Light Pen
SIDE UP
re computer is
before inserting

Light Pen

This package comprises a user friendly graphics program with detailed manual and a Light Pen which plugs directly into the edge connector of the Amstrad CPC464

Simple, easy, and relaxing to use, it features

- ON SCREEN MENU (Left or right hand side)
- FULL SCREEN WORKSPACE (Menu is removed after function selection)
- SIMPLE ICON SYMBOLS
- FUNCTION WINDOW (Indicates selection)
- INCORPORATES A PROFESSIONAL QUALITY SYMBOL FILE

Actual Screen Photographs

GRAPHIC FUNCTIONS AVAILABLE

ZOOM EDIT
DRAG
COPY
8 WAY SCROLL WIPE
COLOUR MASK/WASH
FLIP
REVERSE
HORIZONTAL MIRROR DRAW
VERTICAL MIRROR DRAW
LINE
ELASTIC LINE
RAYS
BEZIER SIMULATIONS
3D LINE PLOT
PEN
ERASER
DOTS
PERSPECTIVE BACKGROUND
REFERENCE BACKGROUND
SHAPE RECORDER
RECORDER RESET
SHAPE COLOUR EDIT
HELP FUNCTION
SCREEN DUMP — AMSTRAD DMP1 and EPSON COMPATIBLES

TEXT
SIGHT CURSOR
BOX CURSOR
CIRCLE
SOLID CIRCLE
ELLIPSE
SOLID ELLIPSE
BOX
CUBE
TRIANGLE
3D TRIANGLE
PAPER COLOUR CHANGE
PAINT FILL
16 COLOUR PALETTE
CURSOR KEY CONTROL OPTION
SCREEN WIPE
9 BRUSH SIZES
9 NOZZLE SPRAY GUN
50+ TEXTURES
SAVE/LOAD SCREEN
SYMBOL FILE LOAD
FLECK COLOUR PRINT
SCROLLING SYMBOL SELECT
SYMBOL PRINT

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THE ELECTRIC STUDIO
P.O. BOX 96, LUTON LU3 2JP
Tel: (0582) 595222

Should you have been working on a detailed picture when the error occurred, (forgetting to put a disc in the drive before saving the screen!), then there is a way of salvaging some of your work.

Firstly, move the text cursor over the first line of the error message, being careful not to roll the screen. Then ensure that you have your disc drive/datacorder ready and type the following ...

```
230  SAVE"NAME",B,&C000,&4000
```

Pressing [ENTER] will then save the screen complete with the on screen text. You can then reload the picture, and with the graphics package running carry out the necessary repair work.

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LIGHT PEN

To Load: Press CTRL and small ENTER

Amstrad CPC464

SIDE B
B/W PACK

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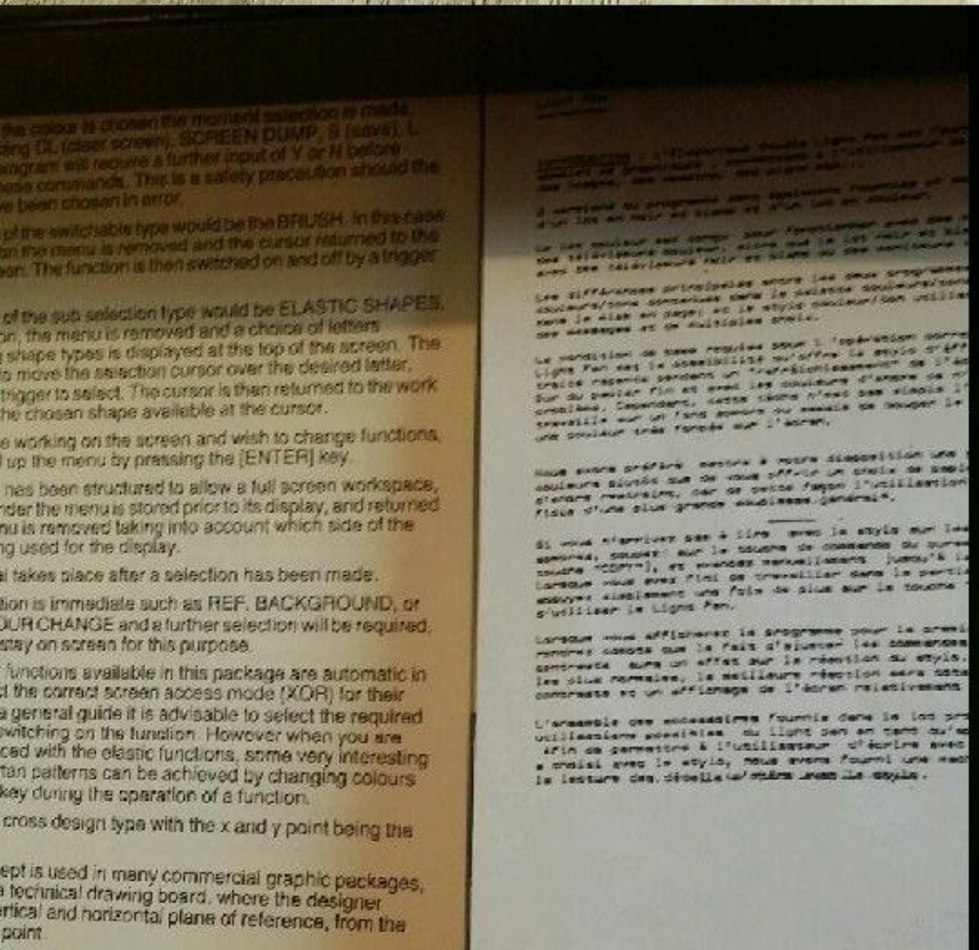
LIGHT PEN



the colour is chosen the monitored selection is made.
ing CL (clear screen), SCREEN DUMP, S (save), L
ogram will require a further input of Y or N before
ese commands. This is a safety precaution should the
ve been chosen in error.

of the switchable type would be the BRUSH. In this mode
on the menu is removed and the cursor returned to the
en. The function is then switched on and off by a trigger

of the sub selection type would be ELASTIC SHAPES.
on, the menu is removed and a choice of letters
shape types is displayed at the top of the screen. The
o move the selection cursor over the desired letter.
trigger to select. The cursor is then returned to the work
he chosen shape available at the cursor.

e working on the screen and wish to change functions,
up the menu by pressing the [ENTER] key.

has been structured to allow a full screen workspace,
nder the menu is stored prior to its display, and returned
nu is removed taking into account which side of the
g used for the display.

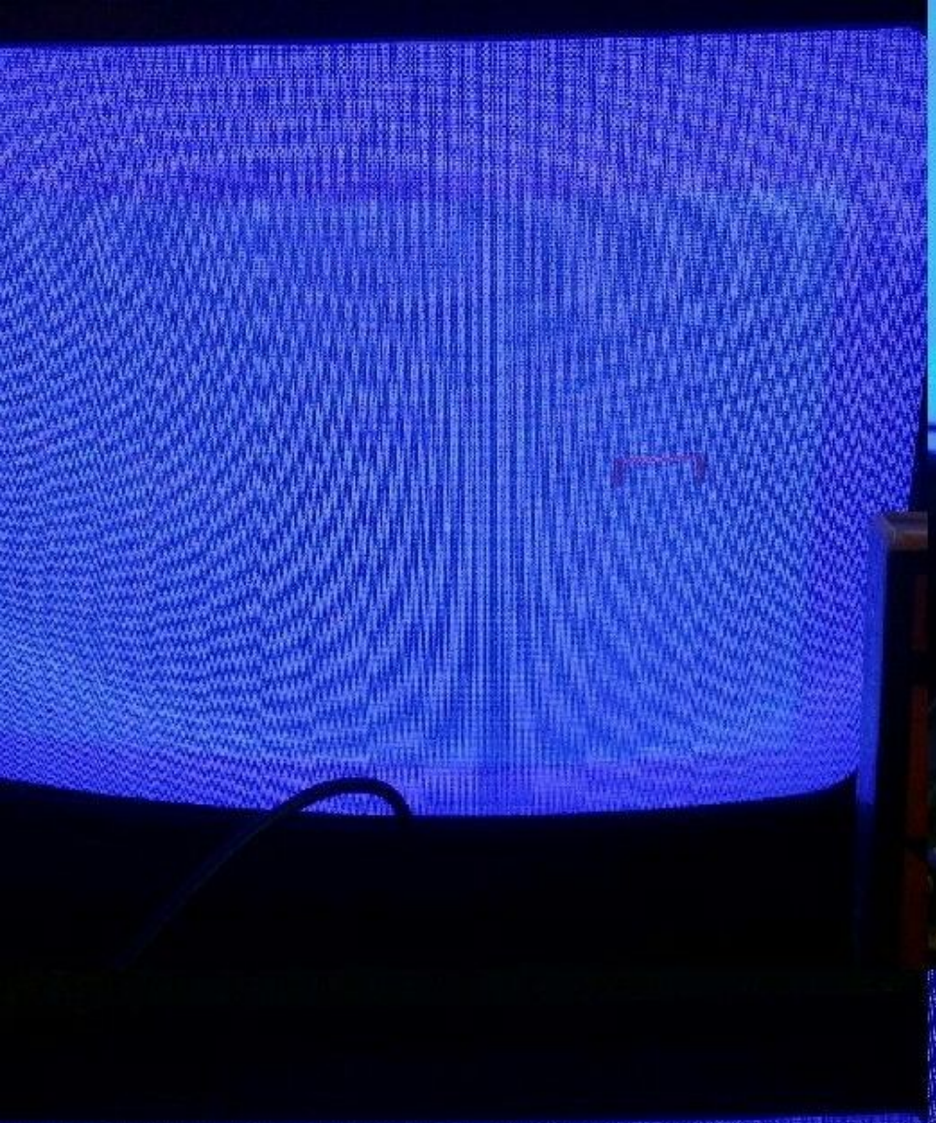
takes place after a selection has been made.

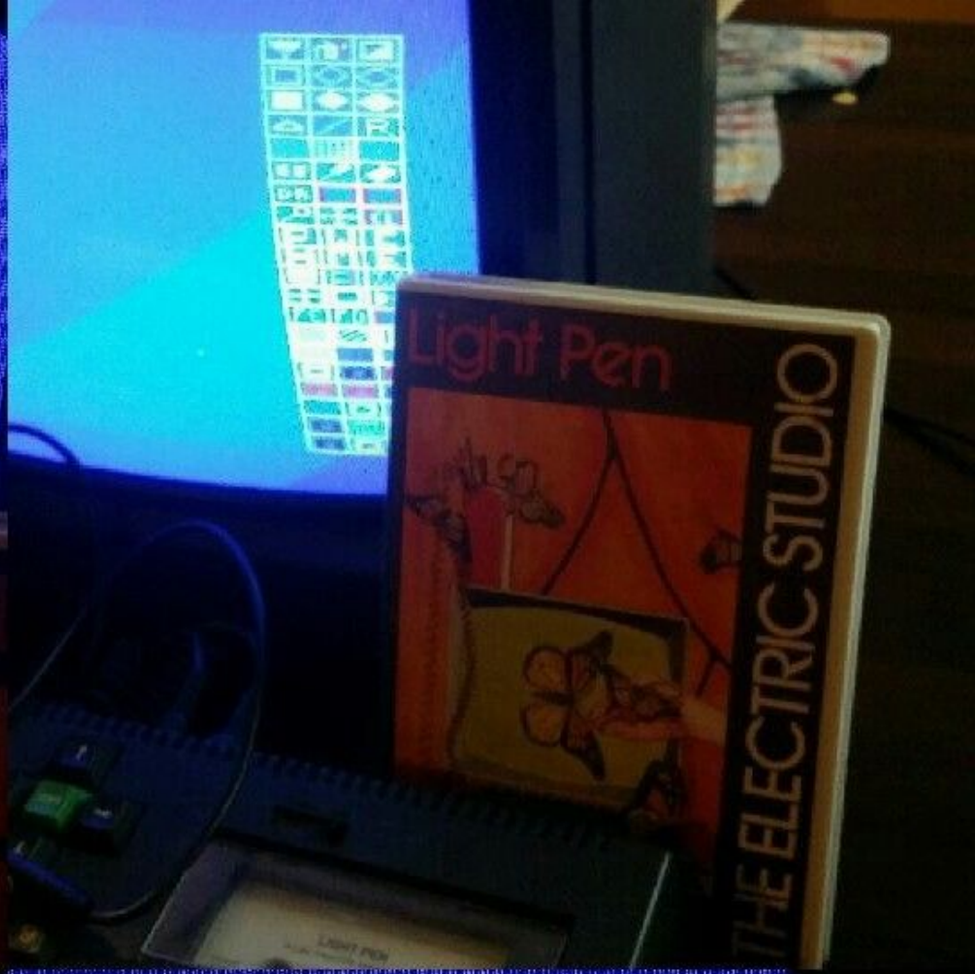
tion is immediate such as REF. BACKGROUND, or
OUR CHANGE and a further selection will be required.
stay on screen for this purpose.

functions available in this package are automatic in
t the correct screen access mode (XOR) for their
a general guide it is advisable to select the required
witching on the function. However when you are
ced with the elastic functions, some very interesting
tan patterns can be achieved by changing colours
key during the operation of a function.

cross design type with the x and y point being the

ept is used in many commercial graphic packages,
a technical drawing board, where the designer
rtical and horizontal plane of reference, from the
point.




Light Pen
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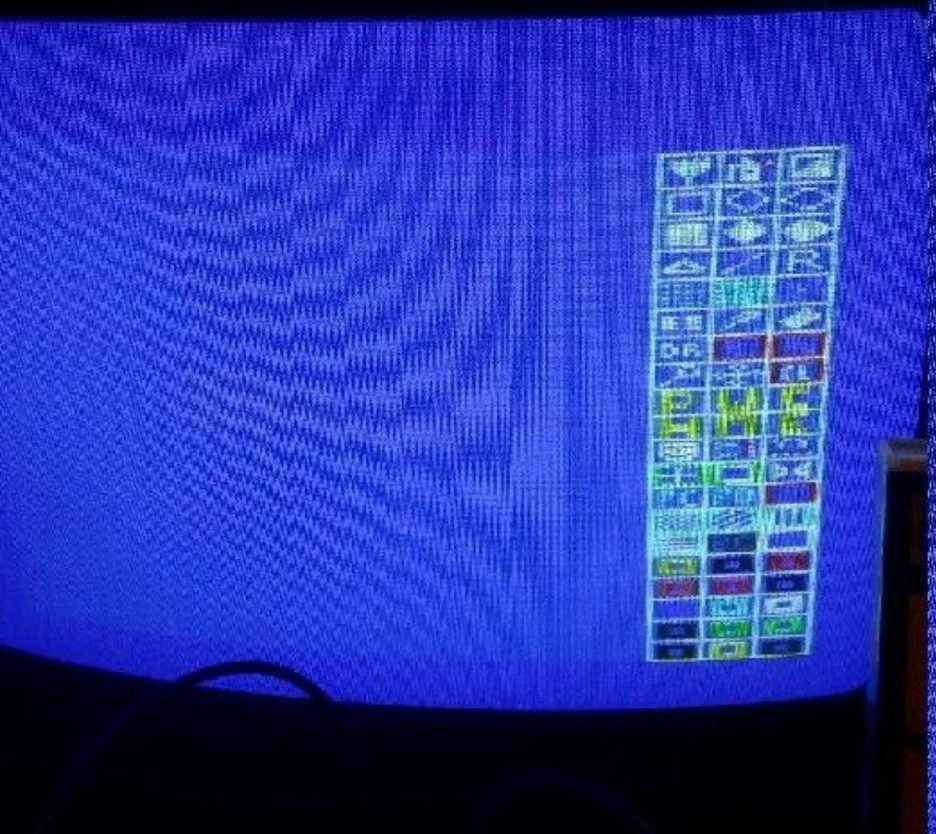
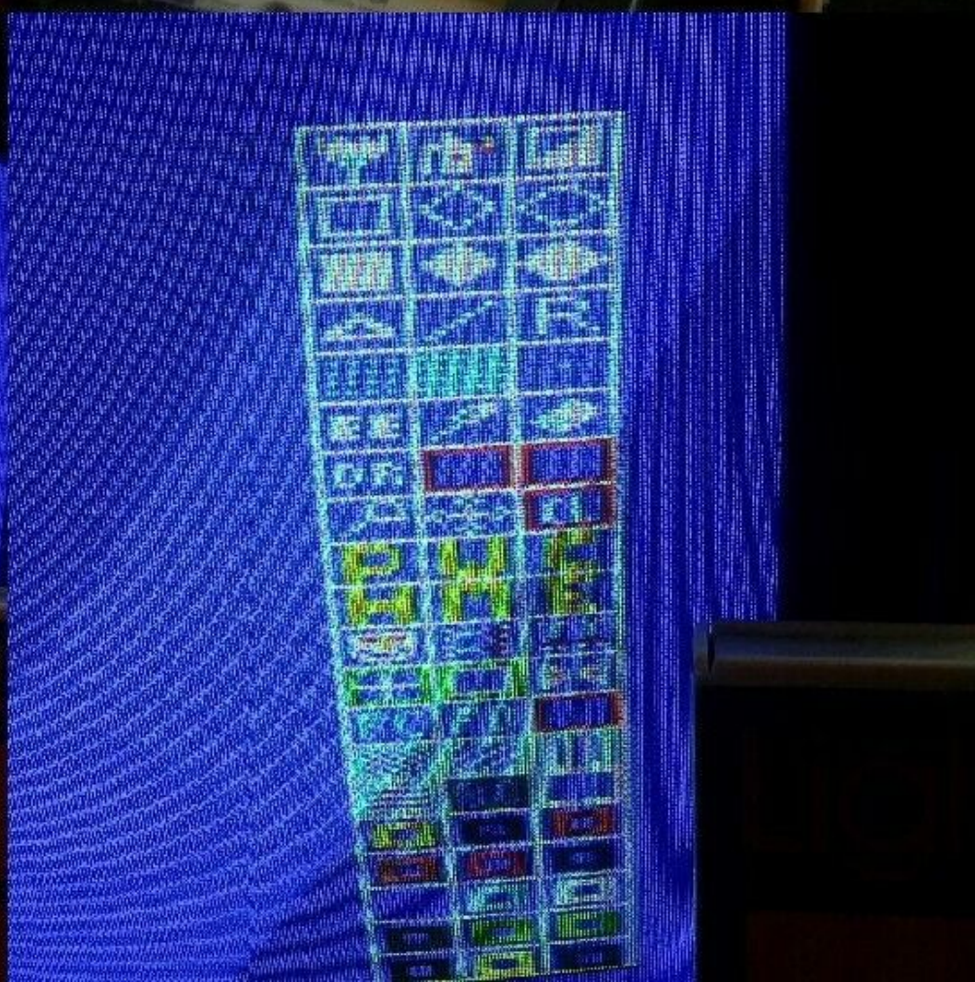
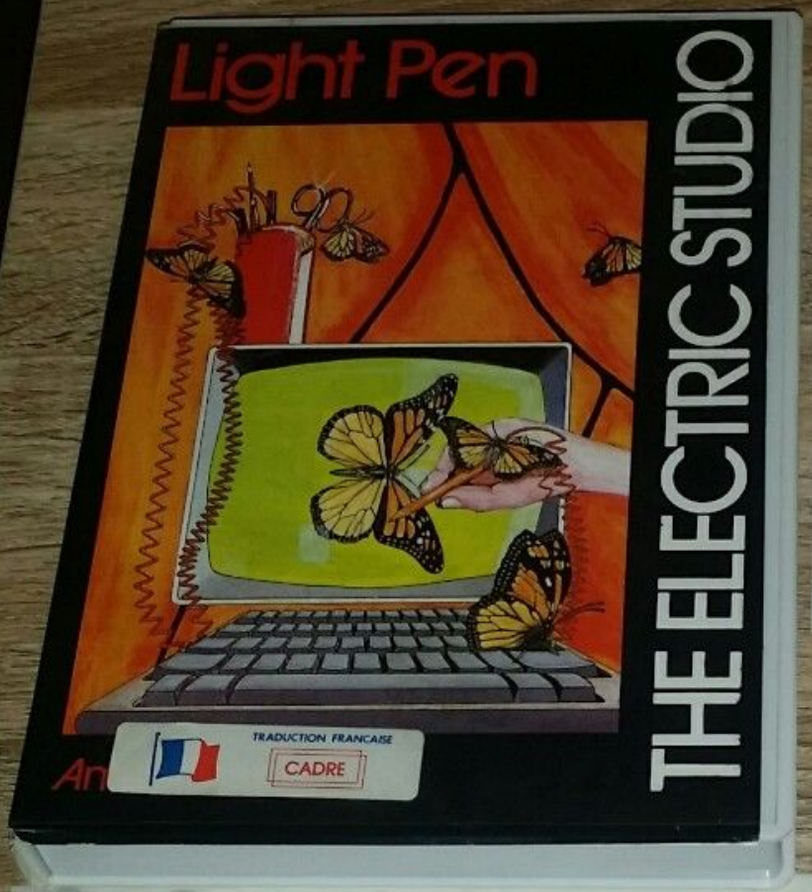






Light Pen

INTRODUCTION

The Electric Studio Light Pen is supplied with a complete graphics package, enabling the user to produce pictures, designs and plans etc.

Two versions of the program are supplied, these are "COLOUR PACK" and "B/W PACK".

COLOUR PACK is structured to work with colour monitors/televisions, whilst B/W PACK is for users with black and white televisions, or green monitors.

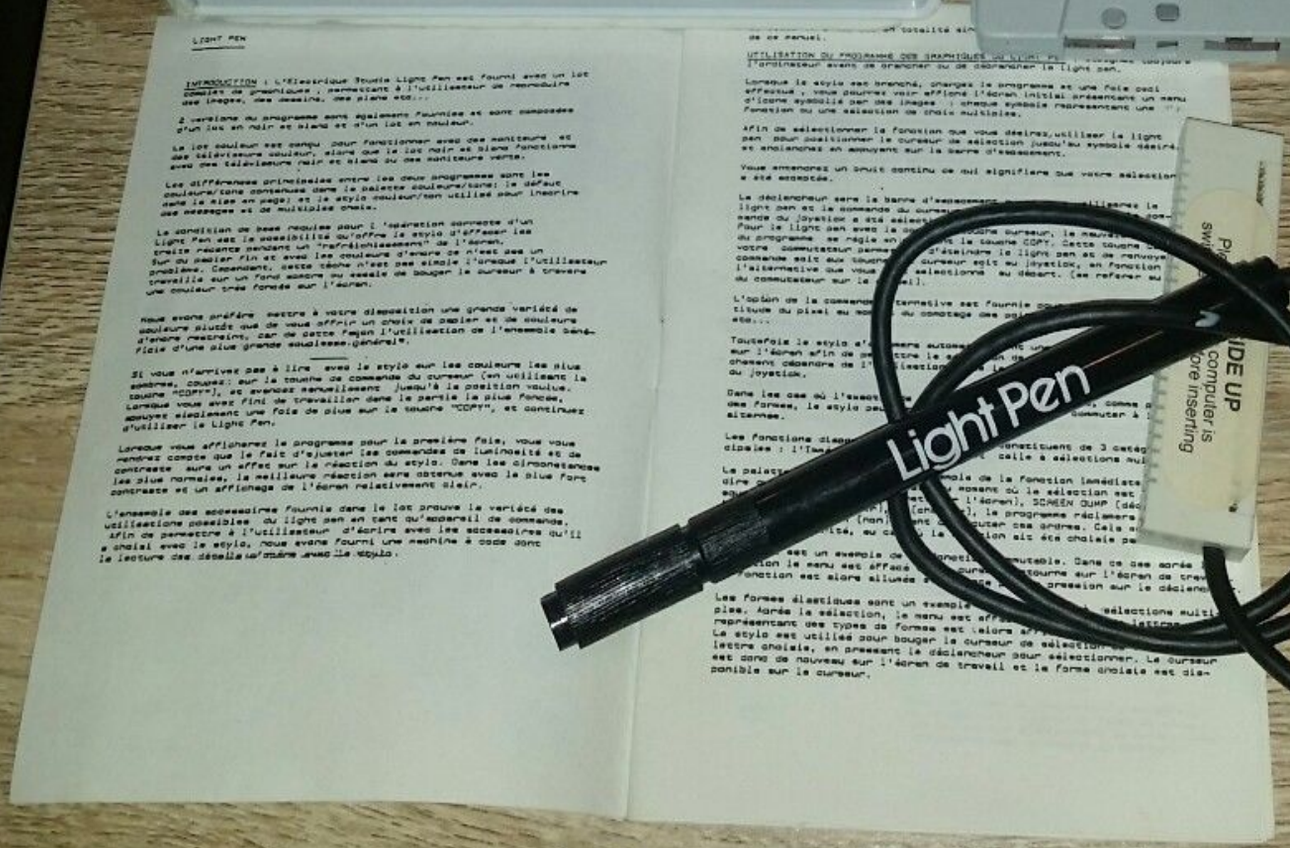
The main differences between the 2 programs are the colours/tones provided in the colour/tone palette; the default paper setting; and the pen colour/tone used for displaying messages and sub choices.

The basic requirement for the correct operation of a light pen is the pen's ability to spot the refresh trace, during a screen refresh. On the lighter paper and ink colours this is no problem. However, this task is not so simple when the user is working on a dark background, or trying to move the cursor across a dark solid colour on the screen.

Rather than restrict the paper and ink colours in the graphic software, to those that cause a light pen no problems, we have allowed the full range of colours and thus improved the overall flexibility of the package.

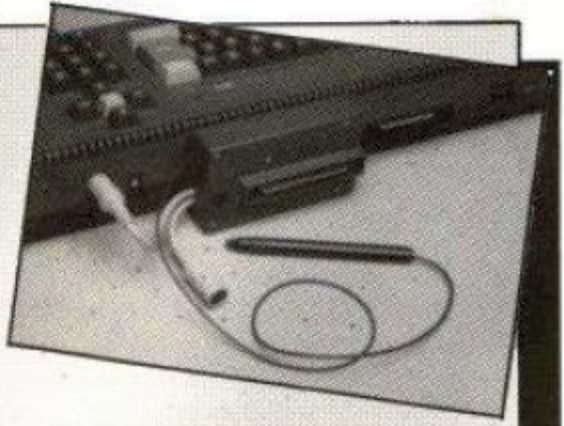
Should you encounter such a pen read failure on the darker colours, you simply switch to cursor key control, (using the [COPY] key), and move to the required position manually. When you have finished working on the darker area, simply press the [COPY] key again, and continue using the light pen.

When you first run the program, you will find that adjusting the brightness and contrast controls will affect the pen's response. In most normal circumstances, best response will be obtained with the contrast up full, and a fairly bright screen display.



Dart lightpen

Special offer price . . . only £34.95



Usual price £39.95

The Dart lightpen is compatible with all the Amstrad CPC computers. It gives pixel accuracy – even in Mode 2 – and will work on green or colour screens. In our opinion the Dart lightpen is the best we have tested. It uses advanced fibre optic technology and there are no wires in the pen itself.

The uses the pen can be put to are not restricted by the software which comes with it. You could produce your own program which gave a menu and allowed you to select options using the pen.

The Dart pen is supplied complete with a comprehensive drawing utility and is just the thing to turn you into a Rembrandt and your screen into a canvas.

You can save £5 by buying the Dart lightpen through ACU.

High Speed - High Definition

LIGHT PEN

for your **Amstrad CPC464**

AT LAST – A Light pen that allows you to write and draw freehand, direct on your TV screen at normal handwriting speed

- 320 wide × 200 high Pixels
- Works in All Screen Modes 0-1-2
- Uses latest Polymer Fibre Optic Technology
- Through-Connector
- Case designed and styled to fit on computer back
- Compatible with DDI and SSAI
- Select any one of 64000 Pixels
- Works with Green Screen & Colour Monitors

Amongst the many features are:

★ Elastic Band ★ Circle ★ Box ★ Spray ★ Eraser ★ Fill - Unfill ★ Italics
★ Variable pencil or brush size ★ Full use of colours ★ Screen Save

Please send me ..... Light Pens at **£39.95** each inc. p & p and VAT.

Mr/Mrs/Miss_____

Address_____

_____ Post code_____

Tel. no._____

Plus much more - Available from:-

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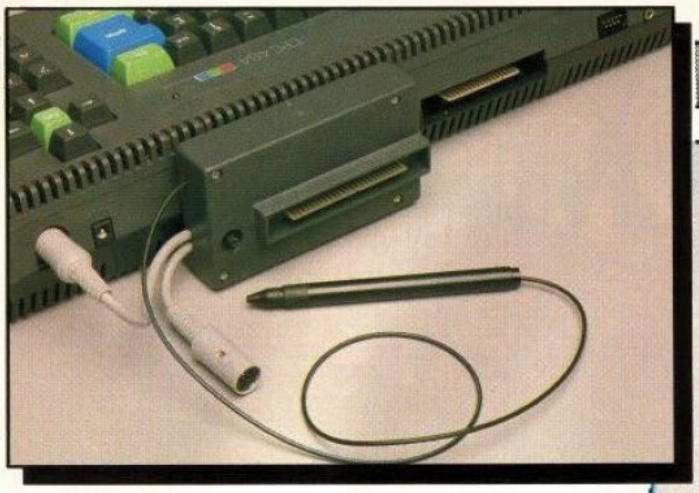
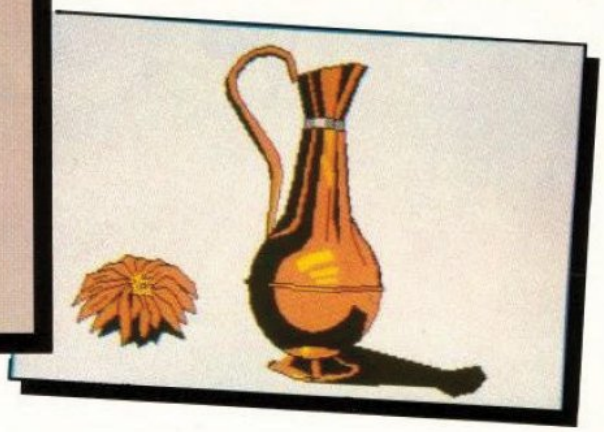
Unit B5 Oulton Works
School Road, Lowestoft NR33 9NA

Tel: (0502) 513707





Dart's pen of many colours

Is the newest light pen the best? VAX draws his own conclusions

Dart Electronics have produced a very unusual light pen, partly because the pen is connected to the electronics by a piece of optical fibre instead of the traditional piece of wire and partly because it is really 'pixel accurate', without the use of a nudge control.

A good test for a light pen is to write your name with it (if you can't spell your own, write somebody else's). Impossible on the Trojan/Amstrad one. Possible on the DK'tronics version, and a doddle (doodle?) on the Dart.

Simple software

Most of what makes a lightpen is the drawing software that comes with it. I have to say that although the program is not as flash as the DK'tronics version, the performance of the pen more than makes up for it. Dart expect to have some new software very soon.

Your main screen is totally reserved for drawing on, no status lines, flashing borders or stuff like that in sight. The options are on a separate menu page, revealed by pressing 'M' (I just love these mnemonic keystrokes, don't you?). Here is where you select your weapon: spray gun, thick to thin line or italic. You can also pick an elastic function. Nothing to do with maths, this is ye famous indecisive line/box/circle routine. You know, the one where you get to change the size of the shape before committing it to your masterpiece. Curved lines would have been nice, but if you want that degree of sophistication, I recommend a Macintosh or similar with something more accurate than a light pen. A magnify option would have really made an improvement though. I only ask for blood . . .

Changing modes is also done from the menu. The fascinating bit is that it doesn't wipe the screen when you change mode. Drawing a picture with a thick pen in mode 1 and then changing to mode 0 produces psychedelic, if unpredictable, results.

There is no patterned fill, but the ordinary fill works fine and is almost as fast as the Amstrad one. Beware the unfill though, this is not an oh-blast-give-me-the-old-one-back routine, it does a fill with the background colour (invariably white, you can't change it). If your work of art filled around a block of the same colour as you were filling in, this will be wiped out too. The first time this happened, the air around the computer was filled in deep blue in Anglo-Saxon style.

If you need a repeating pattern on the picture there are some technicolour sprites which you define yourself and plonk on the screen.

Draw backs

This pen is not without its limitations. One great gaff I noticed is that it is impossible to adjust the sensitivity of the pen with the disc drive on. The reason for this is simple. There is an edge connector out the back of the lightpen box. This is also where the sensitivity knob lives. How you reach the knob with an interface attached is left as an exercise to the reader.

Drawing anything on a dark background is almost impossible. To do it, you must change the colour of the ink to something more garish while drawing and change back again when finished. A similar problem exists when filling in the individual dots on sprites. Sometimes the pen does not want to know where to go, and there is just no way round it in some cases.

This pen works quite happily on green screen or colour monitors, even on televisions using an MP1 and a bit of knob twiddling (this is when I discovered the position of the sensitivity control). Spray-painting confuses heck out of most colour TV's though, even if the light pen does work properly.

Documentation is brief and to the point. It covers all the aspects of setting up and making a disc copy of the software that is provided with the pen on tape. Instructions are also given on how to use the pen in your own programs using a part of the code provided to find the spot on the screen the pen is pointing at.

In all, the product is worth the few extra nicker that it costs over the competition.

ACU