxes of information as well as large pictures of all the characters that you meet. And where, when and if you complete your tasks, you can transfer your hero over to further modules that are being planned. And the whole thing controlled by just six keys. Sound too good to be true? Well, it isn't. It's Swords and Sorcery and it's here now.

Whilst there are many quests and sub-quests for you to pursue, your main target is to find the assorted bits of the Armour of Zeb which was unmade by its maker aeons ago. The armour is spread across many levels of a dark and dangerous dungeon and whilst some characters will help you, most are only interested in your demise.

The game is controlled by a series of menus. Your five basic actions are hit, magic, handle, act and talk but these all lead into further menus which give you an apparently bewildering choice of action. For example, choosing handle then allows you to pick from pick up, drop, wear, take off, hold and take out. Picking one of these then gives you a list of items to be acted upon. The 8 and 0 keys move you through the menus whilst 9 selects the current choice. Movement is achieved through keys 1-3 which turn you left, move you forward and turn you right respectively.

The game starts with you spending fourteen days training your character in various fields

such as sword play and agility. It's off on your mission. The main part of the screen shows a 3D display of the rooms and corridors with a map of the area of the dungeon that you are currently in although this map gets replaced by status and combat details. Below that is a box giving details of text and conversations. Combat does not necessarily take place whenever you meet a monster. You can try talking to him and cajole or threaten him in order to gain some information, perhaps about one of the artefacts that you have just found. If however you do decide to attack (or vice versa) then you must decide whether to use one of your weapons (maybe an enchanted one if you have found one) or to try casting a spell. You only start with a few magic spells, gaining more with experience but your initial arsenal of spells does include a fireball.

Swords and Sorcery is a highly complex game that will keep you quiet for ages, especially when you consider that several expansion modules are planned. It will take you some time to get the hang of what's going on around you but the game is such that you want to go back and try again. If you enjoy this type of game, Swords and Sorcery is highly recommended. **G.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality	★★★★
Difficulty	★★★★
Atmosphere	★★★★
Value for money	★★★★

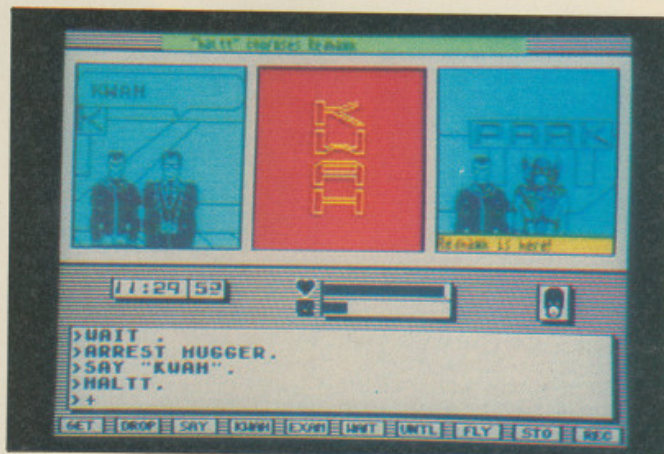


Title:	Redhawk
Computer:	C64/Spectrum/Amstrad
Supplier:	Melbourne House
Price:	£7.95

Kevin Oliver. That's all you can remember when you wake up in hospital. Your name is Kevin Oliver. It's only when you step outside does something else spring to mind. Kwah. A strange word but somehow familiar. You say it out loud to yourself and suddenly, in a puff of smoke, you change. No longer does Kevin Oliver stand there but instead, it's a funny man in a cape and a bird helmet. No, it's Redhawk the superhero!

Redhawk is a highly original adventure from Melbourne House. Whereas text input is normal, it is the output that

much of it to explore though. A police station, an art gallery, the library, the town squares, a park, the hospital, a station and a Newspaper Office (not a wapping big one though — this one's in Fleet Street!). Maybe the police can help you but they've never heard of Redhawk and only laugh at you. A quick check of your possessions at this stage shows that you own a camera and four pounds — not very much. Perhaps the newspaper office can give you some insight into who you are although you don't hold out much hope. After all, superheroes only work for



Superhero action in Redhawk

makes this game unlike anything that you've ever seen before. It is in the form of a continuous comic strip, three pictures being displayed on the screen at any one time. Characters communicate in speech bubbles and little strips at the top and bottom of each picture tell you what is happening. With each new command entered, so a new picture tell you what is happening. With each new command entered, so a new picture is drawn, appearing in the right hand box and shunting the others one place to the left. The graphics are nothing startling, just large pictures of any characters present in front of a simple background, but they don't need to be. They bring back memories of reading Marvel comics under the bedclothes and set the atmosphere off perfectly. So too does the plot.

You set off by exploring the town. There doesn't seem to be

newspapers in comics don't they? However, a sign in the office says that there is a vacancy for a press photographer and the editor comes out and hires you on the spot saying that he will pay you if you take some decent pictures for him.

As you wander round in search of a story, a mugger puts in an appearance in the park. If you successfully arrest him, the police will start to trust you and issue you with a radio which will keep you in touch with crime all over the city. Your days as a crimebusting superhero have begun. Whilst talking to your colleagues, news comes in of a bomb at the local power station which the police are unable to defuse and which is estimated to go off in about six hours. Obviously, this is your major problem but crime continues elsewhere in the city, usually at the hands of one of the four supervillains. These are the Rat,

REVIEWS

Hi-Tech, the Mystic Merlyn and Fusor, all of whom have their own assorted tricks and powers. If you neglect these other crimes, your popularity rating falls and characters will be more reluctant to give you the information you need to solve your main problem.

In order to get to these other locations, you will need to find a different mode of transport from Shank's Pony that you have been using so far. You can either catch a train or taxi, but both of these need money so it is important that you keep taking the pictures. A cheaper way of travelling is to use your super-hero powers and fly to a specified destination. The drawback to this is that it costs energy. Redhawk only has so much energy to expend and flying and fighting use it up very quickly. The only way to regain your energy is to revert back to Kevin and let it accumulate slowly again. Two icons show the amount of energy available to you and also your popularity rating.

Control of the game is very simple. The text input is straightforward and there are no obscure words that I have come across so far although you usually have to type commands in full. There is a row of commonly used words at the bottom of the screen and these can be accessed quickly by using control and then the corresponding number of the C64 and symbol shift plus number on the Spectrum. If you input something that is not understood, the game or rather the clock stops and waits for you to hit space. I found this somewhat confusing at first but is in fact extremely logical, especially as there is a clock ticking on all the time.

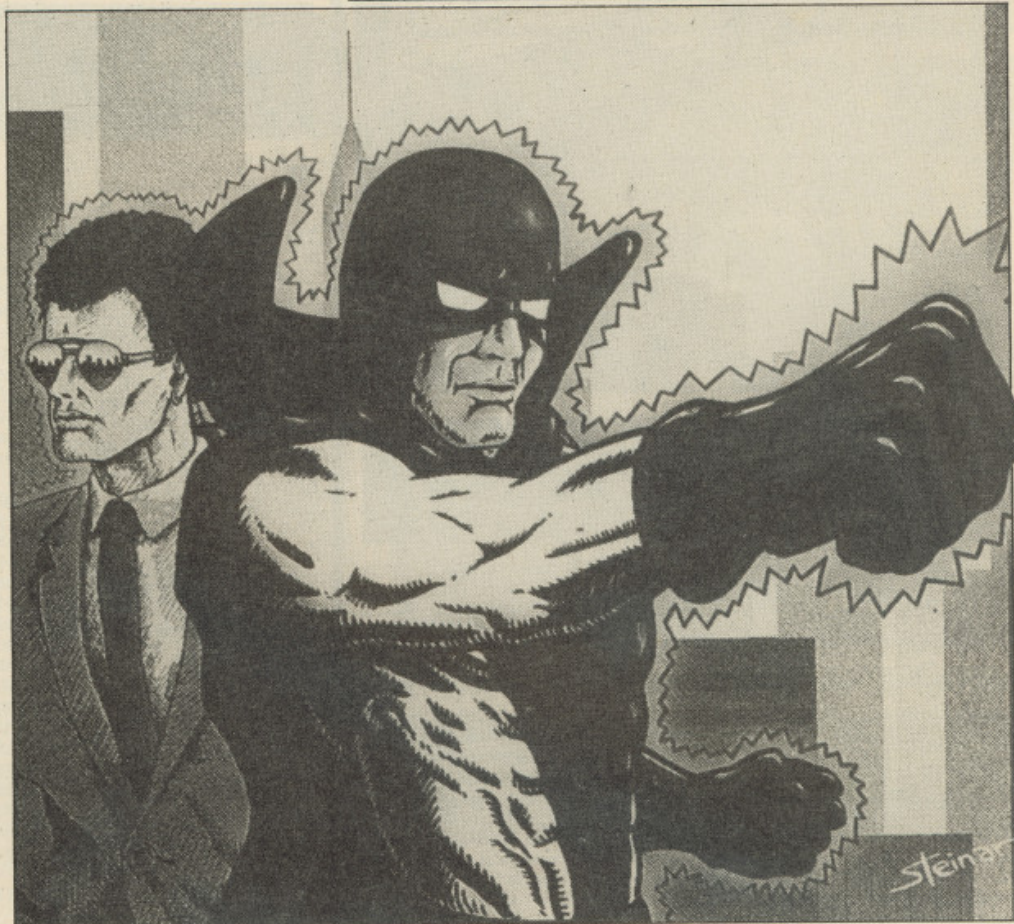
In order to solve the crime about the bomb, Redhawk must talk to lots of characters as he tries to work out who planted it, why, where it is and how to neutralise its threat. Will it be the crooked chief of Police, the corrupt Director of the power station or the mad scientist. Your editor will help keep you up to date with what's going on and, of course, there is always the heroine, the beautiful Lesley who is a reported on your paper and always turns up when you solve crimes.

One of the nice things about Redhawk is that it's wonderfully tongue in cheek. The muggers say things like "It's a fair cop" and get your name somewhat confused. I've been called Red-sparrow, Redduck and Redhorse so far. All this adds excellent atmosphere to an excellent game.

G.H.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Atmosphere
Difficulty
Value for money



Title:	Castle Thade
Computer:	Spectrum
Supplier:	SAEC
Price:	£5.00

Fancy winning yourself a colour monitor for your Spectrum? If you are good at adventures, here's your chance for the Spectrum Adventure Exchange Club are offering a Microvitec monitor to the first person whose correct entry is drawn out of the hat on October 21st. All that stands between you and your prize is the small problem of Castle Thade.

The land of Kral is ruled by the Lord of Darkness and his evil is spreading everywhere. Could it be a co-incidence that Thade is an anagram of Death? The council of the Powers of Light have selected you to penetrate his castle and strip him of his powers. Should you succeed, a stranger will give you a message, written in unusual symbols. If you can manage to translate this, send off your entry form.

The game (which is Quilled), starts off with you on one side of

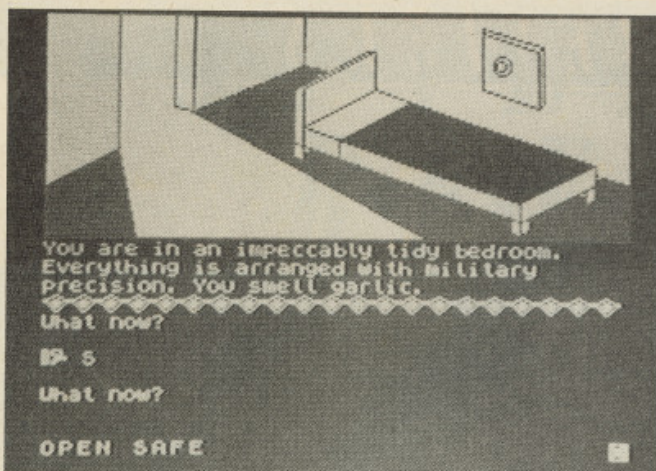
a wide river and the castle on the other. All around you are impassable mountains and a horrendously thick maze of forest. I found the forest somewhat annoying as there are locations that you can enter but never leave which in my book at least is a trifle unfair. The game is text only with some good atmospheric descriptions. The vocabulary is claimed to be over 200 words although have you noticed, you can never seem to find the combination that you want! You can examine certain objects only and it would have given greater effect to be told that "you see nothing special" rather than just "you can't".

Minor grudges apart, Castle Thade has some interesting problems (such as being crushed by sliding walls or bitten and captured by a giant spider) and will keep the old grey cells ticking over. Prizes are not meant to be won easily! SAEC can be found at 4 Kilmartin Lane, Carlisle, Lanarkshire, ML8 5RT. The game is available by mail order only.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Atmosphere
Difficulty
Value for money
or considerably more if you win!





Title: Nightshade
Computer: MSX
Supplier: Ultimate Play the Game
Price: £9.95



The village of Nightshade sounds a bit like Milton Keynes 'Skeletons with rotting flesh dripping with the blood of the long dead, waiting, prowling the now empty village for live prey'.

Why, oh, why do I have to go and lift the curse from the village! Can't the editor send me to the South of France instead?

Alright I'm a brave adventurer and I'll take the challenge. Armed only with my trusty joystick, I entered the village. I didn't live long enough to regret it.

The graphics in this game must rate amongst the best ever seen on the MSX. Three dimensional views of the village scroll past as the little hero wanders from location to location in his quest to free the smitten hamlet. Walls of building disappear as you walk behind them showing only the line of their course and revealing the horrors that roam the streets. Strange hunchback demons and ethereal plagues plod their undead lives away in the search for human flesh, while flashfires spring up almost under your feet seeking to consume you with their burning tongues.

Entering some of the rooms reveals a new series of spectres which turn out to be spells, your only weapons against the evil

which is running rife. Collect as many as you can and use your arsenal carefully. Different spells are effective against different enemies use the wrong one and you end up with double trouble as the evil splits with amoeboid simplicity and satanic leers.

As your hero wanders he finds strange balms and potions which have desirable effects. Some heal all wounds and restore strength while others give him extra speed to dodge the foes and collect more spells.

It's about time programmers took the MSX more seriously and Ultimate have gone to town (well, a village anyway) on this one. The sound, graphics and gameplay are well thought out and executed and the controls can be keyboard or joystick in one of two different control modes. One control uses left and right to turn the little adventurer while back and forth move him. In the other mode he moves in the directions the control points him.

For all newcomers to the world of MSX and old lags like me this will open up your eyes to new possibilities in programming. In fact, open-eyed is the only way to enter this graphic adventure.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Atmosphere
 Difficulty
 Value for money



Title: Valkyrie 17
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Ariolasoft
Price: £7.95



Whilst waiting for the sequel, 3 Days in Carpathia to be finished, Ram Jam and Ariolasoft have decided to re-release Valkyrie 17, a spoof spy adventure with graphic accompaniment.

The story starts when you receive a strange coded message on your answer phone one day. "The Red Kipper flies at midnight". After a few days investigation which involves secret German beam weapons amongst other things, you decide that further action is required. To this end, you take yourself off to the Hotel Glitz overlooking Lake Bruntz and it is here that the game starts. Who is the blonde lady in the bar and why is she wearing a wig. What are you supposed to do in the ladies powder room! What on earth

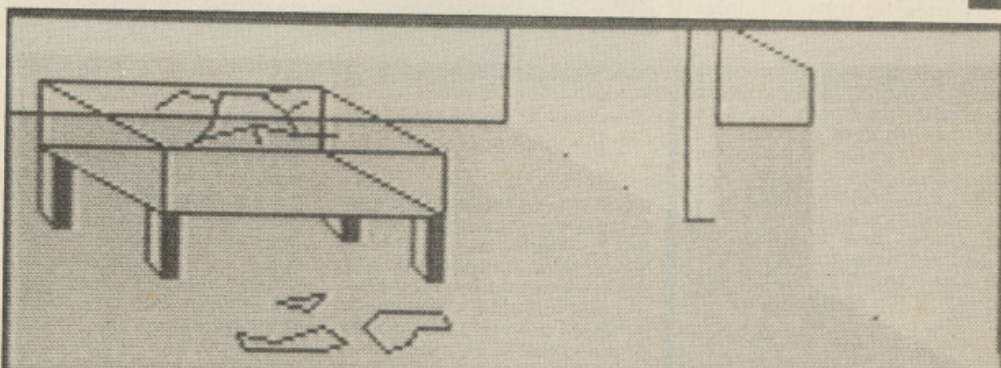
would you need a stethoscope for, if you can work out how to get it and just how do you get out of the hotel without getting killed?

Not every one of the one hundred plus locations is illustrated, and those that are consist of simple line drawings. Text input is very precise and frequently frustrating. The plot itself is very jolly but the whole thing looks dated and presentation is poor. I think it's a bit of a cheek re-releasing at full price and my feeling is that it is about 5-6 pounds to expensive — it would have made a great budget game.

G.H.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Atmosphere
 Difficulty
 Value for money



REVIEWS

Title: The Very Big Cave Adventure
Computer: C64
Supplier: CRL
Price: £7.95



Those delightfully dotty damsels from Donegal, the St. Brides mob, have always had a reputation for eccentricity. But even they have surpassed themselves this time. Be honest, you never thought that you would see the day when a text version of Space Invaders was released, did you? Well now's your chance to try your hand at typing left, right and fire. Ideal for those of you whose reflexes aren't all that they were.

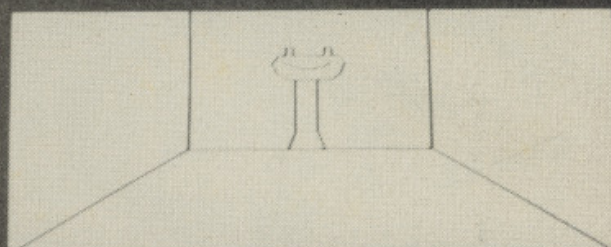
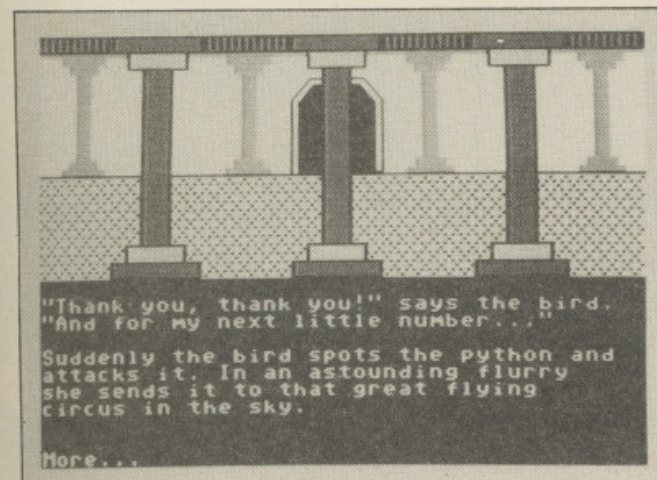
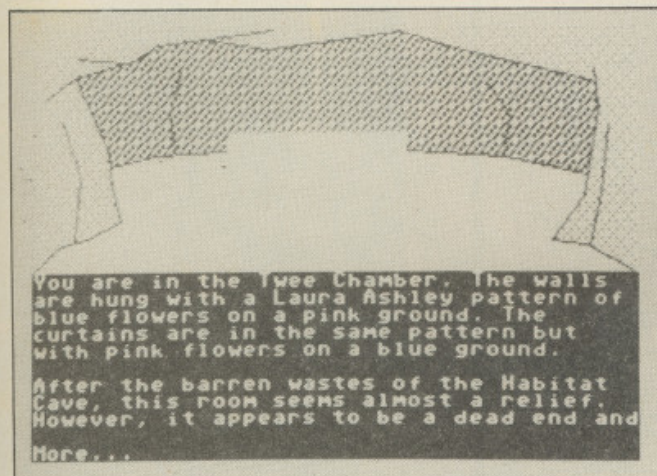
Released by CRL, the Very Big Cave Adventure is a very funny spoof on the very first ever adventure by Crowther and Woods. All the old familiar locations and creatures are there, only changed somewhat to protect the guilty. The game starts with you outside a familiar little brick cottage although this one has a sign marked vacant and requires a penny in the slot. So, it's off to the gully to see what you can find. Sure enough, there is a penny guarded by a ferocious looking bull which won't let you pick it up. The bull however asks if you are still here and on hearing you answer 'no', walks off believing you for it is a

gully-bull! (groan). If you don't like jokes like that, then I suggest that you stop now as things soon get considerably worse. Instead of dwarves throwing axes at you, there is a tall, gaunt, bearded, bald gentleman throwing sharpened ZX81s. And so it goes on.

Caves has been written using Quill, Illustrator and Patch although you would be hard pressed to tell just from looking at it. Words that are not understood are greeted with the slightly worrying "? syntax error" and most other actions are treated to a flippant remark. It is difficult to say too much about the game without giving anything away or quoting things out of context. Suffice to say that I loved it. It matters not a jot whether you have played the original or not, if you have a warped sense of humour, then go and buy a copy. **G.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality	★★★★
Atmosphere	★★★★
Difficulty	★★★
Value for money	★★★★



Title: Caverns D'Or
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Data Designs
Price: £4.50



Caverns D'Or is the first game from a new software house and in fact forms part of their Astro Cade collection which features six games for only £4.50.

By far the best game of the collection is this adventure.

Your mission is simple: get into the castle, grab as much treasure as possible and then get out. No quests, no heroic rescues just plain honest plunder.

The action takes place on a split screen display with descriptions and battle reports appearing in the bottom half in a choice of two character sets. Above this are arrows depicting your possible exits, nine boxes in which you can store one object, a hand which shows which object you are currently holding, a pot containing your gold pieces and a scrolling showing your current strength and stamina.

The game is delightfully simple to play as all you have to do is enter any of ten single letter commands. These allow you to move in any direction, select and use an object (using a weapon allows you to fight), search a room and get anything you may find and finally rest, that restores your depleting stamina. Unfortunately, resting for too long will let one of the cavern's critters find you. So you'll soon be doing battle with orcs, rabid dogs, spectres and goblins.

Treasure is of course your main aim (apart from staying alive long enough to spend it) and you'll find plenty along with potions to heal you and strange

bones that give you temporary strength.

Once you've finished your days of ore bashing you can try some of the other games. These are all arcade games of limited appeal but if you view them as being freebies then you won't be disappointed. They are all well presented and strangely addictive and include a leap across the moon in Luna-Rover, a fast shoot-em-up in Alien and a totally redefinable version of City Bomber.

All things considered, it's a good debut from a new (mail order) software house, but they will have to be more selective in future releases to gain high quality as well as excellent value for money. **T.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality	★★
Graphics	★★
Use of machine	★★
Value for money	★★★★



Pilgrim

Title: Pilgrim
Computer: C64
Supplier: CRL
Price: £7.95



Forget gnomes and magic. Don't expect to see any nice, comfy hobbit holes. The name of the game here is survival and eventually help although the Guardian that you seek is no more than legend. But first, you have to survive...

The people of Meridian were gentle and peace-loving and under no circumstances were they prepared for the latest invasion of the Silvian warriors who can wield new weapons of terror and left leaving a trail of devastation and destruction. You, a young lad, somehow managed to survive the onslaught. Whilst returning to your house for a weapon, you are knocked unconscious by falling masonry. When you awake you have but one thought — to find the Guardian of Meridian, rumoured to live somewhere in the depths of a mountain and who, if he exists is supposed to help the People of Meridian in their hour of greatest need.

Pilgrim is a text adventure of the traditional verb/noun variety. What it lacks in the sophistication of its parser though, it makes up for in its superb atmosphere and text descriptions. The author, Rod Pike has set out to create a feeling

of terror and he succeeds admirably. Your memory is suffering from assorted lapses, your co-ordination is awry as you trip over various objects. Familiar buildings lie in ruins, the bodies of your friends lie slaughtered in their houses. And there is the Silvian warrior who quickly discovers your whereabouts and who takes great delight in preparing himself for your imminent execution. The problems too are original. When was the last time you had to find a way of mending your broken arm?

The game's vocabulary seems more than adequate with "examine" being particularly well supported. Mapping is logical with a nice touch being that you are told what you can see in assorted directions. You are even told when you are about to enter a maze.

Atmosphere makes or breaks an adventure game and Pilgrim certainly has a lot and is an excellent advertisement for why there is no need to insist on graphics. Pictures could never do this game justice.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality	●●●●
Difficulty	●●●●
Atmosphere	●●●●●
Value for money	●●●●

The GOLF CONSTRUCTION SET



GCS is a golf game featuring superb graphics, four complete courses, a construction set to build more and a realistic handicap system. Eric Doyles plays a round on his C64

Title:	Golf Construction Set
Computer:	Commodore 64
Supplier:	Ariolasoft
Price:	£14.95

If Gallagher and Lyle remind you of a Seventies' pop group then you could only benefit from nurturing an interest in the Golf Construction Set from Ariolasoft. If the names make you dream of a perfect round in a major golfing competition then this is definitely for you.

Why do I rave so much about the new game? Well, the game takes in considerations which other games cannot reach and you can also add to the library of four actual courses with designs of your own.

The game also features a realistic handicapping system. New players start off with a 28 handicap. This is used to allow players of different abilities to compete fairly against each other. The value is subtracted from the number as strokes taken by the player during a game or used as a basis to calculate the winner of the Match Play competition.

The higher the value of the handicap the more the player is liable to make errors, a factor which is built into this computer version. This means that there is a distinct possibility that your clubs will not behave in the way you expected them to with slices, hooks and all the common faults of inexperienced players. If that is not very pleasing then you can practice with a professional handicap until your skills have developed enough to allow you to have a go as an amateur again.

Tournament Play is available to a maximum of four golfers at a time or Match Play for two. For those who don't have the faintest idea what I'm going on about let me try to explain.

Tournament Play is the familiar game of golf where each player tries to get round the course in as few strokes as possible. This means that you are normally aiming to complete each hole at or under par (par being the number of strokes which the authorities think a professional should take to complete a particular hole).

In Match Play you try to beat your opponent at each hole and the total number of strokes doesn't come into the reckoning. This means that if your opponent sinks his ball in three strokes, then you must equal or better this and if the ball is still sitting on the grass after your third stroke then you lost that hole and play moves on to the next tee.

As well as selecting the type of play you can also specify which golf course the match will be played on. The game comes complete with four ready to use courses: Wentworth, St George's, Sunningdale and the Professional Golfers' Association's own course, The Belfry.

When course and play have been decided the walk to the first

tee begins. The screen is split up into several areas. The left half of the screen is a plan view of the hole being played. The top right quarter shows the view looking from the ball's lie towards the hole, and the bottom right area is the selection screen.

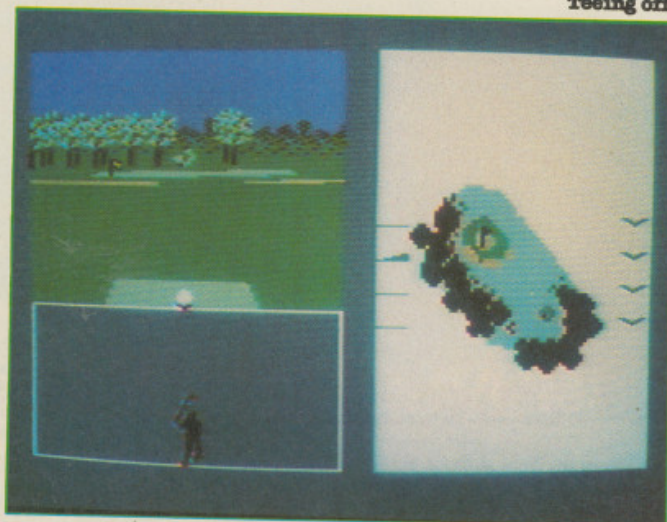
Initially the selection screen shows a table which gives the handicap of each player, the cumulative score as it relates to par, the number of strokes taken and the number of strokes taken at the current hole.

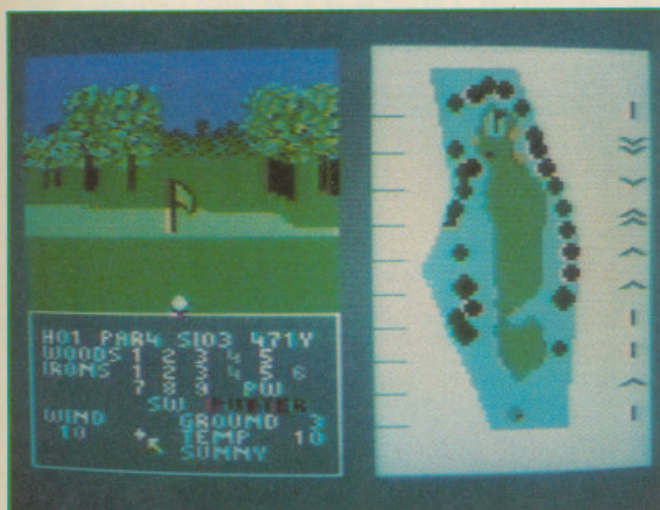
Pressing fire brings further details to this screen and you are requested to lend a thought to your poor caddie and leave three clubs behind. The display shows all of the clubs available; five woods, nine irons, a power wedge, a sand wedge and a putter. By using the joystick each club is highlighted in turn, pressing the fire button selects the club. If you accidentally select the wrong club to leave behind there's no second chance to correct your mistake without reloading the game.

Beneath the club array the environment conditions are listed. These change as play progresses and can have an effect on your game. Warmer air will increase the distance of your shot, hard ground will add distance and wind speed and direction will carry the ball accordingly.

Playing a stroke is a major decision, balancing the direction and power of the shot against the conditions. Trees, bunkers, water and trees all form hazards alongside the changing weather conditions. Straight balls can be watch on the 3D view screen as they whistle into the distance

Teeing off





Approaching the green!

and bounce to a halt and the relative direction can be seen on the plan view.

After club selection you must choose the amount of loft and fade, the direction of aim and finally the power of the shot. The power is gauged by a realistically animated shadow figure of a golfer making his swing, the higher the swing the more powerful the stroke and the more likely a slice or hook will result.

From the behaviour of my ball, I suspected it was a survivor from the Second World War. Attacking its objective by advancing from bunker to bunker it finally dragged itself onto the green ready for the final assault. At this point the 3D display gave way to a magnified plan view of the green. Two arrows indicating the degree of slope in the horizontal and vertical plane appeared on either side of this display. At this point the highlighted club was, not surprisingly, the putter but the more adventurous may be pleased to note that any other club can be selected.

On completion of the course a scorecard is displayed detailing all of the players performances. In Tournament Play the scores are added up and the handicap subtracted to give the final result.

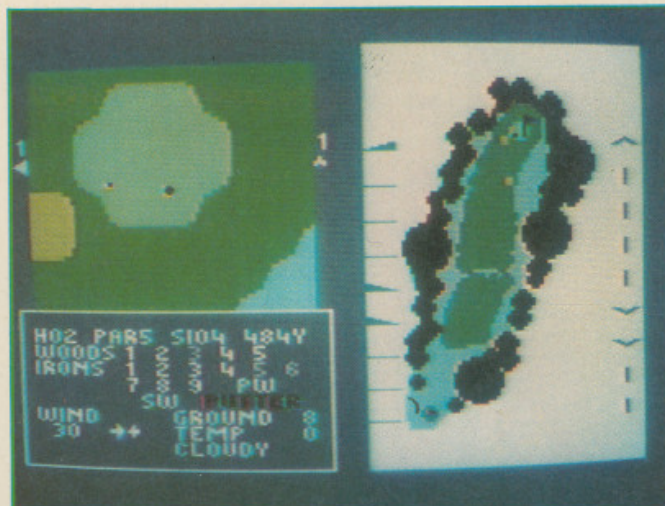
In Match Play the situation is a little more complex. When playing each hole the number of strokes taken is important but if the players are unequally matched then the higher handicap player is allowed up to two extra strokes depending on the difficulty level. For this purpose each hole is allocated a Stroke Index on a comparative scale of 1 to 18. An SI of 1 is awarded to the most difficult hole on the course and 18 is the easiest. Because each value is only awarded once it is advisable to keep a tally of each value awarded because the program will not allow the same SI value to be awarded twice.

Decision points are included at the beginning and end of each hole. At the beginning you can abort the game or move on to the next hole. If you skip a hole during a Tournament the handicap will not be updated and regressed at the end of the game as normally occurs.

At the end of each hole you have a chance to save the game. This means that a particularly good performance can be safeguarded against a lapse of concentration later in the match or allows you to break off a session until a later date.

Each hole loads from disk as required and no doubt this is the same with the tape version. I only hope that Ariolasoft have had the sense to include a turbo loader or this could seriously mar an excellent game.

Construction of courses is as much fun to do as it is to play the game. The only thing to remember is that your course must be planned in advance because course building is a highly structured procedure. The construction screen has a blank plan view area in its usual position on the screen. The left hand side holds an icon menu of the constituent parts of the courses.



This shot for par!

Building commences by selecting a 3, 4 or 5 par rating for the hole. Next the tee must be positioned and as you move the flag marker for the hole around the screen the length of the hole is displayed.

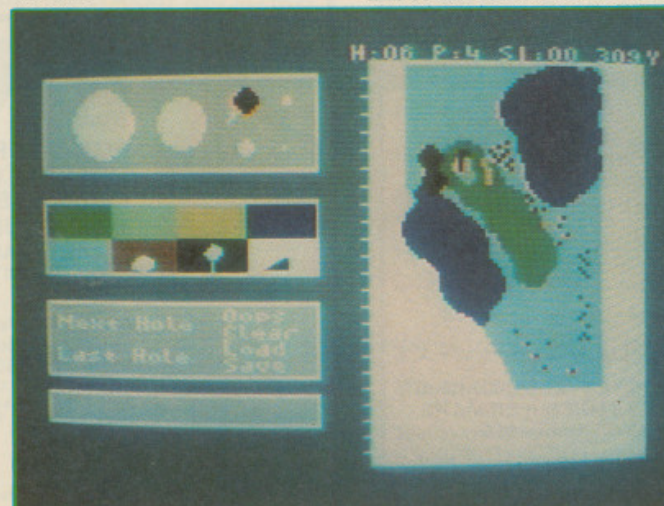
After fixing the hole-pin in position, the boundary is laid out. Each press of the fire button causes a line to be drawn to the previously marked point and fourteen of these positions can be used to enclose the fairway area.

The next task is to construct the green, fairway and hazards using the very clever and simple symbols. Six circles of various sizes can be chosen and a colour selected for with possible options: fairway, green, trees, scrub, rough, water and bunkers. The eighth option is also the last to be used and allows you to grade the surface slopes of the course at approximately 60 yard intervals.

The final act is to award an SI index before designing the next hole or saving the one in hand.

A short text menu is included for loading unfinished courses,

The construction set in action



saving, clearing a course or for correcting errors. It also allows you to flip through the course, forwards or backwards, to make corrections.

By far the most impressive piece of programming in this game is the 3D viewing screen. Starting with a view of a green but featureless landscape, it scans from the horizon to the ball's current position adding each feature to the screen as it is encountered. Each time the direction of aim is altered a new picture is built up giving an infinite variety of viewpoints, with each element reduced according to a perspective scale.

The courses provided with the game attest to the quality of the construction set. Each design reproduces the 'personality' of the real course, from the watery features of the Belfry, through the wooded Sunningdale to the almost featureless wilderness of St George's.

A surprise reward is in store for holing out with a long shot from off the green. The game switches into a slow motion action replay of the shot. I can't say whether the game awards you with a big prize for a hole in one but I'm tempted to keep playing until I find out!

High praise is due to Ariolasoft, Tigress Marketing and the Hungarian programming team for producing the greatest golfing game, I have ever seen. It's ease of use and attention to detail is commendable even if some of the disk error handling leaves a little to be desired. The documentation could make more use of annotated diagrams but the text is clear and concise. An excellent product, very highly recommended.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



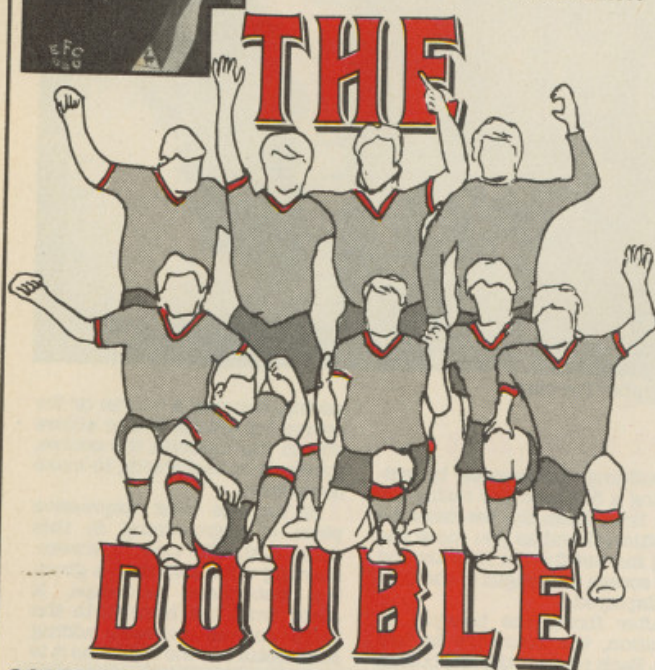
STAR GUIDE

Nova



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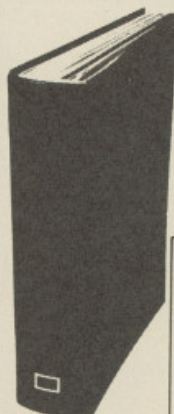
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COMPETITION HI-SCORE CHART

Game	System	Scorer	Score
Action Biker	C64	Craig Jones	243548
Action Biker	Atari	Nigel Clarke	237462
Chuckie Egg	Spectrum	Ian Harrison	3021010
Chuckie Egg	Electron	Simon Popplewell	579600
Chuckie Egg	BBC	Andrew Neck	2554960
Chuckie Egg	C64	Luigi Waterworth	3324790
Chuckie Egg II	Electron	S Seal	1300000
Knight Lore	Spectrum	A Parkinson	98%
Hyper Sports	Spectrum	David Stein	415980
Hyper Sports	C64	Sandy Bulloch	142084
Pole Position	Atari	Dominic Anderson	136650
Pole Position	Spectrum	Denis Bicheron	63800
Pole Position	C64	Jason Peterson	149670
Pole Position	BBC	David Brown	123350
Elite	BBC	D Codrington	13437772
Elite	Electron	Craig Burridge	1100476
Elite	C64	Jason Kennedy	428957315
Elite	Spectrum	Gavin Sneddon	51000
Bruce Lee	Spectrum	Sam Swift	6000000
Bruce Lee	C64	Keith Nicholson	1185650
Dropzone	Atari	Stephne Lakey	1140230
Spy Hunter	Spectrum	Andrew Cooper	5276095
Spy Hunter	C64	John Greorghison	365475
Who Dares Wins II	C64	Julian Bryant	112550
Raid Over Moscow	C64	Alan Jones	273200
Raid Over Moscow	Spectrum	Gary Smith	650050
Zalaga	BBC	Paul O'Malley	15007810
Beach Head	C64	Noel Reynolds	866000
Beach head	BBC	Glenn Chegwiddden	295600
Starquake	Spectrum	Lief Findlay	217671 (70%)
Blue Max	Atari	Hakan Akbas	3440
Zaxxon	Atari	Simon Jones	199130
Zaxxon	C64	Simon White	216650
Chop Suey	Atari	Alan Wheatley	185750
Sabre Wulf	BBC	Andrew Maskery	301450
Exploding Fist	C64	Paul Whitehead	841300
Exploding Fist	Spectrum	Steven Smith	836400
Exploding Fist	Amstrad	Jan Larsen	74300
Yie Ar Kung Fu	C64	Lee James	711071
Yie Ar Kung Fu	Amstrad	Stephen Everitt	4365680
Yie Ar Kung Fu	Spectrum	Jonathon Leinmuller	259500
Yie Ar Kung Fu	BBC	Ian Cameron	772100
Yie Ar Kung Fu	Electron	Colin McGowan	757100
Commando	C64	Russell Hann	9625100
Commando	Spectrum	James Allen	128450
Supertest	Spectrum	Tony Higgins	36250/56741
Soul of a Robot	Amstrad	R Messenger	83%
Repton 2	Electron	Jeanette Alderson	10573
Highway Encounter	Spectrum	R Messinger	148370
Bounty Bob Strikes Back	Atari	Hakan Akbas	46270
Manic Miner	Spectrum	Mathew Bean	18658
Jet Boot Jack	Atari	Chris Beard	54000
Chop Suey	Atari	Gaincarlo Massironi	533630
Rambo	C64	David Jones	305750
Hunter Patrol	C64	David Jolley	171000
Transformers	Spectrum	Kevin O'Kelly	452715
Gyruss	C64	John Chasey	335250
Gyruss	Atari	Hailan Akbas	218600
Mr Eee	BBC	Wyndham Townend	163350
The Eidolon	Atari	Aaron Hardwick	19499
Staff of Karnath	C64	John Greorghison	6:44 pm
Schooldaze	Spectrum	Nigel Kettlewell	14470
Defend or Die	Amstrad	Dee Nicholson	848370
Paradroid	C64	Adam Cleobury	28850
Rescue on Fractalus	Atari	Hailan Akbas	104314

All entries to our on-going hi-score competition should be on the most recent form and only one entry per person per form. All entries should be witnessed and forms must be filled in correctly.

In the comments section you can include any points that you would like to make about the game, how you did it, a hint perhaps. The best hints will go into our main hints section.

All entries, as usual, to:

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Good luck...

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

(If not applicable, why not?)



SPORTS

REVIEWS



- Black Hole** —  This should be avoided at all costs as anything that gets too close to it is immediately sucked into the vacuum. A game given this description is totally void of any interesting features.
- White Dwarf** —  This is a small dying star that is now far from it's best. Any similar games may lack lasting appeal.
- Bright Star** —  Like your sun, games given this description will be bright and interesting and will support intelligent life.
- Red Giant** —  Brighter than a bright star such a game will have an outstanding feature or game system.
- Nova** —  If you see a game with a Nova rating you should immediately rush out and buy it. Novas are bright and spectacular and can influence neighbouring planets.
- Supernova** —  This is the ultimate in stellar systems for this incredible explosion of a star can effect entire galaxies. If a supernova game runs on a computer that you don't have then buy the machine and then buy the game!
- Nebula** —  Although at first nebulae look bright and interesting they are in fact constructed totally from hot gasses. Beware of any game carrying this symbol as you will probably find it disappointing.

Planet ratings


Planet ratings are marks out of five for specific areas of a game. These include Originality, graphics, use of machine and value for money.


Originality — How original is the game? Is it a completely new idea or is it the 83rd version of Pac-man.

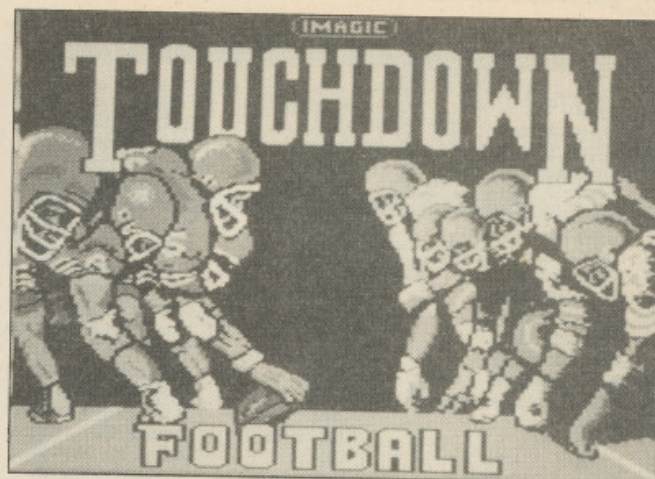
Graphics — Do the Graphics amaze your friends or send them to sleep.

Use of machine — does the game push the machines hardware to the limits or was it written in three lines of Basic.

Value for money — Is it daylight robbery or a steal?

Number of players  minimum/maximum

Joysticks  required/optional.



Title: Touchdown Football
Computer: C64
Supplier: Ariolasoft
Price: £10.95



Ariolasoft's entry into the expanding market for gridiron games was written by Imagic (who are better known for their games cartridges) and takes you straight into the action.

You control one of a six man team (the full eleven would make the gameplay too slow), who can play either human or computer opponents in a game over 5, 10 or 15 minute quarters.

The coin is tossed and you will receive the ball. The players are set, the whistle is blown and the band start playing as the ball is kicked. You catch it around the 20 yard line and run it back to the thirty. You now have four downs (attempts) to make ten yards.

Your first play is a pass out of the shotgun formation which is caught for a 6 yard gain. The next, a run, is quickly clobbered by the defence and you're left with 3rd and 4. You plan a trick play. You set up again in a shotgun pass formation. You send your right receiver deep and your left receiver down the flank. You snap the ball but instead of passing, as the defence expects, you run it behind your left receiver who shields you from the defenders until you get the yards.

While in attack you play the quarterback until he passes the

ball then control switches to the receiver who you must guide to the ball and then on for as many yards as possible.





In defence you control one player who basically stops anything the computer controlled ones let through. Or if you're feeling brave you can go for the quarterback.

What the computer controlled players actually do depends on the play that you enter. On offence you must enter (by joystick) a formation where the left and right receivers will run and whether the offensive line will block straight ahead or favour one side. The defence only have to decide a basic formation, either concentrating on one side, pass prevent or blitz.

This system works well as beginners can start playing straight away without reading reams of notes and gradually add plays to their repertoire as the game continues.

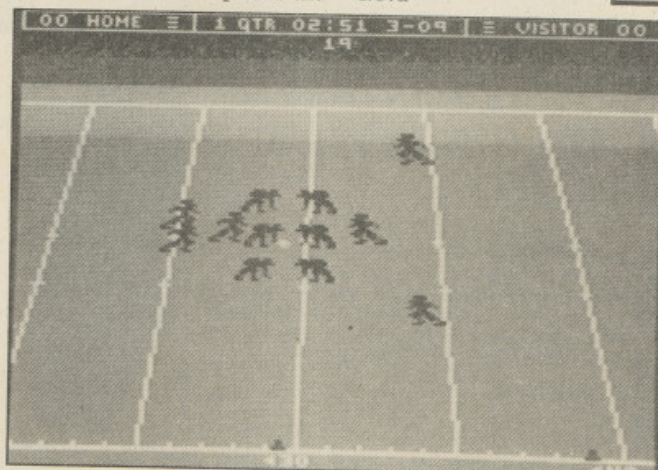
Add to that field goals, punts, penalties, cheerleaders and dances in the endzone and you have a game that will keep even the hardened Football fans glued to their screens.

T.H.

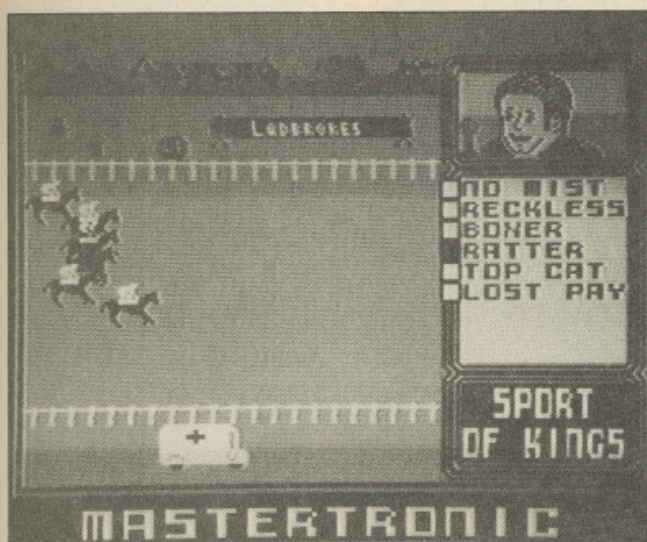
Originality 
Graphics 
Use of machine 
Value for money 

STAR RATING

Nova 



REVIEWS



Title: Sport of Kings
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Mastertronic
Price: £2.95



Icons, icons are everywhere. They first appeared in business packages, they've invaded adventures, now here's the first icon driven sports game.

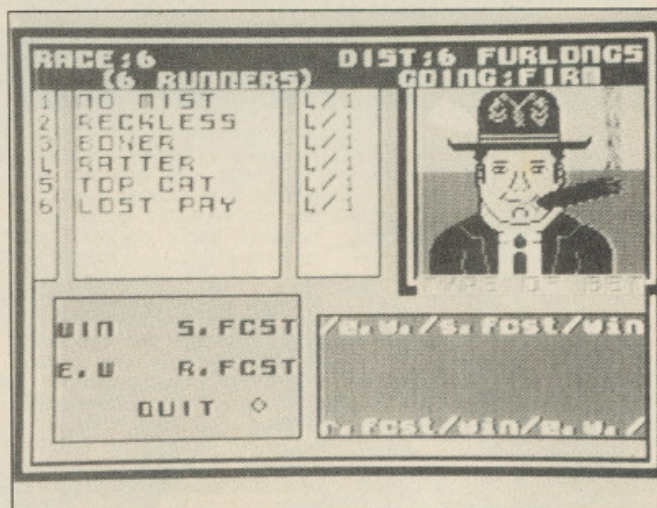
Sport of Kings is also the first sporting MAD game.

The sport of kings referred to in the title is, of course, horse racing, and you'll need a king's ransom to play this game.

As many as 75 horses, each

with different abilities and forms run in the season's races so the computer allows you to run some races before the betting begins. Unfortunately you have to sit and watch each race so this is ample opportunity to get all the paper and pens the contestants will need.

To do well in this game you obviously have to pick the winners and the best way to do this is to study the form. The computer stores the result of each race and allows each player to study (or print out) the form of any of the horses in the race.



However since there are 75 horses and only between 4 and 10 in each race, each running differently in different conditions, (good, firm, soggy etc.) a lot is left to luck.

By selecting the games icons you can look at the lineup for the next race, study the form of the horse, save the game to tape, see how much money you've won or lost or place a bet.

Depending on how confident you are in your prediction you can bet on a horse to win, come in a place (in the first three) or better a forecast predicting the first two horses.

During the race you can watch your horses progress as they amble along the course. If you have a Currah Speech unit then you can listen to a commentary of sorts as the commentator

yells out the leader's name. After the race the winnings (if any) are paid out and it's on to the next race.

Unfortunately the program is written in Basic and is a little slow at first but soon you'll be so deep in your own form notes that you won't even notice the bookie bills that are mounting up. **T.H.**

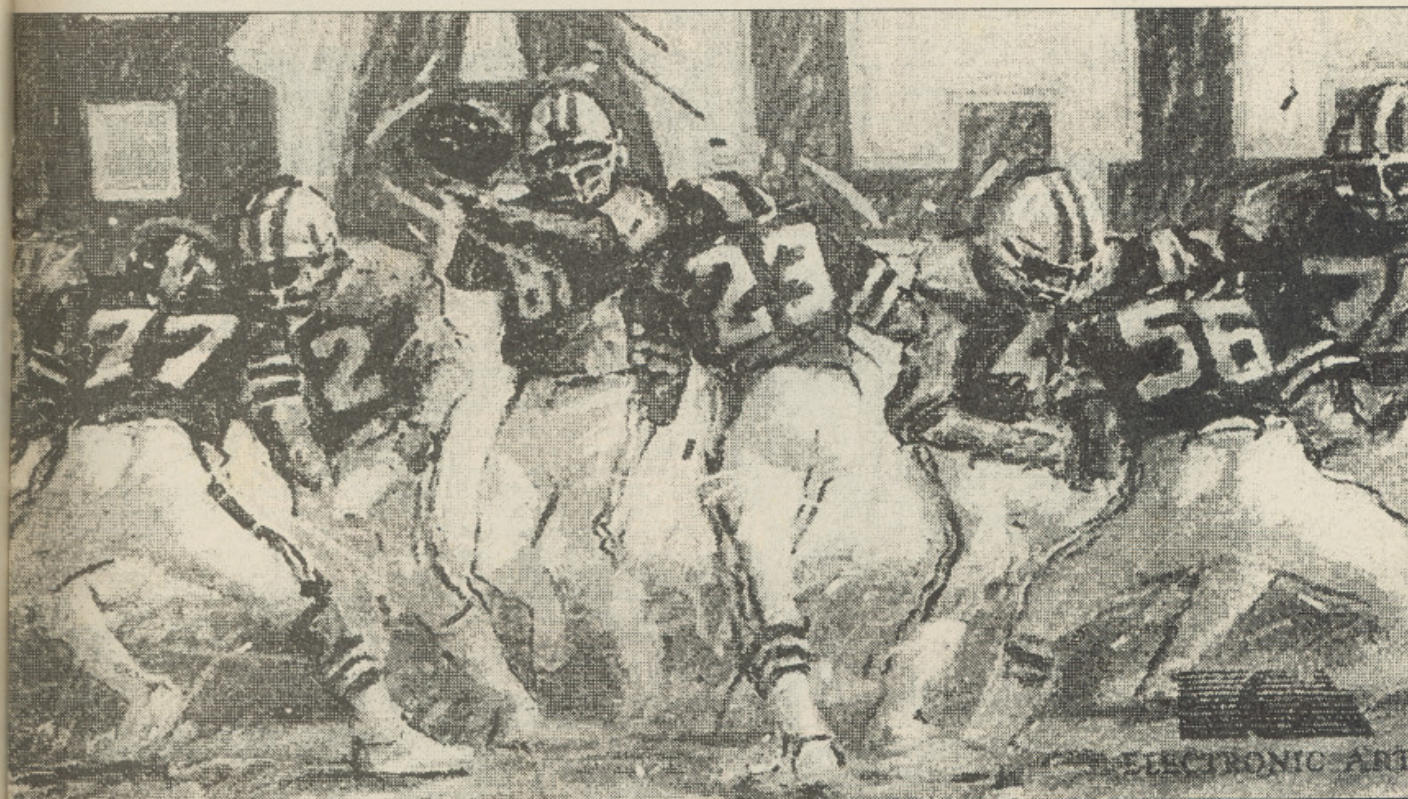
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Bright Star



Title: Rock 'N Wrestle
Computer: Amstrad
Supplier: Melbourne House
Price: £9.95



Rock 'N Wrestle, Melbourne House's follow up to Exploding Fist is now available for the Amstrad.

The game features your attempts as Gorgeous Greg to become world champion by beating nine opponents.

However they are equally determined to stomp on you.

First in the ring is Redneck McCoy who can be easily despatched with a few well timed headbutts and an aeroplane spin. Then before you've had any chance to recover you have to grapple with the likes of Vicious Vivian, Angry Abdul and finally the reigning champion Lord Toff.

If you are going to beat them all you will have to master each of the game's 25 moves. These include bone crushing moves like the 'atomic drop', 'body slam' and 'back breaker' as well as my favourite the 'turnbuckle fly'

where you climb onto ropes and leap on your hapless opponent.

I found this Amstrad conversion to be a little slower than the original C64 game. It is, however, more colourful and now you grapple in a hall packed with (silent) spectators. The greatest loss is the omission of the great rock music that the C64 had to bop (your opponent) to leaving only the grating coughing sound whenever a blow lands. Not so much Rock 'N Wrestle as Cough 'N Wrestle!

Despite this, it is still an excellent game which will soon be available for the Spectrum as well.

T.H.

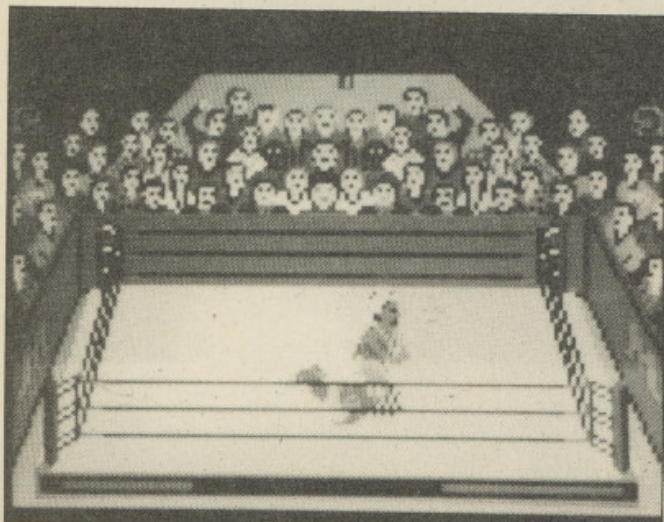
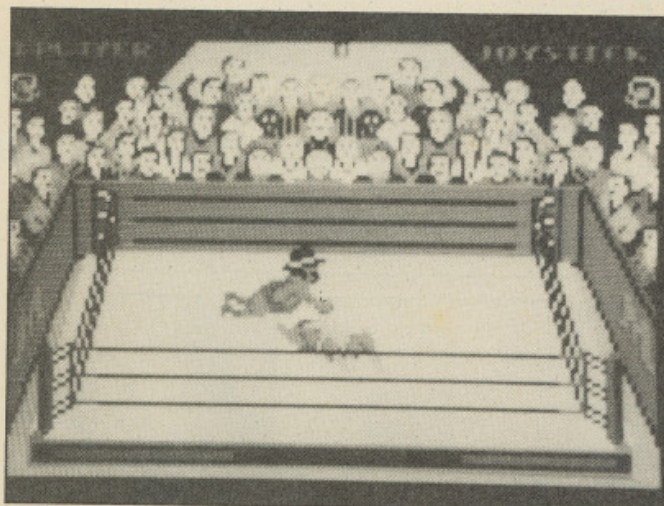
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money

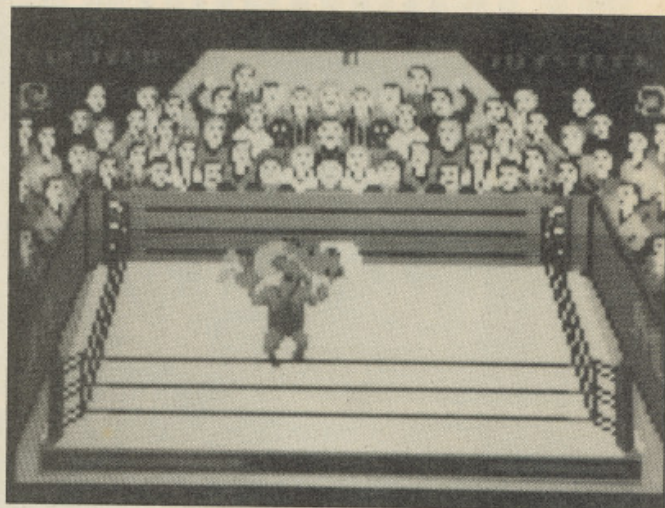


STAR RATING

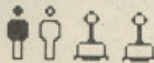
Nova



48



Title: Bounces
Computer: C64
Supplier: Beyond
Price: £9.95



naturally the player with the most points at the end of the game wins.

The match can be decided before the time runs out if either players runs out of energy that is expended by leaping about and recovered by resting.

Unfortunately, I found Bounces disappointing, as soon I was regularly beating the computer at expert level and finding anyone who wanted to play a knight tied to a wall with a piece of elastic proved to be more challenging than the game.

Sorry Beyond, this one is just too silly.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

White Dwarf



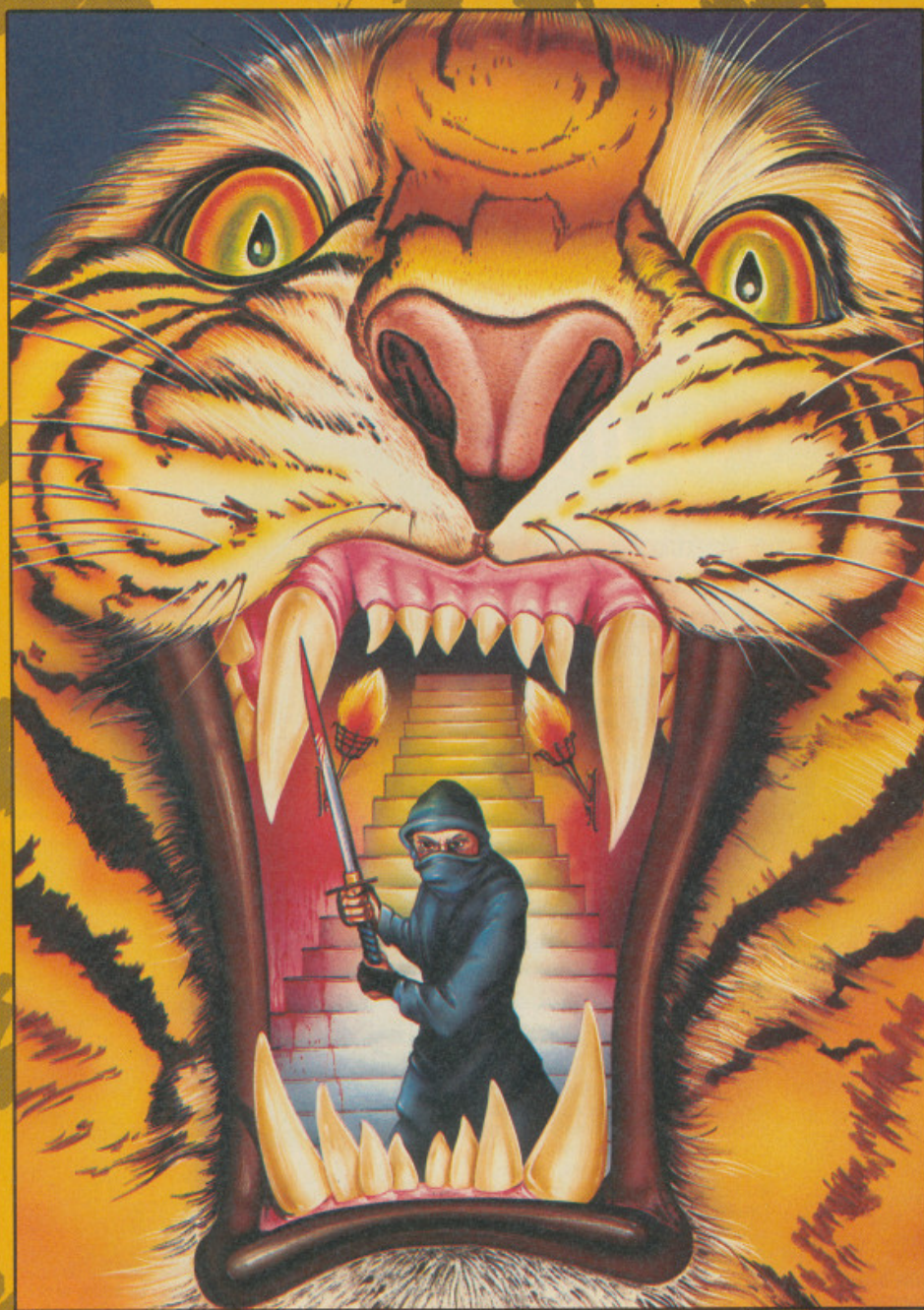
Imagine two knights locked in mortal combat. But their weapons are not swords, spears or axes, instead they battle with tubes to fire a ball into goals set in the roof. Add to that the fact that they are both tied to the side walls by elastic and you have a game closer to "It's a Knockout" than the "futuristic combat game" Beyond intended.

The knights are called Eric and Ashley and must catch the ball and fire it either at their opponent or into one of the goals which are actually two holes set in the roof.

Hitting your opponent or forcing him back so he hits the wall will dump him on his armoured behind and scores 1 point.

Getting the ball in the hole scores three points and

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Screenshots from Spectrum 48K

Gauntlet

PLAYERS GUIDE

In a special coin-op feature, Tony Hetherington accepts the challenge of Atari's Gauntlet.

If you go down to the arcades this summer you are sure to see a crowd of players around one particular machine. The game in question is the incredible Gauntlet which is an arcade, Dungeons and Dragons style adventure.

Up to four will be playing it at any one time but there are sure to be plenty of spectators on hand too offer friendly advice.

By reading this guide you should be able to keep ahead of the crowd.

The dungeon

Gauntlets dungeon is a massive collection of rooms, passages, treasure and monsters divided into levels.

Only a fraction of a level is displayed on the screen at any one time so it scrolls as the players move.

The graphics are in a word, superb, and would make any home computer game hide in shame.

The idea of the game is simply to explore and plunder as much of the dungeon as possible before you finally meet the inevitable end.

The brave explorers enter the fray by naturally putting money in the machine, for every 10p inserted your character gets 400 (or 500) health points. When these run out you can either put more money in or drop out of the game. One nice feature of the game is that players can join the party at anytime.

You begin the adventure in a standard Gauntlet walled room complete with brick floor but you haven't got long to admire the scenery as some rather nasty looking ghosts are already closing in.

You kill one ghost, then another and another but they

still come on relentlessly. You eventually drive them back when you realise that they're coming from a pile of bones known as a generator. Destroy this and you can quickly kill off the rest.

A bigger pile of bones generates grey ghosts which are harder to kill and even tougher grey ghosts, this time with evil red eyes, pour from an even bigger pile.

The ghosts are in fact the weakest foes you will have to meet as further in the dungeon different generators are poised to pour out squat dwarf like monsters called Grunts and Demons that shoot at you.

If that wasn't enough, you will have to fight Lobbers that hurl rocks at you, Sorcerors that can become invisible, a thief that can steal your hard fought treasures and the aptly named, black clad, Death.

These evil creatures can quickly end an adventure as the can only be destroyed by magic.

When you see one of these, running away, seems like an excellent tactic.

One place to run, is down an exit, which leads to the next level.

The Characters

Up to four players can play Gauntlet simultaneously by controlling one of the games characters. These are Thor the Warrior, Questor the Elf, Merlin the Wizard and Thyra the Valkyrie.

Each character has different strengths and weaknesses making each a separate challenge to play.

Thor is a tough axe wielding warrior whose tough skin will absorb 20% of damage thrown at



Level 13 — There's plenty of treasure but you'll have to fight for it.



Level 8 — and Merlin is face to face, with Death.



Ghosts and Grunts are waiting to pounce.

him. He is however slow moving and can't strike as fast as the others but when he does hit something, it stays hit. Basically Thor can get through most things, in his own time.

Thyra is slightly faster than Thor and owns a shield that will take up to 30% of damage inflicted on her. She can wield her lighter sword faster than Thor but doesn't inflict so much damage.

Thyra is a slightly faster and sleeker version of Thor.

Merlin is only slightly faster than Thor but slower than Thyra. He can fire his magic bolts almost twice as fast as Thor can hurl his axes with the strength of Thyra's sword. Merlin however has no armour so if he gets into trouble, he will have to blast his way out quickly or he'll be cut down.

Finally, Questor is a typical Elf and is guaranteed to annoy the rest of the party. His great speed ensures that he's usually first to the treasure and can avoid serious trouble. When he needs to fight, his arrows can fire quickly and his leather armour will protect him from 10% of anything that's thrown at him. However if he's trapped where his speed won't help him he'll soon slow down for good.

Magic and Treasure

There is enough treasure and magic in the dungeon to tempt even the most timid adventurer into battles with ghosts, Grunts and Sorcerors, as not only are they worth points but will let you get further into the game.

Food is of more importance early on as finding some of this will add 100 health points to rejuvenate your character.

Treasure adds points to your score but it is the keys and potions that will drive you deeper and deeper into the dungeon's depths.

Keys are essential as you will need one to open every door you come to. Luckily, there is always one nearby but you might have to fight fifty ghosts to get it.

Potions are the dungeons great find as they can either improve one of your characters abilities (allow you to move faster or hit harder), turn you temporarily invisible so the monsters won't attack you, or wipe out everything on the screen when activated. This is done by pressing your magic button and is usually used to avoid 1 or more deaths.

How to Win

The tactics used to win vary depending on your definition of winning. If you're acting as a team then you'll move together as a party, leading with the strongest characters and leaving food you find to whoever happens to need it most.

You'll co-ordinate your attacks to first clear a way through to the generators where the Elf can nip in to destroy it while the

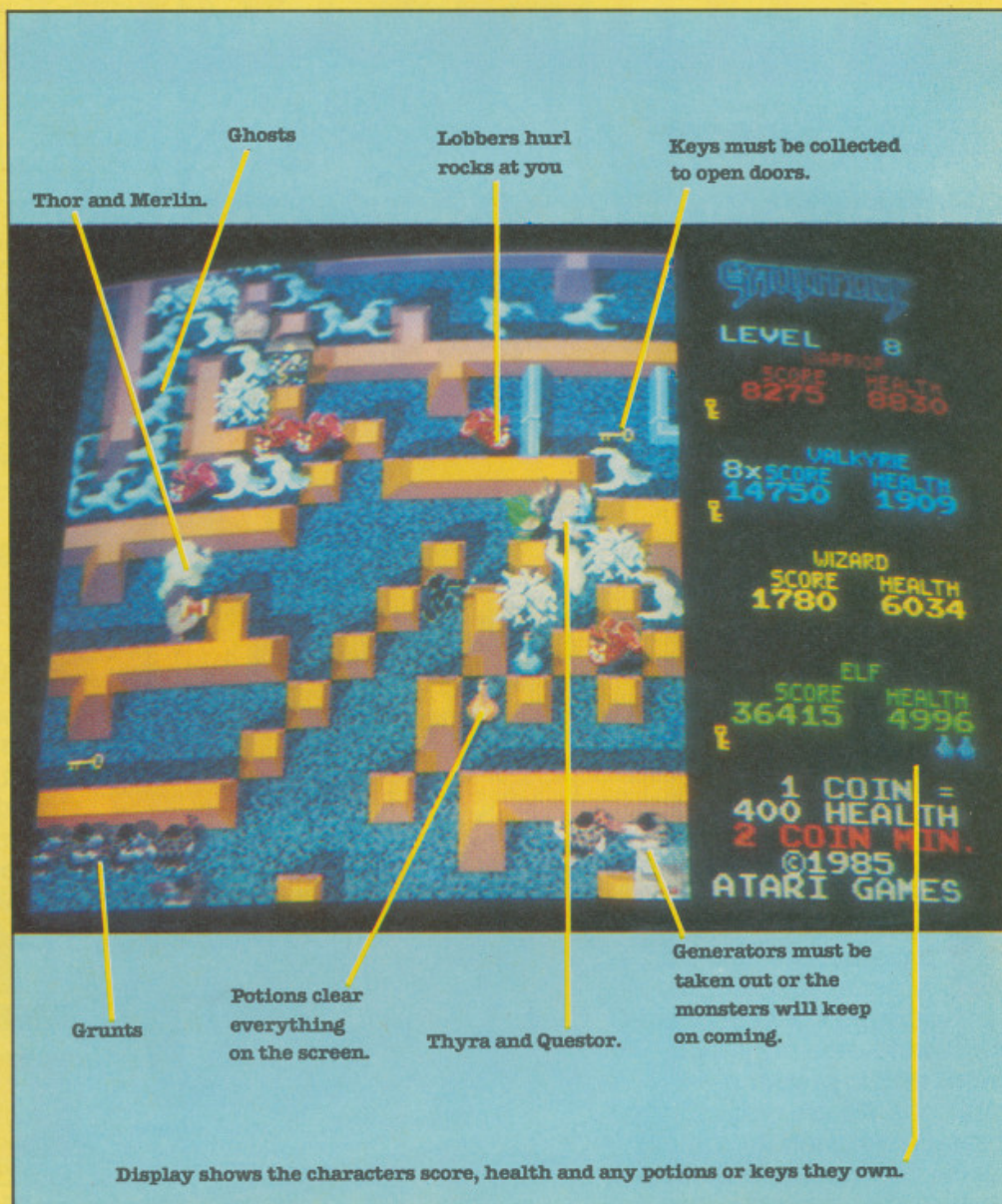
others protect him and then tidy up the remaining monsters.

One problem to avoid is to remember that the screen scrolls over a set area of dungeon and so you should ensure that each character can escape should he discover more than he

successfully, but Thor will have to choose narrow passageways or Questor will get past him.

In this type of game, food is often "accidentally" collected before the desperate character can get to it. "Sorry I didn't see it" is the usual excuse.

can warn you of changes to the game. For example, as you delve deeper into the dungeon valuable food and potions can be destroyed by stray shots as well as the inclusion of hidden potions and walls that can be destroyed.



can handle. If another character has strayed too far away then they both can get stuck as the way in is no longer on the screen. This could prove fatal as careful backing up is difficult when being attacked.

Unfortunately such team work between fantasy Gamers is as rare as unguarded treasure and most players will compete to get the highest score.

In these conditions the Elf has a distinct advantage as his speed can get him to the treasure first. He can also get to the keys first so that he can be first through any doors, grab a key and to the next while the rest of the party are left fighting his battles.

These tactics can of course be used by the others, very

So how do you stop the Elf? Unfortunately you can't shoot him yourself (although you'll no doubt try) but you can either block his path through or trap him using the screens scroll until he's softened up a bit.

It is important to realise that there is a high score table per character (so teamwork, of a sort, may actually work) and it is calculated by the average score per coin. So spending more money won't guarantee you a place on the table. Instead you should waste no time as every second stood thinking costs you a health point and brings you closer to the dreaded game over.

Finally listen to the machines voice synthesis and watch for messages on the screen as these

Conclusions

Gauntlet is a superb game that should tempt even the dedicated text adventurers into the arcades this summer.

Be warned however that it is horribly addictive to play and so can also be expensive.

It is unlikely that you will ever finish the game alone and so you should use the ability to join the game at any stage to help from the other characters to get deeper into the dungeon without getting your bank balance too far into the red.

After a few hours play we have managed to reach dungeon level 35 with scores over 3,500,000. Can you beat that?

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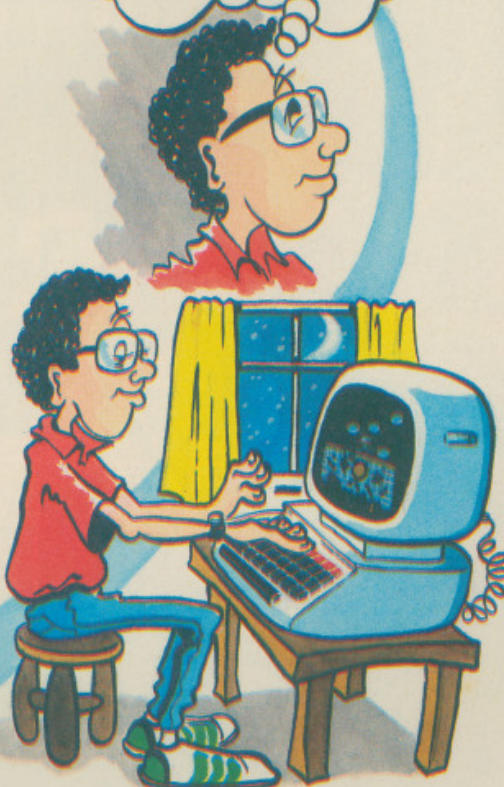
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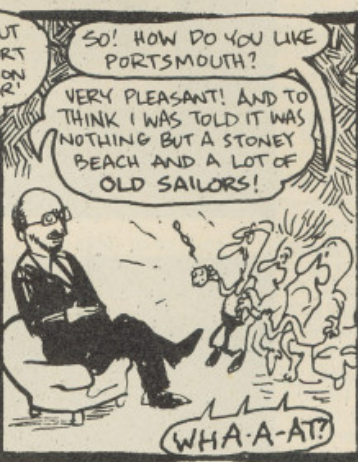
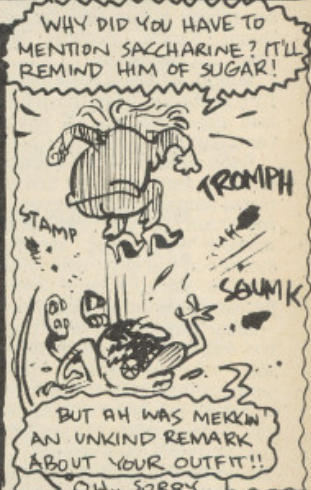
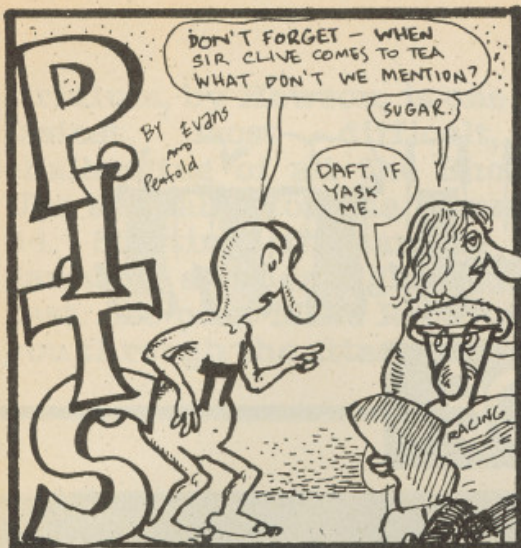
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Uridium

PLAYERS GUIDE

The solar system is under attack by enemy super Dreadnoughts! Gosh! Shock, Horror! What? again... Yes again.

Muggins here is volunteered to fly his Manta Class space fighter and eliminate all 15 enemies! (and then after lunch...).

Each enemy ship is draining mineral resources for use in its metal convertor. To prevent this reduction of the system's resources you must straff the surface of the ship, destroying all surface installations and the fighters that come after you.

After this you go onto the fuel rod extraction stage where you can retrieve some of the elements taken by the ship. After this you get another chance to get any surface installations that you may have missed — and then onto the next dreadnought.

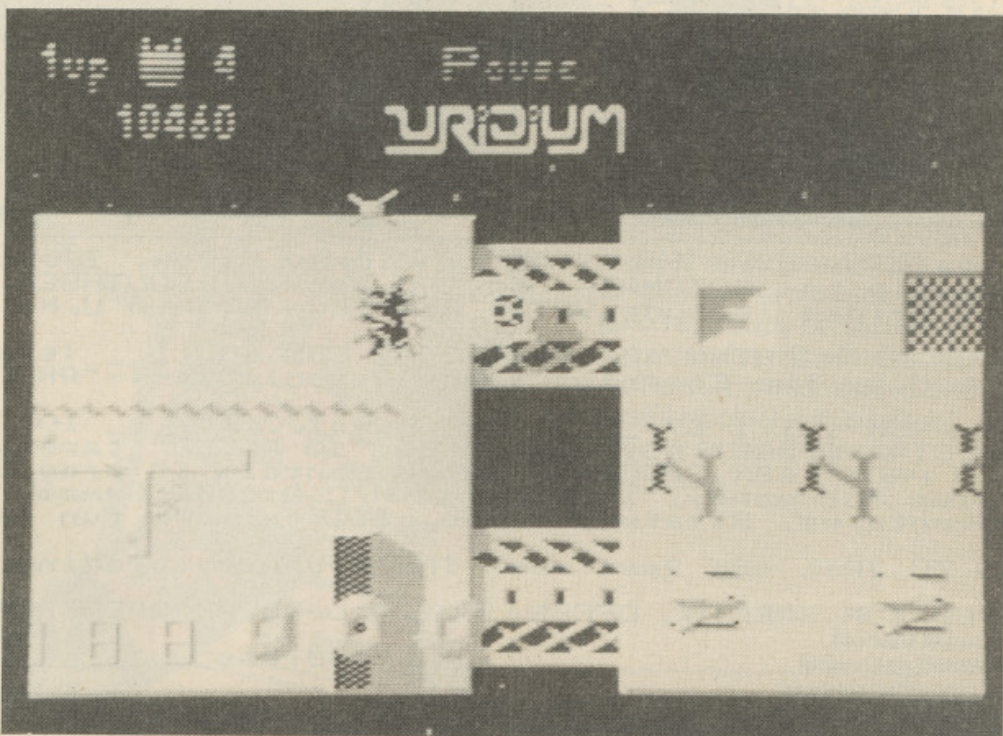
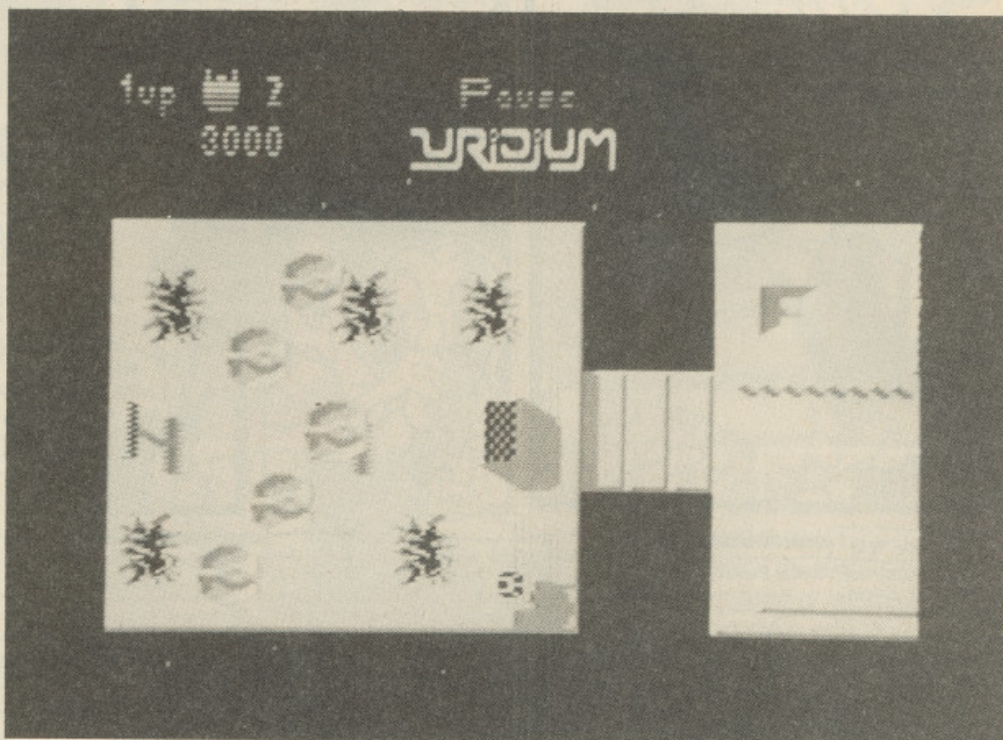
Tackling Uridium needs to be done in stages as there are three, almost separate, parts of the game. The fuel extraction stage (which is a totally separate part of the game), attacking the super dreadnought, and attacking and avoiding all that the enemy ship can throw at you.

The Attack

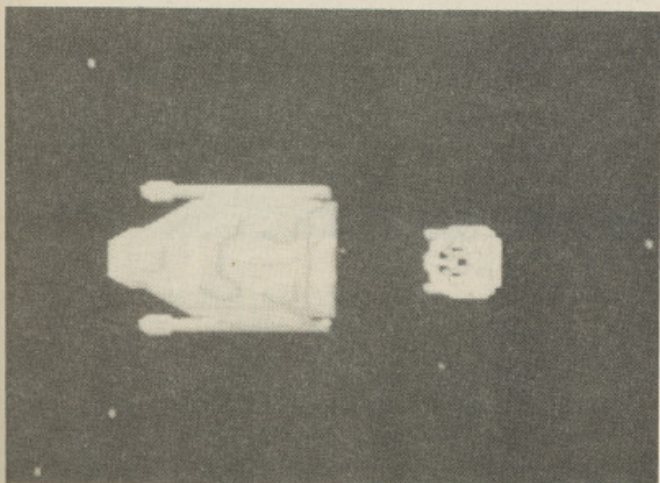
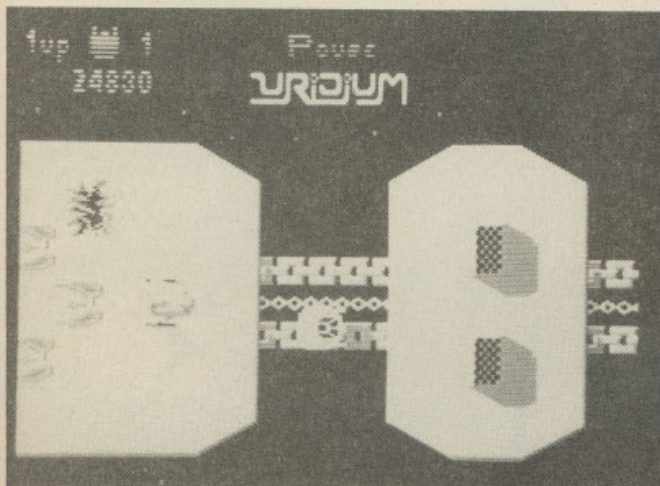
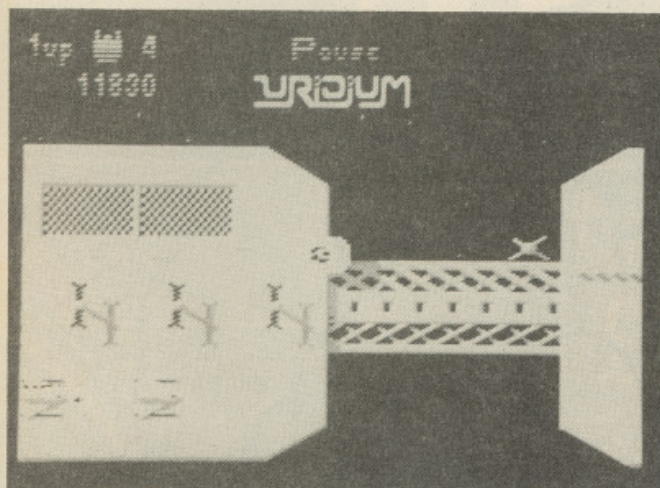
This is the main object of the game, straffing all the parked fighters and installations on the surface of the ship. This is no real problem. Especially as it doesn't actually matter to your progress through the game (i.e. from level to level) is not related to how many surface objects that you zap. The big problem comes with the non-zappable objects. The really dangerous ones are indicated by the longer length of their shadows. This makes them a bit taller, if they are taller it means that you will smack straight into them! Bye, bye, one Manta Class fighter.

There is no easy way to avoid these, you must remember all the sequences of walls and aerials. Some of the gaps between walls look a bit thin — well they don't actually look thin, but, you soon find out that they are. The way to get through these sections is to turn your fighter sideways! This is accomplished by moving up or down with the fire button pressed. In sideways mode you can easily slip between the walls.

The other surface features are either blastable or non-blastable. Apart from the tall objects (which are fairly dangerous as described above), the only non-



Uridium, by Hewson, is one of the fastest, most difficult, and challenging of all the Shoot 'em Ups available for the Commodore 64. Starting off can be a bit daunting as alien fighters stream past. Ace pilot Mike Roberts takes you through the attack.



blastable objects that are dangerous in any way are the mine launchers — but I will get onto them in the next section.

As far as blasting objects goes, just do that. They can't fight back and are just sitting ducks. To begin with you should shoot at everything on the surface, to work out which can be shot and which can't. Remember, these objects aren't going anywhere, if you miss one, don't jeopardise the whole game if you have some enemy ships on your tail, you can always go back for it later.

Surface Defence

This means mines. Mines are not nice. In fact, mines are pretty annoying. Mines are those little things that fire out of launching ports and then home in on you. This can be quite upsetting, but by obeying a few rules they become less of a problem.

The most important rule is never fly over the launchers. These are the small flashing squares that appear from time to time. There is almost enough of them for at least one on every screen. If you hang around for any time at all (i.e. you're not going through like a bat out of hell) one, or on later levels two or perhaps three mines, will get launched. Next follows the kind of chase you would expect to find on the Benny Hill show as you try to shake off the mines. The mines will chase you for 15 seconds and in that time you have to swoop and dive around to miss them.

The first thing that you must do, is to find a relatively clear area. Whizzing around in circles needs some clear space. It would do no good at all, if after 13 seconds you smack into a wall. So head off as fast as possible for a 'dead' area and then perform a figure of eight — firing at all times.

Now the best plan is to time your eight shape so that on either end the mine makes its attack pass. If all is well you should be rolling at this point, and mines can't get you if you are rolling — dead easy really. And if you are lucky, you might hit a few baddies as well!

Defence Fighters

Each super dreadnought has a swarm of fighters defending it. These come in set formations, and if you follow the same route every time that you play, the formations will follow a similar, or the same, pattern.

Enemy fighters are worth between 100 and 1,000 points. However a wave annihilation bonus is only 100 points, so there are two schools of thought as to what to do about fighters. The 'I want to get to ship 15' strategy doesn't waste time on racking up a particularly high score, so fighters are not pursued.

However the 'I want 500,000 points by level 2' technique (the one I prefer) means that you should go after the fighters.

As discussed earlier, surface installations will be there ad infinitum. But, fighters come and

go, so if you don't destroy a whole wave on one go — chase after them. With the really dangerous (and proportionally high scoring) fighters that don't just sit around and be shot — i.e. they dodge a bit and shoot back, you need to be careful. Move towards the formation head-on moving up and down and firing all the time. This makes you rotate and more difficult to hit with a fighter's missile.

After you have passed through the formation — hopefully through a hole that you have just shot — you can turn around and shoot them from the rear.

The non-dangerous ones that shoot very little can be shot in any manner that you want. Some fighters are extremely manoeuvrable and whizz around whilst firing at you. However, they also act like mines in that the way you avoid them is the same, sooner or later they will stop and you can blow them up with impunity.

Racking up a Score

When all the surface installations are finished off, you can build up a higher score by shooting the fighters. Ignoring the 'land now' message is also a good technique as it will come around later. To facilitate this technique, Andrew Braybrook — the programmer — put in some 'dead zones'. These are areas of the ship that have no walls or mines. These relatively tranquil areas let you sit around to your heart's content blasting way like mad. Then if you get a bit bored on that level, or it's getting a bit hot, you can nip over to the landing strip — as dead zones are usually near to this area of the ship.

Rod Extraction

One small trick here. The idea of this section of the game is to press the fire button when the bonus is lit up rather than 'quit'. About three from the end I found the 'quit' was coming up all the time, the harder than I tried to get the bonus, the more that 'quit' came up.

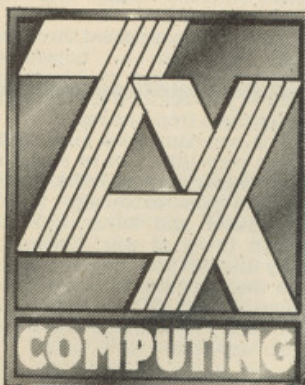
The solution? — Well I tried to get 'quit' and of course, I missed it, just like when I was missing the bonus. However, this time I didn't mind missing the 'quit' and getting the bonus...

Final Straff

If you have missed any surface installations — now is your time to make amends. On one or two of the levels, there are some that are too difficult and time consuming to get. Remember where they are and blast them as they come into view.

Uridium is a great game, and continues the tradition of shoot 'em ups that started off the computer industry. Let the 'I don't like those type of games' posers stick to their strategy games. As a dedicated action game fanatic, I think games like this require more thought than some of the most difficult adventures — and a fast trigger finger!

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Title: V
Computer: Commodore 64/Spectrum
Supplier: Ocean
Price: £9.95

V stands for Visitors and these reptilian aliens are not welcome. Based on the TV series of the same name, the idea is to find the key points on the ship, set explosives and escape before the whole thing goes bang.

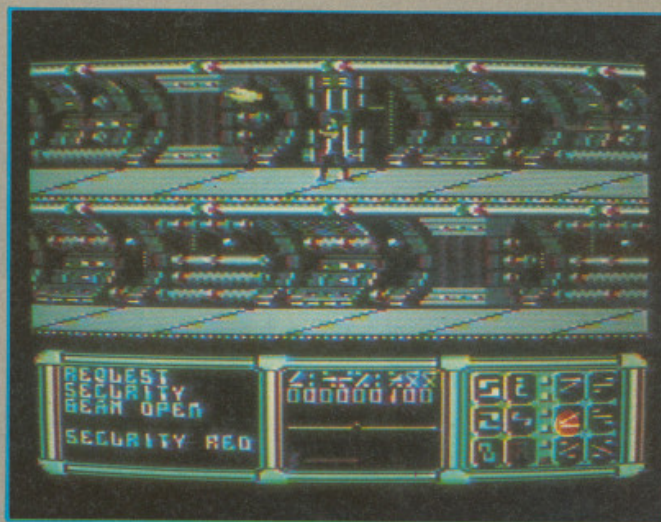
Diana's Mothership in not a healthy place for a human. As Donovan your first problem is to work out how your Communiputer works. This is essential from the very beginning because you start off in the Docking Bay trapped between two force-field doors which will not open until Donovan is given the correct code via this device.

Once inside the ship, there are fifteen levels and five sections to search through to find the five vulnerable locations for your explosives. Diana's robots are on the prowl however, some shoot bolts of high-voltage static, some report your position to Central Control while others go about their task of cleaning and maintenance without paying attention to you. All are highly charged with static which will put a strain on Donovan's heart if he touches them.

The Communiputer's central display is a cardiograph trace of Donovan's heartbeat which quickens with each shock. To preserve his life force he must rest after several jolts to allow his heart to recover or the trace will reduce to a straight line with his mission incomplete.

Apart from the ship's key points there are also several laboratories which harbour the formula for the Red Dust which is which is lethal to the aliens. Injecting Red dust into the air Purification Plant kills off a large proportion of the aliens and this causes the robots to slow down their pursuit of Donovan increasing the likelihood of a successful mission.

The Central Computer is linked into the communiputer which not only gives warning of alien action but also lets you know where you are. In fact, mastery of this little device is essential because it also helps to crack the security codes which open the doors to each section and recharges Donovan's laser which forms his only means of protection.



One major problem is that all of the devices, including the Communiputer are alien products and incorporate alien operating symbols. This does not make the task of setting explosives easy. The aliens obviously use a quaternary numbering system and your guess is as good as mine as to their concept of time.

Access to a new level can only be obtained via a beamer pad which are much in evidence along the ship's corridors but access to a new section requires the correct code before the door will open.

Much of the game is spent wandering through the corridors of the Mothership in a search for a key area or a laboratory. A pen and notepad is essential to remember where each bomb is to be planted and care must be taken not to set the explosive too early or in the wrong place. Each charge is operated by a timing mechanism which cannot be stopped once

the countdown commences. For this reason the locations must be found before the first bomb is set otherwise Donovan will not have time to escape.

Although I thought that the TV series was pitched at the level of Star Trek meets Crossroads and Dallas, the game is a vast improvement on this. The concept and execution of the program places it in the same category as Impossible Mission without the voice syntheses. If you enjoy solving puzzles while zapping aliens this enjoyable game is a must for your collection. **E.O.**

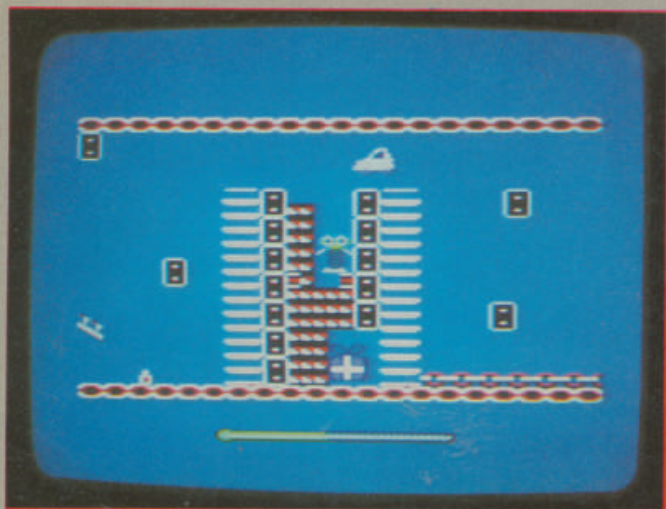
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR GUIDE

Red Giant



Title: Thing on a Spring
Computer: Amstrad
Supplier: Gremlin Graphics
Price: £7.95

About a year ago, Gremlin launched Thing to an unsuspecting Commodore owning public. Now Amstrad owners can take advantage of this excellent game.

The evil goblin has taken over the world and is wreaking havoc (if that's how you spell wreaking) across the world. All the world's treasures have been stolen and are now hidden in his giant cavern, protected by all sorts of weird and wonderful creatures.

You, as the thing, must try and save these. The thing on a spring, as you might suspect, is a little thing on this sort of spring, really. And is capable of bouncing to great heights — which is quite useful really as the cavern is full of lots of things to jump over.

The game is a left/right screen to screen game with plenty of ladders and platforms in them. There are also a lift or two to take you between levels. You pick up the treasures, which is the object of the game after all,

and can pick up various objects that help you on your way — like an escalator reverser and a sort of catapult, and of course there is oil. You need the oil to keep your old and rusting spring in good order, run out of oil and you can look forward to a swift demise.

The game itself is bright and colourful and the animation is superb, definitely up to the Commodore version's standards. The accompanying music is also excellent and sets the scene perfectly.

A great game that can be enjoyed by almost everybody. **M.R.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Red Giant



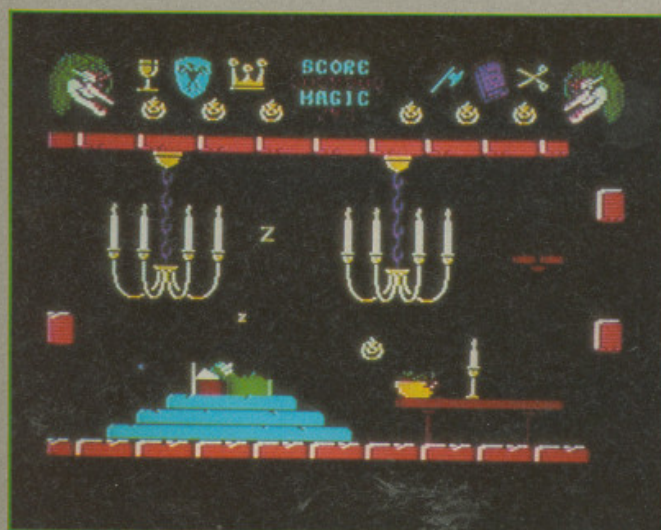
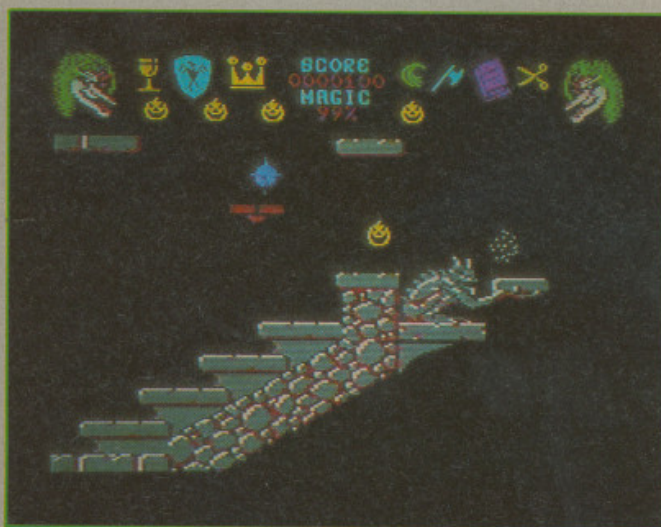
Title: Cauldron II - The Pumpkin Strikes Back
Computer: Commodore 64
Supplier: Palace Software
Price: £7.95

Remember Cauldron, a cross between Defender with a Witch and manic miner? Well she is returning. In the first game you played the good witch, out to destroy the evil pumpkin. The game consisted of left right scrolling defender-type action with spell zapping, and underground problem solving. Complete all this and the pumpkin dies — but the little pumpkin lives on — to fight another day?

Yes, the little pumpkin has his revenge. As the years pass, the witch turns evil and her rule upsets everybody, VAT is up to 22.7% and a pint of beer costs

£1.47 — so the assembled masses are not pleased. but, up steps a hero — the little pumpkin, he will save them, or can he?

The game stars you as a bouncing pumpkin in a maze of rooms. These are in the castle that the witch has constructed for herself — that looks suspiciously like the Palace Software logo. Certain objects are needed to cast the spell that would banish the evil witch for ever. To this end you need to explore the castle to get them, including avoiding the witch, who is asleep, and then find the mystic black cauldron to cast the spell.



REVIEWS

The puzzles are quite good and the graphics are up to Palace's usual standards as is the music, which sets the scene perfectly.

The detail is also impressive, the throne isn't just treated as an object, but as a throne, so you can actually bounce off the arms and into the throne proper. The dipping gargoyles are also a nice touch and add a bit of difficulty.

On the whole I think that Palace have come up with a worth successor to Cauldron, that should keep ladders and

platforms people amused for weeks or months. **M.R.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money



STAR RATING

Bright Star



Title: Off the Hook
Computer: Spectrum and C64
Supplier: Various
Price: £7.95

One of the major problems amongst the youth of Britain is a growing dependency on drugs. Off the Hook is a compilation of ten games for the Spectrum and C64 with all proceeds going towards helping kids kick the habit. Certainly, it is a cause well worth supporting and even if you have seen a couple of the games before, you should still seriously consider getting a copy.

The C64 collection starts with Pitfall II from Activision, a ladders and platforms variant where you collect gold bars and try to rescue your friends whilst avoiding scorpions, electric eels and the like. Anirog's Space Pilot II is reminiscent of Asteroids except that you blast spaceships instead of rocks. Psytron by Beyond is an excellent graphical strategy game where you must defend the Betula 5 installation from saboteurs. Elite's Fall guy gives you the chance to be a stuntman and side one ends with Demons of Topaz from firebird, a platform game.

Sheep in Space is a Jeff Minter/Llamasoft production, a shoot-em-up to the accompaniment of Bach. What more could you ask for? Ocean's Kong Strikes Back is set on a big

dipper as your endeavour to rescue your girlfriend whilst Black Thunder from Quicksilver puts you in charge of a high speed train doing battle against missiles and helicopters. Death Star Interceptor from System 3 Software is a space shoot-em-up and the tape ends with Talledaga, a car racing simulation from US Gold.

On the Spectrum version, Pitfall II, Psytron, Kong Strikes Back and Fall Guy are as above. Ad Astra from Gargoyles is a shoot-em-up whilst Incentive's Splat sets you problems in an ever changing maze. Sam Stoot — Safebreaker from Gremlin sees you trying to rob and escape from four houses with twenty locations in each. Melbourne House's Mugsy is a strategy game in which you play an American Gangster in the twenties. (It's a lot better than the sequel which is currently on release by the way). Chequered Flag from Psion is a Formula One simulation and the tape ends with Blue Mac from US Gold, a World War One dogfight game.

So there you are, something for everybody. Do go out and buy a copy. It really is a worthwhile cause.

G.H.



Title: Cyberun
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Ultimate
Price: £9.95

Once upon a time, everybody who owned a Spectrum would eagerly await the launch of a new game from Ultimate. Their products were renowned as being highly innovative and pushed the limits of what people thought the Spectrum was capable of back even further. Recently however, their products seem to have lost their edge and this led to an agreement being struck between Ultimate and US Gold. Cyberun is the first game to come out of the stables of this new partnership.

The Beta Gamma System is an isolated system of stars and planets in the Amoebus nebula. The main reason why anyone should take any notice of this fact is that the system is the only known source of the anti-element Cybertron in the universe. Cybertron can be transformed into Cybernite, the hardest substance yet discovered. The problem with mining cybertron is that the planets exert a phenomenal magnetic pull. Anyone who can succeed in gaining access to Cybertron controls the whole universe. To this end, parts of a ship have been shipped out to the system where they wait to be re-assembled.

The game starts with you in your command module which is a fairly weak device. Additional parts of your craft can be found floating on clouds or static structures and are picked up automatically when you move over them. The most important of these are your thrusters — both vertical and horizontal for without these, your mobility is severely limited. Other features include a large pair of pincer like legs and a canon which fires bullets that automatically home in on your enemies. These are many and various and include saucers, gunships, comets and some strange flying fish that tow force fields behind them. Your ship is fitted with a laser to help you contact these but believe me, the cannon really does come in useful. One annoying feature is that sometimes when you collide with an object, you are instantly destroyed whilst on other occasions, you can merrily bounce your way off several.

There are many other features contained within the game. Various parts of what appears to be another craft to be assembled at a later date, fuel pods to be collected and underground caves to be explored although with Ultimate's usual policy of non-



divulgence of instructions, nobody that I've spoken to has much of an idea what's expected of them. The graphics of your ship are nice and clear, reminiscent of some of Ultimate's earlier space games but overall, there is a distinct feeling of deja-vu.

G.H.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money



STAR RATING

Red Giant



Title: Bounder
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Gremlin Graphics
Price: £7.95

A ridiculously addictive game in which you must bounce a tennis ball along a course is set to infuriate Spectrum owners everywhere.

Originally released for the C64, Gremlin Graphics have decided that it's time that Spectrum owners suffered as well.

The object of the game is simple — bounce a tennis ball along a course of paving stones until you reach a goal. Unfortunately it isn't that easy.

The course itself is high above the ground and the slightest mistake will send you plummeting to a lost life. You start the game with 3 balls but can gain more by bouncing on mystery spaces. These spaces can also give you bonus jumps (used later on a bonus screen) or kill you straight away or freeze you while a missile flies across the screen which then kills you.

To get to the mystery squares and indeed the end of the course you will have to use power squares, that give you an extra long bounce as well as avoid

walls and aliens that kill you on contact.

Once through a course you get a chance to score some points in the bonus screen which consists only of mystery squares each containing a score. However everytime you bounce you lose one of your jumps. You start with 40 jumps but these are soon whittled away so it is important to get as many as possible in the courses.

Once your score has been added up, it's onto the next course.

The Spectrum version has lost a lot of the colour of it's C64 predecessor but none of the gameplay or sheer frustration when playing it.

The alien critters jealously guard the mystery squares which is exactly where you want to go.

Another great game from Gremlin Graphics.

T.H.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money

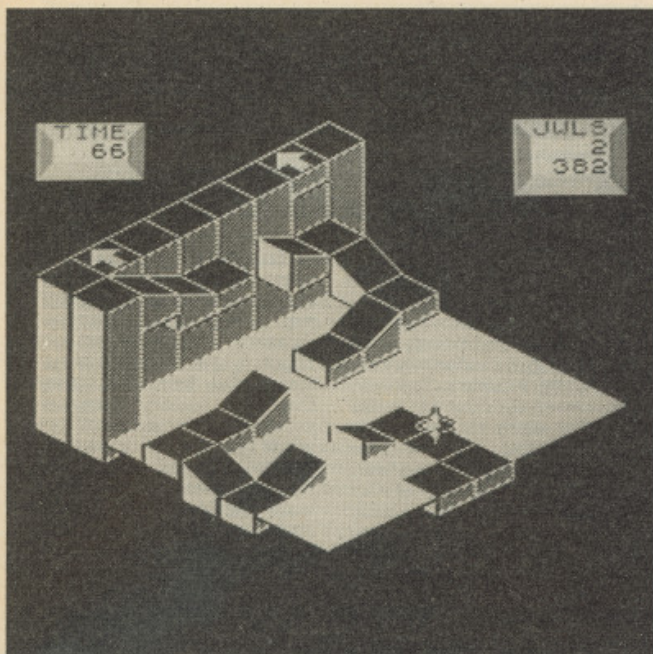


STAR RATING

Nova



REVIEWS



Title: Spindizzy
Computer: C64, Spectrum
Supplier: Electric Dreams
Price: £8.95



Spindizzy, the superb 3D maze exploration game featured for the Amstrad two months ago, is now available for C64 and Spectrum computers.

In the game you have to guide Gerald, a marble/gyroscope/top, around 385 screens in an attempt to map it all.

Unfortunately you only have 100 seconds to do this in! To make things worse the screens are packed with treacherous slopes, gaping chasms you must leap, as well as the odd nasty to get in your way. Any disasters caused by these deducts time, leaving you even less.

Luckily you can gain some vital seconds for every new screen you discover as well as for

collecting the diamonds scattered throughout the maze. However these all seem to be in such impossible positions that you will have to bounce across trampolines or leap across chasms or move across narrow paths to get to them.

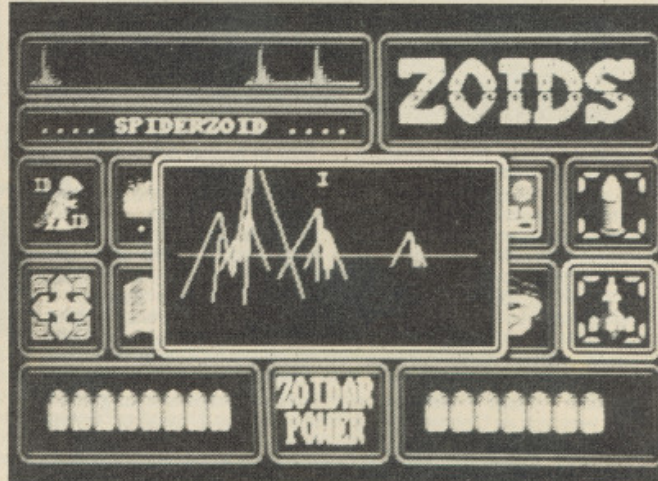
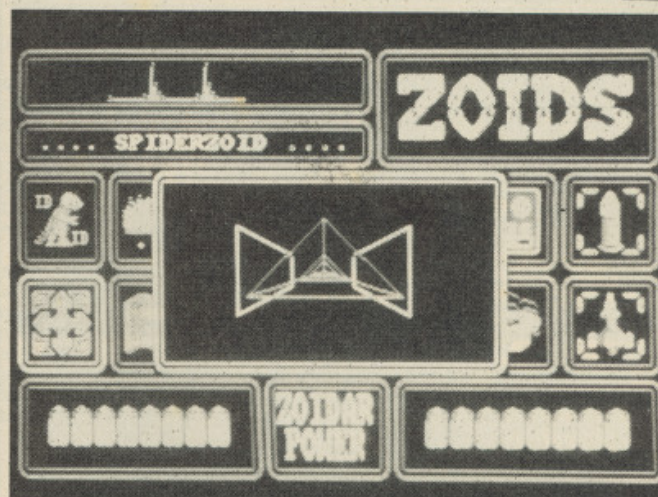
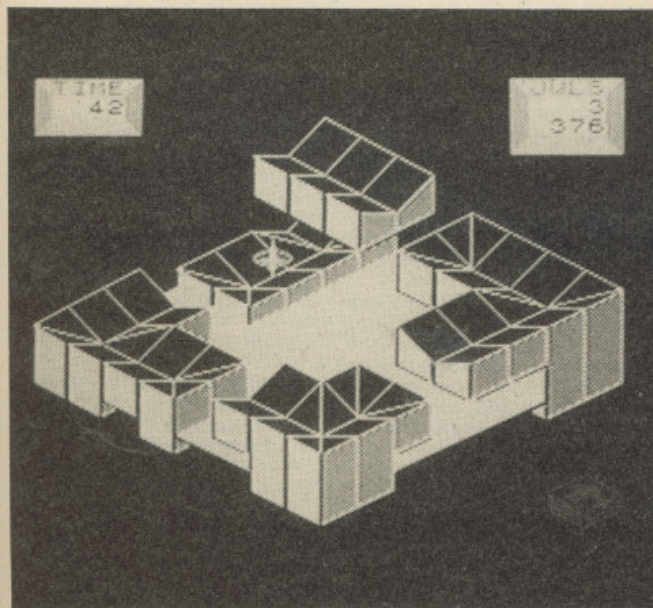
Add to that lifts to take you from one level to the next, a map of the whole maze and four different views of each screen and you have a game that will challenge you for weeks. **T.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money

STAR RATING

Nova



Title: Zoids
Computer: Amstrad
Supplier: Martech
Price: £19.95



Licensing deals are getting ridiculous. First there were films, and TV shows, and books, now toys are the subject of a computer game.

Zoids are a series of robot toys from Tomy — makers of the Verbot/Dingbot robots, which were the subject of a Computer Gamer competition recently.

Zoids are the intelligent robot warriors of a now dead race — the Zoidaryans. All that remain of them are the red zoids and the blue zoids, two types of warrior robots locked in eternal combat. You are on the side of the blue zoids and must assure their victory.

The game of Zoids was the subject of a Computer Gamer feature a few months ago, so I shan't dwell too long on the game, and concentrate on the main differences between this version and the other versions.

The Amstrad version of this game is most similar to the Spectrum version, the Commodore version is different from the other two. The screen display is broadly similar with an increase in resolution and a slight change in the colours as a result, being the only real visual difference.

Gameplay is the same with the short 3D sequences for combat being especially effective. The game is also a bit faster than the original.

So, if you've seen and enjoyed the Spectrum version of this game then you won't be disappointed by the Amstrad version.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money

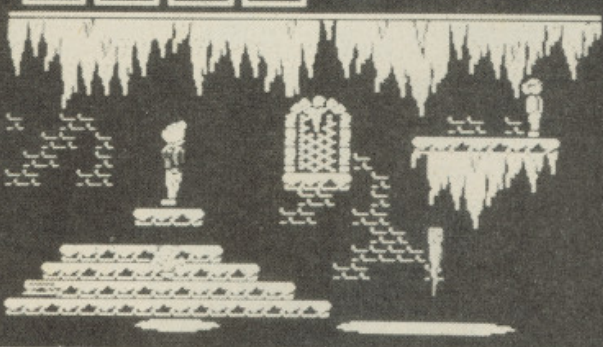
STAR RATING

Bright Star



RUPERT JUMPS AVOIDING JACK TO CLAIM HIS GOOD FRIEND BINGO BACK

KE PILLS 5 PL 1 00800



Title: WOW Games
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Various
Price: £9.95 — mail order only



War on Want was founded thirty years ago with the aims of campaigning against war and poverty especially with respect to the third World. WOW Games is a compilation of fourteen titles with all proceeds going to this worthwhile cause. At just over seventy pence per title, it is an excellent way of building up your games collection at the same time knowing that your money is really going to do some good — WOW have some of the lowest administrative costs of any charity.

Hellfire from Melbourne House sees you as Ulysses trying to complete three tasks set you by the gods. These include a 3D maze, PSS's Xaviour is a 4,000 location arcade adventure in which you are trying to assemble a DNA module. Hunchback II from Ocean sees our hero in more antics as he tries to rescue Esmerelda.

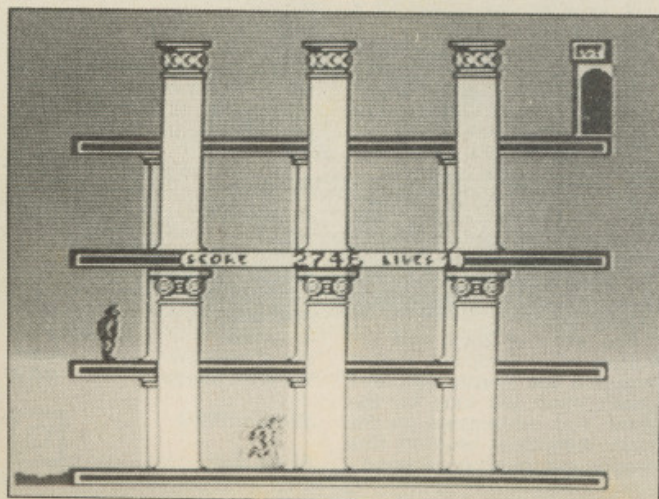
Wizard's Warrior by Mastertronic is a maze game in which you try to defeat the minions of the Wizard of Wilye whilst from Artic comes the highly rated Spectrum Chess II. Winged Warlords from CDS is a version of the arcade game Joust and Headbanger's Heaven is a

Jeff Minter game where you try to collect money whilst simultaneously nutting falling hammers. Well I suppose it makes sense to Jeff!

Side two opens with Rupert and the Ice Palace from Quicksilver in which Rupert Bear tries to rescue his frozen friends in a platform game variant. Audiogenic's Bugeyes has you trying to disable a generator. Horace and the Spiders from Psion sees Horace trying to overcome his arachnophobia by stamping on them!

Firebird's Mr Freeze is a ladders and platforms game with the unusual task of trying to defrost some fridges. Another platform game is Dr Franky and the monster in which you collect chemicals in order to animate the creature. Pedro from Beaujolys is a 3D game where you have to stop creepy crawlies from eating your crops. Finally, Cybertanks from Star Dreams is as its name suggests, a tank battle.

There is enough in WOW Games to satisfy most players and even if you already own one or two titles, it is still a good buy, especially when you consider where the proceeds are going. **G.H.**



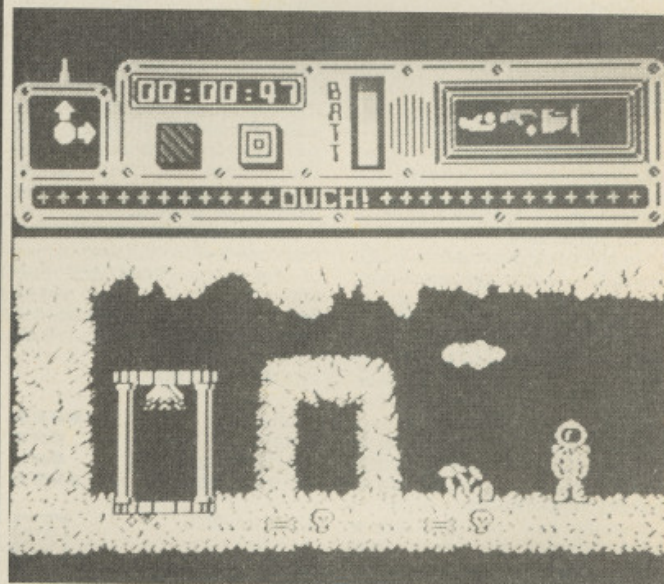
Title: Core
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: A'n'F
Price: £8.95



All 720 staff have died in mysterious circumstances. Andrew Angello affectionately known to his friends as Asteroid Andy received the distress signals but arrived there too late to do anything about it. The suspicion is that there has been an alien attack, but the only way to find out for certain is to locate the nine parts of a biological memory bank scattered around the 1,000 locations split over four levels.

Core is an icon driven arcade

game with various exits although this can be toggled to a picture of the brain display using the red button next to it. Above the red button is a clock whilst to the right of it is a green button which is used to select from the four screen icon menu. Next to that is a battery indicator — your picture starts off bright white and slowly dims as your power decreases. At the right of the screen is the icon menu, this loops between a control panel (help, wait and save), an action selector (pick up, drop, use and fire), a spare batteries display and an items carried (four maximum) indicator.



adventure that sees you in the part of Andy. Apart from wandering around looking for the nine pieces, there are puzzles to be solved as well and it is intended that it will take you some considerable time before you solve everything. To this end, there is a save game facility although this only operates if you can first find a cassette to save the game on!

Graphically, the game looks very attractive with the top third of the screen containing the various icons whilst the bottom part displays you, your current surroundings and any objects and nasties that happen to be around. There are seven main boxes to keep your eyes on. Along the bottom of the icon window is a description and short message strip. Top left is a box showing the location of the

The whole idea of icons is that they make the game simple to control but I found that this was just not the case here. Selecting the various icons was very much a hit or miss affair being controlled by a diagonal movement of the joystick and the instructions given were distinctly lacking in clarity. This is a pity because it would be a very good game if only it were considerably more playable. **G.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Bright Star



Title: Sabbateur
Computer: Amstrad
Supplier: Durrell
Price: £7.95



Another spin-off from the current fad of martial arts games. This one sees you as a black clad Ninja-type mercenary who has to steal a disk from an enemy complex filled with armed guards, rabid dogs, and camera guided anti-personnel weapons.

The game features you as a rather large sprite that can punch, kick, jump, use weapons, and do all the other things that you would expect from a game of this type. Though the animation during movement is rather good, and is certainly up to the standards that you would expect a martial arts game to have nowadays.

The game progresses from screen to screen — rather than continuously scrolling, which I think looks better. But we're stuck with the screen to screen to screen method. In each screen could be a baddie, who needs to be kicked to death, a useful weapon — a knife or half brick perhaps, or a number of other things.

So, you fight your way around the game, and if you're lucky you will get to the helicopter to escape.

A reasonable game which is complemented by good graphics. The game itself has nothing new about it, except that it seems to be a mish-mash of other games and techniques. The large and detailed moving objects are good, as is most of everything else which is in perfect scale.

Whether you will like this game is up to you. If this is the type of game that you like, then there is nothing different about it to put you off. If you don't like this game then there is really nothing different to attract you.

M.R.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Bright Star



Title: Moon Cresta
Computer: Amstrad
Supplier: Incentive Software
Price: £19.95



Moon Cresta is one of the classic coin-op games of all time. Though it is a bit long in the tooth, Moon Cresta will still maintain the old attraction for the zappitall addict (like me).

Moon Cresta is based around a number of screens of aliens. These aliens come in a number of different types, usually in two waves per type, with varying levels of meanness. The first two waves are sort of round fluffy types, that split into two when you shoot them. The next level are extremely evil little aliens, that are very fast and come in rather difficult formations. These must be tackled with extreme prejudice lest you get destroyed.

Now you get meteors that dive in from both sides of the screen at once. Colliding together at the bottom of the screen. If you are really flash, you can sit at the bottom of the screen and time it right so that one shot can knock out both meteors (not enough time to fire two shots), but cowards like me usually cower in a corner, avoiding one of the meteors and shooting the other.

The final belligerent round has hovering knives that dive down trying to kill you. Then follows the docking round. The docking round is the bit that differentiates Moon Cresta from all the other zappit games.

In Moon Cresta, you don't have three different lives or ships.

Instead you have three different stages — rather like an old step rocket. The first stage is very little with a single gun, the second stage is a bit bigger with two guns, and the third stage is bigger still with two guns.

Getting killed with one means that you go onto the next. The docking stage puts the next stage to go at the bottom of the screen with your current stage at the top. You now have to guide your ship down onto the next stage using left/right and fire for thrust, and dock with the next stage. Thus you can get more stages and more firepower, as the extra guns are in addition to what you already have, there is also a bonus based on time taken to dock. Complete everything and you go back to the beginning of the game to do it all again — but this time with only your first stage.

So that's the gist of the game. An excellent zappit game, needing only the sketchiest of tactics. Hand/eye co-ordination is all with a quick trigger finger being the difference between success and oblivion.

M.R.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money

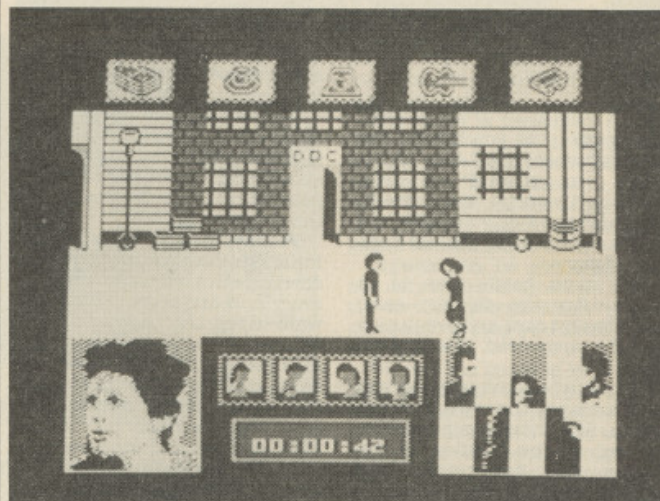


STAR RATING

Bright Star



REVIEWS



Title: Back to the Future
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Electric Dreams
Price: £7.95

hinder you as they see fit.

The graphics are uninspiring and the gameplay tedious. This is the classic reason behind the thinking that licensing films to promote games is to prop up a game that wouldn't stand up in its own right. If this game didn't have the name plastered on it I probably wouldn't even bother wasting the space reviewing it.

Buy this at your peril...

As an erstwhile colleague of mine once said, whilst reviewing this game for a Commodore magazine — rather more like back to the drawing board. In a feeble attempt to cash in on the success of the film 'Back to the Future' this game has been rushed out, onto an unsuspecting audience — rumour has it that the game was designed and written in four weeks flat, and it looks it!

Basically the game is a five location arcade adventure and follows the plot of the film to a small degree. You have to find and use objects in order to unite your parents to be. The other characters wander about aimlessly and will either help or

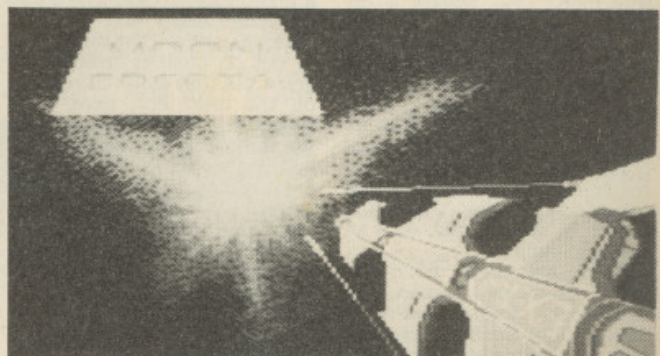
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money



STAR RATING

Nebula



63

Title: Turbo Esprit
Computer: Amstrad
Supplier: Durrell
Price: £7.95



This game puts you behind the steering wheel of a Lotus Esprit Turbo, in pursuit of drug runners. You drive down streets that rush towards you in 3D, in a similar manner to the old Sega 'turbo' game.

The main battle plan is to chase after the delivery cars, avoid the hit cars, and eventually get the armoured distribution van.

To see what's happening you have a map of the town that you are in, this shows your position as well as the position of the enemy cars, fuel points, and pedestrian crossings.

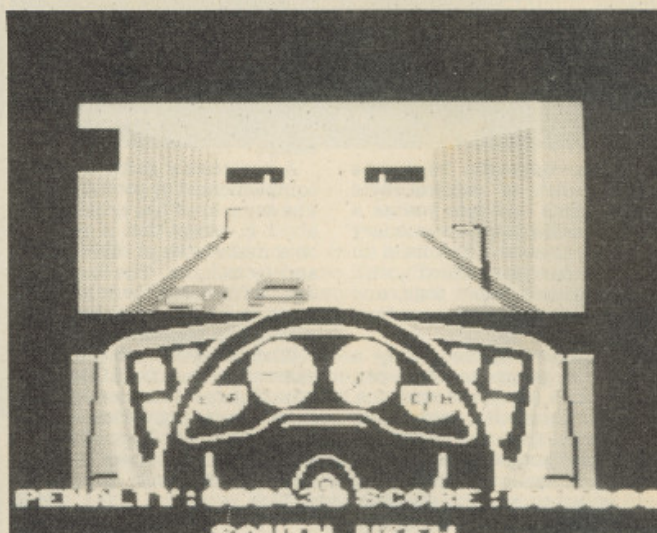
Once you have spotted your target you can use the map to pursue him. Once you have him you can either shoot him (fairly dangerous — you can crash into the wreckage), or for more points you can take them alive by bumping into them four times. This makes them surrender to the police and yields

more points, though the high speed chase through the streets is extremely dangerous.

Occasionally hit cars come onto the screen — these are extremely dangerous and try to shoot you. They can be despatched by the same methods as the drugs cars.

To play, the game is very good. Buildings flash past at incredible speed, petrol stations turn up every now and then. Pedestrians walk along the pavements and cross over the pedestrian crossings. And the other cars do believable things. By this I mean that at traffic lights, the other cars will obey the lights, and turn corners and stop/start as the mood takes them. This is a great advance over most road games where you don't get this type of realism.

Even if you find yourself stalled and across the opposite side of the road, if any oncoming cars have room to slow down and stop they will. Rather than just smashing into you as any other game with less thought put into it would.



Driving the car is an acquired art. Turning corners, down tight streets is worst, lamp posts always seem to get in the way!

I think that this game is excellent. It is as near to a computerised cop car chase game as is possible. Owning a fairly fast car myself, this is one game I can really appreciate.

M.R.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality: ●●●●●
 Graphics: ●●●●●
 Use of machine: ●●●●●
 Value for money: ●●●●●

STAR RATING

Red Giant



Title: Tau Ceti — The Special Edition
Computer: Amstrad Disk
Supplier: CRL
Price: £19.95



Tau Ceti is an excellent game, one of the best ever written — certainly the best for the Amstrad. Luckily CRL gave me my original copy of Tau Ceti on disk, but every one else has to suffer the indignities of tape. Why didn't CRL release it on disk? Here's the answer, the disk version of the game is more than twice as big (there's only 4K left free on the disk), with a huge amount of added extras.

The planet is about twice as big. Most cities also have outposts, that can be got to with portable jump units. There are more objects, like the extra shields in the original, such as the jump units.

There are more buildings, robot factories (excessively dangerous — don't go near them for a minute). Homing targetters help the fortresses aim at you (and are extremely difficult to shake off). Plus masses of other buildings and surface features like erupting volcanoes.

Some of the extra buildings have uses — the libraries give you access to the galactic data bank and time vaults. The time vaults have the extra equipment in them and the library com-

puter gives you masses of cross indexed information about all the facets of life on the planet and the things that you will find there. There is also a list of the belligerent objects that you will find on the planet, along with their various strengths and weaknesses.

Also on the disk in a Fractal demo program from the same author (Peter Cooke) this is just an added extra and produces pretty patterns. They were going to put on another freebie program, but they didn't have room on the disk! But, never fear. Computer Gamer comes to the rescue and this extra program will be printed as a listing in a forthcoming issue of the magazine.

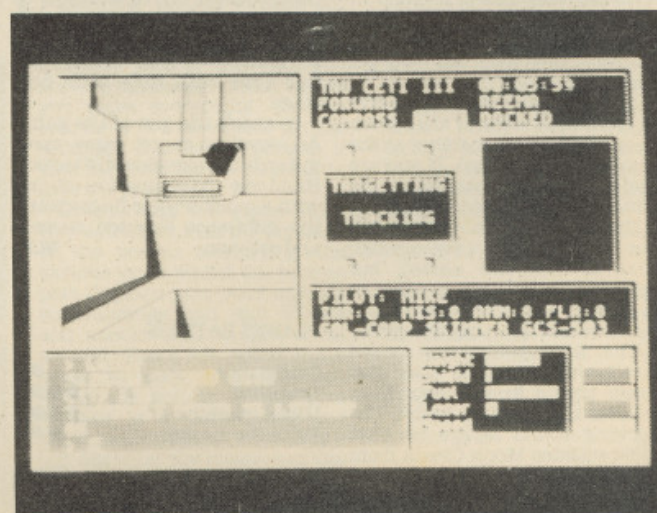
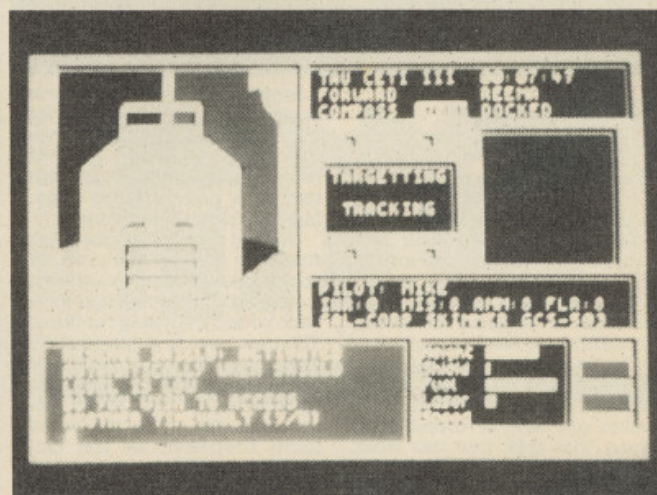
On the whole, if Tau Ceti is an excellent game, then Tau Ceti — The Special Edition is an incredible game. No Amstrad disk owner should be without it! **M.R.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality: ●●●●●
 Graphics: ●●●●●
 Use of machine: ●●●●●
 Value for money: ●●●●●

STAR RATING

Supernova



REVIEWS

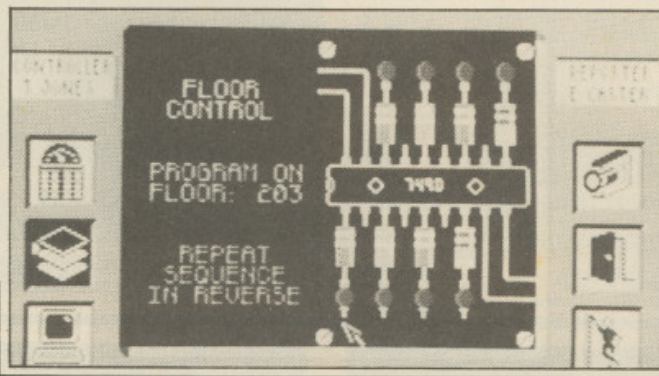
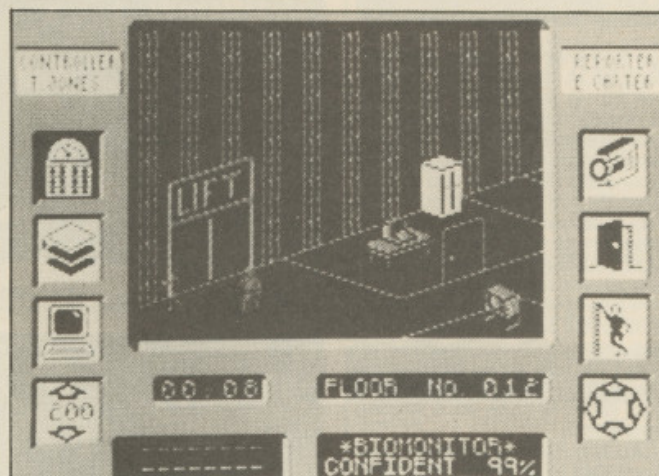
Title: Max Headroom
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Quicksilver
Price: £9.95



This game is a spin-off from the highly popular Channel 4 TV character. The game is based around the pilot for the series, set in a futuristic world where television is king — and ratings are the be-all and end-all of everything, Channel switching is to be avoided at all costs. Channel 23 has developed 'blipverts', adverts so short that you don't have enough time to switch channels between programmes.

However, there is a problem. Blipverts make a certain sector of the population (the most slovenly and lazy — i.e. the perfect 24 hour a day TV viewer) explode! Eddison Carter (presenter of Channel 23's 'What I Want to Know Show') is on the trail of the Blipvert problem and is trying to find the truth behind it.

The game is taken from the section in the film where he is travelling through Channel 23's head office block. His controller is using a computer model of the building to direct him through the various passageways and



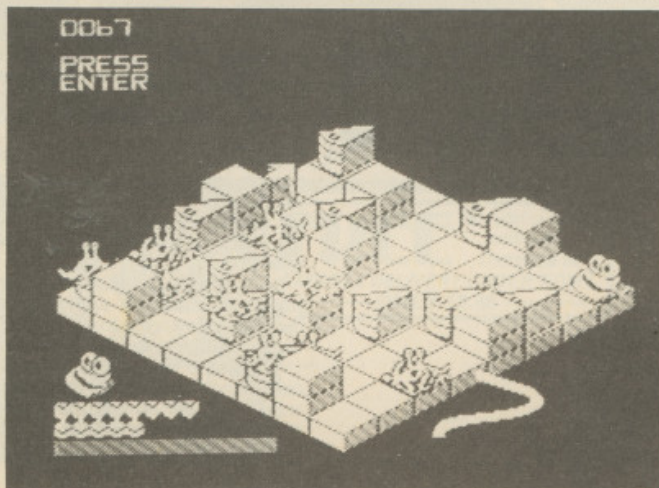
Title: Kirel
Computer: Spectrum
Supplier: Addictive Games
Price: £8.95



carry a single brick so you need to plan very carefully where you pick them up from. It is all too easy to cut yourself off from areas that you need to access later on. Quite frequently you wander round the screen with no idea of what you are doing. This is partly because the exit to

a screen doesn't appear on some screens, you are working blind — eg. you may have fallen down a hole that you have created (see level 3). In these situations, you can always press the space bar which peels away the bricks, locating Kirel for you.

The graphics are clear and well drawn although it takes some time to get used to the 3D effects. You can change the perspective of each room at any



security systems. You play the part of Eddison Carter's controller, trying to get to the root of the Blipvert problem.

The game is presented in 3D wire graphics (like in the film) and is icon controlled (almost like in the film). Items in each room are also shown along with the cameras, doors, and the all important lift shaft.

Objects can be acquired and security systems breached. Also, the two bully boys hired by the company to stop you need sorting out.

Overall the game is very well put together, with plenty of Maxish touches. The graphics are reasonable and stick to the plot rather than attempting to be clever. The control using the icons could do with being a bit easier to use. **M.R.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money

STAR RATING

Bright Star

time, very useful and necessary when you disappear behind a huge pile of bricks. There is also a training mode that allows you to practise the first three screens with no time limit.

This is an original game, made noteworthy by the amount of thought that you have to put into it. So much better than the usual sort of wander round and collect the items variant. It would have been nice to have user definable keys and I wasn't too keen on the method chosen for changing perspective (90 degrees left and right and 180 degrees rotation — it is easier to have four keys for the different viewpoints) but these minor grumbles apart, I can thoroughly recommend Kirel. **G.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
Graphics
Use of machine
Value for money

STAR RATING

Nova

65

Ever since Ultimate brought out Knight Lore, there has been a whole series of lookalike clones and it takes something fairly original to make a new game stand out from the rest. Such a game is Addictive's latest release, Kirel.

Kirel is a cute frog-like character who must defuse a certain number of bombs on each of the 70 screens before he can move on to the next one. Achieving this is done by picking up and moving bricks around the screen in order to reach the bombs. A considerable amount of strategy is involved here and you are well advised to halt everything whilst you plan your course of action. The problem is that you only have a certain amount of time available in which to achieve your objective. This is depicted by a fuse attached to each room which slowly burns down.

There are, of course, many other problems to hinder you on your mission. Not least of these are the monsters that are roaming all over the place. These attempt to jump on your back and so sap your energy. You can kill them by walking over them providing that you have a piece of cake! These are to be found lying about the place together with bags of sweets which restore your energy, arrows that are needed for building bridges, balls that gain you extra time, cubes for destroying blocks and transporters.

Kirel can only jump up one block at a time. He can also only

Title: Slam Ball
Computer: C64
Supplier: Americana (US Gold)
Price: £2.95



Slam Ball is the first of US Gold's Americana budget range of games and is a high speed pin-ball game.

The pinball table itself is four scrolling screens worth of bumpers, flippers and targets. It is the targets that hold the key to the game.

There are 37 targets at the start of the game and should you manage to hit all of them within the five ball game then you proceed to the next level and get another five balls.

Clearing groups of targets also produces two floating bumpers that burst on contact with anything else. If you're quick enough and manage to hit one before it bursts you manage to advance your score multiplier from 1 x up to 4 x anything you score. Unfortunately, if you hit another floating bumper when you already have a 4 x bonus, the bonus resets back to 1 x.

The resulting game is a frantic effort to flip at anything that moves (usually the ball travelling at high speed) at the targets. This isn't easy as you've actually

got four sets of flippers that you control at once as the display scrolls up and down the table. However the scroll follows the ball instead of your flippers which often means you have to time a flip before you can see the flippers involved! The action is accompanied by an entertaining assortment of bleeps and tunes that, although distracting, seem a vital part of the game.

When you've completed all four levels and are tired of beating your high score you can make things more difficult for yourself by changing it to a three ball game or take on a human opponent.

All things considered, I found Slam Ball to be great fun to play but I can't help thinking that a computer pinball game should have a lot more in it. **T.H.**

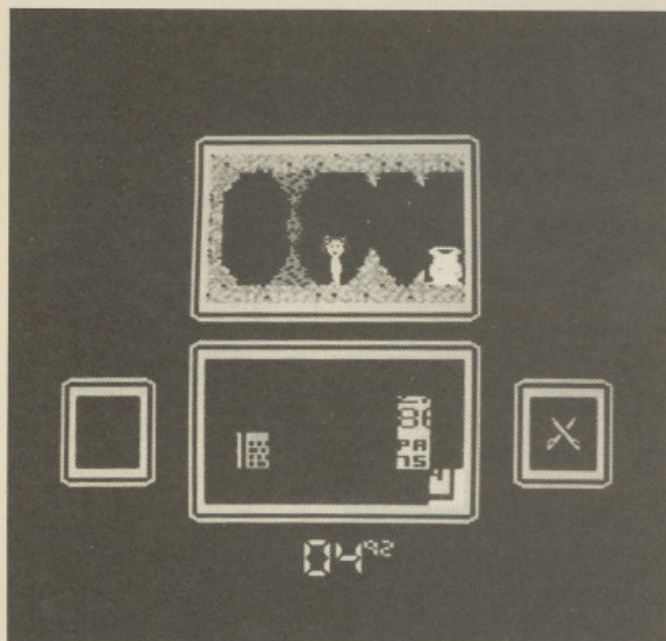
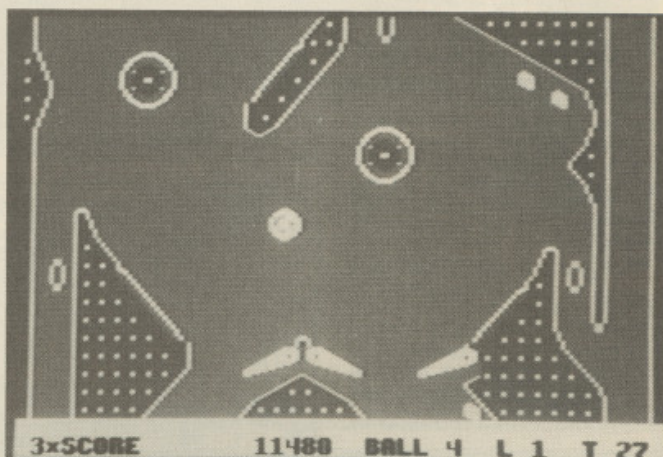
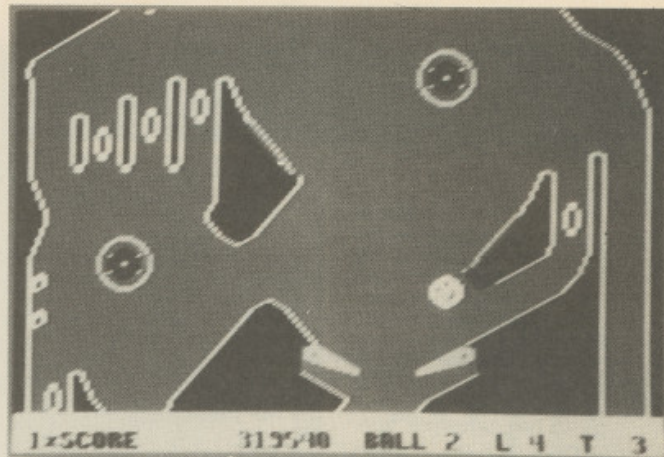
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money



STAR RATING

Bright Star



Title: Hocus Focus
Computer: C64/Spectrum
Supplier: Quicksilver
Price: £8.95



The Daily Shocker needs a photographer to cover a big scoop and since the usual man is out on another assignment you are sent in his place.

That is how our hero, Jeremy the punk Yop at the Daily Shocker, was sent down to Hyde Park to photograph a Mad Professor's inventions.

Unfortunately all of the inventions are hidden in pieces somewhere in a deep cave system. To make things worse the caves are guarded by the professor's mutants who don't actually kill you, instead they steal your film and blunt your sword (if you've managed to find one).

Holes in the ground lead to deeper levels in the search for more pieces but everytime you get caught by a mutant you have to return to the surface to get a new film.

Incidentally the caves are also highly radioactive and so you can't stay down too long or you'll begin to glow and finally mutate.

The game is icon driven with commands to look in an object, take a picture, attack, move and pick up objects. Once you return

to the surface with some pictures you then must place them in the right position on the picture grid that gradually builds up the photograph of the invention. You don't have to solve the puzzle just put them on the grid.

Unfortunately, the action takes place in an extremely small window display, surrounded by a sea of black which makes it hard to follow.

You need to collect 20 pictures to form each invention. As there are 16 inventions to collect altogether this is no easy task particularly as one mutant can steal a film (up to 16 pics) just as you're on the way out.

I managed to complete one invention before I had had enough. I think you'll agree.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money

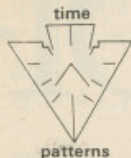


STAR RATING

White Dwarf



66



StarGlobe Three

StarGlobe, the leading Space Flight Play By Mail Game. Running continuously for nearly three years this is the most advanced UK Science Fiction Game. In StarGlobe you become the captain of a mighty starship sent on a daunting task by the Lord of Monde, autocratic ruler of a starsystem set in the centre of vast three dimensional globe of 2000 stars. You are commanded to establish a communication array on the surface of the globe and to deal with rebel starships, lost colonies and alien life forms. Most stars have planets for you to conquer and explore and rebel starships wait to challenge or ally with you.

All of the vast amount of data that supports the three games of StarGlobe now running is held on our computers, thus enabling us to run the game in a friendly and interactive way. No fixed deadlines and a steady rate of moves enables you to play as hard or as in as leisurely a way as you please. Starter pack is £2 including the launch of your starship. Regular turns £1.90. No hidden extras.

ELEMENTALS A Play by Telephone Game.

Announcing ELEMENTALS, the first commercial PBT game run by an established PBM company. This forward looking game is wholly different from any you have played before. For this game you need a modem for your home computer. You connect directly to our computer and so you can receive your output and send in your move interactively over the phone. As your computer speaks to our computer you are able to build into the game your own scenario and characters, traps and devices. Other players will stray into your own area and attempt to take it over. At the same time you will try to disrupt or enhance the play areas of the other players in the game. Send for details of this game and advice on modems stating the type of computer you own.

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13. The King's Son
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16. Hangman
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18. Foreman Rescue
19. 20Maze
20. Colons 9

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26. Rally 2000
27. Shooting Target
28. Nemesis
29. Space Ship
30. Jet Flight

31. Dragona Maze
32. Intruder
33. Inferno
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37. Planets
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Spectrum 16k/48k or +

'Incredibly frustrating!' that's the verdict on Cassette 50's FROGGER. Satisfied users tell us it's one of the most challenging you'll find - it's almost as good as the arcade version! CARGO has you trying desperately to complete your helicopter mission under attack. Plus 48 other tactical, logical and adventure games featuring multi-coloured and user-defined graphics, scrolling and full use of the Spectrum sound capabilities.

1. Muncher
2. Ski Jump
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4. Frogger
5. Breakout
6. Clue
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8. Martian Knockout
9. Buggles
10. Alien Attack

11. Lunar Landing
12. Maze Later
13. Microgrip
14. Maltway
15. Lightship
16. Clue
17. Radar Track
18. Ski Run
19. Tanks
20. Solar Ship

21. Ten Pins
22. Cars
23. Smokey
24. Pinball
25. Cavern
26. Laser
27. Alien
28. Cargo
29. The Ace
30. The Skull

31. Orbit
32. March
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35. Field
36. Dragnet
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38. Inferno
39. Nem
40. Do Your Best

41. Sketch Pad
42. Bit
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49. Assassin
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Commodore 64

Only you can save Europe from destruction! It's ROCKET LAUNCH, the thrilling war game that reproduces a European map. More ambitious? Try rescuing your crew under an ultrafast GALACTIC ATTACK and escaping back to your spaceship! Just two of the great games on your Cassette 50, featuring high resolution and user-defined graphics, sprites, sound and music.

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4. Death Race
5. Royal Rescue
6. Star Trek
7. Attacker
8. Fighter Command
9. Daughters

11. Escape Action
12. Knights and Crosses
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16. Hangman
17. Pinpoint Bet
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by Robert Pilkington

You have three lives and I think that after a lot of work you'll be able to reach the end. Detailed instructions are included in the listing. Save the game by getting to the end of the prog. (Typing 9999 then pressing ENTER will do this for you). Now type SAVE "BISHOP" LINE 1 and press ENTER. Remember to VERIFY your SAVE. Good luck and remember keying it in bit by bit is easiest...

```

9 LET p$=" "
10 DIM E(24): DIM B(24): DIM G(45): DIM
M L(45): GO SUB 9000
15 BORDER 7: PAPER 7
20 BRIGHT 1
25 CLS
40 GO SUB 8500
50 FOR n=1 TO 10: BEEP .05,(-20-n): NE
XT n
51 LET lives=0
53 LET score=0
54 LET cross=0
55 FOR z=1 TO 5
56 LET x=2: LET y=2
57 PAPER 7
58 BORDER 0
59 LET gp=INT (RND*16+5)
60 BRIGHT 1
62 IF z<>3 THEN LET vamp=0
63 LET out=0
64 LET under=0
65 CLS
66 INK 0: PRINT AT 0,26;" THE ": PRIN
T AT 1,26;"DEVIL": INK 4
67 IF call=1 THEN FLASH 1: PRINT AT
5,26;"CALLED": FLASH 0

```

68

王 强 著

```

440 NEXT n
500 INK 1
501 PRINT AT 9,27;score
502 PRINT AT 11,27;high
601 INK 4: PRINT AT x,y;"AB": INK 1:
PRINT AT x+1,y;p$
602 IF z<=2 THEN INK 1: FOR n=1 TO 3:
LET p=INT (RND*17+2): PRINT AT m(n),p;"
": NEXT n
603 IF z>2 AND z<5 THEN INK 3: FOR n=
TO 4: LET p=INT (RND*17+2): PRINT AT h(
n),p;"": NEXT n
604 IF z>4 THEN INK 1: FOR n=1 TO 5: L
ET p=INT (RND*17+2): PRINT AT w(n),p;"
": NEXT n
615 IF z=2 THEN GO SUB 3000
616 IF z=3 THEN GO SUB 3040
620 LET z$=INKEY$
630 IF z$="Q" AND ATTR (x,y-1)<>122 OR
z$="Q" AND ATTR (x+1,y-1)<>122 THEN GO
TO 1000
640 IF z$="E" AND ATTR (x,y+2)<>122 OR
z$="E" AND ATTR (x+1,y+2)<>122 THEN GO
TO 1200
650 IF z$="P" AND ATTR (x-1,y)<>122 OR
z$="P" AND ATTR (x-1,y+1)<>122 THEN GO
TO 1400
660 IF z$="L" AND ATTR (x+2,y)<>122 OR
z$="L" AND ATTR (x+2,y+1)<>122 THEN GO
TO 1600
665 IF z$="C" THEN GO TO 9900
670 GO TO 4000
1000 GO SUB 2000
1010 LET y=y-1
1020 GO SUB 9500
1030 GO SUB 2200
1035 INK 4: PRINT AT x,y;"AB": INK 1:
PRINT AT x+1,y;"CS": LET p$="CS"
1040 GO TO 499
1200 GO SUB 2000
1210 LET y=y+1
1220 GO SUB 9500
1230 GO SUB 2200
1235: INK 4: PRINT AT x,y;"AB": INK 1:
PRINT AT x+1,y;"TD": LET p$="TD"
1240 GO TO 499
1400 GO SUB 2000
1410 LET x=x-1
1420 GO SUB 9500
1430 GO SUB 2200
1435 INK 3: PRINT AT x,y;"AB": INK 1:
PRINT AT x+1,y;"CD": LET p$="CD"
1440 GO TO 499
1600 GO SUB 2000
1610 LET x=x+1
1620 GO SUB 9500
1630 GO SUB 2200

```


BUT DON'T *** WORRY THERE ARE MORE PINE
APPLES."

8515 PRINT : PRINT " IN ROOM 2 YOU WILL
SEE A BLUE *** CROSS. THIS IS TO KILL T
HE *** VAMPIRE (IF HE COMES) IN *** ROO
M 3. YOU HAVE A CHOICE *** TAKE THE CRO
SS AND RISK A *** BIGGER APPLE BUILD UP
AND *** THE CHANCE OF THE BEETLE *** H
AVING ANOTHER GO AT YOU *** OR DON'T TA
KE IT AND RISK *** GETTING KILLED BY TH
E *** VAMPIRE AS HE DOES NOT ALWAYS ***
APPEAR. *** TO GET THE CROSS JUST GO TO
IT *** AND WHEN YOU'RE BY ITS WALL ***
INLINE YOUR HEAD TO IT eg. ABU *** BU
T DO

N'T HIT THE WALL! *** YOU ARE PROTECTED
BY IT THEN *** AUTOMATICALLY. OTHERWISE
HE *** WILL TAKE A LIFE! *** IF THE V
AMPIRE DOES APPEAR HE *** WILL NEVER COM
E AGAIN. *** HE ONLY APPEARS IN ROOM 3"
8519 PRINT : PRINT " THE EVER GROWING BL
UE WALLS *** STOP APPLES GROWING IN THO
SE *** ILLEGAL PLACES. YOU CAN GO *** TH
ROUGH THEM THOUGH. MORE ARE *** IN THE L
ATER ROOMS. *** YOU MOVE A BIT SLOWER I
N EACH *** ROOM *** MORE APPLES WILL COM
E IN EACH *** ROOM AND A BONUS OF 100!!
! *** **PRESS A KEY**

8520 PAUSE 0: RETURN

9010 FOR I=0 TO 167

9020 READ V

9030 POKE USR "A"+1,V

9035 NEXT I

9050 DATA 1,1,3,3,7,5,5,31

9060 DATA 128,128,192,192,224,160,160,24
8

9070 DATA 95,223,95,15,7,3,14,31

9080 DATA 250,251,250,240,224,192,240,12
0

9090 DATA 24,16,36,126,255,255,126,60

9100 DATA 24,124,255,255,127,126,62,28

9110 DATA 56,60,126,255,255,254,120,56

9120 DATA 24,60,126,153,255,102,102,36

9130 DATA 192,240,255,254,255,254,248,0

9140 DATA 24,24,255,255,24,24,24,24

9150 DATA 24,24,60,102,195,102,126,60

9155 DATA 14,30,51,243,255,62,30,12

9157 DATA 126,255,191,3,3,190,252,128

9158 DATA 0,224,224,224,224,224,96,0

9159 DATA 24,219,189,126,126,126,219,152

9160 DATA 60,90,90,60,24,0,0,0

9161 DATA 0,0,0,82,52,24,108,90

9162 DATA 173,251,86,237,183,106,84,60

9163 DATA 248,248,248,240,224,192,120,2
48

9164 DATA 31,31,31,15,7,3,30,31

9166 DATA 3,15,255,127,255,127,31,0

9168 FOR S=1 TO 24: READ B(S): NEXT S

9169 DATA 7,7,2,7,0,2,-5,2,2,7,2,9,7,5,4
2,0,2,7,7,2,7,7

9170 FOR Q=1 TO 24: READ E(Q): NEXT Q

9175 DATA 2,1,1,2,4,4,4,8,1,1,2,1,1,2,2,
1,1,2,4,2,1,2,4,4,8

9176 DIM M(3): DIM H(4): DIM W(5)

9177 FOR N=1 TO 3: READ M(N): NEXT N

9178 DATA 5,11,15

9179 FOR N=1 TO 4: READ H(N): NEXT N

9180 DATA 12,4,17,8

9190 FOR N=1 TO 5: READ W(N): NEXT N

9195 DATA 6,18,15,10,3

9196 FOR A=1 TO 45: READ G(A): NEXT A

9197 DATA 7,7,9,6,7,9,11,11,12,11,9,7,9,
7,6,7,7,9,11,12,14,14,14,14,12,11,12,12,
12,12,11,9,11,12,11,9,7,11,12,14,16,12,1
1,9,7

9198 FOR D=1 TO 45: READ L(D): NEXT D

9199 DATA .5,.5,.5,.5,.25,.5,.5,.5,.5,.5
,.25,.5,.5,.5,.5,1,.25,.25,.25,.25,.5,.5
,.5,.5,.25,.5,.5,.5,.5,.5,.25,.5,.5,.25,
.25,.25,.25,.5,.25,.5,.25,.25,.5,.5,1

9200 RETURN

9330 FOR N=1 TO 10: BEEP .05,N: NEXT N

9501 INK 4: PRINT AT X,Y;"AB": INK 1:

PRINT AT X+1,Y;P\$

9502 INK 6: PRINT AT 20,20;"GFGF"

9505 FOR N=21 TO 23

9506 IF X=19 AND Y=N-1 THEN LET SCORE=S

core+100: INK 1: PRINT AT 11,26;"BONUS "

: PRINT AT 12,24;" 100 ": BEEP 1,5: BE

EP .5,10: BEEP .5,20: BEEP .5,30: PAUSE

50: CLS : PAUSE 50: CLS : GO TO 3500

9510 IF X=20 AND Y=N THEN LET SCORE=S

core+100: INK 1: PRINT AT 11,26;"BONUS "

: PRINT AT 12,26;" 100": BEEP .25,0: BEEP

.25,2: BEEP .25,4: CLS : PAUSE 50: GO TO

3500

9520 NEXT N

9527 RETURN

9535 INK 3

9539 CLS

9541 PRINT AT 2,15;"AB

CD"

9550 INK 2

9560 PAPER 7

9570 BORDER 1

9580 PRINT AT 0,1

9610 INK 3: PRINT AT 10,8;"YOUR SCORE "

SCORE

9620 INK 1: FOR N=9 TO 21: PRINT AT 18,2

1;" "

9625 PRINT AT 18,(30-N);" ": BEEP .25,

N

9626 INK 2: PRINT AT 18,9;"YOU HAVE WON"

: INK 1

9627 NEXT N

9640 BEEP .5,0: BEEP .25,0: BEEP .5,5: B

EET .5,5: BEEP .5,7: BEEP .5,7: BEEP 1,1

2: BEEP .25,9: BEEP 1,5: BEEP .5,9: BEEP

.25,5: BEEP .5,2: BEEP 1,10: BEEP .5,7:

BEEP .25,9: BEEP 2,5

9650 GO TO 6000

9910 IF CALL>=1 THEN BEEP .5,-10: GO TO

499

9915 IF X=19 THEN BEEP .5,-10: GO TO 49

9

9920 FOR N=1 TO 24

9930 INK 2: PRINT AT X+2,22-N;"L": INK

3: PRINT AT X+2,23-N;"I": INK 4: PRIN

T AT

X+2,24-N;"I": PRINT AT X+2,25-N;" "

9950 BEEP (E(N)/12),B(N): NEXT N

9960 INK 2: PRINT AT X+2,0;"G ": PRIN

T AT X+2,24;"F"

9965 LET CALL=CALL+1

9966 FLASH 1: PRINT AT 5,26;"CALLED": FL

ASH 0

9970 GO TO 499

9980 INK 1: PRINT AT 1,Y;"O": INK 0: P

RINT AT 2,Y;"P": INK 3: PRINT AT X,Y;"I

E":

INK 1: PRINT AT X+1,Y;"CD"

9981 BEEP .80,10

9982 IF INKEY\$="M" THEN INK 2: PRINT AT

X-2,Y;"O": INK 4: PRINT AT X-1,Y;"R"

: L

ET OUT=1

9983 BEEP .25,10: PRINT AT 1,Y;" ": PRIN

T AT 2,Y;" "

9984 FOR N=3 TO X

9985 IF N=(X-3) AND OUT=1 THEN GO TO 99

91

9986 INK 1: PRINT AT N,Y;" ": PRINT AT N

+1,Y;"O": INK 0: PRINT AT N+2,Y;"P"

9988 NEXT N

9989 BEEP 1,-3: BEEP .5,-1: BEEP 1,0: BE

EP .5,-1: BEEP 1,-3: GO TO 4000

9992 INK 2: PRINT AT X-4,Y;"O": PRINT

AT X-3,Y;"F": PRINT AT X-1,Y;"R": INK

4: P

RINT AT X-2,Y;"O": LET SCORE=SCORE+50:

BEEP .5,7: BEEP .25,7: BEEP .25,7: BEEP

.

5,7: BEEP .5,5: BEEP .5,7

9994 LET GO=INT (RND*16+5): PRINT AT X-1

,Y;" ": PRINT AT X-2,Y;" ": PRINT AT X-3

,Y;" ": PRINT AT X-4,Y;" ": LET OUT=0: R

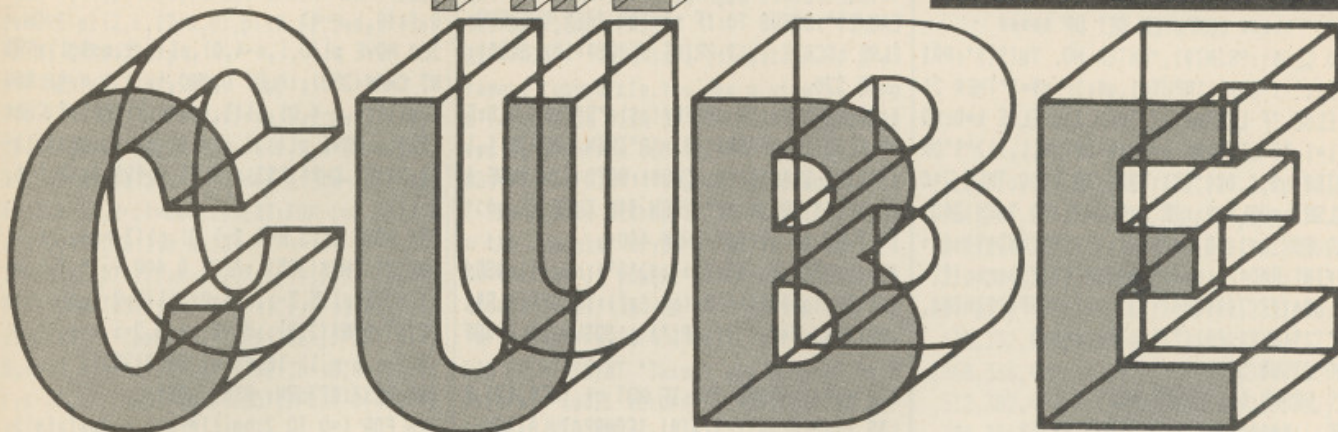
ETURN

70

BERTIE BISHOP

THE

AMSTRAD



by David Muir

A few years ago there was a craze about fiddling with small multi coloured cubes, you may have thankfully forgotten the escapade — but not Computer Gamer.

In an opulent fit of nostalgia, Computer Gamer presents the computer simulation of this hideous torture.

The Cube

This is a computer simulation of the famous cube puzzle. The cube is made up of 27 smaller cubes. The aim of the puzzle is to twist the small cubes around, 9 at a time, to end up with each face of the large cube coloured (completely) a different colour.

The game is best on a colour monitor or colour television with a modulator, because you need to recognise the colours.

You are shown a view of the cube which allows you to see three faces. You are also shown the view of the cube as it would look from the rear if you were holding the cube. (Not the view you would see through the cube if it was transparent).

Even experts on the cube may find this a difficult challenge.

To start with, you see the cube solved. There are letters around the sides to show the options for twisting the cube. Capitals twist it one way, small letters the other.

You have an option to start with of setting up a puzzle yourself, or getting the computer to set a random puzzle. In either case, you decide how many twists are to be made to reach the start position (up to 50 twists).

Next you go to the solve stage. You can either ask the computer to solve it or try yourself.

If you try yourself, the computer will allow you up to 100 turns. The computer recognizes a solution when it sees one and will congratulate you if you succeed. While trying to solve the puzzle, you have the option to quit or reset the cube. The latter option resets the cube as it was when you started so that you can either try again or get the computer to solve it.

The Program

The program works by rotating the elements in the array fa() in different ways. The array pl() is a fixed array which keeps a record of the locations where elements of the cube are to be printed. The array fa() matches this to the colours to be used.

The array rec() keeps a record of the reverse of each move used to set up a position or move made by the player.

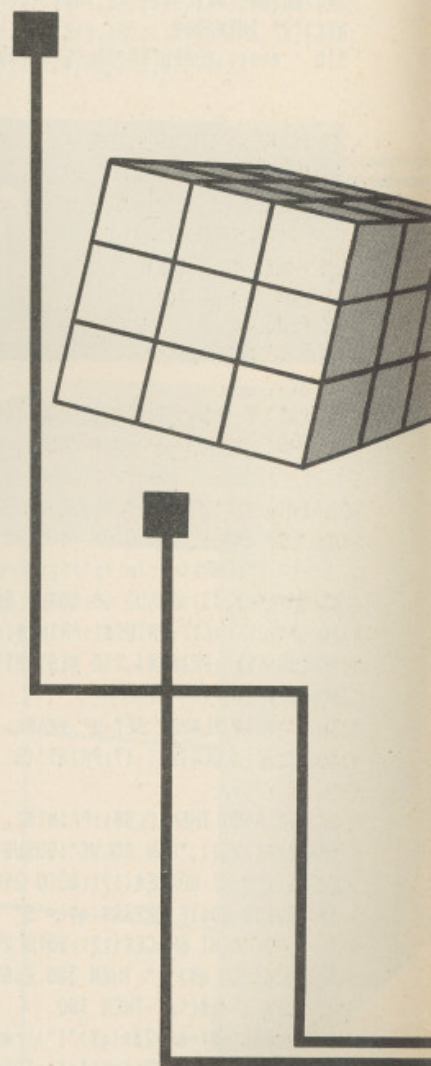
Extensive error-trapping has been used on player input sections.

The longest section of the program is that updating the changes to the array fa() and printing the section of the cube that have changed as the result of a twist. When I first wrote the program, this section was far shorter because I pictured the whole cube afresh after each change. But this proved to be too slow in practice.

```

10 ' THE CUBE
20 ' DAVID MUIR
30 ' 1986
40 GOTO 800
50 TAG:ON n GOSUB 530,530,530,570,570,57
0,610,610,610,660,660,660,700,700,700,74
0,740,740:RETURN
60 SOUND 7,400,10,3:WHILE INKEY$="":WEND
:RETURN
70 q$="":WHILE INKEY$<>"":WEND:SOUND 7,4
00,10,3:WHILE q$="":q$=UPPER$(INKEY$):WE
ND:RETURN
80 q$="":WHILE INKEY$<>"":WEND:SOUND 7,4
0,10,3:WHILE q$="":q$=INKEY$:WEND:RETURN
90 ' ***** SET UP *****
100 DEFINT a-z:DEFSTR q
110 MODE 0:BORDER 26:INK 0,26:INK 7,0:PA
PER 0:PEN 1:INK 1,1:INK 2,24:INK 3,7:INK
4,9:INK 5,15:INK 6,21:CLS:WINDOW#1,1,20
,20,25:PAPER#1,0:PEN#1,7:CLS#1
120 SYMBOL 255,24,60,126,255,255,126,60,
24:SYMBOL 254,0,0,32,48,56,60,60,60:SYMB
OL 253,60,60,60,60,28,12,4,0:SYMBOL 252,
0,0,4,12,28,60,60,60:SYMBOL 251,60,60,60
,60,56,48,32,0
130 DIM fa(5,2,2),pl(5,2,2),rec(150),h
a(2)
140 FOR i=0 TO 5:FOR j=0 TO 2:FOR k=0 TO
2:fa(i,j,k)=i+1:NEXT:NEXT:NEXT
150 RESTORE 870:FOR i=0 TO 5:FOR j=0 TO
2:FOR k=0 TO 2:FOR l=0 TO 1:READ pl(i,j,
k,l):NEXT:NEXT:NEXT:NEXT
160 TAG:FOR i=0 TO 5:FOR j=0 TO 2:FOR k=
0 TO 2:PLOT 0,400,fa(i,j,k):FOR l=0 TO 1
:MOVE pl(i,j,k,0),pl(i,j,k,l):PRINT CHR$(
255+(i=1 OR i=4)+3*(i=2 OR i=5)):MOVE
pl(i,j,k,0),pl(i,j,k,l)-16
170 IF i=1 OR i=4 THEN PRINT CHR$(253):
ELSE IF i=2 OR i=5 THEN PRINT CHR$(251):
180 NEXT:NEXT:NEXT:NEXT:TAGOFF:LOCATE 12
,1:PRINT "(BACK)"
190 TAG:PLOT 0,0,7:FOR j=0 TO 8:FOR i=0
TO 1:READ x,y:MOVE x,y:PRINT CHR$(65+j-3
2*(i=1)):NEXT:NEXT:TAGOFF
200 ' ***** SET UP OPTIONS *****
210 q$="":f=0:CLS#1:PRINT#1,"PLAYER SET

```



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```

UP (P)":PRINT#1,"OR COMPUTER (C) ?"
220 GOSUB 70:IF q$="P" THEN 360 ELSE IF
q$<>"C" THEN 220
230 ' ***** COMPUTER SET UP *****
240 CLS#1:PRINT#1,"ENTER NO. TWISTS":PRI
NT#1,"(1-50)":INPUT#1,q$:IF q$=""THEN 24
0 ELSE IF LEN(q$)>2 THEN 240:ELSE k=0:FO
R i=1 TO LEN(q$):k=k+(MID$(q$,i,1)>"9"OR
MID$(q$,i,1)<"0"):NEXT i:IF k>0 THEN 240
ELSE c=VAL(q$):IF c=0 OR c>50 THEN 240
250 FOR h=1 TO c:CLS#1:f=INT(RND*9)+65+
32*INT(RND*2):n=f-64+23*(f>73):rec(f)=
f-32*(f>74)+32*(f>73):TAGOFF:PRINT#1,
h;" (";CHR$(f);");":TAG:f=f+1
260 GOSUB 50
270 GOSUB 60:TAGOFF:NEXT
280 ' ***** SOLVE OPTIONS *****
290 CLS#1:PRINT#1,"COMPUTER SOLVE (C)"I
PRINT#1,"OR PLAYER (P) ?"
300 GOSUB 70:IF q$="P" THEN 420 ELSE IF
q$<>"C" THEN 300
310 ' ***** COMPUTER SOLVE *****

```

```

420 pf=-1:w=f:CLS#1:LOCATE 1,17:PRINT"(Q
) QUIT:(R) RESET"
430 IF f=150 THEN CLS#1:PRINT#1,"LIMIT R
EACHED":GOSUB 70:IF q$="Q" THEN CLS:END:
ELSE LOCATE 1,17:PRINT SPACE$(18):CLS#1:
GOTO 320
440 GOSUB 80:IF UPPER$(q$)="Q"THEN CLS:E
ND:ELSE IF UPPER$(q$)="R"THEN LOCATE 1,1
7:PRINT SPACE$(18):CLS#1:GOTO 320:ELSE I
F q$<"A" OR q$<"i" THEN 440 ELSE IF q$>
"i" THEN IF q$<"a" THEN 440
450 n=ASC(q$)-64+23*(q$>"I"):rec(f)=ASC(
q$)+32*(q$>"I")-32*(q$<"a"):TAGOFF:CLS#1
:PRINT#1,f+1;" (";q$;");":GOSUB 50:TAGOF
F
460 f=f+1:GOSUB 490:IF NOT c f THEN 430 E
LSE c f=0:CLS#1:PRINT#1,"CONGRATULATIONS!
":FOR i=150 TO 30 STEP -20:SOUND 7,i,50,
7:FOR j=1 TO 50:NEXT j:f=0:GOSUB 70
470 CLS#1:PRINT#1,"ANOTHER 60 (Y/N) ?":G
OSUB 70:IF q$="Y" THEN CLS#1:LOCATE 1,17
:TAGOFF:PRINT SPACE$(18):GOTO 210:ELSE I

```

```

i,n-4)=fa(1,i,n-4):fa(1,i,n-4)=fa(3,n-4,
2-i):fa(3,n-4,2-i)=fa(5,2-i,6-n):fa(5,2-
i,6-n)=ho(i):NEXT i:FOR i=0 TO 2:PLOT 0,40
0,fa(0,i,n-4)
580 MOVE pl(0,i,n-4,0),pl(0,i,n-4,1):PRI
NT CHR$(255);PLOT 0,400,fa(1,i,n-4):MOV
E pl(1,i,n-4,0),pl(1,i,n-4,1):PRINT CHR$
(254);MOVE pl(1,i,n-4,0),pl(1,i,n-4,1)-
16:PRINT CHR$(253);PLOT 0,400,fa(3,n-4,
2-i)
590 MOVE pl(3,n-4,2-i,0),pl(3,n-4,2-i,1)
:PRINT CHR$(255);PLOT 0,400,fa(5,2-i,6-
n):MOVE pl(5,2-i,6-n,0),pl(5,2-i,6-n,1):
PRINT CHR$(252);MOVE pl(5,2-i,6-n,0),pl
(5,2-i,6-n,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(251);
600 NEXT:RETURN: REM DEF
610 FOR i=0 TO 2:ho(i)=fa(1,n-7,i):fa(1,
n-7,i)=fa(2,n-7,i):fa(2,n-7,i)=fa(5,n-7,
i):fa(5,n-7,i)=fa(4,n-7,i):fa(4,n-7,i)=h
o(i):NEXT i:FOR i=0 TO 2:PLOT 0,400,fa(1,n
-7,i)
620 MOVE pl(1,n-7,i,0),pl(1,n-7,i,1):PRI

```

THE CUBE

```

320 IF pf THEN PRINT#1,"RESETTING":TAG:F
OR e=f-1 TO w STEP -1:n=rec(e)-64+23*(re
c(e)>73):GOSUB 50:NEXT:TAGOFF:f=w:pf=0:C
LS#1:PRINT#1,"START":GOSUB 60:GOTO 290
330 FOR e=f-1 TO 0 STEP -1:CLS#1:PRINT#1
,e+1;" (";CHR$(rec(e));");":n=rec(e)-64+
23*(rec(e)>73):GOSUB 60:GOSUB 50
340 TAGOFF:NEXT:PRINT#1:PRINT#1:PRINT#1,
"PRESS KEY":PRINT#1,"TO RESTART":GOSUB
60:GOTO 210
350 ' ***** PLAYER SET UP *****
360 CLS#1:LOCATE 1,17:PRINT"(S) TO SOLVE
"
370 IF f=50 THEN CLS#1:PRINT#1,"SET UP L
IMIT":PRINT#1,"NOW SOLVE":GOSUB 60:LOCAT
E 1,17:PRINT SPACE$(12):GOTO 290
380 GOSUB 80:IF UPPER$(q$)="S" THEN LOCA
TE 1,17:PRINT SPACE$(12):GOTO 290:ELSE I
F q$<"A" OR q$<"i" THEN 380 ELSE IF q$>
"i" THEN IF q$<"a" THEN 380
390 n=ASC(q$)-64+23*(q$>"I"):rec(f)=ASC(
q$)+32*(q$>"I")-32*(q$<"a"):TAGOFF:CLS#1
:PRINT#1,f+1;" (";q$;");":GOSUB 50:
400 q$="":f=f+1:TAGOFF:GOTO 370
410 ' ***** PLAYER SOLVE *****

```

```

F q$<"N" THEN 470 ELSE CLS:END
480 ' ***** FINISHED CHECK *****
490 cf=-1:FOR i=0 TO 3:FOR j=0 TO 2:FOR
k=0 TO 2
500 IF fa(i,j,k)<fa(i,0,0) THEN cf=0
510 NEXT:NEXT:RETURN
520 ' ***** SINGLE TWISTS *****
530 FOR i=0 TO 2:ho(i)=fa(0,n-1,i):fa(0,
n-1,i)=fa(2,i,3-n):fa(2,i,3-n)=fa(3,2-i,
n-1):fa(3,2-i,n-1)=fa(4,2-i,n-1):fa(4,2-
i,n-1)=ho(i):NEXT i:FOR i=0 TO 2:PLOT 0,40
0,fa(0,n-1,i)
540 MOVE pl(0,n-1,i,0),pl(0,n-1,i,1):PRI
NT CHR$(255);PLOT 0,400,fa(2,i,3-n):MOV
E pl(2,i,3-n,0),pl(2,i,3-n,1):PRINT CHR$
(252);MOVE pl(2,i,3-n,0),pl(2,i,3-n,1)-
16:PRINT CHR$(251);PLOT 0,400,fa(3,2-i,
n-1)
550 MOVE pl(3,2-i,n-1,0),pl(3,2-i,n-1,1)
:PRINT CHR$(255);PLOT 0,400,fa(4,2-i,n-
1):MOVE pl(4,2-i,n-1,0),pl(4,2-i,n-1,1):
PRINT CHR$(254);MOVE pl(4,2-i,n-1,0),pl
(4,2-i,n-1,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(253);
560 NEXT:RETURN: REM ABC
570 FOR i=0 TO 2:ho(i)=fa(0,i,n-4):fa(0,

```

```

NT CHR$(254);MOVE pl(1,n-7,i,0),pl(1,n-
7,i,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(253);PLOT 0,400,fa
(2,n-7,i):MOVE pl(2,n-7,i,0),pl(2,n-7,i,
1):PRINT CHR$(252);
630 MOVE pl(2,n-7,i,0),pl(2,n-7,i,1)-16:
PRINT CHR$(251);PLOT 0,400,fa(5,n-7,i):
MOVE pl(5,n-7,i,0),pl(5,n-7,i,1):PRINT C
HR$(252);MOVE pl(5,n-7,i,0),pl(5,n-7,i,
1)-16:PRINT CHR$(251);PLOT 0,400,fa(4,n
-7,i)
640 MOVE pl(4,n-7,i,0),pl(4,n-7,i,1):PRI
NT CHR$(254);MOVE pl(4,n-7,i,0),pl(4,n-
7,i,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(253);
650 NEXT:RETURN: REM GHI
660 FOR i=0 TO 2:ho(i)=fa(0,n-10,i):fa(0
,n-10,i)=fa(4,2-i,n-10):fa(4,2-i,n-10)=f
a(3,2-i,n-10):fa(3,2-i,n-10)=fa(2,i,12-n
):fa(2,i,12-n)=ho(i):NEXT i:FOR i=0 TO 2:P
LOT 0,400,fa(0,n-10,i)
670 MOVE pl(0,n-10,i,0),pl(0,n-10,i,1):P
RINT CHR$(255);PLOT 0,400,fa(4,2-i,n-10
):MOVE pl(4,2-i,n-10,0),pl(4,2-i,n-10,1)
:PRINT CHR$(254);MOVE pl(4,2-i,n-10,0),
pl(4,2-i,n-10,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(253);
680 PLOT 0,400,fa(3,2-i,n-10):MOVE pl(3,

```

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```

2-i,n-10,0),pl(3,2-i,n-10,1):PRINT CHR$(
255);:PLOT 0,400,fa(2,i,12-n):MOVE pl(2,
i,12-n,0),pl(2,i,12-n,1):PRINT CHR$(252)
;:MOVE pl(2,i,12-n,0),pl(2,i,12-n,1)-16:
PRINT CHR$(251);
690 NEXT:RETURN: REM abc
700 FOR i=0 TO 2:ho(i)=fa(1,i,n-13):fa(1
,i,n-13)=fa(0,i,n-13):fa(0,i,n-13)=fa(5,
2-i,15-n):fa(5,2-i,15-n)=fa(3,n-13,2-i):
fa(3,n-13,2-i)=ho(i):NEXT:FOR i=0 TO 2:P
LOT 0,400,fa(1,i,n-13)
710 MOVE pl(1,i,n-13,0),pl(1,i,n-13,1):P
RINT CHR$(254);:MOVE pl(1,i,n-13,0),pl(1
,i,n-13,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(253);:PLOT 0,40
0,fa(0,i,n-13):MOVE pl(0,i,n-13,0),pl(0,
i,n-13,1):PRINT CHR$(255);:PLOT 0,400,fa
(5,2-i,15-n)
720 MOVE pl(5,2-i,15-n,0),pl(5,2-i,15-n,
1):PRINT CHR$(252);:MOVE pl(5,2-i,15-n,0
),pl(5,2-i,15-n,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(251);:P
LOT 0,400,fa(3,n-13,2-i):MOVE pl(3,n-13,
2-i,0),pl(3,n-13,2-i,1):PRINT CHR$(255);

```

```

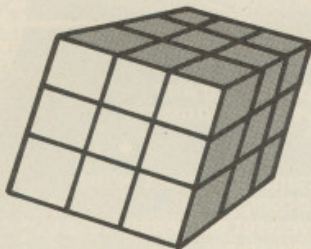
?";
810 GOSUB 70:IF q$="N" THEN 100 ELSE IF
q$(">"Y" THEN 810:ELSE MODE 1:CLS:PRINT "
INSTRUCTIONS":PRINT
820 PRINT " This is a simulation of the
famous cubepuzzle.You see a view of thre
e faces anda view of the hidden three fa
ces as seenfrom behind.
830 PRINT:PRINT " You or the computer se
t the puzzle withup to 50 'twists'. The
n the computer oryou solve it in up to 1
00 twists. If youget stuck or fail,the c
omputer will takeyou back to the start
for another go orsolve it for you.
840 PRINT:PRINT "Twists are entered as l
etters - small toturn one way and large
to turn the other
850 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT "PRESS
ANY KEY":GOSUB 70:GOTO 100
860 ' ***** DATA PRINT POSITIONS *****
870 DATA 200,360,232,344,264,328,168,344
,200,328,232,312,136,328,168,312,200,296

```

```

,120,310,152,292,184,278,120,278,152,262
,184,246,120,246,152,230,184,214,216,278
,248,294,280,310,216,246,248,262,280,278
,216,214,248,230,280,246
880 DATA 432,264,464,248,496,232,400,248
,432,232,464,216,368,232,400,216,432,200
,448,366,480,348,512,334,448,334,480,318
,512,302,448,302,480,286,512,268,352,334
,384,350,416,366,352,302,384,318,416,334
,352,270,384,286,416,302
890 DATA 168,376,284,206,136,360,252,190
,104,344,220,174,232,376,124,206,264,360
,156,190,296,344,188,174,88,306,312,306,
88,274,312,274,88,241,312,241

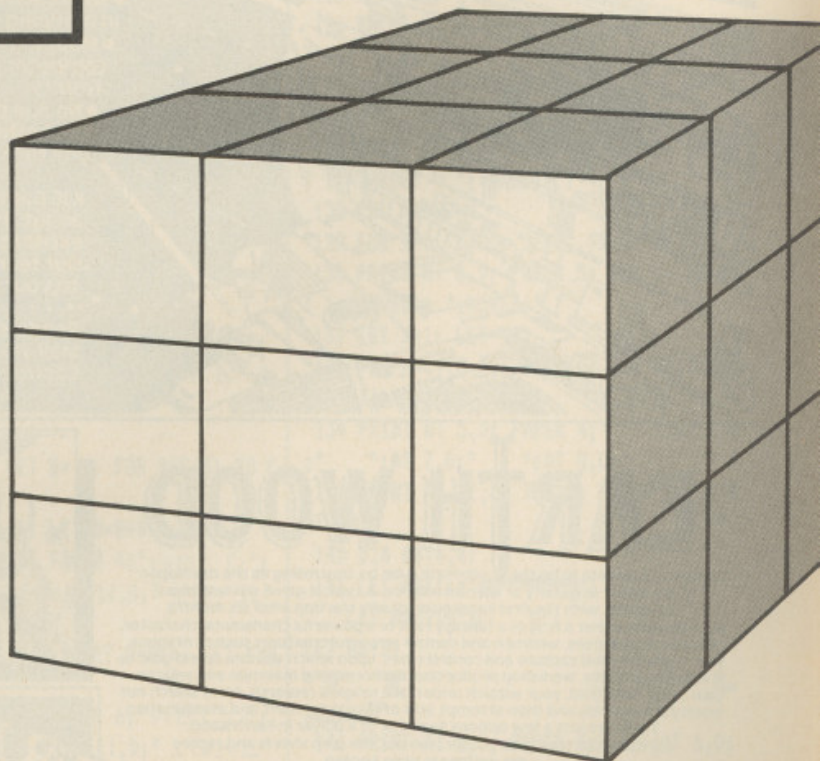
```



```

730 NEXT:RETURN: REM def
740 FOR i=0 TO 2:ho(i)=fa(2,n-16,i):fa(2
,n-16,i)=fa(1,n-16,i):fa(1,n-16,i)=fa(4,
n-16,i):fa(4,n-16,i)=fa(5,n-16,i):fa(5,n
-16,i)=ho(i):NEXT:FOR i=0 TO 2:PLOT 0,40
0,fa(2,n-16,i)
750 MOVE pl(2,n-16,i,0),pl(2,n-16,i,1):P
RINT CHR$(252);:MOVE pl(2,n-16,i,0),pl(2
,n-16,i,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(251);:PLOT 0,40
0,fa(1,n-16,i):MOVE pl(1,n-16,i,0),pl(1,
n-16,i,1):PRINT CHR$(254);
760 MOVE pl(1,n-16,i,0),pl(1,n-16,i,1)-1
6:PRINT CHR$(253);:PLOT 0,400,fa(4,n-16,
i):MOVE pl(4,n-16,i,0),pl(4,n-16,i,1):PR
INT CHR$(254);:MOVE pl(4,n-16,i,0),pl(4,
n-16,i,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(253);:PLOT 0,400
,fa(5,n-16,i)
770 MOVE pl(5,n-16,i,0),pl(5,n-16,i,1):P
RINT CHR$(252);:MOVE pl(5,n-16,i,0),pl(5
,n-16,i,1)-16:PRINT CHR$(251);
780 NEXT:RETURN: REM ghi
790 ' ***** TITLE/INSTRUCTIONS *****
800 MODE 0:BORDER 1:INK 0,1:INK 1,24:CLS
:FOR i=3 TO 11:LOCATE i,i:PRINT "THE CUB
E":NEXT:LOCATE 4,25:PRINT "instructions

```



CAPITOL

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Readers in North America should write to Adventures By Mail, PO Box 436, Cohoes, NY12047, for information on Capitol.

EARTH WOOD

25 players compete to be the ultimate ruler by controlling all the developed cities, either singularly or with an alliance. A typical game will last about 18 months, with the first knockouts usually starting after six months. Each player is either a king of a fantasy race or a powerful charismatic character. You can recruit trolls, wildmen and control powerful creatures such as dragons. Your characters will capture and control cities, upon which you can spend gold to improve security, workshop production, defences, and maintain and enlarge your army. With gold, your wizards undertake magical research. Spies search out enemy strongholds and then attempt acts of sabotage, theft and assassination. These are just a few options available to a player in Earthwood.

Earthwood is computer moderated but the turn sheets and replies are written in plain English.

No need to look through complex charts and code books to understand this game.



CRAZIMORR'S WORLD

Europe's most popular Play By Mail game - the fantasy campaign game with over 1,000 player parties already participating. To enter, send £6.00 for rules, setup, first three turns and copy of latest newsletter. Further turns £1.75 each.

Send to: KJC Games, PO Box 11, Cleveleys, Blackpool, Lancashire FY5 2UL

Welcome on - (0253) 866345



CAPITOL

To enrol in Capitol send a £6.00 cheque/PO/International Money Order payable to KJC Games. For this you will receive the rulebook, setup and first two turns. Each turn of Capitol costs £1.75 for the first 60 orders. Each additional 30 orders costs 75p. European players are welcome.

EARTH WOOD

To enrol in Earthwood send a £5.00 cheque/PO payable to KJC Games. For this you receive the rulebook, setup and first three turns. Future turns are £1.50.

KJC
GAMES

LISTING 1

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150 LET I$=INKEY$
151 IF I$="" THEN GO TO 192
152 IF I$=K$(1) AND Y<4 THEN GO TO 200
153 IF I$=K$(2) AND Y>1 THEN GO TO 210
154 IF I$=K$(4) AND X>1 THEN GO TO 220
155 IF I$=K$(3) AND X<4 THEN GO TO 250
156 IF I$="A" THEN GO TO 3000
157 IF I$="Q" AND Y=1 THEN GO TO 3200
158 IF I$="Q" AND Y=2 THEN GO TO 3250
159 IF I$="Q" AND Y=3 THEN GO TO 3260
160 IF I$="Q" AND Y=4 THEN GO TO 3270
161 REM
162 IF I$="P" AND Y=1 THEN GO TO 3500
163 IF I$="P" AND Y=2 THEN GO TO 3550
164 IF I$="P" AND Y=3 THEN GO TO 3560
165 IF I$="P" AND Y=4 THEN GO TO 3570
190 REM
191 PRINT AT 2,0; INK 0; PAPER 6; BRIGH
T 1; "MOVES . ";MOVES; "."
195 REM
196 FOR R=1 TO 16
197 IF A(R)<>C(R) THEN GO TO 199
198 NEXT R: GO TO 2000
199 GO TO 150
200 REM ** MOVE DOWN **
201 GO SUB 1000: LET A(D)=A(N): LET A(N
)=0
202 POKE 23676,A(D)
203 LET PAP=6: LET P=Y+4+1: LET P1=X+4-
4: LET E=(Y+4)-4+X: IF A(E)=C(E) THEN L
ET PAP=4
204 PRINT AT P,P1; PAPER PAP;"ABCD
";AT P+1,P1;"EFGH";AT P+2,P1;"IJ
KL";AT P+3,P1
;"MNOP"
205 PRINT AT P+4,P1; PAPER 4;A$(1);AT P
+5,P1;A$(2);AT P+6,P1;A$(3);AT P+7,P1;A$
(4)
206 LET Y=Y+1
207 LET MOVES=MOVES+1: GO TO 190
210 REM ** UP **
211 GO SUB 1020: LET A(D)=A(N): LET A(N
)=0
212 LET PAP=6: LET P=Y+4+1: LET P1=X+4-
4: LET E=(Y+4)-4+X: IF A(E)=C(E) THEN L
ET PAP=4
213 POKE 23676,A(D)
214 PRINT AT P,P1; PAPER PAP;"ABCD
";AT P+1,P1;"EFGH";AT P+2,P1;"IJ
KL";AT P+3,P1
;"MNOP"
215 PRINT AT P-4,P1; PAPER 4;A$(1);AT P
-3,P1;A$(2);AT P-2,P1;A$(3);AT P-1,P1;A$
(4)
216 LET Y=Y-1
217 LET MOVES=MOVES+1: GO TO 190
220 REM ** LEFT **
221 GO SUB 1041: LET A(D)=A(N): LET A(N
)=0
222 LET PAP=6: LET P=Y+4+1: LET P1=X+4-
4: LET E=(Y+4)-4+X: IF A(E)=C(E) THEN L
ET PAP=4
223 POKE 23676,A(D)
224 PRINT AT P,P1-4; PAPER 4;A$(1);AT P
+1,P1-4;A$(2);AT P+2,P1-4;A$(3);AT P+3,P
1-4;A$(4)
225 PRINT AT P,P1; PAPER PAP;"ABCD
";AT P+1,P1;"EFGH";AT P+2,P1;"IJ
KL";AT P+3,P1
;"MNOP"
226 LET X=X-1
227 LET MOVES=MOVES+1: GO TO 190
250 REM ** RIGHT **
251 GO SUB 1100
252 LET PAP=6: LET A(D)=A(N): LET A(N)=
0: LET P=Y+4+1: LET P1=X+4-4: LET E=(Y+4
)-4+X: IF A(E)=C(E) THEN LET PAP=4
253 POKE 23676,A(D)
254 PRINT AT P,P1; PAPER PAP;"ABCD
";AT P+1,P1;"EFGH";AT P+2,P1;"IJ
KL";AT P+3,P1
;"MNOP"
255 PRINT AT P,P1+4; PAPER 4;A$(1);AT P
+1,P1+4;A$(2);AT P+2,P1+4;A$(3);AT P+3,P
1+4;A$(4)
256 LET X=X+1
257 LET MOVES=MOVES+1: GO TO 190
1000 REM
1001 IF X>1 THEN GO TO 1006
1002 IF Y=1 THEN LET N=5: LET O=1
1003 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=9: LET O=5
1004 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=13: LET O=9
1005 RETURN
1006 IF X>2 THEN GO TO 1011
1007 IF Y=1 THEN LET N=6: LET O=2
1008 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=10: LET O=6
1009 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=14: LET O=10
1010 RETURN
1011 IF X>3 THEN GO TO 1016
1012 IF Y=1 THEN LET N=7: LET O=3
1013 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=11: LET O=7
1014 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=15: LET O=11
1015 RETURN
1016 IF Y=1 THEN LET N=8: LET O=4
1017 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=12: LET O=8
1018 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=16: LET O=12
1019 RETURN
1020 REM ** UP **
1021 IF X>1 THEN GO TO 1027
1022 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=1: LET O=5
1023 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=5: LET O=9
1024 IF Y=4 THEN LET N=9: LET O=13
1025 RETURN
1027 IF X>2 THEN GO TO 1032
1028 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=2: LET O=6
1029 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=6: LET O=10
1030 IF Y=4 THEN LET N=10: LET O=14
1031 RETURN
1032 IF X>3 THEN GO TO 1037
1033 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=3: LET O=7
1034 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=7: LET O=11
1035 IF Y=4 THEN LET N=11: LET O=15
1036 RETURN
1037 IF Y=2 THEN LET N=4: LET O=8
1038 IF Y=3 THEN LET N=8: LET O=12
1039 IF Y=4 THEN LET N=12: LET O=16
1040 RETURN
1041 REM ** LEFT **
1042 IF Y>1 THEN GO TO 1050
1043 IF X=2 THEN LET O=2: LET N=1
1044 IF X=3 THEN LET O=3: LET N=2
1045 IF X=4 THEN LET O=4: LET N=3
1046 RETURN
1050 IF Y>2 THEN GO TO 1060
1051 IF X=2 THEN LET O=6: LET N=5
1052 IF X=3 THEN LET O=7: LET N=6
1053 IF X=4 THEN LET O=8: LET N=7
1055 RETURN
1060 IF Y>3 THEN GO TO 1070
1061 IF X=2 THEN LET O=10: LET N=9
1062 IF X=3 THEN LET O=11: LET N=10
1063 IF X=4 THEN LET O=12: LET N=11
1065 RETURN
1070 IF X=2 THEN LET O=14: LET N=13
1071 IF X=3 THEN LET O=15: LET N=14
1072 IF X=4 THEN LET O=16: LET N=15
1075 RETURN
1100 REM
1101 IF Y>1 THEN GO TO 1110
1102 IF X=1 THEN LET O=1: LET N=2
1103 IF X=2 THEN LET O=2: LET N=3
1104 IF X=3 THEN LET O=3: LET N=4
1105 RETURN
1110 IF Y>2 THEN GO TO 1120
1111 IF X=1 THEN LET O=5: LET N=6
1112 IF X=2 THEN LET O=6: LET N=7
1113 IF X=3 THEN LET O=7: LET N=8
1114 RETURN
1120 IF Y>3 THEN GO TO 1130
1121 IF X=1 THEN LET O=9: LET N=10
1122 IF X=2 THEN LET O=10: LET N=11
1123 IF X=3 THEN LET O=11: LET N=12
1125 RETURN
1130 IF X=1 THEN LET O=13: LET N=14
1131 IF X=2 THEN LET O=14: LET N=15
1132 IF X=3 THEN LET O=15: LET N=16
1133 RETURN
2000 REM
2001 PRINT AT 21,4 INK 3; FLASH 1; BRIGH
T 1; "WELL DONE.. "; FOR N=1 TO 20: BEEP
.02,N: NEXT N: PAUSE 250
2002 FOR N=0 TO 200: NEXT N
2003 CLS : PRINT AT 1,0;"MIXER - BY D.SM
ITH 1985.."
2004 PRINT AT 4,0;
2005 IF MOVES>TARGET THEN PRINT INK 3;
FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;"YOU HAVE COMPLETED T
HIS LEVEL, BUT TOO MANY MOVES..."
2006 IF MOVES<TARGET THEN PRINT INK 3;
FLASH 8; BRIGHT 1;"WELL DONE.....NEXT L
EVEL..."
2007 IF MOVES=TARGET THEN PRINT INK 2;
FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;"YOU HAVE JUST MADE I
T....."
2008 IF MOVES>TARGET THEN GO TO 2100
2009 IF MOVES<=TARGET THEN GO TO 2200
2010 GO TO 2010
2100 REM
2101 PRINT AT 15,0;" DO YOU WISH TO TRY
TO COMPLETETHIS PICTURE AGAIN WITH A HI
GHERTARGET..."
2102 PRINT AT 18,0; INK 0; PAPER 4;"Y -

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FOR YES. "N - FOR NO."
2103 POKE 23658,8: IF INKEY$="Y" THEN L
ET TARGET=TARGET+20: GO TO 5
2104 IF INKEY$="M" THEN RUN
2105 GO TO 2103
2200 REM
2201 PRINT "
2202 IF LEVEL=4 THEN PRINT "YOU HAVE CO
MPLETED ALL FOUR LEVELS...": FOR X=
1 TO 20: BEEP .02,X: NEXT X: PAUSE 250:
RUN
2203 LET LEVEL=LEVEL+1
2204 GO SUB 2300
2205 PRINT "PICTURE CODE - "; FOR N=1 T
O LEN O$: PRINT CHR$(CODE O$(N)+2);: NE
XT N
2207 PRINT "ANY KEY."
2208 PAUSE 0: RESTORE 20: GO TO 3
2300 REM
2301 IF LEVEL=2 THEN LET O$="QN?AC"
2302 IF LEVEL=3 THEN LET O$="QDS?PCQ"
2303 IF LEVEL=4 THEN LET O$="BDDCPCLR"
2305 RETURN
3000 REM
3001 POKE 23676,255
3002 RESTORE 3010
3003 FOR X=USR "A" TO USR "C"+7: READ A:
POKE X,A: NEXT X
3010 DATA 126,126,126,126,126,126,126,12
6,60,60,60,60,60,60,60,24,24,24,24,24
,24,24,24
3011 LET SP=1
3020 FOR X=5 TO 20
3040 PRINT AT X,0: INK 5: BRIGHT 1:
3050 IF SP=1 THEN PRINT "AAAAAA
AAAAAAAA"
3060 IF SP=2 THEN PRINT "BBBBBB
BBBBBBBBBB"
3070 IF SP=3 THEN PRINT "CCCCCC
CCCCCCCC"
3071 IF SP=4 THEN PRINT "
3075 BEEP .05,1
3080 NEXT X
3090 LET SP=SP+1
3100 IF SP<5 THEN GO TO 3020
3110 PRINT AT 21,2: INK 3: BRIGHT 1: FLA
SH 1: "PICTURE HAS BEEN ABANDONED."
3120 PAUSE 10: FOR X=1 TO 20: BEEP .02,X
: NEXT X
3130 PAUSE 50: RUN
3200 REM ** WRAP AROUND **
3201 LET PAP=6: LET T=1: LET S=1: LET O=
A(1): LET A(1)=A(2): LET A(2)=A(3): LET
A(3)=A(4): LET A(4)=0: LET X=X-1: IF X=0
THEN LET X=4
3202 LET E=(Y+4)-4+X: IF A(E)=C(E) THEN
LET PAP=4
3210 LET P=1: FOR N=S T S+3
3215 LET PAP=6: IF A(N)=C(N) THEN LET P
AP=4
3221 IF A(N)=0 THEN PRINT AT T+4+1,P+4-
4: PAPER 4:A$(1):AT T+4+2,P+4-4:A$(2):AT

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T+4+3,P+4-4:A$(3):AT T+4+4,P+4-4:A$(4)
3222 IF A(N)<>0 THEN POKE 23676,A(N): P
RINT AT T+4+1,P+4-4: PAPER PAP;"ABCD
":AT
T+4+2,P+4-4:"EFGH":AT T+4+3,P+4-4
:"IJKL":AT T+4+4,P+4-4:"MNOP"
3229 LET P=P+1: NEXT N
3230 LET MOVES=MOVES+(LEVEL*5)
3240 GO TO 190
3250 LET T=2: LET S=5: LET O=A(5): LET A
(5)=A(6): LET A(6)=A(7): LET A(7)=A(8):
LET A(8)=0: LET X=X-1: IF X=0 THEN LET
X=4
3251 GO TO 3210
3260 LET T=3: LET S=9: LET O=A(9): LET A
(9)=A(10): LET A(10)=A(11): LET A(11)=A(
12): LET A(12)=0: LET X=X-1: IF X=0 THEN
LET X=4
3261 GO TO 3210
3270 LET T=4: LET S=13: LET O=A(13): LET
A(13)=A(14): LET A(14)=A(15): LET A(15)
=A(16): LET A(16)=0: LET X=X-1: IF X=0 T
HEN LET X=4
3271 GO TO 3210
3500 REM
3501 LET T=1: LET S=1: LET O=A(4): LET A
(4)=A(3): LET A(3)=A(2): LET A(2)=A(1):
LET A(1)=0: LET X=X+1: IF X=5 THEN LET
X=1
3502 GO TO 3210
3550 LET T=2: LET S=5: LET O=A(8): LET A
(8)=A(7): LET A(7)=A(6): LET A(6)=A(5):
LET A(5)=0: LET X=X+1: IF X=5 THEN LET
X=1

```

SPECTRUM

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5010 RUN
8999 STOP
9000 BORDER 4: PAPER 3: CLS
9001 FOR X=1 TO 20: BEEP .02,X: NEXT X
9002 CLS.
9003 LET A=-3: FOR X=170 TO 173
9004 POKE 23676,X: LET A=A+4
9005 PRINT AT 4,A: PAPER 4:"ABCD":
AT 5,A:"EFGH":AT 6,A:"IJKL":A
T 7,A:"MNOP"
9006 NEXT X
9007 LET A=-3: FOR X=174 TO 177
9008 POKE 23676,X: LET A=A+4
9009 PRINT AT 8,A: PAPER 4:"ABCD":
AT 9,A:"EFGH":AT 10,A:"IJKL":
AT 11,A:"MNOP"
9010 NEXT X
9011 LET A=-3: FOR X=178 TO 181
9012 POKE 23676,X: LET A=A+4
9013 PRINT AT 12,A: PAPER 4:"ABCD"
:AT 13,A:"EFGH":AT 14,A:"IJKL
":AT 15,A:"MNOP"
9014 NEXT X
9015 LET A=-3: FOR X=182 TO 185
9016 POKE 23676,X: LET A=A+4
9017 PRINT AT 16,A: PAPER 4:"ABCD"
:AT 17,A:"EFGH":AT 18,A:"IJKL
":AT 19,A:"MNOP"
9018 NEXT X
9020 FOR X=3 TO 20: PRINT AT X,0: INK 6:

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MIXER

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3551 GO TO 3210
3560 LET T=3: LET S=9: LET O=A(12): LET
A(12)=A(11): LET A(11)=A(10): LET A(10)=
A(9): LET A(9)=0: LET X=X+1: IF X=5 THEN
LET X=1
3561 GO TO 3210
3570 LET T=4: LET S=13: LET O=A(16): LET
A(16)=A(15): LET A(15)=A(14): LET A(14)
=A(13): LET A(13)=0: LET X=X+1: IF X=5 T
HEN LET X=1
3571 GO TO 3210
5000 REM ** LOAD **
5001 INPUT "ENTER FILE NAME..":N$
5002 IF LEN N$>10 THEN GO TO 5001
5003 INPUT "ENTER PICTURE NO - 2 TO 4.":
NO
5004 IF NO<2 OR NO>4 THEN GO TO 5003
5005 IF NO=2 THEN LET PLACE=47704
5006 IF NO=3 THEN LET PLACE=51800
5007 IF NO=4 THEN LET PLACE=55896
5008 PRINT : PRINT "PLEASE WAIT LOADING
":N$
5009 LOAD N$ CODE PLACE,4000

```

```

INVERSE 1: BRIGHT 1:" ":AT X,17:" ":AT
3,X-3:" ":AT 20,X-3:" ": NEXT X
9024 PRINT AT 3,20: INK 6: PAPER 3: BRIG
HT 1:"CODE NAME."
9025 LET A=20
9026 PRINT AT 6,20: INK 3: BRIGHT 1: PAP
ER 6:"
9027 PRINT AT 6,20: INK 6: PAPER 4:"^"
9028 LET N$=""
9029 LET A=20
9030 PRINT AT 6,20: PAPER 4:"^"
9031 LET I$=""
9035 LET I$=INKEY$
9036 IF I$="" THEN GO TO 9035
9040 IF I$=CHR$ 13 OR A>30 THEN GO TO 9
070

```



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LISTING 2

COMPUTER GAMER JUNE 1986


```

90 REM **
91 CLS
92 LET A=-4: FOR X=OLDS TO OLDS+3
93 POKE 23676,X: LET A=A+4
94 PRINT AT 6,A; PAPER 4;"ABCD";
AT 7,A;"EFGH";AT 8,A;"IJKL";A
T 9,A;"MNOP"
95 NEXT X
96 LET A=-4: FOR X=OLDS+4 TO OLDS+7: L
ET A=A+4: POKE 23676,X
97 PRINT AT 10,A; PAPER 4;"ABCD"
;AT 11,A;"EFGH";AT 12,A;"IJKL"
;AT 13,A;"MNOP"
98 NEXT X
99 LET A=-4: FOR X=OLDS+8 TO OLDS+11:
LET A=A+4: POKE 23676,X
100 PRINT AT 14,A; PAPER 4;"ABCD"
;AT 15,A;"EFGH";AT 16,A;"IJKL"
;AT 17,A;"MNOP"
101 NEXT X
102 LET A=-4: FOR X=OLDS+12 TO OLDS+15:
POKE 23676,X: LET A=A+4
103 PRINT AT 18,A; PAPER 4;"ABCD"
;AT 19,A;"EFGH";AT 20,A;"IJKL"
;AT 21,A;"MNOP"
104 NEXT X
105 IF LOOP=1 THEN RETURN
106 INPUT "ENTER FILE NAME TO SAVE AS .
.... ";N$
107 IF N$="" OR LEN N$>10 THEN GO TO 1
06
108 IF NO=2 THEN LET PLACE=47704
109 IF NO=3 THEN LET PLACE=51800
110 IF NO=4 THEN LET PLACE=55896

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```

309 LET TOTAL=A(1)*128+A(2)*64+A(3)*32+
A(4)*16+A(5)*8+A(6)*4+A(7)*2+A(8)*1
310 POKE USR "A"+T,TOTAL
311 LET T=T+1: NEXT C: LET T=T-1: NEXT
N: NEXT D
312 RETURN
400 REM ** FILL **
401 DIM X(1000): DIM Y(1000)
402 LET XS=X: LET YS=Y
403 LET HEAD=0: LET TAIL=0
404 GO SUB 450
405 IF HEAD>1000 THEN RETURN
406 LET TAIL=(TAIL+1)
407 LET XT=X(TAIL): LET YT=Y(TAIL)
410 IF POINT (XT+1*1,YT)=0 THEN LET XS
=XT+1*1: LET YS=YT: GO SUB 450
420 IF POINT (XT-1*1,YT)=0 THEN LET XS
=XT-1*1: LET YS=YT: GO SUB 450
430 IF POINT (XT,YT+1)=0 THEN LET XS=X
T: LET YS=YT+1: GO SUB 450
440 IF POINT (XT,YT-1)=0 THEN LET XS=X
T: LET YS=YT-1: GO SUB 450
442 IF HEAD=TAIL+1 THEN RETURN
444 GO TO 405
450 PLOT XS,YS
460 LET HEAD=(HEAD+1)
470 IF HEAD>1000 THEN RETURN
475 LET X(HEAD)=XS: LET Y(HEAD)=YS
480 RETURN
500 REM ** OPTIONS **
501 FOR N=8 TO 20: PRINT AT N,18;"
": BEEP .02,N: NEXT N
502 PRINT AT 8,18; INK 3; FLASH 1; BRIG
HT 1;"OPTION'S.."
503 PRINT AT 10,18;"S-STORE,";AT 12,18;
"Q-QUIT,";AT 14,18;"L-LOAD.."
504 POKE 23658,8
505 IF INKEY$="S" THEN RETURN
506 IF INKEY$="L" THEN GO TO 550
507 IF INKEY$="Q" THEN STOP
508 GO TO 505
510 REM ** LOAD **
550 LET LOOP=1
551 INPUT "ENTER FILE NAME...";N$
552 IF LEN N$>10 THEN GO TO 551
553 INPUT "ENTER PICTURE NUMBER(2 TO 4)
";N0
554 IF NO<2 OR NO>4 THEN GO TO 553
555 IF NO=2 THEN LET PLACE=47704: LET
OLDS=186
556 IF NO=3 THEN LET PLACE=51800: LET
OLDS=202
557 IF NO=4 THEN LET PLACE=55896: LET
OLDS=218
558 LOAD N$ CODE PLACE,4000
559 GO SUB 90
560 GO TO 8
8999 STOP
9000 REM ** INSTRUCTION **
9001 PRINT INK 6; FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;AT
0,9;"SCREEN DRAWER."
9002 PRINT AT 4,0;" THIS PROGRAM WILL A
LLOW YOU TODRAW YOUR OWN PICTURE WHICH C
AN BE SAVED ON TO TAPE , WHICH THENCAN B

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E LOADED ON TO THE MAIN MIXER PROGRAM
..SO LONG AS YOU KNOW THE CODE NAME FO
R THAT LEVEL.."
9003 PRINT "" INK 6; FLASH 1; BRIGHT 1;
" OPTIONS. "; INK 0; FLASH 0; BRIGHT 0;
" 0-OUTER LINE..""THIS COMMAND DRAWS
A BOX AROUND THE PICTURE AREA.."
9005 GO SUB 9090
9006 PRINT AT 0,0; INK 6; FLASH 1; BRIGH
T 1;"OPTIONS..."
9007 PRINT AT 4,0;"F-FILL..." TO USE
THIS OPTION SIMPLY PLACETHE CURSOR INSID
E THE ITEM WHICH YOU WISH TO FILL IN."
"NOTE...IF THE AREA IS TO LARGE THE CO
MPUTER WILL ONLY FILL HALFOF IT IN..."
9008 PRINT ""ALSO..ONCE THE COMPUTE HAS
FINISHED THIS ROUTINE THE CURSORMIL
L BE RETURNED TO THE CENTRE OF THE SCRE
EN..."
9009 GO SUB 9090
9010 PRINT AT 0,0; INK 6; FLASH 1; BRIGH
T 1;"OPTIONS..."
9011 PRINT ""I-INK PIXEL..." THIS O
MMAND WILL TURN ON THE INK PEN,WHICH WI
LL ALLOW YOU TO MOVE AROUND THE SCREEN D
RAWING ALINE BEHIND YOU..."P-PAPER PI
XEL..." THIS COMMAND WILL TURN OFF TH
E INK AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DRAWOVER L
INES, THIS WILL BLANK THEMOUT.."
9012 GO SUB 9090
9013 PRINT AT 0,0; INK 6; FLASH 1; BRIGH
T 1;"OPTIONS..."
9014 PRINT ""C-CLS..." THIS COMMAND
WILL ERASE THE PICTURE WHICH YOU HAV
E DONE..."E-EXIT..." THIS COMMAND
WILL ALLOW YOU TO EXIT THE DRAWING MODE.
ONCE YOU HAVE PRESSED THIS YOU
WILL BE SHOWN THREE NEW COMMANDSWHICH
ARE AS FOLLOWS:-"
9015 GO SUB 9090
9016 PRINT AT 0,0; INK 6; FLASH 1; BRIGH
T 1;"NEW COMMANDS..." INK 0; FLASH 0; B
RIGHT 0;"S-STORE PICTURE..." WITH TH
IS COMMAND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STORE TH
E PICTURE AT A CHOOSEN AREA (2 - 4) THI
S IS THELEVEL OF THE MAIN MIXER GAME....
"
9017 PRINT "" STORING THIS TAKES A VERY
LONG TIME - AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR !! AS
THE COMPUTER HAS TO FIRST STORE ALL
THE SCREEN PIXELS,THENIT HAS TO SORT THE
SE OUT IN TO U.D.G'S...."
9018 GO SUB 9090
9019 PRINT AT 0,0; INK 6; BRIGHT 1; FLAS
H 1;"NEW OMMANDS..."
9020 PRINT ""L-LOAD..." THIS COMMAN
D WILL LOAD A SCREENBACK ONTO THE COMPUT
ER FOR ALTER-ATIONS..-REMEMBER THE LEVEL
-.."
9021 PRINT ""Q-QUIT..." THIS WILL A
LLOW YOU TO EXIT THEPROGRAM COMPLETELY.."
9090 PRINT #1;"ANY KEY..."
9091 PAUSE 0: CLS : RETURN
9999 STOP

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MIXER

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111 SAVE N$ CODE PLACE,4000
112 PRINT #1;"ALL SAVED...": PAUSE 0: R
UN
199 STOP
200 REM ** SET UP UDG'S **
300 REM ***
301 LET T=0: DIM A(8)
302 POKE 23676,S
303 FOR O=YPOS TO YPOS-32 STEP -8: FOR
N=XPOS TO XPOS+31 STEP 8: FOR C=0 TO 0-8
STEP -1
304 DIM A(8)
305 FOR G=0 TO 7
306 IF POINT (N+G,C)=1 THEN LET A(G+1)
=1
307 IF POINT (N+G,C)=0 THEN LET A(G+1)
=0
308 NEXT G

```

82

WHEN SUPERPOWERS COLLIDE

The fate of mankind is in your hands



Germany 1985

NATO forces must repel the Soviet invasion of West Germany.

RDF 1985

The US Rapid Development Force must take Soviet captured oil fields in Saudi Arabia.

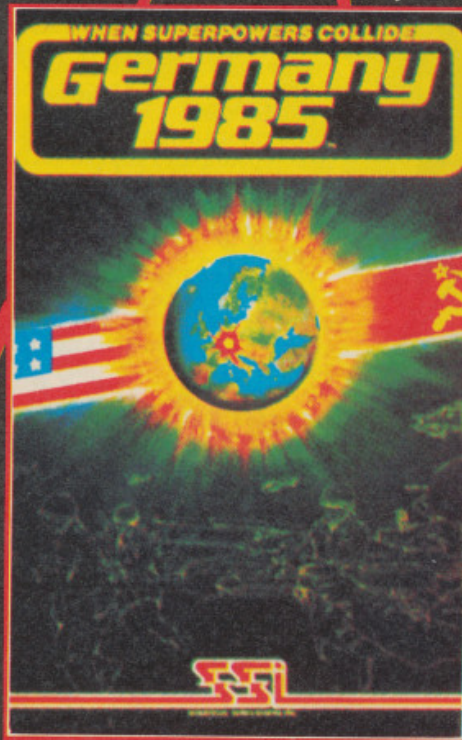
Baltic 1985

West Germans invade East Germany in an attempt to free West Berlin.

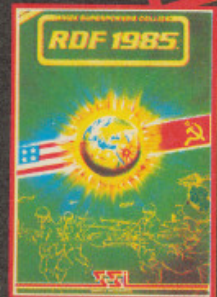
?

Where will be the next frontline encounter in this titanic struggle between the opposing philosophies of East and West in the battle for supremacy over the destiny of the human race. An absorbing study in the form of role playing wargames that simulate with frightening reality the continuing fine political and military balance of this our 20th century. Take your part, make the decisions that might change the destiny of future generations, transform the appearance of the 21st century.

Germany 1985



RDF 1985



Baltic 1985



This could be the end of civilisation as we know it!



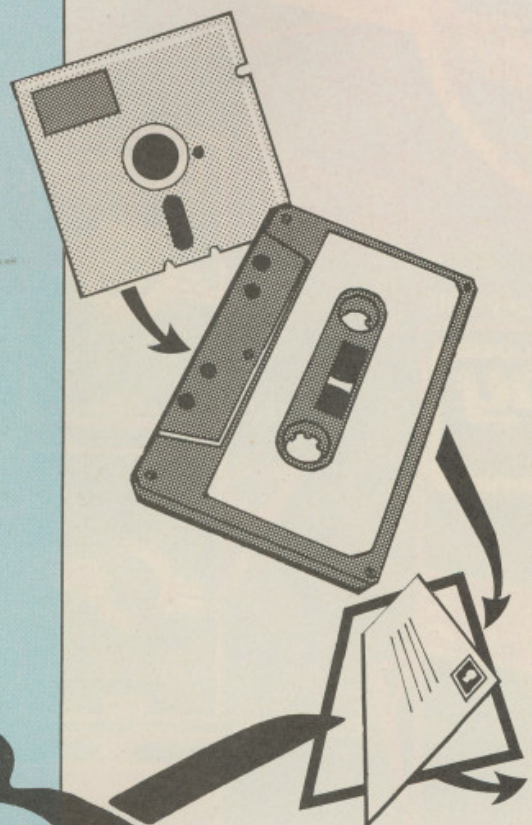
STRATEGIC SIMULATIONS INC.



Transatlantic Simulations, Unit 10, The Parkway Industrial Estate, Heneage Street, Birmingham

PROGRAM

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All programs should be recorded on tape as many times as possible and at the most reliable baud rate (where applicable). No printed listing is necessary as we can do our own except in the case of the TI-99/4A where a listing produced on a computer printer is absolutely necessary. No handwritten or typed listings are acceptable.

Any tape must be clearly marked with the program name your name, the machine it is intended for, and your address.

Documentation should run to our normal style with a description and introduction to playing the game and how the game works.

Documentation should be typed on one side of blank A4 paper with double spacing between lines and a wide margin.

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**Computer Gamer Program Submissions
1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB**

And write the name of your computer on the back of your package.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone:

Computer type:

Computer model:

Program name:

Additional details:

.....

.....

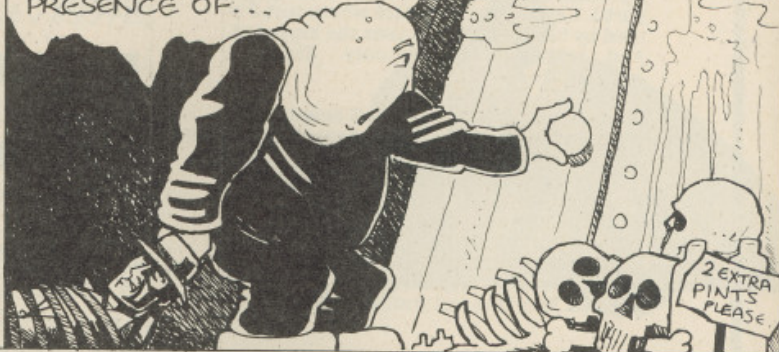
.....

SAM SHOVEL AND THE TAPES OF TERROR PART 3

SAM SHOVEL, KIDNAPPED BY WURRM IS CARRIED THRU THE LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS BENEATH SINN CITY TO THE LAIR OF HIS MYSTERIOUS MASTER....



EVEN WURRM SHUDDERS AT THE DOOR OF HIS MASTER'S CHAMBER BUT WITH TREMBLING HANDS HE PUSHES BACK THE MIGHTY PORTALS TO STEP INTO THE PRESENCE OF...



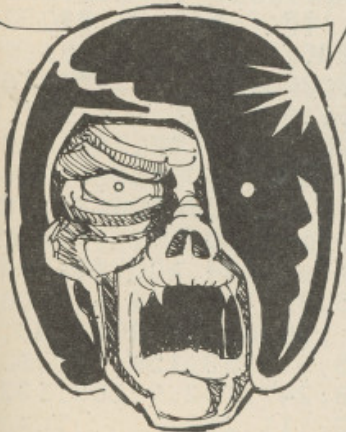
GULAG THE DESTROYER !!

AH, THE INQUISITIVE MISTER SHOVEL, WE MEET AT LAST! NOW, BEFORE YOU DIE I SHALL SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY. WHY DID I SEND WURRM TO DESTROY MASTERTRONIC? BECAUSE FRIENDS OF THOSE VILE EARTHLINGS WERE SMUGGLING THEIR CURSED GAMES INTO THE RANKS OF MY ARMY ON THE PLANET DRONGO



PRETTY SOON, INSTEAD OF HELPING ME TO DEFEAT AND ENSLAVE THE PEOPLE OF OTHER PLANETS, ALL MY SOLDIERS WANTED TO DO WAS PLAY MASTERTRONIC GAMES! THIS DID NOT HAPPEN WITH ORDINARY GAMES SO I DECIDED THAT MASTERTRONIC MUST BE TERMINATED!

LOOSEN HIS BONDS! ON YOUR KNEES SHOVEL - I AM GULAG THE DESTROYER!



I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE ELVIS PRESLEY OR THE TOOTH FAIRY - NOBODY MESSSES WITH SAM - DRINK, LEADEN DEATH!



WILL SAM TRIUMPH OVER GULAG AND NASTY OLD WURRM...

The Battle by Bergur Ragnarsson

This two player game for the Commodore 64 comes from Iceland. Regular gamers may recognise it, (it's not a new idea) but the program is short and easy to type in and is all in machine code.

There are three methods of control — both joysticks, black plays port 2 and white plays port 1. Keyboard and joystick where port 2 is used by black and white uses the keyboard. And keyboard control only. Keyboard controls are:—

Black: W up, A left, D right, Z down.

White: . up, : left, = right, / down.

The program comes in two parts. A basic setter upper, that pokes the appropriate locations and relocates Basic. And a Basic data loader that pokes in the machine code. Run these in sequence and you will be left with a one line program that contains one SYS call. Run this and you're away.

LISTING 1

```
0 POKE 4096.0:POKE 44,16:NEW
```

READY.

LISTING 2

```
0 FOR A=2049 TO 2891
1 READ D:IF N=17 THEN GOSUB 4:GOTO 1
2 POKE A,D:P=P+D AND 255:N=N+1:NEXT
3 READ D:GOSUB 4:POKE 44,8:POKE 45,76:PO
KE 46,11:CLR:END
4 L=PEEK(63):IF P=D THEN PRINT "ERROR AR
OUND LINE":L:END
5 PRINT "LINE":L;"OK":P=0:N=0:RETURN
6 DATA 11,8,0,0,158,50,48,54,49,0,0,0,12
0,169,13,162,8,82
7 DATA 141,250,255,142,251,255,160,0,132
,2,132,3,140,21,208,169,1,214
8 DATA 153,0,4,153,0,5,153,0,6,153,232,6
,169,5,153,0,216,128
9 DATA 153,0,217,153,0,218,153,232,218,2
00,208,225,169,59,141,17,208,11
10 DATA 141,32,208,141,33,208,169,24,141
,24,208,141,22,208,32,6,9,211
11 DATA 152,32,40,10,32,44,9,169,254,32,
28,10,77,0,220,41,16,142
12 DATA 208,244,32,6,9,32,38,10,32,44,9,
32,35,9,136,48,250,150
13 DATA 32,38,10,169,100,133,21,133,22,1
69,39,133,19,169,120,133,20,180
14 DATA 169,4,133,24,10,133,23,169,255,1
41,0,220,77,0,220,41,15,98
15 DATA 208,5,160,0,32,151,10,133,16,32,
93,10,32,126,10,232,169,139
16 DATA 255,32,28,10,41,31,208,5,160,5,3
2,151,10,133,17,32,93,219
17 DATA 10,32,126,10,32,35,9,169,1,133,8
,166,19,164,21,32,191,134
18 DATA 9,165,11,133,26,6,8,166,20,164,2
2,32,191,9,162,0,165,9
19 DATA 11,208,6,165,26,208,28,240,169,1
60,85,165,26,208,10,160,96,179
20 DATA 169,0,56,248,117,2,149,2,152,32,
40,10,32,77,9,76,93,240
21 DATA 8,160,108,232,208,233,162,31,160
,64,132,7,169,0,133,6,198,219
22 DATA 7,136,145,6,208,251,202,208,246,
169,255,153,32,32,200,208,250,148
23 DATA 96,162,255,236,18,208,208,251,23
2,96,160,8,162,0,32,191,9,20
24 DATA 162,159,32,193,9,164,10,200,192,
200,144,239,202,160,8,32,191,249
25 DATA 9,160,199,32,191,9,202,208,243,1
60,32,169,255,153,255,31,153,157
26 DATA 31,33,136,208,247,132,9,200,132,
10,200,132,8,165,2,32,111,252
```


27 DATA 9,169,144,133,9,70,8,165,3,72,74
 ,74,74,74,32,122,9,217
 28 DATA 104,41,15,9,48,170,169,33,133,1,
 169,104,133,7,138,10,10,14
 29 DATA 10,38,7,133,6,160,0,177,6,133,25
 ,162,8,6,25,144,3,19
 30 DATA 32,195,9,230,9,202,208,244,24,23
 0,10,230,6,165,6,41,7,56
 31 DATA 240,8,165,9,233,7,133,9,176,219,
 165,10,233,7,133,10,169,134
 32 DATA 37,133,1,96,132,10,134,9,165,9,1
 0,72,169,32,105,0,133,223
 33 DATA 15,104,41,248,133,14,165,10,41,7
 ,5,14,133,14,165,10,74,169
 34 DATA 74,74,133,64,165,14,164,15,198,6
 4,48,9,24,105,64,144,1,80
 35 DATA 200,200,208,243,133,14,132,15,16
 5,9,41,3,73,3,168,169,3,243
 36 DATA 133,11,165,8,136,48,8,6,11,6,11,
 10,10,144,245,200,81,209
 37 DATA 14,72,177,14,37,11,133,11,104,14
 5,14,96,141,0,220,173,1,83
 38 DATA 220,73,255,168,96,169,72,160,3,1
 32,8,216,24,105,212,133,12,10
 39 DATA 169,10,105,0,133,13,32,82,10,133
 ,9,32,82,10,133,10,32,227
 40 DATA 82,10,240,10,72,32,124,9,104,48,
 244,10,48,231,96,160,0,240
 41 DATA 177,12,230,12,208,2,230,13,96,16
 0,0,136,74,208,252,42,200,4
 42 DATA 48,252,133,26,181,23,201,4,176,2
 ,73,15,73,12,197,26,240,146
 43 DATA 6,165,26,240,2,149,23,96,181,23,
 74,144,2,214,21,74,144,48
 44 DATA 2,246,21,74,144,2,214,19,74,144,
 4,246,19,169,0,96,169,107
 45 DATA 255,141,0,220,77,1,220,208,243,1
 85,184,10,240,17,141,0,220,58
 46 DATA 173,1,220,57,194,10,240,3,200,20
 8,227,185,203,10,96,253,253,229
 47 DATA 253,251,0,223,223,191,191,0,2,4,
 16,4,0,64,32,128,32,78
 48 DATA 1,4,2,8,0,1,4,2,8,39,71,212,200,
 197,224,194,193,80
 49 DATA 212,212,204,69,39,82,215,210,201
 ,212,212,197,206,224,194,89,11,229
 50 DATA 93,194,197,210,199,213,210,224,2
 10,193,199,206,193,210,211,211,207,52
 51 DATA 78,35,104,201,206,224,177,185,18
 4,182,224,198,207,82,23,115,195,60
 52 DATA 207,205,208,213,212,197,210,224,
 199,193,205,197,18,35,95,199,197,198
 53 DATA 212,224,210,197,193,196,217,224,
 33,44,1,206,207,224,215,201,206,194
 54 DATA 206,197,18,32,1,194,204,193,195,
 203,224,215,201,206,19,32,1,37
 55 DATA 215,200,201,212,197,224,215,201,
 206,19,98

READY.



THE BEST 87

Tubular Bells **FREE** Poster Offer

Read on to find out how you can send for your **FREE** poster.

This great offer is to celebrate the release of CRL's Tubular Bells program that allows you to create a variety of colourful patterns while listening to a digitised version of the classic album.

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Address

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CBM 64/128



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AMSTRAD

*the name
of the game*

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Imagine Software is available from:

WHSMITH, John Menzies, WOOLWORTH, LASKYS, Rumbelows, Greens, Spectrum Shops and all good dealers

TIMETRAX

Time Travel, the Dark Ones and runes are all part of this new arcade adventure



Ghosts and Spectres await you in a Gothic house



Ice Age, 10,000 years BC

Timetrax

Good has lost the battle with Evil. If the Bomb going off wasn't enough your troubles are far from over.

Somehow you managed to survive the holocaust in your own cellar along with six candles, two tins of beans and a boffin called Uriah Winterbottom MSC who is now unfortunately slumped dead in the only armchair left in Clapham.

Before he shuffled off this mortal coil he had been babbling about how he had nearly beaten the Dark Ones who were now pouring through time portals to disrupt earth history.

Your job is simple. Travel through time battling against the dark ones minions until you find and collect 8 objects that belonged to the 8 great Minds of Creation. This will stop them probing through time to look for them and allow you to collect enough runes to cast the spell that will seal up the portals and repair the fabric of time. All on two tins of beans!

Getting Started

Timetrax is a joystick controlled adventure played on 21 screens of action spread throughout 7 time zones.— You begin the game in your three floored, fully furnished bunker. Unfortunately everything useful is hidden away including your trusty gun.

Since this is one of the few objects that begin the game in the same room, you soon track it down, but just as you find it behind the cooker and start looking for some bullets, two strange characters appear with jetpacks on their backs!

You dive through a door but there's more of them in here.

A strange flickering portal suddenly appears in front of you. You dive through and find yourself in a frozen wasteland.

The portal disappears leaving you trapped in the Ice Age, 10,000 BC.

This is the pattern of how most of your attempts will begin as you hop through time trying to find something to help while keeping an eye out for any of the Dark Ones minions. These must be avoided at all costs as they quickly drain your strength and finally kill you.

Soon you'll begin to find a few of the games objects that will dramatically increase your chances of survival. Such as the

gun and bullets that will allow you to shoot the jetmen, potions to heal you and perhaps even one of the objects belonging to the great minds.

However, even at this stage you have only begun to scratch the surface of this massive game.

Time Travel

Learning how the time portals work is the key to playing the game as once you've finally mapped the 10 minute sequence you can not only predict where and when a portal will appear but also where it leads to.

Your bunker and the Ice Age are just two of the seven time zones with each posing different problems and hazards.

In the Ice Age the jetmen are replaced by giant flying insects and the furniture by holes in the ice. The doors are now caverns in the ice and the steps are cut out of the frozen landscape. Unfortunately you will also have to deal with slippery slopes and sharp stalagmites.

In the dawn of man (50,000 BC) strange plants and huts are scattered throughout the forest. Here the hazards are winged serpents and swamps.

Finally you will also do battle with ghosts and spectres in a gothic house, dragonettes in an Egyptian setting, gargoyles in the dark ages and giant flies in the post holocaust wilderness.

Screen Display

The game is played on a split screen display with the top half showing three levels of the current time zone. In this screen our hero can climb between floors, search objects and move through doors and portals to other screens.

The lower half of the screen contains a command menu duckshoot through which you can look for, take, drop, swap and use objects that you find. Below this is a heart shaped energy gauge, a clock (essential to plot the time portals) and storage windows for up to four objects and ten rune tiles.

The objects that you may find include weapons such as a gun or crossbow, ammunition (10 shots worth of bullets or bolts), potions to replenish your energy, scrolls and rune tiles.

There are 16 rune tiles altogether that combine in pairs to form ten spells. To help you further the scrolls each contain

one combination so you should be able to add magic to your skills. These spells allow you to move from one timezone to another (without a portal), see the contents of a lost chest, heal yourself, banish any nasties on the screen and reload a weapon.

Finally you may also find the 8 character items that belong to the 8 great minds. These include a dagger, helmet, skull, map and book.

Giving the right object to the right character not only gets you nearer victory it may help you further by gaining you a useful object in a swap. You can try swapping another object but the likes of Bella the Witch, Stoneeye the Necromancer and Blackflay the Ghoul probably know the value of objects better than you do.

Hints

It takes a little while to get used to the games commands menus but soon you'll be ready to take on the Dark Ones. But before you stand any chance of success you'll have to master two things, time travel and searching.

The time portals must be mapped and used at the right time taking into account that the weapons only work in some of the timezones. For example the gun doesn't work in the Ice Age. So you should leave any none essential items until you return to that zone leaving your valuable object containers free for any objects you might find.

When you appear on a new screen you should quickly sketch it (freeze the game if necessary) so that you can work out some search patterns that allow to LOOK along a line of objects and always be near an exit as trouble arrives.

Perfecting this will not only find you more objects (you won't waste time looking somewhere twice) it will keep you a lot healthier.

Then with a bit of luck you'll find enough runes to try out some spells and potions to keep your quest going a little longer.

The great minds seem to like the runes a lot so when you find a spell combination that you could do without, such as Banish, you could trade those runes for the object the character has.

Conclusions

Timetrax is a fascinating mix of time travel, exploration and magic that forms a challenging game.

Although the controls are a little difficult to get used to (and are still difficult in a panic situation) they are effective and allow you to concentrate on the problems facing you. These begin with just staying alive, but later you will have to tackle rune combinations and trades with the games characters while keeping one step ahead of the dark ones.

Then finally, using your Mastermind skills you must not only find the correct four runes that will create the spell that will

restore the fabric of time, you have to get them in the right order!

Your performance in your quest is judged at the end of the game and you are given a rating depending on how many monsters you have destroyed, spells you have cast, items you have returned and finally how much of the cosmic code you've discovered. The rating range from pudding and jester, through adventurer and warrior to the ultimate accolades, superhero and demigod.

The games graphics are impressive and feature an incredible amount of detail which adds to the enjoyment of the game which is completed by the atmospheric music that accompanies your valiant efforts.

My only criticism is the lack of a save game facility that could save a lot of time and frustration should you be mugged by the Dark Ones just as you're completing the cosmic pattern.

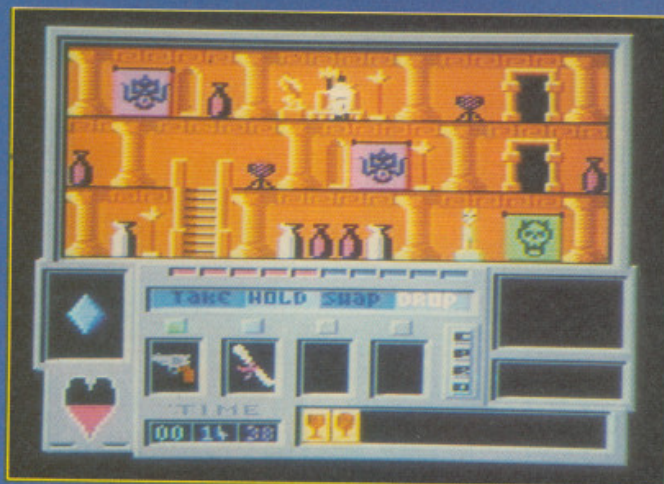
Timetrax is available for the C64 from APS and costs £9.95.

PLANET RATINGS

Originality	●●●●●
Graphics	●●●●●
Use of machine	●●●●
Value for money	●●●●

STAR RATING

Nova



Battle with dragonettes in Egyptian times



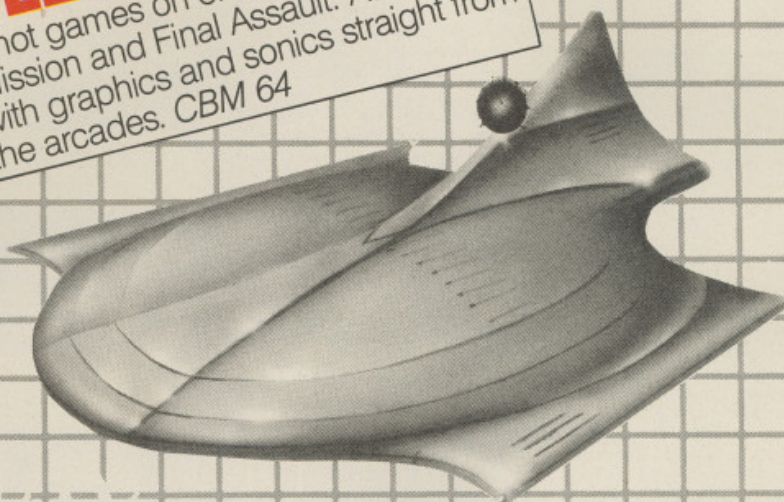
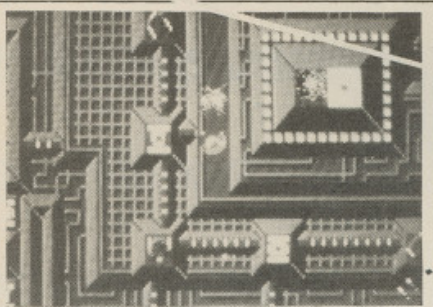
In your bunker — about to leap through a time portal to avoid the minions of the Dark Ones

BUG-BYTE

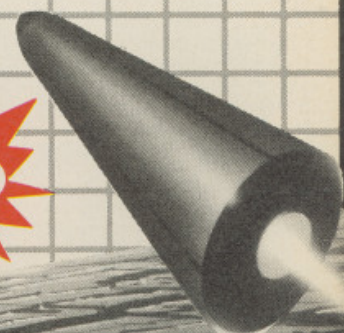


OLLO

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SODOV THE SORCERER

Magical 3D animation with the latest YOPS course, sorcery. Fast, furious and the mythical Batlegroms to cope with. Spectrum 48k

SAVAGE POND

Face monsters more ferocious than the Batlegrom from Vragus IV. The only arcade game with a sticky tongue at the end. BBC/Electron Atari

SOLO

The Di-Planium Wars rage on. 16 alien craft to defeat with fantastic sounds and sonics. C16

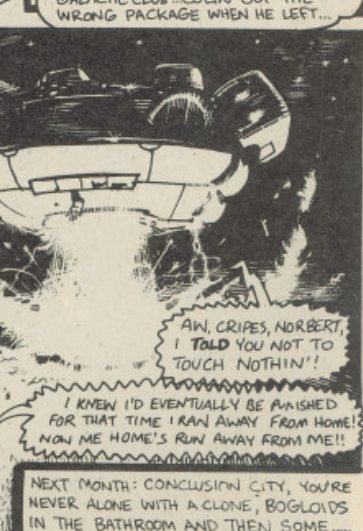
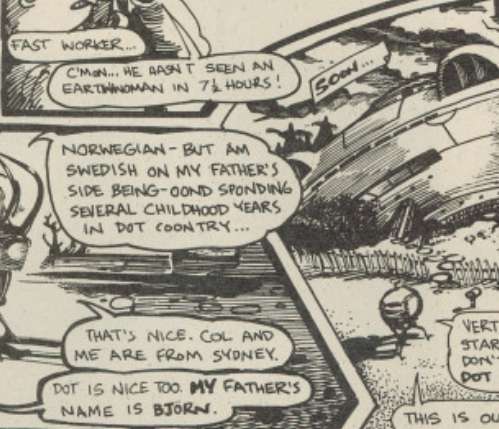
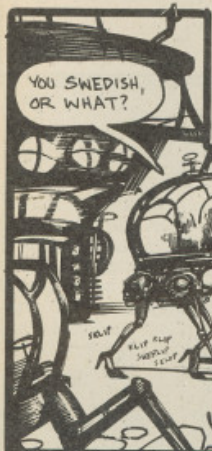
JACK ATTAC

A great arcade adventure, an epic struggle, beabstalks, and cartoon animation. BBC/Electron

Argus Press Software Group Liberty House 222 Regent Street LONDON W1R 7DB 01-439 0666

For mail order and *Byte me* T-shirts (small, med, large: £3)

OUR HEROES, UNDERPANT, SOCK AND SKIDJOBOD, HAVE STALLED THEIR FREIGHTER, SS OMNIBUS, IN ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET SLOVIA. THE SLOVIAANS, WHO ARE COMPUTER GENIUSES (BUT HAVE LOUSY TELEVISION) PUT THEM UP WHILE THEY GENEROUSLY REPAIR THE OMNIBUS' BUSTED COMPUTER. THEIR HOST, HORRION GRAD, TAKES THEM TO A NIGHT-CLUB WHERE THEY MEET COLIN FITZGIBBON, AN AGGRESSIVE MUSICIAN... BUT COLIN ISN'T THE ONLY OTHER HUMANOID LIFE FORM PRESENT...



STRATEGY

Title: Knights in the Desert
Computer: C64/Atari (Disk)
Supplier: US Gold (SSI)
Price: £14.95



"In the year 1096, knights in shining armour set out on the first Crusade, marching across Asia Minor to reach the Holy City of Jerusalem and free it from the invading Turks. Nearly a millenium later, in 1941, a similar scenario would be played out. This time, Crusader tanks of Great Britain rolled across the broiling sands of North Africa to repel invaders of a different sort — the armoured forces of Nazi Germany".

In an unusual wargame from the States (unusual not only because of this tripe on the cover sleeve but also as the Americans aren't involved!) you play Rommel as the German forces try to take North Africa from the British forces.

Confused? You will be when you try and read the instructions which are tough going even for an avid wargamer. This one is definitely not for beginners!

The game itself is an excellent simulation of the battle in North Africa, particularly around Tobruk, and includes incredible detail, not only in the units involved, but also the problems of supply and logistics.

In an easier game, such as Tigers in the Snow (reviewed last month) a unit must have a clear line of hexes to their home base to be supplied (have enough ammo etc to fight). In this game

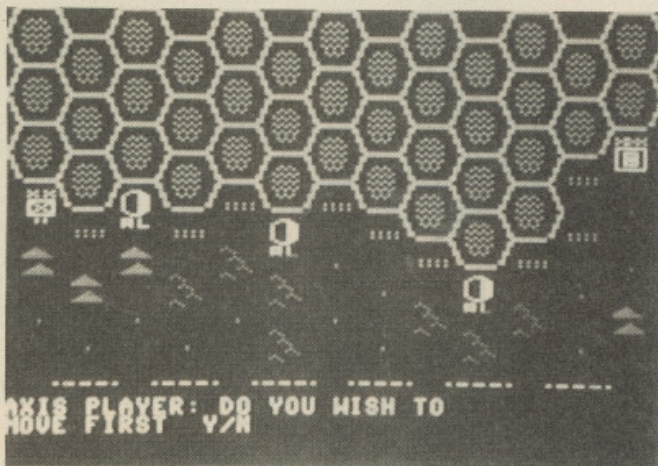
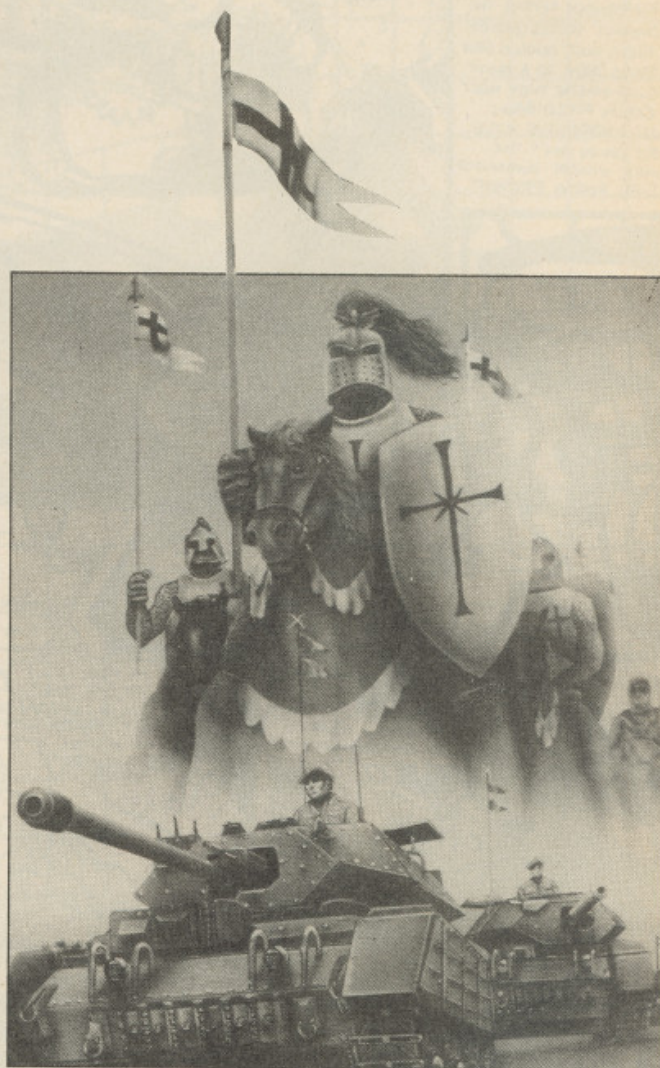
you have to maintain this line of supply to all units by means of a network of supply depots strung across the landscape.

Unfortunately these depots add a few more problems as they move a lot slower than the other units and are vulnerable to attack so you have to ensure that you don't push ahead too fast and outrun them.

Another major headache that a commander will have to contend with is reinforcements. This may sound a little odd as everyone likes more troops. The problem comes when deciding where to put them as every unit seems to develop a desperate need.

Knights of the Desert is a complex game as highlighted by the units themselves. They are represented on the screen by symbols (as in board wargames) which illustrate the units type (panzer, infantry, armour, mechanised, nonmobile), size (regiment, battalion, division, brigade or garrison) and nationality. For example the Allied side actually contains British, Australian, Indian, South African, New Zealand, French and Polish forces as well as some units that contained more than one nationality!

All this data produces numerical factors that determines the unit's combat strength, maximum number of reinforcements the unit can take, morale, the amount of supply it can carry with it,



whether it is supplied or not, it's fortification level (how well it has dug in the defend itself) and the number of operation points it has. These operation points determine how much a unit can do in a single turn as points are subtracted everytime it moves or attacks.

This all provides a highly sophisticated wargame simulation so it's just as well that the program allows you to save it every turn as well as printing out the position of the units so that you can plan your next move on the train or bus.

Seasoned wargamers will revel in this depth and complexity but it will naturally deter beginners who would be better

off playing a game like Tigers in the Snow before tackling this one. **T.H.**

PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money



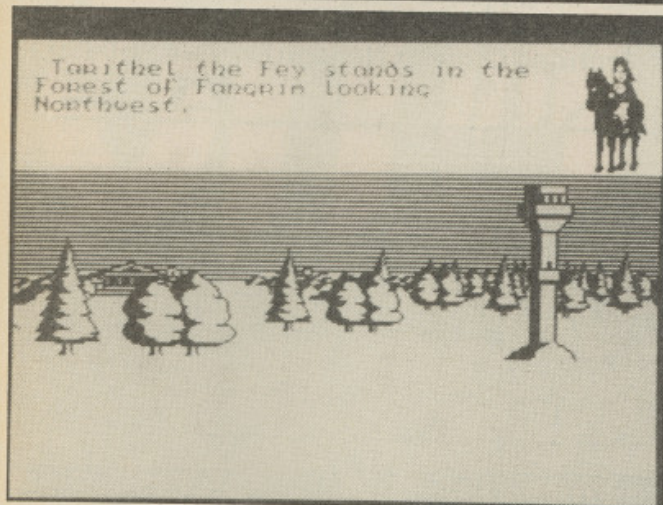
STAR RATING

Bright Star



REVIEWS

Title: Doomdark's Revenge
Computer: C64
Supplier: Beyond
Price: £9.95



Forget about windows, icons, mice and pull-down menus. A new age of user friendliness in computer games is dawning. No longer is it the done thing to have little booklets giving you the storyline behind complex adventure games. If you want to stay ahead of your rivals, you must now include an audio cassette in the package with someone reading the story to any would-be player just in case the effort of reading the story proves to be too much. In practice, C64 owners are likely to have more trouble finding a cassette recorder as of course the Commodore tape deck is useless for this purpose.

Doomdark's Revenge is the sequel to the highly successful Lords of Midnight. Originally written for the Spectrum only, popular demand ensured its conversion. The game is not an adventure as such for there is no text input but still contains the traditional quest ideas together with elements of wargaming as you explore the 6,000 locations, making alliances and fighting battles as you try to defeat the enemy.

The plot is complicated to say the least (hence the audio cassette) but basically involves Morkin having gotten himself captured by Shareth Heart-stealer, Empress of Ice mark who

is determined to avenge her father — Doomdark. You take the side of the Moonprince Luxor as you attempt to find and rescue Morkin although you can also try to achieve total victory by defeating Shareth's forces in battle. There are also several artefacts to be found which will add to your victory.

The game starts with you controlling three characters (so your friends can play at the same time if you want). All commands are entered as single keystrokes either directly or from a menu. Examples of direct commands would be moving or checking on various items whilst selecting the 'choose' key would give you a menu of the options available to you at that particular time. Time plays an important part in the game — characters can only do so much in a day. When you have finished making your moves, a quick key press informs the computer allowing the forces of evil to move at night.

The outstanding feature of this excellent game is its graphics. Each of the 6,000 locations is illustrated from eight different compass points giving 48,000 landscaped views. Amongst the features you will come across are temples, fountains, pits, towers, palaces and underground passages. As you approach a building, so the perspective changes and the hut or whatever looms larger.

Doomdark's revenge is a massive game that will keep you



hunched over a hot keyboard for a considerable length of time. My one reservation is that it takes a lot of getting into and considerable perseverance is required. The mixture of adventure and strategy though works very well and when coupled with the superb graphics makes this a game to be highly recommended.

G.H.

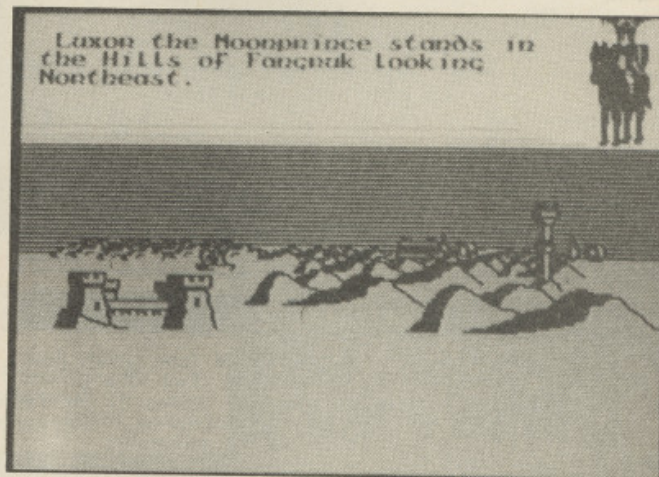
PLANET RATINGS

Originality
 Graphics
 Use of machine
 Value for money



STAR RATING

Nova



95



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READERS C-L-U-B

Big changes are about to happen in the Computer Gamer Readers' Club. Read on to find out more...

Nearly a year ago, Computer Gamer launched the first ever readers' club. There was a massive response — greater than we had imagined in our wildest dreams.

People applied from all over the world, and an age range from 6 to over 60. They received the club newsletter with up to the minute news, reviews, competitions, and answers to our puzzles. As well as free delivery of this, members also had the right to participate in our unique ratings system that means

you can prove your games playing prowess.

So what's new? Well, due to vastly improved production schedules on Gamer, as well as bringing you even more current news and reviews, we can include the newsletter in the main magazine. This will give it a much wider audience — as well as keeping our post bill down!

The format will also change. From now on the club pages will be used for FREE contacts, in three sections.

Section one will be for

clubs, so if you have a local computer club that you wish to promote, fill in the form and it will be included.

Section two will be for Sales and Wants, if you want to sell something computer related or you want to buy something then this is the section for you.

Section three, general contacts. This is a general section for contacting other people, if you want a computer pen pal, or want to start a club, or can offer help with a game, then include yourself in this section.

The general rules for these sections are simple. All applications MUST be

on the correct form. 30 words maximum. All forms must be completed in block capitals. Personal only — no trade. We take no responsibility for the consequences of any sale or contact made. Include a large SAE for replies.

Contacting will work along the lines of a PO box system, except that it will be membership numbers. No addresses will be included in the ads, only a number. If you want to respond to an ad, then you send the letter to us at the following address:

**Club Contacts
Computer Gamer
1 Golden Square
London W1R 3AB**

With the number that you wish to contact written on the back. We will then forward the letter on to the appropriate person. If you are not a member of the club already, then you can always send your application in with your contact coupon.

All you have to do is fill in the following questionnaire (to help us identify your particular areas of interest) and send it to:

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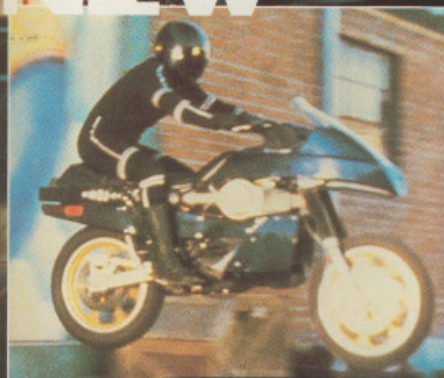
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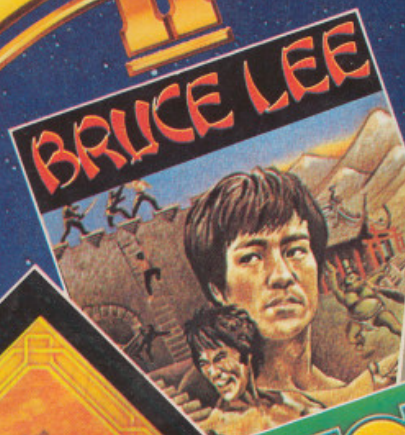
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