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MAGAZINE

COMMODORE CHASES IBM

We take the wraps off Commodore's latest

APC

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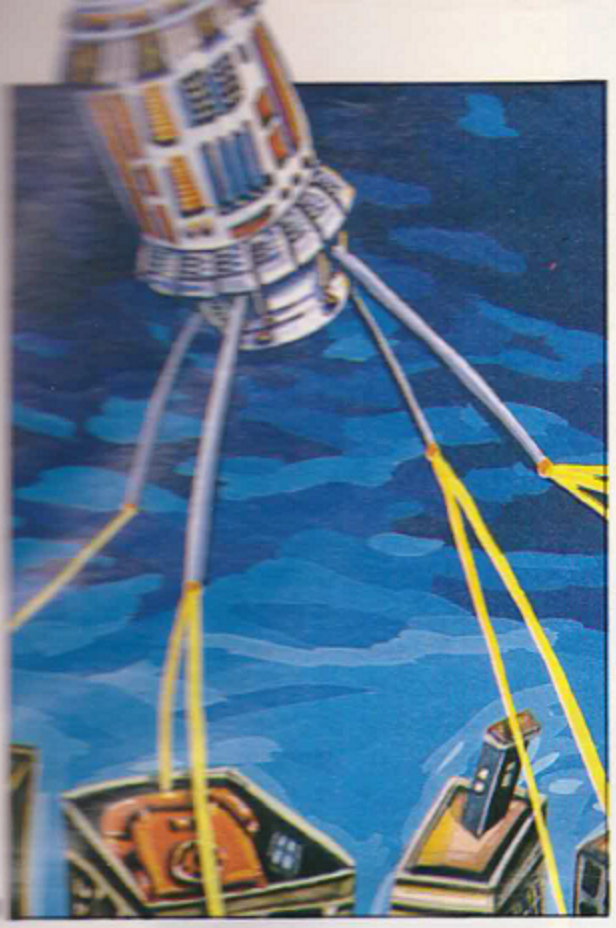
WE'RE ON THE MOVE
NOTE OUR NEW SYDNEY ADDRESS
2ND FLOOR
215 CLARENCE STREET
SYDNEY 2000
(02) 264 1266
Our Melbourne address remains unchanged



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The integration of four programs — a word processor, database, spreadsheet and graphics — into one suite. Robert Piper found it an impressive and flexible product.

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Desktop organisers that remove the clutter of diaries, address books and calculators from your desk are the latest trend in integrated packages. Mike Liardet tidies up.

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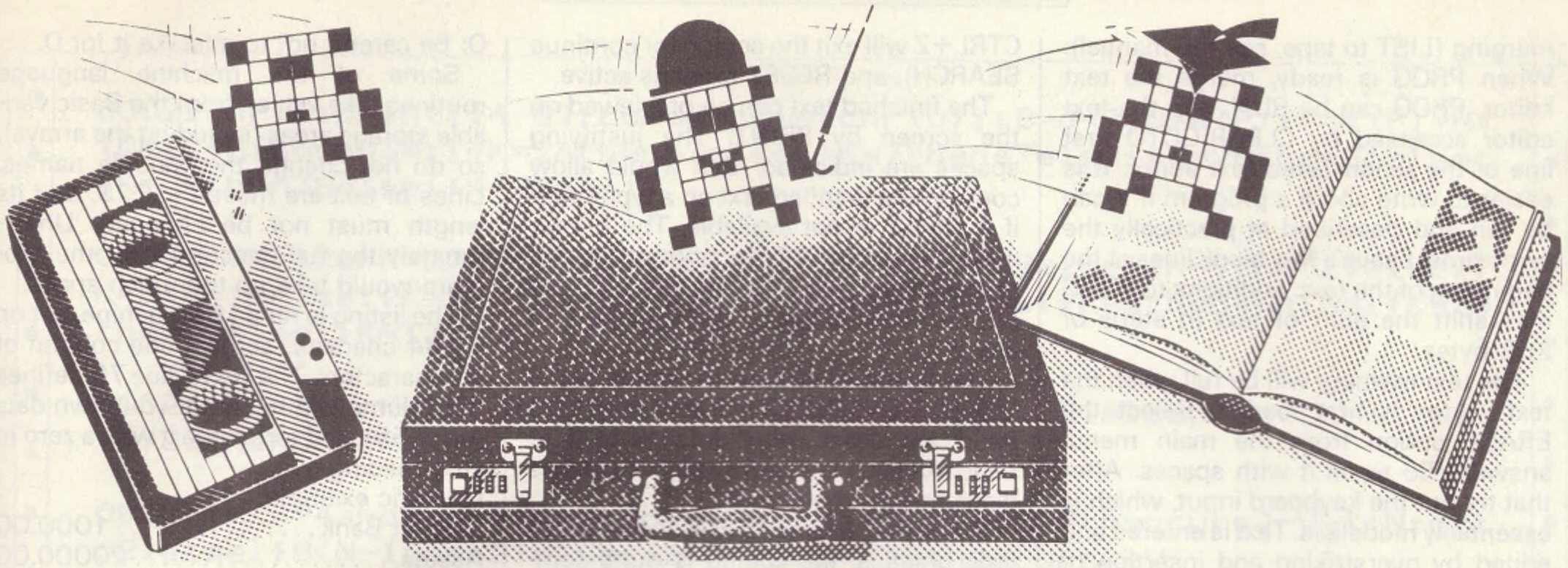
Optical character recognition at a price serious personal computer users can afford. Is this peripheral too good to be true?

PROGRAMS



Nick Walker and associates select the best of readers' programs — for details on submitting your own, see the end of this section.

Heading up this month's listings is an unusual text editor for the MicroBee which can accommodate a number of separate columns of text. It also has the option to enter formatted values which are then automatically summed. The program's author, P Lukes, is a previous contributor to *Programs* (May 1984) and co-authored the book *Getting Started on your MicroBee.*

Micro Type is another text editor — this time for the VZ-200 and is in response to a plea for more VZ programs from S Hobson in the February issue.

BBC owners writing serious applications will appreciate the screen designer and input validation programs, which will make user-friendly input screens easy to incorporate into programs. Also, there should be quite a following for 'G', a compiler for converting graphics programs into super-fast machine code.

There's always a gap between a micro coming on sale and some decent software becoming available for it; this is true of both commercial and user programs. For the Amstrad, this is the first issue in which we've been able to publish substantial programs.

See PC for the Amstrad is a disassembler that will allow you to delve more deeply into this machine's well-written operating system, as well as aid in machine code subroutine design.

Other programs this month include a pre-processor for dBase II users, a user-defined keys listing for the 16k VIC-20 and a darts program for the Tandy Color.

Games

Scientific/mathematic

Business

Toolkit/utilities

Educational/Computer Aided Learning

Split MicroBee

by P Lukes

This is a text editor which can operate on a number of separate columns and has an option to enter formatted numbers and sum them. Up to 250 separate columns could be defined, but the program is set up for a maximum of 55, to allow them to be identified by the letters of the alphabet and some special characters (variable U in line 78). Several screens can be used to display the columns; up to 14 screens can be used (initial value of V in line 78). Each column must be fully contained within a screen, and can be between four and 63 or 79 characters wide (for 64 or 80 character screen width respectively).

MicroBees with the 13.5MHz crystal can be set up to display 80 character (or slightly longer) lines. This is done by assigning the screen width to the variable V (last part of line 78), and calling a ROM routine to reset the CRT registers. As well, the screen is set up to display 18 lines by the POKE 216,18. It is likely that the display will need to be repositioned by the ESC,A/S/W/Z keys. The program is rather slow with the 12MHz crystal and 2MHz clock, and upgrading to the higher speed would be worthwhile.

The text is stored in reserved memory, starting about 1k above the end of the program. The reserved memory is set up automatically in line 77. The machine language routines take up the last 495 bytes of available memory, and are fully relocatable. The top of text memory is set by the value in N in line 77. The program is set up for 16k; for 32k, delete the "/2".

Since the text is stored in reserved memory, it is possible to BREAK or RESET and modify the program without losing the text. After the first run, when the machine language is POKEd into high memory, it is possible to delete most of the DATA lines and free up about 1.7k of text memory (make sure to SAVE a complete copy before deleting). The program takes care of any changes in the varaible values after deletion; the only value which must not be changed after deletion is the value in the variable N.

The program could be used for writing documentation for another program of moderate length (called, say, PROG). Shorten the text editor by deleting the numeric routines (lines 36 to 46) and the jumps to them in line 22, and renumber, starting with a line number higher than the last line of PROG. Prepare a copy for