POPULAR POPULA

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING MICRO WEEKLY







AQUARIUS SEE PAGE 53



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News Desk



New machines at Commodore show

COMMODORE launched its two new computers, the 16 and the Plus/4, formerly the 264, at the Fifth International Commodore Show in London last week, following their introduction to the American market at CES (see PCW June 7-13).

The Commodore 16 is designed for the first time user, and will be sold in a starter pack consisting of the computer, cassette unit, Introduction to Basic part 1 and four programs, for £129.99.

The machine offers 16K Ram, with 12K Ram left to the user for Basic programming, 32K Rom, a full-stroke keyboard, and a choice of 121 colours. It runs Basic 3.5 with over 75 commands. The keyboard also features a *Help* key, which will highlight errors made in program lines.

The price and specification of the 16 suggest that Commodore may well intend it to be a successor to the Vic 20, but Gail Wellington, Commodore's software manager said, "As long as the Vic keeps selling, we'll carry on providing them."

The Plus/4 is designed as a machine to appeal to both continued on page 5 >

Atari stars with Lucasfilms

ATARI has formed a partnership with Lucasfilms, the company which produced Raiders of the Lost Ark and the Star Wars trilogy. Two new video games produced in both company's names have been announced in the USA.

The games, Rescue on Fractalus and Ballblazer, comprise the first step towards a range of innovative games under the joint logo. They use spectacular 3D graphics, with computer generated music and sound effects, and will cost about \$35 (£25.00). Initially they will run on the Atari 5200 machine, but version for other Atari machines, including the 7800 will be produced.

It is now confirmed that the 7800 machine will be available in Britain in September, at £99.99. Rescue on Fractalus and Ballblazer should be here in November, at £24.99.

Atari has announced drastic cut-backs in its workforce at Sunnyvale, California. Last week 700 of the 2000 staff were fired, and by July it is expected to have halved its number of employees. John Farrand, Atari president, said that the cuts were in preparation for restructuring the company.

00000000 This Week 0000000000

CES Show Report David Kelly reports from Chicago on the Consumer Electronics show on page 19.

◆ Spectrum M Bave demonstrates text editing with the microdrive. See page 21. ◆ The QL Page Malcolm

Davison takes on the Psion Easel and Archive packages on page 22. New Releases Brainstorm from Virgin

Games and Beach Head from US Gold are among the programs reviewed on page 56.

At £9.99 our games were a bargain...

At £6.99 they're a STEAL!!

COMPLETE THE ARCADE GAME



SOLVE THE ADVENTURE

SPECTRUM 16/48

Enemy aliens are capturing our souls with hypnotic cards. Stop them and save the human race!



CBM 64

Travel back through time to stop Adam eating that apple! By Brandon James



DRAGON

The corrupt Emperor must be eliminated and you have been chosen!

By Tytone Howe



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"Engrossing..." COMPUTER CHOICE

"An absolute gem!" SOFTWARE TODAY

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CBM 64

Find the right spell to halt the mischievous brooms!

By Stuart Barnes

. Now there isn't a CHOICE

VIC 20

Rescue the humans from the catacombs of the Xzinon Ants! By Simon Wickes

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Eden | Jokers Wild |

The Emperor Must Die The

Sorcerer's Apprentice Four Gates

Spangles House, 116 Marsh Road, Pinner, Middx. 01-868 3353

PROGRAMMERS! Have

vou written any good software? Send it to us tor assessment and details of our super rovalty scheme.



14-20 June 1984 Vol 3 No 24



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How to submit articles

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

Accuracy

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

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Editorial

Argus's takeover of Quicksilva (*PCW* 7-13 June) marks the end of an era for the UK micro software industry.

Software was a key factor in the micro boom of the last three years. Sir Clive may have brought micros to the masses, but it was the independant software houses who made people want to buy them — if only to play games.

In 1981 many of today's top software firms consisted of no more than one or two people, operating out of a back bedroom and duplication cassettes by hand. Quicksilva, BugByte, Artic and Salamander are among those who grew with the industry to achieve their present state of pre-eminence.

But, as the software market grew in size and importance, so the bigger, more established, companies started to move in. K-Tel, Virgin, Thorn EMI, Mirrorsoft and most recently, British Telecom, have all made forays into the software market.

This move was only to be expected and has already benefited users by making commercial programs more competitive.

However, most of the more innovative software has been produced by the independant outfits, eg, 3D Ant Attack from Quicksilva, Jet Set Willy from Software Projects and Valhalla from Legend. If enough of the independants disappear, or are absorbed by giant conglomerates, there is a danger that the resulting software will lose its spontaneity and individuality.

Next Thursday

Next week's star game is Brickie for BBC B by Ian Ferguson.

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Software Houses

Peripheral Mich Terufacturers

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News Desk

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Commodore

continued from page 1

home and small business users, and has been renamed to highlight the four integral software packages contained in



the Rom, according to Commodore.

The four comprise a world processor, spreadsheet, database and business graphics pack, all accessed by use of the function keys.

The machine has 64K Ram (60K free to the user), 32K Rom, full-stroke keyboard, four separate cursor keys, and, like the 16, runs Basic 3.5, and also has a *Help* key.

It also has a window facility whereby two of the built-in software packages can be viewed at the same time.

The Plus/4 will cost £249.00. Software for the two new machines will be upwardly compatible, but not compatible with the 64 or Vic 20.

Commodore also announced a new range of peripherals for the 16 and Plus/4 — the MSC 801 dot matrix printer, which prints at 38 characters per second in up to seven colours at £399.99, the MPS 802 dot matrix printer (60cps) at £345.00, and the DPS 1101 daisy wheel printer at £399.99. These three are all compatible with the Vic 20 and 64.



The MPS 802 dot matrix printer

A 1542 disc drive will replace the 1541 at the same price — £229.00 — and a new cassette unit, the 1531, designed for the 16 and Plus/4 only, at £44.95.

Both the new machines and all the new peripherals are planned to be available in September

Imagine's games sold

IMAGINE Software has sold its software catalogue to Beau Jolly, a sister company of Nouveau Records. This is Beau Jolly's first venture into the software market.

As well as a lump sum, Imagine will also continue to get a royalty for each game sold. However, Imagine's latest games, Cosmic Cruiser and BC Bill, together with Arcadia and Mega-Vault, do not come under the deal and will continue to be marketed by Imagine.

"We will be marketing the Imagine games in the same packaging, and for the same price," said Beau Jolly's Colin Ashby, ex-managing director of K-Tel records.

"When we first discussed the deal with Imagine, our idea was to produce a compilation pack of Imagine's games. From our negotiations the opportunity to take over their entire list came up."

Beau Jolly will be launching a 'value pack' of Imagine games in two weeks' time, which also includes *Invaders* and *3D Frogger* from Sumlock Software.

The value pack will come in two versions — a four game set for £16.49, and a six game set for £21.40 — and will be available for the Vic 20, Commodore 64, and 16K and 48K Spectrum.

"We think there is a lot of appeal in compilations," Colin continued, "and we are currently negotiating for licensing deals with several other companies."

Camputers goes into liquidation

FOLLOWING the meeting of their creditors, Camputers Ltd and GW Design Services have agreed to go into voluntary liquidation.

Hacker Young and Partners and Cork Gully have been appointed joint liquidators.

"The company has had talks with various potential purchasers and some have been very serious," said John Spence of Camputers' stockbrokers Statham Duff Stoop. "It is simply a case of waiting and hoping someone comes up with a bid."

Keith Spencer of Hacker Young confirmed that two potential buyers had had initial discussions with the liquidators.

"In fact, up until last week someone had appeared to be ready to take over, and it is unclear why they pulled out. We would hope that they might come back to negotiate now that the company is in liquidation."

Dragon talks

SEVERAL companies have shown interest in acquiring the assets and name of troubled Dragon Data.

According to Brian Moore, Dragon's managing director, Tandy has been holding talks with Robert Ellis, the receiver appointed by Dragon to wind up the company. John Sayers, Tandy's UK managing director confirmed his company's interest in Dragon. "We have explored many possibilities and I am now talking with Tandy in the US."

The Dragon 32 and 64 machines are remarkably similar in design to Tandy's own Color Computer. Apart from its keyboard reading and interfacing, the two machines are hardware and software compatible.

Another company interested in acquiring Dragon is GEC, which already handles their marketing. Brian Moore — himself a GEC employee on secondment to Dragon — confirmed the discussions with GEC.

Network link-up for Commodore 64 owners

COMMODORE 64 owners may not have access to Micronet, but they should in the near future be able to buy a modem to link with a new network jointly set up by Commodore and ADP Network Services Ltd.

The Commodore Communications modem will link directly with Compunet, an independent system which Commodore and ADP hope will provide a shopping service, domestic and legal information, sporting services from their 'Software Park' facility and subscriber to subscriber links called 'The Jungle' to download and upload software.

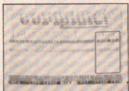
The software is also protected in that a unique number is contained in each modem and included in all downloaded software. The software will only run if the number is contained.

"We're interested in anyone who has anything to sell," said John Clarke of ADP. "We have already signed up Compucard, the discount shopping service, as one service provider, and we're in the middle of advanced negotiations with one well-known bank regarding a home banking service.

"The subscription to Compunet will be free the first year. After that, the renewal will be about £30.00, although the exact figure hasn't been finalised."

"Off-peak usage of the system will also be free, although the charge during peak times will be £6.50—that's obviously more for business users."

Compunet will also offer a local call facility. There are 12 Compunet telephone numbers



around the country, which then link directly with the mainframe computer in London.

"We reckon we can reach 80 per cent of the population at local rates," said John.

Compunet is expected to be launched this Autumn. Orders for the modem, priced at 599.99 are being taken now, and the first batch should be available by the end of July.

Argus press

ARGUS has asked us to point out that it is Argus Press Software which has taken over Quicksilva, not Argus Specialist Publications. OWNERS OF SPECTRUM
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Letters

Good morning, campers

M ay I, through your magazine, thank both Paul Barnard and his assistant Tony, who run a great computer course at Butlins Holiday Camp. Skegness. I so enjoyed it I spent a second week with them and would recommend the course to anyone.

R Harding
12 Whitchurch Avenue
Exeter
Devon

Tentative bid

I am preparing an article for an international Bridge magazine describing the bridge software available for home computers. If any of your readers have written a bridge program for any home computer, I would be pleased to hear from them.

I. S. Aldridge 6 Priors Road Hemingford Grey Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE18 9BT

International user group

Maybe you would be kind enough to mention Club64, which could be best described as an international Commodore 64 software user group, in a future editioin of your publication.

As we have not yet fully decided the range of services that we should offer to our members, we are seeking constructive suggestions. It should be mentioned that we have a particular interest in hearing from users who cannot attend club meetings because they are living in remote parts or because they are disabled or even because they do not have the time. It should also be noted that, as a huge selection of educational software has been made available to us, we would be very pleased to be contacted by teachers or educational organisations.

We have already established a library of high quality public domain programs, most of which have been checked and debugged. At present 10 discs are available and every one of them includes between 10 and 15 programs which may be copied and distributed to friends, members of user groups, schools, etc. We hope to add at least two discs per month and maybe, if we get enough suitable material, issue a regular newsletter on disc.

All 64 users, in all countries of the world, with disc drives are invited to make use of our library. For anyone who only wishes to use the library there will be no membership fee, but there will be a fixed charge per disc obtained from the group but this will be kept as low as possible.

As we are a non-profit making group we do not, at present, have the manpower or resources to enable us to make programs available on tape but if the demand is great enough for such a service we will try to find a way.

We are interested in obtain ing news, information, product details, programs or any information suitable for inclusion in our proposed newsletter.

Brendan Conroy Club64 85 Upper Drumcondra Road Dublin 9

Guaranteed keyboard

Nearly 10 months after buying my Spectrum the keyboard has gone wrong. The keys from B to Symbol Shift don't work when they are pressed. I took the computer back to the shop I bought it from and they advised me to send it back to Sinclair myself. So on the 29th of April I sent it away. I was very happy when on the 29th of May it came back in the morning post — that was until I opened it. Inside was a photocopied letter saying:

"We regret that it is necessary for us to return the enclosed equipment as it was not purchased by mail order direct from ourselves. We must advise you to refer this matter to your original supplier." And scribbled underneath in biro

"If you have any difficulties in having it repaired we can offer you a repair for £30.00."

Cheek — since it is still under guarantee. I was wondering if I bought a proper keyboard (I've always wanted one and they cost about £30) and connected it to my Spectrum would the keys from B to Symbol Shift work on it?

David Brown The Old Manse Trewellard Nr Penzance Cornwall TR19 7SW

PS. Keep Microradio and preferably expand it to about four pages (or more).

The answer is probably 'Yes'; since most keyboard faults are due to poor contacts, a new keyboard may well solve the problem.

Memotech owners club

We are writing to inform you of the formation of the Memotech Owners Club. We feel that to use this machine to its full potential, an interactive link between the owners is necessary, and we aim to provide that link. Anyone interested in joining should send an SAE for details.

Richard Adams

Philip Ayres
23 Denmead Road
Harefield
Southampton SO2 5GS



"Graham can get Prestel and Micronet on his Spectrum and I can get Compunet on my Commodore — but we've only got one phone!"

Our mistake!

On page 50 of your issue Vol 3, No 22, you feature White Knight in the BBC soft ware chart, but wrongly attribute it to Acornsoft. Can you please either publish this letter or otherwise say that this is published by BBC Publications.

The program can be obtained from us, price £11.50 inclusive of VAT.

David Atherton Software Manager BBC Publications 35 Marylebone High Street London WIM 4AA

All in the service

A few days ago I discovered a bug in Flight Simulation. I telephoned Psion (just as a matter of interest) to see if they knew about it, and they told me that I must have an old copy as that bug had now been rectified. They asked for my name and address and told me that a new copy was on its way. This was at 5.00pm.

It arrived at 8.00am the next day, Psion having forked out 28p for postage. Beat that for service.

N Foster 12 Middlefield Lane Hinckley Leics

A small error

May I start by thanking you for publishing some of my Commodore 64 programs over the past weeks. Unfortunately, a small error has crept into the listing of the latest program, on page 30 of Vol 3, Issue No 22. As published, line 530 reads:

530 IF BEG<=FIN THEN GOTO

This should, of course, read: 530 IF BEG<=FIN THEN GOTO 180

I offer my apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Adrian Warman Dorset

nel LAMA has LANDED! . and it's breeding fast.

Once upon a time, only Commodore owners could experience the thrill of playing an original game by Jeff 'Awesome' Minter, Lesser mortals could only sit and stare in wonderous rapture at the furry arcade action brought to you by Llamasoft.

BUT NOW THERE IS HOPE.

Dragon owners were the first to see the light of day, but now Salamander Software is pleased as punch to announce that selected titles

ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 48K SPECTRUM.

Yes that's right, Salamander is now producing titles for the Spectrum, and the first of these are two great arcade games. . . .

METAGALACTIC LLAMAS BATTLE AT THE EDGE OF TIME

On a forlorn observation post at the edge of the galaxy, the Metallamas wait for a sign of Zzvaxian spaceships. Suddenly the alarm claxons blare, and the furry. friends of freedom rush to the fore only to find that there are no attacking spaceships, and that they are under attack from Cyborg Arachnid Mutants and Disgusting Weeviloids. . .

This classic arcade game, originally developed by Jeff 'Awesome' Minter of Llamasoft, features 1 and 2 player options, spitting Llamas, Cyborg Arachnid Mutants, Disgusting Weeviloids, 99 levels of play. Joystick recommended. Supports Spectrum ZX Interface 2 and Kempston joysticks.

MATRIX: GRIDRUNNER II

It is ten years after the infamous Grid Wars, and humanity is once again threatened by the evil droids, only this time they're back in force with new weapons and new allies.

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Game originally developed by Jeff 'Awesome' Minter of Llamasoft. Joystick recommended. Supports Kempston and AGF joystick interfaces.

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What some famous people have said . . .

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DRAGON 32 TITLES Gridrunner £7.95 • Laser Zone £7.95





It loads Spectrums four times faster than an ordinary cassette player, uses standard cassette software, and has improved loading reliability.

The new Sprint from Challenge Research will load and save Spectrum programs at four times the speed of conventional cassette players, this even applies to standard program and games cassette software that has been pre-recorded at normal speed. All this plus improved loading reliability is available for just £64.95 inclusive of post, packing, VAT and a 12 month guarantee. The Sprint is dedicated to both the 16K and 48K Spectrum and provides an innovative but inexpensive new concept in cassette tape storage.

TRADE FINO

Use of the Sprint is simplicity itself:

- Retains the standard Spectrum commands and format.
 Advanced digital circuitry and signal processing
- improves loading reliability and eliminates volume setting.

 Simply plugs into the Spectrum port no interface or
- external power unit is required, it even has it's own expansion slot so that you can still use other peripherals at the same time.
- A full 48K program will load or save in 75 seconds rather than five minutes with a conventional cassette recorder.

CHALLENGE RESEARCH

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l'enclose cheque/postal order made	payable to Challenge Research for £	
Please charge my Access/Visa Notdel	te as appropriate) the sum of €	
- Tell 1		
		1

Dustbin Dan

A catchy new game for the Commodore 64 by Stuart Myler

The object of the game is to catch the fruits as they fall from the fruit factory. If you miss three fruits, you die of starvation.

Use the cursor keys to move right and left, and press the space bar to cath the fruit. Take care to hit the space bar before the fruit lands on you, or it might slide down to one side.

Program notes

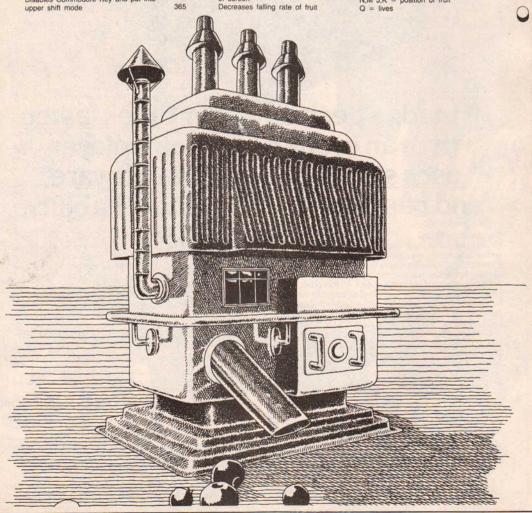
Clears screen and turns off sprites
Disables Commodore Key and put into upper shift mode

10-15 Reads sprite data 16-80 Turns on sprites, colour them, etc. 100 Sets variables 150 Makes keys repeat 160-170 Sets sprite positions 175-181 Sets sprite data 199 Beginning of main program Sets pace of falling fruits Sets sprite data for bin 200 205-207 240-260 Sees if key has been pressed 350-357 Sees if a fruit has been caught 360-362 Sees if dustbin is at the beginning or end of screen

370-375 Sees if fruit has been missed 389-392 Prints sprites on screen 1000-1050 Prints board on to screen 5000-5340 Sprite data 6000-6060 Sound for a miss 6100-6160 Sound for a catch, and prints score 9000-9105 Displays board 9200-9260 Instructions

Variables

S = score H = hi-score X,Y = position of Dustbin Dan N,M J,K = position of fruit Q = lives



Star Game

```
5000 DETER, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8
   15 FORN=0T062 READE POKE16320+N.E NEXT
                                                                                                                  0,3,87,0,15,255
     V=53248
16 V=$3248
20 POKEV+16;II
30 POKEV+21,7:POKEV+28,2
40 POKE2040,13:POKE2041,15
50 POKEV+39;11:POKEV+37;5:POKEV+38,2:POKEV+40,7
53 POKEV+27,8:POKEV+29;1:POKEV+23,0
60 POKEV+1,210:POKEV,100
70 POKEV+2:0 POKEV+50,0
98 POKEV+4.0:POKEV+5.0
16
                                                                                                                  0.0.0.0
90 GOSUB1000
100 S=0:L=3:0=3:W=13
150 POKE650,128
      GOSUB6155
185 GOSUB6185

186 Y=186 X=188

185 N=RND(1)*255 N=RND(1)*188

176 J=RND(1)*255 X=RND(1)*78

175 I=INT(RND(1)*8)

176 IFI=9THENE=191 D=5 G=8

177 IFI=1THENE=255 D=8 G=8

178 IFI=2THENE=192 D=7 G=4
179 POKEV+41.D
180 POKE2042.E
181 POKEV+23.6
182 GOT0360
182 0010360
199 REM +++++++ MRIN PROG ++++++++
200 M=M+L K=K+L+RND(1)*3
200
205 POKE2040,W
206 IFW=>14THENN=12
207 W=W+1
220 POKEV+30/0
240 GETA$
                                                                                                                   6055
                                                                                                                          IFQ=0THEN9000
250 [FH3="M"THENC=K+13
260 [FH3="M"THENC=K-13
350 [FFEECK+9:50]=3THENC=S+1:L=L+.6:H=RND(1)*250:M=RND(1)
                                                                                                                  6110 FORA=0T030
6120 POKE54273,A:POKE54272,A
*100:00SUB6100
355 IFPEEK(V+30)=5THENS=S+1 L=L+.6 J=RND(1)*250 K=RND(1)*80
GOSUBEL00:0010175
357 IFPEEK(V+30)=7THENS=S+1:L=L+,6 J=RHD(1)*250:K=RHD(1)*80
00SUBE100:0010175
360 IFX/380THEN/E0
                                                                                                                   HI-SCORE-"H
                                                                                                                   6160 RETURN
360 IFXX 380THENX=389
365 IFXX 50THENX=389
365 IFL>STHENX=4-,5
376 IFXX 235THENX=0-1.50T06698
375 IFXX 235THENX=0-1.50T06698
389 POKEV+16, X/255
399 POKEV+16, X/255
391 POKEV+2, NRND255 POKEV+3, X/
391 POKEV+4, NRND255 POKEV+3, X/
392 POKEV+4, JRND255 POKEV+3, X/
393 POKEV+4, JRND255 POKEV+3, X/
394 POKEV+4, JRND255 POKEV+5, X/
                                                                                                                  9002 V=53248
9003 POKEV+27,7 POKEV+39,11
9004 POKEV+1,97 POKEV,148
9005 IFS>HTHENH=S
400 GOTO200
1000 REM +++
1002 PRINT"]
                +++ THE BOARD +++
1005 FORA=0T09
NEXT
1025 PRINT'S
1030 PRINT'THITIIIIIIIIII
1032 FORM-0T02
1035 PRINTTAB(3);"34+++"SPC(3);"3+++"SPC(3);"3+++"
 1036 PRINTTAB(21); "$TH++"SPC(3); "$H++"SPC(3); "$H++"
1937 NEXT
1845 FORA=8T02 PRINTTAB(18);": 10 " MEXT
1846 PRINTTAB(28); "TTMEX"
1047 PRINT" 30003
1048 PRINT" 3
1050 RETURN
4999 REM ++++ DATA FOR DUSTRIN DAN ++++
                                                                                                                  9260 00109250
```

```
5160 DATR192,59,251,176,255,255,252,254,239,188,255,255,252,239,251,236,255,255,255
 239,251,236,255,255
5170 DATA252,63,190,240,63,255,240,15,187,192,3,255,0,0,204,
6020 POKE54273,C:POKE54272.A
6030 POKE54276,17 NEXT
6050 POKE54276,0:POKE54277,0:POKE54278.0
 6060 GOT0165
6100 POKE54296,15 POKE54277,190 POKE54278,248
 6130 POKE54276,17 NEXT
6150 POKE54276,0 POKE54277,0 POKE54278,0
 6155 POKE781, 23 POKE782, 2 SYS65528 PRINT" #SCORE-"8"
 8999 REM ++++ DISPLRY BORRD ++++
9000 PRINT": 7000" POKE2040,13: POKEV+21.1
9085 | FSSHTHENNES

9018 POKE53280.0 | POKE53281.0

9028 POKE53280.0 | POKE53281.0

9030 PRINTTRB(13) | "MOUGHBY"

9040 PRINTTRB(17) | "MOUGHBY"

9045 PRINTTRB(15) | "MOS MYLER"

9050 PRINT "MOUGHBY

9050 PRINT "PRESS F3 FOR INSTRUCTIONS"

9162 GETRM: | IFAM=""THENRESTORE GOTOD

9163 | IFAM=""THENDOTOG2200

9165 GOTO9182

9200 POKEVA30.0 | PRINT"DOM
9183 GUIU9182
9280 POKEVAS9.8 PRINT" JMM
9285 PRINTCHRK(14)
9285 PRINTCHRK(14)
9215 PRINT" HE GHME IS TO CATCH THE"
9215 PRINT" — A BUBCT OF THE GHME IS TO CATCH THE"
9216 PRINT" — A BUBCT HICH FALL OUT OF THE FRUIT "
9217 PRINTFACTORY."
9212 PRINT-FROTORY,"
9218 PRINT-SF YOU MISS 3 FRUITS THEN YOU DIE OF"
9218 PRINT-STREWHTION AMMON!"
9219 PRINT-SETREWHTION TO HAVE TO HOVE LEFT & RIGHT"
9220 PRINT-SESS SPACE BAP TO CATCH FRUIT-
9230 PRINT-SESS SPACE BAP TO CATCH FRUIT-
9230 GETM: IFAS="N"THENPRINTCHR$(142)-00T09000
```

14-20 JUNE 1984 11

Olympian

The Olympics 84 software package consists of two cassettes plus a 28 page booklet. It gives you not only a light hearted introduction to the history of the modern Olympic Games (this makes up just over half of the booklet), but also two database programs — the first allowing you to select and view the results from all past Games and the second, for use this summer, allowing you to enter this year's performances.

In operation, the database handling program turns out to be inflexible, limited, and not very user friendly. It made me pine for the possibilities of any of the general database programs around. Olympics 84

does use bar charts to display some of the results, which is a good idea, but without any indication of scale.

The historical database seems to be full and comprehensive, although it is rather limited by the memory required for this task, and does not include all the information you might want, such as the names of winning competitors. The Input database is for use by very keen Olympic followers, who are committed enough to enter this year's results. This program does include names of competitors, but has historical information on the last two Games only.

Technically the program works well, and seems to be bug free. The author is a competent programmer, and has used good techniques of data compression to store the information: the problem is in the sheer volume of information to be stored. There's a missed opportunity here; the program is copyrighted 1983, and so was probably well on the way before the first Microdrives came out, but we're still waiting for a program that will use the facilities offered by the Microdrive to store and retrieve large quantities of information.

As it is, we have a program that's interesting to use, but will appeal, I suspect, only to the very keen Olympic followers, who will want to use the input database.

Simon Springer

Simon Springer Program Olympics 84 Price £14.95 Micro Spectrum Supplier Storm Software, Winchester House, Sherborne, Dorset.

In motion

If there was a prize for the silliest name ever given to a computer game then Wallie goes to Rhymeland would stand an excellent chance of winning it. The reason for the name lies in the rhyme on the cassette cover, which describes the game in verse.

The main character is Wallie, shaped like a yellow egg with red legs and a huge mouth which is continually in motion as he chews gum all the time. He has to make his way through the story described in



the verse, involving such other characters as Humpty Dumpty, Bo Peep, Little Miss Muffet, and others less familiar, while avoiding assorted hazards. For example, burning pits, deadly raindrops, arrows, guardsmen, and many others. Wallie's only defence against all these perils is his chewing gum, which he can spit at his assailants with lethal effect. The game itself is well pro-

grammed with good sound and graphics. Despite the nursery rhyme level of plot, the action is anything but kindergarten stuff—it is pretty tricky, often requiring very quick reactions. Nevertheless, this is one of those games which you keep coming back to after every failed attempt (and there will be plenty of these) if only to try to find out what is going to happen next.

Richard Corfield Program Wallie goes to Rhymeland Price £7.00 Micro Commodore 64 Supplier Interceptor Micros, Lindon House, The Green, Tadley, Hants.

Shoot on sight

It has always seemed to me that computer games tend to lose a great deal in conversion to other computers. As I loaded Matrix into my Spectrum, I hoped that this would be different, but my fears were realised. Jeff Minter is something of a cult star to Commodore owners, renowned and widely acclaimed for his innovative fast action games. These are ideally suited to Commodore computers, with their games

orientated sound effects, but do not suit the Spectrum with just the odd Beep here and there. The game is a very damp cloth by comparison with the original.

Having said that, the game is a perfectly respectable version of Centipede. The idea behind the game is simply to shoot just about everything on the screen. Graphics are not brilliant — a grid forms the basis for the screen display, along whose rows swarm segments of a centipede. Unfortunately, the nature of the game prevents use of anything other than single character graphics, which gives the impression that

the game is less professional. (I have a suspicion that, even though the programmer clearly wanted to do as direct a translation as possible, he could have included sprite-type graphics; the game would have been helped no end if he had).

While I liked this game, it somehow didn't have any addictive quality to bring me back to the screen again. There are probably better all-action games readily available for the Spectrum.

David Lester Program Matrix Price £5.95 Micro Spectrum Supplier Salamander Software, 17, Norfolk Road, Brighton, East Sussex.



Reviews

Black wizard

It is unusual to find arcadestyle games with a historical setting, rather than doing battle with futuristic aliens in a distant corner of the galaxy. However, Cavelon from Ocean Software is one such game.

The rather odd name is presumably a hybrid of Camelot and Avalon, intended to evoke the era of chivalrous knights and damsels in distress, since this is the period in which the action is set. Here you have to guide the knight through six floors of a castle in order to reach the imprisoned damsel. However, on each floor you must collect the pieces of the door to the next level in order to progress. Unfortunately, the castle is patrolled by knights and archers whose purpose is to stop you. If you manage to get through all six floors you finally have to do battle with the Black Wizard before your mission is complete.

Each floor of the castle is



maze like and it scrolls horizontally as you move across it. An increasing degree of skill and ingenuity is required to complete each level. Overall, it is an interesting variant on a well-tested theme.

Richard Corfield Program Cavelon Price £6.90 Micro Commodore 64 Supplier Ocean Software Ltd, Ocean House, 6 Central Street, Manchester 2.

Rocky caverns

One arcade game which achieved widespread popularity and success was Scramble. Not surprisingly many versions of this game have appeared for home micros, and Rabbit Software have just re-



leased yet another for the Commodore 64, called Skramble.

However, this is not just another version of *Scramble*, it is the best I have yet seen for the 64. It consists of the standard plot in which you pilot your jet fighter over mountainous terrain, through rocky caverns and over enemy cities while dodging or destroying the heat seeking missiles, meteors, fireballs and space monsters. You have a limited supply of fuel but this can be replenished by bombing the fuel dumps on the ground. There are also some original touches, like hostile tanks in the cities which keep up a continuous barrage of shells. The game can be played using either keyboard or joystick.

Overall this is a very exciting game, making excellent use of graphics and sound, and while it may not be original, it faithfully reproduces all the qualities of fast action and variety of challenge that made Scramble such a successful arcade game — after all, why change a winning formula? I, for one, throughly enjoyed playing it, and other Scramble fans probably will too.

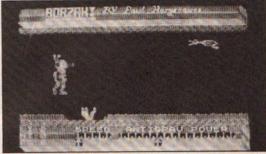
Richard Corfield Program Skramble Price £5.99 Micro Commodore 64 Supplier Rabbit Software Ltd, The Warren, Unit 11, Forward Drive, Wealdstone, Middlesex HA3 8NU.

Flying dinosaur

Borzak, the "Amazing Buggeuse", despite its ridiculous, but admittedly original, title is an interesting variation on Moon Buggy, in that you have to travel along the screen horizontally, jumping over gaps in the ground, and at the same time coping with numerous hazards overhead.

Having said that, however, it is different enough to be enjoyable, and has absolutely amazing graphics — the attenbe careful about jumping over the holes in the ground, otherwise you tend to get destroyed by a small flying dinosaur (only small in relation to you).

There are a large number of levels to contend with, each having the same idea but with different difficulties for you to overcome. One nice feature is that you can select which level you wish to start at before every game. The game supports joysticks, if you have one, and also offers a sensible selection of keys (this is important as there are quite a few, what with different types of jumps and changing speed, etc.).



tion to detail is quite something, especially with the game's hero, Borzak — he must need at least ten character squares, and is well animated, too. On his/your journey through the marsh in search of a spaceship, you encounter quite a selection of opponents, or problems. For example, even on level one, you have to The game is pleasantly packaged in a small video-style case, but unfortunately you pay for that — the game is a trifle overpriced at £6.95, I fee!

David Lester Program Borzak Price £6.95 Micro Spectrum Supplier Channel 8 Software, 51 Fishergate, Preston, Lancs.

Killer moths

Somehow the thought of killer moths invading earth sounds a bit far out even for a computer game. Yet, if you think of some horror films which have included everything from killer caterpillars to killer birds, then I suppose killer moths (I'm glad it wasn't killer butterflies) seems OK.

Superior Software's Alien Dropout is an opportunity to kill hundreds of beautiful moths, whilst at the same time dodging the giant moth's killer bombs (or droppings?).

The moths are threatening Earth. The small moths fly into their boxes in sequence. As each of the 10 boxes is filled a moth is released, and it will attempt to destroy your laser.

The large moth in the middle is usually indestructable, but if you manage to kill 200 of the small moths, the large moth will be released. If you destroy the large moth, a new set of more powerful moths will come into action.

Alien Dropout is, again, a variation of the space invaders format, but I found it fun and a game which extracts every ounce out of the Electron's speed and sound capabilities.

Fred Short

Program Alien Dropout Price £6.95 Micro Electron Supplier Superior Software, Regent House, Skinner Lane, Leeds.

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raphics — This program enables you to paint and draw on the screen by controlling a simulated pencil and brush which can be manoeuvred either by keyboard or joystick. This utility can be used to create and edit background pictures stored in half the normal memory space by use of innovative data compression techniques. Together with its automated drawing techniques; circle, line and contring routines; background calcur options; and tape load and save choices; this makes the creation of an autistic wonder possible for ALL USERS. nimation — The animation utility allows easy manipulation of sprite data pictures, several sprite designs, and a multitude of musical compositions and everyday sounds. This facility is a compilation of all the facets of the graphic and sound utilities.



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CES Show report



David Kelly presents the first of two reports from the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago

Chicago — home of the world's tallest building, the world's tallest bank, the world's tallest apartment block and the world's tallest Italian marble clad building — played host last week to CES. CES is a giant trade showcase for the electronics industry. The 689 pages of the exhibition guide list over two thousand exhibitors.

Thankfully, only around 300 of these are computer stands— even so, the scale of the event is frightening. For the start of the four-day show on June 3, Chicago was besieged with over 100,000 visitors come to spend "their time and their money" in the town

Probably the most important lesson to be learned from CES is that little that is going on in the UK computer world has any relevance over there. The British industry is determinedly marching out of step — and nobody wants to know about it.

Where there is any awareness of the British scene, it is either regarded as a curiosity—a glitch in the proper order of things—or clouded by much ignorance. Most are shocked and uncomprehending when told that the top UK micro is the Spectrum.

It is fascinating to compare the American market with the British one. In the US, the battle has been won and Commodore is the victor. The company completely dominates the home computer market with over 60 per cent of the low-cost micro market. The others have either dropped out, like Timex or Texas Instruments, or they look in poor shape, like Atari.

Commodore's only competitors in the home micro market are Apple and IBM. Both the Apple II family and the IBM pc and PCJr are regarded to an extent as home machines. Consequently, there was a considerable quantity of games and recreational software on show for these machines some of it like Karateka from Broderbund for the Apple of tremendous quality. It seems strange - from the perspective of a UK visitor - to think of either the Apple or IBM machine as a home computer. Yet the Americans earn rather more than us - the average wage over there is around \$44,000 (about £30,000) and the cost of living is not that much more.

This corresponding increase of purchasing power is reflected in the fact that cassette software is a complete no-no. Everything is either on disc or cartridge for around \$35 (£23).

It then becomes obvious why Atari has done badly in the UK — who is going to pay £35 for an average game title in Britain.

It is quite instructive to look at the way Commodore has had to change for the UK market. It has been forced by Sinclair to initiate its own UK software publishing outfit — on cassette — and to look intelligently at the UK market and compete with Sinclair head on. A mark of flexibility — it is no wonder then that in the US Commodore is beating everyone else out of sight.

With only one company in the low-cost home market, the American scene appeared to me to be rather flat — without the excitement and confusion of the UK.

Bearing all this in mind then, it must be seen as an extremely courageous move for Sinclair to exhibit at CES. Where were the others? Where was Acorn and Oric? Come to that, where were all the other European manufacturers -Phillips, Thompsons and Triumph? Even the Japanese giants JVC, Panasonic, Sony and Mitshied away from subishi pushing MSX onto the US market. Only JVC showed its MSX computer and that in the context of proving the depth of products produced by the company.

MSX certainly won't go on sale in the US this Christmas. In fact, despite behind-the-scenes discussions between Microsoft's Bill Gates and the Japanese companies, it looks as though America will never see the first incarnation of MSX. In Christmas 1985 they may get MSX II and that may depend on how MSX performs this Christmas in Britain. The message that comes across loud and clear is that the UK is being used as a test launch.

The American market is huge and there is a substantial anti-Japanese import feeling in the US. Hard-hitting comparative tv advertising displays a US product alongside its Japanese counterpart "Better than this Japanese import — and better than this Japanese import. Fighting back against the Japanese".

All of which gives Commodore a free run — for this year at least. The considerable efforts from US software houses like Sierra, Broderbund, Electronic Arts Activision, CBS

and Parkers are being directed at the Commodore machines.

Commodore's new machines
— the Plus/4 and Commodore
16 should be out on the US
market by September and October respectively. The Plus/4
will be priced under \$300, the
Commodore 16 under \$100.
Both are based on a processor
chip developed from the 6502
which makes the conversion of
Commodore 64 titles to the
Plus/4 a doddle.

If there is any question mark over the Plus/4 it is its similarity with the 64. In many ways it is Take #2. The Plus/4 is billed as the 64 was originally intended — as a machine with serious application. In fact Commodore has invented a new word to describe the machine — the Plus/4 is a 'productivity' computer.

It will come with four software titles built in on ROM each a mirror of the packages on the QL. A word-processor, a graphics package, spreadsheet and file handling. They are not a patch on the Psion packages — taking up 32K instead of around 320K — but the QL will have a gruelling uphill struggle for acceptance in the US where the first question is "If it's not Commodore, is it Apple or IBM compatible?"

The Plus/4 may not hold a candle to the QL, but it is over \$200 cheaper. Admittedly, the QL has twin built-in microdrives, but this is almost viewed as a disadvantage.

Commodore announced a new disc drive at CES. It is disc compatible with the existing 1541 drive, but the new SFS 481 unit is around five times faster with parallel data access rather than serial.

There are definite rumours however that Sinclair has not finally settled on microdrives for the US—or the UK for that matter. Sony with its 3½ inch drive persistently crops up in this context.

Commodore's dominance in the US is daunting and Sinclair seems to be the only company apart from Atari still in there. Both the QL and the Plus/4 are planned for sale in the Autumn. But the Plus/4 will be in all the retail outlets and the QL will be mail-order only.

Next week a detailed look at software at CES

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PCW 14/6

Spectrum

Text book copy

M Bave presents a text editing and assembly program for use with Microdrive and printer

This is a text editing and assembly program for use with the microdrive and printer. It is written entirely in Basic and therefore can be tailored to individual needs. The text can be written, edited or called from previously held files (even in the middle of writing) or stored into files — also it can be moved around from page to page or within a page.

The text is input from the Inkey\$ into t\$ and finally assembled into q\$. The program responds to all of the keyboard in "L" mode, except for the caps lock which has been moved to the graphics mode key. Pressing 'enter' will put the program into 'options' mode, which has the following functions:

Erase entire text
Insert text
Delete part of text
Move entire text back one space
Store current text in microdrive
Load file from microdrive and insert into current text (if any)
Lprint sends text (q\$) to printer
Move section of text to another place within text
Review prints on screen all pages currently in text

When deleting, moving or inserting text, the program changes the paper colour from the start of the selected page until a key is pressed. If inserting text, the program will wait for input at the point where the key was pressed. If deleting, it will then continue by overprinting inverse characters until another key is pressed — all characters printed inverse will be deleted.

When moving text, the program follows the deleting routines. It saves the text in p\$ and then follows the insert routine to complete the moves.

Notes

10-60	set up new text and main input loop
70-140	subroutines to service main loop
150-370	routine for selecting options
380-410	insert text routine
420-470	delete text routine
480-520	store text in microdrive file
530-590	load previously stored file
600-690	start new line and erase current line
700-810	move block of text
900-920	printer output
1000-1040	subroutine for insert/delete/move
9998-9999	saves program on microdrive

As I have used control codes for colours which do not print on the ZX printer, you will have to amend these lines as necessary:

90 the space "" should be green paper white ink and flashing 140 the space "" should be magenta paper white ink and flashing

1020 the space "" should be cyan paper white ink and steady

Start new line Erase current line	printed in
1 REM WORDI @ 1984 M.A.	Bave
12 CLEAR : LET P9=0: LET P0 NE 23561,2 PCKE 23561,2 PCKE 23561,2	x=4 0: BC
PRUSE SE	or her
PRUSE SE 20 GO SUB 70 FAINT AT S 20 GO SUB 70 FAINT AT S 20 FI FAMEL THEN GO 40 IF IS CHR'S 18 THEN GO	TO SE
50 BEEP .005,0: LET 94mg	#+t #
70 GO SUB 100 90 CLS: PRINT RT 0,0 94	il(page
50 GO SUB 140: GO SUB 18 70 GO SUB 100 90 GLS: FRINT RT 0,0 94 1573/1) TO) " RETURN 100 LET Page 117 (LER 98 15T 9=LEN 95-572+page 110 LET 101 117 (9/32) 130 IF page 119 THEN CLS 110 LF 121, "Page "; Page+1; 1294	672).
180 IF page try THEN CLS PT 21,24,"page ";page+1:	LET
130 RETURN 140 PRINT ST line, col: ts; 150 RETURN 150 IF ts=CHRS 20058=0; 50 SUE 70 00 TO 20 155 IF ts=CHRS 12 THEN LE 5(TO LEN 95-1): GO 5UB 70 100 PRINT #1, AT 0,0, "OPTI	" "].
13.8+(PEEK 23058=0): BEEP 0. GO SUB 70: GO TO 20 155 IF t\$=CHP\$ 12 THEN LE 9(TO LEN 9\$-1): GO SUB 70	T OFF
150 PRINT #1,9T 0,0,"OPTI	ON 1
2 erase current line3 er 4 inscri 5 deteta 6 ba 7 store 8 toad 9 ne	AUSE C
170 IF es="1" THEN GG TO 180 IF es="3" THEN GG TO 190 IF es="4" THEN GL TO 200 IF es="4" THEN GLS	500 500 10 50 TC
210 IF es="5" THEN GO TO 220 IF es="6" THEN LET GS TO 3.08 70 CO TO 248 THEN GO TO 248 IF es="8" THEN GO TO 248 IF es="8" THEN GO TO 250 CO THEN INPUT	420
250 IF 88="7 THEN GO TO 840 IF 88="8" THEN GO TO 850 IF 88="8" THEN INPUT TO 280	530
TO 280 250 ID 25 CHP\$ 10 THEN IN GO TO 20 270 GO TO 150 280 PRINT #1;AT 0.0:"0PT3	
2 move 3 review 1 LF	PRINT
290 PAUSE 0 LET ESHINEY 200 IF ESH 1 THEN QC TO 210 IF ESH 2 THEN OLS: 200 IF ESH 2 THEN OLS: 200 IF ESH 2 THEN OLS: 200 IF ESH 20 TO 20 200 IF ESH 20 TO 20 200 IF ESH 20 TO 20 270 GO TO 290 270 GEM	\$000 700 PRINT
050 REH 050 REH 050 IF e\$=CHP\$ 13 THEN IN 00 TO 200	PUT "
350 REM 1002 INSERT	TEXT

```
410 LET S$=q3(TO a): LET P$=q

15+1 TO ): INPUT 18: LET q$=S$+

+P$: GO TO 20

420 REM 1000: LET S$=q$(TO
        ASO LET S=S+1: INVERSE 1: LET CO. GUS SEN 1040: LET X=4: INVERSE 2: O: LET D=3 2: D+1 TO). LET Q= 150 AESO TO 20 STORE TEXT 150 INPUT File name Piesse"
  BOO OPEN #4,"#",1;x$: PRINT E.

$' CLOSE #4
510 PRINT #1, AT 0.0,"Continue
PAUSE 0 IF INKEYS="" THEN
510 PRINT #1 AT 0,0, "CONTINUE
PRUSE 0 IF INNEWS "N" THEN
520 OC TO 20
530 CLS CAT 1 PEH LOAD TEX
530 CLS CAT 1 PEH LOAD TEX
530 CLS CAT 1 PEH LOAD TEX
530 CLS PRINT #1, X$ INPUT #1
550 CLS PRINT #1, AT 0,0 "Res
550 CLS PRINT #1, AT 0,0 "Res
570 GO SUB 1000
590 LET 5$=9$ (TO 3) LET 9$=91
511 TO 3: LET 9$=3$+5*P$ CO
0 200 REM EMASE CURRENT LINE
500 CSUB 650 START NEW LINE
500 REM START NEW LINE
500 REM START NEW LINE
500 RET 10 32-C1 LET 9$=1
500 RET 11 TO 32-C1 LET 9$=1
500 RETURN MOUR PROUTING
```

14-20 JUNE 1984

The QL Page

A slice of the cake

Malcolm Davison continues his examination of the Psion QL packages by looking at Easel and Archive

The problem with business graph drawing packages hitherto is that they have been difficult to use, expensive, not interactive and there have been problems in tailoring the packages to the wide ranging specifications of the micros on the market. Easel is a very ingenious piece of software. The speed with which you can tailor a full-colour graph to do a particular task, and the appearance of the result, provides better facilities than you will see on any other business micro.

Giving the graph a new appearance depends solely on one command — Change. This gives you a number of factors that you can alter.

Firstly, you can alter the format, that is the style of graph. You can opt for a horizontal bar chart, a line chart, horizontal bars, pie chart—in all, eight different types. You can select the type of bars from 16 options and style of axes from a display of nine. There are 16 defined line styles and, if you are not happy with any of these, you can even design your own.

Pie chart segments can be customised to colours of your choice, as can any text you add to the graph. A number of enhancements are available, including adding a key box, and highlighting of significant figures. In the case of a pie chart, a segment can be offset from the rest of the pie.

Once you have designed a graph, feeding in data is simply a matter of targetting a column with a crosswire, using the cursor keys or the tab key, and entering the appropriate figure. Selection of design options is a similar 'target your choice' method, it's a bit like playing 'Golden Shot'!

Once the data has been entered, the graph bar will immediately appear and scaling is automatically catered for. New graphs can be drawn on the basis of two sets of data and a mathematical formula can combine the two to create a third set of figures. So, projected profits figures, for example, can be derived and plotted from production costs and scales.

It is easier to learn to use this program if you already have a working example — and you can amend it. But, on loading the program, you are presented with just the axes of a blank graph.

Pie charts are very slow to draw and each change requires a re-draw, making it a very slow process. It would have been useful to have a drawing/no draw option to speed the process up a bit.

Reproduction of graphs is problematical — but with colour ink jet printers on the market, this will soon be a problem of the past. For the moment, however, the QL is configured to work with the Epson FX-80.

onfigured to work with the Epson FX-80. The data for Easel can be imported from Abacus and Archive, and the output from Easel can be included in Quill word processed documents using the Export command.

There are not many ways you could improve on this package. A choice of typefaces would have been welcome too, as would 3D graphs, but then we should be thankful that any software has been included in the price of the QL at all! Well done Psion — well done Martin Brown, the program's author.

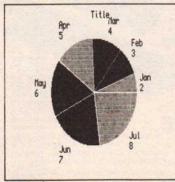
Archive

The program Archive is the most complicated and powerful of the four applications. While it offers a simple means to set up databases and to subsequently access, select, and print out records, its main strength is its ability to use a language to specially tailor applications around the databases. The program has to provide program line editing, screen layout and design as well as database handling facilities.

It is surprising that Psion should choose to produce a dBase II look-alike — programs as complicated as this takes some time to develop, and like port they take time to mature. dBase II, which is the market leader and has held this unassailable position for the last four years, is considered by many a difficult language to learn.

Although Psion have greatly simplified the programming of a database management system, much of the potential power of the query language commands has been left untapped. Consequently, you need a number of commands or special procedures to be written to do the most routine of operations.

To offset this somewhat, the creation of a new database and the addition of data is very straightforward. Call your database a name, and name the fields — the only



A pie chart

complication is that, like Basic, you must distinguish string fields from numeric using a dollar suffix on the name. Unlike other systems, you do not have to define the lengths of fields nor be troubled by a range of data types.

Data entry can begin after typing the word Insert. A standard screen layout offers a means to type in the information. Full control over editing the data before committing the record to the file using function key 5 is available. Unfortunately, the system breaks down when you key in records greater than the line length of the screen and a second record picks up the tail end of the previous record.

There are problems too if you want to have more fields than the number of available lines on the screen — the only way round this is to define your own screen entry format. The lack of immediate help that you experience if you opt to use the whole screen for input is frustrating for a new user — switching between modes of display while trying to enter data throws the screen into disaster.

Editing a data entry screen is not as simple as it could have been. In addition, there are no column or row positions in order to reconstruct a screen layout, a fact that will cause problems for book authors.

Once the record is in the file, the commands Back, Next, First, and Last display the relevant records. If you know the mumber of a record, you can type the command Position and the number will access the appropriate record.

The program includes a gazeteer database which provides a useful way to practice the query language syntax. And, unlike many database packages on the market, the example database is a sensible length.

The command set sports a very straightforward and all embracing Find command, which will hunt for any like piece of text anywhere in the file regardless of the field or record it is situated in. If you know which field the text is in, then a Search command will track it down.

The command words such as *Position*, *Display* and *Select* are long words to type when you are using them on a regular basis. It is possible to write small procedures to handle each of these, so a single key depression will do the job, but then they clutter up your own procedure area.

The reporting facilities of Archive are very limited. A Dump command heads the columns of data with abstruse field names instead of intellegible headings. It also crashed on me on one instance, so you could say it was living up to its name!

dBase offers a very powerful command called List;

LIST name, salary FOR salary >5000 .AND. salary<10000 which is intelligible even to the non-user.

which is intelligible even to the non-user. Archive would require a Select command and then a Dump instruction followed by a Reset. The problems are even more

The QL Page

complicated when you want to delete a batch of records, or you want to merge two files or create subset files — special procedures have to be written to cover each of these eventualities.

Programming with Archive

It is not just coincidence that the programming facilities so closely resemble those of SuperBasic — and this will greatly assist most users in tackling Archive programming. The introduction of procedures into Sinclair's Basic will greatly help those learning Archive, as Goto statements do not exist, and the writing of small procedures is an integral part of the Archive programming concept.

The procedure editor, or program line editor, if you prefer, is a very clever set of tools that could still benefit by further enhancement. As with SuperBasic when you type in a line, the program then adapts it to a standard form of presentation, checks on syntax, and then adds it to the program. Logical areas of the program are automatically given indents, so that errors in logic

become more apparent.

New lines can be inserted, old lines may be deleted singularly or en masse using the Cut command and may be simply added elsewhere in the procedure or in another procedure using a Paste command. This

Cut and Paste facility does not allow you to duplicate areas of coding or to store a dictionary of useful routines — more's the pity. Movement up and down the program is acceptable with the cursor keys, but a 'page hop' facility would have been welcome, as up to 255 lines may be built into any one procedure.

By pressing function key 5, you can edit the current line; however, this line can on occasion bring in rubbish from the data buffer, which is a little disconcerting. The syntax checker will sometimes reject a bad line, but this will lose all that you have typed in as well as losing your place in the program — not very friendly! Replacing a long line with a shorter one can cause disarray on the screen, but the screen cursor movement clears the problem.

The best part of the procedure editor is the instant availability of the other procedures — movement between the procedures using the *TAB* key was a luxury I have not been used to, and greatly speeds program development. Listings of the program can be easily produced by typing *Llist*, but you get all the procedures currently in memory printed out rather than just the one you are working on.

Procedures held in the memory are not stored to the Microdrive automatically, which saves frustration and delay while they are accessed, but can prove hazardous if you don't regularly save the program. Program testing can, on occasion, cause Archive to crash and your program could be lost forever.

Happily, crashing is not a frequent occurrence and the *Escape* key will get you out of program loops, input statements and anything I cared to throw at it.

I miss a command to print out all the values of the current memory variables, a command to print out the format of your file, a command to print the current record on a printer and a pause command as in Super-Basic. To its credit, the program has an exellent *Trace* command which can quickly track down any problems in your procedures. The program, as with all the QL application packages, has a comprehensive series of help screens, which can save a lot of searching through the manual.

Multiple file operations should be straightforward, but in practice are less so. In testing a multiple-file procedure, inevitably the program can falter after opening its files. Having corrected your mistake, you have to religiously close your files before re-running. A procedure may be set up to do this, but closing files takes quite a bit of Microdrive.

In all, Psion have got a very powerful system into the QL. While it lacks many refinements, in the main they can be programmed around.

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Keyed in notes

Joseph Burr explains how to turn your Dragon into a musical keyboard

This program turns your not so humble Dragon into a musical keyboard. The program is written in both Basic and machine code. This allows the user to retune and adjust the keyboard, without an assembler or any knowledge of machine code.

To use the keyboard, the Basic program is first typed in and saved at the beginning of a blank cassette. Then follows the machine code, using an assembler, or Listing 3 if an assembler is not available.

To load the keyboard Cload is entered

followed by Run when *OK* appears. The tape recorder is left playing. When it has loaded, the keyboard layout will will be displayed.

Listing 1 is the assembler listing, the '£' is the sharp or hash sign (). The explanations of the program's workings are included to the right of the listing.

Listing 2, the basic part of the program, displays the keyboard layout and stores the necessary note frequency and keyboard scan information. This is stored in blocks of three. The first is the time lag between the alternate peaks and troughs that go to

make up a sound wave. Increasing this value will lower the note, decreasing it raises the note. The next two numbers are for the keyboard scan which is explained in Peter Chase's article (Popular Computing Neekly, May 26 1983).

Listing 3 is for Dragon users without assemblers. It can be used to load the machine code given in Table 1 into the computer's memory. The *Dream* editor/assembler was used, so the machine code starts at 20001, but the program is relocateable anywhere in the Dragon's memory, as long as the *Execute* statement in line 190 in Listing 1 is suitably doctored. This is saved by: *Csavem"Synth"*, 20001, 20166, 20001.

I would like to thank Nicholas Brown for help in tuning the keyboard, and to Saint Peter's and Merrow Grange School for the loan of a set of tuning forks.

isting 1								
	LDA	65315	(LDB	65280	,	
	DRA	£8	(SET		ANDB	£127	1	SEE
	STA	65315			PSHS	B	1	With the same of t
	LDA	65281	(UP		CMPA	,S+	1	WHICH
	ANDA	£247			BEQ	LOOK	1	WITTELL
	STA	65281	(SOUND		CMPX	fO	1	KEY
	LDA	65283	(Dept. Dept. dept.		BEQ	ADD	(
	ANDA	£247	(CHANNEL		CMPX	£1708	(IS
	STA	65283	(BLT	AGAIN	- (Mark Mark
	LDA	£0	(BRA	BREAK	(BEING
	STA	1559	Constraint S	LOOK	CMPX	£O	(
	W 10F1	a sales y			BEO	END	(PRESSED
BREAK	LDA	£191	()		BRA	SOUND	(
Lot VILLET III	STA	1538	(IS					
	LDA	£253	(CLEAR	SOUND	LDA	1545	(
	STA	1539	(BEING		STA	\$FF2C	(
	LDX	£0	(PRESSED?		LDY	£O	(PLAY
	BRA	KEYLOK	(DELAY	LEAY	1, Y	(
					CMPY	1559	(
ADD	LDX	£1600	(VOLUME		BNE	DELAY	(NOTE
AGAIN	LDA	£60	(COMA			
	STA	1545	(STA	1545	1	
	LDB	£200	(SUSTAIN		CMPA	£0	(
	STB	1558	(BGT	KEYLOK	1	DECAY?
					LDB	1558	(
	LDA	, X+	(WHICH		CMPB	£0	(
	STA	1560	-(BEQ	DEC	(
	LDA	, X+	(NOTE		DECB			
	STA	1538	(Called the Called		STB	1558	(
	LDA	, X+	(IS		BRA	KEYLOK	(
	STA	1539	1	DEC	DECA			
	BRA	KEYLOK	(WANTED?		LDB	£55	(
		NOS. N			STB	1558	(DECAY
KEYLOK	LDA	1538	100000		STA	1545	(
	LDB	1539	(LOOK		BRA K	EYLOK	(
	ANDA	£127	(
	STB	65282	(TO	END	RTS	; RETURN	TO	BASIC

25

Listing 2 10 PCLEAR1: CLEAR100, 20000 20 CLDADM 30 FORX=1600T01707 40 READA 50 POKE X , A 60 NEXTX 70 DATA16, 251, 254, 18, 253, 251, 19, 239, 254, 21, 254, 254, 22, 247, 127, 24, 247.253.25.253.254,27,239,223,29,254,127,31,223,253,33,254,191, 35, 239, 239, 38, 239, 251, 40, 254, 239, 43, 251, 223, 46, 254, 247 80 DATA49.239.127.52,239.253.55.254.253.59.253.127.63.253.247.66. 253, 191, 71, 247, 239, 75, 253, 239, 80, 247, 223, 86, 247, 251, 91, 247, 191, 97, 247, 254, 101, 251, 251, 109, 239, 191 90 DATA117, 251, 191, 125, 251, 247, 132, 251, 239, 138, 223, 254, 148, 239, 247, 155, 223, 251 100 CLS 110 PRINT@36," BY JOSEPH BURR" 120 PRINT@99," TO PLAY THE SYNTHESIZER" 130 PRINT@164." KEYBOARD LAYOUT" 140 PRINT0195," 1 3 4 6 7 8 0: QWERTYUIOP9" 150 PRINT@259," B-C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C-D-E" 160 PRINT@323," S D F H J L ; ZXCVBNM, ./" 170 PRINT9386." F-G-A-B-C-D-E-F-G-A" 180 PRINT" [START] "

Listing 3

10 CLEAR100, 20000

190 A\$=INKEY\$:IFA\$=" "THENEXEC20001

20 LETA=20001

200 6010190

- 30 PRINTA:
- 40 INPUTB
- 50 POKEA, B
- 60 LETA=A+1
- 70 GOTU30.

Table 1

20001 182 255 35 138 8 183 255 35 182 20012 183 255 1 182 255 132 20023 255 3 134 0 183 6 23 134 191 183 20034 134 253 183 142 6 3 0 0 32 20045 142 64 134 60 183 6 9 198 200 247 20056 166 128 183 6 24 166 128 183 6 20067 166 128 183 6 3 32 0 182 6 20078 246 6 3 132 127 247 255 2 246 255 0 20089 196 127 52 4 161 224 39 12 140 0 0 199 140 6 20100 172 45 197 32 177 140 20111 0 39 52 32 0 182 6 9 183 255 20122 16 142 0 0 49 33 16 188 6 23 38 20133 183 6 9 129 0 46 189 246 6 248 67 20144 193 0 39 6 90 247 6 22 32 22 20155 198 74 55 247 6 22 183 6 9 20166 57

14-20 JUNE 1984

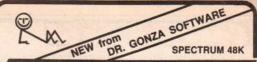
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PCW 15

Commodore 64

Alphabetical order

Richard Barton presents a mathematical toolkit for use with Simon's Basic

This program is written in Simon's

To select this new alternate alphabet —
Basic for the Commodore 64 and is a

which can be used interspersed with the "toolkit" aid for mathematics displays giving all the Greek and other various ter - the user must select "reverse symbols used in mathematical formulae. graphics" mode with the Cntrl key Rvs On.

normal upper case alphabet of the compu-

The new character set occupies all the alphabetical and numerics keys of the Commodore 64's keyboard.

To deselect this mode, just press Cntrl Rvs Off keys. After running this program, another one can be loaded and run using the new set. I think that this program would prove very useful for those of us with a mathematical "bent".

```
1220 G.B....B.
10 REM CHARACTER EXTENSION
                                                                     1230 G.B....B.
                                   600 DESIGN2, $E000+134*8: REM ZETA
   FOR MATH
                                                                     1240 @.B....B.
                                   610 @..BBBB..
20 REM SYMBOLS.
                                                                     1250 G.B....B.
                                   620 @....B..
30 REM R. BARTON 1984.
                                                                     1260 @.BB..BB.
                                   630 @....B...
40 REM REQUIRES SIMON'S BASIC
                                                                     1270 @.B.BB...
                                   640 Q...B....
   EXTENSION.
                                   650 @..B....
                                                                     1280 @.B.....
                                   660 @..BBB...
                                                                    1300 DESIGN2, $E000+141*8 REM NU
60
70
                                   670 @....B..
                                                                     1310 @.....
                                   680 @...BB...
                                                                     1320 0.....
20
                                                                    1330 0.....
                                   700 DESICN2, $E000+135*8 REM ETA
                                   710 G.B.....
720 G.BBBB...
                                                                     1340 @B.....B.
100 DESIGNS #E000+129#8 REM ALPHA
                                                                    1350 @.B...B..
                                   730 G.B...B..
                                                                     1360 C..B.B...
120 G...BIG..
                                   740 @.B...B..
                                                                     1370 @...B....
13: 3. . B. . B. .
                                                                 1380 8.....
                                  750 G.B...B..
140 3.B...B..
                                  760 G.B...B..
                                                                 1400 DESIGN2, $E000+141*8 REM XI
150 @.B...B..
                                  770 @.....8..
                                                                     1410 @.B...B..
160 G..B..B..
                                   780 G....B..
                                                                    1420 @..BBB...
170 G...BRB..
                                 800 DESIGN2, $E000+136*8 REM THETA 1430 0..B....
200 DESIGN2, $5000+130MS REM BETA 810 0.....
                                                                    1440 @...BB...
                                  820 G.. BBBB..
                                                                    1450 @..B....
210 0 .....
                                  830 G.B....B.
                                                                    1460 G. . BBB . . .
220 0.BBBB...
                                 840 G.B.... B.
                                                                    1470 @....B..
230 G.B...B..
                                  850 @. TBBBBB.
                                                                    1480 G...BB...
240 G.B.BB...
                                  860 G.B....B.
                                                                    1500 DESIGN2, $E000+142*8:
250 G.B...B..
                                  870 Q.B....B.
268 G.B...B...
                                  880 G..BBBB..
                                                                    1510 G .....
270 G.BBBB...
                                  330 DESIGN2, $E000+137*8: REM TOTA 1520 @... BB...
280 88....
                                  910 @.....
                                                                    1530 @..B..B..
300 DESIGN2, $E000+131*8:RET GRMMA
                                  920 @.....
                                  930 G..B....
                                                                    1550 @.B.... B.
323 @B....B.
                                  940 0..B....
                                                                    1560 @..B..B..
330 G.B...B..
                                  950 @......
                                                                , 1570 G. . BB...
340 @..B.B...
                                  960 0......
                                                                    1580 @.....
358 @...B....
                                  970 Q..B....
360 A ... B ....
                                980 0.....
             1610 @.....
370 @...B....
400 DESIGN2, $E000+132*8 REM DELTP 1010 @......
                                                                    1630 @. BBBBBB.
                                  1020 0 ......
                                                                   1640 @..B..B..
410 3 .... 3 ...
                                  1030 G.B.....
                                                                    1650 G..B..B..
420 d...B....
                                  1040 @.B.R....
                                                                   1660 @..B..B..
430 G...BB...
                                 1050 G.BB.....
                                                                    1670 @..B..B..
440 @..B..B..
                                 1060 @.B.F....
                                                                   1689 @.....
450 G.B....P.
                                 1070 G.B..B...
                                                                   1700 DESIGN2, $E000+144*8: REM RHO
460 G.B....B.
                                 1080 0 .....
                                                                   1710 0 ....
470 G. . B. . B. .
                                1100 DESIGN2, $E000+139*8 REM LAMBD 1720 @.. BBB...
403 G...BB...
                                 1110 QB.....
                                                                   1730 G..B..B..
500 DESIGN2, $E000+133*8:
                                1120 G.B.....
                                                                   1748 G. . B. . B. .
   REM EPSILON
                                 1130 G..B....
                                                                   1750 @. BBB...
510 0 .....
                                 1140 G...B....
                                                                   1760 @..B.....
520 0 ......
                                 1150 G. . F. B. . .
                                                                   1770 @..B....
530 @...BBBB.
                                 1160 G.F......
                                                                   1780 @.....
540 G..B....
                                 1170 @B....B.
                                                                   1800 DESIGN2, $E000+143*8 REM SIGMA
550 G. BBBBBB.
                                 1200 DESIGN2, $E000+140*8 REM MU 1810 0.....
560 G..B....
570 G... BBBB.
                                 1210 @ ......
                                                                               continued over the page
```

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Commodore 64

```
2570 @RRBRRBB. 3300 DESIGN2,$E000+181*8:REM 2580 @......
1820 @...BR.BR
1830 @..P..B..
                           2600 DESIGN2, $E000+152*8 REM ANGLE 3310 0.....F.
 1840 @.B....B.
 1850 @.B.... R.
                              2610 8...... 3320 G.BRERE..
1860 G..B..R..
                               2620 @.....
                                                               3330 @B...B.B.
1870 C...FB...
                                                  3340 GB..B..B.
                               2630 @.....
                              2640 @ ...B....
 1880 @...... 2640 @..R... 3350 @B.B..B.
1900 DESIGN2.≢E000+146#8:REM TAU 2650 @.B.B... 3360 @.BR?BB..
 1910 0.....
                               2660 @.B...B.. 3370 @B.....
 1920 0.....
                               2670 GIBBBBBB.
                                                              3380 @.....
 1930 F. RERRE. .
                               2680 @.....
                                                              3400 DESIGN2, $E000+182*8:
1940 С...Б....
                               2700 DESIGN2, $E000+153*8 REM SQUARE
                                                                  REM 1 TO 1
1950 @...P....
                               2710 @BBRBBRB.
                                                               3410 @.....
1960 @...B....
                               2720 OB....B.
                                                               3420 @..B..B..
1970 @...B....
                               2730 @B....B.
                                                              3430 @.B....B.
1980 0 .....
                               2740 @B....B.
2000 DESIGN2, $E000+147*8 REM PHI 2750 @P.....B.
                                                              3440 GERRERERE
                                                               3450 @.B....B.
2010 @...B....
                               2760 GB....B.
                                                               3460 @..B..B..
2020 G. BBBBB. .
                               2770 @BBBBBBB.
                                                               3470 @.....
2030 GB..B..B.
                               2780 @.....
                                                               3480 @.....
2040 @B..B..B.
                               2800 DESIGN2, $E009+154*8 REM CIRCLE 3500 DESIGN2, $E000+183*3:REM ()
2050 @B..B..B.
                               2810 0.....
                                                               3510 G.....B
2060 @B..B..B.
                               2920 G. BBBBB. .
                                                               3520 @.....B.
2070 G. BBBBB..
                              2830 QB....B.
                                                              3530 @BBBBBBBB
2080 G...B....
                              2840 @B.....B.
                                                              3540 @....B...
2100 DESIGN2, $E000+145*8: REM CHI
                                                               3550 @PBBBBBBB
                               2850 @B....B.
2110 BB....B.
                                                              3560 @..B....
                               2860 @B....B.
2120 @.B...B..
                                                              3570 @.B.....
                               2870 @.BBBBB..
2130 @..R.B...
                               3580 @.....
2140 3...B....
                                                              3600 DESIGN2, $E000+184*8:
                               2900 DESIGN2, $E000+177*8
2150 G. . B. B. . . .
                               REM PARALLEL TO
                                                                  REM APPROX =
2160 @.B...B..
                                                              3610 0.....
                               2910 G.B..B...
2170 @B....B.
                                                 3620 @.BB.....
2180 @.....
                               2920 @.B..B...
                                                              3630 GB..BB..B
2200 DESIGN2, $E000+149*8:REM PSI
                               2930 @.B..B...
                                                              3640 @....BB.
2210 @.....
                               2940 @.B..B...
                                                              3650 @.BB.....
                               2950 @.B..B...
2220 @B..B..B.
                                                              3660 @B..BB..B
2230 @B..B..B.
                               2960 @.B..B...
                                                              3670 @....BB.
                               2978 G.B..B...
2240 GB. . B. . B.
                                                              3680 @....
                               3000 DESIGN2, $E000+178*8: REM 3700 DESIGN2, $E000+185*8: REM
2250 @.B.B.B..
2260 G..BBB...
2270 Q...B....
                                                              3710 @.....
                              3010 G...B....
2300 DESIGN2, $E000+150*8
                                                              3720 @.....
                              3020 @...B....
                                                             3730 G. BBB. BBB
   REM OMEGR
                               3030 G...B....
                                                              3740 @B...B...
                               3040 @...B....
2310 @.....
                                                              3750 @B...B...
                               3050 @...B....
2320 @.....
                                                              3760 @B...B...
                               3060 G...B....
2330 @B..B..B.
                                                             3770 @.BBB.BBB
                              3070 GBBBBBBB.
2340 @B..B..B.
                                                              3780 @.....
                               3080 G.....
2350 @B..B..B.
                               3100 DESIGN2, $E000+179#8:REM 3800 DESIGN2, $E000+176#8:REM
2360 @B..B..B.
2370 @.BBBBB..
                                  CONGR. TO
                                                              3810 @.....
                        3110 @.....
2380 0.....
3820 @....B..
                                                              3830 Q.....B.
                                                              3840 GBBBBBBBBB
                              3140 0 ......
2410 @.....
                   3150 @BBBBBBB.
                                                              3850 @.....B.
2420 @.....
                                                              3860 @....B..
                               3160 @.....
2430 @.BB.BB..
                                                              3870 0.....
                               3170 @BBBBBBBB.
2440 GB. . B. . B.
                                                              3880 @.....
                               3180 @.....
2450 @B..B..B.
                               3200 DESIGN2, $E000+180*8: REM
2460 GB..3..B.
2470 @.BB.BB..
                                 SIMILAR TO
2480 @.....
                              3210 @.....
2500 DESIGN2, $E000+152*8: REM ANGLE 3220 @.....
                               3230 @.....
2510 @.....B.
                               3240 @. BB.....
2520 @....B..
                               3250 @B..BB..B
2530 @....B...
2540 G...B....
                               3260 @....BB.
2550 G..B....
                               3270 @.....
                               3280 @.....
2560 @.B.....
```



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Colour spectrum

R Watson shows how to design kaleidoscopic patterns on the BBC B

his program for the BBC model B ber of times specified by you. allows you to design your own Kaleidoscopic patterns by creating two images with a maximum of five co-ordinates to each. These images are repeated a num-

The most interesting designs are produced by using the maximum number of points, with a step size between 10 - 20. It is not too difficult to convert this

program for other computers. Replace Repeat nnn Until with If Not n Then Go To Replace procedures by subroutines and change line 620 and 630 to the statements to change Paper and Ink colour on your

```
390 COLOUR 3: PRINT " WITH X MAXIMUM
10 PEM 1984 9. WATSON
20 ON ERROR GOTO 110
30 DIM X%(4.2.5).Y%(4.2.5),XX(5).YY(5)
                                            400 PRINT" WITH Y MAXIMUM 1024"
40 MODE 7
                                            410 FOR I%=1 TO 2: COLOUR 5: PRINT" FOR
50 PRINTCHR$141: CHR$132: CHR$157:
                                                 IMAGE ": I%": FOR N%=1 TO VAL (P$)
                                                     PRINTTAB (4) " POINT ":N%"
   CHR$135:"
                     SYMMETRICAL DESIGN"
                                                     INPUT TAB(6) "X IS : "X%(1.1%.N%)
INPUT TAB(6) "Y IS : "Y%(1.1%.N%)
60 PRINTCHR$141: CHR$132: CHR$157: CHR$
                                            430
               SYMMETRICAL DESIGN"
                                            440
70 PRINT' CHR$131: " This program allows
                                                     PRINT
                                            450
   you to draw a"''CHR$131:" design.
                                                     SP=0
                                            450
                                            470
                                                     PROC SETXY
    thisis then given a mirror"'
                                            480
                                                     NEXT: NEXT
    CHR$131:" image treatment."
                                           490 N%=N%-1:CLS:COLOUR 4:PRINT"HOW
80 PRINT'CHR$131:" Instructions are
given in the program."
90 PRINT*'TAB(6)CHR#129:" PRESS
                                                 MANY STEPS":: INPUT ": "R%: CLS
                                            500 :
                                            510 REPEAT
    ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"
                                            520
                                                  FOR 1%=1 TO 8%: FOR F%=0 TO 1%-1:
100 REPEAT UNTIL GET
                                                 SP=SP+1/R%: NEXT F%
110 MODE 2: VDU 23:8202:0:0:0:
                                            530
                                                     FOF: D%=1 TO 4
120 COLOUR 6
                                            540
                                                        FOR J%=1 TO N%
130 PRINT "TAB (4) "CHOOSE COLOURS""
                                                  XX(JX) = XX(DX.1.JX) + (SP*(XX(DX.2.
140 :
                                                  J\%) - X\% (D\%.1.J\%))): YY (J\%) = Y\% (D\%.1.J
150 FOR C%=1 TO 7
                                                  %) + (SF*(Y%(D%, 2, J%) -Y%(D%, 1, J%)))
150
      READ N#
                                            560
                                                         IF J%>=2 PROC PLOT
170
      COLOUR 3: PRINTTAB(4): C%: ": ":
                                            570
                                                         NEXT: NEXT: SP=0: NEXT
180
      COLOUR CX: PRINT NS
                                                   FOR H%=1 TO 5000: NEXT: CLS: UNTILO
                                            580
190
      NEXT
                                            590 END
200 :
                                            600 :
210 REPEAT
      COLOUR 6: PRINTTAB(2.14):"
                                            610 DEF PROC_PLOT
220
                                            620 VDU 19.128.128+VAL(B#):0:
    BACKGROUND (1-7)"
                                            630 GCOL O. VAL (F$)
230
      B$=GET$
                                            640 IF I%=1 MOVEX%(D%.1.1), Y%(D%.1.1):
      UNTIL FN KEY ("1234567", B$)
240
                                                 DRAW X%(D%, 1, 2), Y%(D%, 1, 2)
250 :
                                                 MOVEXX(J%-1).YY(J%-1):DRAW XX
260 PRINT"
                                                 (J%) . YY (J%)
270 REPEAT
                                             660 ENDPROC
      COLOUR 5: PRINTTAB(2.15):
280
                                             670 :
   "FOREGROUND (1-7)"
                                            680 DEF FN KEY (SS$, FF$)
200
      F#=GET#
                                           690 = INSTR (SS$.FF$)
      UNTIL FN_KEY("1234567".F$)
300
                                             700 :
310 :
320 CLS: COLOUR 2: PRINTTAB (2) "NUMBER OF
                                             710 DEF PROC SETXY
                                            720 X%(2, I%, N%)=1280-X%(1, I%, N%)
    POINTS" ' TAB (4) "MAXIMUM OF 5"
                                            730 Y%(2.1%,N%)=Y%(1.1%,N%):X%(3,1%,N%)
330 REPEAT
                                                 =X%(1, I%, N%): Y%(3, I%, N%)=1024-
340
      PS=GETS
                                                 Y% (1. I%, N %)
350
      UNTIL FN_KEY("12345".P$)
                                             740 X%(4.1%,N%)=1280-X%(1.1%,N%)
360 :
                                             750 YX(4, IX, NX)=1024-YX(1, IX, NX)
370 COLOUR 1
380 PRINT' TAB(3) " ENTER X AND Y"'
                                             760 ENDPROC
                                             770 :
    TAB(3)" COORDINATES"
                                             780 DATA RED. GREEN. YELLOW, BLUE, MAGENTA
                                                  . CYAN. WHITE
```

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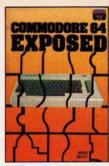




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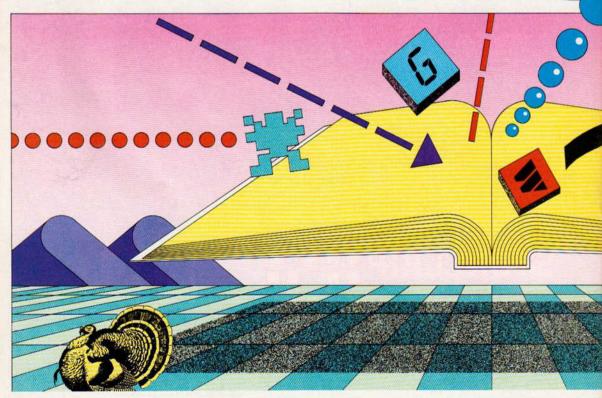
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Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed.

Quack Attack

on Spectrum

You have to shoot down the ducks before they land and eat your crops. Sounds easy, but the duck is fast and will keep moving when you fire. This game features 3 speeds and animated graphics to make the duck flap its wings. Instructions are contained in the program.

Program

4

Go to graphics and instructions Sets up screen 100–290 Main loop 300–490 Second loop for fire routine 500–525 Mill duck 900–950 Duck lands 1000–1030 Graphics data 1000–2040 Instructions 2050–2080 Set speed

Variables

sc Score
a,b Duck co-ordinates
x,y Bullet co-ordinates
1 Used for delay loop
h Sets length of delay loop

```
QUACK ATTACK
Q 1984 G.SMITH
              CINE
                       REM
               4
                       GO
                                     TO
                                                   1000
                       BORDER
7: CL:
LET SC
LET a=
FOR b=
                                                         3:
                                                                     PAPER 0:
                                                                                                                BRIGHT 1
          INK
                                           CLS
               8
                                          SC=0
                                           a = 2
          10
                                           b=30
                                                                 TO 1 STEP
           20
                        FOR
                                          x = 20
                       PRINT INK
                                                                                                         ,0;"
                                                                       4; AT 21
                                                     INK Ø;
                       PRINT
                                                                                                                                BRIGH
                                                                                                         R 7; B
          Ø; AT
                                 0,0;
T 0, H

100 LET b=b-1

105 PRINT INK 2; AT a, b; "-":

b(29 THEN PRINT AT a, b+2; "":

108 PRINT INK 7; AT 20, 15; "":

110 IF INKEY$="m" THEN GO TO
                                                                                                                                              IF
                                                                                                                                               30
                      FOR f=1 TO h: NEXT f
LET b=b-1
PRINT INK 2;AT a,b;"4=";AT
      115
      125
      ,b+2;" "
127 IF a=20 AND b=15 THEN GO TO
      900
                        IF b<1 THEN LET b=30: PRINT | 0;" ": LET a=a+2 PRINT INK 7; AT 20 15;"4" IF a=20 AND b=15 THEN GO TO
                    a
       140
      900
                         FOR f=1 TO h: NEXT f
GO TO 1000
PRINT INK 6; AT x, y; "1"
IF x<19 THEN PRINT AT
       290
       300
      305
                                                                                                                              x+1,9
      310
                         PRINT
                                                   INK 7; AT 20, 15; "4"
                         LET X=X-1
LET b=b-1
PRINT INK 2;AT a,b;"4-";AT
       350
     360 PRINT 1000, b+2;" " GO TO 100 TO 
       360
                                                                                                    x=20:
                                                                                                                              PRINT
                                                                                                                                PRINT
                                                                                                     b=30:
                                                     b-1
INK 2; AT a, b; "4"; AT
                                       b (1 THEN LET b=30: LET a
      a+2
                         IF a=20 AND b=15 THEN GO TO
      900
                                       x=a AND y=b THEN GO TO 5
      420
                         FOR
       450
                         IF
  00
      455
                         IF x=a AND y=b+1 THEN GO TO
      500
      490 GO TO 300
      500 > PRINT AT x,y;" "; AT x+1,y;"
      505 PRINT INK 4; AT a, b; "4":
               .5,5
  EP
```

```
510 PRINT INK 6; AT a, b; "4 ": BE EP .5,9 " 515 PRINT AT a, b; " " 520 LET sc=sc+5
           PRINT AT a,b;"
LET sc=sc+5
GO TO 10
         BORDER 6: BEEP .3,5:
BEEP .3,4: BORDER 4: |
BORDER 2: BEEP .3,0: |
EEP .3,-1: BORDER 0: |
                                                        BORDER
   900
  5:
                                                        BORDER
  2:
1:
                                                        BEEP
      BEEP
910 PAPER 0: CL5
920 PRINT INK 7; AT 0,10; "TOUGH
LUCK"; AT 3,5; "A DUCK HAS LANDED
AND "; AT 5,5; "HAS EATEN YOUR CRO
PS "
PS
           PRINT INK 7; AT 9,8; "YOU SCO
  NY KEY TO PLAY AGAIN"
950 PAUSE 0: PAUSE
RED-
BNY K
                                             0: GO TO 200
0
1000 FOR n=0 TO 47
1010 READ a: POKE USR "a"+n,a
1020 DATA 0,16,51,255,31,0,0,0,0
0,224,255,192,224,224,32,0,17,51
,255,70,0,0,112,224,192,255,240
,0,0,12,12,28,44,60,252,236,19
24,4,14,14,14,14,14,0
1030 NEXT n
2000 BORDER 0: PAPER 1: INK 7: C
 LS
2010 PRINT
               RINT INVERSE 1;
                                                                 O; A
 T Ø,Ø;
                                                    @ 1984
SMITH
2020 PRINT AT 2,1;
CIRCLING ABOVE
D YOU MUST SHOOT
ORE LAND AND EAT
F THEY DO THE
                                         "THE DUCKS
                                                     FIELD AN
DOWN BEF
CROPS. I
IS OVER.
SE THE "M
                                           YOUR
                                                            OVER.
                                           YOUR
                                           GAME
          Y TO FIRE"
PRINT AT 10,1; "CHOOSE DIFFI
 2030
 CILI
CULTY"
2040 PRINT AT 12,1;"1-SLOW
2-MED.
3-FAST"
 2050
                  UT INKEYS "1"
                                           THEN LET h=25
 2055
 : GO
2060
            TO
                   INKEYS="2" THEN LET h=16
           TO
     GO
2065 II
GO TO
2080 II
                   INKEY$="3" THEN LET h=8:
           O 5
                  INKEY$ (>"1" AND INKEY$ (
INKEY$ (>"3" THEN GO TO
        AND
 010
                                    ACEL
                                =
                                =
                                         Quack Attack
```

by Gordon Smith

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These two books will be published by Times Books and Sidgwick & Jackson on 31st October 1984.

Open Forum

Fractions

on ZX81

This is based on what I elarnt at school some 50 years ago, and uses techniques for each of the operators. +, - /, and *.

when this has been entered, the next not now in fashion, but it does force the Screen enables the sum to be entered, with bottom line.

computer to work in fractions, gives the right answers, and shows the 'working out' following Screen, depending upon the operator chosen, then shows the stages The first Screen asks for an operator, and involved in working out the sum, with the appropriate figures, and the answer on the

```
The antoperator, and introduct in working out the answer entered, the next appropriate figures, and the answer into be entered, with bottom line.

480 PRINT AT 8,3;A;" AND ";B;"/";X 490 00T0 540 500 PRINT AT 10,1;"SUBTRACT TOP ROU"

510 LET U=P-0

520 PRINT AT 10,1;"SUBTRACT TOP ROU"

512 LET U=P-0

520 PRINT AT 11,3;U;"/";X

525 IF U'Q THEN LET R=-1

520 GOTO 730 730 10,1;"ADD WHOLE NU HEED STRONG TOP ROU"

550 LET U=B+D

570 PRINT AT 11,3;U;" AND ";U;"/";X

580 GOTO 730 10,1;"HULTIPLY TOP ROU"

580 GOTO 730 10,1;"HULTIPLY TOP ROU"

580 PRINT AT 9,1;"HULTIPLY BOT TOM ROU"

590 PRINT AT 10,1;"HULTIPLY BOT TOM ROU"

590 PRINT AT 5,1;"CHANGE SIGN TOM ROU"

600 PRINT AT 5,1;"CHANGE SIGN TOM ROUT SERVING TOM ROUT S
                           1 REM "FRACTIONS"
2 REM W.A.GOOGE.23-10-81.ISS
                            5
                                      PRINT AT 1,8; "**********
                    10
                     20 PRINT AT 2,8;"* FRACTIONS *
                     30 PRINT AT 3,8; "*********
                      40 PRINT AT 5,5; "IS YOUR SUM T
                     BE ?????"
50 PRINT AT 7,5;" ADDITION
                     60 PRINT AT 9,5; " SUBTRACTION
                   70 PRINT AT 11,5; " MULTIPLICAT
NO PRINT AT 13,5; " DIVISION
90 PRINT AT 15,5; "TYPE A SIGN - + OR /"
```

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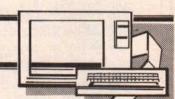
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Interface Soft Driven

Rom Driven

Open Forum

Cobra

on Spectrum

This is a sophisticated version of the old snake game. You must stay alive by not hitting edges. Eat the purple and green creatures — red creatures can only be eaten when energy is high.

Type in program 1 and when prompted even the data from list two. Save by typing *Goto* 9998. Outer edge keys are for movement, inner keys act as pause.

```
231 LET LE=LE+1: PRINT AT 21,20; "LEVEL ";LE
240 PRINT AT 0,15; "STRENGTH ";E
300 LET V(Y,X)=Y1
                                JEFF+EDDIE DUNCAN-DUNLOP
 2 LET LE=5: BORDER 6: PAPER 7: INK 9: CLS
 3 LET He0: LET 8=0
                                                                  310 LET D(Y, X)=X1
5 GO SUB 1000
                                                                   320 LET X=X+X1
10 DIM V(22,33)
20 DIM D(22,33)
                                                                  330 LET Y=Y+Y1
                                                                   331 1F X<1 OR X>31 OR Y<1 OR Y>20 THEN GO TO 3000
28 LET as="@": LET bs=CHR$ 16+CHR$ 3+CHR$ 145:
                                                                  332 LET AT=ATTR (Y,X)
340 IF AT=56 THEN GD TD 400
   LET c$=CHR$ 16+CHR$ 4+CHR$ 146:
LET ds=CHR$ 16+CHR$ 2+CHR$ 147
                                                                  350 IF AT=57 THEN GO TO 3000
 29 LET LE=0: LET 1=4
                                                                  360 IF AT=58 AND E=0 THEN GO TO 3000
 30 LET x=15: LET y=10
                                                                  345 LET 0=8
 31 LET BEK: LET ARY
                                                                  370 IF AT=59 THEN GO TO 2000
380 IF AT=58 THEN GO TO 2200
 32 LET X1=0: LET Y1=0
                                                                  390 IF AT=60 THEN GO TO 2300
 36 LET J=J+1
                                                                           s-f=J*70 THEN GO TO 4000
                                                                  395
 37 LET F=S
                                                                  400 PRINT INK 1; AT Y, X; AS
 38 RESTORE
                                                                  401 LET D=Q+10
 40 INK 9
                                                                  420 IF Q<=S THEN GO TO 500
 44 BEEP .01,30

70 PRINT PAPER 6:AT 0,0:"

71 PRINT PAPER 6:AT 21,0:"

72 FOR N=0 TO 21: PRINT AT N,0:"
                                                                  430 LET C=V(A.B)
                                                                  440 LET B=B+0(A,B)
                                                                  450 LET A=A+C
                                                ": NEXT N
                                                                  460 PRINT AT A.B."
140 FOR Z=1 TO J
                                                                  470 DUT 254,254
150 LET 0=RND*14+3: LET W=RND*27+2
                                                                  500 LET K=IN 254
155 IF INT 0=10 THEN GO TO 150
                                                                  507 IF k<253 THEN PAUSE 1: PAUSE 0
160 IF CODE SCREENS (0,W) <> 32 THEN BEEP
                                                                  508 IF K=253 OR k=254 THEN GO TO 511
     .01,1: GO TO 150
                                                                  510 GD TD 300
                                                                  511 BEEP .02,0: LET DI=DI+(K=254)-(K=253)
170 PRINT INK 3; AT Q.W; bs
                                                                  520 IF DI>3 THEN LET DI=0
530 IF DI<0 THEN LET DI=3
180 NEXT Z
190 LET E=0
                                                                  540 LET X1=0: LET Y1=0
550 LET X1=X1+(DI=2)-(DI=0)
200 LET DI=3
216 LET Des
220 PRINT AT 0,2; "SCORE ";AT 0,8;S;" "
230 PRINT AT 21,3;"HI SCORE ";H
                                                                  560 LET Y1=Y1+(DI=3)-(DI=1)
                                                                  580 GD TD 300
```

Microradio



Hackers paradise

More mail queries this week. Since Microradio is also a forum for questions and ideas relevant to the world of radio computing, I welcome any letters or listings, hints and tips, etc, even funny experiences. I had one letter from a man who shall be nameless asking how one might interface and obtain software for a ZX81 in order to receive and decode signals from unidentified flying objects. I can say in all honesty that I do not know of a source for such, unless you see a small ad hovering one dark

Trevor Singstoll writes from

Zwolle in The Netherlands asking how he might imple-ment RTTY on a BBC B computer for use on CB. I should point out at this juncture that the law regarding citizens band radio in Britain forbids the use of any mode other than plain voice communications, so you are unlikely to find RTTY on this section of the radio spectrum in this country. I mention this because Trevor specifically wanted to communicate with British radio users. The best thing to do is to get an amateur radio licence particularly as many British amateurs communicate regularly with Dutch stations on both shortwave and VHF. RTTY systems for the BBC computer can be obtained from S.P. Electronics, 48 Linby Road, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire.

Trevor also asks what RTTY can do for a computer user. The answer is simple It can open up the world. With a computer, an RTTY system and a radio, the computer user is in a position to understand all those strange RTTY noises that can be heard as you tune through the short wave frequencies. Weather stations, ships, news services, satellites and a whole host of others use this form of communication in addition to radio amateurs. RTTY on a home computer is one of the most exciting things that can be done. I've never seen any arcade game that is as addictive as sitting watching all those strange and exotic messages appearing on the screen. Don't worry about hearing something you shouldn't, since all sensitive messages are scrambled - well, almost all. Radio Teletype is what the Americans call a 'hackers paradise'; very habit forming.

Finally this week, a letter from Bruce Wort of Edinburgh who asks about attaching the Spectrum to the radio in order to decode morse. He asks what

kind of interface is required and where to get the software. I think that the best advice in this situation is to point you in the direction of the Sinclair Amateur Radio Users Group (SA-RUG) who answered this question in a recent newsletter that they published. On the subject of SARUG, their latest newsletter includes information about preventing computer radio interference and drawing maps on the Spectrum. SARUG is a non-profit making organisation so please send a stamped addressed envelope when contacting them. They can be reached at SARUG, 3 Red House Lane, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4JZ.

Ray Berry GW6 JJN

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

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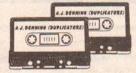
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Computer Fair

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HISOFT DEVPAC 3

DEVPAC is most highly recommended. The documentation is first class." Your Computer May 1983

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market. Adam Denning, 2X SCIP-1 in Wintor Minor: September 1900.

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Open Forum

```
LET Ds=Ds( TO 2); LET Ds=Ds+CHRs
1000 IF PEEK USR "a" (>60 THEN LOAD ""CODE
                                                               4060 IF 1e=6 THEN LET as="@": LET bs=CHR$
1080 RETURN
                                                                     16+CHR# 3+CHR# 145: LET c#=CHR# HR# 4+CHR#
2000 LET S=S+10
2001 BEEP .01,30
2010 PRINT AT 0,815;" "
2020 FOR B=1 TO 2
                                                                     146: LET ds=CHR$ 16+CHR$ 2+CHR$ 147: LET j=j+2
                                                               4100 BD TD 30
                                                               9998 RUN 9999
                                                               9999 SAVE "CONGA" LINE 0: SAVE "udg"CODE USR "a", 168:
2030 LET L=RND*15+3
                                                                   A=0 60,60,60,60,60,60,60,60,

B= 2 33,33,33,33,33,33,33,

C= 2 30,30,30,30,30,30,30,30,30,

D=2 198,195,195,195,195,195,195,
2040 LET LL=RND+25+3
2050 IF CODE SCREEN$ (L,LL) (>32 THEN GO TO 2030
2060 PRINT AT L, LL; (C$ AND G=1); (D$ AND G=2)
2070 NEXT G
                                                                   2100 GO TO 395
2200 LET S=S+40
2201 BEEP .1,20
2210 PRINT AT 0,8;5;" "
2220 LET E=E-1
2225 PRINT AT 0,24;E;"
2240 GD TO 395
2300 LET 5×5+20
2301 BEEP .1,30
2310 PRINT AT 0,8:5:"
                                                                         188,188,188,188,188,188,188,
2320 LET E=E+1
2325 PRINT AT 0,24;E;" "
                                                                          126,126,126,126,126,126,126,
2330 GO TO 395
3100 LET C=0(A.B)
                                                                         126,126,126,126,126,126,126,
3110 LET A-A+V(A.B)
                                                                          60,60,60,60,60,60,60,60
3120 LET b=b+c
3130 IF ATTR (a,b) >57 THEN BEEP 2,-33: 60 TO 28
3140 PRINT AT a.b;
3145 BEEP .1.RND+30
                                                                      10 FOR N=USR"A" TO USR"S"+7
3146 IF soh THEN LET has: LET sand
3150 GO TO 3100 : REM E.A. DUNCAN-DUNLOP
4000 PRINT AT 10,7; FLASH 1; "LEVEL "; LE; " BEATEN"
                                                                      20 INPUT "data ";a
4010 FOR N=1 TO 300: NEXT N
                                                                      30 POKE n,a
      LET T$=B$(3): LET T=CODE T$: LET T=T+3:
LET B$=B$( TO 2): LET B$=B$+CHR$ T
                                                                      40 NEXT n
4030 LET T#=C#(3): LET T=CODE T#: LET T=T+3:

LET C#=C#( TO 2): LET C#=C#+CHR# T

4040 LET T#=D#(3): LET T=CODE T#: LET T=T+3:
                                                                                             Cobra
                                                                                              by E Duncan-Dunlop
```

Arcade Avenue

A cheap thrill!

This week I want to catch up on some of the high score letters I've been sent from all you arcade addicts. Incidentally, keep those scores coming in and every few weeks we will have an update. In particular if you have done well on a game that you see mentioned in this column, then let me know so that we can get a bit of competition going.

To kick off I have had a letter from Dave Richardson and Dave Thompson of Pontefract who claim to be wizards of the new breed of arcade adventure games. They tell me that they have solved Atic Atac in an incredible single day's play and their best time is 18.16 when playing as a serf. They explains that the parts to the key of ultimate can be found in the attic, the middle floor and the dungeon, which isn't really giving much away. My own tip is that to map the game easily, try to avoid passing through the magic passages unless you really have to. If you do, the links

between the various rooms appear much more confusing than they really are.

The two Daves also solved Imagine's Alchemist just two hours after buying it. They give some hints on how to play, but if the game can be finished that quickly anyway then I think it may spoil people's fun to publish any clues. Finally Dave Richardson has scored 26010 after rescuing ten hostages in Ant Attack.

I have no idea whether Software Projects' prize for Jet Set Willy have been claimed, but the first letter I have seen documenting all sixty rooms was from Raymond Smith and Simon Wray of Bristol. They say that they were just one room away from collecting the last objects and so I expect that they are there by now (but can you make your way back to the bedroom, and past the extra hazards that appear once the Attic has been entered?). Incidentally, if we continue to see any more epic "arcade adventures" appearing I would like to see the publishers provide us

with a 'save game' option like true adventures. I for one hate to pull the plug out on Hall of the Things or Jet Set Willy if I've been doing well for trivalities such as going to bed; my mornings suffer as a result.

Anyway, on to higher things. Ian Morrison of Glasgow has scored 568,000 on *Skramble* and B. Banatyne, who keeps his or her home town secret, has hit 638,000 on *Hunchback*, both playing on the Commodore 64.

Eric Dawe of Rochdale has escaped Bugaboo's cave in 38 seconds and has also amassed 101,426 on Lunar Jetman. Unfortunately, he has been pipped on the latter by Mark Robins of Stourbridge who has reached the eleventh level and scored an impressive 107,675 points. (Careful use of the teleport is the key to success in this game.)

Steve Hammatt of Bexley calls for more Oric high scores and starts the ball rolling with 281560 on Defence Force.

Finally Mr "Joe King" of Romford writes to say that he

has collected 37 rings on Hall of the Things, killed 4,854 monsters and received 7,865,322 points. He also claims that, when playing The Mutant Frogs' Revenge on the Manic Ants with Jet Pacs, on scoring 27,000,000 the screen clears and the message appears, saying, "Well done. Write and tell PCW - they will believe anything." Well, I see your not very subtle point, but there has been a long debate on PCW's Letters page about how to avoid cheating on the high scores and no-one came up with a foolproof answer. My feeling is that making up a false high score is a very cheap thrill indeed and that to introduce lots of safeguards would only take away a lot of the fun involved. Tony Kendle

The Arcade Corner is a new section for anyone who enjoys playing arcade games. If you have any comments, from playing tips on difficult games or programs you of particularly like to praise (or blame!) then write to: Tony Kendle, Arcade Avenue, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.





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Mike and Peter Gerrard are regular contributors to Which Micro? and Personal Computer News. Peter Gerrard is the author of many titles in the Duckworth Home Computing list, including the Exploring Adventures series, and contributes to Popular Computing Weekly, Commodore Horizons and Micro Adventurer.



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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



Wheel of fortune

pic Software are situated in Melton Mowbray, Leicester, and have informed me of their new release for the BBC and Electron, Wheel of Fortune. This takes its place alongside three other adventures from Epic – all for the Acom machines – Castle Frankenstein, Quest for the Holy Grail and The Kingdom of Klein. Although the others have had rather good reviews (judging by the selected quotes in Epic's catalogue – well, you wouldn't expect them to print bad reviews, would you?), and would appear to have gathered quite a loyal following among Acom adventure fans, haven't seen them, so cannot comment.

The present adventure, however, I have seen. It is a graphic/text adventure (although Electron owners, unfortunately, will not have the pleasure of pictures), and has over 250 locations. The game is written in machine code and is extremely fast, with the graphics (when you have them!) being drawn almost instantaneously, although the Groff command can be used to switch them off. Couple this speed with the sophisticated language interpreter, which allows the player to type in commands of upto 254 characters, and you have a very quick game.

On top of this is a (I believe) unique feature in which the player may assign, from within the game, a commonly-used which may then be used any time that sentence is required.

Other characters in the adventure have an independant life, just like the more sophisticated Inforom programs, and will carry on doing their own thing while you are doing yours... you will occasionally be told of what other characters are doing, even though they may not be at your present location.

The program is generally quite well presented, although, during loading, you should stop the tape, but the screen display neglected to tell me of this fact. The titles are rather nice, though not stunning, and, as we've seen, the speed of the thing is impressive – and graphics on or off didn't seem to make any difference to this speed.

Epic's covering letter took a swipe at me for "continually plugging the same products over and over again. . . whilst completely ignoring the smaller companies who are trying to introduce new imaginative ideas into their products. Whilst we would not argue that Level 9 provide interesting adventures . . . the programming is approx a year behind the times with no graphics, no colour, no moving characters, no multistatement commands, no artificial intelligence techniques, no game variations and no use made of the BBC's advanced facilities. We cannot understand why you are continually telling everybody how brilliant Level 9 are. No doubt when their next adventure is released, it will be the best thing since sliced bread, with no mention being made of the boring old black and white, text-only format."

When Level 9's new adventure is released, I'm sure it will be of the same high standard as the rest of their catalogue, and I and several thousand other satisfied adventurers are waiting for it with baited breath! And in my opinion, the "boring old black and white, text-only format" is perfectly adequate, given the excellent scenesetting descriptions of Level 9. Graphics are only of interest when they add some thing to the adventure, and those in Wheel of Fortune, by Epic's own admission, are in Mode 7, and really are pretty nondescript.

Many of the puzzles are quite complex, but I find the location descriptions rather shallow and, unlike some adventures, the player is given no nudge in the right direction. For instance, the program often says "You can't do that", when the player lacks a certain vital piece of equipment. Other adventures manage to give subtle clues — "You cannot do that without the screwdriver" for example.

ut what do the people at Level 9 (which But what do the people at Edit companies still one of those "small companies ies") play on their Beebs? Would it surprise you, Epic, to know that they rate your adventures the best available for the BBC? Sue Gazzard, author of the best-selling Lords of Time rates The Wheel of Fortune as her favourite adventure - after the other Level 9s, of course - but insists that the graphics have nothing to do with this opinion. She finds, as I do, that the location descriptions are rather spare (the "250 locations" consist, too often, of the "You are on a road. Exits North and South" variety), although many of the puzzles are very amusing and difficult.

So, at £9.95, I can recommend *The Wheel of Fortune* as a welcome addition to the rather small range of BBC adventures—but please, Epic, let's not condemn the boring text-only adventure out of hand: Epic Software, 11 Edendale Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0EW.

Dollarsoft is a small company operating from Sheffield, and they sent me a copy of their new adventure Suicide Island, which is a two-part (96K) text and graphic adventure (graphics in the second part only) available for the Spectrum and BBC/ Electron. After the program loads, during which time a very artistic title page keeps the viewer amused, the program just sits looking blank, until a key is touched, when the adventure proper starts. Pretty obvious, I know, but why don't they tell you? This is a common failing with programs of all kinds—documentation must, nowadays, be comprehensive.

The game, once started, is awfully dull. Words like Help aren't recognised – worse still, the computer doesn't tell you that it won't recognise the word. It sits still for a moment, and then the cursor reappears waiting for the next command! In a moment of weakness, I typed in some well-known purple language, and that was recognised!

All this comes under the heading of "User Friendliness, Lack of", and Suicide Island has plenty of this – after a while, I just couldn't be bothered. I didn't even have to switch off the Spectrum, as even accidentally touching the Break key causes the program to New (other unrecognised words are Stop. Quitt and End).

owever, while looking at the program, I suddenly realised that I had seen a similar package recently. Sure enough, looking back through the files revealed Village of Death, from Specsoft, which seems to be situated in the next street to Dollarsoft. This program is also in two parts, this time the first part being very lengthy instructions. In fact, it is actually a scene-setter, with lots of rather painful jokes from an eyebrow-wrigging Groucho character, and Clive Sinclair as well as some newspaper cuttings

This one is far superior to its neighbour's offering. Each time a new location is visited (but not on subsequent arrivals), the screen "wipes" like a film effect, to reveal the description. These descriptions are sometimes very well written, and the adventure looks as if it will be quite rewarding when I get some more practice on it: Specsoft, 57 Everard Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LY. Dollarsoft, 3 Everard Glade, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4NG.

Next week, a look at two exciting and long-awaited new Adventures.

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



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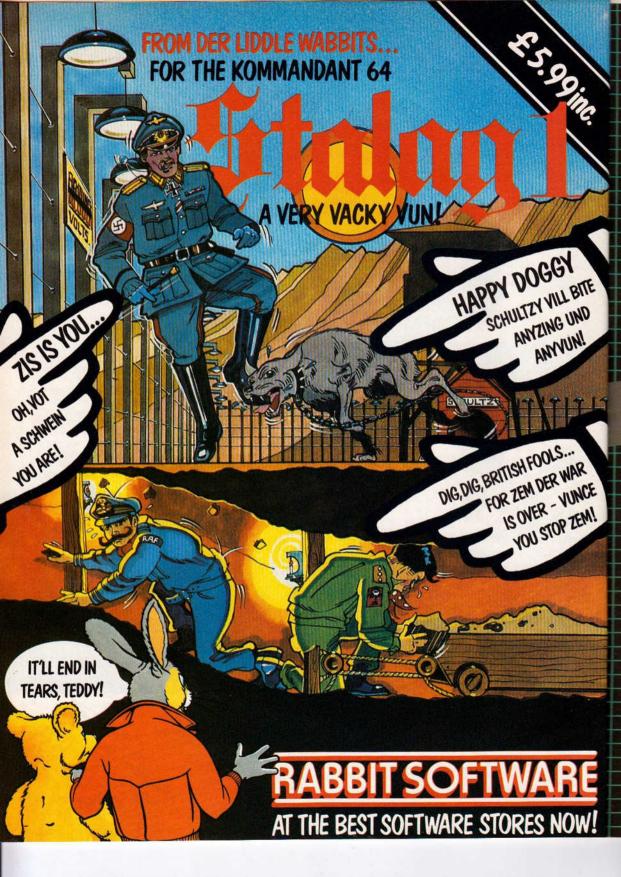
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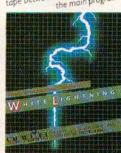
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Peek & Poke



PROGRAM BREAKER

D. Horn of Newcastle-upon Tyne, writes:

I am writing to ask you if you know to stop people from breaking into my programs, but so that I can still get into them. I would like to know because I like writing adventures and otherwise it is very simple to break into a program and see how to do it.

A Without knowing what your machine is I cannot give you any advice on how to make your programs unbreakable. However, a technique I have used on the Spectrum is to Poke the ERR SP system variable with zero. This means that any attempt to use the Break key, or any error message will result in a system reset and a lost program.

To enable me to break in I used a coded message (let me in — in fact) and when the program detected this sequence of keys it reset ERR SP to the value it held before I zeroised it. This then allowed me to break into my program. I hope this has been some use to you, it may at least have given you an idea of what to do.

CHESS

Steve Perkin of Meersbrook, Sheffield, writes:

I recently bought the program Dragonchess for my Dragon 32. When I was playing a game on level 5 (up to 20 minutes) I needed a rest so wrote down the game so far. The next day when I set up the game and set the program thinking — it crashed.

Ater switching off and back on again the screen was filled with characters. It cost £30 to have the computer repaired, but naturally I didn't think the software could have done it. So I set up the game again. The result was exactly the same and the computer is once more unusable. It seems to me that the software must be causing the problem. Any suggestions as to where I go from here would be much appreciated.

I agree with your first thoughts, I cannot see how the software could be causing the problem. It sounds to me that you are either suffering from defective ROM (in that the machine is not starting up properly), or from a defective power supply (which could cause instructions in the ROM to be misinterpreted). My advice to you would be to take your computer back to the firm that repaired it and tell them that you still have the original fault. If they refuse to believe you, then you could try consulting Dragon Data or even your local Trading Standards Officer, as you may have a case for getting the work done again - free.

A VAIN ATTEMPT

G. Pickles of Briefield, Nelson, Lancs, writes:

I own a Commodore Vic 20, I am very happy with it, but alas I seem to be banging my head against a brick wall in my vain attempt to define my own graphics. Sounds silly doesn't it? I can Print characters easily enough, I can Poke the ASCII character set with ease but when it comes to doing the latter with my own characters I am at a loss. There are plenty of references to this User Defined character set, but nowhere does it tell you how to use it.

A If you have a Vic more than 3K of memory then you will need to relocate the screen before defining your UDG. This is done by: Poke 648,30: Poke 642,32: Poke 36869,240: Poke 36866,150: Poke 0,108: Poke 1.0: Poke 2.192: SYS(0)

This relocates the screen from 4096 to 7680 thus leaving locations 4096 to 7696 free for defining your own character set. Now to define your own character set you: Poke 52,28: Poke 56,28: CLR For i = 7168 TO 7679: Poke i, Peek(i + 25600): Next i Poke 36869,255. This moves the existing character set. The statements below will convert the exclamation mark symbol into your face' graphic.

10 For i = 7432 TO 7439; Read b: Poke i,b: Next i 20 Data 0,0,16,56,16,16,0,0

BATTERY POWER

James Southgate of Colchester, Essex, writes:

Q I would like to run my 48K Spectrum on a battery, other than a car battery. Is there any simple way of achieving this?

A I can't think of one...
which doesn't mean
that there isn't one, I simply
have never tried to do it. I
would think that what you are
trying to achieve is certainly
possible but highly undesirable.

I never even recommend the use of battery powered cassette recorders, so the thought of a battery powered Spectrum does not exactly strike me as a good idea.

AT HOME

N. Davidson of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, writes:

Q Could you please tell me where I could purchase a book on assembly language programming for educational use? The majority of books I checked were all on programming computer games. This is for use on the Spectrum 48K.

A By educational use I presume you mean your own education and not for use in a school. When asked this question I usually recommend Spectrum Machine Language for the Absolute Beginner published by Melbourne House, but I assume that as the case study in this book is Frogger that this is one of the books that you have already rejected.

In that case I would suggest that you contact Mine of Information Ltd, who are computer booksellers and have a large range of books on Z80 machine language programming. They can be contacted at: 1 Francis Avenue, St. Albans.

A BLANK SCREEN

Anon of Cobham, Surrey writes:

Q I own a Spectrum 48K. When I turn on I get a blank screen with no Sinclair Research 1982 and I cannot write anything on the screen. Please could you tell me what is wrong or who can I get to fix it?

As you are writing to me, I guess that your Spectrum's guarantee has run out. In that case your best bet would be to contact TV Services whose address is: Cheston Mill, Frenches Road, Cambridge. They will repair your machine for a fixed price of £18.75. As to what is wrong with it ... it's mere speculation. but how about the power supply? Does your machine get warm? If not then that is your trouble. If it does then the Rom has gone awry.

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem Peek it to Phil Rogers and every week he will Poke back as many answers as he can. The address is Peek & Poke, PCW, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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FOR SPECTRUM. Fuller soundbox, Joystick Port, instructions, cassette. As new £22.50. Kellwood sound amplifier for Spectrum £5.50. Turner, Headley Down (0428) 713019 anytime.

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TRS80 LEVEL 2, cassette VDU all with covers. Carrying case, books. s/w.

Diary

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Event	Venue	Dates	Admission	Organisers
The Computer Fair	Hall D Earl's Court London	June 14 10.00am-6.00pm (trade and press only) June 15-16 10.00am-6.00pm June 17 10.00am-5.00pm	£3.00 adults £2.00 children & OAPs	Reed Exhibitions, Surrey House, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey 01-643 8040
Educational Compu-ng and Software Fair	John Taylor Teachers Centre Leeds	June 18 2.30pm-7.30pm June 19 9.30am-7.30pm	Free	Mr G Creighton John Taylor Teachers Centre 0532 782181
Micro Trade 84 (Trade only)	Barbican London	July 4-6 10.00am-6.00pm	Free	Montbuild Ltd, 11 Manchester Sq, London W1 01-486 1951
What Micro? Computer Show	Battersea Park London	July 14-15 10.00am-7.00pm	£1.50	VNU Business Publications Evelyn House 62 Oxford Street London W1A 2HG 01-636 6890
Electron and BBC Micro User Show	Alexandra Palace London	July 19-21 10.00am-6.00pm July 22 10.00am-4.00pm	£3.00 adults £2.00 children	Database Publications 68 Chester Road Hazel Grove, Stockport 061-456 8383

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Sabre Wulf 8.50

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EPSOM HX20 Best lap portable of the year, Byte magazine. 16K Ram, microcassette disc, 4 line screen, microprinter, excellent keyboard. New condition. £410 (offers?) Andy (0705)

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NATIONAL SOFTWARE

200 Mulgrave Road, Cheam, Surrey SM2 6JT. Phone 01-661 9240 for enquiries.

New Releases

BRAINDAMAGE

Brainstorm is a clever strategy game for the BBC for two players - this can sometimes be a problem since a lot of computer owners don't have any friends.

The game involves thought rather than fast reactions and has the theme of defending your brain from attack by lasers. I can see how that might concern you.

It's very ingenious: each player can place a prism on the



game board which will deflect the opponent's laser, but cause his own to be deflected into the opposition. As more and more prisms are placed so the game becomes more and more difficult to play.

Scattered about the playing board are some random elements, electro prisms which have a random deflection choose the wrong path and you can destroy your own brain

Program Brainstorm Price £7.95 Micro Virgin Games Supplier 61/63 Portobello Road London

TURNINGTURTLE

WII 3DD

Logo is a cartridge from Dragon data which offers a full implementation of the educational computer language perhaps best known for its association with turtles computer controlled robots.

Dragon definitely see this as an educational release and a number of special features are included purely for children a doodle mode lets youngsters play with the program without needing to program.

The substantial manual would suggest this is a very thorough implementation of the language indeed. Editing of procedures is line orientated and finished Procedures can be saved to tape. Multiple turtles are allowed as is a limited form of animation.

I should add that the manual although excellent in its way is definitely not for children it's not so much that it's complicated, more that there are so many different permutations. The hundred and thirty or so pages of the manual are going to need some detailed and careful reading.

Program Price Micro Supplier

Logo £39,95 Dragon 32 Dragondata Kenfig Industrial Estate Margam Port Talbot West Glamorgan

DIVISIONONE

As Automata have also proved. Addictive Games has shown that it is possible to write excellent programs in Basic - Football Manager started life as a ZX81 program



ages ago and is still going strong.

The latest version is the most impressive yet; running as it does on the BBC B, the

SENSE OF STRATEGY

arcade game that is very close to being perfect, graphically it is astonishing.

The idea is that you battle your way through to an enemy beach head via various sea battles. Stage one is to decide on your plan of attack through the mined strait or the easy way; the latter gives you a chance to sneak up on the enemy.

Assuming you get a few ships through, the main sea battle occurs with planes dropping bombs on you as you try to blast them with your ship's guns. The sound effects for the planes are particularly well done - you expect to see John Mills complete with stiff upper lip at any time.

Later stages have you fighting the ships and then using tanks to fight your way

Beach Head is a multi-screen to the enemy fortress. Each stage directly influences the next - the number of ships you get through determines the number of tanks, for example.

There are a vast number of features and beautiful detail (if you look really closely you can even see the aircraft taking off from the carrier). A sense of strategy is genuinely important, but even if you just like blasting away you'll have hours of destructive fun.

Program Price Micro Supplier

Beach Head £9.95 Commodore 64 US Gold Access Software Unit 24 Tipton Trading Estate Bloomfield Road Tinton West Midlands DY4 9AH

action is fast and the animated football sequences most impressive. On the BBC the little men have evolved from matchsticks to Subbuteo figures. Another addition is the provision of a fixture list which you can consult.

Apart from that, it only remains to summarise the game for those people who don't know it. As a football manager you choose the teams buying the players, deciding who to play, keeping morale high and basically living out your footballing fantasies as you try to move your team up the divisions.

Matches are decided according to a vast number of factors, only one of which is luck, and you get to see the highlights of each game.

Quite honestly, John, I think you're going to be over the moon about this one unless vou're strictly TT on footballing matters in which case you'll probably be sick as a parrot, squire.

Price Micro Supplier

Football Manager Program BBC B Addictive Games 7A Richmond Hill Bournemouth

BH2 6HE

HYSTERICAL RATS

Encounter is a pretty wonderful new program for the Commodore 64 loosely based on the old favourite Battlezone. Encounter is actually an improvement on the original because the 3D graphics are no longer simple line draw-- they are filled in to give them a real sense of substance

The aim of the game is to track and destroy baddie spaceships which are diamond shaped and lurch erratically like hysterical rats when you try to fix your sights on them.

Every so often retaliation comes in the form of an Exocet like missile that hurtles towards you - you get about three seconds to hit it. Survive long enough and you may find the gateway to the next level via a tunnel of spheres (dodge them) which looks a bit like some of the sequences at the end of 2001. Very psychedelic.

The sense of 3D landscape is beautifully done and very evocative - bleak plains with featureless black obelisks scatterover them, distant mountain peaks. If only they'd ma-

New Releases

naged to do Ligetti's music on the Sid chip. . . .

Program Price Micro Supplier

Encounter fQ Q5 Commodore 64 Hi-Tech Distribution 213 Broad Street Birmingham BIS LAY

TAX LOSS

Nifty Lifty is another arcade game for the BBC from Visions Software who seems to be specialising more and more in the Acorn machine.

The plot has vague overtones of Catcher Snatcher you are a shoplifter (except that the shop management



don't object to your taking the stuff - perhaps it's a tax loss).

The problem in the game is to avoid the lifts which threaten to crush you as you move from floor to floor. Not a lot to say other than that it's got continuous sound (even when loading), 15 levels and is in machine code.

Program Price Micro Supplier

Nifty Lifty £6.95 BBCB **Visions**

(Software Factory) I Felgate Mews Smdland Street London W6 9JT

SOOTHSAYER

Operation Roman Gaul is a graphics adventure with 30 illustrations and a vocabulary of 200 words. You play Ajax the well known cleaner and hero who begins held aboard a Roman Galley and is commissioned to locate a soothsayer.

It must be one of the few Spectrum adventures I've seen recently not written with the Ouill - it deserves a mention because of that if nothing else.

The graphics are simple but OK and the general not taking itself too seriouslyness of the adventure is quite entertaining. At a current price of £4 it could be good for the not overly ardent adventurer.

Program Price Micro

Operation Roman Gaul

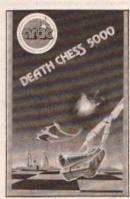
£4 Supplier

Spectrum Specsoft (Dept 1) 57 Everard Avenue Sheffield S17 4LY.

REWRITTEN RULES

Some chess afficionados are going to find the idea of Death Chess 5000 pretty suspect. For one thing, the playing pieces are tanks and helicopters, rather than horses and bishops; far worse though, Artic, who manufacture the game, have rewritten the rules of chess

In Death Chess you don't just capture a piece by moving from your square to another square - you have to battle it out. There are six arcade sections in which the battles take



place along the usual up, down, left, right, bang rules. Thus it is possible that despite moving your piece onto an enemy pieces square as the final flourish of a daring two pronged attack, the enemy may remain and your own piece may be lost if you blow it in the arcade section.

An 'interesting and unusual' departure from chess says the Artic blurb. Hmmmmm. Well, it might be good for getting kids interested in this ancient and venerable game.

Program Price Micro Supplier

Death Chess 5000 £6.95 Spectrum Artic Computing Main Street Brandesburton Driffield YO25 8RL

BANKRUPT

The Chocolate Factory is a 'run a business' game for the Dragon 32 for two to six players. The idea is, as in the real world, to run a business and make a lot of money (10 million) or let everybody else go out of business.

This is a quite complex simulation with factors like van hire, staff, advertising, insurance, etc. being taking into account. The problem as I see it is that you must not let your competitors (the other players) see what decisions you are making. This means persuading everyone not to look at the TV screen when you type in your figures. Knowing the deep corruption prevalant in most families this seems unlikely.

Program Price Micro Supplier

The Chocolate Factory £6.95 Dragon 32 Minits Strand House Great West Road Brentford Middx TW8 9EX

JETS AWAY

Quite nice educational idea from Calpac this: How Machines Work uses the Spectrum to explain the working of both a Harrier jet and a car.

Various functions are discussed and illustrated using high res graphics and animated sequences. There is also a large amount of text explaining the history, development, etc, of both machines.

Program Price Micro Supplier

How Machines Work £6 95 Spectrum Calpac Computer Software 108 Hermitage Woods Crescent St Johns Woking Surrey GU21 1UF

DEADLYRAYS

The CGLM5 (Sord) is really not a bad computer, but it can't be said to have been a success in this country. Still, some people out there own



one so I thought it about time I mentioned some software for

Devil Bird is a fairly accurate version of that old arcade favourite Phoenix in which large birds flap down at you firing the usual deadly rays; at later stages the birds become invisible which adds to the fun. It's very unoriginal, but good enough fun.

Program Price Micro Supplier

Devil Bird £5.95 CGLM5 CGL CGL House Goldings Hill Loughton Essex 1G10 2RR

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

Top 10

Book Ends

	100000
Vic 20	
1 (1) Duck Shoot	Master Tronic
2 (5) Crazy Kong	Interceptor Micr Thorn EN
3 (2) Tank Commander 4 (3) Chariot Race	Micro Antic
5 (4) Computer War	Thorn EN
6 () Sub Commander	Thom EA
7 (8) Jet Pac	Ultimal
8 (6) Grindrunner	Llamaso
9 (7) Mutant Herd	Thorn EN
10() Tower of Evil	Thorn EN
Commodore 64 1 (3) Manic Miner	Software Product
2 (6) BMX Racers	Master Tronic
3 (1)Black Hawk	Thom EN
4 (2) Space Pilot	Aniro
5(10) Space Walk	Master Tronic
6 (4) Arena 3000	Microdea
7 (7) City Attak	K-Te
8 (8) Cosmic Convoy	Taskse
9 (9) Road Toad	AudioGeni
10(-) Harrier Attack	CBI
(Figures compiled by	Boots/Websters)
1 () Chuckie Egg	A & F Softwar
2 (4) Cuthbert in Space	Microde
3 (1) Kriegspiel	Beyon
4 (3) Eightball	Microde
5 () Hungry Horace	Melbourne Hous
6 () Ugh	Softe
7 (5) Up Periscope	Beyon
8 (7) Skramble	Microde
9 () The King	Microde
	Imagir
10() Pedro	
	Boots/Websters)
10() Pedro	Boots/Websters)

81*
(4) Krazy Kong
(1) Krypton Ordeal
(2) Walk the Plank
(3) Planet Raider
(8) Asteroids
(10) Scramble
(— Black Crystal

8 (5) Flight Simulation Sin (9) (6) Alien Rain (10/7) Chess 1 K Sinct (Figures compiled by Boots/Websters) *All 16K except where indicated † 1 K.

7 (10) Airstrike 2 8 (2) Captain St 9 (-) A.C.E. 10 (-) Zork III *Cartridge § 32K D (Figures Con	cky's Gold	(English)† (English)† (English)† (Infocom)§ 0†32K Cassette listo Computers 021 632 6458)
BBC* 1 (1) Blagger 2 (2) Aviator 3 (-) Pengi		(Alligata) (Acomsoft) (Visions)

3 (9) Warlock 4 (-) Saga 4 Voodoo Castle

(Figures compiled by W H Smith and Son, London)

Spectrum

* All 48K

(1) Jet Set Willy (-) Zaxxon (5) Hunchback (3) Blue Thunder (4) Fred

6 (-) Trashman 7 (2e) Chequered Flag 8 (6) Alchemist 9 (-) Cricket Captain 10 (-) Wheelie

(Software Projects) (Starzone) (Ocean) (Foundry Systems) (Quicksilva)

(New Generation) (Psion)

(Imagine) (Allanson) (Microsphere)

Internationalit

4 (4) Fortress 5 (7) Liberator (Gemin) 6 (9) 30 Munchy (MRM) 7 (-) German Linkword (Acomsoft) 8 (8) Spooks and Spiders (Software Invasion) 9 (5) Twin Kingdom Valley (Bug Byte) 10 (-) French Linkword (Acomsoft) 2 All model B (Figures compiled by Micro Management (9473 59181) CRL Sinclairt Sinclair QL Companion, Allan Step by Step Programming Spectrum Book 2, Graham 60 Programs for the Commodore 64, Erskine et al. Commodore 64 Programming Spectrum Book 1, Graham 7) A Gude to Playing the Hobbit, Elsan Spectrum Sound and Graphics, Money — Commodore 64 Games Book, Bishop — Losy Programs for the Commodore 64, Stewart and Jones 15 Very Basic, Basic Spectrum, Eliershaw and Schofeld (Figures compiled by Bookwise) Dorling Kindersley Pan Commodore Dorling Kindersley Melbourne House Grandada Granada Shiva

PUZZLED

Brainteasers for the Dragon 32 is a collection of puzzles of various kinds for people who enjoy such things. In fact, the increasing number of such books leads me to suppose that computer puzzles must be the current wave.

This book has some particular good and varied puzzles many of them with some pretty good graphics. The diverse nature of the puzzles means that more or less every type of mental skill is tested; something for everyone.

Book	Brainteasers for
	the Dragon 32
Price	£5.95
Micro	Dragon 32
Supplier	Phoenix Publishing
	Associates
	14 Vernon Road
	Bushey
	Harts WD2 211

FAST FOOD

I have no idea why The Last Vic20 Book in the World has the title it does, maybe the publishers know something either about the Vic20 or worse still about the world that I don't. The book is a collection of educational programs.

Listing books are usually the fast food in what should be the gourmet meal that is computer book publishing. However, within the constraints of 3.5K (all but two of these programs will fit into the unexpanded machine) all of these programs are pretty useful and there are good notes on how to use them.

BOOK	The Last Vic20			
	Book in the World			
Price	£5.95			
Micro	Vic20			
Supplier	Sigma Technical			
HO STATE OFFICE	Press			
	5 Alton Road			
	Wilmslow			
	Cheshire SK9 5DY			

DESPAIR

Games Commodore 64 Computers Play is one of those collections of listings that fill the heart of all book reviewers with despair. What on earth do you say about the damn thing?

If you want a collection of programs to type in, then these are probably better than most and the choice and variety is far greater than usual.

I guess this is better than most, but it's very difficult to get enthusiastic about such books.

DOOK	Crumes Commouor
	64 Computers Play
Price	£6.95
Micro	Commodore 64
Supplier	Addison Wesley
	53 Bedford Square
	London WCI

Program	Тур	Micro		Price	Supplier
Word Search	Ed	Atmos		26.95	CDS
Disassembler	Ut	BBC		£3.50	Crystalsoft
Egg the Upgrade	Ut	BBC		£3.50	Crystalsoft
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Heathrow	S	Commodore	64	£7.95	Hewson
Lewdo	Ad	Commodore	64	£6.95	Twilight
Pac man	Arc	Commodore	64	£24.99	Atari
Splat!	Arc	Commodore	64	€6.50	Incentive
Star Trooper	Arc	Commodore	64	€6.95	Melbourne House
HI Res Draw	Ut	Dragon 32		25.95	1 Elkington
Screen Dumps	Ut	Dragon 32		24.50	I Elkington
Astrocode	S	Spectrum			Finsbury
Complete Machine Code	Ed	Spectrum		£14.95	New Generation
Constructor	Ed	Spectrum		25.95	Ventematic
Escalator Loco	Arc	Spectrum		£5.95	Ventematic
Froot Loop	Arc	Spectrum		£3.00	
Incredible Hunk	Ad	Spectrum			Adventure International
Maths Utilities	Ed	Spectrum		€8.95	Solway
Pop Quiz	S	Spectrum		£5.75	Bellflower

Novus

Prince/Princess	Ad	Spectrum	£5.95 Finsbury
Spectune	Ed	Spectrum	£5,95 XOR
Tank Duel	Arc	Spectrum	£5.50 Realtime
Tuneles Marcianos	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95 Venternatic
Wreckage	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95 Venternatic
Pac man	Arc	TI 99/4a	£24.99 Atari
Donkey Kong	Arc	TI 99/4a	£24.99 Atari
Amazonian Quest	Ad	Vic20	£5.00 Tony Runeckles
Haunted House	Ad	Vic20	£5.00 Tony Runeckles
Pac man	Arc	Vic20	£24.99 Atari
Pharaoh's Curse	Ad	Vic20	£9.95 Thorn EMI
Robotron	Arc	Vic20	£19.99 Atari
Swordguest	Ad	Vic20	£5.00 Tony Runeckles

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

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

Ziggurat



Mainframe power

ver since my last Ziggurat, people eagerly asking what it's like to play Life and suchlike silly games using the awesomely powerful mainframe computers of the Ministry of Defence. Believe me, when I was there in 1980 it was pretty amazing. Some hint of the sheer technological sophistication of it all may be given by the following extract from my novel of life in a wholly imaginary MOD nuclear-research place — The Leaky Establishment, published in June by Frederick Muller Ltd at a trifling £8.95 (plug, plug)

He typed a line of command language. The teletype resumed its tatta-tatta- tatta-tatta, like a high-speed replay of bad disco music, or the military band accompaniment for a regiment on the run. It was printing clumps of asterisks, row after row, tatta-tatta-tatta-ching at the end of every line, the whole building up with painful slowness into a picture, 10 columns of six little asterisk- clumps whose shape had a kind of familianty. Several blank lines beneath the bottom of all this was a final shape built from stars, a small centred triangle, and below that:

TYPE L TO MOVE LEFT; R TO MOVE RIGHT, F TO FIRE MISILE

With a triumphant flourish, Llewellyn typed FL, and the chattering began anew. Tappen's

eyes widened in realization as the fresh picture built up on a fresh yard of paper, the suddenly all too recognizable shapes above, the triangle at the bottom now shifted slightly left, a lonely asterisk above it to represent a missle on its soaring upward course...

"Bet you this is the first Space Invaders game to run on a teletype," said Llewellyn with considerable pride

"Science," Tappen said reverently, "is wonderful. Just how many centuries does it take to finish a garme?"

"Well, this wally from T said it was a good idea to come in early in the morning. Done better than him though, I've patched the program so you can stop any time and start next day or whenever, just where you left off. Play it right through even if it takes you two weeks. Pretty brill, eh?"

"Slug Invaders," Tappen intoned, slightly limp from this revelation of wonders. "Glacier Invaders."

The teletype completed another picture. At this rate Llewellyn's missile would very likely find its target by lunchtime. But instead of unleashing his deadly reflexes on the fire control, he turned his head to squint over one shoulder, up at Tappen. "Let me just finish the game and I'll show you..."

"You are not finishing that bloody game!"

"Worry not, Roy. I'm ahead of you. Said I'd been improving the thing, didn't I? You look at this." More control keys. More clatter.

*** IN AUTOMATIC MODE *** (said the teletype.)

"Autopilot — no need for printout or keypushing — plays right through the game for you and..."

*** GAME OVER ***
YOU HAVE BEEN UTERLY DEFEATED, THE
ALIENS HAVE OVERUN EARTH!!
YOUR SCORE WAS 262,939,415000
TYPE R IF YOUD LIKE ANOTHER GAM

"I see your programming's going through a bad spell," said Tappen . . .

And that, Best Beloved, was what it was like to be a scientific civil servant with power over the mighty mainframes of the MOD. I bet you're all just grinding your teeth to powder in envy of such privileged status, aren't you? Er, excuse me one moment, there seems to be this large man from MI5 at the door . . .

David Langford

Wiped out!

Puzzle No 111

The homework had been written on the blackboard but, unfortunately, when the class came to write it down, three of the digits had been accidentally erased and the teacher had gone.



They knew that they had to divide the eight digit number by both 13 and 17, in each case the division worked out exactly.

One of the class was certain that one of the missing digits was '3', but apart from this they were no wiser.

Can you help them?

Solution to Puzzle No 106

Each time ten millilitres are removed from a litre bottle the amount of brandy is reduced by one per cent of its previous volume. Thus the volume remaining can be calculated by multiplying the previous volume by 0.99. This is repeated until this volume falls to below half (500 ml.)

10 VOL = 1000 20 LET NIP = 1 30 LET VOL = VOL * 9,88 40 PRINT NIP, VOL 50 IF VOL < 500 THEN STOP 60 LET NIP = NIP + 1 70 GOTO 30

If this is run the program stops after NIP = 69. However, we need to determine at which point the volume of brandy remaining was nearest to 500 ml.

We see that when NIP = 68 the volume was 504.88588 ml, and when NIP = 69 the volume was 499.837022. Of these the second is closest so Algernon had made 69 visits.

Winner of Puzzle No 106

The winner is M Armstrong, 20 Mill Road, Abingdon, Oxon, who receives £10.

Rules

The closing date for entries to Puzzle No 111 is June 29.

The Hackers





Evanovich.

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